



**Bethany Lutheran Outlook**  
December 2010 - January 2011

Serving God, Community, and Individuals



**The Christ Child Came To Walk Among Us.**



## PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

I'm not sure exactly when it was when someone told me they had seen a Christmas display up in one of the stores but it was way before Halloween, I know that. When we were back at my mother's at the beginning of November, many of the ads on Boston TV were Christmas ads. By the time we got back to Ishpeming on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November, the Christmas decorations on the light poles around town were in place and lit. I don't bemoan all that anymore; it does start way too early, and it does become excessive, but the secular, consumer aspects of Christmas have their good points that we all enjoy in some fashion and they shouldn't hinder anyone's religious observance of Christmas as the Nativity of our Lord.

Christmas does inevitably sneak into some of what we do at church during the month of December; we're not immune to the culture so it's hard to be liturgical purists and eschew all things Christmas until Christmas Eve. Even though Christmas sneaks in, we mark time a little bit differently as we observe the season of Advent, the four Sunday's before Christmas. We observe Advent musically, holding off on Christmas carols until Christmas Eve and we do it liturgically with the lighting of the Advent wreath each week.

During these weeks the amount of daylight is gradually decreasing, the already short days get shorter still. On our Advent wreath though, each week the light increases with the lighting of another candle as we anticipate the arrival of Jesus, the Light of the World. There's a simplicity to it, but I find the lighting of the Advent wreath to be one of the more moving liturgical acts of the church year; it seems to have a way of slowing down the rush to Christmas.



Somewhat harder to fight is the sense that Christmas is over on December 25<sup>th</sup>. For many it seems anticlimactic to observe the 12 Days of Christmas and continue to sing Christmas hymns and carols on the two Sundays after Christmas when the cultural celebration is over. For most people Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup> which culminates the twelve days, isn't on their radar. Even in most churches, if Epiphany is observed at all, it's on the Sunday after.

The approach of our Worship and Music committee for the past few years though, has been that worship should be the central activity of any church. With that in mind we decided that we would observe the church year and its festivals as fully as possible.

So we offer worship services on Christmas Day even when it falls on a Saturday and there were two services on Friday, Christmas Eve and another to come on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup>. We will have a service on January 6<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Epiphany. We do this hoping that people will come and that they will gain a fuller appreciation of the cycle and festivals of the church year, but we do it mostly because that's what we should do as a church.

Please note the full schedule of services for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany found below in the Outlook. Plan to be part of as many as you can; there is something special about each of them. After all, besides being the primary activity of any church, worship should also be the primary activity of any church member.

May these seasons and services be a special and meaningful part of your journey!



**December 5—Second Sunday in Advent**

10:30 Worship Service

**December 12—Third Sunday in Advent**

10:30 Sunday School Christmas program and Santa Lucia procession  
as part of Worship Service;

**December 19—Fourth Sunday in Advent**

10:30 Worship Service — Annual Choir Cantata  
4:00 Caroling at Mather Nursing Home

**December 24—Christmas Eve**

4:00 Family Worship  
11:00 Candlelight Service  
(Bell & Organ Prelude @ 3:45 and 10:45)



**December 25—Christmas Day**

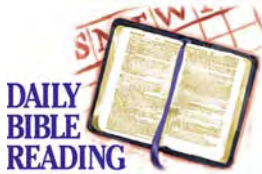
10:30 Holy Communion

**December 26—First Sunday after Christmas**

10:30 Worship Service

**January 6—Epiphany** 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer Worship Service

## 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.*

### Daily Lectionary for December 2010 - January 2011

#### December 2010

1	Psalm 124	Isaiah 54:1-10	Matthew 24:23-35
2	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Isaiah 4:2-6	Acts 1:12-26
3	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Isaiah 30:19-26	Acts 13:16-25
4	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Isaiah 40:1-11	John 1:19-28

#### 5 Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10    Psalm 72:1-7, 18:19    Romans 15:4-13    Mathew 3:1-12

6	Psalm 21	Isaiah 24:1-16a	I Thess. 4:1-12
7	Psalm 21	Isaiah 41:14-20	Romans 15:14-21
8	Psalm 21	Genesis 15:1-18	Matthew 12:33-37
9	Psalm 146:5-10	Ruth 1:6-18	2 Peter 3:1-10
10	Psalm 146:5-10	Ruth 4:13-17	2 Peter 3:11-18
11	Psalm 146:5-10	1 Samuel 2:1-8	Luke 3:1-18

#### 12 Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10    Psalm 146:5-10    James 5:7-10    Matthew 11:2-11

13	Psalm 42	Isaiah 29:17-24	Acts 5:12-16
14	Psalm 42	Ezekiel 47:1-12	Jude 17-25
15	Psalm 42	Zechariah 8:1-17	Matt. 8:14-17, 28-34
16	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	2 Samuel 7:1-17	Galatians 3:23-29
17	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	2 Samuel 7:18-22	Galatians 4:1-7
18	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	2 Samuel 7:23-29	John 3:31-36

**19 Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 7:10-16      Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19      Romans 1:1-7      Matthew 1:18-25

