



Bethany Lutheran Outlook
December 2011—January 2012

Serving God, Community, and Individuals

Glory to God
in the Highest,
& on Earth
Peace, Good
Will Toward Men.





PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

About this time last year I was reading a book titled “Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years” by Diarmaid MacCulloch. It’s a title that might strike you as being a bit strange as the year 2011 draws to a close because we know that Christianity as a religion has been around a few years less than that, closer to 2000 years than 3000. In the introduction to the book though, the author explains that with the subtitle he was trying to do a couple of things. For one thing “The First Three Thousand Years” is intended to invite the reader to consider whether Christianity has a future (MacCulloch is quite certain that it does). In addition to that though, looking back he wants to make the reader aware of the fact what became Christian ideas some 2000 years ago have a past in the minds and experiences of people who lived long before Jesus.

I didn’t make the connection at the time, (it took a piece in *Sundays and Seasons*, a worship planning resource published by Augsburg to help me) but the approach MacCulloch takes in his history, looking forward as well as looking back, is a very Advent-y approach. The lectionary texts for Advent take us back to the words of the prophets, words that Christians later interpreted as pointing toward Jesus. It’s not the only possible interpretation of those texts but it supports MacCulloch’s idea that Christianity as a religion has a history in words and ideas that pre-date Jesus.

"A little child will lead them."
Isaiah 11:6, NIV



At the beginning of Advent, we also have texts that call us to be awake and to watch for the future, the day of the Lord, the second coming of Jesus. Again, this supports MacCulloch’s idea that Christianity is headed somewhere, that while considering the past and the present, there always ought to be a future dimension to our thought.

None of this sounds very Christmas-y though, does it? It’s another reminder that especially at this time of year, the church is quite out of step with the wider culture. Our Advent preparation has a different focus and a different pace. We *are* headed for Christmas, but we get there by a different path. We persist in our Advent traditions, not to throw a wet blanket on secular celebrations of the season, but to at least take a little time to slow down and ponder some of these things, much as Mary does with the words of shepherds.



Following our Advent preparation, we will get to Christmas, but for us it marks the beginning of the celebration, not the end. We will celebrate for twelve days, into the New Year, past the time most people have taken down Christmas decorations that might have been up since before Thanksgiving. The celebration continues until Epiphany and the coming of the Wise Men and even beyond that into the season after Epiphany. During those weeks in January until the beginning of Lent in the latter part of February, we more fully consider the present and the ways Jesus is revealed to us.



As is our custom at Bethany, we will observe these seasons in their fullness. The schedule of services is found elsewhere in the Outlook. As always, I urge you to be here as much as you can to mark this most holy time of the year.

Pastor Geier



December 4—Second Sunday in Advent

10:30 Worship Service

December 11—Third Sunday in Advent

10:30 Sunday School Christmas program as part of Worship Service

December 18—Fourth Sunday in Advent

10:30 Worship Service — Annual Choir Cantata

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

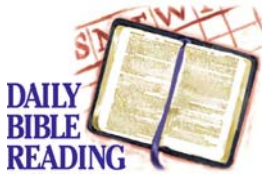
January 1—First Sunday after Christmas

10:30 Worship Service

January 5—Epiphany

6:30 p.m. 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 2011—January 2012

“The Bible is the cradle wherein Christ is laid.”

—Martin Luther

December 2011

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|----|--------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 | Hosea 6:1-6 | 1 Thess. 1:2-10 |
| 2 | Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 | Jeremiah 1:4-10 | Acts 11:19-26 |
| 3 | Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 | Ezekiel 36:24-28 | Mark 11:27-33 |
| 4 | Second Sunday of Advent | | |
| | Isaiah 40:1-11 | Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 | 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8 |
| 5 | Psalm 27 | Isaiah 26:7-15 | Acts 2:37-42 |
| 6 | Psalm 27 | Isaiah 4:2-6 | Acts 11:1-18 |
| 7 | Psalm 27 | Malachi 2:10 - 3:1 | Luke 1:5-17 |
| 8 | Psalm 126 | Habakkuk 2:1-5 | Philippians 3:7-11 |
| 9 | Psalm 126 | Habakkuk 3:2-6 | Philippians 3:12-16 |
| 10 | Psalm 126 | Habakkuk 3:13-19 | Matthew 21:28-32 |
| 11 | Third Sunday of Advent | | |
| | Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 | Psalm 126 | 1 Thess. 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28 |
| 12 | Psalm 125 | 1 Kings 18:1-18 | Ephesians 6:10-17 |
| 13 | Psalm 125 | 2 Kings 2:9-22 | Acts 3:17 - 4:4 |
| 14 | Psalm 125 | Malachi 3:16 - 4:6 | Mark 9:9-13 |
| 15 | Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 | 2 Samuel 6:1-11 | Hebrews 1:1-4 |
| 16 | Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 | 2 Samuel 6:12-19 | Hebrews 1:5-14 |
| 17 | Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 | Judges 13:2-24 | John 7:40-52 |



