



Bethany Lutheran Outlook
March 2017

Serving God, Community, and Individuals





PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

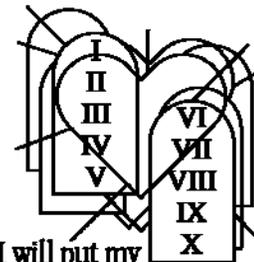
In this Reformation 500 year I've been reading more of Martin Luther's writings than I have in quite awhile. He's always interesting although he does present challenges as mixed in with some brilliant theological insights there can be nasty invective aimed at anyone who disagrees with him, the pope being a frequent target. Luther wasn't always very good about following his own teaching on the 8th Commandment about not bearing false witness which, in his explanation, includes slander and destroying reputations. He wasn't perfect, but then he didn't pretend to be.

In my reading though, I've been surprised at how often Luther talks about the importance of the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer which of course are the heart of his catechisms. In particular, in several of his writings when he talks about prayer he encourages using the commandments, the creed and the Lord's Prayer as the basis for prayer because, he says, "the total content of Scripture and preaching and everything a Christian needs to know is quite fully and richly comprehended in these three items."



With Lent beginning on March 1st with Ash Wednesday, I would encourage you to take Luther up on his suggestion and make praying with the Small Catechism part of your Lenten discipline this year. It can be difficult sometimes to come up with a meaningful Lenten discipline but particularly in this year when we mark the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation, this approach to prayer could be meaningful.

The technique that Luther suggests is to take it in small doses—for example, taking the First Commandment along with what it means and spending time with it, considering what it means to have no other gods and what it means to fear, love and trust God above all things. With that, for any of us, will come the realization that we don't always do it very well which is also worthy of contemplation and meditation, as we identify the "small g" gods that can become all important to us. With that realization comes recognition of the need for God's grace and forgiveness and also the need to act to reprioritize our lives.



**I will put my
law in their minds &
write it on their hearts.**

Jeremiah 31:33

All of this is very Lenten. At first it may not be what you normally think of as prayer, but that's exactly what it is as it winds up being a conversation with God. The challenge and the key to this kind of prayer is to go slow, taking one commandment at a time or one petition of the Lord's Prayer at a time, as you move into the creed perhaps taking only a few words or a phrase at a time and really turning it over and probing, not just rushing to be done. Part of what Lent is about is repentance for the sake of renewal and this approach can be a new way to approach that. You may still have your catechism from when you were confirmed. If not, I have copies available. Some will be in the narthex or you can ask me for one. If we need more we'll get more.

Bishop Skrenes has long encouraged churches to make use of the catechism and in this Reformation 500 year ELCA Churchwide Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has also invited all congregations to engage the catechism in some fashion. This can be a good way for us to follow the lead of our bishops and a good way to help observe the season of Lent.

Please join me!

Pastor Geier



A Prayer

Give us, O Lord, a steadfast heart,
Which no unworthy affection may drag downwards;
Give us an unconquered heart,
Which no tribulation can wear out;
Give us an upright heart,
Which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside.
Bestow upon us also, O Lord our God,
Understanding to know you,
Diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you,
And a faithfulness that may finally embrace you;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

—Thomas Aquinas

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

March 2017

1 Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20-b - 6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21



2 Psalm 51	Jonah 3:1-10	Romans 1:1-7
3 Psalm 51	Jonah 4:1-11	Romans 1:8-17
4 Psalm 51	Isaiah 58:1-12	Matthew 18:1-7

5 First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17 ; 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11

6 Psalm 32	1 Kings 19:1-8	Hebrews 2:10-18
7 Psalm 32	Genesis 4:1-16	Hebrews 4:14 - 5:10
8 Psalm 32	Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28	Matthew 18:10-14
9 Psalm 121	Isaiah 51:1-3	2 Timothy 1:3-7
10 Psalm 121	Micah 7:18-20	Romans 3:21-31
11 Psalm 121	Isaiah 51:4-8	Luke 7:1-10

12 Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17

13 Psalm 128	Numbers 21:4-9	Hebrews 3:1-6
14 Psalm 128	Isaiah 65:17-25	Romans 4:6-13
15 Psalm 128	Ezekiel 36:22-32	John 7:53 - 8:11
16 Psalm 95	Exodus 16:1-8	Colossians 1:15-23

