



**Bethany Lutheran Outlook**  
**September 2020**

Serving God, Community, and Individuals



**Pray** for all People

**ASK GOD TO HELP THEM ...  
AND GIVE THANKS FOR THEM.**

**1 Timothy 2:1, NLT**



## PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

As we move into September, not a whole lot has changed since my last newsletter article; COVID-19 continues to impact many aspects of life, including church. In addition to the online worship we started back in March when COVID shut things down, in mid-July we did resume an in-person worship service. In my opinion, it has gone well. The number of those worshipping has been small, 15 to 25, which is fine at this point as it ensures safety. The number of positive cases in Marquette county fluctuates quite a bit from day to day, but the virus is still around so for now I think it's best to remain cautious. Everyone predicted that summer tourism would cause an increase in cases and it did. Now, with schools re-opening, the same thing could happen. So again, while I very much appreciate seeing people and having a small congregation gathered on Sunday morning, for many of you, virtual worship is still probably your best option.

We are definitely blessed with the high quality of what we offer online. If you've looked around at what other churches are doing online, thanks to the technological skills of Gary Sundblad, what we do is right up there. I may be biased, and not that it's a contest, but I don't see anything better. For years some of us have wondered why Gary has recorded so much of what's gone on at Bethany. Now we know; he was waiting for the pandemic!

A few other Bethany activities have resumed; the quilters started meeting again in July, Weight Watchers a few weeks after that. We have had some in-person meetings with people masked and physically distanced. It's still a long way from "normal" and at this point one wonders what normal is going to look like. Remember when we initially thought we might be back to normal worship by Easter? Now it seems pretty certain that Christmas will be different.

As you've heard me say before, not everything that happens is God's will, but God *has a will in everything that happens. Our task is to discern what that will is in this situation. Obviously, part of that will is to care for each other and to respect each other even if we don't agree with all the limitations and restrictions. It's especially important as frustration levels get higher and discouragement increases. For all of us, there's a desire for life to go on but we also remember the command to love thy neighbor.*



Bishop Katherine Finegan regularly reminds we clergy types that God is somehow at work in all this. It can be hard to see that, but I think one thing we can say for certain is that we are getting a glimpse of the church of the future and it's a future that will include virtual worship in some fashion. I don't think you'll ever convince me that in-person worship isn't the best way to worship but on the other hand, we and probably every other church, reach far more people with our online service than we do on an in-person Sunday morning in the best of times. As time goes on, we'll continue to try and make sense of what that means not just in practical and logistical ways but in theological ways.

The bottom line though, is that while it may be hard to see in the midst of things, as always, in Christ there are reasons for hope. It's hard not to get discouraged...but don't lose hope.

Pastor Geier



### **When God Crosses Our Path**

Pastor and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, “God will be constantly crossing our paths and canceling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions.” Last spring, the whole world had plans canceled, first by Covid-19 and then by God “sending us people with claims and petitions.” Some needed prayers for healing or for coping with grief. Medical staff, teachers, pastors and others serving long hours needed support: meals, check-in calls, “thinking of you” cards. Parents working remotely while helping kids with distance-learning needed encouragement. Crucial nonprofit work still required donations.

Pre-pandemic, you may not have realized that staying home or wearing a face mask could be a ministry. Or that sending a card expresses love in Jesus' name. Or that buying takeout from a local restaurant can be a gift to the owners. When our calendars empty, God “crosses our paths” in new ways — both to be with us and to nudge us toward others (even if virtually, or 6 feet apart!).

## 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

### September 2020

1 Psalm 17	2 Samuel 11:27b — 12:15	Revelation 3:7-13
2 Psalm 17	Jeremiah 17:5-18	Matthew 12:22-32
3 Psalm 119:33-40	Ezekiel 24:1-14	2 Corinthians 12:11-21
4 Psalm 119:33-40	Ezekiel 24:15-27	Romans 10:15b-21
5 Psalm 119:33-40	Ezekiel 33:1-6	Matthew 23:29-36

### 6 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 33:7-11	Psalm 119:33-40	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20
7 Psalm 119:65-72	Leviticus 4:27-31 ; 5:14-16	1 Peter 2:11-17	
8 Psalm 119:65-72	Deuteronomy 17:2-13	Romans 13:1-7	
9 Psalm 119:65-72	Leviticus 16:1-5, 20-28	Matthew 21:18-22	
10 Psalm 103:8-13	Genesis 37:12-36	1 John 3:11-16	
11 Psalm 103:8-13	Genesis 41:53 — 42:17	Acts 7:9-16	
12 Psalm 103:8-13	Genesis 45:1-20	Matthew 6:7-15	

