

## PASTOR'S PAGE

Dear members of Bethany:

This past November Julie and I were invited to attend a Broom Tree retreat. The retreats are designed for pastors and their wives. This retreat was based on 1King 18 and 19: There was a great famine in Israel. God sent Elijah to Mt Carmel where the prophets of Baal and the prophet of God had a sacrifice competition. The prophets of Baal would call on him to consume the sacrifice with fire. Of course, Baal did not consume it; however, put a trench around his sacrifice and soaked the sacrifice with water until the trench was overflowing. Elijah called on the name of the Lord and the Lord sent a fire which consumed the sacrifice, the water, and the altar. Then Elijah killed all the prophets of Baal. Now read God's word: "(King) Ahab told (his queen) Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers." And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat." And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again. And the angel of the Lord came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you." And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God. (1 Kings 19:1-8)

The "broom tree" is the tree that Elijah rested under when he was totally exhausted. The angel of the Lord fed and nourished Elijah during this period of exhaustion. The purpose of the Broom Tree Ministries is to give pastors and with their wives a place of rest. Elijah was fed by God. It was more than bread and water. It was the living Word of God working in Elijah's life. "Broom Tree Retreats" allow a pastor and his wife to reflect on the God's calling as a pastor and the wife of a pastor. Every one of us are called by God whether it be wife, mother, husband or father. God has given each of us skills to live out this calling. It is called a vocation or job! Luther taught that Christian husbands and wives need to be in God's word. If blessed with children, God equips, through parents, His Word so that they are to bring up their family in God's eyes and the shadow of His Son's cross. Luther taught that the Christian home is a church. "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." (Matthew 18:20)

Julie and I are very thankful to the congregation for allowing us to go. We are very thankful that we were sponsored by unknown donors and unknown prayer partners. These prayer partners prayed for us the entire time we were at the retreat.

One of the blessings from Bethany is that before each Council meeting, a member of the council prays for me, Julie and the family, which is so appreciated. In return I pray for the Leadership, but now I would like all the members to keep our family in your prayers. From that week, I'm re-evaluating my prayer life for each of you. It is so important that we keep each other in prayer.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Steele.

## ADVENT SERVICES IN DECEMBER - "Child of Promise"

Promises, promises - the Bible is full of them, but ultimately all of the promises of God are found in the Christ Child. In this year's Advent series, we will explore the promise associated with the original Hebrew names given to the Messiah, the Promised One, in Isaiah 7-12. Each service will delve into the meaning behind the promise of old and how those promises of old give meaning to our lives today as people of promise as we await the Christ Child.

Service 1 (December 5) - Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Is 7:14). In Hebrew "**Immanuel**" means "**God with us!**". Isaiah gives us the essence of the promise of Christ's presence with us forever. Jesus said upon his ascension "Lo, I am with you till the end of the age!" (Matthew 28:20b). God is with us in the Word and the Sacraments. God the Holy Spirit placed Jesus in our hearts. He is with us wherever we go.

Service 2 (December 12) - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Is 9:6) "**Shar Shalom**" is the Hebrew for "**Prince of Peace!**". Isaiah proclaims the promise of harmony and unity which only Christ can bring. This is witnessed after Jesus rose from the dead and entered the upper room where the disciples were hiding out! He comes in the midst of them saying: "On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." Peace is found only in the Blood of Jesus.

Service 3 (December 19) - There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. By using the name "**Nezr**", or "**branch**", Isaiah reveals to us that Jesus is connected to us and we are connected to him - always. Remember nothing can separate us from God's love in Jesus Christ. (Romans 8). Jesus describes himself this way in John: "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5.

Our children's Sunday School service, Christmas Eve service, and Christmas Day service ALL deal with names. Names for Jesus. names of Jesus' relatives, and your name. God has called each of you by name! You are special. God gave up his Son, your brother in the flesh, for your sins, my sins and the world sins. Praise the Lord that God's Son conquered the grave for us!

I encourage all families to participate in our Advent services this year.

