



ST. BARTHOLOMEW NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2017



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

GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF JESUS BORN IN BETHLEHEM!

Christmas is the gift-giving season. We make our lists of what we'll give and what we'd like to receive. We gather together with family and friends and exchange those gifts, and we're thankful to receive them and enjoy giving them as well.

Even though in preparation for Christmas our lives are in fast-forward - shopping, attending parties and gatherings, and sending cards - we remember, as Christians, that Jesus is the reason for the season. We're attending Advent services and Sunday worship, and we see the candles being lit every week, culminating in the lighting of the large white candle on Christmas morning. And we rejoice. God has given His Son. God has sent Him into the world to be the only gift we need. Jesus took on our flesh and walked among us, and He willingly laid down His life in order to save our lives for eternity. He gave us the gift of salvation.

So what gifts can we give to Jesus? After all, the earth and everything in it is His (Psalm 24:1). Every animal of the forest and the cattle on a thousand hills belong to Him (Psalm 50:10). What is expected of and from us? The psalmist tells us, "A broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise" (Psalm 51:17).

Let us, then, bring our sins to our Savior. Let us kneel before Him in contrition and allow Him to give us even more gifts - clean hearts and right spirits (Psalm 51:10). Like the Wise Men from the East, let us rejoice "exceedingly with great joy." Let us bow down and worship him and present Him with our gifts (Matthew 2:10-12). Let us also rise up just as the shepherds did on that first Christmas and go on our way, "glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen" (Luke 2:20).

In obedience to His command (Matthew 28:19-20) and in response to His great love for us, let us love one another (1 John 4:11) by teaching and preaching, baptizing and making disciples, so that others may receive the gift of salvation from the Giver of all good gifts (James 1:17). In doing these things for Jesus and in His name, we remember and praise Him not only at Christmas but all year-round.



Together in Christ,

Pastor Kueger

FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

October Totals

Year-to-date Income:	\$ 135,836.29
Year-to-date Expenses:	\$ 145,570.59
Year-to-date Budget:	\$ 133,200.00

+ + +

SPECIAL FUNDS CONTRIBUTORS

Organ Fund

Pastor & Kris Krueger in memory of Sam Kuehl.

Decorating Committee

Bryan & Jeannine Krepline in memory of Ken Eichhorst.

Welcome

New member



Linda Breitzman

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 want to stay young, associate with young people. If you want to get old in a hurry, try to keep up with them.

ELDER GROUPS

(Baer-Geiger)	Gary Koerth	864-7714
(Giese-Krahn)	Rick Riemer	(920) 841-7346
(Kremer-Reinke)	Gary Lemke	853-3846
(Riemer-Zutz)	Deacon Bonick	(920) 366-2766

KINGDOM WORKERS - December

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

Ushers (Wednesdays): Deb Koerth, Joel Koerth
(Sundays): Steve Juno, Matt Juno

Altar Guild: Janet Kalies, Sue Juno

Acolytes: Dec. 3 - Amber
6 - Rachel
10 - Bailee
13 - Hilary
17 - Meghan
20 - Ashley
24 - (4 p.m.) Spencer
24 - (8 p.m.) Amber
25 - Rachel
31 - Bailee



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

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



Steward Builders

A newsletter to help you grow as a steward.

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.

Merry Christmas!

The Gold Wrapping Paper

Once upon a time, there was a man who worked very hard just to keep food on the table for his family. This particular year a few days before Christmas, he punished his little five-year-old daughter after learning that she had used up the family's only roll of expensive gold wrapping paper.

As money was tight, he became even more upset when on Christmas Eve he saw that the child had used all of the expensive gold paper to decorate one shoebox she had put under the Christmas tree. He also was concerned about where she had gotten money to buy what was in the shoebox.

Nevertheless, the next morning the little girl, filled with excitement, brought the gift box to her father and said, "This is for you, Daddy!"

As he opened the box, the father was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, now regretting how he had punished her.

But when he opened the shoebox, he found it was empty and again his anger flared. "Don't you know, young lady," he said harshly, "when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside the package!"

The little girl looked up at him with sad tears rolling from her eyes and whispered:

"Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into it until it was all full."



The father was crushed. He fell on his knees and put his arms around his precious little girl. He begged her to forgive him for his unnecessary anger.

