

PASTORS PAGE

Behold the Man

“Behold the man!” proclaimed the unwitting preacher Pontius Pilate in one of the shortest yet most profound sermons ever recorded. This will be our endeavor this Lententide and Easter Sunday. Behold the man, God in human flesh, Jesus. His incarnation will provide the basis for our meditation and proclamation on His Passion. And His real bodily suffering and death will provide the basis for our full-throated proclamation on Easter morning of a bodily resurrection, not just of Jesus but also for His saints. Real bodies that have suffered, wept, bled, prayed, eaten, hoped, and more will be those raised incorruptible from their graves on the day of Jesus’ return.

We will fix our eyes and our preaching on the man Jesus, contemplating the inescapable fact—indeed the most important fact in the course of human history—that God became man. The Second Person of the eternal triune God, whom we confess in the Nicene Creed as “God of God, Light of light, very God of very God...of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made,” became a living, breathing, flesh-and-blood human being, a man.

In some ways, you can understand that the first heresy the Christian Church had to contend with was that of Gnosticism, the hyper spiritual religion that held that because no man could be God, the Christ could not be God. Gnosticism is alluring because it tidies everything up, gives Christianity a more attractive spiritual veneer, and pulls its adherents out of the mire of this world and gives them something otherworldly to strive for.

Considered correctly, it becomes pretty hard to spiritualize Christianity—a religion that bases its existence on the enfleshment, the incarnation, of God—into the mess of disembodied, matter-rejecting, hyper spiritual Gnosticism. When God has flesh and blood, skin and teeth, cells and nuclei, DNA and RNA, it’s difficult to contend for the disembodied spiritual against the material. If God has a body, bodies must matter.

In case you aren’t convinced of the pervasiveness of the second-century heresy of Gnosticism, even in our twenty-first-century context, attend a funeral. If you hear talk only of heaven with nary a word of a bodily resurrection, you’ve witnessed firsthand modern-day Gnosticism. If the preacher doesn’t deal with the body in the casket as the real person whose death has assembled the mass of grieving relatives and friends, if he talks only about the bodyless soul in heaven, he hasn’t preached a genuinely Christian funeral. In other words, if he gives preference to the spiritual over the material, he succumbs to the Gnostic heresy the earliest generations of the Church sought to guard against by preaching the incarnation and resurrection of Jesus.

This Lent, we will consider what it means that God became man. In preparation for the celebration of a real, bodily, flesh-and-blood, bone-and-sinew resurrection, the resurrection without which our faith and our preaching are all in vain, consider the body of Jesus that exists in order to be nailed to a cross. The spiritual, bodyless Son of God became the embodied, enfleshed, incarnate Son of Mary. In Jesus, God has human flesh, a body, just like you. What could be more profound?

Each week, we’ll consider a different aspect of the body of Jesus Christ. What does it mean that, in Jesus, God has hands, feet, lungs, lips, eyes, and ears?

Along with this series there is a 40-day devotional book that can be used to help enhance your understanding that Jesus was conceived, birthed, lived, died, and was buried. He was 100% a human being like each of us. Moreover, Jesus, the man did not stay dead. He rose again on the 3rd day. Every year, week and day we celebrate Easter because if Jesus did not rise, we, like Paul, wrote: "But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be **pitied**. But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

Beholding Christ as a man, fulfills the first Messianic promise given to Adam that the offspring of man, born of a woman would crush the head of Satan. In so doing would bring immortality and life to those who "behold Jesus as man, but also as the Son of God. He conquered sin, death and Satan for you!

LENTEN/EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Bethany will again be participating in the Round Robin Lenten worship this year. Each midweek service during Lent, a different Pastor will be preaching here at Bethany. Here is a schedule of the services and times:

3/6	6 pm	Ash Wednesday – "A God Who Hungers" (Rev Robert Steele, Bethany)
3/13	6 pm	Midweek Worship – "A God Who's Beaten" (Rev Alan Kretschmar, St. Paul Sheb.)
3/20	6 pm	Midweek Worship – "A God Who's Exposed" (Rev Wayne King, St. Mark's Belgium)
3/27	6 pm	Midweek Worship – "A God with a Mother" (Vicar Jonathon Rusche, Trinity H.G.)
4/3	6 pm	Midweek Worship – "A God Who Thirsts" (Rev Chris Gugel, Good Shepherd Sheb.)
4/10	6 pm	Midweek Worship – "A God Who Prays" (Rev Matthew Shive, St. Paul Sheb.)
4/14	9 am	Palm Sunday
4/18	6 pm	Maundy Thursday w/Holy Communion
4/19	1pm / 6pm	Good Friday
4/21	10 am	Easter Sunday w/Holy Communion

