



ST. BARTHOLOMEW NEWSLETTER

MAY 2020



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

GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF OUR RISEN SAVIOR!

Well, life isn't the same. It's not what it used to be. Many changes have entered our lives over the last couple of months. Children are going to school at home. Parents are working at home. Parents have taken on a greater role in teaching their children. Children are not able to play with their friends. My two-year-old granddaughter recently said, "I miss my friends."

Church is quiet – the building that is. It wasn't filled to overflowing for Easter. Worship services are recorded with mostly just me in the church. Once in a while I have help. Usually on Easter morning, I get my nose filled with the aroma of many flowers. I walked over to church on Easter morning just to smell the few lilies that were on the altar. Our whole family with grandchildren and my parents were to be together for Easter.

We give thanks for the technology that we at times have cursed due to its interruptions in our lives. Now it brings our family and friends together from whom we would otherwise be isolated. Now it brings the message of God's Word into our homes.

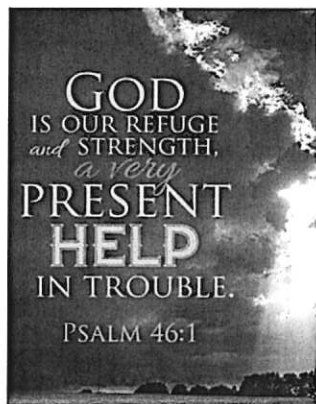


In the midst of COVID-19, we are by necessity focusing on our health and economic challenges, but let's not forget about all the blessings that God has given and continues to give to us. Through faith, we know that He is in control and that He loves us and wants His very best for us. Throughout Scripture, though, God's people over and over again have shown the propensity to forget His goodness and love as they separated themselves from Him. When the people of Israel were in the wilderness, God reminded them, through Moses, that they were not to forget what He had done for them. *"Then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness"* (Deut. 8:14-15). God tells the people that they will prosper in the new land, but He warns them not to set their hearts on their possessions. It is just as easy for us as was for the Israelites to forget about God's goodness and protection.

God tested the people of Israel for 40 years in the wilderness. They endured many hardships. Through these hardships the people witnessed God's goodness as He came to their rescue time and time again. Could this pandemic be our wilderness and a time of testing? This hardship is helping us to see that we are not in control, and we need God. As God used the wilderness to shape and humble the people of Israel, is God allowing this COVID-19 to draw us closer to Him? Facing these major health and economic issues is helping many, many people understand that we can't make it on our own. Through faith, we understand that all we are and have are by God's grace and that He makes it possible for us to live today, tomorrow, and forever.

Sharing, Believing, Living, Caring

How are you responding to your wilderness test? Only through faith can we understand that all these challenges that confront us are for our benefit. As God's people, we live with the promise that He will never leave us nor forsake us (Heb. 13:5). We know that we are completely reliant on God's generous, daily blessings. May it be our prayer that our wilderness experience will draw us closer to Him, and may we not forget His love for us. We can confidently place our total trust in Him to provide all that we need for this life and beyond as He walks with us during these trying times. We also pray for the leaders of our country that they will seek God's wisdom and guidance during this crisis.



Lord, who is in control of all things, bless us in this difficult time. Bring relief to tension and strained relationships in our homes and works places. Be with all of us, but especially with those who are fighting this pandemic on the front lines – doctors, nurses, paramedics, and others. Give Your wisdom and guidance to the leaders of our country as they strive to do the right thing and make the right decisions during this crisis which neither we nor they have ever dealt with before. Lord, we place ourselves into Your hands for You, and only You, are our refuge and strength. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Together in Christ,

MILITARY BIBLESTICK CHALLENGE

The tabulations are in! And the bragging rights go to St. Peter, Hilbert!

Goal for St. Bartholomew = 50
Money raised = 57

Goal for St. Peter = 40
Money raised = 77

Congratulations to the members of St. Peter!

Thank you to everyone who contributed! This is awesome! 134 military personnel will receive a Military BibleStick and have God's Word readily available to them. They in turn will have the opportunity to share God's Word with their families.

FOOD 'N MORE

During these tough economic times, many families do not have adequate resources to meet the needs of their families. You can help fill the gap.

You can help by donating non-perishable food items and other essentials. Your donated items can be dropped off in the church narthex. The items will then go to the local food pantry to be distributed to those people who are in need.

