

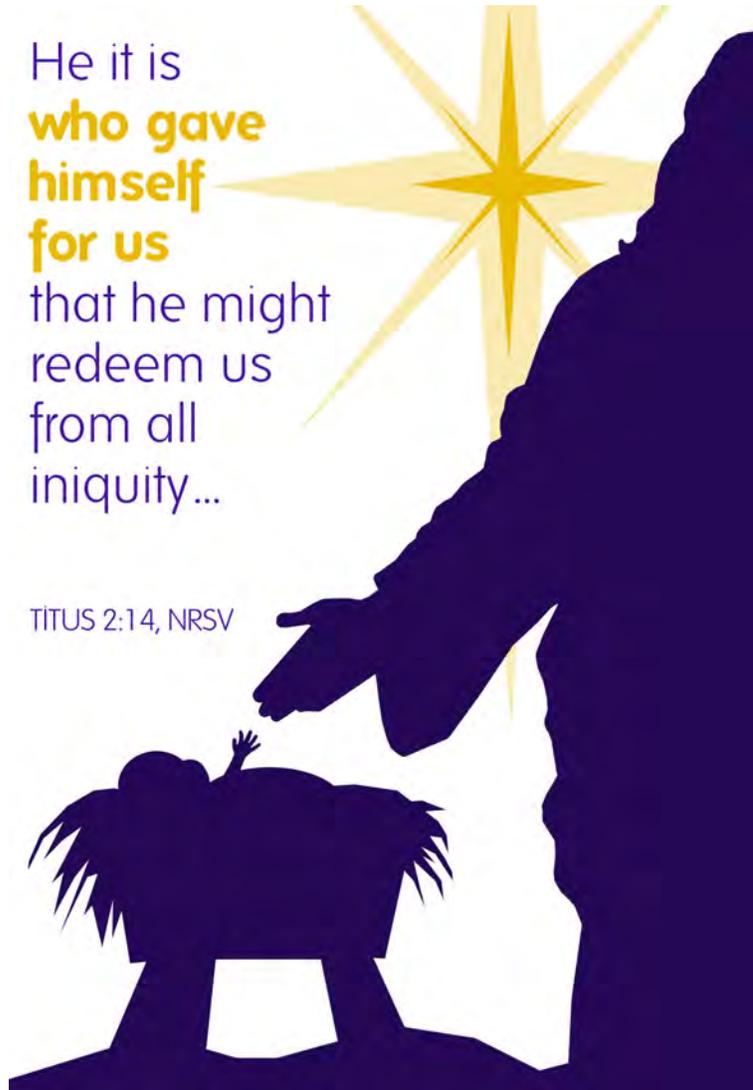


Bethany Lutheran Outlook
December 2019 - January 2020

Serving God, Community, and Individuals

He it is
**who gave
himself
for us**
that he might
redeem us
from all
iniquity...

TITUS 2:14, NRSV





PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

I haven't seen any yet this year, but I'm sure before long there will be yard signs around that say "Keep Christ in Christmas!" In part I think such signs are a response to the Merry Christmas vs. Happy Holidays thing, a response to schools and businesses having Holiday parties rather than Christmas parties, in some places a response to those who want to remove manger scenes from public places. "Keep Christ in Christmas" is also a reminder that Christmas is about more than shopping and presents and Santa. Those who post such signs certainly have good intentions.

Awhile ago though, I came across an article written by Fr. Mark Sietsema a Greek Orthodox priest from Lansing who has a different spin on this. (come to find out he also comes up here to lead worship at the Orthodox church in Marquette!) He suggests that keeping manger scenes in public places and saying Merry Christmas instead of Happy Holidays isn't going to change the commercialization of the season; it's been going on for a long time, long before anyone decided there was a war on Christmas. Remember that back in 1939 President Roosevelt changed the date of Thanksgiving from the last Thursday in November to the fourth Thursday in November to ensure a longer Christmas shopping season. Now, of course, the Christmas shopping season begins before Halloween so the date of Thanksgiving doesn't really matter! In any case, the ship of Christmas commercialization has sailed and it's not coming back.

Fr. Mark also wonders which Christ people want to keep in Christmas, fearing that what most people want is the cute and cuddly baby Jesus, a Christ who really asks nothing of you. But what about the Jesus who we encounter the rest of the year, the Jesus who asks a lot of us saying things like one's life is not about an abundance of possessions or you can't be my disciple unless you give up all your possessions? That Christ might put an unwelcome damper on Christmas shopping and gift giving.

