



ST. BARTHOLOMEW NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2013



"To God be the Glory!" (1 Peter 4:11)

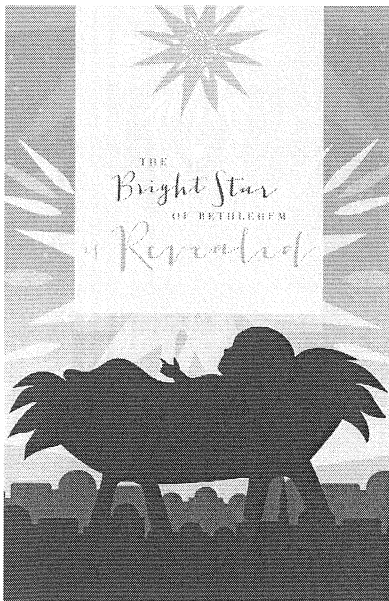
GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF JESUS, THE BRIGHT STAR OF BETHLEHEM!

Lots of jokes have been made about the "begats" in the first chapter of Matthew. We have updated that word now and use the more understandable "was the father of." Still we tend to skip over those seventeen verses with their hard-to-pronounce names. Yet we know that we can benefit from reading these verses, for we are told, *"ALL Scripture is breathed out by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness."* (2 Tim. 3:16). Insignificant as those names may at first seem to us, each represents a person from whom Jesus was directly descended.

Bethlehem was considered an insignificant little town. Nothing much was going on there. When the Wise Men went looking for Jesus, Bethlehem was not their first stop. No, they stopped in Jerusalem. They inquired of a king in a king's palace for *"he who [had] been born king of the Jews"* (Matt. 2:2). Yes, the prevailing view of Bethlehem was that it was a pretty insignificant place. However, God chose Bethlehem to be Jesus' birthplace. *"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah ... from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel"* (Micah 5:2).

Then there's Nazareth. When Nathanael was told about Jesus, he sneered, *"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"* (John 1:46). It was just an obscure, insignificant town, but it was the place God chose to be Jesus' hometown.

Looking back, we see God's wonderful plan. We realize that nothing is insignificant to Him. *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts'"* (Is. 55:8-9).



Just as, in the past, God used seemingly insignificant people, places, and events to carry out His plan, He is today using us where we live and where we work, throughout our daily lives, to be stewards of His message, stewards of His gifts, living generously the lives He has given us.

As we worship the Christ Child this Christmas season and hear again the wonderful chain of events God put in motion to fulfill Scripture, let us be prepared to be used by Him as His ongoing plan for the salvation of all people.

Together in Christ,

Pastor Kruiger

Sharing, Believing, Living, Caring

OFFERINGS

As of 11/17/2013

Weekly need to meet budget	\$ 3,322.00
Given year-to-date	\$128,314.49
Budget year-to-date	\$152,812.00

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SPECIAL FUNDS CONTRIBUTORS

Stained Glass Window Fund

Gary & Alice Koerth in memory of Alice's mother,
Kate Riesterer

Upcoming Special Services

Midweek Advent Services

December 4, December 11, December 18
7:00 p.m.



Children's Christmas Service

December 15
9:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight

December 24
4:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship

December 25
9:00 a.m. with Communion



New Year's Eve Worship

December 31
5:30 p.m. with Communion

No Worship New Year's Day



Children's Christmas Service Sunday, December 15 - 9:00 a.m.

Children's service reminders:

- No pictures are to be taken during the service.
- Be respectful when children are reciting their parts.
- REMEMBER - this is a *Worship* service in which the children are sharing the message of Christ's birth with you.



KINGDOM WORKERS · DECEMBER

The following members are listed as Kingdom workers for December in the following areas:

Ushers (Wednesdays): Steve Juno, Lon Fels
(Sundays):

Altar Guild: Janet Kalies, Donna Foytik, Michelle Schleis

Acolytes: Dec. 1st: Grant (light 1 blue)
4th: (Wed.) Gunner/Parker (light 1 blue)
8th: Savannah (light 2 blue)
11th: (Wed.) Dominik (light 2 blue)
15th: Tanner (light 3 blue)
18th: (Wed.) Kortney (light 3 blue)
22nd: Zach (light 4 blue)
24th: (4 p.m.) – Ian (light entire wreath)
(8 p.m.) – Emily (light entire wreath)
25th: Grant (light entire wreath)
29th: Gunner/Parker (light entire wreath)
31st: (5:30 p.m.) Savannah (light entire wreath)

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Monthly Newsletters

As a reminder, beginning last month with the November newsletter and calendar we stopped placing copies in members' mailboxes. For any members with email addresses on file, an email will be sent when the newsletter and calendar are available on the church website for you to view.

If you have had an email address change within the past year, please make sure to provide the church office with the updated address. If you have a work or alternate email you would like us to include, please be sure to pass it along as well.

For those members who do not have an email address or would prefer a hard copy, a limited number will be printed.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A BLESSED NEW YEAR

"O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
O, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!"

