

THE SCRIBE



From Pastor Ken

December 2023

Advent means "Arrival"

In these four Advent Sundays before Christmas, we wait for the birth of our Lord as one of us. Our waiting is like that of expectant parents waiting for the birth of their baby.

This year's Advent devotional booklet is entitled "Heavenly Peace". I encourage you to bring one home and read the bible verse and matching prayer each day.

In all the richness of Advent, and all the preparations for Christmas, the most important event that happens is that Jesus is born in us.

Advent Events

Sunday, December 3	Worship	"Keep Alert" - Kindermesse	
Sunday, December 10	Worship	John the Baptists Doubts Christmas Program: "The Last Noel" 6:00p	
Friday, December 22		Christmas Caroling See p. 2 for details	4-6:00p
Sunday, December 17	Worship	Choir Cantata "A Celtic Christmas Celebration: Have you Heard?"	
Sunday, December 24	Worship	"Mary, You Shall Bear a Child"	9:00a Only

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Sunday, December 24


3:30, 5:30, 7:30p

Sunday, December 31	Worship	"Rejoicing in God" Youth / Young Adult Led Service	
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New Member Class

Classes will begin Sunday, January 14, 2024.

Announcements

- **Men's BBQ.** Friday, December 1 @ 6:00p at David Klein's house. 'Meet and greet' at 6:00p; dinner at 6:30p. Signup sheet on bulletin board. Contact: Dave Havelka.
- **Christmas Family Craft Day.** Saturday, December 9 @ 10:00a. Details to follow. In the meantime, donations of pinecones, and paper towels would be greatly appreciated. Please drop off in box labeled "Christmas Craft Day" in the laundry cart. Sign-up sheet on bulletin board. Contact: Sue Wetzel.
- **Children's Christmas Program.** Sunday, December 10 @ 6:00p. "The Last Noel"
- **Mom's Group.** Wednesday, December 10. We meet every third Wednesday of each month from 4:00-6:00p. We do a Bible Study, crafts, chat about life and be supportive of one another. Contact: Karina Isley.
- **Olive Wood Hand Carvings from Bethlehem Sale.** Sunday, December 10 and December 17. The olive wood table will be set up in the Fellowship Hall displaying many beautiful hand carved olive wood pieces made in the Holy Land. We will be offering these beautiful olive wood pieces for sale between services. These carvings make for a perfect Christmas gift!
- **Fair Trade Coffee Products Sales.** Sunday, December 10 and 17 between services in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee, tea, chocolate and nuts will be offered.
- **Gingerbread Guys and Gals!** Calling all candy decorators! Anyone that can pick up a piece of candy is invited to participate in our Gingerbread People Decorating Party Saturday, December 16 @ 2:00p. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Come decorate your gingerbread guy or gal with your BFLC family! Space is limited so sign-up soon! 
- **Prime Timers (anyone over 50!)** are invited to share an evening of Christmas Cheer at the Wagner's house on Saturday, December 16, 2023 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Please bring your favorite hors d'oeuvre or snack to share. You may also bring your favorite wine or other beverage you prefer. Hot cider, coffee and cold soft drinks will be provided. Plan to come share some good times, laughter, and conversation with one another as we celebrate the season of Jesus' birth! 16565 Papago Way, Colorado Springs, 80908. Please RSVP to Pam 719-985-5025 or Duane 719-208-5180 by December 7.

Cantata
"A Celtic Christmas Celebration: Have you Heard?"
Sunday, December 17
8:00a & 10:30a Services

- **Christmas Caroling!** Join a hearty and festive group of carolers Friday evening, December 22nd from 4-6:00p, and bring Holiday cheer to some of our members at their homes. All ages are welcome. We will carpool starting and ending at the church. Caroling is followed by a warm meal in the fellowship hall. If you are interested, please contact Amy Churchill at 253-225-6062.

Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, December 24
One Morning Service @ 9:00a
Candlelight Services
3:30, 5:30, 7:30p

Poinsettia Sign-up: \$10—Checks should be made out to BFLC with "Poinsettia" in the memo line and placed in the offering. Dedications can be named on the sign-up sheet located in the Fellowship Hall. The plants may be picked up following the 7:30p Christmas Eve Worship Service on Saturday, December 24.