18 Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Luke 1:46b-55 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

19	Luke 1:46b-55	1 Samuel 1:1-18	Hebrews 9:1-14
20	Luke 1:46b-55	1 Samuel 1:19-28	Hebrews 8:1-13
21	Luke 1:46b-55	1 Samuel 2:1-10	Mark 11:1-11
22	Psalm 96	Zephaniah 3:8-13	Romans 10:5-13
23	Psalm 96	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Romans 13:11-14

24 Nativity of Our Lord

Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-20



25 Nativity of Our Lord

Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1:1-4 John 1:1-14

26	Psalm 148	Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15	Acts 6:8-15;7:51-60
27	Psalm 148	Exodus 33:18-23	1 John 1:1-9
28	Psalm 148	Jeremiah 31:15-17	Matthew 2:13-18
29	Psalm 148	Isaiah 49:5-15	Matthew 12:46-50
30	Psalm 148	Proverbs 9:1-12	2 Peter 3:8-13
31	Psalm 148	1 Kings 3:5-14	John 8:12-19

January 2012

1 Name of Jesus

Numbers 6:22-27 Psalm 8 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:15-21

2	Psalm 148	Proverbs 1:1-7	James 3:13-18
3	Psalm 110	Proverbs 1:20-33	James 4:1-10
4	Psalm 110	Proverbs 3:1-12	James 4:11-17
5	Psalm 110	Proverbs 22:1-9	Luke 6:27-31

6 Epiphany of Our Lord

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

7	Psalm 110	Exodus 1:22-2:10	Hebrews 11:23-26
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8 Baptism of Our Lord

Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11



9 Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36	Genesis 17:1-13	Romans 4:1-12
10 Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36	Exodus 30:22-38	Acts 22:2-16
11 Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36	Isaiah 41:14-20	John 1:29-34
12 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	Judges 2:6-15	2 Cor. 10:1-11
13 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	Judges 2:16-23	Acts 13:16-25
1714 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	1 Samuel 2:21-25	Matthew 25:1-13

15 Second Sunday After Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-10 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 1 Cor. 6:12-20 John 1:43-51

16 Psalm 86	1 Samuel 9:27-10:8	2 Cor. 6:14-7:1
17 Psalm 86	1 Samuel 15:10-31	Acts 5:1-11
18 Psalm 86	Genesis 16:1-14	Luke 18:15-17
19 Psalm 62:5-12	Jeremiah 19:1-15	Revelation 18:11-20
20 Psalm 62:5-12	Jeremiah 20:7-13	2 Peter 3:1-7
21 Psalm 62:5-12	Jeremiah 20:14-18	Luke 10:13-16

22 Third Sunday After Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62:5-12 1 Cor. 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20

23 Psalm 46	Genesis 12:1-9	1 Cor. 7:17-24
24 Psalm 46	Genesis 45:25-46:7	Acts 5:33-42
25 Psalm 46	Proverbs 8:1-21	Mark 3:13-19a
26 Psalm 111	Deuteronomy 3:23-29	Romans 9:6-18
27 Psalm 111	Deuteronomy 12:28-32	Rev. 2:12-17
28 Psalm 111	Deuteronomy 13:1-5	Matthew 8:28-9:1

29 Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111 1 Cor. 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28

30 Psalm 35:1-10	Numbers 22:1-21	Acts 21:17-26
31 Psalm 35:1-10	Numbers 22:22-28	1 Cor. 7:32-40

EPIPHANY

“Ecce Agnus Dei”

Latin for “Behold, the Lamb of God,” this is the phrase John the Baptist used twice to point out Jesus to others (John 1:29, 36). It marks Jesus’ Epiphany (manifestation, revelation) as the Anointed One (Christ, Messiah).



*O come, let us
adore him!*

Epiphany Worship Service

**Thursday, January 5
6:30 pm**

Spain’s Celebration of Epiphany

By Kathy Geier

In Spain, Christmastime doesn’t end December 25. There are twelve more days until January 6, el Dia de los Tres Reyes Magos, the Day of the three Wise Kings, which we usually remember as Epiphany. This day is marked by gift-giving, family feasts, and special foods like the Roscon de Reyes (Kings’ Cake). The night before, children fall asleep dreaming of the gifts the Kings will leave for them.

In the cool winter weather of southern Spain where my son and his family live, there is no snow, but there are Christmas lights to be seen all around. Plazas, stores and shopping centers are festive with seasonal decorations usually including nativity scenes, or Belens. Some are very elaborate and set the Holy Family and other figures of the Christmas story in landscapes, small villages with people and animals going about their tasks, garrisons of Roman soldiers or even scenes from ancient Egypt.

