

ST. BARTHOLOMEW LUTHERAN CHURCH  
105 Horn St.  
Brillion, WI 54110  
(920) 756-3031  
Rev. Mark L. Krueger



Dear Members and Friends of St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church,

I hope and pray that you and your family are well!

We continue to be socially distant in an effort to thwart the spread of COVID-19. Because of that, you'll see that this newsletter is lacking a few regular items, especially the calendar.

A reminder that worship services and sermons are posted on the church website ([stbartbrillion.org](http://stbartbrillion.org)) under the News/Events tab. The first ones were just audio. They are now video. I pray that these are beneficial.

Families with Sunday school age children should have received an email with links to free materials for their children. I strongly encourage you to make use of them. You can even share the links with other families.

Some people have been dropping off their offerings. This is a receptacle in the narthex for them. Others have been sending them by mail. Everyone should have received by email or regular mail an enrollment form for electronic giving through Joyful Response. It is very simple to set up and to make changes. You just need to get the information to Lois in the church office. You can email or mail the information to her if you don't want to drop it off.

I will appeal to all those who haven't given us an email address to do so. It would make it much easier to get information to you.

Take care. Stay healthy. God's blessings!

Remember that God is our refuge and strength and that He is in control!

Together in Christ,  
Pastor Krueger



# ST. BARTHOLOMEW NEWSLETTER

## APRIL 2020



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

### GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF OUR RISEN LORD AND SAVIOR!

The aftershocks of that first Easter earthquake continue to topple walls. The wall between God and people symbolized by the angel with the fiery sword outside the Garden of Eden has begun to fall. To be sure, we're not yet in paradise and able to eat freely of the tree of life, but already, like Peter and the other disciples, we're able to eat and drink with the risen Christ. Not only does He share our food as He did on that first Easter evening when He took broiled fish and ate it to show He was no ghost, but also we recognize Him in the breaking of the bread. We're invited to His table to feast upon His body and His blood shed for the forgiveness of our sin. We share the feast of victory over sin, death, and Satan as a foretaste of that day when we will eat again from the tree of life in the midst of paradise.

The most sacred wall in all of Judaism was the wall in the temple that sealed off the Most Holy Place. The wall was of thick fabric. No one could pass through that wall, except the high priest, and he could only pass through once a year on the Day of Atonement. But on Good Friday, as Jesus breathed His last, that temple curtain wall was torn in two. Christ made the greatest sacrifice, with His own blood, and with that, everything changed. No longer does a priest offer the atoning sacrifice for our sin. The blood of Christ covers our sin, and God freely forgives you, me, and everyone who believes in Christ.

On Sunday morning, August 13, 1961, the leaders of what was then the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) gave the order for the border between East and West Berlin to be closed. This was the beginning of the construction of the Berlin Wall, one of the most hated structures of the Cold War. In time, August 13 was remembered as "Barbed Wire Sunday," a dark day in the history of the nation and the world. Families were split, workers lost their jobs, and ultimately many people were killed trying to escape to freedom.

However, what went up eventually came down. On November 9, 1989, around 7 p.m., the order was given for the border to be opened. Citizens of East Berlin began gathering at the wall demanding to be allowed to pass to the west side of the city. By 10:45 p.m., the guards at the wall were so overwhelmed and outnumbered they had no choice but to allow the people through. Within the next year, Germany was unified as a democracy and a new era began.

Easter is the undoing of sin, death, and Satan's "Barbed Wire Sunday." Even the grave could not hold Jesus.

*Christ  
is  
Risen!*

And the earthquake that broke open the tomb that first Easter morning is still breaking down walls. Walls of guilt, walls of addiction, walls of illness, walls of death, walls of culture and class, walls that hem us in, and walls that would keep us out!

