

Bethlehem News

November 2013

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Issue #627

BELIEVING—In God's Promises
SERVING—God and Neighbor
LIVING—In God's Grace through Faith
WELCOMING—All to Jesus Christ

Bethlehemians have no doubt noticed the absence of the pastor's column for some months now. I think I have managed to get about three done in the last 6 months. You might be inclined to think that with all the talking the pastor does, all the preaching and the teaching, she finds it difficult to find yet another thing to say in a monthly column, but that's not it at all.

Truth is, as the end of each month rolls around, a veritable barrage of topics, scriptures, thoughts and inspirations assault me with such numerical force that in those few precious hours before our secretary begs, bribes, and cajoles me to produce something, anything on the computer e-equivalent of paper, I feel like Lucy Ricardo in the "I Love Lucy" episode where a pillow bursts, and she is left trying to catch the feathers, one by one, and stuff them back into the pillow. Which idea, which scripture, which topic should I grab and write about?

The advance of the World Wide Web has been of no assistance in this endeavor. In fact, it has only compounded the complexity. Take today, for instance: I thought as how I might like to write a little something about Pope Francis' pronouncement about Lutherans and Catholics forgiving one another for their now nearly 500 year history of sins against each other, so I read an article in *The*

National Catholic Register entitled, "After Five Centuries of Division, Catholics and Lutherans Consider Their Common Heritage," which led me to wonder what sins, exactly, did the Lutheran church commit against Roman Catholicism, in comparison with the sins of Roman Catholicism against Lutheran churches over the course of those 500 years, which then led me to read some articles on *Cuius region, eius religio* - "whose realm, his religion," a political doctrine of the Habsburg Empire that forced more Protestants than Catholics to move out of ancestral homes when the political princes changed from Protestant to Catholic, which then led me to remember the Sopron Congress of 1681 in Slovakia that mandated the construction of Lutheran "articular churches," churches that had to be made entirely of wood (no nails or metal hardware of any sort), be built within one year,

November

Birthdays

Anniversaries

- 1—Josie Hainline
- 24—Leo & Esther Richardson
- 2—Cara Helland, Brock Henderson
- 30—Bob & Julie Krause
- 4—Brynlee Eatock, Josie Eatock
- 6—Mike Fairchild, Ole Jones
- 7—Joseph Seigfried
- 8—Larry Larson
- 9—Scott McCubbin, Helga Rogers
- 10—Randy Bowers, Brian Jack, Tori Terrones
- 11—Robert Klunder
- 12—Juli Helland, Jordan Moyer, Kim Reed
- 13—Rachael Cook, Paxten Hainline, Dave Middleton, Rita Thorson
- 14—Carol Gibson, Zachary Smith, Tim White, Pastor Heidi
- 15—Jon Johnson, Caden Krause
- 17—Susie Schaudt
- 18—Denny Mitchell
- 19—Denise Petersen, Andy Thom
- 20—Lucas Schaudt
- 21—Julie Britton, Ronda Kaldenberg, Patsy Silberstein
- 22—Kim Weeks
- 23—Bill White

- 24—Rosemary Fjelland, Jake Frohling
- 25—Elizabeth Eimers
- 26—Susan Horness, Lori McCasland, Nick Smith
- 28—Gene Staples
- 29—Kathy Robinson
- 30—Jill Smith

November Volunteers

Ushers & Elevator Assistance Before Worship
 Doug & Sharon Mackey, Mike & Marlene Fairchild

Acolytes & Elevator Assistance Following Worship
 Nov. 3—Madelynn Connell & Clay Estrem
 Nov. 10—Sam Foster & Payton Johnson
 Nov. 17—Robert Klunder & Savannah Moyer
 Nov. 24—Sam Foster & Austin Thompson

Cantors

Scripture Readers

	Nov. 3 & 10—Brenda Neville	Nov. 3—Jana
Mitchell	Nov. 17 & 14—Anders Dovre	Nov. 10—Brenda
Neville	Nov. 17—Rose Arrasmith	
	Nov. 24—Shawn Kyhl	