Pastor Steele



## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT



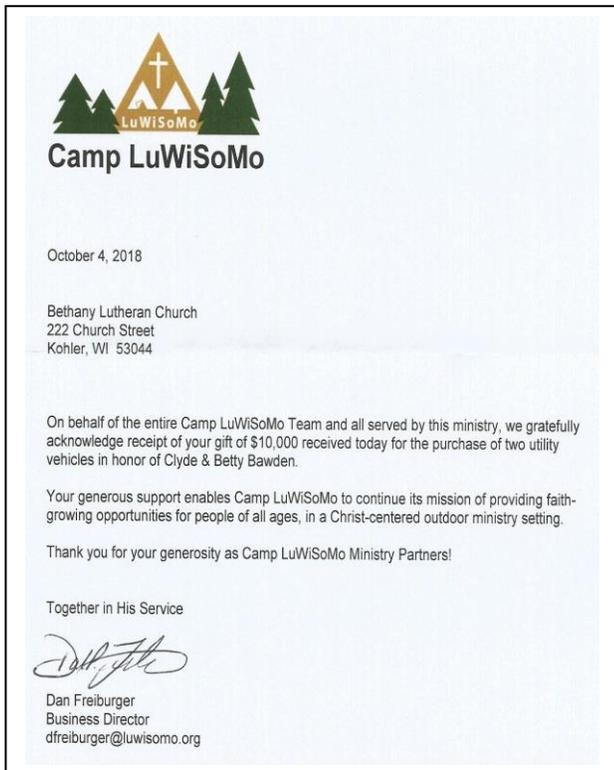
The 2018 Voter's Meeting took place on Sunday, November 4. Sixty members attended and forty-nine stayed for the Pot Luck. It was all good with the budget being adopted, as presented, and the election of officers and board members. Current elder, Todd Matte (*pictured left*), will assume the office of VP on January 1, 2019, replacing Bob Wuerzburger, who will be stepping away from the council after many, many years of dedicated service to Bethany, thanks Bob! Steve Hazen will take another term on the Board of Elders, Dave Hasler and Shua Yang will rejoin that board after a having been off for one year and Jason Mengel is coming on as a new Elder. Tom Schnettler is coming onto the Board of Trustees as Andy Fibiger is going off. Ben Marotz is taking a second term on the Board of Finance and Kandice Brooks is new on the Board of Education with Kalia Yang going off. Thanks to all of those who have accepted these positions and to all who have served in them the past few years.

Pastor and Julie left for their pastoral retreat in Michigan after the Voter's Meeting. He arranged for guest pastors for November 14th and 21st. The preacher on the 14th was Pastor David Blas (*pictured right*). His name became familiar to us last year as he was "Vicar Blas". He was called to serve at Good Shepherd in Sheboygan back in June. He also is associated with the Hispanic Ministry, one of the groups that received a gift from the Bawden Estate. He was unable to be with us on October 21 when we had our special day for the Bawdens, so it was nice to meet him and have him lead our service. Pastor Zellmer, Juanita Hazen's father, preached on November 21. He has served Bethany many times as a guest pastor in recent years.



Barb and I had occasion to travel to Waushara County on Thursday, November 15. We were in the vicinity of Camp LuWiSoMo and decided to stop in. We have been annual campers at their public campground for many years. Back to the Bawden gifts, I worked with Dan Freiburger, the Business Director, a few months back to fulfill their wish for utility vehicles for the Church Camp and the Public Campground. With the generous amount given by the Bawdens, we were able to get one new and one used vehicle. The new one was available for a photo, so we took advantage of that opportunity. Pictured below are Tom Martin, superintendent of grounds/maintenance, and me with "the Ranger".





Pictured to the left is a “thank you” recently sent from Dan Freiburger for these two donated vehicles. Below is the Camp LuWiSoMo Chapel that was once a barn.



A nine-year old came up with the name of “Camp LuWiSoMo” [Lutheran Wisconsin Southern (District) Missouri (Synod)]. Founded in 1961, purchased from George Peacock. The camp serves all ages, and is active all year round. Location: W5421 Aspen Rd. Wild Rose, Wisconsin 54984.

See also [www.luwisomo.org](http://www.luwisomo.org)

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Advent, a Latin word meaning “coming”; the next four Sundays encompass that period of “coming”, ending on Christmas Eve. The period of preparation includes three Wednesday “mid-week” services: December 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. I hope you will attend these special services at Bethany.