20 1 Samuel 2:1-10

Genesis 17:15-22

Galatians 4:8-20

21 1 Samuel 2:1-10

Genesis 21:1-21

Galatians 4:21-5:1

22 Luke 1:46b-55

Isaiah 33:17-22

Rev. 22:6-7, 18-20

23 Luke 1:46b-55

2 Sam. 7:18, 23-29

Galatians 3:6-14

**24 Christmas Eve**

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-20



**25 Christmas Day**

Isaiah 62:6-12

Psalm 97

Titus 3:4-7

Luke 2:1-20

**26 First Sunday of Christmas**

Isaiah 63:7-9

Psalm 148

Hebrews 2:10-18

Mathew 2:13-23

27 Psalm 148

Proverbs 8:22-31

1 John 5:1-12

28 Psalm 148

Isaiah 49:13-23

Matthew 18:1-14

29 Psalm 20

Jeremiah 31:15-22

Luke 19:41-44

30 Psalm 20

Isaiah 26:1-9

2 Cor. 4:16-18

31 Psalm 20

1 Kings 3:5-14

John 8:12-19

**January 2011**

**1 Name of Jesus**

Numbers 6:22-27

Psalm 8

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:15-21

**2 Second Sunday of Christmas**

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm 147:12-20

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:1-18

3 Psalm 72

Genesis 28:10-22

Hebrews 11:13-22

4 Psalm 72

Exodus 3:1-5

Hebrews 11:23-31

5 Psalm 72

Joshua 1:1-9

Hebrews 11:32-12:2

**6 Epiphany of Our Lord**

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Mathew 2:1-12



7	Psalm 72	1 Kings 10:1-13	Ephesians 3:14-21
8	Psalm 72	1 Kings 10:14-25	Ephesians 4:7, 11-16

**9 Baptism of Our Lord**

Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalm 29	Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-17
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10	Psalm 89:5-37	Genesis 35:1-15	Acts 10:44-48
11	Psalm 89:5-37	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Acts 8:4-13
12	Psalm 89:5-37	Isaiah 51:1-16	Matthew 12:15-21
13	Psalm 40:1-11	Isaiah 22:15-25	Galatians 1:6-12
14	Psalm 40:1-11	Genesis 27:30-38	Acts 1:1-5
15	Psalm 40:1-11	1 Kings 19:19-21	Luke 5:1-11

**16 Second Sunday after Epiphany**

Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 40:1-11	1 Cor. 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
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17	Psalm 40:6-17	Exodus 12:1-13, 21-28	Acts 8:26-40
18	Psalm 40:6-17	Isaiah 53:1-12	Hebrews 10:1-4
19	Psalm 40:6-17	Isaiah 48:12-21	Matthew 9:14-17
20	Psalm 27:1-6	1 Samuel 1:1-20	Galatians 1:11-24
21	Psalm 27:1-6	1 Samuel 9:27-10:8	Galatians 2:1-10
22	Psalm 27:1-6	1 Samuel 15:34-16:13	Luke 5:27-32

**23 Third Sunday after Epiphany**

Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalm 27:1, 4-9	1 Cor. 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23
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24	Psalm 27:7-14	Judges 6:11-24	Ephesians 5:6-14
25	Psalm 27:7-14	Judges 7:12-22	Philippians 2:12-18
26	Psalm 27:7-14	Gen. 49:1-2, 8-13, 21-26	Luke 1:67-79
27	Psalm 15	Deuteronomy 16:18-20	1 Peter 3:8-12
28	Psalm 15	Deuteronomy 24:17-25:4	1 Timothy 5:17-24
29	Psalm 15	Micah 3:1-4	John 13: 31-35

**30 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

Micah 6:1-8	Psalm 15	1 Cor. 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12
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31	Psalm 37:1-17	Ruth 1:1-18	Philemon 1-25
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## Confirmation 2010



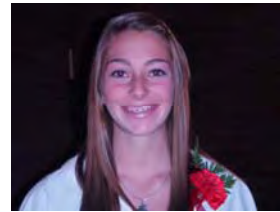
**Natalee Dobson**

**“But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”**

Matthew 6: 33

**“Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.”**

1 Corinthians 16: 13-14



**Kara Harrington**



**Megan Hough**

**“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”**

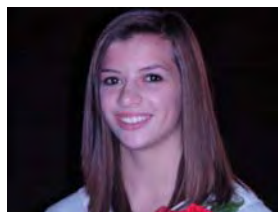
Psalm 46: 1

**“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.”**

Psalm 136:1



**Christina Mariani**



**Katelyn Ombrello**

**“Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.’ ”**

John 8: 12

**May He bless you in your coming; may He bless you in your going;  
May your heart be ever knowing the blessings of the Lord.**

From The Blessing Song

# Enjoy the Poetry of Hymns

## Love Has Come

Love has come - a light in the darkness!  
Love explodes in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
Hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love!  
Born unto you a Savior!  
Love! Love!  
Glory to God on high.



Love is born! Come share in the wonder;  
Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of His mother;  
What is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love!  
Love is the name she whispers;  
Love! Love!  
Jesus, Immanuel.

Love has come - He never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us;  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love!  
Love is the gift of Christmas;  
Love! Love!  
Praise to You, God on high!



Text by Ken Bible  
Music: French carol melody "Bring a Torch"





**Hanging of the Greens  
Saturday, December 11 @ 10 a.m.**

This year Bethany will celebrate the beautifying of our sanctuary for the Christmas season with a special gathering on Saturday, December 11, at 10:00 am. In honor of Bethany's heritage, and in thankful celebration for 140 years, Bethany will be decorating the sanctuary with Swedish ornaments which Bethany members have been creating throughout the year. The final touches have been put on, and the ornaments are ready.

