



THE SPIRIT

January 2018

Greetings!

Welcome 2018! See ya 2017! So let's start on the right note, with gratitude, it's a biblical attitude, that will elevate the altitude of your heart, and the hearts of those around you.

And isn't that what life is about? Building each other up in Christ despite our circumstance and sin. It's the work of the Holy Spirit plus our actions that make this possible. We pray, and we work, and we trust that our lives will shine with the light of Christ so that others may glorify God.

From Philippians 2:

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, 2 make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. 5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

6 who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

7 but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

8 he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Positive words and actions are powerful signs that God is at work. They inspire and motivate others to the same; they do not diminish the Spirit at work amongst us but encourage action in Jesus' name.

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Decorah Lutheran Church | 309 Winnebago Street, Decorah, IA 52101 |
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From the Pastors

Let's build each other up; for in so doing we experience the joy of community. Let's do all we can to lift up Jesus' name and celebrate what He is doing in our midst. We have absolutely everything we need to make this happen; more than we can ever imagine. God is so good, and I am so grateful for our life together.

Give thanks! Seek to build up those around you! Let Jesus' light shine in all you do! A blessed New Year to you,

Pastor Dave Sorenson

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR 90+ MEMBERS!

12/15/1926
Eunice Lea
301 Leif Erickson
Decorah, IA 52101

12/30/1926
Erbie Steffens
1410 185th Street
Decorah, IA 52101

1/6/1924
Frances Jeffers
Aase Haugen G-16
4 Ohio Street
Decorah, IA 52101

1/14/1926
Carlton "Bud" Collins
1102 Nordic Dr. #104
Decorah, IA 52101

1/31/1925
Roger Halse
1621 Hickory Hill Road
Decorah, IA 52101

PARISH STATISTICS

<u>Deaths</u>	
Brendan Numedahl	11/28/17
Eleanor Seegmiller	12/2/17
Lorena Ellingson	12/8/17
Dean Frye	12/11/17

From the Pastors

Dear Friends,

January has arrived and the decorations from Advent and Christmas are starting to come down/are down for the season, and we are getting into the bleak mid-winter season. The church calendar always has a preparation season before the festival season. If you didn't look carefully, you might assume that Epiphany is the preparation season for the Lent/Easter season.

As soon as we finish with the 12 days of Christmas on the eve of January 6 (the Day of Epiphany), we return to the green season. During the summer we have the long green season of discipleship and church growth, but this season is a bit different. We get a few major glimpses into Jesus' life. As we start the new year (Decorah Lutheran will celebrate it on Sunday December 31), we will celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord and the coming of the Wiseman.

We hear from the Gospel of Matthew that when the magi saw the star they were filled with joy. "On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother" (Matt. 2:10-11). In the home, Christ is met in family and friends, in visitors and strangers. In the home, faith is shared, nurtured, and put into action. In the home, Christ is welcome.

It is from this that the tradition of blessing a home happens on the Day of Epiphany. Following an eastern European tradition, a visual blessing may be inscribed with white chalk above the main door; for example, 20 + CMB + 18. The three letters stand for either the ancient Latin blessing *Christe mansionem benedicat*, which means "Christ, bless this house," or the legendary names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar).

From Sundays and Seasons, a short blessing you may use:

May peace be to this house and to all who enter here. By wisdom a house is built and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. (Proverbs 24:3-4)

As we prepare to ask God's blessing on this household, let us listen to the words of scripture: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being, and the life was the light of all people. 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. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. (John 1:1-4, 14, 16)

As you inscribe 20 + C M B + 18 on the main doorway into the house with chalk, say the magi of old, known as C Caspar, M Melchior, and B Balthasar, followed the star of God's Son who came to dwell among us 20 two thousand 18 and eighteen years ago. ✠ Christ, bless this house, ✠ and remain with us throughout the new year.

O God, you revealed your Son to all people by the shining light of a star. We pray that you bless this home and all who live here with your gracious presence. May your love be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then everyone may walk from room to room, blessing the house with incense or by sprinkling with water, perhaps using a branch from the Christmas tree.