17 Psalm 95 Exodus 16:9-21 Ephesians 2:11-22
18 Psalm 95 Exodus 16:27-35 John 4:1-6

19 Third Sunday in Lent - Joseph, Guardian of Jesus

Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42

Readings for Joseph, Guardian of Jesus

2 Samuel 7:4, 8-16 Psalm 89:1-29 Romans 4:13-18 Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a

20 Psalm 81 Genesis 24:1-27 2 John 1-13
21 Psalm 81 Genesis 29:1-14 1 Corinthians 10:1-4
22 Psalm 81 Jeremiah 2:4-13 John 7:14-31, 37-39
23 Psalm 23 1 Samuel 15:10-21 Ephesians 4:25-32
24 Psalm 23 1 Samuel 15:22-31 Ephesians 5:1-9
25 Psalm 23 1 Samuel 15:32-34 John 1:1-9

Annunciation of Our Lord

Readings

Isaiah 7:10-14 Psalm 45 Hebrews 10:4-10 Luke 1:26-38

26 Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41

27 Psalm 146 Isaiah 59:9-19 Acts 9:1-20
28 Psalm 146 Isaiah 42:14-21 Colossians 1:9-14
29 Psalm 146 Isaiah 60:17-22 Matthew 9:27-34
30 Psalm 130 Ezekiel 1:1-3; 2:8 -3:3 Revelation 10:1-11
31 Psalm 130 Ezekiel 33:10-16 Revelation 11:15-19

“Reflecting His Love”

My prayer to God is that you see
his presence when you look at me.
His steadfast love has set me free,
and his reflection I can be
when God is shining bright in me.



MaryAnn Sundby

Enjoy the Poetry of Hymns

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down,
Thy head upon My breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary and worn and sad;
I found in Him a resting-place,
And He has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one,
Stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life-giving stream.
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And now I live in Him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's Light.
Look unto Me; thy morn shall rise
And all thy day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found
In Him my Star, my Sun;
And in that Light of Life I'll walk
Till traveling days are done.

by Horatius Bonar, 1808-1899



“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”: the Story Behind the Hymn

“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters;
and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.”
(Isaiah 55:1)

The heart of the Christian gospel is the gentle word “come. From the moment of a person’s conversion until he or she is ushered into eternal glory, the Savior beckons with the gracious invitation “come. This word appears more than five hundred times throughout the Scriptures.

The beautiful lines of this hymn by Horatius Bonar fill us with peace and buoyant joy. They calm us as we contemplate walking in the divine light of life that is shed on our ways as we respond in personal faith to the voice of Jesus.

Horatius Bonar was one of Scotland’s most gifted and influential ministers and writers of the nineteenth century. He wrote more than six hundred hymn texts throughout his life. “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say” is generally considered to be his finest. Bonar wrote the lines while pastoring the Presbyterian church at Kelso, Scotland. He actually intended the hymn to be used by the children since he was always concerned that they learn the truths of the person and work of Christ. The text with its theme of revived life and joyous rest in Jesus has had universal appeal since its first publication in 1846.

Anyone can work with adults, but it takes a special person to communicate with children. Among the early hymnists, none connected with youngsters better than Horatius Bonar, “the prince of Scottish hymnists.”

Horatius was born just before Christmas in 1808, one of eleven children. Two of his siblings – John and Andrew – also became outstanding preachers. After studying for the ministry at the University of Edinburgh and serving an internship at Leith, Horatius was ordained and began pasturing in Kelso. Later he moved to Edinburgh where he became one of Scotland’s most famous pulpiteers.

He began writing hymns while at Kelso, and many of them were especially for children., Later, in his church in Edinburgh where only the Scottish version of the Psalms were sung, only the children were allowed to sing his hymns. On one occasion in the adult services, two of his church leaders stormed out in protest when a hymn was announced. But the children never protested. They loved his visits to Sunday School when he would lead them in exuberant singing.



Horatius wrote “I Heard the voice of Jesus Say” for his Sunday School children in 1846. On the page containing the words, he doodled four faces and the head of a man wearing a hat. He based his three verses on three wonderful promises of Jesus in Matthew 11:28., John 4:14, and John 8:12. The first half of each stanza echoes our Lord's promise, and the last half of each stanza frames our response.

Where did his love for children come from? He and his wife had lost five of their children in rapid succession. But God gave him hundreds of children in his Sunday Schools. And that's not all...