God has richly blessed us! And I'm not just talking about material items. Let's share our brotherly love with those who are less fortunate to help them through these difficult times.

Thank you to all who have already graciously shared from their abundance! A special thank you to the family that dropped off a trunk load of groceries!

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.

Putting God's Words into Practice

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fail, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand." (Matthew 7:24-26).

God not only wants us to hear His Words; He wants us to put them into practice. We put them into practice by how we live and what we do. In the words of Paul, *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"* (Ephesians 2:10). Good works are evidence of the faith that we have. James wrote, *"In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead"* (James 2:17). Through faith, we are enabled to understand God's will and equipped to do it. As wise people who build their foundations on the Rock, we...

- are poor in spirit and meek.
- are peacemakers.
- are salt and light.
- don't resist an evil person rather we turn the other cheek.
- love our enemies.
- give to the needy without seeking recognition.
- pray humbly and sincerely.
- serve only the Lord rather than money.

- store up treasures in Heaven.
- trust God to provide for our needs.

With our lives built on the Word of God, we will be able to withstand all the dangers and hardships in life. God will protect us and see us through all difficult circumstances.



Pearl of Great Price

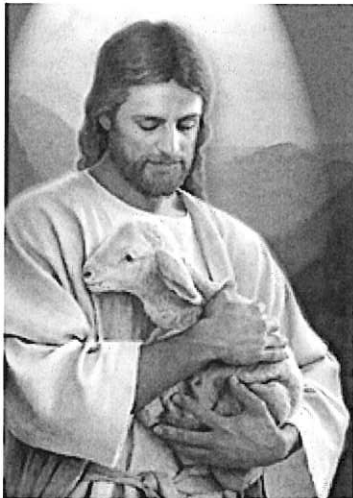
Jesus said, *"Again, the kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it"* (Matthew 13:45-46).

Who knew that Jesus was the **pearl of great price**? After all, wasn't He just *"the carpenter's son"*? (Matthew 13:55) *"The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus..."* (Matthew 26:59) because, rather than seeing Him for what He was and is, **the pearl of great price**, they were threatened by Him and wanted to destroy Him.

Even His disciples who had lived with Him, eaten with Him, listened to Him, and

worked beside Him for three years found Him to be not **the pearl of great price**, but a danger to their lives and reputations and they “*deserted Him and fled*” (Mathew 26:56) at His time of need.

What about us? We have the advantage of past history. We have God’s Word. We know of Jesus’ perfect life lived in our place; we know of His anguished prayer for us before His Father; we know of His death on the cross that paid the price for our sin; we know of His triumphant resurrection; and we know how our lives are made new in Him. Do we view Him as **the pearl of great price**? Are we willing to sell everything we have to give for Him? Or are we hoarding our assets, refusing to share? Are we sealing our lips, fearing rejection if we speak His name? God give us grace to proclaim Jesus, **our pearl of great price**.



Thoughts to Ponder

- Experts made the Titanic; amateurs made the Ark.
- God helps me to be the person my dog thinks I am!

- Santa Claus never died for anyone.
- I wish Noah had swatted those two mosquitos.

Called to Be God’s Stewards

God calls us and equips us to be His stewards. He wants us to be His channels. He works through us. But what if we act as terminals instead of channels? Rev. Randy Alcorn in his book, *The Treasure Principle*, shares the following: “Suppose you have something important you want to get to someone who needs it. You wrap it up and hand it over to the FedEx guy. What would you think if, instead of delivering the package, he took it home, opened it, and kept it for himself? You’d say, ‘This guy doesn’t get it. The packages don’t belong to him. He’s just the middleman.’ His joy is to get them from me to the person I want him to hand them off to. Just because God puts money in our hands doesn’t mean He intends for it to stay there!” God blesses us so we can be blessings to others.

Seeking Christian Counsel

It is wise to seek financial counsel that we might gain wisdom “*more precious than rubies*” (Proverbs 8:11), but we may be reluctant to ask for it—often because of our pride. To tell others of our financial plight would be embarrassing. In addition, the counselor who works with us may point out some things we don’t want to hear. We may also be advised that we have to give up things or activities that we like having and doing. Yet, as in other areas of life, we should never be too proud to accept good advice about money. *King Solomon* encouraged us to embrace good counsel. “*Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise*” (Proverbs 19:20).

