

# From the Pastor: On The Feast of Epiphany

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.’”*

(Matthew 2:1-2)

The celebration of our Lord’s nativity has, historically (fourth century), began on the eve of Christmas day. Though the primary Christ Mass was and is on December 25, the gala festivities associated with the birth of Jesus spanned almost two weeks, bringing the worshipping Church right up to the Feast of Epiphany on January 6. In the Eastern Church, Epiphany is closely linked to the Baptism of our Lord, while in the Western Church Epiphany is primarily associated with the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles especially evident in the visit of the Magi from the East.

The significance of the coming of the “wise men” to visit the Christ Child in Bethlehem is first informed by the fact that it is reported only in Saint Matthew’s Gospel, which was written with the intent of demonstrating to the Jews that Jesus is indeed the long-awaited Christ whom the prophets had foretold. Saint Matthew’s task of convincing the Jews that Jesus is the messianic fulfillment of the Scriptures was not as easy as one might think.

After Jesus had risen from the dead and bestowed the promised gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, there were many Jews alleging that Jesus *could not* be the Messiah precisely because the Gentiles were now being welcomed in as followers without first being converted to Judaism. These Judaizers, as they were called, were not only troubling the church from the outside, but were also *within* the church – often times Jewish Christians were the fiercest in the false contention that proselytes must become Jews in order to be true followers of Jesus.

So widespread was this notion, that Saint Paul’s Epistle to the Galatians addresses the matter at length and recounts the event in which even Saint Peter himself had temporarily fallen into this erroneous way of thinking. Of course, all of this is not exactly surprising considering that for thousands of years the Jews had been under the strictures of the Mosaic covenant with all its exclusivity. Normally, traditions of religious persuasion are very hard to change, imagine how hard it must have been for Jewish Christians to accept the idea that Gentiles could freely join the churches without

circumcision and without a solemn declaration of allegiance to the Jewish code of law.

All of this reveals the unique significance of Matthew's Gospel – he wanted to make very clear, especially to the Jews who believed in Jesus, that the coming of the Christ was not merely for Jews but for the entire world, which is to say, all humanity. This may sound like a no-brainer for us in 2017 especially in our age of being “politically correct,” but we should not forget or take lightly the Old Testament reality that the Jews were God's chosen people and had a very unique and exclusive relationship with the only true God. But therein lies a key point, the coming of the Christ Child marked the end of a long era and the beginning of a new era. The age of the Jews as God's chosen nation was coming to an end, being replaced by its fulfillment – Christ, who is the Father's chosen Son. All believers in the true God are now to be found in the Beloved Son – whether Jews or Gentiles.

The visit of the Magi to see the Christ Child is the key Scriptural account and historical event that shows God's grace is now given to ALL people through Jesus Christ. These Magi knew well that they were considered heathen Gentiles but they nevertheless sought Him who was born King of the Jews. Yet, they sought Him not as a foreign king, but as *their own* King. Though Jesus is rightly called “the King of the Jews,” He is also the fulfillment of the Jewish nation and therefore the King of ALL. This is exactly why the Magi presented Him kingly gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh – they were thereby not only honoring Him, but solemnly vowing their allegiance to Him as their own King.

It is right and fitting for us, as the baptized of Christ, to ponder the colossal change that occurred with the coming of Jesus. In and through this God-man, the Gentiles now have a place in the Kingdom – and that's good news for us. Therefore, let us observe this Epiphany with great joy and thanksgiving, for, as one pastor put it, “the cocoon that kept the promise for thousands of years was now about to burst, and the butterfly of a new creation was born in Him – and this new creation will last forever.”

Hail, Thou Source of every blessing, Sovereign Father of mankind!  
Gentiles now Thy grace possessing, In Thy courts admission find.  
Grateful now we fall before Thee, In Thy Church obtain a place,  
Now by faith behold Thy glory, Praise Thy truth, adore Thy grace.

