

## WHY KEEP AWAKE?

Our pastor began his sermon with a question, "How many have faith that things are going to get better?" Only one hand went up spontaneously. Our pastor didn't specify what he meant by "faith"; maybe world conditions or perhaps our personal lives. Our pastor asked, "How many have *hope* that things are going to get better?" Most hands went up without hesitation. Can you explain why the congregation became optimistic when the pastor changed only one word in his second question? Hope is at the heart of Advent. Even in dark times, Christmas stories stir up hope: "... the hopes and fears of all the years are in thee tonight." The tense of the verb in this line from a favorite carol indicates that Bethlehem is contemporary. Old stories about jubilation of shepherds and tributes of kings renew hope about the coming of Immanuel among us. Furthermore, Advent rekindles hope for the distant future. In the Revelator, Christ's coming to Bethlehem was a prelude of a triumphant coming at the end of the age when the Son of Man will make his home among us again (Rev. 21:3, 4). Of course, we mortals are finite. Waiting can be wearisome and sleep-inducing. Christmas can fade into the distant past. We keep awake when Christmas becomes "the assurance of what is hoped for" and Incarnation becomes present experience. We keep awake when we raise our hands in response to the pastor's question and maybe even the first.

— Guy Wampler, retired pastor  
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

**Today** **Mark 13:24-37 (35)**

... **keep awake**—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at any other time. So you must be ready at all times. And you also must know that the Son of Man will come at an hour you do not expect. **Who then is awake?** And my message to you I say to all: **Keep awake.**

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN LIVING WORD BULLETIN 11-95

# Keep awake





Sheldon Church of the Brethren  
 Ministers - All Members  
 November 27, 2005  
 9:30 a.m. Worship



SCRIPTURE Deuteronomy 8: 7-18

MESSAGE "Remember!"

\*CLOSING HYMN #86 *Now Thank We All Our God*

\*BENEDICTION

\* - *Please Stand, if you are able*

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING & SHARING TIME

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST CANDLE OF ADVENT/PRELUDE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

\*GATHERING HYMN #178 *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

\*INVOCATION

CHILDREN'S TIME (Gathering Song: *Jesus Loves the Little Children*)

OFFERTORY STATEMENT

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

DOXOLOGY # 119

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER HYMN # 341 *Jesus Loves Me*

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN #87 *Great Is The Lord*

**SERVING THE CONGREGATION TODAY:**

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Message                  | Rev. David Loveall                               |
| Children's Message       | Linda Adams                                      |
| Music                    | Donna Brinkman                                   |
| Ushers                   | Mark and Ryan                                    |
| Greeter                  | Sandi Cox  |
| Adult Sunday School      | Donna Brinkman                                   |
| Children's Sunday School | Ann, Brianna, Doug, Laurean,<br>Sandi, and Vicki |

**SERVING THE CONGREGATION SUNDAY, December 4:**

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Message                  | Rev. Art Hermanson                               |
| Worship Leader           | Steve Dagle                                      |
| Children's Message       | Steve Dagle                                      |
| Music                    | Marcene Cox                                      |
| Ushers                   | Mark and Scott                                   |
| Greeter                  | Vicki Clover                                     |
| Adult Sunday School      | Marcene Cox                                      |
| Children's Sunday School | Ann, Brianna, Doug, Laurean,<br>Sandi, and Vicki |

**PRAYER REMINDERS**

|   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Our Congregation & Children                       | Reaching Out to Our Community |
| Arlene English                                    | Mary Wille                    |
| Ann Evans   | Don Vermilyea                 |
| Linda Beal  | Jean Jean & Kristie           |
| Those Serving in the Military                     | Phillip                       |
| Living Peace Church of the Brethren in Sioux City |                               |

## Birthdays and Anniversaries for November

05 - Laurean Clover  
06 - Scott Peterson  
13 - Jo Rolston  
15 - Harriet Rolston  
28 - Gregory Harder

Many happy returns of the day of thy birth. May sunshine and gladness be given and may the Dear Father prepare thee on earth for a beautiful birthday in heaven.

