



**Bethany Lutheran Outlook**  
**February 2012**

**Serving God, Community, and Individuals**



**"Here am I; send me!"**  
Isaiah 6:8



## PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

This month I want to honor two of my colleagues, Jon Magnuson and Katherine Finegan who are moving on to new parts of their journey this month. Jon Magnuson has retired after serving as the Lutheran campus pastor at Northern Michigan University since 1995. I first really got to know Jon a couple of years after that when I was a participant in one of his Spirit of Place kayak excursions on which about ten of us kayaked along the shore of Lake Superior by day and discussed theology in the evening. (not a bad way to do continuing education!) It was then that I learned how to kayak and I will always be thankful to Jon for his role in that.

I've gotten to know him even better in the past 6 or 7 years serving as the chair of the Campus Ministry Board at NMU. I have seen the impact that Jon's ministry has had on the students who have become involved with Campus Ministry. He has mentored several who have gone on to seminary to become pastors themselves but all of the students involved have grown tremendously in faith and maturity as he has helped them navigate the sometimes difficult and complicated world of college life.



One of the things I admire most about Jon is his ability and willingness to step outside conventional theological boxes to raise questions and issue challenges. This hasn't always made him popular with everyone but I firmly believe that the church needs voices that take stands, push the edges and rock the boat a little bit. Jon has done that in this synod and, agree with him or disagree, we are all better for the conversation.

Jon will continue to live in Marquette and serve as director of the Cedar Tree Institute, a non-profit organization making connections between mental health, religion and the environment.



Katherine Finegan has served as the pastor at Bethany, Republic for almost ten years but has now accepted the call to be the assistant to Bishop Skrenes beginning on February 1. (Jennifer Johnson-Wrege retired from that position last fall) In the years that I have known her I have come to have great respect for Katherine as a pastor and as a person. In addition to serving her own parish, among other things she has served as the chair of the synod's worship committee, president of the Superior Central Conference and coordinator of the Marquette County Cropwalk. Katherine has also been very active with the Republic Schools and has never said no when I've asked her to teach a Lay School class. Those of you who have had her for a teacher know what a great job she does. All of this in addition to balancing life as a wife and mother of three boys.

I think Bishop Skrenes has made an excellent choice in asking Katherine to serve in this role. With her intelligence, pastoral skills, theological depth, leadership abilities and sense of humor, she will be a great asset for our synod.

For Jon and Katherine, their faith is at the heart of who they are; they are defined by their baptism; it is at the center of their identity. It is a privilege for me to have served with them and I look forward to continuing that service in whatever form it may take. Even more, I look forward to and give thanks for their continued friendship.

Pastor Geier

### Christ Still Calls Us

The rugged hills of Galilee  
Drop down to meet the sea  
Where burly men still mend their nets,  
Still fish there eagerly.

The sea's the same place where Christ said,  
"Lay down your nets and heed  
My call to love all people  
And serve them in their need."

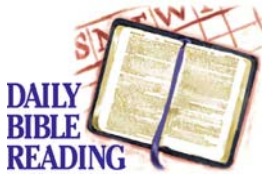
"I'll help you fish for humankind,"  
He told them long ago.  
His call's still heard, His help's still real  
Today, as we well know.

Yes, people still are leaving "nets"  
Wherever they might be,  
And as disciples still go forth  
To serve Christ willingly.

—Peggy Ferrell



## 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.*

### February 2012

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

—Martin Luther

- |   |                     |                   |                  |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Psalm 35:1-10       | Jeremiah 29:1-14  | Mark 5:1-20      |
| 2 | Psalm 147:1-11, 20c | Proverbs 12:10-21 | Galatians 5:2-15 |
| 3 | Psalm 147:1-11, 20c | Job 36:1-23       | 1 Cor. 9:1-16    |
| 4 | Psalm 147:1-11, 20c | Isaiah 46:1-13    | Matthew 12:9-14  |

#### 5 **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c 1 Cor. 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39

- |    |                 |                       |                 |
|----|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 6  | Psalm 102:12-28 | 2 Kings 4:8-17, 32-37 | Acts 14:1-7     |
| 7  | Psalm 102:12-28 | 2 Kings 8:1-6         | Acts 15:36-41   |
| 8  | Psalm 102:12-28 | Job 6:1-13            | Mark 3:7-12     |
| 9  | Psalm 30        | Leviticus 13:1-17     | Hebrews 12:7-13 |
| 10 | Psalm 30        | Leviticus 14:1-20     | Acts 19:11-20   |
| 11 | Psalm 30        | Leviticus 14:21-32    | Matthew 26:6-13 |

