



**Bethany Lutheran Outlook**  
December 2017—January 2018

Serving God, Community, and Individuals

**“YOU WILL  
FIND A BABY**

*wrapped in swaddling cloths  
and lying in a manger.”*

*Luke 2:12*





## PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

It was before Halloween that I saw my first Christmas ad for this year on TV. Then it wasn't long until pretty much every ad (except the ones for drugs) had a holiday theme. Along with that have come the pre-Black Friday sales, Black Friday first having crept backwards into Thanksgiving Day, now in some ways becoming a season unto itself.

From my Outlook articles from Christmas past you know that I've come to terms with this, acknowledging that what we are dealing with at this time of year are two, mostly separate holidays, secular Christmas and sacred Christmas. Secular Christmas celebrates our real national religion which is consumer capitalism; sacred Christmas celebrates the Incarnation of Jesus, a central feast of Christianity, Christianity being what some would like to think is our national religion. I also acknowledge that none of us or very few of us anyway, can claim to be holier than thou in this conflict because we all are attracted by various aspects of secular Christmas.

In confirmation this year we're focusing on the Ten Commandments and most recently have been looking at the second commandment, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain." What occurs to me is that if we are honest, we have to admit that the blatant and excessive commercial aspects of Christmas represent a massive, national violation of the second commandment. Attaching Christ's name to a celebration of consumerism run amuck is a case of taking the Lord's name in vain. In that respect, for many, "Happy Holidays" is a much more appropriate and honest greeting than "Merry Christmas" because what they are celebrating has nothing to do with Christ.

What this does is to highlight the importance of what we do in church during this season. Despite my apparent Scrooginess, let me say that it's not bad to have an early winter celebration of gift giving and good will that brings happiness to people. Despite the excess, there is much that is good about giving and receiving gifts as well as the fellowship that goes along with it. In church though, what we continue to do is to tell the story of the greatest gift of all. We observe the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany not just to remember and celebrate a birth that happened a long time ago. We do celebrate Jesus' birth, but we also celebrate Christ with us in the present and we anticipate the future and the arrival of the fullness of his kingdom.

It is a wonderful time of the year and the secular aspects of the season do have a part in making it wonderful. In church though, we will continue to celebrate Christmas, keeping Christ at the center and honoring him. We will continue to tell the stories of our faith, the stories that tell of God's love revealed in and through Jesus, stories that are about the greatest gift of all.

Pastor Geier



### Schedule of Holiday Services

**December 4—Second Sunday in Advent**

10:30 Worship Service

**December 11—Third Sunday in Advent**

10:30 Worship Service -

**December 18—Fourth Sunday in Advent**

10:30 Worship Service—Sunday School Christmas program and Annual Choir Cantata

**December 24— Fourth Sunday in Advent - Christmas Eve**

10:30 Worship Service

4:00 Family Worship

10:00 Candlelight Service

**December 25—Christmas Day**

10:30 Holy Communion

**January 6—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.*

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

### December 2017

1 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19      Zechariah 14:1-9      1 Thess. 4:1-18  
2 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19      Micah 2:1-13      Matthew 24:15-31

### 3 First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9    Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19    1 Corinthians 1:3-9    Mark 13:24-37

4 Psalm 79      Micah 4:1-5      Revelation 15:1-8  
5 Psalm 79      Micah 4:6-13      Revelation 18:1-10  
6 Psalm 79      Micah 5:1-5a      Luke 21:34-38  
7 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13      Hosea 6:1-6      1 Thess. 1:2-10  
8 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13      Jeremiah 1:4-10      Acts 11:19-26  
9 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13      Ezekiel 36:24-28      Mark 11:27-33

### 10 Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11    Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13    2 Peter 3:8-15a    Mark 1:1-8

11 Psalm 27      Isaiah 26:7-15      Acts 2:37-42  
12 Psalm 27      Isaiah 4:2-6      Acts 11:1-18  
13 Psalm 27      Malachi 2:10-3:1      Luke 1:5-17  
14 Psalm 126      Habakkuk 2:1-5      Philippians  
3:7-11  
15 Psalm 126      Habakkuk 3:2-6      Philippians 3:12-16  
16 Psalm 126      Habakkuk 3:13-19      Matthew 21:28-32



**17 Third Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11    Psalm 126    1 Thess. 5:16-24    John 1:6-8, 19-28

18 Psalm 125	1 Kings 18:1-18	Ephesians 6:10-17
19 Psalm 125	2 Kings 2:9-22	Acts 3:17 — 4:4
20 Psalm 125	Malachi 3:16 — 4:6	Mark 9:9-13
21 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26	2 Samuel 6:1-11	Hebrews 1:1-4
22 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26	2 Samuel 6:12-19	Hebrews 1:5-14
23 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26	Judges 13:2-24	John 7:40-52

