



Bethany Lutheran Outlook
July - August 2018

Serving God, Community, and Individuals



But let justice roll
on like a river, righteousness
like a never-failing
stream!

Amos 5:24



PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

The Monday after the flooding in the Keweenaw, Bishop Katherine Finegan called me and said that an effort was underway to gather food, water and other supplies to be delivered to the Copper Country. Could Bethany be the area drop off site? "Maybe you could just set a table in the narthex and hopefully the word will get out and we'll get enough to fill it."

Twenty-four hours later, here's what the narthex looked like.



Needless to say, the table was full...and then some! All day long on Tuesday people arrived, some with large amounts, some with smaller amounts. One woman came all the way from Petoskey saying that she used to live in the Keweenaw and still knows lots of people up there and she just wanted to do something. The original plan was for one woman to come with her car at 5 o'clock on Tuesday and take what had been collected up to Houghton. Instead, at the end of the day on Tuesday it required several car and truck loads, some made the trip on Tuesday night, some on Wednesday. All in all, it was tremendous outpouring of generosity on very short notice, a positive response to a difficult situation.

The flooding and damage that occurred are the kind of thing that we expect to happen to other parts of the country. We get 200 inches of snow and people say, "At least we don't have floods and fires and tornadoes like they do in other places." This time though, such a thing did happen to us. The UP even made the national news, which doesn't happen very often.

When natural disasters occur, especially when they involve loss of life which sadly this one did, a question that often comes up is, “How could God let this happen?” It’s a variation of the “Why do bad things happen to good people?” question, to which there is really no one answer that adequately satisfies every situation. I’m not going to try and answer it here either, other than to say that unfortunately, tragic events almost seem to be necessary as a means of reminding us of how good we can be. As has been the case with the flooding in the Copper Country, the response in the face of such events winds up being a “love thy neighbor” response as people make sacrifices to help those in need. The faith community is always a big part of it.

One of the quotes I wind up going back to (and I’m not sure who first said it) is, “Everything that happens is not God’s will, but God has a will in everything that happens.” Rather than to question “Why?” we do better to ask what God would have our response be. As we answer that, the love of God is enacted through the love of the neighbor in the midst of the tragedy. Rather than to question *God*, *we do better to question ourselves and ask, “Why does it take a disaster to cause us to be who God would have us be? Why aren’t we like that all the time?” As we answer that, we can perhaps keep in mind that there are always people in need, it’s not just when disaster strikes.*

No one can do it alone but that’s where the church comes in. Together...as individuals, as churches and as a synod...we can do quite a lot!

In closing I would like to thank the Bethany folks who were present all day on Tuesday welcoming people and helping them unload donated items. Also thanks to those who came on Tuesday and Wednesday to help load cars and trucks for delivery. Finally, thanks to all those who contributed food, water, supplies and/or money. The need won’t end right away, so together we’ll stay tuned for future opportunities to help.



DAILY LECTIONARY



The foundational premise of this set of daily readings is their relationship to the Sunday lectionary. The readings are chosen so that the days leading up to Sunday (Thursday through Saturday) prepare for the Sunday readings. The days flowing out from Sunday (Monday through Wednesday) reflect upon the Sunday readings.

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

July 2018

1 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 Psalm 130 2 Cor. 8:7-15 Mark 5:21-43

2 Psalm 18:1-6, 43-50 1 Samuel 23:14-18 2 Cor. 8:16-24

3 Psalm 18:1-6, 43-50 1 Samuel 31:1-13 2 Cor. 9:1-5

Readings for Thomas, Apostle

Judges 6:36-40 Psalm 136:1-4, 23-26 Ephesians 4:11-16 John 14:1-7

4 Psalm 18:1-6, 43-50 1 Cor. 10:1-14 Mark 9:14-29

5 Psalm 48 2 Samuel 2:1-11 1 Cor. 4:8-13

6 Psalm 48 2 Samuel 3:1-12 2 Cor. 10:7-11

7 Psalm 48 2 Samuel 3:31-38 Mathew 8:18-22

8 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 Psalm 48 2 Cor. 12:2-10 Mark 6:1-13

9 Psalm 21 2 Samuel 5:1-10 2 Cor. 11:16-33

10 Psalm 21 2 Samuel 5:11-16 James 5:7-12

11 Psalm 21 2 Samuel 5:17-25 John 7:1-9

12 Psalm 24 Exodus 25:10-22 Colossians 2:1-5

13 Psalm 24 Exodus 37:1-16 Colossians 4:2-18

14 Psalm 24 Numbers 10:11-36 Luke 1:57-80

15 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 Psalm 24 Ephesians 1:3-14 Mark 6:14-29

16 Psalm 68:24-35 2 Samuel 6:6-12a Acts 21:27-39
17 Psalm 68:24-35 2 Samuel 13:12-35 Acts 23:12-35
18 Psalm 68:24-35 2 Samuel 6:16-23 Luke 7:31-35
19 Psalm 89:20-37 1 Chronicles 11:15-19 Colossians 1:15-23
20 Psalm 89:20-37 1 Chronicles 14:1-2 Acts 17:16-31
21 Psalm 89:20-37 1 Chronicles 15:1-2 ; 16:4-13 Luke 18:35-43

22 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 7:1-14a Psalm 89:20-37 Ephesians 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
Readings for Mary Magdalene, Apostle
Ruth 1:6-18 Psalm 73:23-28 Acts 13:26-33a John 20:1-2, 11-18

