



December 2019

Volume 8, Issue 4

The Bethlehem

Star

Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well shall fare.

As we enter into the Advent and Christmas season, and our thoughts are directed toward the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and the celebration of His birth in Bethlehem, we continue our look through the *Table of Duties* in Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*. Having looked last month on the God-given duties of the civil government, we turn now to the duties of citizens under that civil government, which really involves all of us.

It is also not a stretch to see the connection of civil government and citizens to the themes of Advent and Christmas where Jesus comes as our King even in lowly means of swaddling clothes and manger and will come again as our King in glory. "He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love" (LSB 387:4). Our God who has become a man and who rules over all things as the God-man has also instituted and continues to govern the civil authorities.

Still there is a distinction between these two kingdoms. What Scripture teaches us is that Christian citizens are to honor the civil government and to participate fully in society. We are to pay taxes, assist with the general welfare of the nation, and do good to our neighbor. Through all of this, Christians are governed ultimately by the Word of God and faith in Christ. Armed with this they are able to participate in public discourse, run for public office, serve in the military, volunteer in the community, etc. In fact, our faith in Christ bears fruit in acts of charity and mercy, looking to the needs of our neighbors. The passages in the *Table of Duties* for citizens are the following:

Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's. (Matthew 22:21)

It is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. (Romans 13:5-7)

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior. (1 Timothy 2:1-3)

Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good. (Titus 3:1)

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. (1 Peter 2:13-14)

I find it fascinating that what both Paul and Peter do in their respective epistles is to draw out and apply what Jesus first said in Matthew's Gospel, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's," that is, our fear, love, and trust, our faith and worship, belong to God alone, but as He has also directed us to love our neighbor and has instituted the governing authorities for that purpose, we are to give to Caesar (that is to any earthly authority) what has been entrusted to them by God. May God grant us grace this Advent and Christmas season, and every season, to abide in His Word and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Rev. Samuel Wirgau



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December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9a Divine NO ABC or SS Ladies Aid Christmas Luncheon	2 11:30p Ladies Aid Children's Luncheon 7p Handbell Choir	3	4 10:15a Chapel 6p LYF Supper 7p Advent Service 8p Adult Choir	5	6	7
8 9a Divine 10:15 ABC & SS 6:30p LYF Bible Study	9 5:30p PTL Meeting 7p Handbell Choir Practice	10 6:30p Board of Christian Education Meeting	11 10:15a Chapel 6p LYF Supper 7p Advent Service 8p Adult Choir	12 7:00p Garm's Family Concert	13	14 10-2p LYF Gift Wrapping
15 9a Divine Serv. 10:15a ABC & SS. 11:15a Church Council Meeting	16 7:00p Handbell Choir Practice	17	18 10:15a Chapel 6p LYF Supper 7:00p Children's Christmas Service	19 7p Adult Choir	20	21
22 9a Divine Serv. 10:15a ABC & SS	23 7p Handbell Choir Practice	24 7:00p Christmas Eve Service	25 9:00a Christmas Day Service	26	27	28
29 9a Divine NO ABC & SS	30 00	31 7:00p New Year's Eve Service			NO SCHOOL December 23-January 6	

November 27, 2019

BETHLEHEM FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund (Home Fund) Account to Pay Operating Bills (\$2,386.56)

Savings Fund Balances

	Accrued Amount	Restricted Amount Borrowed	Account Balance
Improvement Fund	\$44,141.57	(\$16,946.00)	**\$27,195.57
Scholarship Fund	\$ 0.00	(\$ 0.00)	\$ 0.00
Music Fund	<u>\$ 4,844.48</u>	<u>(\$ 4,500.00)</u>	<u>\$ 344.48</u>
TOTALS	\$48,986.05	(\$21,446.00)	\$27,540.05

Checkbook Balance

(\$ 2,386.56)

Savings Account Balance

\$27,540.05

Total Savings and Checking Balance

\$25,153.49

Borrowed Amounts

Restricted Savings Account	\$21,446.00
Operating Loan Amount	<u>\$25,000.00</u>
TOTAL BORROWED	<u>\$46,446.00</u>

Bills due week of December 1—\$12,000

Bills due week of December 8—\$5,000

LADIES AID NEWS

The November 6, 2019 meeting of Ladies Aid was called to order by President, Kathy Nahrwold. Pastor Wirgau had devotions.

The roll call showed 17 members present and 2 guests. The secretary's and treasurers' report were approved as read. The kitchen committee were informed that more individual sugar packets were needed in the kitchen, if available to purchase.

The old business included the Pork Chop fundraiser at Lighted Gardens. With this the church raised \$3,382.94 for the Phase II of the roof and \$1449.83 going to the Northern Wells Food Pantry. Ladies Aid served the meal for Gilbert Bultemeier funeral on October 18, 2019.

A soup and pie sale by the Ladies Aid was on October 20 and the Holiday Bazaar was organized by Ladies Aid on November 3.

