



# ST. BARTHOLOMEW NEWSLETTER

## MARCH 2020



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

### GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF OUR SAVIOR, JESUS!

March – a time between Valentine’s Day and Holy Week. I think this article ties the two together.

#### Would You Love Me A Little?

*By Pastor Don Ginkel*

There was a four-year-old boy. He had no parents, came from the slums, and was taken to an orphanage. The first night was quite an experience. When bed time came, after the first bath he had in some time, the matron took him to a bed with clean white sheets. He said, "Do you want ME to get in THERE?" After tucking him in the matron reached down and kissed him good night. "What did you do THAT for?" he said, and he rubbed off the kiss.

The next morning, when he saw the lady who put him to bed, he said, "Would you mind doing that again... what you did last night?" He had never been kissed before. It did something to him that warmed him inside. In about a week's time the matron said the boy was coming around three or four times a day. He'd look up at her with a soft look on his face and say, "Would you love me a little?" After some time it was felt Tommy was ready for adoption.

One day he was brought into a room to meet a man and woman. The matron asked Tommy if he would like to go home with the woman. Tommy looked at the floor and didn't say anything. The lady said, "I'll give you a rocking horse and all sorts of play things." She kept on talking, trying to tell him how nice it would be at their home. After a bit Tommy looked up at her and said, "Would you love me a little?"

It was Henry Drummon who said, "Love is the greatest thing in the world." St. Paul said, *"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always*

*Love*

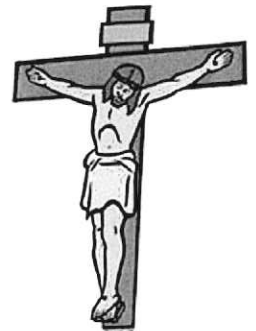
*hopes, always perseveres* (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)." The poet wrote:

#### PERFECT LOVE

**Slow to suspect, quick to trust**  
**Slow to condemn, quick to justify**  
**Slow to offend, quick to defend**  
**Slow to expose, quick to shield**  
**Slow to reprimand, quick to forbear**  
**Slow to belittle, quick to appreciate**  
**Slow to demand, quick to give**  
**Slow to demand, quick to conciliate**  
**Slow to hinder, quick to help**  
**Slow to resent, quick to forgive.**

I asked Jesus, "How much do You love me?" And He answered from the cross, "I love you so much" as He held His arms outstretched on the cross. "This is how much I love you." Now 1 Corinthians 13 is Jesus' love inside you. It is love that everybody is seeking. It's love that your children want. It's love that your spouse wants. It's love that your fellow Christians want from you and which unbelievers need from you.

Let's give it out today to everyone we can. Let's love non-Christians to Jesus! Yes, let's love Jesus more right now, He who first loved us! *"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love* (1 Corinthians 13:13)." We received it from Him; let's enjoy it; now let's give it away!



Together in Christ,

*Pastor Kueger*

# FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

January 2020

Year-to-date Income:	\$21,305.06
Year-to-date Expenses:	\$12,482.03
Year-to-date Budget:	\$13,936.00

## KINGDOM WORKERS - MARCH

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

**Altar Guild:** Norma Drumm, Janet Kalies

**Acolytes:** Mar. 1 – Addison  
 4 – (Wed.) Alandra  
 8 – Kelvin  
 11 – (Wed.) Simon  
 15 – Natalie  
 18 – (Wed.) Ava  
 22 – Alandra  
 25 – (Wed.) Addison  
 29 – Emma

On Sunday March 22  
 Sunday School Children  
 will sing in church.

## PENNIES FOR LIFE

Thank you to everyone who donated their pennies. We collected \$124.01 for Lutherans for Life during January. This was one of the highest amounts collected in numerous years.



## ELDER GROUPS

(A-G)	Keith Polkinghorne	756-2370
(H-M)	Tanner Behnke	(920) 427-6201
(N-Z)	Ron Detert	756-3439

## PRAYER CHAIN

A prayer request may be made to any member of the prayer chain. If you are requesting a prayer for someone, let the person know so that they are aware and respect their wishes if they do not want the request given to the prayer chain.

