



Bethany Lutheran Outlook
September 2017

Serving God, Community, and Individuals





PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

On the Sunday after the white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, I didn't say anything about it. Part of the reason for that is that I just wasn't thinking about it. I avoid the news as much as possible these days so such events don't occupy a huge space in my brain. That's not to say that events that witness to hatred and bigotry are not worthy of comment and response; they are, particularly as they run so contrary to the teachings of Jesus. The dilemma, not just for me but for any of us as representatives of the church, is how should we respond? What is appropriate? We're caught between feeling that it's important to stand against that which is blatantly wrong, while on the other hand, the more we respond, the more those who represent those views get the attention that they crave.

Different churches and different pastors take different approaches concerning how to handle this on Sunday morning; all I can do is speak for myself. My approach is that what I am called to do is to proclaim the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ. My assumption is that you already know that bad things that are going on in the world and that you don't come to church to have those things be the focus. You come to church to hear some good news, to hear that despite it all, in and through Jesus Christ there is always hope. If the gospel is being proclaimed, you will hear the teachings of Jesus that are about welcome and inclusion, care for the neighbor and the stranger, and you will hear those teachings not just in response to the latest disturbing event, but every week. Specific events don't have to be approached head on; if the gospel is being proclaimed it's not hard to connect the dots.

I also think that church is about an encounter with the sacred and that in Word and Sacrament that encounter is available in our worship services. It's not escape from the world, it's acknowledging that there is another dimension to the world, one that you don't hear much about if you let yourself be consumed by the 24 hour news cycle (much of which isn't news at all but opinion) not to mention paying too much attention to various social media outlets that allow anyone, no matter how crazy they might be, to have a platform.



In retrospect, I should have included the situation in Charlottesville in the prayers of the church on that Sunday in August. I also don't think it's inappropriate to reference such things in a sermon if it fits. However, I think the best place to process such things is in the context of Bible studies and other classes and groups where there is more time to unpack what is going on and look at things from a Christian perspective.

The main thing is that as a church and as individuals we should act in ways that model the witness and teaching of Jesus. That's how we most effectively stand against the rhetoric and actions of hate groups. As is often said, most of us don't have the power to influence things on a large scale, but we can impact things in small ways that do add up and do make a difference.

Pastor Geier



The Center

There is a still point at the center of the cross where all is in harmony all in balance.

It is here at this point where the tensions of the crossings are equal and cannot pull.

It is like the wheel of destiny depicted in mediaeval illuminations:

if you place yourself at the rim,
you are constantly being pulled down or pushed up,
but if you place yourself at the center,
“at the still point of the turning world,”
there is calm,
there is peace.

- Susan Palo Cherwien, *Meditations for Worship*

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 2017

1 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Exodus 3:16-25 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12
2 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Exodus 4:1-9 Matthew 8:14-17

3 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 3:1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28

4 Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18 Exodus 4:10-31 Revelation 3:1-6
5 Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18 Exodus 5:1 — 6:13 Revelation 3:7-13
6 Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18 Exodus 7:14-25 Matthew 12:22-32
7 Psalm 149 Exodus 9:1-7 2 Corinthians 12:11-21
8 Psalm 149 Exodus 10:21-29 Romans 10:15b-21
9 Psalm 149 Exodus 11:1-10 Matthew 23:29-36

10 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20

11 Psalm 121 Exodus 12:14-28 1 Peter 2:11-17
12 Psalm 121 Exodus 12:29-42 Romans 13:1-7
13 Psalm 121 Exodus 13:1-10 Matthew 21:18-22
14 Psalm 114 Exodus 13:17-22 1 John 3:11-16

Readings for Holy Cross Day

Numbers 21:4b-9 Psalm 98:1-4 1 Cor. 1:18-24 John 3:13-17
15 Psalm 114 Exodus 14:1-18 Acts 7:9-16
16 Psalm 114 Exodus 15:9-21 Matthew 6:7-15

17 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 14:19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35

18 Psalm 77	Joshua 3:1-17	Hebrews 11:23-29
19 Psalm 77	Nehemiah 9:9-15	Romans 14:13 — 15:2
20 Psalm 77	2 Kings 2:1-18	Mark 11:20-25
21 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45	Exodus 15:22-27	2 Corinthians 13:1-4

Readings for Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Ezekiel 2:8 — 3:11	Psalm 119:33-40	Ephesians 2:4-10	Matthew 9:9-13
22 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45	Exodus 16:1-21		2 Corinthians 13:5-10
23 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45	Exodus 16:22-30		Matthew 19:23-30

