



Bethany Lutheran Outlook
February 2015

Serving God, Community, and Individuals



I PRAY
THAT YOU
MAY...KNOW
THE LOVE
OF CHRIST
THAT
SURPASSES
KNOWLEDGE.

EPHESIANS 3:18-19, NRSV



PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

The season of Lent has been around since the 300's; it's actually older than Christmas which might surprise a lot of people. In the beginning Easter was the primary feature and festival of the church year but by the fourth century Easter included Lent as a 40 day time of preparation. In earliest times the focus of the 40 days was on preparation for baptism which would take place during the Easter Vigil. Those preparing for baptism would be a relatively small group though, so as it evolved Lent also became a time for personal examination and repentance, a time of renewal for those who were already baptized. Out of that came the emphasis on the traditional disciplines of fasting, prayer and almsgiving. In recent years study and growing in faith has been added to the Lenten agenda.

Lent as a time for self examination and repentance can be a tough sell in a feel good, pick yourself up by the bootstraps society. For many people even though they know something is wrong, they'd rather not think about it, or at least they'd rather not think that they can't buy their way out of what's wrong or medicate themselves out of it or exercise themselves out of it (apparently the most common New Year's resolution this year was to join a gym or health club). We don't like being told that there's a problem and we can't fix it. Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent can be an even tougher sell with its acknowledgment of death, not someone else's but our own: "Remember you are dust and to dust you will return." It's a tough sell, but on the other hand, we need Lent.

"For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." That's Romans 3:23-24, part of the second lesson read every year on Reformation Sunday because it expresses very well the grace that is at the heart of Lutheran theology. One would hope that in all Lutheran churches some variation of this gospel of grace would be preached on virtually every Sunday of the year because it is the message that needs to be heard, a message that provides hope to a broken world.



Lent begins



With a theology of grace though, a season like Lent is important. Grace doesn't mean much unless there is recognition of the need for it and that's really what Lent is all about. Lent is about taking time to reflect on the fact that no matter how hard we try to live God pleasing lives, we still fall short. Such reflection and recognition would lead to despair if our relationship with God depended on us being good enough. With knowledge of grace though, our reflection brings home to us the love and forgiveness of God which is the good news that we all need.



As always our observance of Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday and will include Evening Prayer services on the subsequent Wednesdays until Holy Week. These services are preceded by soup and bread suppers. The suppers are always enjoyable times of fellowship but it's important to keep in mind that the Wednesday services are intended as times for reflection and renewal, not just fellowship. Lenten dramas will again be part of what we do and while there is an entertainment component to them, they too are intended as vehicles for thought and reflection to guide us on the Lenten journey.

There's no one right way to "do" Lent, but hopefully these services along with our regular Sunday services and whatever personal discipline you undertake will make it a meaningful season for you because again, we do need Lent.

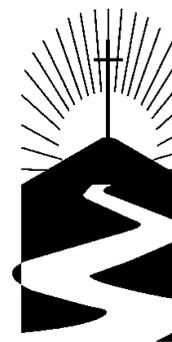
Pastor Geier



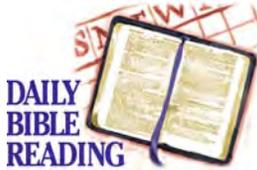
The Beginning of Our Lenten Journey

Most High,
Glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of my heart
and give me
true faith,
certain hope,
and perfect charity,
sense and knowledge,
Lord,
that I may carry out
Your holy and true command.

—St. Francis of Assisi



DAILY LECTIONARY



ings.

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

1 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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

2 Psalm 35:1-10	Numbers 22:1-21	Acts 21:17-26
3 Psalm 35:1-10	Numbers 22:22-28 1	Cor. 7:32-40
4. Psalm 35:1-10	Jeremiah 29:1-14	Mark 5:1-20
5 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c	Proverbs 12:10-21	Galatians 5:2-15
6 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c	Job 36:1-23	1 Cor. 9:1-16
7 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c	Isaiah 46:1-13	Matthew 12:9-14

8 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

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

9 Psalm 102:12-28	2 Kings 4:8-17, 32-37	Acts 14:1-7
10 Psalm 102:12-28	2 Kings 8:1-6	Acts 15:36-41
11 Psalm 102:12-28	Job 6:1-13	Mark 3:7-12
12 Psalm 50:1-6	1 Kings 11:26-40	2 Cor. 2:12-17
13 Psalm 50:1-6	1 Kings 14:1-18	1 Timothy 1:12-20
14 Psalm 50:1-6	1 Kings 16:1-7	Luke 19:41-44

