

THE SCRIBE



From Pastor Ken

February 2024

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 4 @ 12:00p
Potluck – bring a dish to share!
Annual Reports are on the narthex table.

Sunday, February 11 – Jesus is transfigured on the mountain.
Of all the voices that vie for our attention, he is the voice
we most need to hear.

On Super Bowl Sunday we remember those who don't
have enough to eat. Bring money or non-perishable food
to put on our Souper bowl for them. See p. 2.

Lent

Going deep into the Lord's Prayer

Wed., Feb., 14	Our Father
21	Hallowed be thy name.
28	Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done.
Wed., Mar., 6	Give us this day our daily bread.
13	Forgive us as we forgive
20	Lead us not into temptation

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday worship, February 14 @
7:00p where our foreheads are marked with a cross. This
reminds us that though one day we will return to dust and
ashes, we are saved through the cross of Jesus Christ.

On the following Wednesdays, we will gather for soup
supper from 6:00 – 7:00p in the Fellowship Hall. Then our
worship follows the peaceful Holden Evening Prayer service.
See p. 2

Mark your calendars as we will be going deep into the Lord's Prayer.

New Member Reception

Sunday, February 18 @ 9:30a

New Class

The Bible's Big Story

Sunday, February 25 @ 9:30a

Join Pastor Ken as we work through the bible in one session.

Upcoming Special February Events

- **Everyone's Bible Study.** The Chosen season 4, episodes 1-3 are being shown at Regal InterQuest theater. Everyone's Bible Study is going to the February 3rd 11:40a showing. We will also be attending The Chosen season 4 episodes 4-6 on Friday, February 23rd @ 7:30p at the Regal Theater Interquest. All are invited to join! Contact: Paige Summerfield
- **Annual Meeting.** Sunday, February 4 @ 12:00p. Potluck – bring a dish to share! Annual Reports on the narthex table.
- **Galentine's Night!** Friday, February 9 @ 6:00p. What is a Galentine's night? It's a day to celebrate female friendships! There will be fun activities to do, food and more! Sign up on bulletin board and we are asking everyone to bring a charcuterie board (or snack) to share. Examples of board... Hot Cocoa, Taco, Chips and Salsa, Cheese and Meat and so much more. Wear pink or red! Donation: \$5.00
- **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.
- **Fair Trade Coffee & Chocolate Sale.** Sunday, February 11 between services in the Fellowship Hall. If you're looking for a HOT gift for your Valentine, we have the solution! They will love Fair Trades Coffee, Tea & Hot Chocolate on these long cold winter days! It will make their hearts glow for you. Pick up some for your Valentine or yourself. Products are limited.
- **Ash Wednesday Service.** Wednesday, February 14 @ 7:00p. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. It is the service when a cross of ashes is traced on our foreheads to remind us that we aren't on earth forever. It's helpful to remember that, while we are limited, our God is not.
- **New Member Reception.** Sunday, February 18. Come and welcome our New Members to BFLC between services and remember to wear your nametag.
- **Mom's Group. *Please note new times.*** Every 1st Tuesday and 3rd Wednesday of the month @ 4:30p. Moms, if you need some "me" time, come and check out the Mom's Group. We do a Bible Study, crafts, chat about life and be supportive of one another. The kids also have a great time! Meeting dates are February 6 and 21. Contact: Karina Isley.
- **Senior Social,** Wednesday, February 28 @ 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.
- **Men's Peer Group.** Thursday, February 29 @ 6:30p in office off of kitchen. 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. We will be given tools for how not to just survive, but to thrive.

Lenten Soup Supper and Lenten Service

Begins Wednesday, February 21

6:00p Soup Supper – Sign-up to bring soup or bread

7:00p Worship – Holden Evening Prayer

Council Connection - (1) Planning for Annual Meeting, (2) Recommended budget for 2024. The approved December minutes can be found in the black binders in the Church office.

Stay tuned! New Classes Starting Up!

March-April: Intentional Parenting Class- this spring (specific dates TBA), we look forward to hosting a 6 week class on intentional, faith-centered parenting for parents of all ages. Whether you are a new parent, parenting through the early childhood, elementary ages, or parenting teenagers/young adults, there will be wisdom, encouragement, and opportunities for you to grow on the journey together. Be on the lookout for more details in the coming weeks! Contact Lisa or Andrew with questions! Sign-up if interested!

