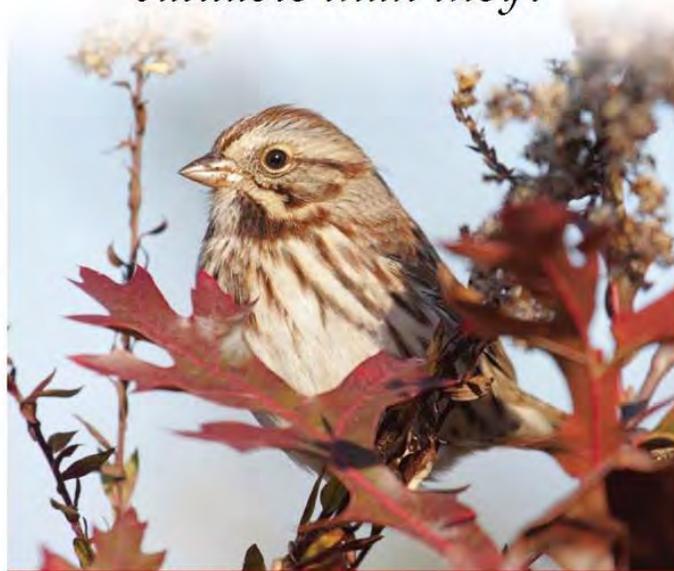




**Bethany Lutheran Outlook**  
**September 2015**

**Serving God, Community, and Individuals**

*"Look at the birds of the air;  
they do not sow or reap or store  
away in barns, and yet your  
heavenly Father feeds them.  
Are you not much more  
valuable than they?"*



**MATTHEW 6:26, NIV**



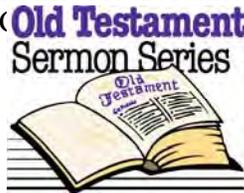
## PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

For quite awhile I've used the word "imagination" in talking about the Bible and how it is interpreted. I realize that when the word imagination is used, for some their mind immediately and nervously jumps to "not true." As a pastor of the church, obviously I hold the Bible to be true, so I thought I would take a couple of newsletter articles to clarify what I mean when I use the word imagination and how my understanding of it has changed how I read the Bible. This month I'll focus on imagination in the Old Testament, next month the New Testament.

I believe that what we deal with in the Bible is Spirit driven imagination that provides insights into the world of the divine because, when you think about it, that's really the only way we can consider the divine. It requires imagination because knowledge of God is beyond human understanding, beyond what any scientific method can tell us. Any time we talk about God, whether we realize it or not, imagination is involved. Imagination is the work of the Holy Spirit.

In the Old Testament you have the defining stories the Hebrew people told about their experiences with their God. They tell about characters who are remembered as being important and about events that they understand to be foundational in identifying who they are as a people. With these stories they also describe the nature of the God they worship as well as their complex relationship with this God. As ancient texts it is difficult or impossible to place these stories and characters precisely in history apart from the fact that they come out of a shared remembrance of rescue from bondage, rescue that they attributed to their God, the Lord. Based on that remembrance they wrote stories, the central story being that of Moses and the Exodus.

Many years later, as the people were conquered and taken into exile in Babylon, through the prophets and others the story of rescue and deliverance was retold. Or, as many scholars believe, it might be that in light of their experience in exile, the earlier oral tradition surrounding the experience of the exodus was put into written form. Either way, layers were added to the tradition.



What these writers did was to imagine the world differently; specifically they imagined the world with the Lord at the center. Their intent was not so much to report history as it was to convey theological truth through imaginative and memorable stories and poetry. In addition to that there was always concern about how to live as the people chosen by God both in day to day life and in worship so there are also sections that describe the boundaries of behavior along with other advice.

Thinking of the text imaginatively, historical accuracy and whether or not things happened just this way is less of a concern. We wind up asking different questions of the text, questions that deal more with what it means. This gets us away from faith being about believing a lot of things that can be hard to believe and instead focuses us on trying to imagine our world and our life with God at the center. Instead of a search for historical truth, it is a search for divine truth. Rather than a quest for certainty, faith is about a relationship with a God who can be rather elusive, a God with whom we sometimes have to wrestle.



This is just an introduction to a much longer conversation. I'm curious to know if you find this approach helpful or threatening, maybe a little of both. For me personally, these insights have made me less certain about a lot of things, but perhaps paradoxically, it has made me more certain of God's presence in my life and in the world. It gives life to my relationship with God, even if the relationship includes a lot of questions.

If you want to go deeper with this, come to Bible Study or take a Lay School class but be cautioned: you may come away with more questions than answers.

In the October Outlook I'll talk about imagination in the New Testament.

Pastor Geier

The Old Testament book of Joel reminds us to 'praise the name of the LORD your God, who has worked wonders for you' (2:26). With praise in our hearts and upon our lips, let us glorify God.