An accident took the life of the child only a short time later. It is told that the father kept this little gold box by his bed for all the years of his life. Whenever he was discouraged or faced difficult problems, he would open the box, take out an imaginary kiss, and remember the love of this beautiful child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each of us has been given an invisible golden box filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children, family, friends and God. There is no more precious possession anyone could hold.

(Fred Burks –Internet "Short Christmas Stories")

The Christmas Truce

It was December 25, 1914, only 5 months into World War I. German, British, and French soldiers, already sick and tired of the senseless killing, disobeyed their superiors and fraternized with "the enemy" along two-thirds of the Western Front (a crime punishable by death in times of war). German troops held Christmas trees up out of the trenches with signs, "Merry Christmas."

"You no shoot, we no shoot." Thousands of troops streamed across a no-man's land strewn with rotting corpses. They sang Christmas carols, exchanged photographs of loved ones back home, shared rations, played football, even roasted some pigs. **Soldiers embraced men they had been trying to kill a few short hours before. They agreed to warn each other if the top brass forced them to fire their weapons, and to aim high.**



A shudder ran through the high command on either side. Here was disaster in the making: soldiers declaring their brotherhood with each other and refusing to fight. Generals on both sides declared this spontaneous

peacemaking to be treasonous and subject to court martial. By March 1915 the fraternization movement had been eradicated and the killing machine put back in full operation. By the time of the armistice in 1918, fifteen million would be slaughtered.

Not many people have heard the story of the Christmas Truce. On Christmas Day, 1988, a story in the *Boston Globe* mentioned that a local FM radio host played "Christmas in the Trenches," a ballad about the Christmas Truce, several times and was startled by the effect. **The song became the most requested recording during the holidays in Boston on several FM stations.** "Even more startling than the number of requests I get is the reaction to the ballad afterward by callers who hadn't heard it before," said the radio host. "They telephone me deeply moved, sometimes in tears, asking, 'What did I just hear?'"

You can probably guess why the callers were in tears. The Christmas Truce story goes against most of what we have been taught about people. It gives us a glimpse of the world as we wish it could be and says, "This really happened once." It reminds us of those thoughts we keep hidden away, out of range of the TV and newspaper stories that tell us how trivial and mean human life is. It is like hearing that our deepest wishes really are true: the world really could be different.

(We Can Change the World by David G. Stratman)

Blessings on your Stewardship Journey!

You're Invited -

Please join us in celebrating
Millie Behnke's
90th birthday
at an Open House on
Sunday, December 17, 2017
2-4 p.m.
at

St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church

Hosted by her children

Your presence is her gift.

Christmas Greetings!

As we anticipate once again celebrating the coming of the Christ-child, Kris and I are anticipating the birth of our first grandchild.

The prophets foretold Jesus' birth for centuries. Jeff & Maddie foretold our grandchild's birth on Good Friday with the dying of Easter eggs. Some of you may have heard the story or seen the video.

There is great anticipation as there was when Jesus was born. When He was born, the angels announced the Good News to the shepherds. Kris and I will have to rely on our son to tell us the good news.

Kris and I and our family would like to wish all of you a very blessed Christmas. May the love of Jesus shine brightly in your hearts and home this Christmas season!

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Pastor & Kris



Together in Advent

Midweek Advent Worship

Wednesdays @ 7 p.m.

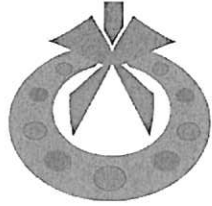
We celebrate together as the family of God the coming of His Son for our salvation. Each week will focus on a different activity for our "to-do list" that is focused on giving and sharing instead of on materialism. The theme verse for the entire series is: "Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise" (Ps. 106:47).

- **Wednesday, Dec. 6: Be Present (Malachi 3:1-7):** Instead of spending all our time in Advent buying present, we in God's family set aside space to be present for one another, as Christ is coming to be present with us.
- **Sunday, Dec. 10: Send Peace (Micah 5:2-5a):** Beyond sending cards this Advent to loved ones this season, we do all we can as the family of God to send peace in all our messages to one another because the Prince of Peace is on his way.
- **Wednesday, Dec. 13: Share Joy (Zephaniah 3:14-20):** In this time when we share cookies and other treats with one another, we share joy with those around us that they might taste and see that the Lord is good to us through the birth of his Son.
- **Wednesday, Dec. 20: Wrap in Love (1 John 4:7-12):** In this season of hustle and bustle, we move from wrapping presents to wrapping people in love, as Mary wrapped the Christ Child so lovingly in swaddling clothes.