Caring for Adult Loved Ones Support Group. Beginning Sunday, March 3 between services! What is this all about? It's about you and your concerns if:

- you have an adult member of your family who needs support in the matters of daily living
- you have a friend who needs similar support
- that family member or friend lives with you
- that family member lives in the same town as you do
- that family member lives far away
- you have traveled this road and would like to support others who are now walking this path

This is a support group where we meet and share the wisdom that we gleaned over the years of care giving, where we bring our cares and seek others thoughts, where we share our hurts and heavy hearts, where we share laughter and blend it all together with prayer and mutual support. Contact Lisa in Church Office

AARP Shredding is back! June 29, 2024. Stay tuned for further details.

Black Forest Lutheran Church Columbarium

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." -John 3:16

For generations, local churchyards provided the ideal resting places for departed loved ones, giving comfort and solace in peaceful and familiar settings. Family members could regularly visit a loved one's final resting place in a prayerful setting maintained by people who shared their faith.

Rising land values and modern zoning restrictions made church property burials impractical. The venerable church graveyard has been replaced largely by commercial cemeteries. While beautiful and peaceful, cemeteries often are impersonal, costly, and inconvenient to visit.

In recent years, many churches have built columbarium's to reinstate a lost tradition. A columbarium is a group of compartments or niches designed to hold cremated remains – or cremains – of loved ones. Each inurnment niche is secured by an engraved plaque commemorating the loved one.

Black Forest Lutheran Church is honored to offer such resting places for members of the church community. The church seeks to provide you comfort knowing the columbarium is tended by members of the congregation.

For more information regarding the Black Forest Lutheran Columbarium or to make arrangements for your inurnment, please contact Joe Dowdy, MaryAnne Ricci, Jim Kent, or Church Office.

Sunday Quarters Food for the Poor

The Social Ministry Committee is now directing all quarters put in the offering plate on Sundays to *Food for the Poor*, which was established in 1982. This organization ministers to impoverished people in 17 Caribbean countries and Latin America. Their goas are to improve the health, economic, social and spiritual conditions of the men, women and children they serve. Their mission is to link the church of the First World with the church of the Third World in a manner that helps both the materially poor and the poor in spirit. They acquire shipping container-loads of donated goods and using well-established shipping and distribution of special projects. Consider putting your silver in the Lord's hands every Sunday.

The Mission Endowment Fund Committee is very happy to announce that our beneficiary for the past four years, Pastor Albert in Madagascar, has completed his Master's degree program, required to continue teaching theology. Because of your designated gifts to the Mission Endowment Fund, you have allowed the committee to financially support Pastor Albert. These funds were above and beyond the normal annual congregation budget. Please enjoy reading his story as we see how your gifts have resulted in good fruit in the country of Madagascar!

PASTOR RANAIVOMANANA ALBERT'S JOURNEY

Hello, Black Forest Lutheran Church Congregation,

I am married and have four children: three girls and one boy. My first daughter is 22 years old and is studying to be a doctor. My second daughter is 19 and studying "finance and accounting" (preparing for a Bachelor's and Master's degree). My third child (son) is 16 years old, studying computer science (preparing for Bachelor's and Master's degree). My last child is only six years old in the first class of primary school.



I studied theology at Betela Theological Seminary (Betela Seminary) from February 1999 to June 2003. According to the program of this Seminary, students receive a "Diploma in Theology" after completing four years of study. Thus, in 2003 I obtained a "diploma in Theology," was ordained, and became a pastor.

After that, I worked for two years in a Parish in the countryside, where there were five Churches. The distance between these six churches was around 30 km. There was no car, only a canoe and bicycle were used. I continued studying at this Seminary again in 2003-2004. That is, I was working and studying at the same time, going back and forth from my parish to the Seminary, and writing a short thesis (20 pages). After that, I graduated with a baccalaureate of Theology again.

The Synod (Mahajanga Synod) transferred me to work in another Parish. We were still in the countryside where there were eight Churches, and it was the same as before, without cars. But I used bicycles and walking and canoes to visit the Churches. At the same time, I was elected to lead the youth department of the Synod. In 2007, I decided to continue studying at the High School of Theology (SALT), for three years. That's when I got my "Bachelor of Theology" and "Maitrise of Theology" diplomas. After that, I led a Parish in the capital of Mahajanga for three years, and was elected as the vice general secretary of the Mahajanga Synod.