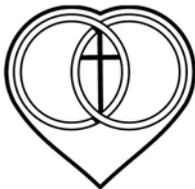
24 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16

25 Psalm 119:97-104	Exodus 16:31-35	Romans 16:1-16
26 Psalm 119:97-104	Numbers 11:1-9	Romans 16:17-20
27 Psalm 119:97-104	Numbers 11:18-23, 31-31	Matthew 18:1-5
28 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16	Isaiah 48:17-21	James 4:11-16
29 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16	Numbers 20:1-13	Acts 13:32-41

Readings for Michael and All Angels

Daniel 10:10-14 ; 12:1-3	Psalm 103:1-5, 20-22	Rev. 12:7-12	Luke 10:17-20
30 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16	Numbers 27:12-14	Mark 11:27-33	



Congratulations to Alexandra Kitchen and Tucker Jensen who were united in marriage at Bethany on July 3, 2017. Ali is the daughter of Judy and Craig Kitchen and granddaughter of Marian Medlyn.

Congratulations to Ryan Lusardi and Sara Karl who will be married on September 9th in Grand Rapids. Ryan is the son of John and Sherry Lusardi.

Bethany wishes both couples a future filled with God's blessings.

Enjoy the Poetry of Hymns

When the Poor Ones *Cuando el pobre*

When the poor ones, who have nothing, still are giving;
When the thirsty pass the cup, water to share;
When the wounded offer others strength and healing:
We see God, here by our side, walking our way;
We see God, here by our side, walking our way.

When compassion gives the suffering consolation;
When expecting brings to birth hope that was lost;
When we choose love, not the hatred all around us:
We see God, here by our side, walking our way;
We see God, here by our side, walking our way.

When our spirits, like a chalice, brim with gladness;
When our voices, full and clear, sing out the truth;
When our longings, free from envy, seek the humble:
We see God, here by our side, walking our way;
We see God, here by our side, walking our way.

When the goodness poured from heaven fills our dwelling;
When the nations work to change war into peace;
When the stranger is accepted as our neighbor:
We see God, here by our side, walking our way;
We see God, here by our side, walking our way.

Text: José Antonio Olivar, b. 1939;
tr. Martin A., Seltz, b. 1951
ELW #725



When the Poor Ones (Cuando el pobre): The story of the hymn

Based on “the great judgment,” a parable found in Matt. 25: 31-46, “Cuando el pobre” speaks of the plight of the poor and marginalized. Influenced in part with the early movement of liberation theology, this hymn seeks to name the many ways humanity is oppressed and how God, in Christ, is present. God is on the journey with all people—the oppressed, the liberators, and those seeking to promote peace and justice.

The first stanza speaks of the generosity of those who have very little and, in doing so, they’re becoming the hands and feet of Christ. The journey that Christ makes with humanity is not only a spiritual one, but a very real one when Christ is present in the very people, who even in their suffering, become the embodiment of the One who liberates every need.

The second stanza centers more on the possible outcomes of suffering that is staunchly by fellow Christians—comfort, hope and love. When suffering is ceased, there is comfort. Suffering is a state of not accepting what is, and either the situation changes or the mindset changes in order to find comfort. This stanza shows the choice we can make to live in suffering or comfort, hopelessness or hope, hate or love, and when we choose the positive state, we choose God.

The third and fourth stanzas are increasingly more positive in nature as the author addresses joy, truth, and simplicity as ways of journeying with God. The final stanza brings together images of home, peace, and human kindness to strangers. What started as a hymn about suffering and oppression ends with a statement of assurance and peace, a peace that allows us to imagine home and even include in that home strangers, all because we know that God journeys with us through all of it!

José Antonio Olivar, author of the original Spanish lyrics, is a writer and journalist who studied at the Seminary of Covadonga and Oviedo. He has won several national awards for poetry and has worked as a journalist in popular newspapers and national agencies. He has traveled around the world, interviewing and making friends with the most diverse personalities from all fields of social life, art, and politics.

by C. Michael Hawn

LAY SCHOOL NEWS Fall 2017



For the fall semester we will be trying a different format so please read carefully!

- The afternoon classes will continue to be held on Tuesdays beginning on September 5th. The tentative ending date is November 28th but Halloween and weather could push things to December 5th. Classes will not meet during Thanksgiving week.
- The big change is that the evening classes will be moved to Wednesday. For the first three weeks class will begin at 6 and go until 8:30. In late September the classes will become part of Messiah's *Wednesday Night Life* program. *The WNL program begins with a meal at 5:30 followed by a Vespers service at 6. Lay School classes would then begin at 6:30 and go until 8:30. Lay School participants are invited to come for the meal and/or worship as well as the evening's class.*
- Classes will be held at Messiah, Marquette (305 W. Magnetic) with Pastor Warren Geier (Bethany, Ishpeming) as the site coordinator.

