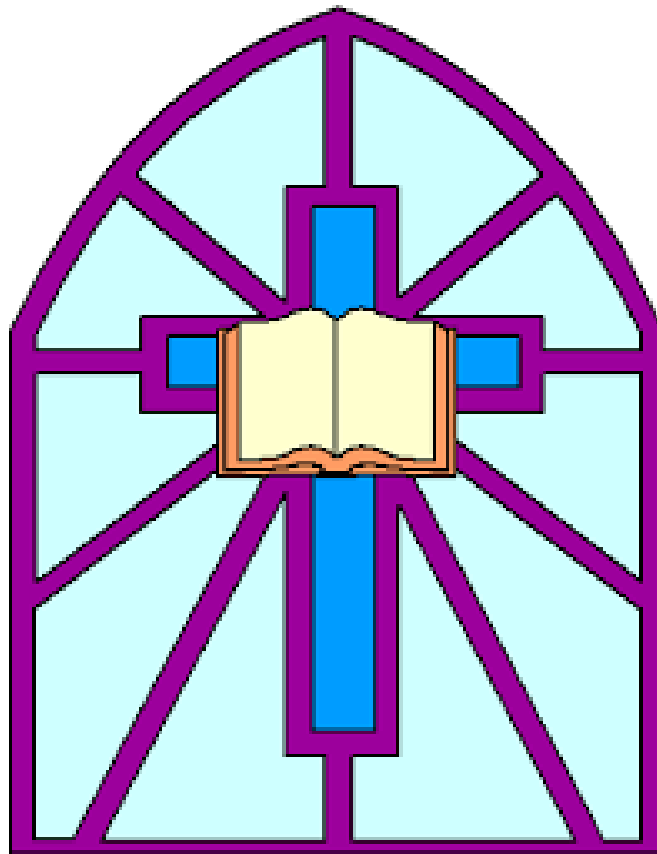




**Bethany Lutheran Outlook**  
May 2017

Serving God, Community, and Individuals



**I am the way, and the truth, and the life.  
No one comes to the Father but by me.**

John 14:6



## PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

Bishop Tom Skrenes won't complete his work as Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod until the end of August, but a new bishop will be elected during the Synod Assembly in May (Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> to Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>). Because of that, this seems like a good time to offer some thoughts about him and his time as bishop.



Tom was the assistant to Bishop Dale Skogman when I was called to serve in L'Anse in 1996, so the first time I met him was at Synod Assembly that year. What I remember, is that as we were milling around in the narthex at Messiah, Marquette, prior to the opening of the assembly, Tom made a point of not just welcoming me to the synod but also welcoming Kathy, understanding as he did the importance of a spouses role in the life of a pastor. It perhaps seems like a small thing, but it was something I noticed. Upon Bishop Skogman's retirement, Tom was elected as bishop in 1999, not long before I accepted the call to return to New England. A couple of years later, when I had a desire to return to

the NGLS, Tom helped to make that possible, presenting me as a candidate here at Bethany.

Since accepting the call to Ishpeming in 2003, Bishop Skrenes and I have worked together on a number of synod committees including Synod Council, the Campus Ministry board and the Lay School board. We travelled together to Nebraska for a conference a few years back and it was very enjoyable. We haven't always agreed on everything, but to me, one of his strongest qualities has been his ability to be respectful of those with whom he disagrees and to expect, even demand the same level of respect among others who might have conflicting opinions. He shepherded the synod through the contentious sexuality conversations that resulted in the decisions made at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. It was a painful time for him not so much because of the decisions themselves but because of his fears about the division that would be created in the church he loves. Division did take place, including some churches in our synod choosing to leave the ELCA.

Bishop Skrenes was re-elected in 2005 and again in 2011. In 2011 I wound up second in the election. I left my name in the mix not because I felt called to be bishop, but because I thought it would be good to have a conversation about issues affecting the synod. We had that conversation and Bishop Skrenes was subsequently re-elected which was the right outcome. In fact, I think he has been at his best during these past six years. The division following 2009 still exists but Tom accepted the decision that was made and

has done his best to keep the synod moving in a positive direction despite the challenges caused by declining numbers and dollars. The synod is smaller, that's true, but in many ways it is healthy and there is good ministry taking place on many fronts. Bishop Skrenes' leadership has had something to do with that!

I think it is safe to say that in his roles as Synod Secretary, Assistant to the Bishop and then as Bishop for the past eighteen years, Tom Skrenes has had a greater impact on this synod than any other individual. Serving as bishop can be a thankless job because no matter what you do, someone will be upset. There have been times that I've been among those upset, but I have always respected Bishop Tom and I know that whether I've agreed with him or not, he has always seen himself as a servant of Christ and a steward of the church and has acted in ways that he felt would best serve the mission of Jesus Christ.