## 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

### September 2015

1 Psalm 106:1-6, 13-23, 47-48	Deuteronomy 4:15-20	1 Peter 2:19-25
2 Psalm 106:1-6, 13-23, 47-48	Deuteronomy 4:21-40	Mark 7:9-23
3 Psalm 146	Isaiah 30:27-33	Romans 2:1-11
4 Psalm 146	Isaiah 32:1-8	Romans 2:12-16
5 Psalm 146	Isaiah 33:1-9	Matthew 15:21-31
6 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost		
Isaiah 35:4-7a	Psalms 146	James 2:1-17
		Mark 7:24-37
7 Isaiah 38:10-20	Joshua 6:1-21	Hebrews 11:29 — 12:2
8 Isaiah 38:10-20	Joshua 8:1-23	Hebrews 12:3-13
9 Isaiah 38:10-20	Judges 15:9-20	Matthew 17:14-21
10 Psalm 116:1-9	Joshua 2:1-14	Hebrews 11:17-22
11 Psalm 116:1-9	Joshua 2:15-24	James 2:17-26
12 Psalm 116:1-9	Joshua 6:22-27	Matthew 21:23-32
13 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost		
Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalms 116:1-9	James 3:1-12
		Mark 8:27-38
14 Psalm 119:169-176	1 Kings 13:1-10	Romans 3:9-20
15 Psalm 119:169-176	1 Kings 13:11-25	Colossians 3:1-11
16 Psalm 119:169-176	Isaiah 10:12-20	John 7:25-36
17 Psalm 54	Judges 6:1-10	1 Corinthians 2:1-5
18 Psalm 54	1 Kings 22:24-40	Romans 11:25-32
19 Psalm 54	2 Kings 17:5-18	Matthew 23:29-39

20 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost			
Jeremiah 11:18-20	Psalm 54	James 3:13 — 4:3, 7-8a	Mark 9:30-37
21 Psalm 139:1-18	2 Kings 5:1-14	James 4:8-17	
22 Psalm 139:1-18	2 Kings 11:21 — 12:16	James 5:1-6	
23 Psalm 139:1-18	Jeremiah 1:4-10	John 8:21-38	
24 Psalm 19:7-14	Exodus 18:13-27	Acts 4:13-31	
25 Psalm 19:7-14	Deuteronomy 1:1-18	Acts 12:20-25	
26 Psalm 19:7-14	Deuteronomy 27:1-10	Matthew 5:13-20	
27 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost			
Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29	Psalm 19:7-14	James 5:13-20	Mark 9:38-50
28 Psalm 5	Zechariah 6:9-15	1 Peter 1:3-9	
29 Psalm 5	Zechariah 8:18-23	1 John 2:18-25	
30 Psalm 5	Zechariah 10:1-12	Matthew 18:6-9	

### Living in Act Three

The late Canon Theodore Wedel (Episcopal) spoke of the Bible as a story, a drama. I like to think of it as a drama in three acts. The Old Testament is act one; it shows God the Father creating the world and then, after man's fall, brooding over the course of history. The first four books of the New Testament are act two of God's story, the accounts of God's coming to confront and comfort mankind personally through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Act three starts in the book of Acts and continues through the rest of our New Testament. And in one sense I think it is valid to say that act three of the biblical drama goes on right into the present, that we who live in the last part of the 20th century are also living in act three of God's story.

-Keith Miller,  
The Scent of Love





## LAY SCHOOL NEWS Fall 2015

- The Fall Semester is set to begin on Tuesday, September 8th and will continue each Tuesday until November 17th.
- Classes will be held at Bethany, Ishpeming (715 Mather Ave.) with Pastor Warren Geier as the site coordinator.
- Four classes will be offered in the Fall 2015 semester (please note the dates and times for each class as they do vary)

***Christian Theology-God the Father*** September 8<sup>th</sup> to October 6<sup>th</sup> (3-5:10 pm) (5 sessions)

A study of the first article of the Nicene Creed-what do we believe about God as creator of all that exists? What are the historical foundations behind the development of these beliefs? (Pastor Steve Solberg)

***New Testament Letters*** September 8<sup>th</sup> to September 29<sup>th</sup> and October 27<sup>th</sup> to November 17<sup>th</sup> (6 to 8:30 pm) (8 sessions)

A review of the letters of the New Testament and the various ways in which they reflect the gospel message. Consideration will be given to the context of each letter and how it spoke—and speaks today. (Pastor Allan Johnson)

***Ecumenism*** October 6<sup>th</sup> to October 20<sup>th</sup> (6 to 8:30) (3 sessions)

A study of ecumenism with a special emphasis on similarities and differences among Christian denominations and how we find common mission with members of other communities of faith. (Pastor Katherine Finegan)



*Acts October 13<sup>th</sup> to November 17<sup>th</sup> (3:15-5:15pm) (6 sessions)*

The Book of Acts will be studied with an emphasis on how it proclaims the power of the gospel to create community, and how that power is working in churches today. This course will be in essence a course of the life of the contemporary community of faith in light of the witness of the book of Acts. (Pastor Warren Geier)

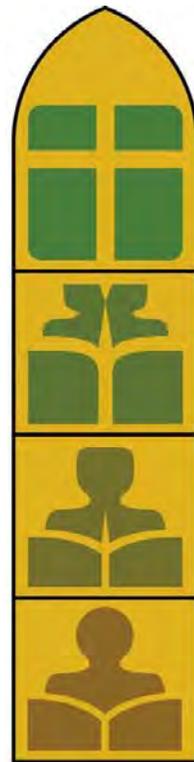
\*\*\*\*Note that to accommodate various schedules there will be a three week break in the NT Letters class during which Ecumenism will be taught.