23 Psalm 61 2 Samuel 7:18-29 Hebrews 13:17-25

24 Psalm 61 2 Samuel 8:1-18 Acts 20:17-38

25 Psalm 61 2 Samuel 9:1-13 Luke 15:1-7

Readings for James, Apostle

1 Kings 19:9-18 Psalm 7:1-10 Acts 11:27 — 12:3a Mark 10:35-45

26 Psalm 14 2 Samuel 10:1-5 Colossians 1:9-14

27 Psalm 14 2 Samuel 10:1-5 Colossians 3:12-17

28 Psalm 14 2 Samuel 10:13-19 John 4:31-38

29 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 11:1-15 Psalm 14 Ephesians 3:14-21 John 6:1-21

30 Psalm 37:12-22 2 Samuel 11:14-21 Philippians 4:10-20

31 Psalm 37:12-22 2 Samuel 11:22-27 Romans 15:22-33

August 2018

1 Psalm 37:12-22 2 Chronicles 9:29-31 Mark 6:35-44

2 Psalm 51:1-12 Exodus 32:19-26a 1 Corinthians 11:17-22

3 Psalm 51:1-12 Joshua 23:1-16 1 Cor. 11:27-34

4 Psalm 51:1-12 Judges 6:1-10 Matthew 16:5-12

5 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 11:26 — 12:13a Psalm 51:1-12 Ephesians 4:1-16 John 6:24-35

6 Psalm 50:16-23 2 Samuel 12:15-25 Ephesians 4:17-24

7 Psalm 50:16-23 2 Samuel 13:1-19 1 Cor. 12:27-31

8 Psalm 50:16-23 2 Samuel 13:20-36 Mark 8:1-10

9 Psalm 130 2 Samuel 13:37 — 14:24 Romans 15:1-6

10 Psalm 130 2 Samuel 14:25-33 Galatians 6:1-10

11 Psalm 130 2 Samuel 15:1-13 Matthew 7:7-11

12 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 Psalm 130 Ephesians 4:25 — 5:2 John 6:35, 41-51

13 Psalm 57 2 Samuel 15:13-31 Ephesians 5:1-14

14 Psalm 57 2 Samuel 18:19-33 2 Peter 3:14-18

15 Psalm 57 2 Samuel 19:1-18 John 6:35-40

Readings for Mary, Mother of Our Lord

Isaiah 61:7-11 Psalm 34:1-9 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 1:46-55

16 Psalm 111 1 Kings 1:1-30 Acts 6:8-15

17 Psalm 111 1 Kings 1:28-48 Romans 16:17-20

18 Psalm 111 1 Kings 2:1-11 John 4:7-26

19 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 2:10-12 ; 3:3-14 Psalm 111 Ephesians 5:15-20 John 6:51-58

20 Psalm 101 1 Kings 3:16-28 Acts 6:1-7

21 Psalm 101 1 Kings 7:1-12 Acts 7:9-16

22 Psalm 101 1 Kings 8:1-21 Mark 8:14-21

23 Psalm 84 1 Kings 4:20-28 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

24 Psalm 84 1 Kings 4:29-34 Romans 13:11-14

Readings for Bartholomew, Apostle

Exodus 19:1-6 Psalm 12 1 Cor. 12:27-31a John 1:43-51

25 Psalm 84 1 Kings 5:1-12 Luke 11:5-13

26 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 8:22-30, 41-43 Psalm 84 Ephesians 6:10-20 John 6:56-69

27 Psalm 11 1 Kings 5:13-28 Ephesians 5:21 — 6:9

28 Psalm 11 1 Kings 6:1-14 Ephesians 6:21-24

29 Psalm 11 1 Kings 6:16-25 John 15:16-25

30 Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9 Song of Solomon 1:1-17 James 1:1-8

31 Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9 Song of Solomon 2:1-7 James 1:9-16

Enjoy the Poetry of Hymns

Let Streams of Living Justice

Let streams of living justice flow down upon the earth.
Give freedom's light to captives; let all the poor have worth.
The hungry's hands are pleading; the workers claim their rights,
The mourners long for laughter, the blinded seek for sight.
Make liberty a beacon, strike down the iron power.
Abolish ancient vengeance. Proclaim your people's hour.

The dreaded disappearance of family and friend,
The torture and the silence – the fear that knows no end.
The mother with her candle, the child who holds a gun,
The old one nursing hatred – all seek release to come.
Each candle burns for freedom, each light's a tyrant's fall.
Each flower placed for martyrs gives tongue to silenced call.

For healing of the nations, for peace that will not end.
For love that makes us lovers, God grant us grace to mend.
Weave our varied gifts together: knit our lives as they are spun.
On your loom of life enroll us till the thread of life is run.
O great Weaver of our fabric, bind church and world in one.
Dye our texture with your radiance, light our colors with your sun.

Your city's built for music: we are the stones you seek.
Your harmony is language. We are the words you speak.
Our faith we find in service, our hope in other's dreams.
Our love in hand of neighbor. Our homeland brightly gleams.
Inscribe our hearts with justice, your way – the path untried:
Your truth – the heart of stranger, your life – the Crucified.

– William Whitla
ELW #710



~ From the Bishop

Jesus himself came near and went with them, And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad.



Then one of them, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?"

They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel."

~Luke 24: 16-21

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Jesus walks alongside Cleopas and his unnamed companion on the road to Emmaus and listens to them. And as they talk and try to make sense of recent events, they share their disappointed hopes, that this man Jesus was the one on whom they had placed some substantial expectation, no less than the redemption of Israel as they hoped Jesus would free the country from oppressive Roman rule, and more than that, hopes for the unmistakable presence and action of God in the world. "We had hoped he was the one to redeem Israel," they say. We had hoped.

