



Bethany Lutheran Outlook
December 2016—January 2017

Serving God, Community, and Individuals



**“I have come as light into the world,
so that everyone who believes in me
should not remain in darkness”**

(John 12:46, NRSV)



PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

Every year when it comes to writing a December/January newsletter article I get a “Here we go again” feeling. There isn’t much that I or anyone else can say that is new. I could write about how commercialized and secular Christmas has become but that’s not going to keep you or me from enjoying aspects of commercial, secular Christmas. I could write about the importance of observing Advent as a time of preparation apart from the trappings of Christmas but even in church, Christmas decorations will begin to appear in early December and we’ll be fully decorated by the middle of December. I could write about how Christmas Eve and Christmas Day aren’t the end but the beginning of a twelve day celebration that ends with the celebration of Epiphany on January 6th, but except for a few, the decorations and lights will be gone and the “Holiday” season will over on New Year’s Day as people settle back into their regular routine. Anyway, it’s all been said before.

For those of us who are part of a church, especially a church that observes the season of Advent, December is a complicated time. As it tries to observe Advent and then as it tries to keep Christmas focused on the birth of Jesus, the Incarnation of God, it’s the month when the church is most obviously out of step with the wider culture. Even with that though, the mission of the church shouldn’t be to throw a wet blanket over secular Christmas. There are things about it that we can and should enjoy.

It may be that Ebenezer Scrooge had the best advice in how one should approach this time of year. When questioned by his nephew about his lack of Christmas spirit, Scrooge said to him, “You keep Christmas in your own way and let me keep it in mine.” Obviously his intent was different from what I’m getting at here as this is Scrooge before the ghosts visit him, Scrooge who thought Christmas was nothing but a “Humbug,” but still, even out of context, his words are worthy of attention.

What they say to us is that there’s no need to judge how anyone chooses to observe Christmas or not observe it for that matter. How anyone else keeps Christmas doesn’t have to impact your own observance. If Christmas is strictly secular for someone, so be it. Something important is missing obviously, but it can still be a nice time of the year for them. For those who want Christmas to be more than just a nice time of year though, the good news is that the miracle still happens. The Christ child is born and it’s not just the remembrance of something that happened long ago;



“To you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior who is the Messiah, the Lord.” To you is born *this* day. *The miracle is, that time as we think of it is transformed and the Incarnation happens again in our time and nothing can stop it because it’s the work of the Lord.*

You keep Christmas in your own way and let me keep it in mine. Here at Bethany we will keep Christmas in the traditional ways that we always have. (Check the schedule of services on the enclosed card) My hope is that the way we keep it adds to your own observance as you again experience the truth and reality of the Incarnation, the Word made Flesh, the miracle of Christmas.

A blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas to you all!

Pastor Geier



Schedule of Holiday Ser-

vices

December 4—Second Sunday in Advent

10:30 Worship Service

December 11—Third Sunday in Advent

10:30 Worship Service - Sunday School Christmas program

December 18—Fourth Sunday in Advent

10:30 Worship Service—Annual Choir Cantata

December 24—Christmas Eve

4:00 Family Worship
10:00 Candlelight Service
(Bell & Organ Prelude @ 3:50 and 9:50)

December 25—Christmas Day

10:30 Holy Communion

January 6—Epiphany

6:30 p.m. Worship Service—Lessons & Carols



DAILY LECTIONARY



The foundational premise of this set of daily readings is their relationship to the Sunday lectionary. The readings are chosen so that the days leading up to Sunday (Thursday through Saturday) prepare for the Sunday readings. The days flowing out from Sunday (Monday through Wednesday) reflect upon the Sunday readings.

“The Bible is the cradle wherein Christ is laid.”
—Martin Luther

December 2016

- 1 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Isaiah 4:2-6 Acts 1:12-17, 21-26
- 2 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Isaiah 30:19-26 Acts 13:16-25
- 3 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Isaiah 40:1-11 John 1:19-28

4 Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12

- 5 Psalm 21 Isaiah 24:1-16a 1 Thessalonians 4:1-13
- 6 Psalm 21 Isaiah 41:14-20 Romans 15:14-21
- 7 Psalm 21 Genesis 15:1-18 Matthew 12:33-37
- 8 Psalm 146:5-10 Ruth 1:16-18 2 Peter 3:1-10
- 9 Psalm 146:5-10 Ruth 4:13-17 2 Peter 3:11-18
- 10 Psalm 146:5-10 1 Samuel 2:1-8 Luke 3:1-18