Blessings as we begin this new season together,

Pastor Brenda

Education News

NEW BIBLE STUDY ANNOUNCED

How Lutherans Interpret The Bible

Wednesdays from 9:30 – 11:00 am, Decorah Lutheran Social Hall

Session 1, January 3rd "The Word of God"

Session 2, January 10th "What Lutherans Say About the Bible"

Session 3, January 17th "Where the Bible Comes From"

Session 4, January 24th "Interpreting the Bible in Context"

Session 5, January 31st "Determining Right from Wrong"

Session 6, February 7th "Many Meanings of the Bible"

Session 7, February 14th, "Devotional Bible Reading"

If the Bible is so clear, why do we still struggle to understand it? Why do we have such conflict around it? How can two people read something and come to hold differing understandings of what it means? In this Bible study we will listen to presentations from Mark Allan Powell, a Lutheran pastor and Bible professor at Trinity Lutheran Seminary. Also, some great video learning tools from "The Bible Project" will be integrated. Interspersed of course with fellowship, Bible study, insights, challenges, and laughter too! See you then!

Pastor Sorenson

Rhonda Storlie's 5th grade class assembled 27 boxes with items for Operation Christmas Child



ADULT EDUCATION

Sunday Morning Bible

Study: All are welcome. Sunday's in the Bonhoeffer room during Sunday School.

Thursday Morning

Women's Bible Study:

Thursday's in the Bonhoeffer Room from 9:00-11:00am. All are welcome.

Wednesday Morning Bible

Study: 9:30-11:00 am. Social Hall. All are welcome.

Adult Forums:

Jan 14- Jim & Phil Iversen "Fascinating Research On Global Warming"

Jan 21- Larry Grimstad & Keith Christensen "An overview of the Decorah municipal electric utility project"

*Needed - volunteer to assist with coordinating Adult Forums. Call the church if you can help. *

Youth News



Christmas Celebration!

The DLC Senior League celebrated Christmas together in the youth room. Yummy treats were shared as well as great conversation, faith and good will! A collection was taken during the evening and the group decided together to donate the proceeds to the ELCA good gifts program. Specifically all money donated will provide health care for children. When a parent must choose between a visit to the clinic and food for the family, it's especially hard. Our \$300 donation will ease that decision for 30 families by covering the cost of a trip to the doctor!

Houston 2018

As Christians, we are called to be in relationship. The Bible is about relationships: God's relationship to us, our relationship to God, our relationships with each other; it's about relationships. Today, relationships take on a warped reality as portrayed in our media, in our books, in all aspects of life. How do we live in relationship with one another as God desires for us? It is difficult to know what that is, especially since the world has very loud, ever-present opinions on what relationships are.

Houston is the most diverse city in the country. There is no ethnic or racial majority in Houston! Talk about a beautiful mosaic of God's creation, and we get to immerse in that community during the Gathering. It's a thing to celebrate and learn from.

Being in relationship is about being in community. Community comes from building healthy relationships with those we know and those we don't, with those who are different from us: those who think differently, speak differently and look differently. These differences are a building block to healthy community. We can celebrate those differences while seeking to incorporate everyone into community.

Gathering Prayer

God of love, you ask us to be in relationship with one another. In a world where the messages of relationships are unrealistic or completely warped, please open us to learning how you want us to be in relationship. We ask for guidance as we learn the desires you have for our lives. In your name, we pray. Amen.

Houston preparation meeting #2

Wednesday, January 10 @ 7:30 pm
DLC Social Hall



YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING

Sunday, January 7 @ 9:45am

KWIK STAR CARDS

\$25, \$50, and \$100 cards are available.
Thanks for your support of our DLC youth!



Announcements

DO-DAY

Ladies - we need your helping hands at Do-Day on Monday, January 22 (note date) from 9-12. If weather is "iffy", call the church to see if it is canceled. Also, we are always accepting tops and middles (60"x80") and backs (64"x84").

