



ST. BARTHOLOMEW NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2020



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

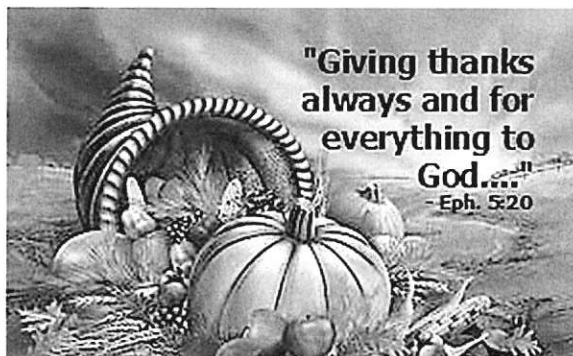
GREETINGS!

As we approach Thanksgiving and then, shortly thereafter, the end of 2020, we're reminded of the many blessings that God has given to us. The question that we should be asking is, "How do we begin to thank God for all that He has done and continues to do for us?" High on our lists of things to thank our heavenly Father for should be our new lives in Christ. In spite of our sinful ways, God demonstrated His awesome love for us by sending His only Son to the cross on our behalf. We certainly will also thank Him for our families as well as our material blessings, and we can be confident that God will bless us with a cure for this pandemic that is plaguing the world. How blessed we are that God provides for all that we need to sustain our lives, and, through faith that He provides, He will give us life forever with Him.

I want to suggest another wonderful blessing for us that we should always give thanks for and that is God's faithfulness to us. As the prophet Jeremiah wrote, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness" (Lam. 3:22-23). God's faithfulness to us never wavers, even though we vacillate in our faithfulness to Him.

Because of God's faithfulness to us, God has blessed us so we can be a blessing to others. Recognizing our blessings are so freely given to us causes us to want to share our blessings. Through faith, we willingly "share with God's people who are in need" (Rom. 12:13). "Christ's love compels us" (2 Cor. 5:14) to respond to the needs of others, both physical and spiritual needs. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, we become channels through which God works.

Those who are a blessing to others reflect and live with an attitude that is described as "an attitude of gratitude." To live with "an attitude of gratitude," means we truly understand that God is the source of all blessings. Understanding God's grace, love, and mercy, we are motivated to live lives which reflect our gratitude for what God is doing in our lives.



Because of the Covid-19 virus, family gatherings may be smaller than in past years but hopefully it won't prevent you from having a wonderful day with your family, enjoying some turkey, and possibly watching some football. Happy Thanksgiving!

Together in Christ,

Pastor Krueger

FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

September 2020

Year-to-date Income:	\$134,203.34
Year-to-date Expenses:	\$124,662.83
Year-to-date Budget:	\$125,424.00

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SPECIAL FUNDS CONTRIBUTORS

Landscaping Fund

Janet Kalies, in memory of Melva Riemer

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Deaths

Wally Sonnabend	8/9
Melva Riemer	10/9
Lorraine Evel	10/18

Wedding

Shawna Levash & James Kiesow 10/9



Join us Wednesday,
November 25 at 7:00 p.m.
for a special Thanksgiving
worship service w/communion

ELDER GROUPS

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

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

KINGDOM WORKERS – November

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

Altar Guild: Andrea Grenzer & Rhonda Geiger

Acolytes: Nov. 1 - Emma
8 - Kelvin
15 - Simon
22 - Natalie
25 - (Wed.) Thanksgiving - Ava
29 - Alandra



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)

“Faithful Stewards of God’s Gifts”

I’m excited to inform you that our stewardship emphasis for this year is **Faithful Stewards of God’s Gifts**. I’m confident that the three weeks of messages will help you grow in your spiritual and stewardship journeys.

