

Bedford Lutheran

church with a heart

God's Vision for Us: To celebrate Christ, grow in Faith, and share God's Love with all! January 2019

A Message from Pastor Floyd Addison

Dear Friends,

My mother always said it was bad luck to leave the Christmas tree and all the decorations up past New Year's Day. Either she didn't know about the twelve days of Christmas, or she didn't care.

I suspect there are lots of people like that. For some of them the tree is out by the curb the morning of December 26th. Now, to be fair, it may have been up since well before Thanksgiving, and it was drying out.

But the Twelve Days of Christmas that we Lutherans observe are a welcome time of celebration following that season of preparation, Advent. For four weeks we prepare to celebrate the birth, then on December 25th and for twelve days we actually celebrate it. We sing "Glory to God in the highest" for the gift of his Son. We rejoice in the fact that God loves us so much he couldn't give us anything less than the very best gift—his forgiveness, his acceptance of us as we are, his promise of hope and the fulfillment of his dream for us, all wrapped up in a little bundle lying in a manger.

We'll still be celebrating Christmas when you read this. But we'll also be starting to think about the new year. And what a new year it will be for Bedford Lutheran

Church! With approval from you at the Congregational meeting on January 6th, Pastor Tim Feaser can begin his ministry here with you in February. All of the plans and preparations are coming into place and everyone is looking forward to a new season in the life of this congregation. It's kind of like Advent and Christmas all over again.

Since this is my last newsletter article to you, I want to say thank you for the time we've had together. I'm sorry it came to such an abrupt end with my fall and fractured pelvis, but that even helped speed up the process to the point of you hopefully welcoming Pastor Feaser. So it wasn't all bad.

Judy and I have enjoyed so much being a part of your family and we will miss Sunday mornings, the fellowship hours, the picnics, all the chances we had to get to know you, and other events that are so important a part of your life together. However, we do look forward to returning to visit.

We wish the very best for all of you as you move into a new period of your life together. May God bless you all.

Floyd Addison

Bedford Lutheran Church

Worshiping at the
Bower Center for the Arts
Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
305 North Bridge Street,
Bedford, VA 24523

540-586-3205

Email:

bedfordlutheranva@gmail.com

Website:

www.bedfordlutheranva.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/bedfordlutheran

Interim Pastor
Pastor Floyd Addison

Interims for Visitation
Gary Snyder

540-583-5034 (home)
434-203-9996 (mobile)

Lyn Coppedge

540-874-4098

Our Mission Partners

St. Michael, Blacksburg
St. Mark, Charlottesville;

St. Paul's, Hampton
Trinity-Keezletown

Holy Trinity, Lynchburg;
Mt. Sidney, Salem;

Hebron, Madison;

Trinity Ecumenical Parish, Moneta;
Trinity, Pulaski;

St. Philip, Roanoke, and St. Peter's, Stafford
VA Synod, ELCA



Congregational Meeting-This Sunday-Jan. 6th-Pastor Call

A special Congregational meeting will be held this Sunday, Jan. 6th immediately following Worship for the purpose of calling Pastor Tim Feaser as our part-time Pastor. Please make plans to attend.

Pastor Tim Feaser-Personal Ministry Statement

"In a world that is increasingly worrisome and stressful, the gospel calls us to live freely, secure in the knowledge that we are in God's hands. The world, of course, is in a terrible mess, but because of us, not because of God. God could only clean up our mess by taking away our freedom. But without freedom, where could love be? So, paradoxically, it is because God is a loving God that there is so much suffering in the world. But because our God is a loving God, he is suffering too; which is why Paul writes, "For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake." The way of love is the most powerful act that the church can do; and churches that are the most loving are the most powerful voices in their community."

Pastor Tim Feaser-Information

Bio:

Concordia Senior College
BA in Psychology, 1976
Lutheran Theological Seminary at
Gettysburg, PA, 1980
Pastor several churches in California,
1980-1992
Pastor Trinity Lutheran Church,
Reisterstown, MD 1992 -present

Calling:

My sense of call to rostered ministry is a deep part of me. I can't ever recollect a time when I questioned that call: although I have certainly questioned the direction of my call and regretted mistakes that I have made. I am far from perfect, but God has found a way to use my skills and insight to serve in ministry. I'm amazed. I have become very comfortable not knowing the way that I am going, only that God will lead me.

