

THE SCRIBE



From Pastor Ken

January 2024

The Real Work of Christmas

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:*

*To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among all,
To make music in the heart.*

-
- Saturday, January 6 In my role as Dean of our Rocky Mountain Mission District, NALC, I will be installing the new pastor, Melinda Jones, at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 5265 N Union Blvd., Colo. Spgs., at 2:00p. You are invited to attend the installation and the reception following.
- Sunday, January 7 Come and hear Didi and Serafina Panzo during worship and the adult class. Our missionaries will share how God is at work in the Congo of Africa.
- Saturday, January 13 Women's Revive! @ 9:00a (see pg. 2)
- Sunday, January 14 Adult Classes begin @ 9:30a
New Member Class in the Sanctuary
A Man Called Martin Luther – video upstairs in room 26

January Announcements

- **2024 Sunday Flowers.** Sign-up is up in the fellowship hall bulletin board. Flowers are \$18.00.
- **Mom's Group.** Tuesday, January 2 and Wednesday, January 17. We meet on the first Tuesday and third Wednesday of each month from 4:30-6:00p. We do a Bible Study, crafts, chat about life and be supportive of one another. Contact: Karina Isley.
- **Women's Bible Study** will resume on January 8 @ 1:00p with a NEW study by Sarah Young, author of the Jesus Always devotional, "Embracing Jesus' Love". Contact Roxie Larson if interested in attending and would like a study guide.
- **Ethel Cleis Memorial Service** will be January 10 @ 11:00a. Luncheon to follow. Please let Lisa know if you are able to bring sandwiches, salad or dessert.
- **Everyone's Bible Study** will resume January 10 @ 6:30p wrapping up season 3 of the Chosen. We're very excited about the upcoming season 4 that is being released in movie theaters in February. ! It will be great to see it on the big screen. All are welcome to join us.



Black Forest Lutheran Church
Women's Ministry

LIVING YOUR FAITH SERIES - FORGIVENESS

BFLC Women's Ministry is pleased to invite you to the first 2024 REVIVE! event on Saturday, January 13, 2024, from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall!

We launched the Living Your Faith series at our September 2023 event. "Prayer" was the first topic of the series. We were surprised and delighted by all the ways the Lord touched so many hearts that day.

In January we will continue the Series by focusing on Forgiveness. Forgiveness is mentioned over 70 times in the Bible and Jesus emphasized its importance by including it in The Lord's Prayer. We will discuss all Jesus has to say about forgiveness and ways we can put it to work within our families, friendships and even within ourselves.

REVIVE! events are 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!

- **Men's BBQ.** Friday, January 19 @ 6:00p at David Klein's house. Featuring the 4 B's: Bible-talk, Brotherhood, BBQ and BYOB. A good event to invite a friend. Free-will offering to cover food costs. Signup sheet on the bulletin board. Speaker: Andrew Koetsier. Contact: Dave Havelka.
- **Senior Social,** Wednesday, January 24 @ 1:00p. Every 4th Wednesday of the month in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us for our monthly get-together to socialize, play dominoes, or do crafts. Individuals bring their own crafts to work on. Others use the opportunity to just sit and talk. Contact: Steve Bowles or Stan Beckner.
- **Men's Peer Group.** Thursday, January 25 @ 6:30p. In our ever-changing and trying world men need to know that it is okay to struggle, to be challenged, and to ask for help. Mike Regennitter invites men to join him in conversation and discover that they are not alone.

Reminders

Volunteers needed. I am asking that you take a moment and pray about helping out on Sunday mornings! We need around 25 volunteers per Sunday for various tasks in worship, we have awesome trainers, so you all can do it :) Volunteers are needed for both services: Altar Guild, Assistants, Counters, Greeters, Nursery Attendants, Readers, Recorder, Uploader, Sound, and Ushers. Please give it a thought and prayer! Any questions let me know and you all know I appreciate all of you! Blessings, Lisa Regennitter.



Church Mailboxes. All members have a mailbox assigned to them located in the hallway by the nursery. It's a good place to store your nametags, and it also serves as a vehicle for in-house communication. Remember to check it weekly. It's also where you will find your 2024 offering envelopes.

It's Time for Another Life Group Fair!

We're about to launch more Life Groups at BFLC. Groups of 8-10 people will gather monthly for food, fellowship, and faith. This is an opportunity to get together with fellow Christians once a month, in a small group home setting, to deepen our relationships to Jesus and one another. January 21 @ 9:30a in the Fellowship Hall is our event where you can sign up for one of these Life Groups or call Lisa at the church office. There are also still opportunities to lead one of these groups so if that interests you, let Lisa know. It is good to be among friends! We do have 12 groups meeting and they will be around to answer questions and let you know what they have gotten from the groups.



Sharing Life and Faith Together!

Council Connection

Council is busy planning and preparing for the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held on February 4, 2024.