(LSB #361 v. 4)



We pray that you joyfully hear and receive the glad tidings proclaimed by the angels – that the Savior has come. That Child, that Savior, is Immanuel – God with us. May He abide with you always in faith.

Have a Blessed Christmas!
Pastor, Kris, & Michelle

The Greatest Gift

By Marilyn Krause
Owner of Oshkosh Church Supply

On the day after Christmas, while adding up the cost,
I was finally convinced more than money was lost.
I had a serious problem needing contemplation,
Because something was missing from my celebration.

Christmas seemed very empty and it made me feel down,
So I decided to search, 'til what's missing was found.
I had cookies and stockings, and a beautiful tree,
Yet I yearned for what I lacked, but just what could it be?

It wasn't in the garlands or the music so glad,
Nor was it in the presents or the cards that I had.
Did somebody that I know fail to show me good cheer?
Or perhaps I didn't like what I saw in the mirror!

Did I feel sad when I thought of my loved ones now gone?
Or was it just the concert that lasted way too long!
Still on a quest for answers, my next thought was to look
At an old Christmas legend, the story in God's book.

First, I read what the angels told the shepherds that night.
It was not about Santa or dazzling Christmas lights.
No, they told of a manger where a poor infant lay.
And made a promise of peace on the first Christmas Day.

Then, I learned that the baby was God's own precious Son,
And because He so loved me, my salvation is won.
Jesus led a perfect life and kept the law for me.
Then He paid for all my sins by dying on a tree.

I was once wrapped in darkness, but now my life is new,
Because Christ has assured me He knows what pain is too.
I believe He is my Lord, Redeemer, and dear Friend.
His forgiveness grants me peace, and a life without end.

I'm glad that my next Christmas won't be a time of loss.
I knew my search was over when I knelt at the cross.
By grace I have a Savior and a home up above.
The Christ-child, born of Mary, is God's great gift of LOVE.



CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR JESUS

The Greatest Gift that has been given is
Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, born in
Bethlehem's manger. In response to that
Gift from our heavenly Father, the Wise
Men presented Him with special gifts of
gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

You have also been presented with this
most wonderful Gift. This is a gift that
keeps on giving, even after giving His all
on the cross.

How will you respond? Will you respond
by giving a gift befitting a king?

Every family of the congregation is
encouraged to present a **special and extra**
monetary *Christmas gift to Jesus* that will
be used to carry out the Lord's work in this
place. A gift-wrapped box will be placed
under the Christmas tree in church to
receive our gifts. Put your monetary gift in
an envelope with your name on it, seal it,
then bring it to church on December 22, 24,
25, 29, or 31, and place it in the box under
the Christmas tree.

Don't forget Jesus on your gift-giving list!





THE *Bright Star* OF BETHLEHEM

An Advent Series of Services

See the birthplace of Christ in a whole new way this Advent season. Each week you will learn more about the little town where Jesus was born so long ago, and what Jesus, who is the Bright Star of Bethlehem, reveals to us even today.

- *Wednesday, Dec. 4* - Jesus comes to Bethlehem to be born a star - the Star of Creation, and the ruler over heaven and earth. His presence brings light to the world, which is his creation. We were created in his image to shine forth with his love into the dark streets of our own cities and towns.
- *Wednesday, Dec. 11* - Jesus comes to Bethlehem to be the Star of Hope to a people long forsaken. The fears of all the years are washed away by the sure hope of his salvation, which we are blessed to share with the lonely and the least among us.
- *Wednesday, Dec. 18* - Jesus comes to Bethlehem to shine as the Star of Unity, bringing together a land and people long divided. Through his birth, walls of hostility, both physical and figurative, can be torn down and people can live in harmony with one another again.
- *Sunday, Dec. 22* - Jesus comes to Bethlehem to enlighten the world as the Star of Joy. The great glad tidings he has to tell bring a smile to our faces as we radiate to others his good gifts of forgiveness, freedom from death and everlasting life.
- *Tuesday, Dec. 24* - Celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Bright Star of Bethlehem, in this candlelight service for Christmas Eve. This service is a culmination of the Bright Star of Bethlehem series, bringing to light through word and song that the baby born in the little town of Bethlehem is the very glory of God incarnate, come to save us all..
- *Wednesday, Dec. 25* - Celebrate the birth Jesus Christ, the Bright Star of Bethlehem, in this service for Christmas Day. This service rounds out the Bright Star of Bethlehem series, bringing to light that we are called to be little stars in our own cities and towns, reflecting the light of Jesus, the Bright Star of Bethlehem, born to bring us salvation.

Other Upcoming Services

Sunday, December 1 – “The Prophet Zephaniah and a Vision of Joy in Sorrow” (Zephaniah 3:14-20)

Sunday, December 8 – “The Apostle Paul and a Vision of the New Creation” (2 Corinthians 5:14-6:2)

Sunday, December 15 – Children’s Christmas Service

Sunday, December 29 – “The Voice of an Angel and Great Joy for All People” (Luke 2:1-20)

Tuesday, December 31 – “The Eternal Date Line” (Romans 8:31-39)

Living Generously

The purpose of this newsletter is to share God's Word so that our members will better understand who we are to be and what we are to do in the light of the Scriptures. It is our hope that this monthly publication will help you grow in your relationship with the Lord and as a Christian steward.

