



Bethany Lutheran Outlook
March 2014

Serving God, Community, and Individuals



**We are stewards of God's earth,
ruling over that which is not ours.**



PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

This year, Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent falls on March 5th. In a way, it's surprising that Ash Wednesday is still on the liturgical calendar and that people still show up for it because what it represents is so contrary in a culture that wants you to think that with the right pill or the right procedure you can stay young forever. Of all the days in the church year, it is the one on which we most honestly consider the topic that most people avoid, that topic being death...our own death. During Holy Week, especially on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday we think about Jesus' death, but Ash Wednesday is about us. Throughout the church year there are many days and festivals that we "celebrate." Ash Wednesday however, is different. We don't exactly celebrate Ash Wednesday; it's more that we "observe" it.



"Remember you are dust, and to dust you will return" are the words that accompany the smudge of ashes on the foreheads of those who gather. It is a rite that reminds everyone, young and old, of the inevitability of death. The imposition of ashes though, is more than an exercise of grim morbidity. This reminder of death is also a reminder of life and what is important about life. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent which is the season of preparation for Easter; Easter is a celebration of new life! During Lent there is an effort to scale things back a little bit as a way to help us see that real life isn't just about an accumulation of more. Lent includes the realization that sometimes less is more as we recognize that real life is about loving God and loving the neighbor.

The imposition of ashes is a reminder that each of us only has so much time to live, only so much time to love God and neighbor. During the forty days of Lent, greater focus on the traditional disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving help us to remember what real life is and of who we are called to be as followers of Christ.



This year our observance of Ash Wednesday will be a little different. We will still have the traditional Ash Wednesday service including confession, the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion at 6:30 in the evening. The service will be preceded by the first of our Lenten soup suppers at 5:30. In addition to that there will be a shorter afternoon service at 12:15. This will be a spoken service and will include confession and the imposition of ashes. I will also be available between 4 and 5:30 in the afternoon for any who would simply like to come by for the imposition of ashes. Whatever option you choose you are invited to come for soup at 5:30.



Bishop Eaton has reminded us of the centrality of worship in who we are as a church. The focus is a bit different on Ash Wednesday but it is an important day for us to gather as a worshipping community. We are reminded of death, our own death, but we're also reminded of God's love and grace that extend beyond death into the eternal life won for us by Jesus Christ. We observe Ash Wednesday, but in that observance we do also celebrate.

Psalm to Ashes

(remember you are dust)

The tender scrape
of a sooty finger, marking me
the way another did, once
with oil, scented with the spice
of new life.

Gray smudges of the sort
my mother scrubbed clean,
until I discovered her worn
thumb stained with the ash
of life.

Feel it, that outer sign
of inner grace: the sacrament
of dirt, that rains into
my eyelashes and settles on
my lips.

(and to dust)

All the world has come
from where all the world
is rushing. But between
we are asked to remember
and to feel.

In a sooty finger the
gentle, powerful hand
of He who bore us and
makes us new out of
the dust.

(you shall return)


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

March 2014

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|--------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--|
| 1 Psalm 2 | 1 Kings 21:20-29 | Mark 9:9-13 | | | |
| 2 Transfiguration of Our Lord | Exodus 24:12-18 | Psalm 2 | 2 Peter 1:16-21 | Matthew 17:1-9 |  |
| 3 Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55 | Exodus 33:7-23 | Acts 7:30-34 | | | |
| 4. Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55 | 1 Kings 19:9-18 | Romans 11:1-6 | | | |
| 5 Ash Wednesday | Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 | Psalm 51:1-17 | 2 Cor. 5:20b -- 6:10 | Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 | |
| 6 Psalm 51 | Jonah 3:1-10 | Romans 1:1-7 | | | |
| 7 Psalm 51 | Jonah 4:1-11 | Romans 1:8-17 | | | |
| 8 Psalm 51 | Isaiah 58:1-12 | Matthew 18:1-7 | | | |
| 9 First Sunday of Lent | Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 | Psalm 32 | Romans 5:12-19 | Matthew 4:1-11 | |
| 10 Psalm 32 | 1 Kings 19:1-8 | Hebrews 2:10-18 | | | |
| 11 Psalm 32 | Genesis 4:1-16 | Hebrews 4:14 -- 5:10 | | | |
| 12 Psalm 32 | Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28 | Matthew 18:10-14 | | | |
| 13 Psalm 121 | Isaiah 51:1-3 | 2 Timothy 1:3-7 | | | |
| 14 Psalm 121 | Micah 7:18-20 | Romans 3:21-31 | | | |
| 15 Psalm 121 | Isaiah 51:4-8 | Luke 7:1-10 | | | |

