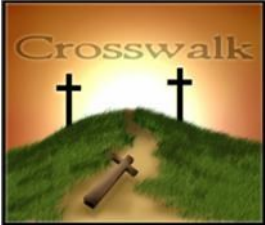


January 1, 2017

# Bethlehem Star



## Strength for 2017

Thoughts from Pastor Andy

One of my goals each year is to replace a bad habit with a good one. Is this the year that I finally stop those habitual sins for good and live a holy life!? Most likely not. No matter how much inner strength I muster up, no matter how much I believe in myself, I will still sin. I can't help it. This year will most likely have just as much pain and hurt as the last, because it will always involve sin.

We will not always be strong enough to say "no" when we should, and we will not always be strong enough to say "yes" when we should. We can't train ourselves to fully eradicate sin from our minds and bodies. Sure we can tame the tongue and restrict our thoughts and actions, but we will never be able to stop ourselves from sinning.

St. Paul reminds us that nothing good dwells within our flesh and that we lack the ability to even do what is right before God (Rom. 7:18-19). There is no self-help book in the world that can improve this situation. But Paul doesn't leave us in despair! He also reminds us that we are not to depend upon our own strength, but that of Christ's!

*"My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness"* (2 Cor. 12:9). These are the words spoken from Christ to you. It's at your weakest moment, when you are about to give it all up, when Jesus Christ takes over, and you see what true power and strength looks like.

You see, your weaknesses can be the greatest thing about you, because it is through them that you see Christ at work in your life! It is then that you fully learn to rely on God. It is then that you get to experience the glory of his strength. Now, don't hear what I'm not saying. I don't want you to glory in your weaknesses at all. But we can find peace in the midst of them, a peace of knowing that Christ's strength will show forth through them.

Personally, I'm glad I can't do all the things I set my mind to. I'm glad I don't have enough inner strength to make 2017 the best year of my life. If it were up to me and my own decisions, my life would be a mess. I rejoice, then, that it is God who sets my path and aligns my steps. It is God who brings me both successes and hurts. It is God who blesses me with another year to live in his presence.

I'm thankful for my weaknesses, because it shows my need for a savior; it points me to my Savior: Jesus Christ. My weaknesses show me God's mercy, grace, and love, because it is through Jesus' death and resurrection that I am made whole again. Where I fail, God reigns victorious! Where I am weak, there Christ is strong!

It is in Christ that your year now begins. It is in Christ that your year will go forth. So go forth and rejoice that it is in Christ's strength that you now live. It is Christ's strength that will guide you through this year and give you peace.

In His loving arms,  
Pastor Noble

***Growing with Families  
in the  
Good News of Christ***



## ***A Blessed and Happy 2017 to You!***

We, as a church and school family, have much to be thankful for and excited about as we enter this New Year. God has certainly blessed Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School and will continue to do so as we are faithful to Him and His Word.

I would like to point out just a few of the activities that we – Bethlehem Lutheran – will be working on over the next six to nine months. These activities will likely include:

- Initiating and conducting the call process for a new school principal
- Establishing school tuition rates for the 2017-18 school year
- Developing the 2017-2018 budget for Bethlehem Lutheran
  - Revising budgets for the church, school, ministries and facilities/properties maintenance
  - Communicating these budget needs and obtaining voters' approval to implement the new budget
  - Continuing with the Vision Path program that Pastor Mark and Brian Schur have been leading us through
  - Pursuing a person to fill the Music Coordinator position for the school and church
  - Seeking, nominating, and approving volunteers to fill board and committee positions for Bethlehem Lutheran ministry positions

Each of you is going to be asked to be involved in these activities. First and foremost, you can be involved by your prayers. Secondly, you can support these activities through the sharing of your time, skills, and experience when asked.

Voters' meetings will be needed to conduct (conclude) the majority of these activities. Announcements will be made in the *Star*, the *Binary*, and at Sunday service announcement time.

If you have any questions or suggestions concerning these activities – or if you are willing and ready to volunteer to work on any of them – please contact me by email ([rxruss@msn.com](mailto:rxruss@msn.com)) or by phone (509.528.2709).