Many people are needed to make our sanctuary glow with the light of the Christ Child. Please come on Saturday, December 11 and together we will decorate the sanctuary and continue the joyful tradition of preparing for this blessed season.

*God Jul!*



Thank you, Marian Medlyn, for your leadership and expertise in the making of all our Swedish ornaments.

## **Sunday School Program December 12 during 10:30 Worship Service**



On December 12, Bethany's Sunday School will present a special Christmas concert and Santa Lucia procession during worship as part of our church's 140th anniversary. Christina Mariani will take the part of Lucia, and other Sunday School students will accompany her into the sanctuary.

After worship, instead of the traditional Advent dinner, the Sunday School students will serve Lucia buns and host an expanded coffee hour including Swedish Christmas cookies\*, sausage and cheese.

Lucia Day, or Luciadagen, is celebrated in Sweden on December 13, and is one of the festivals of light that mark the long nights of winter in northern countries. Lucia herself was a Sicilian Christian who was martyred for her faith in 304 A.D. Her story became significant in Sweden during the Middle Ages, when stories were told of a young woman robed in white with a wreath of candles on her head who appeared and gave gifts of food during a famine. In the late 19th century, the custom of the oldest girl in the family dressing up as Lucia and bringing saffron buns and coffee to her parents developed, and Luciadagen became part of the celebrations of the Christmas season.

\*Bakers are asked to bring a dozen Christmas cookies to share.\*

### **The Santa Lucia Legend**

#### **History of Lucia**

According to legend, Lucia was a medieval saint who carried food and drink to hungry folk in the province of Värmland during a period of famine. She was seen across Lake Vänern with her white gown and crown of lights. Today's costume has the same gown and crown. The Lucia legend is said to have originated in Syracuse on the island of Sicily. A young girl, about to be a bride, gave her entire dowry to the poor of her village and admitted that she had become a Christian. She was accused of witchcraft and burned at the stake on December 13, 304 A.D.

Much later in history, the early Church made a saint out of her - Santa (Saint) Lucia. Italian artists sometimes picture her as a blind girl holding a lamp. She is a patron saint for Italian fishermen and she is said to help guide them home through the rough seas during a storm.

There are many legends about her and in each one Lucia stands as a symbol of light and hope to all mankind. Santa Lucia's coming begins the feasting, merriment, singing and the spirit of friendliness and goodwill that lasts all through the holidays.

### **How we celebrate Lucia in Sweden**

In Sweden, the Lucia Day is celebrated all over the country in every home, school, and workplace on the morning of the 13th of December. All of the other Scandinavian countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, and Norway) celebrate Lucia as well. In each home usually the eldest daughter dresses in a white gown with a red sash and a crown of candles. She and her sisters wake the family at dawn and serve them a breakfast of sun-colored saffron buns and gingerbread cookies. At each school, there is a gathering in the auditorium or gym first thing in the morning. The lights are dimmed and the Lucia and Lucia maids enter, singing the old song "Santa Lucia".



At every workplace they make time for a special morning "coffee break" before the day even starts and a few ladies dress up as Lucias. At most public institutions, a table is laid ready with coffee, saffron buns and gingerbread cookies for the public to enjoy all that day. On this day, as well as around Christmas, a hot mulled drink called glögg is served. Lucia brings a message of lighter times to come during the darkest time of the year. It is a very festive atmosphere, full of good feelings, hope, and expectations.

At Lucia Scandinavians usually bake cookies and bread to have with the "Lucia coffee".

Here is a saffron bread recipe:

**Lussebullar or Lussekatter**  
**Saffron Bread**

- 1 tbsp saffron
- 2 cups milk
- 3 tbsp yeast (quick rise)
- 1 cup butter or margarine
- 1 egg (beaten)
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 ½ cups sugar
- ½ cup chopped almonds
- 1 cup raisins (optional)
- 6-7 cups flour

**Topping**

- 1 beaten egg
- coarse sugar
- chopped almonds
- raisins

Crush saffron and mix with a tbsp of sugar in a mortar. Warm the milk (not too hot) and melt the butter in the milk. Add the rest of the ingredients except for the yeast and flour. Mix the yeast in a separate bowl with a little of the flour. Add to mixture and mix well. Add the rest of the flour a little at a time. Knead and let rise in a warm place. Once risen, punch down and knead again. Roll the dough to whatever shape(s) you prefer. Place on a cookie sheet, raise, brush with egg and sprinkle with coarse sugar, almonds, and raisins. Bake "small shapes" in a very hot oven at 375-400°F for 5 to 8 minutes and bake "larger shapes" at 350-375°F for 13 to 17 minutes.

**Scandinavian Almond Cake**

Spray pan with Pam or cooking spray

Beat well: 1 ¼ cup sugar, 1 egg, 1 ½ teaspoons pure almond extract,  
2/3 cup milk

Add: 1 ¼ cup flour, 1/2 teaspoon baking powder

Add: 1 stick melted margarine

Mix well.

Bake at 350° for 40—50 minutes. Edges must be golden brown.

Cool in pan before removing. Cake will break if removed too soon.