15 Transfiguration of Our Lord

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

16 Psalm 110:1-4	Exodus 19:7-25	Hebrews 2:1-4
17 Psalm 110:1-4	Job 19:23-27	1 Timothy 3:14-16



18 Ash Wednesday

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



19 Psalm 25:1-10

Daniel 9:1-14

1 John 3:1-1

20 Psalm 25:1-10

Daniel 9:15-25a

2 Timothy 4:1-5

21 Psalm 25:1-10

Psalm 32

Matthew 9:2-12

22 First Sunday in Lent

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

23 Psalm 77

Job 4:1-21

Ephesians 2:1-10

24 Psalm 77

Job 5:8-27

1 Peter 3:8-18a

25 Psalm 77

Proverbs 30:1-9

Matthew 4:1-11

26 Psalm 22:23-31

Genesis 15:1-6, 12-18

Romans 3:21-31

27 Psalm 22:23-31

Genesis 16:1-6

Romans 4:1-12

28 Psalm 22:23-31

Genesis 16:7-15

Mark 8:27-30

A Commitment of a Lifetime

At age 19, American theologian Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) wrote down 70 resolutions, or commitments, and then read them every week until his death. Some of those resolutions were...

- To live with all my might while I do live.
- To study the Scriptures ... steadily, constantly, frequently.
- Never to lose one moment of time.
- Never to do anything which I should despise or think meanly of in another.
- Never to do anything out of revenge.
- To let there be...benevolence in all that I speak.



Enjoy the Poetry of Hymns

God Leads Us Along

In shady, green pastures, so rich and so sweet,
God leads His dear children along;
Where the water's cool flow bathes the weary one's feet,
God leads His dear children along.



Some through the waters, some through the flood,
Some through the fire, but all through the blood;
Some through great sorrow, but God gives a song,
In the night season and all the day long.



Sometimes on the mount where the sun shines so bright,
God leads His dear children along;
Sometimes in the valley, in the darkest of night,
God leads His dear children along.

Though sorrows befall us and Satan oppose,
God leads His dear children along;
Thru grace we can conquer, defeat all our foes,
God leads His dear children along.

Some through the waters, some through the flood,
Some through the fire, but all through the blood;
Some through great sorrow, but God gives a song,
In the night season and all the day long.



By George A. Young, 19th century

God Leads Us Along: The Story Behind the Hymn

The more clearly we see the sovereignty of God and depend on His providential care, the less perplexed we will be by life's calamities.

He does not lead me year by year, nor even day by day;
But step by step my path unfolds; my Lord directs the way.

-Unknown



The author and composer of “God Leads Us Along” was an obscure preacher and carpenter who spent a lifetime humbly serving God in small rural areas. Often the salary was meager and life was difficult for his family. Through it all, however, George A. Young and his wife never wavered in their loyalty to God and His service.

The story is told that after much struggle and effort, the George Young family was finally able to move into their own small home, which they had built themselves. Their joy seemed complete. But then, while Young was away holding meetings in another area, hoodlums who disliked the preacher's gospel message set fire to the house, leaving nothing but a heap of ashes. It is thought that out of that tragic experience, George Young completed this hymn, which reaffirms so well the words of Job 35:10. “God my Maker, who gives songs in the night.” The words of this hymn have since been a source of great comfort and encouragement to countless numbers of God's people as they experiences the “night” times of their lives.



Thank You

The Bethany Choir presented its annual Christmas Cantata on December 21. Bob Bucan directed the choir which was accompanied by Linda Hurrell. The Choir would like to thank flutist Catherine “Cat” Nevala who so beautifully accompanied the choir.

LENT



Lenten Soup Suppers: 5:30 each Wednesday of Lent

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

- February 18 - Christian Education
- February 25 - Worship and Music
- March 4 - Social Ministry
- March 11 - Finance and property
- March 18 - Stewardship and Personnel
- March 25 - Council

Ashes



On Ash Wednesday, as Lent begins, worshipers' foreheads are often marked with ashes in the sign of the cross. The ashes traditionally come from burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. In Old Testament days, ashes were a sign of mourning and repentance. Today, some worshipers wipe off the ashes before leaving church, to symbolize being cleansed from sin by Jesus' death; others wear the ashes the rest of the day, carrying the cross of Christ into the world. The speaking of Genesis 3:19 often accompanies the placement of ashes:

“You are dust, and to dust you shall return.”