Fr. Mark's suggestion is that rather than worrying about keeping Christ in Christmas we should focus on keeping the Mass in Christmas. Rather than slogans and token gestures that don't amount to much or change anything, each of us should focus on what we can control and on what can change us, that is making sure that the Mass, worship, is at the center of our Christmas. The word Christmas, after all, is derived from the Old English "Cristes Maesse" or Christ's Mass.

I like what Fr. Mark has to say. Without worship, without the Mass, something is being celebrated at this time of year, but it isn't Christmas. That's not to say that we can't enjoy parties and concerts and meals and being with family and friends. It doesn't mean we shouldn't enjoy opening presents around the tree and observing whatever other traditions we have. But don't neglect worship not just on Christmas but during the weeks of Advent and through the 12 days of Christmas, ending with Epiphany.

As always, here at Bethany there will be a full schedule of worship opportunities during Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. The schedule is included elsewhere in the Outlook. For all of us it is a busy season on many fronts, but make worship a priority.

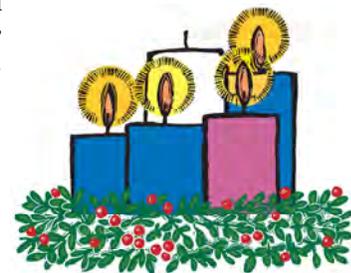
Keep the Mass in Christmas!

Pastor Geier



Advent Evening Prayer

The season of Advent is a prime example of the church being out of step with the prevailing culture. While the world is shopping madly and noisily preparing for a mostly secular holiday, the church is quietly moving toward the celebration of the birth of a Savior and looking (with some trepidation) toward His second coming. Bethany is providing an opportunity for folks to pause and take a step back from the holiday noise and put a bit of peace in your midweek lives by offering the choral service of Evening Prayer each Wednesday night during Advent at 6:00 p.m., beginning on Wednesday, December 4th. Join us each week as we proclaim, in the opening words of the service: ***Jesus Christ is the Light of the World, the Light no darkness can overcome. Prepare the way...He is coming!!***



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 2019

1 First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44

2 Psalm 124	Genesis 8:1-19	Romans 6:1-11
3 Psalm 124	Genesis 9:1-17	Hebrews 11:32-40
4 Psalm 124	Isaiah 54:1-10	Matthew 24:23-35
5 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Isaiah 4:2-6	Acts 1:12-17, 21-26
6 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Isaiah 30:19-26	Acts 13:16-25
7 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Isaiah 40:1-11	John 1:19-28

8 Second Sunday of Advent

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

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



15 Third Sunday of Advent

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

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

22 Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

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

25 Nativity of Our Lord

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

26 Psalm 148 Wisdom 4:7-15 Acts 

Readings for Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

2 Chron. 24:17-22 Psalm 17:1-9, 15 Acts 6:8 — 7:2a, 51-60 Matthew 23:34-39

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

Readings for John, Apostle and Evangelist

Genesis 1-5, 26-31 Psalm 116:12-19 1 John 1:1 — 2:2 John 21:20-25

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

Readings for the Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Jeremiah 31:15-17 Psalm 124 1 Peter 4:12-19 Matthew 2:13-18

29 First Sunday after Christmas

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

30 Psalm 20	Isaiah 26:1-9	2 Cor. 4:16-28
31 Psalm 20	1 Kings 3:5-14	John 8:12-19

Readings for New Year's Eve

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 Psalm 8 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:15-21

January 2020

1 Name of Jesus

Numbers 6:22-27 Psalm 8 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:15-21

2 Psalm 72	Genesis 12:1-7	Hebrews 11:1-12
3 Psalm 72	Genesis 28:10-22	Hebrews 11:13-22
4 Psalm 72	Exodus 3:1-5	Hebrews 11:23-31

5 Second Sunday after Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:10-18

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 72	1 Kings 10:1-13	Ephesians 3:14-21
8 Psalm 72	1 Kings 10:14-25	Ephesians 4:7, 11-16
9 Psalm 29	1 Samuel 3:1-9	Acts 9:1-9
10 Psalm 29	1 Samuel 3:10 — 4:1a	Acts 9:10-19a
11 Psalm 29	1 Samuel 7:3-17	Acts 9:19b-31

12 Baptism of Our Lord

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

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

18 Psalm 40:1-11 1 Kings 19:19-21 Luke 5:1-11

Readings for The Confession of Peter

Acts 4:8-13 Psalm 1-6, 16-19 1 Cor. 10:1-5 Matthew 16:13-19

19 Second Sunday after Epiphany

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

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

Readings for the Conversion of Paul

Acts 9:1-22 Psalm 67 Galatians 1:11-24 Luke 21:10-19

26 Third Sunday after Epiphany

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

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

“The birth of Jesus is the sunrise in the Bible.”