16 Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17

17 Psalm 128

Numbers 21:4-9

Hebrews 3:1-6

18 Psalm 128

Isaiah 65:17-25

Romans 4:6-13

19 Psalm 128

Ezekiel 36:22-32

John 7:53 -- 8:11

20 Psalm 95

Exodus 16:1-8

Colossians 1:15-23

21 Psalm 95

Exodus 16:9-21

Ephesians 2:11-22

22 Psalm 95

Exodus 16:27-35

John 4:1-6

23 Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42

24 Psalm 81

Genesis 24:1-27

2 John 1-13

25 Psalm 81

Genesis 29:1-14

1 Cor. 10:1-4

26 Psalm 81

Jeremiah 2:4-13

John 7:14-31, 37-39

27 Psalm 23

1 Samuel 15:10-21

Ephesians 4:25-32

28 Psalm 23

1 Samuel 15:22-31

Ephesians 5:1-9

29 Psalm 23

1 Samuel 15:32-34

John 1:1-9

30 Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41

31 Psalm 146

Isaiah 59:9-19

Acts 9:1-20

By reading the Scriptures I am so renewed that all nature seems renewed around me and with me. The sky seems to be a pure, a cooler blue, the trees a deeper green. The whole world is charged with the glory of God and I feel fire and music under my feet.

—Thomas Merton

The Earthkeeper Interfaith Environmental Initiative, The Cedar Tree Institute, Bethany Lutheran Church (Ishpeming), St. Michael's Catholic Church, the Northern Great Lakes Synod ELCA, & the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan present:

A Planet in Crisis: Religion, Ethics, & the Environment

Larry Rasmussen
Professor Emeritus, Union Theological Seminary

Monday, March 10, 2014: 7 P.M.
NMU University Center: The Brule Room, Marquette, MI



Tuesday, March 11, 2014: 9:30 A.M.—1 P.M.
Challenges for Clergy & Leaders of Faith Communities:
The New Environmental Consciousness

A conversation with clergy/faith leaders and visiting theologian/ethicist
Larry Rasmussen
St. Michael's Catholic Church
401 W. Kaye Ave, Marquette
9:30 Registration; Presentation 10 A.M.—Noon
12-1 P.M. Soup and Bread lunch, donation welcome
RSVP by 3/7: jonwmagnuson@gmail.com/ 906-228-5494



Faith, Ethics, and the Environment:
A Personal Journey
Reflections by Larry Rasmussen: Theologian and ethicist
Tuesday, March 11, 2014: 7 P.M.
Bethany Lutheran Church, 715 Mather Street, Ishpeming

Northern Michigan's Earthkeepers include the following traditions:
Episcopal, Roman Catholic, Jewish, Buddhist, Presbyterian, United Methodist, Unitarian Universalist,
Baha'i, Quaker, & Lutheran (ELCA)

DR. LARRY RASMUSSEN TO SPEAK AT BETHANY

On Tuesday, March 11th we will have the opportunity to hear from another prominent theologian of the church, Dr. Larry Rasmussen. He will speak at Bethany at 7 pm on “Faith, Ethics and the Environment: A Personal Journey.”

Dr. Rasmussen was a professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York for many years (he now has emeritus status) and is one of the world’s foremost environmental ethicists. He is the author of numerous books and articles and a contributor to many others. On top of that, although I have never heard him speak, I’m told by those who have that he is a dynamic and engaging speaker, one who is accessible to general audiences. It is not often that such a prominent scholar comes this way so we are privileged to have Dr. Rasmussen with us and especially to have him speak at Bethany.

I strongly encourage all of you to attend this event on Tuesday the 11th and to invite others to come as well! We have had excellent turnouts for the other speakers we’ve had here over the past few years, Walter Brueggemann and Audrey West, so I encourage your continued support of these efforts to bring leading theologians to our area. This is yet another opportunity to grow in the faith and to learn from a world renowned teacher. I am pleased to have Bethany help to sponsor this event!

A time of coffee and fellowship will follow the presentation.

Dr. Rasmussen will also speak in the Brule Room at NMU on Monday the 10th at 7 pm. The talks at NMU and Bethany will be different and the public is invited to both.

Pastor Geier



Larry Rasmussen:

- Past president of the Society of Christian Ethics & a past editor of *The Annual of the Society of Christian Ethics*
- Served as co-moderator of Unit III (Justice, Peace, Creation) of the World Council of Churches
- Member of the Core Faculty of Auburn Theological Seminary, New York

Larry Rasmussen’s books include:

- Earth-honoring Faith: Religious Ethics in a New Key (Oxford University Press, 2013)
- Earth Community, Earth Ethics (Orbis Books and the World Council of Churches, 1996, winner of the 1997 Grawemeyer Award)

Enjoy the Poetry of Hymns

Jesus Calls Us

Jesus calls us over the tumult
Of our life's wild, restless, sea;
Day by day His sweet voice soundeth,
Saying, "Christian, follow Me!"