Judy Baer	756-2696
Florence Behnke	(920) 418-4315
Renee Bonick	(920) 296-9164
Sue Detert	756-3439
Lori Fels	(920) 639-3792
Rhonda Geiger	(920) 371-7375
Ralph & Sandy Haberland	(920) 524-2016
Kris Krueger	756-3912
Faith Sonnabend	756-2779
Diane Zickert	(920) 841-8951
Joan Zutz	756-2501

We pray not only for what has gone wrong and ask God's help, but we also pray for what has gone right and give thanks to God.



"This is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us" (1 John 5:14)



"When we say grace, do we look up at Heaven, or down at the food?"

## 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)

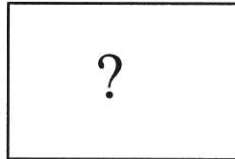
Caring for those in need (1 Peter 3:15; Mark 10:45;  
 Eph. 4:28; 1 John 3:17)

**SHARING, BELIEVING LIVING AND CARING**

## Jesus Is Most Important

In his book, *The Best Is Yet to Come*, John Kieschnick tells the story of Bob Buford. He writes, "Bob Buford owned a cable television company, and God richly blessed his business. Wealth and power, however, didn't fill the hole in Bob's life. He had a nagging sense of emptiness, so he went to a psychiatrist. Bob shared his dilemma, and the psychiatrist told him, 'Bob, I want you to go home and take out a piece of paper and a pen. Draw a box, and in that box write the words that describe the most important thing in your life.'"

What do you suppose Bob wrote in his box? What would you write in your box? What is your highest priority in life?



Before we put our answers in the box, let's reflect on our thoughts in relation to Bob's emptiness. As Christians, we understand that wealth and power do not fill our emptiness nor give us the security and happiness that Bob was seeking. As our faith grows, we learn that true riches have nothing to do with money. We can have very little money and be very rich or be very wealthy and be impoverished. True riches have to do with a right relationship with Jesus who, through His death and resurrection, brings us happiness, contentment, joy, love, peace, and life everlasting. Material possessions do not constitute real riches.

Material things are transitory. What we possess materially is subject to loss in a variety of ways. Our wealth can be lost in the stock market or through rust, obsolescence, and thievery. No matter how much money we may have, we have no way of guaranteeing that it can be kept safe and secure. Money can be lost, stolen, or its purchasing power lost through inflation. Investments can decline in value and businesses can fail. Our property can be burned or robbed. All material things can be gone quickly. Even if our material things stay with us, we will eventually leave them, because, at the end, we can take nothing with us.

God had blessed Bob materially, but he was still feeling empty with no purpose. Through faith, we understand that what we need most is a relationship with Jesus who is the only person whose love and forgiveness can give us all that we need. So, in response to the psychiatrist's question as to what is the most important thing in our life, our answer in the box is "Jesus!"

## Sermon On The Mount Bible Study

On Sunday, March 1, we will begin a six week Bible study that will help us better understand the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount from the context of His suffering, death, and resurrection. This study is based on our midweek Lenten series of the same name.



LILIES

Easter Flower order forms may be picked up from your church mailbox if they haven't done so already. If you would like to donate your flower in memory of someone there is a place on the order form to note that. Deadline to order is Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Pastor Out of Town

Pastor Krueger will be out of town Friday March 13<sup>th</sup> – Monday March 16<sup>th</sup>. If an emergency should arise, and you seek pastoral care contact Pastor Thomas Schmitt of St. Martin in Chilton (414) 477-7804 or one of the elders.



### THANK YOU—THANK YOU!

A special thank you to all who volunteered their time to help prepare and serve for the Chili dinner; all those who donated ingredients and tortes and pies.

Without your help, we would not be able to accomplish this event.

We appreciate all those people who came for fellowship and enjoyed dining with us.  
*Bless you all!*

-Ladies Aid

Daylight Savings Time:  
Don't forget to set your  
clocks ahead one hour  
before you go to bed on  
Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.



## SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Midweek Lenten Series

Salt and Light • Matthew 5:13-16

*March 4* - Christ calls us to be salt and light in this world of sin. We who have tasted and seen His great love for us on the cross can spend our Lent savoring His salvation and shining with His glory and grace in the places where He has put us.

Prayer and Fasting • Matthew 6:5-18

*March 11* - Lent is a season of prayer and fasting. We grow in our relationship with Christ by communicating with Him, and we learn more about Him and ourselves by giving up those things that can distract us from our connection to Him.