I dare say, we know that feeling of heartbreaking disappointment. You can hear that feeling in the words, we had hoped the tumor would be benign. We had hoped the treatment would work. We had hoped the job would pan out. We had hoped... Or perhaps more to the point of who we are as the church... We had hoped that the decline would abate. We had hoped the Sunday school would grow, we had hoped to see a turn around by now, that my church would stay open long enough to see me buried there, that we'd be able to pay the bills. We had hoped that things would get better.

To Cleopas and his companion, Jesus exclaims, "Oh how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe!" Jesus has heard their disappointed hopes, and yet, in this exclamation we hear of the disconnect, the lack of alignment between their hopes and what Jesus knows that God is up to. Cleopas and his companion may have hoped for the defeat of Rome and the restoration of Israel, but Jesus lets them know that

God's hopes are oh so much bigger than that. That there is so much more going on than just their small and limited perspective of what salvation means and how this first Easter afternoon moment is about so much more than their present pain and grief, no matter how acute and heartbreaking it is.

I do believe we are in a similar moment, although for us, the moment is spanning years, decades even. Like Cleopas and his friend, in our moment, we cannot see the bigger picture of what God is up to. You know, and I know, that the church is different than it was 500 years ago, and it's different from what it was 50 years ago. Even 30 years ago. In the everyday work of ministry, things are continuing. Communities are being served. Christ is proclaimed in word and deed. Faith is being formed. But of course, if we look at the trends of the last 30-50 years, we see a marked and steady decline. There are more empty pews, less young people, whole demographics that are missing. Our average age is, well, older. More and more of our congregations will close. Beautiful and beloved buildings will be sold or repurposed. It's already happening.

We had hoped.

But consider, for what had we hoped? That things would stay the same? And what would that have looked like? When I was growing up in the church, I don't remember ever hearing the exhortation to invite my neighbor to church. Probably because my pastor, and everyone else, simply assumed that my neighbor and everyone else's neighbor, was already going to church. They were already saved. The only people who needed saving were the godless heathen that lived across some ocean. And so the church faithfully and generously attended to that by placing an offering for mission in the offering plate. The Mission Field was over there, way over there. And our job here was to do church well, and for the most part that meant attending to the education of members, baptisms, weddings, funerals, and the care and comfort of those who claimed the church as their church.

Now, thirty to fifty years later, the mission field has changed. And it is no longer so easily attended to as putting an offering in the offering plate. Suddenly, we have to work at it. It takes effort, conversation. It takes building relationships until there's a level of trust in which you have the courage to extend an invitation to worship or you finally find the words to describe why Jesus matters to you. Such things have not been the focus of our tradition.

We have not been taught how to do this. How to consider the mission that sits across your dinner table or next to you at the café. We have not been trained in how to talk about Jesus with the co-worker in the cubicle next to you, or the classmate whose locker is next to yours. This is not your fault. And it's not your pastor's fault. And it's not your Bishop's fault. The world has shifted, and no one told us to put it on the calendar. But this is our walk to Emmaus moment. This is the moment where we realize that there is more going on than our present grief and pain, no matter how acute or heart-breaking.

Our hopes that our current congregations would maintain the status quo is perhaps not the hope that is in God's mind. It might well be that God has something bigger, something that is so much more than the longevity of any single beloved congregation. God is up to something. The Holy Spirit is on the move. And we would be blessed to see this present moment, our time in history, as opportunity.

This is where we get to learn something new. This is where our hearts will burn with the unmistakable presence of God in Christ Jesus who breaks open the kingdom of God and asks us to consider more than just our present pain and anxiety. It's not just about keeping the doors open. It's not just about paying the bills. It's not about keeping things the way they are, or getting back to the way they were, as if we ever could. It's about Jesus. It is, and always has been, always and forever, about Jesus. How then, are we to be faithful to this moment, our moment, that is only a part of the decades it will take for the fulcrum of history to turn? How are we to be faithful as our Easter afternoon journey with Jesus continues?

It is not an easy thing, to see past the grief and pain of the present moment and trust that God has a bigger plan in mind. Anxiety runs high. We feel the threat of loss. And the present circumstances demand that we be church in a way where we have yet to learn the skill set that is necessary. And it is difficult to align our hopes with God's plans when we have no idea what that plan is. We may not see it in our lifetime. Yet, as we move around this corner of time, we are being shaken out of our stupor of disappointed hopes to see and understand that the road is before us, our time in history is now, our Emmaus moment is now, and the journey, while it has taken a turn, continues.

But you do not walk this road alone. Jesus is with you. Jesus walks alongside you. And you know him. Your hearts burn with a desire to serve him, and they burn with deeper knowledge than this world can provide. You are the church. You are the body of Christ in the world, nourished at his table, fortified in the scriptures, blessed with the presence of Christ in each other. And you are sent, to come alongside those who are in grief and pain, and listen to their disappointed hopes, hear what they have to say, and let them know that you heard them. And then, be the presence of Christ to them. Let them see in you, the one who died and rose. The one in whom our hope rises. Let them hear your story, and hear from you, why it is that Jesus matters.

Amen



O greater Maker
sun,

of this thy great

Give me the strength this one day's race to run,
Fill me with light, fill me with sun-like strength,
Fill me with joy to rob the day its length.
Light from within, light that will outward shine,
Strength to make strong some weaker heart than mine,
Joy to make glad each soul that feels its touch;
Great Father of the sun, I ask this much.

—James Weldon Johnson

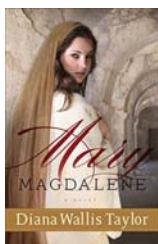


Library Notes for July - August 2018

By Keenan Tunnell

As I have written elsewhere in this issue of OUTLOOK, we celebrate St. Mary Magdalene in July and the Blessed Virgin Mary in August. I have chosen both works of fiction and theology to present these two great women of faith. See what you can learn about these two women who were so close to Jesus and what they might mean to your life.

