



**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

**Glen Arbor, Michigan**

**Monthly Meditation**



“You have left the planned route? Would you like assistance returning to the planned route? Say ‘Yes’ or ‘No.’ Before the advent of satellite

directional devices or services, the hard-to-fold map was our “friend” in helping us locate our destination along with frequent stops at a local gas station to ask, “How do I get to ...?”

God’s Covenant people knew that the Messiah’s arrival would be heralded by a star. “A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel (Num. 17:24).” The Prophet Micah would later detail that the Messiah would be born in little Bethlehem – the city of David.

The Magi though used their own directional device to find the Child Jesus by following the star. These Persian astronomers did not know about Micah, but they knew that there was a celestial light show that should not have appeared in the night sky, so they followed their celestial GPS “until it stopped over the place where the child was.”

The real message of Epiphany (the Lord’s revealing Himself or as we sing “God in flesh made manifest” is that God revealed His Son first to the Jews and then to the pagan world (the Gentiles) so that they too may know God’s plan of salvation for the entire world. Christ came to redeem and restore his entire creation!



- January 03 - Euchre
- January 06 – The Feast of the Epiphany Visioning Committee
- January 09 - Wednesday Bible Class Starts
- January 13 - Installation of Lay Leaders Church Council
- January 27 – Midwinter Medley for Youth (Tentative with Info to follow)

**NOTE:** Given the fullness of Sunday mornings, Sunday Bible Class will be suspended until another option can be offered.

**Volunteers Needed**

We need volunteers for Sunday Fellowship and Ushers. Please remember you can always partner with someone else to share the responsibility for either position. Thank you.

**Will you serve?**



## Giving Tree "Thank You"



A big thank you for your generosity in filling the Giving Tree with gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves for the children of our area. The items will be used to warm the cold hands and heads of some of our "little ones" as they face the winter winds and snow.

## Christmas Eve Thank You

Once again, a big "Thank You" to John DeKorne, our Music Director; the Choir; Marge Habegger, our flutist; Karen Remington and Jim Kraatz, our soloists; the Altar Guild, and Mitch Griffith for serving as acolyte; Lois, our faithful secretary; and all the unseen heroes who put up, tended, and removed our Christmas tree.



It was great to see the church packed to praise the Christ Child and to hear once again, "No one does Christmas better than Bethlehem!"



Your kind words, generous gifts, and many cards were so appreciated. It is our privilege to serve the Christ Child by serving you and "thank you" for your continued love and support."

Pastor Dan

John Lois Melanie

## DISCHARGED HOME



After many long months in a rehab facility, Pat Bennett was discharged home with John.

Rather than to return to their former home, Pat and John have relocated to Traverse City. Their new address is available in the bulletin. We continue to pray for Pat's continued improvement.



Pastor Loeschke is planning on taking our youth to the national LCMS Youth Gathering this summer. The LCMS Youth Gathering is scheduled for July 11-15, 2019, in Minneapolis, and events will be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center and U.S. Bank Stadium.

Held every three years since 1980, the LCMS Youth Gathering provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God's people to learn more about Jesus Christ, the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity.

During the five days of the Gathering, youth will spend time together in God's word, worship, service, and fellowship with others from across the Synod. Look for more information and fund-raising to follow. What an exciting and spirit-filled experience this will be!

## Fourth of July Parade?

Last year, we discussed the possibility of participating in Glen Arbor's Fourth of July Parade, but we decided we needed more time and preparation. The questions are: (1) Are we interested in participating this year? (2) If so, who would like to help?

