



Bethany Lutheran Outlook
February 2013

Serving God, Community, and Individuals



saved
through faith.

EPHESIANS 2:8, NRSV



PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

The time between Christmas and Lent is short this year with Ash Wednesday falling on February 13th. Advent and Lent are the two reflective, penitential seasons of the church year but I think Lent is the more reflective of the two as Advent tends to get swallowed up by Christmas preparations. Lent though keeps more of that reflective character and is actually a surprisingly popular part of the church year as for many there is an awareness that we need it. We may not always “do” Lent very well relative to the classic disciplines of fasting, prayer and almsgiving, but whether we do it well or not, there is a sense that in some fashion it is good to take time for reflection about where we are in life and where we’re going, about where God fits into things. Taking such time can be the kind of thing that you almost have to make yourself do, because in many ways we’re programmed to be busy. Being busy can be a good thing, but busy-ness can also keep us from taking time to be quiet, to think about what is really important.



One of the things I’ve been thinking about for awhile is where the church is headed; I’ve mentioned this in sermons, I wrote about it in my Annual Report article. There is a lot out there about this, much of it lamenting the “decline” of the church in numbers and significance. My take though, is that this “decline” is not cause for lament nor is it cause to latch on to the latest program that promises to turn things around.. Instead, it’s cause for prayer and reflection, not prayer for a return to the good old days, but prayer to be open to the future, open to what God is doing and where God is leading.

The problem of course is that the future is not clear. Wanting it to be clear, some well meaning church people try to force the future into a mold of their liking. In many cases though, the future winds up looking a lot like the past, a time when things were thought to be better. However, my sense is that we’re in a more Lenten time where we do better to wait; to wait on the Lord, all the while continuing to be faithful in worship and in service. We continue to do what we do confident that God is at work, sometimes in hidden ways. We continue to worship and grow in faith knowing that the kingdom will come and that there are already glimpses of it among us.

Lent is a good time to remember that while there are some aspects of our life over which we have some control, in the largest sense we're not in control; we don't control the future. The good news though is that the One who is in control has already showed us what the future is. Because of that, Lenten reflection and waiting is not a grim time of lament. We know where we're headed; we know the story that we'll hear again at the end of Lent.



Ashes

We take palms from the
passion procession,
We take the palms from the
entry into Jerusalem,
And burn them
char them
mix them with the oil of anointing
and anoint ourselves
with Ashes
to begin the living out of Lent.
The ashes of mourning -
 for we will no longer be who we were
the ashes of humility -
 for from dust we came
 human from humus
the ashes of repentance -
 for we wish to roll away the stone
the ashes of cleansing -
 for we will put on a new garment
the ashes of regeneration -
 for God will cause the phoenix to rise up
the ashes of fertility -
 for the grain of wheat will bear fruit.
the ashes of the dead -
 for in Christ's death there is life.



—Susan Palo Cherwien, *Crossings; Meditations for Worship*

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 2013

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

—Martin Luther

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|----|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Psalm 71:1-6 | 2 Chronicles 35:20-27 | Acts 19:1-10 | |
| 2 | Psalm 71:1-6 | 2 Chronicles 36:11-21 | John 1:43-51 | |
| 3 | Fourth Sunday after Epiphany | | | |
| | Jeremiah 1:4-10 | Psalm 71:1-6 | 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 | Luke 4:21-30 |
| 4 | Psalm 56 | 1 Kings 17:8-16 | 1 Cor. 2:6-16 | |
| 5 | Psalm 56 | 2 Kings 5:1-14 | 1 Cor. 14:13-25 | |
| 6 | Psalm 56 | Jeremiah 1:11-19 | Luke 19:41-44 | |
| 7 | Psalm 99 | Deuteronomy 9:1-5 | Acts 3:11-16 | |
| 8 | Psalm 99 | Deuteronomy 9:6-14 | Acts 10:1-8 | |
| 9 | Psalm 99 | Deuteronomy 9:15-24 | Luke 10:21-24 | |
| 10 | Transfiguration of Our Lord | | | |
| | Exodus 34:29-35 | Psalm 99 | 2 Corinthians 3:12 -- 4:2 | Luke 9:28-36 |
| 11 | Psalm 35:11-28 | Exodus 35:1-29 | Acts 10:9-23a | |
| 12 | Psalm 35:11-28 | Ezekiel 1:1 -- 2:1 | Acts 10:23b-33 | |
| 13 | Ash Wednesday | | | |
| | Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 | Psalm 51:1-17 | 2 Corinthians 5:20b -- 6:10 | Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 |
| 14 | Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 | Exodus 5:10-23 | Acts 7:30-34 | |
| 15 | Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 | Exodus 6:1-13 | Acts 7:35-42 | |
| 16 | Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 | Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 | John 12:27-36 | |

