Service of Worship 10:00 AM

+Please stand where indicated if it is comfortable for you. All are welcome in this place of worship. As you are seated, please silence your cell phones. For those with infants a staffed nursery is available.

WE GATHER AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE (9:55 AM)

Prince of Peace Medley Wade/Randolph Arr. Fettke

Silence is kept during the prelude to prepare our hearts for worship

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ed Paxton

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

+CALL TO WORSHIP

From Galatians 4: 4-7

In the fullness of time, God sent his Son, born of a woman, to redeem those under the law. We are God's children, precious in his sight. We are no longer slaves but children of God! Praise the Lord!

+PROCESSIONAL HYMN #250

Irbu

"Once in Royal David's City"

+OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God,

By the birth of your holy child Jesus you gave us a great light to dawn on our darkness. Grant that in his light we may see light. Bestow upon us that most excellent Christmas gift of love to all people, so that the likeness of your son may be formed in us, and that we may have the ever brightening hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

+GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis deo! Gloria in excelsis deo!

+PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you. And also with you.

+SONG OF PEACE #229

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

W. Zlobie Lezy

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Pastor Tabitha Jordan

WE HEAR THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (in unison)

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: as your word is read and proclaimed, gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 148

Pew Bible OT Page 550

The Word of the Lord Thanks be to God

+GRADUAL HYMN #249

"There's a Song in the Air" vs. 1-2 Christmas Song

The Gospel is processed to the center of the congregation to signify that it is central to the church, our faith, and our lives.

+GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2: 22-40 Pew Bible NT Page 55 The Word of God for the People of God

Thanks be to God

+GRADUAL HYMN #220

"There's a Song in the Air" vs. 3-4 Christmas Song

SERMON Reverend Matthew M. Williams

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Christmas Affirmation

I believe in Jesus Christ and the beauty that began in Bethlehem.

I believe in him whose spirit glorified a little town; of whose coming only the shepherds saw the signs, and for whom the crowded inn could find no room.

I believe in him whom the kings of earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose paths were among the common people, whose welcome came from the people of hungry hearts.

I believe in him who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible: whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at men and women and made them see what God's love saw in them; who by God's love brought sinners back to purity, and lighted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I confess my everlasting need of God: the need of forgiveness for my greed and selfishness, the need of life for empty souls, the need for love for hearts grown cold.

Continued...

I acknowledge the glory of all that is like Christ: The steadfastness of friends, the blessedness of homes, the beauty of compassion, the miracle of hearts made kind at Christmas, and the courage of those who dare to resist all passion, hate, and war. I believe that only by love expressed shall the earth at last be purified.

And I pray that redemption might begin in me. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

HYMN OF ADORATION #347 vs. 1

"Spirit Song"

Spirit Song

MORNING PRAYER

Reverend Matthew M. Williams

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne Matthews Arr. Hayes/Wagner

+DOXOLOGY 94

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise God all creatures here below! Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

+PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WE BEAR THE WORD IN THE WORLD

+RECESSIONAL HYMN #251

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain" Go Tell It on the Mountain

+BENEDICTION

Reverend Matthew M. Williams

+POSTLUDE

Angels We Have Heard on High Traditional French Carol

CONNECT CARD

WELCOME! We'd like to

help you get connected.

Please fill out this card & place it on the offering plate.

Let us know how we can reach out to you!

Name		
Address _		
City		
Zip	_ Phone	
	_	

How long have you attended LH Church?

1st time guest 2nd time guest	1st time guest
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guest	trom	out	of t	own
1				

	regular attendee		member
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Having the	Pastor	Contact	Me
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Youth and Families

Missions

United Methodist Women

Men's Prayer Group

Strawberry Festival Volunteer

Stephen Ministry

Greeting and Ushering

Communion Stewardship

Fellowship Hour Hospitality

Singing in the Choir

PRAYER REQUESTS

In everything by prayer... Let your requests be made known unto God.

Philippians 4:6

Please write your request here and place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher.

Please	pray	for

Requested by

Date			

Email

Phone number ()

PRAYER REQUESTS ARE HONORED UNTIL NOTIFICATION IS RECEIVED OTHERWISE. PLEASE KEEP US UP-DATED AT 941-964-2479

would like someone to contact me to pray over more confidential matters.

WELCOME!

All are welcome into the life and ministry of the United Methodist Church. We are honored that you are here. Please join us for refreshments after the service in the Fellowship Hall. We hope you will worship with us again as we continue to discover the difference God's love makes in our lives! For those with infants, a staffed nursery is available; please ask one of the ushers for directions.

FIFTH SUNDAY

Each month that has a fifth Sunday, the United Methodist Churches in the Florida Annual Conference are asked to receive an offering to support the ministry of the Children's Home. When you contribute to this offering, you allow us to carry on the life changing ministry of the Children's Home. Please use the enclosed designated envelope for your offered themselved. gift and thank you!

LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON

All elected officers, committee chairpersons and committee members are invited and encouraged to attend a Leadership Luncheon in Fellowship Hall, Tuesday, January 16, between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. The purpose of the luncheon is to welcome the newly elected leaders to their committees, provide the opportunity for all committees to meet for the first time in 2018, and for chairs to share information with the entire group.

Please RSVP to apearsall@bglighthouseumc.com or 941-964-2479

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE CLOSINGS IN JANUARY

The Church office will be closed for the New Year's Day holiday on Monday, January 1 and will reopen on Tuesday, January 2. In observance of Martin Luther King Day, the church office will be closed on Monday, January 15.

TWO SUNDAY SERVICES

Beginning January 14, two services of worship will be conducted every Sunday morning, one at 8:30 and another at 10:30 AM.

MOM'S NIGHT OUT SCHEDULE 2017-2018

January 8 & 22, February 5 & 19, March 5 & 19, April 9 & 23 and May 7 & 21

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVESTMENT!

Prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness Our gifts as of December 24, 2017

OPERATING BUDGET

\$564,000.00

PLEDGES, OFFERING, PLATE RECEIVED \$542,697.00

MISSION GIVING

\$171,997.00

SPECIAL THANKS FOR SERVING IN THE LORD'S HOUSE TODAY!

Ushers: Elsa & Peter Soderberg Acolyte & Cross Bearer: Hannah Amen & Abigail Turner

> Liturgist: Nick Kaiser Audio Visual Technology: Mike Hilton

Sunday School: Leslie Barrett



PO Box 524. Boca Grande, FL 33921 941-964-2479

www.bglighthouseumc.com www.facebook.com/bglighthouseumc





A Stephen Ministry Congregation

CONTACTS

Reverend Matthew M. Williams, Senior Pastor mwilliams@bglighthouseumc.com Tabitha Jordan, Minister to Youth and Families tjordan@bglighthouseumc.com Amanda Pearsall, Administrative Assistant apearsall@bglighthouseumc.com Cindy Handrick, Financial Assistant chandrick@bglighthouseumc.com David Hamblin, Director of Music Philip Eyrich, Assistant Organist Cindy Crespo, Sexton Linda Conklin, Nursery Attendant



BOCA GRANDE-Lighthouse Church

A United Methodist Congregation

December 31, 2017 First Sunday after Christmas

Receiving the Light, Being the Light, Sharing the Light



With the birth of the infant Jesus, we are invited to place our hope in a future that is claimed and redeemed by God. Psalm 148 is a song of praise calling on all of creation to raise their voices in praise to God. In Luke, Simeon and Anna are both prophets who sense the promise and hope of the infant Jesus for the redemption of Israel of Israel.