In 2013, I was chosen as the director of Betela Seminary (where I have studied), while teaching Old Testament (and Greek) courses. In 2016, SALT changed its program, following the LMD (License_(which is Bachelor)_ Master and Doctorate) program. Therefore, all teachers of theology, in the Malagasy Lutheran Church, are now required to have a Master's degree, according to this new program.

In 2018, I decided to study at SALT, to obtain the Master's degree. Therefore, I requested financial support from Friends of Madagascar Mission (FOMM) [similar to World Mission Prayer League but centered on Madagascar], as I had to study and manage Betela Seminary. FOMM recommended I study online using the Institute of Lutheran Theology (ILT), and they would arrange financial support with the Black Forest Lutheran Church (BFLC).

I started studying in Spring 2019 until Fall 2023. BFLC covered my education during that time. You sent books, ensured an internet connection, and especially the tuition fees at the ILT. This study has given me many good, learning experiences. However, I went through many challenges during this time:

- While reading books for studying at ILT, I also prepared courses here at the Seminary.
- I lived with the internet and studied with Americans and other people from other countries.
- The network here is very slow, and the electricity power often stops. Thus, sometimes I missed my class unexpectedly. Fortunately, the system of teaching at ILT is very well organized. And I caught up with the class.
- There was a time when the Customs organization in Madagascar seized the books that were sent to me, and I had to pay a lot of money to receive the books.
- During the last course, I lost all my books because my luggage was stolen after I had attended a Synod committee in the north. But thankfully I received help to complete the course.

Despite various problems, I finished my studies in December, 2023. I know that God and BFLC have always been there to help me completely. Now I can continue teaching at Betela Seminary. Thank-you!

Thank you!

- ✚ From Bill & Jo Dieckhoff: "Thank you to all of the Christmas carolers who blessed us with their smiles, songs, and their caring words. Thank you, also, for the love bag with the goodies!"
- ✚ From The Olive Wood Project: "Thanks to all who purchased Olive Wood in 2023 to help Christian Carvers in Bethlehem. The situation in this area is still very tense and unsafe. Most do not venture from their homes except for necessities. This extra income will be extremely helpful to them. The amount of sales from our congregation alone were \$3000; a very successful year. Again, thank you for supporting the Olive Wood Project."
- ✚ Cru Foundation: "Thank you for your generous support and your passion to share the gospel."

Baby Corner!



Congratulations to grandparents Del & Maureen Lang on the new addition to their family!



Welcome "Bonnie Sue Blodgett"
Born 11/15/23 - 9 lbs, 21.5" long



Congratulations to grandparents Joe and Mary Anne Ricci on the new addition to their family!



Welcome "Elijah Jefferson Ricci"
Born 11/22/23 - 8 lbs 6 oz., 21.25" long

Celebrate!



Don Crist	1	Jennifer Havelka	20	Greg & Tracy Kleine	4
Michael Deblois	1	Katherine Leland	20	Gerald & Tami Beaupre	11
Tammie Anderson	4	Ginny West	21	Vonda & Joe Dowdy	12
Jessica Herrin	4	Larry Lockwood	23	Jerry & Judith Jergensen	14
Mike Nifong	4	Betty Thomas	24	Randy & Lynn Pierce	14
Valerie Bates	9	Lilly Hite	25	Bill & Kathy Schwindt	14
Rob Stropky	9	Pat Holte	26	Mary Lynn & Bill Willis	14
Joyce Witte	9	Patsy Wurster	26		
Leah Pfalmer	10	David Havelka	27		
Joyce Donicht	11	Cameron Regennitter	27		
Dennis Bailey	12	Margaret Zancanella	28		
Blake Strasner	13				
Judy Burke	14				
Kenneth Kvolis	15				
Griffen Fitzpatrick	18				
Cody Hoelscher	18				
Wolf Thielmann	19				



Youth & Family Ministry

Greetings BFLC Family!

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. -Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

Recently in youth group we have been talking about what worship is...not *just* a service we go to on Sunday morning, or when we sing songs or pray to God, but even more what we do and how we live our lives. Specifically, we have been discussing what it means to worship God in each individual area of our lives, whether it is at school, playing sports or at band, with our family time, or even just when we are hanging out with our friends.