ADVENT MEALS 2017



The dates for the meals are December 6th, 13th & 20th. There are sign up sheets with the menus posted on the bulletin board. Cost is \$3.00 /person. Confirmation students and K & under are free.



Christmas
COOKIE
exchange

Saturday, December 9, 2017

8:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board with the kind and amount of cookies you would like to bake. Bring the amount of cookies you sign up for on Friday December 8th. The exchange will take place on Saturday the 9th. You will get a variety of cookies in the amount that you brought. Bake cookies, get cookies and you will get a variety for the holidays. Include your recipe if you wish.

Tis' the Season

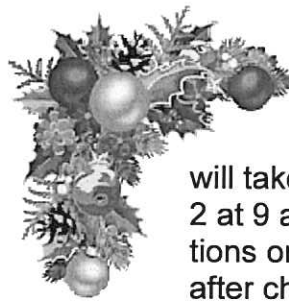


Christmas Cookies

A husband went to buy a birthday gift for his wife. Some friends had been invited over that night to celebrate her fortieth, and he wanted to get something special.

At the store, he spotted some cute little music boxes. One blue one was playing "Happy Birthday." Thinking they were all the same, he chose a red one and had it gift-wrapped.

Later, at dinner, he gave it to his wife and asked her to open it. When she lifted the lid, out came the tune of "The Old Gray Mare, She Ain't What She Used to Be!"



DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

will take place on Saturday, December 2 at 9 a.m. We will do some preparations on Wednesday, November 29 after church.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Pastor Out of Town for Baptism

December 27-January 1

Pastor Krueger will be out of town Dec. 27-Jan. 1 to see his new grandchild and for baptism. If an emergency should arise, contact Pastor Joel Brassfield (920-246-2587) or one of the elders.

Adopt  a Family
FOR CHRISTMAS

The Adopt-A-Family "ornaments" are on the tree in the coat room. We have a family of 5: dad, 2 boys, & 2 girls. The children range in age 8-16. Items are noted on the ornaments. Please attach the ornament to the **unwrapped** gift. If you prefer to donate a gift card, they are also welcomed. The deadline is Sunday, December 10.

You are invited to help with gift wrapping after church on Sunday, December 10.

HURRICANE RELIEF – PUERTO RICO

We are also accepting financial gifts for hurricane relief in Puerto Rico. Your monetary gifts may be placed in the offering stand in the coat room. Checks may be made out to church. The monies raised will go through LCMS World Relief and Human Care for the hurricane relief efforts in Puerto Rico.

Youth News

SKY ZONE



The youth activity of Sky Zone will be Sunday December 17th at 10:00 a.m. Cost is \$14.00 (only \$12.00 if you have sky zone socks), plus the cost of a meal after. Please sign up by Sunday December 3rd. A waiver must be filled out from the Sky Zone website or youth will not be permitted to participate.



The youth group will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army red kettle on Thursday November 30th & December 21st both times are 6—7 p.m. Please sign up on the bulletin board.



Dear St. Barts,

We hope you all enjoy the celebration of God's love through the gift of His Son this Christmas. Thank you for your support of our mission work with LBT in Cameroon.

In His service,

Elliot, Serena, Lydia & Josephine Derricks

2018 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 will be posted on the bulletin board for anyone wishing to sponsor bulletins for 2018. Cost is \$10/week. 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 or drop it off in the office.

2018 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Your next year's envelopes will be available on the table in the coat room soon. Do not start using them until January 1, 2018. Thank you.



CHURCH CLOSINGS

Before you know it, winter will be upon us. We ask that you let us know your email address if you want to be notified of any church closings this winter season due to inclement weather. Thank you.

St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church
Voters Meeting
November 12, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am by President Joel Koerth. Pastor led in opening prayer.

Members Present: 21

Secretary's Report: Motion to accept as printed in newsletter made my Gary K. and 2nd by Deb K. MC

Membership Gains and Losses:

1. Gains: Nicole Wittmann by transfer from Calvary Lutheran Watseka IL.
Linda Breitzman by transfer from Immanuel Lutheran Glenview IL
2. Losses: Howard Heimke by transfer to Pilgrim Lutheran Church Green Bay, WI
Sam Kuehl by transfer to the Church Triumphant

Motion to accept Gains and Losses by Deb K and 2nd by Ron D. MC

Treasures Report: at the end of September we had \$12,631.71 in the black. We are down a little bit. Debt retirement is not coming in as well as it should. We are short \$100-\$300 a month. We have the special envelopes for debt retirement. If you give electronically you can still specify for it to go to debt retirement.