17 First Sunday of Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13

- | | | | |
|----|----------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 18 | Psalm 17 | 1 Chronicles 21:1-17 | 1 John 2:1-6 |
| 19 | Psalm 17 | Zechariah 3:1-10 | 2 Peter 2:4-21 |
| 20 | Psalm 17 | Job 1:1-22 | Luke 21:34 -- 22:6 |
| 21 | Psalm 27 | Genesis 13:1-7, 14-18 | Philippians 3:2-12 |
| 22 | Psalm 27 | Genesis 14:17-24 | Philippians 3:17-20 |
| 23 | Psalm 27 | Psalm 118: 26-29 | Matthew 23:37-39 |

24 Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17 -- 4:1 Luke 13:31-35

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|----|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 25 | Psalm 105:1-15 | Exodus 33:1-6 | Romans 4:1-12 |
| 26 | Psalm 105:1-15 | Numbers 14:10b-24 | 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 |
| 27 | Psalm 105:1-15 | 2 Chronicles 20:1-22 | Luke 13:22-31 |
| 28 | Psalm 63:1-8 | Daniel 3:19-30 | Revelation 2:8-11 |

Baptism of Bryan and Preston Smith



Father and son were baptized during the January 27 worship service. Bryan Smith and Preston, son of Bryan and Kim, were received into Bethany's family through the sacred rite of baptism. Bryan's sponsors were his mother and father-in-law Peggy and Robert Clark. Preston's sponsors were his godmother Stephanie Klein and godfather Tony Smith.



Genesis of Grace: A Lenten Book of Days
By John Indermark

Prologue

Genesis 1: 26-27

Fingerprints

“Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image.”



ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday. For a thousand years and more, ashes have marked the foreheads of persons entering the season of Lent. One tradition calls for the ashes to come from burning the palms of the previous year’s Palm Sunday celebration. Another tradition calls for signing the forehead with ashes in the form of the cross. Yet another tradition calls for the recitation of Genesis 3:19b as the ashes are imposed: “You are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Palm, cross, and dust. Joy, sacrifice, and penitence. All comingled in our imprinting with ashes.

No more than fifteen of us gathered in a circle on Ash Wednesday evening. In silence, by candlelight, I moved around the inside of the circle, marking foreheads with the mix of palm ash and water in the plate. Even in that dim light, I noticed a curious thing. If, in my final signing of the cross, I pressed steady with my thumb, I left my fingerprint within the cross.



Genesis 1:26-27 relates our being made in the image of God. Creation proceeds on this day as it did each day before. God’s word begets God’s creation. God’s creation begets God’s declaration of its goodness. No exceptions: “It was very good.”

So what have traditions of Ash Wednesday and fingerprints on foreheads and the goodness of Genesis 1 to do with one another? God marks our lives with the fingerprints of grace. The imagery of God’s fingers at work in creation finds expression in Psalm 8:3, which declares that the heavens are “the work of your fingers.” Consider the affirmation of Genesis 1:26 that we are created in God’s image. We bear within ourselves the “imprint” of God’s presence, the vocation of revealing that presence in creation.

Creation itself is an act of grace. Nothing compelled God to fashion life. Our creation as human beings reveals that grace even more profoundly. Nothing coerced God to fashion others in the divine image, with all the potential that image implies. The “fingerprints” of grace mark us from the beginning. And these fingerprints will continue to leave their traces upon those whose stories Genesis narrates, stories we will follow through Lent.



Some of you reading this devotion may well experience the imposition of ashes this day of evening. The penitential nature of that rite and of the service in which it occurs reminds us that we indeed have fallen short of serving as the image of God in creation. Foreheads are marked with the ashes of former joys, signed in the form of discipleship’s cross.

