

## 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!

## SERVING TODAY

**Nursery:** for infants - 3 years old  
Joe & Sarah Harms

**Greeters:** Doug & Judy Reed  
Steve Landhuis, Susan Cowles

**Worship Team:** Audrey Haverdink  
Connie Landhuis, Steve Landhuis

**Power Point:** Gabe Smith

**Sound:** Matt Wells

## THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

Monday: 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

## NEXT SUNDAY

10:30 am Worship

## SERVING NEXT SUNDAY

**Nursery:** Susan Cowles, Jessica Roozeboom

**Greeters:** Emily Hodson family  
David Jansen, Aaron Sandbulte

**Worship Team:** Audrey Haverdink, Connie Landhuis,  
Darin Reed, Doug Reed,  
Kathy Rozenboom, Irv Rozenboom

**Power Point:** Gabe Smith

**Sound:** Ryan Smith



# BETHANY REFORMED CHURCH

December 23, 2018

10:30 a.m.

## Glorifying God with Our Words

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing #191*

Prayer

*We Three Kings #202 v.1,2,5*

*How Great Our Joy! #197 v.1-3*

## Prayer

## Glorifying God with Our Tithes

## Glorifying God with Our Attention

Scripture – Numbers 24:17 p.249

Isaiah 9:1-7 p. 1072

Matthew 2:9-11 p.1498

Message – *Follow That Star*

Prayer in Response to God's Word

## Celebrating Our God

*There's a Song in the Air #196 v.1,2,4*

## Benediction

## Continuing to Worship as We Go

*Emmanuel #165*

## WELCOME...

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

## CONDOLENCES TO...

Elissa & Brock Maxwell on the death of Elissa's grandfather last Sunday.

## THANK YOU...

to all the wonderful people who helped make the Preschool Christmas Program a success – those who helped set up tables and chairs, Rich Swank & Pat Sparks for helping with all the practices, Julie & Landen Soma for helping put up the decorations, Julie Soma & Connie Landhuis for getting the PowerPoint system running, Susan Cowles for playing the piano, Scott Van Der Weide for running sound, Steve Landhuis for all his wonderful prayers before and during the program, and our wonderful board members (Julie Soma, Kathy Rozenboom, Evy Vos, Pat Sparks, Jill Mraz, Darin Reed) who served refreshments and helped clean up, and all who attended and/or supported us in prayer! I couldn't have done it without all of you!

- Betty Swank

## JOIN US FOR OUR...

Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 p.m. *tomorrow*.

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS...

A Christmas photo card and letter from the Rempe family is posted on the fellowship hall bulletin board. The letter includes their mailing and street address.

## THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS OFFERING...

has been designated for the Bethany Preschool.

## ANYONE INTERESTED...

in serving on the Mission Committee is asked to contact Scott Van Der Weide.

## PULPIT SUPPLY...

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.

## TAX TIME PREPARATION...

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

## YOU ARE INVITED...

to help Richard and Regina Fry celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, *January 5<sup>th</sup>* at the Norwoodville Community Center from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

## **AT THE ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING...**

held on November 18<sup>th</sup>, Scott Van Der Weide and Kent Whitmore was selected as Elders. Deacons selected were Lee Harms and Thomas Van Woerkom. Also here are the Officers for the 2019 Consistory:

|                      |                                       |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Vice-President:      | Steve Landhuis                        |
| Clerk of Consistory: | Terry Dippold                         |
| Treasurer:           | Susan Cowles                          |
| Chairman of Deacons: | Tony Dorman                           |
| Worship Chairman:    | Kent Whitmore                         |
| Outreach/Missions:   | Scott Van Der Weide                   |
| Education:           | Bob Snyder                            |
| Fellowship:          | Melissa Smith &<br>Thomas Van Woerkom |
| Property:            | Lee Harms &<br>Thomas Van Woerkom     |
| Preschool Liaison:   | Susan Cowles                          |

### **"FOLLOW THAT STAR"**

**Numbers 24:17** "A star will come out of Jacob".  
**Isaiah 9:1-7; Matthew 2:9-11**

Our Society is star crazy. So many are set upon being earthly stars. However, people of God are not set on being stars but have always expected the most special star. And the coming of the Messiah was prophesied to be announced by a star – which then appeared over Bethlehem at the birth of Christ. Jesus' coming was prophesied by Isaiah and just as a star is typically envisioned to have 5 points, so Isaiah gives the star of stars 5 royal titles.

### **(1) WE ARE TO FOLLOW A STAR WHO IS WONDERFUL.**

He is wonderful because He is God incarnate. His patience with us is a wonder. His taking our punishment for sin is a wonder. His teachings about God are wonderful revelations into the heart of God telling us that God is like the Father of the Prodigal. For a beautiful, meaningful Christmas, let's remember how wonderful Jesus really is.

### **(2) FOLLOW THE STAR WHOSE NAME IS COUNSELOR.**

He is wisdom incarnate and His counsel and advice are the best approach to everything. We ask earthly friends for advice, even more, let's seek the advice of our best counselor and friend. He can help us with anything and everything.

### **(3) FOLLOW THE STAR WHO IS MIGHTY GOD.**

Jesus came to help people, equipped with the vast resources of God. What mighty works Jesus did and continues to do today. He wants to act in a mighty way in our lives.

### **(4) FOLLOW THE STAR WHOSE NAME IS EVERLASTING FATHER.**

Jesus never fails, and we can count on Him always. Death itself and all of hell, could not destroy Jesus. He is the eternal one who lives forever and desires to share His wonderful life with you.

### **(5) FOLLOW THE STAR NAMED THE PRINCE OF PEACE**

When it comes to peace, we all need help beyond ourselves to live at peace with others. Real peace must come from the inside, and you can never have real peace until you receive the Prince of Peace. Ask Him today to forgive your sins and free you from guilt and put peace and love and joy in your heart.

**Summary: "And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace."** He's the star of all stars, the only one worth following. Let us renew our goal to follow Him, not just at Christmas, but always.