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Christmas Quotes

—Ann Voskamp—

It is Christmas that first makes the exclusive claims of Christ. Like the diagnosis of a doctor, every other religion says that good-enough living will save us. But like a soul specialist, Christianity examines our hearts and says that actually we are all terminal unless we take Christ—that it's Jesus who saves us.

Every Christmas tree is shadowed by the Cross Tree: it's at the Tree that God does heart transplants—He takes your heart and does surgery.

Christianity doesn't make narrow-minded claims. It makes a different kind of diagnosis. It's not about being narrow-minded—it's about offering a different kind of medicine.

In the care of our own souls, Christianity isn't so much about exclusiveness but effectiveness. What will actually save us?

Everyone, everywhere looks forward to Christmas. And it's the joy of Christmas that offers the gift of exclusiveness—because of its effectiveness to save the terminal soul.

—Stuart Briscoe—

The spirit of Christmas needs to be superseded by the Spirit of Christ. The spirit of Christmas is annual; the Spirit of Christ is eternal. The spirit of Christmas is sentimental; the Spirit of Christ is supernatural. The spirit of Christmas is a human product; the Spirit of Christ is a divine person. That makes all the difference in the world.

—Ravi Zacharias—

Every other person who is at the heart of any religion has had his or her beginning either in fancy or in fact. But nevertheless, there is a beginning. Jesus' birth in Bethlehem was a moment preceded by eternity. His being neither originated in time nor came about by the will of humanity. The Author of time, who lived in the eternal, was made incarnate in time that we might live with the eternal in view. In that sense, the message of Christ was not the introduction of a religion, but an introduction to truth about reality, as God alone knows it.

Bethany Church

Reach. Serve. Love.



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 9:00AM - masks required

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 10:30AM - masks optional

- **No Sunday School**
- **No Wednesday Night Classes**
- **Youth Group check the website**

Starting Sunday, November 22 and currently planned through Sunday, January 3

Every other pew will be roped off to help maintain proper distancing.

Sanctuary and communal spaces will be sanitized between services.

Disposable masks are available at the welcome center desk.

Facebook livestream times may vary. Notices will be sent out with livestream information.

222 MAIN STREET N | CLARA CITY MN

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 687

320.847.3322

Office email : bethany@hcinet.net

Bethany Prayer Chain email : info@bethanychurch-mn.com

[Give | Bethany Church - MN](#)

Anyone who would like a DVD of the services or know of someone who would like to receive one call the church office at 847-3322 or send an email to bethany@hcinet.net.

BETHANY DIRECTORY. <https://mobiledirectory.lifetouch.com/158305/bethany-reformed-church>

Access code is BRC20. The information can also be changed. If your contact information and anything else in your listing has changed, please contact the church office at 847-3322 or email at bethany@hcinet.net

SUNDAY GATHERINGS

“Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing...” Heb 10:25

Directives

Bethany will have disposable masks available.

Hand sanitizer is provided.

NO nursery or Children’s Church.

NO gathering in The Hub after the service.

Offering plates are set out at the back of the sanctuary.

Please exit the sanctuary after the service and visit outside.

Maintain proper distances while entering & exiting the sanctuary.

Please be seated in family groups and social distanced from others.

Remain in primary gathering spaces; sanctuary, entrance and bathrooms.

Singing is great! But not required.

If you are feeling sick or are anxious about returning, please remain at home and join in on our FACEBOOK PAGE LIVESTREAM

Directives for Gym Use

Gym space will currently not be used for group functions.

Directives for General Building Use

Please note that throughout the church building, rooms contain a spray bottle with a cleansing solution in it and a clean rag. Anyone using rooms during the week are asked to spray and wipe the areas used. Any questions can be directed to staff.

Executive Order 20-96

Parties, celebrations, receptions, or other social gatherings connected to private parties including gatherings before or after planned religious services, and other similar occasions that offer food or beverages must limit capacity as follows:

- Effective Nov. 27, 2020, at 10 p.m., these gatherings and events are limited to a maximum of 50 people.
- Effective Dec. 11, 2020, at 10 p.m., these gatherings and events are limited to a maximum of 25 people.

Stay Safe Guidance for Places of Worship

- Stay home when sick.
- Stay at least 6 feet apart from other people.
- Wear face coverings.
- Wash your hands often.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.

