

## PASTOR'S PAGE

### The Rise of “None’s”

What is a “None”? Or better yet, who is a “None”? Over the years, many, including myself, have spoken very negatively about the “Millennials”. They spend so much time looking at their phones. More concerned about “Likes” or “Dislikes” on a posting. When surveyed about religious affiliations, many select “None”. None is short for “None of the Above!” Millennials are no different than any other generation.

As we enter the Advent and Christmas season, just like previous generations, “millennials” will come home for Christmas. The same as they did for Thanksgiving. As much as the government wants us to shelter in place, there are still going to be many family gatherings. Many “millennials” will be surveyed this Christmas season and asked: “Are you venturing out? Are you going to follow the guidelines of health officials?” Sure, some are not going to travel but I guarantee the vast majority will. They may be bold and say “Yes” but with the fear of “cancel culture”, many are going to answer “None”!

Do they really have something to worry about? Today Jews in New York cannot gather. The governor of New York, with the help of New York city’s mayor, are actually having police officers staking out using binoculars and peering in Jewish homes. They will be fined if they gather. California, Wisconsin, Michigan and others states are ordering people not to gather during the holidays. And some are ordering people to wear masks everywhere, even in their own homes. The state of Washington is allowing residents to report on their neighbors as violators of family gatherings. Many are just going about their business and trying to live as a “None”. I call this phenomenon the “Rise of None”. The fear of “cancel culture” is making all generations apprehensive. Fearing big brother and their neighbor is real.

“Cancel culture” is rampant. Many, even the “millennials”, are refusing to answer in the affirmative or in the negative. The fear is that they will be shamed into submission. Millennials, like all of us, need community. They need their family. They, like their elderly relatives, do not want to live in isolation. Yes, COVID is driving more and more into isolation. Is it good for them to answer “NONE”?

Think about it! If you can be “shamed” or “canceled” about where you are going to spend your Christmas. Can one be “shamed” or “canceled” about being a believer in Christ? Millennials don’t want the government knowing what they are doing. Even though they are the most exposed generation. Their lives are an open book. They want to go home in peace. By all means this is happening. Millennials are no different than any of us. Celebrating Christmas is celebrating Christ.

Many will be trucking home for Christmas. Many will gather around Christian altars all throughout America with family and friends. Many will gather around a dining room table with the young and the old, the most vulnerable. Millennials, like all of us, know that the rise of “None” is just to deflect.

Moreover, their actions will tell the story. Christians will gather throughout this country. Millennials, Gen Z, Gen Y, and Baby Boomers will gather to celebrate Christ’s birth. “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them”. (Matthew 18:20) Sadly, after this Christmas season, we’re going read about how violators were turned in by their own friends, neighbors, or even family members.

All generations are confused. Chaos is rampant everywhere. We have families who will not visit with other family members in fear of being exposed or exposing others to COVID. This is not good. Christian and Christian families need to gather.

I often teach in pre-marital counseling that the Devil will do everything to bring you together before your marriage. And after you're married the Devil will do everything to isolate each of you from each other. God created us to be communal. Why do you think God has us come together around His altar at Bethany? It's a way He strengthens us. We need to belong. We need to be reminded that we have purpose. Marriage is an image of how God is in relationship with his church. The Bible teaches that God is the groom and the church is the bride.

When I was ministering, I had a married couple that were very faithful. Gus and Mary were married for over 50 years. Later in life they were seen all over Sheboygan, they loved being out and about. They had many favorite restaurants on the South side. Mary became drastically ill and shortly after she suffered mightily with memory-loss. When she was institutionalized, Gus was there every day all day through lunch and dinner and would go back home. He never missed a day. Though Mary lost the ability to communicate Gus would be by her side. She would never ever be left alone. She passed a day after thanksgiving. I'd celebrated with Gus and the family her new life in Christ. Thirty days from the day of Mary's passing Gus had a minor surgical procedure. I remember it was right after Christmas. He passed in his sleep. Some say he died of a broken heart...He could not live alone without his Mary. This could be true. I believe some die of a broken heart. However, I look at this way. God created this marriage. God lived in and through this marriage. Anyone who witnessed their marriage saw God's love. Marriage is communal. God does not want us to be alone. "The Rise of None" is a yearning for all to be in community.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Steele

