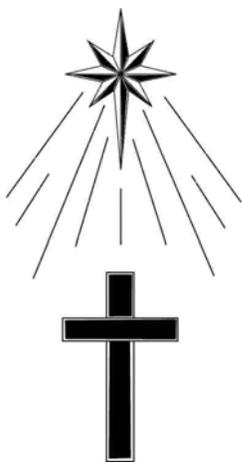


**Bethany Lutheran Outlook  
December 2006**

**Serving God, Community, and Individuals**



**“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace.” John 1: 14, 16**



## PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

As a pastor I tend to wind up in a fair number of conversations in a variety of contexts among people who are distressed by the direction they see society going. Everyone doesn't always agree on what it is that they find distressing, but many acknowledge that something is wrong. I'm sure that during December, with the ever increasing commercialization and secularization of Christmas and the pre-Christmas season, this concern will again be felt and voiced. It's distressing to see more and more people for whom Christmas has nothing to do with the birth of Jesus, nothing to do with the celebration of the Incarnation but is only about the trappings that surround this season.

There's probably none of us who can claim to be unaffected by the trappings; the parties, the special meals, lights and decorations, concerts, family get-togethers, craft shows, plays, gift exchanges, whatever it might be, they all have their appeal. It can easily become an exercise in excess but with a little restraint all these things can also add to the enjoyment of the season.

To keep it all in perspective, it is important to pay attention to your worship and devotional life. Throughout the year attending worship is one of the most powerful witnesses you can make about who you are as it demonstrates that you have priorities other than those which the world claims. In attending worship you demonstrate an orientation toward God and the things of his kingdom, a kingdom which often clashes with the prevailing culture. It may not feel that way, but praising and worshiping God is a pretty radical thing to do. During December, this is especially true.



Advent services are an invitation to slow down a little bit. They're an invitation not to rush Christmas but, along with the Old Testament prophets and John the Baptist, to prepare your heart to receive the good news of the coming Messiah. Christmas Eve worship and the days of Christmas following are also times to pause to hear the familiar story, to sing the familiar carols and hymns, times to dwell in the mystery and wonder of what all this means.

It doesn't mean that you can't or shouldn't enjoy the other things this time of year offers. But worship provides some perspective and restraint and really makes everything else you do more meaningful.

Have a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas! Rejoice in all that this time of year brings!

Pastor Geier





## *Music and Worship*



### **Preparing for Advent Worship**

**"I am the Alpha and the Omega, who was ..... who is ..... who is to come."**

The time of Advent is a threshold, a gateway, a bridge. It is not merely a time of waiting for Jesus to be born but an infusion of past, present, and future. During Advent we are challenged as a congregation to envision God's future and live it as a present reality.

Our worship during the weeks of Advent will take on a new look. The color of Advent is blue. It is the velvety dark blue of the late night sky before dawn, the blue of Mary's robes.



Our worship space will be simply but richly adorned during these four weeks of winter. The Advent wreath is a beautiful symbol of the season. Here we see the circle of life, the circle of eternity, the circle of return, and the hope of renewal.

Our liturgy during the season will also hold some changes. The hymn of praise is replaced with the Kyrie and we will be singing a new arrangement of the Alleluia taken from Evangelical Lutheran Worship. The Psalm will be sung by the choir with antiphonal responses by the congregation. How rich is the music of Advent! It will be worth learning, worth repeating, and worthy of singing before God.



It is our hope that the Sundays of Advent will be a threshold for us and will help us live out transformed lives today through the one who was .... who is .... and who is to come.

— Bob Bucan

# Enjoy the Poetry of Hymns

## Cold December Flies Away

Cold December flies away at the rose-red splendor.  
April's crowning glory breaks while the whole world wonders  
At the holy unseen pow'r of the tree which bears the flow'r.  
On the blessed tree blooms the reddest flow'r.  
On the tree blooms the rose here in love's own garden, full and strong in glory.

In the hopeless time of sin shadows deep had fallen.  
All the world lay under death. Eyes were closed in sleeping.  
But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose golden light  
Brings unending joy, brings the endless joy  
Of our hope, highest hope, of our hope's bright dawning, Son beloved of heaven.

Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world awakens.  
In the lily's purest flow'r dwells a wondrous fragrance.  
And it spreads to all the earth from the moment of its birth;  
And its beauty lives. In the flow'r it lives,  
In the flow'r, and it spreads in its heav'nly brightness sweet perfume delightful.

Text: Catalonian carol; tr. Howard Hawhee, b. 1953  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship #299



**The Winter Rose**  
**By Joseph and Pamela Martin**

From the earliest Christian time, the rose has been a symbol of divine love. It gently reaches across the ages in ancient illuminations and freely spills from the pens and brushes of countless poets and artists. Echoing through our sanctuaries in the melodies and texts of many beloved carols, it brings to life the beautiful visions of biblical prophets and the hope of early Christian pilgrims.