Sprinkle with confectionary sugar.

Variation: Before pouring batter into the pan, sprinkle sliced almonds on the bottom.

Almond cake recipe submitted by Loreth Johnson



### **Christmas Program at Faith Lutheran**



The annual quad-parish Christmas program for all the women of the church and their friends will be held at Faith Lutheran Church on Tuesday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. Highlighting the evening will be a program about Scandinavian traditions. Marian Medlyn will share the Swedish ornaments that Bethany has made for our 140th anniversary. Refreshments will follow. We encourage everyone to attend to share in the celebration of this wonderful season of our Lord's birth.



### **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 up the holidays for someone else. Isn't that what Christmas is all about! God shared his son with us and now we can share with others.

### **Thank You Shirley Tyni**



A special thank you to Shirley Tyni for making new curtains for the nursery and Head Start rooms.



### **Ann Gonyea-Alexander Answers the Call**

I think to understand this sense of call I am feeling at 46 years of age and 20-plus years into my present career, I have to go back to the beginning. Once upon a time, I was the quintessential little Irish-Catholic girl torn between wanting to be a mom and a nun.

When I was 12, while I was walking down a Chicago beach with a woman named Ethel Polk, I made a decision about that dilemma. Ethel was an important caring adult in my life; she was outside the circle of my immediate family and had my best interests in mind. So I took her opinions and observations to heart. Ethel is now in her 90s. When she was younger she became a very accomplished woman. She broke through a lot of glass ceiling during her career as a union organizer for women in the U.S. textile industry and a strong voice in Illinois labor. Even as a child I had instinctual understandings of just how much she bucked the system. I had lunch with her in January of 2009. She leaned into me and said “Do you know what I consider one of the most important accomplishments of my life?” With all she had done I couldn’t imagine what that could be. She said “That day we were walking down the beach and I talked you out of being a nun.”

I was stunned. Truthfully, I had forgotten about the conversation. It was good advice. I do not believe I was meant to be a nun – and I think it’s safe to say my husband and children would agree. But Ethel’s reminder brought those memories forward at a time when I was really questioning where I was in my life and what I was going to do about being continually under-satisfied with where my career had taken me.

In my present job I have concentrated on nonprofit management and youth development, as understood through the research of Search Institute in Minneapolis. One Search focus of late is something called Sparks – those things that children exhibit a high aptitude for or interest in at an early age. Sparks are innate passions; they come from the gut. So I was thinking about my own Sparks when Ethel revealed this accomplishment. Ethel’s comment brought to mind a Spark that likely predates my



## December Worship Assistants

### December 5

Assisting Minister - Robert Maki  
Acolytes - Courtney Allen and Jessica Penhale  
Altar - Loreth Johnson and Pat Liivoja  
Coffee Hosts - Worship and Music  
Flowers - In memory of Williamina Sodergren  
and Ed & Marge Liebergen by Kim &  
Bryan Smith and family  
Nursery - Tory Mattson  
Bread - Dan & Sharon Argall

### December 12

Assisting Minister - Kris Hough  
Acolytes - Joshua Argall and Sabrina Holm-Brown  
Altar - Debra Cain  
Coffee Hosts - Christian Educ—Santa Lucia Celebration  
Flowers - In memory of Stuart Sundblad by the  
Sundblad family  
Nursery - Max Alexander  
Bread - Kathy Geier

### December 19

Assisting Minister - Terra Frustaglio  
Acolytes - Nora Seppanen and Jaren Kipling  
Altar - Carrie Goldsworthy  
Coffee Hosts—Social Ministry  
Flowers - In memory of Althea Doney, Ann & Eric Rex, and Lowell & Hilda Holmgren  
by Ed & Sue Holmgren  
Nursery - Mindy Harrington  
Bread - Shirley Tyni

### December 24

Assisting Minister - (4 pm) Kathy Harrington & Ned Johns  
(11pm) Jerry & Karen Plaisier  
Acolytes - (4 pm) Sabrina Holm-Brown & Jessica Penhale  
(11 pm) Joshua Argall & Courtney Allen  
Altar - Sue Holmgren  
Bread - Bob Bucan and Kaye Frederickson

### December 25

Assisting Minister - Robert Nadeau    Bread - Ann Gonyea

### December 26

Assisting Minister - Wendy Penhale  
Acolytes - Nora Seppanen and Jaren  
Kipling  
Altar - Sue Holmgren  
Flowers - In memory of Marvin  
Nadeau by his family  
Nursery - Kate Clark  
Bread - Kay Chartre

### December Ushers:

Robert Waters  
James Anderson  
John Carlson  
Robert Nadeau  
Tom Sodergren  
Roger Solberg  
Greg Stahlmann  
Maurice Hansen



*Thank You!*

*Happy Birthday!*

- 2 Kay Skytta
- 2 Lindsay Waters
- 3 Ralph Goethe
- 3 John Pontti
- 3 Irene Portale
- 4 Donald Liljequist
- 6 Emily Vallier
- 7 Pauline Toivonen
- 8 Ida Anderson
- 8 Cheryl Sleeman
- 9 Karen Mattson
- 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
- 24 Megan Hough
- 25 Carol Waters
- 26 Travis Wooden
- 28 Lisa Ombrello
- 31 Carl Pellonpaa