As of old Saint Andrew heard it
By the Galilean lake,
Turned from home and toil and kindred,
Leaving all for Jesus' sake.

Jesus calls us from the worship
Of the vain world's golden store,
From each idol that would keep us,
Saying, "Christian, love Me more!"

In our joys and in our sorrows,
Days of toil and hours of ease,
Still He calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love Me more than these!"

Jesus calls us! By Thy mercies,
Savior may we hear Thy call,
Give our hearts to Thine obedience,
Serve and love Thee best of all.

Text by Cecil Frances Alexander, 1823-1895
ELW #696



The Story Behind the Hymn....

Few ministers' wives can write a hymn-to-order for their husbands, even if they are famous poets in their own right. But Cecil Frances Alexander did just that for her preacher husband.

One afternoon during the week of November 25, 1852, her twenty-ninth year, she sat alone in the living room of their parsonage in Tyrone, Ireland, working over a new poem.

When her husband inquired, she replied, "It is a new poem based on your sermon of last Sunday morning." He looked surprised and said, "Honestly, dear, I didn't think you were paying attention."

She reminded him that he had preached on "The burial of Moses," which was the subject of her new poem.

Later that evening, as they talked about the sermon and the poem it had inspired, Mr. Alexander said, "Next Sunday is St. Andrew's Day. Since you wrote about the burial of Moses *after* last Sunday's sermon, I wonder if you could write a poem for next Sunday morning *before* you hear the sermon."



"I'll do what I can," she told him.

He took a Bible and read the account of the calling of Andrew by Jesus as recorded in Mark 1:16-18. They discussed the coming sermon during supper, and she promised to do her best with the poem he had requested.

That night, before retiring, she read the familiar Scripture verses again, and soon wrote down the stanzas which he was to read at the close of his sermon the following Sunday morning.

—Ernest K. Emurian

LENT



Lenten Soup Suppers: 5:30 each Wednesday of Lent

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

- March 5 - Christian Education
- March 12 - Worship and Music
- March 19 - Social Ministry
- March 26 - Finance and Property
- April 2 - Stewardship and Personnel
- April 8 - 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.”



March 5

**12:30 pm
Spoken Service
(Confession and
Imposition of Ashes)**

**4:00 - 5:30
Pastor will be
available for
Imposition of Ashes**

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



Ashes to Ashes

Oh, divine Fire,
burst aflame in my life —
spontaneous combustion
to turn all that traps or crushes growth ...

laziness
busy-ness
self-preoccupation
worries and doubts
indifference ...

to turn all that traps or crushes growth ...
into
ash.

Rendered to ashes by way of a Cross,
The world will know I've been graced by the Fire.

And finally, oh Fire divine,
I will come to know your light and warmth
in the sooty depths of my soul.

—Heidi Mann



Wednesday Lenten Services will Highlight the Drama Series

KNOCK, KNOCK: Jesus' parables of judgment

What happens when we die? What judgment awaits us? If we stop to consider some of the most difficult parables that Jesus told we could end up very concerned for what God's final word might be for us.

There are many parables that Jesus told that end in punishment for those who have not been faithful in one way or another. What do we do with this? How do we hear these stories?

The series' five plays examine five different stories told by Jesus. The main character is John, who has gone to bed one night only to die and find himself at the "Pearly Gates." However, St. Peter is not there to greet him. He is on vacation. Instead, a silly, confused angel is filling in for him. Much to John's displeasure the angel even enjoys telling knock-knock jokes. This angel is not sure what to do with John. When he examines God's word he finds many stories of grace and forgiveness, but also other stories that end with punishment. Should John be allowed in or not?

1. RING BELL FOR SERVICE - Matthew 22:1-46

John arrives at the gates and is greeted by the angel. He is confused. Should he let John in? This first play explores the parable of the great wedding banquet, which at first seems promising to John as he hears that the poor and the outcast are invited. However he also learns about the one man not dressed properly for the banquet who is thrown into the "outer darkness." Has John, and have we, given God our best in life?

2. WHEN THE RENT IS DUE – Matthew 21:33-41

Jesus often used vineyards in his parables as metaphors for God's kingdom. This play looks at the harsh story of the workers who first beat the messengers sent to them by the vineyard owner, and then kill the owner's son in order to claim the vineyard as their own. Do we do the same with the gifts God has given us?