Convictions:

Positive and Hopeful.

The sense that God is leading us on a journey.

The excitement of following a call of the Holy Spirit, not knowing the outcome.

Closing remarks:

I am in my 37th year of ministry. I hope to have at least 10 more. Some of what I have learned is:

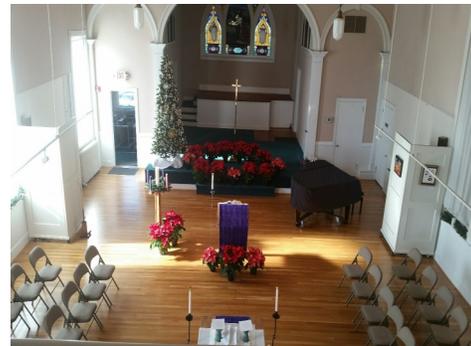
- 1) Every congregation is unique.
- 2) The greatest challenge that a Christian faces is living their faith and devoting time for prayer and Bible Study.
- 3) Leading a church for both clergy and lay people should be fun and rewarding. If it's not, we may need to make some fundamental changes.

Carol Sing at Parish House



Our annual Carol Sing was held at the Parish House on December 16th. Always such a fun event with good fellowship, food and lots of Carol Singing led by Lyn and Eleanor Coppedge on the violin and autoharp. Thank you to everyone who attended. Photo credit to Shela Wolford.

December at Bedford Lutheran



Our sanctuary was beautifully decorated for the Advent and Christmas season. Pictured is the sanctuary ready for our December 23rd and Christmas Eve services.

Adult Forum Class-Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

The Adult Forum Class meets on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. All are invited. Please contact Fred Duis for info.

Women's Small Group-Sundays at 4:00 p.m.

The Women's Small Group meets on Sundays at 4:00 p.m. at the Snyder house, 1505 Wellington Drive, Bedford VA. Please contact Florayne Snyder at 540-583-5034. All women are invited.

"Table Talk" Bible Study-Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

"TableTalk" meets on Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. at the Parish House, 728 Burks Hill Road. All are invited. Please contact Jay Johnson for information.

Shepherd's Table-January 30th

Bedford Lutheran Church, as part of our Outreach Program will host, prepare and serve a home cooked meal to those who most need it in our community from 10:00 am -1:30 p.m. at 217 W. Washington Street on Wednesday, January 30th. For any questions or if you want to know more about how you can assist Shepherd's Table on other Wednesday's, please contact Charlotte Duis.

Worship Schedule

| | January 6 | January 13 | January 20 | January 27 |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Greeters | Eleanor Coppedge | Jay Johnson | Bob Pratt | Robin Wood |
| Reading | Shela Wolford | Charlotte Duis | Ron Wolfert | Robin Wood |
| Ushers | Fred Duis Robin Wood | David Hagerman Gary Snyder | Doris Pratt Ann Sites | Jay Johnson Shela Wolford |
| Communion | No Communion | Jay Johnson | Bob Pratt | John Dyess |
| Altar Care | Charlotte Duis Set up-Duis | Brenda Wolfert Set up-Wolfert | Ann Sites Set up- Johnson/Hagerman | Florayne Snyder Set up-Snyder |

Worship Attendance

- Dec. 2: 22 people; Dec. 9: 0-snow; Dec. 16: 32 people; Dec. 23: 32 people; Dec. 24: 84 people; Dec. 30: 42 people
- Please submit items for the February Newsletter to Robin Wood by Wednesday Jan. 23, 2019 or earlier if possible.

Pastoral Needs

For Visitation, please call Gary Snyder at 540-583-5034 (home) or 434-203-9996 (cell) or Lyn Coppedge at 540-874-4098. For prayer requests to be shared with our community through email, please send request to bedfordlutheranva@gmail.com or call Robin Wood.

Bedford Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 508
Bedford, VA 24523