I don't expect Tom to ride off into the sunset quite yet. Knowing him, he will work until his term is done and will do all he can to help the new bishop as the transition is made. I wish he and Luanne all the best as they move into a new chapter. It's not the end, just the beginning of something new as I'm sure that they both will continue to find ways to serve. But for what has been done, using Jesus' words, let me say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Pastor Geier

### We All Are One in Mission

We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,  
Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.  
A single great commission compels us from above  
To plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.

We all are called for service, to witness in God's name.  
Our ministries are different; our purpose is the same:  
To touch the lives of others with God's surprising grace,  
So every folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.

Now let us be united, and let our song be heard.  
Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming Word.  
We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,  
Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.



— by Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

## 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

**May 2017**

1 Psalm 134                      Genesis 18:1-14                      1 Peter 1:23-25

Readings for Philip and James, Apostles

Isaiah 30:18-21	Psalm 44:1-3, 20-26	2 Cor. 4:1-6	John 14:8-14
2 Psalm 134	Proverbs 8:32 - 9:6	1 Peter 2:1-3	
3 Psalm 134	Exodus 24:1-11	John 21:1-14	
4 Psalm 23	Exodus 2:15b-25	1 Peter 2:9-12	
5 Psalm 23	Exodus 3:16-22; 4:18-20	1 Peter 2:13-17	
6 Psalm 23	Ezekiel 34:1-16	Luke 15:1-7	

7 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10
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8 Psalm 100	Ezekiel 34:17-23	1 Peter 5:1-5	
9 Psalm 100	Ezekiel 34:23-31	Hebrews 13:20-21	
10 Psalm 100	Jeremiah 23:1-8	Matthew 20:17-28	
11 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16	Genesis 12:1-3	Acts 6:8-15	
12 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16	Exodus 3:1-12	Acts 7:1-16	
13 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16	Jeremiah 26:20-24	John 8:48-59	

14 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
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Readings for Mathias, Apostle

Isaiah 66:1-2	Psalm 56	Acts 1:15-26	Luke 6:12-16
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15 Psalm 102:1-17	Exodus 13:17-22	Acts 7:17-40
16 Psalm 102:1-17	Proverbs 3:5-12	Acts 7:44-56
17 Psalm 102:1-17	Proverbs 3:13-18	John 8:31-38
18 Psalm 66:8-20	Genesis 6:5-22	Acts 27:1-12
19 Psalm 66:8-20	Genesis 7:1-24	Acts 27:13-38
20 Psalm 66:8-20	Genesis 8:13-19	John 14:27-29
21 Sixth Sunday of Easter		
Acts 17:22-31	Psalm 66:8-20	1 Peter 3:13-22      John 14:15-21
22 Psalm 93	Genesis 9:8-17	Acts 27:39-44
23 Psalm 93	Deuteronomy 5:22-33	1 Peter 3:8-12
24 Psalm 93	Deuteronomy 31:1-13	John 16:16-24
25 Ascension of Our Lord		
Acts 1:1-11	Psalm 47	Ephesians 1:15-23      Luke 24:44-53
26 Psalm 93	2 Kings 2:1-12	Ephesians 2:1-7
27 Psalm 93	2 Kings 2:13-15	John 8:21-30
28 Seventh Sunday of Easter		
Acts 1:6-14	Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11      John 17:1-11
29 Psalm 99	Leviticus 9:1-11, 22-24	1 Peter 4:1-6
30 Psalm 99	Numbers 16:41-50	1 Peter 4:7-11
31 Psalm 99	1 Kings 8:54-65	John 3:31-36
Readings for Visit of Mary to Elizabeth		
1 Samuel 2:1-10	Psalm 113	Romans 12:9-16b      Luke 1:39-57



## Ascension Day Worship Service

Thursday, May 25

6:30 pm

# Enjoy the Poetry of Hymns

Here I Am,

Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send? *Refrain*



I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will send the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will  
save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

*Refrain:* Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go Lord if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

By Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946  
ELW #574

### **In His Own Words: the Story Behind the Hymn “Here I Am, Lord”**

As part of Pastor Terry Frankenstein’s ordination service, she chose “Here I Am, Lord” to be sung by a joint choir of members from Bethany, Zion (Manistique), and First Lutheran (Gladstone). It was an inspiring choice. Below is Daniel Schutte’s own story of how he came to write this much loved hymn.

“When I was a young Jesuit, studying theology in Berkeley, California, a friend came to me one day asked me for a favor. “Dan, I know this is late notice, but I’m planning the diaconate ordination ceremony and need a piece of music set to the text of Isaiah chapter 6.” He saw the look of shock on my face knowing I was well aware that the ceremony was only three days away. I told him that I was sick with an awful case of the flu and didn’t know if I could compose anything suitable in that short time. He encouraged me and I told him that at the very least I would try to complete something in time for the ordination.