Once far off, but now invited, we approach Thy sacred throne;  
In Thy covenant united, reconciled, redeemed, made one.  
Now revealed to Eastern sages, see the Star of Mercy shine;  
Mystery hid in former ages, Mystery great of love divine. (TLH #129 vs. 1-2)

In the bond of faith, Pastor Menet

*Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Christ Alone, Scripture Alone, and to God Alone be the Glory!"*

**Worship Schedule: *Sundays @* 9:00 a.m.**

Holy Communion is served every Sunday.

**Bible study and Sunday School** will follow to end at 11:30 a.m.

**Bible Study Schedule**

**Sundays after church  
Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.**

**Office hours:**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

9:00 a.m. to noon

**Pastor Menet's cell phone # 847-951-5252**

His email address is [pdm52@mchsi.com](mailto:pdm52@mchsi.com)

**A NEW DEACON LIST IS POSTED** on the bulletin board. They have been revised so check it out to see who your deacon is.

**VOTERS' MEETING** The January meeting is the Annual meeting of the Voters' Assembly. Reports from the Committees will inform the Voters' of the important work being done at Faith. If you want to be directly involved with the work at Faith, the Voters' meeting is the place to start. We will be discussing and finalizing our annual budget and discussing plans for charitable giving. We will also have a report on Valley Lutheran School and a discussion of our commitment to support Valley.

The meeting is January 21, 2018 at 10:15 a.m. If you have an agenda item, please talk to Jeff Elbert

**Web site:** [www.faithupontherock.com](http://www.faithupontherock.com) Check it out.

If you have ideas of things you would like to see on it, send them to Kie.

[FAITHLUTH@aol.com](mailto:FAITHLUTH@aol.com) You can read *The Rock* in color on the website too!

**CANCELLATIONS DUE TO BAD WEATHER** will be on KWWL TV. If the weather is bad and you wonder if we are having church, watch for it on KWWL or [www.KWWL.com](http://www.KWWL.com) click on weather then cancellations.

Wednesday night classes are cancelled if schools close.

**ELDERLY MEMBER NEEDS HELP** with snow blowing and shoveling, will pay. Please call the office if you are able to help.

# OFFICIAL ACTS in DECEMBER

Release: Katie Mason moved away

## NEW Addresses this month:

Diane High, 5305 Twana Dr. #4, Des Moines 50310

Gary Deitrick, 500 Sycamore St. #710, Waterloo 50703

Jacob Lanning, 903 Maplewood Dr. #6, Cedar Falls, 50613

Shawn Craigo, 1230 Delaney Ct., North Liberty 52317

Myles & Erica Douglass, 1007 Iowa St., Dysart, IA 52224

NEW PHONE # Flo Fitz, 269-6644

Please email, [faithluth@aol.com](mailto:faithluth@aol.com), or call, 236-1771, with any changes in your phone or address.

**HOSPITAL STAY-** Pastor Menet does make it a priority to visit the hospitals. However, the hospital will not call us to let us know when one of our members is admitted. If you know ahead of time that you are going to be hospitalized, please indicate that on your record of fellowship or speak with Pastor. If you are admitted suddenly, call or have a friend or relative call the church office, 236-1771, or Pastor's cell.

## Remember Our Shut-Ins:

Steve Boyken and Kathy Boyken,

Sunset Nursing, 235 N Mill St., P.O Box 383, Denver, IA 50622, Kathy:  
984-5092

Ardie Holmes, 2104 Parrish, Cedar Falls 50613

Leona Jeanne Perkins, 203 Lake St., Cedar Falls 50613

Eddie Swaim, Friendship Village Pavilion, Park Lane #3

Gleneva Wardius, Grundy Center Hospital, 201 E J Ave, Grundy Center



**WE ARE HOSTING A**

**COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE** with LifeServe Blood Center on Monday, **January 29 from 2:00-6:00** p.m. in the Parish Hall! Interested in volunteering? Please contact Carly Nelson at

[carly.nelson@lifeservebloodcenter.org](mailto:carly.nelson@lifeservebloodcenter.org) or (515) 710-3008.