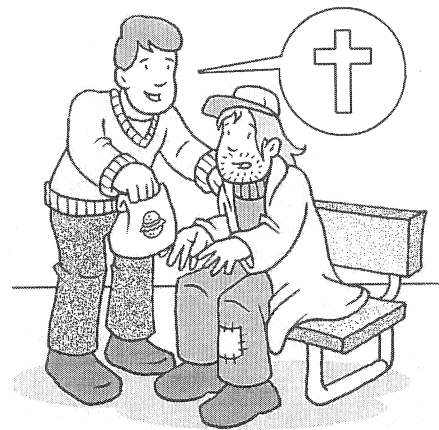
Witnessing for Jesus

Elizabeth Elliot, missionary and writer, experienced firsthand the sustaining love of God. On January 6, 1956, her husband, Jim flew into the jungle of Ecuador with pilot Nate Saint and three other missionaries to make contact with a small tribe called the Aucas. They set up a camp on a beach by the river and waited up for an opportunity to meet these primitive people and share the Gospel with them. They established contact and seemed to gain the trust of the Aucas, but two days later the natives speared all five men to death.

How did the families of these missionaries react? Were they filled with hatred and revenge? Did they lose faith in God as their shield and defender? No! They continued to look for opportunities to reach out to the Aucas. Two years later, Elizabeth Elliott and her young daughter Valerie, along with Rachel Saint, the sister of Nate Saint, went into the jungles of Ecuador to begin the work of evangelizing the Aucas. Two of the Aucas who participated in the killing of the missionaries later became leaders in the Auca Christian Church. A few years later, during a visit with their Aunt Rachel, Kathy and Steven, the children of Nate and Marjorie Saint, were baptized

by Auca Christians at the same spot in the river where their father had been speared to death! (*The Goal of the Gospel* by Philip Bickel and Robert Nordlie)

Elizabeth and Rachel courageously carried on the mission work that Jim and Nate began and for which they gave their lives. May God grant us the passion to spread the Gospel. As we witness to others, we know that Jesus will always be with us as we obey His Great Commission.



When you die, God won't ask:

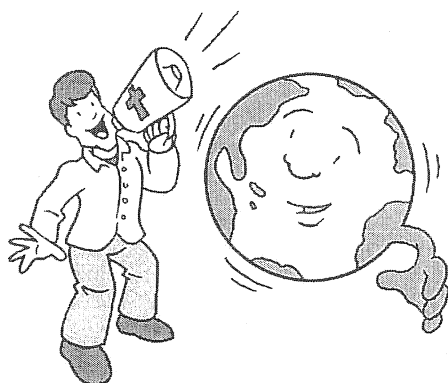
1. God won't ask what kind of car you drove: He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.
2. God won't ask the square footage of your house: He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.
3. God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet: He'll ask how many you helped to clothe.
4. God won't ask what your highest salary was: He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.

5. God won't ask what your job title was: He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.

Let your light shine

The Bible says, *"Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven"* (Matthew 5:16). The question we have to ask is, "How clearly and how brightly are we reflecting Christ in our lives?" There are lots of things that diminish our reflections. Willful disobedience to God's will, unconfessed sin in our lives, grudges and anger, grief, and guilt diminish and tarnish our reflections. God designed us to be reflections of Him. What is happening in our lives, in our hearts, in our minds, and in our actions affects the brightness of the reflections.

Go tell the world Jesus died for all!



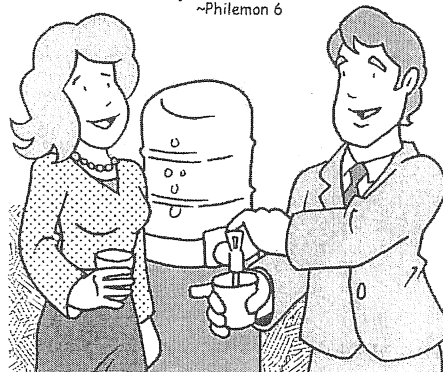
God wants us to be His light, so others will be drawn not to us, but to Jesus, the *"light of the world"* (John 8:12). The depth of our own relationships with God matters a lot when it comes to letting His light shine!

Through that relationship, these words from Paul begin to come to life: *"And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His*

likeness with ever increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, Who is the Spirit" (2 Corinthians 3:18)."

We busy ourselves with a lot of activities, things that are important to us, and rightly so. We are going to be investing our time and energy in many things, yet each of us needs to ask, "How much am I investing in the lives of others?"

"Be active in sharing
your faith."
~Philemon 6



Do you know someone who is struggling in his faith or has no relationship at all with Jesus? One of the most valuable things you could do is to strengthen your relationship with Christ and strengthen your relationship with that person. Ask God to give you a heart of compassion for that person and to help you be a reflection of Jesus that can turn him toward Jesus.

