



ST. BARTHOLOMEW NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020



“To God be the Glory!” (1 Peter 4:11)

GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF CHRIST THE LORD!

In a short time, we will be celebrating the birth of Christ – a major event, even for those who don’t believe in Him. God’s Son came to live among us in order to forgive us, reconcile us with our heavenly Father, and give us life everlasting.

How different our celebrations today are from the first Christmas more than 2,000 years ago! Mary and Joseph found no room in an inn so they *“wrapped [Jesus] in strips of cloth and placed him in a manger”* (Luke 2:7). There were no reporters or photographers waiting outside to write a newspaper article or 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? To the privileged elite? 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 and *“the glory of the Lord shone 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 2:9,11). 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.”* What a privilege we have to tell others about the baby in the manger who became a man and died for our sins so we can live eternally with Him in heaven!



May God grant us all the passion to tell others of Jesus’ birth and love for all people.

Together in Christ,

Pastor Kueger

Sharing, Believing, Living, Caring

FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

October 2020

Year-to-date Income: \$143,207.12
Year-to-date Expenses: \$138,912.86
Year-to-date Budget: \$139,360.00

+ + + +

TRANSFER

Nicole Wittmann to Trinity Lutheran, Oshkosh

REMOVAL

Tyler Koerth due to joining another denomination

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**ANNUAL REPORT ITEMS ARE DUE
JANUARY 1, 2021**

Reports will be needed from the following
Boards/Committees:

Board of Elders
Board of Stewardship/Evangelism
Board of Trustees
Tree Committee
Altar Guild
Ladies Aid
Sunday School

Thank you for your assistance! It is greatly
appreciated.

.....
KINGDOM WORKERS - December

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

Altar Guild: Janet Kalies & Sue Juno

Acolytes: Dec. 2 - (Wed.) - Addison
6 - Emma
9 - (Wed.) - Kelvin
13 - Simon
16 - (Wed.) - Natalie
20 - Ava
24 - (4 p.m.) - Alandra
(8 p.m.) - Addison
25 - Emma
27 - Kelvin
31 - Simon



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)



Reminder: If you would like to donate a poinsettia for the altar this Christmas season, the deadline for ordering will be Sunday, December 6th. Please drop your form off in the church office along with your payment.

Christmas Decorating VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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!*



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 and Friday	3-6 p.m.
Saturdays	9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sundays	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!

The Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you say prayers before eating?"

"No ma'am, " he replied, "we don't have to. My Mom is a good cook."

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

2021 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Your next year's envelopes will be available on the table in the coat room soon. Do not start using them until January 1, 2021. *Thank you.*



2020 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 2020. 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.



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.

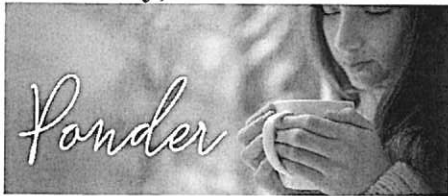
Electronic Giving

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.

PREPARE YE

Join us for our Advent and Christmas worship series, *Prepare Ye*. Each week we will contemplate the many ways we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ Child on Christmas.

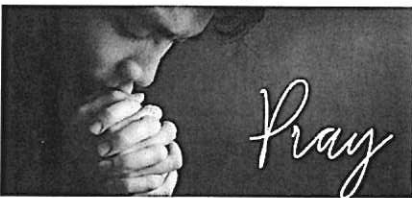
Sunday, November 29 - Ponder



We consider ways in which we can ponder the meaning of the birth of our

Savior through the reading of Scripture and through reflection. Mary serves as a model for us in this pondering in the Annunciation.

Wednesday, December 2 & Sunday, December 6 - Pray



We think about ways in which we can take more time during this season to communicate to

our God through prayer as we wait for Christ. Zechariah, who went to the temple to pray, serves as an example for us of how hard that waiting in prayer can be.

Wednesday, December 9 & Sunday, December 13 - Praise



We celebrate the upcoming arrival of our Savior through songs and

shouts of praise as we prepare for Him. Elizabeth, in her greeting of Mary, provides a benchmark for rejoicing with others over the good news of salvation in Jesus, even as we wait.

Wednesday, December 16 & Sunday, December 20 - Proclaim



We contemplate how we can prepare ourselves and others for the

arrival of Jesus through our proclaiming. John the Baptist stands as the forerunner of all future proclaimers of Christ and gives us the courage to use our own voices to proclaim our devotion to the One who is born to save.