But remember that in the ashes, other fingerprints may be seen: the fingerprint of grace bringing life, our lives, into being; the fingerprint of grace declaring human creation, our creation, to be “very good” (Genesis 1:31) Before anything else marks (or mars) our life, God’s fingers leave the imprint of grace—an imprint that stamps us with the word of God’s favor.



For Meditation This Day

God, forgive what causes me to lose sight of your grace. Mark my life anew with the imprint of your creative and forgiving touch.

John Indermark’s devotional guide **Genesis of Grace: A Lenten Book of Days** consists of daily reflective readings keyed to each of the days of Lent. These readings follow the weave of grace through the events and characters of Genesis. Each week of readings centers around a common theme and character(s). While the readings vary in style and emphasis, their core purpose remains constant: to moor the gospel’s declaration of God’s grace for your life and mine within the foundational stories of Genesis.

Genesis of Grace is a publication of Upper Room Books and is available through their website: <http://www.upperroom.org>

LENT



Lenten Soup Suppers: 5:30 each Wednesday of Lent

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

Feb. 13 - Christian Education

Feb. 20 - Worship and Music

Feb. 27 - Social Ministry

March 6 - Stewardship and Personnel

March 13- Finance and Property

March 20 - Council

Ash
Wednesday
Service

**February 13
6:30 pm**

**Lenten Soup supper
5:30 pm**

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on the Saturday before Easter. The word Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring," the time of the lengthening of days. Lent lasts forty days, not counting Sundays.

Why Forty Days? Jesus was in the wilderness forty days facing temptation and discerning the kind of ministry God intended for him (Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13). In Scripture forty days or forty years is often the duration of a time of punishment, repentance, fasting, or vigil: The children of Israel were in the wilderness forty years; Jonah preached that Nineveh would be destroyed in forty days; Acts 1:3 reports that the risen Christ appeared to his followers for forty days before his ascension.

Why Not Count Sundays? In the first century an epistle attributed to Barnabas says, "We keep with joy the day on which Jesus rose from the dead." In the second century Justin Martyr wrote, "We will gather on Sunday because on the first day...Jesus Christ our Savior rose from the dead." Sunday is always a celebration of Jesus' victory over sin and death. Even during Lent, Sunday is a "little Easter."

—*Come to Easter: The Customs of the Lenten & Easter Seasons*

Wednesday Lenten Services will Highlight the Drama Series

LENT IN THE ATTIC

By John P. Trump

These five plays all take place in the attic of the same home. Like most attics, it is filled with the stuff we have stored away and have often left behind. What has been left behind in the attic by the first couple will remain there for all five plays. These plays examine our priorities in life in light of our baptismal vows and our Lenten promises.

1. MOVING ON UP

A couple decides that it is time to move from their old home. However, what do you keep and what do you throw away? How are our lives over laden, and how does this hurt our spiritual journeys?



2. HOUSE HUNTING

A young couple is looking for a new house. How much house is enough? What does it mean to be comfortable? Does our eagerness get in the way?

3. CHILDREN IN THE ATTIC

Children of the couple who bought the house in the previous play now explore the attic, even though they are not supposed to. They stumble on pictures of their parents from their college days. Some of these pictures surprise them. How is Lent a call to “grow up” in the faith and a time to repent and put your past behind you? The children with dad’s help try to learn.

4. CAUGHT IN THE ATTIC

Two burglars break into the house and search the attic. They are confronted by “Wally the Warthog.” One burglar takes this as a sign from God; the other has no such notion. Does God call us to repent in strange ways?

5. COBWEBS

It is now 30 years later, and the woman who bought the house two plays ago returns to the attic. Her husband has died. It is time to clean out some things. How is God with us in the pain of such times, dealing with such loss?



Enjoy the Poetry of Hymns

Out of the Depths I Cry to You

Out of the depths I cry to you;
O Lord God, hear my calling.
Incline your ear to my distress
In spite of my rebelling.
Do not regard my sinful deeds.
Send me the grace my spirit need;
Without it I am nothing.

All things you send are full of grace;
You crown our lives with favor.
All our good works are done in vain
Without our Lord and Savior.
We praise you for the gift of faith;
You save us from the grip of death;
Our lives are in your keeping.