## **Volunteer needs for blood drive include:**

- Call blood donors to schedule appointments (list provided) –
  - Distribute cookies and juice in the canteen the day of the drive
  - Bake cookies and other yummy treats for blood donors
- (LifeServe provides packaged cookies, snacks and juice, but homemade treat are always welcome!) Thank you for helping us save lives in the community!

## **MORE NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY:**

The third and final book in the Anthems of Zion series! ***The Harvest Raise***

It's summer break in Bradbury—and that means cookouts, cornfields, and county fairs! But at Zion Lutheran Church, the changes and chances of life don't take a vacation. Pastor Fletcher must learn to

share the parsonage bathroom. Mrs. Scheinberg must face the fact that not every problem can be solved by pie. And when a beloved member makes a life-altering announcement, the entire congregation must trust more than their crops to the Lord of the harvest.

Life is anything but idyllic in small-town Bradbury, but grace and mercy and potlucks abound. Join Emily, Robbie, Candice, and the rest of the dear people of Zion as they follow God's call into the scariest mission field of all: the very county where God has placed them.

This book is currently checked out, but the first two are in the library for your enjoyment. "You've heard of 'comfort food.' Katie's books read like 'comfort books.'" —Shelley Moeller, LWML Vice President of Gospel Outreach

## **Starting at the End Worldview, God's Word, & Your Future**

People have great interest in defending their faith as well as knowing what the future holds, and for good reason. Is there any more intriguing topic than the future? Will humankind exterminate itself, come together in a peaceful existence, or be ushered into eternal states of heaven or hell after the Judgment Day of God? People want to know. Understanding the Bible as well as other worldviews will aid Christians in grasping events happening in the world around us today.

In order to figure out the times in which we live, we need to start at the end. What do Secular Humanists think the future holds? What do the New Age adherents say? What do Muslims believe? What do Christians know from the Bible, since it is the true Word of God?

*This is an important book for any Christian who seeks to understand contemporary ideological trends. It will equip you for the challenges facing Christianity today and*



into the future."

Dr. Adam Francisco, Professor of History, Concordia University, Irvine

Accessible to readers of all levels, ***Making the Case for Christianity*** introduces specific intellectual objections to the Christian faith and then demonstrates how these objections might rationally be answered.

Following 1 Peter 3:15: "Always [be] prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you," the book was written to prepare Christians to defend their faith. Topics covered include the existence of God, the Gospels as reliable history, Islam, the resurrection of Christ, the doctrine of salvation, good vs. evil, and atheism. This volume testifies well to the truth that historic Christianity is a faith that involves knowledge and is indeed compatible with reason."

—Kenneth Samples, Senior Research Scholar at Reasons to Believe

***Faith and Science in a Skeptical Age***, by [Jesse Yow](#)

People remain thankful for science, but they also recognize that science does not hold all the answers. In fact, they see that science can raise more questions than it answers, driving people on further quests for understanding truth, and contentment. *Faith and Science in a Skeptical Age* shows Christians how to respond to a world focused on finding answers to life's mysteries by exploring current topics and their impacts on our culture.

***I Am Not Afraid*** is Rev. Dr. Robert Bennett's fascinating first-hand account of the spiritual warfare found within the Lutheran Church of Madagascar. Is spiritual warfare something new to the Church? Bennett reviews what the Bible, Church Fathers, and contemporary Lutheran leaders have to say. Part One includes recent conversations dealing with spiritual warfare, an introduction into the Malagasy Lutheran Church, and the traditional Malagasy worldview. These are the stories of those who have been rescued from the darkness of sin and brought into the light of the Gospel. Part Two looks to the Bible and the Church for explanation and historical perspective on the spiritual warfare found in the Malagasy Lutheran Church. Is it something only found in the time of Jesus and the apostles? What has the Church said in the past about such activities? Bennett explores the views of Martin Luther and other Lutheran leaders, and finally provides some helpful contemporary material and resources for dealing with spiritual warfare in today's context.