Reminder - End of the Year - December 31, 2023

Donor must deliver or mail (postmark) on or by this date in order to claim a charitable contribution for 2023. Checks that are placed in the church offering during the first worship service on 2024 will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2023, even if the check is predated to 2023 or was actually written in 2023. However, checks that are written, mailed and postmarked in 2023 will be deductible in 2023, though they are not received by church until 2024. If you have questions, please contact Lisa.

Updates

- **Advent Devotionals** are on the table in the narthex.
- **BFLC Staff Christmas Gift**—It has been the practice for many years to invite special contributions from the members of the congregation towards a cash Christmas gift for the paid staff of BFLC. This includes the Pastors, Director of Ministries, Administrative Assistant, Organists, Choir and Bells Director.
- **2024 Sunday Flowers.** Next year's sign-up is up in the Fellowship Hall bulletin board. Flowers are \$18.00.
- **Everyone's Bible Study** will be wrapping up season 3 of the Chosen with lesson 6 on November 29th, lesson 7 on December 6th and lesson 8 to be determined. We're very excited about the upcoming season 4 that is being released in movie theaters in February.
- **No Wiggle Worship** on Sunday, December 24.
- **No handbell practice** on Tuesday, December 26, 2023, January 2, and possibly January 9, 2024
- **No Choir Practice** on December 27.
- **Senior Social** on hiatus for December. We will resume in January 2024.
- **Quilters Group** will not meet for the month of December. We will resume in January 2024.
- **College/Young Adults** will lead the service on Sunday, December 31, 2023. If you would like to be a part of it, please contact Andrew Koetsier.
- **Annual Meeting**—Sunday, February 4, 2024 @ 11:45a. Potluck – bring a dish to share! **Annual Reports are due Friday, January 12**
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Save The Date



Black Forest Lutheran Church
Women's Ministry

Saturday, January 13, 2024
9:00am to 12:00pm

All women over 18 years old are invited.

LIVING YOUR FAITH SERIES

BFLC Women's Ministry is pleased to invite you to the first REVIVE! event for 2024! Be sure to save the date and come join us on Saturday, January 13, 2024 from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall! This event will be our 2nd in the Living Your Faith Series. The first was on Prayer and we are so thankful for the blessings the Lord provided that day. In January we will discuss Forgiveness and hear what Jesus has to say about it and how we can put it to work in ourselves and in our relationships.

If you've attended a REVIVE! event, you know it's Bible based and thought-provoking fun, plus we have awesome food while we enjoy fellowship with other sisters in Christ. If you haven't attended before, we encourage you to join us as we lift each other up in faith. Invite your women friends and neighbors too!

A \$10 donation will be appreciated to cover costs. Contact Lisa at bflc@bflchurch.org or 719-495-2221 to register. We look forward to seeing you there!!

Volunteers Needed

- **Sunday Volunteers.** Sunday Worship is successful with the help of many volunteers. Many of these opportunities to serve don't entail a huge commitment and are a great way to connect with the other members of our congregation. These include assisting ministers, ushers, greeters, readers, recorders, uploaders, altar guild, and sound. If you would like to help out or have questions about any of these opportunities for our 8:00a and /or 10:30a services, please contact Lisa Regennitter.
- **Nursery Helpers.** This ministry allows children to be cared for in a fun and safe environment and gives parents an opportunity to worship freely as well. This is a paid position. We need at least one adult and one student (9th grade and up) per Sunday. If you are interested, please contact Lisa Regennitter.
- **Crossing the Neighborhood.** In teams of two we go out home to home, giving away crosses and invitations with the message of God's love for whomever we come across. For most this will be a surprisingly rewarding experience, particularly if you like seeing smiles. We typically go Saturday and Sunday afternoons for a couple of hours, with each Messenger usually committing to one afternoon a month. Interested in becoming one of these 'Messengers' and doing the work of Jesus. Contact Dave Havelka.



Mission Endowment

Do These Skills Describe You?

We are looking for a few people who have these skills: mission-focused, trustworthy, able to understand some basic financial concepts, and able to meet with us quarterly. The Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) Committee manages donations given specifically for outreach above and beyond the normal operational budget of our congregation. The committee is a small group of five members, approved by the Council to invest contributions to the MEF and to make decisions about dispersing them to causes that spread the gospel in our world. We have been providing support to Pastor Albert, a Lutheran Pastor at Betela Seminary in Madagascar.