Of all the things we could invest ourselves in, of all the things we could exchange our time or energy for, there is nothing more valuable than investing in people to help them know Jesus Christ. It's an investment that lasts forever. When we reflect God's light to others, we live out the Great Commission.

Blessings as you Live Generously!

*The Word Became Flesh
and Dwelt among Us*



ADVENT DEVOTIONS

From Lutheran Hour Ministries

In *The Word Became Flesh*, Rev. Wayne Palmer mines the Gospel of John for its wealth on the Savior's life. Typically, when we celebrate Jesus' birth, we think about Gabriel's announcement to Mary; Joseph and Mary's trek to Bethlehem and Jesus' lowly birth; the angels' joyous proclamation to the shepherds; and the wise men visiting the King of the Jews from a far, according to Palmer.

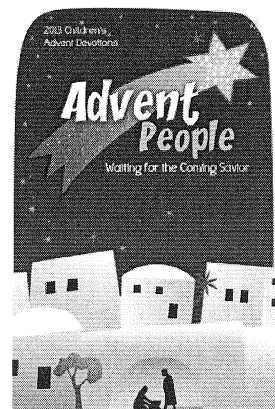
Per John's narrative strategy, however, Christ's birth is rendered "from a different point of view," Palmer said. In the fourth Gospel we are immediately informed of Jesus' divinity, His creative power, and His timelessness. Spoken of as the One

heralded in the Old Testament, in John's Gospel and writings Jesus is referred to as the One who has become flesh and dwelt among us.

Advent People: Waiting for the Coming Savior is a **meditation for young people**.

Here Pastor Lonie Eatherton illuminates a procession of Old Testament characters such as Adam, the sons of Noah, Deborah, David, Daniel, and more, all the way to Zechariah. He chronicles their march through the centuries, awaiting the Branch of Jesse, the promised Messiah, the Babe of Bethlehem.

A four-verse poem and a prayer of gratitude complement each day's Scripture reading. Each component highlights the Old Testament person, who trusted in God he or she looked to the fulfillment of His promises. "I thought it would be cool for to see with each passing Advent day, a timeline that grew closer and closer to the of Jesus' birth," Eatherton said.



as
kids
time

A Spanish language Advent Devotion is also available.

Read, listen, e-mail, or print at www.adventdevotions.net. You can also find a link to the devotions on our church website – www.stbartbrillion.org.



from JoyfulNoiseLetter.com
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane

The gift of generosity

This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported St. Bartholomew this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead. If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings or if you plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to look into our electronic giving options.

As the pace of life speeds up, especially around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions. Visit the church office for more information.



October 8, 2013

St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church
Rev. Mark Krueger
105 Horn St.
Brillion, WI 54110-1506

Dear Pastor Krueger,

Thank you so much for your \$600.00 contribution received on 10/3/2013. We really appreciate your willingness to support the charity work we do at LEAVEN.

Much like those using a hospital emergency room, our clients are in need of immediate short-term help to get them through a crisis. Often though, short-term help is just not enough. For those clients, we are pleased to be able to enroll them in the collaborative High Risk Prevention Program. Clients work one-on-one with a skilled social worker to develop plans and receive needed coaching on achieving their goal of increased self-sufficiency.

Today, as never before, we are helping so many families who face real emergencies or tragedies that they cannot deal with alone. Thanks to the generous support from you and others in our community, LEAVEN can continue to make a real difference in the lives of people in need.

NEW! You may now make donations online at www.leavenfoxcities.org. You may also set up a recurring gift using a credit card or ACH withdrawal. Or visit our website to purchase tickets to our upcoming events.

If you would like to receive an annual detailed end of year thank you letter in lieu of each individual gift, please email our development office at kim.obrien@leavenfoxcities.org or call 738-9635. This would help LEAVEN save on postage and paper for mailings throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Mary Parsons
Mary Parsons
Executive Director

*Thank you for your
financial and prayerful
support of our mission.*

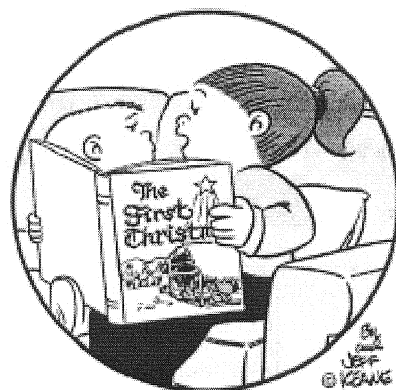
P.S. The Internal Revenue Service requires us to acknowledge that LEAVEN has not provided you with goods or services in exchange for this contribution. Please retain this letter for your records. It is an important document necessary for any available Federal income tax deduction for this contribution.

The LEAVEN board oversees the LEAVEN Endowments. To maintain annual distributions, certain market conditions may require use of corpus.