Many years later, a surviving Bonar daughter was widowed and returned home to live with her parents. She had five young children. Writing to a friend, Horatius said, “God took five children from life some years ago, and He has given me another five to bring up for Him in my old age.”

Horatius was nearly 80 when he preached in his church for the last time. Among his last requests was that no biography of him be written. He wanted all the glory to be Christ's alone.

Truly rest and be glad in the love of Jesus no matter what your concerns may be. Thank Him for the “Light of life” that He has promised to shine on your path. Rejoice in the truth of this musical testimony.

Then Sings My Soul by Robert J. Morgan and *Amazing Grace* by Kenneth W. Osbeck

From
Os-

Prayer

Prayer is word -
and prayer is also silence.
Prayer is asking -
and prayer is also receiving.
Prayer is conversation -
and prayer is also quiet doing.
Prayer is a dynamic
moment-to-moment
response
to the steadfast Word
underlying
all of life.
It is an opening
to the possibility
of each moment
each breath
each act.
Prayer can be
a raising of hands
in worship -
or the caress
that comforts
the lonely.
Prayer can be
hands planting seeds
or voices singing hymns.
Prayer is life
lived
wide open
to the transforming presence
of God.



by Susan Palo Cherwien
From Glory Into Glory: Reflections for Worship



**Lenten Soup Suppers:
5:30 each Wednesday of Lent**

The Boards of Bethany will provide the soups each Wednesday of Lent.*

March 8 - Christian Education
March 15 - Worship and Music
March 22 - Social Ministry
March 29 - Finance and Property
April 5 - Stewardship and Personnel

*No Soup Supper on Ash Wednesday

Ashes



On Ash Wednesday, as Lent begins, worshipers' foreheads are often marked with ashes in the sign of the cross. The ashes traditionally come from burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. In Old Testament days, ashes were a sign of mourning and repentance. Today, some worshipers wipe off the ashes before leaving church, to symbolize being cleansed from sin by Jesus' death; others wear the ashes the rest of the day, carrying the cross of Christ into the world. The speaking of Genesis 3:19 often accompanies the placement of ashes:

“You are dust, and to dust you shall return.”



March 1

**12:15 pm Spoken Service
(Confession and
Imposition of Ashes)**

**6:30 pm
Traditional Service
(Confession,
Imposition of Ashes,
and
Holy Communion)**



Wednesday Lenten Services will Highlight the Drama Series

Lost in Grace

This series of plays deals with, as the name says, the theme of “loss” in our lives, large and small. All plays take place in the same little café, with the same waitress. This creative and mysterious narrator seems to control the action, as she comments on what is going on. Only as the plays progress do you realize that she is the holy spirit, at work in her customers’ lives.

1. IT'S JUST A PEN

When is a pen not just a pen? When it was a gift at your confirmation years ago, and serves as a reminder of God’s presence with you in the most daily tasks of life.

2. LOST LOVE

Friends gather at the café, one to support the other in what is one of our most difficult types of loss — the loss of a relationship.

3. LOST LOSS

Sometimes we need to move on from our loss and find it difficult. For years the same “grief support group” has been meeting at the same time and place. Maybe it is time for them to move on?

4. WHAT WAS IT I LOST?

This play deals with the very difficult issue of Alzheimer’s disease and the loss of one's mind and memory. Two people gather with one afraid that he/she is destined for this disease.

5. HELP ME IN MY UNBELIEF

What could be worse than the loss of faith itself? Here at this little restaurant a waitress will confront a young man about just this.



Will You Meet Us?
For Ash Wednesday

Will you meet us
in the ashes, will you meet us
in the ache
and show your face
within our sorrow
and offer us
your word of grace:

that you are life
within the dying,
that you abide
within the dust,
that you are what
survives the burning,
that you arise
to make us new.

And in our aching,
you are breathing;
and in our weeping,
you are here
within the hands
that bear your blessing,
enfolding us
within your love.



By Jan Richardson, *Circle of Grace; a book of Blessings for the Seasons*

**“You shall call, and the Lord will answer;
You shall cry for help, and he will say,
Here I am.”**

Isaiah 58:9

Congratulations Terry Frankenstein

After years of study, Bethany's Vicar Terry graduated in January from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, with her Master of Divinity degree. On Sunday, February 19, Zion Lutheran Church of Manistique extended a call to Vicar Terry. She has accepted the call and is now Pastor Elect of Zion Lutheran. Terry will begin her ministry on March 1.