—Henry van Dyke

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

-Emily E. S. Elliott, 1836-1897



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

“Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne:” The Story Behind the Hymn

Emily 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.

This particular text was printed by Miss Elliott privately for the choir and for the school children of her father’s church, St. Mark’s, at Brighton, England. It was written for the purpose of teaching children the truths of the Advent and Nativity season. The text for the hymn was based on the haunting phrase taken from Luke 2:7, “but there was no room for them in the inn.”

It is interesting to note the vivid contrast that Miss Elliott achieved in the first four verses of this hymn with the contrasting phrase of each verse beginning with the word “but”:

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 is the personalizing of the truth e3xpressed in each stanza.

Expectation has and always will be a necessary part of a believer’s life. In the Old Testament there was the anxious expectancy of a coming Me4ssiah. Our expectancy is the sound of the trumpet, meeting the Lord, and the prospect of an eternal home with our Savior.

—Kenneth W. Osbeck; 101 Hymn Stories: The Inspiring True Stories behind 101 Favorite Hymns.



Choral Dress

Rehearsal

and Hanging of the Greens Scheduled for Dec. 14

Dress Rehearsal - Saturday, December 14 @ 10:00 a.m.
Hanging of the Greens—Saturday, December 14 @ 11:30
(after dress rehearsal)



The day begins with a dress rehearsal for the Sunday School/ Choral Program which will be during the December 15th worship service. The Sunday School will be rehearsing first.

After the rehearsal, Bethany will be beautifying our sanctuary for the Christmas season. This year Bethany will be decorating the tree with Swedish decorations.

Many people are needed to make our sanctuary glow with the light of the Christ child. Please come on Saturday, December 14 and together we will decorate the sanctuary and continue the joyful tradition of preparing for this blessed season .



A Christmas Poem

"Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be your children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen!"



Robert Louis Stevenson



Schedule of Holiday Services

December 1—First Sunday in Advent

10:30 Worship Service

December 4 - Evening Prayer @ 6:00 pm

December 8—Second Sunday in Advent

10:30 Worship Service

December 11 - Evening Prayer @ 6:00 pm

December 15—Third Sunday in Advent

10:30 Worship Service—Sunday School Christmas program and
Annual Choir Cantata

December 18 - Evening Prayer @ 6:00 pm

December 22—Fourth Sunday in Advent

10:30 Worship Service

December 24— Christmas Eve

4:00 Family Worship

10:00 Candlelight Service

December 25—Christmas Day

10:30 Holy Communion

January 6—Epiphany

6:30 p.m. Worship Service



A Look at Bethany's History

Honor your past as God's gift that makes you who you are, but be open to change. Dare to step out in faith for the sake of your life's mission. Try something new in the spirit of the God who's always doing a new thing (Isaiah 43:19; Revelation 21:5).

Annual Report for 1933 Christian Education

Our Sunday School is an integral part of our church. Thruout winter and summer, in storm and heat, during vacation time and the rush of the holiday season the Sunday School has been open. Additions in enrollment have been made from time to time. Recognition and appreciation are expressed to our two faithful and capable Sunday School superintendents, Mr. Ogden E. Johnson and Miss Ruth Berquist, and to the faithful corps of Sunday School teachers.

Following the duly prescribed course in catechetical instruction 21 children were received into active membership in our Church. In addition, one member was added through the medium of adult confirmation.

Vacation Bible School was held during the summer, with an enrollment of 109. The following teachers gave of their time and service to this important work without remuneration: Muriel Holmgren, Bernice Brandt, Elaine Heard, Jean Schjonberg, Mable Nelson and Leona Nelson. Appreciation is herewith expressed.

Recommendations:

The following recommendations were supported by the Board of Administration at its meeting, January 8th and are herewith laid before the congregation for final decision:

- That the Swedish language be eliminated from all Sunday services during the year 1934, but the Swedish mid-week prayer service be continued as heretofore.
- That Sunday morning services be conducted at 8:30 o'clock instead of 10:30 o'clock during the months of July and august.

These recommendations will be voted on by ballot.

Finances

Despite apparently unfavorable conditions the church treasurer reports a balance on hand, after all obligations, local and benevolence, have been paid in full. Is this not a living testimony to the fact that things seemingly impossible are accomplished when the spirit is willing? The feeling of responsibility quickens the spiritual pulse beat and enriches the spiritual life of the congregation. The Board of Administration takes pleasure in commending the members of the congregation for this loyal expression of interest and cooperation. The pastor adds his own "amen" to that commendation with a prayer that the sense of stewardship might ever wax eloquent in the days and years that are to come. A hearty expression of appreciation is extended to Arnold Solem, the church treasurer, for an unstinting measure of faithful service. Treasurers of his ability, coupled with interest and desire to serve, are few and far between.