**24 Fourth Sunday of Advent - 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 1:1-12    John 1:1-14

26 Psalm 148    Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15    Acts 6:8-15;  
7:51-60

**Readings for Stephen, Deacon and Martyr**

2 Chronicles 24:17-22    Psalm 17:1-9, 15    Acts 6:8 — 7:2a, 51-60  
Matthew 23:34-39

27 Psalm 148 Exodus 33:18-23 1 John 1:1-9

**Readings for John, Apostle and Evangelist**

Genesis 1:1-5, 26-31    Psalm 116:12-19    1 John 1:1 — 2:2    John 21:20-25

28 Psalm 148 Jeremiah 31:15-17 Matthew 2:13-18

**Readings for the Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

Jeremiah 31:15-17    Psalm 124    1 Peter 4:12-19    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 First Sunday of Christmas**

Isaiah 61:10 — 62:3    Psalm 148    Galatians 4:4-7    Luke 2:22-40

**Readings for New Years Eve**

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13    Psalm 8    Revelation 21:1-6a    Matthew 25:31-46

## January 2018

### 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 3:13-18
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 Baptism of Our Lord

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

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



### 14 Second Sunday of Epiphany

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

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

### Readings for the Confession of Peter

Acts 4:8-13 Psalm 18:1-6, 16-19 1 Cor. 10:1-5 Matthew 6:13-19

19 Psalm 62:5-12	Jeremiah 20:7-13	2 Peter 3:1-7
20 Psalm 62:5-12	Jeremiah 20:14-18	Luke 10:13-16

**21 Third Sunday of Epiphany**

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

22 Psalm 46	Genesis 12:1-9	1 Cor. 7:17-24
23 Psalm 46	Genesis 45:25 — 46:7	Acts 5:33-42
24 Psalm 46	Proverbs 8:1-21	Mark 13-19:a
25 Psalm 111	Deuteronomy 3:23-29	Romans 9:6-18

**Readings for the Conversion of Paul**

Acts 9:1-21    Psalm 67    Galatians 1:11-24    Luke 21:10-19

26 Psalm 111	Deuteronomy 12:28-32	Revelation 2:12-17
27 Psalm 111	Deuteronomy 13:1-5	Matthew 8:28 — 9:1

**28 Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**

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

29 Psalm 35:1-10	Numbers 22:1-21	Acts 21:17-26
30 Psalm 35:1-10	Numbers 22:22-28	1 Cor. 7:32-40
31 Psalm 35:1-10	Jeremiah 29:1-14	Mark 5:1-20

**Advent Promise**

God comes to us  
 across this brief and wondering season  
 tracing the ways of pain and song  
 sharing beyond all rhyme or reason  
 this long year's darkest days  
 'til we can face his radiant bearing  
 in the stable place of peace.

— J. Barrie Shepherd

# Enjoy the Poetry of Hymns

## It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
from heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains,  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow,  
look now! for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road,  
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophet seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.

By Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876

By



## It Came Upon the Midnight Clear: the Story Behind the Hymn

No Christmas season would be complete without the singing of this beloved carol hymn. Since the text was first published in 1849, scarcely a hymnal has been printed in which it is not included. It was one of the first carol hymns ever written by an American writer. The author, Rev. Edmund Hamilton Sears, was born on April 6, 1810, in Sandsfield, Massachusetts. After graduation from Harvard Divinity School, Edmund Sears spent most of his life in small parishes in the East.

The peace of Christmas, proclaimed by the heavenly chorus, is one of God's greatest gifts to mankind. "God was reconciling the world to himself" (2 Cor. 5:19). This message of reconciliation involves us on three different levels: peace with God, peace with others, and peace within ourselves. It is this blessed concept that Edmund Sears wanted to emphasize in his unusual carol.



"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" was first published in the *Christian Register*, on December 29, 1849. It is generally considered to be one of the first hymn carols to emphasize the social implications of the angels' message - that of achieving peace and good will toward our fellowmen in the midst of social difficulty. The writing of this text occurred at a time in American history when there was much unrest. There was the foreboding of the tensions between the North and South, which finally erupted a decade later in the Civil War. In New England, there was much social upheaval as a result of the industrial revolution there. It was also the time of the frantic "forty-niner" gold rush to California. This hymn text, then, addresses these concerns - it is for those who are "beneath the crushing load," and urges us to listen once again to the singing of the angels. The final stanza is the great verse of hopeful optimism - the golden age... "when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world gives back the song, which now the angels sing."