New Year's blessings to you all,  
Russ Hulvey, Council President

## ***What Goes Up Must Come Down***

The Altar Guild invites all dads, sons, granddads, and brothers to join us on Friday, January 6, at 6:00 pm to take down all the Christmas decorations. Pizza and soda will be served! Please sign up on the clipboard in the rack at the back of the Church so we'll have the appropriate amount of food available. Thank you for your servant hearts! PS if there are any ladies who wish to join us, please sign up as well. ☺

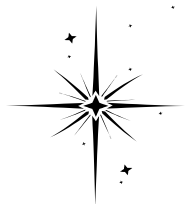


## ***Cold Kiddoes***

We have been asked to participate in a collection of warm hats, gloves, and coats for the kids at Emerson Elementary. This has been quite a cold and wet winter so far, and we know that there are kids in our community who don't have the basics to keep them warm. If you are willing and able, please bring in any new or gently used hats, gloves, and coats for an elementary-aged child and place them in the bin marked "Emerson" at the back of the Church. Thank you Thank you for your loving generosity to our community.

## ***Epiphany Party!***

Please save the date — January 8 — for our Epiphany Party! The party will be held during the Sunday school hour. Participants of all ages are welcome. Watch for details in Sunday's *Binary*.



## ***Man Up! Meets January 21***

Breakfast is at 7:45 am, followed by devotions, and then the topic the group chose -- Mormonism! All males 16 years old and older are encouraged to come and learn about this rapidly growing religious group that has a significant presence in the Tri-Cities.



One of the families being blessed at Christmas by Lutheran Community Services is asking for help in making some improvements to their house. Marilou DeWoody will check with Kyle Hulvey for specific needs so that we can then decide if there are talented members of our group who can assist the family.

**Come out the 21st and learn more!**

# Musings - from Marilou

(Marilou DeWoody, Ministries Coordinator)

I am always excited about the New Year. I don't know if it is because I've taken down all the "fussy" Christmas decorations and put them away (clean slate) or if it is because I am sitting down with a new calendar, planning happy events for the coming year (looking forward). A new year is full of promise, and I'm grateful to God for the hope that He brings to all of us. To God be the Glory!

Many, many thanks are due all of the people who participated in our servant event with Lutheran Community Services. What a blessing it was to collect so many bags and boxes of gifts, plus over \$800 in gift cards, to distribute to these families. We received many positive comments from the "givers", and I'm hoping that we will be able to include more congregation members in 2017.

The men in the congregation, along with their sons, nephews, grandsons, etc., are encouraged to assist in taking down the decorations on January 6, at 6:00 pm. We were blessed to have approximately a dozen ladies present to set everything up, and we're hoping to have as many men for the "take-down". Pizza and soda will be provided.

Please watch for information on the start date of photography sessions for our new pictorial directory. We encourage all families to participate, and we're working to make this as quick, easy, and painless as possible.

Our Women's Retreat is this month – January 20 and 21, and we have some spots still available, so please sign up quickly. Details and registration slips are on the back table.

Cancer Companions will meet on Monday, January 9, at 5:30 pm, led by Leone Cummins. If you or anyone that you know has a need to search out God in their journey through cancer, please encourage them to attend this wonderful Bible Study/discussion group. This support group is for caretakers past and present, people who are post-treatment or in treatment, and for survivors who feel that they are still struggling with issues from cancer or who wish to share their successes and strengths. For more information, please contact our church office. Blessings on your New Year!

*Marilou*

## Baby Shower

A baby's on its way. Let's celebrate this miracle who will arrive into the Noble family as a small baby boy. You're invited to help celebrate.

For: Anna Noble  
When: Saturday, January 14  
Where: Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Time: 1:00 - 3:00 pm



## Guatemala Mission Trip

Bethlehem is going to Guatemala in 2018, and you're invited! Join us for an informational meeting about the mission trip. This trip is open to everyone (age 16 and up) who is interested in seeking the lost and equipping the found. Join us Saturday, January 14, at 9:30 am, in the library.

## January THIS MONTH'S 2017 birthdays

1 Tomoko Baxter	15 Sylvia Halverson
Dennis Hoersch	16 Kevin DeHart
3 Steve Bernard	17 Carl Adrian
7 Damon LaLonde	Karen Bertsch
Eric Haan	Maggie Wolf
8 Elizabeth Macduff	Juanita Blunck
Eileen Fritz	18 Brent Keseman
9 Rheta Adrian	20 Jerry Martin
Harry Hoeckelberg	Judy Deneen
Gina Cronrath	21 Kathy Bernard
Cody Granrud	Clarence May
11 Rob McMillen	22 Katie Tate
Shannon Mace	Brent Edwards
Jeff Gale	25 Ashton Cobb
12 Bob Fritz	26 Lori Uttecht
Anthony Grisafe	29 Carol Clark
13 Phyllis Lovelass	30 Donny Anderson
14 Dawn Vaudt	Dan Schuldheisz
15 Terry Julin	31 Lydia Macduff
Bob Neuman	Georgia Blanton
Jackie Hulvey	Jeanne A Murphy
Melissa Macduff	

