

# The Spirit

January 2019

Dear members and friends of Decorah Lutheran Church,

“And the word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

We have just come from a very busy and beautiful time of the year. We have celebrated the four Sunday’s of Advent. We have gathered and worshiped on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day, once again hearing the tremendous story of the love that our God has for each and every one of us in the gift given to us in His son Jesus, the Messiah.

Forgive just a moment of personal privilege, but it was great to see so many familiar families and faces in worship. Unfortunately the opportunity for reconnecting with many people is not always easy during the rush of our many festival services. But let me suffice and say it was good to see so many familiar faces. But I must hasten to add it was also good to see many unfamiliar faces of families and people not only from the Decorah area also who traveled great distances to be with their families. All in all, we are very blessed people.

As we are looking forward to the 12 days of Christmas we recall that the next festival day the church year is that of January 6, the 12<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas. Again harkening the Gospel of John 1 verse four we read, “... in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.” So we celebrate the revelation of Jesus Christ as God and His manifestation to the Gentiles (all peoples).

Obviously January 1, marks the beginning of a brand-new year. What will the new year bring? Good question! More specifically what will the new year bring for Decorah Lutheran Church? As we begin the year it will be a time of introspection, looking at the various ministries of our congregation, the “outreach” and the “in-reach” of our congregation, and a serious look to the future in terms of staffing needs. All these things are on the agenda.

One of the first things that will be happening early in January through our Mutual Ministry Committee, will be having what is being called, “listening posts.” Elsewhere in our *Spirit* newsletter is more information about this. I invite you to take this opportunity to share with the committee your thoughts and ideas.

Another item that you will see in our newsletter is our part in another very important ministry. That ministry is Aase Haugen Homes. That involvement goes way back as Aase Haugen herself was a member of Decorah Lutheran Church and was concerned about the ministry to the elderly in the community at that time. AHH is venturing out into new areas to meet the changing needs of our culture, our times and us as people. We pray that you will seriously look at the ministry and the needs of AHH, and your potential part in that ministry as they, and us, face the future.

Again, I must say to all of you who have “stepped up to the plate”, so to speak, in giving of your time and resources, and who are taking seriously the ministry and the mission that together we have as a congregation a large “thank you.” Continue to pray for the leadership of our congregation that you have chosen to lead us, for the mission of our church, and the ministry that we are called to have to our community and beyond and, yes, to our own membership.

Serving Christ with you,

Pastor Jim Glesne

Interim Administrator

Decorah Lutheran Church • 309 Winnebago St., Decorah, IA 52101 • 563.382.3601  
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# Announcements



January 50+

**We welcome Kristie Wiltgen (Regional Coordinator, NEIA Area Agency on Aging) to discuss “Community Service for the Aging.” The meeting will start at 5:00pm on Jan. 27, with a potluck meal and Kristie’s talk to follow. The Rosliens, Tom Little & Jerry DeLong will be hosting. All are welcome.**

Ruth Circle will meet January 17.  
Hostesses are Gale Buhr and Jan Vik.  
Bible Study Leader is Dorothy Sunday.

**Christmas decoration take-down will be on Sunday, January 6th at 1:30 pm. Thank you to those who helped make the church beautiful for the Christmas season. We hope to see you again as we prepare for the next season of the church!**

Men’s Breakfast is looking for servers for January. Please call the church office if you can help.

We Will Work With You with training and ideas. During this time in our community of faith we need people to help minister to other members by bringing Holy Communion to our shut-ins, and visiting members who are hospitalized. Time commitment? About one hour per month. Please call the church office or place your name on the prayer cards in the pew with what ministry you are interested in and place it in the offering plate.

**There will be no Prayer Shawl meeting on Jan. 1, 2019.**

**The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Jan. 27. The inclement weather date is Feb. 3.**

**Annual Reports should be submitted by Jan. 2.**

**Financial Reports should be submitted by Jan. 9.**

## Happy Birthday to our 90+ Members!

1/06: Fran Jeffers (95), 4 Ohio St. Decorah, IA 52101

1/07: Norma Wangsness (90), 603 W. Water St. Decorah, IA 52101

1/14: Carlton Collins (93), 4 Ohio St. Decorah, IA 52101

1/31: Jack Anundsen (90), 326 Bentley Dr. Naples, FL 34110



# Parish Statistics

Baptisms

Deaths

Weddings

# Health Ministry



## Radon Dangers

A Health Ministry Check-Up By Krista Vanden Brink, RN

January is National Radon Awareness Month. Many of us don't realize the dangers of radon or even understand why we need to be concerned.

