



BETHLEHEM STAR

Go and...be honest



This month's Go and... theme is Go and...be honest. We likely would all say we prize honesty. Yet we don't always like it when someone is completely honest with us about something we've not been honest with ourselves about. And at the same time, we've all told "white lies" often to protect someone's feelings.

Perhaps the most important aspect of honesty is our ability to be honest with ourselves. It might also be the hardest. Honesty is the first step in repentance. We cannot turn back to God until we're honest with ourselves about the things that draw us away.

In many ways, Advent is a season of honesty. The readings, no matter which lectionary you use, include messages of warning and judgment followed by messages of healing and hope.

In Advent, we recognize our need for a savior. We recognize all the ways in which we are a mess, the church is a mess, and the world is a mess. We see our world reflected in words from prophets thousands of years ago. But we also read the hope that is there...the hope that comes from anticipation of the coming Messiah into the world and into our hearts. We wait with longing for the day when God's reign is fully established. And we face honestly the ways that we and the church have tried to block that reign.

Take some time either on a walk or in your prayer time to reflect on the past year. If journaling is your thing, reflect in your journal.

What do you need to face honestly? What does the church need to face honestly?

In Christ,

Pastor Kris

A View from the Pew

By Preacher Woman's Husband

Sunday Morning Ain't Good Enough Anymore

As I listened to Preacher Woman's sermon October 29, I was reminded of an epiphany I had in my own faith journey – Sunday Morning Ain't Good Enough Anymore – sometime ago. This was not a judgement on the quality of sermons (I like where I sleep at night!) or the value of coming together as a community of



Christ. Both, and more, happen at worship and contribute greatly to the strength of my faith. No, it was a realization that as important as Sunday is in my faith life, there are six other days in the week to be dealt with and that waiting for Sunday might not be a wise way of keeping the faith. Pastor Kris' reminder that "all Christians, whether political leaders or not, have a call to participate in communal life for the common good", struck a chord with me and was a reminder that my call to participate extends well beyond worship in the physical church on Sunday morning, but well into the other six days of the week. For me, this means participating in the community I live in, the place I work (unless one is retired and sits around pondering how they can fill up the newsletter), and the world I occupy. And participating as Jesus has asked us to do when he said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" and "Love your neighbor as yourself." Easy to read, hard to do sometimes, and almost always results in unheralded kindness which we all could stand more of.

Advent Prayer Practice

Advent is a good time to commit to daily prayer practices if you aren't already. The traditional is a home Advent wreath. Our kids always got into that when they were little. I still like to have one. Each week, light a candle and say a prayer. Listen to music or play or sing. Here are the traditional Advent candle themes if you need a focus for your prayers.

December 3—Hope

December 10—Peace

December 17—Joy

December 24—Love

Worship is at 10:30 am Sundays, in person or online—or you can join us later on YouTube. Links to the bulletin and YouTube channel can be found on our website:

<https://www.bethlehemdavey.org/worship-in-person-and-online>

Calendar

- December 3** 10:30 am—Worship with Holy Communion
December 6 6:00 pm—Advent Midweek at Grace
December 10 10:30 am—Worship
December 13 6:00 pm Advent Midweek at Grace
December 17 10:30 am—Advent Celebration with Holy communion
December 20 6:00 pm—Advent Midweek at Grace
December 24 10:30 am—No worship—I'll offer an online reflection
9:00 pm—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Advent begins December 3. we have been invited to join Grace Lutheran Church in rural Wahoo for Advent Wednesday evening services beginning Dec. 6. The service will be at 6 pm and will consist of Holden Evening Prayer, a message based on that week's story for the confirmation class at Grace and Zion, followed by a light meal provided by Grace members. The service will be in their basement – there is a lift.

December 17 we will have a special Advent celebration during worship. We'll have some special music, a short drama, communion, and reflections on Elizabeth and Mary. Following the service we will gather in the fellowship hall for soup. You're invited to bring a special treat that has been a Christmas tradition for you

Pastor Kris—402-499-4993

krisbo90@gmail.com



Church Website—[bethlehemdavey.org](https://www.bethlehemdavey.org)

[Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Davey](#)

December helpers

Cleaning— Rhonda

Lector - Dave

Coffee -

Usher - Connor/Dave

Communion Assistant – Dave

Altar setup—

Little Free Pantry—

Council president—Jeff Atkinson—
402-432-6212

Council members—Charlie Brown,
Linda Sestak , Jerri Daugherty, Curtis Olson