Soup Suppers at Bethany

Back by popular demand: Please join us in the fellowship hall prior to each Lenten Service beginning at 5pm for a soup supper. Join together for a time of fellowship sponsored by Thrivent Choice Dollar funds. Anyone wishing to bring a dessert to share is welcome to do so. This year, we will have different groups "hosting" each of the Soup Suppers. A free will offering will be taken each night to help raise money for various charities as well as to cover some of the cost of the supplies. If you are interested in hosting one of the Suppers, please contact Gina in the church office.



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

If I did not mention the weather, you might think I did not notice it. Well we had quite a spectrum of temperatures and snow, rain, wind and, gosh...even sunshine. I think we experienced some broken records and the kids did manage a few "snow days" in the mix. I know that my grandchildren have been busy with their Legos and getting acquainted with the toys they received for Christmas. I am sure they are all looking forward to mid-June when school "finally" lets out for summer.

Congratulations to Love, INC. as they are now four years old. We observed that on February 10 with the showing of a short video and a few words by one of Bethany's volunteers, Sue Prange. This was followed by a fellowship table.

Thanks to all those who decided to rally and donate toward the new lift, which was installed this week. I was very surprised to get an email from the DME, elevator company, last week to tell us that the fabrication was done and they were ready to deliver it and put the new lift in. This call was about five weeks ahead of schedule. We are close to having it paid for as a result of members responding to Bob Wuerzberger's appeal to the congregation to add to the sizable "seed money" that was put into this project via the Bawden's gift. I want to encourage everyone to always keep in mind our Improvement Fund. Monies that go in there will be available for expected, and unexpected, repairs and improvements that need to be done in and around our facility throughout the year.

I want to invite everyone to attend the upcoming Soup Suppers on Lenten Wednesdays. These have been successful in the past few years. Gina has told me that more people have stepped up to volunteer to make this happen. Watch for details in the bulletin and Pastor's announcements. The first one will take place on Ash Wednesday, March 6. Hope to see you there.



On March 10, there will be a special presentation by Karl and Debra Behnke on the "Over the Fence Ministries in Association with Missionary Ventures". The Behnkes live and work in South Africa. They are the leaders of "Over the Fence Outreach" whose mission is to share the Gospel and extend the love of Jesus Christ. Through media they teach people and children how to apply biblical truth to every aspect of their lives. The Behnke's aim is to feed the hungry, clothe the poor, and share the gospel to the elderly, widows, and orphans. This is one of the many missions that the Bawden Estate money supported. These missions depend, many times solely, on support from far and wide resources. Bethany will set up a donation basket table in the rear of the church that morning. You can learn more at https://www.mvi.org/dt_team/karl-and-debra-behnke/

Bethany is participating, as a co-sponsor, in the presentation of a "Human Trafficking" program at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Sheboygan Falls on this subject. The presenter is a Detective Tamara Remington of the Sheboygan Police Department. This will not be entertaining, but is meant to be informative so that our kids and communities can be safer from traffickers. I have talked to people who have been to these programs. They were so glad they went, it left a mark. They (and I) encourage parents to attend and consider bringing their children. Mrs. Remington shared this when asked why she is so passionate about doing these presentations. Her response was "*I had my eyes opened about human trafficking about 10 years ago, when I became a school resource officer in Sheboygan. I am forever grateful to the students who opened my eyes and made me aware of sex trafficking not only being an international problem but also a domestic problem and, in fact, it was going on right here in Sheboygan.*" Pastor and I decided that this is something Bethany could support when we were asked about becoming a sponsor for this March 11, 6-8pm presentation. The Council approved this at our

January 21 meeting. All we, as sponsors, have to do is promote this event. We have posters and fliers which you may get from the counter outside Pastor's office. Take them to work, share them with family and friends and consider attending.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

• BECOME EDUCATED ABOUT THIS CRIME IN PLAIN SIGHT •
• LEARN SIGNS & SAFETY TIPS • HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE •

Please join us for a
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARENESS PRESENTATION:
March 11, 2019 - 6PM - 8PM

St. Paul Lutheran Church - Cty. Hwy PPP, Sheboygan Falls

SHEBOYGAN POLICE DEPARTMENT DETECTIVE TAMARA REMINGTON,
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION, WILL DISCUSS CASES, TRENDS,
SIGNS TO LOOK FOR, AND SAFETY TIPS AND PREVENTION TO
KEEP OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER.