The three-weekly themes are:

Wednesday, November 4 & Sunday, November 8:

“Stewards of God’s Varied Grace” (1 Peter 4:10)

Wednesday, November 11 & Sunday, November 15:

“As We Have Opportunity, Let Us Do Good to Everyone” (Galatians 6:10)

Wednesday, November 18 & Sunday, November 22:

“Generous and Ready to Share” (1 Timothy 6:18)

In our short time on earth, we are called by God to take care of His things. Through faith, we understand that all we have belongs to the One who created us. Being a steward is faith in action. The following quote from Thom and Art Rainer in their book *Simple Life* will help us better understand what it means to be God’s stewards:

“Stewardship is a word we often hear from behind the pulpit but rarely outside the walls of the church. ... A steward is traditionally one who takes care of another’s household. A steward watches over the domestic affairs so that the master may focus on whatever he deems most important. Much trust is placed in the steward by the master. He is expected to act in the best interest of his master, with or without his oversight. So stewardship consists of managing those obligations given to the steward. By nature of the word, stewardship requires some type of higher authority. It is a position of submittal to a greater good. It is the denying of oneself and the exalting of another. It is commitment to the well-being of another, knowing that his happiness will result in your happiness.”



What a privilege and honor that God who has created us and recreated us in Baptism chooses us to be His stewards! In this honored position, we are expected to be responsible and accountable. The Apostle Paul wrote, “*Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy*” (1 Corinthians 4:2). With the help of the Holy Spirit, we become **Faithful Stewards of God’s Gifts**.

If you handed in a commitment form in 2019, you will find it returned to you in your church mailbox.

Daily devotions are also available for this 3-week emphasis. Those for whom we have an email address will be receiving them as an email attachment. Hard copies will also be available at church.

I pray that our stewardship emphasis, **Faithful Stewards of God’s Gifts**, will be a blessing to us all. May God continually bless us as faithful stewards of the many blessings He has entrusted to our care.

Your fellow steward in Christ,
Pastor Krueger

ALTAR GUILD HELP NEEDED

Prayerfully consider serving on the Altar Guild for 2021.

Women, men, or couples; in fact, any confirmed member can serve. If you are interested, contact the church office and we will add your name to the list. We will be contacting the current Altar Guild members early November to determine your willingness to serve in 2021. Current members check your church mailbox for your note.



PORTALS of PRAYER

If you are not receiving a copy of the Portals of Prayer, but would like the quarterly publication; let the church office know and we will gladly place a copy in your church mailbox four times a year. We receive regular, digest-size, and large print of this publication. Let the office know which size is right for you.

“END OF YEAR” CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

The 2020 ‘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 8th. Please remember to pick them up for tax purposes! Thank you.



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

FOOD ‘N MORE

Bring non-perishable food items, toiletries, and/or paper products to St. Bartholomew. Items collected will be given to the Food Pantry at Holy Family Church in Brillion. Please note the deadline for your donations is Sunday, November 29th.



A Thanksgiving Prayer

*"Thank You, God, for joy in my soul,
For guiding, for healing, for making me whole!
For unexpected pleasures, dropped from above,
For unlimited measures of caring and love!*

*"Thank You for Your vibrant presence, too,
In the thoughtful comments of others who
Make me feel special and worthwhile...
For a friendly hug, and a loving smile!*

*"I will not wait for a certain time,
I'll dedicate each day that's mine,
To expressing thanks to God... This way
Each day will be Thanksgiving Day!"*

– Author unknown

Important Notice

Ladies Aid Members

We will not have any more meetings until further notice. We will keep you posted as to when we will resume again. *Thank you.*

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 November.

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.



God Gives Us His Wisdom

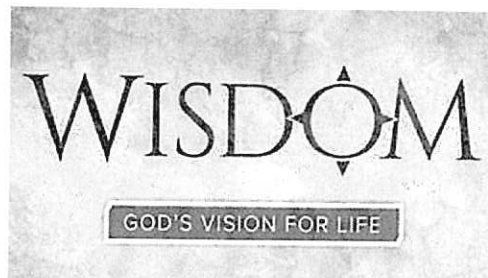
"For the Lord gives wisdom and from His mouth come knowledge and understanding" (Proverbs 2:6), wrote Solomon. Apart from the wisdom of God, in spite of the picture we may present to the world, we are bewildered, confused, and lacking in purpose. Godly wisdom enables us to know God and ourselves; it shows us what God's purpose is for us; it leads us to fear, love, and obey God. *"Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold"* (Proverbs 3:13-14).