Radon is a colorless and odorless gas that comes into our homes through cracks and other holes in the foundation. Radon is found in nearly all soils from the natural decay of uranium. Any home can have a radon problem whether it's old and drafty or new and well-sealed and even in homes without a basement. Winnebago County and much of Iowa have high levels of radon in the soil.

Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Overall, radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer. It is estimated by the Environmental Protection Agency that radon is responsible for over 20,000 lung cancer deaths every year with almost 3000 of these deaths in people who have never smoked.

The best way to find out if your home is healthy is to conduct a radon test. You can opt to spend hundreds of dollars to bring in a professional to test your house but, there is a cheaper alternative. Simply purchase a radon test kit. They are available at most hardware stores and some public health agencies. The directions are right on the package and you can get the results sent directly to you. Ideally, you want your home to test less than 4 pCi/L.

Once you receive the results you can research ways to reduce the radon levels in your home or find a professional who can help you get your home healthier. Your health depends on it. Look for more information on the Health Ministry bulletin board in January.

### Mutual Ministries Review Committee

We will be having "Listening Post" opportunities during the Social Hour 9:40-10:40 am on Sunday, January 6th. Feel free to stop by and chat with one of the committee members. We will have specific tables set aside in the Social Hall and in the Lobbies to listen to your thoughts regarding Decorah Lutheran Church and its' future. We encourage you to feel free to come and share with us.

# Youth Ministry



## Upcoming Youth Opportunities:

- Junior League is on January 6th from 3:00-4:30pm
- High School Summer Trip to Montana are due February 4th!
- Decorah Lutheran and First Lutheran will be taking high schoolers on a retreat to Ewalu on Feb. 17-18th. The High schoolers will focus on how we destress. For more information please contact Randi-Kate at [randi-kate@decorahlutheran.org](mailto:randi-kate@decorahlutheran.org)
- The Youth are looking to fundraise for a variety activities such as their adventure trip to Montana this summer! Check out the Wall of Giving that will be up in the middle of January where you can donate any amount you feel comfortable with to help support the youth as they grow in their faith through a variety of opportunities!

# Education News

Thank you to the 7th & 8th grade students who helped prepare for the Birthday Party for Jesus!



## Sunday Moring Schedule

- | 8:30AM Worship Service
- | 9:40 –10:40AM Education Hour
- | Sunday School for 3 year olds-8th grade
- | Senior High Forum Grades 9-12 in Lower Youth Room with Lee Stock, facilitator
- | Adult Forum in Fellowship Room
- | Bible Study in Bonhoeffer Room with Chris Storlie, facilitator
- | Coffee Hour in Social Hall
- | 10:45AM Worship Service

9:00am on Thursdays Women's Bible Study meets in the Bonhoeffer Room.

Adult Forum to be Announced.

Wednesday Bible Study at 9:30 in the Fellowship Room.

“The Gospel of Luke...Revisited” will once again be the Biblical book at the center of the Wednesday morning Bible Study at Decorah Lutheran Church beginning January 9. At that time all the former members of this study and any new ones who choose to join us, will meet from 9:30 until 11:00, with a “coffee break.” The “first semester” of this study took us through the first ten Chapters of this third Gospel of the New Testament. “Hopefully we will have completed the study of the book of Luke before Lent begins in March,” Pastor Ole Winter, the teacher of the class said. He added, “It is never too late to join this gathering of interested students of the Bible.” This class meets each Wednesday morning in the Fellowship Hall of DLC.



Thank you to all who participated in the 1st-6th grade Christmas Program!  
Thank you to Becca Brynsaas for coordinating the program.

# Decorah Lutheran Library



January, 2019

***A Scarlet Thread*** by Francine Rivers features two women, centuries apart. They are joined through a tattered journal as they contend with God, husbands, and even themselves, until they fall into the arms of the One who loves them unconditionally.