3. NO BUTS - Ephesians 1:3-10; Romans 5:1-11

We rejoice that God has offered us forgiveness. Do we in turn offer the same to our neighbor? This play examines the story of the servant who is shown amazing generosity by the king who forgives his debt, but who cannot bring himself to forgive even the smallest debt owed him. Will God forgive even our lack of forgiveness?

4. SURPRISE! – Matthew 25: 31-46

When people consider the final judgment to come, the parable that might most often come to mind is that of the "sheep and the goats" which concludes Jesus' teaching in the Gospel of Matthew. With the telling of this parable, finally the angel should be able to straighten out the confusion and either allow or deny John entry through the Pearly Gates. Was John a sheep or was he a goat in his lifetime? It's very clear.... or is it?

5. THE GREAT DIVIDE – I Thessalonians 4:13-5:10

In this final play, John is joined at the gates by a questionable character. Vicky is a "bum" who is less than lovable. How will she possibly get "in"? The angel arrives and immediately welcomes Vicky into heaven. John is upset. "Why her?" "Why not me?" The angel asks John, "Don't you remember the story Jesus told about her? The story of Lazarus and the rich man?" This story is unpacked and John must come to grips with the fact that maybe he is like that rich man. In this last play, John realizes that God always gets the final word.

Who is that knocking at the door?



A nurse on the pediatric ward was checking out 4-year-old David with a stethoscope. To put him at ease, after listening to his heart, she put the disk on his chest and the earpieces in his ears, "Listen," she said, "What do you suppose that is?" David wrinkled his eyebrows, and apparently recalling a verse learned at Sunday school, answered, "Is that Jesus knocking?"

Remember this? "Here I am, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me." (Revelation 3:20)

We Take One Day at a Time...



It was really good to be at Bethany in February – even though it was for unexpected and, frankly, unwanted reason.

For those you may not have heard, Larry was in the area taking care of some business and he had a heart attack. He's doing well. It's all meant some life-style changes and Larry is already feeling better for it. There is a more to address with a cardiologist here, but if all goes as we hope, we should both come out of this as the newest and most improved versions of ourselves thus far. Please keep Larry and me in your prayers.

So clearly we could have done without this scare ... or could we? I'm not sure. I know I would rather Larry did not have to go through the pain. I could have done without that day by myself back in Minnesota waiting to hear how he was doing. The cost of this episode and how we address it is a tad overwhelming to think about. It was all very scary.

But I also realize that certainly we are on a better trajectory. Larry is still among us and truly knows he'd prefer to keep it that way for awhile. I feel quite recharged after being able to worship at Bethany and visit with some people, be back in the choir loft for a minute and talk a little about my internship with Pastor and Kathy.

And it is humbling and precious to experience the hospitality and kindness of people who give you a place to sleep and a nourishing bowl of soup when you really need it.

Two people referred to the incident being like the story of the Red Horse, which I think is an Italian epic novel I know nothing about, but I was reminded of another story I read last year at my mom's house. It goes like this:

There is a Chinese story of an old farmer who had an old horse for tilling his fields. One day the horse escaped into the hills and, when all the farmer's neighbors sympathized with the old man over his bad luck, the farmer replied, "Bad luck? Good luck? Who knows?"

A week later the horse returned with a herd of wild horses from the hills and this time the neighbors congratulated the farmer on his good luck. His reply was, "Good luck? Bad luck? Who knows?"



Then, when the farmer's son tried to tame one of the wild horses, he fell off its back and broke his leg. Everyone thought this very bad luck. Not the farmer, whose only reaction was, "Bad luck? Good luck? Who knows?"

Some weeks later the army marched into the village and conscripted every able-bodied youth they found there. When they saw the farmer's son with his broken leg they let him off. Now was that good luck? Bad luck? Who knows?

All I know is that we take one day at a time, sometimes one breath at a time, and do the best we can. As Christian communities, we do it all in the hope-filled reality that our messy human ways were accounted for by Christ on the cross. We do it all in the full light of Christ's victory for our eternal lives in his resurrection.

It's a good place to be. And in the midst of this crisis I was able to stop thinking of it in terms of good luck vs. bad luck, brush-with-death vs. wake-up-call, naivety vs. culpability, etc. I realized I was simply thankful. As I wrote to my intern supervisor that week: "We are being well cared for here by our home congregation folks. I can't even imagine life without these faith communities anymore (Bethany, WOTP, LSTC). Paul's opening sentiments to the Philippians comes to mind. 'I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.'"

Thank you for all the support, prayers and care, my Bethany peeps. I look forward to visiting again soon.