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## **NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT**

The theme of this year is still continuing with Thanksgiving fast approaching. Our Thanksgiving gatherings will be limited at best and the year of uncertainty continues. It is hard to believe we are in the ninth month of Covid-19. I know everyone, including our family, is really getting fatigued by all this. We want to celebrate Thanksgiving with our families and give thanks to Our Lord and Savior at Church. The Good News is we still can be thankful that Jesus has guided us through all this negative news.

This past weekend we had our Voter's Meeting, which also was different. We had two meetings to make sure we were in guidance of the CDC and the goal of keeping all our Members safe. The meetings were well attended, and the business of our Church was conducted. I want to thank everyone for attending and all our presenters. Especially, Jill Mengel, Ben Marotz, Norman Giertz, Andy and Gina Fibiger, and Pastor Steele who all attended both meetings. A shout out to Derek MacKenzie for his excellent video presentation concerning Bethany's financial condition. Bethany is so blessed to have members like these that give of their time and talents to our Church.

Plans are also underway for the Christmas Advent Season. Of course, things will be different as has been the case for the last 9 months.

No one knows what the next months will bring, but with the help of Jesus we will get through this pandemic and return to some sort of normalcy. Karen and I wish you and your families a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Robert (Bob) Wuerzberger, President Bethany Council

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12-1: Bill Strenger  
Luke Matte  
12-3: Devon Brooks  
12-4: Rayola Madson  
12-5: Kaleb Faucher  
Julie Schuman  
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  
12-31: Ken Buesing

### 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 2, 9, 16 at 6:00pm  
Children's Christmas Program – Sunday, December 20 at 10:00am  
Christmas Eve Service – Thursday, December 24 at 4:00pm **AND** 6:00pm  
Christmas Day Service w/Holy Communion – Friday, December 25 at 9:00am  
No Service on Saturday, December 26



*\*\*Note: there will be no Sunday School or Adult Bible Study on December 27 or January 3\*\**

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Sunday School Christmas program will be on Sunday, December 20 during the 10am church service. Please note that because of the program there may be an increase in attendance this day. We will try to social distance the best we can but if this makes you nervous, you may want to consider attending the Saturday service that weekend. Thank you for your understanding.

## CHRISTMAS DECORATING HELP NEEDED

Bethany's Altar Guild will be decorating the church on Saturday, December 12 starting at 8:00am. Anyone who would like to pitch in and help would be greatly appreciated. There is especially a need for someone who is willing to climb the tall ladder. If you have any questions, contact Sue Prange. Altar Guild Members: there is a sign-up sheet posted on the lower narthex bulletin board for all Christmas decorating. Please consider signing up to help. Thank you!



## 2021 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

2021 Contribution Envelopes will be available in the lower narthex starting December 6. It is very important that you do not use them until January 1, 2021. Any contributions for 2020 need to be in by Sunday, December 29, either in the offering plate or in the Financial Secretary mailbox in the communication room. If you would like to consider automatic giving through the Joyful Response giving program, you can find registration forms on the counter outside Pastor's office. See Gina in the office with any questions.

## WITH GREAT APPRECIATION

As Senior members of Bethany we want to express our appreciation. We attended the Annual Meeting on November 14. It was so well organized and we were impressed and grateful for many of our younger members who are taking over the responsibilities of running the business of Bethany. Thank you to all of you who take time to volunteer and work with Pastor Steele as you serve the Lord.

'Christ has no hands but our hands to do His work today.'

