

PASTOR'S PAGE

666 - MAN'S NUMBER

The text for my newsletter article is Rev 13:18 "This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666." The basis of this article was a message I gave to the student body at Sheboygan Lutheran High. I had the pleasure to preach for chapel in their new worship center.

The preceding passage is the most written about within the universal church and outside of it. 666 is the most discussed number in the Bible. 666 is the number of the Devil or the Antichrist. Many Christians believe that the "Antichrist" has not yet come. When I was young, the "Antichrist" was supposed to rise up during the 1970's and the "Rapture and Armageddon" would occur during the 1980's. Armageddon was a great battle between the former Soviet Union (Bear), China (Serpent or Dragon), and the United States (Eagle). This battle would be fought in Israel at "Meggido" in the valley of Jezreel. Then in the late 1990's the "Antichrist" was to rise through economic power. This was taught as the rise of the "ONE World Order" or what we call today "Globalists". This led to the fictional "Left Behind Series". This 16-book series from through the 1990's thru the new millennium. In fact, the movie came out in 2014. When I was recently laid up, I received an email from my cousin who is a missionary in South Africa. He sent a new prophecy about the rise of 666 called the "Restart!" It was like "deja vu" all over again.

Now let's look at the number 666. The number 6 is a Biblically imperfect number. Man and woman were created on the 6th day and then God rested from His work on the 7th day declaring His creation as very good! Some speculate the "Fall" happened on the 8th day! Adam and Eve truly did experience a one and only "Sabbath Rest." Since the fall, human beings' "Sabbath Rest" is only found in Jesus Christ. 6 is an anti-God number, unlike the number 7 which is complete and a holy number. It is a number of completion. $3 + 4 = 7$ where 3 representing the Trinity and 4 representing creation (4 corners of the earth).

To understand 666 we need to look at several other passage preceding Rev 13:18. Due to the lack of space I will only highlight key verses. Rev 12:3 states: "And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads..." The first 6 in the series of 666 is **Satan** himself. The number 10 is a number of completion. 10 represents the completion of the rising and falling of Satan. 7 represents that God is in control of the Evil One. Satan's earthly travels will conclude at the moment of Jesus' 2nd coming.

Rev 13:1 is the second passage: "And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads." The second "6" in the series represents everything secular. The first beast represents all earthly kingdoms and secular societies from the beginning through the end of time. Specifically, the rise and fall of all worldly powers. However, it is anti-god. There is no "godly" society or nation!

Rev 13:11 is the third passage: "Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast...The 3rd "6" in the series represents every religion

and philosophy from the fall until the 2nd coming. The first religious philosophy was spewed by Satan "You will be like God knowing good from evil!" Eating the forbidden fruit usurped God; so, Satan became Adam and Eve's defacto "god".

666 represents everything anti-Christian: Satan, nations, and religions (anti-Jesus). Everything from the fall through the 2nd Advent; the actively warring, without ceasing, to destroy the church and her witness to Christ. For those in the word, sitting at the feet of Jesus, listening to his words of wisdom, it is very clear. Christ crucified, risen and ascended, King of Kings and Lord of Lords is the heart and center to the Christian and the church. Anything less is anti-Christian.

Add 111 to 666 and you get 777 if used, would represent the Holy Trinity. God's word exposes these antichrists to the Christian and to the church. God has made all wise unto salvation from the 1st promise of the 1st Advent through the 2nd Advent until the day of Jesus' return.

Rev 14:1 "Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had His name and His Father's name written on their foreheads... 12 is another biblical number of completion. The number 12 represents - the 12 tribes of Israel - the chosen elect of the OT. The other 12 represents the 12 disciples - the chosen elect of the NT. 12 squared is 144 multiply by 1000 (another number of completion) = 144,000. This number represents all the elect from beginning of time till the end of time. They have the seal of him who died. Remember this: Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever.

One Year Closer till the Lord comes! "Come Lord Jesus, Quickly Come!"

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Steele

2021 BOARD MEMBERS

President: Todd Matte

Vice President: David Hasler

Council Secretary: Jill Mengel

Board of Elders: Brian Faucher, Shua Yang, Jason Mengel,
Andy Fibiger, Gerry Luebke, Lee Gumm

Board of Trustees: Ryan Brooks, Patrick Johnson

Board of Finance: Ben Marotz, Laura Tershner

Board of Education: Sara Hasler, Kandice Brooks,
Gina Fibiger

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Treasurer: Derek MacKenzie

Thank you to all who serve Bethany!

CHARITIES OF THE MONTH FOR 2021

In 2021, there will be 6 "charities of the month". Each charity will run for two months at a time.

January/February – Orphan Grain Train

March/April – Lutheran Bible Translators

May/June - Vernacular Video Mission
International (VVMII)

July/August – Lutheran Deaf Mission Society

September/October - Good News Jail and
Prison Ministry

November/December - Lutheran World Relief

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

It certainly feels like Christmas is fast approaching. As you look around the Village, houses are decorated, trees are up, and Santa and Mrs. Claus came through the Village the other night on the fire trucks. That is all well and good but let us not forget why we celebrate Christmas - THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST. He is the answer to all our wants and needs.