In you alone, O God, we hope,
And not in our own merit.
We rest our fears in your good Word
And trust your Holy Spirit.
Your promise keeps us strong and sure;
We trust the cross, your signature,
Inscribed upon our temples.

My soul is waiting for you, Lord,
As one who longs for morning;
No watcher waits with greater hope
Than I for your returning.
I hope as Israel in the Lord,
Who sends redemption through the Word.
Praise God for grace and mercy!

— text by Martin Luther, 1483-1546; ELW #600

The Story Behind the Hymn

Martin Luther wrote this beautiful version of Psalm 130 in 1523. It was a favorite of Luther's and one of those he called Pauline Psalms. He took special pains with his version, and the final result ranks with the finest of German psalm hymns.

The hymn conveys a powerful message rooted in the Reformation teaching of justification by grace through faith alone. Stanza one is a cry to God the Father to send us His grace without our deserving. Stanza two praises God for the gift of faith which crowns our life with grace. Stanza three affirms our hope in God's Word; our fears rest in the same Word. In stanza four the soul waits with hope for the Lord's returning.

Out of the Depths was sung on May 9, 1525, at the funeral of Friedrich the Wise, in the Court Church at Wittenberg. The people of Halle sang it with tears in their eyes as the great Reformer's coffin passed through their city on the way to the grave at Wittenberg. The hymn is woven into the religious life of Germany.

In 1530, during the Diet of Augsburg, Luther's heart was often troubled, but he would say, "Come, let us defy the devil and praise God by singing a hymn." then he would begin, "Out of the depths, I cry to Thee." This hymn was sung at Luther's own funeral on February 20, 1543.

Thank You Ann Gonyea

Ann Gonyea returned to Bethany on January 27 to deliver the sermon at her home church and assist in Bethany's family worship service. Thank you and welcome home.



Launch into Lent

By Kristin Berkey-Abbott

Have you decided what you will give up for Lent yet? In the past, a Lenten discipline meant giving something up, often something that we shouldn't have been doing anyway. Those Lenten disciplines are still valid, especially if you tie the giving up to something spiritual. For example, you give up sugar and contribute the money you would have spent on sweets to ELCA World Hunger. But what if instead of giving something up, we added something to enrich our spiritual lives? For those of you who are baffled, below are some suggestions to help you launch into Lent.

Increase your reading

You might wail, "But what should I read?" Why not start with the Bible? Read a Gospel from beginning to end. Dip into some of the other New Testament books. Read a Psalm a day. Lent is also a good time to add some devotional reading to your day. You've got a lot of possibilities. Choose a theological author, and chances are good that someone has taken part of their work and transformed it into a devotional resource. Augsburg Fortress has a wonderful "40 Day Journey With ____" series (Julian of Norwich, Madeleine L'Engle, and Kathleen Norris, among many others) which combines the writing of the author, some Scripture reading, some questions to ponder and some writing prompts. You might decide you want to continue this discipline beyond Lent. Luckily the series has many books. For a more traditional series with reading alone, look for the "A Year with ____" series (Thomas Merton, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and C.S. Lewis, among many others).



Boost your prayer life

If you're not praying on a regular basis, now's a good time to start. Begin your day with prayer, or end it with prayer or both. If you're not sure what to say, start with thank you. Or, pray the Lord's Prayer. If you want a bit more discipline, try praying for people who annoy you. Pray for countries that seem opposed to ours. Pray for peace. Ask God for what you need. Ask God to be with leaders. Ask God to be with those who need help: Pray for the sick, pray for the newly married, pray for that homeless person you always see wandering around, pray for your boss, pray for your family, pray for the local schools.



Experiment with a creative practice

You may not think of yourself as creative, but you likely were creative once. Try one or more of the following to reconnect with your artistic self:

- Buy a big box of crayons (or paints or pastels or any medium that makes you excited). Create a picture that addresses your spiritual life.
- Go to the store and buy three bouquets of flowers. Rearrange them into two bouquets and put them where you'll see them and be reminded of God's flowering love for you. Take this process one step further: Plant a flower pot or a garden.
- The image of God as a potter recurs in the Bible. Buy some clay and play with it. If you are the clay, how is God shaping you? Make that shape.
- Learn to bake bread. Bread is an amazingly forgiving food and will endure countless experiments.
- Start a spiritual journal. Each day, write down five things you're grateful for. Or write down people you need to remember to pray for. Or write a short meditation on a Bible verse or a song. Make a list of where you see God at work in the world. Write out your prayers.



