



THE BETHLEHEM STAR

Looking Ahead To A Productive 2019 | John 15:5-6

In Isaiah 5 we learn a vineyard love song that can help us appreciate John 15. Israel was a garden and every Israelite was a vine. What more could God have done for this vineyard? Yet His vineyard was not repentant and fruitful.

So here is the question of a new year for members of the church like us: Are we good and fruitful *OR* are we unproductive and fruitless?

We look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. So in 2019, we don't care where we stand in human eyes; we care how to stand before God. Whether the fruit you brought forth was truly the fruit of the Spirit, you can learn from John 15:5-6 ...

Jesus said, *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."* This year, stay close to Jesus, and your branches will bend with the heavy fruit of His praise.

Pastor Bode

January 2019

The Bethlehem Star Caption Corner

*It's the first annual Youth-lehem
Cookie Bake-off ...*

*... with some of the winning-est
cookies ...*

*... Merry Christmas, Little Town
of Bethlehem!*

"He sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release for those who are bound, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor." (Isaiah 61:1-2)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Council meets on the **12th** and Voters on the **20th**. Council is ...

- 1)** preparing for a new year with 2 new councilmen, Marc Larson & Kevin Albrecht to join our ranks.
- 2)** Continue to investigate issues with our roof in the old sanctuary
- 3)** Working on our operations documentation to make our processes repeatable and in-line with our constitution and by-laws
- 4)** Starting a new project to build a consistent library of digital branding assets
- 5)** Adult discipleship is reviewing & updating bylaws

The Little Town of Bethlehem Preschool students celebrated our Savior's birth with their Christmas Program on December 21st. Eighteen of our students shared their favorite Christmas songs and recitations, daily Bible songs, and the Bible story of Jesus' birth with about 60 of their family members. The program was also livestreamed for relatives who could not be with us during the program. It was a blessing and a joy to see the families mingle after the program over refreshments and to hear how much they enjoyed hearing the songs celebrating Jesus' birth.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of our Little Town of Bethlehem Preschool ministry.

Mrs. Campbell