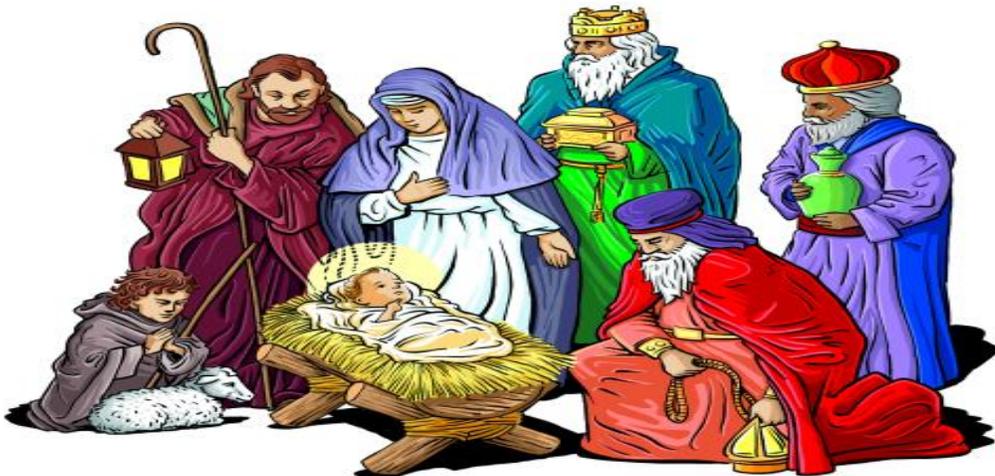


Benton & Willow Creek Lutheran Churches
46784 257th Street, **PO Box 706**
Crooks, SD 57020
B & W Office- (605) -543-5384
bentonwillowoffice@gmail.com
Address Service Requested

December Newsletter 2024



"Merry Christmas"

Benton & Willow Creek Lutheran Churches

Newsletter—DECEMBER 2024



“All About Advent Candles”

The Advent wreath, four candles on a wreath of evergreen, is shaped in a perfect circle to symbolize the eternity of God. In some churches, four purple candles, one for each week in Advent, are used with one larger white candle in the middle as the Christ candle. Other churches prefer three purple or blue candles with one candle being rose or pink, to represent joy.

While the Advent wreath with its four candles did bring light to churches, it was not to illuminate the interior as much as to symbolize the coming of Christ. The Advent wreath began in the time of the Protestant reformer Martin Luther.

During each Sunday of the Advent season, we focus on one of the four virtues Jesus brings us: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. Others consider the lighting of the first candle to symbolize expectation, while the second symbolizes hope, the third joy and the fourth purity. The Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day reminding Christians that Jesus is the light of the world. The order and exact wording vary among churches, but the wreath continually reminds us of whom we are called to be as followers of Jesus.

Blessings, Randy

“PARISH NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS”

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE TIME –

*Willow Creek – Service 9am, Sunday School to follow
Benton – Sunday School 9:30am. Service 10:45am*

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



Both Willow Creek and Benton Sunday School programs will be held on Sunday, December 15th during the Worship Services.

Treats will be served after Willow Creek Worship.

Benton, Pork Loin Sand. lunch and potluck side dishes/treats following program.



**December 24th, Christmas Eve Worship
at Benton Lutheran Church, 5:00pm.**

**December 25th, Christmas Day Worship at Willow Creek
Lutheran Church, 10:00am.**

NEW CHURCH MEMBERS- If you would like to become a member of Benton or Willow Creek Lutheran Churches, please let the church office know by sending an email to bentonwillowoffice@gamil.com. Please include your name, family members and phone number so we can get ahold of you. We will be having new member Sunday sometime in January 2025. **More to come.**



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!! Benton and Willow Creek will need 3-4 volunteers from each to serve on a committee to help support our ministry student “Kendra Kappler” as she begins the collaborative learning program. Please consider volunteering as this is a wonderful mission our Parish has taken on. We all want Kendra to have a positive and meaningful learning experience.

Please contact Katie Hoekman (Willow Creek) or Dan Larson (Benton) if you would like to volunteer.



OFFERINGS - WAYS TO GIVE:

If you are unable to attend services but would like to give, we have made some convenient ways to continue your offerings. We appreciate your faithfulness, Thank you.

MAIL : Benton PO Box 706 Crooks, SD 57020

Willow Creek 24795 470th Ave Dell Rapids, SD 57022

ELECTRONIC GIVING Check the websites giving image.

www.wclcdellrapids.org & www.bentonelca.org

BENTON'S 'TEXT TO GIVE'

1: Text “give” to the number **1-605-205-7789**. The automated response will direct you to the webpage. Once the system has your number stored, this will be a simple way to give right during the offering time!