On January 5, the Wise Men arrive by boat and parade through the city on wondrous floats with room for lots of children in costumes who throw candy to the parade watchers. The winding streets of the old city center around the Cathedral, which along with other churches is open at that time, are full of people.. Shops, restaurants and a Christmas Market are busy, as street performers and musicians capture the attention of passersby. It’s a magical night.



Worship and Music



JOURNEY TO THE LIGHT



In the liturgical calendar, the Christian year begins with the season of Advent – the four week period of anticipation and preparation for the birth of Christ. Hope and expectation are the themes of the season as the whole world waits for the coming of the Savior. We journey to the light throughout the Sundays of Advent. We hear the words of the prophets. We sing of God’s promises. We place our hope in God.

As the dark, cold nights in the northern hemisphere reach their longest, we await signs that lead us to the light. We light candles on the Advent wreath and our hymns reflect the theme: “My Lord, What a Morning,” “Christ, Be Our Light,” and “Drawn to the Light.”

During the Sundays of Advent, the choir will close each service with the choral benediction “Walk In the Light.” It will charge each of us to go and share with all the world the blessings of God’s grace.

On the fourth Sunday of Advent the Bethany Choir will present “Journey to the Light”, a choral celebration of Advent during the morning worship service. Invite a neighbor or friend to join your family for this special service of readings and carols.



Luther wrote *From Heaven Above* for his five year old son Hans; it was not published until four years later. It was sung at the annual Christmas Eve festival at the Luther home: a man dressed as an angel would sing the opening verses, then the children would greet him with the verse, “Welcome to earth, thou noble guest...” ELW # 268

Enjoy the Poetry of Hymns

From Heaven Above

Text by Martin Luther

From Heaven above to earth I come,
To bear good news to every home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
To all the world and gladly sing.



To you, this night, is born a Child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This newborn Child of lowly birth,
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

This is the Christ, God's Son most high,
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
Who will himself your Savior be
And from all sin will set you free.

The blessing that the Father planned
the Son holds in his infant hand;
that in his kingdom, bright and fair,
You may with us his glory share..

These are the signs that you will see
To let you know that it is he:
In manger-bed, in swaddling clothes
The child who all the earth upholds.

Now let us all, with joyful cheer,
go with the shepherds, and draw near
To see this wondrous Gift of God,
the blessed child to us bestowed.

Look, look, dear friends, look over there!
What lies within the manger bare?
Who is that lovely little one?
The baby Jesus, God's dear Son.

Welcome to earth, Thou noble Guest,
Through Whom this sinful world is blest!
You turned not from our needs away;
How can our thanks such love repay?

O Lord, who have created all!
How did you come to be so small,
to sweetly sleep in manger bed
where lowing cattle lately fed?

Were earth a thousand times as fair,
And set with gold and jewels rare,
still such a cradle would not do
to rock a prince so great as you.

For velvets soft and silken stuff
you have but hay and straw so rough
on which as king so rich and great
to be enthroned in humble state.

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber in my heart
That you and I may never part.

My heart for very joy now leaps,
My voice no longer silence keeps,
I too must sing, with joyful tongue,
The sweetest ancient cradle song.

Glory to God in highest Heaven,
Who unto us the Son has given,
With angels sing, in pious mirth,
A glad New Year to all the earth!

The Beginning of Our Big Adventure

By Pauline Toivonen

One evening in April 1959 our telephone rang and Marvin answered it. Since I could only hear one side of the conversation, my imagination took over. Oh, we are going to be moving out west. Marvin got a new job! Right? WRONG!!!! After he was through talking, I kind of excitedly asked where we were going. Africa, he said. AFRICA!!!! Are you crazy? That was what all our relatives and friends said. Yes, we would be going to Africa. To prepare for this adventure, we went to the library and got books on Liberia, West Africa. (I did say we were going West, right?)



Drilling for ore at the mine

In June 1959, Marvin started our big family adventure by leaving for Liberia to work for Republic Steel Corporation in an iron ore mine. The children and I stayed behind for three months getting things packed and ready for our trip. I was a wreck. I had never traveled before, and as a mother of a 4 year old and 7 year old, I would soon be flying alone to a strange country.

We finally got on our way flying out of Kingsford and on to New York. It was 27 hours more of flying time before we landed in Roberts Field, 100 miles from our destination of Bomi Hills. We slept in the army barracks there which was an experience in itself. The walls between the rooms were made of woven mats, and the beds were old time twin hospital beds. There had been a death in the village across the river, so the drums beat all night.