1475 Opportunity Way • Menasha, WI 54952 • Phone: 920-738-9635 • Fax: 920-738-9627
www.leavenfoxcities.org

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bill and Jeff Keane



"Then the three wise men came to baby-sit Jesus so Mary and Joseph could finish Christmas shopping."

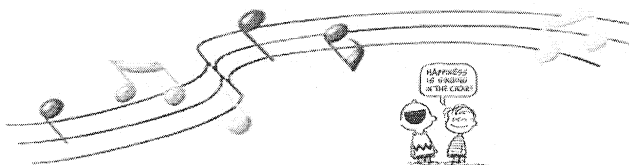
from *Joyful Noise* letter.com
Reprinted with permission of Bill Keane



CHOIR NEWS

The choir year is off to a good start. We have about 12 members, more are welcome. We rehearse Sunday mornings at 8:15 a.m. We work on one song at a time, so if you're thinking of joining, come and sing a song with us. Practice cd's are available for each song, so you can practice at home or even in your car. From time to time we have a men's choir that sings as well. We will be starting our Christmas song soon. Check the bulletin board for sign up sheets. If you have any questions, contact:

Lois Stache
920-418-3927
mrsbruce@frontier.com



With Heartfelt Gratitude

A thank you to all who offered prayers on my behalf during my recent cancer treatment. I am most grateful to each of you for your concern. God Bless you all!

Yours in Christ,
Joan Zutz

Annual Report Items are due January 1, 2013

Reports will be needed from the following
Boards/Committees:

Board of Elders
Board of Stewardship/Evangelism
Board of Trustees
Board of Christian Education
Tree Committee
Altar Guild
Ladies Aid
Youth Group
Sunday School

Thank you for your assistance.

2013 FLOWER CHART

If you would like to donate flowers for the altar during the year, be sure to sign up on the bulletin board. If you are placing an arrangement for a special occasion, in memory of someone, etc. please be sure to indicate that on the sign-up sheet.

BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board for anyone wishing to sponsor bulletins for the year. Cost is \$10.

When signing up, please indicate if it is for a special occasion, in memory of someone, etc.

Put your sponsorship money in an envelope with your name, mark it for bulletins and put it in the collection plate.



On December 7th at 9:00 a.m. we will be putting up the outdoor Nativity display as well as decorating the church and Christmas trees. Please join us in preparing the church for the holiday season!

A big thank you to everyone who helped work at the Dairy Queen for Family Fun Night, to all who supported it by stopping by & eating or helped in any other way. By "Living Generously", we can support our church in many different ways.



Christmas Tree Sales



Don't forget to stop by the tree lot to purchase your Christmas tree. Lot hours are as follows:

Monday-Friday	3-6 p.m.
Saturdays	9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sundays	Noon-6 p.m.

This year's proceeds will be going to "Food for the Poor" to build a house in a Caribbean or Latin American country.

There are still a few dates open to sell trees. Please check the chart on the bulletin board.

COMING SOON! Christmas Cookie Walk, December 7, 10 am-2pm (or until cookies are gone). Walk around the tables and select the cookies of your choice. \$3.50/doz. Sponsored by Ladies Aid with proceeds going to the Camel Repair Fund.



In addition **cookie bakers** - Please have your homemade Xmas cookies at church by **Friday, Dec. 6 by 4:00 p.m.** for the Cookie Walk. Also, please include a note with the type of cookies you are dropping off.



NEEDED – Lay Readers

Any confirmed member who is interested in being a lay reader during a worship service, please contact Pastor Krueger. Thank you for your consideration!

Worship Service Cancellation

In the event of bad winter weather conditions, please tune into radio station Y100 100.3 FM for any worship service cancellation.

Members will also be notified via email, so if you had a recent email change, please make sure the church office knows about it.

Christmas Eve

It's Christmas Eve, at last.
The children are finally fast
asleep and I look around the
house.
The presents are under the tree.
The turkey is ready to bake.
The pies, all three
are cooling on the shelf.
Tomorrow will be a busy day.
I should go to bed myself
but here I stand instead
so full of love and joy.
Thank you, dear God, thank you
for your new-born baby boy.

—Marjorie Spalsbury

(Marjorie Spalsbury, the author of
Gentle Hills, is the mother of Jeff R.
Spalsbury of Visalia, CA, author of
Merry Christmas Stories.)

NEW WEBSITE



Thank you for your patience as we developed the new church website this fall. It is now up and running. However, we do have a new website address: www.stbartbrillion.org. Please take some time to visit the site and provide us with your feedback and/or suggestions.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

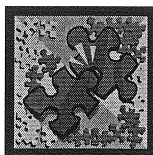
Will be held on January 5, 2014.
Also mark your new 2014 calendars,
Youth Sunday will be on February 23rd.

CHURCH COUNCIL/BOARD MEMBER RETREAT

Don't Forget! All elected and appointed Council members and Board members are reminded to mark their calendars for Sunday, January 19. That is the date of our Board Retreat. We will meet in the fellowship hall at 10:15 a.m. It is planned that we will be done by noon. This retreat will give us an opportunity to take a look at our new mission statement and to do some joint planning.

