

Thanksgiving Baskets

Thank you to everyone who provided the items needed for the Thanksgiving baskets. We were again able to fill six baskets for families in need. A special **Thank you** to Randy & Cindy Olli for delivering the baskets.



How to give the Christmas gift that really matters this year.

During Advent this year, you will have an opportunity to give a Christmas gift that makes a like changing difference in the lives of so many people throughout our nation and beyond. On the Christmas tree, thanks to our Sunday School children, you will find envelopes that are designated for World Hunger. Please consider taking an envelope during these four weeks of Advent and making a financial offering as part of your Christmas giving.

We believe in a God of abundance, so as a church, we live out our call in baptism to strive for a just world where all are fed. ELCA World Hunger is this church at work. Together we serve and help break the cycle of hunger and poverty.



The **55th Festival of Lessons and Carols**, will be on **December 8th, at 3:00pm** at St. Francis de Sales Church. What a wonderful way to start the Christmas season!



Sankta Lucia will be celebrated on **Saturday, December 14th**, at **1:00pm**. A delicious dessert will be served following the program. Please tell a friend and come and enjoy this wonderful tradition!

The **Sunday School Christmas Program** will be held on **Sunday, December 22nd**, during our regular worship time. Come and enjoy our young people who will be sharing with us!



We will be Christmas Caroling on **Sunday December 15th**, from **4:00 to 6:00pm**. There will be a Schoolcraft County Transit Bus so that we can all go together. Afterward, we will come back to Augustana Hall for a pizza dinner. All are welcome to come and join us!!



If you would like to order a Poinsettia to help decorate our church for Christmas, the cost is \$10.00. Please use the form printed in *The Beacon* or inserted your weekly bulletin, and note whether your gift is "*In Honor Of*" or "*In Memory Of*" someone, if it is a special occasion, or if you are making your gift to the Floral Fund. Please see Shirley if you have any questions. Orders need to be in by Sunday, December 15th.



Please note: the Church Office will be open on Christmas Eve and on New Year's Eve from 9-12:00pm.

You may have noticed that we don't have Christmas gift tags this year. We received a letter stating that the need was down this year (that is a good thing) so there wouldn't be enough tags to go to all who received them in past. There are other ways to help, such as, Toys for Tots, The Salvation Army and the food pantries.



This Christmas Eve worship there will be only one service at 4:00pm. It will combine the Family Service and the Candlelight and Carols.

*Gifts to our congregation have been given in
memory of*

Lydia Hulla

Marilyn Larson—Quilters

Bob & Lila Panek—World Hunger

Joel & Sherri Krause—Pew Fund

Bob & Lila Panek—Building Fund

Ozanich/Thelander Family—Memorial Fund

Linda Mason—Memorial Fund

Jeanne Gundersen—Altar Guild

Tom & Carla Flodin—Nordic Fund

Joseph VanDyke

Joel & Sherri Krause—Pew Fund

Shirley Nelson—Memorial Fund

Charles Miske

Joel & Sherri Krause—Pew Fund

The Monday night Bible study group will be meeting at 6:30, every 2nd and 4th Mondays. Pr. Eleanor Russey will be leading our study. The book "*The Mission Table*" by Stephen Bouman, will be the focus of our study this fall. If you have any questions about this opportunity for study, please contact the office.



Circle News

The **Sarah Circle** will meet Monday, December 1st, in the conference room at 1:00pm.

The **Joy Circle** does not meet in December, but will meet in January and have their annual Auction and potluck.

The **Priscilla Circle** will be going to lunch at Big Boy on Tuesday, December 17th, at 12:15pm.

The **Ruth Circle** will be meeting on Wednesday, 11:30am at Big Boy for lunch.

The members of the **Hope Circle** will meet on December 19th at 6:00pm.

Upcoming Scripture Readings

December 1 —First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122, Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44

December 8—Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19, Romans 15:4-13,
Matthew 3:1-12

December 15—Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11

December 22—Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, Romans 1:1-7,
Matthew 1:18-25

December 24—Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

December 29—First Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148, Hebrews 2:10-18, Matthew 2:13-23

NOISY OFFERINGS

November 2019—Manistique Ministerial Association
\$84.59

The 2020 Offering Envelopes are here and can be picked up during regular office hours, Monday-Thursday, 9:00am to 12:00pm or Saturday or Sunday before or after worship.

THANK YOU!!

To all who have so generously given to our Augustana Hall Roofing project. Those who gave in November are:

Ruth Jones
Frank & Shirley Leitgeb
Karin Sjogren
Sheila Clark
Cindy & Randy Olli
Lynda Nedeau
Joanne Nelson
Robert & Lila Panek
Eunice Barker
Teddy Nelson
Arvid & Arliss Larson
Naomi Fletcher
Jon & Gloria Haindl
Lois Bentley
Bill & Donna Mott
Liz Macklem
Harry Mageski

From the Northern Great Lakes Synod

Marked Events

Once again, the Synod Youth Committee is encouraging confirmation age youth to attend one of these Marked Events offered in our Synod. It's a chance to meet new friends, participate in a service project, sing, play games, worship and eat. Mark your calendars and encourage your confirmation age youth and leaders to join us...