Snow

gently on Bethany's 1963 outdoor nativity.

falls



Library Notes for December 2019– January 2020 By Keenan Tunnell

It's hard to put myself in the Christmas mood yet, so in lieu of book titles this month, I'd like to harken back to the "we are surrounded" theme of early November to bring your attention to some of the capital "S" saints whose days occur over the next two months jumping over Christmas altogether!! Of course there will be plenty of Christmas books on display throughout December, and a few special Epiphany ones will appear in January, but lets just spend a few minutes looking at some of those SAINTS of the season for a different outlook. Oh, and by the way, a big thank-you to all those who supported the Library's Annual Sale. I hope you found something you liked or would make a special gift! Thanks Again!! NOW...for the saints:

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. Check out the children's books related to him, a DVD about the REAL St. Nicholas, and the statue on the table in the narthex (the face is modeled after the forensic reconstruction documented in the DVD and seen at left). Completely unrelated to his "Santa Claus" image, Nicholas as Bishop of Myra attended the great Council of Nicaea and was a vigorous defender of the Trinity against the Arian heresy.



Then there is **St Lucy/Santa Lucia** (13 Dec), beloved of Scandinavians... again for helping those in need. See more about her in the display of her image and related books in the narthex during the second week of Advent.



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 recorded martyr. Hear his last words as his life slipped away, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." --Acts 7:59 –a true example of a life lived for the Lord!





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.



Here's a special saint for Finland as we move into the new year: **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 *Heikinpaiva*, 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!!



Finally we have a commemoration of some women of the early church on 27 January: **Lydia, Dorcas/Tabitha, and Phoebe** are celebrated as witnesses to the faith. Though the words describing the lives and faith of these women are few and from ancient times, they continue to guide us as co-workers in the work of the Church, illustrations of compassion and in using one's gifts and role models for women in business, social ministries and church leadership. Lydia, Acts 16, was a sponsor of Paul and the Philippian church. Dorcas, Acts 9, was so admired for her work in Joppa that when she died suddenly, Peter was called upon and raised her from the dead! Phoebe, Romans 16, was described by Paul as a servant of the church, possibly a deaconess. Perhaps she was the original deaconess, and the patron of the deaconess movement reborn in the German Lutheran church in the mid-nineteenth century and still active today.

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.

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

Bible Quiz

1. What's the name of the angel who told Mary she would give birth to God's Son?

- A. Gabriel
- B. Raphael
- C. Michael
- D. Jonathan



2. After Mary learned she was pregnant with God's Son, what relative — also miraculously pregnant — did she go visit?

- A. Esther
- B. Elizabeth
- C. Anne
- D. Anna



3. When Jesus was born, which two earthly rulers were in power?

- A. Quirinius
- B. Pontius Pilate
- C. Caesar Augustus
- D. King Herod

4. Some parts of the Christmas story, as commonly told, aren't actually recounted in Scripture. Which of the following details is recorded in the Bible?

- A. Mary rode a donkey to Bethlehem, and Joseph walked alongside her.
- B. Angels announced that a Savior, the Messiah (or Christ), had been born.
- C. There were three wise men.
- D. Shepherds and wise men (or Magi) worshiped Baby Jesus together.
- E. None of the above.

5. The gospel of Luke tells about Joseph and Mary taking the baby Jesus to the temple "to present him to the Lord" (Luke 2:22, NRSV). An old man approached and said the Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he wouldn't die before he saw the Messiah. Seeing Jesus and being moved by the Holy Spirit, this man proclaimed that the baby was indeed the Messiah.

What was the man's name?

- A. Simeon
- B. Simon
- C. Phanuel
- D. Zechariah

Thank You from Ashley Chartré

I went to Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp on August 7-12, 2019. I was excited and nervous at the same time. I worried about not knowing anyone, but I made many friends during camp.

My first morning at camp, they had a trumpet morning call. All of the counselors are music majors and play a instrument. Each morning thereafter, a counselor playing an oboe would walk through the cabins waking up the girls.

I wasn't fond of the food. I lived on bananas, potato salad and "off brand" fruit loops. I also had lots of ice cream.

I enjoyed my classes very much including my minor choice which was jazz. My band conductor, Carl Knipe told me that I had very good tone for someone my age, and that I would be in first chair, but Junior Band didn't assign chairs.