Board Reports

Elders

1. Have been discussing budget
2. Looking in to enhancing church services with musical guests quarterly
3. Deb made the motion to remove Linda Skaggs due to unknown 2nd by Lori. MC

Christian Education

1. Christmas program on December 17

Stewardship and Evangelism

1. Food and more is up
2. We will be doing 2 fundraisers. One for the Hurricane Victims from Pota Rico. The other Fundraiser will be for 1 family. We have to get the details yet.
3. D.Q. Family Night was a success. Don't have dollar amount yet.
4. We touched on a possible new sign. After a lot of research we have chosen our sign. Harlen Krahn is donating the sign in honor of his late wife Phyllis. It will be a double sided electronic sign.
5. Trustees worked with Stewardship and Evangelism. They have now taken over the building part of the project. May go up the 1st week of December.

Trustees

1. Parking lot has been finished.
2. Nice crew showed up to help with the work day. Mark Wittmann brought a skid steer and helped tremendously.
3. Trying to get the black marks off the church
4. Trying to change the lights in front of church. To make it safer when changing the lights.
5. Organ is completed and sounds good.

Pastors Report

Membership today: 363 souls

311 Communicates

1. Advent meal sign-ups will be going up. We will have 2 supporting the youth group and 1 supporting Nicole Wittmann
2. Decorating the church for Christmas will start on Wednesday November 29 after church and Saturday December 2nd
3. Christmas tree sellers are needed
4. Christmas eve we will have 2 serveries at 4 & 8.
5. No service on December 27th
6. New Year's Day service at 9am.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

1. Ron D made a motion to accept the new proposed budget and Deb K. 2nd it. MC
2. Gary K. Made the motion to nominate John Willie for District President and William Klips for Vice President Deb 2nd the motion. MC
3. Deb K made the motion to accept all the nominations for board members as written and Janet K 2nd the motion. MC

Trustee: Tony Wittmann

Council President- Bob Behnke

Council Secretary-Amanda Krahn

Stewardship/Evangelism- Mike and Terri Delvaux

Elder- David Sonnabend

Elder-open

Vice President- Pete Kittel

Board of Christian Education- Open

4. Pete made a motion to reappoint Linda Streck Financial Secretary and Debbie Kamps Treasurer. Deb 2nd the motion. MC
5. We will table the Behkne endowment until next meeting
6. It was brought up that the "back 40" lawn is very hard to cut and that we should maybe think about selling it along with parsonage and give pastor a housing allowance. Just something to think about.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:31 by Ron D and 2nd by Gary K. MC

Pastor led in closing prayer.

OCTOBER SCRIP TOTALS

CARD NAME	TOTAL	PROFIT
BP	650	9.75
Cobblestone	25	1.25
Dairy Queen	20	4.00
Deer Run	125	12.50
Econo	2,100	63.00
Exxon	250	25.00
Festival	300	9.00
Fleet Farm	50	2.50
Kohls	500	20
Kwik Trip	575	23
McDonalds	100	4.00
Piggly Wiggly	200	6.00
Shell	300	30.00
Shopko	350	17.50
Starbucks	25	1.75
Subway	10	1.00
WalMart	525	13.13
Woodmans	150	7.50
TOTALS	\$6,255	\$250.88

ANNUAL REPORT ITEMS ARE DUE JANUARY 3, 2018

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. It is greatly appreciated.



The Ladies Aid Christmas Party will be Thursday, December 14th at 12:00 p.m. All ladies are invited to come. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.



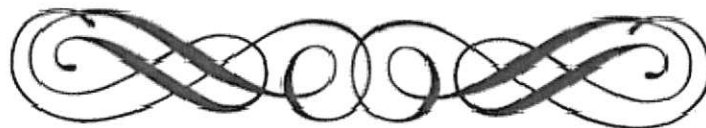
BIRTHDAYS

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

ANNIVERSARIES

4 th	Eric & Amanda Graf
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.



For those of you currently on Altar Guild and willing to serve again in 2018, if you haven't already notified the church office of your commitment, please remember to do so as soon as possible so the 2018 schedule can be finalized. We are always looking for new volunteers to be a part of the Altar Guild. Any confirmed member who is interested, please let the office know. Thank you for your consideration.