



Bethlehem Star September 2018

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Glen Arbor, Michigan



Monthly Meditation

There is something special about that first crunchy bite of a crisp red apple in fall that often floods our memories with the warmth of autumns

past along with the gentle love and nurturing that we experienced growing up.

It is interesting in the Old Testament that apples are associated with Adam and Eve's fall into sin, but it wasn't an apple that was eaten or caused the fractured relationship. Rather, it was man's disobedience. The Old Testament quickly changes apples into a good thing, "Keep me, O Lord, as the apple of your eye."

In writing about the relationship between God and His bride, Israel; King Solomon wrote that Israel said of God's love: "As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste (Song of Solomon 2:3)."

Based on this great love in Song of Solomon, a beautiful carol was written called "Jesus Christ the Apple Tree." In this metaphor, Jesus "does make my soul to thrive [and] It keeps my dying faith alive." The carol captures the reality of living under the cross when it says, "I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile." In Matthew, Jesus invites us "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Come, rest under the apple tree, Jesus!

New Green Paraments

After many years of faithful service, the Altar Guild elected to replace the olive paraments on the altar, pulpit, banner, chalice, and the pastor's stole with a fresh look.

Because green is used primarily for the Pentecost Season, the green color reflects "growing in Christ." To that end, the Altar Guild selected a design which represents "Christ the Living Water Grows His Church." Two of the pieces are represented below.

Pulpit Hanging



Central to the paraments is the . This is a modern version of the ancient monogram for Christ and the cross. In Greek, Christ is spelled Χριστός (Christos). This symbol uses the first two letters of Christ's title. Paul also teaches the church that "we preach Christ crucified (1 Cor. 1:23)," so the modern version incorporates both Christ's title and the cross. The next part of the design takes us to Jesus' words in John 15:5, "I am the vine; you are the branches." Further, John records the words to the woman at the well, "but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life (John 4:14)." (Continued on next page)

Banner



When the Altar Guild saw the banner, a unanimous response of those present indicated that we had to have this design. Jesus' "Living Water" and the cross certainly are evident. However, many people are not aware that the church is symbolized by a ship or ark.

If you look at the interior of our church, you will see an inverted ship. Also, the part of the church where the congregation sits is called the nave from the word for navy. This banner tells us that we sail through the rough seas of life safely in the ship of God's church! The Altar Guild also thought it was appropriate given our location on Lake Michigan. The other paraments are related to these designs.

The paraments are slated to arrive in late September to early October. These beautiful additions were made possible by very generous gifts from Ruth Shacknies in memory of her mother (Katherine Busick Zelmer), the Sheridans, and the proceeds from the Hot Dog Sale!

Did You Know?

The speaker's stand in a church is called an **ambo** if it is used for both reading the lessons and preaching? It is called a **pulpit** if it used only for preaching.



We will keep calling ours the pulpit, but there are those who decide these "things" and they have decided that there is a difference!



Third Quarter Council/Voters Assembly will meet on Sunday, **September 9th**, following fellowship. Please mark your calendars and join us in the decision making process.

Fellowship Hall's Fresh Look!

A big "Thank You" to everyone who helped in the refreshing of the Fellowship Hall. The commercial removal of the old wallpaper and fresh paint made such a vast improvement. The décor and drapes by Chris Griffith and installation by Ken Rosiek gave a fresh look. A cross is on order to complete the project.



Thanks to Steve Habegger for installing a new door on the Fellowship Hall entrance and he will soon install a new sacristy door.

To everyone who helped with the labor, donations, and love; please accept our thanks.

Landscaping Project



Have you noticed the significant change in our landscaping? Please thank everyone who has been involved in completing Phase I. It is

such a vast improvement. Due to Cherry Republic's renovations, our south lawn needed some major attention. Ken Rosiek is working with Cherry Republic in making these changes. Please join us at Voters for details.

"That's the Spirit" Autumn Tea

On September 29th at 2PM, Mary Martha will host a tea for women from our parish and other neighboring churches.



Entertainment will be provided by the Grand Traverse Show Chorus. Reservations are limited.

To make reservations or answer questions, please contact Cindy Rosiek.



“O Come, O Come”

Although Advent won't begin until December 2, the Altar Guild discussed ways of enhancing the superfrontal (cloth that hangs from the altar) as it seemed incomplete with only one symbol.