Last year, the Village Christmas Walk was revived following a few years of not happening. It originated in the mid-seventies and continued for about 38 years. The walk was discontinued as the numbers dropped off substantially toward the end. Now that new energy is bringing it back, know that the start time is earlier and, with more young families getting behind it, it will look more like the early days, lots of kids, parents and grandparents. This year’s walk will be on Sunday, December 9, 4pm. It will begin at St. John’s Catholic church, then proceed to Grace, UCC, then end at Bethany for social time including cookies and other refreshments. You may sign up to donate to this in the lower narthex. Invite your family, friends and neighbors. It is sure to get you into the “spirit of Christmas”.

Barb and I wish all of you a blessed Christmas. We are so encouraged by the people of this congregation, the friendship, the loyalty and the dedication of our people is just a testament to the true faith that lives within each and every one of you. My you enjoy this special time of the year with family and friends and look toward 2019 with enthusiasm and positive anticipation for a better world.

Lee Gumm  
President, Bethany Lutheran Church

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12-1: Elizabeth Keller  
Bill Strenger  
Luke Matte  
12-3: Devon Brooks  
12-4: Rayola Madson  
12-5: Kaleb Faucher  
Julie Schuman  
Jim Gauthier  
12-6: Jonathan Albert  
12-7: Tom Berlin  
Celestina Duran



12-10: Nancy Johnson  
12-14: Dori Matte  
12-15: David Hasler  
12-16: Rebecca Tershner  
Diane Marotz  
12-17: Marilyn Kirchenwitz  
12-18: John Tershner  
12-21: Esther Bennig  
Shua Yang  
12-22: Karl Rademacher

12-23: Cory Luecke  
Brad Cox  
12-25: Kevin Werner  
12-29: Pat Horness  
12-30: Troy Burmesch  
Laurel Schmiege  
12-31: Ken Buesing  
Joey Wychesit

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12-26: Kurt & Kathryn Miller

If a birthday or anniversary has been missed, please let the church office know.

## CHARITY OF THE MONTH FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

During the months of November and December, any money received in the "Designated Offering" contribution envelope, will go to **Lutheran World Relief**. Their development projects focus on issues at the root causes of poverty. These debilitating causes tend to domino into more and more problems that trap people in poverty. By the same token, attacking just one of these issues can help break the cycle, making people's lives better and freeing them from suffering in many ways. Lutheran World Relief helps by implementing projects all over the world that help with water purification, aiding in emergencies, agriculture, climate, health & livelihood and civic participation. To learn more about Lutheran World Relief, visit their website at [www.lwr.org](http://www.lwr.org).

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Advent Services – Wednesday December 5, 12, 19 at 6:00pm  
Children's Christmas Program – Sunday, December 16 at 10:00am  
Regular Sunday Service – Sunday, December 23 at 10:00am  
Christmas Eve Service – Monday, December 24 at 6:00pm  
Christmas Day Service w/Holy Communion – Tuesday, December 25 at 9:00am  
Regular Sunday Service w/Holy Communion – Sunday, December 30 at 10:00am



*\*\*Please note that there will be no Sunday School or Adult Bible Study on Sunday December 23 or 30\*\**

## "CHILD OF GOD"

Please join the Sunday School children and staff on Sunday, December 16 during the 10am church service as they tell the Christmas story in their program titled, "Child of God". Practices for the program are taking place on Sunday mornings during Sunday School time. Please note there will be no communion this day because of the program.

## ✠ A LOSS IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Robert Nytes was called to his heavenly home on Thursday, November 22. A memorial service will be held for him in January, 2019.

## 2019 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

2019 Contribution Envelopes will be available starting December 9. It is very important that you do not use them until January 1, 2019. Please use your church envelopes for your weekly contributions. This eliminates the need for the counters to look up your number and fill out a sheet of paper to enter your contribution into the computer. Just a reminder that contribution envelopes are recorded for the service you place them in the contribution plate. They are not recorded a week, month or year behind. Also, any contributions for 2018 need to be in by December 31, either in the offering plate or in the Financial Secretary mailbox in the communication room. Thank you for your cooperation.

