



Bethany Lutheran Outlook
November 2020

Serving God, Community, and Individuals

Thanks
be to
God



for his
incredible
gift!

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15



PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

I don't know how many people still take seriously the "giving thanks" part of Thanksgiving. Even here, we stopped our joint Thanksgiving service with the Methodist church a few years ago mostly because there just wasn't much interest in it. Perhaps I'm overly cynical, but Thanksgiving mostly seems to have become a family gathering with a big meal, watch some football and get ready for Black Friday shopping. None of that is inherently bad; a family gathering with a big meal is a nice thing, but it doesn't necessarily have much to do with giving thanks.

This year though, even for those who do try to make giving thanks a part of Thanksgiving, it might be tough to come up with much. 2020 hasn't been a good year. It's easier to find things to feel bad and discouraged about than it is to find things for which to give thanks. And yet...if we turn off the news and take off the dark, doom and gloom glasses, I'm quite sure that all of us do have things for which to give thanks.

Personally, I would start with you...the members and friends of Bethany Lutheran Church. I haven't seen some of you for months; some I haven't even talked to. Most of you haven't attended an in-person worship service since March (nor should you until the pandemic eases). And yet...your support for the church hasn't wavered. Our pledged giving is very close to being on target for the year (although this is a chance for a stewardship plug, reminding you to make sure your pledge is up to date for this year and to get your pledge in for next year). In addition to their regular giving, some have even made special offerings recognizing that this is a difficult year; some have made special offerings to Social Ministry. I give thanks for your generosity!

In addition to financial offerings, our food table winds up full almost every week. Our ministry to the wider community has continued during this time. We've had ladies making masks, some of which also have been shared with the wider community, being distributed through Johnson's drug store downtown. When the supply gets low, I just have to let the ladies know and the mask table is full again. Our quilting group has continued their work since the middle of July. I give thanks for all that.



I'm thankful that since March we've been able to provide an online worship experience. Largely, but not only, due to the efforts of Gary Sundblad, what we offer is quite unique in the world of online worship. When I think about how quickly it had to come together, what we have done is quite remarkable. For many of you, online has been and will probably continue to be, your means of worship well into 2021. I'm also thankful that we've been able to resume in-person worship even if it is with a relatively small number of people. I look forward to a time when it will be safe for more people to be present.

2020 was supposed to include a celebration of our 150th anniversary as a church. It didn't happen; maybe we'll have a 150+1 celebration next year, we'll see. However, Bethany's 150th year will be remembered. We don't have a celebration to remember and give thanks for, but despite unique challenges, we have continued to be the church. We have continued to focus on loving and worshipping God and on loving and serving the neighbor. With that...we have continued the mission that was started 150 years ago. For that...we can indeed give thanks!

Pastor Geier

Bells Will Toll on All Saints' Day

The year Bishop Finegan says the tolling of the funeral bell on All Saint's Day "feels all the more important as we will mourn not only our own beloved dead, but also remember the more than 200,000 in the United States, and the over one million deaths from COVID-19 worldwide. The numbers are numbing. And yet each statistic represents a life lost, a loved one mourned, and absence felt."

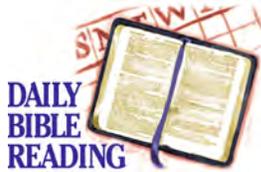
Bishop Finegan, along with the Most Reverend John Doerfler, Bishop of the Marquette Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church, the Rt. Rev. Rayford Ray, the Episcopal Bishop in the Diocese of Northern Michigan and Rev. Scott Harmon, Northern Skies District Superintendent of the United Methodist Church, invites all churches with bells to mark the death of so many by tolling their funeral bell for five minutes on All Saints' Day, Sunday, Nov. 1, beginning at noon Central and 1 pm Eastern time.

Bethany will take part with the tolling of our bells.