11 Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

- 12 Psalm 42 Isaiah 29:17-24 Acts 5:12-16
- 13 Psalm 42 Ezekiel 47:1-12 Jude 17-25
- 14 Psalm 42 Zechariah 8:1-17 Matthew 8:4-17, 28-34
- 15 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 2 Samuel 7:1-17 Galatians 3:23-29
- 16 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 2 Samuel 7:18-22 Galatians 4:1-7
- 17 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 2 Samuel 7:23-29 John 3:31-36



18 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25

19 1 Samuel 2:1-10 Genesis 17:15-22 Galatians 4:8-20

20 1 Samuel 2:1-10 Genesis 21:1-21 Galatians 4:21-5:1

21 1 Samuel 2:1-10 Genesis 37:2-11 Matthew 1:1-17

22 Luke 1:46b-55 Isaiah 33:17-22 Revelation 22:6-7, 18-20

23 Luke 1:46b-55 2 Samuel 7:18, 23-29 Galatians 3:6-14

24 Nativity of Our Lord

Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

25 Nativity of Our Lord

Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97 Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2: (1-7) 8-20

26 Psalm 148 Wisdom 4:7-15 Acts 7:59 - 8:8

27 Psalm 148 Proverbs 8:22-31 1 John 5:1-12

28 Psalm 148 Isaiah 49:13-23 Matthew 18:1-14

29 Psalm 20 Jeremiah 31:15-22 Luke 19:41-44

30 Psalm 20 Isaiah 26:1-9 2 Corinthians 4:16-28

31 Psalm 20 1 Kings 3:5-14 John 8:12-19



January 2017

1 Name of Jesus

Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23

2 Psalm 72 1 Kings 3:5-14 John 8:12-19

3 Psalm 72 Genesis 28:10-22 Hebrews 11:13-22

4 Psalm 72 Exodus 3:1-5 Hebrews 11:23-31

5 Psalm 72 Joshua 1:1-9 Hebrews 11:32 - 12:2

6 Epiphany of Our Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12

7 Psalm 29 1 Samuel 7:3-17 Acts 9:19-b-31



8 Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17



- 9 Psalm 89:5-37 Genesis 35:1-15 Acts 10:44-48
- 10 Psalm 89:5-37 Jeremiah 1:4-10 Acts 8:4-13
- 11 Psalm 89:5-37 Isaiah 51:1-16 Matthew 12:15-21
- 12 Psalm 40:1-11 Isaiah 22:15-25 Galatians 1:6-12
- 13 Psalm 40:1-11 Genesis 27:30-38 Acts 1:1-5
- 14 Psalm 40:1-11 1 Kings 19:19-21 Luke 5:1-11

15 Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42

- 16 Psalm 40:6-17 Exodus 12:1-13, 21-28 Acts 8:26-40
- 17 Psalm 40:6-17 Isaiah 53:1-12 Hebrews 10:1-4
- 18 Psalm 40:6-17 Isaiah 48:12-21 Matthew 9:14-17
- 19 Psalm 27:1-6 1 Samuel 1:1-20 Galatians 1:11-24
- 20 Psalm 27:1-6 1 Samuel 9:27 - 10:8 Galatians 2:1-10
- 21 Psalm 27:1-6 1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13 Luke 5:27-32

22 Third Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1, 4-9 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23

- 23 Psalm 27:7-14 Judges 6:11-24 Ephesians 5:6-14
- 24 Psalm 27:7-14 Judges 7:12-22 Philippians 2:12-18
- 25 Psalm 27:7-14 Genesis 49:1-2, 8-13, 21-26 Luke 1:67-79
- 26 Psalm 15 Deuteronomy 16:18-20 1 Peter 3:8-12
- 27 Psalm 15 Deuteronomy 24:17 - 25:4 1 Timothy 5:17-24
- 28 Psalm 15 Micah 3:1-4 John 13:31-35

29 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12

- 30 Psalm 37:1-17 Ruth 1:1-18 Philemon 1-25
- 31 Psalm 37:1-17 Ruth 2:1-16 James 5:1-6



Worship and Music



Color It Blue

The Advent season is probably my favorite. The sights and sounds surrounding this time in the church year are quite different than any other. The color blue, the Advent wreath and banners, the music, and the sermons and reading each Sunday prepare us not only to receive the new baby but a new world where God's justice and mercy reign.

This Advent will be the start of a year remembering the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. It will be celebrated by Lutherans around the globe. It has been said that Martin Luther loved Advent. One of his students even commented that "as Christmas approached, Luther grew increasingly cheerful."

Luther's writings contain many references to Advent. These reflections will become the basis of our choral concert this year. Make plans to bring your family, friends and neighbors to the Bethany Choir Advent program on Sunday, December 18 during the 10:30 a.m. service as we explore Advent through the thoughts of Martin Luther.

Bob Bucan

Epiphany Service

Lessons and Carols



An Epiphany service of Lessons and Carols will be held on Friday, January 6, at 6:30 pm.

