



# ST. BARTHOLOMEW NEWSLETTER

## DECEMBER 2018



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

### GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF OUR SAVIOR BORN IN BETHLEHEM!

What greater mystery is there than these words of the Apostle John: *"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth"* (John 1:14)? This Word who is with God and who is God and who has been with God since the beginning (John 1:1-2), this Word became one of us. Born in a stable more than two thousand years ago, Jesus lived among us. We joyfully sing every Christmas, "Joy to the World, the Lord is Come." In His 33 years on earth, He ate and drank and slept like one of us, and He showed us His glory.

*"And from His fullness, we have all received, grace upon grace"* (John 1:16), for this is what He came to bring. First and foremost of those blessings is the forgiveness of sins and life eternal with Him. He is *"the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"* (John 1:29).

As we turn the pages of the Gospel of John, we come to know more about our Savior. He is: living water, the healer, the teacher, the miracle worker, the good shepherd, the raiser of the dead, the Vine, the Christ, the Son of God, the I AM.

And we are the sheep of His flock, His witnesses, the branches who cling to Him, the Vine, so that we might be sustained and empowered to serve this mighty Savior who deigned to become one of us.

What does He ask of us, His sheep? To believe in Him, to remain in Him, to love others as He has loved us, to expect persecution for the sake of the Gospel, to trust Him so completely that He can accomplish through us even greater things (John 14:12).

*"You did not choose Me,"* Jesus said, *"but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide"* (John 15:16). How blessed we are to be chosen to have our identity in Christ, to be chosen for the tasks He gives us to do. Let us joyfully take up the work He gives us as we make known to all the Savior, the Word made flesh.

May peace and joy abound in our lives as we celebrate Jesus' coming into the world as our rescuer from sin and death

Have a blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year!



Together in Christ,

*Pastor Kuege*

Sharing, Believing, Living, Caring

## FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

### October Totals

Year-to-date Income: \$ 147,319.81  
Year-to-date Expenses: \$ 147,850.87  
Year-to-date Budget: \$ 135,880.00

+ + +

## KINGDOM WORKERS - DECEMBER

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

Ushers (Wednesdays): Joel Koerth  
(Sundays): Hank Horn, Hank Horn VII

Altar Guild: Janet Kalies, Sue Juno

Acolytes: Dec. 2 - Ashley  
5 (Wed.) - Spencer  
9 - Amber  
12 - (Wed.) - Rachel  
16 - Bailee  
19 - (Wed.) - Hilary  
23 - Ava  
24 - (4 p.m.) - Alandra  
(8 p.m.) - Ashley  
25 - Spencer  
30 - Amber  
31 - Rachel

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## ELDER GROUPS

(Baer - Hammond)	Keith Polkinghorne	756-2370
(Horn - Olm)	Rick Riemer	(920) 841-7346
(Peter - Zutz)	Deacon Bonick	(920) 366-2766

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## 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

## REMOVALS

Brent Buboltz - self-exclusion

Jessica Cain, Kenneth Curtis, Nikara Curtis - self-exclusion

Justin & Andrea Chupita, Ashlyn, Lauren - self-exclusion

Lois Cmejla - upon request, moved out of area

William Drumm III - self-exclusion, moved out of area

Dave & Robin Eichhorst, Phyllip, Zachary, Riley, Conner - self-exclusion

Eric Graf, Elijah, Isaac - self-exclusion

Sara Greil - self-exclusion, moved out of area

Matt Irish - self-exclusion, moved out of area

Nathan Irish - self-exclusion, moved out of area

Tom Irish - self-exclusion, moved out of area

Jesse Kalies - self-exclusion

Leslie Kremer, Jerome - self-exclusion, moved out of area

Pat & Barb Kupsky, Kassandra, Courtney - self-exclusion

Rich & Sandy McWilliams, Jessica, Crystal - self-exclusion

Tim Muthig - self-exclusion

Zaylee Olm - self-exclusion

Eli Peter, Levi, Cole, Reed - self-exclusion

Jared Plate - self-exclusion

Shonna Prickette - self-exclusion, moved out of area

Ashley Rahn - self-exclusion

Todd Reabe, Austin - upon request, moved out of area

Kasie Robley - self-exclusion

Erin Scharbarth - self-exclusion

Karey Schultz - self-exclusion, moved out of area

Damian Wetzell - self-exclusion, moved out of area

Brett Wittman - self-exclusion

Debbie Wittman - self-exclusion

Emily Wyngaard - self-exclusion, moved out of area

Kaitlyn Wyngaard - self-exclusion, moved out of area

Chrissy York - self-exclusion, moved out of area

Justin Zeamer - self-exclusion, moved out of area

Matt Zeamer - self-exclusion, moved out of area

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Thank you to everyone who brought in your garden produce this past summer and fall to share with others in the congregation. It was greatly appreciated.