PUZZLES

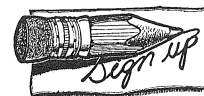
We have many puzzles available for you to pick up and put together. When finished, just bring them back to share with others. If you have puzzles at home that you would like to donate to the church's collection, feel free.



Puzzles are located in the last room of the Sunday school wing.

ADVENT MEALS 2013

We are still need of a host for the last Advent Meal. If you are interested, please sign up on the bulletin board. The dates for the meals are December 4, 11, & 18. The sign-up sheets with the menu for the December 4 & 11 meals are posted on the bulletin board. Cost is \$3/person. Children K & under and the confirmation students eat free. Please join us for this fellowship before the Midweek Advent service.



Chaplaincy Ministry for Health Care Centers

Rev. Tom Fleischmann, Chaplain

October 29, 2013

Dear Members of St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your congregation's support in sharing the work being done among God's people by the Chaplaincy Ministry. I want to thank you for your generous mission gifts of \$27.00 [5/14/13] \$30.75 [9/10/13] and \$26.00 [10/15/13] for this ministry.



Bringing the GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ to our elderly, infirmed and developmentally disabled is a welcome partnership with your congregation's mission outreach. Please continue to pray for Chaplaincy Board of Directors, residents and me that this vital mission to our nursing homes and assisted living centers continue in the days and years ahead. We thank you and will pray for the work that you do at St. Bartholomew's for HIS Kingdom. Please forgive me for not sending this sooner.

St. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 1:4, "I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus."

Again, thank you and God's blessings in the days ahead.

In His Service,

Pastor Tom

Rev. Tom Fleischmann

P.O. Box 351 - Plymouth, WI 53073
[920]892-2211 Home - [920]912-0016 Cell
www.WhenIWasInNeed.org

By God's Grace Serving Others for 41 years! 1972 -2013

C.H.A.O.S. Youth Group News

We will be having a brat fry on Saturday, December 21st from 10 a.m-2 p.m. We will be serving Brats & hamburgers for \$2 each along with plenty of free smiles ☺. We will be offering drive thru or you may come inside to order. Just follow the signs and arrows...



Looking for a great way to spread some Christmas cheer? Come and join us on Sunday, December 22nd at 6:30 p.m. for Christmas caroling. Everyone is welcome!!

There will be **NO** meeting in December. Hope to see all the youth in the New Year. Remember we meet on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Come & join the fun!!

St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church
Voters Meeting
Oct. 27, 2013, @ 10:05 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by President, Gary Koerth. Pastor led the opening prayer.

Members present = 42

Secretary Minutes: - Motion to approve was made by Debra Koerth. - Second by Debbie Kamps. – MC

Membership Gains and Losses:

Transfer out:

- Jeffery Krueger to Zion, Omaha, NE

Membership in:

- Profession of Faith:
 - Tracy Hurda & daughter Ashlynn
 - Todd & Renee Maeder
- Adult Confirmation:
 - Jacob, Collin & Hannah Maeder

Motion made to accept: Made by Faith Sonnabend – 2nd by Joel Koerth - MC

Treasurer's Report: At the End of Sept. (-17,465.82) We continue to borrow from ourselves to make payments. As of today we are at (-19,248.44) - Payroll and Insurance still need to be paid this month. – we still have Today's offering to be counted. Balance of Loan from members yet to be paid back is \$ 68,812.00 - we have paid the principal of \$8,853 and interest of \$1,942.81 back to members this month - File for audit.

Board Reports:

Elders (Ron Detert)

1. January – will be having a Board Member Retreat - to review with all members our mission statement and to make sure that everyone knows what is going on with the church.
2. Mission Statement – Review
3. Service involvement – was expressed that any member that would like to participate should sign up on the bulletin board.
4. Board has been working on the Salary package for Pastor and church Secretary.

Christian Ed. – No Report given –

Stewardship/Evangelism (Faith Sonnabend) –

1. Parade items – we have about ½ left – said that the fly swatters were a big hit. Need more people to join in the fun next year. Need to come up with an idea for a New Float – Ideas??? Let committee know.
2. Six new residents have moved into the Brillion Area – letters have been mailed to them inviting them to come to our church
3. Lutheran Digest – New Fall Edition have been distributed within the community.
4. Dairy Queen work night will be Nov. 12th - we will be looking for people to help work – Greeters, Servers and people to help clean up tables- looking for 1 hour shifts. Please sign up to help! Sunday School Children are encouraged to make posters. Time schedule is one hour shifts between the hours of 4-7 pm. We will not do any of the cooking, just helping where needed.
3. Giving Generously – Nov. 10 Members will receive something as they come to church.

Nov. 17th – Ice Cream Treats will be served.

Trustees (Scott Eickert)

1. Window Treatments – still looking at more options – We were going with Lowe's but each time we called them they would have an additional charge.
2. Phone bill – after looking at the bills we can reduce the phone bill due to charges for a third line which are not needed. This line has now been removed. Savings is about \$100/month or \$1200/year.
3. All projects have been put on hold for now until we get our finances are in better condition.
4. Air Conditioning units have been working great – was a great investment.