#### 12 **Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**

2 Kings 5:1-14 Psalm 30 1 Cor. 9:24-27 Mark 1:40-45

- |    |              |                      |                   |
|----|--------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 13 | Psalm 6      | 2 Chronicles 26:1-21 | Acts 3:1-10       |
| 14 | Psalm 6      | 2 Kings 7:3-10       | 1 Cor. 10:14-11:1 |
| 15 | Psalm 6      | Job 30:16-31         | John 4:46-54      |
| 16 | Psalm 50:1-6 | 1 Kings 11:26-40     | 2 Cor. 2:12-17    |
| 17 | Psalm 50:1-6 | 1 Kings 14:1-18      | 1 Timothy 1:12-20 |
| 18 | Psalm 50:1-6 | 1 Kings 16:1-7       | Luke 19:41-44     |

**19 Transfiguration of Our Lord**

2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6 2 Cor. 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9



20 Psalm 110:1-4

Exodus 19:7-25

Hebrews 2:1-4

21 Psalm 110:1-4

Job 9:23-27

1 Tim. 3:14-16

**22 Ash Wednesday**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Psalm 51:1-17 2 Cor. 5:20b - 6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21



23 Psalm 25:1-10

Daniel 9:1-14

1 John 1:3-10

24 Psalm 25:1-10

Daniel 9:15-25a

2 Tim. 4:1-5

25 Psalm 25:1-10

Psalm 32

Matthew 9:2-13

**26 First Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15

27 Psalm 77

Job 4:1-21

Ephesians 2:1-10

28 Psalm 77

Job 5:8-27

1 Peter 3:8-18a

29 Psalm 77

Proverbs 30:1-9

Matthew 4:1-11



**Pie Social  
February 18  
2 - 4 pm**

The fifth annual Pie Social will be a great place to come on a cold winter February day. Indulge in a homemade piece of pie with ice cream/cool whip accompanied by juice or hot cup of coffee or tea. Invite your family and friends for this special event.

Ladies and gents, put on those aprons and make us a pie (or two). Help us make this a day of great pies and socializing. Please drop off donated pies by 1 pm.

A donation of \$4.00 is requested.

# Enjoy the Poetry of Hymns

## Just As I Am, Without One Plea

Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that thy blood was shed for me,  
And that though bidd'st me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.



Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings and fear within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all I need in Thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thy love unknown  
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
Now to be thine, yea thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871  
ELW# 592

**“As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man...and he said to him, ‘Follow me.’ “  
Matthew 9:9**

She could not believe the cold, hard facts. The prognosis of her disease was eventual paralysis. Born in Clapham, England, in 1789, Charlotte Elliott had

experienced an active and normal life for thirty years, so the verdict about her future resulted in a very despondent and frustrated young woman. As the months grew into years, her frustrations grew into anger. Why would God allow such a thing to happen?

But one day, in 1822, a very special visitor came to the family home. The well-known Swiss evangelist, Caesar Malan, explained her hopelessness and despair. The question that got to the source of her anguish was “You speak of coming to Jesus, but how? I’m not fit to come.”

Malan patiently explained the all-knowing, but all-forgiving and loving Savior. He told Charlotte that Jesus spoke of himself as the bread of life; that whoever comes to him will not hunger (John 6:35). As they prayed, she recognized her hungers. She wanted freedom from the depression that plagued her. She longed for peace and hope in her circumstances. It was a relief to say “Yes” to the simple request of Jesus: “Follow me.”



The immediate change in her attitude was lasting. Each year she celebrated that day as the beginning of her new life. In 1834, she captured her new insight on paper in the poem “Just As I Am.” It expressed her “formula of faith” as she lovingly explained it to others.

For the remainder of her life, poetry was an expressive witness of her Christian faith. There were more than a hundred poems published in *The Invalid’s Handbook*. Profits from its sales built a school for needy children. The director of the school, who was her brother and a minister, said: “In the course of my work, I hope to see some fruit of my ministry. But I feel more has been done by the single poem of my sister, ‘Just As I Am.’ ”

Could it be that one little poem touched more lives than many sermons or a school for needy children? It could not seem possible. But multiplication can be a miracle in God’s plan. After Charlotte’s death at age eighty-two, more than a thousand letters were discovered in her papers from people around the world, expressing thankfulness that their lives had been redirected by this one hymn.

From *52 Hymn Story Devotions* by Lucy Neeley Adams

## Who Then Is This?

The disciples of Jesus had planned a night crossing of the Sea of Galilee. But that night the wind rose suddenly, shredding sails and cracking spars, and the waves pounded the hull and washed over the deck. They knew they were in trouble, big trouble.