A reminder that there is no tuition; the only cost is for books (and instructors do the best they can to keep that within reason.)

**As is always the case, we need new students! It should be emphasized though that one does not have to sign up for all the classes, one does not have to complete all the classes in a certain period of time, one does not even have to complete all the classes ever. You can take as much or as little as works for your schedule and your interests. The program is designed to be flexible. Also, Lay School is not designed to produce Licensed Lay Ministers. While that is a possibility and some graduates have gone in that direction, most students are just interested in growing in faith and becoming more active in their own congregations.**

To register for classes, or if you have specific questions, contact your pastor or Pastor Geier (486-4351; [pastor@bethanyishpeming.org](mailto:pastor@bethanyishpeming.org)). Information on books will be forthcoming. Students order books from the bookseller of their choice. Used books are often available at very low prices. If you would like more detailed information on any of the classes contact Pastor Geier.

It would be great to have some new students give Lay School a try, so consider this a personal invitation! If you're not sure, try a course and see how it goes. You will grow in faith and you and your church will benefit from your involvement!



**Learn  
&  
Grow**

# Enjoy the Poetry of Hymns

## His Eye is on the Sparrow

Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,  
Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heaven and home,  
When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is He:  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.



### *Refrain*

*I sing because I'm happy,  
I sing because I'm free,  
For His eye is on the sparrow,  
And I know He watches me.*

“Let not your heart be troubled,” His tender word I  
And resting on His goodness, I lose my doubts and  
Though by the path He leadeth, but one step I may see;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.      *Refrain*

hear,  
fears;

Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,  
When songs give place to sighing, when hope within me dies,  
I draw the closer to Him, from care He sets me free;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.      *Refrain*

By Civilla D. Martin



## His Eye is on the Sparrow: the Story Behind the Hymn

The theme of the song “His Eye is on the Sparrow” is inspired by the words of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew in the Bible: "Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" (Matthew 6:26) and "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows" (Matthew 10:29–31).

It was this theme that caused the author of “God Will take Care of You,” to write, a year later, another great hymn on God’s care: “His Eye is on the Sparrow.”

Civilla Durfee Martin was a Canadian by birth, born on August 21, 1869, in Nova Scotia. She became a school and music teacher, but when she married Dr. Walter Martin, an evangelist, she gave up teaching to travel with him and assist in his meetings.

This is her account of the writing of this song:

Early in the spring of 1905, my husband and I were sojourning in Elmira, New York. We contracted a deep friendship for a couple by the name of Mr. and Mrs. Doolittle—true saints of God. Mrs. Doolittle had been bedridden for nigh twenty years. Her husband was an incurable cripple who had to propel himself to and from his business in a wheel chair. Despite their afflictions, they lived happy Christian lives, bringing inspiration and comfort to all who knew them. One day while we were visiting with the Doolittles, my husband commented on their bright hopefulness and asked them for the secret of it. Mrs. Doolittle’s reply was simple: “His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.” The beauty of this simple expression of boundless faith gripped the hearts and fired the imagination of Dr. Martin and me. The hymn “His Eye Is on the Sparrow” was the outcome of that experience.

The day after writing the song, she mailed it to the famous Gospel composer, Charles Gabriel, who penned the music. Singer Ethel Waters so loved this song that she used its name as the title for her autobiography.

From **Then Sings My Soul** by Robert J. Morgan





### **Greetings Members of Bethany Lutheran Church!**

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, I'll be joining you as Bethany's new Intern, and I'm so excited to begin this new chapter in seminary education! I'm a student at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, and, after transferring to Luther from Wartburg, I've now completed two years of study. Earlier this summer, I did ten weeks of Clinical Pastoral Education (more commonly called chaplaincy training) at Lutheran Homes of Oshkosh. Internship is the next step, and I am very happy to have been accepted by the people of Bethany as an Intern under Pastor Geier. I'm looking forward to a fantastic year of growth and learning as I get to know you and work with you.

As a way to introduce myself, I've been invited to tell you a bit in this issue of the Outlook, so here goes: I was born in Evanston, Illinois, where my father was a student, and moved to Escanaba when I was five years old. My parents were Yoopers - mom from Wells and dad from Nahma - and they wanted to raise their family back in the U.P. Mom was mostly a homemaker and dad a haberdasher who ran one of the big old department stores of the day, The Fair Store. I am one of five children who grew up at Bethany Lutheran in Escanaba. When I went off to college, it was to Michigan Tech in Houghton.