Pastors Report:

1. Membership – April's voters meeting:
361 Baptized members 297 Confirmed Members
Today's Membership:
370 Baptized members 309 Confirmed Members
Gains were:
7 via Confirmation – 3 Adult Confirmation – <1 Transfer out – 3 Baptisms
2. Attendance at Worship:
Last year Average: Wed. nights = 50 Sunday's = 95 = 38% of members attending
This year Average: Wed. nights = 51 Sunday's = 83 = 36% of members attending
National Average of people attending church on a regular basis is 36% - so we were above average until this year.
3. Lutheran Malaria Initiative: our goal was \$1500 – Final Total = \$1,781
4. Camp Lu-Wis-O-Mo is looking for funds to help their mission - letter was received asking for support.
Asking each church in the synod to help them with \$1,000 to \$2,000 per year.
5. Adopt-A-Tot and Food & More – we will be doing again this year – watch for more details in the coming weeks.
6. Thanksgiving service will be held at 7:00 PM on Nov. 27th.
7. Advent Service starts: Dec. 4th
8. Dec. 7th at 9:00 AM – Church decorating – asked for more people to help if they can.

Old Business:

New Business:

1. Election of officers:
President: Gary Koerth
Vice President: Joel Koerth
Treasurer: Debbie Kamps
Council Secretary: Renee Maeder
Elders: Rich McWilliams – Tim Pope
Financial Secretary: Linda Streck
Trustee: Craig Scharbarth
Stewardship/Evangelism: - Open – Looking for people who would like to serve.
Board of Christian Education: Open – Looking for people who would like to serve.
Motion made by Debra Koerth to close nominations.
Motion was made by Bud Zeamer – to approve this slate of officers 2nd by Scott Eickert MC
2. 2014 Budget – Discussion
- Window project
- Phone Bill – we are saving some funds with going to 2 lines – Question if internet phone service has been checked into. (Vonage was the service mentioned) we will need to look into that service and see what it is all about.

- Mission Percentage: Proposed was 14.68% - Motion was made by Renee Maeder to change Mission Percentage back to 14.5% - 2nd by Scott Eickert – MC
 - Renee Maeder then adjusted her motion to state that that the reduction of funds should come from The District Missions part of the Mission Category – 2nd by Scott Eickert – MC
- Motion was made by Ralph Haberland to approve the budget after these changes were made.
- 2nd by Scott Eickert – MC
- Budget amount approved \$170,786.00 Total

3. Mission Statement: two options were handed out – they are:

A – The Mission of St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church is to be faithful, loving and a caring family of God, welcoming all people....proclaiming the gospel of God's love and salvation to the world...administering the sacrament...studying the word of God (The Holy Bible) and praising Him through worship...witnessing and living our faith...sharing benevolently...serving human needs...planting seeds for growing the Kingdom of God with the help of the Holy Spirit.

B. The Mission of St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church is:

Sharing the Good News of salvation with others (Matt. 28:19)
 Believing in Jesus as our Savior (John 3:16)
 Living our faith in what we say and do (James 2:18)
 Caring for those in need (1 Peter 3:15; Mark 10:45; Eph. 4:28; 1 John 3:17)

- **Sharing, Believing, Living and Caring**

Discussion - Our church has never had a Mission Statement in the past. Several congregations do have a Mission Statement and the Elders thought that it would be a good thing to have - something that we could Print / have on our website, maybe have on our church float. Elders and the Church Council recommend – Mission Statement B.

Debra Koerth made a motion to except Mission Statement B – 2nd by Faith Sonnabend. – MC

4. Stained Glass Window – Committee of Faith Sonnabend and Connie Koerth. Pastor is also assisting with this group. After looking at several churches, and getting quotes – it was determined to go with one of our former members to do the work. His quote is \$9600.00 – (which was the most reasonable quote) Each window would be done – top and bottom panel – this is not a budget item because ½ of the funds are raised and the other ½ we have a donation for. Discussion – about time frame – designs – colors were all expressed. Recommended that the committee set a deadline – so that more discussion could be considered. Motion was made by Renee Maeder to give the Stain Glass Window Committee the authority to make the decisions needed to get this project completed. – 2nd by Rick Riemer – MC

5. By Law – Article XV – Financial Secretary: - this is a notice that we brought up for a vote at the January Voters Meeting – review and discussion.

Currently states:

The congregation shall elect for a term of one year, a financial secretary who shall be eligible for re-election for not more than two consecutive years.

Proposed:

The Church Council, with the approval of the voters, shall appoint a financial secretary

Article V – Term of Officers

Currently states:

The term of office of all officers who do not serve upon boards shall be for one year, eligible for re-election for not more that two consecutive years, except for the office of the treasurer, whose term of office may be

extended upon approval by the voters.