Today, the rose remains a vital expression of love and peace both inside the Church and the outside world. Her appearance in the garden is a treasured harbinger of the coming spring's abundance. As a gift, the rose's delicate beauty is usually reserved for the most meaningful expressions of the heart. No flower holds our dreams of love more beautifully than she.

It is in the same spirit that **The Winter Rose** was conceived and written. It is our sincerest prayer that as Christ, the Rose of Sharon, opens before you this Christmas, your spirit will be encouraged by the beauty of God's greatest gift. Let the words and music of this cantata remind you that even in the deepest winter, we are people of joy and life... children of the garden.



On Sunday, December 17, during the regular worship service, the Bethany Choir will present selections from **The Winter Rose** and other selections as our Christmas gift of song.

## DECEMBER WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS



### **December 3—First Sunday in Advent**

Dedication of new altar

### **December 10—Second Sunday in Advent**

Children's program as part of regular worship  
Advent Potato Sausage Luncheon after worship

### **December 17—Third Sunday in Advent**

Annual Choir Cantata as part of regular worship  
4:00 Caroling at Mather Nursing Home

### **December 24—Fourth Sunday in Advent**

Regular 10:30 worship—No Sunday School

### **December 24—Christmas Eve**

4:00 Family Worship

11:00 Candlelight Service



### **December 25—Christmas Day**

10:30 Holy Communion

### **December 31—First Sunday after Christmas**

Regular 10:30 worship—No Sunday School

Enclosed in each copy of December's Outlook is the December worship schedule. The schedule is written on a postcard. Feel free to use it as a special bookmark or perhaps you could put postage on it and send it to someone inviting them to take part in the special Christmas message here at Bethany. Additional postcards will be available in the library.



The Advent meal will be held on December 10 following the worship service. The meal will consist of homemade potato sausage and pepperoni rigatoni with all the trimmings, including jello cakes for dessert. If anyone would like to help the Evangelism Committee with this activity, look for the signup sheets with all the details on the kiosk. The suggested cost for this meal is \$5.00 adult, \$2.00 child, \$4.00 takeout and \$3.00 per ring if available after the meal.





**Bethany's Confirmands 2006**



**Sarah Ombrello**

**"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it; the world and those who live in it." Psalms 24:1**

**Matt Waters**

**"All things work together for good to them that love God."  
Romans 8:28**



**Jacob Dault**

**"But thou, O Lord, art a shield about me,  
my glory, and the lifter of my head.  
I cry aloud to the Lord, and he answers me from his holy hill."  
Psalms 3:3-4**

**Katie Kitchen**

**"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, en-  
dures all things." 1 Corinthians 13:7**



## Meet Marvin and Evelyn Nadeau

Martin Luther said, “There is no more lovely, friendly and charming relationship, communion or company than a good marriage.” For Marvin and Evelyn Nadeau, who will celebrate their sixty-fourth wedding anniversary on December 30, that is true.



The path to their marriage was a love story itself. Marvin met Evelyn when his cousins took Evie for a ride, and it was, as Marvin describes it, “Love at first sight.” In 1941-42, they dated once in September and once in January before Marvin proposed to Evelyn in April when she was in the hospital for appendicitis. How could something like this happen so quickly without having seen each other very much? In those days, letter writing was a vital part of getting to know each other. While they did not see each other often, they communicated daily through letter writing. Marvin even sent some of his letters Special Delivery, and he always signed his letters “Your almost perfect gentleman.”

### Early 1943

In August of 1942, Evelyn traveled with Marvin’s parents to visit Marvin in Detroit where he had found a job at Bohn Aluminum and Brass. It was then that Marvin and his mother selected a beautiful solitaire ring to cement their engagement. Later that year, Evelyn took the train across the straits to Detroit to begin married life with Marvin. Marvin and Evelyn were married on the evening of December 30 at the Immanuel Lutheran Church with Edna Olson and George Francis standing up for them in a ceremony officiated by Dr. Martin Swanson. Their good marriage had begun.

War complicated the early years of marriage. Marvin enlisted in the Army Air Corps where he trained as a pilot. He flew the AT6 (Advanced Trainer), AT10, and the B24. He graduated as first sergeant of his squadron at Syracuse



University. During his training Marvin showed his calmness in emergencies when he stalled out at a few thousand feet and recovered. Evelyn was separated from Marvin during this time, and again letter writing was the link that kept them together. Fortunately, she and daughter Susie rejoined Marvin later in 1943. After the war, they returned to Ishpeming for normal family living and work.

Once they were back in Ishpeming, their good marriage involved church – particularly Bethany Lutheran Church. This was actually unusual for Marvin because his family did not go to church when he grew up. They couldn't. Marvin's family did not have a car, and there was no church where he grew up in Forest Lake. He did attend Bible School for a short time each summer when a group came from away and held special Bible school classes in the one room schoolhouse near his home. Getting married for Marvin was the beginning of his church life, and he credits Evelyn for this. Marvin says, "Once I went, I always wanted to go. I learned a lot."