— from Bishop Finegan's guest column in The Mining Journal



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

November 2020

1 All Saints Day

Revelation 7:9-17 Psalm 34:1-10, 22 1 John 3:1-3 Matthew 5:1-12

2 Psalm 5	Jeremiah 5:18-31	1 Thessalonians 2:13-20
3 Psalm 5	Lamentations 2:13-17	Acts 13:1-12
4 Psalm 5	Proverbs 16:21-33	Matthew 15:1-9
5 Psalm 70	Amos 1:1 — 2:5	Revelation 8:6 — 9:12
6 Psalm 70	Amos 3:1-12	Revelation 9:13-21
7 Psalm 70	Amos 4:6-13	Matthew 24:1-14

8 Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 5:18-24 Psalm 70 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13

9 Psalm 63	Amos 8:7-14	1 Corinthians 14:20-25
10 Psalm 63	Joel 1:1-14	1 Thessalonians 3:6-13
11 Psalm 63	Joel 3:9-21	Matthew 24:29-35
12 Psalm 90:1-12	Ezekiel 6:1-14	Revelation 16:1-7
13 Psalm 90:1-12	Ezekiel 7:1-9	Revelation 16:8-21
14 Psalm 90:1-12	Ezekiel 7:10-27	Matthew 12:43-45

15 Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 Psalm 90:1-12 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30

16 Psalm 9:1-14	Zechariah 1:7-17	Romans 2:1-11
17 Psalm 9:1-14	Zechariah 2:1-5 ; 5:1-4	1 Thessalonians 5:12-18
18 Psalm 9:1-14	Job 16:1-21	Matthew 24:45-51

19 Psalm 95:1-7a
20 Psalm 95:1-7a
21 Psalm 95:1-7a

1 Kings 13:13-23
1 Chronicles 17:1-15
Isaiah 44:21-28

Revelation 14:1-11
Revelation 22:1-9
Matthew 12:46-50

22 Christ the King Sunday

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Psalm 95:1-7a Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46

23 Psalm 7
24 Psalm 7
25 Psalm 7
26 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Esther 2:1-18
Esther 8:3-17
Ezekiel 33:7-20
Zechariah 13:1-9

2 Timothy 2:8-13
Revelation 19:1-9
John 5:19-40
Revelation 14:6-13

Readings for the Day of Thanksgiving

Joel 2:21-27 Psalm 126 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Matthew 6:25-33

27 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
28 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Zechariah 14:1-9
Micah 2:1-13

1 Thessalonians 4:1-18
Matthew 24:15-31

29 First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37

30 Psalm 79

Micah 4:1-5

Revelation 15:1-8

Just Plant It



As the church year wraps up, many Bible readings address the end times and Jesus' return at an unknown date (unknown to all but God the Father, that is). Specific beliefs about the Second Coming vary throughout Christendom, but our attitude about that momentous event affects how we live right now.

“Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces,” Martin Luther reportedly said, “I would still plant my apple tree.” Instead of constantly despairing about this broken-down world, we can remain determined to serve God and our neighbors, planting seeds of life and hope in the process.



Enjoy the Poetry of Hymns

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform
He plants His footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm

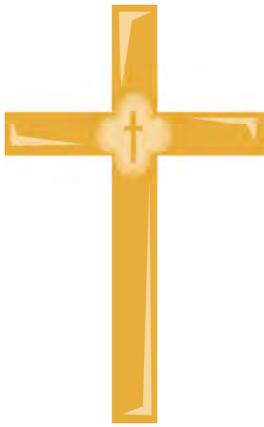
Deep in unsearchable mines
Of never-failing skill
He treasures up His bright designs
And works His sovereign will

And ye fearful saints, fresh courage take
The clouds you so much dread
Are big with mercy and shall break
In blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense
But trust Him for His grace
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face

Blind unbelief is sure to err,
And scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain

—William Cowper



Part 3 of The Hymns of William Cowper

The Story Behind the Hymn: God Moves in a Mysterious Way

Jesus answered and said to him,
“What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this.”
John 13:7

William Cowper suffered another blow when his friend, John Newton, left Olney to become London’s most celebrated pastor. Turning again to writing, William this time devoted his energy to secular poetry rather than spiritual hymns, earning him a prominent place in English literature. The publication of “The Task” made him famous throughout Britain. “Pity for Poor Africans,” which appeared in 1788, contributed to John Newton and William Wilberforce’s efforts to abolish slavery in the British empire. William’s translation of *Home*, published in 1791, was widely lauded.



His depression was never far away, and it intensified as he aged. Shortly before his death he wrote *The Castaway*, in which he described himself as a sailor swept overboard into the Atlantic to perish. In this melancholia, William died on April 25, 1800.