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Last month Pastor Steele recognized January 20 as Sanctity of Human *Life* Sunday. President Ronald Reagan issued a presidential proclamation on **January 13, 1984**, designating Sunday, **January 22, 1984** as National Sanctity of Human Life Day, noting that it was the 11th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, in which the Supreme Court issued a ruling that guaranteed women access to abortion.

I would like to spend a few paragraphs to address something that has really hit me hard lately. Maybe I just had too much time, with the cold weather, and found myself listening to things on the radio that I might not have heard otherwise.

To me and Barb, what I heard is very personal. Back in the mid 70's we wanted a family, but nothing was happening. We talked about adoption and we both agreed that it was something we could both do with no real problems. We found out, after applying, that these things take time. During our wait, one day I was reading the Sheboygan Press and came across a story regarding abortion. It proclaimed that the state of Indiana had performed x-thousands of abortions in 197x. The x's are where I do not remember the exact numbers, but the point is that this article drove us to write a letter to the Governor of Indiana. All we were asking is for a chance to save just one of those next developing babies. We were saying, "you have some, we want one", and that seemed so do-able to us. Sadly, we never received a response to that letter. I kept that clipping at my place of business on my bulletin board for nearly 40 years.

Gladly, we eventually did adopt our daughter, Kari at age eleven weeks, in April of 1979, (*she was born January 21*). That was a five-year wait for us. Somehow in June of 1981 we were blessed with a biological son, Timothy. We had the best of both worlds with his arrival. Fast forward to June 19, 2004 when I "gave Kari away" to Christopher Bonde...it was their wedding day. He had a beautiful little girl who was just five years old. She "came with the deal"...for us, grandchild number one!

You all know how history can repeat itself. Kari and Chris were in the same boat as we were when we started, but their situation was more severe. They would not be able to have kids of their own. We encouraged them to seek adoption. They became involved with an open-adoption last year and in the end had the worst possible thing happen, the mother changed her mind the day after the child was born (one of the great risks of adoption). Kari and Chris came home to a fully prepared place for this little boy, and now had to erase that all from their lives.

Why do I bring all of this up? Well, first of all, I have to give pastor Steele a thumbs-up for addressing "Sanctity of Life" on January 20. We have several dedicated members who have protested at places like Planned Parenthood in hopes of dissuading some of the young women who are contemplating having an abortion. Conversely, the Anchor of Hope organization is there to help young women who want to discuss alternatives to abortion. Pastor addresses this topic every year and we all know where the LCMS stands on abortion. The main reason today, for me, is one of the sub-subjects that he touched on..."very late term abortion". I heard about this on "talk radio" several days (one of those cold days) before that January 20th sermon that addressed this issue. Pastor was "spot on" telling the members of Bethany that several states are introducing legislation that would allow the killing of a partially or even fully born baby. The jubilation that took place in New York after this legislation was voted on and passed was shocking. This same course is now being brought up in other states and who knows how far this will go? I am very aware of the spectrum of opinions about this sad segment of human solutions to a very difficult problem. Over the years our society never could agree on when life began, but with abortion, we ALL know when it ends. I am including a short message that came from the president of the LCMS on abortion as it was printed in the January 2019 issue of the *Reporter*, the official newspaper of the LCMS. This is a very sensitive social topic and many people feel uncomfortable talking about it, it can be very personal, but it affects all of us.

LCMS president issues statement on abortion legislation



**"In him
was life,
and
the life
was the
light of
men."**

(John 1:4)

January 22 was the 46th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion on demand. To mark the date, the governors of New York and Illinois took actions extending and promoting access to abortions in their states.

In response, LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison released a statement highlighting the Synod's commitment to respecting the sanctity of life at all its stages. The statement reads, in part:

"We live as citizens in this world, and we seek to be obedient to our nation's laws. We thank God for our leaders and for this great land He has given to us and for its precious freedoms and opportunities. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

advocates strong citizenship and active participation in government. We obey the laws of our land and encourage those around us to do so.

"We are, however, bound by our conscience to speak against those laws that are unjust and, especially, those laws that violate God's law and the natural law that binds all mankind. Abortion and other means through which humans kill humans violate these natural and moral laws that form the foundation of society.

"Therefore, we stand against these actions and against all laws that sanction abortion or the taking of innocent life."