February 18

**12:15 pm
Spoken Service
(Confession and
Imposition of Ashes)**

**6:30 pm
Traditional Service
(Confession,
Imposition of Ashes,
and
Holy Communion)**



Wednesday Lenten Services will Highlight the Drama Series ...

Call Me Sometime

This series includes five plays that revolve around a variety of relationships and our need to talk, as well as our failure to talk. Do we sometimes fail to take time to tell others that we love them? Do we treat strangers in unkind ways? What are the chance encounters that might take place on a phone, through which God might be at work?

1. AVOCADO GO-GO

In the first play a grandfather receives a call from his very modern granddaughter to thank him for a large financial gift. During the call, the conversation is of course interrupted by “call waiting” and other things. In this humorous play, her grandfather pushes her and the audience to consider what it truly means to be thankful for all that God gives us without any strings attached.

2. CAUGHT IN TRAFFIC

Ann is caught in traffic. She receives a call on her cell phone from her husband. On the surface, this call is all about the basic things of life such as paying for insurance, the kids' braces and more. Bills are plentiful and money is tight. What they are really talking about, however, is stewardship and how we handle those things that God has given us. There is a third character at the very end. It is a policeman giving Ann a speeding ticket!.

3. HOME BY FIVE

In this third play of the series we see the all-too-common parent who is staying up late worrying about his or her teenage child. The daughter has been out, and mom is concerned. The conversation asks us to consider what it means to have relationships built on trust and on listening, much as God is always available to listen to us.

CALLED TO SERVICE

This fourth play is actually three short skits strung together. The same two actors perform the three skits. The theme that runs through the plays is “what does it mean to volunteer?” In the first, Bob is pushed to volunteer to give blood by a rather humorous Red Cross solicitor. In the second, we see a volunteer who is willing to go to the prison to speak with inmates. In the third, we hear the phone conversation from a soldier deployed far away. How are we called to volunteer and what should our attitude be when we do?

5. BAD NEWS, GOOD NEWS

The last play in the series is intended to be humorous and heart warming. We too frequently receive bad news. In this play, George receives a great deal of rather strange and funny bad news. His checks have bounced; his son has messed up the pick up truck, and much more. In the end, his wife calls. Instead of bad news, she has called to simply tell him that she loves him. Often, God's love is like this. While it does not erase all the bad news we may receive it helps us see our way through difficult times.



Social Ministry

Another year has passed—very quickly it seems.
Another Annual Report . . .
Another annual meeting . . .

How many of you read the Annual Report and/or attend the Annual Meeting? If you are one of the attendees and/or you are one of the readers, stop reading now as this will be redundant for you. This is simply an update for those who were not able to attend the meeting and/or read the report. No chastisement for either—just an update.

“Pocket change” or “Big Bucks”? At times we might hesitate to help fund causes as we feel that we can't afford the “Big Bucks” necessary to make an impact. Nothing could be farther from the truth as is evidenced by the Noisy Offering we collect each Sunday. “Pocket Change” collected as Noisy offering in 2014 totaled \$3134.96. and helped with the following : St Vincent De Paul Heating Assistance, Feeding America Food Bank, Pastor's Discretionary Fund, ELCA Quarters for Hunger, Fortune Lake, Room at the Inn, and Lutheran Campus Ministry.



Coffee hour donations as well as miscellaneous donations to Social Ministry totaled \$1450 and helped in the following areas: ELCA Ebola Crisis, St Vincent DePaul Heating Assistance, Room at the Inn Warming Shelter, Lutheran School of Theology, Pastor's Discretionary Fund, Holiday Food Baskets, and Feeding America Food Bank.

The Food Table continued to be filled through 2014 and provided a steady stream of filled bags for donation to the Salvation Army's Food Pantry. REMEMBER that food is always needed for the table and the food drive will continue through 2015 and beyond.



And that is not all:

- Lunch was provided for a Habitat for Humanity building group.
- Bethany assembled and sent the following to Lutheran World Relief in 2014: 28 layettes, 11 health kits, 96 school kits, and 114 sewing kits.
- Dedicated quilters, Kaye Fredrickson, Sue Holmgren, Loreth Johnson, Tonya Perry, Marilyn Pontti, and Shirley Tyni made 114 quilts that were sent to LWR.
- Through coordination by WELCA, Bethany sent 23 shoeboxes filled with gifts to Operation Christmas Child—Samaritans Purse.