I married my husband John in 1985, and together we've raised two children. Our son Tyler is a computer programmer, and he is married to Loan who is working on her master's degree in mathematics; they live in Ann Arbor and have an almost three-year old, Avalina. Our daughter Stacey is a chemistry-biology teacher in Little Chute, and her husband Tony is a chemistry teacher in Ripon; they live in Oshkosh and have an almost three-month old, Clairra. My other family, my church family, is First Lutheran in Gladstone.

Before discerning a call to ordained ministry, I worked for many years in manufacturing, first in customer service and, after earning an MBA, I moved into employee involvement/quality improvement and human resources. In 2003, I joined my husband in the business we had purchased in 1990: Central UP Industrial Supply Co. John continues to be deeply involved in the business, so while I am on internship, he will remain in Escanaba. I'll be living in an apartment in Marquette this coming year.

I am so looking forward to my internship experience, and I want to say “thank you” in advance to those who are willing to serve as members of my Lay Internship Committee. Early on, I will be setting a number of learning goals in order to outline clear hopes and objectives for the coming year. Then, after spending a few months’ time with Bethany’s members, I’ll be developing a project proposal. The project that I recommend will be based on careful listening and observing and when implemented, it’s my hope that the project will serve Bethany in a meaningful and positive way.

See you soon! Blessings to you!

Terry Frankenstein



### Social Ministry

How quickly the seasons seem to change. Fall is here with the start of school, it’s soon to be beautiful colors, shorter days, and cooler weather. We enter what is for some a beautiful time of year, and for others the soon to be winter season. Are we ready? We are always ready for something, but sometimes we are not ready for what we get!

First let’s look at the summer that is soon to be behind us from a Social Ministry point of view:

- In May, our congregation donated Noisy Offering totaling \$354.51 to Quarters for Hunger.
- In June you donated a total Noisy Offering of \$256.12 for Northwoods Air Lifeline.
- The July August Noisy Offering will go to Voices for Youth—no total as yet.
- The Sept.-Oct. Noisy Offering will go to the Salvation Army Food Bank.
- Your Sunday morning coffee donations provided the following help:  
\$102.77 was used to help Salvation Army’s children’s summer programs.

Our Noisy Offering and Sunday Coffee money always remind me of the Starfish Story. I will repeat it here for those who have never heard it and for those who would like a reminder:

*A young man is walking along the ocean and sees a beach on which thousands of starfish have washed ashore. Further along he sees an old man, walking slowly and stooping often, picking up one starfish after another and tossing each one gently into the ocean.*

*"Why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?," he asks.*

*"Because the sun is up and the tide is going out and if I don't throw them further in they will die."*

*"But, old man, don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and starfish all along it! You can't possibly save them all, you can't even save one-tenth of them. In fact, even if you work all day, your efforts won't make any difference at all."*

*The old man listened calmly and then bent down to pick up another starfish and threw it into the sea. "It made a difference to that one," he replied.*



Our Noisy Offerings, Sunday Coffee donations, and Food Pantry donations may, at times, not seem like much, but, REMEMBER, they make a difference to someone.

The cover story in the current issue of THE LUTHERAN is entitled "Doing more with less". I encourage you to read it as it touches on a variety of ideas in this same genre. Enjoy!



**The September-October Noisy Offering will be given to the Salvation Army Food Bank.**

**Thanks to everyone for your generosity!**

## Remodeling Under Consideration

In recent years, Bethany's congregation has talked about the need to update and modernize the fellowship hall and sanctuary of Bethany. Karen Plaisier volunteered to get bids for the desired changes.

The bids included the following:

- In the Fellowship Hall the original asbestos floor (1962) would be patched and carpet squares would be placed over the existing floor. The carpet squares are replaceable if damaged.
- In the sanctuary the original 1970 carpet would be replaced.
- The 1970 church pews and choir chairs would be reupholstered.
- The ceiling in the sanctuary would be painted for the first time since 1970. In addition the Metal poles and radiators in the fellowship Hall would be painted.



The total cost from the low bids is \$53,000. In order to carry out the plan, at least \$28,000 or more would need to be pledged to this project. What is not pledged above this amount would come from the Memorial Fund.

You can show your support by making an early pledge. Please contact Edmund Holmgren or Karen Plaisier (485-1573)

A special congregational meeting will be held on September 13 after the worship service to discuss this project.

**Special Congregational Meeting  
September 13**

**Purpose: Discuss remodeling project**

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



## Books for September 2015

By Keenan Tunnell

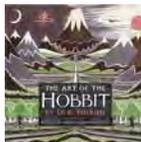
### Christian History: Seven Literary Sages September 2015: Tolkien

Tolkien, J.R.R. **The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings** **FIC SLS TOL.1,2,3,4**



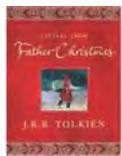
These are Tolkien's classic fantasy tales of Middle-earth, famous from the time of their publication (1937 for the *Hobbit* and 1954-55 for the *Lord of the Rings*) and even more famous with the Peter Jackson's production of the films. FYI: the titles of the parts of the *Lord of the Rings* are: *Fellowship of the Ring*, *the Two Towers*, and *the Return of the King*.

