



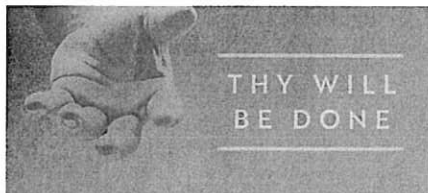
ST. BARTHOLOMEW NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2018



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

GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!



"THY WILL BE DONE"

Lenten Series

Wednesdays @ 7 p.m.

"Not as I will, but as you will," Jesus prayed to His Father the night before He went to the cross for our salvation. And that is our prayer as well this Lent as we seek to do God's will in our lives, as we draw near to the observance of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection during Holy Week. Each service in this series will focus on a different aspect of God's will at work among us. Biblical characters will give us insightful reference points as they guide us in following our Lord more nearly day by day.

GOD'S WILL AND GOD'S PROMISE

Ash Wednesday – February 14 - By faith, Abraham trusted the will of God when he promised that a son would be born to him. God's will was done when that son, Isaac, was born, and God's will was done when His Son, Jesus, came into the world to redeem His people.

GOD'S WILL AND MY INADEQUACY

February 21 - At first, Moses didn't think he could free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. But God gave him confidence to set his people free. In Lent we remember that God sent His Son to do His will and set all people free from the slavery of sin.

GOD'S WILL AND MY DREAMS

February 28 - Anointed by God to rule in Israel, King David followed God's will to shepherd his people, but often failed to live up to God's dream for him. We welcome the Good Shepherd into our lives who fulfills God's dream perfectly to gather His wandering sheep into the sheepfold of heaven.

GOD'S WILL AND MY IDENTITY

March 7 - In humility, Mary dutifully accepted the role God had given her to become the mother of our Savior. That Son would later accept His role, faithfully following the path His Father had in mind for Him to save us all.

GOD'S WILL AND MY WORLDVIEW

March 14 - On the road to Damascus, Paul had his worldview turned upside down when God called him to preach the name of the Christ he had been persecuting. We follow God's will by putting the crucified Christ at the center of our worldview.

GOD'S WILL AND MY RESPONSE

March 21 - Lydia followed the will of God by responding in faith and hospitality when the Gospel message of Christ's sacrifice was preached to her. We follow the will of God by responding in love and service to one another in return for what Christ has done for us.

I look forward to you worshipping on Wednesdays and Sundays throughout the season of Lent.

Together in Christ,

Pastor Krueger

Sharing, Believing, Living, Caring

FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

December 2017

Year-to-date Income:	\$184,163.44
Year-to-date Expenses:	\$173,372.67
Year-to-date Budget:	\$169,032.00

+ + +

SPECIAL FUNDS CONTRIBUTORS

Organ Fund

Mary Eickert, in memory of loved ones.

Chancel Light Fund

Pastor & Kris Krueger
Jim & Florence Behnke

KINGDOM WORKERS - FEBRUARY

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

Ushers (Wednesdays): Tony Wittmann, Leo Skattebo
(Sundays): Dwane Kalies, Craig Scharbarth

Altar Guild: Connie Koerth, Bonnie Smith

Acolytes: Feb. 4 - Amber
11 - Rachel
14 - (Ash Wed) Bailee
18 - Hilary
21 - (Wed) Meghan
25 - Ashley
28 - Spencer

Thank You

Dear St. Bartholomew
Church members,

Thank you for the
cards and prayers
while my father
was ill. It was
so much appreciated.

Lori Krueger

During a time
like this
we realize how much
our friends and relatives
really mean
to us

Your expression
of sympathy will always
be remembered

The Family of
Don Shuman

ST. BARTHOLOMEW MISSION STATEMENT

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



If you would like to have a prayer sent on the Prayer Chain, please contact any one of the Prayer Chain members:

Judy Baer	756-2696
Renee Bonick	(920) 296-9164
Sue Detert	756-3439
Ralph & Sandy Haberland	(920) 524-2016
Kris Krueger	756-3912
Jean Peter	(920) 875-0164
Faith Sonnabend	756-2779
Joan Zutz	756-2501

All requests will remain strictly confidential!

"Joy is not a requirement of Christian discipleship it is a consequence."



Again this year at our February 14th, Ash Wednesday service we will be incorporating the imposition of ashes. This ancient act is a gesture of repentance and a powerful reminder about the meaning of the day. The ashes remind us of our need for cleansing, scrubbing and purifying.