Blessings, Ann

**Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
And do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.
Do not be wise in your own eyes;
Fear the LORD and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body,
And refreshment to your bones.**

Proverbs 3: 5-8



Social Ministry Update

The December/January noisy offering for Fortune Lake totaled \$249.85. Fortune Lake is always grateful for the assistance we provide, and any of us who have memories of attending functions there know what a worthwhile experience it is.

On Super (Souper) Bowl Sunday the noisy offering and what the students collected in their soup pots totaled \$222.27. That will go to the Food Bank to help their continuing work to provide food for those in need.



The Noisy offering for the remaining February Sundays, February 9, 16, and 23 is being collected for Lutheran Campus Ministry.

Last year ended with below freezing temperatures, and 2014 continued with them. We have broken the old record of 72 consecutive days of freezing or below weather that was set back in 1978-79. Our new record of 74 continuous days may give us some bragging rights, but it makes things difficult for all who live in this area. Heating costs have gone up dramatically due to cold temperatures and rising fuel prices, and many more people than usual need help to pay their heating bills. Our committee decided to designate the March and April Noisy Offering for the Home Heating Fund at St. Vincent DePaul. Because of the dire situation, our committee also voted to immediately contribute \$200 to that same Home Heating Fund. Thankfully, some people can still pay for their increased heating, and if anyone has any extra change, you might consider putting some into the Noisy Offering for others during March and April.

Food is always in need and we are happy that our congregation continues the offerings for the Food Table in the narthex. The first Sunday of each month is designated as 'Fill the Table' Sunday, but nobody really cares when the food appears—just that it continues to appear. Thank you again for giving so much.



But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and truth.

1 John 3:17-18



The March and April Noisy Offering will be given to St. Vincent DePaul's Home Heating Fund.

Thanks to everyone for your generosity!



Board of Stewardship



Pastor, Wendy P., Jim K. and I attended a meeting this month to learn more about church endowments and estate planning. The meeting was organized by the synod with a presentation by a staff member from the ELCA national office in Chicago. He provided a lot of information about how churches should manage endowments and some of the pitfalls with accepting and managing gifts of all sorts. Another portion of the presentation was information about estate planning and encouraging parishioners to remember their church while planning their estate. I am not qualified to provide advice here regarding the details of estate planning. I encourage you to consult your financial advisor or lawyer about how to include Bethany in your estate plans. Gifts can be made to the church at any time, but there are always tax implications with charitable giving. You should contact your financial advisor to insure you minimize your tax liabilities and follow all the IRS rules for charitable giving.

Tom Perry
Chair

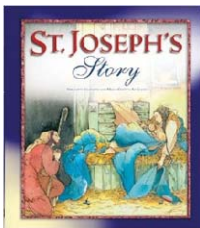




.New Books for March 2014

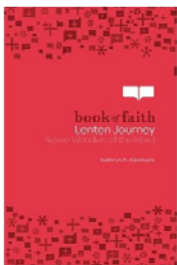
By Keenan Tunnell

March is pretty much dominated by Ash Wednesday/Lent. I have provided a new devotional from the Book of Faith series, plus a few on various facets of fasting on the new book kiosk. There are a few festival days during this month which are largely overlooked, however, because of the theology of the Lenten Fast. Of course everyone will remember **St. Patrick's Day** on 17 March. In the USA, it has become a day for parties, parades and the wearing of the green, but as a Church observance it offers all of us a chance to be thankful for our faith and provides an opportunity to reach out to others in love, as did Jesus and St. Patrick. Books on St. Patrick and the other Celtic saints will be on the kiosk. Two other days not so universally remembered are St. Joseph's Day (19 March) and the Feast of the Annunciation (25 March). The ELW prayer for the festival of **Joseph, Guardian of Jesus**, asks God to give us grace to imitate his uprightness of life and obedience to God's commands. There are two books related to St. Joseph on the kiosk, basically retellings of the Nativity from his perspective. **The Annunciation of Our Lord** is recorded in the first chapter of St. Luke's Gospel containing the angelic announcement and ending with Mary's response, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." I hope you have a prayerful Lent, but don't forget the examples provided for us in the festivals Lent passes over!



Guadagno, Geraldine. **St. Joseph's Story**
JUV 232.9 GUA

St. Joseph is the quiet saint. As husband of the Virgin Mary and protector of Jesus, Joseph was a good, just man who did what God asked him to do. This is Joseph's story.