Epiphany, which comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, means "an appearance" or "a revealing." Centuries ago, the church set aside January 6, the 12th day after Christmas, to mark the revealing of Jesus as Christ to the wise men, who were Gentiles. Jesus' first followers were Jewish, so the revelation of the divine Christ to the non-Jewish magi reminds us that Jesus came to earth to save the whole world.

Symbols of Epiphany include light, a star, a crown (or three crowns) and a globe or stylized portrayal of the world. The color of Epiphany is green to symbolize life, growth, hope and eternity.



Enjoy the Poetry of Hymns

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown,
When Thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room
For Thy holy nativity.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for Thee.

Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,
Proclaiming Thy royal degree;
But of lowly birth didst Thou come to earth,
And in great humility.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for Thee.



The foxes found rest, and the birds their nest
In the shade of the forest tree;
But Thy couch was the sod, O Thou Son of God,
In the deserts of Galilee.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for Thee.

Thou camest, O Lord, with the living word
That should set Thy people free;
But with mocking scorn, and with crown of thorn,
They bore Thee to Calvary.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for Thee.

When the heavens shall ring, and the angels sing,
At Thy coming to victory,
Let Thy voice call me home, saying "Yet there is room,
There is room at My side for thee."
My heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus,
When Thou comest and callest for me



Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne: The Story Behind the Hymn

Emily E. S. Elliott was born at Brighton, England, on July 22, 1836. Throughout her life she was associated with the evangelical faction of the Anglican Church. She gave of herself tirelessly in working with the rescue missions and Sunday Schools in her area. Emily was a niece of Charlotte Elliott, author of the hymn “Just As I Am”. For six years she edited a magazine called the *Church Missionary Juvenile Instructor*. Forty-eight of her hymns were published in a book entitled *Under the Pillow*, a book of verse for the special use of people who are ill in hospitals, infirmaries or at home.

Emily Elliott wrote *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne* to teach children the truths of the advent and nativity seasons. Although she wrote this text for the children of her father’s church, St. Mark’s Anglican Church in Brighton, England, the easily understood wording, the poetic imagery, and the spiritual truths found in these excellent lines soon made the hymn a widespread favorite.

This spiritually enriching text differs from the usual Christmas songs since it focuses not only on Jesus’ birth but also on His life on earth, His suffering and death, and the ultimate triumph of His second advent.

The clear message of each stanza is accentuated by the use of contrasting sentences, each beginning with the word “but.” Then in the fifth stanza, the contrast is reversed with the rejoicing at Christ’s return and the prospects of being at His side throughout eternity.

Stanza One... Heaven’s throne and crown—*but* no room in Bethlehem.

Stanza Two... Heaven’s royal degree—*but* earth’s great humiliation.

Stanza Three... Earth’s creatures have their homes—*but* for Him the desert.

Stanza Four... He came bringing redemption—*but* men gave Him Calvary.

Stanza Five... Here the contrast is reversed: Death is changed into victory, and Heaven’s arches of stanza two will ring again when He comes for His second advent.

The refrain after each verse effectively personalizes the truth presented. This fine hymn has proved to be an inspiration not only to children but to adults as well, during the Christmas season and also throughout the entire year.

From *101 Hymn Stories* and *Amazing Grace* by Kenneth W. Osbeck



Advent Devotions

Four churches shaped by 16th century reformations share a series of devotions for the season of Advent on the ELCA website (www.elca.org). Below are the themes, bible verses and prayers which introduce each week's devotions. Go to the website to read the complete devotion for each week of Advent.

Advent 1

Matthew 24:36-44

Liberated by God's Grace

Devotion by Elizabeth Eaton is the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.
Come to us in all the moments of our lives.
Help us to watch so that we are amazed by
Your love. Bless us in our Advent journey.
Amen

Advent 2

Matthew 3:1-12

Creation—Not for Sale

Devotion by Fred Hiltz is the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada



Gracious God, this day you call us to actions
which speak at least as loudly as our words
and to words which indicate a change of heart
and growing regard for your creation.
Bless us in our Advent journey
as we seek your incarnate presence in every aspect of our lives.
Amen

Advent 3

Matthew 11:2-11

Salvation—Not for Sale

Michael Curry is the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church (United States) Susan Johnson is the National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Open our eyes, of gracious God, and bless our Advent journey.
Enable us to look beyond the familiar
and observe instead your presence before us and around us.
Remove the blinders of resentment and fear,
and by your Spirit help us to see Jesus in the face of both friend and stranger,
for your love's sake.
Amen.