There is a report, however, that on his deathbed his face suddenly lit up as he exclaimed, “I am not shut out of heaven after all!” And one of Cowper's lesser-known poems would make a fitting epitaph:

Sometimes a light surprises the Christian while he sings;
It is the Lord, Who rises with healing in His wings...

In holy contemplation we sweetly then pursue
The theme of God’s salvation, and find it ever new.

Set free from present sorrow, we cheerfully can say,
Let the unknown tomorrow bring with it what it may.

It can bring with it nothing but He will bear us through;
Who gives the lilies clothing will clothe His people, too;

Beneath the spreading heavens, no creature but is fed;
And He Who feeds the ravens will give His children bread.

Though vine nor fig tree neither their wonted fruit should bear;
Though all the field should wither, nor flocks nor herds be there;

Yet God the same abiding, His praise shall tune my voice,
For while in Him confiding, I cannot but rejoice.

Or as William put it elsewhere: “God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform.”

—Robert J. Morgan, *Then Sings My Soul; 300 of the world's Greatest Hymn Stories*



Sinners and

Saints

As sinners we may not be able to change the world, but as saints we may be able to change our communities.

As sinners we may not be able to change our communities, but as saints we may be able to change our neighborhoods.

As sinners we may not be able to change our neighborhoods, but as saints we may be able to change our homes.

As sinners we may not be able to change our homes, but as saints we may be able to change ourselves.

As sinners we may not be able to change ourselves, but as saints we may offer ourselves up to the grace of God and experience nothing less than a changed world.

—*Homiletics*

CONFIRMATION



During the worship service of October 4, 2020, Bethany celebrated Faith Cain's and Luke Holmgren's Affirmation of Baptism. Faith and Luke professed for themselves the faith into which they were baptized.

Faith's Bible verse:

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith, for faith; as it is written, 'The one who is righteous will live by faith.'"

Romans 1:16a, 17

Luke's Bible verse:

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven."

Luke 6:37

ALL SAINTS' DAY



All Saints' Day is November 1 of each year. All Saints' Day affords Christians the opportunity to remember those who have faithfully served Christ in special, often sacrificial, ways.

We offer our gratitude to God for those devoted and devout souls who have set worthy examples for us.



BETHANY REMEMBERS...



Ted Swanson
June Forsberg
Doris Pellonpaa

And all those who have gone before us



**“Precious in
of the Lord is
of His**

**the sight
the death
saints.”**

Psalm 116:15

Five ways to celebrate All Saints Day at home

When I was a parish pastor, I always felt especially blessed to celebrate a festival day when it fell on a Sunday. This is one of those years for one of my favorite festivals: [All Saints Day](#). All Saints Day (Nov. 1) and All Souls Day (Nov. 2) are ancient feast days in the history of the church. A day for commemorating the faithfully departed has dotted the liturgical calendar from early on in Christian history, but originally it was probably celebrated early in the spring, on the heels of Easter. As Christianity spread to people with pre-Christian ideas, All Saints Day was scheduled directly after All Hallow's Eve to meld with other pagan festivals in other lands.

In Roman Catholic, Anglican and Orthodox communities, All Saints Day is reserved for those recognized and formally canonized by the church as having led exceptional lives. All Souls Day, then, is a day reserved for honoring any of the faithfully departed.

We Lutherans, with our penchant for blurring the line between sinner and saint, usually observe both festivals together, honoring the whole communion of saints who surround us as a cloud of witnesses—those canonized and those just held in our hearts and picture albums. Remember, when we honor the faithfully departed, even more so we honor the God who has trampled death. God is the focus of every All Saints Day celebration, and the lives of the departed are lenses through which we can see God's love in action.

Many Christians throughout the United States won't find themselves within a sanctuary this Nov. 1, but there are many meaningful ways to observe [All Saints Day](#) at home. Here are five of them.

Pictures and candles

When I was a parish pastor, we'd encourage everyone to bring in photos of people in their lives who had passed on, to display on tables and steps around the sanctuary. In front of each photo, we'd light a small votive candle, illuminating the face in the photo throughout the service as a symbol of the light they were in life and the light they shine even now.