As we enter 2024, we will be needing some new members to help us decide on new beneficiaries. Prayerfully consider how you can support this effort. We need your ideas, and your prayers. And as God leads you, contact Dave Reily, Lisa in the office, or any of the members of the MEF committee. We'd be glad to tell you more about how we operate and would welcome you to our team (Jody Pfeil, Dave Reily, Kent Stalnaker, Duane Wagner & Sunny Wilson).

Your Mission Endowment Fund Committee

Council Connection

In an effort to improve communication between Council and the Congregation, we would like to share some highlights from each month's meeting in the Scribe. The highlights from our November 16 meeting are:

- (1) Working on the BFLC Vision Statement.
- (2) Brainstorming how to improve Communication to the Congregation from Council.
- (3) Set the date for our Annual Congregational Meeting for February 4, 2024.



- ✝ From Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp: "Thank you so much for your recent gift of \$96.00 to Rainbow Trail's Annual Fund. Your support of the day-to-day operations of this ministry allow us to provide high quality programs throughout the year and provide life changing experiences for all that come to Rainbow Trail."
- ✝ From Samaritan's Purse: "Thank you for your gift of \$1,250.00."
- ✝ From CASA of the Pikes Peak Region: Thank you for your donation of \$1,000 in general support of our programs through Black Forest Lutheran Church. We are so grateful for your heart for children!"
- ✝ From Mosaic: "Thank you for helping Mosaic with your donation of \$1,250 to Colorado Springs in support of Partners in Possibilities."



William Isley	1	David Klein	19	Stephen & Christine Makowsky	4
Sarah Pratt	6	Noelle Leland	21	Tom & Lorraine Wallace	6
Zachary Regennitter	6	Joanne Palmer	21	Steve & Lana Benson	20
Zophia Weyers	6	Kent Stalnaker	21	James & Martha Johnston	20
Lyn Anderson	7	Katelyn Gurnett	22	Mickey & Cindy Bannister	29
Bruce Betts	9	Stephanie Strasner	23	Bruce & Laura Betts	29
Landra Decker	10	Sandy Fariss	24	Mike & Mary Nifong	30
Mike Romans	10	Jack Hooker	26	Brian & Avelyn Green	31
Linda Sherrier	11	Luke Partridge	26		
Lynn Pierce	12	Kathy Steinke	26		
Christine Bury	13	Bob Uzman	26		
Shelly Koets	13	Jon Fountain	27		
Mary Benson	14	Randy Johnson	27		
William Worrell	14	George West	27		
David Campbell	17	George Kerstein	28		
Anna Fikelstein	17	Arnie Spencer	29		
Lillian Makowsky	17	Andrew Koetsier	30		
Anne Hayes	19	Linda Pratt	31		



Youth & Family Ministry

Greetings BFLC Family!

Thank you for your prayers and participation in our ministry this last month. As I'm writing this, just yesterday a group of 14 (primarily middle school and high school students) of us spent the afternoon helping distribute Thanksgiving Food boxes for the needy at Crossfire Ministries in Colorado Springs. This last month our church also collected 108 boxes for Operation Christmas Child with many students engaging and investing in that effort. I am thankful for the way God is cultivating a spirit of giving and service among our students and pray they will continue to grow as they follow Him.

By His Grace,

Andrew Koetsier

Upcoming Activities:

For the month of December- Confirmation class will NOT be meeting. We will resume our normal schedule from 5:45-6:45pm starting back on Wednesday, January 3.

Saturday, December 2 5-8pm- "Youth United" Gathering at Saint Luke's Lutheran Church (Colorado Springs). We will be joining together with a couple of other youth groups in our area for a night of fun, games, an Episode of the Chosen, and worship together. Dinner will be included and the event is free. Please plan to come and invite a friend! RSVP to Andrew at youthbflc@bflchurch.org or 719-822-4610.

Sunday, December 10 at 6pm- We will be having our annual BFLC **Christmas Program**. The schedule of practices can be found in this Sunday's bulletin. MS/HS students are especially invited to consider playing a short musical piece and/or helping with leading our kids in some songs and a "reader's theater" skit. **Please let me know if you/your student would especially like to participate.**

December 13, 20, and 27- Youth Group will NOT be meeting. We will resume our normal schedule from 6:30-8:00pm starting back on Wednesday, January 3.