Advent 4

Matthew 1:18–25

Human Beings—Not for Sale

Susan Johnson is the National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
and bring your liberating justice into our world.
Strengthen our will to address injustice
and to work towards the liberation of all who are in bondage.
Bless us in our Advent journey.
Give us eyes to see every human being as a beloved child of God
and give us the courage to proclaim that human beings are not for sale.
Amen.



Dear Friends in Christ,

This past November 9, 10, and 11, the Northern Great Lakes Synod sponsored a Road Trip to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts to take in their wonderful Reformation Exhibit. Not only was this an appropriate observance of Martin Luther's birthday, on November 10, but it also was a great way to celebrate the 499th anniversary of what is considered the genesis of the Reformation movement.

So two fifteen passenger vans transported 19 people and their luggage to the Twin Cities. Our Synod was well represented with Lutherans from Escanaba, Rhinelander, Sayner, Gladstone, Marquette, Ishpeming, Florence, and Gwinn. Our itinerary included a tour of Luther Seminary, lunch there, a stop for dessert at a German Bakery, the Museum, and dinner at a German restaurant.

On our way out of town on Friday, we stopped at the Cathedral in St. Paul for a visit and then enjoyed a little shopping.



The trip was full of highlights. The exhibit most certainly was one. We saw an actual indulgence, pieces of writing in Martin Luther's own hand, one of the pulpits from which he preached, his own writing desk, and so much more.

Luther's Pulpit



Luther's Writing desk

It was very interesting to see a piece of history, and to see the things we so often talk about when we talk about Luther, and so many things that we don't talk about, but were a part of the Luther daily life – dishes and a desk set, ledger and drafts of writings, an indulgence, and the coffer into which the forgiveness payment went. For an obscure monk in a small corner of the world to have made such a difference, is a testament to the power of the Spirit to make the ordinary extraordinary.



Luther's death mask, and hand casts. Displayed at Luther Seminary.

Another highlight was dinner at the Gasthof Zur Gemutlichkeit which featured an accordion player who kept us singing and entertained. I think he also kept us entertaining the other patrons in the restaurant who clearly enjoyed the Lutheran show. The evening was capped off with a Martin Luther Birthday cake and one more chorus of "You are my Sunshine" and "Edelweiss".

It was a good trip, and people have asked when the next one will be. Where would you like to go? I would be happy to drive again ☺.

More pictures are posted on the Northern Great Lakes Synod Facebook page.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Katherine Finegan



Library Notes for December/January

By Keenan Tunnell

First of all, let me thank all those who supported the Library's Annual Sale and Augsburg's Reformation 500 Book sale. Thanks Again!! If you haven't picked up your books or your Luther Rose, please see Kathy Geier or me after church in the Fellowship Hall.

In lieu of book titles this month, I'd like to harken back to the "we are surrounded" theme to bring your attention to some of the capital "S" saints whose days occur over the next two months:



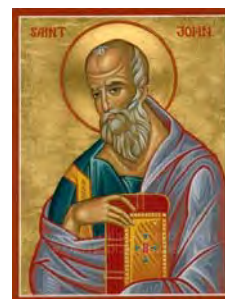
Of course you are all familiar with St. Nicholas (6 December)...he who has morphed into Santa Claus; but his message of gift-giving and helping those in need is still at the heart of Christmas. See more about him elsewhere in this issue and his new statue on the table in the narthex.

Then there is St Lucy/Santa Lucia (13 Dec), beloved of Scandinavians...again for helping those in need. See more about her in this issue, and her figure on the table in the narthex.



Perhaps not so well known is St. Stephen (26 Dec) who is known from Scripture as one of the first deacons of the early church and its first martyr...an example of ultimate faith!

St. John, the Evangelist rounds out December on the 27th. He is credited with the gospel bearing his name and the Book of Revelation. Tradition also records him as caring for Mary, the mother of Our Lord, for the rest of her life, suffering a number of persecutions and imprisonments, but still living to an old age, with Revelations being perhaps his last great work.



We'll stop with just one final saint, St. Henry/Henrik/Heikki, Bishop of Uppsala, Sweden, missionary to Finland, where he died a martyr on 19 January 1156. He is the patron of Finland and of the national cathedral in Helsinki. You may have heard of Heikinpäivä, which is the celebration of St. Henry's Day in Hancock (and Finland) commemorating his death (originally) and acting as a symbolic mid-winter festival, and way to escape encroaching cabin fever!!



There....enough from the Library....guess who was an avid reference librarian?? Think about these sainted people as you move through the winter months. Look them up online and become informed about them; they were truly exceptional folks and worthy of emulation as part of the great cloud of witnesses....OR....check out one of the Christmas or Epiphany books on display and delve into the beginnings of the road to salvation.