Step up your charitable efforts

Hopefully, you're already making some attempt to be part of God's vision for social justice, either by contributing time, money or materials. You might consider a few of the following suggestions:

- Make an extra contribution to your favorite charity. Maybe you could make one extra contribution per week. It doesn't have to be huge. But it could be.
- Clean out your closets. Give away anything you haven't worn in the past year. Clean out your kitchen cupboards.
- When you go to the grocery store, buy some extra food for your favorite charity.
- See if you can increase your tithe by 5 or 10 percent above what you're doing now.
- Give some extra time during Lent. Volunteer at a soup kitchen or a food pantry. Go to a nursing home and sing some old gospel songs. Think about the people you know who have lives that are falling apart; go buy cards and put them in the mail.



Library Thoughts for February, 2013

By Keenan Tunnell



Well...there are no new books for this month since I'm off avoiding Michigan winter for a couple of months at my sister Kathy's in California (weather is GREAT, by the way!), so I'm counting on my Library partner Kathy Geier to find you all some books related to the following holy days occurring this month. I hope you'll find something uplifting, informative, faith affirming in our selections.



25 January. Conversion of St. Paul.

I missed this one for January, but you might want to check out Wangerin's fictionalized biography of St. Paul. We all know the story of his conversion experience on the road to Damascus, which is celebrated on this date, but the book will give you a lot more insight into his career and mission to the Gentiles, which includes us!

14 February. St. Valentine. Martyr, d. 269 A.D.

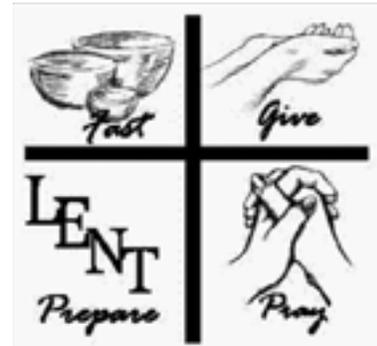
Valentine was a priest at Rome and Bishop of Terni (outside Rome) who was supportive of marriage (banned by Emperor Claudius II) and protector of those imprisoned for their faith. He was so successful in converting Romans to Christianity that he was condemned and executed on this date. His final message to his people was said to be delivered by doves and signed "Your Valentine". He is the patron of Love, Young People, and Happy Marriage. Check out the small children's book in our Library on St Valentine.



13 February Ash Wednesday,

Beginning of Lent

“In the typical Ash Wednesday observance, Christians are invited to the altar to receive the imposition of ashes, prior to receiving the Holy Supper. The Pastor applies ashes in the shape of the cross on the forehead of each, while speaking the words, "For dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). This is of course what God spoke to Adam and Eve after they eaten of the forbidden fruit and fallen into sin. These words indicated to our first parents the bitterest fruit of their sin, namely death. In the context of the Ash Wednesday imposition of ashes, they remind each penitent of their sinfulness and mortality, and, thus, their need to repent and get right with God before it is too late. The cross reminds each penitent of the good news that through Jesus Christ crucified there is forgiveness for all sins, all guilt, and all punishment.



Many Christians choose to leave the ashes on their forehead for the remainder of the day, not to be showy and boastful (see Matthew 6:16-18). Rather, they do it as a witness that all people are sinners in need of repentance AND that through Jesus all sins are forgiven through faith.

Ash Wednesday, like the season of Lent, is never mentioned in Scripture and is not commanded by God. Christians are free to either observe or not observe it. It also should be obvious that the imposition of ashes, like similar external practices, are meaningless, even hypocritical, unless there is a corresponding inner repentance and change of behavior. This is made clear in Isaiah 58:5-7...(check it out!!) *This text from "The History and Meaning of Ash Wednesday," by Dr. Richard Bucher of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lexington, KY.*

NOTE: Bear in mind the message of the illustration: Lent is a time of preparation for the Good News of Easter; preparation involves prayer, fasting, and giving of ourselves for the aid of others in some way. Check out the Lenten selections on the Library Kiosk and see if they can assist you in observing a Good Lent.