Diana Wallis Taylor. **Mary Magdalene, a novel FIC DIA**



Long maligned as a prostitute or a woman of questionable reputation, Mary Magdalene's murky story seems lost to the sands of time. Now a portrait of this enigmatic woman comes to life in the hands of an imaginative master storyteller. Ms Taylor's Mary is a woman devastated by circumstances beyond her control and plagued by dreams--until she has a life-changing confrontation with the Savior.

Lovers of historical and biblical fiction will find this creative telling of Mary's story utterly original and respectful as it opens their eyes to the redeeming work of Christ in the lives of those who follow him. (from Amazon.com's intro)

Hahn, Scott. **Hail, Holy Queen 232.91 HAH**

Most Christians know that the life of Jesus is foreshadowed throughout the Old Testament.



Through a close examination of the Bible, as well as the work of both Catholic and Protestant scholars and clergy, Hahn brings to light the small but significant details showing that just as Jesus is the "New Adam," so Mary is the "New Eve"Building on both scriptural and historical foundations, Hahn presents a new look at the Marian doctrines: Her Immaculate Conception, Perpetual Virginity, Assumption, and Coronation. As he guides modern-day readers through passages filled with mysteries and poetry, Hahn helps them rediscover the ancient art and science of reading the Scriptures and gain a

more profound understanding of their truthfulness and relevance to faith and the practice of religion in the

contemporary world. This is a fresh and enlightening new perspective on Mary, Mother of God, and her central importance in the Christian faith by an internationally renowned Catholic convert, lecturer, apologist, and professor of theology. (from jacket)

NOTE: Other titles on Mary already in our library include: **Blessed one; Protestant perspectives on Mary** (232.91 GAV); **Mary; glimpses of the Mother of Jesus** (232.91 GAV.2); **The Lost Gospel of Mary; the Mother of Jesus in Three Ancient Texts** (232.91 MAT); **Strange Heaven...**(232.91 SWE); **Mary of Nazareth** FIC HAL); and **Girl Mary** (FIC POP).



Pastor Geier's icon of the
St. Mary Magdalen (2018)

FREE BOOKS

Kathy Geier and I spent a few hours last week checking through the oldest part of the Children's Collection of the library. We discarded many books outright for being in very poor condition and/or having severely dated material. Others, which are suffering mostly from physical deterioration and little claim to attention of young readers, e.g. boring covers, small print, have been placed on a table at the back of the Fellowship Hall for your perusal ... and adoption, if you think you might "sell" them to a child, grandchild, or some other youngster of your acquaintance. We have a couple of ideas of new homes for them in August, but if you have suggestions, please see me or Kathy. Thanks, as always, for your support! *Keenan*

Mary, Mother of Our Lord, 15 August is her festival day



A great article from *Living Lutheran* (April 1, 2013) discusses the place of the Virgin Mary in Lutheranism in response to a question by a Lutheran in Tanzania named Anzarabi. A number of persons (presumably from the *Living Lutheran* staff) respond to the topic, some of which I quote below:

The first response is from David: “Along with the broad tradition of Christianity, Lutherans do address Mary by the title: mother of God. That is actually a technical title (“Theotokos” in Greek) affirmed by the ecumenical council of Ephesus in 431. Martin Luther himself spoke of Mary with great reverence and respect, and Lutherans ought to continue to do so.”

A responder named Monica cites Luther’s 1521 commentary on the “Magnificat and refers Anzarabi to the Wikipedia article on Lutheran Marian theology, which again cites his 1521 *Commentary on the Magnificat*, in which he extolled the magnitude of God’s grace toward Mary and her own legacy of Christian instruction and example demonstrated in her canticle of praise.

The final responder is Anne, who believes that, “in Mary, Lutherans have an incredible opportunity to not only move beyond our prejudices about Roman Catholics but also discover for ourselves one of the most important figures in our shared Christian story: Mary, not only for what she did, but for who she was and what that says about how God’s power is revealed in weakness.... The last place you would expect to find God is in the womb of a poor, unwed teenager, a virgin with no position or power of her own. If we honor the cross as the central image of our story, the prime example of God showing up in unexpected places, we must also honor Mary. From even before he was born, Jesus was turning the world and its expectations upside down.”

Luther himself had lots to say about Mary: He comments on Mary in his sermon on the Annunciation, 1522: “Today in the church calendar we recall the angel Gabriel’s visit to Mary: She shut her eyes and trusted in God who could bring all things to pass, even though common sense were against it; and because she believed, God did to her as he said.... there are here three miracles: that God and man should be joined in this Child, that a mother should remain a virgin; that Mary should have such faith as to believe that this mystery would be accomplished in her.” Further comments by him on the

Feast of the Assumption, 1522. Today in the church calendar we recall the Blessed Virgin Mary's assumption into Heaven. "There can be no doubt that the Virgin Mary is in heaven. How it happened we do not know. And since the Holy Spirit has told us nothing about it, we can make of it no article of faith . . . It is enough to know that she lives in Christ.

Mary Magdalene, Apostle
Jesus' faithful friend and disciple
22 July is her festival day
So...Who was Mary Magdalene?