Blessings as you Live Generously!

St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church

Voters Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 8:00am by President Bob Behnke.

Pastor led in opening prayer.

Members Present: 21

Exception to Constitution:

- The Constitution we approved last year states the President and Vice President should serve alternating years
- Bob agreed to stay for one more year, so then the President and Vice President terms would be alternating
- Faith Sonnabend made the motion to make an exception for Bob to run for President another year. Second by Debbie Kamps. MC

Secretary Minutes: Gary Lemke made the motion to accept the secretary minutes. Second by Roger Bladow. MC

Membership Gains/Losses:

- None

Treasurer's Report

- We ended the year about \$11,000 down from the beginning of the year
 - Reasons why we are down include:
 - A \$5,000 gift from 2018 did not get put where it was supposed to go, so in 2019 we put that money where it was supposed to be
 - Painting costed \$3,400
 - We were \$1,800 short on debt retirement payment
- We encourage everyone to use the debt retirement envelope
- \$91,770 on loan
 - In January, we made a \$5,000 principal payment

Board Reports

Elders

- Ron Detert will be an Elder
- Elders will have access to church

Stewardship/Evangelism

- We made \$222.49 from DQ Family Night
 - This money went to the debit retirement fund
 - A Thank You card was dropped off at DQ
- Adopt-A-Family went well
 - We will start to look for families at the beginning of November
- Looking to update the bulletin board in the front entrance
- Worshiping Card
 - Looking to give guests a worshiping card which will be a welcome card along with possibly a \$5 gift card
- Advent Readings

- Thank You to all volunteers who helped
- Welcome Wagon
 - This was tabled until their next meeting
- Looking for a committee to help with the parade

Trustees

- Looking into buying a new lawn mower
- Roof
 - Looking at repairing the roof over Sunday school classrooms
 - There was a spot over the office that was repaired as it was leaking. This costed about \$300
- Looking for a new groundskeeper. Also, looking for a custodian

Pastor's Report

- Membership today: 305 souls and 263 communicants
- District Sunday: February 19th and 23rd
- Midweek Lenten Theme: Sermon on the Mount
- Military Bible Sticks – competition between St. Bartholomew and St. Peter
 - Goal for St. Bartholomew is 50 sticks
 - Goal for St. Peter is 40 sticks
- Chili dinner – February 23rd
- Soup or Bowl Challenge went through February 3rd
- Directory updates – update contact information
- Pennies for Life
- Precious feet available for \$4
- Need new person for Chairperson of Christmas Tree Sales
- No Passionate Believers Conference this year
- Vacancy continues at St. Peters

Unfinished Business

- Election of Officers and Board Members
 - Looking for another Elder
 - Faith Sonnabend made the motion to approve the election of officers and board members as follows:
 - Judy Baer & Sue Juno – Stewardship/Evangelism
 - Ron Detert – Elder
 - Gary Koerth – Vice President
 - Bob Behnke – President
 - Second by Rodger Bladow. MC

New Business

- Installation of officers and board members was February 5th and 9th
- Pews are available
 - There are three pews that we would like to get rid of

Adjourn: Dave Kamps made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25am. Second by Gary Lemke.

Pastor led in closing prayer

Shawna Levash
Secretary

FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

March 2020

Year-to-date Income: \$45,516.95
 Year-to-date Expenses: \$41,541.75
 Year-to-date Budget: \$41,808.00

+ + +

Debt Retirement Fund

Janet Kalies, in memory of Myrtle Stecker

Landscape Fund

Gary & Linda Streck, in memory of Sue Detert's parents

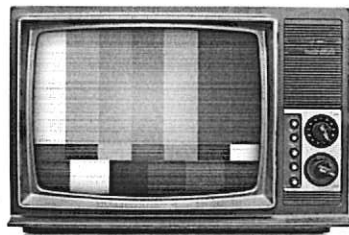
WHEN DO MOTHERS REST?

A young mother with three extremely active young boys was playing "cops and robbers" one afternoon in the backyard when a neighbor stopped by to borrow a cup of sugar. One boy aimed his pistol at his mother and yelled, "Bang! You are dead." She slumped to the ground in a heap. When she did not get up right away, the neighbor hurried to see if she had been hurt in the fall. As the neighbor bent over, the over-worked mother opened one eye and whispered, "Shhh. Do not give me away. It is the only chance I get to rest."