Greeters

Nov. 3 & 10—Cindi & Rachel Zimmermann
 Nov. 17 & 24—Orin & Norma Erickson

Children's Message

Nov. 10—Anders Dovre

Provide Altar Flowers

Nov. 3—Mike & Juli Helland
Nov. 10—Dave Cook & Karen Douglas
Nov. 17—Mike & Joyce Gibson
Nov. 24—Matt & Amy Holms

Cassette Tape Ministry

Nov. 3 & 10—Mike Helland & Jana Mitchell
Nov. 17 & 24—Craig Whitney & Julie Britton

Altar and Chancel (Communion)

Nov. 3 & 17—Brenda Neville & Erin Wilson

Communion Assistants

Nov. 3—Dave Cook, Jess Denner, Jana Mitchell
Nov. 17—Anders & Jen Dovre, Rose Arrasmith

Flower and Candle

Erin Wilson

Banqueting Table Clean-Up

Nov. 6—Bruce & Ardy Hinds, Bill & Julie Britton, Patsy Silberstein
Nov. 13—Cindi Zimmermann, TBA
Nov. 20—TBA

Notes from October 20 Temple Talk

- 2006 passed an extensive building plan to add on to our building
- Project included moving the front of the church out to include a larger receiving area
- It also included replacing the elevator
- Overall projected cost at the time was 1.5 million
- Fund raising has yielded limited results. Committee spoke with members seeking pledges. Not very successful.
- As time has gone on that 1.5 million number has become less reliable
- Last summer an alternate plan was proposed by a member of the congregation. Price tag was in neighborhood of \$800,000

- In June Pastor and I sat down to discuss how to move forward
- We were looking at prospect of raising a minimum of \$300,000
- Due to the lack of success with fund raising in the past, we asked ourselves "What do we need, not want?"
- An elevator
- That morning we contacted 3 elevator contractors
- Over the course of 3 months we have met with 2 elevator contractors and one general contractor.
- We now have an estimate from a general contractor, an elevator company.
- The council has approved a recommendation for one of two plans to install an elevator on the exterior the current east wall of the church.
- This elevator would be large enough to handle a casket. There would be enough space between the foyer area of the elevator and the ark for a lane of traffic.
- We are looking at roughly \$400,000 for the job. That is a soft estimate and we need to be prepared to spend more than that.
- We currently have that money available.
- What we need is a congregational vote to amend the original building project
- We will be voting on November 3
- Randy Cummings from Story construction
- An important consideration is, in a sense we are voting to keep our current structure and fix it as needed.

Submitted by Doug Mackey, Council President

Finding forever families

November is National Adoption Month, a time to raise awareness about the 101,000 children waiting to be adopted from foster care in the U.S. and the people who make a difference in their lives.

Through our shared ministry, you are helping LSI find families for these great kids! LSI

is a partner agency in Iowa KidsNet, a statewide collaboration of agencies that recruits, trains, licenses and supports all of Iowa's families who foster children or adopt from foster care. Thank you for the impact you make for these children!

If you know someone who would be a great foster or adoptive parent, please encourage them to visit www.iowaKidsNet.com. To learn more about LSI, visit us at www.LSIowa.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Your LSI Shared Ministry Snapshot: Zac's forever family

Zac once lived at LSI's Beloit Residential Treatment Center in Ames, waiting for a forever family.

In an Iowa farmhouse over a hundred miles away, Ken and Evelyn, veteran foster and adoptive parents, decided they had room in their hearts and home for another child.

It turned into a happy ending for both.

Beloit provides 24-7 mental health services for children with severe emotional or behavioral disorders. Many, though not all, have faced trauma from past abuse or neglect. In 2012, 42% of children at Beloit had at least one parent's parental rights terminated (or were in the process of having parental rights terminated).

