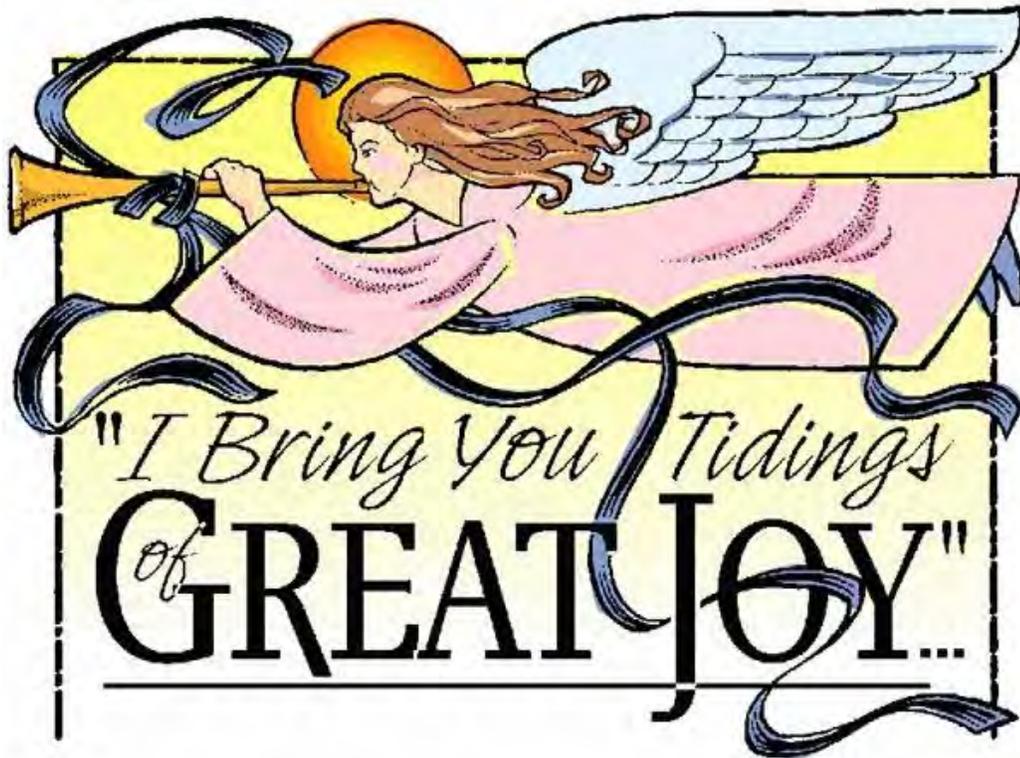




Bethany Lutheran Outlook
December 2015—January 2016

Serving God, Community, and Individuals





PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

It might seem that the Old Testament book of Daniel would have nothing to say about Christmas, but surprisingly, indirectly I think it does. Daniel was the focus of our Monday Bible Study this fall. The whole book is understood as encouragement for Jews living as strangers in a strange land, a land that could be hostile toward them and their religion.

Despite that hostility with stories like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace and Daniel in the lion's den, the people were urged to remain strong in their faith, trusting that their God, the Lord would provide for them and protect them. What's interesting though, is that making compromises with other aspects of the culture was portrayed as being OK. There wasn't a knee-jerk rejection of all things foreign, some accommodation was accepted. It was only the worship of other gods that was non-negotiable...and that brings us to Christmas.

Every year there is hand wringing about the "war on Christmas," about how secular the holiday has become. We've had the "Merry Christmas" vs. "Happy Holidays" argument; this year, Starbuck's coffee cups have become a big deal for some because they don't say Merry Christmas, they're just red. Such arguments are silly of course. As I have said for a long time, when it comes to Christmas, we're really talking about two celebrations. There's religious Christmas that celebrates the Incarnation, the birth of Jesus and then there's secular Christmas which has become increasingly commercial, largely about shopping and presents and how the shopping season will affect the economy.

Now it is sad that for some, Christmas has no religious meaning at all, that it is just an early winter festival focused on parties and presents and little else. For most of us though, we live with both celebrations. There are aspects of both religious Christmas and secular Christmas that we enjoy, aspects of each that help to make the season special every year and that's where Daniel comes in. I think that the book of Daniel would tell us that making compromises with secular Christmas and celebrating both aspects of Christmas is OK as long as the religious celebration remains central. Daniel would tell us that those for whom the religious celebration is central shouldn't feel guilty for making compromises with the culture and also enjoying the secular celebrations.

Despite what some self-righteously outraged commentators would tell you, there is no war on Christmas that prevents anyone from celebrating the



birth of Jesus and here at Bethany we will do just that. We will observe the season of Advent, there will be a children's program and a choir cantata, there will be two services on Christmas Eve and one on Christmas Day. We will continue to celebrate on the two Sundays after Christmas and on January 6th we will celebrate Epiphany at the end of the 12 days of Christmas. For us, those celebrations are what is most important about the season but in the midst of them, even at church, there will be other more secular gatherings and events that add to the joy and goodwill of the season.

Christmas and the weeks that precede it can be stressful, for some it can be sad. Those feelings are real, but the overarching message of the season is one of joy centered on God becoming part of this world in a new way, in the baby Jesus born in Bethlehem, Emmanuel, God with us. My hope is that the events of the season, both sacred and secular, help to make that joy real for each of you as you celebrate the birth of a savior!