I had always loved the particular Scripture passage (Isaiah 6) where God calls Isaiah to be his servant and messenger to the people and Isaiah responds with both hesitation and doubt, but also with a humble willingness to surrender to God. If it was going to work, it would have to be God’s power and grace making it happen. Much like Isaiah I was not very sure that I could meet the request my friend had made, but I was willing to try.

I remember sitting at my desk with a blank music score in front of me and asking God to be my strength. As I sat there praying for help, I remembered also the call of Samuel, where God came calling in the middle of the night and asked Samuel to do something beyond what he thought he was capable of. I worked for two days on the piece and I remember being exhausted. I was making last minute changes to the score as I walked it over to my friend who lived several blocks away. I remember being very unsure of myself, but hoping that it would be what he had wanted for the ordination. And it was ok. It was more than ok. From the very beginning, people loved the piece and clearly identified with the dialogue between God and us that is the core of the song. In the years following, so many have spoken to me or written how they had their own experience of God “calling in the night” and being given the courage to respond. For me, the story of “Here I Am, Lord” tells of the God who overshadows us, giving power to our stumbling words and the simple works of our hands, and making them into something that can be a grace for people. The power God gives is far beyond what we could have planned or created.”

## The Ordination of Terry Frankenstein

On April 23, Terry Frankenstein was ordained at the First Lutheran Church in Gladstone, Michigan. It was exciting to be part of Vicar Terry becoming Pastor Terry. Many Bethany members were there to share this special day in Terry's life. Pastor Geier gave the sermon, the Bethany Choir was part of the joint choir, Linda Hurrell was the accompanist for the ordination, and Rae Elliot read a reading from Romans 12. Afterward celebration continued with a traditional Swedish meal.



Terry accepting her call and being ordained by Bishop Skrenes.

The Laying on of Hands by all of the clergy



Newly ordained Pastor Terry with Bishop Skrenes, Assistant Bishop Katherine Finegan, Pastor Geier and the other clergy in attendance.



## A Pilgrimage

In the beginning,  
From the beginning  
It becomes very clear  
this is not a journey  
we take on our own:  
Someone brought or carried us,  
Someone soaked us  
(Gasping, cold, wet!)  
We welcome you  
- someone said -  
into the Lord's family.  
From the beginning  
- one Lord, one faith, one baptism -  
From the beginning  
It was made very clear  
This is not a race  
but a pilgrimage,  
not a biathlon,  
but a cropwalk,  
Hand clasping hand.  
From the beginning  
It becomes very clear  
this is not a journey  
we take alone  
but a journey  
we take  
all one.

By Susan Palo Cherwien  
From "Servant Church" in  
*Crossings: Meditations for Worship*



We are all on our journey of faith. In this issue we are reminded of those who are at different points in the continuum of faith. Addison Mae, newly baptized, has just been sealed by the love of God. Kyra, Morgan, and Matthew will soon be reaffirming their baptism. Soon-to-be graduates will be facing their faith in an adult world. Pastor Terry is now a servant of Christ in the ministry. Bishop Skrenes will soon be entering a new role in his faith journey as he retires this summer. No matter where you or I are on this pilgrimage of faith, it is so good to be reminded that we don't do it alone, but we do it together as one with God. God is with us—always.



## Transition: Changing Church

From Bishop Skrenes



Nobel laureate Bob Dylan sang famously “The times they are a changing.” Yes, and so is the Northern Great Lakes Synod. In the twenty-five years I have worked in the Synod Office, eighteen as bishop and seven as Assistant to the Bishop, I have seen many changes in our congregations, in our lay leadership and in our pastors. Some changes have been positive. Other changes have reflected the culture and the secular times that we are a part. Some of these changes have been painful.

The synod that a new bishop will serve beginning on September 1 this year will be a smaller one than the one I began to serve. In 1999, on my installation day in September, we had ninety-four congregations. In these eighteen years, four of our congregations have closed, nine of our congregations left us after the 2009 ELCA Church-wide Assembly decisions on sexuality, and two congregations merged. We have 80 congregations today. Our worship attendance is a challenge as the average number of people attending weekly services has decreased by more than a third in these last 18 years. Our Sunday Schools have declined in number and in size, some by half or more in these last two decades. Income to our congregations is up but the cost of maintaining a pastor and church buildings is also up. The work of the wider church continues but it is under resourced as congregations remitted twenty percent less dollars in 2016 to the synod than they did in 1999.

When I became bishop, we had about twenty more pastors serving in our congregations under call than we do today. Several congregations that once had two pastors, now have one. Solo congregations in many cases now share a pastor with a neighboring congregation. For example, three pastors in Ironwood served our four congregations there in 1999; today those four congregations are served by two pastors totaling less than two full-time compensated calls. We have sixty pastors under parish call - we had eight-nine when this synod began its ministry in 1988.