Pastor Elect Terry will be ordained at First Lutheran Church in Gladstone, Michigan, on April 23rd at 3 p.m. Hopefully many of Bethany's congregation will be able to share this special day with Terry.

The ordination will be at ...First Lutheran Church
1212 Minneapolis Ave.
Gladstone, MI 49837

Terry will be the pastor of ... Zion Evangelical Lutheran church
435 Oak Street
Manistique, MI 49854



May God bless you
as you enter into
the consecrated life.

May God grant you peace
as you celebrate
the sacraments.

May God fill you with His joy
as you proclaim
the good news of salvation.





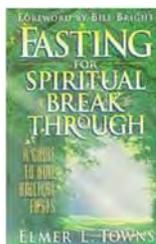
Library Notes for March 2017

By Keenan Tunnell

We've begun another Lent, our annual journey to the Cross and Easter. Fasting has been a traditional part of that journey, and so I've chosen a number of books related to the place of food and fasting in our lives. There are others on the Library kiosk, but a few are briefly presented here. Perhaps you'd like to investigate fasting as part of your Lenten Journey. St. Patrick's Day is another feature of the month of March and I've added a DVD to the Library which is a feature film (2000) on the life of this Irish hero of the faith.

Towns, Elmer. **Fasting for Spiritual Breakthrough.** (248.4 TOW.1, 251 p.)

This is a thought-provoking book on one of the least understood—but most powerful—disciplines of Christianity. Most believers know about fasting, but few of us really understand the wonderful benefits that come when we fast with purpose and direction. Written in Dr. Towns' dynamic, descriptive style, this book gives the "why" of fasting, rather than just the "how." He avoids a glut of techniques and schedules, and instead provides a probing look at Isaiah 58, often called the fasting passage. Learn how fasting can strengthen your faith and draw you closer to God.



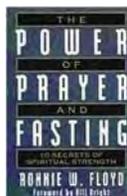
Towns, Elmer. **Beginner's Guide to Fasting.** (248.4 TOW.2, 160 p.)

Since Old Testament times, God's people have engaged in the spiritual tradition of fasting: going without food for a predetermined length of time to accomplish an important purpose or goal. Fasting can be done for any number of reasons: to get to know God better, to wait on God for an answer to prayer, to listen to God, to worship Him. In these pages, you'll discover why you should fast, how to prepare for your first fast, what kind of fasts to follow, how to get started, and what to expect after you are finished. Learn how you can master this powerful spiritual discipline.



Floyd, Ronnie W. **The Power of Prayer and Fasting.** (248.4 FLO, 230 p.)

The hand-in-hand spiritual discipline of prayer and fasting is not a gimmick or a spiritual fad, although its neglect in recent decades makes it a rediscovery for many Christians. Instead, as Dr. Floyd points out, prayer and fasting is a Scripture-ordained act of obedience—a means of humbling ourselves before God, drawing closer to Him, and making room for Him to speak and act in our lives.



The book offers firsthand stories, explanations of how fasting works in the life of a Christian, and practical, step-by-step guidance for those who may seek to observe a fast of varying lengths, from one to forty days.

St. Patrick; the Irish Legend (DVD 920 PAT, 90 min.)



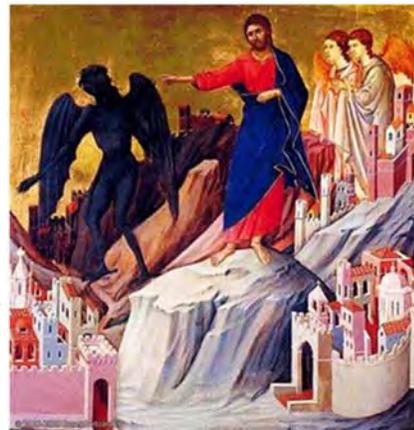
In this first ever feature film depicting the life of the world-famous fourth century Irish saint, actor Patrick Bergen portrays the saint beginning at his youth as the son of privileged nobility in Britain and his capture and enslavement by Irish raiders at age 16. Six years later, following many vivid dreams and visions of his destiny, Patrick escapes and returns home to England and a sheltered life with his loving parents. Troubled by new visions of the Irish people pleading to be freed from enslavement and hardship, he returns to the turbulent country intent on liberating the nation. His mission is jeopardized by British Bishop Quentin, who believes the Irish are warlike heathens, but Patrick's unwavering

courage in the face of adversity ultimately forces Ireland to abruptly turn in a new direction, a direction that changed its history forever.