Schedule of Holiday Services

December 6—Second Sunday in Advent

10:30 Worship Service

December 13—Third Sunday in Advent

10:30 Worship Service - Sunday School Christmas program

December 20—Fourth Sunday in Advent

10:30 Worship Service—Annual Choir Cantata

December 24—Christmas Eve

4:00 Family Worship

10:00 Candlelight Service

(Bell & Organ Prelude @ 3:50 and 9:50)

December 25—Christmas Day

10:30 Holy Communion

January 6—Epiphany

6:30 p.m. Worship Service—Lessons & Carols



DAILY LECTIONARY



The foundational premise of this set of daily readings is their relationship to the Sunday lectionary. The readings are chosen so that the days leading up to Sunday (Thursday through Saturday) prepare for the Sunday readings. The days flowing out from Sunday (Monday through Wednesday) reflect upon the Sunday readings.

“The Bible is the cradle wherein Christ is laid.”
—Martin Luther

December 2015

1 Psalm 90	2 Samuel 7:18-29	Revelation 22:12-16
2 Psalm 90	Isaiah 1:24-31	Luke 11:29-32
3 Luke 1:68-79	Malachi 3:5-12	Phil. 1:12-18a
4 Luke 1:68-79	Malachi 3:13-18	Phil. 1:18b-26
5 Luke 1:68-79	Malachi 4:1-6	Luke 9:1-6

6 Second Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4	Luke 1: 68-79	Philippians 1:3-11	Luke 3:1-6
7 Psalm 126	Isaiah 40:1-11	Romans 8:22-25	
8 Psalm 126	Isaiah 19:18-25	2 Peter 1:2-15	
9 Psalm 126	Isaiah 35:3-7	Luke 7:18-30	
10 Isaiah 12:2-6	Amos 6:1-8	2 Cor. 8:1-15	
11 Isaiah 12:2-6	Amos 8:4-12	2 Cor. 9:1-15	
12 Isaiah 12:2-6	Amos 9:8-15	Luke 1:57-66	

13 Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20	Isaiah 12:2-6	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
14 Isaiah 11:1-9	Numbers 16:1-19	Hebrews 13:7-17	
15 Isaiah 11:1-9	Numbers 16:20-35	Acts 28:23-31	
16 Isaiah 11:1-9	Micah 4:8-13	Luke 7:31-35	
17 Psalm 80:1-7	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Hebrews 10:10-18	
18 Psalm 80:1-7	Isaiah 42:10-18	Hebrews 10:32-39	
19 Psalm 80:1-7	Isaiah 66:7-11	Luke 13:31-35	



20 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a Luke 1:46b-55 Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45

21 Psalm 113 Genesis 25:19-28 Colossians 1:15-20
 22 Luke 1:46b-55 Micah 4:1-5 Ephesians 2:11-22
 23 Luke 1:46b-55 Micah 4:6-8 2 Peter 1:16-21

24 Nativity of Our Lord

Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14

25 Nativity of Our Lord

Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97 Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:1-20

26 Psalm 148 2 Chron. 24:17-24 Acts 6:1-7 ; 7:51-60

**27 First Sunday of Christmas**

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Psalm 148 Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52

28 Psalm 148 Isaiah 54:1-13 Revelation 21:1-7
 29 Psalm 147:12-20 1 Chron. 28:1-10 1 Cor. 3:10-17
 30 Psalm 147:12-20 2 Chron. 1:7-13 Mark 13:32-37
 31 Psalm 147:12-20 1 Kings 3:5-14 John 8:12-19

January 2015**1 Name of Jesus**

Numbers 6:22-27 Psalm 8 Phil. 2:5-11 Luke 2:15-21

2 Psalm 147:12-20 Proverbs 1:1-7 James 3:13-18

3 Second Sunday of Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:1-9

4 Psalm 72 Isaiah 6:1-5 Acts 7:44-53

5 Psalm 72 Jeremiah 31:4-17 John 1:10-18

6 Epiphany of Our Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12
 Matthew 2:1-12



7 Psalm72	Daniel 2:1-19	Ephesians 4:17 — 5:1
8 Psalm72	Daniel 2:24-49	Ephesians 5:15-20
9 Psalm72	Numbers 24:15-19	Luke 1:67-79

10 Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7	Psalm 29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
11 Psalm 106:1-12	Judges 4:1-16		Ephesians 6:10-17
12 Psalm 106:1-12	Judges 5:12-21		1 John 5:13-21
13 Psalm 106:1-12	Numbers 27:1-11		Luke 11:33-36
14 Psalm 36:5-10	Jeremiah 3:1-5		Acts 8:8-24
15 Psalm 36:5-10	Jeremiah 3:19-25		1 Cor. 7:1-7
16 Psalm 36:5-10	Jeremiah 4:1-4		Luke 11:14-23

17 Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5	Psalm 36:5-10	1 Cor. 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
18 Psalm 145	Isaiah 54:1-8		Romans 12:9-21
19 Psalm 145	Song of Solomon 4:1-8		1 Cor. 1:3-17
20 Psalm 145	Song of Solomon 4:9 -5:1		Luke 5:33-39
21 Psalm 19	Isaiah 61:1-7		Romans 7:1-6
22 Psalm 19	Nehemiah 2:1-10		Romans 12:1-8
23 Psalm 19	Nehemiah 5:1-13		Luke 2:39-52

24 Third Sunday after Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Psalm 19	1 Cor. 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21
25 Psalm 119:89-96	Jeremiah 36:1-10		1 Cor. 14:1-12
26 Psalm 119:89-96	Jeremiah 36:11-26		2 Cor. 7:2-12
27 Psalm 119:89-96	Jeremiah 36:27-32		Luke 4: 38-44
28 Psalm 71:1-6	2 Chron. 34:1-7		Acts 10:44-48
29 Psalm 71:1-6	2 Chron 35:20-27		Acts 19:1-10
30 Psalm 71:1-6	2 Chron. 36:11-21		John 1:43-51

31 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10	Psalm 71:1-6	1 Cor. 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30
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LAY SCHOOL—WINTER CLASSES



The following are the classes to be offered during the Winter Semester of Lay School. Classes will be held at Bethany and will begin on January 19. Specifics on times and instructors will be announced later.