*Happy Anniversary!*

**Roy & LaVerne Koski**  
12/1/1984 26 years

**Jerry & Karen Plaisier**  
12/1/1990 20 years

**Ray & Sandra Sundquist**  
12/12/1975 21 years

**Carl & Doris Pellonpaa**  
12/16/1953 57 years

**Ronald & Marie Jensen**  
12/19/1959 51 years

**James & Jane Anderson**  
12/21/1968 42 years

**Larry & Ann Alexander**  
12/27/1986 24 years

**John & Marilyn Pontti**  
12/28/1960 50 years





## January Worship Assistants

### January 2

Assisting Minister - Ed Johns  
Acolytes - Jessica Penhale & Sabrina Holm-  
Brown  
Altar - Sue Ryan  
Coffee Hosts -  
Flowers -  
Nursery - Kara Harrington  
Bread - Rae Elliot

### January 9

Assisting Minister - Carl Pellonpaa  
Acolytes - Joshua Argall and Jaren Kipling  
Altar - Clara Carlson  
Coffee Hosts - Social Ministry  
Flowers -  
Nursery - Natalee Dobson  
Bread - Evelyn Nadeau

### January 16

Assisting Minister - Mindy Harrington  
Acolytes - Courtney Allen and Nora Seppanen  
Altar - Diana Sandstrom  
Coffee Hosts - Joy Circle  
Flowers -  
Nursery - Megan Hough  
Bread - Marian Medlyn

### January 23

Assisting Minister - Tom Ryan  
Acolytes - Jessica Penhale and Jaren Kipling  
Altar - Marian Medlyn  
Coffee Hosts -  
Flowers - In memory of Paul Blewett and Evelyn  
Blewett by Karen, m Bruce, Kathy and families  
Nursery - Christina Mariani  
Bread - Terra Frustaglio

### January 30

Assisting Minister - Sandee Sundquist  
Acolytes - Joshua Argall and Courtney  
Allen  
Altar - Marilyn Pontti  
Coffee Hosts -  
Flowers -  
Nursery - Tory Mattson  
Bread - Meta Leverton

*Thank You!*

### January Ushers:

James Chapman  
Ed Johns  
Jim Kinnunen  
Craig Kitchen  
Roy Koski  
Ray Leverton  
Jerry Plaisier  
Knut Strom



### February Ushers:

Jaak Liivoja  
Mike Richards  
Tom Ryan  
Ted Swanson  
John Waters

*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
- 15 Elizabeth Aho
- 16 Hillary Bjorne
- 18 Jeffrey Harma
- 19 Matthew Skewis
- 21 Paul Blewett
- 21 Mindy Chilman
- 21 Jennie Dault
- 23 Tori Connors
- 24 Brian Ulrickson
- 26 Carl Pellonpaa
- 27 Christina Mariani
- 29 Bernadette Frustaglio
- 30 James Chapman
- 31 Sabrina Brown



*Happy Anniversary!*

Roger & Ruth Solberg  
1/2/1954      56 years



love of writing. When I was that little quintessential Irish-Catholic girl I was truly moved by Jesus Christ. I don't think I knew exactly why or how to express it at that age, but in retrospect I would say it was Christ's message that we are loved unconditionally by God, and his examples of how we should respond to that love and the suffering he endured for me and everyone I saw around me.



The 1970s were not easy for my family, my mother in particular. She was raising me and my sister and brother on her own. The economy was poor at that time too. There were times when we didn't have enough to eat. We sometimes lived in dangerous places. The only recourse I had was to pray. That's what my mother taught me. The strength of her faith in God has been inspirational throughout my life. Somehow we made it through whatever the challenge *du jour* was and I knew it must be due to God along with the hard work of my mother.

To provide context, I should add that my personal journey from my Catholic beginnings to my present day worship with my Lutheran brothers and sisters was a rocky one full of lessons and many years away from any church. For a lot of complex reasons, I did fall away from the Catholic Church. It broke my heart.

Then in the early 1990s that void began to be filled when our good friend Keenan Tunnell invited us to Easter worship at Bethany and began to worship here regularly. Bethany appealed to me because the liturgy was familiar and I was welcome – me and all my faults and sins and baggage. It was wonderful. It felt like home almost immediately. It was also a Christian community in which my father was welcome during his final days. That was a great comfort to him. My worship and involvement at Bethany in those days was spotty, but the seed was planted. When my family left the Upper Peninsula to move downstate in 1995, we again fell away from attending worship regularly and for 10 years the feeling I was missing something mounted – this time even more pointedly. For instance, Easter became a painful experience for me. Like most American children, mine wanted to celebrate Easter with egg hunts, jelly beans and baskets, all the Easter you can conveniently purchase at the store. But it felt like a fraud to me. We weren't celebrating Easter because it didn't have anything to do with Jesus Christ. I compromised and agreed to celebrate the arrival of spring. But if we weren't observing Lent and celebrating the resurrection of Christ, we weren't going to call it Easter.



When we moved back to the Upper Peninsula in 2005 we started attending Bethany again. This time being part of this Lutheran community has resonated even more strongly with me. I love that I am invited to read and interpret the Bible in the context of my life and the times in which we live. From the perspective of being a former Catholic and an observer of the world around me, I am drawn to Martin Luther's theology and the concept that "faith alone saves, and that works and external things avail nothing." My involvement at Bethany and beyond !has gotten progressively deeper and richer.