We are not forcing anyone to do this. Only those who wish to receive ashes will be asked to come forward during the service and may have the ashes placed on their forehead or on the back of their hand.

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.

Giving Is Healthy

A leading psychiatrist once said, "Generous people are rarely emotionally or mentally ill." Giving to God and others allows us the opportunity to forget about ourselves and focus on others. Peyton Conway March said, "There is a wonderful law of nature that the three things we crave most in life—happiness, freedom, and peace of mind—are always attained by giving them to someone else." Giving is not just a minor influence on good health, but the key to physical and mental well-being.

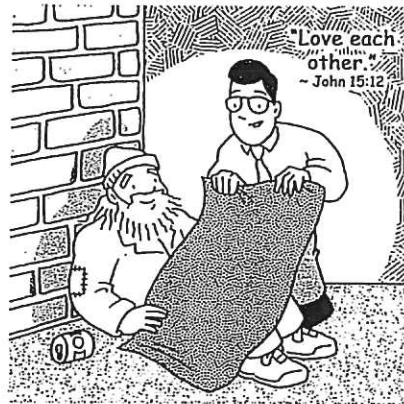
Love Prompts Action

In 1 John 4:19 we read, "*We love because He first loved us.*" Because God loved us so much that He would give His Son for us (John 3:16), we, too, can love. And just as Christ's love for us led Him to labor for us through His passion, His death, and His victorious resurrection, so we, too, are prompted by our love for Him and others to labor.

God expects that the love He "lavishes" on us will naturally flow out of us into others. Real love is evidenced by action, both in labors of love to fellow believers and to our neighbors as well (Galatians 6:10).

Christian stewardship should never consist of only occasional activities, but is rather a steady and increasing outflow that shares God's love in us with others. By grace, our giving, helping, and serving are joyful

expressions of gratitude motivated by love because of what God has given to us and done for us. The love of Jesus strengthened in us by the Holy Spirit, through Word and Sacrament, flows through us so we can show love to people around us.



The Ruse of the Teddy Bear

Most of the people at Chicago Children's Hospital did not know her name. They just knew her as the sweet, elderly lady in the vivid red suit who wanted to make sure that every sick child had a teddy bear to hug and caress. She kept bringing the stuffed animals, purchased with her own money, to give the sick children. That is why she was simply called "The Teddy Bear Lady."

Her name was Gladys Holm, a retired secretary for an insurance company, who lived alone in a tiny apartment. She lived modestly and frugally, and loved to save and invest—for the purpose of giving and helping people, especially children.

When she died at age 86, her will simply directed that the bulk of her estate be given to the Children's Memorial Hospital in the amount of \$18 million! No one had the slightest idea that the tall, happy woman delivering teddy bears to ailing children had

such wealth. As they began to piece together more of her life's story, they discovered something else. They learned that the gifts of teddy bears was really a ruse. She gave away teddy bears to learn more about the financial resources of the families of the children. When she learned that the parents did not have hospitalization or enough to cover medical expenses, she very quietly had taken care of their bills.

Can you visualize that? Just imagine! Fascinating! The teddy bears were only a ruse. Her real hunger was to find out more about needy people. It was love focused on others. This lady saved most of her income most of her life to help others. Jesus Christ did even more. He gave His own life, into death on the cross, to rescue us from eternal damnation. When we know the magnitude of His sacrificial love, we can become more unselfish, gladly caring and sharing.
(Adapted from Arizona Republic, 8/3/1997)



Full-time Stewards

Our lives as stewards do not start or stop at certain times of the day or days of the week or month. We are not stewards merely on Sundays or other special days. As stewards for Christ we are to be devoted to a full-time effort and commitment to serve the Lord with our lives and possessions. Stewardship involves our entire beings, our entire time, and our entire resources. We are to commit

all that we are, all that we have, and all that we will be to God's glory.

As stewards, we are in a partnership with God. First Corinthians 3:9 says, "*For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.*" As our senior partner, God provides everything we need to make life possible. We are given the responsibility to gather and manage what God has entrusted to us. God's gifts are to be used for the building up of the Church—in the words of 1 Corinthians 12:7, "*for the common good*"—along with the purpose of leading the lost to Christ. As stewards we are called to respond to God as our creator and owner and seek to fulfill God's purpose.