Four classes will be offered in the Fall 2017 semester, Early Church History and Worship and Liturgics on Tuesdays, Gospels and World Religions on Wednesdays. **(please note the dates and times for each class as they do vary)**

Early Church History Tuesdays, Sept 5th to Oct 10th (3-5:30pm) (6 sessions)
This class will focus on the development of the early church and the issues that led to the Seven Ecumenical Councils out of which most of our basic theology comes. The development of the Bible, the Nicene Creed and other doctrines concerning Jesus will be examined. (Pastor Warren Geier)

Gospels Wednesdays, Sept 6th, 13th and 20th (6-8:30) Sept 27th, Oct 4th, 11th and 18th (6:30-8:30) (7 sessions total)
An examination of the four gospels exploring the common message presented by the four evangelists, but also the unique aspects of each work.
(Pastor Allan Johnson)

Worship and Liturgics Tuesdays, Oct 17th to Nov 28th (3-5:30) (6 sessions)

This class will focus on leading worship (why we do what do) and also on understanding the symbols we use, the church calendar, and the liturgical structure of worship. (TBA)

World Religions Wednesdays, Oct 25th to Nov 29th (6:30-8:30pm) (5 sessions)

An overview of the essentials of the Christian faith and then a comparison with other religions of the world including Judaism, Islam and Buddhism. The hope is to have practitioners of other religions speak about their faith (Instructors TBA)

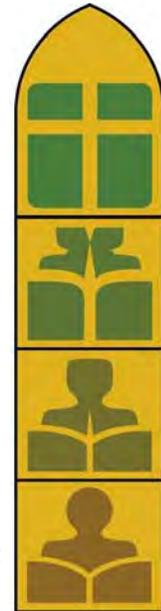
The Tuesday/Wednesday format does represent a significant change but it seems like it's worth a try for the fall semester. We'll evaluate as we go.

A reminder that there is no tuition; the only cost is for books (and instructors do their best 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. With further work beyond Lay School that is a possibility and some graduates have gone in that direction, but 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). 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**

Bethany Memorial Garden : Update

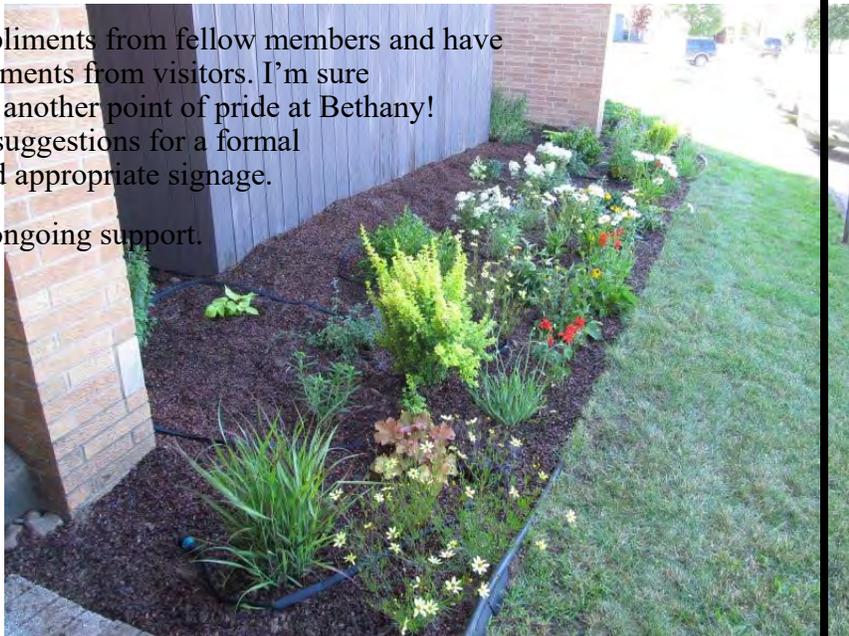
As most of you will have noticed, our garden had been completed with plantings and watering system installed by mid July. There were some problems with the soaker system, but they have been fixed, thanks to attention by Bob Bruhnke and Dan Argall and a timely response by Barb Kelly. Generous rainfall has also been helpful!