And so I find myself today emotionally committed to attending the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. I am fully aware that it will not be easy – there are a lot of details to tackle. I have spoken to people in my community and at the seminary about the possibility of coming back to the U.P. as a pastor and find that idea very exciting. But I also feel strongly that I have to approach my call with an open and listening heart and go where God leads me.

I want my life's work to go beyond the mission-driven work I do now to the ultimate mission-driven work of helping people turn to God, study Jesus' ministry for guidance of how to walk our own lives, and feel awed and inspired by Jesus' sacrifice for us. I want to do this work in this world where so many people have never heard Christ's message and too many of those who have think you have to jump through certain hoops or meet certain human-made criterion to earn God's grace. As an ELCA Lutheran I am struck that we have this wonderfully liberating message to offer about God's grace through faith alone, but we are so reluctant to share this news. I think I innately respond to that challenge and that mission.



## New Books December and January

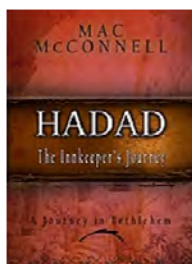
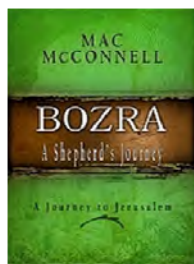
By Keenan Tunnell



I can't believe I'm already providing books for January, 2011!! They come from the last of 2010's budget and your generosity at the Library Sale. Of course the main emphasis for December is Advent/Christmas and there will be a selection of new and old books on the Library display kiosk. New books include the three books of the Cradle to the Cross Trilogy (see below). I hope you find something to enjoy with your family over the holidays and something to curl up with during the cold, snowy days of winter. **Happy Holidays! Keenan**

### New for Christmas: The Cradle to Cross Trilogy

**The Cradle to Cross Trilogy:** One reviewer says of the series: "Best Biblical Fiction Ever; **Mac McConnell** captures the heart and mind of his readers and places them right into the time and circumstance of his characters. You are transported to Bethlehem in Joseph, Bozra and Hadad, becoming a part of their lives -- almost smelling the sheep and the stable! The book goes so quickly that you are hungry for more when you're finished." See FIC MCC 1



#### **Book One: Bozra. FIC MCC.1**

Bozra, a shepherd boy, sleeps through an historic event - angels announcing the birth of the Messiah in Bethlehem. He meets kings seeking this Messiah. He hears of another king who orders a massacre of the babies in his home town. He wonders will he ever meet this man named Yeshua. ... Bozra lived at a time unlike most others. A time prophets dreamed of. A time immersed in danger and intrigue. A time of change.

**Book Two: Hadad. FIC MCC.2**

Here's the inside Christmas story from the innkeeper himself who prefers to be known as the world's best barkeep. When the dusty traveler, a broken-down donkey and a very pregnant woman show up in the middle of the night, Hadad wonders why he has to deal with their problems in the first place. He's not interested in a crying kid and shows them the barn, little more than a hole in the hill. But the next morning something draws him to the family and Hadad begins an unexpected fondness for this baby boy. He panics for his life when Herod's terrorists begin their slaughter and hopes to warn the family only to discover they escaped in the night.

**Book Three: Joseph. FIC MCC.3**

Joseph, perhaps the most overlooked and yet most famous father of all time, gets shocking news that changes the course of history and blasts his beliefs. He knows this child is not his. Can't be. He hasn't touched her...Mary should be a blushing bride, not the town's gossip. Joe's reaction may surprise you, maybe not. And that is just the beginning. The law allows him to turn her in and have her stoned. He considers his options. She's beginning to show. Everyone will know. He will be the laughing stock unless he divorces her, turning his back on the shame. But - he loves her. His heart is broken, but aches to hold her and make everything all right again. Only a miracle could save him, them.

Christmas books for children of all ages will be available in the Church Library throughout December, There are many selections which are perfect for your children who are readers or for the family to read together.





## Social Ministry Update December 2010—January 2011

Through the Noisy Offering, our congregation has donated \$494.00 to the Food Bank. We were able to provide canned and packaged goods to the Salvation Army's Christmas collection. You may still contribute canned and packed goods. Please place them in the cart in the Narthex. We contributed \$50 to Lutheran Campus Ministry and \$100 to Fortune Lake to help support their programs.



A Care package collection is underway for Erica Teichman who serves in the National Guard and is stationed in Afghanistan. Suggested items for the Care package are: toiletry items, shampoo, lip gloss, hand cream, handi-wipes, small nut packages, cookies (no chocolate), hard candies, granola bars, single "Little Debbie" items, sunscreen etc. Travel sizes are preferred. Please no hotel sample items. Also small books, games, new deck of cards or like items are suggested. This package will be shipped out on December 3.