2: The donations webpage through your browser is
<https://bentonchurch.breezechms.com/give/online>



FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED

Primary needs assessed for this month:

white sugar, brown sugar, Knorr sides, spaghetti sauce, Ramen noodles, sloppy joe mix, peanut butter, canned vegetables, brownie mix, flour, oil, boxed potatoes, taco seasoning, jelly, peanut butter, pancake mix, boxed pasta, body wash, Kleenex, toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo and conditioner, laundry soap, dish soap.

Please, No expired food, thank you.

Donations can also be dropped off at Baltic City Hall, Baltic School Commons, or in the entry way of Baltic Lutheran or East Nidaros Church.

Monetary Donations – Mail to PO Box 244 Baltic SD 57003

REMINDER!!! ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEWS: All Willow Creek & Benton Announcements for the bulletin should be **emailed by Tuesday at Noon** each week, and Newsletter Announcements by the **15th of each month**. Thank you! (bentonwillowoffice@gmail.com)

“BENTON NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS”

Benton Worship Teams:

Dec. 1st, 2024, First Team—Doug & Sandy (communion)

Dec. 8th, 2024, Second Team—Roger & Linda (communion)

Dec. 15th, 2024, Third Team, Cheryl & Connie

Dec. 22nd, 2024, Fourth Team—Butch & Lorri

Dec. 24th, TUESDAY, CHRISTMAS EVE – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.

Dec. 29th, Volunteers Needed.

First Communion- Dec. 1st, 2025, Benton 5th graders will receive their First Communion on this day. Students will receive communion using a ceramic chalice they painted earlier this month.

Dec. 1st – Tree/Church decorating for Christmas, following worship, also Potluck Dinner.

No Potluck Diner the second Sunday of the month.

BABYSITTING NIGHT AT BENTON (all ages)!!!! Parents- it is an evening to do your Kids Christmas shopping and enjoy a few hours alone. **Friday, Dec. 6th, 2024, 5pm-8pm.** Supper for your kids is included (unless your kids are on baby food, formula...). There will be movies, games and other fun stuff for your kids.

There is a sign-up sheet at the Church so we can plan for food.

If anyone wants to volunteer to help with the babysitting, please sign up at the church as well.

MISSION – Mission is going to be collecting new toys for the Family Visitation Center in Sioux Falls this Advent Season. Anyone wanting to purchase and donate new toys (\$5-\$10ish), please bring them unwrapped to the Church on Sunday, Dec. 15th.

We will deliver the toys to the Center on Dec. 16th.

Another Advent Mission – this Mission emphasis will be to the Lutheran Center Disaster Response specifically to go to Hurricane Relief/Recovery from the recent devastation. This will be collected from the LOOSE OFFERING during the Advent Season, Dec. 1st through Christmas Eve.

BENTON WORSHIP TEAMS – updated 10/1/2024

Below is a list of the members of each Worship Team. It may look like we always have enough help but due to everyone being so busy, often not enough people show up to help. As you can see each Sunday there is quite a bit of responsibility. Please try to help us out with your assignment. If you are not assigned as Sunday, please call the church office so we can add you. You will never be alone on your Sunday, there is always someone to help.

First Sunday – Leaders – Doug and Sandy Larson: Wade & Angie Mulder, Garrison Mulder, Bryant & Lori Filler, Nate & Kim Strosheim, Shannon Lofswold, Dave Phelps, Dave & Dixie Rogness, Chantel Olson, Dan & Laura Larson (Dawson & Dominick), Barb Opp, Joe & Jayna Backus (Boston, & Brystal), Jordan & Tammy Person (Justin & Jessalynn), Edna Haase, Rocky & Jackie Foster (Marin, Hadlee, Payson & Conlin)

Second Sunday - Leaders Roger & Linda Person: Jolene Izadaness, Keith & Lisa Johnson (Tyler & Trey), Patty Mork, Gary & Rhonda Jongewaard (Gabrielle), Dave & Faye Gilderhaus, Dennis & Cheryl Aker, Todd & Maria Kendle & Brittany (Braylynn & Nora), Lynda Fonder, Kari Vosburg, Bob & Sandi Schuette, Eric & Amanda Schuette (Ethan & Audrey), Lee & Julie Person (Connor), Gwyn & Joyce Reiners

Third Sunday- Leaders Connie Foster & Cheryl Schoer: Jim & Jackie Johnson, Ashton Benson (Riley), Kenny & Linda Benson, Judey Bernards, Susie Schmidt(Nolan, Blake & Logan), Scott & Bonnie Mews, Tom & Barb Lanning, Pat & Noel Ahl, Darryll & Jan Lason, Ryan McNamara & Lacie Foster (Bridger, Sutton & Leighton)

Fourth Sunday –Leaders Butch & Lori Oseby: Larry Person, Dale & Pat Benson, Derry & Jan Benson, Tyler & Melissa Klein (Blakeley, Cooper, & Shiloh), Ron & Judi Person, Ronae Foster (Dalton & Tori), Jamen & Jackie Benson (Trevor & Brady), John & Jenny Mohr (Landon, Lilli, Jaxton & Jace), Trevor & Annie Freudenthal (Jace, Rhett & Liam)

If there are five Sunday's in the month, then we ask for volunteers.