Jesus ... 'rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was dead calm'

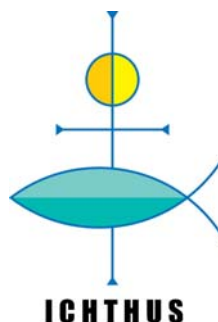
(Mark 4:39). I would imagine that the quiet outside the boat was nothing compared with the quiet inside the boat. Mark reports that the disciples were filled with great awe and said to one another, 'Who then is this?'

Who then is this? It is fundamental in the sense that, if we get the answer to this question wrong, nothing else will matter very much. But if we get the question right, we'll very likely get a lot of other things right as well.

But this question can only be asked properly in the way the disciples asked it: in the company of Jesus. They had already started to follow him, obey him. They were living in his presence. Who is this One, they wondered, who has called us and turned our lives upside down and filled us with awe?

The order of things is important. We don't first get answers to all our questions, and then decide to join the company of Jesus' followers. Instead, we begin by trusting Jesus enough to start down the road of discipleship. Then we try to understand who has taken us by the hand and what has happened to us.

-Donald W. McCullough, from Chimes





**Social Ministry Update  
February 2012**



In the latest issue of **LWR** – *Call and Response*, a summary of giving is outlined. A total of more than \$12.6 million of aid went to people in 26 countries in 2011.

“Where did the Quilts and Kits go in 2011?” Thanks to the compassion and generosity of many, the U.S. Lutherans sent

355,786	+	166,427	+	311,763	+	72,610	+	21,234
Quilts		School Kits		Personal Care Kits		Baby Care Kits		Fabric Kits

Bethany’s Social Ministry supported Lutheran Campus Ministry with a donation of \$50 in December. The Noisy Offering contribution to the Upper Peninsula Food Bank came to \$418. Our current Noisy offering for the months of January and February will be donated to the Bethany Homework Club.

For the month of January we continue to support LCM. We also contributed \$100 to Pastor’s Discretionary Fund and sent \$150 to Northwoods AirLifeline. Northwoods AirLifeline is a non-profit organization of volunteer pilots from Michigan’s Upper Peninsula and northeast Wisconsin who donate their time and aircraft to help patients and their families with urgent medical needs for services not found locally. Since their founding in 1989, over 2000 missions have been flown to destinations in lower Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Connecticut, and Texas, all at no cost to the individual. Northwoods AirLifeline helps meet the needs of individuals who are financially distressed, unable to travel by other means or under severe time constraints. We are pleased to be able to contribute to this worthy effort.

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



**The February Noisy Offering  
will go to the Bethany Homework Club.**

**Thanks to everyone for your generosity!**

## Dan Argall Completes Stained Glass Project

Michigan State University Museum is conducting a Michigan Stained glass Census, a statewide inventory of stained and faceted glass windows. Many of the splendid Michigan windows are featured on their website:

<http://www.michiganstainedglass.org/>. Already they have documented the windows of over 1100 buildings, and they have learned that Bethany has fine stained glass windows to be included in this census.

Bethany does indeed display beautiful stained glass. The more than hundred year old stained glass windows from Bethany's original church and the new stained glass panels that adorn the narthex of our church now are certainly worthy of being among the beautiful stained glass of Michigan. This is due, in large part, to Dan Argall who has mastered the stained glass techniques and restored the old windows and created the new.



The original mosaic Christ figure

The technique used in stained glass is determined by the size of the glass pieces used in the pattern. For the restoration of the old windows, Dan used lead came, but he used the Tiffany or copper foil method for the windows in the narthex and the Christ figure. Copper foil is more versatile since it can be used on pieces of any size you wish to use. Copper foil can also be patinated in different colors.



### Step-by-Step: Copper Foil Stained Glass

1. Prepare patterns and tools to get started. Use one copy to cut up as a pattern, and the other copy to piece together your project.
2. Trace pattern onto the glass and score with glass cutter.
3. Use running pliers to break apart the scored glass.
4. Smooth and shape the glass piece using a water-cooled electric grinder.
5. Wrap the clean piece of glass with copper foil tape.
6. Assemble the pieces on your pattern that is on a flat, heat resistant surface.
7. Apply flux to foiled pieces, solder seams on both sides. Clean and polish.

When choosing glass, Dan imagines a painting in his mind and finds glass to match that inner vision. In choosing the glass, Dan also thought about the effects light would have on the glass. Would the light shine through it or bounce off of it? Would the glass look like water flowing, or would it appear misty, dull, or bright?