Our journey to Bomi Hills was 100 miles of red dusty roads. We saw several villages along the way, and Marvin kept telling us that that was what our house was going to look like – a mud hut! When we arrived at our destination, two neighbors welcomed us. We didn't have a mud hut, but a nice 3 bedroom home. All the homes were alike. The house was bare. We had furniture, but our crates hadn't arrived from home so there were no curtains or anything familiar.



Pauline with the houseboy's baby

Now we needed to get used to our surroundings and the different customs. There were about 160 white families living in the area which was sectioned off into compounds and surrounded by jungles or small villages. There were a few American families but mostly Europeans, but thankfully they all spoke English.

There weren't any televisions or telephones so we did a lot of reading, playing games and family entertainment. We did have movies and a 4 lane bowling alley. Later a small golf course was built.



Ladies' afternoon of games



**Marvin & friend fishing
by the ocean**



**Celebrating son Dale's (felt)
birthday**

We had a nice hospital, commissary, church and a school that went to eight grades with American teachers. School went all year round. The commissary was where we got our supplies which came from all over by ship. Later we would sometimes travel to Monrovia which was 50 miles away, again on the dirt road (You were red-headed by the time you got home again.) In Monrovia they had almost anything you needed. The stores were all open-fronted and right next to each other. There were a few regular stores. Traffic was horrible.

Our first Christmas was NOT what we were used to! No snow. No green Christmas tree. Our tree was an aluminum one with red balls for trim. I had gotten some boxes from the commissary and some Christmas wrap that looked like brick and made a fireplace out of them, so at least we could hang up the stockings. There was no chimney so the goodies had to be put by the door for Santa. Normally we couldn't leave food out: the bugs would get at the cookies and the heat would have soured the milk. The Europeans celebrated their "Santa" Christmas on December 5, and that is when they would put their shoes by the door hoping for some gifts if they were good. That was their St. Nicholas. Since Marvin had been contracted to be in Africa for two years, we had brought some of our Christmas gifts from home.

On Christmas Day we would go to our small church where we either had a traveling minister or one of the missionaries for the service. Later we got our own minister. After the service we would go to our home and have our Christmas dinner or sometimes we would share a meal with friends. During the afternoon we would get groups of natives at the door performing their native dances in native dress. They would stay until you gave them their “dash” or, as we would say, pay for their entertainment. Then they would go on to the next house.



We missed our families very much at this time of year more than any other time. We knew that they would all be together, and it was hard to be without them.

After we had been in Africa a couple of years we did get a REAL Christmas Tree. They were shipped from Norway. You had no choice of what it looked like, but we were just glad if the tree and the food got there for Christmas. Though we were in a faraway place, we learned what really mattered. We had our BABY JESUS, ANGELS, REAL TREE, and FIREPLACE. IT WAS CHRISTMAS AFTER ALL !!!



**Please join us for the Hanging of the Greens
Saturday December 10 @ 10 a.m.**



This year Bethany will celebrate the beautifying of our sanctuary for the Christmas season with a special gathering on Saturday, December 10, at 10:00 am. This year Bethany will be decorating the sanctuary with stars.



Many people are needed to make our sanctuary glow with the light of the Christ Child. Please come on Saturday, December 10 and together we will decorate the sanctuary and continue the joyful tradition of preparing for this blessed season.

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**Annual Quad Parish Christmas Program
Celebrating the Birth of Baby Jesus**

**Bethel Lutheran Church
Tuesday, December 6 @ 7 pm**

Please bring a gift for a baby. These gifts will be given to the Salvation Army and St. Vincent DePaul to be distributed during this season of giving.



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.

Bethany's Angel Tree

Loreth Johnson and Erika Johnson created Bethany's Angel Tree after the death of their husbands Pat and Ogden in the mid 90's. They wanted a special way to remember the loved ones of Bethany who had died. They purchased everything that was needed: a tree, lights, Battenberg angels, and the tree skirt. Loreth and Erika decorated the tree for many years. When Erika died, Loreth's daughter Claudia helped with decorating the tree which stands in the narthex.

Loreth estimates that there are between 150 and 200 angels adorning the tree each with the name of a loved one who has died. Eventually, Loreth says, we will run out of limbs to hang the angels on.

Loreth recently found that her supplier of angels that she has used for 15 years no longer carries them. Loreth now has only six angels left. If you would like one of these six, please let Loreth know.



LAY SCHOOL NEWS Winter 2012



- The Winter Semester is set to begin on Tuesday, January 3rd, right after the New Year, with classes running until March 27th, the week before Holy Week.
- 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 semester (please note the dates and times for each class as they do vary. Also note that **the Polity class is the only class on February 21st** thus creating a break in the sequence of some classes.) Instructors are not all in place yet, but it is coming together and should be another semester of interesting offerings.