NEWS

Bethany will continue to offer two services, at 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM for the foreseeable future.

Ordination and Installation of incoming Elders & Deacons will be Sunday, January 3 during the 10:30 AM service.

The annual Congregational meeting of Bethany was held via Bethany email vote on December 15th. Wade Buss, John Hagemeyer, and Kim Sandry were elected as deacons and Brad Hebrink, Scott Ruitter, and Ron Thomton were elected as elders. These names are published preceding their installation on January 3rd in order that any legitimate objections may be presented to the elders. Also elected were Jaclyn Sunderland as Catechism Assistant Superintendent, Allison Warne as Sunday School Assistant Superintendent and Roger Feldman & George Poppen as Funeral Ushers.

***Thank you, BETHANY COMMUNITY,** for your faithful giving in 2020. And, thank you to ALL, and there are MANY, who made Christmas 2020 a special time in spite of all the unique challenges.*

Winter Weather Notifications. In the event of Sunday morning winter storms, closure announcements will be posted on the Bethany Facebook Page, the Bethany website, sent out via Prayer Chain, KDMA Radio in Montevideo or KWLM - Willmar and website: willmarradio.com

Bethany delivers MEALS ON WHEELS in January— if you are interested in volunteering the signup sheet is by the church office bulletin board.

- The last week of January is still available!!

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK YOUR CHURCH MAILBOXES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!!

Thank you to all the Bethany families for the nice Christmas cards, gifts, and treats... I truly appreciate our church family. ~ Ivy

Prayer Shawl Ladies,

Thank you so much for the beautiful shawl you gave me. It is a great blessing for me. -Calvin Harms

The 2021 Women's books are in your mailboxes. The book has a few changes this year, but remains mostly the same due to the fact that we have not used it during 2020.

CALENDAR

Sunday, January 3

10:30 am Deacons/Elders Installation & Ordination

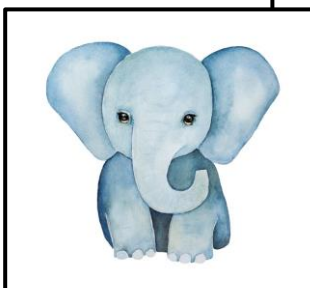
Sunday, January 10

9 & 10:30 am Communion

Check the website for Covid updates regarding the current Youth Schedule!!

The Wednesday Night Offering winners for the month of November was the 2nd grade with a total of \$93. The overall winner for offering for the 1st half of the year was also the 2nd grade with a total of \$130. The total Offering for raised for Samaritan's Purse was \$278!! This is how the kids decided to split up the donation:

Clean Water Projects	\$ 75
Baby Chicks	\$ 28
Give a Dairy Goat	\$ 140
Gospel Booklets	\$ 5
Balls & Sports Gear	\$ 8
Honeybees	\$ 22
TOTAL	\$ 278



Baby Shower honoring Kailee & Justin Koenen

BEEP, HONK, SHOUT, & WAVE.

IT'S A DRIVE-BY BABY SHOWER FOR BABY BOY KOENEN!

Saturday, January 16 from 9:30 – 11:30 am

Since we cannot be together to celebrate this day, lets celebrate in a different way!

Drive-by to show your love and support, and enjoy curbside treats and favors!

Jeff & Darla Koenen's driveway

422 4th Ave NE Clara City

Registered at: Target & Amazon

PRAYER

PRAYERS for STRENGTH & HEALING

- ✝ Darren Melin had knee replacement surgery on Monday.
- ✝ Emma Koenen is recuperating from COVID and a broken ankle at Luther Haven Home in Montevideo.
- ✝ Leonard Klinghagen is in his home at the Assisted Living recovering from a fall.
- ✝ Bruce Hinrichs
- ✝ Ruth Johnson
- ✝ Deanna Meints
- ✝ Milt Wubben
- ✝ Vivian Reiners
- ✝ Muriel Vestal was scheduled for heart valve replacement surgery on Tuesday, the 29th.
- ✝ Paul Childer's dad, Randy, is in home Hospice care.
- ✝ Millie Tebben is in the Willmar Hospital with COVID.
- ✝ Sharon Hilbrands is now a resident at the Clara City Assisted Living - #210.
- ✝ Care Center & Assisted Living Residents. Several residents of the Care Center have tested positive for COVID. Staffing is a challenge.