Thanks to all who have supplied generous support to get this project under way. The area of the garden is 210 square feet, and my initial request was for a \$20 donation per square. Using that formula, we have funded approximately half the area. Your generosity has gotten the garden planted...the remainder of the request will provide ongoing funds for maintenance and “waking the garden up” next spring. So, we’re well on our way to making the garden a permanent fixture here at Bethany, with your continued support! If you use one of the gift envelopes available in each hymnal rack at church, be sure to check MEMORIAL FUND FOR...(and add) GARDEN, followed by the name of the person(s) you are memorializing or honoring and include your name OR you can also use the form on the back of the Sunday bulletin; enclose the completed form with your donation and drop it off at the church office or place it in the offering plate. Be sure to print clearly so we can acknowledge your donation and memorial. Please note that your gift can be for any amount and also simply be designated as “garden maintenance”.

I’ve gotten lots of compliments from fellow members and have also heard positive comments from visitors. I’m sure the garden will become another point of pride at Bethany! I’ll also be looking for suggestions for a formal name for the garden and appropriate signage.

Thanks again for your ongoing support.

Keenan



Memorial Garden Gifts Update

Date:	Given by:	In Memory/Honor of:
6/25	Ron, Sheree, Maria & Christina Mariani Loreth Johnson Don & Linda Hurrell Tom & Sue Ryan Linda Dahl	Robert C. Johnson Gideon S. Johnson & Betty Huber Dave Menze Ned Johns Karl Dahl, Marvin & Evelyn Nadeau
7/2	Bob & Peggy Clark Deb & Bruce Bussone; Gerry & Carol Anderson Ken & Carol Carlson Jerry & Karen Plaisier	Jim & Williamina Sodergren Nora & Gerry Anderson Peter Cain; Karl Dahl; Marvin & Evelyn Nadeau Honor of their grandchildren
7/9	Cathy & Keith Barton Colleen Sundblad Gary Sundblad Charlotte Olmstead Walter & Cheryl Rognerud	Kay & Russell Owen Inez & Clayton Simons & Aaron Sundblad Lloyd & Mildred Sundblad Lloyd & Mildred Sundblad Lloyd & Mildred Sundblad
7/16	Louise Anderson Lois Goethe & Family Don & Judy Meyer	Esther Robinson, Dave & Dale Honeycutt, Alexandra Thebert Ralph Goethe Honor of Children & Grand- children
7/23	Beverly Matherne Jaak & Pat Liivoja	Honor of Marcel Matherne, Cary & Family Anne Nyberg

**Thank you to all who contributed to
the Memorial Garden.**





A Day of Learning

Those who prepare the sanctuary for worship engage in a vital and important ministry. Their care and attention enriches the worship of God and the space in which we offer our praise, our offerings, and our prayers. But where does the Paschal candle go? What about the placement of the cross? Paraments? Liturgical seasons and colors? The Font? Can we use silk flowers? How and when are the candles lit?

Dr. Melinda Quivik, along with the synod Worship committee, offers a day of learning for all those who serve on Altar Guilds or might like to do so.

Bethany will need volunteers to help with serving snacks and lunch. If you can help, please let Sue Holmgren know and inform Carrie Goldsworthy in the office. We hope that the volunteers will be those not attending the workshop. The volunteer sign up sheet is posted on the kiosk.

Altar Guild Workshop
Bethany Lutheran Church, Ishpeming
September 30, 8:30am - 2:30pm

Featuring Dr. Melinda Quivik

\$20 includes program and lunch
Register by Monday, September 25.
Go to www.nglsynod.org to register.

Bishop Katherine Finegan



The Reverend Katherine Finegan will officially assume the role of Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod on September 1.

Bishop Finegan will officially be installed on October 21 at St. Peter's Cathedral. More specific information about the installation will be in the October Outlook.



Social Ministry

The Social Ministry Committee provided lunch on June 21 to a Lutheran youth group and their leaders from Maple Grove, Minnesota. Grace Episcopal Church had invited the group to eat the lunch in their fellowship hall. The group was volunteering with Habitat For Humanity. They were helping to clean out a house, getting it ready to be renovated and made ready for a family to move in. There has been some emphasis this year on renovating old houses, rather than always building new. The members of the group were very nice young people.



**The September Noisy Offering will be given to
Lutheran Disaster Relief (1st two weeks) and
UP Food Bank (2nd two weeks).**

Thanks to everyone for your generosity!



**Congratulations
on Your
Retirement!**

Bishop Thomas Skrenes retired at the end of August. Bethany wishes him and his wife the best in their life of retirements. Thank you for your years of service to the NGLS.