My encouragement to you is the same: what is one area of your life you are going to intentionally worship God with in how you go about it this month? What changes might you make when you think about it through a worship-focused lens? My prayer is that we all would grow in awareness of how God is at work in each area of our lives and that by His Spirit, He would enable us to worship Him more fully in everything we do.

By His Grace,
Andrew Koetsier

Upcoming Activities:

Sunday, February 11: Youth "Souper Bowl" Donation Drive and Super Bowl Party (4:30-8:30pm)

Sunday, February 25: Youth Sunday Brunch Fundraiser (during the 9:30am Sunday School hour)

Saturday, March 2: First Communion Retreat (10:00a-1:00p). All 3rd graders and up, sign-up on bulletin board. Contact Andrew for more information.

March-April: Intentional Parenting Class- this spring (specific dates TBA), we look forward to hosting a 6 week class on intentional, faith-centered parenting for parents of all ages. Whether you are a new parent, parenting through the early childhood, elementary ages, or parenting teenagers/young adults, there will be wisdom, encouragement, and opportunities for you to grow on the journey together. Be on the lookout for more details in the coming weeks!

March 22-23 (Friday night-Saturday)- Ignite Youth Leadership Conference at Rocky Mountain Calvary Church (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 for the first 10 people to sign up, \$50/person after. Scholarships available. Find out more at: <https://www.igniteyouthleadership.org/>. Please contact Andrew if you would like to join!

Sunday, March 31- Family Easter Egg Hunt @ 9:45a.



February 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:00a Quilters 9:30 Staff Mtg. 11:00 Insurance Mtg. 1:00p MEF Mtg. 6:30 Worship Cmte Mtg 7:30 AA Mtg Al-Anon Mtg.	2 9:00a Black Forest Community Garden Club	3 7:00a Men's Bible Study Cub Scout Pinewood Derby
4 8:00/10:30a Worship 9:30 Sunday School Clas- ses for All Ages New Member Class 12:00p Annual Meeting	5 1:00p Women's Bible Study	6 4:30p Mom's Group 7:00 Handbell Practice 7:30 AA Mtg. Al-Anon Mtg.	7 5:45p Confirmation 6:30 Youth Group Choir Practice Everyone's Bible Study	8 9:00a Quilters 9:30 Staff Mtg. 7:30p AA Mtg. Al-Anon Mtg.	9 12:00p Exec Mtg. 6:00 <u>Galentine's</u> Event	10 9:00a Property Cmte. Mtg.
11 8:00/10:30a Worship 9:30 Sunday School Classes for all Ages New Member Class Fair Trade Coffee & Choco- late Souper Bowl 4:30p Youth Superbowl Party	12 1:00p Women's Bible Study	13 6:00p 4-H 6:30 Life to Life Disci- pleship 7:00 Handbell Practice 7:00 AA Mtg. Al-Anon Mtg.	14 12:00p AARP 6:00 Choir Practice 7:00 Ash Wednesday Worship 8:00 Contemporary Worship Practice	15 9:00a Quilters 9:30 Staff Mtg. 7:00p Council Mtg. 7:30 AA Mtg. Al-Anon Mtg.	16	17 7:00a Men's Bible Study
18 8:00/10:30a Worship 9:30 Sunday School Classes for all Ages New Member Reception	19 1:00p Women's Bible Study	20 6:30p AA Pot Luck 7:00 Handbell Practice 7:30 Al-Anon Mtg.	21 4:30p Mom's Group 6:00 Soup Supper Choir Practice 7:00 Lenten Worship	22 9:00a Quilters 9:30 Staff Mtg. 3:00 Social Ministry Mtg. 7:30p AA Mtg. Al-Anon Mtg.	23	24
25 8:00/10:30a Worship 9:30 Sunday School Classes for all Ages Youth Brunch Fundraiser	26 1:00p Women's Bible Study	27 6:30p Life to Life Dis- cipleship 7:00 Handbell Practice 7:00 AA Mtg. Al-Anon Mtg.	28 1:00p Senior Social 6:00 Soup Supper Choir Practice 7:00 Lenten Worship 7:45 Contemporary Worship Practice	29 9:00a Quilters 9:30 Staff Mtg. 6:30p Men's Peer Group 7:30 AA Mtg. Al-Anon Mtg.		



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