The council unanimously approved a name change for the Social Ministry Committee, to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting in February. This has been a lengthy decision process to find a name that is more reflective of the committee's mission to serve our neighbors locally, regionally, nationally, and globally. The new name to be presented to the congregation for approval is "Compassionate Outreach".

Didi in the Congo

Didi and Serafina would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support in 2023. Here are some accomplishments-

- women in crisis have gone through counseling and 8 were able to finish the program and begin a new life.
- many orphans were sent to different orphanages and now we have 7 orphans that we are staying in touch with.
- we have 5 students that will graduate from the theological school with a bachelor degree the end of December.
- CELCCO is opening new mission areas with trained deacons to take over the areas.
- this year 8 pastors have died of old age and chronic illness.

Prayers Request for 2024 -

- women in crisis.
- the scattered orphans for God's help wherever they are.
- CELCCO leadership that God give to them wisdom on how to engage new leaders.
- theological and ecological group for God's provision to advance their vision.
- for us as we will be traveling to the USA for medical appointments.
- for God's provision as we return in February 2024.

Start-Up Dates

Confirmation/Youth Group	January 3
Quilters Group	January 4
Men's Bible Study	January 6
All Sunday Classes	January 7
Monday Women's Bible Study	January 8
Choir Practice	January 10
Everyone's Bible Study	January 10
Handbell Practice	January 16
Senior Social	January 24



Starting Your Day With God

Have a quiet interlude with God before you begin your full day can bring assurance of being prepared for what the day may hold. Martin Luther stressed the need for time and prayer with God before anything else. Our Portals of Prayer devotional booklets have a brief scripture and thought-provoking devotion written for each day. Pick one up on the table in the narthex and take the time to give it a try as you continue to grow as a disciple of Christ.

Upcoming February Events

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 4 @ 12:00p

Potluck – bring a dish to share!

Annual Reports are due Friday, January 12

Souper Bowl

Sunday, February 11

Souper Bowl of Caring is a national movement of young people working to fight hunger and poverty in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game. We will be collecting monetary donations and food for the people in need.

New Member Reception

Sunday, February 18

Come and welcome our New Members to BFLC between services and remember to wear your nametag.

Everyone's Bible Study

We're very excited about the upcoming season 4 that is being released in movie theaters on February 1. Episodes 1 through 3 will be released on February 1, 4 through 6 will follow starting on February 15, and 7 and 8 will come out on February 29. It will be great to see it on the big screen. All are welcome to join us!

Watch Season 1-3 at home, then join us in February in theaters. Contact: Paige Summerfield



- ★ A BIG Thank You from each of us on staff! We would like to express our gratitude for your generous gifts during the Christmas season. It is comforting to know we are surrounded by such a caring church community!
- ★ Thank you to Melanie and the choir for a beautiful Cantata.
- ★ Thank you to our dedicated group of volunteers who decorated our church for Christmas, and to the volunteers who assisted on Sundays in 2023!



- ★ From Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp: “Thank you so much for your recent gift of \$81.00 to Rainbow Trail’s Annual Fund. Your continued 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 CASA of the Pikes Peak Region: “Thank you for your generous support. You make a positive difference in the lives of children in need.
- ★ From the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation: “We wish to extend our deepest gratitude for your donation of \$423. It is your kindness and that of others that helps us provide support for our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.”



Amy Webb	1	Mark Hatfield	14	Mike & Jutta Romans	4
David Meyer	2	Lisa Fountain	15	Kent & Janeen Anderson	5
Ginger Gale	3	Thomas Pratt	15	Ken & Melanie Hohag	7
Hannah Joiner	3	Jackie Sappenfield	15	Arnie & Luane Spencer	22
Gary Wurster	4	Quena Stropky	16	Allan & Kathleen Oman	27
Mike Ysebaert	4	Nathan Johnson	18	Jay & Courneyanne Kvale	30
Ed Pforr	5	McKenzie Petch	19	Robin & Janet Masek	30
Adam Weyers	5	Connie Stevenson	20		
Jay Kvale	6	Liz Wetherby	20		
Tom Paulsen	6	Don Vigil	22		
Winston Churchill	8	Kris Partridge	23		
Steve Gurnett	9	Vern Regennitter	25		
Mike Jube	9	Kathleen Fitzpatrick	26		
Kirsten bush	10	Terryl Jensen	27		
Michael Decker	10	Kerrie Petch	28		
Wendy Crist	11	Jean Keenan	29		
Shelby Jackson	11	Jessica Worrell	29		
Cita Helseth	12	Lola Allred	30		
Nancy Lord	12	Lily Carlson	30		
Marcia Johnson	13	Ray Sherrier	30		
Walker Pennington	13	Lora Hahn	31		
Wyatt Pennington	13	Eleanor Makowsky	31		



Youth & Family Ministry

Greetings BFLC Family!

Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. - Isaiah 40:30-31

As we look back on 2023, we are excited about the growth in our youth and family ministries this past year. Yet we recognize that apart from Him, we can do nothing (John 15:5). As we enter into a new year my prayer is that your strength would be renewed as you look to and wait for the Lord in 2024. May He sustain and guide you in the year ahead.

Waiting for the Lord,
Andrew Koetsier

Upcoming Activities:

Confirmation and Youth Group begin again Wednesday, January 3rd- We will resume our normal schedule with Confirmation Class from 5:45-6:45pm and Youth Group from 6:30-8pm on Wednesday nights

Sunday School resumes on Sunday, January 7- Sunday School for all ages begins again in January during the 9:30am hour between morning services. With our growth this past year, we are still looking for 1-2 regular volunteers to help with our pre-K-2nd grade class (1-2 times a month). Please contact if you are interested in serving and helping point our kids to Jesus in this way!

Saturday, January 13 - Family Ice Skating at the Poss Pond from 1-4pm (weather pending).

Saturday, January 27- "Youth United" Gathering Part 2 (time TBD)- We will be joining together with other youth groups in our area for a night of fun, games, and worship together. Lunch or dinner will be included. Please plan to come and invite a friend!

Save-the-Dates

March 22-23- Ignite Youth Leadership Conference at Rocky Mountain Calvary Church in Colorado Springs. We look forward to attending this one night/one day conference designed to equip and train students, youth workers, and volunteers with Biblical principles in pursuing the goal of reaching people with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Cost is \$40/person with signup before January 31. Scholarships available. Find out more at: <https://www.igniteyouthleadership.org/>.

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. **Please let Andrew know if you plan to join by Sunday, January 7th** as we will be securing our spots and planning our accommodations for the week. The cost for the gathering itself is \$250/person (not including transportation and accommodations). Scholarships and fundraising opportunities over the course of the spring/early summer will be available.



January 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Happy New Year!	2 4:30p Mom's Group 6:30 Life to Life Disci- pleship 7:30 AA Mtg. Al-Anon Mtg.	3 5:45p Confirmation 6:30 Youth Group 7:30 Contemporary Worship Practice	4 9:00a Quilters 9:30 Staff Mtg. 7:30p AA Mtg. Al-Anon Mtg.	5	6 7:00a Men's Bible Study
7 8:00/10:30a Worship 9:30 Sunday School Classes for All Ages	8 1:00p Women's Bible Study	9 6:00p 4-H Evangelism Mtg. 7:30 AA Mtg. Al-Anon Mtg.	10 11:00 Ethel Cleis Memo- rial Service 5:45p Confirmation 6:30 Choir Practice Youth Group Everyone's Bible Study	11 9:00a Quilters 9:30 Staff Mtg. 12:00p AARP 6:30p Worship Committee Mtg. 7:30 AA Mtg. Al-Anon Mtg.	12 <i>Annual Reports Due!!</i>	13 9:00a Revive! 1:00p Family Ice Skating
14 8:00/10:30a Worship 9:30 Sunday School Classes for All Ages New Member Class	15 1:00p Women's Bible Study	16 6:30p Life to Life Disci- pleship 7:00 Handbell Practice 7:30 AA Mtg. Al-Anon Mtg.	17 9:00 BF Garden Club 4:30 Mom's Group 5:45p Confirmation 6:30 Choir Practice Youth Group Everyone's Bible Study 7:30 Contemporary Wor- ship Practice	18 9:00a Quilters 9:30 Staff Mtg. 7:30p AA Mtg. Al-A non Mtg.	19 12:00p Executive Committee Mtg. 6:00 Men's BBQ	20 7:00a Men's Bible Study
21 8:00/10:30a Worship 9:30 Sunday School Classes for All Ages New Member Class Life Group Fair	22 1:00p Women's Bible Study	23 7:00p Handbell Practice 7:30 AA Mtg. Al-Anon Mtg.	24 1:00p Senior Social 5:45 Confirmation 6:30 Choir Practice Youth Group Everyone's Bible Study	25 9:00a Quilters 9:30 Staff Mtg. 6:30p Men's Peer Group 7:00 Council 7:30 AA Mtg. Al-Anon Mtg.	26	27
28 8:00/10:30a Worship 9:30 Sunday School Classes for All Ages New Member Class	29 1:00p Women's Bible Study	30 6:30p Life to Life Disci- pleship 7:00 Handbell Practice 7:30 AA Mtg. Al-Anon Mtg.	31 5:45p Confirmation 6:30 Choir Practice Youth Group 7:30 Contemporary Worship Practice			



January 2024 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 8:00am & 10:30am

BLACK FOREST LUTHERAN CHURCH

12455 Black Forest Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80908

Recipient Name

Street Address

City, ST ZIP Code