Mary Magdalene was a follower of Jesus of Nazareth, who cured her of an unknown illness. She led a group of women who provided for Jesus and his followers from their own resources. She was there during his ministry in Galilee and Judea, heard him teach, and may have been his financial backer, dealing with the practical details of looking after a group of men and women. *See Luke 8:1-3.*

- Mary was at the crucifixion – each of the four gospel accounts of the crucifixion and death of Jesus show her there. She was faithful to the end. *See Mark 15:40-41, Luke 23:49, Matthew 27:55-56, John 19:25*
- Mary witnessed the resurrection on Easter morning when she discovered that Jesus' body was missing from the tomb. She was the first person to speak to Jesus after the Resurrection. She is called 'Apostle to the Apostles', because the risen Jesus told her to 'go and tell', *apostellein in Greek. See Mark 16:1-11, Luke 24:1-11, Matthew 28:1-10, John 20:1-18*

Mary is often depicted on icons bearing a vessel of ointment, not because of the anointing by the "sinful woman" (one longheld misinterpretation of another Gospel narrative), but because she was among those women who brought ointments to the tomb of Jesus. For this reason, she is also called a Myrrhbearer.



Dear Members and Friends of Bethany,

As you have likely noticed, a good part of the work planned in January to maintain and upgrade our beautiful church home has been completed. The education wing is now protected with a new roof, many old windows have been replaced with efficient units, and exterior wood trim is being covered with maintenance-free metal. Soon the tall sanctuary windows will have a new exterior appearance and will be much more energy efficient and old steel doors will be replaced with lighter, more efficient units.

As the work continues during the summer months, and as planning begins to renovate the main floor restrooms, it's a good time to take stock of our current situation and to recall the commitment made at the annual meeting in January.

At that meeting, the support voiced was overwhelmingly positive that this work should be done and that it should be completed as soon as possible, rather than in a piecemeal fashion over the next several years. To that end, council voted and the congregation approved, raising funds through an appeal to the congregation and borrowing the balance, if needed.

The total project cost was estimated at \$200,000. Of that amount, Bethany started with \$24,059 from the Memorial Funds and \$48,184 from the gift of a member. These amounts were half of the total in each fund.

That left \$127,757 to raise or borrow. To date, we have received \$33,735 in donations from the congregation. In order to be sure we could pay the contractors for work completed and upcoming, we have borrowed \$100,000 from Mission Investments, where some of Bethany's funds are currently invested. That check was received this past week.

We will shortly begin to make monthly payments on this \$100,000 loan which will be \$1,079 per month for ten years.

It's anticipated that contributions from the congregation will permit Bethany to repay this loan much sooner, hence this reminder message. The more we contribute now, the fewer and shorter will be the payments on the loan.

Enclosed you will find a pledge form allowing members to declare their support for these needed projects. We ask that you prayerfully consider how you can best help us shoulder this financial responsibility.

The projects have been carefully and prudently planned, with some lesser items eliminated to save costs. Each has been reviewed by our project committee members responsible for overseeing the contractors' work. Every effort is being made to accomplish as much as possible at the most reasonable cost.

It should be noted, too, that just as we voted in January to approve these projects and bear the costs, we also voted to approve an operating budget with a \$15,646 deficit. As of the end of May, the operating budget deficit is \$7,110. We ended last year in the black, thanks to responsible giving. Our giving to support these projects exists separate from, not instead of, the day to day cost of operating the church.

We have had a wonderful church home bequeathed to us through the generosity, sacrifice and foresight of the faith leaders who came before us.

All we have to do is take care of it.

Yours in Christ,

Bethany Finance Committee
Jim Kinnunen, Chair

The Church in Our Hands

Recently I was walking down the hall on a Sunday morning and stopped by a children's Sunday school class. They had a little plastic church building that they used to collect their offering. I was fascinated by the toy and picked it up to look at it. Very quickly one of the little boys said, "Be careful, John Ed, you have our church in your hands." That statement both inspired and intimidated me. In a larger sense, God has entrusted the church in our hands. What an awesome opportunity!

-John Ed Mathison





Hope



Beacon



Vacation Bible School

August 5 - 9

Wesley United Methodist Church

Theme: Shipwrecked!

RAE



Bethany joins Bethel Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran, and Wesley United Methodist (VBS hosts) for a week of fun activities.

Guac



Stay tuned for opportunities to volunteer.

Registration forms can be found on the kiosk
or register your children online at
<http://www.myvbs.org/ishpemingwesley/>.



Fellowship Hall Floor original 1962 Will patch asbestos floor and put down carpet squares which are replaceable if ruined.

Sanctuary original 1970 Carpet

Church Pews and Choir Chairs 1970 reupholster both



Social Ministry

The Social Ministry Board would like to remind and encourage people to keep bringing items for the food table in the narthex during the summer months. Donations to local agencies providing food tend to decrease during this time but the number of people in need of food assistance is growing. The table is regularly cleared and food delivered to individuals, families and groups like the Salvation Army and St. Vincent de Paul.



Hunger knows no season. If every member could bring one item a week, we would have boxes of food for hungry people. Thank you.



**The July - August Noisy
Offering will be given to the Feeding America -
U.P. Foodbank
Thanks to everyone for your generosity!**



Bethany concluded the June 24th worship service with a special sending for those attending the Youth Conference in Houston, Texas. Those attending are Gwen Bruhnke, Nathan Jarvi, Megan Racine, Abby Koski, and Abbi Bruhnke.

Flood Recovery Update for Keweenaw Area

Flood recovery goes on! Again, thank you to all who have helped in ANY way. This week we are beginning to move from the initial **response** phase to **recovery** phase. Here is what you can do for days and weeks to come:

WHAT WE NEED

- Pickup trucks and trailers to move debris piles into dump sites.
- Volunteers to make and deliver lunches and various supplies to work sites.
- Volunteers to help finish the mucking out stage.
- Visquine, duct tape, smaller (12 oz) Gatorade or Powerade, fans, dehumifiers.

Financial donations can be made through Keweenaw Community Foundation (906-482-9673), Portage Health Foundation (906-523-5920), Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan / Lutheran Disaster Response (<https://www.lsswis.org/Keweenaw>) or any other organization that you may be aware of.