Yet, even as “the times they are a changin’”, the ministry of proclaiming Christ continues. Congregations of this synod do excellent work proclaiming Christ, sharing the Sacraments, being voices for Jesus in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and in Northeastern Wisconsin. Our synod’s Lay School has grown to be a vibrant ministry. Our synod youth program “Marked!” has been a decade long effort to build our confirmation programs.

We have a great companion synod ministry as relationships have grown strong with the people and the church of the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran church in Tanzania. The institutions of the Church proclaim Christ. We have campus ministry programs at Northern Michigan University, Michigan Technological University and Bay college that make a difference. Lutheran Social Services in our synod continues to serve us. Finlandia University and Fortune Lake Lutheran Bible Camp are important and needed in our church. Young lives and our church are growing because of this ministry.

In May, this synod will gather in assembly in Marquette. About 225 of us, clergy and laity, will talk and pray together and in the course of two days will, with the prompting of the Holy Spirit, elect a new bishop to serve for a term of six years. Whoever is elected, that pastor will face a “changing” church. To be honest and up front, I will say this: Neither the next bishop nor anybody else knows exactly what the future holds. What we do know is that there will be changes in this church in the days ahead,. Many of them unexpected, not all of them welcomed. Ultimately, whatever the changes, we believe that God will prevail. It is after all, God’s church!

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### Synod Assembly Choir



You are invited to sing  
with an ad hoc choir  
that will enrich the opening wor-  
ship of  
Synod Assembly  
on May 21 at 4:00pm.  
Dave Dagenais will direct.

Please come to one or both  
of the following Saturday rehearsals.  
May 13 10am Bethany, Ishpeming  
May 20 10am Messiah, Marquette

Final run through will be  
Sunday, May 21 at 3pm at Messiah,  
before worship begins.





**Hannah Skewis** is a kind, sweet, and intelligent young woman. She cares for her brothers who have been a big influence on her life. She says, “I want to be a good role model for them, and they intentionally push me to be the best person I can be.” Hannah wants her brothers to be happy and to achieve everything they dream to do.

Very active in school, Hannah has been a member of the Spanish Club, Forensics team, Robotics Club, Student Government, Yearbook Club, Key Club, National Honors Society, and Flag Corps. She was also named an Excellence in Education Scholar, an honor awarded to the top 5% of the graduating class. In addition to academic excellence, Hannah has also been active in sports, participating as a member of the Girls’ Tennis, Track, and Softball teams.

Hannah has been a member of Bethany her entire life. She says, “I was baptized and raised in Bethany.” Her favorite Bible verse is Jeremiah 29:11. It reminds her that everything happens for a reason, and although she may not understand why at the time, she believes God has a plan and it will all work out in the end.

**“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD,  
plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”**  
Jeremiah 29:11 (NRSV)

Hannah and her younger brother Matthew live half of the time with their mother and stepfather, Kimberlee and Bryan Smith, and younger brother Preston. The other half of the time they live with their father and stepmother, Andy and Jodi Skewis, and dog, Dakota. Her family is very proud of Hannah, and I am sure they see her doing some of her favorite things like baking, reading, playing cards, and playing tennis.

After high school graduation, Hannah will be attending Northern Michigan University to pursue a degree in Graphic Communications. Perhaps after that, she’ll get her opportunity to travel around the world and experience different cultures.

Hannah will graduate from Negaunee High School on June 2, 2017.

**Jacob Clark** will be attending Finlandia University to become a physical therapy assistant. While studying at Finlandia, Jacob will be a student athlete in the football program.



Football has been an important part of Jacob's life. One of his greatest accomplishments was helping his team win the Division 7 State Championship in 2015. He has been recognized as the 2016 Mid-Pen Conference and All UP Honorable Mention Offensive Lineman. He also received a tennis recognition —2016 All UP Division 2 Second team tennis.

With Jacob's interest in physical competition, on and off season, training or playing, it is not a surprise he would one day like to own his own gym and train athletes in many sports in universal strength skills and methods.

It might come as a surprise to some that Jacob really likes to test his culinary skills in his spare time. He likes "extreme world culture" cooking and experiments with spices. Jacob says, "My family is very supportive of my life decisions and cooking, so far...they do the dishes. I appreciate that."

Jacob is a lifelong member of Bethany. He chuckles that he knew he would usually have to light the tall candle. His favorite Bible story was bringing down the walls of Jericho. He says, "It's not enough they had to wander 40 years and put up with everything. They still had to bring down the walls!"

One of the special people in Jacob's life is Mike Walker, one of his coaches. Mike inspired Jacob to believe that you can help anybody that wants help.

Jacob is the son of Denise and Brent Clark. He also has a sister Kate.