YOUTH NEWS

Thank you to all of you who have given our family cards and gifts over the holiday season. We greatly appreciate each and every one of you.

Youth Groups will resume on January 6. Check the website to see if we meet in person or on zoom.

YA youth can sign up for Power Connection starting on the 4th of January. Power connection is a great youth gathering of about 1000 RCA youth at Bethel University in the twin cities. I highly recommend you signing up if you are in Jr High youth group. We will also be in need of at least 1 female sponsor / driver for this trip, talk to Todd if you are interested in going along with Todd and the youth for this trip.

Students who wish to continue to learn the Books of the Bible... the video will be on the website in the Kid's Korner.

If anyone is looking for gym time please contact Ivy at the church office to setup a time. Groups are limited to 6 or less people. Thanks!!

WORSHIP NOTES

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

Matthew 4:19

A HUGE shout-out to Logan Dirksen for managing the projector on December 27th! This was Logan's first time going "solo" on this, and he did a great job! PROUD of you, Logan!

Thank you, too, to those who participated in the Christmas Eve service! It was wonderful, and we appreciate each one of you!

- Ashley & Mari Sietsema
- John, Carly, Aubrie, Sadie & Leah Hagemeyer
- Jaden & Graysen Dirksen
- Anna Miller
- Ella & Lilyanne Pauling
- Various children sharing their Christmas thoughts
- And, we thank Pastor Matt for his message and all the time he spent recording, reviewing, arranging and assembling the online service!

Pam will be scheduling January during the next week, so if you have a Sunday where you are willing to serve, please let her know. And know . . . we appreciate ALL of you!

Consistory Positions & Committees 2021

President

Pastor Matthew Miller

Vice President

Dan Wrede

Clerk

Chip Goeman

Chairman of the Deacons

Keith Klinghagen

General Fund Treasurer

Mark Hilbrands

Mission Fund Treasurer

Keith Klinghagen

Building Fund Treasurer

David Hinrichs

Cemetery Fund Treasurer

Wade Buss

Worship Committee

*Chip Goeman

Cory Sietsema

Kim Sandry

Pam Knapper

Leadership Committee

*Dan Wrede

Chuck DeGrote

Keith Klinghagen

Brad Hebrink

Pastor Matt Miller

Education & Youth Committee

*Mark Hilbrands

Riley Aeikens

Wade Buss

Todd Henker

Mission/Outreach Committee

*Keith Klinghagen

Calvin Harms

Scott Ruiter

Fellowship/Congregational Care

*Dan Niemeyer

Roger Knapper

Ron Thomton

Property Committee

*Chuck Ammermann

David Hinrichs

John Hagemeyer

JANUARY

Anniversaries

- 6 Roger & Leann Knapper
- 23 Daniel & Kelli Rath

Birthdays

- | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|-------------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | Larry Hinrichs | 13 | Cindy Klinghagen | 26 | Harvey Koenen |
| 3 | Jonathan Grussing | 13 | Lane Schwitters | 27 | Laurie Vreeman |
| 3 | Matthew Koenen | 13 | Grady Pauling | 28 | Aaden Strommer |
| 3 | Rhys Schwitters | 14 | Virgil Hoekstra | 28 | Toby Miller |
| 4 | Tomka Johnson | 15 | Blaine Westerman | 29 | Connie Knapper |
| 6 | Janice Caspers | 16 | Madison Asche | 29 | Madisyn Niemeyer |
| 6 | Gabe Henker | 18 | Everett Buss | 30 | Mark Hilbrands |
| 6 | Ron Wiebold | 18 | Tiffany Mogard | 30 | Keith Loe |
| 7 | Pat Seeman | 19 | Brooks Asche | 30 | Lori Petersen |
| 8 | Mark Lalim | 21 | Sharon Wieberdink | 31 | Megan Struxness |
| 10 | Cheri Melin | 21 | Nathan Hebrink | 31 | Velma Feldman |
| 10 | Ashley Palmer | 22 | Millie Tebben | 31 | Ruth Johnson |
| 11 | Jackson Carpenter | 22 | Craig Groen | 31 | Elizabeth Koenen |
| 12 | Sharon Doesken | 24 | Deb Wubben | 31 | Matt Tebben |
| 12 | Sandi Koenen | 24 | Emeric Koenen | | |