Holy Gospel for the First Sunday in Lent Matthew 4: 1 - 11

This gospel account tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. **So what do we learn from this gospel?** First, take Satan seriously. Whether you call him the Devil, Beelzebub or just evil; whether you envision some cartoon character with horns and a tail or simply some corrupting, ethereal force; Satan lives and you are in his sights. Know, too, that while we strive to be like Jesus, we are not Jesus. We are not equipped to debate with the Devil. He is smarter than we are and has been at this a very long time. **So what to do?** Like Jesus, fill your life with goodness. Leave no room for evil. Give the earliest sign of temptation to God. He knows how to handle it... Like Jesus, be humble but resolute in the face of evil. Run and hide in the Lord... Be assured that evil will come, many times in many guises. And when it does, make sure you're not fumbling to find God's number in some forgotten address book. Stay close to him. And he'll be right there with you, ready to *deliver us from evil*.

(Rev. D.F.Sellery)





Living Lutheran — February 2017



Cover Story:

- Seminary status check (Charles Austin; Study guide: LivingLutheran.org)

Features:

- Recovery and the church (Alysa Offman; Study guide: LivingLutheran.org)
- Where Bible meets barbecue; this super chef feeds hungry bodies and souls (Krista Webb)
- Reformation 500; 50 Reformation sites
- “Fully known and fully loved” ; “The Five Love Languages” for Lutherans (Meghan Johnston Aelabouni)
- Equal participants in the body of Christ; LGBTQ members find spiritual home in ELCA congregations (Sarah Carson)
- The Campaign for the ELCA: A look at domestic initiatives (Jill Dierberg Clark)

Reflection:

- Completeness in Christ (Liv Larson Andrews)

Faith & Family:

- Celebrating diversity (Amy Wiegert)

Deeper Understandings:

- To what end? (Rick Barger)

From Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton



- “It’s not what we do”

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

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF WISCONSIN AND UPPER MICHIGAN

March 5 - Lutheran Social Services Sunday

LSS is dedicated to representing God's love through programs and services that help people in need. People are helped all along the lifespan with services as essential as housing and life-changing as adoption. LSS welcomes and serves people of all faiths and backgrounds. To help support this important ministry, Bethany is donating the noisy offering for the month of March to LSS of Upper Michigan. An overview of services in our geographic area is as follows:

Programs and Services in the Marquette County Area

Adoption Services (Kerry Wiese [906-226-2160](tel:906-226-2160))

- Domestic Adoption
- International Adoption
- Birth Parent Counseling

Welcome Home Program (Sandi Heikkinen [906-226-7410](tel:906-226-7410))

Housing Program for People Who Are Homeless

- Maintaining six apartments and rental assistance
- Skills and knowledge to equip people to transition to independence and permanent housing
- Life skills training, including budgeting
- Employment counseling
- Referrals to community resources

Cherry Creek Village

201 Cherry Creek Road Harvey, MI

- 32-unit HUD-subsidized, affordable apartment community for persons with a physical disability and/or persons 62 years of age and older

Oakwood Village

580 Cox Street Marquette, MI

- 24-unit HUD-subsidized, affordable apartment community for persons aged 62 and older.



Propylon Apartments

1500 Norway Ave. Marquette, MI

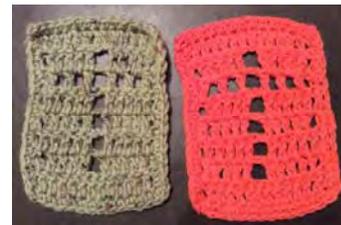
- Service coordination for residents with disabilities.



**The March Noisy Offering will be given to Lutheran Social Services—Marquette County Michigan Program.
Thanks to everyone for your generosity!**

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawls continues to meet the first Tuesday of the month at 1 pm. We are a small group and would welcome any new members. There's no pressure to be in our group. You come when you can and if you can't it's ok. Come and see what we are all about!