Kids!



Sunday School

Sunday School resumes September 10.

Please note that Sunday School will not be held on the last Sunday of each month. Even though there is no Sunday School on that Sunday, families are encouraged to attend church with their entire family.



Confirmation Class

Confirmation classes begin September 17th @ 6pm.



VBS's Singing Super Heroes





**WELCA Reorganization Night and Salad Supper
Monday September 11 at 6:30pm**

Calling all women of Bethany!
Come for evening of fellowship with other women of Bethany.
Find out about what women in our church are doing to make a difference.

We currently have 2 circles that meet monthly: Joy Circle (2nd Monday at 7pm at church) and Martha Circle (4th Wednesday 1:30pm at church)...Quilters meet Tuesday mornings from 9am to noonthere is a prayer shawl group , funeral committee, alter guild, and many opportunities to share a hand.

Come share our salad/cake supper! Our speaker for the evening is Julianne Jarvi who will speak about her trip to Tanzania. We'll also have a work bee to put together Lutheran World Relief Kits for shipping in October.

Call me with any questions. Hope to see you there!
Cathy Barton 485-1181

Lutheran World Relief Kits

Now is the time to bring in what you have purchased for the LWR kits. If you need a reminder of what is included in each kit, there are lists on a table in the Fellowship Hall and the lists are also in the July/August Outlook.

**Women's Fall Retreat
Fortune Lake Bible Camp
September 15-17, 2017**



Theme " A Godly Touch"

Cost: Duplex housing \$125; Lodge housing \$140
Cost includes meals, Saturday night ice cream social , workshop materials, and Coffee Café.
To register please call Pam at (906)428-2442 or (906) 280-2918.

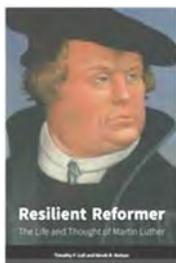


Library Notes for September 2017

By Keenan Tunnell

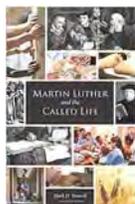
We are now well into the season of the church calendar called “Ordinary Time.” For us, of course, the Reformation 500 observance continues and this month there is another Luther biography, “graphic novel” biographies of both Martin and Katy Luther, and a bit of Luther’s theology,, something Reformation-oriented for every taste! There will be more Reformation 500 material every month for the remainder of the year, with the high point of the celebrations being on Reformation Sunday, 29 October 2017. Look for the Reformation display on the Library kiosk to recap Bethany Library’s offerings so far, and maybe dig out your copy of the Small Catechism and consider “what does this mean?” in your life!

Lull, Timothy F. & Derek R. Nelson. **Resilient Reformer.** 920 LUT



The story of Martin Luther has been told many times...and yet, interest in Luther’s life and thought remains high, and each generation brings its own set of questions to the task. This biography... is marked for its fresh, winsome, and invigorating style—one undoubtedly shaped by the years that each author spent in undergraduate and seminary classrooms. In this telling, Luther is an energetic, resilient actor, driven by very human strengths and failings, always wishing to do right by his understanding of God and the witness of the Scriptures. Luther is portrayed here more as a loud tenor in a Reformation chorale than as a solo voice of dissent against church and empire, as he and his work are closely linked with his many collaborators. At times humorous, always realistic, and appropriately critical when necessary, Lull and Nelson tell the story of an amazing, unforgettable life, one that has had ongoing impact on our world. (fr. Amazon.com)

Tranvik, Mark D. **Martin Luther and the Called life.** 284.1 TRA



One of the hallmarks of Luther's theology was its concern for daily life. In the midst of debates about justification and salvation, church authority, and the Lord's Supper, he bore a deep concern for daily Christian life. Mark D. Tranvik looks at the importance of vocation in Luther's own life and in doing so discovers renewed insights into this important doctrine. Vocation, the

called life, is a way of understanding that all of life is under the care and interest of God. All of our activities as a spouse, parent, child, worker, citizen, and church member are a part of a called life. Tranvik begins the book with a clear exposition of Luther's context, with a focus on how the reformer actually lived out his own calling. He rapidly moves into the contemporary sphere, drawing on twenty years of teaching and interaction with undergraduate students to outline how a renewed understanding of vocation is a powerful and liberating tool for life in the twenty-first century. (fr. Worldcat.org)

Leigh, Susan K., illus. Dave Hill. **Katie Luther, Mother of the Reformation.** JUV 920 LUT