The Lutheran: January 2013

The Shrinking Church



Cover story

The shrinking church

Congregations look for solutions as they face declines in membership, attendance



Diverse households

Ecumenism, interreligious affairs in a multicultural age
by Kristin Berkey-Abbott



Glimpses of new life

Churches, people of Minot, N.D., rebuild & review mission following flood
by Erin Hemme Froslic



Helping in hurricane's aftermath

Just when things seemed hopeless, people showed up
by Wendy Healy



Interns learn ropes, congregations witness growth

Location-bound seminarians costs pose challenges
by Sandra D. Guy



Goat incentive

Congregation uses 'Good Gifts' as Lenten discipline
by Julie B. Sevig

Columnists



Loving others on our knees

By Peter W. Marty

Presiding Bishop:

Always being made new

by Mark S. Hanson





WELCA members met on January 6 and approved the following disbursement of funds for 2012.

- \$200 Room at the Inn
- \$200 Lutheran Social Services (U.P.)
- \$200 Salvation Army
- \$200 Northwoods Air Lifeline
- \$200 Pastor Geier's Discretionary Fund
- \$200 Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

WELCA members are urged to continue to bring in canned goods and paper products for the need continues year round.

Annual WELCA Christmas Program



“The Season of Giving”



Paper products were donated to the Salvation Army and St. Vincent de Paul.



Members of Joy Circle gathered at Jasper Ridge for an evening together during the Christmas season.



Social Ministry Update
February 2013
By Rae Elliot



Thanks to all who continue to contribute in whatever way to Bethany's food collection. The table in the narthex is filled every week with a wide variety of items. We hope that especially on the first Sunday of the month, those who are so inclined will bring an item or two. Paper products and aluminum foil are always needed. Watch for sales on baby diapers. Check the bins in the stores for quick sale items. The Salvation Army always needs paper cups, plates, napkins etc. to serve food. Occasionally there are seasonal paper products (i.e. Christmas etc.) that may be a terrific buy and they can always use those items. All products are donated to the Salvation Army in Ishpeming or Bethany Family Baskets.



New Fair Trade Products are now available. The **GEO** snack bars come in mixed berries and chocolate raisin and are very tasty. Buying the Fair Trade Products contributes to the Outreach efforts at Bethany.



Buy Fair Trade today!

Social Ministry contributed \$100 to Voices for Youth (homeless shelter) in December.



The Bloodmobile was at Bethany on January 15. Jill and Doug Carter reported that the turnout was very good.



Bethany has received a very gracious letter of thanks for prayers and contributions to assist in their son Zander's medical expenses. The letter is posted on the easel in the narthex. There were generous donations in addition to the Noisy Offering to provide assistance.

For a complete summary of the donations of Bethany's Social Ministry in 2012 please see the report of the board in the Annual Report to the Congregation.

The Noisy Offering for February and March will continue to be contributed to Pastor's Discretionary Fund.



Evelyn Nadeau: A Faithful and Giving Servant

A short time ago Evelyn Nadeau informed the Social Ministry Board it was time for her to adjust her schedule and “retire.” That she will be missed is a given. She has contributed to the current ministry for over 30 years.

In her youth, Evelyn sang in the children’s choir and later as a soprano in the senior choir. As a teenager she served in the Young Women’s Missionary Group and later in the Ladies Missionary Group which was a precursor to WELCA.

In the early years of her work in social ministry, she recalled she followed Theresa Beerling as the manager of giving for the ministry. Contributions went to some of the same groups we still support: the food bank, Salvation Army, Voices for Youth, the Women’s Center and Air LifeLine and Global ELCA work in distant lands. Other groups served were Lake Superior Hospice, the Prison Fellowship and the Ishpeming Senior Center. Local donations went to keep the Bethany Church Bus running.

The Pastor was always a good source of where an individual need existed and she said the ministry worked to meet those needs. Evelyn has meticulous records of all the contributions. She said she will miss serving on social ministry but she will be able to continue her work for the prayer shawl ministry. She has made and donated well over 60 prayer shawls.

We asked Evelyn for words of guidance as we continue work. She said, “Be Faithful – Be Giving”

Thank you Evelyn for your many years of faithful service.



**The February and March Noisy Offering
will go to the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund.
Thanks to everyone for your generosity!**

Kids!