Do Not Worry • Matthew 6:25-34

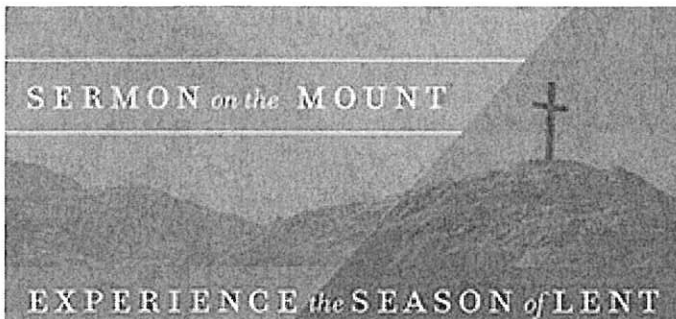
*March 18* - So much of our lives, even in Lent, is spent worrying about what might happen or what has happened. Christ teaches us to stop being anxious, but simply to trust that He knows what is best and will take care of us to the very end.

Judge Not • Matthew 7:1-5

*March 25* - We live in a very judgmental world, so Jesus' advice not to judge sounds radical to our modern ears. When we leave all judgment up to God, we free ourselves to look at one another through fresh and forgiving eyes.

Build on Rock • Matthew 7:24-27

*April 1* - We build our lives on very shaky foundations, and then we are surprised when things start collapsing. Jesus reminds us in His teachings that the only solid foundation is Himself, the Rock of our salvation. On Him alone we build.



CONCORDIA  
UNIVERSITY  
WISCONSIN

12800 North Lake Shore Drive  
Mequon, WI 53097-2402

### What do you plan to do after high school?

As you make plans for the future, we encourage you to attend the Servants of Christ Conference to learn more about what it means to be a servant of Christ in every aspect of your life. Learn about the biblical teaching of vocation, get information about college and careers, and take part in breakaway sessions that will help you grow in your faith—all while experiencing student life on Concordia's Mequon campus.

**Who:** 9-12 graders

**When:** 2:30pm, June 23<sup>rd</sup> to 4:30pm, June 24<sup>th</sup>

**Where:** Concordia University Wisconsin

**Cost:** \$25

Registration opens February 1<sup>st</sup>:  
[CUW.EDU/SERVANTSOFCRISTCONFERENCE](http://CUW.EDU/SERVANTSOFCRISTCONFERENCE)

### PORTALS OF PRAYER

If you currently aren't receiving the 'Portals of Prayer' but would like a quarterly copy please let the church office know. We would be happy to reserve a copy for you and put it in your mailbox when they arrive. We have three sizes to choose from - regular, digest size, and large print.

JOY:FULLY  
LUTHERAN  
1 THESS 5:16-24

### Joy is dependable

Joy is found in God's love, mercy and grace through His Son Jesus Christ. Joy is given to us through the work of the Holy Spirit in Word and Sacrament. Joy is found in what God has done and in the blessed good works He provides for us to live out. In a world in which bad news and decline appear to dominate, true joy — joy found in God's love in Christ — stands at all times and will last for all time. "Joy:fully Lutheran" means living in a joy that doesn't fade — no matter what comes our way. Find out more at [joyfullylutheran.org](http://joyfullylutheran.org).

# 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.

## A Life of Service

We are called to give our time, energy, and effort to serve others. Christians are giving people. While on earth, Jesus was the perfect example of a giving life full of service and compassion. When we intentionally fail to give our support to others, or if we ignore the pleas of those in need, we dishonor God. God is calling us to be His hands to help those who are in need, and He will lead us where He wants us to serve. Because of God's calling and our devotion to Him, service becomes our way of life. Service is what emanates from a life filled with love and devotion to Christ.

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## Jesus Taught us how to Serve Others

God loves the world, the whole world. It is God's love working through us that enables us to be servants to others. Our love for Christ is seen in acts of serving. We can be either other-oriented or self-oriented. Without God's motivation within us, our focus is always directed inward, always

aimed at fulfilling our own needs. He provides the love we need to love others and gives us the desire to serve them. As our relationship with Christ grows, we will be better able to see the world as He sees it, through eyes of love. We understand that we are saved by grace through faith for service.

The surprising thing is that, when we help others, we end up receiving an equal or greater benefit than the recipients from our acts of service. We discover that it is a greater blessing to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).