Kleinhans, Kathryn A. **Book of Faith: Lenten Journey; Seven Wonders of the Word.**

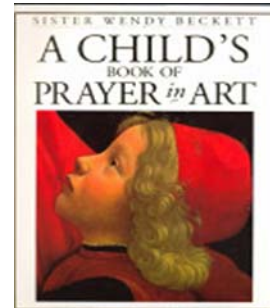
242 KLE

"Often when we read and reflect on the Scriptures, we think of ourselves as the subjects and the Scriptures as the object of our study and devotion. [This book] reverses that familiar pattern, making the Word itself the active subject of our Lenten journey Each week has a theme, and all

seven themes are phrased as verbs. The Word creates, calls, commands, saves, sustains, shapes, and sends. Note that it is the Word that does the work. We, the readers, are the ones being acted upon..." (from the Introduction). Each day the journey begins with a Biblical verse, followed by a brief reflection on that verse. Following the daily reflection you will journey, explore and find meaning through a variety of activities...ending with the Prayer for the Day. Kleinhans suggests we begin this journey with this blessing from the book of Colossians: *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.*

Beckett, Sister Wendy. **A Child's book of prayer in Art.**
JUV 242 BEC

Sister Wendy Beckett believes that prayer is a dialogue with God, and that listening is as important as talking; "Looking at art is one way of listening to God." In this book Sister Wendy has selected paintings that can speak to children, illustrating the important values of life, such as love, respect and forgiveness. She helps children to look and listen, gaining insight into art while developing a greater understanding of their own spirituality.



Below is a picture and prayer from Sister Wendy's Child's Book of Prayer in Art.

“Help me to understand that all people need a little silence in their lives. Give me the strength to search for a silent time every day so that I can think things out peacefully and quietly and learn to live wisely.”



**Voices
for
youth**

A TIME OF GENEROSITY!

It has been an old fashioned, frost bitten, snow shoveling, car will not start, high utility bills, snow on the roof, big time winter! Most of us are leaving for the south, trudging through the snow to work or just staying put in our safe heated homes. And yet there are others in our midst who struggle. **We have a situation that needs our attention!** It is a matter of justice and care for the sister and brother in need. I have been informed by our friends at Lutheran Social Services that a very important ministry here in the synod is in special need during these winter months. For the past twenty years, Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Voices for Youth (VFY) Program has been providing comprehensive support services to at-risk, runaway, and homeless youth, ages 10-21, and their families. Presently, VFY delivers services to communities in Marquette, Alger, Delta, Dickinson, and Iron Counties in Michigan. VFY services have helped improve the lives of over 300 Upper Peninsula youth annually by assisting, teaching, and guiding them in making positive life choices leading to family reunification and maintaining constructive relationships, and helping them navigate the road to independence and self-sufficiency. The services at Voices for Youth are free of charge and are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Services can be accessed either by walk-in or calling to the 24 hour toll free hotline 1-877-641-5437 or (906) 225-KIDS.

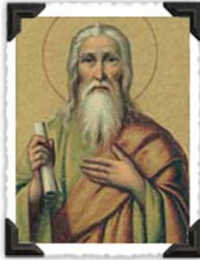
And now the problem! The UP Voices for Youth program has been severely affected by the federal government sequester. Effectively this means that several months will go by before the government again renews their grant to the program. LSS is working to bridge the shortfall in support with donations and grants. To make this work for our ministry together, we need to provide about \$23,000 from local sources. Can the Lutheran community make a difference? Can we rise up and support this social ministry, this ministry of mercy and hope? Over \$2000 has already been collected from individuals and congregations of our churches. It is a start!



I fully realize that there are so many needs out there in our communities and in our churches. But we are a blessed people who can make a difference. I encourage the pastors and lay leaders of our congregations to write a check themselves to the synod for this work and then encourage others in your church to do the same. It is a cold winter! There are homeless young people who need Voices for Youth and we need to support it! Send your offering and gifts to the synod. Make the check out to the Northern Great Lakes Synod and designate it **“Voices for Youth.”** We worship a Lord Jesus who was once homeless himself. Please be generous.

Kids!

Learning About St. Andrew



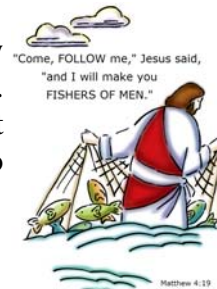
St. Andrew was born at Bethsaida in Israel. He and his brother, Simon Peter, grew up to become fishermen. And when Andrew heard the great St. John the Baptist preach, he became his disciple.

When Jesus came to be baptized, John pointed to Jesus and said, "Behold the Lamb of God," Andrew understood that Jesus was greater. At once he left John and followed Jesus.

Jesus knew that Andrew was walking behind him and turning back, asked why he was being followed. Andrew said that he would like to know where Jesus lived. Jesus warmly invited him to, "Come and see."