After our evening meal we would play games, sometimes in the dark or go to a concert. The counselors and the Jazz students had a concert during the week.

After twelve days at camp, I wasn't ready to come home, but I hope to go back again next summer. Thank you for helping to make my dream come true.

Ashley Chartré

Congratulations Laura & Vincent Flaska



Laura and Vinny met January 1st, 2016. Laura has lived in Chicago for over 10 years working as a Manager of the tax department for Amsted Industries. Vincent grew up in Chicago area, and is the President of their family business, Hoist Liftrucks. They live in downtown Chicago with their French bulldog named Puddles

They were married November 2, 2019, at the St James Cathedral in Chicago. They will be honeymooning in Europe over the Christmas holiday.

Laura is the daughter of Cheryl & Dan Sleeman.

In the November 2019 issue of Marquette Monthly, Beverly Matherne wrote of her life's journey taking her from the Mississippi, to the Tuttle Creek Reservoir, to San Francisco Bay, and finally to Lake Superior. Her article is part of "The Gift of Water" series. "The Gift of Water" columns are offered by the Northern Great Lakes Water Stewards and the Cedar Tree Institute, joined in an interfaith effort to help preserve, protect, and sanctify the waters of the Upper Peninsula.

From Might Muddy to Shining Big-Sea-Water

I grew up on my Father's farm, hectares of sugarcane in furious wind along the Mississippi, the Might Muddy, whose currents could yank you by the hair and pull you down. Below headlands in fields, irrigation canals emptied into swamp waters, gumbo by day, celestial fire by night, when will-o'-the-wisps burst on the surface like stars.

Summer sun baked by little-girl skin, bleached my blond hair, cropped for the season. My head shone in the light-filled days, and they called me "Cotton-top." The scent of ripe melons wafted from our father's garden over lawns and into the house. Cucumbers, Creole tomatoes burst with juices on platters. When hurricanes ravaged, we knelt on hardwood floors around our parents' bed, said the Rosary till dawn, hoping our house would not split, the levee not breach.

With frost came the brilliant orange of Chinese pistachios, our gums deep red and purple. In winter, dark odor from sewers in New Orleans spoiled the air, countered only by festoons of Christmas greens on staircases, oversized bouquets of American Beauties in Grecian urns, and lavish chandeliers in the lobby of the Roosevelt Hotel. Dogwood came in spring, limelight in green leaves, a profusion of azaleas in pastels, dew or drizzle, hail or downpour, ever present, the river rising, nothing arid in this semi-tropical paradise.

Fate plucked me from Louisiana and planted me in the Flint Hills of Kansas, grassy, rolling, neither wind-swept plain nor tumble weed, hills camel-hued in summer against skies so blue they hurt, Tuttle Creek Reservoir, the only body of water in dry Manhattan, home of Kansas State, home of the Black-eyed Susan, where I taught drama.

When hackberries and elms lost their leaves and winter came, I longed for Louisiana. In my office, on sills of windows six feet high, I grew geraniums, hot pink, the only color against limestone, snow, and grey clouds.

Then came the University of California, at Berkeley, expanse of huge-columned facades, oak groves, Tasmanian tree ferns, green lawns, and, to be sure, the homeless in Peoples' Park, on littered Telegraph Avenue, bare feet wrapped in plastic for winter. A left turn through Sather Gate lead to the French Department in Dwinelle, a right turn, to my own desk in the great crowd of desks in Wheeler. Teaching assistants of French, minions all of us, and the great Michel Foucault come from the Sorbonne to address us that one unforgettable afternoon.

Then came a detour from French literature to the computer industry. Some eight blocks east of Maiden Lane, location of our headquarters at information Management Specialists, the Ferry Building, its Beaux Arts clock tower after the Giralda in Seville, Westminster Quarters chiming, homeward throngs on market. A little northeastward, the Golden Gate Bridge, the Bay churning beneath it. The Bay, as ever-present as summer papaya, black seed embedded in pregnant flesh, as fall's persimmon, as Blue Niles all year long. Weekends, we'd sail from the Berkeley Marina to Angel Island with bikes or to Sausalito for dinner. Our little son boogie boarded the swells of the Pacific on Stinson Beach in Marin.

Soon after the Quake of '89, fate tore me from California and sent me alone on another journey. When I arrived in Marquette to interview for a position in the English department in the dead of February, I required, no small wonder, a body of water at least as significant as that of the San Francisco Bay.