TWO OF THE SAINTS OF DECEMBER

December is not just Christmas!! To help us prepare for Christ's coming, we also observe holy days for St. Nicholas (Dec. 6th) and especially Santa Lucia (Dec. 13th). Why "especially" Santa Lucia?? Because she has deep roots in Scandinavian Christianity. See her story below! and remember that the lives of the saints always point to Christ.. but first: St. Nicholas

WHO IS ST. NICHOLAS?

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara, on the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.



St. Nicholas
Artist: Marcia Wolter, 2016

Under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, a ruthless persecutor of Christians, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith, was exiled and imprisoned.....After his release, Nicholas attended the Council of Nicaea in AD 325. He died December 6, AD 343 in Myra. The anniversary of his death became a day of celebration, St. Nicholas Day, December 6th. Through the centuries many stories and legends have been told of St. Nicholas' life and deeds. These accounts help us understand his extraordinary character and why he is so beloved and revered as protector and helper of those in need.

Check out this website for all things related to St. Nicholas, including a forensic reconstruction of his face taken from an examination of his remains, which are buried in the crypt of the Basilica di San Nicola in Bari, Italy. <http://www.stnicholascenter.org> There are also books on St. Nicholas in our Library.

WHO IS SANTA LUCIA?

According to legend, Lucia was a medieval saint who carried food and drink to hungry folk in the province of Värmland during a period of famine. She was seen across Lake Vänern with her white gown and crown of lights. Today's costume has the same gown and crown. The Lucia legend is said to have originated in Syracuse on the island of Sicily. A young girl, about to be a bride, gave her entire dowry to the poor of her village and admitted that she had become a Christian. She was accused of witchcraft and burned at the stake on December 13, 304 A.D.



Much later in history, the early Church made a saint out of her - Santa (Saint) Lucia. Italian artists sometimes picture her as a blind girl holding a lamp. She is a patron saint for Italian fishermen and she is said to help guide them home through the rough seas.

There are many legends about her and in each one Lucia stands as a symbol of light and hope to all mankind. Santa Lucia's coming begins the feasting, merriment, singing and the spirit of friendliness and goodwill that lasts all through the holidays, especially for those of Scandinavian descent. See Lucia books in the Library.

A Blessed Christmas to you all and a New Year filled with love and joy!!



Living Lutheran — November 2016

I was a stranger and you welcomed me



Cover Story:

- Seeing Jesus in the Face of the Other (K. T. Sancken)

Features:

- Ask them about their stories; Caring for the new veterans (Erin Strybis)
- Small but mighty; The Little Free Pantry that's making a big difference (Megan Brandsrud)
- Lutheran institutions lead the way to innovative senior care (Katie Scarvey)
- God's work. Our hands. Every day.: ELCA and interfaith congregations become partners for days of service (Jocelyn Fuller)
- Jesus bread (John Coleman)

Higher Education

- A Time for peace (Krista Webb)

Reflection:

- The beginning is near (Live Larson Andrews)



Deeper Understandings:

- How the Lutheran Confessions unite us (Maria Erling & Vincent Evener)



From Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton

- I was a stranger

Fellowship Hall Floor original 1962 Will patch asbestos floor and put down carpet squares which are replaceable if ruined.

Sanctuary original 1970 Carpet

Church Pews and Choir Chairs 1970 reupholster both



LAY SCHOOL—WINTER CLASSES



The following are the classes to be offered during the Winter Semester of Lay School. Classes will be held at Messiah and will begin on February 7. Specifics on times and instructors will be announced later.

- Old Testament Writings
- Prophets
- Apocalyptic
- Polity
- Stewardship of God's Gifts

If you are interested in any or all of these classes, please contact Pastor Geier.



Hanging

Greens

of the

Saturday, December 10 @ 10:00 a.m.



Bethany will celebrate the beautifying of our sanctuary for the Christmas season with a special gathering on Saturday, December 5 at 10:00 am. This year Bethany will be decorating the tree with angels.

Many people are needed to make our sanctuary glow with the light of the Christ child. Please come on Saturday, December 10 and together we will decorate the sanctuary and continue the joyful tradition of preparing for this blessed season.





**WELCA Quad-Parish Christmas Dessert and Coffee
Bethany Lutheran
December 8 2- 4 PM**

Joy and Martha Circles will provide the program.

Please bring paper products: napkins, paper towels, toilet paper, diapers, sanitary napkins. These will be donated to the Women's Center, St. Vincent De Paul and Salvation Army

Advent Tree

Once again it's time for our annual Advent Tree. Please bring in hats, mittens, toys, books, and gifts for any ages. Place them under the tree, and your generosity will brighten the holidays for someone else.



Thank You

On behalf of WELCA, thank you for spreading the joy of sharing God's love with children in need by packing a shoebox or donating money for shipping.