## Reflecting God's Light

Can people see God's light through us? Actions, words, and lifestyle are visible indicators of God's presence within our lives. Our character, compassion, gratitude, humility, perseverance, and faith reflect God's light when He is glorified and honored above all things. The Holy Spirit has placed within each Christian a light that can show others God's love and compassion. We are to let that light shine. Our light may seem to us like a twinkling candle in a dark world, but God will use it and magnify it.

*"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9).* It is our purpose to reflect our Redeemer in the midst of an unbelieving world. By word and actions, we are to acquaint those around us with the wonders

of His love and the redeeming power of His death upon the cross.

When Christ is within us, we are dead to sin, and our spirits are alive because of His righteousness. With Christ, we live confidently knowing that *"In all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose"* (Romans 8:28).

Through Christ, our lives can be lights that don't flicker, fade, or glow dimly but with light that radiates bright intensity. He is the light of the world; He brings life to us all. In fervent gratitude, we are to hold up His light.

In our Christian journey, we do not take the journey alone, because God has promised to be with us wherever we go (Joshua 1:9). God wants good things for all of us, and we are to do all things in His name and to give Him thanks. To live life abundantly, we need to put our trust and faith in Him alone. In our walk with Him, He will be with us every step of the way until we *"win the prize for which God has called [us] heavenward in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 3:14).

### **Being a Faithful Steward**

A steward is one who cares for something that belongs to another. Christians use the word stewardship as a reminder that all things belong to God. Even talents, gifts, and abilities that we call our own are His and are to be used according to His commands. The motivation for returning back to God what He has entrusted to us is a sense of duty, to be sure. But true stewardship in the life of a Christian grows out of much more. As the Gospel shines in

our hearts, our hearts are changed from a path of self-interest. We are transformed into loving, serving, and giving people who live lives unto God in faith.

### **Gambling Can Enslave Us**

A *Business Week* magazine observed that gambling has indeed entered the mainstream of American society. It is now touching the lives of nearly everyone, even the person who does not gamble. Since gambling can enslave people and bring them personal and family tragedy, Christians need to provide spiritual care to one another in this area. Only the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose love sets us free, will enable us to overcome such a

burden (Romans 8:1-17).

God loves us deeply, forgives the sins of those who trust in him, and helps us to resist the temptation to lay up treasures for ourselves. Our

sins are forgiven in Christ, including the sins of greed and lovelessness toward others. At the same time, God helps us to open our hearts in love and kindness, for he is at work in us both *"to will and work for His good pleasure"* (Philippians 2:13).



### **God's Money**

In order for us to honor God with our finances, we need to remember that our money is really not our money. *"The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein"* (Psalm 24:1). God owns it all and give to us as he pleases. No matter how much we like to think we earned it, we don't have anything that God didn't give us.

**Blessings as you Live Generously!**

## RIDES TO CHURCH



Are you willing and available to give people rides to and from church?

At different times, we have members of the congregation who no longer drive or because of road conditions prefer not to drive. We would like to put together a list of people who they could call for a ride.

If you are willing to help, please contact the church office. Thank you!



## CHRISTMAS TREE SALES CHAIRPERSON

We are looking for someone to be the chairperson of the Christmas tree sales. It would be best if this person were in place and take charge by April, even though much of the work doesn't have to be done until about October. The early work is getting the trees ordered.

If you are interested in serving as the chairperson, please contact Bob Behnke, Gary Koerth, or the church office.



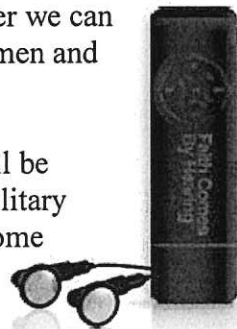
## JOIN THE MADNESS!

MARCH MADNESS begins March 17. For \$2 you can enter your selections in the St. Bartholomew ESPN bracket challenge. The winner will receive a \$25 scrip card. The proceeds will go to Debt Retirement. This is open to all ages and members of the congregation. Give us your name, email address, and \$2 if you want to participate. You can sign up in the narthex after services or in the church office. The deadline to sign up is March 8.

## Military BibleSticks Lenten Mission Project

Just \$25 provides God's Word on a Military BibleStick to 1 family. Together we can get God's Word to our servicemen and women!

February 26 - April 12, we will be receiving funds to purchase Military BibleSticks for our troops at home and abroad. \$25 sponsors one service member and his/her family.



