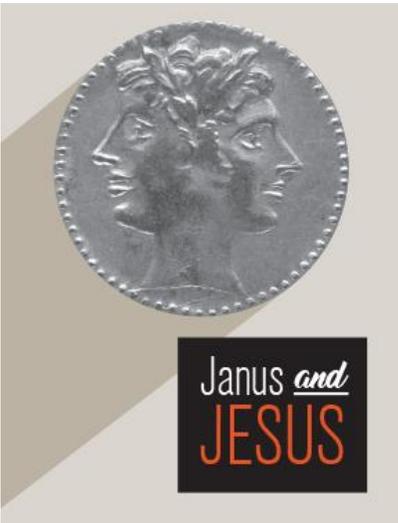


PASTOR'S PAGE



The first few days, even weeks, of January are sort of shocking. Most of us can't believe another year has flown by. Tempus fugit.

In some ways, January is an exciting month because it is a transitional month — a month of beginnings. In fact, the name of this month has associations with the concepts of beginnings, doorways, openings, gateways and transitions. There's little doubt that the name derives from the Roman god Janus is usually depicted as having two faces, one looking to the past and one to the future.

Ironically, the Roman year began in March not January. For us, September, October, November and December are months 9, 10, 11 and 12. But for the Romans, these months were numbers 7, 8, 9 and 10 — and thus September comes from septem, October from octo, November from novem and December from decem, Latin for "ten."

In 1582, Pope Gregory adjusted the calendar so that January became the first month of the year and in 1752, the British and the colonies adopted the same calendar which we call the Gregorian calendar. So, it's January, a month that evokes mention of the Roman god Janus, god of beginnings, opportunities and transitions. This is a perfect moment to consider which direction we're going as we face the year unfolding before us. The question for us as we enter the year 2019 is whether we will look forward through the eyes of faith to the cross, or backward toward what once was.

As Christians we march forward in time. In fact, there is a hymn titled "Onward, Christian Soldiers." In the movie "Patton", General Patton played by George C. Scott, quoted Patton this way: "I do not like to pay for the same ground twice...push forward." Much like the hymn:

*Onward, Christian Soldiers, Marching as to war,
With the Cross of Jesus, Going on before.
Christ the royal master, Leads against the foe;
Forward into battle See His banners go!*

*Refrain: Onward, Christian Soldiers, Marching as to war,
With the Cross of Jesus, Going on before.*

Christ took the battle to the devil, the world, and our flesh. He pushed forward; Christ never had to take the same ground twice. "Christ Climbed the Mountain Top (Julie Schumann) for you and for me!" You see, we don't have to look back. The devil wants us too, though. He tries to divert our attention off the cross of Jesus. He wants us to get stuck in the mire and filth of the ditches that line each side on the way to heaven. Just like every army has Medics to help those that are injured and fall. The Medic extends the sacred hands of Christ to all.

As we focus on the empty cross and tomb, we are reminded that on the way to heaven Jesus died on the cross for are sins. The sting of death is removed when Jesus rose. from the dead. The Christian does look back to the cross and empty tomb, but at the same time we look forward because "the Cross of Jesus, Going on before."

January is the month that we look back but at the same time we look forward. Like Patton, the Christian never takes the same ground twice. We praise and thank God for sending Jesus to lead the way!

Blessings on the New Year!
Pastor Steele

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

During this Advent Period, Bethany has been transformed into "the place to be" with all of the physical signs of the season. We are thankful to all those who took the time to decorate the church including the Christmas trees, lights, nativity scenes and other festive additions in and around the sanctuary and narthex. The Village Walk, held on December 9 was very successful with about 150 attending. The social time at Bethany was a "good way to end a good day". A big "thank you" to those involved with resurrecting this long time Kohler Christmas tradition that was discontinued a few years ago due to dwindling attendance. I think changing the time to 4pm, which is earlier than it was in the past, and effective promotion has brought this event back to where it was many years ago.

The Usher's Meeting of December 2 was conducted by Head Usher, Steve Hazen. Because we have brought in quite a few new ushers in the past two years, it was a good idea to review ushering duties. Any members interested in participating in ushering, see Steve. Each group only ushers about every 8th service at this time. Simple steps of ushers: Come in 30 minutes before the service starts, greet and hand out a bulletins to people as they come in; ring the small bell 15 minutes before the service starts; ring all bells to signal the start of the service; count the attendance, take the collection/collect attendance cards; ring the bell during the Lord's Prayer, and for Holy Communion Services...control the flow of members to the "Table" to receive communion. Many thanks to all those who have served as ushers during the past year.

On December 4, Karl Kaeppler's popular Bethany Men's Breakfast took place at Whispering Orchards. There were fifteen in attendance. Jerry Sabrowsky shared a devotion. If you did not make it, hopefully you can come to the next one. These take place twice a year and are publicized in the service bulletin and via a sign-up sheet in the lower narthex.