Martha Circle meeting at Colleen Sundblad's house





Gifts for a King

Bring him thy precious things
And lay them at his feet;
The gold of love, the hope that springs
The unknown ways to meet.

Bring him thy lovely things;
The joy that conquers care,
The faith that trusts and sings,
The frankincense of prayer.

Bring him thy bitter things;
The myrrh of grief and fears,
The aching heart that stings
With pain of unshed tears.

These for thy gifts to him;
And for his gifts to thee,
The comfort of his steadfast love,
His tender sympathy.

—Annie Johnson Flint





Social Ministry

On January 8, 2017 would you like to share some of your Christmas cookies for the coffee hour? Social Ministry is requesting donations of your “left-over” Christmas cookies for the coffee hour after church. Just bring in your cookies and we’ll do the serving.

After the coffee hour, you may participate in the cookie exchange by taking any “new left-over cookies” home.



The December Noisy Offering will be given to the Harbor House. The January and February Noisy Offering will be given to the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund.

Thanks to everyone for your generosity!



**Remember
the Food Table.**

Hope is Born

A little child, a shining star,
a stable rude, the door ajar.
Yet in that place so crude, forlorn,
The Hope of all the world was born.

—Author unknown



Lutherans, Catholics gather for historic service in Lund, Sweden

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), joined Lutheran and Catholic leaders for a joint ecumenical commemoration of the Reformation on Oct. 31 in Lund, Sweden.

Pope Francis; Munib Younan, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) president; and Martin Junge, LWF general secretary, led the historic service at the Lund Cathedral. About 500 worshippers attended the Common Prayer service.

“With joy we have come to recognize that what unites us is far greater than what divides us,” said Younan, in his opening welcome.

According to a LWF press release, Pope Francis told worshippers that “in the context of the commemoration of the Reformation of 1517, we have a new opportunity to accept a common path, one that has taken shape over the past 50 years in the ecumenical dialogue between The Lutheran World Federation and the Catholic Church.”

In his sermon, Junge emphasized that both Lutherans and Catholics have “much more that unites us than that which separates us. We are branches of the same vine. We are one in Baptism. This is why we are here at this joint commemoration: to rediscover who we are in Christ.”

During the service, Pope Francis and Younan signed a joint statement committing Catholics and Lutherans to deepening their communion and common witness for justice.

Later in the day, thousands gathered at Malmo Arena under the theme “Together in Hope.” According to the LWF, the event included performance artists and testimonies by Lutheran and Catholic advocates for social justice and climate issues from Burundi, Colombia, India, South Sudan and Syria. Pope Francis and Younan offered responses to their testimonies.

During the event, Maria Immonen, LWF World Service director, and Michel Roy, Caritas Internationalis secretary general, signed a declaration of intent mutually committing the global Christian organizations to deepened relationships and closer cooperation in humanitarian response and sustainable development.

Kids!

“Get

Ready...”



Children’s Christmas Program is on December 11.

- December 4:** Rehearse for Christmas program
- December 11:** Rehearse in sanctuary; Performance during Worship
- December 18:** Sunday School Christmas Party
- December 25:** No Sunday School



Trying on their costumes for the Christmas program

During the November 20th worship service, the kids gave thanks in song.



Council Highlights— November 2016



- Received thanks from Room at the Inn and Fortune Lake
- Automatic doors have been ordered. Bethany received \$1500 from the Synod for this project.
- New outdoor sign was installed.
- Have received quotes for new furnaces and they will be installed soon.
- There was the extensive discussion on a new insurance policy, - looking into getting insurance through Church Mutual.
- Approved a request from Friends of the Library to use Bethany's Fellowship Hall.
- Annual Meeting - January 29



OUR CHURCH'S

FINANCES

YTD Income: \$165,904.66

YTD Expenses: \$162,149.08

(Jan.—Oct.)



Pajama Palooza Update

The Pajama drive is in full swing as the holidays are fast approaching. Right now we are over 200 pairs of pajamas with all of the pajamas and cash donations. I can not put into words how thankful I am for generosity of our church family. The need is very present this year I am still looking for size 6/7, 8\10 14\16 in boys and girls. The bigger sizes are definitely on the top of my priority list. I am hoping to help about 170 families this year. We are set to wrap the pajamas Friday December 16, so I'm hoping to have the majority of the pajamas by then, but will take them till Sunday December 18th. Thank you all so much for all your help. This project wouldn't be possible without everyone's help! Thank you for making a difference one pair of pajamas at a time.

Addy Lemire



Christmas Postcard Included in Outlook

Enclosed in each copy of December's Outlook is the Christmas worship schedule. The schedule is written on a postcard. Feel free to use it as...