Tolkien, J.R.R. **The Art of the Hobbit** **FIC SLS TOL.5**



When J.R.R. Tolkien wrote *The Hobbit*, he was already an accomplished amateur artist, and drew illustrations for his book while it was still in manuscript. *The Hobbit* as first printed had ten black-and-white pictures, two maps, and binding and dust jacket designs by its author. Later, Tolkien also painted five scenes for color plates, which comprise some of his best work. His illustrations for *The Hobbit* add an extra dimension to that remarkable book, and have long influenced how readers imagine Bilbo Baggins and his world. J.R.R. Tolkien's complete artwork for *The Hobbit* is presented for the first time in this edition.

Tolkien, J.R.R. **Letters from Father Christmas.** **FIC SLS TOL.6**



Every December an envelope bearing a stamp from the North Pole would arrive for J.R.R. Tolkien's children. Inside would be a letter in a strange, spidery handwriting and a beautiful colored drawing or painting. The letters were from Father Christmas. They told wonderful tales of life at the North Pole: e.g. how the reindeer got loose and scattered presents all over the place; or how the accident-prone North Polar Bear climbed the North Pole and fell through the roof of Father Christmas's house into the dining room; and many more. No reader, young or old, can fail to be charmed by Tolkien's inventiveness in this classic holiday treat.

### Seven Literary Sages #3: J.R.R. Tolkien

The third of the Seven Literary Sages we'll look at is J.R.R. Tolkien. Born in South Africa in 1892, he and his family returned to England when he was a child. His father died in S. Africa while the rest of the family was in England, leaving them to remain with relatives there. Tolkien was raised a Roman Catholic and remained faithful throughout his life. Even as a child, he was fascinated with languages, and following service in WWI he worked researching etymology for the Oxford English Dictionary. Eventually he became a professor of philology (the study of how language works) and produced a vocabulary of Middle English as well as new translations of the classic works *Beowulf* and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. He developed a private mythology and a unique language for Middle Earth when he wrote *The Hobbit*, which was first published in 1937 from a collection of tales he had composed for his children. He was surprised at the success of that work and followed it up with *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy in 1954-55. He enjoys an exalted position among fantasy novelists, with many authors crediting their reading of his works as the spark which launched their own creativity.

While his works are not overtly religious, there is considerable research and critical writing developing the Catholic worldview which becomes evident in them. He was also one of the first ecologists, advocating for a return to a more consciously agrarian society where people are connected to the land and its produce as opposed to factory farming, which was developing steadily in his day. The Hobbit society of Middle Earth and various characters in his later works illustrate this duty of all humankind to care for the soil. Tolkien died in England in 1973. The film versions of his works have made them classics and the man himself famous and beloved throughout the world.

Works Selected for Bethany's Library:

*The Hobbit and The Art of the Hobbit* (Tolkien was also an artist and advisor to the filming of his works)

*Lord of the Rings: comprised of the Fellowship of the Ring; the Two Towers; and the Return of the King.*

*Letters from Father Christmas* (written for his children each December between 1920 and 1943)

*The Gospel According to Tolkien; visions of the Kingdom in Middle-earth, by Ralph C. Wood.*



## The Lutheran - August 2015

### Doing More With Less



#### COVER STORY

##### **Doing more with less**

Congregations redefine mission & ministry with fewer members

BY KATHRYN SIME



#### FEATURES

##### **Church relies on retired pastors**

BY RICHARD WILSON



#### FEATURES

##### **Ecumenism blossoms in Georgia**

BY CHARLES M. AUSTIN



#### FEATURES

##### **On forgiveness and childhood sex abuse**

This isn't what you'd expect a pastor to say

BY PAM MAROLLA



#### FEATURES

##### **Sit in the front pew and pray**

BY MARK BREWER



#### A LEXICON OF FAITH:

##### **Justice**

BY PETER W. MARTY



#### PRESIDING BISHOP:

##### **There is no curtain obscuring plots**

BY ELIZABETH A. EATON

# Kids!

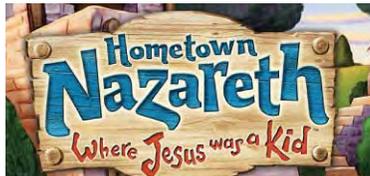


**Sunday School  
Begins  
September 13th**



**Confirmation begins on September 20th @ 6:00pm**

This year Amanda Bivins and Denise Kaukola join Cheryl Frederickson , Kathy Geier, and Melissa Chartre (substitute) as Bethany's Sunday School teachers. Tonya Perry and Kathleen Slown will continue leading the Sunday School music program. Thanks to all of you for sharing your talents with our Bethany's young people.