Purchase small votive candles and, while you're attending worship (by whatever means are available), light the candles to commemorate those who have gone before. These candles can be relit during meals or during a time devoted to remembering those who have died as you look through family albums, read old letters or watch home movies.

Food and familiar smells

My grandmother made the best fried chicken. I can still picture her standing over the cast iron skillet (which I now own), frying chicken carefully, timing it by sight and smell. She never used a clock for anything; she just knew in her gut when things were ready.

Use All Saints Day to make a favorite meal once cooked by someone whom you love but who is no longer with you. With children or other family members, go through an old cookbook and seek out recipes. With your family, make a meal from your childhood and reminisce with the smells and tastes.

Stories and songs

Did your parents or grandparents have a favorite genre of music? Was there a story told at every family gathering? Today is the perfect day to listen intentionally to that music or pass along that family lore to children, partners or anyone willing to hold the space and the day with you. Laugh and cry along to those words that moved your ancestors.

All Saints Day is also a wonderful day to search the web for spiritual songs of the church that have passed the test of time. “For All the Saints” (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship* 422) is a standard offering, but “Faith of Our Fathers” (*ELW* 813) and “For All the Faithful Women” (*ELW* 419) are also excellent choices.

Saintly study

Take the day to do a little research on a saint. Popular saints such as Saint Francis, Saint Clare or Saint Julian of Norwich are wonderful options, but if you’re open to learning about someone you may not know much about, Saint Kevin of Glendalough, Saint Moses the Black and Saint Lily of the Mohawks are sure to fill your spirit and imagination with new inspiration.

There are saints from every heritage, so a search of saints from your ethnic roots will enrich your spiritual journey. Involve children in your search, noting fascinating and faithful acts by these mothers and fathers of the church.

Postcard from the past

One of the honest realizations about All Saints Day is that one day we will all be remembered by someone on this holy day. As the beautiful canticle reminds us, “All of us go down to the dust” (*ELW* 223).

Take this day to write a postcard to a younger relative, noting some of the beauty you see in the world, giving a nod to your favorite music and perhaps even telling a simple memory or two that have shaped your life. We can’t escape the grave, beloved, but we can surely plant seeds of memory for those who will come after us.

All Saints Day can be a moving and meaningful feast day when celebrated with intention. Take this year—a year already dotted with too many early saints—to honor God, who has promised us life eternal, and a humanity that faithfully struggles, throughout time and space, to shine the light of Christ in a world of shadows.

From *Living Lutheran* (October 27, 2020) by Tim Brown

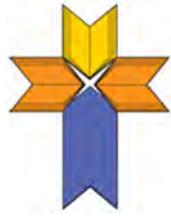


Tim Brown is a pastor, writer, and mission ambassador and gifts officer of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.



Come, let us join our friends above
who have obtained the prize,
and on the eagle wings of love
to joys celestial rise.
Let saints on earth unite to sing
with those to glory gone,
for all the servants of our King
in earth and heaven are one.

—Charles Wesley



Novemb

Sun	Mon	Tue	We
1 ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY 10 :30 Worship	2	3 9:00 Quilters	4 6:30 Worship &
8 10 :30 Worship	9	10 9:00 Quilters 10:30 Social Ministry	11
15 10 :30 Worship	16	17 9:00 Quilters 6:30 Council	18
22 CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY 10 :30 Worship		24 9:00 Quilters	25
29 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10 :30 Worship	30	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <p>“Miss no single opportunity there by a kindly word; alw</p> </div>	

ber 2020



Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Lip & Music 5 6:30 Bible Study	6 7	12 6:30 Bible Study	13 14
19 6:30 Bible Study	20 21	26 THANKSGIVING	27 28
<p>ility of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love.”</p> <p>—St. Therese of Lisieux</p>			<p>Deadline for the December / January Outlook is November 24.</p>

Happy Birthday!