Old Testament Writings Jan 3 to Feb 7 (3:30-5:30) (6 sessions)

A review of the “writings” of the Old Testament, especially the Psalms, along with Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes.

Apocalyptic in the Bible and in Contemporary Society Feb 14; Feb 28 to March 27 (3:30-5:30) (6 sessions)

An exploration of the apocalyptic books (Daniel and Revelation), along with other apocalyptic passages, as well as how apocalyptic is part of popular theology.

Lutheran Confessions January 3 to Feb 14; Feb 28 (6:00-8:45) (8 sessions)

This course will introduce and explore the Lutheran confessional documents, especially the Augsburg Confession and Luther’s Large Catechism. Other confessional documents will be briefly noted. The history of the Reformation and the historical events that led up to it will also be examined.

Stewardship and Spiritual Gifts March 6 to March 27 (6:00 to 8:15) (4 sessions)

An examination of stewardship as central to discipleship. What are the gifts we each have, and how do we use them in the context of faithful living.

Polity: Life Together Feb 21 (3:00 to 8:00) (1 session)

A course on the structure and life of the church, with an emphasis on how we work together to accomplish the mission of Jesus Christ.

A reminder that there is no tuition; the only cost is for books (and instructors do their best 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). We have moved to a policy of students ordering their own books; when I know what classes you are interested in, as soon as possible I will let you know the texts required. 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!



Growing in the Spirit

Bethany's Homework Club a Hit



Bethany's Homework Club

Serving K-4 students from Birchview Elementary School, Bethany's first two Homework Club sessions were a hit with both students and parents. The mission of Bethany's Homework Club (BHC) is twofold; 1) to assist students with schoolwork and support them in academic areas where they exhibit weaknesses, and 2) to provide a welcoming neighborhood community outside of school. Twenty-six students attended the first week of BHC. We began each session with large group activities and then broke into grade levels for our small group work. Thank you to all who have volunteered, contributed supplies and made donations. If you would like to help out with BHC, please call Tonya Perry at 486-4861 or email tonyaperry@gmail.com. We are still in need of volunteers and miscellaneous supplies. See lists below.

Supplies

Construction paper
Safety scissors
Jumbo sized pencils
Jumbo crayons
Stapler
Cups
Napkins
Paper towels
Small paper plates
Gloves for serving snacks
Children's books (we allow kids to take and keep these, so keep them coming!)

Volunteer positions

K-1 tutors
Grades 2-3 tutors
Provide snacks



**All Saints
Sunday
2011**





**Social Ministry Update
November 2011**



Social Ministry thanks everyone for the support of the food drive. The congregation donated a wide variety of items. Special thanks to Kaye Fredrickson for assisting with the Salvation Army collection. As many know, we provide items for our own congregation as well as the Salvation Army. If you are aware of a need, please let Pastor Geier know.

Through the generous donations to the Noisy Offering we were able to send over \$481.00 to Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. These funds are extremely well managed and are targeted for the Upper Peninsula. Thanks for the continued support of our efforts. We sent \$100 to Lutheran Campus Ministry as part of our on-going contribution to them and contributed \$100 to Pastor's discretionary fund here at Bethany.

Please continue to support the food drive. All donations will go to the Salvation Army.

As we approach the season of giving consider one of the ELCA Good Gifts. These donations may be given in someone(s) name and people in need are helped by the donations. Donations provide a wide variety of items. See www.elca.org/goodgifts to learn more. There are also ELCA Good Gifts catalogs in the Narthex. Another consideration is the Lutheran World Relief Handcraft Project. That catalog is in the Narthex. See also lwr.org/handcraft

The December Noisy Offering will be contributed to the Upper Peninsula Food Bank (Ishpeming).

Thanks again for prayers and contributions so our ministry can help others.



**The December Noisy Offering
will go to the Upper Peninsula Food Bank.
Thanks to everyone for your generosity!**



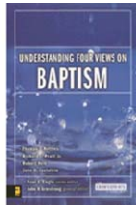
New Books for December and January

By Keenan Tunnell

I can't believe I'm already providing books for January, 2012!! At this stage of the year, they come entirely from your generosity at the Library Sale. Of course the main emphasis for December is Advent/Christmas and there will be a selection of books on the Library display kiosk. This liturgical year, January 1 falls on a Sunday, so the celebration that day will be the Holy Name of Jesus; the festival of Jesus' Baptism is on the following Sunday, January 8. The books I have chosen for January, therefore, are about Baptism. There will be some that are theological and some beautiful children's titles. 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. I'll be out of town during January and February, so there probably won't be any news from the Library until the March issue. **Happy Holidays! Keenan**