The tune for this carol hymn, "Carol," was contributed by a rather well-known American musician of the nineteenth century, Richard Storrs Willis. Willis was born on February 10, 1819, in Boston, Massachusetts, and died on May 7, 1900, in Detroit, Michigan. Part of his musical training included six years of composition study in Germany, where he became an intimate friend of Felix Mendelssohn, who was greatly interested in his compositions. After Willis' return to the United States in 1848, he served as a music critic for the *New York Tribune* and several other newspapers. Richard Willis' tune "Carol" has proven to be a worthy melodic vehicle for Edmund Sears' text as generations around the world continue to sing and enjoy this carol each Christmas season.

By Kenneth W. Osbeck, *Amazing Grace and 101 More Hymn Stories*

## An Advent Message from Bishop Finegan

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

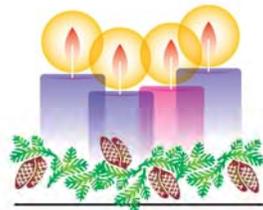
This year is a series of new beginnings for me, one of which is introducing this effort to be in more direct communication with the people of the Northern Great Lakes Synod. While we have our 6X a year newsletter, *Notes and Quotes*, and we have our 2x monthly electronic newsletter, *E-Notes*, and our Facebook Page and website, [www.nglsynod.org](http://www.nglsynod.org), asking for room in congregational newsletters will even further our connection to each other.

As people of faith, this month we observe Advent together. If Advent was a moment at a dinner party, it would be that space of time between when everything is ready, and you are watching and waiting for the guests to arrive.

Advent is expectation, anticipation, the tension of the in-between space where we are waiting for what is to come.

But we're not very good at waiting. Fast food is fast because people do not have time to wait. We have drive through hamburgers, drive through banks, and drive through coffee. Time is money, money is time, and the savvy business owner caters to the consumer who's in a perpetual hurry. We demand and are used to instant gratification. From text messages to high speed internet, we do not like to wait for results. We even binge watch favorite television shows because we cannot wait for the next episode. Is there anything that we wait for? Where the waiting provides blessing? Where the waiting is productive? Even necessary?

Some have called Advent the pregnancy of the Church. Certainly, we would want the growth of a yet to be born child to be given all the time that is needed. But what of the gestation of an idea? Or a mission? The discernment of direction? A search for clarity of the will of God? I believe these also cannot be rushed.



Our Church is on the cusp of becoming something new. We do not yet know what that is. We may not even live to see the complete transformation, although we are witnessing the labor pains now. We see the changes, even grieve the changes, as we continue put our efforts into ministry and meet the challenges of a transforming church in a shifting world.

In its essence, Advent is not such an easy place to be. This place of waiting and uncertainty, of wanting to do something to prepare, and not being sure what that is.

But scripture proclaims that there is blessing in the waiting. Advent invites us to percolate in the Spirit, to feel the suspense of unresolved tension, and still place our trust in the one who holds our future. We cannot binge on Advent so Christmas gets here sooner, and neither can we fast forward the present so that we arrive at the future before its time. Some things... some God things.... simply cannot be rushed.

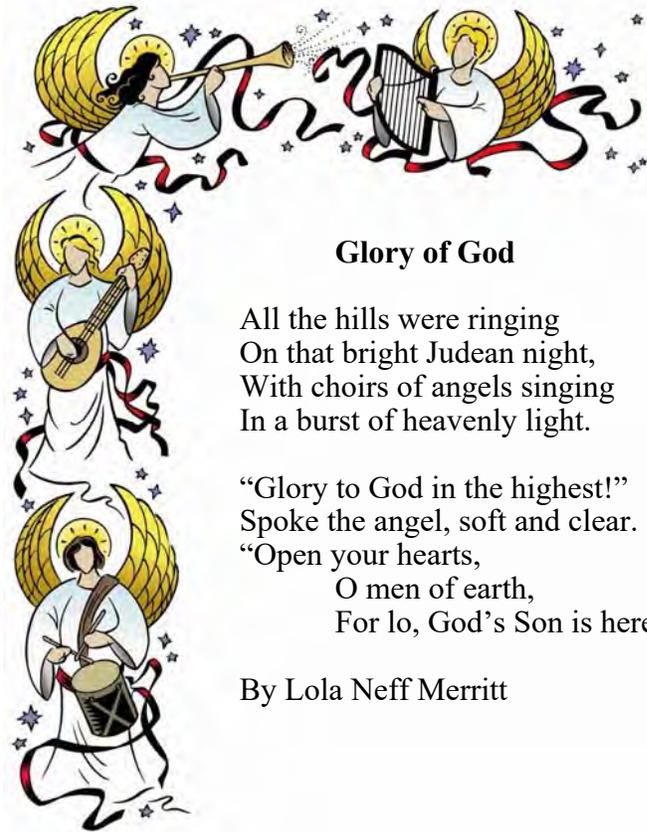
So together we wait and watch. We make ready for our Lord Jesus to come to us and we prepare for his coming. Together we wait for God to speak the Word Christ into our lives and into the hopes we have for our Church. And then together we will sing -

*Joy to the World, the Lord is come,  
let earth receive its king.  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing!*



Yours in Christ,  
Bishop Katherine Finegan





### Glory of God

All the hills were ringing  
On that bright Judean night,  
With choirs of angels singing  
In a burst of heavenly light.