"We heard about Zac at Beloit and went to visit a few times," said Ken. "He's a good kid, and he just keeps getting brighter."

LSI helped Zac prepare to be part of a family, through skill-building, therapy and transition visits.

"When I see a kid go into a foster or adoptive home, it's like a mom watching her child graduate from high school," said Angie, an LSI caseworker. "They work so hard to accomplish this."

Being adopted, Zac said, is a "good thing." It means Zac, who has cerebral palsy and sometimes uses crutches, now simply gets to be a kid. That means fishing on his birthday and even climbing trees with his brothers.

"We put a section of ladder up in the pine tree where a flat limb comes out. He manages to get down most times," said Ken, smiling.

Thank you for helping kids like Zac achieve their potential in loving homes!

This Month's Activities

Church Council Meeting

The next Church Council meeting will be **Thursday, November 14, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Caleb room next to the church kitchen. All council meetings are open to the congregation to attend.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study group meets every Wednesday of the month at 12:30 p.m. All women of the congregation are invited to attend. This month's Bible study dates are

November 6, 13, and 20 (They will not meet on November 27.)

Circles News

The Bethlehem Women will have their annual Thank Offering Luncheon at 11:30 on **Tuesday, November 19**, in the Fellowship Room followed by a short Bible study. Bring your Thank Offering envelopes or drop them in the collection plate at church. The Nite Hawk Circle will be **Tuesday, November 19** at 6:30 p.m.

The quilters recently sent 17 boxes of quilts (72 quilts all together) to Lutheran World Relief. The cost to send these quilts was \$162. They have also sent quilts to the homeless in Des Moines, the women and children's shelters in the area, and continue to send quilts wherever there is a need.

The quilters meet to tie quilts the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month 9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m. They would appreciate any monetary donations, any fabrics (especially for backing the quilts), and any volunteers that would like to work on them. New people are always welcome! If you have any questions, please call Elaine Weeks at 228-3155.

Banqueting Table Menus

November 6

Pork Loin
Chicken Casserole

November 13

Roast Beef

November 20

Mashed Potatoes & Gravy	Potatoes & Gravy	Mixed
Vegetables		
Green Beans	Baked Beans	
Jello Salad		
Rolls & Dessert	Rolls & Dessert	Rolls
& Dessert		

(no meal on November 27)

Ballard Thanksgiving Service

We will again be participating in Ballard's Thanksgiving dinner and service. It will be held at the Ballard Middle School in Huxley on Tuesday, November 26. The dinner will be served 5:30—6:45 p.m. in the cafeteria and the service will be at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

We are asked to furnish 3 crockpots of soup and bars or cookies for dessert. Please sign up on the sheet posted on the church office door, if you are able to provide food for the supper. Thank you!

Fall Festival Day

The Sheldahl United Methodist Women invite you to come and enjoy a great dinner and do your Christmas shopping at the Sheldahl United Methodist Church on Saturday, November 9. There will be rag rugs, crafts, nuts, baked goods, candy, jams and jellies, and more. Bazaar and bake sale 9:00 a.m.; chicken noodle dinner 11:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m. \$6.00 adults; \$3.00 children (10 & under)

Save the Date

The 4th Annual One Starry Night Gala and Auction benefiting the Ames Christian School will be Saturday, December 7, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. at the Scheman Building at Iowa State University. The keynote speaker will be Pam Tebow. An accomplished speaker, author and advocate for family values, Pam is also the mother of Tim Tebow, the 2009 Heisman Trophy Winner. Seating is limited. You may register your attendance and purchase your tickets and/or tables online at acsgala.org. If you have any questions, please call 515-233-0772.

Upcoming Events at Riverside

- 2013 Fall Recharge, "Forever and Ever" 1 John 2:17. Enjoy an amazing weekend retreat focusing on Jesus for you, for your friends, for all! Junior High

(grades 6-9) November 8-10, Senior High (grades 9-12) November 22-24.