Jacob will graduate from Ishpeming High School on June 2, 2017

In the June Out-  
profiles of our oth-



look, I hope to have  
er high school gradu-

ates, Savannah Marietti and Noah Kaukola. Also if you know of anyone who is graduating from college or who has had an educational milestone, please let me know so I can include it in the June issue. Linda Dahl, [linkarzig@gmail.com](mailto:linkarzig@gmail.com)





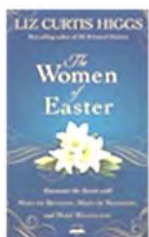
## Library Notes for May 2017

By Keenan Tunnell

May is now upon us...and the Easter Season continues. It is also the month in which we celebrate Mothers' Day. So....I have a book of the Women of Easter, a theologically challenging book about "fierce women" in the Bible...some of them were mothers! And then there is the fictionalized account of Jochebed, mother of Moses, a "fierce women" in her own time. May is about the unique places of women in our history and in our world. This month's final "fierce woman" is portrayed in a Reformation 500 volume about Katy Luther! Find one title that will speak to your spirit!

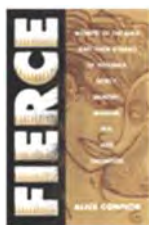
Higgs, Liz Curtis. **The Women of Easter.** 232.96 HIG

You're about to meet three women named Mary, each of whom has a life-changing encounter with Jesus. Mary of Bethany prepares the way for the Lord's burial when she anoints His feet and fills the air with her perfume. His mother, Mary of Nazareth, remains by His side from His first breath to His last, her loyalty unwavering. Mary Magdalene, delivered of seven demons, bravely supports her Teacher through His darkest hours, then proclaims the glorious news of His resurrection. What a trio. What a Savior!



Connor, Alice. **Fierce, women of the Bible and their stories....** 920 CON

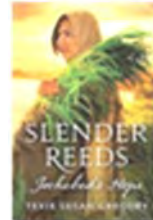
Women in the Bible—some of their names we know, others we've only heard, and others are tragically unnamed. Pastor and provocateur Alice Connor introduces these women and invites us to see them not as players in a man's story—as victims or tempters—nor as morality archetypes, teaching us to be better wives and mothers, but as fierce foremothers of the faith. These women's stories are messy, challenging, and beautiful. *Fierce* will provoke you, open up possibilities for you, invite you to imagine the inner lives of other women, even offend you at times, like the prophets did. Although separated by centuries and cultures, we aren't so different from these women; we share their desires and abilities. We are all part of the story that God is telling.



Gregory, Texie Susan. **Slender Reeds; Jochebed's Hope.**

FIC GRE

Jochebed's entire life has been a faith journey as she seeks her mother's God. The daughter of a Hebrew slave and master basket weaver, Jochebed knows the stories of her ancestors but wonders if the Lord cares how they suffer under the hand of Pharaoh Ramses. . .and if the promised deliverance will ever *really* come. She is unaware that God is preparing her to be the mother of the man who will deliver God's people



Jackson, Mary Helene Rasmussen. **Daughter of the Reformation.** 920 LUT

Many books have been written about the great Reformer Martin Luther, but we know considerably less about his wife Catharina von Bora, the primary relationship in his life. Mary Rasmussen Jackson tells Catharina's dramatic story with authenticity and compassion, deftly reporting what we know about von Bora and filling in the missing content with imagination, clarity, and compelling dialog. The reader is invited to walk beside Catharina, listen to her thoughts, and feel her emotions as she enters and eventually flees from the Nimschen Convent, meets and marries Martin Luther, and brings stability and grace to the Luther household even as the Reformation storm rages around them. . . . this book will be helpful in deepening our understanding of the role of Catharina von Bora, "the Morningstar of Wittenberg," in the momentous life of her beloved Martin and the history shaping events of the Reformation.



**The May Noisy Offering will be given to ELCA Hunger.**

**Thanks to everyone for your generosity!**



## **The Scripture Alone**

**“God’s Word is a light that shines in a dark place.” – Martin Luther**

In the 16th century, power and wealth had corrupted many of the church leaders. Teachings and practices such as the doctrine of purgatory and the sale of indulgences to shorten time in purgatory, were based on church authority and tradition, not on the Scripture.

Martin Luther (1483-1546), a German Augustinian monk, spoke out against such corruptions. In 1517, he published Ninety-Five Theses, criticizing the church’s teachings and practices. A key idea of the Reformation was that truth for the Christian was based on the authority of “Scripture alone.”

Martin Luther was placed on trial for his writings against the church. He told the court, “I am bound by the Scriptures...and my conscience has been taken captive by the Word of God.” Though Martin Luther survived his trial, his friends hid him in the Wartburg Castle to protect him from his enemies. There he translated the Bible into the language of the German people.

With Gutenberg’s invention of printing only decades earlier, it was possible for everyone to have a personal copy of the Bible. Each person could now read and examine the Scripture for himself and was responsible to God for knowing the Bible and living life according to its teachings. In this way, the Reformation planted the seeds of individualism and liberty.