First the Theology

Armstrong, John H. **Understanding Four Views on Baptism**

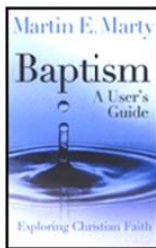


"This is a fantastic summary of four Protestant understandings of baptism: from the Baptist, Reformed, Lutheran, and Church of Christ perspectives. Each of the authors does a marvelous job of stating his case briefly and succinctly (all chapters are under 20 pages) and yet thoroughly -- I felt as though I grasped the core teachings of each perspective after I finished. The editor (John Armstrong) also offers a helpful introduction and conclusion, which point out some of the universally-held points of agreement among all the contributors, as well as the key issues on which they dif-

fer...." (Amazon.com review)

Marty, Martin E. **Baptism: a user's Guide.**

265 MAR



"To see baptism as merely a ceremony greatly limits the meanings of Christian baptism, says Martin Marty, in this practical and inspirational new look at baptism. Martin Luther recommended that believers should begin and end their day reminding themselves of their baptism and then go to work joyfully or to sleep cheerfully. Baptism, says Marty, is at the heart of the everyday, life-long spiritual journey as he explores such questions as:

** How did early Christians understand and practice baptism?

**What difference does baptism make in our daily life?

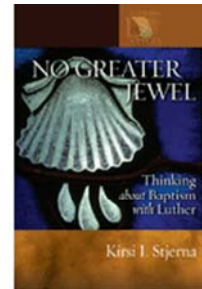
** How does baptism manifest itself in our relationships, our choices, our faith?

With great insight and wisdom Marty brings us both the history of baptism and a useful guide to its application for everyday life. The book includes questions for reflection and discussion."

(Amazon.com)

Stierna, Kirsi. **No Greater Jewel; thinking about Baptism with Luther**
234.16 STJ

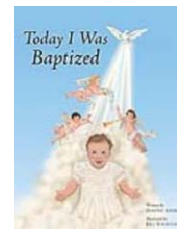
“Luther writes in his Large Catechism: “No greater jewel, therefore, can adorn our body and soul than baptism, for through it we become completely holy and blessed, which no other kind of life and no work on earth can acquire.” Of all Christian rituals, baptism, in its historical, theological and spiritual importance, warrants constant re-examination and careful dusting in an effort to polish and present the jewel passed on to us. In *No Greater Jewel* Luther's teaching of baptism is unfolded in light of specific issues arising around Lutheran practices and understanding of baptism today. The wisdom of Luther's words offers helpful perspectives for spiritual living and impetus for living with hope and ethical integrity in this world—inspired by the kind of love Jesus preached and demonstrated in his life.” (Amazon.com)



Then the Children's Version

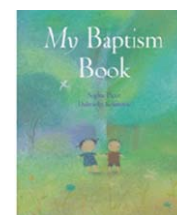
Ahern, Diane. **Today I was Baptized** **E 265 AHE**

“This charming book begins with a heartwarming story of a baby's baptism day. The story is written from the perspective of the baby and brings out all the newness and specialness of this day. The illustrations... masterfully use the family, home, and church settings, accentuated by angels, babies, and a few pets, to create an illustrated guide to the Sacrament of Baptism. The illustrated story is enough to make this a treasured book. But there is more. The Short Essays on Baptism that follow the story section are particularly enlightening for older children and adults....” (Amazon.com)



Piper, Sophie. **My Baptism Book** **E 242.62 PIP**

“*My Baptism Book* includes prayers that are easy to commit to memory and to say at bedtime, along with very simply expressed statements of Christian belief that are appropriate for the youngest of children. It gives the gentle message of God's eternal love and care.” (CBD)



Wangerin, Walter. **Water come down** **E 265.1 WAN**

“The perfect [book] to make a child feel special---like part of the most wonderful family in the world. Beautifully illustrated by award-winning artist Gerardo Suzan, this is a wonderfully imagined story of God's power and love joined in the baptism event---a story that will grow richer in meaning each time the book is read. Plus, following the story are pages of illustrated thoughts and ideas to trigger family discussions about the significance of baptism, its links to God's biblical story, and to the lives of the readers.” (Amazon.com)





The Lutheran: December 2011

Gifts to remember: Memories show value of simplicity



Gifts to remember by Julie B. Sevig

Memories show the value of simplicity in our giving



A Christmas meditation by Michael Cooper-White

Once again God pitches a tent in our midst



A warming place by Bill Nelson

Milwaukee area churches offer 'prayer vigil' and a place to sleep



After the storms by Kathryn Sime

Lutheran partners are in Joplin, Mo., and other states for the long haul



Treasure the chaos by Tiffany L. Tibbs



Communing children by Diana Dworin

There isn't a standard practice

Columnists



Half a lung, half a lung, half a lung

onward! by Walter Wangerin Jr.