### 13 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 50:15-21	Psalm 103:8-13	Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35
14 Psalm 133	Genesis 48:8-22	Hebrews 11:23-29	

### Readings for Holy Cross Day

Numbers 21:4b-9	Psalm 98:1-4	1 Corinthians 1:18-24	John 3:13-17
15 Psalm 133	Genesis 49:29 — 50:14	Romans 14:13 — 15:2	

16 Psalm 133	Genesis 50:22-26	Mark 11:20-25
17 Psalm 145:1-8	Nahum 1:1, 14-2:2	2 Corinthians 13:1-4
18 Psalm 145:1-8	Nahum 2:3-13	2 Corinthians 13:5-10
19 Psalm 145:1-8	Zephaniah 2:13-15	Matthew 19:23-30

**20 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Jonah 3:10 — 4:11 Psalm 145:1-8 Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16

21 Psalm 106:1-12	Genesis 27:1-29	Romans 16:1-16
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**Readings for St. Matthew, Apostle**

Ezekiel 2:8 — 3:11 Psalm 119:33-40 Ephesians 2:4-10 Matthew 9:9-13

22 Psalm 106:1-12	Genesis 28:10-17	Romans 16:17-20
23 Psalm 106:1-12	Isaiah 41:1-13	Matthew 18:1-5
24 Psalm 25:1-9	Ezekiel 12:17-28	James 4:11-16
25 Psalm 25:1-9	Ezekiel 18:5-18	Acts 13:32-41
26 Psalm 25:1-9	Ezekiel 18:19-24	Mark 11:27-33

**27 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 Psalm 25:1-9 Philippians 2:1-13 Matthew 21:23-32

28 Psalm 28	Judges 14:1-20	Philippians 1:3-14
29 Psalm 28	Judges 16:1-22	Philippians 1:15-21

**Readings for Michael and All Angels**

Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3 Psalm 103:1-5, 20-22 Revelation 12:7-12  
Luke 10:17-20

30 Psalm 28	Judges 16:23-31	Matthew 9:2-8
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**“Faith is not a once-done act  
but a continuous gaze of the heart at the Triune God.”**

—A.W. Tozer

# Enjoy the Poetry of Hymns

## There Is a Fountain

There is a fountain filled with blood  
drawn from Emmanuel's veins;  
and sinners plunged beneath that flood  
lose all their guilty stains.  
Lose all their guilty stains,  
lose all their guilty stains;  
and sinners plunged beneath that flood  
lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see  
that fountain in his day;  
and there may I, though vile as he,  
wash all my sins away.  
Wash all my sins away,  
wash all my sins away;  
and there may I, though vile as he,  
wash all my sins away.

Dear dying Lamb, thy precious blood  
shall never lose its power  
till all the ransomed church of God  
be saved, to sin no more.  
Be saved, to sin no more,  
be saved, to sin no more;  
till all the ransomed church of God  
be saved, to sin no more.

E'er since, by faith, I saw the stream  
thy flowing wounds supply,  
redeeming love has been my theme,  
and shall be till I die.  
And shall be till I die,  
and shall be till I die;  
redeeming love has been my theme,  
and shall be till I die.

— William Cowper



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

## There Is a Fountain; the Story Behind the Hymn

*Whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed. Roman 3:25*

William Cowper is one of God's gracious gifts to those suffering from depression. Like the Psalmist who cried, "Why are you cast down, O my soul?" (Psalm 42:5), Cowper shows us that our emotional struggles often give us heightened sensitivity to the heart of God and to the needs of others.

Cowper (pronounced Cooper), born in 1731, was the fourth child of a British clergyman and his wife. William's three siblings died, then his mother dies while giving birth to the fifth child. William was six when he lost his mother, and it was a blow from which he never recovered. Years later, when someone sent him a picture of her, he wrote:



My mother! When I learn'd that thou wast dead,  
Say, wast thou conscious of the tears I shed?  
Hover'd thy spirit o'er thy sorrowing son,  
Wretch even then, life's journey just begun/...  
I heard the bell toll'd on thy burial day,  
I saw the hearse that bore thee slow away,  
And, turning from my nurs'ry window, drew  
A long, long sigh, and wept a last adieu!