Read the full statement at [lcms.org/abortion-statement-january-2019](https://www.lcms.org/abortion-statement-january-2019).

On the very next page, in that *Reporter*, there was an article that pointed out that "ten thousand Americans turn sixty-five years of age every day". I pondered the irony between these two articles. For the millions of unborn that were aborted, it is too late, they will never turn sixty-five. I do know that many people who have had abortions, performed them, witnessed them and voted to make them legal have had regrets. Some of these people now are outspoken foes of abortion and share their very personal stories, in some cases, through books

and appearances on television and radio. I hope that the late-term abortion advocates rethink their positions. Maybe we can all pray on this one and pray that more babies can be saved and adopted.

It was good to see Pastor David Blas on Sunday, February 17 and his family. Pastor Blas filled in for Pastor Steele as he took a short vacation. He also heads up the Hispanic Ministry and pastors at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Sheboygan.

We have another anniversary coming up soon. The plan is to celebrate on April 14, Palm Sunday. There will be something special during the service and a dinner in the social hall to follow. It is Bethany's 110th Anniversary. The goal is to have at least 110 attend the dinner. Watch for details and the sign up sheet.

The Lord's Blessings to all of you.

Lee Gumm
President, Bethany Lutheran Church

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3-1: Joanne Stangel Milly Menzer	3-18: Nicole Spencer Gilbert Sternitzky	3-26: Vicki Lindstrom Roger Strenger
3-8: Ivan Hazen Alaric Hazen	3-20: Joan Schnettler	3-29: Pastor Robert Steele
3-09: Elanore Faucher	3-22: Shirley Ottman William Gehrke	
3-11: William Paltzer	3-23: Jerry Sabrowsky	
3-13: Amy Harms	3-24: Barbara Vogt	
	3-25: Katelyn Regutis	

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

3-03: Bill & Judi Strenger
3-18: Jason & Jill Mengel

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

MARCH/APRIL CHARITY OF THE MONTH

The March/April charity of the month is Lutheran Bible Translators. The mission of Lutheran Bible Translators is to help bring people to faith in Jesus Christ by making the Word of God available to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts. To learn more about LBT, visit their website at www.lbt.org.

✠ GIFTS GIVEN TO BETHANY

In memory of Robert Nytes, Memorial gifts were given by LuEva Nytes and Bill & Judi Strenger.
In memory of Robbin Ottman, a Memorial gift was given by Lee & Barb Gumm.

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.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILTING TO BEGIN

The 2019 season of Bethany Lutheran World Relief Quilters will start on the second Tuesday In March...March 12...and start at 9:30am in the church basement. We will meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the months of March through November this year. We hope some of you would like to join in the warm fellowship and fun of tying the quilts in the church basement. Please know you would be most warmly welcomed.



FROM THE BOARD OF FINANCE

Listed below are the financials from the month of January, 2019 as well as the year-to-date totals.

January Income \$14,738.99	Yr. To Date Income \$14,738.99
January Expenses \$11,073.63	Yr. To Date Expenses \$11,073.63
January Net Gain/Loss \$3,665.36	Yr. To Date Gain/Loss \$3,665.36

Steve Marotz
Chairman - Board of Finance

Ben Marotz
Member – Board of Finance

JOYFUL RESPONSE

Are you tired of writing checks each week? Do you keep forgetting your offering? This is a reminder that Bethany offers an easier way to meet your stewardship commitments. Fill out the "*Joyful Response*" form found on the table in the back of church (or on the counter outside Pastor's office) and return it to the church office. Your offerings will be automatically transferred from your bank account to Bethany! You can choose weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly. Contact the church office if you have any questions.

2019 ELDER ASSIGNMENTS

Bethany's membership list is divided alphabetically and each Elder is responsible for one group of members. Below is a list of the Elders and which group they are responsible for:

Jim Madden: Judy Albert – Andrew & Gina Fibiger

Steve Hazen: Dan Fibiger – Steve & Juanita Hazen

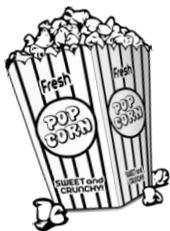
Gerry Luebke: James & Barbara Herzog – Douglas & Kristi Luebke

Jason Mengel: Derek MacKenzie – Caroline Ney

Brian Faucher: Audrey Nikisch – Bill & Julie Regutis

David Hasler: Elsie Reinbacher – Bill & Judi Strenger

Shua Yang: Roger & Barbara Strenger – Shua & KaoKalia Yang



Family Dinner/Movie Night

Friday, March 15 at 5:30 pm

We will enjoy pizza and root beer floats followed by popcorn and **two** movie choices.