Christmas Eve Candlelight – 4 p.m. & 8 p.m.

(Battery-operated candles will be used in place of the traditional candles due to fire hazard with face masks.)

Thursday, December 24 – Prepare a Place



Just as Mary and Joseph prepared a place for the baby Jesus to rest His head in a manger, so we

prepare a place in our hearts this Christmas Eve for Jesus to be present with us.

Christmas Day – 9 a.m.

Friday, December 25 – Prepare for Paradise



We celebrate the fact that the Baby Jesus came to dwell with us here on earth this Christmas to

point us to the truth that we will one day dwell with Him in paradise through His death and resurrection.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS

SERVICE will not be held this year due to the constraints of wearing face masks, social distancing, and limited seating.

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.



The Exchange

Let's recall for a moment Jesus' encounter with the Rich Ruler. This young man came to Jesus asking how he could inherit eternal life. First Jesus threw the law at him: Don't commit adultery, don't murder, don't steal, don't give false testimony, honor your parents. Without hesitation, the young man asserted that he had kept these commandments all his life. Jesus said: *"You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in Heaven. Then come, follow Me"* (Luke 18:22). This the Rich Young Ruler could not do, for he loved his wealth more than anything else.

How different was Jesus' response when asked to give up the glories of Heaven for the lowliness of earth. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 8:9, *"For you know the grace of*

our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich."

How have we become rich through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ? What do we count as riches? Do we look at wealth the way the Rich Young Ruler did or through Christ's eyes? Jesus asked a thought-provoking question: *"What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?"* (Matthew 16:26).

Jesus was willing to give up His whole world in order that our souls could be saved. He gave His life in exchange for ours. We celebrate at this time of year His coming to earth as a helpless baby for the purpose of exchanging His life for our eternal lives.



In response to this great sacrifice, we must ask what we can do. The Apostle Paul wrote, *"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God"* (Ephesians 5:1-2)

In our prayers of thanks for the birth of the Christ Child, let us also ask Him to give us hearts of humility like His and the will to expend ourselves in lives of giving and serving in imitation of His life and death.

Telling Others about Jesus

At the birth of a child, most parents make numerous telephone calls to relatives and friends to tell them about the wonderful news. In addition to telephone calls, announcement cards are often sent. When Jesus was born, there were no telephones or mail service. However, God had a better method of announcing the birth of His Son. He used His angels. *“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger’ ”* (Luke 2:8-14).



God, in His sovereignty, did not choose the rulers of the time nor the wealthy to be among those who were the first to hear of Jesus' birth. Interestingly, He chose a group of people who, in many ways, were

considered outcasts. Upon hearing the good news of the Christ Child, the shepherds went to Bethlehem to see Jesus in the manger.

After seeing Jesus, the shepherds went out and *“spread the word concerning what had been told to them about this child”* (Luke 2:17). God used these people to be His ambassadors. The people who heard the shepherds talk about Jesus were *“amazed at what the shepherds said to them”* (verse 18).

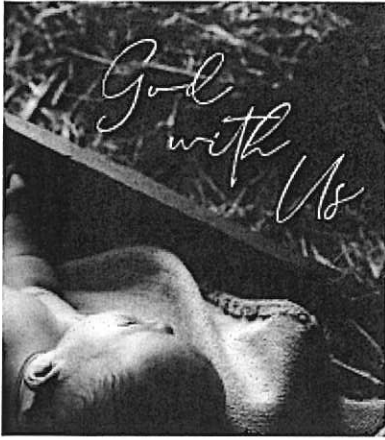
Like the shepherds, we are called to be faithful witnesses of Jesus and His love. Once we begin to comprehend His love for us, we will be compelled to share that love with others. In telling others, we reflect our gratitude for His love, grace, and mercy. God hears and sees our gratitude through the way we live our lives.

Joy to the World

One of the more popular songs during the Christmas season is “Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!” God showed His amazing and incomprehensible love by sending His only Son to earth to live among us for 30 plus years. The Lord has come, filling us with great joy. Yet we confess that we often are mired in discouragement and grief. While looking at our present circumstances, we forget that Jesus has gone before us and that He is with us to take us through all the difficult times in our lives. He is still with us today to bring us abundant joy. May God keep our hearts in the joy of Jesus and to share that joy with those we meet.