We thank all who donated throughout the year, and we are always happy to welcome new people willing to donate time to any of the above activities.

**“If everyone would light just one little candle,
what a bright world this would be.”**



The February Offering will be given to the Salvation Army for their area of greatest need.

Thanks to everyone for your generosity!

2015 Flower Chart



The 2015 Flower Chart has been posted and is ready to be filled. Please consider remembering or honoring a loved one with flowers which will also beautify Bethany's sanctuary each week. Thank you.



Another facet of stewardship and giving to the church is planned giving such as through memorial donations or by way of your estate planning. Would you like to take advantage of a tax break this year by charitable giving? Have you remembered our church in your will? Consider making a contribution to the Bethany Memorial funds or the Northern Great Lakes Synod Endowment Fund. To learn how to contribute to either the Bethany memorial fund or the Northern Great Lakes Endowment Fund, contact the church office or Pastor Geier.

The Bethany memorial funds are managed by a committee which makes recommendations to the council for expending funds. In general, this money is used to fund items not included in the general fund budget or for major repairs and improvements to the church building. One of these memorial funds provides a seminary scholarship for Ann Gonyea (or other members who may attend seminary in the future). Contributions can be made to the memorial fund at any time.

Another way to participate in planned giving is to contribute to the NGLS Endowment Fund. The synod supports God's work on a larger scale than what just our church can do alone. They disburse money to many worthy efforts. Here is a listing of the synod's endowment fund distributions for 2014 that I took from the synod's autumn 2014 newsletter. You will see they support mission both worldwide and right at home. I encourage you to contribute to this worthwhile tool of ministry.

Northern Great Lakes Synod Endowment Fund Distributions 2014

\$10,000 Pastor's Debt Retirement

Now in its twelfth year, grants are made to rostered persons who have debt incurred while they were in seminary seeking their first theological degree. Last year, eighteen persons made application to the endowment fund and divided this money. Payments are made directly to the holder of the student debt. A grant of \$600 per applicant is made.

\$4000 Bay College Campus Ministry

Bay College has an innovative ecumenical ministry which all our Delta Conference congregations support. A part-time campus pastor serves and receives very modest funding. Our resources along with several other Christian denominations make this ministry happen. It is a Christian pastoral presence on campus-important work

\$3000 Tanzania Ministry-Mkuza Girls Secondary School

Our partners in the Lutheran Church in Tanzania have created a new girls school to prepare young women for leadership in the church and nation. Educated Christian women are needed to build up the fabric of Tanzanian life. Our Tanzanian people consider the education of women a priority. This gift will support the building of facilities for the school.

\$3000 Lay School for Mission

Now in five locations, (St. Ignace, Minocqua, Hancock, Gladstone and Ishpeming) our Lay School trains over 70 adults a year in the work of the church. Students study scripture, church theology and history, pastoral care and Christian education. This grant supports costs (modest teacher mileage) for this ministry.

\$3000 Detroit Youth Gathering-Congregational Support

In July 2015 about 40,000 young Lutherans will descend upon Detroit for the triennial youth gathering of the ELCA. Grants of up to \$500 per congregation will encourage our synod young people to attend.

\$29,813 Seminarian Scholarships

The work of our synod is in part to prepare the next generation of pastoral leaders. Students from synod congregations benefit from our various endowments. Each full-time student receives \$8,000 and each part-time student receives \$4,000 from this ministry. Our synod stands as the most generous synod in the ELCA in the support of seminarians. Thanks be to God!

\$5,925 Tanzania Scholarships

Restricted giving by a donor has made it possible to support members of the Church in Tanzania pursue their education at the Kisarawe Junior Seminary and in higher education in Tanzania.

\$11,290 Rural Ministry

Restricted giving by a donor makes it possible to support our synod work. Programs throughout our synod benefit from this gift including seminary candidacy and outreach.