Thanks to everyone that helped with all of these activities by helping or buying tickets.

Since the number of attendance to the Holiday Bazaar was decreased this year we discussed how to make changes for next year. A motion was made, seconded and carried to open vendor tables to people outside the church. There will be a separate committee to organize these details.

We also discussed the price of the meal. A motion was made, seconded and carried to increase the prices of the adult and child's meals but not the hot dog meal.

We discussed going back to rolls in place of bread. This will be explored more to come up with a change for 2020. Discussion for this will take place at next year's meetings.

For new business we had election of officers at the November meeting. The following women were elected to office for 2020 – 2021. President – Kathy Nahrwold, Treasurer- Colleen Patrick, Altar Guild- Dalene Springer, Social Secretary, Delores Scheumann, and Kitchen committee was Kay Schumm. The remaining elected officer's positions will be filled next year.

The Ladies Aid Christmas luncheon will be Sunday December 1, following Bible class in the fellowship hall.

The Ladies Aid children's luncheon will be Monday, December 2 @11:30am.

Ladies Aid will again make baskets for our shut-ins. These will be made on December 9 in the Fellowship Hall @9am.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to make a donation to the Seminary Christmas Market Place.

There was also a discussion about a possible donation to Bethesda of Fort Wayne and that will be tabled until the next meeting.

The next meeting of the book club will be November 18 at Delores Scheumann's home.

The ornament painting will be Tuesday, November 19@ 6:30pm in the school.

We adjourned with the Lord's Prayer and common table prayer. Refreshments were served.

There will not be a meeting in December. Our next meeting is January 8 @ 1:30pm along with LWML.

Joellen Meyer, Secretary

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED TO SIGN UP FOR FLOWERS TO BE PLACED ON THE ALTAR OR HYMN-BOARD. Simply use the 2019 flower chart posted on the bulletin board to sign up on the date you wish to have flowers. Purchased flowers should be brought to church before the designated date to be sure they are placed properly. For help in placing the flowers, please contact Dalene Springer or Deaconess Wendy Boehm. **Announcements concerning the flowers should be given to the church office.** Thank you



December 1, 2019 – First Sunday in Advent

Psalm 118:25-28; Zechariah 9:9b
(Antiphon); Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 21:1-11
“Your King’s Coming!” - Sermon Text: Zechariah 9:9b - Rev. Shayne Jonker

Your King is coming! What would you do if you were expecting the arrival of a king at your home? Would it make any difference in your daily routine? How would you prepare? King Jesus is on His way! He’s coming to you, full of righteousness and bearing salvation. Now that’s an advent to look forward to with hope, with expectation, with longing, and with urgency.

December 8, 2019 – Second Sunday in Advent

Psalm 72:1-7; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12
“Band of Brothers” - Sermon Text: Romans 15:4-13 - Rev. Paul Shoemaker

There is great division in our world. This is also reflected in our country. Jesus came to remove the barriers that separate us so we “may abound in hope.”

December 15, 2019 – Third Sunday in Advent

Psalm 146; Isaiah 35:1-10; Matthew 11:2-15
“A Blooming Desert” - Sermon Text: Isaiah 35:1-10 - Rev. Bill Mueller

Do you feel dry and deserted? Are the pressures of life squeezing out the joy of living as a Child of God? Take heart for God has Good News for you! Through His prophecy of a “Blooming Desert,” God encourages you!

December 22, 2019 – Fourth Sunday in Advent *The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Day Observed

Psalm 98; Isaiah 52:7-10; John 1:1-18
“The Bare Truth” - Sermon Text: Isaiah 52:7-10 - Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

The abiding popularity of tell-all, show-all magazines and websites testifies to human curiosity about the “inside scoop,” the bare truth, of celebrities, happenings, and other such things. God’s Word truly tells all and shows all as it delivers The Bare Truth about history’s most important, consequential person . . . our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Christmas story does so much more than satisfy human curiosity, it shows us God and the way back to Him.

December 29, 2019 – First Sunday after Christmas

Psalm 111; Galatians 4:4-7; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23
“Nothing Stops God” - Sermon Text: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 - Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III

The forces for evil seem powerful, indeed. But no evil power can stop God in his plan to save you, or in any of his blessed plans for you.