Blessed are those who can laugh at themselves, for they will never cease to be amused.

Blessings as you Live Generously!



Advent Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries

God with Us

What better news is there than to know that God is always by our side! In *God with Us*, we learn again what God the Father has done—He has kept His promise. In so doing, He has announced that grace and forgiveness are available to all, freely given in the birth of Jesus: God’s Son, our Savior. He is Immanuel, “God with us.”

The story of God coming to earth as a human child is a profound one. In *God with Us*, we find no aloof divinity who is unconcerned and remote somewhere in the cosmos. Rather, He is deeply involved in all our affairs—our joys as well as our heartaches. He knows us for He became one of us. At Christmastime, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, Lord of the universe, Savior of the world, Shepherd of our lives.

Daily Devotions from LHM will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. You can find them at www.lhm.org/advent. Have them delivered right to your inbox, podcast the audio devotional, access them on your mobile device through the FREE app, or listen with Spotify, iHeart Radio, Alexa, or Google Home.

Perfect for personal reflection or to share with family, friends and congregations, these seasonal meditations will help prepare you to celebrate the true meaning of the season.

A few hard copies, in regular print and large print, are available in the church narthex.



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS!

“O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!”

(LSB 361 v. 4)

We pray that you joyfully hear and receive the glad tidings proclaimed by the angels – that the Savior has come. That Child, that Savior, is Immanuel – God with us. May He abide with you always in faith.

Merry Christmas & A Blessed New Year!
Pastor & Kris

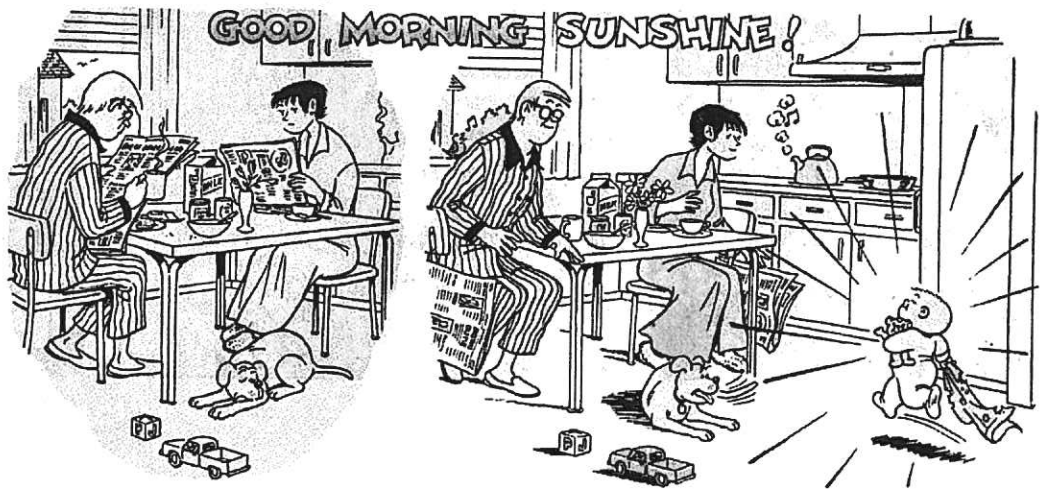
ADVENT CHALLENGE

The Gospel According to St. Luke

You are challenged to read the Gospel of Luke (24 chapters) during Advent. The challenge is to read one chapter a day beginning on December 1 and ending on Christmas Eve.

SIGN UP FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Due to limited seating with social distancing, those who plan on attending one of the Christmas Eve services will need to sign up ahead of time. We will be using Sign-Up Genius as we did for the small group Communion services. Watch for an email with the link to sign up. It should be in your inbox on December 3. You will be asked to indicate how many will be in your group.



PROFESSIONAL GRADE LAWN SWEEPER

Available for Purchase
(Make an offer)

Contact one of the trustees if
interested.