Andrew had been with Jesus only a short while when he realized that this was truly the Messiah and he became the first disciple of Christ. Then Andrew brought his brother Simon (St. Peter) to Jesus. The Lord welcomed him as his disciple too.

At first the two brothers continued their fishing trade and family affairs. But soon the Lord called them to stay with him all the time. He promised to make them fishers of men, and this time they left their nets for good. St. Andrew went through life leading people to Jesus, both before and after Jesus died.





Fortune Lake March Events

March 7-8: Church Council Retreat led by Dawn and Jonathan Rundman. Council members are welcome to come for entire event or just Sat. (9:00-2:00 CT)

March 28-30: "Living Water" Adult Lenten Retreat led by Pr. Lee Goodwin.



In Like the Spirit

In many places, March is notoriously windy: “In like a lion ...!” Though I don’t like the damp chill that’s often part of the transition to spring, I love windy days. Something about the air’s movement — a gentle breeze or ferocious gale blowing through trees, against the house, in my hair — breeds excitement in me, anticipation that something new is astir.

How fitting that in conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus said, “The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit” (John 3:8, NRSV). Like Nicodemus, we fail to comprehend the Spirit of God. But Jesus reminds us that though we can’t see the Spirit, we feel his love, see his actions of justice and hear his sounds. These include kind words, bold preaching, weeping for another, shared laughter and songs of praise.

—Heidi Man





Where Did the Quilts go in 2013?

Imagine the comfort that comes with a hug when someone is in a time of deepest need. Through a simple combination of fabric and thread, the quilts reach out to those with some of the greatest needs in the world, not wrapping them in your arms, but wrapping them in the work of your hands. Through an LWR Quilt.

Most often recipients use their LWR Quilt to shield against the cold and rain, but their versatility also makes them useful as simple tents, floor coverings, or a wrap to hold a baby on his mother's back.

Your generosity has touched so many lives over the year. Whether struggling with displacement from conflict or natural disaster or the cycle of extreme poverty, quilts are a tangible sign of love, warming bodies and spirits. Here is a summary of where quilts went last year. Between October 2012 and September 2013 you helped send 451,656 quilts to 15 countries around the world.

Quilts were distributed among vulnerable populations throughout Tanzania, specifically orphanages, homes for the elderly, and to people with physical and mental disabilities. The quilts will help keep people warm at night during the cool and rainy season where there are significant temperature drops. They also went to Angola, Armenia, Burkina Faso, India, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mali, Philippines, and Serbia.

Additionally, a small percentage of quilts were distributed to Thai villagers affected by the influx of refugees, strengthening the relationships between the refugees, Thai villagers, and Thai officials.

When God calls us to something, it not only transforms the world but transforms us, too. What a gift to be able to give ourselves away and yet somehow not be diminished but rather to grow. Thank you for taking the risk of giving so very much of yourselves away for the sake of the world, to embody the love of Christ that runs through your hearts. And thank you for sharing about how God's holy math has turned those gifts into transformation and change and growth.

“And all of us, with unveiled faces seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, and being transformed into the same image from one glory to another; from this comes the Lord, the Spirit.” 2 Corinthians 3:18

—Kay Chartre



Council Highlights - February 2014

1. Pastor gave a report on his travels last week. On Monday and Tuesday he was at Fortune Lake Bible Camp for meetings with synod pastors and the new ELCA presiding bishop, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. On Thursday through Saturday he traveled with Bishop Skrenes to Nebraska for a forum on the future of Lutheran Theological Education.
2. Ash Wednesday services are on March 5 with the mid-week Lenten drama services beginning the following Wednesday.
3. The council is setting up a sub-committee to study the church's computer and software needs.
4. A reminder to all members that if they want to receive monthly offering statements by e-mail, to let Wendy know by e-mailing her at contact@bethanyishpeming.org.
5. Dr. Larry Rasmussen will be speaking at Bethany about environmental ethics on March 11 at 7 pm.
6. The property committee is soliciting bids for a steam humidifier for the sanctuary.
7. There will be an energy audit of the church building this month



FINANCES

YTD Income: \$19,740.37

YTD Expenses: \$18,862.11

Bethany's Annual Pie Social is a Big Success



Shirley and I would like to thank all our wonderful ladies who baked pies and worked in the kitchen and helped with the cleanup. Also a personal thanks to Rae for keeping the coffee flowing and dealing with our temperamental coffee pots (new one soon we hope). And thanks to all our church friends who helped clean up on the leftovers at Sunday coffee.

Our church is such a blessing to us. So a big hand for all. We made over \$600.00 which will go to the Food Bank and Salvation Army for heating assistance. GOD Bless!



Kaye and Shirley

Springtime Hymn of Promise



In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
Butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits
to be, unrevealed until its season, God alone can see.