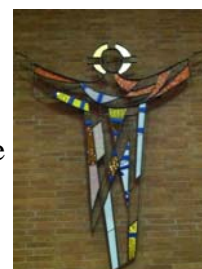
Stained glass work takes time. The restoration of the old windows took approximately four months, while the windows in the narthex took about a year. For the Christ figure, Dan accomplished the work in a month, once all the planning and glass selection had been done.



Dan at work in his workshop.



As someone who doesn't like heights, working on scaffolding made the process a bit more difficult. He was especially thankful for the help from Tom Brown and Bob Clark for help with the scaffolding. Dan found the most difficult part of the job was getting the old glass even and clean so the glue would hold the new glass in place.



The glass needed to be held in place.

Dan loves to work with glass, but he thinks of that work as play. He knows that someday he won't be able to do it so, for Dan, the more he can do now the better. He says, "I'm not going to be able to play forever."

When Dan completed his work and the scaffolding came down, he stepped back to view it for the first time. "I could not believe the beauty of reflections from the glass, and walking around, it reflects differently. You need to walk all over the sanctuary to see all the beauty. It was beyond my wildest dreams."



# LENT



## **Lenten Soup Suppers: 5:30 each Wednesday of Lent**

The Boards of Bethany will provide the soups each Wednesday of Lent.

Feb. 22 - Christian Education

Feb. 29 - Social Ministry

March 7 - Worship and Music

March 14 - Stewardship and Personnel

March 21 - Finance and Property

March 28 - Council



Wednesday  
Service

**February 22  
6:30 pm**

**Lenten Soup  
supper  
5:30 pm**

The Lenten season begins. It is time to be with you, Lord, in a special way, a time to pray, to fast, and thus to follow you on your way to Jerusalem, to Golgotha, and to the final victory over death.

I am still so divided. I truly want to follow you, but I also want to follow my own desires and lend an ear to the voices that speak about prestige, success, human respect, pleasure, power, and influence. Help me to become deaf to these voices and more attentive to your voice, which calls me to choose the narrow road to life.

I know that Lent is going to be a very hard time for me. The choice for your way has to be made every moment of my life. I have to choose thoughts that are your thoughts, words that are your words, and actions that are your actions. There are no times or places without choices. And I know how deeply I resist choosing you.

Please, Lord, be with me at every moment and in every place. Give me the strength and the courage to live this season faithfully, so that when Easter comes, I will be able to taste with joy the new life that you have prepared for me. Amen

- Henri J. M. Nouwen *Show Me the Way*

**Wednesday Lenten Services will Highlight the Drama Series**

**THE POTTER AND ME**

By John R. Trump



This five part series follows the creation of a piece of pottery and how it affects those who have owned it.

**1. THE BARGAIN**

In the first play we meet the potter who creates the pottery and puts on the bottom of it the biblical reference from Jeremiah: You are the potter and I am the clay. The woman who buys it as a gift for her friend is confused and challenged by this.

**2. NEVER TOO LATE FOR THE POTTER**

In the second play we meet the woman to whom the pottery was given, but she and the woman from the first play have lost touch. Can they rebuild the relationship? Is it ever too late for the potter to help us start over?

**3. THE TWO THIEVES**

In the third play burglars break in to rob the house, but one not-too-bright thief believes that this scripture reference is a message from God. He refuses to rob the house, saying that God is calling them to repent.

**4. I WAS HOPING FOR COOKIES**

In the fourth play, the pottery, after having been sold at a pawn shop, has now been bought and ends up in a dorm room, a gift from a mother to a daughter. The daughter can't understand her mother's message in the gift, and her friends are at first equally confused.

**5. BACK TO THE POTTER**

In the last play, the husband of that college girl whose mother gave her the pot years later goes back to the pottery shop where it was first made to find out more about it. His wife, who had treasured that pot for many years, has died. Why was it so important to him to learn about the pottery, and can God reshape this husband's grief to hope?

**John Trump** is pastor of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Columbia, South Carolina, a published playwright, and founder of [www.FaithDrama.com](http://www.FaithDrama.com).

# Kids!

## What's Up in Sunday School during February?



**Feb. 5** Find out what Jesus does and how he is treated when he goes to his hometown of Nazareth.

**Super Bowl of Caring Sunday:** We'll be raising money to feed people who don't have enough food to eat.



**Feb. 12** Find out who Jesus calls as his first Disciples.

**Feb. 19** Find out who Jesus heals and makes friends with?



**FAMILY WORSHIP**

**Feb. 26 Family Worship Sunday**  
(No Sunday School)

**Come to church with your family—  
parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters**

---

### The Prayer of a Child

This message was found written on a drawing tablet a church provided each child at a worship service:

**Dear God, I am at church today  
as you might know. You are very  
sweet to my family and the earth.  
I love you!!!!**

## February 5—Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday

Each NFL Super Bowl Sunday, many people host or attend parties with abundant food, friendship, and fellowship. At the same time, over 1 billion people around the world go hungry.