- 3 Sean Connors
- 3 Don Hurrell
- 5 Noah Kaukola
- 6 George Niemela
- 8 Raymond Chartre
- 8 Angela Vidlund
- 9 Kathy Harrington
- 9 Kiara Nelson
- 11 Sara Carlyon
- 11 Kaitlyn Warner
- 12 Maria Mariani
- 13 Pastor Geier
- 14 Winter Bailey
- 15 Daniel Price
- 16 Jayce Kipling
- 17 Maxwell Alexander
- 18 Abigail Koski
- 18 Tony Elliot
- 18 Carla Scanlon
- 18 Ray Sundquist
- 20 Justin Christopherson
- 20 Brent Clark
- 20 Jacob Connors
- 21 George Holmgren
- 23 Jennifer Vallier
- 24 Halley Reichel
- 26 Jordan Dault
- 30 Traci Gugin



Happy Anniversary!

David & Lori Tunnell
11/1/2011 9 years

William & Bernadette Heavyside
11/2/1974 46 years



**Saints and Notables for November
(from the ELW)**

- 1 All Saints Day
- 17 Elizabeth of Hungary (1231), Renewer of Society
- 25 Isaac Watts (1748), Hymnwriter
- 30 Andrew, Apostle

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Isaac Watts was an English Christian minister (Congregational), hymn writer, theologian, and logician. He was a prolific and popular hymn writer and is credited with some 750 hymns. He is recognized as the "Godfather of English Hymnody"; many of his hymns remain in use today and have been translated into numerous languages. Sacred music scholars ... say that Watts contributed to English hymnody and the previous tradition of the Church by leading a change in practice which included new poetry for "original songs of Christian experience" to be used in worship. Watts also introduced a new way of rendering the Psalms in verse for church services, proposing that they be adapted for hymns with a specifically Christian perspective. Watts was not the first Protestant to promote the singing of hymns; however, his prolific hymn writing helped usher in a new era of English worship as many other poets followed in his path. There are 10 hymns by Watts in the ELW including: "Joy to the World," "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed," "Jesus Shall Reign," "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," and "Give to Our God Immortal Praise."



Jesus Shall Reign

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does his successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till suns shall rise and set no more.

Food for our Neighbors

Every week the food table in the narthex is filled with items for our neighbors who are experiencing difficulties maneuvering through the unprecedented situations we're in right now. Even though we're all pretty weary of the pandemic by this time, Galatians 6:9 tells us never to become weary doing good. Of course this ministry is just one of many available to us as a church and as individuals, but it's wonderful to see that we are keeping this one going even though most of us can't gather in church.

The Social Ministry board has been meeting, and has decided to put together food baskets in early December rather than before Thanksgiving as we have done in the past. Since Advent begins November 29, here's a Reverse Advent Calendar that could be used anytime with ideas for food donations. Thank you for everything you are doing to help others, even as you live through your own challenges - may God bless, help and comfort you in these efforts



Reverse Advent Calendar
Each day add an item to a box.
On Christmas Eve donate the contents to a Food Bank.

Dec. 1 - box of cereal

Dec. 2 - peanut butter

Dec. 3 - stuffing mix

Dec. 4 - boxed potatoes

Dec. 5 - macaroni and cheese

Dec. 6 - canned fruit

Dec. 7 - canned tomatoes

Dec. 8 - canned tuna

Dec. 9 - dessert mix

Dec. 10 - jar of applesauce

Dec. 11 - canned sweet potatoes

Dec. 12 - cranberry sauce

Dec. 13 - canned beans

Dec. 14 - box of crackers

Dec. 15 - package of rice

Dec. 16 - package of oatmeal

Dec. 17 - package of pasta

Dec. 18 - spaghetti sauce

Dec. 19 - chicken noodle soup

Dec. 20 - tomato soup

Dec. 21 - can of corn

Dec. 22 - can of mixed vegetables

Dec. 23 - can of carrots

Dec. 24 - can of green beans

Glad gatherings

The first Christians met together over a meal. Today church families still gather to break bread and thank God.

Follow the instructions below. Then write the remaining words in order from left to right and top to bottom to complete the verses.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	They	found	broke	bread	acts	in
2	houses	their	homes	beautiful	and	round
3	ate	world	beginning	together	follow	thought
4	with	numbers	glad	happiness	lesson	and
5	thanks	sincere	disciples	gathering	hearts	tradition
6	celebrate	good	praising	Christian	God	river

Cross out all words in column E with double letters.

Cross out all words that are books of the Bible.

Cross out all words in column B that end in d.

Cross out all words in column A that have more than 4 letters.