~ Bethany's Financial Secretary

## LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Committee has met several times to prioritize possible projects. It was determined from these meetings that the Elevator/Lift project would be considered as a priority, especially with all the problems and expense Bethany has incurred. It has been determined that the existing lift is no longer repairable, as it has become obsolete. With this in mind, Steve Perry and Tom Schnettler were tasked to investigate the possible replacement of the Elevator/Lift. Steve Perry presented his findings at our last meeting, and the Committee has selected one company to evaluate further. The Committee will meet with this company on December 12<sup>th</sup>, to further clarify their offer. If the Committee feels this is the best offer, and the equipment fits the needs of Bethany, the project will be presented to the Bethany Church Council. If the Council feels this project should move forward, it will be presented to the Congregation. The cost of the project will not exceed \$30,000. The Bawden Estate had gifted \$10,000 to this project. With this gift, it is anticipated we will need an additional \$15-20,000 dollars to totally pay for the project. With the end of the year 2018 approaching, and members possibly looking for an extra tax deduction, donations can be made to the Elevator/Lift Project if you so choose. Please put this donation in a separate envelope with Elevator/Lift Project written on the envelope.

Two other projects are on the agenda for study and cost evaluating. They are the second phase of the Organ Refurbishment Project, and the Kitchen Updating Project. Both these projects are now under study by the members of The Long-Range Planning Committee and a sub committee made up of Bethany Members that use the kitchen facilities. This sub-committee is researching the ongoing and future needs of the kitchen, and visiting other Church's that have updated their kitchen. More information will be presented to the Members as it becomes available from the committees.

Bob Wuerzberger, Chairman, Long Range Planning Committee

### Christmas Prayer

*Today may we not only unwrap presents,  
But may we discover more of your love.  
Today may we not only eat on festive food,  
But may we feast on your faith.*

*Today may we not only cherish happy times with family and friends,  
But may we invite you into our lives.*

*Today may we not only sing carols that celebrate your birth,  
But may we dwell upon the resurrected Christ alive this moment.*

*Living Lord, we long to discover your love, feast on your truth, invite you  
into our lives and thank you for your sacrifice. Amidst the presents, food  
and family we long to celebrate Christmas with you.*

## THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2018

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Sunday, December 2</b><br><b>10:00 a.m.</b><br>w/Holy Communion                                   | Elders:<br>Ushers:<br>Acolyte:<br>Scripture Reader:<br>Altar Guild:<br>Bulletin Folder:<br>Door Locker: | Steve Hazen, Gerry Luebke<br>#3–Luecke, Thompson, Rademacher, Hummitzsch<br>Annalise Hasler<br>Barbara Strenger<br>Gina Fibiger, Rachel Johnson<br>Dan Fibiger<br>Lee Gumm    |
| <b>Wednesday, December 5</b><br>Advent 6:00 p.m.   | Elders:<br>Ushers:<br>Acolyte:  | Brian Faucher<br>Group 4 – Dave & Sue Prange, Lexie Matte<br>Grace Matte  |
| <b>Sunday, December 9</b><br><b>10:00 a.m.</b>   | Elders:<br>Ushers:<br>Acolyte:<br>Scripture Reader:<br>Altar Guild:<br>Bulletin Folder:<br>Door Locker: | Todd Matte<br>Group 5 – Lee Gumm, Steve Marotz, Victor Hazen<br>Thomas Yang<br>Norm Giertz<br>Barb Gumm, Rayola Madson<br>Dan Fibiger<br>Ryan Brooks                          |
| <b>Wednesday, December 12</b><br>Advent 6:00 p.m.  | Elders:<br>Ushers:<br>Acolyte:  | Gerry Luebke<br>Group 6–Ray & Shirley Ottman, Derek MacKenzie<br>Isabella Hasler  |
| <b>Sunday, December 16</b><br><b>10:00 a.m.</b><br>**no communion due to<br>The children's program** | Elders:<br>Ushers:<br>Acolyte:<br>Scripture Reader:<br>Altar Guild:<br>Bulletin Folder:<br>Door Locker: | Jim Madden<br>Group 7 – Andy & Austin Fibiger, Jerry Sabrowsky<br>Noah Fibiger<br>Children<br>Debbie & Steve Perry<br>Dan Fibiger<br>Steve Marotz                             |
| <b>Wednesday, December 19</b><br>Advent 6:00 p.m.  | Elders:<br>Ushers:<br>Acolyte:  | Brian Faucher<br>Group 1–Ben Marotz, Tom Schnettler, Ivan Hazen<br>Kaleb Faucher  |
| <b>Sunday, December 23</b><br><b>10:00 a.m.</b>  | Elders:<br>Ushers:<br>Acolyte:<br>Scripture Reader:<br>Altar Guild:<br>Bulletin Folder:<br>Door Locker: | Steve Hazen<br>#2–John Keller, Dan Fibiger, Brian & Aiden Faucher<br>Ella Albert<br>Lee Gumm<br>Sue Prange, Cheryl Prepster, Lois Schmideler<br>Dan Fibiger<br>Tom Schnettler |
| <b>Monday, December 24</b><br>Christmas Eve 6:00 p.m.  | Elders:<br>Ushers:<br>Acolyte:  | Brian Faucher<br>#3–Luecke, Thompson, Rademacher, Hummitzsch<br>Annalise Hasler   |
| <b>Tuesday, December 25</b><br>Christmas Day <b>9:00</b> a.m.<br>w/Holy Communion                    | Elders:<br>Ushers:<br>Acolyte:<br>Altar Guild:  | Gerry Luebke<br>Group 4 – Dave & Sue Prange, Lexie Matte<br>Thomas Yang<br>Marilyn Kirchenwitz, Lynn Luebke   |
| <b>Sunday, December 30</b><br><b>10:00 a.m.</b><br>w/Holy Communion                                  | Elders:<br>Ushers:<br>Acolyte:<br>Scripture Reader:<br>Altar Guild:<br>Bulletin Folder:<br>Door Locker: | Jim Madden, Todd Matte<br>Group 5 – Lee Gumm, Steve Marotz, Victor Hazen<br>Isabella Hasler<br>Sharon Werner<br>Kristine & Maggie Faucher<br>Dan Fibiger<br>Patrick Johnson   |

