



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church
105 Horn St., Brillion, WI 54110

Rev. Mark L. Krueger, Pastor

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you read through these pages, you will learn what has been accomplished at St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church during the year 2017 as devoted members of the church gave of their time, talents, and treasures.

We are thankful for the Lord's blessings upon our congregation and what He has accomplished through us sinful, imperfect human beings.

There were some significant changes for the congregation during 2017. One of them was a new outdoor electronic church sign to welcome people and to help spread the Gospel message. We thank Harlen Krahn for this wonderful gift in memory of his wife, Phyllis. For those of you who may not know, the very first church sign that stood at the corner was given in memory of Edmund Krueger, Phyllis Krahn's father.

Another very recognizable change is the repaving of our church parking lot. It's something that hadn't been done for about 40 years. We pray this one lasts as long as the first. Along with that change is a change that may not be noticeable to most. We did a major upgrading of the church organ, making it less mechanical and more computerized. These two changes are the result of a unanimous vote to take out a loan from LCEF.

There was also a change in the church office as Terri Delvaux resigned as secretary after 5½ years and Lois (Bladow) Stache took over the position. Thank you to Terri for a job well done.

A church-related change that took place for me has been serving as vacancy pastor at St. Peter, Hilbert since May. It has been interesting at times coordinating things with the two churches. The members of St. Peter are very appreciative of the members of St. Bartholomew allowing me to serve them during the vacancy.

I would like to thank all those who have served our congregation in some way over the past year. Without you we wouldn't have accomplished what we did. As we move forward, I pray that more members will be willingly to serve and help when asked. It is very discouraging to hear "no" when people are asked to serve in certain capacities, such as ushers, greeters, Altar Guild, when they are very capable of doing so.

May God continue to richly bless us in this place!

Together in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Krueger". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Pastor Krueger".

2017 PAROCHIAL REPORT

BAPTISMS: 5

River Janet Grace Blattner, 1/22/17

Sebastian Gray Gifford, 3/26/17

Jensyn Joseph Kees, 8/27/17

Chase Brian Denor, 11/12/17

Adelyn Louise Geiger, 12/7/17

ADULT BAPTISMS: 1

Haley Lorraine Lee Graef, 12/3/17

DEATHS: 4

John Ruh

Margaret Zutz

Kenneth Eichhorst

Sam Kuehl

WEDDINGS: 1

Tyler Behnke & Nicole Cohen, 10/6/17

YOUTH CONFIRMANDS: 1

Evan Charles Pope

RECEIVED BY ADULT CONFIRMATION: 1

Zach Zoellner

RECEIVED BY TRANSFER: 2

Nicole Wittmann from Calvary Lutheran, Watseka, IL

Linda Breitzman from Immanuel Lutheran, Glenview, IL

TRANSFERRED TO SISTER CONGREGATIONS: 2

River Blattner, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Sun Prairie

Howard Heimke, Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Green Bay

REMOVED: 2

Dyllan Eichhorst – Joined another denomination

Linda Skaggs – Whereabouts unknown

2017 CHURCH OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Joel Koerth

VICE PRESIDENT

Bob Behnke

TREASURER

Debbie Kamps

COUNCIL SECRETARY

Amanda Krahn

ELDERS

Gary Lemke

Gary Koerth

Rick Riemer

Deacon Bonick

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Linda Streck

TRUSTEES

Deb Koerth

Steve Gilbertson

Rich Gustafson

STEWARDSHIP/EVANGELISM

Ron Detert

Sue Detert

Lon Fels

Lori Fels

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Andrea Grenzer

Beth Gilbertson

2017 PAROCHIAL REPORT

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Total Baptized Membership	364	363	357	356	369	384	390
Total Confirmed Membership	310	312	308	305	311	315	313
Sunday Worship Services (includes Wednesdays)	92	91	92	92	92	99	103
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE:							
Sunday Services	84	95	93	94	101	73	83
Wednesday Services (excluding Lent & Advent)	43	45	48	51	50	50	52
Average Total Weekly Attendance	143	129	129	132	145	145	159
Special Services (Lent, Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, New Year's Eve)	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
Average Attendance for Special Services	85	75	79	79	79	82	85
Number of Times Communion Was Offered	55	56	53	50	49	61	62
Total Number Communed	3038	3275	3132	3221	3084	3467	3622
% of Members Who Communed At Least Once	78%	75%	75%	80%	86%	85%	87%
Private Communions	43	78	89	92	86	66	50
Sunday School Enrollment (Sept. 2016-May 2017)	22	25	32	36	48	59	62
Avg. Weekly Sunday School Attendance (Sept.2016-May 2017)	20	17	19	22	30	36	41
Sunday School Staff (Sept. 2016-May 2017)	7	6	7	8	7	13	10
Sunday Adult Bible Class (Sept. 2016-May 2017)	7	7	9	9	11	14	16

Fellow Members of Christ's Family,

As this year comes to an end and we celebrate Jesus' birth and the start of a new church year, I hope that you are well and are celebrating God's love for us.