William, emotionally frail, was sent to a boarding school where for two years he was terrorized by a bully which further shattered his nerves. From ages 10 to 18, he had a better experience at Westminster School, developing a love for literature and poetry. His father wanted him to be an attorney, but, preparing for his bar exam, he experienced runaway anxiety. Concluding himself damned, he threw away his Bible and attempted suicide.

Friends recommended an asylum run by Dr. Nathaniel Cotton, a lover of poetry and a committed Christian. Under Dr. Cotton's care, William slowly recovered. In the asylum in 1764, he found the Lord while reading Romans 3:25: "...whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith..." His life was still to hold many dark days of intense depression, but at least he now had a spiritual foundation. As he later put it:

*There is a fountain filled with blood / Drawn from Immanuel's veins /  
And sinners plunged beneath that flood, / Lose all their guilty stains.*

—Robert J. Morgan, *Then Sings My Soul*

The above hymn history is the first of three parts. In the October and November issues, we will continue the life story of William Cowper and the story of two more of his famous hymns.



## **Optimism**

## **Grounded in Hope**

"I am fundamentally an optimist," said anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela. "Part of being optimistic is keeping one's head pointed toward the sun, one's feet moving forward. There were many dark moments when my faith in humanity was sorely tested, but I would not and could not give myself up to despair.."

Some say optimism is naïve, "a generic good idea about the future" (Walter Brueggemann, *Reverberations of Faith*), and distinguish it from hope. But Mandela's 27 years in prison and other sufferings would indicate that, in his case, optimism is anchored in deep hope.

Our hope is grounded in God's power to bring life from death, primarily in Jesus' resurrection, and in other acts of deliverance. God brings joy from sorrow, healing from brokenness, love from hate. We can't fathom what goodness awaits us down the road (Could Mandela, in prison, imagine becoming South Africa's first black president?!), so we keep looking up and moving forward. Such optimism is rooted in profound hope — and is a gift of God.





## **Lifelong Faith Formation Synod Offers Fun and Interesting Classes for Adults**

The Northern Great Lakes Synod has launched a new series of classes for adults who want to increase their knowledge and understanding of the Bible, church history, Lutheran Theology, world religions, and more. **“Lifelong Faith Formation”** is geared to people who share a love and learning and have discovered that adult studies help them to grow in faith.

In these challenging and uncertain times, our Synod is offering online classes via Zoom this fall and winter. While discussions through computer screens are not ideal, online learning presents an opportunity to connect people from across the synod

Sign-up soon for one or more of these classes which begin in mid-September:

### **Ecclesiastes Bible Study**

with Pastor Tommy Richter of Zion, Manistique

### **“FREEDOM”- A Study in Galatians**

with Reverend Thomas A. Skrenes, Bishop Emeritus

### **Introduction to Biblical Greek**

with Pastor Nicole Hanson-Lynn of Zion/Salem, Ironwood.

### **Bias in our Communities: Addressing Race in Rural America**

with Pastor Christina Forsythe of Porterfield/Beaver.

For more information, visit [www.nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation](http://www.nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation) or contact Sister Lori Ward at (615) 519-1969 or [lori.ward@nglsynod.org](mailto:lori.ward@nglsynod.org).





*<sup>4</sup>The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! <sup>5</sup>We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; <sup>6</sup>but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."*

~Numbers 11: 4-6

Dear Friends in Christ,

Does your strength feel dried up? Is there nothing at all but online worship or half-empty pews to look at? Do you remember when we took regular in-the-sanctuary worship for granted? We remember the fellowship, the potlucks, the singing, gathering around the altar for the Lord's Supper. Do you have a strong craving for going back to the way things used to be?

The thing is...we are in the wilderness. We have left Egypt (the good and the bad) behind, and God is making us, the church (and maybe society too), into something new. And if the experience of the Israelites is any guide, we are only in the beginning of our journey. If, as Dr. Osterholm says (an epidemiologist) we are only in the second inning of a nine-inning game, then we are only in the first decade of a forty-year journey, or in the first months of what will take a year to two years.

It is rather remarkable how the wilderness experience of the Israelites and our own pandemic wilderness experience is similar.

- Moses was under a lot of stress, and so is your pastor.