On Super Bowl Sunday, please join more than 2,000 Lutheran youth groups to do something to change all of that.

The Souper Bowl of Caring is a youth-led ecumenical and grassroots movement that unites youth under a single cause: to end hunger. Collectively, this movement raised millions of dollars for hunger related charities. And ELCA Lutherans raised nearly one million dollars. But that's not all. Youth across the country also collected millions of pounds of food and provided countless hours of service.

On February 5, Bethany will take part in this movement. Sunday School children will have soup bowls representing each Super Bowl team. You can show your support of your favorite team, but more importantly, you can make a contribution to fight hunger in our local community.



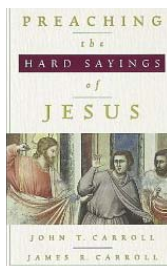
**The Pastor read  
*Song of the Stars*  
by Sally Lloyd-Jones  
to the children.**



## Bethany Bible Study Groups Discuss New Books

Monday and Thursday's Bible Study groups are studying faith and religion through some very insightful books. Monday's group is reading and discussing *Preaching the Hard Sayings of Jesus* while Thursday's group is focusing on *Listening for God*. As always, all are welcome to join in the discussion. Monday's group meets at 11:00 am while Thursday's group meets at 6:30 pm.

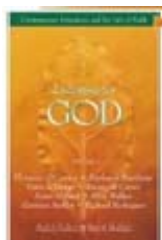
### **Preaching the Hard Sayings of Jesus** by John T. Carroll and James R. Carroll



"Challenge" has routinely been associated with the message of Jesus--and rightly so. But beyond the challenging words of Jesus come the "hard sayings"; these persist in shaking us out of our easy chairs of faith and stir us to reexamine the gospel in all its glory--the glory of the Crucified One. When it comes to stirring others to hear that hard message of the Cross and to guiding the faithful in understanding the same, no one could ask for a better set of guides than James R. Carroll and his son, John T. Carroll. This blend of seasoned ministerial experience and solid scholarly talents yields a rich interpretation that is simultaneously down to earth and yet original and insightful.

### **Listening for God: Contemporary Literature and the Life of Faith (Vol.1)**

by Paula J. Carlson



Where do you listen to God? In this new collection of stories and essays, the challenge is to pay attention everywhere. *Listening for God* is intended to help people investigate how life and faith merge in surprising ways and places. Contemporary American literature may not be the most predictable place to listen for God, but it may well turn out to be the most rewarding.

This reader includes eight selections by such well-known authors as Flannery O'Connor, Alice Walker, and Garrison Keillor.



### **Winter Wonderland Retreat at Fortune Lake February 10—12**

Stay at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, ski or snowboard at Ski Brule!  
Or just hang out at Fortune Lake and enjoy sledding, ice-fishing, cross-country  
ski trails, board games, relaxing, etc.

**Check the kiosk for more detailed information.**



## **The Lutheran: January 2012** Church giving in an unforgiving economy



**Economic disruption and an evolving church** by Kim L. Beckmann  
Hard times pull to front new ways to consider church's work



**As head of Palestinian tourism ...** by Judith Sudilovsky  
a Lutheran woman hopes to improve life for Palestinians



**Be it resolved...** by Tom Schaefer  
Getting spiritual on the brink of a new year



**How empathy will change your life** by Allan Hart Jahsmann  
It is more than sympathy



**Lutheran social services go green** by Aaron Cooper  
Environmental stewardship becomes central to agencies' work



**A ride of honor** by Jeff Favre  
Rose Parade float honors Paul Rossmeissl and other organ donors

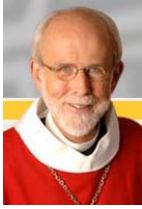
### **Columnists**



10 Bible stories that breathe life:  
**A face that shines**  
by Peter W. Marty

**Church unity found in Jesus**  
by Mark S. Hanson





## Christmas Message 2011

A message from Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson

**For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.**

— Titus 2:11

**Yes** In this world where God creates with deep  
beauty and profound mystery.  
In this world where so many yearn for  
God's healing and peace.  
In this world where some have thought God has forsaken us:

**Yes** Here, in this world, the grace of God has appeared.  
  
Not just in this world but for you.

**Yes** For you, weary from trying to meet the  
expectations of others.  
For you, worrying about an uncertain future.  
For you, wondering if you are worthy.



**Yes** For you, the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation.  
  
Not just for you but for all.