### **Luther Bible, Facsimile of 1534 1st edition**

In translating the Scripture, Martin Luther tried to render the Greek and Hebrew originals into common German. Luther’s Bible avoided regional dialects and led to a standardized written German. Luther first published his New Testament in 1522. The complete Bible was published in 1534. Luther’s translation remains the standard German Bible translation today. The woodcuts in the first edition were done in the workshop of Lucas Cranach and were hand-painted.

See the museum’s website at <https://www.hbu.edu/museums/dunham-bible-museum>. It’s an excellent, brief, illustrated presentation of the historical development of the Bible.





Facsimile of 1534 1st edition

**Bethany Hosted Kurt Hendel Lecture**



On April 26<sup>th</sup> Kurt Hendel, church history and Reformation scholar, spoke at Bethany. His presentation, “Faith Active in Love,” examined Luther’s assertion that Christians are both free lords and dutiful servants. He emphasized that faith is always active in love for God and the neighbor, and Luther’s doctrine of vocation. It was an inspiring and thought provoking lecture.

Prior to Mr. Hendel’s presentation, people shared a meal and fellowship. There was even a Reformation 500 cake. Thanks to everyone who helped with the dinner.



Mr. Hendel and his wife Jobie expressed their appreciation of the warm welcome they received, which ensured that in spite of the weather they enjoyed their visit to the UP.



## Living Lutheran — April 2017 Church in rural America



**Cover Story:** Church in rural America (Megan Brandsrud)

### Features:

- Easter is scary (Brian Hiortdahl)
- Just like us: a refugee's welcome (Wendy Healy)
- Alaskan village tries to preserve its culture (Cindy Uken)
- Reformation 500: 50 Reformation works of art
- Campus Ministry 101: What some new campus leaders say they've learned from their students
- Embodying the call to "serve our neighbor"; Interfaith team works together for common cause (Stephanie N. Grimoldby)

### Reflection:

- When Easter comes (Timothy K. Snyder)

### Faith & Family:

- Go and retreat (Kimberly Knowle-Zeller)

### Deeper Understandings:

- Deeper Luther's preaching still preach? (David J. Lose)

### From Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton

- Falling and not afraid



**Report from the Northern Great Lakes Synod by Bishop Skrenes.**



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



**Mother - Child - Friend Dessert**  
**Monday, May 8**  
**6:30 pm**



**Speaker: Assistant Bishop Katherine Finegan**  
**“Reformation”**

**All are welcome.**  
**You do not need to be a member of a Circle or even of Bethany.**  
**Invite your friends and come and enjoy this time of fellowship.**

**WELCA Spring Cluster Program and Meeting**  
**Sunday, May 7**  
**Eden On the Bay Lutheran Church**  
**Munising, Michigan**

Please sign up on the kiosk.



### **A Child’s Perspective**

A group of second-graders was quizzed about what ingredients their mothers are made of. One child said, “God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world, and one dab of mean.”



To the question "What does your mom do in her spare time?" one youngster said, "Mothers don't do spare time."

When the children were asked “Why did God give you your mother and not some other mom?” one child replied, “God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's moms like me.”

# Kids!



**May 14 - Sunday School kids will sing during the worship service on Mother's Day**



**May 21 - Kyra Holmgren, Morgan Rhoades, and Matthew Skewis will make their public affirmation of their baptism.**

CONFIRMED IN CHRIST

**May 21- Last day of Sunday School**



Kids waved their palms during Palm Sunday processional.



Kids colored eggs for the Palm Sunday brunch. Thanks.

Kids gathered around Pastor Geier as he read to them on Easter morning.

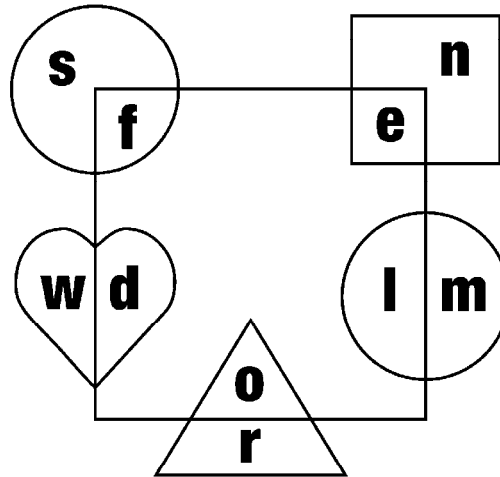


# GOD CARES FOR YOU!

Jesus tells his followers not to worry about their daily needs.  
 What example does he give of God's care for his creation?

**Directions:**

To complete Luke 12:27 (NIV), match the shapes under each blank with the letter shapes shown to the right.



“Consider how the wild \_\_\_\_\_  
 grow. They do not labor or spin.

Yet I tell you, not even \_\_\_\_\_  
 in all his splendor was \_\_\_\_\_  
 like one of these.” Luke 12:27, NIV



## Easter Message from Bishop Eaton

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning,  
Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb.