**"Once I went, I always wanted to go. I learned a lot."**

On the other hand, Evelyn always went to church. She always wanted to go and marked it on the calendar whenever she went. Evelyn wanted to have perfect attendance at church. Evelyn recalls that on Christmas mornings, they would awaken at 3:30 am, and she would walk with her mother for morning matins at 5:30. Church for Evelyn was the focal point of life. Luther League, choirs, confirmation, and Young Women's Group were all part of her weekly church life. Evelyn credits her mother for having the greatest influence on her church life. Evelyn remembers sitting as an eight-year-old in choir hearing the minister preaching about the choice between taking the high road or the low road in one's journey of faith. Right then, Evelyn decided that she was taking the high road to Jesus.



Once Marvin became a Bethany member, he was always active. Before long, he served on the Council and was the Financial Secretary and a member of the Property Committee. Even now, the Property Committee can't let him resign because he "knows so much." He has spent countless hours working on furnaces, acting as handyman, doing building maintenance and woodworking to make Bethany beautiful and to help it run smoothly. Marvin is also one of Bethany's members who worked tirelessly for the restoration of the organ. He even made two trips to Iowa to check the progress with Mr. Levson. Marvin has made his mark in almost every part of Bethany.



Together Marvin and Evelyn raised six children, and it was always obvious to their family that they loved each other, especially when Marvin came home from work singing “I don’t want to set the world on fire. I only want to start a flame in your heart.” This certainly supports his advice for a long and happy marriage: “Love the person that you marry.” Even after 43 years of working for CCI, that never changed.



**“Love the person that you marry.”**

Marvin and Evelyn find much joy in their children. They are generous, kind, and uncomplaining people who never had a harsh word for one another. They taught their children by example. When Marvin speaks of his children and grandchildren, he gets choked up. He says, " They're too good to be true. They always did what they were supposed to do. I never had a chance to go to church, and I'm thrilled that all my children go to church."

When asked what church has meant to them throughout their lives, Evelyn says without hesitation, “God is my foundation. I’m rooted and grounded in the Christian faith.” Marvin tells how church gave him a strong sense of what was right and wrong. Marvin and Evelyn see Bethany as the focus of their lives and know that it always will be. Evelyn’s advice to all of us is the same as she gave to her own children and the same advice given to her by her mother - Go to church. Be faithful.

I’m proud and blessed to have Marvin and Evelyn as my parents.



**June 2006**

**“God is my foundation.  
I’m rooted and grounded  
in the Christian faith.”**

**“Moreover it is required of a servant that he be found faithful.”  
1 Corinthians 4:2**



### *New Books for December*

*By Keenan Funnell*

December is the month of new beginnings for the Church: the season of Advent and, of course, Christmas. The books for this month look at both of these seasons that begin the new Church Year; and the collection at the Library's kiosk has many additional volumes, especially for children. Make one of them a part of your Advent/Christmas celebrations...and share one with a child!

Stoner, Marcia. **SEASONS OF FAITH.**

"Based on the seasons of the church year, this text is for short-term studies for older children, preteen youth and even adults. It includes photocopiable patterns and charts, an Advent worship booklet, Lenten study, All Saints' Eve activities, Pentecost and World Communion Sunday. A brief explanation of the history of each season is included."

Blair Gilmer Meeks. **EXPECTING THE UNEXPECTED;** an Advent Devotional Guide

This is a "different" Advent devotional resource..."offering far more than a typical re-telling of the Nativity story. Instead, this daily devotional guide presents snapshots from throughout Jesus' life in which he persistently does the unexpected..." and invites us to do likewise.

Joe Wheeler and Jim Rosenthal. **ST. NICHOLAS;** a Closer Look at Christmas.

"This beautiful, fully illustrated... book provides a closer look at Christmas and the St., Nicholas of history and legend. Full of historical information and rare illustrations from Christian traditions around the world, this book will entertain, inform, and inspire readers as it teaches the true meaning of Christmas giving. (The authors) use stories and pictures to reclaim the historical St. Nicholas who inspired the Santa Claus story...(ultimately showing) that the tradition of St. Nicholas can make the celebration of Christmas more meaningful."

**MYSTERY OF THE THREE KINGS (DVD)**



"Three kings paid homage to the newly-born Jesus at the stable in Bethlehem, but their story is filled with mystery. From Yemen in Saudi Arabia to Russia and the ancient center of astronomy at Babylon in Mesopotamia, we search for the origins of the Three Wise Men and learn the secrets of the gifts they brought for Jesus. Using new evidence, we discover explanations for the miraculous appearance of a star that led them to Bethlehem. By retracing the steps of the Wise Men, we are able to understand the Christmas story." (105 min. with extra features on Babylon and St. Helena)

**NATIVITY: THE ART AND SPIRIT OF THE CRECHE**  
(DVD)

“ Here is an uplifting and fascinating Christmas special. After the cross, the nativity scene is Christianity’s most recognized symbol. Its history, art and spirituality have been embraced by cultures around the world for nearly two thousand years. This video unites theologians and collectors with an astonishing and beautiful array of nativity scenes collected from across the globe.” (30 minutes) NOTE: This program was produced by Mepkin Abbey, a Trappist monastery in South Carolina, and highlights their crèche collection.



