

## ST. BARTHOLOMEW LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023

Peace and Greetings in Christ!

In our last newsletter, we touched briefly on the purpose of the hymn. This month, we will delve into the service proper. After the Hymn, at St. Barts at least, we begin with the confession and absolution. You will find that in some churches, confession and absolution will be done at the entrance to the nave, and the opening hymn serves as a processional hymn, or entrance hymn, for pastor and acolytes. This is because, historically, confession and absolution have not been a part of the divine service. But as the practice of private confession and absolution began to decline in the church (see the 5th chief part of the small catechism), the church, not desiring to lose confession and absolution in its entirety, added to the service the “general confession and absolution”, as it is called.

This is a necessary part of our service and lives as Christians. To confess our sins at the beginning of the service prepares us for what is to come, and, in a way, invokes Jesus who said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.” (Mark 2:17) We call, then, on Jesus at the outset and say that we are in desperate need of him, we are afflicted and affronted by the most terrible of maladies, sin, and are in desperate need of the good physician to come down to treat and comfort us.

This is also what we might call a right preparation for receiving communion as well. As Luther says in the Small Catechism, “Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: ‘Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.’” And so, the confession becomes a preparation for the forgiveness of sins which we are about to receive in both word and sacrament.

Christ’s Blessings,

*Pastor Brandmahl*

## FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

October 2023

Year-to-date Income:	\$132,919.43
Year-to-date Expenses:	\$132,353.19
Year-to-date Budget:	\$147,654.05

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### Debt Retirement

Pastor & Kris Krueger in memory of Dianne Schmidt and Marjorie Horn

## CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE



December 10 & 13 (after services)  
Sponsored by Ladies Aid

Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board if you wish to help by donating homemade Christmas cookies. Bring them to church by 9:00 a.m. on December 9. PLEASE ATTACH A NOTE TO YOUR COOKIES IF THEY CONTAIN NUTS OR PEANUT BUTTER TO INFORM THOSE WHO ARE ALLERGIC TO THESE INGREDIENTS. Thank you for your help! (Profits will go toward the Boiler and Blacktop Funds).

## ELDER GROUPS

(A-G) Tanner Behnke	920-427-6201
(H-M) Lon Fels	920-655-8585
(N-Z) Gary Lemke	920-464-1050

## ANNUAL REPORT ITEMS ARE DUE JANUARY 1, 2024

Reports will be needed from the following Boards/Committees:

Board of Elders  
Board of Stewardship/Evangelism  
Board of Trustees  
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

Nov. 29 & Dec. 3: Judy Baer, Roger & Carolyn Bladow  
Dec. 6 & 10: Norma Drumm, Lori Fels  
Dec. 13 & 17: Renee Bonick, Sue Juno  
Dec. 20, 24 & 25: Diane Zickert, Ashley Brandmahl  
Dec. 27 & 31: Holly Schlender, Sue Behnke

Ushers: Wednesdays: Gary Koerth, Joel Koerth  
Sundays: Hank Horn VII, Hank Horn

Greeters: Wednesdays: None  
Sundays: None

### Acolyte

December 3: Harper  
December 6: (Advent) James  
December 10: Braxton  
December 13: (Advent) Harper  
December 17: Ashlynn  
December 20 (Advent) Braxton  
December 24: (4 p.m. Christmas Eve): Harper  
(6 p.m. Christmas Eve): Ashlynn  
December 25: (Christmas Day): James  
December 31: Harper

### Worship Assistants

<i>Wednesdays</i>	<i>Sundays</i>
Dec. 6: Bob	Dec. 3: Craig
Dec. 13: Gary K.	Dec. 10: Dave
Dec. 20: Rick	Dec. 17: Gary L.
	Dec. 24 at 4 p.m.: Bob
	Dec. 24 at 6 p.m.: Lon
	Dec. 31: Craig

Christmas Day: Tanner

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHURCH DECORATING



Christmas decorating will take place on Saturday, December 2nd at 9:00 a.m.

This will be decorating the interior of church and also the outdoor nativity. Please consider helping even if you can only give an hour of your time. *Thank you!*



## SEPTEMBER SCRIP TOTALS

CARD NAME	TOTAL	PROFIT
Amazon	210	3.57
BP	1,000	15.00
Cobblestone	50	2.50
Econo	1,000	30.00
Festival	100	3.00
Fleet Farm	100	5.00
Home Depot	300	12.00
Kwik Trip	1,550	62.00
Lowe's	500	20.00
Piggly Wiggly	200	6.00
Roundy's	200	8.00
Subway	50	5.00
Target	125	3.13
VISA	100	1.25
WalMart	900	22.50
TOTALS	6,385	198.95



The ornaments are on the tree in the coat room. Items are noted on the ornaments. Please attach the ornament to the gift. Gifts need to be wrapped when you bring them in. Deadline is December 11th.

## CHURCH CLOSINGS

Before you know it, winter will be upon us. We ask that you let us know your email address if you want to be notified of any church closings this winter season due to inclement weather. Thank you. You can also check our church FaceBook page, tune into radio station Y100 100.3 FM or turn your TV to WBAY Channel 2 for any worship service cancellation.