Every day is full of new decisions. There is much to take into consideration and pastors are being pulled and pushed into exhaustion. Do we resume in person worship? How? When? What if cases in the community are rising? What if someone shows up and won't wear a mask? What if more people show up than we can accommodate for social distancing? What if the most vulnerable come, how can we be sure they'll be safe? What do I say to someone who doesn't believe the threat is real?

Please be patient with your pastor and your leadership. The way forward is far from clear... for returning to worship, fall programming, and so much more.

- Moses learned not to be a solo leader and others stepped up to help.

At first it was all Moses. He went up the mountain alone and came down alone. But then he appointed more leaders to help shoulder the burden of leadership.

When the pandemic first started, your pastoral leader scrambled to provide resources and/or an online worship. There wasn't time to recruit volunteers, there was too much else to do. He or she may not have had the means or initiative to get the council or others involved in meeting the needs of ministry in the congregation, much less the community.

But now, as we settle in for the long haul, councils and other congregation members would do well to ask their pastor how they can help, if they are not already doing so.

Ask:

- ~Who needs a phone call and to be prayed with?
- ~What new technology can I learn that would help?
- ~Are there mailings I can help put together?
- ~Are there email lists and cell phone lists that need to be updated?
- ~Can I be a part of the online worship effort?
- ~Can I help someone use ZOOM?

Or please simply send a note of thanks and affirmation, so your pastoral leader knows their efforts are appreciated, and hold them in prayer .

- As their wilderness journey continued, the Israelites complained about a few things and so do we.

Wilderness times are full of high anxiety and stress. There is confusion. There is grief because we have lost the familiar and fear about an uncertain future. These feelings sometimes come out as anger or sadness or just untethered emotion.

Sometimes the best we can do is to take a deep breath and invite others to do the same. The words of Julian of Norwich come to mind...again, "All will be well. All will be well. In all manner of things, all will be well."

It is not up to you or me to fix the church or solve the pandemic or answer every question in the moment it is asked. This is a time of prayer and discernment, of conversation together to determine what is best, of asking how God is at work, and erring on the side of care for the neighbor.

Easier said than done. But being gentle with yourself and others is a good beginning.

- The Israelites arrived in the promised land a different people than when they left Egypt and we will emerge from this pandemic a different people too.

We are practicing our faith differently. At a time when we have not been gathering for worship as we used to means that feeding one's faith is not as easy as simply showing up to worship. This pandemic has challenged us to find new ways to deepen our discipleship and our relationship to God in Christ Jesus. Many pastoral leaders have done their best to provide online devotions, Bible studies, emails of encouragement, phone call prayers, and more.

In addition, I see the need for congregation members to take a new kind of initiative. For some, it may be more difficult to turn on the computer than get in the car to go to church. It may be more difficult to pray at home, than in the gathered assembly. Personal devotions depend on a person doing them. Online Bible studies are helpful only if one participates. Our rhythms are off. The regular habits of faith have been disrupted.

By the time this pandemic is over, new patterns and practices will emerge, new insights will give greater clarity, and who we are as Lutheran Christians in the Northern Great Lakes Synod will look and feel differently than it does now.

- The Israelites were closer to God when they were in the wilderness - intimately dependent on God in a whole new way.

In wilderness times, that is, in times of fear and uncertainty, we pray all the harder and more frequently. We look for God more fervently. We rely on the presence of Christ walking with us with greater dependence. God is nearer, more palpably present, and this is an unexpected blessing.

As the Israelites travelled in the wilderness, their patience wore thin. They were tired of the journey, tired of Moses, critical of their situation and their leaders. I hope we can travel our wilderness road with a little more grace.

As your leaders consider next steps, please understand that their priority is your health. And their primary challenge is how to nurture your relationship with God in Christ Jesus while observing the best practices for the safety of all.

So, as you travel this wilderness journey, watch out for your friends and neighbors. We don't want to lose anyone along the way. Check in on each other. Pray. Take your own initiative to deepen your discipleship and care for your congregation and community. Your pastor can only do so much.

And just as God led the Israelites through the wilderness, so does God lead you and me. These are trying days that will stretch into months and longer. But God is with you, your congregation, and with the Church that is the body of Christ.