**Thank You!**

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make Vacation Bible School a success. We couldn't have done it without you





Bethany's Homework Club

## Homework Club Ministry

The 2015-2016 Homework Club is in the planning stages and we need your help! We plan to get things rolling in late September. Club will meet on Thursdays, beginning after school (around 3:45) and ending at 5:15. See the list of jobs and their functions below, if you are interested in being a Christian role model and friend to children in grades K-4. Please contact Tonya Perry at [tonyaperry@gmail.com](mailto:tonyaperry@gmail.com) or 486-4861 for more information.

**Group leader:** work with a specific age group on math and literacy activities

**Group helper:** work alongside a group leader with a specific age group

**Group leader or helper substitutes:** Fill in for a leader or helper who needs a Thursday off

Read a story, give a book talk, or share what you do/have done for work: This is a 10-15 minute commitment you can do as often as you like – weekly, monthly or even every once in awhile!

**Snack Coordinator:** Organize snacks and drinks. Set up a serving schedule

**Snack assistant:** Serve snacks. If we had a few people willing to serve snacks, your commitment level would be just once or twice a month.

**Snack provider:** Snacks of all kinds are welcome (preferring healthier items) and juice boxes or pouches (prevents spills). A collection box will be provided for your contributions.

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Internationally known Poet and MNU Professor Emeritus Beverly Matherne will release her new bilingual book of stories and prose poems, BAYOU DES ACADIENS/BLIND RIVER.



**Beverly Matherne Releases New Book  
TUESDAY, September 1 at 7:00 PM  
Bethany Lutheran Church**

Free and open to the public

A book signing will follow and light refreshments from Midtown Bakery and Café will be served.



## THE CROP HUNGER WALK IS COMING!

And we're going to be a part of it!!  
Sunday October 4 at 2pm.  
Registration begins at 1:30pm  
We walk Rain, Snow, or Shine!

Walkers will meet at Bethel Lutheran Church in Ishpeming to walk the Heritage Trail together. Get your pledge envelope and fill it with donations to alleviate hunger, both around the corner and around the world. 25% of funds raised will meet the needs of the hungry in our community through the local food pantries, and the rest will go to address the many hunger related issues all over the world.

This effort involves all of Marquette County. Together we can do so much more than we can do alone. Call the office with any questions, and watch for more information.

Adult and Youth groups –  
Families, individuals, Sunday school classes,  
Adult and Youth groups –

Everyone can PLEDGE or  
WALK and MAKE A DIFFER-  
ENCE IN THE WORLD!



### Feeding the Hungry

To allow the hungry to remain hungry would be blasphemy against God and one's neighbor, for what is nearest to God is precisely the need of one's neighbor. It is for the love of Christ, which belongs as much to the hungry as to myself, that I share my bread with them and that I share my dwelling with the homeless. If the hungry do not attain to faith, then the guilt falls on those who refused them bread. To provide the hungry with bread is to prepare the way for the coming of grace.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer



**Ordination of Ann Maria Gonyea-Alexander  
July 12, 2015**



**The Rev. Brian Hiortdahl, Atonement Lutheran Church, Overland Park, KS, gave the sermon.**



**Laying on of Hands by all ordained pastors who were present**



**Pastor Geier congratulates Ann as Bishop Skrenes looks on.**



**First row: Pastor Ann Gonyea, Bishop Skrenes; Back row: Pastor Hiortdahl, Pastor Geier**

## Thank you from Pastor Ann Gonyea

Hi Bethany!

Just wanted to officially send a thank you for all that you did to make my ordination such a beautiful and Holy Spirit-filled day. I dreamed of being able to be ordained at home and it was everything and more that I dared to imagine during the seminary years. Thank you for your gift also. The stained glass is hanging in a window looking out over the bay and truly does remind me that you all go with me as I live into this ministry. God's peace be with you all. Pastor Ann!

With love,  
Yours in Christ,  
Ann and Larry

Ann and Larry's new address is:  
221 E Varnum ST  
Munising, MI 49862



Women <sup>of the</sup> ELCA 

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**WELCA Salad Supper**  
September 8 @ 6:30 pm

**Lutheran World**



**Just a reminder....** Bethany is collecting school kits, personal care kits, toiletries, and fabric kits for Lutheran World Relief.

The complete list of each kit's contents is in the July/August Outlook. You can supply all or part of what is needed for each kit. Please consider making some kits and/or bringing in items to help complete individual kits.

**Relief Kits**



collecting relief kits.

Bethany will be collecting kits during September and early October. Deadline for the final collection will be in October with the specific date to be announced at a later time.