Powell, Matthew, O.P. **THE CHRISTMAS CRECHE:**  
Treasure of Faith, Art, & Theater.

“Elaborate and awe-inspiring. Plain and simple. Christmas crèches come in as many varieties as there are people. And that’s just as it should be, for crèches are profound expressions of people’s faith...In exploring the mystery of Christmas through the art, drama and devotion of a myriad of ethnic groups down through the centuries, this beautiful volume serves to remind us that each one of us is still held...in the divine embrace.”

Beckett, Wendy. **SISTER WENDY’S NATIVITY.**

This book looks anew at the Christmas story and invites us to consider the true significance of Christ’s life. Sister Wendy’s personal selection of over 40 beautiful paintings from manuscripts held by the Vatican and Italian State Libraries...illustrate stories that are familiar to all of us, yet whose significance is so often elusive...The charming, provocative and often humorous illustrations are the testament of artists who dedicated their lives to producing paintings in praise of God. Sister Wendy blends her artistic knowledge with her spiritual insight in order to help us understand the meaning contained for all of us in their exquisite pictures.



## December Worship Assistants

### **December 3**

Assisting Minister - Robert Maki  
Acolytes - Mindy Harrington & Kate Clark  
Altar Guild - Doreen Brown  
Greeters -  
Flowers - In memory of Arthur Brown by  
Doreen Brown  
Coffee Hosts -

### **December 10**

Assisting Minister - Chris Hough  
Acolytes - Kenny Kinnunen & Max  
Alexander  
Altar Guild - Carrie Goldsworthy  
Greeters - Tom & Emilee Brown  
Flowers -  
Coffee Hosts - Advent Dinner

### **December 17**

Assisting Minister - Paul Sandstrom  
Acolytes - Jordan Dault & Natalie  
Rasmusson  
Altar Guild - Loreth Johnson  
Greeters -  
Flowers - Departed family members by Carl  
& Doris Pellonpaa  
Coffee Hosts - Rosemarie & Knut Strom and  
Evelyn Valente

### **December 24 (10:30)**

Assisting Minister - Kathryn Geier  
Acolytes - Seth Bjorne & Michael Carriere  
Altar Guild - Sue Holmgren  
Greeters - Tom & Pat Varda  
Flowers - In memory of Stuart Sundblad by  
the Sundblad family

**January Ushers**—Jaak Liivoja's team

### **December 24 (4:00)**

Assisting Minister - Ned Johns &  
Kathy Harrington  
Acolytes - Victoria & Kristina  
Mattson  
Altar Guild - Sue Holmgren  
Greeters -

### **December 24 (11:00)**

Assisting Minister - Jerry & Karen  
Plaisier  
Acolytes - Matt & John Leverton  
Altar Guild - Sue Holmgren  
Greeters -

### **December 25**

Assisting Minister - Linda Dahl  
Acolytes -  
Altar Guild -  
Greeters -

### **December 31**

Assisting Minister - Robert Nadeau  
Acolytes - Alex Goldsworthy & Katie  
Johns  
Altar Guild - Pat Liivoja  
Greeters -  
Flowers - In memory of Lowell  
Holmgren by Doreen Brown  
Coffee Hosts -

### **December Ushers:**

Ralph Goethe	Roy Koski
James Chapman	Ray Leverton
Ed Johns	Jerry Plaisier
Jim Kinnunen	Knut Strom
Craig Kitchen	

# December 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:00 Sunday School 9:15 Evangelism 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship 6:00 Bells; Confirmation	4 11:00 Bible Study 6:30 Worship 7:00 WELCA General Meeting  Deadline to order poin-	5 9:00 Quilters 6:30 Worship & Music 7:30 Property	6 6:30 Choir	7	8	9 Fellowship Group—"Scrooge"
10 9:00 Sunday School 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship/Children's program; Advent meal follows service 6:00 Bells	11 6:30 Worship 7:30 Christian Ed.	12 9:00 Quilters	13 10:00 Men's Coffee 4:00 Social Ministry 6:30 Choir	14 1	15	16
17 9:00 Sunday School 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship 4:00 Caroling at Mather 6:00 Bells	18 6:30 Worship 7:30 Parish Planning Council	19 9:00 Quilters	20 6:30 Choir 1:00 Martha Circle @ Marian Medlyn's	21	22	23
24 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship 4:00 Family Service 11:00 Candlelight Service	25 10:30 Worship  	26	27 10:00 Men's Coffee 1:30 Mary Circle	28	29	30
31 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <p><b>ANGEL TREE</b>            The theme for this year's angels. If you would like please place it in the box ornaments are needed by  Christmas tree in the sanctuary will be to contribute an angel(s) for the tree, provided in the library. The angel Dec. 10. Thanks.</p> </div>					<b>Deadline for January Newsletter—Sunday, December 24</b>