- Sarah Anderson

50+ POTLUCK

January 28, 2018 at 5:00 pm. Steve Johnson of DLC will give a talk about Norman Borlaug's Legacy, an American agronomist and humanitarian who led initiatives that contributed to extensive increases in agricultural production termed Green Revolution.



PRICILLA CIRCLE

Pricilla circle is meeting January 18th. Please bring finger foods.

YOUTH CHOIR

Cherub/Alleluia Singers will start again in the new year on Wednesday, January 10th from 4:00-4:30 pm. We are trying something new so if you are a **Kindergarten through 6th grader** that would like to be a part of this group, you are welcome! We will sing in church at the 8:30 service on February 4th, March 4th, April 8th (10:45 service), and May 13th (Music Sunday). Contact Katherine Gisleson if interested at Katherine@decorahlutheran.org

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

At Decorah Lutheran Church

Beginning January 7, 2018 at 6pm for 9 weeks

Sign up at <https://fpu.com/1053398>

Questions? Contact Julie Wilkins 563-380-3342



YEAR END REPORTS

Committee reports (for annual meeting) are due in the office by 1/3/18. Financial reports (for annual meeting) are due in the office by 1/10/18.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Can you help?

- Volunteer to assist with coordinating Adult Forums
- Sunday School Teachers for 3rd and 8th grade for second semester

Call the church and let Pat know if you can help in any of these areas.

Ministry

DLCW MINISTRY

Coffee Hour Schedule:	January 7 & 14	Ruth Circle
	January 21 & 28	Deborah Circle
	February 4 & 11	Priscilla Circle
	February 18 & 25	Ruth Circle



January 11 – 9:00 AM – DLCW Executive Board and Circle Chair & Co-Chair meeting. Please have 2018 Officer list with you.

Received a Thank You from Aase Haugen for the \$200 donated to their Music & Memory Fund.

April 28 – Upper Iowa Cluster Spring Gathering at Big Canoe Lutheran Church

May 4 – LWR Truck Loading – First Lutheran Church, Decorah.

June 16 – 31st Annual NE IA Synod Women's ELCA Gathering at Wartburg College, Waverly

November 3 - LWR Truck Loading

LSI is asking for support in a special project that they have identified as crucial to the families of Iowa. The projects are client assistance, spiritual life, and God's Work Our Hands. May respond to LSI, PO Box 848, Waverly, IA 50677 with WELCA challenge in the memo line.

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

Save your cancelled postage stamps for Bethel. Cut at least a ¼" border of envelope around stamp. Find containers in Library for stamps and soup labels.

Attention persons who have been saving Campbell soup labels. Labels must say "Labels for Education". A container is in the library. These labels help support the Navajo Lutheran Mission in Rock Point, Arizona. The Mission also accepts Box Tops for Education from other items. Milk tops should be given to your local schools.

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 MINISTRY

Welcome to 2018 and wishing all a Happy New Year.

Thanks to all for making 2017 a great year. Thanks to all for the great donations given to our members (at DLC) who signed up for the Angel tree gifts at Northeast Iowa Community Action. Also thanks for the monetary donations to give to the residents of Aase Haugen Senior living. \$430 was raised for this benefit.

The committee will have lots to do in 2018, just like in 2017. Anyone wishing to join DLC, please call church office or Tom Little at 563-419-6059.

DLC will be working and supplying desserts and salads on March 15, 2018. Thanks in advance. We also need people to chair and work on Church Directory in September of 2018. Call Tom Little if you can help - 563-419-6059. Have a great year!

-Tom Little, Evangelism

CHURCH LIBRARY MINISTRY

Alexander McCall Smith has written another book in the No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency series entitled ***The House of Unexpected Sisters***. Precious Ramotswe learns valuable lessons about first impressions and forgiveness.

Some of you may have seen the movie already, but even then, you should read the book ***Wonder*** by R.J. Palacio. August (Auggie) Pullman was born with a facial difference that prevented him from going to a mainstream school until fifth grade. Auggie is just an ordinary kid, with an extraordinary face. But can he convince his new classmates that he's just like them, despite appearances?