# 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.



## Jesus Is the Reason for the Season

It's December and preparations for Christmas are underway. Unfortunately, for some, this is a period of great stress, inadequate sleep, and too much busyness. Is this what Advent is all about? Jesus said, *"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with Me"* (Revelation 3:20). What a pleasant request! Shut the door of the world. Open the door of your heart to Jesus' knocking. Enjoy fellowship with Jesus and receive His wonderful gifts!

## The Word Became Flesh

Isn't it amazing to think that *"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us"* (John 1:14)? Who are we that the Word

Himself should come to this squalid world to live among us? We are those He loves – loves so much that He would leave Heaven, would abase Himself, would suffer for us, would die for our sin, would rise so that we, too, can rise. We are those who, in response to this great love, serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness.

## His Ways Are Not Our Ways

Here we are, ready to celebrate the birth of Christ – a major event, even for those who don't believe in Him. Today this celebration is heralded back in October, or at least November, by merchants filling their shelves with enticing gifts, decorations, cards, and all the trappings of Christmas.



How different from the first Christmas! Mary and Joseph settled down in an inn. There were no photographers waiting outside to snap the first picture of the new king. No one knew what was happening! No one, that is, except for the parents and the host of Heaven who made the announcement. But to whom was this announcement made? To the powerful who would speed through the towns and villages,

spreading the news? No, to shepherds who were outcasts, hired hands who were so low on the social scale that they weren't even allowed to give testimony in a court of law. They weren't even allowed to come into the Temple.

Yet these were the ones chosen by God to tell the good news. These wretched creatures saw the angels with *"...the glory of the Lord [shining] around them...."* They heard the message the angels brought: *"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.... You will find a baby...lying in a manger"* (Luke 2:9,10). They saw, they listened, and then they went to see for themselves. After receiving the Good News, they spread it. *"When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them"* (Luke 2:17-18).

If lowly shepherds could tell the story, can't we as well? *"All who heard it were amazed,"* Luke writes, but he doesn't say all believed. All we're asked to do is tell the story. How could fear, uncertainty, or apathy hold us back? This is the biggest news mankind has ever received! As stewards of the Gospel, we have no choice but to follow the example of the shepherds and *"spread the word concerning what has been told [us] about this child."*

### **Giving Jesus our Hearts**

The wise men brought Jesus gifts, but, before presenting their gifts, they first gave Him honor through giving of themselves. Matthew 2:10-11 says, *"When they saw the star they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother*

*Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh."* Before we give God our treasures, we must first give Him our hearts. This is the meaning of stewardship. God wants our praise and adoration.



### **Prayer for Christmas Day:**

Dear Heavenly Father, today all of Christendom sings with jubilation, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come!" How incomprehensible the love You have for us that would cause You to send Your only Son to earth to bring us joy. Yet we confess that we often are mired in discouragement and grief. While looking at our present circumstances, we forget that You have gone before us on the roads we travel and that You are with us to take us through all the difficult passages of life. Suffering with our various losses, we forget that You, in the Person of Your beloved Son, have come and are still with us today to bring us abundant joy. Forgive us for our lack of trust in You. Help us to keep in our hearts every day the joy of this holy day and to share that joy with all we meet. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

**Blessings as you Live Generously!**

## ***With Heartfelt Gratitude***

A heartfelt thank you to all who brought comfort to me and my family during Hugo's passing. Your kind expressions of sympathy, your visits, your gifts of food meant a great deal to us. A special thank you to the LWML Ladies for serving the lunch. The sharing of rides has been greatly appreciated. But a very deep thank you to Pastor for his caring and his concern.

God bless you.

Joan Zutz & Family

## **"END OF YEAR" CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS**

The 2018 'end of year' statements will be emailed to those members whose email addresses we have on file. If you need a hard copy please let the church office know. For those members without email addresses, your statements will be in your church mailbox by Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. Please remember to pick them up for tax purposes! Thank you.



## **LADIES AID CHRISTMAS PARTY**



The Ladies Aid will be having a Christmas Dinner on Thursday December 13 at 12:00 p.m. All ladies of the congregation are invited to join. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.



## **ADULT INFORMATION CLASS**

If anyone is interested in joining our congregation from a non-Lutheran background or is interested in learning the basics of our beliefs as Lutherans, contact Pastor Krueger (756-3031) so a class can be set up beginning in January.