**Yes** For all, salvation has come in the wonder of  
God in mercy bending low to meet us in our humanity.  
In the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection.  
In the power and promise of the gospel's proclamation,  
God's goodness and loving-kindness has appeared in the Savior Jesus.

So with angelic messengers and witnessing shepherds,  
we raise our voices:



*“Glory to God in the highest heaven  
and on earth peace among those  
whom he favors.”*





**Hanging of the Greens**



**Preparing the  
Angel Tree**



**The Lighting of the Advent Wreath**



**The Choir offered  
Lessons and Carols.**

**Oh Come, All Ye Faithful**



## On the Road Again

Several years ago I moved from the home where I had lived for 20-plus years to a place half its size. The move was part of a conscious decision to simplify my life in order to free more time to answer God's call to write. But driving away was tough. So when I read the story of Abraham in Genesis 12:1-9, I consider how hard it must have been for him to leave his home in Haran after 75 years. And perhaps even more remarkable, Abraham left not knowing where he would end up. Can you imagine loading all you own into a truck and setting out with no destination in mind? Yet Abraham was willing to risk obeying God. His was risky obedience!



As we step into the unknown this new year brings, God asks each of us to risk and to trust. That stepping forward may require letting go of some relationships and some possessions. God is always doing some "new thing" (see Isa. 43:19); we choose whether we will be part of it. And as the saying goes, if we do what we have always done, we will get what we have always gotten. So if we want our relationships to be different, we must interact differently with those near us. If we want our jobs to be different, we must work in ways we've not tried before. If we want our spiritual life to be different, better, deeper, we will have to try spiritual practices that nudge (or perhaps drag) us into new territory. If we want to see Christ in new ways, we will have to serve in places we have not served before. (See Matt. 25:31-46.)

Abraham offers several strategies for the adventure of responding to God's call. First, Abraham invites us to look honestly at our situation. Abraham assessed the situation his family was in, and he decided to leave Haran. Many of us live in situations that we cannot or should not endure. God calls us always toward fullness of life and away from what interferes with that. Abraham also shows us that faithful people spend time listening to God for direction. My decision to move was the culmination of a process of asking friends to pray for me, of talking to God myself, of meditating on scripture, of writing in my journal, of making small changes to make way for bigger ones.



However, we can also slip into the paralysis of preparation — planning and re-planning, organizing and reorganizing, discerning and trying again to discern. Preparing can become a way to avoid acting. Finally, we must take the first step. And when Abraham took that first step, he did not try to go it alone. Individualism can leave us unprotected and unsupported. We need one another; we need companions who will help us become who God is calling us to be. Good relationships and new relationships are gifts from God.



Abraham's example also reminds us to be prepared for stops and starts along the way. He and his family "journeyed on by stages" — and we will, too. The road by which we travel toward God's future for us is rarely a straight one. Twists and turns, detours and rest stops are natural parts of the journey. Finally, Abraham models taking time along our way to celebrate what God is doing and has done. Abraham and his clan built altars and set up memorial stones as they traveled. Celebrating God's presence and work in our lives may mean keeping a gratitude journal. Or we may practice a simple "daily examen," asking ourselves at bedtime, "Where did I see God today?" Or, "How did I respond to God's call today?" Or we may join a small group that helps us sustain our spiritual practices such as praying or studying the Bible. The point is finding practices to help us listen to God more effectively.

For many of us the image of the spiritual life as a journey is inaccurate because we don't want to budge from our life as it is to invest ourselves in the new things God calls us to do. But that is the invitation of each new year: We step into it with eyes open, trusting God for what lies ahead. We cannot know where the year will take us, but because God leads us we can expect it to be an adventure.



Mary Lou Redding

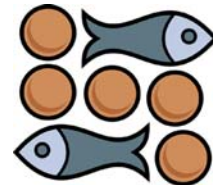
Jan-Feb 2012 issue of Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide



## A Countdown to Revive Your Life in the New Year

12. Do something really nice--that no one knows about.
11. Spend more money on other people than I spend on myself. Love my neighbor as I love myself. And love myself as I love my neighbor.
10. Laugh often...especially at advertisements that try to convince me that I must buy more stuff in order to be happy.
9. Learn a new life skill - like carpentry, pottery, or canning vegetables. Teach someone else a skill that I know how to do.
8. Love a few people well, remembering that what is important is not how much we do, but how much love we put into doing it.
7. Write a letter to someone I need to say thank you to. Write another letter to someone I need to ask to forgive me.
6. Track down a critic or someone I disagree with and take them to lunch. Listen to them.
5. Compliment someone I have a hard time complimenting.
4. Choose life. Do something regularly to interrupt the patterns of injustice - do something to end violence, bullying, war, capital punishment and other mean and ugly things.
3. Pause before every crisis and ask "will this matter in 5 years?"
2. Get outside often and marvel at things like fireflies and shooting stars. And regularly get my hands into the garden...so when I type on the computer I can see dirt under my fingernails.
1. Believe in miracles. And live in a way that might necessitate one.