Not only does God call us His partners, He gives us the right to be called His children (John 1:12). He gives us the privileges and the duties of children. God loves, protects, and provides for us. It is our privilege as His children to be with, talk to, trust in, love, and obey our Father. God has been faithful to us; shall we not be faithful as good sons and stewards to Him? God gives our lives direction and purpose. As our Heavenly Father, He expects our obedience and faithfulness. "*Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy*" (1 Corinthians 4:2). We will be held accountable, we learn in Romans 14:12: "*So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.*"

As stewards, we are shaped and transformed by the Holy Spirit. God energizes and equips us for a life of service and stewardship. God does all and provides all things to make our lives of service possible. As we diligently and faithfully serve Him we will hear His words, "*Well done, good and faithful servant*" (Matthew 25:23).

Blessings as you Live Generously!

ANNUAL CHILI DINNER

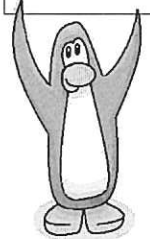
Ladies Aid is planning a Chili Dinner on February 25th. We will serve from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

So you can take out or eat here right after the church service. If you wish to take out, please bring your own container.



Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board if you would like to help purchase some of the necessary ingredients; or bake a pie for dessert.

Help Needed!



Ladies Aid is requesting your help with their annual chili dinner on February 25th.

With several of our members dealing with health issues, we could use some of you to give us a hand on Saturday, February 24th and Sunday February 25th.

Please sign up on the bulletin board if you can give an hour or two of your time either Saturday and/or Sunday morning, especially with serving. *Thank you!*



POSTAGE STAMP UPDATE:

The Ladies Aid once again has an outlet for used postage stamps. Please save your cancelled postage stamps for them. Just bring the whole corner of the envelope and they will do the trimming for you. Stamps can be placed in the box on top of the coat rack by the church mailboxes.

Silent Witnesses



Did you ever wish that you could have been there at Jesus' passion?

Imagine what it would be like:

- to hear the crowds shout "Hosanna!" as Jesus rode into Jerusalem
- to smell and taste the feast at the Pass-over
- to see Jesus carrying His cross to Golgotha
- to touch the nail-wounds in Jesus' hands when He rose from the dead

We cannot do that, but the men and women who were eyewitnesses of these events have left their testimony in the pages of the Gospels. John tells us, "These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31). But there were silent witnesses, too—objects, animals, and places that played a part during key moments of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection. We find them in the pages of the Gospels as well. Though they cannot speak, they can show us something of His love and mercy toward us.

Silent Witnesses is available to read online (www.lhm.org/lent) or as a podcast beginning February 14. It can also be received as an e-mail subscription throughout the Lenten season. A few copies are available on the table in the narthex.

**"All are from the dust,
and to dust all return."**

Ecclesiastes 3:20, ESV



A LOOK AHEAD AT HOLY WEEK

GOD'S WILL WHEN WE ARE NOT WILLING
Palm Sunday – March 25 - We are not always willing to do what God asks of us, but in His Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem, Christ reveals to us that even tough roads are worth traversing for the sake of the Kingdom.

GOD'S WILL AND JOYFUL SERVICE
Maundy Thursday – March 29 - Christ asks His disciples to wash one another's feet, as He washed theirs, a sign of their love for Him. Serving one another with joy is a tribute to Him who is the Servant of All.

GOD'S WILL IS DONE

Good Friday – March 30 - On the cross Christ followed through with the will of God, crying out, "It is finished" as He breathed His last. This ultimate sacrifice serves as a model as we offer our lives as a holy sacrifice to Him.

GOD'S WILL FOR THE NEW CREATION
Easter – April 1 - When Christ rose from the tomb, He opened the door to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. God's will for us as Easter people is to fix our eyes on the new creation, the perfect paradise prepared for us in heaven.

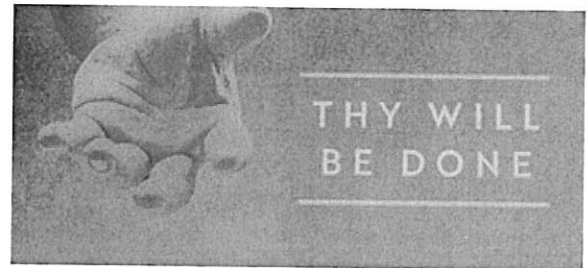
Because God First Loved Us

Each February, we celebrate Valentine's Day so we associate this month with love. Sharing valentines with loved ones is a wonderful way to express love to our family members and friends. As Christians, we know the occasion that marks the greatest gift of love is celebrated at Christmas when Jesus came into the world as a servant and took upon Himself our sin and the sins of the whole world. Jesus was willing to give up His Heavenly realm and glory to become one of us and then suffer and die for us.