Take heart and do not lose faith...or patience.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Katherine Finegan

## Saints and Notables for September from the ELW

- 17 Hildegard von Bingen, German abbess, writer, composer, philosopher, mystic, polymath. (1179)
- 21 Matthew , Apostle
- 29 Michael & All Angels
- 30 Jerome, translator of the Bible from Hebrew & Greek into Latin, the Vulgate (420)

**Hildegard von Bingen** (1098 – 17 September 1179), was a German Benedictine abbess, writer, composer, philosopher, Christian mystic, visionary, and polymath. She is one of the best-known composers of sacred monophony, as well as the most-recorded in modern history. She has been considered by many in Europe to be the founder of scientific natural history in Germany.



Hildegard's fellow nuns elected her as *magistra* in 1136; she founded the monasteries of Rupertsberg in 1147 and Eibingen in 1165. She wrote theological, botanical, and medicinal texts, as well as letters, liturgical songs for women choirs to sing and poems, while supervising miniature illuminations in the Rupertsberg manuscript of her first work, *Scivias*. There are more surviving chants by Hildegard than by any other composer from the entire Middle Ages,

and she is one of the few known composers to have written both the music and the words. One of her works, the *Ordo Virtutum*, is an early example of liturgical drama and arguably the oldest surviving morality play. It is an independent Latin morality play with music (82 songs)...which is, in fact, the earliest known surviving musical drama that is not attached to a liturgy.

From 1152 to 1162 she preached reform to lax churches and monasteries throughout the Rhineland. Still extant are several hundred of Hildegard's letters, many containing prophetic warnings to civic and religious leaders, including emperors, popes, bishops, abbots, princes, mayors. Living centuries before Martin Luther, she has sometimes been called the first Protestant due to her calls for reform. (most of this text is from Wikipedia) Parting quote from author Barbara J. Newman: "*Hildegard unites vision with doctrine, religion with science, charismatic jubilation with prophetic indignation and the longing for social order with the quest for social justice in ways that continue to challenge and inspire.*"

NOTE: Two new books about Hildegard will be available soon in the Library...despite the virus woes, I couldn't pass them up! *HILDEGARD OF BINGEN: A Saint for Our Times: Unleashing Her Power in the 21st Century* by Matthew Fox; and *ILLUMINATIONS : A Novel of Hildegard von Bingen* by Mary Sharratt.



**“He who prays lifts**

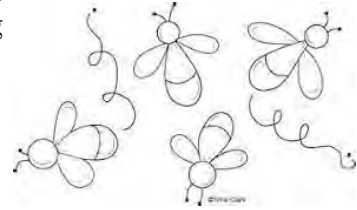
**labors as he his heart to**

**God with his hands.”**

—St. Bernard of Clairvaux

## LIGHT/DARKNESS

One night a family drove north of the cities to see the northern lights. But in order to see the lights, they had to flee...the light! The sky was clear, but the stars were dim until they passed the city lights, the suburb lights, the highway lights, the penitentiary lights, the pub lights, and finally, the headlights. Then they sat in the darkness of the country. And because of the night the stars were brilliant. They waited. They waited. There was no display of the aurora borealis that night. But there—to the right—a gift from the darkness. Shimmering above the field, thousands of lights, a magical luminescence, visible only because of the darkness. The gift of fireflies. Thousands of fireflies. Only because of the darkness.



We are cowards. We are afraid of the dark. With great towering nightlights in our cities, nightlights lining our streets, nightlights hanging from our porches. And because of them we don't see the night, and we do not receive the gifts of the darkness.

From ghoulies and ghosties  
And long-legged beasties  
And things that go bump in the night  
Good Lord, preserve us  
we pray

The darkness frightens us. The darkness is the not yet. Light pulls us to what is outside of us. Darkness leaves us with what is inside of us. The darkness is the not yet.

We must reclaim the darkness, for  
the darkness of the sky is necessary in order to see the stars  
the darkness of the womb is necessary for growth before birth  
the darkness of the soil is needed to bring seed to bloom  
the darkness of the ninth hour is needed for the  
resurrection to majesty.

— Susan Palo Cherwien, *Crossings; Meditations for Worship*





**Fall Fest 2020: Quilt & Fine Auction Fundraiser**  
**October 3**  
**9:00 am—2:pm CST**

**2020 Fall Fest Auction**

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp's 2020 Fall Fest will be a virtual experience that brings together supporters and friends of Fortune Lake from far and wide!

The auction will have all your favorite elements—beautifully crafted quilts, other quality hand-made art, and plenty of fun ways to support Fortune Lake's outdoor ministry. New in this year's auction will be some **Fortune Lake experiences to bid on!**

Details are still in the works, but it is sure to be an exciting day.