Pastor Shane Claiborne



## **Pastor Katherine Finegan Called to be Assistant to Bishop**



Pastor Katherine Finegan will begin her ministry at the Synod Office on February 1, 2012, and will have a full plate of responsibilities as Assistant to the Bishop.

Partnering with the Churchwide ELCA, she will be the Synod “Director of Evangelical Mission” and will work with Evangelism, Transformational Ministry and Mission Outreach. Pastor Finegan will also staff our Synod Assemblies as “Assembly Manager” and will work with the Candidacy, Worship, and Hunger Committees.

Calling her “strongly committed to mission” and “insightful, dedicated and a great addition to our Synod staff”, the Northern Great Lakes Synod Council unanimously called Pastor Finegan. She currently serves Bethany Lutheran Church in Republic, Michigan.

A daughter of a Lutheran pastor, missionary and seminary professor, Katherine Finegan attended Valparaiso University from 1983 to 1987. In 1988, she began working part-time as a youth director and attended seminary classes at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. Continuing her work in a parish, she discerned a call to ordained ministry, serving as a pastoral intern at Woodlake Lutheran in Richfield, Minnesota. Graduating from seminary, she was ordained in the summer of 2002 after receiving a Call to serve Bethany Lutheran Church in Republic.

Describing her time as a parish pastor in Republic, Katherine writes, “These years of ministry have been a blessing to me and my family. The times spent among these people of faith have enriched me with a sense of community that runs deep and multilayered. Our years together have been productive, joyful, and an authentic experience of ministry in the fullest and best sense of what church can be.”

Pastor Finegan is married to David Finegan, a Registered Nurse employed at the Baraga Prison. The Finegans have three sons: Noah, a sophomore at Valparaiso University; Jacob, a senior at Republic-Michigamme Schools; and Thomas, an 8th grader. God is moving in many ways in our Synod, and this Call to Pastor Finegan is another sign of God’s good timing. I am delighted that Pastor Finegan will add her considerable talents to our ministry together. These are exciting times in God’s Church, and I am looking forward to this new chapter in the life of the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

From Notes & Quotes Dec. 2011/Jan. 2012



## Council Highlights: Nov., Dec., Jan.

- Letters of thanks from room at the Inn, NGLS, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, St. Vincent DePaul, Relay for Life, Fortune Lake, and Lutheran Campus Ministry
- Pastoral Acts: 10/3 Baptism of Landon Francis Bertucci; 11/1 Wedding of David Tunnel and Lori Mallock; 12/3 Wedding of Addy Cain and Joseph Lemire
- Board of Property is looking for a replacement for Bethany's flag
- Homework Club is going well. The biggest need is for adult assistance. Five adults are needed per session to keep the sessions effective.
- Received copy of Pastor Finegan's resignation from Bethany Republic to assume position of Assistant Bishop
- Approved Pine Mountain Music Festival's request for facility use on July 5 and July 6, 2012
- Pastor would like to encourage more up front seating in the pews.
- A plaque with historical information will be placed on the organ.
- Pastor Geier's official start date with Lutheran Campus Ministry is February 1.
- Approved Pine Mountain Music Festival's request to use Bethany for a vocal performance with piano on June 30, 2012.
- Council approved the budget to be presented to the congregational meeting.
- Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2012

2011



**FINANCES**

**YTD Income: \$190,033.13**

**YTD Expenses: \$187,748.27**





## BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO TED SWANSON

Family and friends gathered in Bethany's Fellowship Hall on January 14th to celebrate Ted Swanson's 80th birthday.



Happy Birthday, Ted!

Ted would like to thank all those who came to share his special day and all those who sent cards and offered birthday wishes.

## Congratulations Addy and Joseph Lemire

On December 3, Addy Cain and Joseph Lemire were united in Holy Matrimony at Bethany. Addy's attendants included her sisters Winter Cain and Lindsey Piercefield, as well as her friend Tara Collins. Joe's attendants included his friends Mark Castor and John Cuber, as well as his brother-in-law Rick Finn. Addy's daughter Faith was the flower girl and Joe's nephew R. J. Finn was the ring bearer. Congratulations and best wishes, Addy and Joe.