High School Youth Event

The high school youth group will be going to the Howell's pumpkin patch on November 3. All youth, please keep this day open so that you may come and have some fun with your friends. More details to come. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Douglas (228-3755) or Rita Thorson (515-290-9315).

Reminder!

Daylight Savings Time ends on November 3. Remember to set your clocks back.

EPIC Scholarship

Confirmed members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, who are thinking about, or planning on, attending one of Iowa's colleges of the ELCA (Grand View, Luther, Waldorf, or Wartburg) are eligible to be considered for a Bethlehem Lutheran Church EPIC Scholarship.

In an effort to support our youth in their pursuit of higher education at one of Iowa's colleges of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, students are eligible for grants of \$100, \$200, \$300, \$400, or \$500 per students per year with the college matching the grant.

Applications are available in the church office. **The applications are due by January 1, 2014, to the church council.** If you are unsure whether you will be going to one of the before-mentioned colleges, it is better to apply, than to miss the deadline. All applicants must reapply each year. The amount of the scholarship will be determined by the church council each year depending on the funds available.

Bethlehem Scholarship Donations Accepted

Bethlehem Lutheran Church has established an Education Partners in Covenant (EPIC) Scholarship Fund to which members may make donations. Each January the Bethlehem Church Council will review applications made by members and determine what level of support per student can be funded for the following school year.

The more money in the Scholarship Fund, the more our church council will be able to divide among eligible scholarship applicants.

This year our Thank Offering will be **Sunday, November 24**. Please give prayerful thought to any gift you can give. Everyone will be receiving a mailing with suggestions of ministries you may choose to support beyond our regular weekly offerings. We will be having our traditional brunch following our worship service .

Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to share a poinsettia to help decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas Season, please call the church office to place your order or sign up on the sheet posted on the office door. Poinsettias may be given in Memory of a Loved One or to the Glory of God. Thank you!

Check out our updated Facebook page AND our website!

Please be patient as we work through some remaining issues, but feel free to go visit, LIKE, and comment. We will try to keep both sites updated on a regular basis. <http://www.facebook.com/slaterblc> and <http://www.slaterblc.org/>. A BIG thank you to Dave Cook for working on this for us!

November 2013

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Please Remember in Prayer

Nancy (Kruse) Boch, Rosemary Fjelland, Amy Gerbracht, Mike Gibson, Allan Huigens, Sharon Kirkman, Jan Riley, Joann Sesker, Barry Williams, and Doris Williams. Please remember the hospitalized and sick in prayers and with your cards.

Slater/Sheldahl Food Pantry

Thank you to everyone who attended the fundraiser for the food pantry following our worship on October 20. \$500 was raised in addition to all of the items donated to the pantry. A BIG thank you to our high school youth for all of their hard work!

At the Madrid Home

Lois Erickson
Stella Glew

At Ballard Creek

Ole Jones
Phil Lehman
Tony Spence

At Bethany Manor

Dorothy Ehm

Transferred to the Church Triumphant

November 3, 2013, is All Saints' Day. All Saints' Day is when we remember those who have been transferred to the Church Triumphant since the last All Saints' Sunday. Here are the people who we remember on this All Saints' Day:

Darrell Harmon	Judy Herrin
Dewey Kaldenberg, Sr.	Ronald Rose
Ellen Boda	Evelyn
Lehman	Casper
Estrem	

Please remember these families and others who have lost loved ones in your thoughts and prayers this month.