New in our prayer shawls is our pocket prayer shawl. It is pocket-sized made with a cross in it. It can be given to someone who already has a shawl but still might need a little boost. Also this item can be easily mailed to someone far away who

**“The fruit of silence is prayer. The fruit of prayer is faith.
The fruit of faith is love. The fruit of love is service.
The fruit of service is peace.”**

—Mother Teresa

Fortune Lake Registration



Early bird registration deadlines are soon approaching for those wishing to attend Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp (March 1st for a \$25.00 discount & a T-shirt OR April 1st for just the \$25.00 discount). Rates are lower for early registration. This information can be found on their website: www.fortunelake.org

Fortune Lake Scholarship Fund Needs Help

As of this month, the scholarship fund is quite low. Presently, there is approximately \$1200. in the account. Some requests have already been made. Here at Bethany Lutheran, the policy has been to pay for all but \$100. of the amount needed. However, this amount is dependent on how much money remains in the fund. We are making a special appeal to those who may want to donate to this. Having enough money in this fund, allows more people the opportunity to attend a week at FLLC. It is truly a "place of grace" and can have a positive impact on one's life. Please consider giving towards this scholarship fund. All of the donations are greatly appreciated.

The Alphabet Prayer

Many of us need to be more like the little girl whom the farmer found lost in his meadow. The farmer said to her, "Do not cry; I'll take you home."

The little child snuggled up to him, and with a smile, said, "I knew you would; I was waiting for you."

"Waiting for me?" said the man. "What made you think I was coming?"

"I was praying you would," she said.

"Praying? When I first heard you, you were saying A-B-C-D-E-F-G. What was that for?"



She looked up again and said, "I'm just a little girl. I was praying all the letters of the alphabet and letting God put them together the way he wanted to. He knows I was lost, and he knows how to put words together better than I do."

Kids!



Kids collected money to fight hunger in the Souper Bowl of Caring.



Bethany youth enjoyed tubing at Al Quaal.

PRAYER HANDS

Make these
hands as a helpful
prayer guide.



What you need:

- 7 pieces of construction paper (different colors)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Colored pens
- Stickers

What you do:

1. Trace your hand (the same one) on each piece of paper.
2. Cut out and stack the hands. Staple together atop the pinky.
3. On the top hand (the front cover), write "Prayer Hands." Decorate with stickers.
4. On the second hand, write "Praise God." On the third, write "Ask for forgiveness." On the fourth, write "Thank God." On the fifth, write "Pray for others." On the sixth, write "Pray for me."
5. Use your book to remember what to pray for every day.

World Day of Prayer

March 3, 2017

1:00 PM

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Negaunee, MI



**A time for refreshments and fellowship
will follow the program.**

Message from Bishop Eaton on the Refugee and Immigrant Executive Order

January 30, 2017

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Yesterday, we heard these words in the Gospel reading from Matthew 5:1-12, the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. In the Beatitudes, Jesus lays out a vision for life in God's realm, characterized by seeing those who are often most disregarded, including the meek, the mourning and the peacemaker, as bearers of God's blessing. Over the coming weeks, we will continue to hear this Gospel, including Jesus' call for his disciples to be carriers of God's light and hope and reconciliation to a world deeply in need of them.

In this spirit, earlier last week I communicated with the Trump administration asking that it not stop the U.S. refugee admissions program or stop resettlement from any country for any period of time. The Bible calls us to welcome the stranger and treat the sojourner as we would our own citizens. I agree with the importance of keeping our country secure as the administration stated in its executive order last Friday, but I am convinced that temporarily banning vulnerable refugees will not enhance our safety nor does it reflect our values as Christians. Instead, it will cause immediate harm by separating families, disrupting lives, and denying safety and hope to brothers and sisters who are already suffering.



Refugees being resettled in the United States have fled persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, political views and/or associations. They wait for years for the chance to go home. But sometimes, there is no home for them to go back to. We know from our partners at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) that only 1 percent of all refugees are chosen for resettlement.

People of faith helped start and still sustain the refugee resettlement program in the United States following World War II. As Lutherans, many of our ancestors faced the pain of having to flee their homes and the joy of being welcomed in new communities across the United States. As we have done throughout history, millions of Lutherans across the country honor our shared biblical values as well as the best of our nation's traditions by offering refuge to those most in need. We are committed

to continuing ministries of welcome that support and build communities around the country and stand firmly against any policies that result in scaling back the refugee resettlement program.

We must offer safety to people fleeing religious persecution regardless of their faith tradition. Christians and other religious minorities suffer persecution and rightly deserve protection, but including additional criteria based on religion could have discriminatory effects that would go against our nation's fundamental values related to freedom of religion.