**Silent Auction: Sept. 23—Oct. 3**

Bidders will be encouraged to register to Fortune Lake's safe, secure platform early to participate in the silent auction which will begin on September 23 and go through October 3. The silent auction will contain most of our items, and you'll have plenty of opportunity to make your selection and set your maximum bids.

**Live Auction: Oct. 3**

A few select items will be held over for a live virtual auction on October 3, during which Fortune Lake invites all its supporters to join them online for a grand event celebrating the camp we all love.



.Dear Partners in Ministry,

Below is the ZOOM link and passcode information for our Walking Together event on **Wednesday, September 17 at 6 pm ET**. Please share this info widely with your folks, and strongly encourage your Council members to participate even as all are welcome.

Here is an outline of what our time together as the Superior Central Conference of the NGLS will look like:

5 minutes	Welcome and opening prayer
20 minutes	Dwelling in the Word with small groups
25 minutes	Year of Discovery presentation with Q and A
5 minutes	Lifelong Faith Formation presentation with Q and A
15 minutes	Breakout sessions of conversation
10 minutes	Synod ministry overview
5 minutes	Website Review and Facebook page
5 minutes	Record "Peace be with you" for Synod-wide Reformation Worship (for conferences meeting before October 19)
	Closing Prayer if no conference meeting
30 minutes	Conference meeting agenda if applicable

Northern Great Lakes Synod is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

**Topic: Walking Together Event: Conference 8 Superior Central**  
**Time: Sep 17, 2020 6:00 PM ET**

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88186789473?  
pwd=c0FKR0U2VkdMVjYxcElEdUxiQ0Qvdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88186789473?pwd=c0FKR0U2VkdMVjYxcElEdUxiQ0Qvdz09)

Meeting ID: 881 8678 9473

Passcode: 034082

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,88186789473#,,,,,0#,,034082# US

(Germantown)

+13126266799,,88186789473#,,,,,0#,,034082# US (Chicago)



I look forward to many of us being together on September 17!

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Katherine Finegan  
Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod

## Sunday School

With continuing safety concerns and other uncertainty around the coronavirus, our Sunday School teachers and Christian Education committee have decided not to have in-person Sunday School classes this fall. We will continue to revisit this decision, but for now, this seems what is best.



Instead, packets of materials will be mailed home to each student. The packets will include several weeks' worth of lessons and supplementary worksheets. Our hope is that parents or grandparents will have some time during the week to work with your child or children so that they continue to receive some religious instruction. Older kids might be able to do some on their own. In addition, we will try to provide a CD with some songs they can learn.

This isn't an ideal solution but nothing is ideal these days. We will resume regular classes as soon as everyone feels comfortable about doing so.

In the meantime, we thank you for your understanding and cooperation. If you have thoughts or questions, please let us know.

### **Printed Copies of Outlook Can Now Be Picked Up At Church**

Bethany is changing the method of distribution of the Outlook Newsletter. For those who still prefer a printed copy, instead of receiving it by mail, you can pick it up at church on the first of every month, starting September 1, 2020. They will be stacked on a table in the Narthex with your name on it.

The mailing list was reviewed and modified for those who wanted it emailed or accessed on the church's website. Because of these changes, we are no longer eligible for the bulk mailing permit. If you attend worship on Sunday mornings, you can pick up your copy before or after the service. Please make yourself a reminder to pick up your copy each month, when you are out running errands, grocery shopping, etc.

For those who do not drive or are considered shut-ins, or find it difficult to get the Outlook from church, your copy will still be mailed to you. Contact Carrie in the church office and let her know.

Jim Bjerne

**Walk. Give. Change the world.**



**CROP Hunger Walk**

Our community believes in ending hunger. And, in 2020, we will continue to fight against the new challenges of disease and disaster that leave people hungry. Join with us in raising funds to help neighbors near and far get the meals they need this year.

For safety reason we have decided not to gather together to Walk this year. We are asking that you wear your CROP Hunger Walk shirts (if you have one), grab your family, and go for a Walk that fits your schedule **anytime during the week starting Sunday, October 4th.**

Have your kids chalk your driveway with CROP information and pictures. Take pictures and share them on your Facebook pages. Remember all funds raised will be shared locally with NMU Food Bank and St. Vincent de Paul.

At Bethany you can donate to the Crop Walk by sending a check to Bethany and putting Crop Walk in the memo line. As in other years, Barb Lucas and John Hansen are also collecting money for the Crop Walk. Another way to donate is to register on line. You can google Crop Walk Marquette MI to find the registration site.