# DECEMBER 2018

| SUN  | MON  | TUE   | WED   | THU  | FRI  | SAT       |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|-----------|
|  |  |   |   |  |  | 1         |
| <b>2</b><br>8:45am<br>Sunday<br>School<br>Bible Study<br><br>10am Worship<br>w/HC            | <b>3</b><br>3:30pm<br>Confirmation<br>5/6 grade  | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b><br>3pm<br>Confirmation<br>7/8 grade<br><br>6pm Advent<br>Worship<br>7pm Joy Choir  | <b>6</b><br>7:15pm<br>Dartball<br>Immanuel @<br>Bethany        | <b>7</b>   | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>9</b><br>8:45am<br>Sunday<br>School<br>Bible Study<br><br>10am Worship<br><br>4pm Village | <b>10</b><br>3:30pm<br>Confirmation<br>5/6 grade<br><br>6:30pm Elders                                    | <b>11</b>   | <b>12</b><br>3pm<br>Confirmation<br>7/8 grade<br><br>6pm Advent<br>Worship<br>7pm Joy Choir | <b>13</b><br>7:15pm<br>Dartball<br>Bethany @<br>St. Paul, S.F. | <b>14</b>  | <b>15</b> |
| <b>16</b><br>8:45am<br>Sunday<br>School<br>Bible Study<br><br>10am Worship<br>Children's     | <b>17</b><br>3:30pm<br>Confirmation<br>5/6 grade<br><br>5:45pm Bd of Ed<br>6:15pm Finance<br>7pm Council | <b>18</b>   | <b>19</b><br>3pm<br>Confirmation<br>7/8 grade<br><br>6pm Advent<br>Worship<br>7pm Joy Choir | <b>20</b>  | <b>21</b>  | <b>22</b> |
| <b>23</b><br>10am Worship  | <b>24</b><br>6pm Christmas<br>Eve Worship  | <b>25</b><br>9am<br>Christmas<br>Day<br>Worship<br>w/HC | <b>26</b>   | <b>27</b>  | <b>28</b><br> | <b>29</b> |
| <b>30</b><br>10am Worship<br>w/HC  | <b>31</b>  |   |   |  |  |           |