## Thank You

Thank you to those of you who brought in your garden produce this past summer and fall to share with others in the congregation. It was great appreciated!



## 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	920-756-2696
Renee Bonick	920-296-9164
Sue Detert	920-756-3439
Lori Fels	920-639-3792
Rhonda Geiger	920-371-7375
Sandy Haberland	920-524-2016
Kris Krueger	920-871-4039
Faith Sonnabend	920-756-2779
Diane Zickert	920-841-8951



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)

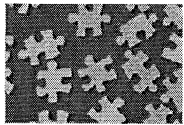
St. Bartholomew has several special project/memorial funds set up to contribute toward.

These funds include: Landscaping  
Hearing Loop  
Concordia Scholarship Fund  
Improvement Fund  
Decorating  
Banners



If you would like to contribute to any of the above funds please place your contribution in an envelope and mark it with your name and envelope number as well as the name of the fund you want the contribution assigned to. You may also use the specially marked envelopes in the literature rack.

## Puzzled about what to do during the winter....



### Puzzles

We have many puzzles available for you to pick up and put together during the winter season. When finished, just bring them back to share with others. If you have puzzles at home that you would like to donate to the church's collection, feel free.

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### CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

The 2023 '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 5<sup>th</sup>. Please remember to pick them up for tax purposes! Thank you.

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### GREETERS NEEDED

We are in need of Greeters for Sunday and Wednesday services next year. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. Greeting periods are for the full month. Fill in which month you would like to greet and which Service. Thank you for your service.

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### Portals of Prayer

If you have not received a Portals of Prayer and would like to receive a copy, please contact the church office.



## 2024 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 2024. 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.

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### 2024 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Your next year's envelopes will be available on the table in the coat room soon. Do not start using them until the January 1, 2024. Thank you.



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### 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**

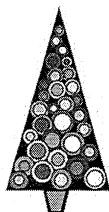
# December

## BIRTHDAYS

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rebekah Krahn	18 <sup>th</sup>	Ashlynn Hurda
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Elyssa Schleis	20 <sup>th</sup>	Laurie Behnke
5 <sup>th</sup>	John Moede	21 <sup>st</sup>	Sharon Urban
5 <sup>th</sup>	Violet Brandmahl	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Abram Geiger
7 <sup>th</sup>	Alice Koerth	26 <sup>th</sup>	Hannah Delvaux
12 <sup>th</sup>	Johnlee Kiesow	27 <sup>th</sup>	Mark Evel
13 <sup>th</sup>	Jules Clausing	27 <sup>th</sup>	Gary Woldt
14 <sup>th</sup>	Aria Levash	27 <sup>th</sup>	Sue Behnke
15 <sup>th</sup>	Kurt Propson	29 <sup>th</sup>	Jerry Urban
17 <sup>th</sup>	Mark Wittman	30 <sup>th</sup>	Krystal Nenahlo
17 <sup>th</sup>	Diane Zickert	31 <sup>st</sup>	Shelly Jost
18 <sup>th</sup>	Carol Clausing		

### ANNIVERSARIES

4 <sup>th</sup>	Rick & Terri Riemer
17 <sup>th</sup>	David & Diane Buboltz
17 <sup>th</sup>	Mark & Jan Wittman
18 <sup>th</sup>	David & Brigitte Sonnabend
31 <sup>th</sup>	Dylan & Jess Wendling



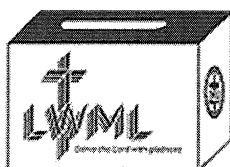
Please forgive us and politely notify us if an anniversary or birthday is missing from the list. Thank you.

### 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 Brandmahl (920-756-3031) so a class can be set up beginning in January.

**MITE BOX**—The LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) Mite Box is on the small table in the narthex for anyone wishing to put their change in throughout the year. Our mites go toward many different mission grants to help those in need. Check out some of them on the list by the mite box. A little bit goes a long way. . . Together we can make a big impact. Please help to proclaim the Gospel with your mites!



### OCTOBER SCRIP TOTALS

CARD NAME	TOTAL	PROFIT
BP	400	6.00
Cabelas	25	2.75
Cobblestone	25	1.25
Culver's	50	2.50
Dairy Queen	55	11.00
Econo	750	22.50
Exxon	25	1.25
Home Depot	3,575	143.00
Kwik Trip	400	16.00
Piggly Wiggly	200	6.00
Roundy's	100	4.00
Subway	25	2.50
Target	50	1.25
VISA	300	3.75
WalMart	400	10.00
TOTALS	6,380	233.75



### Electronic Giving

St. Bartholomew offers electronic giving for those of you who wish to have contributions transferred electronically to the church's account. You can now manage your own account by going to the church website: [www.stbartbrillion.org](http://www.stbartbrillion.org) and click on Member Resources and choose Electronic Giving. Please note that you cannot use a credit or debit card. You have to use either a savings or a checking account number.

### ALTAR GUILD HELP IS NEEDED

Women, men, or couples to serve on the Altar Guild for 2024. In fact, any confirmed member can serve. If you are interested, contact the church office and we will put your name on the list. We will also begin contacting the current Altar Guild members sometime in November to determine your willingness to serve.