## Church Events

### **Welcome!**

Welcome to Rev. David Loveall this morning.

Welcome to all visitors and guests this morning. May you find today's service an inspiration!

### **Church meeting**

There will be a short congregational meeting after church next week, Dec. 4. The meeting is to discuss and vote on our church's allocations for 2006. This is needs to be done, since it was forgotten at the recent council meeting.

### **Reminders**

Continue to sign-up for Sunday worship leader, children's message, and monthly janitorial duties.

### **Ladies Night Out**

To replace the previously scheduled Dec. 7 evening at Sandi Cox's house, the annual "Ladies Night Out" will be Sunday, Dec. 4. They will be going to Bethel's 10th annual "An Evening in December" beginning at 6:30 p.m. with "Trees and Treats" in the Youth House. The "Believe" portion begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Worship Center. Tickets are \$5. Visit with Jo Rolston. There will be refreshments and social time at Linda Adams' house afterwards.

### **Adopt-A-Family**

Anyone interested in participating in Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc., Adopt-A-Family program please call 1.888.886.1598 for further details or see bulletin board.

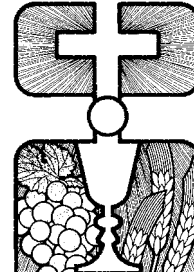
### **United Christians International**

Please give prayerful consideration to supporting United Christians International. This is the outreach ministry of Rev. JeanJean and Kristi Mompremier in Haiti. A special offering is being considered for that work. More details soon. Go to [www.unitedchristiansinternational.org](http://www.unitedchristiansinternational.org) for more information.

## Community Events

**Dec. 5:** Sheldon Recreational Trails Committee is sponsoring a Belgian Waffle Supper, Monday, Dec. 5, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Community Services Center. The cost is \$6, and kids age 5 and under are free. Proceeds will go towards the Trails project.

## OUT REACH MINISTRIES



Body & Soul are jointly nourished through a fellowship meal, and spiritual exploration.

Christ's  
Cupboard



"I was hungry, and you gave me food..."  
is the spirit behind providing to those who need it.



Kinship

The program is designed to match adults with children ages 5 to 18 to foster a mentoring atmosphere.

### 2005 CHURCH OFFICERS

#### **Moderator:**

Linda Adams

#### **Deacons**

Clarence & Rhelma Evans

#### **Adult Sunday School Coordinator**

Jo Rolston

#### **Auditor**

Alan Cox - 2005  
Marcene Cox - 2006

#### **Children's Ministry Coordinator**

Michele Elder  
Brianna Kane

#### **Children's S/S Coordinator**

Laurean Clover

#### **Clerk**

Jo Rolston

#### **District Conference Del.**

Darius Elder

#### **Ministerial Committee**

Ross Cox - 2005  
Rhelma Evans - 2006  
Jo Rolston - 2006  
Marcene Cox - 2007  
Steve Dagel - 2008

#### **Nominating Committee**

Scott Maggert - 2005  
Sandi Cox - 2006  
Laurean Clover - 2007  
Alan Cox - 2008

## OUR CHURCH

Worship Service . . . . .9:30am  
Christian Education (Sept.-May) .10:50 am

Communion

1st Sunday of Each Month

Body & Soul (Sept. - May) Wednesdays,  
6:30 & 7:30 pm

The Sheldon Church of the Brethren

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Web Addresses:

The Denomination:

[www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org)

Northern Plains District:

[www.npcob.org](http://www.npcob.org)

The Church:

[www.sheldonbrethren.org](http://www.sheldonbrethren.org)

Christ's Cupboard:

[www.christcupboard.org](http://www.christcupboard.org)

Kinship Community, Inc:

[www.kcimentors.org](http://www.kcimentors.org)

#### **Parsonage Committee**

Liz Elder - 2005  
Ann Maggert - 2006  
Sue Phillips - 2007

#### **Treasurer**

Sandi Cox

#### **Trustees**

Doug Osterbuhr - 2005  
Ross Cox - 2006  
Dave Phillips - 2007

#### **Ushers**

Mark Bilsland  
Eli Clover  
Val Clover  
Alan Cox  
Scott Maggert