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Together in Christ,

Sharing, Believing, Living, Caring

*Pastor Kueger*

## FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

February 2020

Year-to-date Income:	\$32,096.43
Year-to-date Expenses:	\$26,798.71
Year-to-date Budget:	\$27,872.00

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### JOYFUL RESPONSE

Would you find it helpful to have your offerings debited directly from your bank account as you probably do with other obligations? St. Bartholomew offers electronic giving for those of you who wish to have contributions transferred electronically to the church's account. You can use our electronic giving option for both regular offerings and one-time gifts. Simply complete and return an electronic giving authorization form available from the church office. Thank you.

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### WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE .....

.... between atheists who support no church and members who will not support the one to which they belong?

.... between skeptics who do not believe the Bible and negligent Christians who never read it?

.... between those who do not believe in Sunday School and those who never attend a class?

.... between people of the world and those in the church who live like people of the world?

## ELDER GROUPS

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

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**Voters Meeting**  
**April 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**8:00 a.m. in the**  
**fellowship hall**

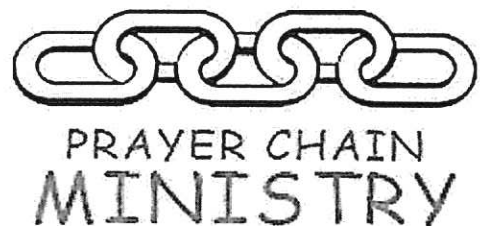
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## Prayer Chain

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



"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)

# 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.



## Standing Alone

Perhaps you've sat on a jury and have been the only one to see the facts in a certain way. Everyone but you voted guilty on the first vote. What did you do the second time around? Did you do the expedient thing and vote with the majority, or did you vote again according to your conscience and face the wrath of eleven others who wanted to wind things up and get back to their lives? Did you go along with the crowd, or did you stand alone?

Joseph of Arimathea was in such a situation. He was on the Council that voted to hand Jesus over to be crucified. He had seen and heard the facts. He knew Jesus was an innocent man. *"Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action"* (Luke 23:50-51).

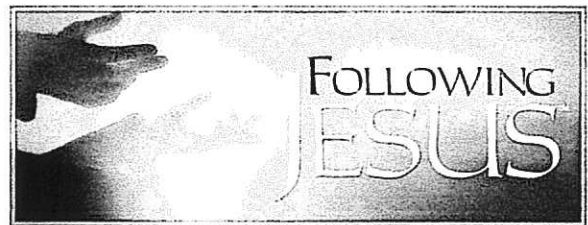
Scripture very matter of factly states that he *"had not consented to their decision and action."* We might just gloss over those

words, not thinking about what lies behind them.

The Council was an important and powerful governing body. That's evident in their ability to get Jesus crucified on false charges. If they could bring about Jesus' death, didn't they have power over Joseph as well? Definitely.

But St. Matthew wrote, *"...Joseph...had himself become a disciple of Jesus"* (Matthew 27:57). This fact makes all the difference! Joseph wasn't standing alone; he was standing with Jesus, his Master!

We, too, are disciples of Jesus. He gives us the gifts necessary to do His work, and He gives us the courage required to be His disciple. Should no one go with us, we still do not stand alone. Jesus stands with us.



## Signs on Churches:

"People who rely most on God rely least on themselves."

"To lift your soul, first bend your knees."

"At the heart of sin is the letter 'I.'"

## He Is Risen! And Now . . .

One of the most glorious sections in all of Scripture is found in 1 Corinthians 15 where we find the words of St. Paul as he expounds on Christ's crucifixion, resurrection, and subsequent appearances to His disciples. He writes about the implications of those events that, just as we all died in Adam, so in Christ we are all made alive and that, just as Christ

has a new glorified body, so shall we put off the perishable and be raised with an imperishable body. What a glorious passage! This is what Easter means to us!