Sunday School News

February lessons include stories about Jesus from the Gospel of Luke



Jesus calls his disciples (Luke 5:1-11, 8:1-3)

Jesus heals a man lowered through the roof by his friends (Luke 5:17-26)



Jesus heals ten lepers (Luke 17:11-19)

Fifth Graders Will Have First Communion on February 24

The fifth grade class, which includes Kayla Koski, Hope Kaukola, Gavin Argall, Jackson Cardoni, McKenzie Ryan, and Garrett Frustaglio, has begun studying for their First Communion, which will take place on Family Worship Sunday, February 24. The class is using *A Place for You* by Daniel Erlander as a guide.

The fifth graders will be preparing the communion bread for that Sunday's Holy Communion.



Taking Part in Worship

Young people played the chimes and led the congregation in singing *Amazing Grace* during the Family Worship Service on January 27.

Homework Club Ministry

We have had a very successful Homework Club experience this fall and winter. We started off with about 30 students in the fall. Our January count is down, due to illnesses and school sports activities, but we are still serving between 12 and 16 students per week.



Bethany's Homework Club

Volunteers are always welcome! If you cannot make a weekly commitment, you can volunteer to sub! I am also looking for some folks who would be interested in helping me develop activities for both our large group and smaller grade level groups. This would not involve a weekly commitment, provision of materials or working with children. I just need ideas! If you are interested in helping me with this, please plan to meet in the Social Room on February 10, immediately following worship.

Your help with snacks and juice is also appreciated. We will have a bright pink tub set up near the food contribution table if you would like to purchase juice or healthy treats.

Our mission is to support student achievement through mentor relationships, focusing on math and literacy skills in a group setting.

Tonya Perry
tonyaperry@gmail.com
486-4861

Vote to Fight Hunger in Our Own Community



Souper Bowl Sunday is February 3, so Sunday School Students will be collecting donations in soup kettles. You will have an opportunity to “vote” with a dollar for the Baltimore Ravens or the San Francisco 49ers.

All proceeds will go to the local Food Bank.

Christmas Message 2012

A message from Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson

This year the Christmas story is inseparable from our deep sorrow for the children of Newtown, all who died and all who mourn. We can make no sense of such violence, so we cry out for mercy. And God hears our pleas.

God responds with words of promise saying, "I am with you. I am with you in Jesus, the child lying in a manger. I am with you in Jesus who has borne your grief. I am with you in Jesus on the cross and risen from the dead."

God's promise is that nothing in all creation will separate you from God's love in Jesus. So amid the unspeakable, we can join the angel choir singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace." Because our hope is in Christ, we can rejoice in the wonder of Jesus' birth.

*"This will be a sign for you:
you will find a child
wrapped in bands of cloth
and lying in a manger."*



Luke 2:12, NRSV

I wish you a blessed Christmas.



Mark S. Hanson
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America





Christmas
2012





Council Highlights

- Received thanks from NGLS for donations to ELCA Disaster Relief Fund and also from Samaritan's Purse
- Approved change from a bulletin insert to a card placed in the pews for visitor and pastor information which could then be placed in the offering or given to an usher
- Pastor Geier conducted a funeral for Marian Franti on 12/23/12.
- Council accepted Doug Carter into Bethany membership.
- Pastor reported that the Christmas season went well.
- Ann Gonyea will preach at Bethany on January 27.
- Council approved the budget as submitted to be presented at the Annual Meeting.
- Cheryl Sleeman will resign as Financial Secretary as of February 1, and Council approved the assignment of Wendy Penhale as Bethany's Financial Secretary.
- Council meetings will be moved to the 4th Monday of the month.



Bethany's Annual Meeting was held after the January 27 worship service.

- Bethany's year-end budget ended in the black with a \$448.67 surplus.
- Board of Worship and Music announced its goal to have greeters for every Sunday. Your willingness to volunteer will help us realize this goal.



YTD Income: \$189,703.44
YTD Expenses: \$189,254.77



Where did LWR Quilts and Kits Go?

Lutheran World Relief had impressive totals for 2012.

412,000 quilts
191,415 school kits
216,854 personal care kits
17,610 fabric kits
114,019 baby care kits
91,122 soap (lbs.)