Many of you know by now that the elevator/lift has been limping along for quite some time now. Thankfully, the Long Range Planning Committee had several meetings during 2018 to look into either more repairs or replacement of the unit that was installed in 1995. Bob Wuerzberger has updated, and will continue to update, the congregation on this project. There will be a short special meeting of the Voters immediately after the January 6, 2019 church service. Bob will share more details at that time.

I heard many positive comments on Sunday, the 16th, following the Children's Christmas Program. None of this happens without the Sunday School Staff, the Music Department and the Pastor. Thank you for all your work with these kids. I would guess that this is not an easy assignment, but somehow it really looks good on "Game Day" and that is what ALL of us see, not the preparation. Parents, be proud of your kids, and Grandparents...doubly so!

And now...with just a few days left in 2018, you might have some things that you wanted to do that did not get done. Maybe some of that comes from making room for things you did that were not really part of your plan. When you look at things from one end, it seems like you have soooo much time to work with. When you look from the other end, you feel like you were only kidding yourself. It all slips away and when you assess the results, there could be some disappointment. We are at that "other end" now. I think I will just settle for what I got. From the Church standpoint, we have done a lot in 2018. We must always remind ourselves that we only have a half-dozen "paid staff". All of the rest of our work is done by volunteers. In my mind, volunteers are already busy people and still find time to give to things like "church". This is not by accident, it is "IN US". It is also GOOD for us, and the results are that we can look forward to another fantastic year here at Bethany. Blessings to all of you in 2019.

Lee Gumm
President, Bethany Lutheran Church

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1-4: Genevieve Regan
Patrick Johnson
1-5: T. J. Keller
1-6: Katelynn Johnson
1-8: Audrey Nikisch



1-11: Kandice Brooks
Kelly Paltzer
1-14: Jennifer Sabrowsky
1-19: Jeanne Toepel

1-24: Mary Madden
1-26: Alicia Barthels
1-30: Charles Keller

If we missed a member's birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office and let us know.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY CHARITY OF THE MONTH – Orphan Grain Train

During the months of January and February, all money collected from your "Designated Offerings" contribution envelopes will go **Orphan Grain Train**. Orphan Grain Train is a Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with needy people in America and around the world. Grain Train volunteers gather donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature, and other aid to meet real needs. For more information, visit their website at www.ogt.org

CHURCH CANCELLATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

In the case of bad weather this winter, please check TODAY'S TMJ4 TV station for church cancellations. You can also go online to tmj4.com or 620WTMJ on the radio.



CHARITIES OF THE MONTH FOR 2019

In 2019, there will be 6 "charities of the month". Each charity will run for two months at a time. The 6 charities are:

January/February – Orphan Grain Train
March/April – Lutheran Bible Translators
May/June - Vernacular Video Mission International (VVMi)
July/August – Lutheran Deaf Mission Society
September/October - Good News Jail and Prison Ministry
November/December - Lutheran World Relief

2019 BOARD MEMBERS

President: Lee Gumm
Vice President: Todd Matte
Council Secretary: Jill Mengel
Board of Elders: Steve Hazen, Brian Faucher, Gerry Luebke, Jim Madden, Shua Yang, David Hasler,
and Jason Mengel
Board of Trustees: Ryan Brooks, Tom Schnettler
Board of Finance: Steve Marotz, Ben Marotz
Board of Education: Sara Hasler, Kandice Brooks, Gina Fibiger
Financial Secretary: Shirley Ottman
Treasurer: Derek MacKenzie

Thank you to all who serve Bethany!

‡ GIFTS GIVEN TO BETHANY

In memory of Robert Nytes, Memorial Fund gifts were given by Shirley Mueller and Roger & Barbara Strenger

If you would like to give a memorial gift in memory or in honor of someone, cards can be found on the counter outside Pastor's office as well as in the back of church.

JANUARY MITE BOX

The large Mite Box will be out in the back of church on the last Sunday of each month and will benefit a different mission grant. The January grant is designated for Equipping Youth to Witness for Life through the Y4Life program, a ministry of Lutherans for Life. Y4Life seeks to equip Lutheran youth and young adults to be Gospel-motivated voices for life who set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity (1Timothy 4:11). Y4Life seeks to equip young people to be the voices for life in a culture that glorifies the choice of death. The need is especially true for teens, college students, and young adults who are bombarded with secular life styles that are contrary to God's wonderful plan for life. Currently, the Y4Life program is serving college campuses such as Concordia, Mequon. The mission grant funds will go directly towards expanding the initiative to include Lutheran high school campuses, such as our own Lutheran High School in Sheboygan. By training student leaders and providing ongoing mentorship and support for the individual campus ministries, they can raise their voices for life.