Without taking a breath, Paul then continues, "Now about the collection for God's people" (1 Corinthians 16:1). To our minds these two themes don't fit together. Certainly thoughts about the collection don't belong in an Easter message, do they? Paul thinks they do, and why not? First, how do we respond to such a great gift as our salvation? Since God has poured out on us the treasures of His grace, will we not want to make a tangible expression of thanksgiving? Second, with a dying world around us, will we not want to expedite the mission of the Church to spread the Gospel message? "Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

### Church Bulletin Bloopers

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church. Please use large double doors at the side entrance.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

The Low Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 6:30 PM. Please use the back door.

### Is It Worth It?

A common complaint is that we are not appreciated. The mother gets the kids off to school, transfers them to games and lessons, prepares a delicious dinner, and receives no

thanks and may, in fact, be criticized for being a few minutes late or forgetting the milk money in the lunch.

The worker stays late, placates the disagreeable client, and lands the big contract without so much as a pat on the back.

It's enough to make you wonder if it's worth it. Do you think Jesus wondered? He healed ten lepers and only one returned to thank Him. When the Jewish leaders ganged up on Him, even His most trusted and loyal followers fled, and one vehemently denied even knowing Him.



But, you see, appreciation and thanks are not what Jesus was focusing on. Even though He is God, He "made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant . . . He humbled Himself and became obedient to death" (Philippians 2:7, 8). He was obedient to God. He came to earth to give His life in exchange for ours, and He didn't look for praise or thanks from us.

Remembering this and keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2), we follow His example. We are stewards who desire only to please our Father in Heaven. He is the One Who will say, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" (Matthew 25:21).

**Blessings as you Live Generously!**

## 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

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### PAVERS

If you would like to place a paver in our Memorial Garden, pick up a form in the church office or literature rack. Cost is \$35 each.

You can purchase a paver in memory of or in honor of someone or some event.

We only place one order during the year so be sure to order now. Deadline for 2020 orders is April 26.



### Worship Services On Website

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, we now have the sermons and order of worship on our website. You can visit our website at: [www.stbartbrillion.org](http://www.stbartbrillion.org). Click on the News/Events tab and choose sermons. You can also get the bulletins from News/Events tab and choose bulletins.



With the proceeds of the Chili Dinner, Ladies Aid will be doing a mission project for the LWML.

*Thank you to the Ladies Aid!!*

JOY:FULLY  
LUTHERAN  
1 THESS 5:16-24

### Joy is heard

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ” (Rom. 10:17). God’s Word engenders life. It kills to resurrect. We live in the joy and hope of the Gospel proclaimed. In the Absolution, life is spoken through the power of the Gospel to salvation to all who believe, and we respond with joy. Joyful song, joyful worship and joyful living. Find out more at [joyfullylutheran.org](http://joyfullylutheran.org).

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### Concordia University Wisconsin Summer Soccer Academy

June 14—16—Elementary School—ages 9—11

June 18—20—Middle School—Ages 12—14

June 21—23—Middle School—Ages 12—14

June 25—27—Elementary School—9—11

June 28—30—High School—Ages 14—17

August 3—6—Elementary School—Ages 6—8

\*New this year!

For **REGISTRATION** information:  
[www.cuwsa.com](http://www.cuwsa.com)



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“Sayin’ ‘Amen’ is like pressing the ‘SEND’ button for your prayers.”

## SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Midweek Lenten and Holy Week Series

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.

Ask, Seek, Knock • Matthew 7:7-11

*Palm Sunday, April 5* – When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the people asked, “Who is this King of Glory?” They were seeking one who saves when they shouted, “Hosanna!” They were knocking on the door for a new future. What they did not know was that Jesus was opening the door to everlasting life through the cross.