December 2019

- | | |
|-----|--------------------|
| 02) | Wayne Werling |
| 03) | Annabelle Fuhrmann |
| | Cassandra Shelton |
| | Rachel Werling |
| 04) | Sue Buchinger |
| | Matthew Dathe |
| | Erika Lesh |
| | Ava Pynaert |
| 05) | Bruce Meyer |
| 09) | Ruth Witte |
| 10) | Brian Bultemeier |
| 13) | Justin Rekeweg |
| | Cale Schumm |
| 14) | Ruth Bienz |
| | Michael Gresley |
| | Donna Scheumann |
| 18) | Natalie Wanner |
| 20) | Frederick Bienz |
| | Dan Springer |
| 21) | Isabella Janero |
| | Todd Ottinger |
| 22) | David Avey |
| | Ian Delaney |
| | Karl Goede |
| | Marcia Meyer |
| | LeeAnn Steele |
| 23) | Cole Louison |
| | Camilla Shelton |
| 24) | Patsy Gallmeyer |
| 26) | Mark Schallhorn |
| 27) | Ryan Kleppinger |
| 28) | Lisa Gresley |
| | Gavin Shelton |
| 29) | Trent Bultemeier |
| | Danielle Werling |
| 30) | Amy Adams |
| | Loren Dathe |
| | Nicole Williamson |
| 31) | Pat Krumma |
| | Kay Schumm |



**The Endowment Committee thanks the Lord and the congregation
for the generous gifts to the Endowment Fund.**

Here is the monthly report for the Bethlehem Lutheran School Endowment Fund by the Lutheran Foundation. The following information is accurate as of October 31, 2019:

\$163,527.82 - Amount Bethlehem sent in since 2009

150,983.00 - Amount the Lutheran Foundation matched

137,725.90 - Amount generated since 2009

-66,500.00 - Amount disbursed to Bethlehem since 2009

\$385,736.72 - Value of the Endowment Fund as of October 31, 2019

Enjoy the convenience of Electronic Giving!

Please consider setting up a recurring giving plan. Automating your financial commitments means your contributions will be received on a steady, uninterrupted basis. If you wish to make a single online donation or set up recurring donations, you may do so on our website, www.bethlehemossian.org through our third-party provider-Vanco Payment Solutions. Online giving may be done as a credit card payment or ACH bank transfer. Please note, the church will incur a \$0.45 processing fee on each online transaction. Credit card transactions will be charged at least 2.75% fee. For ACH bank transfers, there is a fee of 1% of each dollar charged. This may affect how you wish to direct your online donations. You may also elect to increase your gift to cover the cost of the transaction fees.

THE BETHLEHEM YOUTH GROUP want to help you wrap Christmas presents!

On Saturday, December 14th from 10am to 2pm bring your unwrapped gifts to the **front school entrance** and we will do the rest! We will have all the wrapping paper, bows and gift tags. You may pick up your wrapped presents on Sunday, December 15th after church. Freewill donation will be accepted. Thank you.

Happy Anniversary!

- Dec. 3 Rick and Pat Krumma (42)
Dec. 9 Lee and Julia Braselton (41)
Dec. 13 Sheldon and Cindy Meyer (33)



Elder Routes

Neil Stoppenhagen	A-B
Glen Werling	C-F
Mike Meyer	G-K
Bruce Meyer	L-P
Lloyd Meyer	Q-S
Dave Flesch	T-Z

Dear members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church,

Thanks be to God for you and your congregation's generosity toward Faith Come By Hearing! We are grateful for your gift of **\$474.27!** Because of partners like you, we have been able to reach more than 1.2 million service member and veterans via the Military BibleStick program!

Our military chaplains play an integral role in getting God's Word into the hands of our military. The 5,000 active-duty men and women – called Chaps –are often the ones whom soldiers and veterans seek out to share their darkest moments and fears. As one chaplain put it, "You have helped me deliver the Word of God and to be the hands and feet of Jesus, Soldiers, veterans, and military families are comforted and encouraged daily by His Word. The BibleStick is a powerful tool!"

Thanks to these chaplains and your gift, our military members can access God's life-changing Word. May God bless you!

Your Servant in Christ, Morgan Jackson, Senior Vice President

Concordia High School CHRIST-MAS AT THE EMBASSY – Sunday,

December 15th at 4:00 p.m. at the Historic Embassy Theatre. \$15 adults, \$8 for seniors and students. Tickets can be purchased from the Embassy Box Office or on Ticketmaster.

SQUARE DANCE - St. Peter-

Immanuel Lutheran School will be sponsoring a Square Dance on Friday, December 13th. Doors open at 7:30 pm at the Hoagland Hayloft. Admission at the door is \$10 per person and included 1 free drink ticket.

SGO TAX CREDITS are GOING FAST!

The Scholarship Granting Organization of Indiana is urging donors wanting to support SGO scholarships and receive the 50% State Tax Credit to make your donations NOW. Your donation will go to help our Bethlehem Lutheran School families who struggle with tuition cost but want to be sure they are providing a Christian Education for their children.

Thank you

To donate, go to:

www.lutheransgo.org or pick up an application on the Narthex table.

The Washington DC Group greatly appreciates your continued support! Just a reminder of two things you can do to help us throughout the year: Save your aluminum cans and feed the Paper Gator. For small amounts of cans, there is a green bin by the north entrance of the school. For larger amounts, please contact Don and Amy Schueler. The Paper Gator bin is located next to the trash dumpster on the west stone parking lot. Paper products like newspapers, magazines, junk mail, shredded documents, and old books can be placed in the bin; NO cardboard and cereal box-like paper. Thank you