—Natalie Sleeth,

Information on Charitable Giving Statements

Beginning in 2014, member's charitable giving statements will be sent quarterly. If you are interested in having your statement emailed to you, please send an email to Wendy Penhale at [contact@ bethanyishpeming.org](mailto:contact@bethanyishpeming.org) so that she has your email address.

Also, if anyone is interested in having your pledge taken directly from your checking account, there are forms on the kiosk. See Wendy Penhale if you have questions.



**The Memorial Committee would like to thank
all those who gave memorials
in the name of....**



Jean Lawson



The Promise of Lent

Botanists say that trees need the powerful March winds to flex their trunks and main branches, so that the sap is drawn up to nourish the budding leaves. Perhaps we need the gales of life in the same way, though we dislike enduring them. A blustery period in our fortunes is often the prelude to a new spring of life and health, success and happiness, when we keep steadfast in faith and look to the good in spite of appearances.

-Jane Truax



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 (home), Doreen Brown (Valente), Joyce Lehto (Mill Creek), Marjorie Rosten (home), Shirley Sundblad (Valente), Anna Mae Collins (Mather), Ray Sundblad (Valente), Jean Anderson (Valente)
- The family and friends of Jean Lawson who mourn her loss.
- Zander Atkins
- Larry Alexander
- Nancy Lemire
- Steven Chartré
- Jim Sodergren, Jr.
- ShyAnn Holm-Brown
- Jim Anderson
- Emilie Brown
- Pastor Marcia Solberg
- Evelyn Nadeau
- Doris Pellonpaa
- Kathy Routhier
- Jim Bjerne
- Nancy Swanson
- Angie Kempainen
- Mary Bertucci
- 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



**Daylight Savings Time
Begins
March 9.**

**Remember to turn your
clocks ahead.**

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.

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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

March Worship Assistants

March 2

Assisting Minister - Greg Stahlmann
Acolyte - Liam Seppanen and Jackson Cardoni
Altar - Jean Johns & Rae Elliot
Coffee Hosts - Property
Nursery - Addy Lemire
Bread - Kaye Frederickson

March 9

Assisting Minister - Robert Maki
Acolytes - Mckenzie Ryan & Garrett Frustaglio
Altar - Carol Waters
Coffee Hosts - Social Ministry
Nursery - Terra Frustaglio
Bread - Kay Chartre

March 16

Assisting Minister - Gwen Bruhnke
Acolytes - Hope Kaukola & ShyAnn Holm-Brown
Altar - Harriet Maki
Coffee Hosts - Finance
Nursery - Sabrina Holm-Brown
Bread - Rae Elliot

March 23

Assisting Minister - John & Marilyn Pontti
Acolytes - Kayla Koski & Sabrina Holm-Brown
Altar - Jean Johns
Coffee Hosts - Worship and Music
Nursery - Savannah Marietti
Bread - Linda Dahl

March 5 Ash Wednesday

Assisting Minister - Ned Johns
Acolytes - Ben Bruhnke and Gavin Argall
Bread -

March 30

Assisting Minister - Sally Grant
Acolytes - Liam Seppanen & Ben Bruhnke
Altar - Rae Elliot
Coffee Hosts - Martha Circle
Nursery - Jamie Rhoades/Judy Kitchen
Bread - Marian Medlyn

March Ushers:

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



April Ushers:

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

Thank You!

Happy Birthday!

- 1 Carol Carlson
- 2 Carol Heavyside
- 3 Heidi Sweet
- 4 Marvin Swanson
- 5 Addy Lemire
- 5 Joyce Lehto
- 7 Alexandra Kitchen
- 7 Evelyn Valente
- 8 Terra Frustaglio
- 8 Roberta Luokkala
- 9 Gwen Bruhnke
- 10 Rick Dault
- 11 Brett Sandstrom
- 12 Robert Clark
- 12 Trisha Gugin
- 14 William Carne
- 14 Marjorie Rosten
- 15 Jamie Healey
- 16 Joshua Argall
- 17 Beth Bertucci
- 18 Peggy Clark
- 19 Sue Ryan
- 21 Gregory Stahlmann
- 22 Nicholas Chartre
- 24 Patricia Nault
- 25 Robert Kaukola
- 25 Joseph Lemire
- 27 Gavin Argall
- 27 Allen Maki
- 28 Kimberly Marks
- 28 Doris Pellonpaa
- 28 Donna Stahlmann



- 29 Chad Anderson
- 29 Catherine Barton
- 29 Marie Chilman
- 29 Kenneth Lawson
- 30 Sharla Riutta
- 31 Benjamin Bruhnke
- 31 Lois Goethe