## Congratulations Casey Hares

Casey Hares graduated cum laude with a degree in Biology/Ecology from Northern Michigan University on December 17, 2011.

## Valentines to Give Your Children



- Acceptance – Teach kids that you love them for who and what they are. Give this gift with a kiss.
- Self-confidence – Help children understand that they can trust themselves. Give this gift with a hug.
- Life without needless fears – Don't let your kids see you as a worrier. Give this gift with laughter.
- Appreciation – Help children acquire a spark of gratitude and enjoy all of life. Give this gift as they go out the door.
- Faith – Introduce your children to God, the best friend they'll ever have. Give this gift by taking them to church every Sunday



**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 (Mather), Doreen Brown (Valente), Joyce Lehto (Mill Creek), Marjorie Rosten (home)
  - Bob Kaukola
  - 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
  - Allen Maki
  - Steven Leverton
  - Carol and Juan Papaleo and family
  - Paul Blomgren
  - Pam Waters
  - Those in the military that they may remain safe



### **Bethany supports Local Food Banks.**

Please bring in donations.

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](mailto:linkarzig@netscape.com)

Bethany Lutheran Church  
715 Mather Avenue  
Ishpeming, MI 49849

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
ISHPEMING MI 49849  
Permit No. 75

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

---

Bethany Lutheran Church  
Phone: 906-486-4351  
Fax: 906-486-9640  
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: [pastor@bethanyishpeming.org](mailto:pastor@bethanyishpeming.org)

Parish Planning Council:  
Exec. Director, Tom Ryan  
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



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Northern Great Lakes Synod

## February Worship Assistants

### February 5

Assisting Minister - Tom Ryan  
Acolytes - ShyAnn Holm-Brown & Jacob Clark  
Altar - Sue Holmgren's team  
Greeters - Rae & Tony Elliot  
Coffee Hosts - Social Ministry  
Flowers - In memory of Inez Simons by Colleen & Ray Sundblad  
Nursery - Kara Harrington  
Bread - Kay Chartre

### February 12

Assisting Minister - Meredith Seppanen  
Acolytes - Sabrina Holm-Brown & Jessica Penhale  
Altar - Sue Holmgren's team  
Greeters - Dan & Cheryl Sleeman  
Coffee Hosts -  
Flowers -  
Nursery - Josh Argall  
Bread - Rae Elliot

### February 19

Assisting Minister - Sandee Sundquist  
Acolytes - Savannah Marietti & Liam Seppanen  
Altar - Sue Holmgren's team  
Greeters - Addy & Joe Lemire and family  
Coffee Hosts -  
Flowers -  
Nursery - John Levertton  
Bread - Evelyn Nadeau

February 22 Ash Wednesday  
Assisting Minister - Marie Chilman  
Acolytes - Noah Kaukola & Hannah Skewis

### February 26

Assisting Minister - Greg Stahlmann  
Acolytes - Kayla Kaukola & McKenzie Atkins  
Altar - Sue Holmgren's team  
Greeters - Brent & Denise Clark  
Coffee Hosts -  
Nursery - Christina Mariani  
Bread - Marian Medlyn

### February Ushers:

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



### March Ushers:

John Beerling  
Jerry Hager  
Bill Heavyside  
Robert Maki  
Donald Meyer  
John Pontti  
Dan Sleeman

*Thank You!*

## *Happy Birthday!*

- 2 William Heavyside
- 2 Joshua Niemela
- 2 Aili Toivonen
- 3 Sharon Argall
- 3 Megan Barton
- 4 Eric Beinlich
- 4 Victoria Rankin
- 6 Zoe Argall
- 7 Rachel Argall
- 8 Kelly Anderson
- 8 Kayla Koski
- 9 Carrie Goldsworthy
- 9 Geraldine Maki
- 9 Kenneth Carlson
- 10 Ronald Jensen
- 11 Abigail Bruhnke
- 11 Renee Rankin
- 11 Diana Sandstrom
- 13 Linda Bertucci
- 13 Harriet Maki
- 13 Debbie Snell
- 14 Thomas Varda
- 16 Edward Vickstrom
- 18 John Beerling
- 18 Michael Flynn
- 18 Lindsey Stahlmann
- 19 Marvin Toivonen
- 23 Seth Bjerne
- 23 Denise Kaukola
- 23 Victoria Mattson
- 24 Ethan Argall
- 25 Teckla Holmgren
- 27 John Carlson
- 27 Garret Frustaglio



## *Happy Anniversary!*

Jerry & Roberta Luokkala  
2/13/1971 41years

James & Holly Bjerne  
2/14/1981 31 years

Allen & Geri Maki  
2/18/1950 62 years