The Golden Rule • Matthew 7:12

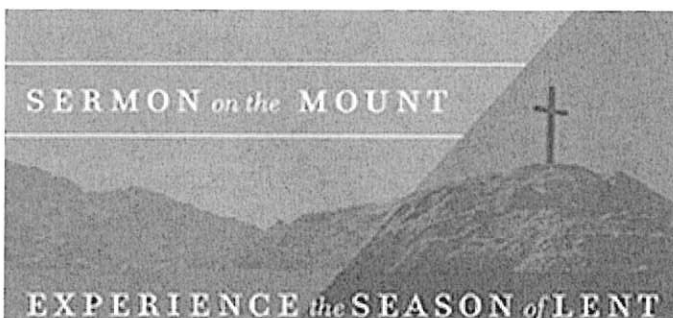
*Maundy Thursday, April 9* – Jesus lived out the Golden Rule the night He was betrayed, but with a twist. He taught His disciples to do to others as He had done to them: washing their feet, forgiving their sins, and loving them unconditionally.

The Tree and Its Fruit • Matthew 7:15-20

*Good Friday, April 10* – Jesus preached that good trees can be recognized by their fruits. Despite its appearance, the tree of the cross on Good Friday proved to be the best tree of all, because by Christ’s death upon it came the fruit of everlasting life.

Treasures in Heaven • Matthew 6:19-21

*Easter Sunday, April 12* – Jesus taught to lay up treasures in heaven and not on earth. His resurrection is a wake-up call to us all that while the things of this earth are temporary, we have the precious gift of life with Him forever awaiting us.



## 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.

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## Military BibleSticks Lenten Mission Project

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.



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.

*Share the Good News of salvation with our troops!*

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A pastor was going door to door introducing neighbors to the local church. As he walked up to the next house, he noticed a small boy sitting on the front steps.

“Is your mother home?” the pastor asked.

Yeah, she’s home,” the boy said. The pastor rang the doorbell, got no response, knocked once, then again. Still, no one came to the door. Turning to the boy, he said, “I thought you said your mother was home!?”

“She is,” the boy replied, “but this isn’t my house.”

# April Birthdays

2nd	Amber Klepps	16th	Bob Behnke
2nd	Bryce Denor	17th	Faviola Emmer
4th	Simon Geiger	17th	Mark Krahn
5th	Stephanie Petersen	20th	Cara Geiger
5th	Gunner Schlender	23rd	Amy Krahn
7th	Parker Gade	24th	Megan Boldt
7th	Tracy Hurda	25th	Linda Streck
9th	Lillian Petersen	27th	Sue Graf
10th	Savannah Day	27th	Collin Maeder
13th	Roger Bladow	27th	Hannah Maeder
13th	Dave Buboltz	27th	Jacob Maeder
13th	Debbie Kamps	28th	Bryce Michael
15th	Adolfo Vargas	28th	Evan Pope

## ANNIVERSARIES

18th	Tim & Melissa Pope
19th	Dan & Patsy Geiger
20th	Elliot & Dorothy Maile
21st	Zach & Amanda Zoellner
20th	Tony & Susan Wittmann
30th	Russ & Mary Boldt



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

### THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



"How do Easter lilies know what date to open up their flowers?"

from [JoyfulNoiseletter.com](http://JoyfulNoiseletter.com)  
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## FEBRUARY SCRIP TOTALS

CARD NAME	TOTAL	PROFIT
BP	700	10.50
Cobblestone	25	1.25
Dairy Queen	25	5.00
Deer Run	100	10.00
Econo	2,025	60.75
Exxon	125	6.25
Festival	250	7.50
Kohls	200	8.00
Kwik Trip	600	24.00
Menards	25	0.75
Shell	500	25.00
Subway	20	2.00
Target	25	0.63
VISA	50	0.63
WalMart	200	5.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$4870.00</b>	<b>\$167.26</b>



St. Bartholomew,

Thank you all so much for your generous support and prayers for our mission work with LBT here in Cameroon, you are such a blessing to us! 2020 is already full of development for the Fali language which is only possible through your support, thank you!

In HIS service,

*Elliot, Serena, Lydia, Chikodi & Josephine Derricks*



"Little League baseball is a good thing 'cause it keeps the parents off the streets and the kids out of the house."

– Yogi Berra