Includes a glossary of key terms, transcripts of personal interviews, bibliography, Scripture index, and subject index.

Please take a look. To check out a book, sign your name, date and title on the spiral provided. Thanks

## CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

We know children can be a handful in a worship service. We believe God wants your children to be part of the worship time and so do we.



You can begin training them as soon as they can sit by themselves. To help you, here are some suggestions. First - Worship with them, teaching them the pattern of worship. Folding hands during prayers is a good place to begin and standing when the congregation does. As they get older teach them to follow the service in the hymnal or with a large print bulletin. Teach them the hymns so they can sing with you. During the sermon, let them color or play quietly.

And finally – they are children and will not be perfect. We expect an occasional “melt down” so hang in there. There is a cry room

where you can sit and listen to the service till your child calms down. You can take your bulletin with you and follow along and you can even see the service through the large window looking in to the sanctuary.

### IN-SANCTUARY TIPS for **Singing** from *Whisper, Whisper* CPH

- Refrains are often easiest to learn. Encourage younger children to sing loudly the parts of songs that they may know by heart.
- Having older children follow along in the hymnal furthers reading skills and teaches that all people in the pews can participate in the service.

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP not available

For information on the financial status of the church, please attend the Voters' meeting on January 21.

**SNOW REMOVAL HELP NEEDED** There are a couple of people in the congregation that could use help with clearing their driveways and sidewalks of snow. They would like to hire someone from the congregation. If you or someone you know could help, call the office.

**WOMEN OF FAITH** met for their annual Christmas party on December 12<sup>th</sup> with 6 members present. We enjoyed a variety of goodies and great conversation. Plans are underway for the spring rally which will

be held at Faith on March 17<sup>th</sup>. We will not meet in January so our next meeting will be Feb.13 at 6:30 at Faith.

## LWML WATERLOO Zone prayer service February 3, 2018

Please join the College Hill Lutheran Church LWML society on February 3 for a LWML prayer service. The service will start at 9:00 a.m. College Hill is located at 2322 Olive Street in Cedar Falls. After the service, College Hill will host a coffee with a light snack. Following the social time, the group will begin making quilts for the Valley Lutheran seniors. Please bring your sewing scissors to make this a successful project. We look forward to worshipping with you on February 3.

Your LWML sisters at College Hill LCMS, Cedar Falls

## January Anniversaries

- 3 Kenny & Kie Maas (48)
- 5 Chris & Cindy Williams (2)
- 19 Chuck & Pam Klima (43)
- 28 Peter & Janelle Beck (29)

## January Birthdays

- 3 Kaylee Stitchman
- 5 Matthew Dalluge
- 6 Jenna Chidester, Zion Simmer
- 8 Kenny Maas, Erin Simmer
- 9 Jeffrey Elbert
- 10 Judy Rath-Bly
- 14 Matthew Negus
- 17 Owen Dalluge, Emily Dalluge
- 19 Brooklyn Chidester
- 21 Betty Boyken
- 22 Jeff Bowers, Madison Chidester
- 23 Grace McBride
- 24 Nick Grundmeyer
- 27 Sue Burnell
- 29 Karen Helm
- 31 Bobby Hinz



**Do you have information** that you would like to share with the congregation? Please bring it or e-mail it to the office by **December 22**, [Faithluth@aol.com](mailto:Faithluth@aol.com), to be included in the January Newsletter.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday school classes for all ages, including adult Bible study, will begin again on January 7, 10:15 – 11:30.

The students will begin the winter quarter titled, *The Holy Spirit Leads the Apostles*, a study of lessons in the New Testament. We will be learning about specific people who served God by helping others to know about Jesus and His love and mercy for all people. Faithful servants and believers who served and suffered for the faith we believe and confess.