This past year has been a pivotal year for our church financially and spiritually. We have made some much needed improvements and still have some to do. The church and the newly elected council/board members need your support to continue to improve. I would like to thank you for allowing me to serve as your council president for the past three years. As my term comes to an end I will continue to serve the church in other ways. Your support for the council and board members has made our church a home for its members and future members.

I would like to thank all the board members, Sunday school teachers, group leaders, scrip sellers, ushers, tree sellers, Ladies Aid and all the members that volunteer their valuable time and talent to the future of our church. We continue community presence through our website and Facebook and now with articles of our special worship events in the Brillion News. God has truly blessed our congregation with a core group of members who are involved with the future of our church.

I would also like to thank Pastor Krueger for guiding us in implementing the changes over the past year that have helped in the success of our church and educating us on God's work.

"Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." Hebrews 13:1

*Yours in Christ,
Joel Koerth*

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP/EVANGELISM

Members of our board are: Ron Detert, chairman; Sue Detert, secretary; Lon & Lori Fels.

- We changed the messages on the outdoor church sign throughout the year.
- Served refreshments for four New Member Receptions.
- Sponsored the Jim Hendricks Piano Concert at the EPAC on April 9, at 1:00 p.m. using Thrivent Action Team monies.
- We sponsored a float in the Brillionfest parade in June. Members walked the parade route and handed out pens, note pads and flyswatters with our church information on. Thrivent Action Team monies were also used for this project.
- We worked on a Greeter's schedule but are still in the process of finding a better way to recruit people for this job.
- Held our budget meeting and decided to keep the numbers the same as last year.
- Our fall Stewardship Emphasis was "Managing God's Gifts."
- We did the DQ Family Fun Night on November 2. Had great support from our members, families and friends. Our Sunday School youth made posters to put up in the DQ and we had volunteers help serve that evening. Our proceeds were \$231.93.
- We did the Adopt-A-Family program along with a monetary collection for the Hurricane victims in Puerto Rico. Thrivent Action Team monies were used for this project.
- Our Board looked into the possibility of getting a new electronic outdoor church sign. This came to fruition due to a generous donation by Harlen Krahn, in memory of Phyllis Krahn.
- Mike & Terri Delvaux were elected to a two-year term on the Board beginning in January 2018.

*Sue Detert,
Stewardship/Evangelism Secretary*

BOARD OF ELDERS

Elders for the 2017 year were Gary Koerth, Gary Lemke, Rick Riemer (whom graciously offered to continue on for additional 2 years) and we welcomed Deacon Bonick as our new Board member. We continue to look for an additional parishioner to fill a fifth position on the Board.

We thank the Congregation for assistance whenever it was needed in continuing to service the needs of our family here at St. Bartholomew. We appreciated feedback regarding service changes, member contacts, budget information and in any area parishioners offered their God given abilities. We appreciate Pastor Krueger's working with us to keep changes to our schedules to a minimum while generously serving our sister congregation in Hilbert during their vacancy. As a congregation we should be proud to share whatever we can to assist not only our own members but anyone where the Lord has need of it.

We continue to offer special services that appeal to our members. In February we had Haven2Go join us, David Horn special music in June, the Garms family shared their talents in August and Wendysue Fluegge returned in October. This does add another dimension to our services and we plan to continue with some of the same offerings and possibly making a few changes such as a polka service and would appreciate member ideas as to what they feel would make our services most inspiring in expressing God's Glory. Our Lenten and Advent services were well attended and we appreciated those who offered their cooking talents prior to those services for fellowship and request that you join us if you have not already had the opportunity. Our outdoor service has been blessed with beautiful weather and was well received. We prepared for adjustments to our services if it was necessary during the time that the organ was repaired but the project went so smoothly it was not needed. We are currently looking at the possibility of video recording services in the future per a request. We welcome your suggestions.

Continuous communion distribution has been instituted and has been well received so we plan to continue offering it periodically throughout the year. The Elders have also assisted Pastor with funeral services, baptisms and monthly reviewed our absentee list and contacted those members by mail or personally. We also continue to try to get our younger members to join our confirmation classes. We pray for the Lord's guidance for those in need of it. We also reviewed our budget in August and set our recommendations in September for voter approval.