I invite ELCA congregations into learning, prayer and action on behalf of those who seek refuge on our shores. The ELCA "Social Message on Immigration," AMMPARO strategy and LIRS resources are good places to start. You can also make a donation to Lutheran Disaster Response. Those who have been part of resettling refugees or have their own immigration experience have important stories to share with their communities and testimony to make. I also encourage you to consider adding your voice by calling your members of Congress to share your support for refugees and using online advocacy opportunities through current alerts at ELCA Advocacy and LIRS.

In Matthew 25:35, Jesus said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Our Lord not only commanded us to welcome the stranger, Jesus made it clear that when we welcome the stranger into our homes and our hearts – we welcome him.

God's peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop

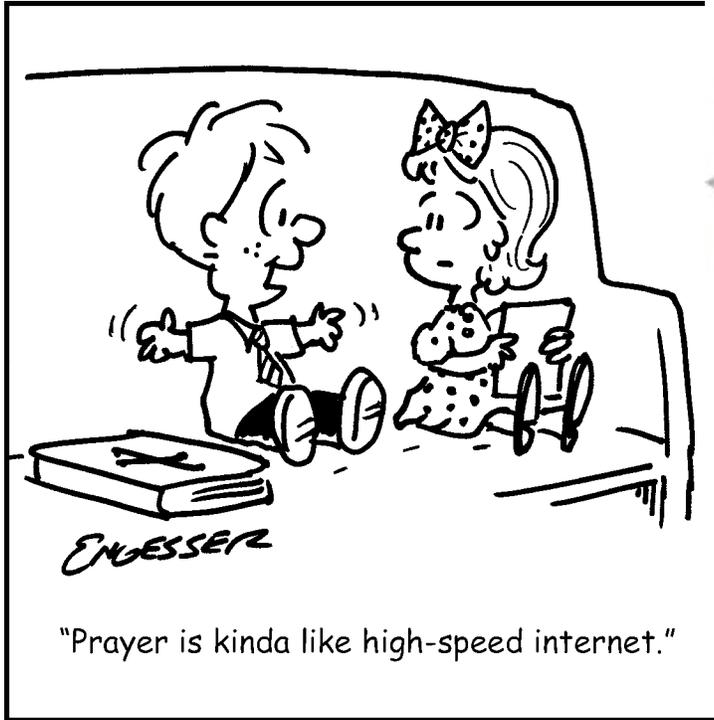


Fear Not

I wonder if fear is not our main obstacle to prayer. When we enter into the presence of God and start to sense the huge reservoir of fear inside us, we want to run away into the many distractions that our busy world offers so abundantly. But we shouldn't be afraid of our fears. We can confront them, give words to them, cry out to God and lead our fears into the presence of the One who says, "Don't be afraid. It is I."

—Henri J.M. Nouwen





Reminder

Thrivent Choice Dollars

For those members with Thrivent investments, it is time to designate where you would like your 2016 Thrivent Choice Dollars to go. If you wish, your Choice Dollars can be designated to Bethany.

You can make your designation online or you may get help from your Thrivent representative. Your designation must be made before the end of March.



YTD Income: \$21,365.53

YTD Expenses: \$20,131.52



Community Events

Celebration of Walt Whitman's "Song of Myself"



READ, RESIST: A CELEBRATION OF WALT WHITMAN'S "SONG OF MYSELF" will take place from 1 to 3 PM on Saturday March 18 in the Ray Leverton Room at Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library. Twenty-nine readers will present all 52 Cantos of Whitman's great work, a celebration of American democracy and diversity. Members of Bethany who will read are the following, in order of appearance: David Leverton, Michael Holman, Mary Burton, Kathleen Slown, Kathy Geier, Mark Slown, Linda Dahl, Ed Holmgren, Sue Holmgren, Doris Pellonpaa, Tonya Perry, Robert Nadeau, Carl Pellonpaa, Beverly Matherne, and Paster Warren Geier. For more information, call or e-mail at 486 - 8883 / beverlymatherne@gmail.com. Everyone is invited to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

Organ Music for Lent

Organist: Lucas Wickstrom

- **Wednesday, March 22—Adagios and Chorales of Lent**
Calvary Lutheran Church
Rapid River, MI
- **Wednesday, March 29—Bach, Barber, and Boëllmann**
Bethany Lutheran Church
Ishpeming, MI
- **Wednesday, April 5—A Journey Through Holy Week**
Bethel Lutheran Church
Ishpeming, MI



Recitals begin at noon and are 45 minutes in length.