Together, we can help end hunger in our community and around the world.



**Yes, I Can!**

I cannot alleviate poverty, but I can feed one hungry person. I cannot end war, but I can extend a branch of peace to my neighbor. I cannot prevent death, but I can hold the hand of a dying man. That may not seem like much, but it is far harder than to devise schemes for social betterment, and it is everything. Christ said, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40, NIV)

## Lutheran World Relief Kits

### School Kits

- Four 70 sheet spiral notebooks (no loose-leaf paper)
- One blunt scissors
- One ruler with inches and centimeters
- One pencil sharpener
- One eraser, approx. 2 1/2" long
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils secured with a rubber band
- Five ballpoint pens secured with a rubber band
- One box of 24 crayons
- All items except crayons should be removed from packaging



### Personal Care Kits

- One dark colored bath towel (approx. 52x27)
- Two bath size bars of soap
- One adult size toothbrush left in packaging (if multiple are purchased, put each toothbrush in an envelope)
- One wide too comb (removed from packaging)
- One nail clippers with file (removed from packaging)
- Do not enclose any item in plastic bags.



toothbrushes in packaging

### Layettes

- New or gently used items can be used.
- Two cotton t-shirts
- Two gowns or sleepers without feet
- Two receiving blankets
- Four cloth diapers
- One dark colored hand towel
- One sweater with hat or sweatshirt jack-with hood
- Two diaper pins
- Two bath size bars of gentle soap



et

Bethany will be collecting kits for Lutheran World Relief during August, September and early October. Please consider making some kits and/or bringing in items to help complete individual kits.

Deadline for final collection will be in October with the specific date to be announced at a later time.

### Fabric Kits

- Two pieces of cotton or cotton blend fabric (no knits or 100% polyester) measuring:
  - 2 1/4 yds of 60" wide fabric or
  - 3 yds of 44" or 45" wide fabric or
  - 4 yds of 36" wide

- Two spools of neutral colored thread

Tie items together with ribbon, yarn, string, or a strip of fabric (No plastic bags)



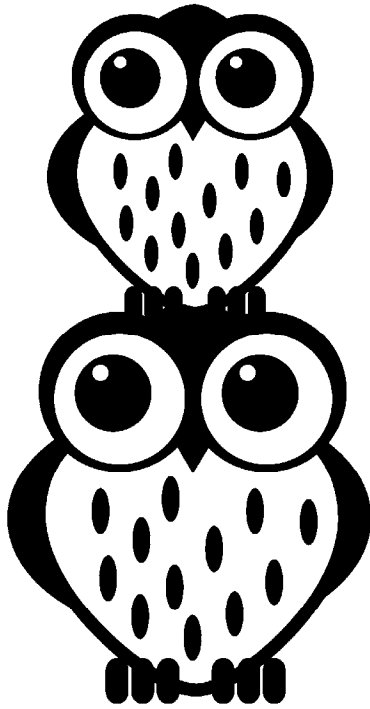
plastic

# WISDOM FROM THE WORD

God makes a special promise to people who study Scripture.

.....

*Directions: Arrange the word list in alphabetical order. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Joshua 1:8, NIV.*



school	— ○ — — —
paper	— ○ —
wisdom	— — ○ —
read	— — — ○
play	— — — — —
learn	○ — — — —
grow	— ○ — — — —
pencils	— — — — —
pray	— ○ — —
art	— — — —
student	— — — ○ — —
kids	— — ○ — — — —
apple	— — ○ — — —

“... meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be \_\_\_\_\_ and successful.”

**JOSHUA 1:8, NIV**

## *Happy Birthday!*

1 Daniel Gonyea-Alexander  
2 Jennifer Carriere  
2 Sally Grant  
3 Travis Allen  
4 John Lusardi  
4 Preston Smith  
5 Tom Ryan  
7 Janet Anderson  
8 Matthew Price  
9 Ray Leverton  
11 Jonathan Vallier  
11 Killean Ryan  
12 Kenneth Kinnunen  
13 James Carlyon  
13 James Chartré  
13 Kathy Kish  
13 Debora Paavo  
13 James C. Sodergren  
14 Alice Eman  
14 Marlene King  
15 Jeff Leaf  
15 Cindy Warner  
16 James Anderson  
17 Pam Allen  
17 Jacob Dault  
18 Natalie Rasmussen  
19 Amy Christopherson  
19 Katherine Kitchen  
21 Jaren Kipling  
21 Chad Pohlman  
22 Robert Maki  
22 Bryan Smith  
23 Janine Johns  
23 Annette Larson  
23 Jenna Chartre  
23 Elizabeth Bureau  
26 John Leverton  
27 John Waters  
29 Jerry Luokkala  
30 Kathleen Slown