We would like to thank Terri Delvaux for her secretarial duties she so faithfully performed for St. Bartholomew and look forward to having Lois Stache fill that position for which she is most qualified.

Finally, we offer a big thank you to Keith Polkinghorne for agreeing to be your servant in the Elder position here at St. Bartholomew. We have not filled all positions and please search your hearts to see if you can offer your talents here. If everyone gives a little, no one has to give a lot!

Submitted by Gary Lemke

ALTAR GUILD

We had 22 women who served on our Altar Guild this year. The duties included preparing the communion ware for Holy Communion, placement of flowers and plants on the altar, and changing of paraments as needed.

Special decorations and plants are put up for Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas by additional volunteers from the congregation along with some of our Altar Guild members.

We appreciate the work our Altar Guild members do for the church and welcome new members at any time including any men or husbands who would be interested in helping out.

SCRIP PROGRAM

Thank you to Renee Bonick who heads up and organizes our Scrip program as well as those who volunteered during the year to help sell Scrip.

Our proceeds this year were \$3,979.15

Thank you to everyone who purchased Scrip in 2017. We look forward to your continued support.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

January 8th we resumed Sunday School after the holiday break. No singing in January. The kids sang in church on February 12th, March 12th, and April 9th. Easter Sunday (April 16th) no Sunday School, but a children's choir sang "Because He Lives" for both services. May 14th all the kids sang for Mother's Day. May 21st was our last day for Sunday School and also Youth Sunday. The service started out with the band playing "Amazing Grace." The kids picked out their favorites to sing. Bonnie Smith played guitar to accompany the kids in "Lord of the Dance" and some other special music was included. We had doughnuts and fellowship following the service. On June 8th, Holly and Melissa did a service lock-in for kids 7th grade on up. It was well received and we had a lot of fun. We did odd jobs such as pull weeds, wash windows, etc. for a few of our older members. We tie-dyed outside, played games, did a devotional, had a meal and sang around the campfire. Bad weather brought us in early for a movie and snack. In the morning we had a light breakfast and packed up our stuff. Lock-in ended at 7:30 a.m.

We have 22 children in Sunday School. Our teachers are Jody Lau, Amanda Krahn, Andrea Grenzer, Cheryl Kittel, Megan Boldt, and Tracy Hurda. Emily Pope, Evan Pope and Gunner Schlender are our helpers. Our Mission Project is The World Race which St. Bartholomew's own Nicole Wittmann is going on. It is an 11 month mission trip to 11 different countries through the organization Adventures in Missions. She will partner with local churches and ministries in each country to share the gospel, work in orphanages, plant churches, minister to those affected by human trafficking, and restore the hope of the Father's love

to many. All of our Sunday School offering will go directly to support Nicole Wittmann on her journey. In Sept. we kicked off Sunday School with an outdoor church service followed by a potluck/pig roast as part of a Thrivent Action Team which a free will offering was accepted for our Mission Project. The children sang in church on Oct. 8th & Nov. 12th and had the Children's Christmas Service on Dec. 17th. The older kids played their instruments and all kids sang the songs of Christmas. We had fellowship with doughnuts following the service.

*Holly Schlender & Melissa Pope
Sunday school Superintendents*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

This year was very busy in addition to the usual light bulbs, battery changes, and a new LED light in the sacristy to make life easier for doing communion. Carpets were cleaned and work done on the canopy in front.

Larger projects included having the parking lot repaved and restriped with Jon Worzer and Northeast Asphalt doing the work. A major update was done to the organ by Steve Russell, Russell Organs of Chester, Vermont. Updated electrical wiring from church to the garage was done by Mark Wittman and Craig Scharbarth prior to the parking lot project. A big shout out to the workers doing the back fill to the parking lot. Mark Wittman with a skid steer, Gary Lemke for helping and donating the fill. The shovel crew included: Bob Behnke, Ron Detert, Steve Juno, Myron Peter, Rich Gustafson, and Deb Koerth.

A new lock was placed on the fellowship door for the ease of the Christmas tree sellers. A new electronic sign has been installed to better inform people of our church. A project that is in the early stages is to replace and lower the lights in the front of church with LED lights. Thank you to Steve Gilbertson and Ken Zutz for work on sidewalks. They ground down some high spots between church and the parsonage. Last but not least a BIG thank you to Bob's Classic Restoration of Reedsville for refinishing our 3 camels and wise men.