Total 2014 Distribution: \$70,028

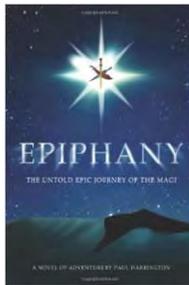


Books for February 2015

By Keenan Tunnell

We're still in the Epiphany Season for a few weeks (Ash Wednesday is February 18th), so you still have some time to check out these Epiphany titles. I haven't personally read all of them, but Harrington's *Epiphany; the untold epic journey of the Magi* is a GREAT read!! The others may contribute to your knowledge of this Christmas mystery...or raise more questions; but isn't that a good thing?? Of course, St. Valentine's Day is on the 14th so you might want to check out his titles too and give a thought for the REAL saint who espoused the cause of young love, holy marriage, and those being persecuted for their faith. Our library books are for children, but they convey some of the strength and devotion of Valentine's faith, which are an example to us all. For those seeking a good historical romance set in the times in pre-Revolutionary America, *The Lady in the Mist* might be your choice. So many good books...take some time out, make yourself a fresh cup of coffee/tea, and curl up with a good read! Next month we'll be talking about the disciplines of Lent and begin preparations for Easter (April 5th)

Harrington, Paul. **Epiphany; the untold epic journey of the Magi** **FIC HAR**



The Old World is dying. A dazzling, mysterious star compels three Magi to undertake a journey. But before Melchior, Gaspar, and Balthazar can complete their quest they must survive the deadly desert, supernatural forces, treachery, and the might of Rome. From the bamboo forests of China to the hidden city of Petra, from the lofty summits of Arabia to the scorching plains of Ethiopia, the Magi will battle their way to Bethlehem to unravel the secret of the star. But with blood and betrayal their constant companions, the Magi begin to wonder if they journey to destiny . . . or death?

Also try out:

Gilbert, **Magi (FIC GIL);**

Landau, **Revelation of the Magi; the lost tale....**

(232.92 LAN)

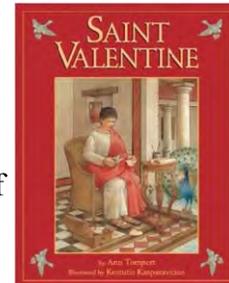
Roberts, **The Star of the Magi. (232.92 ROB)**



Tompert, Ann. **St. Valentine.**

JUV 270.1 TOM

“Every February 14 we exchange cards and flowers as expressions of love. Valentine’s Day is among our most popular holidays. But what do the words “Be my valentine” mean? Who was Valentine?....Ann Tompert weaves together the most enduring stories of Valentine to create a tapestry of the saint’s life...including stories of Valentine performing secret weddings for soldiers who were forbidden by law to marry, and of Valentine giving comfort to persecuted Christians...glimpses of the man whose life remains essentially a mystery.



Eakes, Laurie Alice. **Lady in the Mist** (FIC EAK)

Her profession as a midwife makes Tabitha the keeper of many secrets. Dominick is a man with his own secret: what he, a British nobleman, is doing on American soil working as a bondsman. On a twisted path through kidnappings, death threats, and public disgrace, can either of them find true love in a world that seems set against them?



God’s Love

Could we with ink the ocean fill,
were the whole sky of parchment made;
were every stalk on earth a quill
and every man a scribe by trade;
to write the love of God above
would drain the ocean dry;
nor could the scroll contain the whole,
though stretch’d from sky to sky.



—Meir Ben Isaac Nehorai (adapted modern version)



The Lutheran - January 2015
Mythbusting: 10 things you thought
you knew about Martin Luther



COVER STORY

Lutheran mythbusting or ...

10 things you thought you knew about Martin Luther
BY TIMOTHY J. WENGERT



FEATURES

A rose blooming in the desert

BY JILL WEHR



FEATURES

Christmas carols: Songs of the world

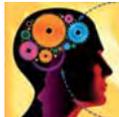
BY CHARLES W. DICKSON



FEATURES

Ministry through internship

BY AMY DILLER



FEATURES

Take your EQ temperature

BY ARLAND JACOBSON, ROY OSWALD



A LEXICON OF FAITH:

Reconciliation

BY PETER W. MARTY



PRESIDING BISHOP:

Baptism begins real new year

BY ELIZABETH A. EATON

Bethany's Lenten Soup Recipe Book To Be Updated

Bethany's Lenten Soup and Bread Recipe Book, first printed in 2008, is being updated with several new recipes. During this year's Lenten Soup Suppers additional submissions of soup and/or bread recipes will be welcome, and at the end of Lent a new booklet will be available. Below is a list of the recipes which we presently have.