Sunday, March 22 at Messiah Lutheran, Marquette,
4-7 pm ET

Sunday, April 19 at Our Redeemer, Newberry, 4-7 pm ET

Sunday, April 26 at First Lutheran, Iron River, 4-7 pm CT

This years service project will be items for Baby Care Kits.

Items needed for Baby Care Kits include:

2 lightweight cotton t-shirts (no Onesies)

2 long or short sleeved gowns or sleepers without feet

2 receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, between 36" and 52" square

4 cloth diapers, flat fold preferred

1 jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap

2 pairs of socks

1 hand towel, dark color recommended

2 or 3 bath-size bars of gentle soap equaling 8-9 oz. any brand, in original wrapping (no mini or hotel size bars)

2 diaper pins or large safety pins.

~From the Bishop~

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



In the past weeks, the Synod staff and I travelled to each one of our Conferences for a **Walking Together** event. We went from St. Ignace to Wakefield, from Chassell to Eagle River, with Wallace, Ishpeming, Norway, and Escanaba as additional stops. I am grateful to all those who

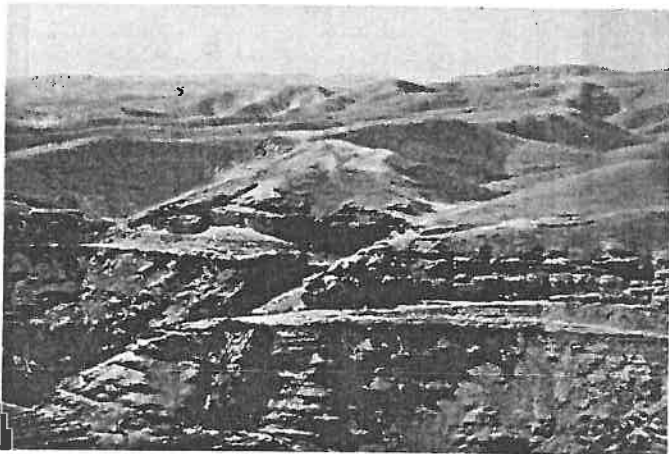
attended and made this time together a priority. Over three hundred people participated and enjoyed being Church together.

The evaluations reflected that our time together was valued, productive, and meaningful, especially in the table conversations around Psalm 121.

Having developed this presentation for the Central and Southern Illinois Synod, I was glad to put it to good use in our synod as well. Here it is, somewhat summarized, as I think it is a conversation worth having in all our congregations.

So, let's consider Psalm 121. It was a goal of faithful Jewish folks to attend worship in Jerusalem at least once a year and people would travel together (remember Jesus as a 12 year old getting lost among the band of travelers and Mary's worry.) As the community of faith travelled, they sang together. Traveling to Jerusalem, they had to walk uphill because Jerusalem sits at a higher elevation than the surrounding landscape. So anyone going to Jerusalem had to walk up. Psalm 121 then, is a Psalm of Ascent, meaning that it was sung as the

community of faith walked up to Jerusalem.
There are also Psalms of Descent. But Psalm
121 is a Psalm of Ascent.



The picture gives you some idea of what the hills looked like that the community of faith prepared to walk through. This is a picture of the Jericho Road. Consider the story of the Good Samaritan. This is the same road that hid bandits and thieves that fell upon a wayward traveler. The community of faith lifts their eyes to the hills and wonders what dangers are hiding there waiting to pounce. And they ask the question, from where will help come?

As you consider your own community of faith, and the journey you are taking together, discuss with others the following:

- What are you afraid of?
- What is hiding in your hills?
- Where do you feel vulnerable, at risk, as you make the journey of faith?

From where is help to come? One effort that was made to ensure the safety of the band of travelers was to send a scout up ahead. This person would perch at a good lookout above the path so that he could warn the people of any danger that might be seen from that vantage point. And yet, this psalm seems to acknowledge that such a lookout can only do so much. A warning is the most they can hope for. So as people journeyed in groups, they sang of their trust in the LORD to keep them safe.

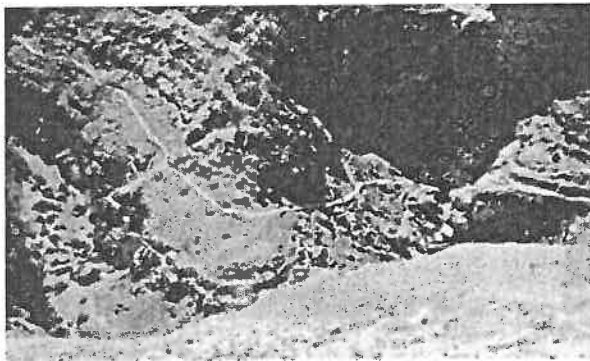
My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth. Help comes from none other than the Creator. The trust of the people is well placed. Help is not some shepherd boy sent to scramble up a dusty hillside to scour the craggy landscape for thieves and bandits. Help is the Almighty God, with the power to create the heavens and the earth.