The love of Jesus is far more wondrous than we can ever imagine. The Apostle Paul prayed that we would be filled with the Holy Spirit *"so that Christ may dwell in [our] hearts through faith—that [we], being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the*

saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that [we] may be filled with all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:17-19).

God loves us so much that He was willing to send His Son to suffer and die on our behalf. The Apostle John said it so well: *"We love because He first loved us"* (1 John 4:19). One of the best ways we can respond out of gratitude for that wondrous love is through our faithful stewardship. Stewardship is love in action. God's love for us prompts us to love others. The Holy Spirit opens our hearts and minds so we experience God's love and equips and makes us eager to show our love through our deeds and words.



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Beginning Sunday, February 11

What is God's will for my life? Perhaps God's will stands in sharp contrast to our dreams, ambitions, worldviews, and identities.

What is God's will for my life? Jesus gives us the answer: "For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:40).

This six week study during Lent helps us in our quest to seek God's will in all aspects of our lives, especially in terms of identity, our dreams for the future, our worldview, and our response to Christ the Crucified.

Join us on Sunday mornings at 8 a.m. and discover God's will for your life!

Words of Wisdom

Prayer is not a 'spare wheel' that you pull out when in trouble, but a 'steering wheel' that directs the right path throughout the journey."

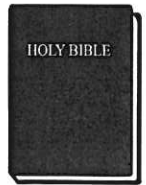
- "So why is a car's windshield so large and the rear-view mirror so small? Because our past is not as important as our future. So look ahead and move on."
- "Friendship is like a book. It takes a few minutes to burn, but it takes years to write."
- "All things in life are temporary. If going well, enjoy it; they will not last forever. If going wrong, don't worry; they can't last long, either."
- "Old friends are gold! New friends are diamonds! If you get a diamond, don't forget the gold! Because to hold a diamond, you always need a base of gold."
- "Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, God smiles from above and says, 'Relax, sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!'"
- "When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them, and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you."

—via George Goldtrap

True discipleship means emulating Jesus. Expect to be forgiving, honest and genuine, humble and kind to those in need, loving and helpful, and serving as Jesus served.



Bible Fact



Regular Bible readers report they are more satisfied with their lives than people who never read the Bible, according to a survey of 1,200 Americans commissioned by the American Bible Society. The poll also found that although 92% own a Bible, only 24% read it daily.



WORSHIP SERVICE CANCELLATION

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

Members will also be notified via email, so if you have a recent email change, please make sure the church office is aware of it.

Lenten Mission Project

MILITARY BIBLESTICKS

From February 14 thru April 1, we will be receiving funds to purchase Military BibleSticks for our troops at home and abroad.

\$25 sponsors one soldier and their family. The goal is to raise enough funds to supply at least 25 BibleSticks.



Your gift of \$5, \$25, \$100, or whatever amount can be put in an envelope marked "BibleStick" and placed in the offering plate or in the offering box found in the narthex. Please make checks payable to the church.

Help share the Good News with our troops!

December Scrip Totals

CARD NAME	TOTAL	PROFIT
Amazon	20	0.50
Bakkheia	25	1.25
Barnes & Noble	120	10.80
Bath & Body Works	40	5.20
BP	550	8.25
Buffalo Wild Wings	60	4.80
Cobblestone	150	7.50
Dairy Queen	96.00	19.20
Deer Run	25	2.50
Econo	4475.00	134.25
Exxon	400	40.00
Festival	775.00	23.25
Fleet Farm	450.00	22.50
Home Depot	160.00	11.20
Kohls	875.00	35.00
Kwik Trip	725.00	29.00
McDonalds	70.00	2.80
Menards	325	9.75
Michaels	25.00	1.00
Piggly Wiggly	200	6.00
Red Robin	75.00	6.75
REI	200	16.00
Shell	175.00	17.50
Shopko	1275.00	63.75
Starbucks	80	5.60
Subway	20	2.00
Target	25.00	0.62
VISA	1450.00	18.13
WalMart	845.00	21.13
Woodmans	200	10.00
TOTALS	13,911.00	535.60