WE'RE ON THE AIR!

Beginning on Wednesday, April 29, the worship services will be broadcast on Spectrum channel 978. Spread the word, especially to those family members and friends who do not have access to the internet.



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

The Lutheran Hour

Station	City, State	Freq	Band	Day	Time
WRVM	Powers, MI	98.9	FM	Sun	10:00 AM
WRVM	Appleton, WI	101.7	FM	Sun	10:00 AM
WRVM	Ellison Bay, WI	103.1	FM	Sun	10:00 AM
WTMJ	Milwaukee, WI	620	AM	Sun	5:30 AM
WTMJ	Milwaukee, WI	620	AM	Sun	6:30 AM
WRVM	N. Fond du Lac, WI	88.5	FM	Sun	10:00 AM
WJMQ	Shawano, WI	92.3	FM	Sun	7:30 AM
WTCH	Shawano, WI	960	AM	Sun	7:30 AM



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



PRAYER CHAIN
 MINISTRY

"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)



1st	Benjamin Krahn	11th	Matt Denor
1st	Nicholas Krahn	11th	Cheyenne Schleis
1st	Gary Streck	14th	Carolyn Bladow
4th	Alison Gade	14th	Zach Zoellner
4th	Hunter Gade	15th	Pyper Nenahlo
4th	Lori Krueger	15th	Drake Propson
4th	Elaine Zeamer	16th	Spencer Gilbertson
5th	Tanner Behnke	17th	Mariana Vargas
7th	Samantha Bonick	18th	Joan Prigge
7th	Norma Drumm	18th	Dana Irish
8th	Paula Kalies	20th	Jim Wendling
9th	Cassandra Bonick	21st	Joshua Krahn
9th	Steve Juno	24th	Jacob Wendling
9th	Karly Woldt	25th	Linda Bretizman
10th	Ben Michael	30th	Kay Koffarnus
10th	Philip Klepps		

Anniversaries

2nd	Gary & Linda Streck
5th	Brandan & Jennifer Bowe
19th	Todd & Jody Lau
19th	Don & Judy Baer
19th	Lon & Lori Fels
25th	Matt & Jody Denor
25th	Pastor & Kris Krueger
29th	Bob & Sandi Koffarnus



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



WEAR RED FOR PENTECOST

We will celebrate Pentecost on Wednesday May 27 and Sunday May 31. The liturgical color of the day is red which is symbolic of the Holy Spirit. You are encouraged to wear red. Pentecost marks the day when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles. It occurs 50 days after Easter and comes 10 days after the ascension of Jesus Christ.

WHAT IS A MOTHER?

It takes a Mother's LOVE
to make a house a home,
A place to be remembered,
no matter where we roam . . .

It takes a Mother's PATIENCE
to bring a child up right;
And her COURAGE and her CHEERFULNESS
to make a dark day bright . . .

It takes a MOTHER's THOUGHTFULNESS
to mend the heart's deep "hurts,"
And her SKILL and her ENDURANCE
to mend little socks and shirts . . .

It takes a Mother's KINDNESS
to forgive us when we err,
To sympathize in trouble
and bow her head in prayer . . .

It takes a Mother's WISDOM
to recognize our needs
And to give us reassurance
by her loving words and deeds . . .

It takes a Mother's ENDLESS FAITH
her CONFIDENCE and TRUST
To guide us through the pitfalls
of selfishness and lust . . .

For God knew in HIS great wisdom
That HE couldn't be EVERYWHERE,
So HE put HIS LITTLE CHILDREN
In a LOVING MOTHER'S CARE.



MARCH SCRIP TOTALS

CARD NAME	TOTAL	PROFIT
BP	450	6.75
Cobblestone	25	1.25
Culver's	25	1.25
Econo	900	27.00
Exxon	100	5.00
Kohls	50	2.00
Kwik Trip	150	6.00
McDonalds	40	1.60
Piggly Wiggly	200	6.00
RL/OG	75	6.00
Roundy's	200	8.00
Shell	100	5.00
Starbucks	10	0.70
Taco Bell	30	1.50
Target	10	0.25
WalMart	125	3.13
TOTALS	\$2490.00	\$81.43