## Upcoming Events at Fortune Lake Lutheran Cam

### **God's Work, Our Hands Work Day** **September 12 @ 8:00 am - 4:00 pm**

Come to Fortune Lake Sat., Sept. 12 to do God's work with your hands! Help get your church camp ready for the retreat season and celebrate breaking ground for the new tree houses funded by 85th anniversary offerings. Projects include cleaning lodges, dismantling old tent platforms, staining tree house panels and trimming trees. Arrive any-time after 8 a.m. CDT with your own cleaning supplies and tools. Lunch will be provided.

Call Mary at the camp office (875-3697.)

### **Senior Day**

**September 14 @ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm \$10**

Come and join us for a day of interesting conversation, good food, and fun. We are honored to have Earl Otchingwanigan share with us in September.

Earl Otchingwanigan, a first speaker, grew up in the language and a life-long carrier of cultural arts and crafts including building full size birch bark canoes, wigwams, birch bark basketry, cradleboards, and carving wood spoons. Earl's parents were hunting and fishing guides during the 1930's through the mid- 1950's giving an added education of hunting, fishing, trapping, and of forest and waterways. This experience gave Earl first-hand knowledge of knowing the Ojibwe names for nearly all of the rivers, streams and lakes in the Iron County area.

Welcome snacks and lunch is provided. Please call Mary at (906)- 875- 3697 to register

### **Women's Fall Retreat**

**September 18 @ 5:00 pm - September 20 @ 12:00 pm**

With Inez Torres Davis, Director for Justice for the Women of the ELCA

Retreat planned by the Women of Bethany, Norway

Plan on a weekend of Fun, Love, and Joy

**Fortune Lake Fall Fest**

**October 3 @ 9:00 am - 2:00 pm \$10**

**Quilt & Fine Arts Auction**

**Buffet Brunch 9:30 – 11:00 am**

**Viewing** begins at 9:30 am

**Auction** at 11:00 am

**Other Highlights:**

**Country Market:** selling homemade breads and pies

**Country Store:** Featuring smaller handcrafted items

**Kids activities**

**Jr. High Gathering**

**October 16 - October 17 \$45**

**Karmen Says Thanks!**



Dear Bethany Church Family,

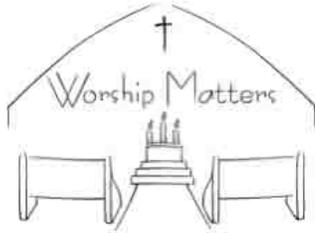
I went to Victory Camp at Fortune Lake June 8-12, 2015. We learned that God's love for us never stops. Our Bible verse was:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
and with all of your soul, and with all your might.”  
(Deuteronomy 6:5)

I liked singing around the campfire and the boat ride best. Thank you for helping me to go to Fortune Lake this summer!

With thanks,  
Karmen Slown





## Council Highlights - August 2015

- Thank you letters received from the Salvation Army, LSTC, NGLS, and Mike Jarvi/World Hunger
- Karen Plaisier reported on the bids she solicited for pew recovering and new carpeting in the sanctuary and fellowship hall. A special meeting on September 13 will be held to review the cost of these projects and to seek congregational approval to pursue the projects and proceed with fundraising efforts.
- Tonya Perry reported the low bid for printing the new church directory came from Globe Printing. A motion was made to purchase 225 copies
- Pastor has contacted the new intern regarding her definite start date and to see if she needed anything from us.
- Pastoral acts: funeral for Kathy Richards
- Stewardship letter was sent to congregational members
- VBS went well.
- Beverly Matherne requested use of the church to read from and promote her book. Beverly will donate half of the proceeds from books sold at the time of the reading.



### Karen Plaisier Wins Championship



Karen Plaisier recently captured the 2015 Upper Peninsula Ladies Golf Association Championship at the Irish Oaks Golf Club in Gladstone. In a Mining Journal interview, Karen said, "I've waited so long for this. I never thought that at this age, I would come back and do it. The last couple weeks I've been playing great golf, and I just came through, I am so happy." Congratulations!

### Allen Beauchamp and Sally Grant Swim Teal Lake

Allen Beauchamp and Sally Grant swam the 2.25 miles across Teal Lake for a fundraiser for the Upper Peninsula Diabetes Outreach Network. Allen's accomplishment is especially significant since a 2010 accident had left him a paraplegic. Allen is shown with his friend Joan Miller who also completed the race. Congratulations!



## Pontti Family Reunion

The family of the late Val and June Pontti held their first ever reunion the week of August 1-8, 2015. Sixty members from a dozen states were in attendance.



The Pontti siblings (l-r): Sue Foster, Camdenton, MO; Mike Pontti, Fairfax, VA; Connie Moffatt, Lutz, FL; John Pontti, Ishpeming, MI; Carol Waters, Ishpeming, MI; Robert Selfridge, Zephyrhills, FL. Not pictured: Greg Pontti, Waialua, HI

Some of the family at Jasper Ridge cabins on Aug 1--New York, Nebraska, Colorado and Hawaii folks were still enroute



Carol Waters, John Pontti, Connie Moffatt, Mike Pontti, and Lynn Whaley

A highlight of the gathering was worshipping together on Sunday, August 2.