Lessons for January:

- January 7: God Sends the Holy Spirit – Acts 2:1-21  
Epiphany, the Visit of the Magi
- January 14: Peter & John heal the Lame Man – Acts 3
- January 21: God's Servant, Stephen – Acts 6-7
- January 28: Philip & the Ethiopian – Acts 8:26-40

*"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."* Matt. 28:19

**A BIG THANK YOU** to EVERYONE, in each and every way you helped to make the Children's Christmas Service a success. You are a blessing! Deb Smith, Vickey Smith, Becky Dalluge, Brenda Douglass, Ramona Glenn, Diane High, Joyce McBride, Rhonda McBride, Erin Simmer, Becky Wagner, Steve & Pam Woolery and Pastor Menet put in a lot of hours working with the children. Thanks also Merle & Carmen Hinz, Mike & Vickey Smith, and Gene & Bev Johnson for providing the goodie bags for the children and also the parents that donated treats for after the service and Rebecca Stichman for serving. John Dalluge and others for helping with clean up afterwards. And thank you to all of the children for working so hard to proclaim the message of our Savior's birth. It takes a lot of people to make this happen every year and there are some that don't want to be named.

## **CONFIRMATION AND WEDNESDAY CLASSES**

**Regular** Wednesday classes will resume on Wednesday, January 10 for all confirmation students and lower class activities. Please join us as we begin the new year, 2018, in the study of God's Word. As a body of believers, we continue to strengthen the faith we confess and believe by keeping

engaged in the Word. Join our students as they study, in your own growth by joining a Bible study and daily being in the Word at home. Class time is 6:00 -7:00 p.m. and Vespers at 7:00 p.m.

**The congregation is invited to join us for Vespers.**

**\*\*\* A reminder for winter weather\*\*\***

When school is canceled, classes at Faith also will be canceled. We do not want anyone put at risk if the weather creates unsafe travel.

*“You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in You. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord, is the Rock eternal.”*

Isaiah 26:3-4 (NIV)

## High School Connections Retreat

**January 13-14, 2018** Connecting Students to Christ, Each Other and Campus Ministry. Join High School students from across Iowa as we learn Lutheran theology, participate in friendship building activities and learn about being and remaining Lutheran on an increasingly secular campus. There is a schedule posted on the bulletin board. **Hosted by the College Students of College Hill Lutheran Church** 319-266-1274, 2322 Olive St., CF



The retreat will be a great opportunity for high school students to study the Word of God, to build connections amongst themselves, and to learn about LCMS campus ministry. We will have a lot of fun throughout the weekend including a night at UNI's Wellness and Recreation Center, an Amazing Race around the campus of UNI, and lots of time surrounded in the Word of God. If you have any questions feel free to email me at [stkleiss@uni.edu](mailto:stkleiss@uni.edu) or Pastor Wegener at [prwegener@cfu.net](mailto:prwegener@cfu.net).

Release forms for the retreat are available from the office. Each participant will bring both of the release forms signed by a parent or guardian along with \$10 to the retreat. We also ask pastors to fill out the communion permission form for their group.

Please RSVP to [stkleiss@uni.edu](mailto:stkleiss@uni.edu) by January 8th. Samuel Kleiss, Director of Campus Ministry College Hill Lutheran Church



**So many people do so much** around our church that may go unnoticed. Here are some things that have been noticed:

- Thanks to Deb Smith and the Sunday school teachers and the children for all the work preparing the Children's Christmas service.
- Thank you to Deb Smith for ordering and arranging the poinsettias.

- Thank you to Rebecca Evers, Deb Bloomquist, Karen Helm, Peggy Carlson, Ann Wiechert, and Gwen Garms for helping with the Photo Directory planning and scheduling.
- Thank you to Vickey Smith donating the two Graphic Novels about

Martin and Katie Luther to the library and the novel, *The Harvest Raise*, by [Katie Schuermann](#)

- Thanks to all the carolers that went out to our shut-in members to sing: the Stitchman family, John & Deb Dalluge, the Evers family, Steve, Jonah, and Markus Woolery, Matt Dalluge, Katie Whitmer, and Pastor Menet.
- Thanks to Becky Wagner and G. G. Garms for calling and setting up the visits.
- And for bringing cookies to deliver with the carols: Ann Wiechert, Katie Whitmer, Rebecca Stitchman, Rebecca Evers, and Peggy Carlson.