Pie Social Will Be April 1

Please come and join us for a day of fellowship and friends on Saturday April 1st from 1-3 for Bethany's Pie Social. There is still time to sign up to bring a pie; a sign up sheet is on the kiosk in the Narthex. Bring a friend or two and enjoy a afternoon of yummy pies, fellowship. Also I'm working on getting some music for a bit of entertainment. Hope to see you there!

Addy Lemire





**Daylight Savings Time begins
March 12**

Remember to turn your clocks ahead.



Youth assist during worship service.



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.

- Pastor Elect Terry Frankenstein
- John and Marilyn Pontti
- Danny Thompson
- PeeWee Oja
- Kay Chartre
- Cheryl Sleeman
- Jim Sodergren, Jr.
- Cindy Warner
- Carol Holmgren
- Karen Mattson
- Kaye Frederickson
- Bob Kaukola
- Ted Swanson
- Loreth Johnson
- Judy Hogan
- Karmen Slown
- Brown family
- Mark
- Lois Goethe
- Ruthie Solberg
- Doris & 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



**“Prayer is not a spare wheel that you pull out when in trouble;
it is a steering wheel that directs us in the right path throughout life.”**

—Anonymous



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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Rev. Warren Geier, Pastor
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



March Worship Assistants

March 5

Assisting Minister - Rick Rhoades
Acolytes - Matthew Skewis and Jarin Johnson
Altar -
Coffee Hosts - Barb Lucas & friends
Nursery - Jackson Cardoni
Bread - Tonya Perry
Youth Ushers—Abby Koski and Garrett

Frustaglio

March 12

Assisting Minister - Jackson Cardoni
Acolytes - Blake Forbes and Abby Koski
Altar -
Coffee Hosts - Social Ministry
Nursery - Sabrina Holm-Brown
Bread - Cheryl Frederickson
Youth Ushers - Ian Bivins and Mackenzie Ryan

March 19

Assisting Minister - Carrie Meyer
Acolytes - Morgan Rhoades and Kyra Holmgren
Altar -
Coffee Hosts - Christian Ed
Nursery - Hope Kaukola
Bread - Kathy Geier
Youth Ushers - Jarin Johnson and Garrett Frustaglio

March 26

Assisting Minister - Mark Slown
Acolytes - Abbi Bruhnke and D.J. Bivins
Altar -
Coffee Hosts - Personnel and Stewardship
Nursery - Ben Bruhnke
Bread - Shirley Tyni
Youth Ushers - Kyra Holmgren and Morgan Rhoades

March 1 - Ash Wednesday

Assistant Minister - Tom Perry
Acolytes - D.J. Bivins and Ian Bivins
Altar -
Bread - Terra Frustaglio

Thank You!

March Ushers:

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

April Ushers:

Jaak Liivoja
Mike Richards
Tom Ryan
Ted Swanson
John Waters
Tim Grant
John Hansen



Happy Birthday!

- 1 Carol Carlson
- 2 Carol Heavyside
- 3 Heidi Sweet
- 4 Marvin Swanson
- 4 Calvin Bertucci
- 5 Addy Lemire
- 5 Joyce Lehto
- 7 Alexandra Kitchen
- 7 Evelyn Valente
- 8 Terra Frustaglio
- 8 Roberta Luokkala
- 9 Gwen Bruhnke
- 10 Rick Dault
- 11 Brett Sandstrom
- 12 Robert Clark
- 12 Trisha Gugin
- 14 William Carne
- 14 Marjorie Rosten
- 15 Jamie Healey
- 15 Beverly Matherne
- 16 Joshua Argall
- 16 Derek Meyer
- 17 Beth Bertucci
- 18 Peggy Clark
- 19 Sue Ryan
- 21 Gregory Stahlmann
- 22 Nicholas Chartre
- 24 Patricia Nault
- 25 Robert Kaukola
- 25 Joseph Lemire
- 27 Gavin Argall
- 27 Allen Maki
- 28 Kimberly Marks
- 28 Doris Pellonpaa
- 28 Donna Stahlmann



- 29 Chad Anderson
- 29 Catherine Barton
- 29 Marie Chilman
- 29 Kenneth Lawson
- 30 Sharla Riutta
- 31 Benjamin Bruhnke
- 31 Lois Goethe

Happy Anniverary!

David & Amanda Bivins
3/2/02 15 years