Born into a destitute family of noble lineage, Katharina von Bora grew up in a convent and was relegated to life as a nun in pre-Reformation Germany. She settled into a life of study and service. Then, when Dr. Martin Luther's writings were spread throughout the land, some found their way into the hands of Katie and other nuns at the convent near Grimma. Luther's writings were the impetus for change. As much as Luther helped to reform the Church and spark sweeping change in Germany, he also helped to transform a humble nun into a strong, intelligent, and inspiring leader in her own right. This is her story, in popular graphic novel form! (fr. Amazon.com)

Leigh, Susan K., illus. Dave Hill. **Luther; Echoes of the hammer.** JUV 920 LUT



This is the story, from birth to death, of Martin Luther who headed a revolution that changed the world. From a small town in medieval Germany, the Reformation resulted in dramatic, sweeping change that still echoes today. Here is Luther's story of adventure, courage, and faith told for the first time in graphic novel style. Scattered throughout the book are informational call-outs of key supporters and enemies of Luther including Frederick the Wise, Katherine von Bora, Charles IV, and many others. Also included is a comprehensive explanation of Luther's Seal and an extensive history timeline that gives broad context to Luther's life



Living Lutheran—August 2017

Cover Story:

- Thy kingdom come (Kathryn A, Kleinhans)

Features:

- Reformation 500: 50 things Luther taught that you many not know
- Explore. Wonder. Create: Lutheran preschool earns national recognition (Steve Lundeberg)
- Friendships and fly-fishing (Jonah berg-Ganzarain)
- Harvest lessons at camp (Cindy Uken)
- Adventure awaits; Summer programs off fun, faith formation (Karris Golden)
- When banking becomes a ministry (Carla Thompson Powell)
- Life-changing care; Lutheran palliative care program saves lives in Tanzania (Stephanie N. Grimoldby)

Reflection:

- Jesus: Living stone (Liv Larson Andrews)

Insert in the August issue focuses on the NGLS

Faith & Family:

- Growing faith (Scott Seeke)

Deeper Understandings:

- Christ alone (Martin Lohrmann)

From Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton

- The laborers in the vineyard



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



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

ELCA commitment to confronting racism and anti-Semitism

8/15/2017 3:00:00 PM

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), stands against all forms of hatred and discrimination. The church believes that cultural, ethnic and racial differences should be seen and celebrated as what God intends them to be—blessings rather than means of oppression and discrimination.

The ELCA's social statement "Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity and Culture" states: "Racism—a mix of power, privilege, and prejudice—is sin, a violation of God's intention for humanity. The resulting racial, ethnic, or cultural barriers deny the truth that all people are God's creatures and, therefore, persons of dignity. Racism fractures and fragments both church and society."

The social statement, adopted by the ELCA 1993 Churchwide Assembly, calls on the church to make confession for complicity, name the spiritual crisis at the roots, commit to change and make pledges to public witness, advocacy and action to confront racism.

"We recognize that the kind of violence we witnessed in Charlottesville last weekend is very real and affects all of us," said ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton. "We need to stand up firmly against racism and anti-Semitism, show up for and advocate with others. Jesus, who makes visible those who are invisible, is already there. We need to show up, and we need to listen in each of our communities."

The ELCA is a church that belongs to Christ and Christ's church universal, where there is a place for everyone. The job of Christ's people today is to celebrate the diversity of God's creative work and embrace all people in the spirit of love, whatever race or ethnicity, economic status or gender.

A Social Statement on: FREED IN CHRIST: RACE, ETHNICITY, AND CULTURE Adopted by a more than two-thirds majority vote as a social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the third Churchwide Assembly on August 31, 1993, at Kansas City, Missouri.



Luther on Music!

By William Carroll

“I have no use for cranks who despise music, because it is a gift of God. Next after theology, I give to music the highest place and the greatest honor.”—Martin Luther.

Like most people, I love music and couldn't imagine the world without it. In my church (and probably in yours) music is central to the experience of worship. But during the Reformation there was some question about music's suitability for church services.

For a time, Swiss Reformer Huldrych Zwingli banned all music from services in the newly reformed churches of Zurich. John Calvin also banned instrumental music from church, considering it suitable only for secular use. He called instrumental music in church “senseless and absurd.” Only acapella singing was permitted, and even that had to be in unison not harmony!

Now, before I get too harsh with Zwingli and Calvin, I understand that their reasoning was in reaction to the excesses of the medieval Church. These reformers realized that in many cases works of art, including statues of Christ, the Virgin Mary, and the saints, had come to be used as idols or in ways that were very close to idolatry. Perhaps, the over-use of music had also become a kind of idol or at least a distraction. Christians desperately needed to hear the Word of God taught in their own languages through scripture reading and expository preaching, and Zwingli and Calvin made sure that was the focus.