WORSHIP SERVICE DUTIES EACH SUNDAY

- Unlock doors
- Greeter at main door
- Hand out bulletins
- Reader – first and second lesson
- Ushers- count people present during service, communion, offering...
- Light Candles before service
- Update Hymn board with hymn numbers
- Camera & AV persons - one to record service for Facebook, second to run the screen for the service
- Make Coffee & Snacks for fellowship before service (start at 9:315am), clean up
- Make sure all doors are locked when leaving (all outside doors)**
- Shut off all lights!**
- Winter-clear snow if needed from walkway
- Clean Church – week before your assigned Sunday, vacuum, dust, empty garbage's.....

Benton 2024 Church Council Members:

Dan Larson (President), Maria Kendle, Wade Mulder, Rocky Foster, Nathan Stroschein, Roger Person, Amanda Schuette, Sandy Schuette, Connie Foster

List of Active Boards: Who are your contacts?

Christian Education – Amanda Schuette

Property – Rocky Foster

Mission – Maria Kendle

Evangelism – Roger Person

Worship – Sandie Schuette

Stewardship – Dan Larson

If you are out and about and would like to visit with some great people, the following Church Members would love to have visitors.

Dorothy Rogness

4709 E 6th St

Apt. #301

Sioux Falls, SD 57110

605-321-0714

Keith & Caroline Halverson

26026 469th Ave.

Sioux Falls, SD 57107

605-332-6201

Russ & Irene Midden

#302 Bernadine Place

Hartford, SD 57033

605-370-7368

Fran Alberty

4001 S. Marion Rd. Apt. #31

Sioux Falls, SD 57106

605-543-531

“WILLOW CREEK NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS”



Willow Creek 150th Anniversary - September 13-14, 2025

Planning for this celebratory milestone has begun.

We welcome ideas and opinions. The Head Planning Team consists of the following with the subcommittee they are heading:

- Linda Linge (Hospitality and Correspondence Subcommittee)
- Andy Berg (Catering / Food Subcommittee)
- Bonnie Dybedahl (Decorating Subcommittee)
- Kevin Hoekman (History Subcommittee and Finance Subcommittee)
- Paul Mesner (Worship & Music Subcommittee)
- Cemetery History Subcommittee (people needed)
- Please reach out to the people heading the subcommittee that interests you. It will take our whole 'village' to ensure we have a grand, historic celebration.

Please also start submitting photos or historical information. These will be used for display and/or for the history book that is being compiled.

Please contact any Head Planning Team member with questions and/or ideas.

2024 Willow Creek Council:

President - Katie Hoekman

Treasurer - Kevin Hoekman

Deacons - David Olson & Steve Bazata

Vice President - Justin Koepp

Secretary - Tina Soderquist

Trustees - Terry Smart & Eric Smart

2024 Willow Creek Committees:

Education: Erin Mitzel, Kim Bazata

Worship and Music: Kris Smart, Lisa Rave, and Paul Mesner

Mission: Steve Schmidt, Pat Nytroe, Phyllis Koepp

Cemetery: Craig Dybedahl (Sexton), Al Hilmoe, Shane Warne, Paul Sunderman

Willow Creek - WORSHIP TEAMS

Assigned Sundays are listed on the calendar, below and in the bulletins.

Please let the office know if the team members have changed.

TEAM 1: Tim and Lisa Rave, Kevin and Katie Hoekman (*Anna, Peter, Esther, & Elijah*), Phyllis Koepp, Zach and Jayni Schroeder (*Otto*)

TEAM 2: Craig and Bonnie Dybdahl, Mary & Paul Mesner, Pat Nytroe, Andy and Laura Berg (*Claire & Ben*), Steve and Sheri Tokheim

TEAM 3: Linda Linge, Terry and Kris Smart, Eric and Jenna Smart (*Louisa & Lilah*), Jared and Brenda Deters, Jay and Tina Soderquist (*Mya & Grace*)

TEAM 4: Justin and Lindsay Koepp (*Faith & Sawyer*), Ken & Debbie Mader, Shane and Beth Warne, Nancy Offerman, Steve Schmidt, Austin and Shelby Schmidt (*Lily & Elliot*)

TEAM 5: Rick and Sandy Zwart, Jason and Erin Mitzel (*Max*), Steve and Kim Bazata (*Kael & Mack*), David Olson (*Levi*)

Coffee is not served on either Easter or Christmas

Dec. 1st, Team 2

Dec. 15th, Team 4

Dec. 8th, Team 3

Dec. 22nd, Team 5

Dec. 29th, Team 1



fellowship.