WHAT WE DON'T NEED

- Bottled water, clothing, furniture, food, most tools.

LONG RANGE PLANS

When non-locals leave toward the end of the week, it will be (and has been and will continue to be!) **local people** who will need to do what we can to help individuals in need. We will need to organize and mobilize people through churches and community organizations. More on just how that will happen at a later date. This would be a great time for the **Copper Country Ministerial** to be revitalized! A meeting will be called for in the near future once the long range plan has been set in place.

Dee Stadium and the Calumet Coliseum will be **shutting down** toward the end of the week. People will be needed to relocate existing supplies to a new location that has yet to be determined. Food and water supplies can be redistributed to churches, food banks, etc.

A **long range plan** is being set in place with city and county planners. It will facilitate the transition from mucking out houses to necessary demolition to electrical and construction work on homes. After licensed people do the necessary assessments it will be up to us to organize as many **work crews** as possible to help keep individual homeowners' costs down. Most people will not be covered by insurance. The current estimate is that approximately 500 were damaged.

To help, call the **volunteer help line** at 906-233-6621.



IF you have checked in once at the Volunteer Resource Center, you can call St. Ignatius (Annette) at 906-369-6642 or Salvation Army at (906-281-4968 (Leonita). If you have NOT checked in yet at the Volunteer Resource Center, PLEASE do this. There are many safety, financial and logistic reasons for this, so PLEASE DO NOT self-deploy. It will help to have this all documented and organized through the Volunteer Resource Center.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Pastor Bucky Beach
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church / Lutheran Campus Ministry

A Volunteer's Prayer

I thank thee, Lord, as a volunteer:
For the chance to serve again this year;
To give of myself in some small way
To those not blessed as I each day.

My thanks for health of mind and soul
To aid me ever toward my goal;
For eyes to see the good in all,
A hand to extend before a fall.

For legs to go where the need is great
Learning to love — forgetting to hate;
For ears to hear and heart to care
When someone's cross is hard to bear.

A smile to show my affection true,
With energy plenty the task to do;
And all I ask, dear Lord, if I may,
Is to serve you better, day by day.





ELCA presiding bishop, faith leaders issue statement on family separation

6/7/2018 12:30:00 PM

CHICAGO (June 7, 2018) – The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), has convened ELCA ecumenical and inter-religious partners in a statement addressing concerns over a recent U.S. government policy calling for more stringent enforcement of federal immigration laws. The policy will most likely result in an increase in family separations.

The statement follows:

Recently, the Administration announced that it will begin separating families and criminally prosecuting all people who enter the U.S. without previous authorization. As religious leaders representing diverse faith perspectives, united in our concern for the wellbeing of vulnerable migrants who cross our borders fleeing from danger and threats to their lives, we are deeply disappointed and pained to hear this news.

We affirm the family as a foundational societal structure to support human community and understand the household as an estate blessed by God. The security of the family provides critical mental, physical and emotional support to the development and wellbeing of children. Our congregations and agencies serve many migrant families that have recently arrived in the United States. Leaving their communities is often the only option they have to provide safety for their children and protect them from harm. Tearing children away from parents who have made a dangerous journey to provide a safe and sufficient life for them is unnecessarily cruel and detrimental to the wellbeing of parents and children.

As we continue to serve and love our neighbor, we pray for the children and families that will suffer due to this policy and urge the Administration to stop their policy of separating families.



Members of the ELCA ecumenical and inter-religious partners are listed on the following page.

His Eminence Archbishop Vicken Aykazian
Diocesan Legate and Director of the Ecumenical Office
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

Mr. Azhar Azeez President
Islamic Society of North America

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera
Bishop of Scranton, PA
Chair, Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs

Senior Bishop George E. Battle, Jr.
Presiding Prelate, Piedmont Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

Bishop H. Kenneth Carter, Jr.
President, Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry
Presiding Bishop Episcopal Church (United States)

The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer
General Minister & President
United Church of Christ

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

The Rev. David Guthrie
President, Provincial Elders' Conference
Moravian Church Southern Province

Mr. Glen Guyton
Executive Director
Mennonite Church USA

The Rev. Teresa Hord Owens
General Minister and President
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Rabbi Rick Jacobs
President
Union for Reform Judaism

Mr. Anwar Khan
President
Islamic Relief USA

The Rev. Dr. Betsy Miller
President, Provincial Elders' Conference
Moravian Church Northern Province

The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson II
Stated Clerk
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Rabbi Jonah Pesner
Director
Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

The Rev. Don Poest
Interim General Secretary
The Rev. Eddy Alemán
Candidate for General Secretary
Reformed Church in America

Senior Bishop Lawrence Reddick III
Presiding Bishop, The Eighth Episcopal District
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

The Rev. Phil Tom
Executive Director
International Council of Community Churches

Mr. Jim Winkler
General Secretary & President
National Council of Churches USA

Senior Bishop McKinley Young
Presiding Prelate, Third Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Church



Council Highlights— June 2018



1. We are scheduling a presentation by a Thrivent rep to explain their programs in general. Tentative date is Sun, 16 Sep during coffee hour.
2. A project update was provided. We are about 40% complete with the outside work. Planning has started for the bathroom upgrades.
3. We are looking at ways to improve our use of Facebook, e-mail and the website to communicate with congregation members to provide more timely information.
4. Tonya Perry is stepping down as chair of the Board of Christian Education to accept the choir director position effective 1 Sep. Amanda Bivins has agreed to be chair of Christian Ed.
5. A pledge campaign is being undertaken to pay the mortgage for the building improvements costs.