Reminder: If you would like to donate a poinsettia for the altar this Christmas season, the deadline for ordering will be Sunday December 9th. The cost is \$13.00. Please drop your form off in the church office along with your payment.

## **CHURCH CANCELLATIONS**



Before we know it, winter will be upon us.

To check on church cancellations, tune your radio to Y100 (100.3 FM) or turn your TV to WBAY Channel 2 or WFRV Channel 5. We also hope to notify members by email if we have your current email address.

## **CHRISTMAS TREE SALES**

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



### Tree Lot Hours

Monday-Friday

Saturdays

Sundays

3-6 p.m.

9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Noon-6 p.m.

*Proceeds from our sales will go 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. Thank you!



For those of you currently on Altar Guild and willing to serve again in 2019, if you haven't already notified the church office of your commitment, please remember to do so as soon as possible so the 2019 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!*



## ADVENT MEALS



The dates for the Advent Meals are December 5, 12, & 19. There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board. Cost is \$3.00/person. Confirmation students and K & under are free.

## 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 2019. 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.



## Electronic Giving

In this season of gift giving to family, friends, and those less fortunate, we hope you will also consider your gift to St. Bartholomew. It is through the donations of every individual and family in the congregation that we are able to carry on our work. You can use our electronic giving option for both regular offerings and one-time gifts. To help us achieve a more consistent level of funding, we encourage you to use electronic giving for your regular offerings. Please complete an authorization form and return it to the church office. Thank you.

"Wisdom doesn't necessarily come with age; sometimes age just shows up all by itself."

- Author unknown



Church Decorating will take place on Saturday, December 1st at 9 a.m. We will do some preparations on Wednesday, November 28 after church.

## ANNUAL REPORT ITEMS ARE DUE JANUARY 1, 2019



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

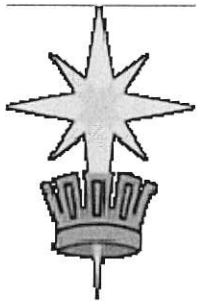
Thank you for your assistance! It is greatly appreciated.

# THANK YOU!

From Elliot & Serena Derricks Family



Joyous Noel!  
When we asked our  
Canaanian friend to  
paint this card, we  
had the chance to  
share the Gospel with  
him! May your Christmas  
be richly blessed!  
So all can hear,  
Elliot, Serena, Lydia,  
Josephine Derricks



## Advent Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries

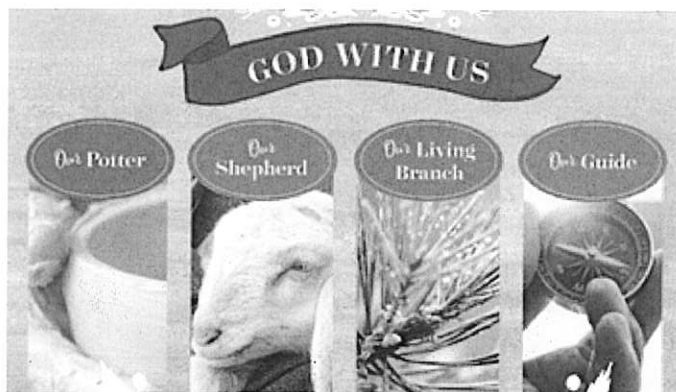
### *The Coming King*

What God has done for the world is most intimately expressed in the life of His Son Jesus. In *The Coming King*, explore God's marvelous work through the lives of those who were on the scene at the time of the Savior's birth.

The coming Savior's birth was foretold by the prophets of old and later experienced by many who were on hand as He came into this world. Mary and Joseph, Zechariah and Elizabeth, Simeon, shepherds, wise men from the east, a legion of angels, and even King Herod—all play their parts in the Gospel narratives that speak of the Savior's incarnation. Explore the many ways their lives were touched as God became one of us, for each of us, in *The Coming King*.

The devotions can be downloaded at [www.lhm.org/advent](http://www.lhm.org/advent) or you can listen to them online or subscribe to them by e-mail.

If you would like a printed copy in regular or large print, contact the church office.



Our midweek Advent series focuses on the ways in which God is with us through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Each week will focus on a different word picture of the coming Christ found in the poetic and prophetic words of Isaiah. Services will reveal how Christ continues to be present with us even now. The theme verse for the entire series is: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us)" (Matthew 1:23).

- **Dec. 5:** Our Potter (Isaiah 64:8): God is with us as our Potter, who shapes according to his will.
- **Dec. 12:** Our Shepherd (Isaiah 40:11): God is with us as our Shepherd, who carries us close to his heart.
- **Dec. 19:** Our Living Branch (Isaiah 11:1): God is with us as our Living Branch, who died and rose to give us eternal life.
- **Dec. 23:** Our Guide (Isaiah 2:3): God is with us as our Guide, who leads us according to his Word.