Saturday, December 16, 3-5pm- Youth Group Christmas Party at Church- including games, food, and a white elephant gift exchange (more details to come). Youth are also invited to the gingerbread man/house building family event before, starting at 2pm

Sunday, December 31- Youth/Young Adult Sunday- on this Sunday we will have the opportunity to lead much of the main service! If your family is in town, please plan on helping out/participating!

Spring/Summer 2024 Save-the-Date

March 22-23 (Friday night-Saturday)- Ignite Youth Leadership Conference at Rocky Mountain Calvary in Colorado Springs. Open to all middle school/high school students and youth volunteers.

June 28- July 6- NALC Continental Youth Gathering: we will be taking a group from BFLC to the first ever NALC Continental Youth Gathering in Boerne, TX. This four-day gathering will provide opportunities for NALC youth to grow in faith and relationship with others as the body of Christ. This trip is open to MS/HS students and young adults. We will be sending more information to families this month on cost/fundraisers/etc. and are trying to get a provisional count of who will be able to attend by the end of the year. Reach out to Andrew this month if you are interested or with any questions!



December



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9:30a Christmas Tea Set up 6:00p Men's BBQ	2 7:00a Men's Bible Study 10:00 Christmas Tea 5:00p Youth United @ St. Luke's Lutheran
3 8:00a & 10:30a Worship 9:30 Sunday School Classes for All Ages. Christmas Program Practice	4 1:00p Women's Bible Study	5 7:00p Handbell Practice 7:30 AA Mtg. Al-Anon Mtg.	6 6:30p Youth Group Everyone's Bible Study Choir Practice	7 9:30a Staff Mtg. 6:30p Worship Cmte. Mtg. 7:30 AA Mtg. Al-Anon Mtg.	8 12:00p Exec. Mtg.	9 10:00a Christmas Craft w/ Sue Wetzel
10 8:00a & 10:30a Worship 9:30 Sunday School Classes for All Ages Fair Trade Olive Wood Sale 12:00p Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal 6:00 Christmas Program	11 1:00p Women's Bible Study	12 6:00p 4-H 7:00 Handbell Practice 7:30 AA Mtg. Al-Anon Mtg.	13 12:00p AARP 6:30 Everyone's Bible Study Choir Practice 7:30 Contemporary Worship Practice	14 9:30a Staff Mtg. 7:30 AA Mtg. Al-Anon Mtg.	15	16 7:00a Men's Bible Study 2:00p Gingerbread Decorating 3:00 Youth Christmas Party 6:00 Prime Timers @ the Wagner's
17 8:00a & 10:30a Worship— <i>Cantata</i> 9:30 Sunday School Classes for All Ages Fair Trade Olive Wood Sale	18	19 7:00p Handbell Practice 7:30 AA Mtg. Al-Anon Mtg.	20 4:00p Mom's Group 6:30 Choir Practice	21 9:30a Staff Mtg. 7:00p Council Mtg. 7:30 AA Mtg. Al-Anon Mtg.	22 4:00p Christmas Caroling	23
24 9:00a Worship Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship 3:30p/5:30/7:30	25 	26 7:30p AA Mtg. Al-Anon Mtg.	27 7:30 Contemporary Worship Practice	28 9:30a Staff Mtg. 6:30p Men's Peer Group 7:30 AA Mtg. Al-Anon Mtg.	29	30
31 8:00a & 10:30a Worship—Youth/Young Adult Led 9:30 Sunday School Classes for All Ages						



December 2023 SCRIBE

OUR STAFF

Pastor – Ken Hohag
Youth and Family Director – Andrew Koetsier
Director of Ministries – Lisa Regennitter
Administrative Assistant – Stephanie Strasner
Organist – Barbara Gurnett
Choir Director – Melanie Hohag
Handbell Choir Director – Bill Fitzpatrick
Keyboard – Landra Decker/Alexandra Cullen
Ministers – All Members

OUR MISSION

Black Forest Lutheran Church glorifies God through worship, prayer, education, and service as ambassadors of Christ.

CONTACT US

Phone: 719-495-2221
Fax: 719-495-2222
E-mail: bflc@bflchurch.org
Web site: bflchurch.org

OFFICE HOURS

Weekday Hours
9:00am-2:00pm Tuesday-Friday
Sunday Worship 8:00a & 10:30am

BLACK FOREST LUTHERAN CHURCH

12455 Black Forest Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80908

Recipient Name

Street Address

City, ST ZIP Code