- Your special reminder
- A book mark
- An invitation (Add postage and send it to someone inviting them to take part in the special Christmas message here at Bethany.)



Ishpeming Carnegie Library Holiday Open House Sunday, December 4 2—4 pm Used book and Bake Sale



This is the basket weavers tree at the Ishpeming Library. Decorated trees will be on display the library through Christmas.

an



Deadline to Order Poinsettias is December 19

This year's poinsettias cost \$15 and will be ordered from Shelly's Floral Boutique. Please make your check out to Bethany Lutheran Church **when** you place your order. You may bring your own plants if you wish, with your name written underneath so they may be identified. Please have the plants here by Monday morning, December 19. You may take your plants following the Christmas Eve late service. Thank you.

For All Snowbirds....



If you are one of the many snowbirds who head south or west for the winter, please notify us of your new address and the duration of the time you will using that address so you won't miss any future issues of the Outlook or other mail from Bethany. Thanks.



Bethany's Website

www.bethanyishpeming.org

To view the latest edition of the Outlook in color, please visit Bethany's website.

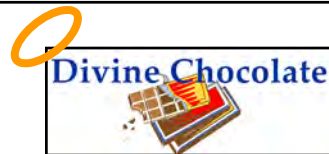


Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, Cocoa and Chocolate Are Available at Bethany



- Café Salvador Coffee
- Organic Decaf Coffee
- Whole Bean Coffee
- Whole Bean Decaf
- Sisters' Blend, Reg. & Decaf Teas
- Hot cocoa
- Baking Cocoa
- Milk Chocolate Bar
- Dark Chocolate Mini Bars

From Small Farmers With Love



Keep In Your Prayers

Remember our home-bound and nursing home residents:

Valente: Doreen Brown, Marjorie Rosten, Jean Sandstrom

Jacobetti: Allen Maki, Bob Waters, Ned Johns, Pastor Bob Sutherland

Mill Creek: Joyce Lehto

Teal Lake Senior Living Community: Betty Geier, Jim Sodergren, Sr.

- The family and friends of mourn the loss of former Bethany member Betty Salaz
- John and Marilyn Pontti
- Cheryl Sleeman
- Jim Sodergren, Jr.
- Cindy Warner
- Carol Holmgren
- Karen Mattson
- Barb Yunkari
- Kaye Frederickson
- Bob Kaukola
- Ted Swanson
- Loreth Johnson
- Judy Hogan
- Karmen Slown
- Brown family
- Mark
- Lois Goethe
- Ruthie Solberg
- Doris Pellonpaa
- Carl Pellonpaa
- Robert Maki
- Zander Atkins
- Jim Bjorne
- Pastor Marcia Solberg
- Angie Kempainen
- June Forsberg
- Carol and Juan Papaleo and family
- Those in the military that they may remain safe



Contact **Linda Dahl** by phone, e-mail, or by dropping a note in the newsletter mailbox at church.

485-1625
linkarzig@gmail.com



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Ishpeming, MI 49849

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Home Phone: 485-4218
E-mail: pastor@bethanyishpeming.org

Parish Planning Council:
Exec. Director, Robert Nadeau
Asst. Exec. Director, Ted Swanson
Christian Education, Tonya Perry
Finance, Jim Kinnunen
Personnel, Tom Ryan
Property, Robert Bruhnke
Social Ministry, Marie Chilman
Stewardship, Tom Perry
Worship & Music, Keenan Tunnell



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Northern Great Lakes Synod



December Worship Assistants

December 4

Assisting Minister - David Leverton
Acolytes - Garrett Frustaglio & Matthew Skewis
Altar - Rae Elliot
Coffee Hosts - Finance
Flowers - In memory of Gunnar & Rhoda Pelto by Ed & Sue Holmgren, Steve Pelto & family
Nursery - Sabrina Holm-Brown
Bread - Rae Elliot

December 11

Assisting Minister - Garrett Frustaglio
Acolytes - Jarin Johnson & Blake Forbes
Altar - Rae Elliot
Coffee Hosts - Social Ministry
Flowers - In honor of Sunday School children, confirmation students, and the youth of Bethany by Tonya Perry
Nursery - Hope Kaukola
Bread - Linda Dahl

December 18

Assisting Minister - Terra Frustaglio
Acolytes - DJ Bivins & Ian Bivins
Altar - Jill Carter
Coffee Hosts - Property
Flowers -
Nursery - Ben Bruhnke
Bread - Marian Medlyn

December 25

Assisting Minister - Robert Nadeau
Acolytes -
Altar - Sue Holmgren
Coffee Hosts -
Flowers -
Bread - Dan & Sharon Argall

December 24

Assisting Minister -
(4 pm) Terra & Garrett Frustaglio
(10 pm) Jerry & Karen Plaisier
Acolytes - (4 pm) Abbi Koski & Abby Bruhnke
(10 pm) Kyra Holmgren & Morgan Rhoades
Altar - Sue Holmgren
Bread - (4 pm) Terra Frustaglio
(10 pm) Bob Bucan

December Ushers:

John Beerling
Jerry Hager
Bill Heavyside
Robert Maki
Donald Meyer
Dan Sleeman



Thank You!