I remember when, over a quarter of a century ago, the summer before my first semester on campus, I walked along an avenue of Lombardy Poplars to Presque Isle, and stood on a lookout. Breakers lashed the rocky wall. Spume settled. I saw large rocks on the lake bottom, perfectly visible in clear water, the likes of which I had never seen in the South. "This will do, this will do quite fine." I said, assured of a new home for my little son and me, a new beginning, a baptism of sorts, an immersion in cleansing water.

Beverly Matherne



Music in the Community

December 7 & 8 **Marquette Choral Society**
Angelic Voices: Music of Charpentier and Respighi
St. Peter Cathedral of Marquette
Dec.. 7 @ 7:30 pm and Dec. 8 @ 3:00 pm

December 7 **Negaunee Male Chorus**
“Ringin’ in Christmas”
Negaunee High School Auditorium
Dec. 7 @ 7:00 pm



Tickets \$10 General Admission \$5 Children ages 4 to 10

December 14 **Marquette Symphony Orchestra**
Sounds of the Holidays
Kaufman Auditorium
Dec, 14 @ 7:30 pm



Thank You from Jean Johns

Thanks to my Bethany family for the cards, phone calls, and prayers. I hope to be able to get to church soon. God willing.

Jean



WELCA

WELCA Christmas Dessert and Coffee

Bethel Lutheran will host the WELCA Christmas gathering this year on December 10 at 1:00pm. The program will be a musical concert featuring Cathy Bolton, singer, songwriter & international recording artist.



Members attending are asked to bring an item from the list posted on the kiosk. The items will be donated to Great Lakes Recovery.

Mark your calendar. Invite a friend. Plan to have an enjoyable afternoon.

This event is open to both women and men of the church and community.

Yum! Yum! Yum! Sunday, December 29 RE: Leftover Christmas cookies

Old Christmas cookies don't lose their flavor or usefulness. They just come to church to make the coffee hour a wonderful post Christmas Happy Hour!! This is an open invitation to anyone with leftover Christmas cookies to share them at the December 29 coffee hour. Your cookies have already made many people happy. Now allow them to continue sharing their happiness in church on December 29th. The cookies will be happy and so will the people who savor them!!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Christmas Parties

Martha Circle will meet at Marian Medlyn's at 12 noon on December 18
Joy Circle will meet at Mama Mia's at 5:30 on December 19.

Unscramble the Christmas-themed Words

Unscramble the Christmas-themed words below, writing each extra letter on the blank to the right. Then place those extra letters in the correct spots below to discover what we receive at Christmas.

P U Z Z L E



1. TGLBEHHEME _____
2. NEAGLO _____
3. NRMEDAG _____
4. ODEKSNY _____
5. AMGYR _____
6. OHESJIP _____
7. EFJUSS _____
8. ITEENMSW _____
9. SPHHDSREEO _____
10. EMCFAL _____
11. TLSRA _____
12. CSSNUEO _____
13. HEVSPE _____
14. ENIN _____

_____ ,
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

_____ _____ _____
9 10 11 12 13 14

Kids!



Getting Ready for the Christmas Program



Sunday School will be practicing their songs for December's Christmas program. In addition to the Sunday practices, there will also be a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 14th at 10:00am.

We hope you will be there to add your voice to the choir.

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation students will meet on December 8th at 6:00 pm. Other dates for December and January will be announced at a later date.

A Hymn for Hans

Did you know that Martin Luther wrote the hymn "From Heaven Above" for his 5-year-old son, Hans, to be sung each year at their family Christmas celebration. A man dressed as an angel would enter, singing the first few verses.

"From heaven above to earth I come
To bear good news to every home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:

"To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child, of lowly birth,
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

The children would join in when they came to the verse beginning "Welcome to earth, Thou noble Guest! ...".

Welcome to earth, Thou noble Guest,
Through whom the sinful world is blest!
Thou com'st to share my misery;
What thanks shall I return to Thee?

Council Highlights— November 2019



- Received letter from FLLC regarding summer day camps for next year.
- Building Projects—Insulation of education wing attic is completed.
- Building Projects to be done—Back hallway to sacristy carpet replacement, repair soft spot in the choir loft floor, new thermostat for the sanctuary
- Church Council Terms: There will be 5 openings on the church council starting in January 2020. they are executive director, assistant executive director, finance, stewardship and social ministry. Four people have volunteered to fill open positions. There was some discussion about redoing our congregation by-laws to restructure the council membership. Jim Bjerne, Tom Perry and Mark Slown have volunteered to do a comprehensive review of the by-laws for council review and approval by the congregation., No timeline for completion has been set at this time.
- The Electronic Messaging system is still a work in progress. J. Bjerne is developing a master list of family points of contact for the cell phone text and email notification systems. Once he has all the information entered into the database, another test will be scheduled.
- The next NGLS Superior Central Conference meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 9, 5:30-8:00 pm, at Trinity Lutheran Church. All are invited to attend.
- Kathy Geier has volunteered to be the church Facebook administrator.
- Midweek Advent services are Dec. 4, 11, and 18 at 6:00pm.
- December 14—Hanging of the greens
- Annual Meeting—January 26, 2020, after Sunday's worship service.