Cross out all words in row 5 with 3 syllables.

Cross out all words in the table with 9 letters.

Cross out all words in column F with 2 or more vowels.

_____ . ACTS 2:46-47, NIV

Jacob at the Jabbok



The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ... Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ... Then he said, 'Let me go, for the day is breaking.' But Jacob said, 'I will not let you go, unless you bless me.' ~Genesis 32.22 ff

Dear Friends in Christ,

Have you seen those social media memes about the year 2020? There's a picture of an outhouse on fire and the caption reads, "If 2020 were a scented candle...". 2020 is the year your peanut butter toast falls face down, your pizza loses its toppings in the oven, and your keys are locked into your running car. Between the pandemic, killer hornets, early snow, a divided country, and an election year, you are not alone if you think you've had just about enough of 2020.

Jacob of Genesis in the Bible has also had enough. He has had enough of being estranged from his brother, Esau, enough of being considered a cheat and a heel (which is what the word "Jacob" means), just enough. So he is on his way home to make amends, and he's worried. He knows his brother has every right to kill him, every right to still be angry (Feel free to read the whole story in Genesis). So Jacob sends all his wealth, his family, everything he owns across the river, Jabbok, and he's left alone.

Until, that is, a man, presumably a very earthy angel, comes and wrestles with him. All night long they struggle. Talk about a dark night of the soul. As Jacob wrestles with this stranger, he also wrestles with his fears, his doubts, his guilt, his hopes of reconciliation, every instance of where he really has cheated someone or been less of the man that he wants to be. And then as dawn breaks, the stranger seeks to break Jacob's hold and leave. But Jacob will not let him go, not until he receives a blessing.

This is where I think we are, in so many ways. We have been wrestling with our hopes and fears, struggling with an uneasy estrangement from neighbors, friends, and family that we either disagree with or that we miss terribly. As the election results are delayed, as the pandemic continues and case numbers rise, as the days grow shorter and the dark nights lengthen, remember Jacob, remember to hold on, remember to hold on for blessing.

"Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but **ISRAEL.**"
Genesis 32:28



Jacob holds on and receives the blessing of a new name. No longer will he be named cheat and heel, but rather Israel and the father of a nation. I encourage you too, to hold on for blessing and receive the name "Resilient," "Peacemaker," "Survivor of 2020."

Because our night isn't over yet. We are still wrestling with fears and uncertainties, struggling with divisions and the need for reconciliation. Election results will take some time. Please wait. A vaccine will take some time. Try to be patient and be your best self. And just hold on, hold on for blessing. The day will come when our dark night will be over. We might, like Jacob, be a bit bruised when the new day dawns. But our journey towards making amends will continue. I pray that friendships will be renewed, divisions reconciled, and we will all emerge as a better version of ourselves.

Hold on for blessing.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan

BLESSED
are those ...
whose hope
is in the LORD their God.

Psalm 146:5, NIV

Growth giving challenge

A challenge for all members of the church is to increase your giving through the congregation by 1% of your weekly income, and to consider similar growth at least annually, moving toward and beyond a tithe (10%).

WORKSHEET

Individual or household weekly income :\$ _____

Current weekly giving: \$ _____

Use the chart below to find the percentage closest to your current giving: _____

Consider growing by at least 1%.

Enter new percentage: _____

Use the chart again to determine your new weekly giving amount: \$ _____

(Enter this new dollar amount on your commitment form.)

INCOME	WEEKLY GIVING						
	1%	3%	5%	7%	10%	12%	15%
\$200	\$2	\$6	\$10	\$14	\$20	\$24	\$30
\$400	\$4	\$12	\$20	\$28	\$40	\$48	\$60
\$600	\$6	\$18	\$30	\$42	\$60	\$72	\$90
\$700	\$7	\$21	\$35	\$49	\$70	\$84	\$105
\$800	\$8	\$24	\$40	\$56	\$80	\$96	\$120
\$1,000	\$10	\$30	\$50	\$70	\$100	\$120	\$150
\$1,250	\$12.50	\$37.50	\$62.50	\$87.50	\$125	\$150	\$187.50
\$1,500	\$15	\$45	\$75	\$105	\$150	\$180	\$225
\$1,750	\$17.50	\$52.50	\$87.50	\$122.50	\$175	\$210	\$262.50
\$2,000	\$20	\$60	\$100	\$140	\$200	\$240	\$300

It's Pledge Commitment Time



November 1 is officially Pledge Commitment Sunday, but during this time when many are worshipping from home, this may not be convenient. Please take time to fill out your pledge card and mail it to Bethany if you are unable to bring it in person. The Growth Giving Challenge chart on the facing page can be helpful in determining your pledge.