Bible Presentations

Bibles were presented to our kindergarten and 3rd grade classes during our October 27 worship service. Those receiving their Bibles were ~

Kindergarten

3rd Grade

Marley Ali
Rylie Bowers
Chase Ihle
Lauren Drobny
Kylie Murray

Lane Kahler
Ayla Ott
Macee Whitacre
Avery Steward

Madrid Home News

- Veterans Day Celebrations—Monday, November 11.
- Kumla Dinner, Ballard Creek Assisted Living, Huxley—Every FIRST Monday of the month November through February, 12:00—1:30 p.m. Free will donation to benefit Friends of the Madrid Home projects.
- Free Lunches for Seniors—Thursday, November 21, 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m. at the Cedars and Friday, November 22, 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m. at Ballard Creek. RSVP required by calling 515-236-1960.
- Brunch, Bazaar & Bake Sale—Sunday, November 24. Brunch 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. at The Cedars in Madrid, and the Bake Sale & Bazaar 1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m. at Madrid Home. Donations of craft items and baked goods requested.

Check out the fliers posted on the bulletin board in the narthex for complete information, or you can stop by the church office with any questions.

Christmas Gift Wish List

clocks for residents' rooms
emery boards
300 piece puzzles
wrist watches
hand lotion
bras (larger sizes)
slippers with grip bottom
grippy socks
simple house dresses
light women's sweaters
cotton knit shirts for men & women
long sleeved light sweatshirts for men & women

(the most needed sizes for clothing are L, XL, 2XL, 3XL and 4XL)

Gift Wrapping—Dec. 16—18, 9-4 at the Madrid Home. Santa's wrapping Workshop will be open from 9 a.m.—4 p.m. daily. Individuals, church, service and youth groups are invited to join the fun. Please call Kacie Purl at 515-795-3007 to schedule a time for your group.

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411 Third Ave.
P. O. Box 297
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Dated Material—Please don't delay!

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and be located outside the cities' walls by about two miles. And all of that led me to ponder the fact that my sense of history may be a little one-sided, Lutheranwise, and made me want to write about something else. (This might be the longest run-on sentence I've ever written).

That is not even to mention a side trip to an article on an RC bishop suspending a priest for "liturgical abuse," prompting the observation that if Lutherans had the same ecclesiology as Roman Catholicism, Bethlehem would have another pastor by now, and another detour to several pages of stills from *I Love Lucy* episodes, prompting 30 minutes of nostalgia for VitaMeataVegaMin. Let me not forget Youtube videos of an adorable, rescued baby wombat.

You see? Feathers. All over the room. Happens every time attention deficit disorder, Google and the demands of a diligent secretary collide.

What did I learn from foraging through the Internet forest and picking over my mind's detritus?

1. I only know one side of the historical fallout of the Reformation - only know how Lutherans in specific and Protestants in general suffered in the years following the Great Divorce between Rome and the Reformers, which has led, I think, to a kind of self-justifying martyr complex on behalf of Lutheran history. My knowledge of the sins of Lutheran excess doesn't

extend much beyond Martin Luther's verbally brilliant but certainly odious invective against Pope Leo X. More research is necessary. Jumping back into the Google pool.

2. I might not wholly agree with Lutheran and Catholic leaders' observation in their latest document, "From Conflict to Communion: Lutheran-Catholic Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017," that the disunity of the Church was a lamentable thing. The actions of the respective churches towards one another certainly were lamentable, but from where I sit, disunity was an essential feature of creative and constructive (and yes, convulsive) change in the Western world - the flowering of arts and sciences, politics, economics, and social conditions. God does not always, or even often work through hearts and flowers, through unity and peace, but also and frequently through the chaos of human sin. We fractious humans do our part from the cross to the Reformation to now. The pain of disunity may well be labor pains, "the whole creation groaning in travail" as St. Paul put it. The Reformation may well be our tower of Babel, resulting ultimately in the concept of freedom of religious expression that we so highly prize today. One hopes that in lamenting the disunity of the past and working toward greater unity in the present for the sake of the future, we do not fail to give thanks for the fruits of disunity and discord, for therein the Spirit of God is to be found at work, because:

3. The Church IS unified in Christ, in spite of differences between its various expressions. Our unity does not consist of agreements on assertions, nor does it arise from the forgiveness we accord one another (although forgiveness of one another is always a good and necessary thing), 500 years later than should have happened. Our unity flows forth from the blood Christ shed on the cross for 16th century popes who call 16th century priests wild boars in the