Highlights for NGLS Assembly

- More than 250 delegates and visitors attended Assembly at Messiah and NMU.
- Dr. Larry Pagel appointed Synod Treasurer; Matt Lamb and Doug Norquist installed as Synod Missioners.
- Dr. D.L. Rasner spoke about Tanzanian Youth Trip 2017. Another trip is planned for 2019 or 2020.
- Bob Nadeau attended workshop on updating Bethany's Constitution.
- Jim Duehring was installed as Assistant to the Bishop .
- Adopted budget.
- Heard from Hector Colon (former boxer) who is new head of LSS.
- Heard from Anne Gonyea, Inclusive and Welcoming Task Force.
- Lisa Bouche spoke about upcoming Youth Convention in Houston.
- Keynote speaker was Linda Bobbitt.
- Adopted Resolution calling for a fair Farm Bill.
- Recognized Hunger Award winners.
- Hunger offering was over \$40,000.
- Elections were held.
 - 1.Churchwide Assembly (Clergy): Terry Frankenstein (Manistique) and Doug Johnson (Florence, WI)
 - 2.Synod Consultation Committee (Clergy): Terry Frankenstein, Soren Schmidt (Finlandia, Chassell), Diane Srutowski (Stonington, Perkins)
 - 3.Churchwide Assembly (Lay Persons): Mary Lou Blomquist (Marquette) , Pam Long (South Range), Greg Markkaver (Hancock), Chuck Thomas (Gladstone), Evan Rein (Minocqua)

Christian Gift-Planning

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

Deferred Charitable Gift Annuities are a way for middle-aged older persons to plan gifts to ELCA ministries while providing themselves with a future life income. The longer one can defer the payout from a gift annuity, the higher the resulting income percent for the life of the donor(s). Further, an income tax deduction is received when the deferred gift annuity is entered, and a significant portion of the annual income from the annuity is received tax-free when payments begin. If the intent to make a gift exists, when compared with the historical rates of return of fixed investments (and indeed the current fixed investment rates), ELCA deferred gift annuities represent a significant opportunity for future life income.

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

Building Project Financial Update as of 4/22/2018

Goal	\$200,000.00
Memorial Fund	24,058.76
Bequest	48,183.83
Current gifts/ Building Fund	24,906.57
Balance needed	\$102,850



YTD Income: \$76,965.11
YTD Expenses: \$84,066.92

Jan.—May 2018



Fourth of July at the Geier's

Please feel welcome to join us at 604 N. Third Street to view the Fourth of July Parade again this year! Coffee, lemonade and snacks and pleasant company will be provided!



Lutheran World Relief Kits

School Kits

- Four 70 sheet spiral notebooks (no loose-leaf paper)
- One blunt scissors
- One ruler with inches and centimeters
- One pencil sharpener
- One eraser, approx. 2 1/2" long
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils secured with a rubber band
- Five ballpoint pens secured with a rubber band
- One box of 24 crayons
- All items except crayons should be removed from packaging



Personal Care Kits

- One dark colored bath towel (approx. 52x27)
- Two bath size bars of soap
- One adult size toothbrush left in packaging (if multiple toothbrushes are purchased, put each toothbrush in an envelope)
- One wide too comb (removed from packaging)
- One nail clippers with file (removed from packaging)
- Do not enclose any item in plastic bags.



brushes in packaging

Layettes

- New or gently used items can be used.
- Two cotton t-shirts
- Two gowns or sleepers without feet
- Two receiving blankets
- Four cloth diapers
- One dark colored hand towel
- One sweater with hat or sweatshirt jacket with hood
- Two diaper pins
- Two bath size bars of gentle soap



Bethany will be collecting kits for Lutheran World Relief during August, September and early October. Please consider making some kits and/or bringing in items to help complete individual kits.

Deadline for final collection will be in October with the specific date to be announced at a later time.

Fabric Kits

- Two pieces of cotton or cotton blend fabric (no knits of 100% polyester) measuring:
 - 2 1/4 yds of 60" wide fabric or
 - 3 yds of 44" or 45" wide fabric or
 - 4 yds of 36" wide

Two spools of neutral colored thread

Tie items together with ribbon, yarn, string, or a



strip of fabric (No plastic bags)

Keep In Your Prayers

Remember our home-bound and nursing home residents:

Valente:

Jacobetti: Carol Waters

Teal Lake Senior Living Community: Betty Geier, Jean Johns

Mill Creek: John Pontti

- Ann Wise
- People of the Keweenaw as they recover from the natural disaster that devastated their communities
- Bob Maki
- Kay Chartre
- Gloria Clickner
- Kathy Geier
- Mark, Kathleen, and Karmen Slow
- Ruby Kaukola
- Dan Argall
- Ray Chartre
- Roger & Ruth Solberg
- Carl & Doris Pellonpaa
- John and Marilyn Pontti
- Jim Sodergren, Jr.
- Cindy Warner
- Bob Kaukola
- Ted Swanson
- Loreth Johnson
- Judy Hogan
- Brown family
- Mark
- Lois Goethe
- Zander Atkins
- Jim Bjorne
- Angie Kempainen
- June Forsberg
- Those in the military that they may remain safe



Bethany's Website
www.bethanyishpeming.org



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



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

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Bethany Lutheran Church
Phone: 906-486-4351
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, Robert Clark
Christian Education, Tonya Perry
Finance, Jim Kinnunen
Personnel, Jim Bjorne
Property, Robert Bruhnke
Social Ministry, Marie Chilman
Stewardship, Tom Perry
Worship & Music, Keenan Tunnell



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Northern Great Lakes Synod



July Worship Assistants

July 1

Assisting Minister - Barb Lucas
Acolyte - Jared Johnson
Altar - Sue Holmgren
Coffee Hosts - Barb Yunkari and friends
Flowers - In memory of Shirley Sundblad
 by Ann Sundblad
Bread - Tonya Perry