But clearly, this is a “baby and bathwater” situation. In reaction to errors, Zwingli and Calvin swung way over to the other extreme, focusing almost exclusively on didactic teaching at the expense of all the other means that God uses to speak to us. God reaches us through all our senses; sight, sound, smell, taste (“Take, eat this is my body”), and even touch (“Greet one another with a holy kiss”).

“Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul,”

-Martin Luther.



Luther made this point forcefully in his ever-charming way, calling those who would ban music “fanatics” and “cranks.” He encouraged the church to “praise God with both word and music.” Luther saw music and all of the arts as a natural way to worship our Creator and reflect his image.

After all, if worship (and life, for that matter) is about glorifying God for his greatness, his creativity, his kindness, his beauty, how on earth could we exclude one of His most profound and beautiful gifts to us? Whether in harmony or unison, accompanied or not, I say, crank it up!

I wish to see all arts, principally music, in the service of Him who gave and created them.

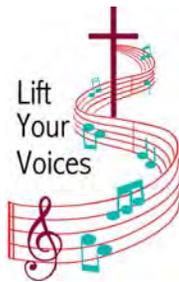
Music is a fair and glorious gift from God. I would not forego my humble share of music. Singers are never sorrowful, but are merry, and they smile through their troubles in song.

Music makes people kinder, gentler, more staid and reasonable. I am persuaded that after theology, music is the only art capable of affording peace and joy of heart ... the devil flees before the sound of music almost as much as before the Word of God.

—Martin Luther

Choir has begun.

If you would like to share your voice,
please join the choir on Wednesday evenings at 6:30.



Bell Choir Needs New Members

In order for the Bethany Bell Choir to continue, we are in need of four new members. It would most helpful if you can read music. Please consider being a new member so that this part of our music ministry can continue. Thank you.



Lutheran Disaster Response to Aid Victims of Hurricane Harvey

Please stand by our neighbors as we begin the long road to recovering from Hurricane Harvey, one of the most catastrophic storms to hit the country in more than a decade.

Lutheran Disaster Response's affiliate is actively present, collaborating with community leaders and officials to initiate the proper responses, particularly the long-term recovery efforts. Together, we have a strong history of working with disasters in the Gulf Coast area. Recovery efforts are expected to take years, and Lutheran Disaster Response will be there to accompany those affected through every phase of this disaster.

We invite you to stand by our neighbors on the Gulf Coast during this time. Your gifts ensure that our church will be able to provide help and hope for those left homeless or otherwise affected by this disaster for years to come.

Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response, designated for "Hurricane Response – United States" will be used entirely (100 percent) for this disaster until the response is complete. Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support. Give today to support the needs in this response and others like it.

*Make checks payable to
Hurricane Response - United States
and send to:*

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009**

Call **800-638-3522** to make a donation with a credit card. Operators are ready to assist you Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Central Time.



Please pray
for those
affected by

**HURRICANE
HARVEY**

Baptism at Bethany



Emily Michelle Phillips was baptized as a child of God during the worship service on July 16, 2017. Emily's parents are Angel and Michael Phillips. Her sponsors were Carrie Parkinson and Michelle Valente.



Congratulations
on Your
New Baby!



We are happy to welcome Dylan Thomas-Duane Peterson to Bethany. He is the son of ShyAnn Holm-Brown and Brandon Peterson. Dylan was born on August 14th and was 19 inches long and weighed 8 lbs 8 ozs. He will be baptized on September 17th.

Thank You.....

- Keenan Tunnell for organizing the Memorial Garden and Bob Bruhnke for his assistance in getting things ready for the gardening to begin.
- The Mead family of Chicago for sharing their musical talents.
- Linda Hurrell and Tonya Perry for their jaunty piano duet on Holy Humor Sunday.
- Linda Hurrell and Lucas Wickstrom for their magnificent piano/organ duet.
- Linda Dahl for her vocal prelude.
- Pastor Geier and Kathy for offering their home and yard for perfect viewing of the July 4th parade
- Pastor Geier for letting humor be part of our Christian life on Holy Humor Sunday.
- Volunteers who helped with Vacation Bible School.

The things you do make a difference!