“Glory to God in the highest!”  
Spoke the angel, soft and clear.  
“Open your hearts,  
O men of earth,  
For lo, God’s Son is here!”

By Lola Neff Merritt

### How Do Christmas

### We Prepare for

One does not adequately prepare for the coming of Christmas merely by unpacking the attic boxes marked “decorations” in time for the tree and the company, only to be put away again until next December. Advent’s preparations initiate ongoing disciplines to make room for the coming of Christ into our lives, our communities, and our churches. We make room for God’s holy presence by sweeping out the unholy through the discipline of confession and repentance. We make room for Christ’s incarnation among us by remembering that how we treat one another reflects how we treat our Lord. Faithfulness to Advent’s disciplined preparation comes in welcoming the very dwelling of God with us.

John Indermark



## *Worship and Music*



### **Child of Promise**

The Advent season is short this year. The fourth Sunday of Advent is also Christmas Eve. Advent marks the beginning of a new church year and with it some exciting changes in our liturgy. Each Sunday we will sing the Kyrie, a new Psalm tone will be used and several other liturgical changes will be made.

This year, our children's Sunday School program and the traditional choir cantata will be combined to present "Child of Promise." The program is based on Isaiah 9:6-7, the familiar scriptural passage where we read "For unto us a child is born, to us a Son is given..." Bethany Music Ministry and the Bethany Sunday School invite everyone to bring family and friends with them to church on Sunday, December 17 at 10:30 a.m. to share in this special musical presentation.



### **Thank You from Bishop Finegan**

Dear people of Bethany,

Thank you so much for all your support and involvement at my Installation worship service at St. Peter in October. The choir sounded absolutely beautiful! And the plant stands I borrowed gave necessary logistical support to communion distribution. Thank you also for the beautiful book cataloging the Reformation artifact display in Minneapolis. I will treasure it, as I do you - the community of faith that is home for me.

Yours in Christ,  
Bishop Katherine Finegan



## LAY SCHOOL—WINTER CLASSES

The following are the classes to be offered during the Winter Semester of Lay School. Specifics on times and Instructors will be announced later.



- New Testament Epistles
- Acts and Evangelism
- Christian Theology I
- Reformation History

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



### **Hanging of the Greens** Saturday, December 9 @ 10:00 a.m.

Bethany will celebrate the beautifying of our sanctuary for the Christmas season with a special gathering on Saturday, December 9 at 10:00 am. This year Bethany will be decorating the tree 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



## Bishop Eaton's Reformation Message

October 27, 2017



Dear friends in Christ,

“You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” (John 8:32)

On Reformation Day, we gather as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – in our congregations, across this church, and with our Lutheran family around the globe – to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. This centennial has provided a welcome occasion to learn more about Martin Luther and the Reformation, while strengthening our understanding and commitment to our ministries. It has given us an opportunity to look back on the history of our tradition and to discern how we are being called forward together in Christ.

As the first centennial of the Reformation to take place in the context of our church's deep ecumenical and inter-religious partnerships, this anniversary is unfolding in a spirit of reconciliation. Together with our Roman Catholic sisters and brothers, and other ecumenical companions, we have taken significant steps on the way to unity, justice and peace. With our inter-religious neighbors, we also have deepened mutual understanding across religious lines and collaborated for the common good.

Over the course of this year, in initiatives and events across this church and The Lutheran World Federation, we have been inspired by the ways in which Lutherans continue to share boldly the gifts of our tradition. One of these is Martin Luther's insistence that the unconditional promise of God's love in Jesus Christ frees us to love and serve our neighbors. This counter-cultural message is as fit for us today as it was for Christians 500 years ago.

On this day, and into God's future, we are called to be a public witness to how God is continually at work, in and through us, re-forming the body of Christ in a world broken by sin. Thanks be to God.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America





## Social Ministry

We are thankful for the generous and varied donations to Bethany's food collection table during 2017. When we started the year around collection a few years ago we hoped for a filled table now and again. WOW! Our table fills quickly and consistently with thoughtful and needed items. The once seasonal collection is now a steady source of staples. Thank you!



### Cookies Welcome



On Sunday December 17 coffee fellowship will feature Christmas Cookies. If you are baking or buying cookies please consider donating cookies for the coffee fellowship after the service. If by some miracle we have leftovers we will have a cookie exchange after coffee hour.