We received a request from **Lutheran Social Services** to participate in **Operation Christmas**. They suggested we find a service in our area, which we might support. For the Christmas Season 2010 Bethany's Social Ministry Board would like to support **Hillcrest**. This is a group home in Ishpeming, for adults with developmental disabilities, currently serving 6 women. Items they would like to receive are: gift cards to Shopko, Wal-Mart, Target, Pamida or the Country Village Theater, McDonalds, Burger King, Beef-A-Roo; CD's of Oldies, easy listening, Christmas, pop, (all but RAP); DVD's for family viewing, cartoons; toiletries of all kinds – shampoo, cream rinse, bath soap or gel, body sprays, deodorant/antiperspirant, combs, brushes, toothpaste, disposable razors, body lotion, finger nail and toe nail clippers, powder, nail polish, nail polish remover, adult wet wipes, sippy cups, any kind of VCR or DVD player, bath towels, wash cloths, glasses, dish towels, food grinder and any kind of socks for women. We have a collection box for any of the above items for **Hillcrest** in the Narthex.



Thank you for your prayers and your contributions to this shared ministry effort.



## LAY SCHOOL NEWS

- The Winter Semester is set to begin on January 18<sup>th</sup> and will continue every Tuesday until April 5<sup>th</sup>..
- Classes will be held at Bethany, Ishpeming (715 Mather Ave.) with Pastor Warren Geier as the site coordinator.

Five classes will be offered in the Winter 2011 semester (**Please note the dates and times for each class as they do vary.**)

**Systematics Second Article** January 18-February 15 (3-5:10 pm) (5 sessions)  
*A study of the second article of the Nicene Creed concerning who and what is Jesus, and what is it about the human condition that necessitates Christ and the cross? What are the historical foundations, especially regarding the nature of Christ?*  
(Pastor Peter Anderson; Messiah, Marquette)

**Pentateuch** January 18-February 22 (6-8 pm) (6 sessions)  
*A study of the first five books of the Old Testament. The stories of the Pentateuch will be examined, not merely as history, but as theological statements, and the legal material will be considered in light of our contemporary culture.*  
(Pastor Warren Geier; Bethany, Ishpeming)

**Ethics** February 22-March 8 (3-5 pm) (3 sessions)  
*A brief course on ethical behavior in light of the cross and God's call to righteousness.* (Pastor Jim Duehring; Prince of Peace, Harvey)





**Overview of Ministry in the Congregation** March 1-April 5

(6-8:40pm) (6 sessions)

*This class will take a quick overview of a number of congregational ministries including education, stewardship, social ministry, youth ministry, and other ministries that are routinely a part of congregational life. The course will introduce students to resources available in each area of ministry. (TBA)*



**Spiritual Development** March 15-April 5 (3-5:15) (4 sessions)

*An exploration of spiritual practices, especially prayer, and how as we develop them they develop us in our faith journey. There will be an emphasis on learning and doing spiritual practices, not just learning about them. (TBA)*

A reminder that there is no tuition; the only cost is for books (and instructors do the best they can to keep that within reason.)

**As is always the case, we need new students! It should be emphasized though that one does not have to sign up for all the classes, one does not have to complete all the classes in a certain period of time, one does not even have to complete all the classes ever. You can take as much or as little as works for your schedule and your interests. The program is designed to be flexible. Also, Lay School is not designed to produce Licensed Lay Ministers. While that is a possibility and some graduates have gone in that direction, most students are just interested in growing in faith and becoming more active in their own congregations.**

To register for classes, or if you have specific questions, contact your pastor or Pastor Geier (486-4351; pastor@bethanyishpeming.org). It helps to have a ballpark number of students so that books can be ordered. If you would like more detailed information on any of the classes contact Pastor Geier.

It would be great to have some new students give Lay School a try, so consider this a personal invitation! If you're not sure, try a course and see how it goes. You will grow in faith and you and your church will benefit from your involvement!



## The Lutheran: November 2010

**40 YEARS LATER.** In 1970, the first woman was ordained as a Lutheran pastor. To mark this anniversary, *The Lutheran's* November issue focuses on women in the ministry. Read "She brings the good news," where women clergy say much has changed but there are still hurdles. In "Still serving after all these years ...," meet Elizabeth A. Platz, (at left) the first woman ordained in the Lutheran church, who says, "Never underestimate the persistence of God." A study guide is available.



**SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT.** In *The Lutheran's* November issue, read "A gift from heaven," where columnist Peter W. Marty writes that a meal—whether at home or the one from God—is all about relationship ... ponder the question: "Do we have the courage to say now is the time to move on into heaven?" ... reflect on "The wilderness of illness," where a mother and daughter savor the river of memories ... discuss "An unusual blend," where the table is set for hospitality and worship. To help your discussion, a study guide is available for the article "An unusual blend".



**SCHOOL IS IN SESSION.** *The Lutheran's* November issue highlights ELCA colleges, universities, campus ministries and seminaries in a special 24-page section. Find out how ELCA colleges and universities help struggling students stay in school in "Holding fast." Read "Shaping spirits" to see how ELCA seminaries approach spiritual formation for the church's future pastors. And learn how campus ministries encourage students to "Be the church" in their vocations. To find out what's happening on the campuses, there's 12 pages of "Higher education" news.



**WHAT'S HAPPENING** in the church and beyond? In *The Lutheran's* November issue, learn why chickens are roosting at a Wisconsin church ... get an update on the ELCA LIFT initiative, which will define the church and its mission ... read about the ELCA malaria campaign and the restructure of the churchwide organization ... find out why Lutheran Matt Berg made Time magazine's list of "The World's Most Influential People" ... travel to Suriname to discover how Lutherans contribute to multifaith, multiethnic respect ... see how a "Reverse collection" teaches an Illinois congregation about giving ... meet women who lift up liturgical arts ... and read about an organization that helps young people look toward the future.