Lynn and Fred Whaley live in Portland Oregon. Lynn remembers a contest to name the basement room once the fireplace was completed when she was a teen back in the 60's. She was especially proud when her submission of The Hearthroom was chosen!



## Guest Musicians



Thanks to the Don Mead family who shared their musical talents with Bethany during the July 19th service.



Thanks also to Doug Holmgren, Karen Johns, and Linda Dahl for their gifts of music this summer.



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:  
Doreen Brown (Valente), Joyce Lehto (Mill Creek), Marjorie Rosten (Valente), Shirley Sundblad (Valente), Anna Mae Collins (Mather), Jean Anderson (Valente), Allen Maki (Jacobetti), Geri Maki (Jacobetti), Bob Waters (Jacobetti), Nancy Swanson (Valente)
- Ruthie and Roger Solberg who mourn the loss of their son David "Sudsy" Solberg
- Debbie Cain and her family (Addy, Winter, and Lindsey) who mourn the loss of her husband and their father Peter Cain
- Colleen Sundblad who mourns the loss of her nephew Matthew Kauppila
- Jean Sandstrom
- Mark Ulrickson
- Doris Pellonpaa
- Pastor Bob Sutherland
- Pastor Rudy Keppainen
- Ned Johns
- Bob Clark
- Carl Pellonpaa
- Ralph Goethe
- Robert Maki
- Betty Geier
- Zander Atkins
- Jim Sodergren, Sr.
- Jim Bjerne
- Pastor Marcia Solberg
- Kathy Routhier
- Nancy Swanson
- Angie Kempainen
- June Forsberg
- Carol and Juan Papaleo and family
- Pam Waters
- Those in the military that they may remain safe



**St. Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome saying, "May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another ..." (Romans 15:5, NRSV).**

**May that be our goal as we welcome and support one another in the name of the Lord.**



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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Ishpeming, MI 49849

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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, Bill Heavyside  
Social Ministry, Marie Chilman  
Stewardship, Tom Perry  
Worship & Music, Keenan Tunnell



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Northern Great Lakes Synod



## September Worship Assistants

### September 6

Assisting Minister - Tom Perry  
Acolyte - D.J. Bivins  
Altar - Sue Ryan  
Coffee Hosts - Prayer Shawls  
Flowers - In memory of Sue Norell by Karen, Bruce, Kathy, and families  
Bread - Shirley Tyni  
Nursery -

*Thank You!*

### September 13

Assisting Minister - Sally Grant  
Acolyte - Garrett Frustaglio and Hope Kaukola  
Altar - Marian Medlyn  
Coffee Hosts - Social Ministry  
Flowers - Paul Blewett Trust  
Bread - Bob Bucan  
Nursery -

### September 20

Assisting Minister - Kris Hough  
Acolyte - Jackson Cardoni and Mackenzie Ryan  
Altar - Marilyn Pontti  
Coffee Hosts - Worship & Music  
Flowers - In memory of Karl Dahl by Linda Dahl  
Bread - Kaye Frederickson  
Nursery -

### September 27

Assisting Minister - Ryan Lusardi  
Acolyte - Matthew Skewis and Blake Forbes  
Altar - Clara Carlson  
Coffee Hosts - WELCA  
Flowers -  
Bread - Kay Chartre  
Nursery -

### September Ushers:

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



### October Ushers:

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

*Happy Birthday!*

- 1 Daniel Gonyea-Alexander
- 2 Jennifer Carriere
- 2 Sally Grant
- 3 Travis Allen
- 4 John Lusardi
- 4 Preston Smith
- 5 Tom Ryan
- 7 Janet Anderson
- 8 Matthew Price
- 9 Ray Leverton
- 11 Jonathan Vallier
- 11 Killean Ryan
- 12 Kenneth Kinnunen
- 13 James Carlyon
- 13 James Chartré
- 13 Kathy Kish
- 13 Debora Paavo
- 13 James C. Sodergren
- 14 Alice Eman
- 14 Marlene King
- 15 Jeff Leaf
- 15 Cindy Warner
- 16 James Anderson
- 17 Pam Allen
- 17 Jacob Dault
- 18 Natalie Rasmussen
- 19 Amy Christopherson
- 19 Katherine Kitchen
- 21 Jaren Kipling
- 21 Chad Pohlman
- 22 Robert Maki
- 23 Janine Johns
- 23 Annette Larson
- 23 Jenna Chartre
- 26 John Leverton
- 27 John Waters
- 27 Robert Waters
- 29 Jerry Luokkala

SEPTEMBER

*Happy Anniversary!*

Clifford & Karen Mattson  
9/8/1973 42 years

Ron & Sheree Mariani  
9/8/79 36 years

Robert & Gwen Bruhnke  
9/16/1995 20 years

Tom & Sue Ryan  
9/17/1966 49 years

Robert & Carol Waters  
9/25/1954 61 years

John & Sherry Lusardi  
9/28/1974 41 years