**Blood Drive at Bethany**  
**January 9, 2018**  
**3:00 - 6:00pm**

### Pajama Palooza

Bring in children's pajamas for Pajama Palooza. These pajamas will go to needy children in our community



### Remember the Giving 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.



**Quad Parish Women's Christmas Gathering**



**Scandinavian Christmas  
Crafts, Customs and Traditions**

**Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2017 @ 1:30 pm  
Trinity Lutheran Church**

All

women are invited to join us for an afternoon of enjoyment and fellowship.

You do not need to be in a circle.

Free will offering for the Pajama Palooza Project



**Christian Women's Fellowship  
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Negaunee  
Thursday, December 7 9:30 to 11:00 am**

Come for fellowship and refreshments \$7.00

Guest speaker: Nancy Herdrick  
Music: Woodwind Quartet

For Reservations: Call Alice at 475-7147



**The Christmas  
party for the Martha Circle will be December 27 at noon at  
Marian Medlyn's home.**



## Library Notes for December 2017—January 2018

By Keenan Tunnell

First of all, let me thank all those who supported the Library's Annual Sale. I hope you found something you liked or would make a special gift! Thanks 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:



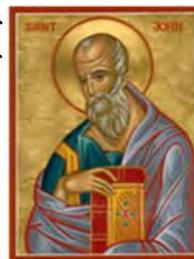
Of course you are all familiar with St. Nicholas (6 December)...he who has morphed into Santa Claus; but his message of gift-giving and helping those in need is still at the heart of Christmas. Check out the children's books related to him, a DVD about the REAL St. Nicholas, and the statue on the table in the narthex (the face is modeled after the forensic reconstruction documented in the DVD!)

Then there is St Lucy/Santa Lucia (13 Dec), beloved of Scandinavians... again for helping those in need. See more about her in this issue, and her figure on the table in the narthex.



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 27<sup>th</sup>. 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.





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!!

Well, I couldn't resist adding ONE new book! It's called ***JUL; Swedish American Holiday Traditions*** produced by the Minnesota Historical Society and fresh off the press, c. 2017. If you're looking for recipes for some of those Swedish goodies you remember from childhood Christmases, you may find them here, complete with short anecdotes related to them by the folks providing the recipes. I found the book, but it is here for you to enjoy thanks to Barb Kinnunen who purchased it from the Library Sale and donated it back to the library for all of you to share. Thanks!! We hope you find something GREAT in it, but don't hold on to it too long so others can share. (and if you'd like to order your own copy, it's available on Amazon.com for \$25)



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!**





## Living Lutheran— November 2017 A Ministry of Presence

### Cover Story:

- A ministry of presence; Study guide: [livinglutheran.org](http://livinglutheran.org)( Megan Brandsrud)

### Features:

- Lutherans respond to unprecedented hurricane destruction (John Potter)
- The grace of adoption; study guide: [livinglutheran.org](http://livinglutheran.org) (Karen Beattie)
- A life of thanksgiving (Angela Khabeb)
- Come together: congregants address violence( Krista Webb)
- Christmas gifts that give back (Susan B. Barnes)
- When a Lutheran pastor asked a Muslim doctor to share his story (Stephanie N. Grimoldby)

### Higher Education

- A chance to re-engage: Augsburg college changes how it teaches youth ministry (Angela Denker)
- California Lutheran and the business of water (Cindy Uken)
- A class of canines at Wartburg college (Karris Golden)

### Reflection:

- Living saints (Tiffany C. Chaney)

### Faith & Family:

- Pills and patience (Janelle Rozek Hooper)

### Deeper Understandings:

- Minister of word and service: Deacon (Norma Cook Everist)

### From Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton

- Living in a broken world



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

## Activities in the Community

December 2 & 3 **Cantatas at the Cathedral**  
**St. Peter Cathedral of Marquette**  
**Dec. 2 @ 7:30 pm and Dec. 3 @ 3:00 pm**

Benjamin Britten's *St. Nicolas Cantate*  
Arthur Honegger's *Une Cantate de Noël*



December 8 & 9 **A Christmas Tapestry**  
**Redeemer Lutheran Church, Marquette**  
**Dec. 6 & 9 @ 7:30 pm** Freewill Offering

The Marquette County Chamber Chorale  
The Marquette Male Chorus  
Tintinniere

December 9 **Negaunee Male Chorus Presents Waiting for Christmas**  
**Negaunee High School Auditorium**  
**Dec. 9 @ 7:00 pm**

Tickets \$10 General Admission \$5 Children ages 4 to 10

December 9 **German-Style Christmas Market**  
**Immanuel Lutheran Church, Negaunee**  
**Dec. 9 10:00 am - 4:00 pm**

As part of the yearlong Reformation 500th Anniversary Celebration, a German-style Christmas Market is planned. Join us for the festivities and activities, and visit our crafts, quilt, food, and bakery tables. Activities for the kids have been planned and a soup luncheon and dessert bar will be available.