Bible Classes will begin in both September and October. On **Sunday, September 16** following Fellowship, this year's Sunday Bible Class study is the **Epistle to the Hebrews**. This powerful book connects a lot of imagery from the Old Testament with Christ or what the church calls Christology. Please join us as we study this often unread treasure of the New Testament.

Wednesday, October 3, at 1:00 PM, we continue our study of the **Gospel of John**. In addition to our study, each section is followed by a film which helps to complete our study.



Please join us on **Sunday, September 16th**, **after Bible Class** as we “kick off” a new year with scrumptious delights and our working together in the Kingdom. Please bring one of your special dishes to share. See you there!



Air Conditioning Fundraiser

With this summer's heat and humidity, several people have said that it's time to cool the church. A “Comfort” fund has been established to install sidewall mounted units. Steve Habegger estimates a cost of \$10,000-\$14,000. If we collect now, we can be in comfort by next summer.

With much work and many thanks to Laurel Peterson, the cloth was lovingly renovated as Laurel sewed (couching) on two crown appliques with gold thread and yarn. The original Advent wreath remains in the center and now we celebrate the coming King with crowns of glory.



ShareCare of Leelanau County, nonprofit that helps Seniors live independently and safely in their own homes.

Volunteers provide the ride for a \$25 annual enrollment fee and \$10 fee per round trip ride. Costs can be subsidized if needed. If you are interested in volunteering or would like a ride, please call 231-256-0221 or info@sharecareleelanau.org.

† Official Acts †



On June 24, Noah David Cronister became a child of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Noah is the son of Zachary Cronister and Tess Slack. “Father welcomes all his children to His family through his Son!”

A Celebration of Life was held for Betty Schneider on August 11 as her family and friends gathered and rejoiced in her resurrection to new life won for her by her Savior on the cross. Betty is survived by the Pastor Paul Schneider family, the Chris Neiswonger family, and many more family and friends.





Several people have asked for copies of the prayer that Pastor Dan uses before Fellowship meals.

Father, now we come before Thee
 For Thy blessings, we implore Thee.
 Grant according to Thy measure
 Of the fullness of Thy treasure:
 Peace, health, food, good weather
 And all things that work together.
 Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The prayer was written by the Rev. Dr. W. Harry Krieger who baptized and catechized Pastor Dan. Dr. Krieger was pastor at Trinity-Traverse City from 1948-1961. Prior to his death, Dr. Krieger went on to become the Michigan District President and served two terms as Vice-President of Synod. In addition to this prayer, Pastor Dan also has family authorization to use his hymnody.

Matro Minute

One of the priorities for LCMS mission work is to, **"Plant, sustain, revitalize Lutheran churches."** In the early decades of LCMS work in PNG, churches were started at an almost feverish rate.



Today, there is both church planting and revitalization going on. This newsletter is dedicated to the "planting" of Jordan Lutheran Church, a new congregation of our partner church here in PNG, The Gutnius Lutheran Church.

At one time there had been a Lutheran congregation in the area that was a member of the other Lutheran entity in PNG, but it

adopted some non-Lutheran practices and was "put under discipline." So, for some years, there was no orthodox Lutheran presence in the area.

A year or so ago, the Lutheran Circuit Pastor and some faithful members wanted to replant a Lutheran congregation in the area and looked to the Gutnius Lutheran Church to assist them.



This was followed by some planning meetings and Bible studies. A plot of land was also given for the church building, a school classroom and pastor's house and garden.

During the week of 25-30 June 2018, the community gathered for Bible studies, baptisms, confirmations and the dedication of the new classroom and church. What a festive week it was, too! I (Larry) was invited to attend the dedication of the church on 30 June. While the drive there was brutal and long, the worship service and other festivities were a real blessing to participate in and witness. They were especially grateful to receive books (printed by Lutheran Heritage Foundation) that will help them with the Kindergarten and other teaching opportunities.

The trip back home to Lae was one I will not soon forget. My *Clutch Master Cylinder* failed and I was literally stuck "in the middle of nowhere" with no phone signal! But, 100 meters from where my car stopped there was a "mechanic" who had actually been trained to do the repair I needed that got me home to Lae! ***Thank You, Lord Jesus, for watching out for us as we traveled and for planting Your Word at Jordan Lutheran Church.***

Thank you for your partnership in this work
 God bless you!!!

Pastor Larry and Tina Matro