YTD Income \$154144.81

TD Expenses: \$166,105.53

January—October 2019

Deadline to Order Poinsettias is December 19



This year's poinsettias cost \$15 and will be ordered from Forsberg's. Please make your check out to Bethany Lutheran Church **when** you place your order. The deadline to order is December 16.

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 Thursday morning, December 19. You may take your plants following the Christmas Eve late service. Thank you.

I Am the New Year

I am the new year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.

I am your next chance at the art of living. I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last twelve months.

All that you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination.

All the good that you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All that you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all that you hoped but did not will, all the faith that you claimed but did not have—these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to Him who said, "Behold, I make all things new."



Unscramble the Christmas -themed words:

Answers: Bethlehem (G), angel (O), manger (D), donkey (S), Mary (G), Joseph (I), Jesus (F), wise men (T), shepherds (O), camel (F), star (L), census (O), sheep (V), inn (E); God's gift of love.

Answers to Bible Quiz

1. Answer: A The angel Gabriel told Mary that she would give birth to God's son. (See Luke 1:26ff)
2. Answer: B Mary went to see her cousin Elizabeth (See Luke 1:39-40.)
3. Answers: A and C Quirinius and Caesar Augustus ruled when Jesus was born. (See Luke 2:1-2.)
4. Answer: B Angels announced that a Savior, the Messiah, had been born (See Matthew 1:18-2:12 and Luke 2:1-20, especially v. 11.)
5. Answer: A Simeon proclaimed that Jesus was the Messiah. (See Luke 2:25.)

The New Free Store

The New Free Store is an interfaith non-profit group supporting people who express a need for free clothing, linens, hygiene and cleaning supplies. Anyone in need is welcome. Free things are offered as "in God's economy there is always enough." The Free Store is located at 1420 East M28 next to Lakestate Industries. It is open Wednesdays Noon-4PM (1st, 2nd 3rd weeks of month) and the fourth Monday of the month 6:00-8:00 pm. Facebook@thenewfreestore.

There is a collection box in our church entry. Donation requests rotate on a monthly basis.

**December Donations: toothbrushes, tooth paste, dental floss
January Donations: female shampoo, male shampoo**

Bethany's Website
www.bethanyishpeming.org



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



Keep In Your Prayers

Remember our home-bound and nursing home residents:

Valente: Roy Koski

Jacobetti: Carol Waters

Teal Lake Senior Living Community: Jean Johns, Annette Larson,
Adeline Johnson

Mill Creek: Marilyn Pontti, Betty Geier



- Amanda Bivins
- Roy & LaVerne Koski
- Marilyn Pontti
- Sandee Sundquist
- Jerry Plaisier
- Cindy Warner
- Loreth Johnson
- Emilie Brown
- Bob Maki
- Mark, Kathleen, and Karmen Slown
- Ray Chartre
- Roger & Ruth Solberg
- Doris Pellonpaa
- Ted Swanson
- Judy Hogan
- Mark
- Zander Atkins
- Jim Bjorne
- Angie Kempainen
- June Forsberg
- Those in the military that they may remain safe



**The December Noisy Offering will go to the
Warming Center.**

Thanks to everyone for your generosity!

If you would like to make a submission, contact **Linda Dahl** by phone, e-mail,
or by dropping a note in the newsletter mailbox at church.

485-1625
linkarzig@gmail.com

Bethany Lutheran Church
715 Mather Avenue
Ishpeming, MI 49849

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Website: www.bethanyishpeming.org

Rev. Warren Geier, Pastor
Home Phone: 485-4218
E-mail: pastor@bethanyishpeming.org

Parish Planning Council:
Exec. Director, Robert Nadeau
Asst. Exec. Director, Robert Clark
Christian Education, Amanda Bivins
Finance, Jim Kinnunen
Personnel, Jim Bjorne
Property, Robert Bruhnke
Social Ministry, Jill Carter
Stewardship, Tom Perry
Worship & Music, Keenan Tunnell



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Northern Great Lakes Synod



December Worship Assistants

December 1

Assisting Minister - Linda Dahl
Acolytes - Reid Frustaglio and James Grigg
Altar - Clara Carlson
Coffee Hosts - Joy Circle
Flowers -
Nursery - Abby Bruhnke
Bread - Kay Chartre
Youth Usher - Ashley Chartre