- Pentateuch (First 5 books of the OT)
- Christian Theology II (Second Article: God the Son)
- Ethics
- Spiritual Development
- Lutheran Confessions

If you are interested in any or all of these classes, please contact Pastor Geier.

**Hanging
Greens**



of the

Saturday, December 5 @ 10:00 a.m.

Bethany will celebrate the beautifying of our sanctuary for the Christmas season with a special gathering on Saturday,



December 5 at 10:00 am. This year Bethany will be decorating the sanctuary with Swedish ornaments in honor of Bethany's 145th anniversary. Included in the ornaments will be Swedish blooma, a flower-like ornament made from birch bark and willow beads.

Many people are needed to make our sanctuary glow with the light of the Christ child. Please come on Saturday, December 5 and together we will decorate the sanctuary and continue the joyful tradition of preparing for this blessed season.



Worship and Music



“CRADLE AND CROSS” BETHANY CHOIR CHORAL PRESENTATION

Advent begins this year on November 29. The lectionary readings of Advent all point us to signs of God’s coming. During this season we focus on hope, expectation, longing, rejoicing and lament.

Bethany choir will present their annual Advent choral service during the 10:30 a.m. worship on December 20. On this Sunday our readings point to an inextricable connection between CRADLE AND CROSS. Our music that morning will aspire to do the same. One of the songs that will be sung is *Rose of Bethlehem* which is this month’s selection for Poetry of Hymns. Mark your calendar and invite family and friends to join us as we prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas through music.



Epiphany Service

An Epiphany service of Lessons and Carols will be held on Wednesday, January 6, at 6:30 pm.

Lessons and Carols



The church season of Epiphany begins on January 6 each year. The name comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, meaning “to appear, to show or to manifest.” The ending date of the Epiphany season is determined by Ash Wednesday, which is determined by the date of Easter.

Traditionally, Epiphany Day marks the arrival of the Magi, or wise men, to worship the infant Jesus. The significance of Epiphany for Christians is that it symbolizes the first recognition of Christ by Gentiles, or non-Jews.



The season of Epiphany emphasizes the divine nature of Jesus, the light of the world. Symbols for the season include light, a star and the color green, which represents life, growth, hope and eternity

Enjoy the Poetry of Hymns

Rose of Bethlehem

There's a Rose in Bethlehem
With a beauty quite divine,
Perfect in this world of sin
On this silent holy night.
There's a fragrance much like hope
That it sends upon the wind,
Reaching out to ev'ry soul
From a lowly manger's crib.

Oh, rose of Bethlehem, how lovely, pure and sweet,
Born to glorify the Father, born to wear the thorns for me.

There's a Rose in Bethlehem
Colored red like mercy's blood.
'Tis the flower of our faith
'Tis the blossom of God's love,
Though its bloom is fresh with youth,
Surely what will be He knows,
For a tear of morning dew
Is rolling down the Rose.

Oh, rose of Bethlehem, how lovely, pure and sweet,
Born to glorify the Father, born to wear the thorns for me.

By Lowell Alexander



Social Ministry



God bless you for continuing to support those in need.
The total Sept/Oct Noisy Offering donated to Food Banks was \$376.86.

Please remember the following recipients as you gather Noisy Offering change each week:

Nov/Dec Noisy Offering will go to Room at the Inn.

Jan/Feb Noisy Offering will go to Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

You, the congregation, are so good at helping others whenever there is need. To keep making requests of you is like preaching to the choir, but even the best of us can use reminders:

- St Vincent DePaul and the Salvation Army are two groups in Ishpeming that provide needed assistance to many.
- People can go to St. Vincent DePaul for groceries once every 30 days. Food is distributed on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to noon, and on Wednesdays from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- St. Vinnie's also gives some assistance with rent, electricity, water, and heat.
- People may pick up groceries once a month at the Salvation Army. They also provide a free lunch twice a week. Frequently churches help with the lunches by providing leftovers from some of their varied activities. They also accept used winter clothing which patrons can take as needed.

The Salvation Army also helps with electric and heating bills. Occasionally, they help with transportation for people who need to get to something such as a doctor's appointment. They welcome people to adopt a family for Christmas.

We asked you to provide extra food to make baskets for people in our own congregation. And you GAVE generously. Usually the food table is filled with 50 to 100 pounds each Sunday. When we asked you to fill the table, we received about 250+ pounds that Sunday. Thank you again!



And don't forget the gift of time: The Salvation Army is in need of Bell Ringers who can work a two hour shift during the upcoming holiday season at one of the many red kettles in the community. Call 486-8121 to sign up.



Thanks again for all you do and continue to do for others, and please remember to continue to help through the holidays and into the New Year.

May you have a blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

**“Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time,
and always start with the person nearest you.”**

Mother Teresa
Christian missionary and winner of the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize



**The December Noisy Offering will be given to
the Room at the Inn, and the January/February Noisy
Offering will be given to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.**

Thanks to everyone for your generosity!