Along with the book *Wonder*, there is a companion book called ***Auggie & Me: Three Wonder Stories*** by R.J. Palacio. This gives readers more time in Auggie's world getting to know some characters whose unique perspectives were not shared until in this book.

Saving Millie: A Daughter's Story of Surviving Her Mother's Schizophrenia by Tina Kotulski is a much-needed contribution to foster awareness about mental illness and support for families who live with it. The author's poignant account of her experience turns a powerful light on the impact mental illness has on families, particularly on the children of afflicted parents.

A Warrior of the People by Joe Starita tells how Susan La Flesche overcame racial and gender inequality to become America's first Indian doctor. Readers instantly become enamored with this intelligent, determined, and hardworking woman of the Omaha nation. La Flesche devoted her life to educating herself and helping her people. She deserves to be placed among the most prominent women in American history.

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

HEALTH MINISTRY

By Krista Vanden Brink, RN



We've become a disposable society. When we're done with something, we get rid of it by donating, recycling or throwing it away. It's a new year—a clean slate, a fresh start, a new beginning. Don't get rid of the year by wishing it away. Take time for this little reading—it may put a fresh perspective on the new year.

Value Everything by Uwakina Osemeke

Value your health. Take good care of yourself because many people pray just to be healthy like you. Health is wealth.

Value your life, don't lose it. Don't even think of taking your life because many people wished they had enough time to accomplish their dreams. You still have a chance to do that, so why give up?

Value your freedom because so many people are willing to spend all they have to buy their freedom. If you doubt this, go to the prisons.

Value your parents irrespective of their status, whether rich or poor. If you think I'm wrong then go to orphanages and see how the kids wish they had someone they could call mother or father, no matter how bad they are.

Value your friends because they are not easy to come by. Be a good friend too. Be left alone on an island for a year and see if you will not miss your friends.

Value the food you eat, no matter how cheap because so many people have enough money to buy it but can't eat it because of their health.

Value your job because so many jobless people out there envy your job and wish to have it.

Value what you have because you might not have a chance to get it again. They say a bird in the hand is worth 10,000 in the bush.

Value the little things you are given because they have the tendency to attract bigger ones.

Value yourself, value people and value the things around you, no matter how little. That's the best way to live and enjoy life.

Letter from the President

Dear fellow congregational members-

Blessings to you and your family. This time of the year is when many people reflect on the past year...and I am no exception! Personally, I had some wonderful accomplishments in my career, I have started to teach more and do less administration, and I have started new research projects with undergraduate students. (If anyone wants to setup an insect hotel in their backyard I can get you started!) Additionally, my family remained healthy and we were able to make many memories together. One of the highlights was a weeklong fishing trip to northern Minnesota.

In a few weeks (January 28th) we will have our annual congregational meeting where we conduct the annual business of the church, as well as share the many accomplishments and events that have occurred during the last year. I would like to expand the story of our church by inviting you to send me an email, phone call, or personal communication if you have additional stories that we may share. These could be personal stories, observations, or activities involving your friends and family. Accompanying pictures are also great. In short, let's brag a little! It is my hope that we can use our congregation members' personal stories as they relate to Decorah Lutheran Church for short articles in the Spirit, Facebook, and other communications that lift up our church. I hope you are as proud of our church and our mission as I am!

May God bless you and your family!



Ted Wilson
Council President

Text Notifications from Decorah Lutheran Church!



Stay in touch with DLC! Text the following keywords to "81010" to get signed up for text notifications about the following DLC topics:

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Keyword</u>
DLC News	@dlcnews
Sunday School	@dlcss
Youth Group	@dlcyouth
Confirmation	@dlcconf
Acolytes	@dlcac

*Brought to you by the Remind.com App

Worship Assistants

Ushers

January 7

8:30 – Kevin Weselmann, Tim Wilson, Daniel Schwartzhoff, Michelle Schwartzhoff, Mike Schwartzhoff. Garrett Sorenson
10:45 – Jim Burns, Kent Kleckner, Mark Franzen