December 8

Assisting Minister - Jackson Cardoni
Acolytes - Delanie Rhoades and Faith Cain
Altar - LaVerne Koski
Coffee Hosts - Social Ministry
Flowers -
Nursery - Denise Kaukola
Bread - Rae Elliot
Youth Usher - Elizabeth Bureau

December 15

Assisting Minister - Karen Plaisier
Acolytes - Ashley Chartre and Elizabeth Bureau
Altar - Marian Medlyn
Coffee Hosts - Social Ministry— Cookies (Please bring)
Flowers - In honor of their parents' anniversary—Carl and Doris Pellonpaa by Diane and Wendy
Nursery - Faith Cain
Bread - Linda Dahl

December 22

Assisting Minister - David Leverton
Acolytes - Leo Dockery and Brady Johnson
Altar - Sue Ryan
Coffee Hosts - Stewardship / Personnel
Flowers - In honor of the Bethany Choir and Confirmation and Sunday School students by Tom Perry
Bread - Marian Medlyn
Nursery— Sabrina Bordeaux

December 25—Christmas Day @ 10:30 am

Assisting Minister— Bob Nadeau
Bread—Ray & Barb Yunkari
Altar -

December 29

Assisting Minister - Tom Ryan
Acolytes -
Altar - Sue Ryan
Coffee Hosts - Christian Ed
Flowers - In memory of Marvin and Evelyn Nadeau
Nursery -
Bread - Kathy Geier

December 24 Christmas Eve

Assisting Minister -

(4 pm) Terra & Garrett Frustaglio
(10 pm) Tom Perry

Acolytes - (4 pm) Ashley Charltr and Reid Frustaglio

(10 pm) Luke Holmgren

Altar -

Bread - (4 pm) Terra Frustaglio
(10 pm) Judy Kitchen

December Ushers:

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



Happy Birthday!

- 2 Kay Skytta
- 2 Lindsay Waters
- 2 Amber Sodergren
- 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 Bjorne
- 19 Ann Carne
- 20 Kayla Kaukola
- 20 Knut Strom
- 21 Cheryl Frederickson
- 24 Tonya Perry
- 24 Megan Hough
- 25 Carol Waters
- 26 Travis Wooden
- 28 Lisa Ombrello



Happy Anniversary!

Roy & LaVerne Koski
12/1/1984 35 years

Jerry & Karen Plaisier
12/1/1990 29 years

Joe & Addy Lemire
12/3/2011 8 years

Kimberlee & Bryan Smith
12/4/2010 9 years

Ray & Sandra Sundquist
12/12/1975 44 years

James & Jane Anderson
12/21/1968 51 years

Larry & Ann Alexander
12/27/1986 33 years



January Worship Assistants

January 5

Assisting Minister - Sally Grant
Acolytes - Elizabeth Bureau & Delanie Rhoades
Altar -
Coffee Hosts - Property
Flowers -
Nursery - Abby Bruhnke
Bread -

January 6—Epiphany 6:30 pm
Assisting Minister— Linda Dahl

January 12

Assisting Minister - D,J, Bivins
Acolytes - James Grigg and Brady Johnson
Altar -
Coffee Hosts - Social Ministry
Flowers -
Nursery - Denise Kaukola
Bread -
Youth Usher - Ashley Chartre

Thank You!

January 19

Assisting Minister - Carrie Myers
Acolytes - Luke Holmgren and Leo Dockery
Altar -
Coffee Hosts - Finance
Flowers - In memory of Paul Blewett and Evelyn Blewett
by the Blewett Trust
Nursery - Faith Cain
Bread -
Youth Usher - Elizabeth Bureau

January 26

Assisting Minister - Tom Ryan
Acolytes - Faith Cain and Jacob Bivins
Altar -
Coffee Hosts - Quilters
Flowers -
Nursery - Sabrina Bordeaux
Bread -

January Ushers:

February Ushers:



Watch for new list!

Happy Birthday!

- 1 Samuel Stahlmann
- 1 Betty Geier
- 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 Bjerne
- 17 Claire Urcavich
- 18 Jeffrey Harma
- 19 Matthew Skewis
- 20 Rachael Chartré
- 21 Mindy McComb
- 21 Jennie Dault
- 23 Tori Connors
- 24 Brian Ulrickson
- 27 Christina Mariani
- 29 Bernadette Frustaglio
- 31 Sabrina Holm-Brown



Happy Anniversary!

Roger & Ruth Solberg
1/2/1954 66 years