2 - Kay Skytta  
Amber Sodergren  
Lindsay Waters

3 - Ralph Goethe  
John Pontti  
Irene Portale

4 - Don Liljequist  
6 - Emily Vallier  
7 - Pauline Toivonen

8 - Ida Anderson  
Cheryl Sleeman

9 - Pearl Forchini  
Karen Mattson  
10 - Sheree Mariani

11 - Lynn Healey  
Daniel Kaukola  
Todd Pohlman  
Meredith Seppanen  
Justin Young

12 - Richard Meyer  
13 - James Chapman  
Jerald Hager

15 - Mindy Harrington  
16 - Christine Jarvi  
17 - Holly Bjorne  
18 - Carol Truscott  
19 - Ann Carne

20 - Kayla Kaukola  
Knut Strom  
23 - Roy Eman



24 - Megan Hough  
Matthew Leverton

25 - Carol Waters  
26 - Travis Wooden

28 - Lisa Ombrello

31 - David Laine  
Carl Pellonpaa

## DECEMBER



1 - Roy & LaVerne Koski  
(22 years)  
Jerry & Karen Plaisier  
(16 years)  
12 - Ray & Sandee Sundquist  
(31 years)  
16 - Carl & Doris Pellonpaa  
(53 years)  
19 - Ron & Marie Jensen  
(47 years)  
21 - Jim & Jane Anderson  
(38 years)  
27 - Larry & Ann Alexander  
(20 years)  
28 - John & Marilyn Pontti  
(47 years)  
30 - Marvin & Evelyn Nadeau  
(64 years)

**ADVENT TREE: GETTING READY**



The Advent tree will once again be in the Narthex waiting for your gifts. Bring in mittens, hats, and unwrapped gifts for children and adults. These items will be brought to the Salvation Army for distribution to needy families. Donations will be taken until December 17th.

**WELCA GENERAL MEETING**

**Monday, December 4th at 7 p.m.** will be our next general meeting. All Bethany women are welcome and bring a friend! The program will include a display of Nativities. Come share the Christmas Spirit.



**Need an idea for Christmas gift giving?**

Through **ELCA Good Gifts** you can buy a goat, a pig, a pair of rabbits, a fruit tree sapling, and much more. These gifts will help feed our hungry neighbors throughout the world. Go to [www.elca.org/goodgifts](http://www.elca.org/goodgifts) or call 1-800-638-3522 or browse through the



ELCA Good Gifts Catalog on the magazine rack in the Narthex to purchase your Good Gift. You may give these gifts in honor or memory of someone you love. Good Gifts are a Good Thing!!



### **December 4**

- Pray for all who live in poverty or near-poverty.
- Give thanks for Advent and God's coming: as a human being long ago, every day in and through the people you know or come into contact with, and when you join all the saints in eternal praise.
- Pray for hymn writers, musicians, choral groups, and all who make this season of the year reflective, joyous, and peace-filled.



Women  
together in  
prayer  
Mondays  
at noon

### **December 11**

- Pray for peace in your home, community, and world.
- Give thanks for children's Christmas programs, your congregation, Christmas trees, and traditions.
- Pray for generous hearts, wallets, and servant-volunteers to meet the needs of the people in your community.

### **December 18**

- Pray for all who serve in the military and their families.
- Give thanks for the media and its ability to show us a picture of the small world in which we live.
- Pray for the media, that the picture they share may be accurate, timely, and community-empowering.

### **December 25**

- Pray for the world, that it may receive the gift of God's love this day and every day with joy and thanksgiving.
- Give thanks for God's gift to you in the Christ-Child.
  - Pray for yourself, that you may boldly act on your faith in the new year.



## December Broadcasts from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

### [Introducing Jesus of Nazareth](#)

Airs on [ABC affiliate stations](#) starting December 3, 2006

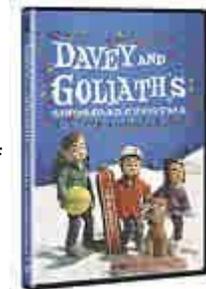


Join gifted pastor, theologian and *Grace Matters* ( [www.gracematters.org](http://www.gracematters.org) ) radio host Peter Marty as he travels through the Holy Land in this expanded broadcast version of *Introducing Jesus of Nazareth* (originally produced for Mosaic Television). Journey where Jesus walked, from Nazareth and Bethlehem to Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee, the Jordan Valley, the Mount of Transfiguration, and finally to Jerusalem. *Introducing Jesus of Nazareth* is a straightforward, concise retelling of the gospel story told against a backdrop of breathtaking scenes from the Holy Land.

### [Davey and Goliath's Snowboard Christmas](#)

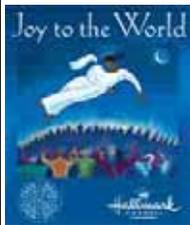
Airs on Hallmark Channel, Sunday, December 17, 2006 at 7:00 AM (Eastern/Pacific) / 6:00 AM (Central).

*Davey and Goliath's Snowboard Christmas* is an action-packed holiday special that is perfect for the whole family. Through the magic of stop-motion animation, we follow Davey and his talking dog, Goliath, on an exciting snowboarding adventure. During this adventure Davey learns some dazzling snowboard maneuvers. He also learns some very important lessons about the real meaning of Christmas and about understanding and respect for people who are different than he is.