Altar Guild Help Needed

For those of you currently on Altar Guild and willing to serve again in 2021, if you haven't already notified the church office of your commitment, please remember to do so as soon as possible so the 2021 schedule can be finalized. We are always looking for new volunteers to be a part of the Altar Guild. Any confirmed member man or woman who is interested, please let the office know. *Thank you for your consideration!*



Quarantine humor

via Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft, Dover, DE

- "It's been a great blessing to be at home with the wife these past few months. We've caught up on everything I've done wrong in the last 20 years."
- "So let me get this straight: there's no cure for a virus that can be *killed* by sanitizer and hand soap?"
- "How long is this social distancing supposed to last? My husband keeps trying to come into the house."
- "When this virus thing is over with, I still want some of you to stay away from me."

Adopt a Family FOR CHRISTMAS

This year we have 2 families in our Adopt-A-Family. One is a family of 4 including mom, dad, and 2 daughters ages 14 & 6. The other family is a mom and a 7 year old boy. Help spread Christmas blessings and cheer with our adopt-a-family by taking an ornament or two off the tree and purchasing the item listed on the ornament. Sheets are available for each family detailing their interests. Please bring the item wrapped with the ornament attached and place it in the Adopt-A-Family box. We are receiving money from Thrivent Action Team to purchase essential items for the families. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church

Voters Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 8:05am by President Bob Behnke.

Pastor led in opening prayer.

Members Present: 25

Secretary Minutes: Debbie Kamps made the motion to accept the secretary minutes. Second by Faith Sonnabend. MC

Membership Gains/Losses:

- Gains:
 - Kenzie Marie Schneider by baptism
 - Hadley Elizabeth Boldt by baptism
- Losses:
 - Jeff, Holly, Mattea, Tanner, Gunner, Bailee Schlender by transfer to Zion Lutheran, Greenleaf (Wayside), WI
 - Tim, Melissa, Emily, Evan, Rachel Pope by transfer to Zion Lutheran, Greenleaf (Wayside), WI
 - Wally Sonnabend by transfer to the Church Triumphant
 - Melva Riemer by transfer to the Church Triumphant
 - Lorraine Evel by transfer to the Church Triumphant

Treasurer's Report

- At the end of September, we were \$14,021 ahead
- As of October 20th, we were \$13,504 ahead
- Need more money for debt retirement
 - Payments have been coming out of general giving instead of the debt retirement fund

Board Reports

Elders

- Gary Lemke will be an Elder, but we are still looking for more Elders
- Tyler Koerth removed due to joining another denomination
 - Dave Kamps made the motion to remove Tyler Koerth due to joining another denomination. Second by Roger Bladow. MC

Stewardship/Evangelism

- DQ Family Night was canceled
- Adopt-A-Family & Food 'N More will be done again this year
- Adopt a flower box
 - City approached the church to see if we would be interested in doing this

- Cost is \$75
- Bulletin board is being updated
- Thank you for worshiping cards are given to guests

Trustees

- Running cables from church to fellowship hall for the new camera system
- Looking into replacing roof in entry way
- The three trees in front of church were cut down
 - Will grind stumps down next spring
- Lawn mower and sweeper were purchased

Pastor's Report

- January 26th: 305 souls and 263 communicants
- As of October 25th: 293 souls and 249 communicants
- Two weddings since last voters meeting
 - Chris and Emma Levash
 - James and Shawna Kiesow
- Thanksgiving service on November 25th at 7:00pm
- Military Bible Stick competition was won by St. Peter
- Looking for Christmas tree sellers
 - Only selling Friday – Monday
- Church decorating is Saturday, December 5th
 - If you have any questions, please ask Alice Koerth
- There will be no midweek Advent Service
 - Theme will be incorporated between Wednesday and Sunday services
- Camera system
 - Will be able to record & live stream the service
 - This will help with overflow
- Projection system will also be updated
 - Screen will be replaced with a TV
 - Memorial funds will be used for the camera and projection systems
- Bible class will not start until after January 1, 2021
- Vacation October 26th – November 2nd
- Vacancy at Hilbert continues

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

- Approval of Council Appointees
 - Debbie Kamps – Treasurer
 - Linda Streck – Financial Secretary
 - Faith Sonnabend made the motion to approve the council appointees.
Second by Gary Lemke. MC

- Election of Officers and Board Members
 - Roger Bladow made the motion to approve the election of officers and board members as follows:
 - Gary Koerth – President (2-year term)
 - Rick Riemer – Vice President (1-year term – finishing Gary Koerth’s term)
 - Shawna Kiesow – Council Secretary (1-year term)
 - Gary Lemke – Elder (3-year term)
 - Linda Breitzman – Stewardship/Evangelism (2-year term)
 - Russ Boldt – Trustee (3-year term)
 - Second by Pete Kittel. MC