2 nd	Cheryl Kittel	15 th	Nikara Curtis
3 rd	Judy Vechart	15 th	William Drumm III
4 th	Dianne Schmidt	15 th	Wally Sonnabend
6 th	Matt Irish	17 th	Zaylee Olm
6 th	Holly Schlender	18 th	Wilfred Boldt
11 th	Andrea Grenzer	21 st	Charity Plate
12 th	Terri Riemer	24 th	Denise Fallier
12 th	Leo Skattebo	27 th	Brett Wittman
13 th	Terry Zeamer	28 th	Justin Chupita
14 th	Carl Zutz		

(No Anniversaries this month)

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

ST. BARTHOLOMEW LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND

The St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church Endowment Fund has been set up within the Brillion Area Family of Funds which is administered and managed by the Community Foundation of the Fox Valley Region, Inc.

The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to build continuing financial support for areas of ministry that are not normally a part of our church budget.

Here is how you can make gifts to the fund:

- Mail a check payable to the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region, 4455 West Lawrence Street, Appleton, WI 54914. Write St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church Endowment Fund in the memo line of the check or include a note with the fund name.
- Give online at www.cffoxvalley.org/donate. In the box that reads Designation, choose "other" and in the box type St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church Endowment Fund.

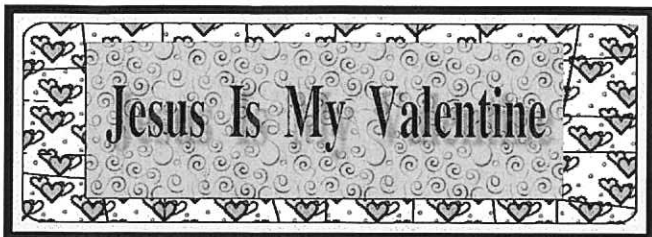


C.H.A.O.S (Christ Has All Our Solutions) meets the 3rd Sunday of the month after church. Next meeting: February 18th.

At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs.

Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and she said, "Johnny, what is the matter?" Little Johnny responded, "I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

-via, The Joyful Newsletter



Valentine Thoughts for You

By Pastor Don Ginkel

A miracle of the Lord can save my life, but the Word of the Lord can save my soul. A miracle of the Lord can give me health, but the Word of the Lord can promise me paradise.

I hold before you a key. If I really love Jesus I will unlock the door to my heart to let my Redeemer in, not only when the thunders are thundering, but also when the sun is shining.

I hold before you a cross. If I really love Jesus I will allow Him to work for me, basing my hope of salvation not on what I have done for Him, but on what He has done for me.

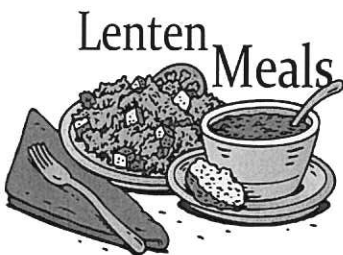
I hold before you a Bible. If I really love Jesus, I will allow Him to speak to me every day—for His words are wonders and His messages are miracles.

I hold before you some valentines. Jesus has two of them for me—His Word and His cross. I have one valentine for Jesus—my heart.

When He gives me His valentines, His Word and His cross, He has given me what I need. When I give Him my valentine, my heart, I have given Him what He wants.

More and more may every day be a Valentines Day for you!

LENTEN MEALS 2018



We will once again be posting a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to host a Lenten meal. The first meal will be on Ash Wednesday, February 14. The remainder of the dates are February 21, 28, March 7, 14, and 21st. Anyone who volunteers to provide a meal can get reimbursed for the cost of the food. Please consider this as it is a great time for Fellowship.

THOUGHTS FROM A BLOOD DONOR'S TABLE

I give my blood.
Christ gave His.

I give a pint.
He gave all.

The needle is small, sharp.
The nails were large, dull.

The table soft, relaxful.
The cross rough, painful.

The nurses kind, gentle
The soldiers cruel, mean.

The crowd applauds my sacrifice.
"They that passed by reviled Him."

Mine is for O positive.
His for positively all.

Mine, at best, will prolong a life, for a while.
His, without doubt, can save all, forever.

Then Jesus said unto me:
Can you drink of the cup that I drink of?
And I said unto Him:
I cannot.