**December 1
3:00—6:00 p.m.**



Internship Project – Looking for Ideas!

As part of my Internship responsibilities, I am asked by the seminary to complete a major project, and I would greatly appreciate your help in coming up with a project idea! This project will be designed to serve Bethany Lutheran Church in meaningful, positive, and sustainable ways, and it is to be new both to me and to the congregation: the project or program that is selected will be one that has not been developed here previously.

My question for everyone is this: ***What would you most like to see happen at Bethany Lutheran?***

To bring a bit of focus to this request for ideas, I'm hoping you'll consider the following. The Northern Great Lakes Synod is in the midst of a three-year program called Welcome, Worship, and Witness, so it would be great if my project could relate to one of these areas. Here are a few questions to ponder:

- **Do outsiders feel welcome when they attend a church service at Bethany in Ishpeming?**
- **Is there something people want from a worship service that we're missing?**
- **How easy is it for each of us to share a word of faith with others?**

After giving thought to these questions, what would you most like to see happen at Bethany in Ishpeming?

Feel free to pass along your ideas to me, and thanks!!



Young Worship Tool Box

By the end of November, we'll have three items in our Young Worship Tool Box:

- **Colorful ribbons and streamers** for children to sway to the music, as a way to praise God and add color and joy to our worship services.



- **Battery-operated tea lights** which are a reminder that Jesus Christ is the light of the world. Our kids are able to light their own candles as acolytes light the candles surrounding the altar. Youngsters can also bring up their candles when a baptism is taking place and feel even more a part of the service.



- **“Whirl” Story Bibles** are available so our children can read along with the lectionary Bible readings each week. The artwork and characters are fun for kids as they have the opportunity to check out the same lessons their family members are hearing.

Parents and Grandparents: **please encourage** your children and grandchildren to take items they'd like from the Young Worship Tool Box at the beginning of the service each week. Ribbons and streamers, kids' candles, and story Bibles, with more items to come in December and January. When they're done with church, the kids can put the stuff back into the boxes and we'll be all set for the following week!

Vicar Terry Frankenstein



On All Saints' Day,
children lifted their lights
to remember loved ones
who died.

Jan Richardson offers special Advent blessings in her just-released book, *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*. Below is one of her selections as we enter this year's season of Advent.

Advent 1: A Blessing for Traveling in the Dark

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.
—Psalm 25.4

It was the second day of Advent when my husband Gary died, almost two years ago now. In the time that has unfolded since then, never have I had such a keen sense of the ways that light and dark dwell together, and how grace imbues the places that are most laden with shadows and unfathomable mystery. The season of Advent impresses this upon us with such intention, weaving its exquisite tapestry of stories and images that tell us of how God makes a way toward us even—and especially—when we cannot find the way ourselves.

Here on the threshold of Advent, what does it mean for us to lean into this season once again, to give ourselves to these weeks that show us with such specificity and care that there is no place where God does not desire to meet us? How will we move through these days in a way that allows us to receive the gift that comes looking for us, that asks only that we open our hands, our eyes, our heart to the Love that knows our name?

As we enter into this season of mystery, it seems fitting to open with an Advent blessing that asks for protection and encompassing in the dark. May you know yourself enfolded by the grace that dwells in these Advent days. I am grateful to be traveling into this season with you.



A Blessing for Traveling in the Dark



Go slow
if you can.
Slower.
More slowly still.
Friendly dark
or fearsome,
this is no place
to break your neck
by rushing,
by running,
by crashing into
what you cannot see.

Then again,
it is true:
different darks
have different tasks,
and if you
have arrived here unawares,
if you have come
in peril
or in pain,
this might be no place
you should dawdle.

I do not know
what these shadows
ask of you,
what they might hold
that means you good
or ill.
It is not for me
to reckon
whether you should linger
or you should leave.

But this is what
I can ask for you:

That in the darkness
there be a blessing.
That in the shadows
there be a welcome.
That in the night
you be encompassed
by the Love that knows
your name.

—Jan Richardson



Library Notes for December/January

By Keenan Tunnell

First of all, let me thank all those who supported the Library's Annual Sale. We got off to a late start this year because of the renovations in the Fellowship Hall so, as of this writing there are still two weeks to go, but I'm sure we've done well. Thanks Again!!

There are no new titles for this month and next. We'll be buying some of the sale books from the profits (as we do every year), but they won't be available til next Christmas, since they're mostly Christmas titles. Nevertheless, there WILL be a major display of Christmas titles throughout December and January (plus Epiphany titles in January), so be sure to check out the library kiosk.

I'd also like to ask Library users to check around their homes for any books they have yet to return. I know how easy it is to put aside something you've finished or decided NOT to finish. I have quite a stack of unreturned books and videos from over the past several years. Feel guilty?? Have a look around your home and see what comes up! I'd appreciate being able to see some of these items again!

In lieu of book titles this month, I'd like to harken back to the "we are surrounded" theme to bring your attention to some of the capital "S" saints whose days occur over the next two months:



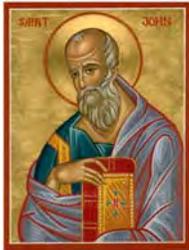
Of course you are all familiar with St. Nicholas (6 December)...he who has morphed into Santa Claus; but his message of gift-giving and helping those in need is still at the heart of Christmas. I think Vicar Terry will have a few things to say about him on his day.