Happy Birthday!

- 2 Kay Skytta
- 2 Lindsay Waters
- 2 Amber Sodergren
- 3 John Pontti
- 3 Irene Portale
- 3 Jordan Anderson
- 4 Donald Liljequist
- 6 Emily Vallier
- 8 Ida Anderson
- 8 Cheryl Sleeman
- 9 Karen Mattson
- 9 Ian Bivins
- 10 Sheree Mariani
- 11 Lynn Healey
- 11 Daniel Kaukola
- 11 Todd Pohlman
- 11 Meredith Seppanen
- 11 Justin Young
- 12 Richard Meyer
- 12 Delanie Rhoades
- 13 James Chapman
- 13 Jerald Hager
- 15 Mindy Harrington
- 17 Holly Bjerne
- 18 Carol Truscott
- 19 Ann Carne
- 20 Kayla Kaukola
- 20 Knut Strom
- 21 Cheryl Frederickson
- 24 Megan Hough
- 25 Carol Waters
- 26 Travis Wooden
- 28 Lisa Ombrello
- 31 Carl Pellonpaa



Happy Anniversary!

Roy & LaVerne Koski
12/1/1984 32 years

Jerry & Karen Plaisier
12/1/1990 26 years

Joe & Addy Lemire
12/3/2011 5 years

Kimberlee & Bryan Smith
12/4/2010 6 years

Ray & Sandra Sundquist
12/12/1975 41 years

Carl & Doris Pellonpaa
12/16/1953 63 years

James & Jane Anderson
12/21/1968 48 years

Larry & Ann Alexander
12/27/1986 30 years

John & Marilyn Pontti
12/28/1960 56 years



January Worship Assistants

January 1

Assisting Minister - Tom Perry
Acolytes - Matthew Skewis & Jarin Johnson
Altar -
Coffee Hosts -
Flowers -
Bread -

January 8

Assisting Minister - DJ Bivins
Acolytes - Garrett Frustaglio & Ian Bivins
Altar -
Coffee Hosts - Social Ministry
Flowers -
Nursery - Mackenzie Ryan
Bread -

January 15

Assisting Minister - David Leverton
Acolytes - Blake Forbes & Abby Bruhnke
Altar -
Coffee Hosts - Christian Ed
Flowers - In memory of Evelyn & Paul Blewett by
the Blewett Trust
Nursery - Kayla Koski
Bread -

January 22

Assisting Minister - Terra Frustaglio
Acolytes - DJ Bivins & Kyra Holmgren
Altar -
Coffee Hosts - Quilters
Flowers -
Nursery - Jackson Cardoni
Bread -

January 29

Assisting Minister - Kay Ryan
Acolytes - Abbi Koski & Morgan;
Rhoades
Altar -
Coffee Hosts - Barb Yunkari &
friends
Flowers -
Nursery - Sabrina Holm-Brown
Bread -

January 6 Epiphany

Assisting Minister - Keenan
Tunnell

January Ushers:

Bruce Bussone
Tom Perry
Jim Kinnunen
Craig Kitchen
Jerry Plaisier
Knut Strom



February Ushers:

Robert Nadeau
Jim Anderson
John Carlson
Tom Brown
Maurice Hansen
Tom Sodergren
Greg Stahlmann
Roger Solberg

Thank You!

Happy Birthday!

- 1 Samuel Stahlmann
- 4 Maurice Hansen
- 5 Ruby Kaukola
- 5 Erick Pohlman
- 7 Jacob Clark
- 7 Daniel Sleeman
- 8 Colleen Sundblad
- 11 Debbie Bussone
- 11 Marilyn Pontti
- 12 Robert Nadeau
- 14 Theodore Swanson
- 15 Elizabeth Aho
- 16 Hillary Bjorne
- 18 Jeffrey Harma
- 19 Matthew Skewis
- 21 Mindy McComb
- 21 Jennie Dault
- 23 Tori Connors
- 24 Brian Ulrickson
- 26 Carl Pellonpaa
- 27 Christina Mariani
- 29 Bernadette Frustaglio
- 31 Sabrina Brown



Happy Anniversary!

Roger & Ruth Solberg
1/2/1954 63 years