***A Season of Grace*** by Lauraine Snelling is book #3 in the Under Northern Skies series. Nilda Carlson's dreams are coming true as she begins her new life on a farm in America. When she is offered a job by a wealthy businesswoman in the nearby town of Blackduck, she can't believe her luck. Here is an opportunity to learn how to navigate the worlds of commerce and high society. But, just as these opportunities unfold for Nilda, a danger from her past in Norway returns to frighten her.

***Indivisible*** by Travis Thrasher is a book based on a motion picture, with the same title. Deployed to Iraq as a chaplain, Darren leaves behind an idyllic marriage. His wife, Heather, builds a supportive community among those on the base, but during their phone conversations, she senses something has changed. When Darren returns, he's no longer the same man. Can they recapture the love they once had? A true story of faith and hope!

Lisa Wingate is the author of The Tending Roses Series: #1 – ***Tending Roses***, #2 – ***Good Hope Road***, #3 – ***The Language of Sycamores***, #4 – ***Drenched in Light***, and #5 – ***A Thousand Voices***. When Kate temporarily moves to her grandmother's Missouri farm with her husband and baby son, she learns that the lessons that most enrich our lives often come unexpectedly. The family has given Kate the job of convincing Grandma Rose, who's become increasingly stubborn and forgetful, to move off her beloved land and into a nursing home. But Kate knows such a change would break her grandmother's heart. Each book touches the reader with Grandma's words of love and faith from her journal, proving the old adage that we should take time to smell the roses and try to put our modern problems in perspective. New family members, among those mentioned in earlier books in the series, and including people who have a connection to family members, are featured in following books in the series.

DLC Library Committee Members: Sue Boehm, Marcia Fox, Dianne Fye, Bonnie Gilbert, Ruth Jauert, Elaine Sims, Cheryl Thompson, Jan Tyler-Blanchard, Jeri Wilson, Laurel Womeldorf, and Lilly Womeldorf.

## Worship Committee

We have found organists to fill in during December when Kathy will be on vacation with her family (for the first time in 20 years).

We had already found supply pastors through the end of January and will be reaching out now for February through April, including Lenten worship services.

Members of the congregation have been lined up to assign volunteers as acolytes, greeters, readers, nursery attendants, communion setup, and communion assistants for 2019.

We discussed a proposed budget for 2019.

# DLCW Ministry



DECORAH LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

JANUARY 2019

Coffee Hour Schedule:	December 30	Church Council
	Jan. 6	Deborah Circle
	Jan. 13	Aase Haugen Delegates
	Jan. 20 & 27	Priscilla Circle

Anyone celebrating a special day and would like to furnish treats for coffee hour please call Church Office, 382-3601

Come January Executive Board will be working on updating the WELCA Booklet for 2019. If you have any additions or corrections please let one of us know or call the Church Office.

A little over \$800.00 was received in Thank Offerings. Thank You to all who contributed.

Save cancelled postage stamps for Bethel. Cutting a ¼ " border around stamp. Containers in Library. Also saved Box Top labels help the Navajo Christian Academy financially, containers found in Library.

Did you know that institutions which apply for materials from Global Health Ministries has to be certified by the local Lutheran bishop? They do all their work with over 1,000 volunteers, sending a shipping container once a month. They also take quilts and baby kits, but all for hospitals in 13 countries.

Please check Kitchen for pans or dishes you may have left.

Questions, concerns, or suggestions, please call the church office.

Sandy Kittelson & Nancy Spilde, Co-Chairpersons of DLCW

## Evangelism Committee

Approved burgundy pew pads to welcome all people into our church, and continue to use prayer cards found in each pew.

Will use new Bible study in 2019. Recommend "40 Days of Prayer" study for DLC Lenten services.

Decorah Community Meal Org. has asked DLC to help by working or making salads and desserts for the June 6th meal.

New member Sunday will be Jan. 13. If you would like to become a member or are interested getting more information about membership, please call the church office or Tom Little (563-419-6059).