Then there is St Lucy/Santa Lucia (13 Dec), beloved of Scandinavians...again for helping those in need. Terry will have more on her lat-too.



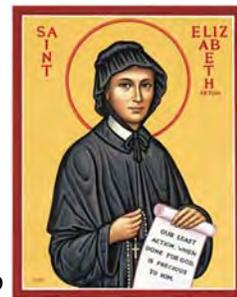
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Perhaps not so well known is St. Stephen (26 Dec) who is known from Scripture as one of the first deacons of the early church and its first martyr... an example of ultimate faith!



St. John, the Evangelist rounds out December on the 27th. He is credited with the gospel bearing his name and the Book of Revelation. Tradition also records him as caring for Mary, the mother of Our Lord, for the rest of her life, suffering a number of persecutions and imprisonments, but still living to an old age, with Revelations being perhaps his last great work.

On January 4th we have St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, a 19th century saint and the first native-born American to be canonized. A convert to the Roman faith, she established the first Catholic school in the nation, at Emmitsburg, Maryland, where she also founded the first American congregation of religious sisters, the Sisters of Charity. Her work was the beginning of the parochial school system in the U.S.



We'll stop with just one final saint, St. Henry/Henrik/Heikki, Bishop of Uppsala, Sweden, missionary to Finland, where he



died a martyr on 19 January 1156. He is the patron of Finland and of the national cathedral in Helsinki. You may have heard of Heikinpaiva, which is the celebration of St. Henry's Day in Hancock (and Finland) commemorating his death (originally) and acting as a symbolic mid-winter festival, and way to escape encroaching cabin fever!!

There....enough from the Library....guess who was an avid reference librarian?? Think about these sainted people as you move through the winter months. Look them up online and become informed about them; they were truly exceptional folks and worthy of emulation as part of the great cloud of witnesses....OR....check out one of the Christmas or Epiphany books on display and delve into the beginnings of the road to salvation.

A Blessed Christmas to you all and a New Year filled with love and joy!!

November 19, 2015

ELCA statement on U.S. response to refugee resettlement

We are shocked and dismayed by the terrorist attacks in Paris, Beirut, Egypt and elsewhere in the Middle East, but also in Nigeria, Kenya, Bangladesh and the Philippines. Senseless acts of terror will maim and forever have an impact on innocent victims and their families. Our hearts and prayers go out to all whose lives have been shattered and are grieving the loss of loved ones. We know all too well the frightening memories of terrorist attacks in the U.S. and the uncertainties of possible future attacks.

Yet, we Christians and all others of good will cannot let fear rule the day. Fear paralyzes, divides people, fosters distrust and clouds judgments. We also stand shoulder to shoulder with people of faith who are firmly opposed to vengeful reprisals and prejudice. In particular, we are concerned for and committed to standing with our Muslim neighbors who are facing threats and acts of discrimination and hate by those who conflate Islam with terrorism.

Even in the face of evil, we remain confident that the good news of Jesus Christ liberates us and gives us the freedom and courage to discover and boldly participate in what God is up to in this world. “The Gospel also frees ‘us from fear to see others as brothers and sisters for whom Christ died and lives’” (ELCA Social Message on Terrorism, 2004).

We are not naive about possible new threats of terrorism, but denying refuge to thousands of desperate people is not who we are as Christians, nor will it guarantee our security. The United States is a welcoming country with a religiously diverse society, and our refugee resettlement program should continue to reflect this. We must redouble our efforts to work for a more secure world – one with less hate and more understanding. Doing less than that only feeds into the terrorist propaganda

The thousands of courageous Syrian refugees fleeing their homeland go through a rigorous security screening involving the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, the Department of Defense and multiple intelligence agencies. Refugees are the most scrutinized and screened individuals to enter the U.S. Intensive security screening by the government of all refugees prior to admission to the U.S. is and should continue to be a detailed and thorough process.



Fellowship Hall Floor original 1962 Will patch asbestos floor and put down carpet squares which are replaceable if ruined.

Sanctuary original 1970 Carpet

Church Pews and Choir Chairs 1970 reupholster both

Lutherans have a long history in this country of settling refugees, including those fleeing from dangerous situations like the war in Syria. We draw on both biblical witness as well as the best of our nation's traditions as a refuge and haven for the persecuted and destitute. We support "a generous policy of welcome for refugees and immigrants" and "will advocate for just immigration policies, in visa regulations and in admitting and protecting refugees. We will work for policies that cause neither undue repercussions within immigrant communities nor bias against them" (ELCA Social Message on Immigration, 1997).

Currently, more than 25 governors are opposed to allowing Syrian refugees into their states. While the states do not have the legal authority to prevent resettlement, it is distressing that these governments could make refugee resettlement for Syrians and those from other war-torn areas more difficult. Of the Syrian refugees being referred by the U.N. for settlement, more than half are children and a significant number are women or elderly men.

I urge the members of our church to call upon our elected officials to be leaders in speaking up for refugees already persecuted and traumatized and ensuring that our country continues to reflect the principles and values of a nation committed to freedom. The legacy of our welcome to refugees is that our economy, social fabric, communities and nation as a whole are stronger. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) has developed many resources on this topic for your congregations.



You can also contact your elected officials through the ELCA Advocacy action alert.

Let us recommit ourselves to sharing encouragement to those persecuted as we seek to be a disturbing, reconciling, serving and deliberating presence in God's world. This will demand difficult, courageous work from each of us. "As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace" (Ephesians 6:15).