MEN'S COFFEE- Join us Saturdays at 8:30am at Willow Creek for food, coffee, and



Willow Creek.

QUILTING LADIES - Join us on Mondays at 9am as we enjoy quilting and fellowship at



Happy Birthday Jesus!

December Birthdays



2	Jill Hegge	20	Heidi Adams
2	Kelly Opland	20	Noel Aht
2	Jan Benson	20	Mason Weber
2	Tyler Johnson	20	Mitchell Rave
3	Max Mitzel	21	Delores Tokheim
4	Landon Schenkel	22	Herb Hoffman
5	Adam Amundson	23	Malorie Ellison
6	Pat Benson	24	Andy Mann
6	Garrison Mulder	24	Barb Opp
7	Thea Rave	25	Parker Meyerink
8	Gabrielle Jongwaard	25	Erin Kinder
9	Bryant Filler	26	Mara Adams
12	Irene Midden	28	Nancy Offerman
15	Tony Kretschmar	29	Cassidy Jo Cleland
15	Angie Mulder	30	Caleb Kittleson
16	Amos Snaza	30	Robert Snoozy
17	Adrian Krogstad		
18	Craig Dybedahl		

DECEMBER 2024			BENTON AND WILLOW CREEK CHURCHES			
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
COMMUNION 9AM WILLOW CREEK WORSHIP, team 2, SS to follow worship Benton SS, 9:30am 10:45AM BENTON WORSHIP, 5th Graders First Communion, Doug & Sandy, Decorate for Christmas following worship. POTLUCK DINNER	9am Quilting at Willow				Babysitting/Fun night at Benton, 5-8pm, please sign up at Church if you are bringing your kids.	8:30am Men's Coffee at Willow
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
COMMUNION 9AM WILLOW CREEK WORSHIP, team 3, SS to follow worship Benton SS, 9:30am 10:45AM BENTON WORSHIP, Roger & Linda - no potluck dinner	9am Quilting at Willow	<i>Bulletin</i> <i>Announcements</i> <i>due by noon in</i> <i>Church office.</i> Church Council, 6:30pm				8:30am Men's Coffee at Willow
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAMS 9AM WILLOW CREEK WORSHIP, SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DURING WORSHIP , TREATS WILL BE SERVED, team 4, SS to follow worship Benton SS 9:30am 10:45AM BENTON WORSHIP, SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DURING WORSHIP, PORK LOIN SAND. DINNER, POTLUCK SIDE DISHES/TREATS, Cheryl & Connie	9am Quilting at Willow Newsletter announcements due in church office.	<i>Bulletin</i> <i>Announcements</i> <i>due by noon in</i> <i>Church office.</i>				8:30am Men's Coffee at Willow
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9AM WILLOW CREEK WORSHIP, team 5, NO SUNDAY SCHOOL Benton - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:45AM BENTON WORSHIP, Butch & Lori	9am Quilting at Willow	<i>Bulletin</i> <i>Announcements</i> <i>due by noon in</i> <i>Church office.</i> CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE- Benton, 5:00PM	CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICE - Willow Creek, 10:00AM			8:30am Men's Coffee at Willow
29	30	31				
9AM WILLOW CREEK WORSHIP, team 1, NO SUNDAY SCHOOL Benton - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:45AM BENTON WORSHIP, VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	9am Quilting at Willow	NEW YEARS EVE				

Merry Christmas Everyone!!!!

God's Blessings to All!

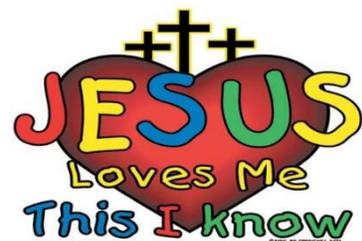
CHRISTMAS SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the letters to find the Christian Christmas words.

	UEJSS	_____	
	EYKODN	_____	★
★	TEUIEYDL	_____	
	CISTRH	_____	
	SAENGL	_____	★
	SOHRWPI	_____	
	INKEENPRE	_____	
★	EALMICR	_____	
	VAROSI	_____	
	TITIANYV	_____	★
	NMLEEAMU	_____	
★	LEGSSNIB	_____	
	HDEHSEPR	_____	
	IGTRALHTS	_____	
	HMASSRCIT	_____	
	MEHLEBETH	_____	★
★	DWGLNDISA	_____	
	UHLLEAHLAJ	_____	
	FSRSENGIVEO	_____	
	CNEAIEFKSNRN	_____	

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Jesus loves us, no matter what!

Just ask for forgiveness and repent.