### [Joy to the World](#)

Airs on Hallmark Channel, Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, 2006 at 9:00 AM (Eastern/Pacific) / 8:00 AM (Central).



*Joy to the World* is a one-hour Christmas television special. Produced by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) for the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. and the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission, this special airs on **Hallmark Channel, Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, 2006, at 9:00 AM (Eastern/Pacific) / 8:00 AM (Central).**

This holiday worship service includes a joyful mix of music and praise from ELCA African American, Asian, American Indian, Arab and Middle Eastern, and Latino congregations. The rich and diverse cultural blend begins with a Santa Lucia celebration in the Swedish Lutheran tradition.

### **December 3 Advent 1: Abounding in Love**

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13



In the first of a three-part Advent series featuring in depth biblical reflections and music of the season, host Peter Marty contemplates a powerful prayer of the apostle Paul. It's a prayer from the oldest book in the New Testament, 1 Thessalonians, that lifts up the quest for togetherness, holiness, and love that Christian people are hungry for in Christian community.

### **December 10 Advent 2: The God Who Waits**

Malachi 3:1-4

In this second of a three-part series leading up to Christmas, host Peter Marty explores what is meant by "the patience of God." When our passions are short-lived, our behaviors uneven, and our sins offensive, few individuals speak with as much clarity to our lives as the Old Testament prophets. Malachi is one who gives us a clue for getting a fresh start on meeting the challenge of reshaping our distorted lives. His insight begins with the patience of God.

### **December 17 Advent 3: Four Directives for Peace with God**

Philippians 4: 4-7

In the final segment of his special Advent series, host Peter Marty takes a fresh look at one of the most striking passages ever written from a prison cell. Join him to capture what the apostle Paul must have had in mind when he asked his fellow Christians to rejoice, be gentle, not worry, and express thanks.

### **December 24 Silent Night**

Luke 2: 1-14

In the cold rain and snow on Christmas night 1914, the unimaginable happened in the trenches of World War I. Young German, French, British, and Belgian soldiers spontaneously threw down their arms and came together across the front lines to exchange gifts, sing carols, eat, drink, and even play soccer. Renowned historian Stanley Weintraub shares a vivid picture of how this forgotten moment in military history proved to be one of the most beautiful Christmas stories of all times.

### **December 31 An Imperishable Inheritance**

1 Peter 1: 3-5

Not every treasure can be stored in a box. Not everything of value can be itemized in a legal document. Pastor, educator, and author Herbert Brokering outlines how he intends to distribute his lifelong wealth to those whom he loves. His list of "wealth" will surprise even experts who spend their life coaching others on how to leave a legacy of true worth.

**Grace Matters** airs on Sunnvy 102 at 7:30 Sunday mornings.

# Kids - Did you know?



Jesus is for everyone!



Dec. 3      During Sunday School, kids will be practicing for  
Dec. 10      the Christmas program 9:00—10:15

Please be there to learn and practice our  
Christmas songs.

Dec. 10      Children's Christmas presentation  
                         during the morning's church  
                         service



## **Bible Verse to memorize**

“They shall name him Emmanuel  
which means God is with us.”

Matthew 1: 23



## Christmas Books—Especially for Kids

By Kathy Geier

A special Advent display of Christmas books in the library includes some for children that can be borrowed to help share the central meaning of Christmas during the commercial blitz of the coming weeks. The books reviewed below are also good suggestions for gifts or starting a family tradition of yearly reading.



**A CHRISTMAS STORY** by Brian Wildsmith is a good readaloud for very young children, but the beautiful illustrations will be appreciated by all ages. The nativity story is told through Rebecca, a young girl living in Nazareth who accompanies a small donkey searching for his mother to the stable in Bethlehem.

Preschool; art, all ages

In **HEY, MR. ANGEL!** by Christine Harder Tangvald, two shepherd boys missed the angel's announcement and hurry to catch up.

A Christmas pageant provides the setting for the story which is told in a whimsical rhyme.

Ages 4-8



**JACOB'S GIFT**, by popular author Max Lucado, is a fable about a young boy studying carpentry who is taught some important lessons about God along with the skills of woodworking by his teacher. He has just learned that giving a gift to one of God's children is like giving a gift to God, and he gives a feeding trough he has just made to Joseph and Mary to use as a bed for the baby Jesus.

Ages 4-8



**THE LITTLE BOY'S CHRISTMAS GIFT**, written and lavishly illustrated by John Speirs, is set "in the East". A young boy helps his father tend the gardens of the three wise men, and when they leave to follow the star, he secretly goes with them. Others who wish to give a gift to the Christ Child join the caravan, and when they finally arrive at the stable to present their offerings, the boy steps forward with his own gift, a small tree decorated with gleanings from his journey. The lyrical text and the young hero will appeal to children, and the elegant, gold-enhanced art is as luminous as a medieval illuminated manuscript.