## *Happy Anniversary!*

Byron & Wendy Koski  
9/2/2000 20 years

Ray & Barbara Yunkari  
9/2/92 48 years

Sean & Jennie Garrett-Bureau  
9/5/2003 17 years

Clifford & Karen Mattson  
9/8/1973 47 years

Ron & Sheree Mariani  
9/8/79 41 years

Robert & Gwen Bruhnke  
9/16/1995 25 years

Michael & Kathy Harrington  
9/16/89 31 years

Tom & Sue Ryan  
9/17/1966 54 years

Norman & Linda Lind  
9/26/1970 50 years

John & Sherry Lusardi  
9/28/1974 46 years

## Council Highlights—August 2020



- Donation request from Fortune Lake referred to Memorial Committee.
- Newsletters will be available to church attendees on August 31; Others who request it will have it mailed. Those who receive it online will receive an email from Jim Bjorne with the link to the newsletter.
- Council is working on updating church constitution and bylaws.
- Working on a proposal for improved internet service and equipment for live streaming when we return to “normal.”
- Pastoral Acts: Baptisms: Everett Michael Clisch (June 22); Shaan Ashwin Vekaria (June 28)
- In person worship is going well. 25 people attended on Aug. 16
- On Sept. 17 NLGS us sponsoring “Walking Together” event.
- Home packets which will include worksheets and a music CD will be sent home to Sunday School students. Confirmation students will meet in person , but the time is yet to be determined. Bible Study is on hold at this time.
- Contributions to the food table have been good.
- A large donation was given to Social Ministry and those monies were disbursed..
- Social Ministry will prepare a lunch for Habitat for Humanity in September.
- Next Council meeting: September 15 @ 6:30 pm.



**YTD Income: \$92,602.12**

**TD Expenses: \$101,133.16**

**Net (\$8,531.04)**

**January—June 2020**





## Ishpeming Public Library Calendar

Every year the Friends of the Ishpeming Public Library create a calendar featuring photos of people, places and events from Ishpeming's past. Usually the calendar is for sale at the library, but of course this year that option is unavailable. I know there are many people from Bethany who have enjoyed the calendars and given them as gifts, so if anyone would like to order the 2020 calendar, I will place a sign-up sheet on the kiosk at church. Or, please call me at 485-4218. The cost is \$6.00, and all money raised goes to support library programs.

Kathy Geier

## Cluster Meeting Cancelled

WELCA' S Fall Cluster Meeting is cancelled because of covid concerns. The next cluster meeting is tentatively scheduled for the spring and will be held at Bethany.



**Answer to Wisdom from the Word:** apple, art, grow, kids, learn, paper, pencils, play, pray, read, school, student, wisdom, prosperous

## A Note from the Social Ministry Board



Although we are not meeting for worship during the corona virus crisis, it's important that we don't forget that everyone is suffering in some way at this time; some more than others. One way we can help is to continue bringing non-perishable food items to the table in the narthex, where it will be collected every Thursday morning by Doug and Jill Carter. The church will be open during regular office hours, Monday through Thursday from 9 A.M. to 12 P.M.

## 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.

### September: Packages of feminine pads Boxes of Tampons

Worship



Options



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



**Bethany’s Website**  
[www.bethanyishpeming.org](http://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, Ray Leverton (recuperating)

**Mill Creek:** Marilyn Pontti, Betty Geier



- Amanda Bivins
- Paul Kish
- 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
- Jerry Plaisier
- Cindy Warner
- Loreth Johnson
- Emilie Brown
- Bob Maki
- Mark, Kathleen, and Karmen Slown
- Ray Chartre
- Roger & Ruth Solberg
- Doris Pellonpaa
- 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](mailto:linkarzig@gmail.com)

Bethany Lutheran Church  
715 Mather Avenue  
Ishpeming, MI 49849

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Bethany Lutheran Church  
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Website: [www.bethanyishpeming.org](http://www.bethanyishpeming.org)

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