**Each one must do as he has made up his mind,
not reluctantly, or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.**



Crop Walk 2020

This year's Crop Walk

was very successful despite taking place in the middle of a pandemic. Barb Lucas and John Hansen spearheaded the event for Bethany and were in charge of collecting donations. Generous givers donated \$865 this year. Thank you to all who gave.



Council Highlights—October 2020



- Rough draft on update of church constitution and bylaws will be ready by Oct. 30.
- Jim Bjorne resigned from Council for personal reasons.
- Online Reformation service will be sponsored by NGLS.
- NGLS is proposing a Christmas Eve service to be televised by TV6. More on this later.
- Schools are shutting down due to COVID; council decided to proceed with caution and continue to hold confirmation.
- If the Pastor is sick, Sunday service will be cancelled.
- Pledge Sunday is November 1.
- Bethany has acquired a music copyright contract.



Growing through Gratitude

tal and emotional

“fertilizer for the mind” because of its powerful effects.

Thankfulness, studies show, has multiple physical, mental and emotional benefits. Psychologist Robert Emmons calls gratitude

He admits gratitude isn’t always easy — especially when life throws us curveballs (see the year 2020) — but says it can be most helpful during and after difficulties. Emmons suggests reframing challenges using thankfulness-based language. Ask, for example: Though I wasn’t grateful for the experience at the time, how can I be now? What lessons did I learn, and how did I grow as a person?

Throughout his letters, the apostle Paul reframes his extensive sufferings and urges us to do the same. “Give thanks in all circumstances,” he writes, “for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV).



Pajama Palooza



Once again Addy Lemire is collecting pajamas for kids of needy families. The most needed sizes are 3T to 8/10. Other sizes are needed also. A collection box has been placed in the narthex.



150th Anniversary Banners



Answer to “Glad Gatherings” Puzzle:

“They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God.” Acts 2:46-47, NIV



**THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE OUTLOOK
WILL BE A
DECEMBER 2020 - JANUARY 2021 ISSUE.**

If you have any event, meeting, or article that relates to December and/or January, please give it to Linda Dahl by November 24, the deadline for this issue. Thanks.

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.

Worship



Options



In person worship at Bethany begins at 10:30 am each Sunday.

A worship service is also available on line each Sunday.



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,
Ray Leverton (recuperating)

Mill Creek: Marilyn Pontti, Betty Geier



- Amanda Bivins
- Jerry Plaisier
- Pauli Kniivila
- Paul Kish
- Garrett Frustaglio, D.J. Bivins, & Blake Forbes who are serving in the military
- Those who have contracted COVID-19
- Those who have lost loved ones to COVID-19
- Those who are on the front lines caring for the sick
- Those sheltering in place
- Roy & LaVerne Koski
- Marilyn Pontti
- Sandee Sundquist
- Cindy Warner
- Loreth Johnson
- Emilie Brown
- Bob Maki
- Mark, Kathleen, and Karmen Slown
- Ray Chartre
- Roger & Ruth Solberg
- Judy Hogan
- Mark
- Zander Atkins
- Jim Bjorne
- Angie Kempainen
- Those in the military that they may remain safe



Please **PRAY** for those
affected by **COVID-19**

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Bethany Lutheran Church
Phone: 906-486-4351
E-mail: bethanyim@hotmail.com
Website: www.bethanyishpeming.org

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

Parish Planning Council:
Exec. Director, Tom Perry
Asst. Exec. Director, Mark Slown
Christian Education, Amanda Bivins
Finance, David Leverton
Personnel, Jim Bjerne
Property, Robert Bruhnke
Social Ministry, Jill Carter
Stewardship, Ann Sundblad
Worship & Music, Keenan Tunnell



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Northern Great Lakes Synod

Worship
with us
from
HOME