



# The Bethany Banner

Bethany Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church  
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December 2018

## *A Word From the Pastor's Study*

This month we will take a break from our sermon series through the Book of Acts and enter into a time of thinking about the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to be born of a virgin in the land of God, and the city of Bethlehem. To do this we will turn to maybe an unlikely source, the prophet Ezekiel.

It is important for believers to be reminded every now and then of the way the prophets in the Old Testament were preparing Israel for the coming of the Messiah. This is one of the explainers as to why Jesus is so hard on them when he comes and the Apostles are as well (as we have heard in Acts 2 and 3). Part of the reason why the people of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob have forgotten these truths is because the very ones who were tasked with proclaiming this reality had not been doing their jobs. The under shepherds, the Levite priests, were given a particularly important role to play in the redemptive plan of God, that they had not been fulfilling.

In the portion of the Holy Scriptures we will look at (Ezekiel 34) the prophet tells of a Shepherd that is to come. Now, while some parts of the Bible can be difficult to understand, this chapter is not particularly hard to notice the relevance to this season of the year. One of the key pictures the New Testament gives us of Jesus is His benevolent love and care over His sheep as the Chief Shepherd over His bride, the Church.

We live in a day and age that does not value the Old Testament, either using it as merely a collection of pithy sayings or only moral stories. But it is vital that we see it as God intends, as a gift to us to better understand the work that Jesus Christ came to do and has done in his life, death, and resurrection. These clear testimonies to our Redeemer, as found in Ezekiel, help us gain a greater faith and trust in Jesus as we see with clearer eyes how we have benefited from all the ways God explains His truth through Moses, the Psalms, and the Prophets.



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### Sunday Preaching Schedule

December 2	Ezekiel 33:30-33
December 9	Ezekiel 34:1-10
December 16	Ezekiel 34:11-19
December 23	Ezekiel 34:20-31
December 30	Deuteronomy 31:1-8

### Bible Reading Plan for Month

Dec. 3-8	Exodus 16-20
Dec. 9-15	Exodus 21-25
Dec. 16-22	Exodus 26-30
Dec. 23-Dec. 29	Exodus 31-35

### Important Dates for December

Senior Citizen's Luncheon	Dec. 1
Appalachia Coat Deadline	Dec. 2
Circle Christmas Party	Dec. 4
Mugs and Muffins	Dec. 9
Congregational Meeting	Dec. 9
Christmas Shut-in Baskets	Dec. 16
Christmas Cantata	Dec. 16
Youth Caroling Visits	Dec. 20
Trip to Appalachia	Dec. 21
The Lord's Supper	Dec. 23

### Larger Catechism Question

#### **WLC Question Q#153**

**Q. 36. Who is the Mediator of the Covenant of Grace?**

**A.** The only Mediator of the covenant of grace is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, of one substance and equal with the Father, in the fullness of time became man, and so was and continues to be God and man, in two entire distinct natures, and one person, forever.

### Missionary of the Month

Christ's Church is a missionary church, seeking to grow the Kingdom by the means of grace. This month we would like to highlight the work of Jeff and Lisa King! They labor in the nation of Spain with our World Witness mission in Madrid. He is teaching primarily at the Evangelical School (ECA). They are asking prayers for ECA, their children as they get used to living in Spain, and for gospel messaging opportunities with their neighbors in the city.



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## Youth Corner Announcements

Christmas Caroling will be held on Thursday, **December 20<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.**

Our annual Christmas trip to Appalachia will be on **Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.** Please sign up on the rear podium if you plan to attend so transportation can be arranged.

- Happy 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday Caleb! (on 26<sup>th</sup>)

Operation Christmas Child shoebox item for the month of December is **prayer.** Please pray for the children as they receive their boxes over the coming months.

*"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."*

James 1:17

## Session Report

The session met on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> for their regular stated meeting. Issues on the table were receiving reports on Trunk or Treat and the Family Retreat, some Christian Ed changes, upcoming congregational meeting, and several pastoral needs in the church. Prayer was held for all.

## Deacon's Report

The deacons met on Nov, 4<sup>th</sup> and talked about new security cameras, care of the cemetery, provided an update on the fence for the play area and discussed some first options for a new playground, a new concrete pad for the area by the sheds, fixing the roof of the shelter, and the concrete steps leading to the second floor of the education building. Some other upcoming projects at the manse were also brought forward.

## Christian Education Report

Christian Ed met for their regular meeting Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> and after worship on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> and approved a new High School Sabbath School teacher (Rev. Glaser) and Sabbath School Treasurer (Chuck Walker).

## Wednesday Prayer Meeting

On Wednesday's we are currently reading portions of Scripture, which may not be as well-known as others, for a time of devotion and refreshment. We invite you to join with us at 6:30pm!

## Sunday Evening Bible Study

Our bible study began meeting at the end of the Lord's Day at the beginning of December. We continue in our look at the book of Revelation and will be in ch's 16-18 this month. We welcome all!



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## Monthly Prayer Requests

We will continue to be in prayer for a presbytery and nation that we will covenant to prayer for through this month. We are going to highlight First Presbytery, and the nation and people of Chile.

### **Prayer Needs:**

Dollie Douglas, Hayes Faulkner, Sarah Faulkner, Janice Patterson, Betty Campbell, Winifred Callister, Peggy Wells, Theodore McClure, Garland Davidson, Geneva Smith, Bible Release Time, Appalachia mission and the children of Sneedville, TN, Good News Club, Andrew Brunson, Rose Knight, Kenneth Moses, Holly Keyes, Vickie McDaniels, John Bailey, and Samantha Johnson. Spiritual warfare, the President, end to abortion, missionaries, church planters, and all our friends and family.

## Devotional Verses

"Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father."

John 6:65

"Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins."

Col 1:12-14

## Psalm of the Month

"The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars, Yes, the LORD splinters the cedars of Lebanon. He makes them also skip like a calf, Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox. The voice of the LORD <sup>le</sup>divides the flames of fire. The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; The LORD shakes the Wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth, and strips the forests bare; and in His temple everyone says, "Glory!" The LORD sat *enthroned* at the Flood, and the LORD sits as King forever. The LORD will give strength to His people; The LORD will bless His people with peace.."

– Psalm 29:5-11

## FAMILY RETREAT NEWS!

## THANK YOU!

My whole-hearted thanks with praise to GOD to my dear Bethany Family and everyone who attended and helped make our 18<sup>th</sup> annual Bethany ARP Church Retreat possible! Many talents and many hands worked together so willingly and joyfully for weeks and months to make this special weekend possible!

*Karen Jones*