### **So begins the Easter story in the Gospel according to Mathew.**

The women had lived through the pain of Friday  
and the emptiness of Saturday and were expecting death.  
All of their hope had come to a dead end.

And just then, as the first day of the week was dawning,  
hope was restored. The angel said, “Do not be afraid;  
I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.  
He is not here: for he has been raised, as he said.”

### **Instead of death – life. Instead of the end – the beginning.**

On Easter, we will have glorious celebrations in our congregations  
and worshiping communities. There will be rejoicing and music  
and flowers and alleluias. And that’s a good thing.

But when the flowers fade and the pressures of life seem  
so heavy,  
when the brokenness of this world breaks our spirits,  
when we have come to a dead end ... rejoice.  
Because it is exactly there where the risen Christ meets us.  
It is precisely there where we are given resurrection life.  
It is at that point that we say, Christ is risen.

### **Christ is risen indeed. Hallelujah**

Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop,  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



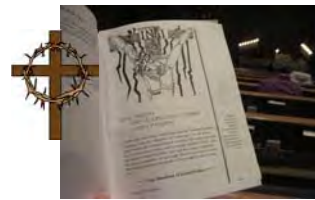


Palm Sunday  
Processional



Food washing on Maundy Thursday

**Holy  
Week  
2017**



Good Friday Tenebrae Service



Easter Vigil



**Easter  
Sunday**

**Christ is  
Risen!**

**Alleluia**



## Council Highlights— April 2017



- Received thanks from Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp
- NGLS “Answering the Call” Sunday will be May 7
- Bethany will host a Blood Drive on June 7.
- Property committee has decided to postpone the roof project until next year.
- New furnaces (3) will be installed when weather permits.
- Received a bid for window replacement in choir loft.
- Pastoral acts: Funeral—James Phillip Meyers (3/31/17); Baptism—Addison Mae Jarvi (4/23/17)
- New members of Bethany: Nathan and Jordan Jarvi, Mike Holman, and Mary Burton
- Confirmation Sunday will be May 21. Confirmands include Kyra Holmgren, Morgan Rhoades, and Matthew Skewis
- Synod Assembly is May 21-23 at Messiah.



“Mom — you deserve a raise for raising me.”



**YTD Income:**

**YTD Expenses:**





## Addison Jarvi is Baptized



During the Sunday morning worship service on April 23, Addison Mae Jarvi became a child of God through Holy Baptism. Addison is the daughter of Jordan and Nathan Jarvi. Her sponsors are Julianne Jarvi and John Dalgord. God's blessings to this little one and her family.

Dalgord.  
and her



## Thank You



Denise Kaukola and Gary Sundblad

Thank you to all who participated in the Lenten dramas. Thank you to Tonya Perry who organized and directed the dramas. Also special thanks to Denise Kaukola who was part of each of the dramas. In addition, thanks to other participants: Tom Brown, Tom Ryan, Michael Holman, Mary Burton, Linda Dahl, Linda Hurrell, Tom Perry, Pastor Geier, and Gary Sundblad.

## Lucas Wickstrom Organ Recital was Something Special

Lucas Wickstom presented Organ Music for Lent at Bethany on March 29. With the first notes of Bach's *Toccata and Fugue in d minor*, the audience was captured by the power, beauty, and majesty of the music. In addition to music by Bach, Wickstom played *Adagio for Strings* by Samuel Barber and *Suite Gothique* by Leon Boellmann. The audience also participated in the singing of *Dearest Jesus, at Your Word* and *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*. When the music ended and silence filled the sanctuary, one couldn't help but know they had been treated to something special. Wow!



# For the Graduate

## Mother and Child

“I love you,”  
said a great mother.  
“I love you for what you are,  
knowing so well what you are.  
And I love you more yet, child,  
deeper yet than ever, child,  
for what you are going to be,  
knowing so well you are going far,  
knowing your great works are ahead,  
ahead and beyond,  
yonder and far over yet.”

—Carl Sandburg

## Answer to the puzzle God Cares for You:

“Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you,  
not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.”  
Luke 12:27, NIV



**Bethany's Website**

[www.bethanyishpeming.org](http://www.bethanyishpeming.org)

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

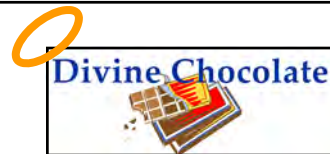


## Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, Cocoa and Chocolate Are Available at Bethany



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

**From Small Farmers With Love**



## Keep In Your Prayers

Remember our home-bound and nursing home residents:

**Valente:** Doreen Brown, Jean Sandstrom

**Jacobetti:** Allen Maki, Bob Waters, Ned Johns, Pastor Bob Sutherland

**Teal Lake Senior Living Community:** Betty Geier, Jim Sodergren, Sr.

- Pastor Terry Frankenstein
- Roger Solberg
- John and Marilyn Pontti
- Danny Thompson
- PeeWee Oja
- Kay Chartre
- Jim Sodergren, Jr.
- Cindy Warner
- Carol Holmgren
- Karen Mattson
- Kaye Frederickson
- Bob Kaukola
- Ted Swanson
- Loreth Johnson
- Judy Hogan
- Karmen Slown
- Brown family
- Mark
- Lois Goethe
- Ruthie Solberg
- Doris & Carl Pellonpaa
- Robert Maki
- Zander Atkins
- Jim Bjorne
- Pastor Marcia Solberg
- Angie Kempainen
- June Forsberg
- Carol and Juan Papaleo and family



**Memorial Day Service  
@ Ishpeming Cemetery  
May 29 @ 10:00 am**



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

485-1625  
[linkarzig@gmail.com](mailto:linkarzig@gmail.com)



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Website: [www.bethanyishpeming.org](http://www.bethanyishpeming.org)

Rev. Warren Geier, Pastor  
Home Phone: 485-4218  
E-mail: [pastor@bethanyishpeming.org](mailto:pastor@bethanyishpeming.org)

Parish Planning Council:  
Exec. Director, Robert Nadeau  
Asst. Exec. Director, Ted Swanson  
Christian Education, Tonya Perry  
Finance, Jim Kinnunen  
Personnel, Tom Ryan  
Property, Robert Bruhnke  
Social Ministry, Marie Chilman  
Stewardship, Tom Perry  
Worship & Music, Keenan Tunnell



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Northern Great Lakes Synod



## May Worship Assistants

### May 7

Assisting Minister - Tom Ryan  
Acolytes - Abby Bruhnke and Morgan Rhoades  
Altar -  
Coffee Hosts - Finance  
Flowers - In memory of Reno Norell by Karen, Bruce, and Kathy  
Nursery - Ben Bruhnke  
Bread - Tonya Perry

### May 14

Assisting Minister - Garrett Frustaglio  
Acolytes - Kyra Holmgren and D.J. Bivins  
Altar -  
Coffee Hosts - Social Ministry  
Flowers - In memory of Ray Sundblad by Colleen Sundblad  
Nursery - Mackenzie Ryan  
Bread - Cheryl Frederickson  
Youth Ushers - Morgan Rhoades & Mackenzie Ryan

### May 25 Ascension Service @ 7pm

Assisting Minister - Linda Dahl  
Bread - Kathy Geier

### May 21

Assisting Minister - Brent Clark  
Acolytes - Abbi Koski and Jarin Johnson  
Altar -  
Coffee Hosts - Confirmation  
Flowers - In memory of Dwayne Kaukola by Ruby and Bob  
Nursery - Kayla Koski  
Bread - Dan & Sharon Argall

### May 28

Assisting Minister - Jerry and/or Karen Plaisier  
Acolytes - Matthew Skewis and Ian Bivins  
Altar -  
Coffee - Quilters  
Flowers - In memory of Don Tyni by Shirley, John, and Sheryl  
Bread - Shirley Tyni  
Youth Usher - Abby Koski and Kyra Holmgren

*Thank You!*

### May Ushers:

Bruce Bussone  
Tom Perry  
Jim Kinnunen  
Craig Kitchen  
Jerry Plaisier  
Knut Strom  
Roy Koski



### June Ushers:

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

## *Happy Birthday!*

- 1 - Sheri Wooden
- 5 - Mia Chilman
- 7 - Carol Holmgren
- 8 - Michael Carriere
- 8 - Eric Martin
- 9 - Paul Waters
- 10 - James F. Sodergren
- 11 - John Hansen
- 11 -- Kate Clark
- 13 - Carrie Atkins
- 15 - Sherry Lusardi
- 16 - Kathryn Chapman
- 17 - Natalee Dobson
- 17 - Jaak Liivoja
- 18 - Allen Beauchamp
- 19 Amanda Bivins
- 19 - Duane King
- 19 - Emmi Carlson
- 22 - Philip Argall
- 22 - Sandee Sundquist
- 23 - Judy Kitchen
- 24 - Tim Nault
- 24 - Perry Wooden
- 24 - D.J. Bivins
- 28 - Mary Toivonen
- 29 - Janet Olgren
- 31 - Michael Waters



## *Happy Anniversary!*

**Jaak & Pat Liivoja**  
5/1/76 41 years

**Thomas & Pat Varda**  
5/5/73 44 years

**John & Clara Carlson**  
5/6/61 56 years

**Cathy & Keith Barton**  
5/8/81 36 years

**Perry & Sheri Wooden**  
5/14/83 34 years

**Stan & Kris Hough**  
5/25/85 32 years



Belated birthday greetings to Myla Carlson whose birthday was April 23.