Bethany's and other Upper Peninsula contributions to LWR are distributed through the Minnesota warehouse. These items were delivered to Angola, Burkina Faso, Central Africa Republic, Haiti, India, Jordan, Mauritania, Palestine, Philippines, Thailand, and Yemen.



Congratulations on a Job Well Done

Congratulations to Denise Clark for the great job she did in directing Ishpeming High School's production of *Hello, Dolly*. Congratulations also to Megan Hough for her wonderfully dramatic and humorous portrayal of Ernestina.



NATIVITY



EPIPHANY

Bethany's New Banners

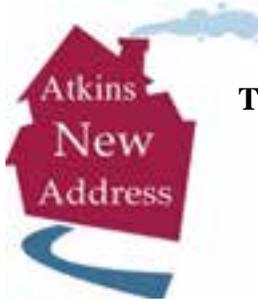


ORDINARY TIME



Pie Social Update

Bethany's Pie Social, which is usually held during February, has been scheduled for a later time due to the Lenten season. This year's pie social will be held on Saturday, April 6.



The new address for the Atkins family is

**Dan and Carrie Atkins
26449 Barrett RD NE
Kingston WA 98346**



Bethany's Website

www.bethanyishpeming.org

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

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



Café Salvador Coffee
Organic Decaf Coffee
Whole Bean Coffee
Whole Bean Decaf
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), Shirley Sundblad (Valente), Betty Leverton (Valente), Anna Mae Collins (Mather)
- Evelyn Nadeau
- Zander Atkins
- Bryan and Preston Smith, newly baptized members of Bethany
- The family and friends of Marilyn Franti who mourn her loss
- ShyAnn Holm-Brown
- Tony Elliot
- Jerry Plaisier
- Mike Flynn
- Doris Pellonpaa
- Jean Lawson
- Mary Bertucci
- Jim Smullen
- Kathy Routhier
- Jim Bjorne
- Nancy Swanson
- Angie Kempainen
- Ray Sundblad
- Melissa Chartre
- June Forsberg
- Allen Beauchamp
- Allen Maki
- Steven Leverton
- Carol and Juan Papaleo and family
- Pam Waters
- Those in the military that they may remain safe



**Happy Birthday
Ida Anderson!**



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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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Website: www.bethanyishpeming.org

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

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



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Northern Great Lakes Synod

February Worship Assistants

February 3

Assisting Minister - Terra Frustaglio
Acolytes - Shy Ann Holm-Brown and
Altar - Sue Holmgren
Greeters - Bob & Harriet Maki
Coffee Hosts - Martha Circle
Flowers -
Nursery - Sabrina Holm-Brown
Bread - Cheryl Frederickson

February 10

Assisting Minister - David Leverton
Acolytes - Hannah Skewis and Savannah Marietti
Altar - Loreth Johnson and Pat Liivoja
Greeters - Tom & Pat Varda, Tom Perry
Coffee Hosts - Social Ministry
Flowers - In memory of Inez Symons by Ray &
Colleen Sundblad
Nursery - Christina Mariani
Bread - Tonya Perry

February 13 Ash Wednesday 6:30 pm

Assisting Minister - Lindsey Stahlmann
Acolytes - Jacob Clark and Noah Kaukola
Bread - Kathy Geier

February 17

Assisting Minister - Jessica Penhale
Acolytes - Liam Seppanen and Ben Bruhnke
Altar - Debbie Cain
Greeters - Greg & Donna Stahlmann, Kathie Chapman
Coffee Hosts - Joy Circle
Nursery - Kara Harrington
Bread - Shirley Tyni

February 24

Assisting Minister - Meredith Seppanen
Acolytes - Kory Kaukola and Sabrina
Holm-Brown
Altar - Carrie Goldsworthy
Greeters - Wendy & Byron Koski family;
Roger & Ruthie Solberg
Coffee Hosts - Christian Ed
Nursery - Terra Frustaglio
Bread - Fifth Grade Sunday School Class/
First Communion

February Ushers:

Bruce Bussone
Tom Perry
Ed Johns
Jim Kinnunen
Craig Kitchen
Jerry Plaisier
Knut Strom



March Ushers:

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

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 42 years

James & Holly Bjerne
2/14/1981 32 years

Allen & Geri Maki
2/18/1950 63 years