Council Highlights— August 2017



- The funding for the Memorial Garden was covered by this year's donations.
- Crop Walk will be on October 1.
- Board authorized the Property and Finance boards to generate a proposal for building improvements.
- Pastoral Acts: Baptism: Emily Michelle Phillips 7/16/17; Wedding: Alexandra Kitchen and Tucker Jenson 7/3/17.
- Pastor Geier will be serving as the interim pastor for Bethany Negaunee and Emanuel in Skandia. He will be attending council meetings and finding supply pastors. He will preach at these two churches every two months.
- Bethany has several youth interested in attending the 2018 Youth Gathering in Houston. They will kick off their fundraising efforts in September.
- Fall schedule: Sunday School starts 9/10; Confirmation begins 9/17; Thursday Bible Study will begin 9/7 and the Monday class will begin 9/11.
- Next meeting Monday, September 25 @ 6:30pm.



OUR CHURCH'S

FINANCES

YTD Income: \$113,093.15

YTD Expenses: \$126,662.11

Jan. - July



Church Financials Needs Your Help

The Church financials through July 2017 show a net loss of just under \$14,000, compared to just under \$4,000 at this time last year. The difference from last year to this year is the three furnaces that were replaced in June. This expense was added to this year's budget at the annual meeting as the Property and Finance committees knew that the furnace replacement was a necessity for 2017.

Giving for 2017 is within \$150 of what it was in 2016 which reflects the continued generosity of Bethany's members and friends. Even with the expense of the furnaces the deficit is only half of what it was projected to be. Still, we would like to reduce it further. We would kindly ask that you make sure your pledge is up to date and also that you would prayerfully consider an increase in your giving in the coming months in order to reduce the current deficit and help us to end the year with a strong financial balance.

As always, the Board of Finance thanks you for your faithfulness and generosity.

Christian Gift-Planning

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



Your will. The primary way (though not the only way) we make gifts is to name ELCA ministries as beneficiaries in our will or living trusts. BUT, these gifts cannot be made if you do not have a will or living trust. The federal government says that 70% of the Americans that die each year do not have a will. You may have many reasons why you have not made a will - we have all either heard or used. "I am too busy," "They are too expensive" or "I do not need a will yet," as an excuse to put off making a will. If you do not have an up-to-date will or living trust, your estate may not go to the persons in your life who need your continued financial support after your death. Further, the ministries you have supported in your life may not receive your money in death. Ask yourself if a will or living trust is an important way to both witness and carry out your faith. As you think about your life and your estate, like so many other Christians, you will surely answer that question "yes." Be a willing witness to your faith - make or update your will or living trust today.

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

**2018 ELCA Youth Gathering
June 27 - July 1 Houston, Texas**



Four to seven young people from Bethany are interested in attending next year's ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas. In preparation for that, there will be a number of fundraisers in the upcoming year to enable as many of them to go as possible.

The kick off for their fundraising efforts will be the September 10th coffee hour following worship.

We hope that members of Bethany will be supportive and generous during the coming year so that their dream of going to this special event can be realized.



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

From Small Farmers With Love



Keep In Your Prayers

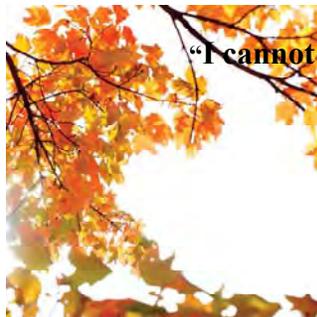
Remember our home-bound and nursing home residents:

Valente: Doreen Brown, Jean Sandstrom

Jacobetti: Allen Maki, Bob Waters, Pastor Bob Sutherland

Teal Lake Senior Living Community: Betty Geier, Jean Johns

- Carol Papaleo who mourns the loss of her husband Juan and granddaughters, Eliza and Gwendolyn Gort
- Mark, Kathleen, and Karmen Slown
- Sharon Argall
- Dan Argall
- Ray Chartre
- Roger Solberg
- Ruth Solberg
- Carl Pellonpaa
- Debbie Cain
- John and Marilyn Pontti
- Kay Chartre
- Jim Sodergren, Jr.
- Cindy Warner
- Kaye Frederickson
- Bob Kaukola
- Ted Swanson
- Loreth Johnson
- Judy Hogan
- Brown family
- Mark
- Lois Goethe
- Doris Pellonpaa
- Robert Maki
- Zander Atkins
- Jim Bjorne
- Pastor Marcia Solberg
- Angie Kempainen
- June Forsberg
- Those in the military that they may remain safe



“I cannot endure to waste anything so precious as autumnal sunshine by staying in the house.”

—Nathaniel Hawthorne



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

485-1625
linkarzig@gmail.com



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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