It seems like yesterday that we began this journey together back in January. 2020 started out just like any other year until Covid-19 appeared in late February. From that point on, our lives changed forever. By late March, the Elders made an extremely hard decision to close our beloved Bethany. All Church activities were stopped as we all sat in our homes in our absolute best "T"-shirts and sweatpants doing whatever we could to stay sane. Our worship consisted of watching our Service on our website and no communion until June. We learned to somewhat live with the virus as time went on. Our Church was reopened, Communion was started in June, and Sunday School/Bible Class resumed in September.

When I look back at all this adversity, I am so overwhelmed how everyone responded to this situation. Our Council, Elders, Boards, and Committees all worked together to keep Bethany moving forward with safety always the first priority. A special thanks to Pastor Steele for keeping all of us focused on our Mission Statement and keeping us in the Word during these very tough times. I am so happy to report Bethany will enter 2021 at a position of strength and stability, thanks to all our Members who kept us moving forward.

In conclusion, Christmas and New Years are fast approaching. Our beautiful Church is decorated to the Glory of God. Let us all enjoy the season as best we can, knowing that Jesus came to lead and guide us in faith towards everlasting life. With Him we know that Jesus will lead the way. I wish Todd Matte our new president, and all the new Boards, Council Members, and Committees all the best in 2021.

Karen and I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas, and God's Blessings to all for a Happy, Safe and Prosperous New Year. I have extremely enjoyed my time as president and look forward to Bethany's future together.

Robert (Bob) Wuerzberger-President

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1-4: Genevieve Regan
Patrick Johnson
1-8: Audrey Nikisch
1-10: John Willadsen



1-11: Kandice Brooks
Kelly Paltzer
1-24: Mary Madden
1-26: Alicia Barthels
1-29: Zakary Willadsen

January Anniversaries

1-24: Tim & Megan Fibiger

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

January 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					01 New Year's Day	02 4pm Worship w/HC
03 10am Worship w/HC	04 6:30pm Elders	05	06 3:15pm Confirmation 5-6 grade only	07	08	09 4pm Worship
10 8:45am Sunday School Bible Study 10am Worship	11 5:45pm Bd of Ed 6:15pm Finance 7pm Council / Orientation Mtg.	12	13 3:15pm Confirmation 5-8 grade	14	15	16 4pm Worship w/HC
17 8:45am Sunday School Bible Study 10am Worship w/HC	18	19	20 3:15pm Confirmation 5-8 grade	21	22	23 4pm Worship
24 8:45am Sunday School Bible Study 10am Worship	25	26	27 3:15pm Confirmation 5-8 grade	28	29	30 4pm Worship w/HC
31 8:45am Sunday School Bible Study 10am Worship w/HC						

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2021

Saturday, January 2
4:00 p.m.
w/Holy communion

Elder: Jason Mengel
Ushers: Jerry Sabrowsky, Derek MacKenzie
Acolyte: Aidan Brooks
Altar Guild: Shirley & Ray Ottman
Bulletin Folder: Dan Fibiger

Sunday, January 3
10:00 a.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Shua Yang
Ushers: Lee Gumm, Steve Marotz
Acolyte: Kaleb Faucher
Scripture Reader: Steve Hazen
Door Locker: Ken Thompson

Saturday, January 9
4:00 p.m.

Elder: Brian Faucher
Ushers: Ottmans
Acolyte: Maggie Faucher
Altar Guild: Marilyn Kirchenwitz, Lynn Luebke
Bulletin Folder: Dan Fibiger

Sunday, January 10
10:00 a.m.

Elder: Gerry Luebke
Ushers: Fibigers
Acolyte: Winston Hasler
Scripture Reader: Todd Matte
Door Locker: Dan Fibiger

Saturday, January 16
4:00 p.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Jason Mengel
Ushers: Brian Faucher, Dan Fibiger
Acolyte: Ryan Mengel
Altar Guild: Liz & Ken Buesing
Bulletin Folder: Dan Fibiger

Sunday, January 17
10:00 a.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Andy Fibiger, Lee Gumm
Ushers: Mattes
Acolyte: Madison Fibiger
Scripture Reader: Mary Ann Fibiger
Door Locker: Lee Gumm

Saturday, January 23
4:00 p.m.

Elder: Shua Yang
Ushers: Ken Thompson, Bob Kuehlmann,
Karl Rademacher
Acolyte: Zakary Willadsen
Altar Guild: Kristine & Maggie Faucher
Bulletin Folder: Dan Fibiger

Sunday, January 24
10:00 a.m.

Elder: Brian Faucher
Ushers: Hazens
Acolyte: Ella Albert
Scripture Reader: Lee Gumm
Door Locker: Ryan Brooks

Saturday, January 30
4:00 p.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Gerry Luebke
Ushers: Pranges
Acolyte: Zane Willadsen
Altar Guild: Barb & Lee Gumm
Bulletin Folder: Dan Fibiger

Sunday, January 31
10:00 a.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Andy Fibiger
Ushers: Jerry Sabrowsky, Derek MacKenzie
Acolyte: Aidan Brooks
Scripture Reader: Sharon Werner
Door Locker: Steve Marotz

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.oqt.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. Any cancellations will also be announced on Facebook as well as our church website www.bethanylutherankohler.org