# Kids!



## School School Kids will Join Bethany Choir for Christmas Program

Tradition has our Sunday school students singing the Sunday before the Bethany Choir annual cantata, but this year we'll be singing together on December 17, lifting our voices to welcome the coming child, Jesus. A dress rehearsal at 10 a.m. on December 16 will help us put everything together.

Please be there in Sunday School for all our practices.



**December 16 @ 10am - Dress Rehearsal with Bethany Choir**

**December 17 @ 10:30 Christmas Program "Child of Promise" during worship service**

**Deadline**

**proaching for Youth Gathering Registration**

**Ap-**



The deadline for Bethany teens to sign up for the 2018 Youth Gathering is **Sunday, December 10th**. Completed registration forms and a \$100 deposit are due by that day. Registration forms will be available at church.

### Fundraisers

The next fundraiser for this trip will be held at Jerzi's 41 Sports Bar and Grill. It will be **Tuesday, December 12th, 6:00 - 8:00 PM**. Jerzi's will donate 20% of all proceeds during this time for anyone who brings in a flyer about this fundraiser. Flyers will be available at church.

We will continue to collect returnable cans and bottles at church to help pay for the youth trip. Thank you to everyone who has brought in cans and bottles so far!

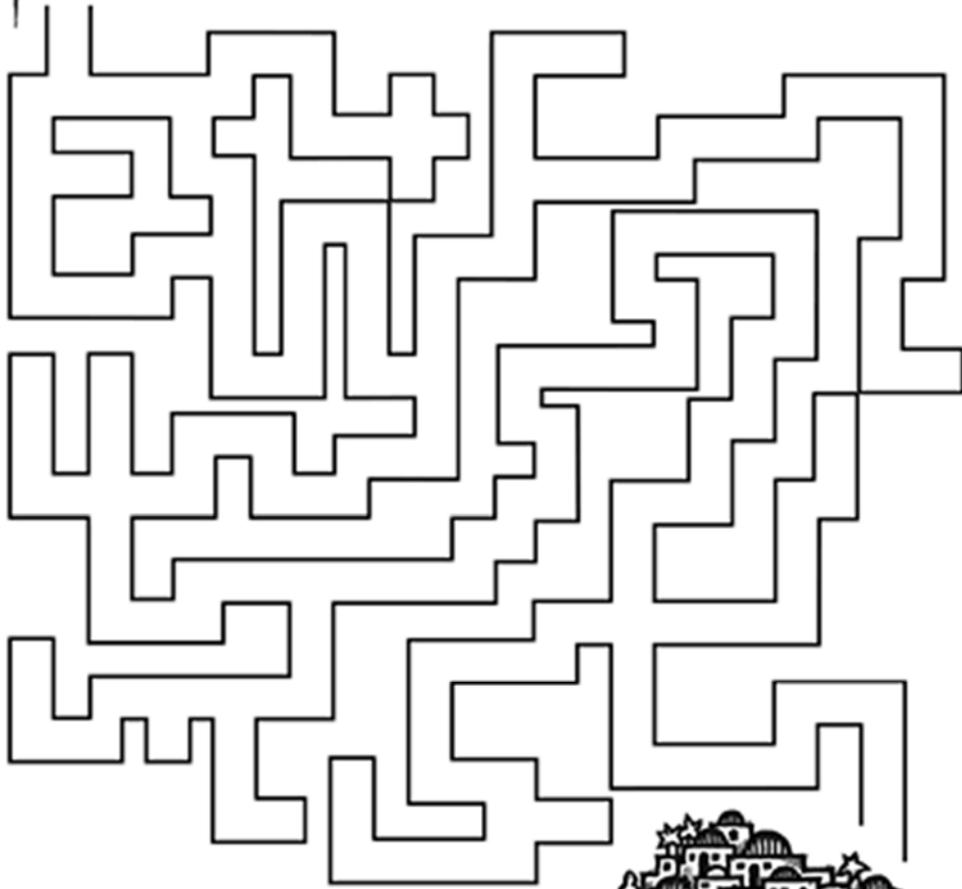
# JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

In the Christmas story in Luke 2, an angel tells some shepherds to go see baby Jesus in Bethlehem.



START

*Directions: Follow the maze to arrive in Bethlehem.*



BETHLEHEM



## Council Highlights— November 2017



- Received thanks from NGLS for gift of \$319
- Received thanks from Friends of the Library for their use of Bethany
- Received thanks from Julianne Jarvi for the donation for mission trip to Tanzania
- Salvation Army made a request for bell ringers.
- The following council positions are open: Assistant Executive Director and Personnel Director
- Fewer members have submitted their pledge cards.
- Budget for 2018 has been prepared for proposal to congregation.
- Family Video donated turkeys to families in need in Ishpeming. Social Ministry distributed several turkeys.
- Reminder to committees that their annual reports are due.



