

SERVING TODAY

Nursery: for infants - 3 years old
Vonnie Whitmore, Sydney Peer

Greeters: Cres & Ev Vos
Bob Snyder, Tony Dorman

Sunday School: Brenda Schuling, Jessie Wells

Worship Team: Audrey Haverdink, Anna Van Der Weide,
Kent Whitmore, Heather Wood

Power Point: Gabe Smith

Sound: Joey Reed

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

Tuesday: 6:30 pm Consistory
Wednesday: 5:30 pm Supper - \$1.50 per person
6:15 pm GEMS & Cadets, Classes

NEXT SUNDAY

9:15 am Sunday School

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

Nursery: Brian & Donna Price

Sunday School: Brenda Schuling, Jessie Wells

Greeters: John & Jessica Roozeboom family
Brian Price, Melissa Smith

Worship Team: Audrey Haverdink, Connie Landhuis,
Darin Reed, Kristi Van Der Weide,
Steve Landhuis

Power Point: Anna Van Der Weide

Sound: Scott Van Der Weide



BETHANY REFORMED CHURCH

December 9, 2018
10:30 a.m.

Glorifying God with Our Words

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

O Little Town of Bethlehem #169 v.1,2,4

Prayer

The First Noel #167 v.1,2,4

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear #168 v.1,3,4

Children ages preschool through 6th grade
may be dismissed to Sunday School

Prayer

Glorifying God with Our Tithes

Glorifying God with Our Attention

Scripture – I Corinthians 2:6-10 p.1773

Message – *The Divine Drama*

or (*How God Fooled Satan*)

Prayer in Response to God's Word

Celebrating Our God

Angels, from the Realms of Glory #192 v.1,2,4

Benediction

Continuing to Worship as We Go

Emmanuel #165

VISITORS...

Welcome! We are glad you are here with us today and hope you will return. We pray that you are blessed by our time of worship together. Please fill out one of the friendship cards found in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate. Thank you!

WELCOME...

to Pastor Duane Laman who will be leading our worship service this morning.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

- Emily & Bailey Hodson
- Leisel Sandbulte

THANK YOU...

Bethany Family, Thank you so much for the outpouring of support during the sudden passing of Dave. We feel blessed that God placed so many wonderful people in our lives to help us as we walk through this storm and our Bethany family is no exception. We thank you for the prayers, meals, cards, messages of encouragement, visits, flowers, and the many who worked behind the scenes to make the funeral and luncheon special. We couldn't get through this without you! - The Hodson Family

THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS OFFERING...

has been designated for the Bethany Preschool. If you would like to take a peek at the kids who attend, you have a great opportunity on Monday, **December 17**, at 6:30 p.m. at their Christmas program. Come see!

PULPIT SUPPLY...

December 16: Pastor Craig Wagner
December 23: Pastor Duane Laman
December 30: Pastor Carl Boersma
January 6: Pastor Carl Boersma
January 13: Pastor Duane Laman
January 20: Pastor Carl Boersma

DIRECTORY CHANGES...

If you have any changes for the 2019 Directory, please write them down and place them in Betty Swank's mailbox.

- Also, if anyone has seen the 2018 directory that was in the black holder above the office computer, please let Betty know as it has changes listed that need to be made to the 2019 directory. Thank you!

OFFERING ENVELOPES...

If you do not currently have offering envelopes and you would like to have them for 2019, please let Susan Cowles know. Or, if you currently have offering envelopes but you no longer need them (i.e. give online), please let Susan Cowles know. Thank you so much for your faithful giving!

TAX TIME PREPARATION...

For any tithes or offerings to be included in your 2018 giving statement, they must be received by Sunday, **December 30**, 2018. The final deposit of the year will be made on Monday, December 31, 2018. You may designate your gift for any project or ministry you would like to support. Thank you for your faithful giving!

The Divine Drama” (How God Fooled Satan)
I Corinthians 2:6-10

TEXT- “ None of the rulers of this age understood it, (God’s plan of salvation) for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory”

THEME- Satan was at work to destroy Jesus and get him crucified— but he got fooled, for God was at work in this Divine Drama in a wonderful way.

Understand Satan’s Limitations

1. Satan is a created being limited in knowledge and space and power.
2. Satan has to rely on what he can figure out.
3. The Holy Spirit does not enlighten Satan’s understanding.
4. Satan knew from Micah 5:2 the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, but he did not know the time of the Savior’s birth so was surely lying in wait for the Messiah around Bethlehem to foil God’s salvation plans.

What did God do?

1. God chose a man and woman, not from Bethlehem, but Nazareth.
2. God saw to it that the woman’s purity and morality would be doubted.
3. God arranged to move Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem in time for the birth, but not in a way to draw attention to themselves.

Welcomed by the Lowliest— the Shepherders (I Corinthians 1:27
“God has chosen the foolish things....”)

1. No one noticed or cared when ragtag shepherds ran breathlessly through the village looking for what else— a stable.
2. King Herod thought he’d fooled the Wise Men to inform him if any King was found. But Herod and Satan were too late to kill Jesus and stop God’s plans.
3. Satan lost the trail and Jesus grew up normally in Nazareth.
4. I think the first the Devil learned of Jesus’ identity was the day the Lord stepped into the waters of the Jordan and John called out: “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”

Practical Application— for God is still at work.

1. “With Joseph I will choose to do what’s right and not look back.”
2. After hearing the Angel’s message the Shepherds ran to find Jesus— let our spirits run in joy to find Jesus the Savior of the World.
3. Be filled with hope. Our God will not be stopped in His good plans for us. Remember God is Sovereign, and Satan is not! Jeremiah 29:11 promises God still has good plans for us.



JOIN US FOR OUR...

- Bethany Preschool Christmas Program on Monday, **December 17**. The children will be singing about winter, Christmas, and the reason for the season. The program will start at 6:30 p.m., with refreshments following.
- Christmas Program on Wednesday, **December 19**. Supper at 5:30 p.m. and program at 6:30 p.m. are free of charge. Donations will be accepted for area school children’s needs.
- Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, **December 24**.