# Worship Assistants

## Ushers

**January 6**

**8:30 am** – Kevin Wesselmann, Tim Wilson, Daniel Schwartzhoff, Mike Schwartzhoff, Michelle Schwartzhoff

**10:45 am** – Jim Burns, Kent Kleckner, Mark Franzen, Kari Burns

**January 13**

**8:30 am** – Jim Sims, Dennis Myhre, Steve Vanden Brink, Ron Snell, Dave Gilbert

**10:45 am** – Mark Steffens, Jake Hildebrand, Jason White

**January 20**

**8:30 am** – Mike Thompson, Randy Peterson, John Boehm, Mark Nelson, Terry Ramlo, Claire Askelson

**10:45 am** – Jon Piphon, Keith Johnson

**January 27**

**8:30 am** – Ron Stoskopf, Scott Kirkeberg, Rick & Susanne Twedt

**10:45 am** – Wayne Petersburg, Gerry Weiland, Becky Weiland

## Nursery

**January 6**

**8:30 am** – Angie & Michael Leiran, Tina Onsager

**10:45 am** – Elaine Ward

**January 13**

**8:30 am** – Sarah Chyle, Chloe Chyle

**10:45 am** – Rachel Schuman

**January 20**

**8:30 am** – Riley Wilson, Melinda Steinlage

**10:45 am** – Amy & Brad Schwartz

**January 27**

**8:30 am** – Kurt & Janice Hanson

**10:45 am** – Lisa & Dwayne Lundtvedt

## Greeters

**January 6**

**8:30 am** – Angie & Michael Leiran, Kevin & Mini Locke, Shirley Vine

**10:45 am** – Dave & Donna Gilbert, Dennis & Deborah Myhre, Mark Steffens

**January 13**

**8:30 am** – Christine Thompson, Stan & Debra Moellers, Tina Onsager

**10:45 am** – Cheryl Frye, Gerry & Becky Weiland, Marcia Fox

**January 20**

**8:30 am** – Elaine Sims, Martha Casterton, Norma Wangsness

**10:45 am** – Jan Tyler-Blanchard, Joann Voltmer, Larry & Judy Moen

**January 27**

**8:30 am** – Charlotte Naley, John & Linda Christopherson, Ron Stoskopf

**10:45 am** – Drew White, Steve & Julie Munkel

## Readers

**January 6**

**8:30 am** – Dean Beckman

**10:45 am** – James Burns

**January 13**

**8:30 am** – Randy Peterson

**10:45 am** – Lee Stock

**January 20**

**8:30 am** – Susanne Twedt

**10:45 am** – Bradley Schwartz

**January 27**

**8:30 am** – Gordon Gaustad

**10:45 am** – Laurann Gilbertson

## Altar Guild for January

Kathy Vick, Kathy Elsbernd

## Communion Set-up

**January 6**

**8:30 am** – Julie Strom

**January 13**

**10:45 am** – Renee Smock

**January 20**

**8:30 am** –

**January 27**

**10:45 am** – Rosalyn Samuelson

## Communion Assistants

**January 6**

**8:30 am** – Dave Sacquitne, John Baker, Ron Stoskopf

**January 13**

**10:45 am** – Joann Voltmer, Renee Smock

**January 20**

**8:30 am** – Connie Kuennen, Tamie & Ron Onsager

**January 27**

**10:45 am** – Keith Christensen, Rosalyn Samuelson

## Acolytes

**January 6**

**8:30 am** – Dylan Elsbernd, Hogan Smith

**10:45 am** – Cade Olson, Drew White

**January 13**

**8:30 am** – Max Wilson, Riley Wilson

**10:45 am** – Cade Olson, Hogan Smith

**January 20**

**8:30 am** – Daniel Schwartzhoff, Cassidy Steines

**10:45 am** – Trysten Finholt

**January 27**

**8:30 am** – Brody Anfinson, Sam Jermier

**10:45 am** – Drew White, Mason Hill





**Decorah Lutheran Church**  
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*Purpose: to openly accept  
God's call to teach, serve,  
and share His gift's faithfully.*

## **Special Events**

- ◆ The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Jan. 27. The inclement weather date is Feb. 3.
- ◆ Annual Reports should be submitted by Jan. 2.
- ◆ Financial Reports should be submitted by Jan. 9.