List of Soups

African yam peanut soup with ginger and pineapple - Ann Gonyea
Bean and cabbage soup
Cheesy vegetable chowder - Kathleen Slown
Chili - Evelyn Nadeau
Cream of Reuben soup - Ruthie Solberg
Dad's meatball soup - Ruthie Solberg
Inspiration Soup
Kaye's kitchen corn chowder - Kaye Frederickson
Kielbasa cabbage soup - Ruthie Solberg
Meatball soup - Marian Medlyn
Split pea soup from Andersen's Pea Soup in Santa Nella, CA
Split Pea and Lentil - Sheree Mariani
Swedish meatball vegetable soup (Boardinghouse soup) - Karen Plaisier
Sweet potato and carrot soup with cardamom - Ann Gonyea
Taco soup - Marian Medlyn
Tomato barley soup - Kathy Geier
Tomato soup - Kathy Geier
Wild rice soup - Bob Bucan

List of breads

Communion Bread
Danish puff - Sue Ryan
Irish soda bread - Ann Gonyea
Molasses oat bread
Poppy Seed Bread - Kathy Geier
Swiss oatmeal bread - Kathy Geier

Bethany's
Lenten



Soup & Bread
Recipes
2015

If you have a soup recipe that you have made for one of Lenten Soup Suppers that you would like to have included in the updated edition, please give a copy of the recipe to Kathy Geier or Linda Dahl.





Where Did LWR Quilts Go in 2014?

Each Tuesday morning a group of dedicated women met at Bethany Lutheran to make “love” quilts. Throughout the year members of Bethany brought in items for five different kits. Those quilts and kits were made for Lutheran World Relief. So where did Lutheran World Relief send the quilts and kits in 2014? LWR sent the quilts and kits to 20 countries. They sent baby care kits to Angola, Armenia, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chad, Georgia, India, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Palestine, Peru, Philippines, Serbia, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand and Yemen. Angola, Burkina Faso and Tanzania also received 41,320 lbs. of soap. Soap is a luxury in these countries.



Many families are in refugee camps, where it is overcrowded, space is tight and sanitation is poor. Life is hard at the Ein el-Heweh refugee camp located in Lebanon. Many families fled their homeland. They came with just the clothing on their backs. Blankets and beds weren't provided. They have to make their own shelter with whatever they can find.

Since the beginning of the Syrian Civil War in 2011, 6.5 million Syrians fled to Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Iraq. Adra and her family arrived at the refugee camp a month before her due date on a cold winter day. She had very little money for food, medical issues or any other expense. Her health began to decline and she prematurely delivered a 4 pound baby girl named Lin. The unexpected birth of Lin worried Adra and her husband because they lacked the resources to care for her.

Unfortunately, there are far too many families like Adra's who simply don't have the basic necessities to care for their children. With families struggling so hard to survive, things like children's education become a luxury that is completely out of reach. This was the case for 9 year old Omar. A year ago his family of eight fled Syria to Jordan to escape the violence. There is a New Orthodox School in Jordan, but Omar explains that his parents cannot send him to school and meet the family's other needs.

Your loving gifts of School Kits, Personal Care Kits, Baby Care Kits and Quilts are making a difference in this conflict-torn region. Since 2012, LWR partners have distributed more than \$5 million worth of quilts and kits to vulnerable Syrians in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, and Iraq.

Children like Omar received school kits, allowing them to attend school and reduce the financial burden of buying school supplies. Omar quickly put his school kit to use, saying, “Since I arrived in Jordan this is the first time I received such a complete kit, which has every school supply I need for third grade. Thank you for my present!”



Omar shares his supplies with his siblings. With a notebook and colored pencils he draws nature scenes from his village to help him remember what he left behind.



Adra’s family received a Baby Care Kit, “love” quilts, and Personal Care Kits, full of supplies that will help her family stay healthy.

Throughout the 20 countries are stories of families who are touched by your gifts of LWR quilts and kits. Your gifts of LWR Quilts and Kits reach out to suffering people around the world, showing them that they are not alone.

Kay Chartré



Bethany’s Annual Pie Social

February 14, 2014

2—4 pm

Cost \$5

Plus 1 canned good donation



All Proceeds Donated to the Salvation Army and St. Vincent DePaul

Kids!

**Souper Bowl Sunday is February 1 —
Vote to Fight Hunger in Our Own Community**



Souper Bowl Sunday is February 1. On that day Sunday School students will be collecting donations in soup kettles. You will have an opportunity to “vote” with your donation for the New England Patriots or the Seattle Seahawks

All proceeds will go to the local Food Bank.



Conversation hearts

The world encourages people to look out for themselves and seek success, but in Micah 6:8, God tells us to live differently.

Directions: Put the conversation hearts in the correct order by writing the words on the lines below. Hint: Capitalization and quotation marks are included.