God's peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop Evangelical Lutheran Church in America





**Update from John Lund,
a missionary that Bethany and other confer-
ence churches support.**

Greetings to my sponsoring churches! The last time I wrote, I was in Arusha, Tanzania, and I was lamenting the lack of electric power. It seemed like my complaints worked, because I had electricity the next day. I thought maybe that was in honor of the Julius Nyerere Day holiday – he was the first president of Tanzania – but I had power again the next day and the next. Then, of course, it was time for me to leave for India. Before I left, I went shopping for fabric for my tailor in India to make into shirts. My driver did not understand what I wanted and he took me to a store where they sold fabric in six meter lengths – no less than six meters, no cutting in two to get three meters. Finally, two people from the store got into the car with us and directed the driver to a shop where they sold three meter lengths of cloth and I got my shirt material.

My driver Egild took me to the property he owns to see the house he has been building for his family. He wanted to show me what he was doing with the extra salary he's been earning. It was a beautiful site, off the beaten path, for a nice three bedroom home.

The day before I left for India, I conducted my first baptism in Tanzania. It had been a while since I'd done one anywhere. The poor kid - maybe around a year old - cried from the time he was handed to the sponsor. I think that the parents and sponsors were embarrassed, so I said that crying during baptism was appropriate. He was awake and his tears mixed with the waters of baptism and that made it his! After the service, they told me that made them feel better.



The next day, I began my 22 hour journey back to Vellore, India. This time I traveled through the airport in Dar es Salaam, the largest city in Tanzania. Its name translates as “the residence of peace.” My first plane from Kilimanjaro to Dar was not full so I had a whole row to myself. There was no real food, but my next flight would be on Qatar Airlines and they have some good food. During my travels I got some very short naps here and there and the flight attendant gave me some special chocolate from First Class. Maybe I looked like I needed something to make me a

better passenger? Customs went smoothly and Suren, my former driver and jack-of-all-trades, picked me up and got me back to Sneha Deepam by 7 a.m. for a nap before I needed to talk to the surgeon about Pastor John Sumo's surgery which was in a couple of days.

If you remember, Pastor Sumo's leg was very badly injured on a motorcycle accident in Liberia. This left a large gap between the ends of the bone in his leg. The surgeon at CMC used a "fixator" which holds the bone ends in place while they grow together. It is like a leg brace but had points that go right into the leg. And now Pastor Sumo's bone ends have grown together and he was ready for the surgery to remove the fixator. He will be in a cast for six months and then in a brace for a year. It is a long process, but his leg will be healed! The social worker from the palliative care team volunteered to help Pastor Sumo get his lab work, x-ray, and EKG done, and to get to his doctor appointment and get proper local registration. Pastor Sumo's surgery went very well and the surgeon was very pleased with his progress.

I have an 11 day trip coming up in a few days, so I took a short, warmup trip to Chetpet – a rural place on the road to Pondicherry which is about 50 miles from Vellore. The front seat passenger seat belt was broken so I had to sit in the back seat which seemed to be meant for people with retractable legs. My legs do not retract. Then the A/C died. And the road was not in good shape. But I did get to see the nursing student whom I sponsor at St. Thomas Hospital. A German nun founded the hospital to care for people with leprosy. The nursing school is named after her (even though she was a doctor!) - the Dr. Maria Aschoff School of Nursing. Two friends of mine pay her mess fees and she is doing very well and is grateful for the opportunity to become a nurse. I also met with the CEO, Sister Maria, who I have known for 12 years. She is a good administrator and they have the necessary facilities, but they have not been able to get the doctors they need.

Next time I write, I'll tell you about the 11 day trip I'll soon be taking, so keep me in your prayers as I travel, and I will keep you in mine.

Peace, John



Kids!

“There’s a Song in the Air”



Children’s Christmas Program is on December 13.

- December 6:** Rehearse for Christmas program
- December 13:** Rehearse in sanctuary; Performance in Worship
- December 20:** Sunday School Christmas Party
- December 27:** No Sunday School

Youth Group’s Service Project - Raking Yards



**THANK
YOU**



Youth Assisting in Worship

In November youth began helping with usher duties. Beginning in January some of the youth will also be assisting ministers.





**The Colors of Christmas
Quad-parish Christmas Program**



**Bethel Lutheran Church
December 10 @ 2:00 p.m.**

Please bring a gift for Voices for Youth and the Care Clinic

The women of Bethany will play the chimes for a Christmas sing-a-long.
All women are invited for this enjoyable afternoon

Advent Tree

Once again it's time for our annual Advent Tree. Please bring in hats, mittens, toys, books, and gifts for any ages. Place them under the tree, and your generosity will brighten the holidays for someone else.



Shawl Ministry



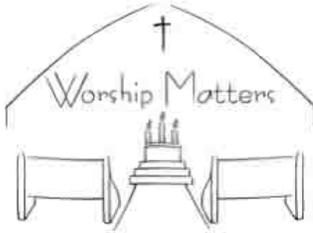
Shawl Ministry

The Shawl Ministry will be meeting on Tuesday, December 1st at 2pm in the social room. New members are always welcome. Anyone wanting to give a shawl may pick one up in the fellowship hall. Shawls are bagged and ready to go in the far brown cabinet in the northeast corner of the fellowship hall. Please feel free to take one for anyone you wish to give it to.

Thank You

On behalf of WELCA, thank you for spreading the joy of sharing God's love with children in need by packing a shoebox or donating money for shipping.