I'm sure there are things I am missing. All is appreciated!

**If you have noticed something or someone that should be recognized, please notify Kie, [faithluth@aol.com](mailto:faithluth@aol.com)**



**We continue to uplift three missionary families:**

**Rev. David Preus and family in the Dominican Republic**, David plants new churches in this country. He forms and develops groups of believers into mature, self-sustaining and self-replicating congregations through Word and Sacrament ministry. He also helps with theological education as needed and works with local deaconesses in their mercy care ministries throughout the country. [lcms.org/Preus](http://lcms.org/Preus)

**Rev. Micah Wildauer and family in Togo** Pastor Wildauer teaches at The Lutheran Center for Theological Studies (CLET) which serves as a regional seminary for the French-speaking countries of West and Central Africa. Students and their families travel from their home countries to live and study at CLET for three years in preparation for ordination and the pastoral ministry. Funds for CLET provide for students living and educational expenses. The

annual cost per student will vary based upon national origin and family status. You can help support a student by sending a check to Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and including on the memo line: CLET Seminary Students A16156-20701-385. [lcms.org/Wildauer](http://lcms.org/Wildauer),

**David and Valerie Federwitz**, serving in Ghana since 2003.

Thank you for your prayers as we traveled from Ghana to the US. We arrived safely Everything went smoothly with our travels and we have all our luggage! Please pray for us to recover from jet lag quickly, remain healthy, and take the reverse culture shock in stride. But we're loving hot water from the tap.

**There are newsletters from all three Missionaries on the bulletin board.**

## **The Lutheran Hour-**

The Lutheran Hour can be heard each Sunday morning on the following stations:

- 6:30 a.m. on WMT 600 AM
- 7:30 a.m. on KCHA 1580 AM
- 8:00 a.m. on KWAY 1470 AM
- 9:30 a.m. on KXEL 1540 AM

The Lutheran Hour also podcast their broadcast. For more information go to <http://www.lhm.org/podcasts>

January 7, "**Breaking News!**"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer

Epiphany calls us to believe that the Light has come into the world. A New Year's message about confidence, if you'll believe it!

(Isaiah 60:1-6 ("Arise, shine, for your light has come."))

January 14, "**How Well Does Jesus Know Me?**"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus

It's nice to have someone know and understand you. Today the Lutheran Hour asks, "How do you feel about Jesus knowing you?" (John 1: 48-51)

January 21, "**Meeting Millennials Where They're at**"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer

Robots can't produce disciples. How can we mentor those who don't know Jesus, or don't know Him well enough?

(Mark 1:14-20 (Jesus calls His first disciples.))

January 28, "**Cause I Said So**"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus

Many have pretended to be the Messiah. In today's text, Jesus authority is recognized and obeyed by His competition. (Mark 1: 21-28)



Lutherans  
For Life

Equipping Lutherans to be  
Gospel-motivated voices For Life

## Strengthening & Supporting Lutheran Families

By Jonathan Lange

During the previous triennium, the LCMS Office of National Mission undertook a “Lutheran Family Initiative.” This forward looking effort was commended by 2016 Resolution 16-02A and written into the Synod’s existing mission priorities. It affirms that to “strengthen and support the Lutheran family to live out God’s design” is not only important to the mission of the Church, but that it is mission work itself.

When the Bible teaches that Adam was made in the image of the Triune God (“... in our own image, after our likeness ...”), it immediately specifies, “male and female He created them” (Gen. 1:26–27). In this way, marriage is directly tied to the life of humankind.

Marriage, life and family are biblically bound together. They are interwoven realities rooted in creation, distinguishable but inseparable. From this simple observation, it is clear that the strengthening of families necessarily involves the strengthening of marriage. It also follows that the strengthening of both marriage and family are a direct benefit to the sanctity of human life.