Blessings to all of you. K & B Kaepler

### AIDEN FAUCHER

The Faucher family would like to thank all who have given words of encouragement and concern about Aiden's recent entrance into Marine Corp boot camp. It is an especially tough time of year for him to be gone with the holidays and his birthday. Please keep all soldiers and their families in your thoughts and prayers during this time. For those who would like to write him words of encouragement during this time you can mail him at:

Faucher, Aiden  
3<sup>rd</sup> RTBN Lima Co PLT 3254 39000  
Midway Ave.  
San Diego, CA 92140-5620

## NEW COMMUNION CUPS

Starting the first weekend of December, Bethany will begin using prefilled communion cups. A year supply of these were donated to the church by a member. Using these cups will make the set up and clean up of communion much easier for our Altar Guild members. They are also much more sanitary to use as they are completely sealed until the communicant opens it themselves. They will also eliminate the waste of unused wine, wafers, and cups. The prefilled cups are two-sided with a small unleavened wafer in one end and "Sacramental Concord Wine" in the other. See the picture to the right for easy to use instructions. If you have any questions concerning these cups, please see Sue Prange, Altar Guild President or Gina in the church office.

### STEP ONE:

*Open bottom seal. Take and eat.*



### STEP TWO:

*Open top seal. Take and drink.*



### LOVE INC

Support Love INC on Monday, December 7 from 4-8pm by eating at Panera Bread in Sheboygan. Bring a flyer (found on the lower narthex bulletin board), show it to your cashier, and a portion of your bill will go directly to Love INC Sheboygan County. You can also show an electronic version from your phone by going to [loveincsheboygancounty.org](http://loveincsheboygancounty.org) and click on EVENTS. Thank you for your support!



## LWML SUPPORTING SOCIETY MEMBERS

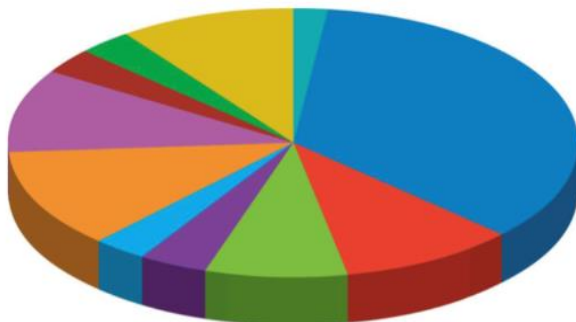
At this time your Mites will be accepted as an ongoing collection. The large Mite Box will be available on the counter by the sink in the upper narthex. This is to make it accessible for those who might want to drop off mites during the week. Personal checks (made out to Bethany Lutheran Mission Circle) or dollar bills can be put in an envelope and placed in the Mite Box or in the LWML mail box in the communication room. These boxes will be checked often and once a month the mites will be sent to our South Wisconsin District who still need our support. All members of Bethany are encouraged to help collect Mites for designated Mission Grants. Thank you for your support!

## BETHANY ENDOWMENT FUND FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

A summary of the financial performance of the Bethany Endowment Fund was requested at the recent Voters' Meeting. Here is a table that shows the annual return for both the Growth Fund (representing 94% of the Endowment Fund's investments) and the Traditional Fund (representing the remaining 6% of the Endowment Fund's investments) for the last several years. Both the Growth and the Traditional Funds are managed by Lutheran Legacy Foundation; they have served as the investment manager of our Endowment Fund since their origination. Lutheran Legacy Foundation is also the avenue through which the 20% matching funds have been made available (we still have 20% matching funds available for up to \$48,000 of additional contributions to the Endowment Fund).

	Annual Return	
	Growth	Traditional
<b>% of Endowment</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>2016</b>	8.20%	
<b>2017</b>	20.50%	
<b>2018</b>	-9.80%	-5.30%
<b>2019</b>	25.20%	20.50%
<b>2020-1st Half</b>	-4.80%	-0.80%

The Growth Fund is made up of the following asset classes:



- 35% US Large Cap
- 10% Mid Value
- 8% Mid Growth
- 4% Small Value
- 3% Small Growth
- 12% International Value
- 10% International Growth
- 3% International Small
- 3% Emerging Markets
- 10% Bonds
- 2% Cash

The Traditional Fund is made up of the following asset classes:



- 10% Small Cap Equities
- 15% Mid Cap Equities
- 20% Large Cap Equities
- 15% International Equities
- 40% Fixed Income