GOSPEL ADVENTURES




## THE JOURNEY BEGINS!

### JANUARY 2019



Learn more and register for FREE!  
[LHM.ORG/ADVENTURES](http://LHM.ORG/ADVENTURES)

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH 



Lutheran World Relief  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.



Rose Nabyonga and her 9 year old grandson, William, stand together on their family's farm in Uganda. Thanks to your generosity, Rose is learning better farming methods – like how to better prepare soil – and has more than doubled her maize and coffee production, which she depends on for income.

Dear Mr. Krueger,

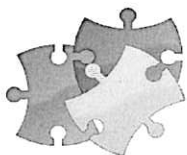
I cannot thank you enough for your gift. You make it possible for families around the world to cope with poverty and disaster. Thanks to you, lives are being changed. I've included a photo of your gift at work. Thank you for seeing the importance of helping those most in need.

Blessings,

Michael Johnson

Philanthropic Advisor

Regional Representative, Denver Advisor



Looking for something to do to pass the time on those cold winter days/nights? How about picking up a puzzle or two from the church to work on? If you have puzzles you no longer need, bring them to church and exchange them for another one. Puzzles are a good family activity to do together as well!



We will be adopting families for Christmas. More details to come.



Children's Christmas Service  
Sunday, December 16 – 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.



There will be a time of fellowship with donuts after the Children's Christmas Service on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.



**BANNER MAKER(S)  
WANTED**

We are looking for a person or persons to make a cloth banner of the picture above. It would be used annually on Life Sunday in January. The next Life Sunday is January 20, 2019.

If you are interested in the project, contact Pastor Krueger.

As we rejoice and celebrate this wonderful season of Christmas, let us not forget to thank baby Jesus for coming into our lives. Let us together prepare ourselves to welcome Him into the homes of our hearts. Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones.

Pastor & Kris Krueger





## ODE TO KING

(A poem written by one of our members, Jerry Kamke, who lives at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, WI. I intended to include this in last month's newsletter as it would have been more timely.)

Our country was divided  
By the sale of colored men.  
In the 1860's our nation was at  
War once again.

Civil War discussions still  
Carry on today.  
Both sides continue to see it in  
Their own special way.

God's on our side  
War leaders say out of the blue.  
I don't know how you feel  
But I don't believe it to be true.

At the dawn of the war,  
Lincoln opened two homes.  
They both remain and should  
Be covered with domes.

Wisconsin has one home;  
The other's in Maine.  
We pray in Lincoln's memory  
They'll always remain.

The high quality of staff  
Is not found in all places.  
Their dedication and caring  
Is written on their faces.

I've been to them both.  
They're the best of the best.  
Again—one is out East;  
The other's in the Midwest.

The eagle soars over this  
Facility in the USA.  
I pray it keeps flying  
Over KING every day.

## "ALLELUIA IT'S CHRISTMAS!"

**Date:** Wednesday, December 12, 2018

**Time:** 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. open-house style  
event. Come anytime during the event times.

**Place:** 6725 Elmro Road, Greenleaf, WI 54126

Invite your friends, neighbors and family.

- Nativity Performance
- Live music
- Free refreshments
- Other free events: face painting, craft making, photo station, magic show

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"The Bible is the best of all books, for it is the word of God and teaches us the way to be happy in this world and in the next. Continue, therefore, to read it and to regulate your life by its precepts."

– John Jay

First Chief Justice of the Supreme Court



THANK YOU to all those who volunteered to help serve for our DQ Family Fun Night, and to everyone who came to eat. We appreciate the support you all gave for St. Bartholomew.

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There is value in a good vocabulary. In my retirement, I called an old friend and asked what he was doing these days.

He replied that he was working on "Aqua-thermal treatment of ceramics, aluminum and steel under a constrained environment."

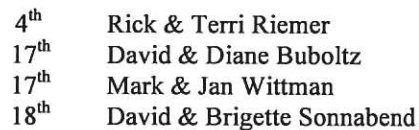
I was impressed. Upon further inquiry, however, I learned that he was washing dishes with hot water under his wife's supervision.

– via George Goldtrap  
Ormond-by-the-Sea, FL

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

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□
□ Pharmacist: "What is the
□ difference between God and a
□ doctor?"
□
□ Pharmacy Tech: "God doesn't
□ think he's a doctor."
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Judy Baer	56-2696
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 Sonabend	756-2779
Joan Zutz	756-2501

## 2019 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