Council Highlights— November

- Received thank you from Feeding America
- Sunday School program will be on Dec. 13; Choir cantata will be held on Dec. 20
- Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 31.
- Shepherd's Staff meeting was held last week.
- Committees need to get their budgets to the Finance Board as soon as possible.
- Renovation project has gone well. The congregation has given \$36,100 of the total cost of \$53,543.28. Whatever isn't received as gifts from the congregation will be paid from the Memorial Fund.



Renovation
ject



Don't forget to pick up your copy
of the new church directory!

Pro-

**Ishpeming Carnegie Library
Christmas Open House**

Dec. 6 2-4pm

Used book and bake sale

Check out the Christmas tree decorated by
Kathy Geier, Marian Medlyn, and Sue Ryan.
The tree is decorated with hand-made ornaments.



**Christmas Postcard In-
cluded in Outlook**

Enclosed in each copy of December's Outlook is the Christmas worship schedule.
The schedule is written on a postcard. Feel free to use it as...



- Your special reminder
- A book mark
- An invitation (Add postage and send it to someone inviting them to take part in the special Christmas message here at Bethany.)

Updating Church Records



Bethany has formed a committee to update church records. We are particularly interested in getting accurate information on adult children. We need your help to get the most recent information (addresses, name change, phone number, email), so you may get a call from someone on the committee. You could also email information to Wendy Penhale at contact@bethanyishpeming.org.

Congratulations, Ishpeming Hematites!

The Ishpeming Hematites football team is the 2015 Division 7 Michigan football champions, defeating Pewamo-Westphalia 22-16, Bethany's Thomas Finegan and Jacob Clark are members of the winning team. Congratulations!



an



**POINSETTIA
ORDERS**

Deadline to Order Poinsettias is December 18

This year's poinsettias cost \$15 and will be ordered from Shelly's Floral Boutique. Please make your check out to Bethany Lutheran Church **when** you place your order. You may bring your own plants if you wish, with your name written underneath so they may be identified. Please have the plants here by Tuesday morning, December 22. You may take your plants following the Christmas Eve late service. Thank you.



We would like to extend our gratitude to our Bethany friends for their kindness, thoughts and prayers, food, cards and phone calls during the recent loss of our son, and my shoulder surgery. It has meant so much to us and we are so blessed to have you all in our lives. A special thank you to Pastor Geier for his care and concern, prayers, and for being so helpful. We also want to thank Pam Allen for her help, and the WELCA women for serving our lunch for David. God Bless you all.

Ruthie and Roger Solberg



Bethany's Website

www.bethanyishpeming.org

To view the latest edition of the Outlook in color, please visit Bethany's website.



**Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, Cocoa and Chocolate
Are Available at Bethany**



- Café Salvador Coffee
- Organic Decaf Coffee
- Whole Bean Coffee
- Whole Bean Decaf
- Sisters' Blend, Reg. & Decaf Teas
- Hot cocoa
- Baking Cocoa
- Milk Chocolate Bar
- Dark Chocolate Mini Bars

From Small Farmers With Love



Keep In Your Prayers

- Remember our home-bound and nursing home residents:
Doreen Brown (Valente), Joyce Lehto (Mill Creek), Marjorie Rosten (Valente), Shirley Sundblad (Valente), Anna Mae Collins (Mather), Jean Anderson (Valente), Allen Maki (Jacobetti), Geri Maki (Jacobetti), Bob Waters (Jacobetti), Nancy Swanson (Valente); Jean Sandstrom (Valente)
- Lois Goethe
- Kaukola family
- Don Doney
- Clara Carlson
- Ruthie Solberg
- Pam Allen
- Mark Ulrickson
- Doris Pellonpaa
- Pastor Bob Sutherland
- Pastor Rudy Keppainen
- Ned Johns
- Bob Clark
- Carl Pellonpaa
- Ralph Goethe
- Robert Maki
- Betty Geier
- Zander Atkins
- Jim Sodergren, Sr.
- Jim Bjerne
- Pastor Marcia Solberg
- Kathy Routhier
- Nancy Swanson
- Angie Kempainen
- June Forsberg
- Carol and Juan Papaleo and family
- Pam Waters
- Those in the military that they may remain safe



For All Snowbirds....



If you are one of the many snowbirds who head south or west for the winter, please notify us of your new address and the duration of the time you will using that address so you won't miss any future issues of the Outlook or other mail from Bethany. Thanks.



Contact **Linda Dahl** by phone, e-mail, or by dropping a note in the newsletter mailbox at church.

485-1625
linkarzig@gmail.com



Bethany Lutheran Church
715 Mather Avenue
Ishpeming, MI 49849

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Website: www.bethanyishpeming.org

Rev. Warren Geier, Pastor
Home Phone: 485-4218
E-mail: pastor@bethanyishpeming.org

Parish Planning Council:
Exec. Director, Robert Nadeau
Asst. Exec. Director, Ted Swanson
Christian Education, Tonya Perry
Finance, Jim Kinnunen
Personnel, Tom Ryan
Property, Bill Heavyside
Social Ministry, Marie Chilman
Stewardship, Tom Perry
Worship & Music, Keenan Tunnell



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Northern Great Lakes Synod



December Worship Assistants

December 6

Assisting Minister - Craig Kitchen
Acolytes - Morgan Rhoades & Kyra Holmgren
Altar - Marian Medlyn
Coffee Hosts - Social Ministry
Greeters - Tom & Sue Ryan
Flowers -
Nursery - Ben Bruhnke
Bread - Bob Bucan