"

_____ ? _____

_____ "

_____ . _____ 6:8 , _____

Christmas Message from Bishop Eaton

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I recall this image from my home congregation: A banner depicting Mary and Jesus in the manger and the backlit silhouette of the cross cast over this scene. It was jarring. The cross on Christmas? I didn't like it.

Christmas can carry so much emotional freight. We must be merry and filled with good cheer: We are driven to get everything perfect by the stroke of midnight on Christmas Eve. We are filled with wistful longing. But what are we longing for?

We long for peace, love and a place to belong. We want to know that someone cares. We want the assurance that all of this means something. And, we try to bring that all about in the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The hope of Christmas was fulfilled on Good Friday. The cross is part of Christmas. "Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you" (What Child Is This?). The cross is *the* Christmas gift, where all of our Christmas glorias are realized in Jesus' glorification on the cross.

We don't have to get everything completely right. We can't. That's God's work and it has been done. So, good Christian friends, rejoice!

Peace,



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America





Learning about the Advent Wreath



Caroling at Mather



Hanging
of the Greens



The Giving Tree



Listening to *The Crippled Lamb*

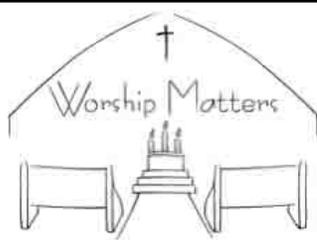


The Bell Choir offered music during the Christmas Eve prelude.



The Christmas message—

**Christ is born!
Alleluia!**



Council Highlights - January 2015

- Discussed capital projects list
- Pastoral acts: funeral for John Argall 1/15/15
- Confirmation has changed from Sunday morning to Sunday evenings and will be held twice each month.
- Pastor inquired if Bethany would be interested in having another intern.

Special council meeting—January 17

- Reviewed project list and prioritized list.
- Reviewed proposed 2015 budget and voted to present it to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

February Funeral Visitation: Robert Nadeau and Ted Swanson

Reminder

Thrivent Choice Dollars

For those members with Thrivent investments, it is time to designate where you would like your 2014 Thrivent Choice Dollars to go. If you wish, your Choice Dollars can be designated to Bethany.

You can make your designation online or you may get help from your Thrivent representative. Your designation must be made before the end of March.

Answer to Conversation Hearts Puzzle

Answer: "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8, NIV

Highlights of the Annual Meeting—January 25, 2015

- Congregation approved the proposed budget for 2015.
- Bethany received 8 new members during 2014 – two adult members (Betty Geier and Carrie Meyer) and six members through baptism.
- The officers and administrative boards for 2015



Pastor—Rev. Warren Geier

Executive Director—Robert Nadeau

Assistant Executive Director—Ted Swanson

Secretary – Tom Perry

Financial Secretary – Wendy Penhale

Christian Education—Tonya Perry (Director), Sheree Mariani, Kathy Geier, Sarah Waters

Finance—Jim Kinnunen (Director), Cheryl Sleeman, Rick Rhoades, Wendy Penhale, Ryan Lusardi

Personnel—Tom Ryan (Director), Edward Johns, Greg Stahlmann, Doug Carter

Property—Bill Heavyside (Director), Tom Sodergren, Bruce Bussone, Tom Brown, Robert Maki, Karen Johnson, Jerry Plaisier, Robert Waters, Knut Strom, Tim Grant, Bob Bruhnke, Paul Kniivila

Social Ministry—Marie Chilman (Director), Jill Carter, Rae Elliot, Kathy Geier, Loreth Johnson, LaVerne Koski, Pat Liivoja, Harriet Maki, Marian Medlyn, Sue Ryan, Ruth Solberg

Stewardship—Tom Perry (Director), David Leverton, Kaye Frederickson, Tom Brown

Worship and Music—Keenan Tunnell (Director), Robert Bucan, Linda Dahl, Ruby Kaukola, Sue Holmgren, Gary Sundblad, Kay Chartre, Linda Hurrell, Tonya Perry

Memorial Committee—Karen Plaisier, Pastor Geier, Ruby Kaukola, Marian Medlyn, Robert Nadeau, John Pontti



Cradle Roll

Chase Cameron Clark was born to Cory and Amber Clark on January 9, 2015. Chase weighed 6 pounds 10 ounces and was 19 inches long. He joins his older sisters Camie Lynn and Audrina Amber-Ann.

Congratulations to Chase's parents and his grandparents Robert and Peggy Clark and his great-grandfather James Sodergren.