January 14

8:30 – Jim Sims, Dennis Myhre, Don Wurtzel, Duane Larson, Dave Gilbert
10:45 – Mark Steffens, Jake Hildebrand, Jason White, Gerry & Becky Weiand

January 21

8:30 – Mike Thompson, Randy Peterson, John Boehm, Mark Nelson, Terry Ramlo, Claire Askelson
10:45 – Jon Pipho, Keith Johnson, Andrew Kephart

January 28

8:30 am – Ron Stoskopf, Scott Kirkeberg, Rick Twedt, Ted Wilson
10:45 am – Wayne Petersburg, Lori Ostlie

Nursery

January 7

8:30 – Angie Leiran
10:45 – Brenda Schaller

January 14

8:30 – Kurt & Janice Hanson
10:45 – Ronald & Rebecca Nelson

January 21

8:30 – Melinda Steinlage
10:45 – Jessica Riley & McKenzie

January 28

8:30 – Kayla Burkey
10:45 – Kris Franzen

Greeters

January 7

8:30 – Shirley Vine, Kathy Vick,

Scott & Marissa Nordschow LL

10:45 – Elaine Ward, Cheryl Frye, Mark Steffens LL

January 14

8:30 – Deane & Arlene Larson, Julie Wurtzel, Lorena Ellingson LL

10:45 – Jessica Riley Family, Roxanne Lueschow, Joann Voltmer LL

January 21

8:30 – Mavic Frey, William & Karen Brown LL

10:45 – Marcia Fox, Jim & Bonnie Gilbert, Paul & Barb Posivio LL

January 28

8:30 – Julie Wurtzel, Willard Hanson, Sarah Chyle LL
10:45 – Brad & Amy Schwartz, Gerry & Becky Weiand, Gene & Julie Ude LL

Readers

January 7

8:30 – Randy Peterson
10:45 – Karen Stock

January 14

8:30 – Andrea Wilson
10:45 – Mark Franzen

January 21

8:30 – Carol Gaustad
10:45 – Brad Schwartz

January 28

8:30 am – Jeremy Thompson
10:45 – Jim Burns

Altar Guild for January

Kathy Vick, Kathy Elsbernd

Communion Setup

January 7

8:30 – Michelle Schwartzhoff

January 14

10:45 – Sue Boehm

January 21

8:30 – Nancy Gilson

January 28

10:45 – Denise Cook

Communion Assistants

January 7

8:30 – Patricia Lien

January 14

10:45 – John Boehm, Larry Berland

January 21

8:30 – Kris & Steve Vanden Brink

January 28

10:45 – Keith Christensen, Joann Voltmer

Acolytes

January 7

8:30 – Peter Wilson, Sam Wilson
10:45 – Hailey Bower, Taryn Sanderman

January 14

8:30 – Riley Wilson, Briggs Duwe
10:45 – Thomas Ostlie, Drew White

January 21

8:30 – Grace Gerleman, Kyle Renken
10:45 – Sam Jermier, Austin Wilkins

January 28

8:30 – Ben Sparrow, Honore Sparrow
10:45 – Taryn Sanderman, Rachel Bower

**View our calendar at
decorahlutheran.org
to see the most current
events, service times
and activities.**

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*Purpose: To openly accept God's
call to teach, serve, and share His
gifts faithfully.*

STAY CONNECTED!

Visit us on the web at
www.decorahlutheran.org for
a current calendar, weekly
sermons and much more!

Change of phone number,
email address, etc.? Please
call the church office or fill out
the form on our website to
keep our records up-to-date.

Office
Hours: M-F: 8am-5pm
563.382.3601
office@decorahlutheran.org

SPECIAL EVENTS/DEADLINES

- DLC will be closed on Monday, January 1.
- Committee reports (for annual meeting) are due in the office by 1/3/18.
Financial reports (for annual meeting) are due in the office by 1/10/18.
- Wednesday Bible Study begins January 3 at 9:30 am. See page 3 for more information.
- Annual meeting is at 9:45 am on January 28, 2018. Inclement weather date is February 4