December 13

Assisting Minister - Robert Maki
Acolytes - Gavin Argall & Garrett Frustaglio
Altar - Clara Carlson
Coffee Hosts - Christian Ed.
Greeters - Bob & Gwen Bruhnke
Flowers -
Nursery - Hannah Skewis
Bread - Kaye Frederickson

December 20

Assisting Minister - Terra Frustaglio
Acolytes - Abby Bruhnke & Mackenzie Ryan
Altar - Sue Ryan
Coffee Hosts - Medlyn girls and Pastor Finegan
Flowers -
Nursery - Noah Kaukola
Bread - Kay Chartre

December 27

Assisting Minister - Tom Ryan
Acolytes - Jackson Cardoni & Matthew Skewis
Altar - Marilyn Pontti
Coffee Hosts -
Flowers -
Nursery -
Bread - Terra Frustaglio

December 24

Assisting Minister -
(4 pm) Kathy Harrington & Ned Johns
(10 pm) Jerry & Karen Plaisier

Acolytes - (4 pm) Kayla Koski & Abbi Koski
(10 pm) D.J. Bivins & Blake Forbes
Altar - Sue Holmgren
Bread - (4 pm) Rae Elliot
(10 pm) Linda Dahl

December 25

Assisting Minister - Robert Nadeau
Altar - Sue Holmgren
Bread - Marian Medlyn

December Ushers:

Bruce Bussone
Tom Perry
Ned Johns
Jim Kinnunen
Craig Kitchen
Jerry Plaisier
Knut Strom
Roy Koski



Thank You!

Happy Birthday!

- 2 Kay Skytta
- 2 Lindsay Waters
- 2 Amber Sodergren
- 3 Ralph Goethe
- 3 John Pontti
- 3 Irene Portale
- 4 Donald Liljequist
- 6 Emily Vallier
- 8 Ida Anderson
- 8 Cheryl Sleeman
- 9 Karen Mattson
- 9 Ian Bivins
- 10 Sheree Mariani
- 11 Lynn Healey
- 11 Daniel Kaukola
- 11 Todd Pohlman
- 11 Meredith Seppanen
- 11 Justin Young
- 12 Richard Meyer
- 12 Delanie Rhoades
- 13 James Chapman
- 13 Jerald Hager
- 15 Mindy Harrington
- 16 Christine Jarvi
- 17 Holly Bjerne
- 18 Carol Truscott
- 19 Ann Carne
- 20 Kayla Kaukola
- 20 Knut Strom
- 21 Cheryl Frederickson
- 24 Megan Hough
- 25 Carol Waters
- 26 Travis Wooden
- 28 Lisa Ombrello
- 31 Carl Pellonpaa



Happy Anniversary!

Roy & LaVerne Koski
12/1/1984 31 years

Jerry & Karen Plaisier
12/1/1990 25 years

Joe & Addy Lemire
12/3/2011 4 years

Kimberlee & Bryan Smith
12/4/2010 5 years

Ray & Sandra Sundquist
12/12/1975 40 years

Carl & Doris Pellonpaa
12/16/1953 62 years

James & Jane Anderson
12/21/1968 47 years

Larry & Ann Alexander
12/27/1986 29 years

John & Marilyn Pontti
12/28/1960 55 years



January Worship Assistants

January 3

Assisting Minister - Tom Perry
Acolytes - Hope Kaukola & Kyra Holmgren
Altar -
Coffee Hosts - Barb Yunkari and friends
Flowers -
Bread -

January 10

Assisting Minister - D.J. Bivins
Acolytes - Morgan Rhoades & Abby Bruhnke
Altar -
Coffee Hosts - Social Ministry
Flowers -
Nursery - Sabrina Holm-Brown
Bread -

January 17

Assisting Minister - David Lerverton
Acolytes - Kayla Koski & Mackenzie Ryan
Altar -
Coffee Hosts - Quilters
Flowers -
Nursery - Noah Kaukola
Bread -

January 24

Assisting Minister - Terra Frustaglio
Acolytes - Garrett Frustaglio & Blake Forbes
Altar -
Coffee Hosts - Finance Boards
Flowers -
Nursery - Hannah Skewis
Bread -

January 31

Assisting Minister - Kay Ryan
Acolytes - Jackson Cardoni & D. J. Bivins
Altar -
Coffee Hosts - Property Board
Flowers -
Nursery - Ben Bruhnke
Bread -

January 6 Epiphany

Assisting Minister - Keenan Tunnell

January Ushers:

February Ushers:



Thank You!

Happy Birthday!

- 1 Samuel Stahlmann
- 4 Maurice Hansen
- 5 Ruby Kaukola
- 5 Erick Pohlman
- 7 Jacob Clark
- 7 Daniel Sleeman
- 8 Colleen Sundblad
- 11 Debbie Bussone
- 11 Marilyn Pontti
- 12 Robert Nadeau
- 14 Theodore Swanson
- 14 Mikki Jago
- 15 Elizabeth Aho
- 16 Hillary Bjerne
- 18 Jeffrey Harma
- 19 Matthew Skewis
- 21 Mindy McComb
- 21 Jennie Dault
- 23 Tori Connors
- 24 Brian Ulrickson
- 26 Carl Pellonpaa
- 27 Christina Mariani
- 29 Bernadette Frustaglio
- 31 Sabrina Brown



Happy Anniversary!

Roger & Ruth Solberg
1/2/1954 62 years