**We Are Surrounded...**

**All Saints Sunday    November 7, 2010**

## Congratualtions!



Bethany members were shining stars in Ishpeming High School's production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Denise Clark directed the production in which Katy Johns had the role of the narrator and Alex Goldsworthy had the dual roles of Ruben and the baker. In addition, Megan Hough was a member of the Women's Chorus and Brent Clark was part of the musical "Magic" which backed up the singers. Congratulations on a job well done!



### Men's Night Out An Evening with Coach Dieterle: His Christian Testimony

December 6 7:30 - 9:00  
Bethany Lutheran Church

All men in the community are invited!

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### Thank You Lord...

The whole family is grateful for that tall summer grass  
and the glistening winter snow  
that we all enjoy in the yard.  
My kids are healthy and able to run and play.



Lord, the presence of the household chores awaiting me says  
You have richly blessed my family.  
I shall do those chores cheerfully and I shall do them gratefully.

### Bethany's Finance Record

YTD Monthly Income \$141,267.50

YTD Monthly Expenses \$148,917.96



## Community Christmas Programs

*Christmas Music*



### **Negaunee Male Chorus “Celebrate the Story of Christmas”**

December 12 @ 4:30 p.m. - Negaunee HS Auditorium \$7

### **Seed Sowers “Child of Hope”**

December 7 @ 7:30 p.m. Evergreen Christian Church

December 9 @ 7:30 p.m. St. John the Evangelist, Ishpeming

December 12 @ 2 p.m. Our Redeemer, Champion

December 12 @ 7 p.m. Mitchell United Methodist, Negaunee

December 14 @ 7:30 Lake Superior Christian Church, Marquette

### **Marquette Choral Society “Carols in the Cathedral”**

December 4 @ 7:30 p.m. and December 5 @ 3 p.m.

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### **A “Shepherd” Finds Refuge**

A Nativity Scene was erected in a churchyard. During the night the folks came across this scene. An abandoned dog was looking for a comfortable, protected place to sleep. He chose baby Jesus as his comfort. No one had the heart to turn him away so he was there all night. We should all have the good sense of this dog and curl up in Jesus' lap from time to time.



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### **Christmas Postcard Included 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 bookmark
- An invitation (Add postage and send it to someone inviting them to take part in the special Christmas message here at Bethany.)

would like to publish them in September highlighting summertime activities of Bethany members.

### Snowbird Alert

Every year some Bethany members head south or west for the winter. In order for you to continue to receive your Outlook when you are gone, please notify us of your new address and the duration of the time you will be using this address. Without the updated information, the Outlook will not reach you because 2nd class mail is not forwarded and, even if you do not receive it, Bethany will be charged for each one that is returned. Another option is to view the Outlook online which would eliminate the cost of mailing.



### Divine Chocolate



This “heavenly” treat is now available at the Fair Trade display just in time to fill someone’s Christmas stocking.



**Bethany’s Website**

[www.bethanyishpeming.org](http://www.bethanyishpeming.org)

The picture quality of the photos in the printed edition of the Outlook is often not good. To see the crystal clear photos in color, please visit the website.

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




Café Salvador Coffee  
Organic Decaf Coffee  
Whole Bean Coffee  
Whole Bean 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: Teckla Holmgren (home), Barbara Crabb (home), Doreen Brown (Valente), Joyce Lehto (Mill Creek), Marjorie Rosten (home)
  - June Forsberg
  - Allen Beauchamp
  - James Chapman
  - Erica Teichman, a member of the National Guard, who is deployed to Afghanistan
  - Alice Eman
  - Jim Chartre
  - Pauline Toivonen
  - Marvin Toivonen
  - Allen Maki
  - Carol Holmgren
  - Steven Leverton
  - Carol and Juan Papaleo and family
  - Paul Blomgren
  - Nancy Swanson
  - Pam Rushford
  - Those in the military that they may remain safe
- 
- Rosemary Clark
  - Gail Terres
  - LaVerne Koski

### Deadline to Order Poinsettias is December 14



This year's poinsettias cost \$14 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 Wednesday morning, December 22. You may take your plants following the Christmas Eve late service. Thank you!

Contributions to and ideas for the newsletter can be made by contacting **Linda Dahl** by phone, e-mail, or by dropping a note in the newsletter mailbox at church.

**485-1625**

**linkarzig@netscape.com**

Bethany Lutheran Church  
715 Mather Avenue  
Ishpeming, MI 49849

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

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E-mail: [bethanyim@hotmail.com](mailto:bethanyim@hotmail.com)  
Website: [www.bethanyishpeming.org](http://www.bethanyishpeming.org)

Rev. Warren Geier, Pastor  
Home Phone: 485-4218  
E-mail: [wgeier@charterinternet.com](mailto:wgeier@charterinternet.com)

Parish Planning Council:  
Exec. Director, Tom Ryan  
Asst. Exec. Director, James Bjorne  
Christian Education, Brent Clark  
Finance, Cheryl Sleeman  
Personnel, Debbie Bussone  
Property, Bill Heavyside  
Social Ministry, Rae Elliot  
Stewardship, John Pontti  
Worship & Music, Ann Gonyea  
Youth member, Alexandra Kitchen

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