No ambivalence in this story

by Mark S. Hanson



Community Christmas Programs

Christmas Music

Negaunee Male Chorus "T'was the Night Before Christmas"

December 10 @ 7:00 p.m. - Negaunee HS Auditorium \$8



Seed Sowers "A Great and Mighty Wonder"

December 1 @ 7:30 p.m. Bethany Lutheran Church, Republic

December 4 @ 7:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Ishpeming

December 6 @ 7:30 p.m. Mitchell United Methodist, Negaunee

December 11 @ 2:00 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, Marquette

Marquette Choral Society "Carols in the Cathedral"

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

St. Peter Cathedral

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.)

Deadline to Order Poinsettias is December 18

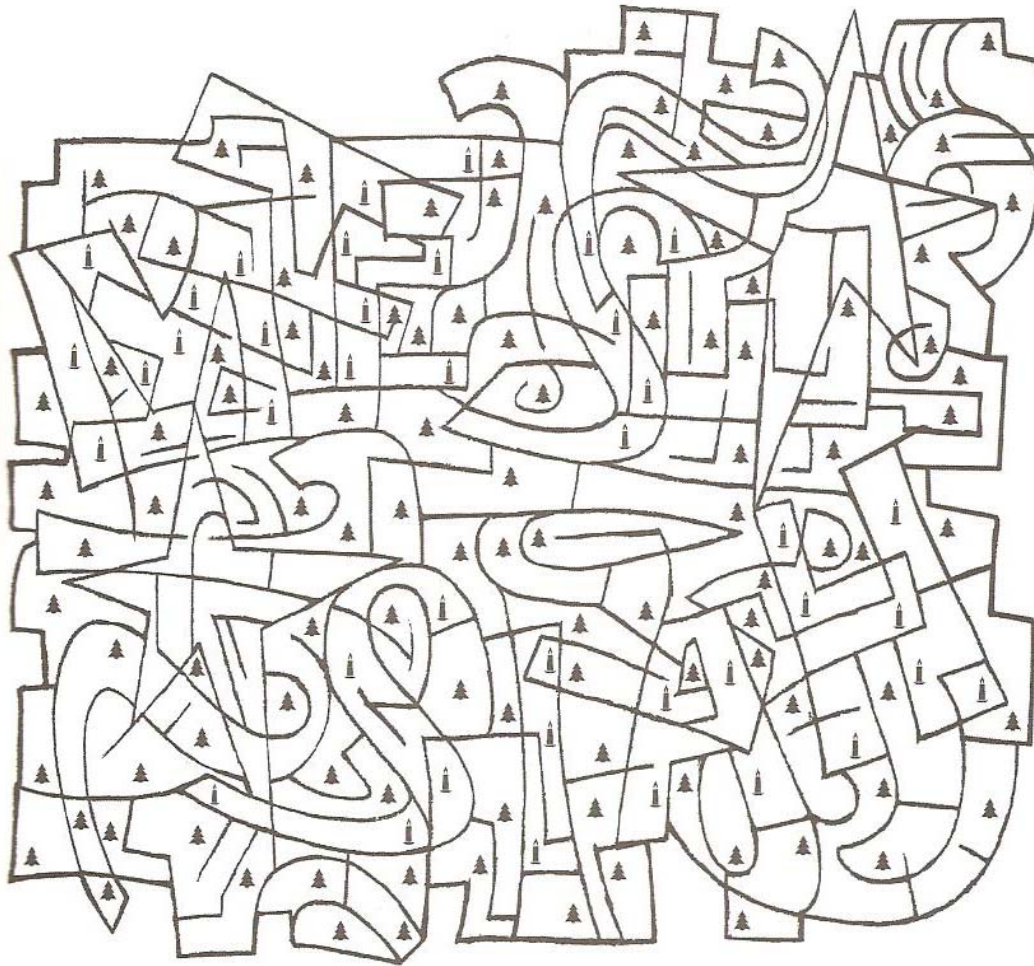


This year's poinsettias cost \$14 and will be ordered from Shelly's Floral Boutique. Please make your check out to Bethany Lutheran Church **when** you place your order. You may bring your own plants if you wish, with your name written underneath so they may be identified. Please have the plants here by Thursday morning, December 22. You may take your plants following the Christmas Eve late service.

Kids!

Who Is Jesus?

Color sections with a candle purple and sections with a pine tree green to discover who Jesus is that we spend Advent preparing for his birth.





**Sunday School
Christmas Program**

**December 11
During 10:30 worship service**

Kay Chartre's Pumpkin Bars

4 eggs
2 c. pumpkin
1 c. sugar
1 c. brown sugar
3/4 c. oleo
2 c. flour
2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1 c. nuts

Combine all ingredients. Put in a greased and floured 9x13 cake pan. Bake at 325° for 25 minutes or until done.