Ages 4-8; art, all ages

**ONE WINTRY NIGHT** by Ruth Bell Graham, tells of an injured mountain boy, caught in a snowstorm at Christmastime, who is taken in by a woman living in a log home the boy's grandfather helped build years before. Waiting for the snowstorm to pass, the two keep a Christmas vigil as the woman tells the Christmas story in the long version, beginning with creation and ending with the Resurrection.

Graded 4-6



Arch Books, a series of short books with Bible stories in rhyme have been enjoyed for years by young children. These titles are versions of the Christmas story.



- **JUST LOOK IN THE STABLE**
- **THE SHEPHERD'S CHRISTMAS**
- **JOSEPH'S CHRISTMAS STORY**
- **BORN ON CHRISTMAS MORN**
- **STAR OF WONDER**

Reading level: Grade 3

Interest level: Ages 5-9





**HAPPY 95th  
BIRTHDAY  
ALICE JACOBSON**



Family and friends happily shared Alice Jacobson's birthday with her after the worship service on November 12. In addition to her Bethany friends, Alice was joined by her son and daughter-in-law James and Deborah Jacobson and daughter Marcia Mahn. Granddaughters Sarah Jacobson and Jamie Rhoades and great granddaughter Morgan Rhoades added two more generations to the day's celebration.



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**Poinsettias:** We will be ordering poinsettias this year from Snyders. The cost is \$14.50 per plant. Please make your check out Bethany Lutheran Church **when** you place your order. You may bring your own plants if you wish, with your name written underneath so they may be identified. Please have the plants here by early Friday morning, December 22. You may take your plants following the late Christmas Eve service. Thank you.

**Deadline to order plants is December 4th.**



### Council Highlights

- Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Ron Jensen as Financial Director. Cheryl Sleeman was appointed as the new Financial Director
- Approved the replacement of the furnace's circulating pump at the cost of \$1,200 to be paid from building maintenance fund
- Approved submission of application for an intern for 2007-2008; special congregational meeting will be held on December 17 to request support
- At the end of the Nov. 29 service, the old altar will be deconsecrated. The new altar will be installed and blessed on December 3.
- Michael, Jennifer, and Aili Toivonen have transferred membership to Faith Lutheran in Warner Robins, GA

The **Memorial Committee** would like to thank all those who contributed to the Memorial Fund in honor of:



**Helen Racine**



**Have You Visited Bethany's Website?**  
[www.bethanyishpeming.org](http://www.bethanyishpeming.org)



Each week the Pastor's sermon is put online so people can read and/or listen to his message. Even though Pastor Geier has been occasionally preaching at Trinity Lutheran in his role as interim pastor, keep in mind that all of his sermons, including those being given at Trinity, are still being recorded and can be found on Bethany's website later in the week.

In addition, the Bethany mural is now downloadable from the Bethany site via the "Church Life" page.





## Ushers



Is ushering a ministry? Of course!  
Does ushering have something to do with the proclamation and  
celebration of the Gospel? Of course!

Ushers are ministers of hospitality. Ushers are usually the first official representatives of the church that people meet upon arrival for worship. The usher's appearance and dress, attitude, words, demeanor, their body language, motions and conduct all send clear messages to the arriving worshipers about what to expect inside. Ushers serve as a kind of an indicator of what the church has in store for all those who enter. It's just not enough to put a service bulletin into the hands of the arriving visitors and members. Nor is it enough to gather the offerings with efficient precision. What is needed instead is a warm, genuine, dignified, reverent expression of Christian cordiality that shows itself through honest efforts to be helpful, caring, and accommodating.

Ushers are worship leaders. Although their tasks do not include serving at the altar or the pulpit, ushers are servants of the word of God and the liturgy. Along with other worship leaders, ushers are expected to address their tasks with such a level of devotion and reverence that all worshipers gain a glimpse of the glory of God.

Unlike other worshipers, of course, ushers will at times have particular tasks to do during the liturgy. Perhaps a window or door needs to be opened or an ill person needs to be assisted or it's time to get the offering plates, make the official attendance count, whatever; these and other tasks may seem to interrupt the usher's worship. While such "interruptions" are expected, they help explain why ushers are necessary in the church, for nothing should interfere with the worship of those who are not there as ushers. Ushers have no interruption; they only have opportunities for usefulness.

Are you an usher? We are in need of expanding our usher ministry. We are looking for new recruits, women, men, young, and not so young. We are putting together a training / recruiting meeting after church one Sunday in January. Please pray about joining our usher ministry.

The date for the meeting will be set soon and will be announced.

God's peace be with you. Board of Worship and Music.



## The Lutheran Magazine



The Board of Evangelism will have 15 copies of the Lutheran Magazine available each month in the church library for the members of Bethany. Please feel free to take one, read and return it as you would a library book. If the current issue isn't available, prior months will be kept for a period of time allowing everyone interested adequate time to enjoy.

## Thank You from the Crafters

We wish to thank all who helped make our project a success. To date we have earned \$1001.15 This money will be used either for the fuel fund or snow removal, whichever is in need.