Submitted by Deb Koerth, Steve Gilbertson & Rich Gustafson

LADIES AID

We have a membership of 12 women. We lost honorary member Phyllis Krahn this year. Our meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month (except for the months of June, July, and August). We have yearly dues of \$5.00. Officers for 2017 were: Janet Kalies, President; Sue Detert, Secretary; Linda Streck, Treasurer. Carolyn Bladow orders and organizes the cards, and Millie Behnke is our Sunshine chairperson. Pastor Krueger leads each of our meetings with a devotion and follows with a Bible Study.

Activities of the year:

- Shut-ins are visited during the year.
- We save Our Family UPC labels throughout the year, as well as used postage stamps.
- Served three funeral dinners.
- Our Chili Dinner was held on February 26 from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Donations of food items were given by members of the congregation.
- A Phyllis Krahn memorial gift was given to Ladies Aid. Two new roasters for the kitchen were purchased with some of this gift money.
- Our books were audited and found to be in good order.
- The LWML Prayer Service was held in New Holstein on March 18.
- The Spring Rally was held at St. Martin, Chilton on April 25.
- Sold roses on Mother's Day, with proceeds going to Mothers & Unborn Babies in Appleton, and for the display at the Calumet County Fair.
- "Baskets of Promise" kits were put together on April 23. Over 50 kits were completed for Lutheran World Relief.
- The LWML Fall Rally was held on October 21 at Elkhart Lake.
- We made banners for LWML's 75th Anniversary and for the 85th Anniversary of our Ladies Aid, and served cake and sweet treats after services on September 27 and October 1 in celebration of these two anniversaries.
- We made ornaments and decorated a tree at the Brillion History House for their Christmas Open House in November.
- Gifts were given to the new babies in our congregation.

- Christmas stockings with monetary gifts in them were given to Bethesda.
- Fruit baskets and poinsettia plants were given to our shut-ins at Christmas.
- Election of officers was held in November. Sue Detert was elected Secretary, and Linda Streck Treasurer. Carolyn Bladow was appointed as our Card Chairperson.
- Our Christmas Party was held on December 14 beginning with a noon potluck, followed by a program, and exchange of Secret Pal gifts.
- Monetary Christmas gifts were sent to: Derricks family (LBT Missionaries), Sheboygan Chaplaincy, Concordia University, Camp LuWiSoMo, Alvina Feterwitz Ministry, and Hurricane Relief (for Puerto Rico).
- Various greeting cards are made available to purchase throughout the year, as well as dishcloths and vanilla for baking.

*Sue Detert,
Ladies Aid Secretary*

MIXED CHOIR NEWS

St. Bartholomew is blessed to have a group of wonderfully dedicated men and women to sing in our choir. We may be small in number, but mighty in voice! It is so evident how much this group of eight love to sing praises to God! It has been fun singing, learning new songs with each other, and coming together in fellowship. While we are always looking for new voices to join us as it fits into busy schedules, we want to thank each of our current hard working members:

Gary Koerth	Alice Koerth
Gary Lemke	Bonnie Smith
Harlen Krahn	Renee Bonick
Norman Krahn	Debbie Kamps

Again, a huge thank you to all who make this choir the BEST! Come and join us anytime! Expect to hear more old and new music from us in 2018!

*Singing to the Lord a New Song!
Terri Riemer and Devin Zahringer*

CHRISTMAS TREE SALES

We ordered a total of 222 trees. There were 100 fraser firs, 2 tall fraser firs, 1 of which was put up in the church, 100 balsams, 20 tall balsams. Sales began on November 24 and we were sold out on December 14. The day with the highest number of trees sold was November 26 on which 44 were sold. The price of the trees were \$50 for the tall fraser, \$40 for the frasers and tall balsams and \$30 for balsams. It was once again a very successful year. A profit of \$3,845.00 was made on the mission project this year. The proceeds will be used to build another small home for a family in a third world country through Food for the Poor. The cost of a house is now \$3,600.00. The remainder of the proceeds went to Nicole Wittmann for her mission trip. Thank you to all who were involved.

*Tree Committee,
Simon & Rhonda Geiger*

YOUTH GROUP

Youth group meets every 3rd Sunday in the youth room. We started the year off with monthly meetings averaging about 5 students at each meeting. We had our annual Fish Fry on Good Friday where we served a total of 80 plates for dine in and 10 take out plates. We raised about \$200.00 to be used to the youth gathering in Minnesota in 2019. In May Amy Krahn stepped down from being the youth leader and Sue Wittmann took over the position.

Submitted by Amy Krahn

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 Foundations of the Fox Valley Region, Ins.

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.