We are also thankful for those who continue to support our Mite Box Sundays. The total contributions for the grants throughout 2018 was \$686.55. The Mite Box itself has changed its design from the first one in 1942 to 2018. The beauty of each box is unique but the deeper beauty lies inside the box; funds to share the Gospel with all people in the world. If you'd like a small box to collect your "mites" throughout the month, they can be found on the table in the back of church next to the large Mite Box display on the last day of each month. Feel free to take one to collect your coins. Thank you for your support!

We thought you might enjoy some stories behind the Mite Box. An unusual contribution was found in a Mite Box in the 1970's: A 5-dollar gold piece, dated 1901! A coin dealer bought it for \$75, illustrating how LWML cherishes each and every dollar! In 1982, the home of an Arkansas woman was damaged in a tornado. Her Mite Box, although soaked with rain and collapsed around the coins, was still in the same place on her dresser. Not a penny was lost!

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Bethany is now offering electronic giving as an option for your contributions. Your contributions will be transferred from your bank account to Bethany automatically either weekly, biweekly or monthly. This is an easy way to keep track of your giving and not have to write out a check each week. For more information, or to fill out a registration form, see Gina in the church office.

JUBILATE RINGERS

After a short break, the Chime Choir (Jubilate Ringers) is coming back! Practices will be every Tuesday from 6:00 – 7:00 pm starting on January 15. We could use a few more members! No musical ability is needed. The notes are color coded so you don't have to know how to read music. If you're interested, now is the time to give a try. See Julie Steele if you have any questions or just come to practice on the 15th.



SPECIAL VOTER'S MEETING

The Long-Range Planning Committee has been evaluating the condition and future needs of the Elevator/Lift. With that in mind, a Voter's Meeting will be held after the Service on Sunday, January 6th. At this meeting the findings and recommendations of the Long-Range Planning Committee will be discussed and presented to the Members of Bethany Lutheran. The meeting will be brief and only pertain to this topic. Please plan on attending this important meeting.

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2019

Sunday, January 6
10:00 a.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elders: Shua Yang, Steve Hazen
Ushers: Group 6 – Ray & Shirley Ottman,
Derek MacKenzie

Acolyte: Thomas Yang
Scripture Reader: Norm Giertz
Altar Guild: Liz & Ken Buesing
Bulletin Folder: Sue Prange
Door Locker: Ken Thompson

Sunday, January 13
10:00 a.m.

Elders: Jason Mengel, Brian Faucher
Ushers: Group 8 – Todd, Lexie, & Luke Matte
Acolyte: Kaleb Faucher
Scripture Reader: Steve Hazen
Altar Guild: Shirley & Ray Ottman
Bulletin Folder: Sue Prange
Door Locker: Dan Fibiger

Sunday, January 20
10:00 a.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elders: David Hasler, Gerry Luebke
Ushers: Group 7 – Andy, Austin, & Noah Fibiger
Acolyte: Ella Albert
Scripture Reader: Lee Gumm
Altar Guild: Barb Gumm, Rayola Madson
Bulletin Folder: Sue Prange
Door Locker: Lee Gumm

Sunday, January 27
10:00 a.m.

Elders: Jim Madden
Ushers: Group 1 – Ben Marotz, Tom Schnettler,
Ivan Hazen, Alaric Hazen

Acolyte: Annalise Hasler
Scripture Reader: Sharon Werner
Altar Guild: Gina Fibiger, Rachel Johnson
Bulletin Folder: Sue Prange
Door Locker: Ryan Brooks

January 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 	2	3 7:15pm Dartball Bethany @ St. Paul, H.G.	4	5
6 8:45am Bible Study Sunday School 10am Worship w/HC 11am Special Voter's Mtg.	7 3:30pm Confirmation 5/6 grade	8	9 3pm Confirmation 7/8 grade 6pm Joy Choir	10 7:15pm Dartball St. Paul, Sheb. @ Bethany	11	12
13 8:45am Bible Study Sunday School 10am Worship (St. Paul's Praise Band)	14 3:30pm Confirmation 5/6 grade 6:30 Elders	15 6pm Jubilate Ringers	16 3pm Confirmation 7/8 grade 6pm Joy Choir	17	18	19
20 8:45am Bible Study Sunday School 10am Worship w/HC	21 3:30pm Confirmation 5/6 grade 5:45pm Bd of Ed 6:15pm Finance 7pm Council	22 6pm Jubilate Ringers	23 3pm Confirmation 7/8 grade 6pm Joy Choir	24 7:15pm Dartball Bethany @ St. Luke	25	26
27 8:45am Bible Study Sunday School 10am Worship	28 3:30pm Confirmation 5/6 grade	29 6pm Jubilate Ringers	30 3pm Confirmation 7/8 grade 6pm Joy Choir	31 7:15pm Dartball Bethany @ Trinity, H.G.		