July 29

Assisting Minister - Bob Nadeau
Acolyte - Luke Holmgren
Altar - Jill Carter
Coffee Hosts - Shawls
Flowers -
Bread - Shirley Tyni

July 8

Assisting Minister - Beverly Matherne
Acolyte - Luke Holmgren
Altar - Sue Holmgren
Coffee Hosts - Social Ministry
Flowers - In memory of Ruth & Fred Kinnunen
 by Jim & Barb Kinnunen
Bread - Cheryl Frederickson

July 15

Assisting Minister - Jerry and Karen Plaisier
Acolyte - Faith Cain
Altar - Rae Elliot
Coffee Hosts - Worship & Music
Flowers -
Bread - Bob Bucan

July 22

Assisting Minister - Robert Clark
Acolyte - Jared Johnson
Altar - Cathy Barton and Peggy Clark
Coffee Hosts - Strawberry Social
Flowers -
Bread - Kathy Geier



Welcome!

July Ushers:

John Beerling
Jerry Hager
Bill Heavyside
Don Meyer
Dan Sleeman
Bob Bruhnke
Rick Rhoades



Thank You!

Happy Birthday!

1 Linda Dahl
2 Therese Korpi
3 Kellie Clark
3 Nicholas Olgren
3 Gale Henson
6 Kristina Mattson
6 Charles Stahlmann
8 Ann Gonyea
8 Florence Pohlman
9 Dan Argall
9 Claire Johnson
10 Loreth Johnson
10 Roger Solberg
12 Aaron Mattson
12 Jessica Penhale
13 Ruth Solberg
13 Tim Grant
14 Morgan Rhoades
14 Carol Anderson
14 Lily Brown
15 Kyle Wooden
17 Donald Meyer
22 Judith Meyer
23 Blake Forbes
23 Zander Atkins
23 Brady James Johnson
24 Jeffrey Scanlon
24 Keith Holmgren
25 Debbie Leaf
25 Mike Starrine
26 Kay Chartre
26 Jarin Johnson
27 Shirley Tyni
27 Kathy Geier
28 Leigh Gugin
28 Wendy Penhale
28 Mallory Warner



29 Michelle Richards
29 Kevin Ryan
29 Benjamin Meyer
31 Cory Clark
31 Sue Holmgren

Happy Anniversary!

Bruce & Debbie Bussone
7/1/1995 23 years

Bill & Annette Larson
7/7/1956 62 years

Nicholas & Jenna Chartre
7/9/11 7 years

Pastor & Kathy Geier
7/11/92 26 years

Jim & Sandi Sodergren
7/17/93 25 years

Kevin & Kay Ryan
7/18/98 20 years

Dale & Mary Toivonen
7/26/75 43 years

Tony & Lisa Ombrello
7/29/89 29 years



August Worship Assistants

August 5

Assisting Minister - Mike Holman
Acolyte - Faith Cain
Altar - Shirley Tyni
Coffee Hosts - Deb & Bruce Bussone and friends
Flowers -
Bread - Kaye Frederickson

Thank You!

August 12

Assisting Minister - Tom Perry
Acolyte - Luke Holmgren
Altar - Kaye Frederickson
Coffee Hosts - Social Ministry
Flowers - In memory of Peter Cain by Debbie Cain
Bread - Kay Chartre

August 19

Assisting Minister - Gary Sundblad
Acolyte - Ian Bivins
Altar - Sue Holmgren
Coffee Hosts - Stewardship & Personnel
Flowers - In memory of Stuart Sundblad
by Ann Sundblad
Bread - Rae Elliot

August 26

Assisting Minister - Linda Dahl
Acolyte - Faith Cain
Altar - Sandee Sundquist
Coffee Hosts - Finance
Flowers - In memory of Karl Dahl by Linda Dahl
Bread - Linda Dahl

August Ushers:

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



September Ushers:

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

Happy Birthday!

1 Robert Bruhnke
1 Kaitlyn Thompson
1 Jackson Vidlund
3 Kimberlee Smith
4 Stephen Sundblad
7 David Finegan
7 Craig Kitchen
7 Pat Liivoja
7 Debbie Sodergren
8 David Leverton
9 Mackenzie Ryan
10 Rosemarie Strom
12 Stephanie Swanson
13 Rick Rhoades
14 Joan Sundberg
14 Dylan Peterson
15 Debra Cain
16 Karen Mercx
17 Jamie Rhoades
18 Dallas Leaf
18 Dillon Leaf
18 Barbara Lucas
18 Jerry Plaisier
19 Larry Alexander
19 Jane Anderson
22 Gary Sundblad
23 Joelle Johns
24 Vera Blewett
24 Linda Hares
24 Kimberlee Smith
31 Tom Perry

Happy Anniversary!

Gerald & Carol Anderson, Jr.
8/2/75 43 years

Tony & Rae Elliot
8/2/80 38 years



Raymond & Kay Chartre
8/8/70 48 years

Elizabeth & Russell Aho
8/12/95 23 years

Debbie & David Paavo
8/18/84 34 years

Brian & Anita Ulrickson
8/19/78 40 years

Edmund & Sue Holmgren
8/21/65 53 years

Halley & Bobby Reichel
8/21/2010 8 years

Brent & Denise Clark
8/22/92 26 years

Robert & Ruby Kaukola
8/22/70 48 years

Robert & Harriet Maki
8/22/59 59 years

Craig & Judy Kitchen
8/27/87 31 years

Tom & Debbie Sodergren
8/28/76 42 years

Robert & Peggy Clark
8/29/70 48 years

Greg & Carrie Meyer
8/29/09 9 years