## THIS MONTH'S anniversaries

Tom & Sharon Halazon	1-1-86
Randy & Paige Valerio	1-1-99
John & Sara Davis	1-1-11
Del & Judy Wisdom	1-2-66
Hal & Karen Blanton	1-3-04
John & Sharon Hackney	1-19-63
Bob & Ruth Ilten	1-28-61
Orville & Di'ane Eckstine	1-29-76



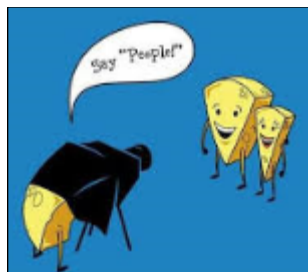


**Check  
This  
Out!**

January 6, 6:00 pm, Tree & Sanctuary Un-decorating  
January 8, 9:30 am, Epiphany Party  
January 9 & 23, 5:30 pm, Cancer Companions  
January 14, 9:30 am, Guatemala Mission Trip Info  
January 14, 1:00 pm, Baby Shower for Anna Noble  
January 19, 6:00 pm, Parent Play Date  
January 20-21, Friday-Saturday, Women's Retreat  
January 26, 6:30 pm, Piety by the Pint  
January 27, Indoor Olympics at the school  
Guatemala Mission Trip, February 24 – March 3, 2018

## Smile — You're on Candid Camera!

We're about to begin working on our new pictorial directory. We'll be taking pictures and gathering information on all our families and compiling it all in a do-it-ourselves black and white directory. This will allow us to update/add new pages as new families become a part of our church family.



Photography sessions will begin January 8 and continue Sunday mornings through January. We want to make it as quick and painless as possible, so it will take only a few minutes of your time. All you'll have to do is smile and stand in one place for a couple of minutes and fill out some easy information. Nothing fancy — just a way to help us put names and faces together.

More specific information will be out soon, so watch the Sunday Binary. We want to include as many people as possible.

## Christ Care ...

Our Christ Care Board is ready and willing to call or visit anyone in our congregation who may be a shut-in or who may need a loving godly "lift". If you know of anyone who would benefit from this kindness, please contact the church office or the Christ Care Board/Juanita Blunk at 586-1056.

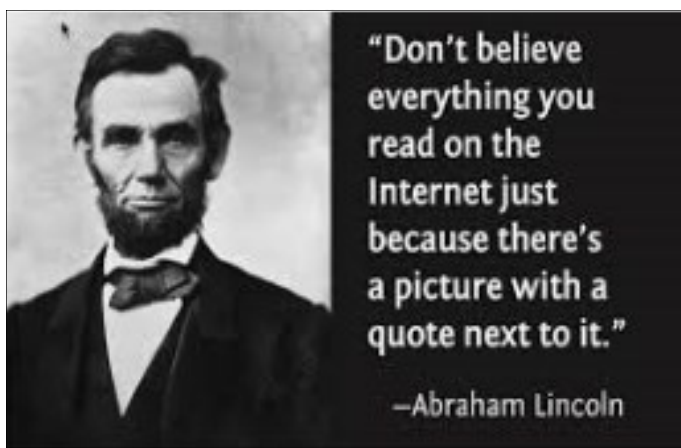


The Christ Care Food Bank is also open for anyone in need. If you need assistance, just let the office know. Thank you.

## LCEF News

The Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) empowers LCMS ministries with every dollar invested. And with nearly 60,000 investors, we're able to make a difference for thousands of ministries. We provide customized loans and support services to new and growing ministries as well as loans for Rostered Church Workers who dedicate their lives to sharing the Gospel. Check out [www.lcef.org](http://www.lcef.org) or the NWD advocate, Susan Olson at 1-888-693-5267 for more information.

Art Goldgrave



## Are You Ready?

"It is a solemn thing to part company with the old year," said J.C. Ryle (1816-1900), the first Anglican bishop of Liverpool. "It is a still more solemn thing to begin a new one. All before us is uncertain; we know not what a day may bring forth, much less what may happen in a year."

