

PASTOR'S PAGE

Biblical Literacy

Biblical literacy is lost today. Many don't open their Bibles. Many don't know the order of the OT or NT books. However, Early American Christians prized books. The vast majority owned at least one book and that was the Bible. These Bibles were so precious that they were handed down from generation to generation. According to Bible historian Paul Gutjahr, for much of the eighteenth century, the Bible had huge popularity and was the "most printed, most distributed, and most read book in North America." For many families, the Bible was foundational in the establishment of our early American culture.

Reflect on the first 2 chapters of Luke. Luke gives us many names of those involved in Jesus' birth narrative. Let's look at the names of these historical people. In Luke 1 Zachariah (God Remembers) and Elizabeth (God is my Oath) are identified as John (Graced by God) the Baptist parents. Then we have Mary (Bitter) and Joseph (God will add). Mary gives birth to Jesus (God Saves or Savior). Then we come to Simeon (To Be Heard). And finally, Anna; her name means (Grace). These names describe God's divine attributes and actions throughout the scriptures.

Let's look at Mary and Joseph. As mentioned, Mary's name means "bitter." Her name describes the people's condition since they lost their kingdom. Joseph means "God will add". Mary and Jesus needed an earthly protector. Though Joseph was not the father of Jesus, God added him into the mix so Jesus would be part of an earthly family.

Now back to Jesus. You have to remember that there was more than one male child born on Christmas. And there were probably a number of them named Jesus! Jesus is derived from the name Joshua which means: "God is my deliverance or God is my Savior!" Like Mary, naming a male child Jesus was the hope in the promise of the Savior.

Just a few observations about how God uses names to bring about the message of his Son.

In the name of Jesus.

Pastor Steele

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.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

We made our way through 2021 and are grateful for the many blessings the Lord has provided. This past month we were able to enjoy the children's Christmas program. How wonderful it is to see our youth in front of the church reading scripture about the birth of Christ. It's quite a challenge to coordinate with the age range of children. A huge "thank you" goes out to Gina Fibiger, Julie Steele, Kandice Brooks, Dori Matte, Isabella Hasler, and the children for their many weeks of preparation to put on such an amazing performance.



On December 12th, the Lord called Audrey Sabrowsky home, and while we will miss her smile and wink in church, we know she is in a better place. Pastor Steele led an excellent service on Friday, December 17th to celebrate Audrey's life and her dedication to the Lord. Please remember to keep Jerry and his family in your prayers as they go through this difficult time.

As we look forward into 2022, we are still looking for an Elder, and also a Trustee. Please consider volunteering for these positions. In trying to support two services per week (Saturday/Sunday) it is important that we have a full Elder team. If we are unable to fill these positions we may eventually have to change how we do things at Bethany. Please reach out to Andy Fibiger or me if you are interested in either of the open positions. We will be asking around too. I encourage each member to invite friends or family who don't already have a church to Bethany so we can grow our new membership. The Council will be focusing on outreach in 2022.

Dori and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! God Bless and to God be the Glory!

Todd Matte - Council President

2022 BOARD MEMBERS

President: Todd Matte

Vice President: David Hasler

Council Secretary: Tamra O'Keefe

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

Board of Trustees: Ryan Brooks, **(Open Position)**

Board of Finance: Steve Marotz, Kelly Paltzer

Board of Education: Kandice Brooks, Dori Matte,
Gina Fibiger

Financial Secretary: Mary Ann Fibiger

Treasurer: Derek MacKenzie

Thank you to all who serve Bethany!

CHARITIES OF THE MONTH FOR 2022

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

To give to these charities, you can use your
"Designated Offering" contribution envelopes.
Thank you for supporting these missions.

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



Family Dinner/Movie Night

What: Pizza, popcorn, and the movie "Prince of Egypt (PG)

Where: The Fellowship Hall at Bethany

When: Friday, January 28

Time: 5:30 - 8:00pm

Who: Everyone! Parents welcome (but not required) to stay.

Details: Bring your blanket, bean bag, pillow etc.