*Here's a new twist:* There is a challenge between St. Bartholomew, Brillion and St. Peter, Hilbert as to which church can beat their respective goal by a greater percentage. The goal for St. Bartholomew is 50 BibleSticks. The goal for St. Peter is 40 BibleSticks. Both congregations have gone over these goals before. The winner gets bragging rights!

Your gift of \$5, \$25, \$100, or more can be put in an envelope marked "BibleStick" and placed in the offering plate or dropped off in the church office. Please make checks payable to the church.

*The challenge is on! Share the Good News of salvation with our troops!*

## Woman's Day

All ladies are invited to attend a Woman's Day hosted by Zion Women in Mission of New Holstein on Saturday March 21.

Program starts at 9 am with breakfast and ends at 2:30 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person. Deadline to register is Saturday March 14. If interested, contact Janet Kalies.

Sonlight Books of Sheboygan will have merchandise on display to purchase. Cash only, no credit or debit cards accepted.



# MARCH

## BIRTHDAYS

2nd	Lorraine Evel	17th	Bob Koffarnus
2nd	Kayla Woldt	18th	Josh Delvaux
2nd	Hilary Sonnabend	18th	Harper Horn
3rd	Sue Detert	18th	Faith Sonnabend
5th	Erin Zutz	19th	Russ Boldt
6th	Gary Koerth	19th	Lindsey Vechart
6th	Mitchell Krahn	20th	John Levash
6th	Ron Zueske	21st	Jr. Doughty
7th	Emma Krahn	21st	Olivia Riemer
7th	Rick Riemer	22nd	Melissa Day
7th	Haley Graef	24th	Nicole Wittmann
8th	Mike Delvaux	25th	Brigette Sonnabend
8th	Micah Horn	26th	Parker Sonnabend
10th	Meghan Propson	27th	Scott Eickert
11th	Pete Zarnoth	27th	Ben Kalies
12th	Jon Mignon	28th	Addison Grenzer
13th	Ralph Haberland	28th	Renee Maeder
14th	Cole Reinke		



## ANNIVERSARIES

11th	Erin & Ken Zutz
18th	Dave & Debbie Kamps
28th	Scott & Mary Eickert

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



**DIRECT 2019 CHOICE  
DOLLARS® -**

Act now before the 2019 Choice Dollars\* expire. Directing Choice Dollars online is fast and easy. Simply visit [www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) and click the "Get Started" link to begin. If you have any questions about directing Choice Dollars you can contact our Member Connection Center at 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" at the prompt. Don't miss this opportunity to recommend where Thrivent gives back!

## JANUARY SCRIP TOTALS

CARD NAME	TOTAL	PROFIT
Amazon	100	2.55
BP	500	7.50
Cobblestone	50	2.50
Dairy Queen	25	5.00
Deer Run	50	5.00
Econo	2,325	69.75
Exxon	125	6.25
Festival	300	9.00
Kohls	200	8.00
Kwik Trip	350	14.00
Menards	200	6.00
Piggly Wiggly	200	6.00
Roundy's	100	4.00
Shell	100	5.00
VISA	100	1.25
WalMart	550	13.75
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$5,275.00</b>	<b>\$165.50</b>

## CURIOUS BIBLE FACTS

A prisoner, condemned to solitary confinement, obtained a copy of the Bible and by three years' careful study, obtained the following facts:

The Bible contains 3,586,489 letters, 773,692 words, 31,173 verses, 1,189 chapters, and 66 books. The word and occurs 46,277 times. The word Lord occurs 1,855 times. The word Reverend occurs but once, which is in the 9<sup>th</sup> verse of the 111<sup>th</sup> Psalm. The middle verse is the 8<sup>th</sup> verse of the 118<sup>th</sup> Psalm. The 21<sup>st</sup> verse of the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter of Ezra contains all the letters in the alphabet except the letter J. The finest chapter to read is the 26<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. The 19<sup>th</sup> chapter of II. Kings and the 37<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Isaiah are alike. The longest verse is the 9<sup>th</sup> verse of the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter of Esther. The shortest verse is the 35<sup>th</sup> verse of the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter of St. John. The 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> verse of the 107<sup>th</sup> Psalm are alike. Each verse of the 136<sup>th</sup> Psalm end alike. There are no words or names of more than six syllables.