The account of the attempted deceit on the part of Ananias and Sapphira illustrates the words of Proverbs 2:12: *"Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse."* While it was Godly wisdom that directed Barnabas to

donate the entire profit from his sale of land, human, selfish wisdom motivated Ananias and Sapphira to lie to God (verse 4), claiming they were giving the total proceeds from their property sale when, instead, they retained some of the money they had received.

The Rich Fool, like the couple above, relied completely on his own wisdom. When faced with the problem of ever-increasing produce, his solution was to build bigger barns to hold it and then to relax and enjoy the fruit of his labor. Never does Scripture record that he thanked God for His blessings or that he wanted to share his abundance with others as Godly wisdom would have urged.

Certainly, we would avoid the paths of Ananias and Sapphira and the Rich Fool. Better to heed the words of Solomon: *"Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my*



words or swerve from them. Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. Wisdom is supreme; therefore get understanding" (Proverbs 4:5-7). By forsaking the wisdom God gives, these Biblical characters lost the protection that Godly wisdom offers.

The message of the Cross is “foolishness” to those who are without faith. *“The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned”* (1 Corinthians 2:14). The believer, though, seeks God’s wisdom through a relationship with His Son and possesses and acts according to that wisdom.

Yes, God works through us, the foolish, to accomplish His purposes. Humbly and joyfully, we believe His Word that He has given His Son to become wisdom for us! He is *“our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: ‘Let him who boasts boast in the Lord’”* (1 Corinthians 1:30-31).

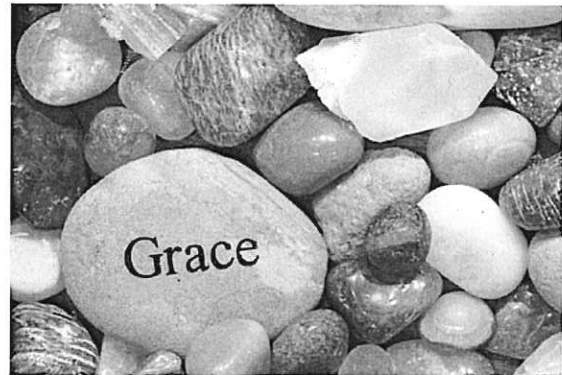
The Age-old Battle

Our worship services include time for believers to come before the Lord, acknowledging our sinful natures, thoughts, words, and acts and asking for His forgiveness, based on the atoning work of His Son. Why is this necessary? Shouldn’t we be beyond need of repentance and forgiveness? Romans 6:18 tells us, *“You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.”*

That statement is as true for the Christian today as it was for Paul, but even the apostle endured the age-old battle between sin and righteousness. He described our dilemma in Romans 7:15: *“I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.”* He commented on our state of helplessness: *“What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?”* Immediately, he gives the

victorious answer: *“Thanks be to God – through Jesus Christ our Lord!”* (verses 24-25)

In response to God’s gift of grace to us through His Son, Paul tells us we have an obligation: *“Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation – but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die”* (Romans 8:12-13a). So we’re back to the dilemma; we’re sinful beings who can do nothing more than live according to our sinful natures. But, Paul offers more good news: *“But if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God”* (Romans 8:13b-14)!



What glorious news this is for Christians led by the Holy Spirit Who daily sanctifies us through Word and Sacrament. Yes, the age-old battle is waged day by day, but the struggle holds no tinge of despair, for the victory over sin has already been won!

A Sunday school teacher asked, “Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the ark?” “No” replied Johnny. “How could he with just two worms.”

Blessings as you Live Generously!

Thank You



Dear Friends In Christ,

Thank you for sharing your gifts and for helping us make a difference in the lives of those who are desperate.

Words cannot adequately express Food For The Poor's gratitude for your generosity. Your congregation's compassion, care, and answer to the calls of the Gospel have transformed entire communities. You cannot imagine the songs and prayers of thanksgiving that emanate when you help us lift the burden of those living in poverty and aid them in restoring their dignity and dreams.

We know fall is a busy time for church families and this year will present its own unique challenges. So amidst the busyness, we wanted to pause for a moment, simply to say thank you. Thank you for your continued partnership. Thank you for your commitment to breaking the cycle of poverty. Thank you for being the hands and feet of our Lord.