**If the Bible is our food,
then prayer is our air.
It's the way by which we draw
in the atmosphere of God.**



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
- Sisters' Blend, Reg. & Decaf
- Teas
- Hot cocoa
- Baking Cocoa
- Milk Chocolate Bar
- Dark Chocolate Mini Bars



Keep In Your Prayers

- Remember our home-bound and nursing home residents: Teckla Holmgren (Mather), Doreen Brown (Valente), Joyce Lehto (Mill Creek), Marjorie Rosten (Valente), Shirley Sundblad (Valente), Anna Mae Collins (Mather), Jean Anderson (Valente), Allen Maki (Jacobetti). Geri Maki (Jacobetti). Bob Waters (Jacobetti)
- Jason & Rachel Argall and Dan & Sharon Argall who mourn the loss of Jason's father and Dan's brother John Argall
- Dan & Sharon Argall and family who mourn the loss of their sister-in-law Tammy
- Ruth & Roger Solberg who mourn the loss of Ruthie's brother
- Ned Johns
- Bob Clark
- Tom Brown
- Carl Pellonpaa
- Peter Cain
- Ralph Goethe
- Robert Maki
- Robert Nadeau
- Betty Geier
- Zander Atkins
- Don Doney
- Jim Sodergren, Sr.
- Jim Bjerne
- Emilie Brown
- Pastor Marcia Solberg
- Doris Pellonpaa
- Kathy Routhier
- Nancy Swanson
- Angie Kempainen
- Mary Bertucci
- June Forsberg
- Allen Beauchamp
- Carol and Juan Papaleo and family
- Pam Waters
- Those in the military that they may remain safe



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



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

485-1625
linkarzig@gmail.com



Bethany Lutheran Church
715 Mather Avenue
Ishpeming, MI 49849

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Bethany Lutheran Church
Phone: 906-486-4351
Fax: 906-486-9640
E-mail: bethanyim@hotmail.com
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, Tonya Perry
Finance, Jim Kinnunen
Personnel, Tom Ryan
Property, Bill Heavyside
Social Ministry, Marie Chilman
Stewardship, Tom Perry
Worship & Music, Keenan Tunnell



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Northern Great Lakes Synod

February Worship Assistants

February 1

Assisting Minister - Ryan Lusardi
Acolytes - Jackson Cardoni and Matthew Skewis
Altar - Sue Holmgren
Greeters -
Coffee Hosts - Christian Ed—ELCA Youth Gathering
Flowers - In honor of their mothers by Tom & Tonya Perry
Nursery - Jessica Penhale
Bread - Kathy Geier

February 8

Assisting Minister - Kay Ryan
Acolytes - Kayla Koski and Hope Kaukola
Altar - Jean Johns' team
Greeters -
Coffee Hosts - Social Ministry
Flowers - In memory of Inez Simons by Colleen Sundblad
Nursery - Terra Frustaglio
Bread - Shirley Tyni

February 15

Assisting Minister - Noah Kaukola
Acolytes - Kyra Holmgren and Garrett Frustaglio
Altar - Jean Johns' team
Greeters -
Coffee Hosts - Quilters (Pie from the Pie Social)
Flowers -
Nursery - Savannah Marietti
Bread - Kaye Frederickson

February 22

Assisting Minister - Kathy Harrington
Acolytes - Gavin Argall and Ben Bruhnke
Altar - Jean Johns' team
Greeters -
Coffee Hosts - Barb Lucas and friends
Nursery - Noah Kaukola

February 18 - Ash Wednesday 6:30pm

Assisting Minister - Ned Johns
Acolytes - Mackenzie Ryan and Morgan Rhoades
Bread - Kay Chartré

February Ushers:

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



March Ushers:

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

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
- 11 Roy Koski
- 13 Linda Bertucci
- 13 Harriet Maki
- 13 Debbie Snell
- 14 Thomas Varda
- 18 John Beerling
- 18 Michael Flynn
- 18 Lindsey Drebenstedt
- 19 Marvin Toivonen
- 23 Seth Bjorne
- 23 Denise Kaukola
- 23 Victoria Mattson
- 24 Ethan Argall
- 25 Teckla Holmgren
- 27 John Carlson
- 27 Garret Frustaglio

FEBRUARY



Happy Anniversary!

Jerry & Roberta Luokkala
2/13/1971 44 years

James & Holly Bjorne
2/14/1981 34 years

Allen & Geri Maki
2/18/1950 65 years