Pumpkin Bar frosting

1—8oz pkg cream cheese
6 Tbsp oleo
1 tsp vanilla
3 c. powdered sugar

Beat well.

Kay served her mother's pumpkin bar recipe at a Sunday coffee hour. It brought raves from all who tasted it. Enjoy this family recipe from the Chartre family.



Baptism of Landon Bertucci

On October 30, Bethany welcomed Landon Francis Bertucci to the family of God through the Rite of Holy Baptism.. Landon's parents are Sara and Matt Bertucci and his sponsors are Laura Brouillette and Nathan Bertucci. May God grant Landon and his family all the blessing of His gentle love.



Congratulations David and Lori Tunnell



On November 1, Lori Malloch and David Tunnell were united in Holy Matrimony at Bethany. Sharon Argall and Keenan Tunnell served as the couple's attendants. Congratulations and best wishes, Lori and David.



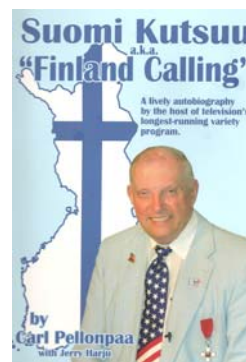
YTD Income: \$157,341.00
YTD Expenses: \$158,281.92



Carl Pellonpaa Pens Autobiography

Bethany's Carl Pellonpaa has written the story of his life - **Suomi Kutsuu a.k.a Finland Calling: A Lively autobiography by the Host of Television's Longest-Running Variety Program.**

In addition to telling of his years as host of Finland Calling for 50 years, he tells of growing up in Ishpeming during the Great Depression, his passion for sports (especially ski jumping and baseball), his start in radio, a military stint in Korea, and laboring in the underground iron mines.



of

“One of Michigan’s all-time favorite personalities is a fascinating storyteller as well—from his Great Depression boyhood to his major-league baseball prospects, to his career on television. Don’t miss this one!”

Larry Chabot, author of “The U.P. Goes to War” and “Saving Our Sons”

“In this book we’ve learned the story of “Finland Calling,” but also the story of a great man—a real friendship ambassador between Finland and the United States. Thank you, Carl!”

Markku Kauppinen, Finnish Ambassador



Finnish Music Highlights FLLC'S Second Sunday Folk Dance

The December 11 Second Sunday Folk Dance at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp in Crystal Falls promises to be both nostalgic and exciting for everyone who likes Finnish music. The special guest band **Kaivama** will team with **White Water** for a concert and dance. Finnish-American musicians, Sara Pajunen and Jonathan Rundman form the folk duo Kaivama. Sara Pajunen's skills as a violinist have earned her degrees from the University of Minnesota and the Helsinki Conservatory in Finland. A son of Bethel Lutheran, Ishpeming, Jonathan Rundman has toured the US and Europe as a troubadour songwriter and is well known in ELCA music circles.

The family-friendly concert/folk dance runs from 4—7 pm CT in the chapel-auditorium. Admission is \$7 for those over 15; younger children attend free. FLLC will serve Finnish baked bread and cookies in keeping with the Finnish focus. You're invited to bring a few of your family's favorite Christmas cookies to share at the “dessert potluck” table.



Eternal God!
Grant us gratitude enough to look backward and be thankful;
courage enough to look forward and be hopeful;
faith enough to look upward and be humble;
kindness enough to look outward and be helpful.
Amen.

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR
Noel Hallelujah Merry Christmas Happy New Year



**Bethany supports
Local Food Banks.**

Please bring in dona-



Bethany's Website

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 (Mather), Doreen Brown (Valente), Joyce Lehto (Mill Creek), Marjorie Rosten (home)
- Don Doney
- Sue Lehto
- Ruth Solberg
- Jean Lawson
- Jim Jacobson
- Mary Bertucci
- Jim Smollen
- Kathy Routhier
- Jim Bjorne
- Nancy Swanson
- Angie Kempainen
- Ray Sundblad
- Marian Franti
- Melissa Chartre
- June Forsberg
- Alice Eman
- Pauline Toivonen
- Marvin Toivonen
- Allen Beauchamp
- James Chapman
- Erica Teichman who has safely returned from Afghanistan
- Allen Maki
- Steven Leverton
- Carol and Juan Papaleo and family
- Paul Blomgren
- Pam Waters
- Those in the military that they may remain safe



Annual Library Card/Book Sale Continues Through Sunday, December 11

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

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

Parish Planning Council:
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Asst. Exec. Director, Ted Swanson
Christian Education, Brent Clark
Finance, Jim Kinnunen
Personnel, Debbie Bussone
Property, Bill Heavyside
Social Ministry, Rae Elliot
Stewardship, John Pontti
Worship & Music, Tonya Perry



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Northern Great Lakes Synod