Ryle offered this challenge for the days and months ahead: "Walk more closely with God, get nearer to Christ, seek to exchange hope for assurance. Oh that you may endeavor so to grow in grace every year, that your last things may be far more than your first, and the end of your Christian course far better than the beginning!"

Bethlehem Star Newsletter Editor: Jeanne A. Murphy  
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E-mail: [jeanneamurphy1@frontier.com](mailto:jeanneamurphy1@frontier.com)

**Deadline for February submissions:  
January 20**

**MISSION STATEMENT:** God has made us a caring Christian family so that we can worship Him with joyful praise, study His Word and witness the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ, serve children and their families through our church and school, learn "Christ Care", and help our family grow.

# Servant Calendar

	<b>January 1 10:00 am</b>	<b>January 8</b>	<b>January 15</b>	<b>January 22</b>	<b>January 29</b>
Worship Assistant	Matt Macduff	Floyd Ivey	Bruce Schroer	Jeff Gale	Aaron Bronner
Lector 8:00	Anna Noble	Assigned	Stephanie Rippsteen	Wayne Engel	Rick Garner
Lector 11:00		Assigned	Doug Gardener	Macduff	Jeanne A Murphy
Greeters 8:00	Ron & Beth Anfinson	George & Carol Clark	Ron & Jan Hipp	Lee Pearson Marian Personett	Dave & Sandy Whitehall
Greeters 11:00		Art & Mary Goldgrabe	Brent & Melinda Edwards	Jeanne A Murphy Paula Pangborn	Curt & Marilou DeWoody
Java Café 8:00		Shannon Mace Kathleen Mattoon	Rita Roberts Candi Kleingartner	Jan Hipp Phyllis Lovelass	Penny Anderson Lisa Miller
Java Café 11:00		Jared & Gina Cronrath	Rheta Adrian Dori McCollum	Paula Pangborn Sherry Wright	Emily Morehouse Mary Kostenko
Tech Help 8:00		Lesley Rutz	Eric Haan	Angela Courtney	Russ Hulvey
Tech Help 11:00		Tony Grisafe	Jim Koch	Kris Hulvey	Batt Boehnke
Children's Church 8:00	Children's Message	Children's Message	Children's Message	Children's Message	Children's Message
Children's Message 11:00	Children's Message	Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church	Children's Church
Altar Guild	Debbie Schwisow	Debbie Schwisow	Debbie Schwisow	Debbie Schwisow	Debbie Schwisow

Mine eyes have  
seen Thy  
Salvation



ATTENDANCE	<b>8:00</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>Total</b>
Sunday, December 4	175	105	280
Mid-Week, December 7			105
Sunday, December 11	177	106	283
Mid-Week, December 14			50
Sunday, December 18	160	92	252
Mid-Week, December 21			58
Christmas Eve	245	285	78
Sunday, December 25		117	117



# January 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship Service <b>5:30 PM</b> Men's Open	<b>2</b> <b>School Closed</b>	<b>3</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> Joining Jesus <b>6:30 PM</b> Elders <b>7:00 PM</b> LWML	<b>4</b> <b>8:40 AM</b> Chapel <b>7:00 PM</b> Youth & Family	<b>5</b> <b>12:00 Noon</b> Binary D/L <b>6:00 PM</b> Women's Choir <b>7:00 PM</b> SonRise Practice	<b>6</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Christmas Un-decorating	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> SonRise Worship <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday School <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship Service <b>5:30 PM</b> Men's Open	<b>9</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Quilters/Prayer Warriors <b>5:30 PM</b> Cancer Companions	<b>10</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Council	<b>11</b> <b>8:40 AM</b> Chapel <b>6:30 PM</b> Women's Choir	<b>12</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Bible Study <b>12:00 Noon</b> Binary D/L <b>7:00 PM</b> SonRise Practice	<b>13</b> <b>School Closed</b>	<b>14</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Guatemala Mission Trip Info. <b>1:00 PM</b> Baby Shower
<b>15</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> SonRise Worship <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday School <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship Service <b>5:30 PM</b> Men's Open	<b>16</b> <b>Church Off. Closed</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Quilters/Prayer Warriors <b>6:00 PM</b> School Brd.	<b>17</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> Joining Jesus	<b>18</b> <b>8:40 AM</b> Chapel <b>6:30 PM</b> Women's Choir	<b>19</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Bible Study <b>12:00 Noon</b> Binary D/L <b>6:00 PM</b> Parent Play Date	<b>20</b> <b>3:30 PM</b> Women's Retreat  <b>STAR Deadline</b>	<b>21</b> <b>7:45 AM</b> Man Up! <b>8:30 AM</b> Women's Retreat
<b>22</b> Book Fair <b>8:00 AM</b> Worship Service <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday School <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship Service <b>5:30 PM</b> Men's Open	<b>23</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Quilters/Prayer Warriors <b>12:00 Noon</b> Book Fair <b>5:30 PM</b> Cancer Companions	<b>24</b> Book Fair	<b>25</b> Book Fair <b>8:40 AM</b> Chapel	<b>26</b> Book Fair <b>9:30 AM</b> Bible Study <b>12:00 Noon</b> Binary D/L <b>6:30 PM</b> Piety/Pint (Barley's Brew Hub)	<b>27</b> Book Fair Indoor Olympics <b>11:15 AM</b> Early Release	<b>28</b> Book Fair
<b>29</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Worship Service <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday School <b>11:00 AM</b> Worship Service <b>5:30 PM</b> Men's Open	<b>30</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Quilters/Prayer Warriors	<b>31</b> <b>5:00 PM</b> Joining Jesus				