May God continue to shower you and your congregation with His grace, blessings, and peace. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if there is ever anything specific we can keep in prayer for you. We look forward to another season of service alongside you.

Delane Bailey

Proverbs 19:17 (NIV)

Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD,
and he will reward them for what they have done.



Dear St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church,

At Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin, we work year round to assist those struggling with mental health issues or addictions. We also work diligently to bring families together through our century-old adoptions program. Our mission and vision is to provide quality counseling services and assistance to all who seek care, regardless of faith, culture, religious belief or financial situation.

Thank you for helping us to make our mission a reality. Through your generous donation of \$700.00 on 09/22/20, you have allowed us to positively affect countless individuals and families, making our communities healthier and stronger. Your gift reaffirms our belief that those who find themselves in times of crisis or struggle deserve to be given an opportunity to improve their lives and their situation.

Your support fills us with gratitude and reenergizes our mission each and every day.

In His Name,

Deb Rayburn, MS, LPC, CSAC, CSIT
Chief Executive Officer

CHRISTMAS TREE SALES BEGIN....

St. Bartholomew will begin selling trees on Friday, November 27th from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Help is needed from the congregation to tend the tree lot and sell trees. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board for the days and times sellers are needed. Your help will be greatly appreciated!



Tree Lot Hours

Mondays and Fridays	3-6 p.m.
Saturdays	9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sundays	Noon-6 p.m.

POINSETTIAS FOR THE ALTAR

Watch your church mailbox for order forms. If you would like to donate a poinsettia for the altar this Christmas season, the deadline for ordering will be Sunday, December 13th.

Please drop your form off in the church office along with your payment.



We will be decorating the tree and church as well as putting up the outdoor Christmas display on Saturday, December 5th beginning at 9:00 a.m. Please consider helping even if you can only give an hour of your time. Thank you!

CHURCH CLOSINGS

Before we know it, winter will be upon us. We will be notifying members of any church closings this winter season due to inclement weather via email for any of those members whose email addresses we have on file. You can also tune into radio station Y100 100.3 FM or turn your TV to WBAY Channel 2 or WFRV Channel 5 for any worship service cancellation.



SEPTEMBER SCRIP TOTALS

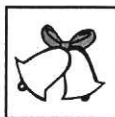
CARD NAME	TOTAL	PROFIT
Amazon	200	5.00
BP	300	4.50
Deer Run	50	5.00
Econo	700	21.00
Exxon	50	2.50
Festival	200	6.00
Fleet Farm	75	3.75
Kohls	150	6.00
Kwik Trip	75	3.00
McDonalds	10	0.40
Piggly Wiggly	100	3.00
Roundy's	100	4.00
WalMart	150	3.75
TOTALS	2,160.00	67.90

November Birthdays

1 st	Duane Loose	15 th	Emmeline Hurda
3 rd	Sheri Levash	16 th	Casey Kalies
4 th	Katie Horn	16 th	Amanda Denor
5 th	Dale Streck	17 th	Dave Sonnabend
5 th	Gary Lemke	19 th	Dan Geiger
6 th	Florence Behnke	20 th	Nancy Kabat
9 th	Patsy Wendling	21 st	Simon Horn
9 th	Jody Denor	21 st	Dwane Kalies
9 th	Chris Gade	23 rd	Derek Koffarnus
10 th	Harlen Krahn	23 rd	Joan Lemke
11 th	Amy Woldt	25 th	Lori Fels
13 th	Kelvin Gilbertson	29 th	Ron Davidson
		29 th	Jay Krahn

ANNIVERSARIES

8 th	Simon and Rhonda Geiger
14 th	Andy & Cara Geiger
14 th	Joel & Connie Koerth
17 th	Pete & Judy Vechart



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

PUZZLE EXCHANGE

The puzzles have all been placed on shelves in the first room on the left-hand or east side past the hallway to the Fellowship hall.

Feel free to take one or two home to work on. If you have any puzzles you'd like to donate, please make sure all the pieces are in the box and just place them in that room. Thank you.

PROFESSIONAL GRADE LAWN SWEEPER

Available for Purchase
(Make an offer)

Contact one of the trustees if
interested.