Here is where LCMS Life Ministry comes into play. Since the tragic ruling of *Roe v. Wade*, the LCMS has been focused on upholding the sanctity of life of the unborn human being. More recently, the appearance of the Hemlock Society has presented a direct challenge to the sanctity of life at all ages.

Now, in the face of myriad assaults on holy marriage and the integrity of the family, we must recognize that our devotion “to upholding the sanctity of human life” compels us to uphold the sanctity of marriage and to support the family, in direct support of life itself.

The Office of National Mission, which has been tasked with implementing Resolution 16-02A, is thinking both deeply and concretely on how this might be done. It is exploring how the specific ministries of life, marriage and family might be brought under a single roof to the benefit of all three.

Currently the office has a goal of producing both a theological rationale and a structural road map to accomplish this by the festival of the Holy Nativity 2017. Pray that God would bless this work with His wisdom and grace.

The Rev. Jonathan Lange is the Marriage, Life and Family consultant for the LCMS Office of National Mission and pastor of Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Evanston, Wyo.

# Pennies for Life!

It is not enough for us Lutherans to work to make and pass laws in our land concerning life issues. Lutherans For Life is not a political organization. The battle for life is not in the courts or the halls of Congress, but in the hearts and minds of men and women.

**The "life issues" provide opportunity to share the Word of Life and its forgiveness, hope and comfort. The "life issues" provide opportunity for Christian action by lifting up the vulnerable, caring for the hurting, embracing the sinner, and changing public policy.**

Faith Lutheran is being given an opportunity to help in the battle for the hearts and minds of men and women by participating in Pennies for Life. In thanksgiving to God and to your mother for the life He has given you through her, we ask you to give pennies, quarters and even dollars to support Lutherans For Life of Iowa. During January there will be a "Pennies for Life" jar on the counter to collect our offerings. There are some baby bottles also for you to take home and begin to fill if you desire, then return them at the end of the month.

May the joy of the newborn Savior continue to be in our hearts throughout the coming year. Lutherans For Life



**Hurting from  
Abortion?**  
WORD of HOPE can help.

[www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org)

CONFIDENTIAL



*The Lord lift up  
His countenance  
upon you  
and give you peace.*  
—Psalm 121

**W**omen in crisis situation, have had an abortion, are pregnant right now, or have been hurt by someone, here you will find hope. Please contact Word of Hope at 888.217.8679; [help@word-of-hope.org](mailto:help@word-of-hope.org).

## Alternatives Pregnancy Center

1006 Decathlon Dr. Waterloo, 50701  
Offering Christian Compassion, Counsel and Care  
for those facing an unexpected pregnancy.  
Call or text 319-525-2720

**IOWA PRAYER for Life # S H E S A B A B Y**  
**January 11th, Iowa State Capitol 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**At The Capitol** | 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. Learn to Lobby:

**Rally** | 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Lunch** | 12:00 - 1:15 p.m. The Fellowship and Coalition will be hosting lunch at the Calvary Baptist Church. This is a “At will” donation lunch

**Guest Speakers** | 1:15 - 4:00 p.m. Dr. Donna Harrison, President of American Association of Pro-Life OB/GYN’s  
Catherine Davis, National Black Pro-Life Coalition

**UNITY POINT HOSPICE** is offering a four-part orientation and training course for volunteers beginning Wednesday, January 17. Attendance is required at all four sessions to complete the training. Sessions will take place from 8:30 a.m. until noon on January 17, 24, 31 and February 7. All sessions will take place at UnityPoint Health – Allen Hospital, 1825 Logan Ave, Waterloo. The **deadline** to apply and set up an interview is **Wednesday, January 10.**

Attendees will receive in-depth education and training about the end-of-life process. Additionally, they will learn about the goals of hospice, care and comfort measures, the psychosocial and spiritual dynamics of death and dying, grief and bereave-ment support and much more. For more information about becoming a UnityPoint Hospice volunteer, please call Linda Alexandres at 235-5027 or email [Linda.Alexandres@unitypoint.org](mailto:Linda.Alexandres@unitypoint.org)