Sign up in the lower narthex or call or email the church
to let us know if you can make it. Don't forget to invite a friend!

**Reminder: There is no service on Saturday, January 1st.
Happy New Year!**

LOVE INC NEWS...



The New Way Program WEEKLY BLESSINGS Product Drive 12/21/21 - 1/24/2022

A new development in Love INC transformational ministry is the provision of weekly kits to help program participants offset their monthly living expenses to save money, pay down debt, or reach a different financial goal! Please visit our website to learn more and view sample kit order form: www.loveincsheboygancounty.org

Will you please help us collect the following items?

- Shampoo & Conditioner 16 oz.
- Liquid hand soap – 7.5 fl. oz.
- Toothpaste 6 oz. tubes
- Laundry soap: 40 oz. – 50 oz.
- Bleach: 81 oz. – 121 oz.
- Dryer sheets or wool dryer balls
- Trash bags: 13-gallon
- Floor cleaner: 24 oz.
- Mops
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Napkins: paper only
- Bath towels: new please
- Window/glass cleaner
- Twist top baggies: gallon-sized
- Sandwich baggies: zip-top

Standard sizes requested for many products as our goal is to provide a 1-month supply in each kit. Larger items like boxes of garbage bags, packs of toilet paper, etc. will be broken down.

**We are also seeking \$25.00 gas cards and Shoreline Metro Day Passes.
If donating funds for gas cards and bus passes, please share your designation of funds at
time of payment. Please make checks payable to: Love INC**

**This new initiative is a proud partnership between Love INC Gap Ministries &
the Sheboygan County Food Bank!**

DROP OFF LOCATIONS:

St. Luke United Methodist Church 623 Ontario Ave. Sheboygan 920-458-3461	Redeemer Lutheran Church 1808 Eastern Ave. Plymouth 920-892-7431	Love INC Office 807 Forest Ave. Sheboygan Falls 920-783-6701
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT, WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR YOU!

**Donations can also be dropped off in the gray Love INC bin
near the elevator lift at Bethany.**

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2022

Sunday, January 2
10:00 a.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Lee Gumm
Ushers: Steve & Diane Martoz
Acolyte: Winston Hasler
Scripture Reader: Mary Ann Fibiger
Altar Guild: Liz & Ken Buesing
Door Locker: Dan Fibiger

Saturday, January 8
4:00 p.m.

Elder: Shua Yang
Ushers: Thompson, Rademacher, Kuehlman
Acolyte: Katelynn Regutis
Altar Guild: Lynn & Gerry Luebke

Sunday, January 9
10:00 a.m.

Elder: Jason Mengel
Ushers: Matte
Acolyte: Ryan Mengel
Scripture Reader: Sharon Werner
Door Locker: Diane Marotz

Saturday, January 15
4:00 p.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Gerry Luebke
Ushers: Dave & Sue Prange
Acolyte: Aidan Brooks
Altar Guild: Sue & Dave Prange

Sunday, January 16
10:00 a.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Andy Fibiger
Ushers: Hazen
Acolyte: Isaac Hasler
Scripture Reader: Todd Matte
Door Locker: Ryan Brooks

Saturday, January 22
4:00 p.m.

Elder: Brian Faucher
Ushers: Ray & Shirley Ottman
Acolyte: Elanore Faucher
Altar Guild: Kristine & Maggie Faucher

Sunday, January 23
10:00 a.m.

Elder: Lee Gumm
Ushers: Fibigers
Acolyte: Winston Hasler
Scripture Reader: Steve Hazen
Door Locker: Steve Marotz

Saturday, January 29
4:00 p.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Shua Yang
Ushers: Jerry Sabrowsky, Derek MacKenzie
Acolyte: Katelynn Regutis
Altar Guild: Shirley & Ray Ottman

Sunday, January 30
10:00 a.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Jason Mengel
Ushers: Dan Fibiger, Brian Faucher
Acolyte: Colin Mengel
Scripture Reader: Lee Gumm
Door Locker: Dan Menzer

January 2022

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