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forest seeking to destroy the church, and for priests who likened their popes to the antichrist, for earthly politicians who sought to eradicate differing religious expression by force and by architectural constraints, and for people like you and me in all of our petty power plays and in all our egregious self-centered self-righteousness. We are unified in God's saving

work through Christ, not through our negotiated words using his name. This seems an important point to stress in this moment of relative concord with each other, because:

4. While old disagreements are being laid to rest, new ones arise. We may be done arguing about justification by faith, but discussion of morality, more specifically homosexuality, looms ahead. We're human; at our best, discord is what we do. Lutherans in Europe and North America are open to ordaining homosexual clergy involved in monogamous relationships. Rome does not yet ordain women. This should be interesting. Stay tuned. It could take another 500 years.

In the meantime, there are the cute baby wombats to look at.

Your Sister in Christ,
Pastor Heidi

Attendance and Offering for October, 2013

<u>Offering</u>			<u>Attendance</u>
September 29		101	\$ 2,404.00
October 6		129	3,658.00
October 13	80		2,168.20
October 20	101		3,577.35
			<u>\$ 9,403.55</u>
Weekly receipts needed to meet 2013 budget (\$184,675 ÷ 52):			\$ 3,551.44
Offerings Received:			
January			\$ 8,198.55
February			14,008.00
March			17,825.70
April			13,450.00
May			11,361.00
June			14,223.65
July			13,764.75
August			11,916.85
September			13,164.60
October			<u>9,403.55</u>
Total Offerings			\$ 127,316.65

Budgeted Expenses through
 October 20, 2013 (\$3,551.44 x 42): (\$ 149,160.48)

Budget deficit as of
 October 20, 2013: (\$21,843.83)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
39:00 <i>Worship with Holy Communion 10:15 Sunday School 5:00 Boy Scouts</i>	49:00 <i>BLCW Sewing Day 12-1:30 Ballard Creek Kumla Dinner</i>	5	6 12:30 <i>Women's Bible Study</i> 5:30 <i>Banqueting Table</i> 6:15 <i>Confirmation</i> 7:30 <i>No Notes Practice</i>	77:00 <i>Long Range Planning Committee</i>	8	9
109:00 <i>Worship 10:15 Sunday School 3:00 Venturing Crew @ Lighthouse</i>	111:30-6:00 <i>Madrid Home Communities Veterans Day Activities</i>	12	13 12:30 <i>Women's Bible Study</i> 5:30 <i>Banqueting Table</i> 6:15 <i>Confirmation</i> 7:30 <i>No Notes Practice</i>	147:00 <i>Church Council</i>	15	16
179:00 <i>Worship with Holy Communion 10:15 Sunday School 5:00 Boy Scouts</i>	189:00 <i>BLCW Sewing Day 7:00 Worship Planning Team</i>	1911:30 <i>BLCW Thank Offering Luncheon 6:30 Nite Hawk Circle</i>	20 12:30 <i>Women's Bible Study</i> 5:30 <i>Banqueting Table</i> 6:15 <i>Confirmation</i> 7:30 <i>No Notes Practice</i>	21	225:00 <i>Wedding Rehearsal</i>	234:00 <i>Amy Jensen/A.J. Wedding</i>

<p>24 9:00 Worship 10-1 Madrid Home Brunch 10:15 Sunday School/Thank Offering Brunch 1-3 Madrid Home Bake Sale & Bazaar</p>	<p>257:00 Boy Scout Committee</p>	<p>265:30—6:45Ballard Community Supper7:00 Thanksgiving Service (at Middle School)</p>	<p>27 NO Women's Bible Study NO Banqueting Table 6:15 Confirmation NO No Notes Practice</p>	<p>28Happy Thanksgiving!7:00 Venturing Crew Committee@ Lighthouse</p>	<p>29CHURCH OFFICESCLOSED</p>	<p>30</p>
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