OUR CHURCH'S  
**FINANCES**

**YTD Income: \$170,103.82**

**YTD Expenses: \$171,375.34**

**Jan. - Oct.**



## Christian Gift-Planning

Below is the fourth part of a twelve part series explaining how Christians can incorporate the Church in their estate planning.

**Shares of Common Stock** (and mutual funds) are often used to make gifts to ELCA ministries. Most often the donors avoid paying capital gains taxes on appreciated shares of stock while receiving a charitable income tax deduction for the value of the stock. Even though capital gains rates have been reduced, significant tax savings from the gift of common stock or mutual funds may be available to you while you benefit your favorite ELCA ministry.

For more information: Contact Timothy Knutson, ELCA Foundation at (414) 477-9979 or [timothy.knutson@elca.org](mailto:timothy.knutson@elca.org), or Pastor Larry Westfield, ELCA Foundation at (262) 224-9574 or [larry.westfield@elca.org](mailto:larry.westfield@elca.org), or Bishop Katherine Finegan at (906) 228-2300 or [kfinegan@nglsynod.org](mailto:kfinegan@nglsynod.org)

### We Remember Dorothy Rohrer...

Dorothy Rohrer's name was inadvertently omitted from the list of Saints for All Saints' Sunday. Though she had lived away for many years, Dorothy held Bethany dear to her heart and continued to contribute to the ministry at Bethany.

Dead-

line to

### Order Poinsettias is December 19



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 19. You may take your plants following the Christmas Eve late service. Thank you.

### A Penguin “Parable”



During storms, emperor penguins huddle for warmth, taking turns at the center and on the perimeter of the group. While incubating eggs, up to 6,000 male penguins have been observed clustering for shelter against the harsh Antarctic winter. Partially grown chicks gather in protective “crèches” (French for “cribs”); often surrounded by a colony of adults, these groupings ward off predators and cold.

In stormy times, humans also need supportive groups; we can’t survive alone. A church family allows us to take turns giving and receiving care. Amid social upheaval, injustice, illness, natural disaster and any loss or crisis, God invites us to gather for protection and warmth. In the church community, we support and strengthen one another and are empowered to go out again into the less-sheltered world.

### 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 be using that address so you won’t miss any future issues of the Outlook or other mail from Bethany. Thanks.

### Bethany’s Website

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

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



## Keep In Your Prayers

Remember our home-bound and nursing home residents:

**Valente:** Doreen Brown, Jean Sandstrom

**Jacobetti:** Allen Maki, Bob Waters, Pastor Bob Sutherland

**Teal Lake Senior Living Community:** Betty Geier, Jean Johns

**Mill Creek:** John Pontti

- Mark, Kathleen, and Karmen Slown
- Pastor Marcia Solberg
- Ruby Kaukola
- Sharon Argall
- Dan Argall
- Ray Chartre
- Roger Solberg
- Ruth Solberg
- Carl Pellonpaa
- John and Marilyn Pontti
- Jim Sodergren, Jr.
- Cindy Warner
- Bob Kaukola
- Ted Swanson
- Loreth Johnson
- Judy Hogan
- Brown family
- Mark
- Lois Goethe
- Doris Pellonpaa
- Robert Maki
- Zander Atkins
- Jim Bjerne
- Angie Kempainen
- June Forsberg
- Those in the military that they may remain safe



**The December Noisy Offering will be given to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. The January and February Noisy Offering will be given to Lutheran Social Services of Upper Michigan. Thanks to everyone for your generosity!**



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

485-1625  
[linkarzig@gmail.com](mailto:linkarzig@gmail.com)



Bethany Lutheran Church  
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Ishpeming, MI 49849

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Rev. Warren Geier, Pastor  
Home Phone: 485-4218  
E-mail: [pastor@bethanyishpeming.org](mailto: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, Robert Bruhnke  
Social Ministry, Marie Chilman  
Stewardship, Tom Perry  
Worship & Music, Keenan Tunnell



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Northern Great Lakes Synod



## December Worship Assistants

### December 3

Assisting Minister - Carrie Meyer  
Acolytes - Faith Cain & Abbi Bruhnke  
Altar - Rae Elliot  
Coffee Hosts - Finance  
Flowers - in memory of Rhoda & Gunnard  
Pelto by Ed & Sue Holmgren & family  
Nursery - Sabrina Holm-Brown  
Bread - Rae Elliot  
Youth Usher - Ian Bivins