Proposed:

The term of office of all officers who do not serve upon boards shall be for one year, eligible for re-election for not more than two consecutive years, except for the office of the treasurer and the financial secretary, whose terms of office may be extended upon approval by the voters.

6. Synod Amendments: discussion with Pastor on what this might mean or lead to – Pastor said that he was voting NO – we need to do a hand vote and count. These numbers must be sent back to the Synod Office. Below is a copy of the proposed Constitutional Amendment.

- Constitutional Amendment –

Resolution 7-02A, "To Return to Use of Title "Circuit Visitor" received the required two-thirds vote during Session 4 of the 2013 convention [Yes: 704; No: 25]. It amended Article XII by changing "circuit counselors" to "circuit visitors" in two paragraphs.

Present/Proposed Wording

- Article XII Districts of the Synod and Their Regulation

3. The officers of the districts are:

- a. A district president
- b. District vice-president as the Bylaws prescribe
- c. As many circuit ~~counselors~~ visitors as each district may determine upon
- d. A district secretary
- e. A district treasurer, who may be elected by the district convention or appointed in such manner as the district may prescribe

7. The district presidents shall, moreover, especially exercise supervision over the doctrine, life and administration of office of the ordained and commissioned minister of their district and acquaint themselves with the religious conditions of the congregations of their district. To this end, they shall visit and, according as they deem it necessary hold investigations in the congregations. Their assistants in this work are the circuit ~~counselors~~ visitors, who therefore shall regularly make their reports to the district president.

After a Hand Vote – it was unanimous that our Congregation will be voting NO – not to make the change.

Next Meeting: will be Jan. 2014

Adjourn at 11:16 AM – Motion made by Faith Sonnebend – 2nd by Scott Eickert – MC

Pastor let in a closing prayer

Loriann Fels
Council Secretary

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



2 nd	Ashlynn Chupita	19 th	Rich Gustafson
2 nd	Jean Peter	20 th	Laurie Behnke
3 rd	Tom Irish	20 th	Millie Behnke
3 rd	Rebekah Krahn	20 th	Lillian Maas
3 rd	Elyssa Schleis	21 st	Sharon Urban
5 th	John Moede	21 st	Emily Wyngaard
7 th	Alice Koerth	22 nd	Steve Plate
7 th	Levi Peter	25 th	Kyle Kittel
8 th	Melissa Pope	26 th	Isaac Graf
11 th	Dan Vechart	26 th	Bonnie Smith
12 th	Dave Eichhorst	27 th	Mark Evel
13 th	Jules Clausing	27 th	Gary Woldt
15 th	Kurt Propson	28 th	Kasie Bailke
15 th	Richard Schwan	28 th	Rich McWilliams
17 th	Mark Wittman	29 th	Jerry Urban
18 th	Carol Clausing	30 th	Krystal Klepps
18 th	Ashlynn Hurda	30 th	Jon Zeamer

ANNIVERSARIES



4 th	Rick & Terri Riemer
17 th	David & Diane Buboltz
17 th	Mark & Jan Wittman
18 th	David & Brigitte Sonnabend
29 th	David & Robin Eichhorst

Please forgive us and politely notify us if an anniversary or birthday is missing from the list. Thank you.



SHARING, BELIEVING LIVING AND CARING

At the Voters Meeting October 27th, a new mission statement was voted on and approved by St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church members. The mission is as follows:

Sharing the Good News of salvation with others
(Matt. 28:19)

Believing in Jesus as our Savior (John 3:16)

Living our faith in what we say and do (James 2:18)

Caring for those in need (1 Peter 3:15; Mark 10:45; Eph. 4:28; 1 John 3:17)

SHARING, BELIEVING LIVING AND CARING

OCTOBER SCRIP TOTALS

CARD NAME	TOTAL	PROFIT
AEROPOSTALE	0	0
BP	1300	19.5
EXON	50	.75
KWIK TRIP	1100	44
KOHLS	400	16
PIGGLY WIGGLY	400	12
SHOPKO	200	4
WALMART	650	13
APPLEBEES	0	0
COBBLESTONE	245	12.25
DAIRY QUEEN	15	3.75
MAC DONALDS	0	0
PIZZA HUT	20	1.6
RANDY'S	30	3
RL/OG	25	2.25
RED ROBIN	50	4.5
SUBWAY	110	11
COPPS	500	20
ECONO FOODS	3725	111.75
FESTIVAL	150	3
FLEET FARM	100	5
MENARDS	50	2
SCHROTH	30	1.5
WOODMANS	300	6
JC PENNEY	125	6.25
MARRIOTT	0	0
HOME DEPOT	100	5
BUILD A BEAR	0	0
BATH & BODY	50	6.5
REGAL	0	0
WENDYS	0	0
I TUNES	50	2.5
BED, BATH, BEYOND	0	0
BARNES & NOBLE	0	0
OLD NAVY	0	0
GANDER MTN	25	2
ARBY'S	0	0
6 FLAG	0	0
VISA	925	18.5
TOTALS	10725	337.6

Thank you to everyone who has purchased Scrip over the past year.