- Approval of the 2021 budget
 - 1.64% increase
 - Faith Sonnabend made the motion to approve the 2021 budget as proposed. Second by Roger Bladow. MC

- South Wisconsin District Nominations for the election to be held at the 56th convention of the South WI District on June 13 – 15, 2021
 - Convention is held in Mequon
 - We need a delegate to go to the convention
 - Congregation pays for expenses
 - If anyone is interested, please let Pastor know
 - If anyone would like to nominate a pastor, the sheet will be in the office

Adjourn: Gary Lemke made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30am. Second by Roger Bladow.

Pastor led in closing prayer

Shawna Kiesow
Secretary

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

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.

Humor for the hard times

Email messages from seniors compiled by JN consulting editor Anglican Bishop David R. Francoeur of Palm City, FL:

—
"I really don't mind getting older, but my body is taking it badly."

—
"If you hear me talking to myself, I'm having a staff meeting."

—
"As I watch this generation try to rewrite history, one thing I'm sure of – it will be misspelled and have no punctuation."

—
"You drop something when you're younger, you just pick it up. You drop something when you're older, you stare at it."

— Rev. Bartholomew
Grace Lutheran Church
Wadsworth, OH

ELDER GROUPS

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



What an unexpected surprise I had on Sunday November 1st. I was given a thank-you gift of a new iPad for my 62 years of service to St. Bartholomew.

It was never a burden, but my pleasure to be able to spend so many hours and years doing the work for my Lord and Savior.

I truly loved every minute and hour I spent doing the work. Your thoughtfulness has touched my heart.

Blessings to everyone.

Janet Kalies



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 for any worship service cancellation.



Puzzled about what to do this winter . . .

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!

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.





BIRTHDAYS

3 rd	Rebekah Krahn	20 th	Millie Behnke
3 rd	Elyssa Schleis	20 th	Lillian Maas
5 th	John Moede	21 st	Sharon Urban
5 th	Nathaniel Christopherson	22 nd	Abram Geiger
7 th	Alice Koerth	22 nd	Steve Plate
13 th	Jules Clausing	22 nd	Ben Wilson
15 th	Kurt Propson	25 th	Kyle Kittel
15 th	Richard Schwahn	26 th	Hannah Delvaux
17 th	Mark Wittman	26 th	Bonnie Smith
17 th	Diane Zickert	27 th	Mark Evel
18 th	Carol Clausing	27 th	Gary Woldt
18 th	Ashlynn Hurda	29 th	Jerry Urban
19 th	Rich Gustafson	30 th	Krystal Nenahlo
20 th	Laurie Behnke	31 st	Shelly Jost



ANNIVERSARIES

4 th	Rick & Terri Riemer
17 th	David & Diane Buboltz
17 th	Mark & Jan Wittman
18 th	David & Brigette Sonnabend



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



"Today we get to start being normal again."

from *JoyfulNoiseletter.com*
©Bil & Jeff Keane
Reprinted with permission

OCTOBER SCRIP TOTALS

CARD NAME	TOTAL	PROFIT
BP	300	4.50
Culver's	25	1.25
Econo	1,050	31.50
Exxon	200	10.00
Festival	200	6.00
Fleet Farm	200	10.00
Kwik Trip	25	1.00
Lowe's	700	28.00
Menards	150	4.50
Piggly Wiggly	150	4.50
WalMart	175	4.38
TOTALS	\$3,175.00	\$105.63

DISTRICT CONVENTION LAY DELEGATE NEEDED
June 13-15

Concordia University Wisconsin

If you are a confirmed member 18-years-old or older and are interested in being our lay delegate to the District Convention in June, contact Pastor Krueger.



After the service, the pastor noticed one elderly woman who was sitting in one of the back pews, nearly in tears, rocking back and forth. Concerned, the pastor walked over to her and heard her say, "How long, O Lord? How long?"

Touched, the pastor laid a hand on her gray head, and said, "Ma'am, God is merciful and has heard you. I am sure He will help you." She smiled and thanked him.

The pastor turned and was about to walk away when he heard the old woman shout, "Praise the Lord!" He saw the old woman run into the now-vacated women's restroom.

— via Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft
Dover, DE



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!