### December 10

Assisting Minister - Abbi Bruhnke  
Acolytes - Luke Holmgren & Kyra  
Holmgren  
Altar - Sandee Sundquist  
Coffee Hosts - Social Ministry  
Flowers -  
Nursery - ShyAnn Holm-Brown  
Bread - Linda Dahl  
Youth Usher - Jarin Johnson

### December 17

Assisting Minister - Terra Frustaglio  
Acolytes - Jarin Johnson & Ian Bivins  
Altar - Shirley Tyni  
Coffee Hosts - Christian Ed & Social Ministry  
Flowers -  
Nursery - Mackenzie Ryan  
Bread - Marian Medlyn  
Youth Usher - Faith Cain

### December 24 (10:30 am service)

Assisting Minister - David Leverton  
Acolytes - Luke Holmgren & Kyra Holmgren  
Altar - Sue Holmgren  
Coffee Hosts - no coffee hour  
Flowers -  
Bread -  
Nursery—Ben Bruhnke

### December 25—Christmas Day

Assisting Minister—Bob Nadeau Bread—Tonya Perry

### December 31

Assisting Minister - Tom Ryan  
Acolytes - Jarin Johnson & Abby  
Koski  
Altar - Kaye Frederickson  
Coffee Hosts -  
Flowers -  
Nursery - Hope Kasukola  
Bread - Cheryl Frederickson  
Youth Usher - Ian Bivins

### December 24 Christmas Eve

#### Assisting Minister -

(4 pm) Terra & Garrett Frustaglio  
(10 pm) Jerry & Karen Plaisier

Acolytes - (4 pm) Faith Cain & Ian  
Bivins (10 pm) Abbi Bruhnki & Abby  
Koski

#### Altar -

Bread - (4 pm) Terra Frustaglio  
(10 pm) Bob Bucan

### December Ushers:

Jaak Liivoja  
Mike Richards  
Tom Ryan  
Ted Swanson  
John Waters  
Tim Grant  
John Hansen



## *Happy Birthday!*

- 2 Kay Skytta
- 2 Lindsay Waters
- 2 Amber Sodergren
- 3 John Pontti
- 3 Irene Portale
- 3 Jordan Anderson
- 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
- 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 33 years

Jerry & Karen Plaisier  
12/1/1990 27 years

Joe & Addy Lemire  
12/3/2011 6 years

Kimberlee & Bryan Smith  
12/4/2010 7 years

Ray & Sandra Sundquist  
12/12/1975 42 years

Carl & Doris Pellonpaa  
12/16/1953 64 years

James & Jane Anderson  
12/21/1968 49 years

Larry & Ann Alexander  
12/27/1986 31 years

John & Marilyn Pontti  
12/28/1960 57 years



## January Worship Assistants

### January 7

Assisting Minister -  
Acolytes - Abbi Bruhnke & Faith Cain  
Altar - Debbie Cain  
Coffee Hosts - Property  
Flowers -  
Nursery - Kayla Koski  
Bread -  
Youth Usher - Ian Bivins

*Thank You!*

### January 14

Assisting Minister -  
Acolytes - Ian Bivins and Abby Koski  
Altar - Carrie Goldsworthy  
Coffee Hosts - Social Ministry  
Flowers -  
Nursery - Sabrina Holm-Brown  
Bread -  
Youth Usher - Jarin Johnson

### January 21

Assisting Minister -  
Acolytes - Faith Cain & Jarin Johnson  
Altar - Sue Holmgren  
Coffee Hosts - Youth Group  
Flowers -  
Nursery - ShyAnn Holm Brown  
Bread -

### January 28

Assisting Minister -  
Acolytes - Luke Holmgren and Kyra Holmgren  
Altar -  
Coffee Hosts - Personnel & Stewardship  
Flowers -  
Nursery - Mackenzie Ryan  
Bread -  
Youth Usher - Faith Cain

### January Ushers:

Bruce Bussone  
Tom Perry  
Jim Kinnunen  
Craig Kitchen  
Jerry Plaisier  
Knut Strom  
Doug Carter



### February Ushers:

Bob Nadeau  
Jim Anderson  
John Carlson  
Tom Brown  
Tom Sodergren  
Greg Stahlmann  
Don Hurrell  
Jim Penhale

*Happy Birthday!*

- 1 Samuel Stahlmann
- 1 Betty Geier
- 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 Bjerne
- 17 Claire Urcavich
- 18 Jeffrey Harma
- 19 Matthew Skewis
- 20 Rachael Chartré
- 21 Mindy McComb
- 21 Jennie Dault
- 23 Tori Connors
- 24 Brian Ulrickson
- 27 Christina Mariani
- 29 Bernadette Frustaglio
- 31 Sabrina Brown



*Happy Anniversary!*

**Roger & Ruth Solberg**  
1/2/1954      64 years