# December 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		01	02 3:15pm Confirmation 5-8 grade  6pm Advent Worship	03	04	05  4pm Worship w/HC
06 8:45am Sunday School Bible Study  10am Worship w/HC	07  6:30pm Elders	08	09 3:15pm Confirmation 5-8 grade  6pm Advent Worship	10	11	12  4pm Worship
13 8:45am Sunday School Bible Study  10am Worship	14  5:45pm Bd of Ed 6:15pm Finance 7pm Council	15	16 3:15pm Confirmation 5-8 grade  6pm Advent Worship	17	18	19  4pm Worship w/HC
20 8:45am Sunday School Bible Study  10am Worship <b>No H/C</b> Children's Program	21	22	23	24  4 pm & 6 pm Christmas Eve Worship	25  9:00 am Christmas Worship w/HC	26  <b>No Saturday Service</b>
27  10am Worship	28	29	30	31		

## THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2020

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**Wednesday, December 2**  
**6:00 p.m.**

Elder: Andy Fibiger  
Ushers: #6 – Ottman, MacKenzie  
Acolyte: Madison Fibiger

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**Saturday, December 5**  
**4:00 p.m.**  
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Steve Hazen  
Ushers: #1 – B. Marotz, Schnettler, I&A Hazen  
Acolyte: Zane Willadsen  
Altar Guild: Sue & Dave Prange  
Bulletin Folder: Dan Fibiger

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

Elder: David Hasler  
Ushers: #7 - Fibiger  
Acolyte: Winston Hasler  
Scripture Reader: Lee Gumm  
Door Locker: Ryan Brooks

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**Wednesday, December 9**  
**6:00 p.m.**

Elder: Brian Faucher  
Ushers: #2 – Faucher, D. Fibiger, S. Hazen  
Acolyte: Kaleb Faucher

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**Saturday, December 12**  
**4:00 p.m.**

Elder: Shua Yang  
Ushers: #3–Thompson, Rademacher, Kuehlmann  
Acolyte: Zakary Willadsen  
Altar Guild: Lois & Denis Schmideler  
Bulletin Folder: Dan Fibiger

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**Sunday, December 13**  
**10:00 a.m.**

Elder: Jason Mengel  
Ushers: #4 – Prange, Sabrowsky  
Acolyte: Ryan Mengel  
Scripture Reader: Mary Ann Fibiger  
Door Locker: Steve Marotz

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**Wednesday, December 16**  
**6:00 p.m.**

Elder: Andy Fibiger  
Ushers: #5 – Gumm, S. Marotz, V. Hazen  
Acolyte: Madison Fibiger

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**Saturday, December 19**  
**4:00 p.m.**  
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Steve Hazen  
Ushers: #6 – Ottman, MacKenzie  
Acolyte: Aidan Brooks  
Altar Guild: Marilyn Kirchenwitz, Lynn Luebke  
Bulletin Folder: Dan Fibiger

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**Sunday, December 20**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
Children's Program (no HC)

Elder: Shua Yang  
Ushers: #7 - Fibiger  
Door Locker: Tom Schnettler

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**Thursday, December 24**  
**4:00 p.m.**

Elder: Brian Faucher  
Ushers: #8 - Matte  
Acolyte: Maggie Faucher  
Altar Guild: Barb & Karl Kaeppler

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**Thursday, December 24**  
**6:00 p.m.**

Elder: David Hasler  
Ushers: #1 – B. Marotz, Schnettler, I&A Hazen  
Acolyte: Ella Albert

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**Friday, December 25**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Jason Mengel  
Ushers: #3–Thompson, Rademacher, Kuehlmann  
Acolyte: Ryan Mengel  
Altar Guild: Gina Fibiger, Rachel Johnson  
Bulletin Folder: Dan Fibiger

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**Sunday, December 27**  
**10:00 a.m.**

Elder: Steve Hazen  
Usher: #2 – Faucher, D. Fibiger, S. Hazen  
Acolyte: Carly Grohall  
Scripture Reader: Sharon Werner  
Door Locker: Patrick Johnson

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