# January Family Focus



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## Building Faith at Home

Faith at Home is important. I'm sure you've heard that before, and I'm sure you'll hear that again. And yet, faith at home doesn't come easily. There are a lot of obstacles in our way when it comes to building our family at home. We have schedules, work and school and other activities, homework, friends, etc. But like anything else that is good and beneficial, faith formation at home takes practice, and lots of it.

That's why we would like to invite all families of all ages to take on Faith Builders Challenge during the month of January. During this month, we will have weekly goals for your family: Scripture readings, discussions, faith exercises, weekly themes and topics, etc.

It is our goal to equip each family with tools and resources, ones that each family can mold to fit their needs and comfort. You can do all of them or just one of them. The important thing is to start somewhere and grow together. Each of these challenges should take no more than 15 minutes. And done over time, it becomes a habit that makes everyone's day complete.

In His Service — Pastor Andy

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## For Your January Calendar:

- 8 - Epiphany Party in the Gym at 9:30 am
- 15 - Sunday School resumes
- 19 - Parent Play Date at 6:00 pm
- 22-28 - Book Fair in Library
- 27 - Parenting Conference at Bethel Church
- 28 - Parenting Conference at Bethel Church

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## Young Families Bible Class

In this class, we will explore God's Word as a family and learn faith-building habits for the home. Please join Pastor Andrew Noble as he leads this class on Sunday mornings at 9:40 am.

Parents with young children not yet in Sunday school are encouraged to bring them along. Don't worry — we welcome the noise! Classes start up again January 15. Location: Kindergarten Room.

## Epiphany Party!

We invite you and your family to join us January 8, 9:30 am, for our Epiphany Party! Come and see this Child who is our Savior! We will share stories of Jesus, reveal to all that He has done for us, and celebrate His birth through all the good things we all have come to enjoy: stories, crafts and cookies, music! This event will be fun for all ages, so all are encouraged to come and celebrate Jesus our Savior.

Epiphany means to "reveal" or "make known". It's a time when we focus on the revelation of who Jesus is: both God and man who is our Lord and Savior! On this joyous occasion, we always read of the visit of the Magi from the Gospel of Matthew. This event shows us that people from other nations come to Jesus, worship Him, and bring Him gifts; acknowledging Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God.

## Parenting Conference

Best-selling author Dr. Paul David Tripp will speak at Bethel Church on January 27 and 28. Dr. Tripp will share biblical approaches to raising our children in this day and age. He will help all parents cast a big-picture vision for your children Friday evening and then apply those principles Saturday morning according to different age brackets (0-5, 6-12, and 13-18). For more information go to [bthl.ch/parenting](http://bthl.ch/parenting).

Register online at [bthl.ch/register](http://bthl.ch/register). Tickets are \$20/person. Child care available - \$15/child.

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*For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring to Abraham what he has promised him. Gen 18:19*

*January 1, 2017*

# Bethlehem Star

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## Bethlehem Lutheran Church & School

Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod  
2505 W. 27th Avenue  
Kennewick, WA 99337

Church and School Website: [www.blcbls.org](http://www.blcbls.org)

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Assoc. Pastor Andrew Noble  
Ministries Coordinator:  
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