"Paddington" (rated PG) for the younger viewers

"Little Women" (2017 - rated PG-13) for the older viewers

Bring your bean bags, blankets and pillows

Anyone can come and bring a friend!

Sign up in the lower narthex to let us know you can make it.

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

Sunday, March 3 10:00 a.m. w/Holy Communion	Elders: Ushers: Acolyte: Scripture Reader: Altar Guild: Bulletin Folder: Door Locker:	Brian Faucher, Shua Yang Group 6 – Ray & Shirley Ottman, Derek MacKenzie Ella Albert Sharon Werner Liz & Ken Buesing Sue Prange Dan Fibiger
Ash Wednesday, March 6 6:00 p.m. w/Holy Communion	Elders: Ushers: Acolyte: Altar Guild:	Jim Madden Group 7 – Andy, Austin, Noah Fibiger Annalise Hasler Gina Fibiger, Rachel Johnson
Sunday, March 10 10:00 a.m.	Elders: Ushers: Acolyte: Scripture Reader: Altar Guild: Bulletin Folder: Door Locker:	Jason Mengel, David Hasler Group 8 – Todd, Lexie, Luke Matte Isabella Hasler Barbara Strenger Barb Gumm, Rayola Madson Sue Prange Lee Gumm
Wednesday, March 13 6:00 p.m.	Elders: Ushers: Acolyte:	Gerry Luebke Group 1 – Ben Marotz, Tom Schnettler, Ivan & Alaric Hazen Grace Matte
Sunday, March 17 10:00 a.m. w/Holy Communion	Elders: Ushers: Acolyte: Scripture Reader: Altar Guild: Bulletin Folder: Door Locker:	Steve Hazen, Brian Faucher Group 2 – John Keller, Dan Fibiger, Brian & Aiden Faucher Thomas Yang Lee Gumm Kristine & Maggie Faucher Sue Prange Ryan Brooks
Wednesday, March 20 6:00 p.m.	Elders: Ushers: Acolyte:	Shua Yang Group 3 – Ken Thompson, Doug Luecke, Karl Rademacher Kaleb Faucher
Sunday, March 24 10:00 a.m. w/Holy Communion	Elders: Ushers: Acolyte: Scripture Reader: Altar Guild: Bulletin Folder: Door Locker:	Jim Madden Group 4 – Dave & Sue Prange, Jerry Sabrowsky Ella Albert Steve Hazen Sue Prange, Lois Schmideler Sue Prange Steve Marotz
Wednesday, March 27 6:00 p.m.	Elders: Ushers: Acolyte:	David Hasler Group 5 – Lee Gumm, Steve Marotz, Victor Hazen Annalise Hasler
Sunday, March 31 10:00 a.m. w/Holy Communion	Elders: Ushers: Acolyte: Scripture Reader: Altar Guild: Bulletin Folder: Door Locker:	Jason Mengel, Gerry Luebke Group 6 – Ray & Shirley Ottman, Derek Isabella Hasler Norm Giertz Marilyn Kirchenwitz, Lynn Luebke Sue Prange Tom Schnettler

March 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 8:45am Bible Study Sunday School 10am Worship w/HC	4 3:30pm Confirmation 5/6 grade 6pm Altar Guild	5	6 3pm Confirmation 5pm Soup Supper 6pm Ash Wed w/HC 7pm Joy Choir	7	8	9
10 8:45am Bible Study Sunday School 10am Worship	11 3:30pm Confirmation 5/6 grade	12 9:30am Quilting 6:30pm Elders	13 3pm Confirmation 5pm Soup Supper 6pm Lenten Worship 7pm Joy Choir	14	15 5:30pm Movie Night	16
17 8:45am Bible Study Sunday School 10am Worship w/HC	18 3:30pm Confirmation 5/6 grade 5:45pm Bd of Ed 6:15pm Finance 7pm Council	19	20 3pm Confirmation 5pm Soup Supper 6pm Lenten Worship 7pm Joy Choir	21	22	23
24 8:45am Bible Study Sunday School 10am Worship	25 3:30pm Confirmation 5/6 grade	26 9:30am Quilting	27 3pm Confirmation 5pm Soup Supper 6pm Lenten Worship 7pm Joy Choir	28	29	30
31 8:45am Bible Study Sunday School 10am Worship w/HC						