We appreciate your patronage and hope you continue to support our efforts.

Thank you.

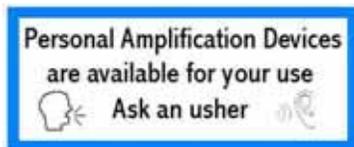
Carol, Kay, Ruthie and Shirley



## Thank You Gary Sundblad

Thanks to Gary Sundblad, many at Bethany are hearing every word. Gary has generously donated an A.L.D. (Assistive Listening Device) System to Bethany. The system consists of:

- 1 Telex SoundMate AAT-2ALD Transmitter
- 10 Landmark FM350 ALD Receivers
- 10 Sony MDR-E928LP Ear Buds



← — Look for a sign like this in the near future.

## Congratulations!

**Kaitlyn Thompson**, a junior at Negaunee High School, was inducted into the National Honor Society on October 25.

In recognition of her academic excellence, **Sarah Waters** was initiated into the national Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society for First-Year Students.



Congratulations to the following students who made the 1st quarter Honor Roll:

Negaunee: **Kenneth Kinnunen, Kristina Mattson, Kaitlyn Thompson**

Westwood: **Sara Ombrello, Maria Mariani, Seth Bjerne, Erick Pohlman, Tori Nault, Kellie Clark**



**Victoria Mattson** was the first place winner on the 2006 Negaunee Lions Peace Poster Contest. Victoria's poster will advance to compete at district, state and international levels. On her poster, Victoria said, " I think the world should respect the differences of other people despite what they believe in, what they look like, where they come from, and where they live."



After a successful basketball season, Doris and Carl Pellonpaa's granddaughter **Samantha Pellonpaa** was selected for honorable mention MPC.

**Katie Johns**, an eighth grader at C.L. Phelps, was a member of the basketball team that was co-champions of the Marquette-Alger Western Division Conference during the regular season.

## YOU'RE INVITED!



On Saturday, December 9, the Fellowship Group will be going to the 7:00 p.m. performance of **Scrooge** at NMU. The performance will be followed by dessert and beverage at Tommy's Restaurant in Marquette. Tickets are \$8.00 and can be provided by Paul and Diana Sandstrom or you can purchase your own ticket. If you would like to car pool, please be at the church parking lot by 12:00 noon. This is an activity for all. Everyone is welcome. A sign up sheet is also on the kiosk

### CHRISTMAS CAROLING MATHER NURSING HOME DECEMBER 17 - 4PM

Help bring the beauty and spirit of Christmas through song to the residents of Mather Nursing Home by joining the caroling on Dec. 17.

**Everyone is welcome!**



"I know one thing about angels.  
Their mothers pick out their clothes."

### Keep In Your Prayers

- Family and friends of Helen Racine
- Donna Day as she recovers from knee surgery
- Clifford and Karen Mattson and family—Clifford's brother Bernie Mattson of Republic died on November 5.
- Home-bound and nursing home residents: June Bjorne, Teckla Holmgren, Barbara Crabb, Violet Yenore, Marvin Nadeau, Pearl Forchini (Mather), and Martha Ulrickson (Mather)
- Dan Thompson



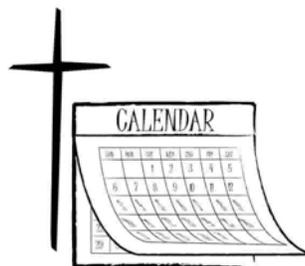
### Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, Cocoa and Chocolate Are Available at Bethany

- Café Salvador Coffee \$4.75 / box
- Organic Decaf Coffee \$5.25 / box
- All teas \$2.50 / box
- Hot cocoa \$4.00 / container
- Organic chocolate bar \$2.00 / bar

From Small Farmers With Love

### Planning Ahead...

- January—Congregational Meeting
- January— Meeting for ushers



Contributions to and ideas for the newsletter can be made by contacting **Linda Dahl** by phone, e-mail, or by dropping a note in the newsletter mailbox at church.

**485-1625**

**[linkarzig@wmconnect.com](mailto:linkarzig@wmconnect.com) or [linkarzig@netscape.com](mailto:linkarzig@netscape.com)**

Rev. Warren Geier, Pastor  
Home Phone: 485-4218  
E-mail: revwgeier@charterinternet.com

Bethany Lutheran Church  
Phone: 906-486-4351  
Fax: 906-486-9640  
E-mail: bethanyim@hotmail.com  
Website: www.bethanyishpeming.org

Parish Planning Council:  
Exec. Director, Robert Nadeau  
Asst. Exec. Director, Ted Swanson  
Christian Education, Brent Clark  
Evangelism, Paul Sandstrom  
Finance, Ron Jensen  
Personnel, Sandee Sundquist  
Property, Jerry Plaisier  
Social Ministry, Marian Medlyn  
Stewardship, Kathy Harrington  
Worship & Music, Dan Argall  
Council Youth Member, Sarah Kinnunen



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Bethany Lutheran Church  
715 Mather Avenue  
Ishpeming, MI 49849

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