For discussion:

- What does God's help look like?
- What you are hoping God will do?
- In what ways will YOU help to address the fears you see in the hills?

He will not let your foot be moved.

The road is narrow, the path is rocky. The danger of falling off the path is real, or twisting an ankle, bruising a foot, stubbing a toe. Yet, the Lord's care of you is so complete, that God will make your steps sure.



Above is a view of the path that a scout might have. So the community of faith, in an effort at self-preservation, sends a scout, someone nimble enough and strong enough to reach a high vantage point so that he can sound a warning. And if a young boy has to climb all the way up the hill, and then simply sit and watch and wait, it might well be that no matter how vigilant, he will get tired after such a climb, or even be tempted to doze.

But the Psalm proclaims that **“He who watches over you will NOT fall asleep.”** The scout might take a nap or get bored, but not God. And more than that, **“Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.”** The Psalmist moves from God’s care over a singular band of pilgrims to God’s care over the whole community of faith.

For discussion:

- What attempts at self-preservation has or is your congregation attempting?
- What do you see coming down the path?
- How vigilant is your congregation to the changes ahead?

Take a close look at this road again, and the modern-day pilgrims who are travelling it. Don’t let the long pants and jackets fool you. It is hot! The sun is unrelenting. The only shade is hard to get to and offers little relief. It is an unpleasant walk without a hat, and sunscreen only does so much. Better to have material to cover. I understand completely the robes and head scarves which provide a degree of comfort and protection against the hot sun. And yet the Psalmist proclaims that God promises protection, not only against the harsh sunlight, but also the moon.

The LORD himself watches over you (*not some scout*).

The LORD is your shade at your right hand, (*protection and care readily available*).

**So that the sun shall not strike you by day
nor the moon by night**

**The LORD (*not your own effort*) shall preserve
you from all evil.**

It is *he* who shall keep you safe

The Psalmist makes a claim for God, that even as we make some well meaning attempts at self-preservation, it is God in whom our safety rests.

**The LORD shall watch over your going out
and your coming in from this time forth
forevermore.**

I have often read this Psalm at the bedside of the dying. There is comfort that God watches over and offers care as we go out of this life and come into

the next. The LORD's care of our coming and going can mean many things.

For discussion:

- How is your congregation "going out"? That is, how is it risking? Moving forward?
- Venturing into vulnerable territory?
- And how is it "coming in"? Arriving safely? Finding its place? Coming home?

It was a blessing to gather as Church to discuss together what God is up to, what our fears are, and hear again how our future is in God's hands. Thank you to the congregations that hosted this year's Walking Together events, the musicians, the cooks, the helpers, and all who participated. I look forward to seeing all who come next year!

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan

Upcoming Events at Fortune Lake

Visit www.fortunelake.org for more details and to register!

Winter Wonderland Retreat

January 17-19, 2020

This snowy getaway will include sledding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and possibly even ice skating. Downhill packages for Ski Brule can be purchased for an additional fee. Prefer indoor activities? The sauna will be lit, the hot drinks will abound with board games aplenty!

Jr. High & High School Youth Retreat

February 7-8, 2020

Come to camp in the winter to reconnect with God, reunite with other campers and former staff, and rejuvenate your faith. There will be camp-style worship, sauna, authentic conversation and (maybe?) sleep.

Advent traditions

“The way you celebrate Christmas can be a gift in itself,” said Fred Rogers, “handing on traditions that will give your child a feeling of continuity, comfort and joy in all the Christmases to come.” In American homes, common Advent traditions include wreaths, calendars and logs. Did you know about these European traditions?

- In Normandy, children used to set fires in fields during Advent. The flames killed caterpillar eggs and drove away rodents. The tradition reflected good conquering evil, just as God’s perfect Son rescues us from sin.
- On December 13, Scandinavian countries honor Saint Lucy (or Lucia), a third-century martyr who, according to legend, brought food to people in the catacombs during winter. For light — and to be able to carry as much food as possible — she wore a wreath of candles on her head. On St. Lucy’s Day, the oldest daughter gets up early and brings sweet rolls to family members. The tradition reminds Christians that Jesus is a gift of light and love for our dark world.

Christmas to-do list

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among brothers,
to make music in the heart.

—Howard Thurman

**Serving Zion with Altar Flowers,
Bulletin, Bread & Wine, & Fellowship**

	Altar Flowers	Bulletin, Bread & Wine	Fellowship Hour
Dec 1	Joanne Nelson	Lois Bentley	****open****
Dec 8	****open****	Linda Levin	****open****
Dec 15	Betty Denessen	Betty Denessen	Quilters
Dec 22	Bruce & Rita Rossier	Teddy Nelson	Sunday School
Dec 24	Frank & Shirley Leitgeb and Cindy Nelson	Anna, Karin & Elsa and Lois Bentley	
Dec 29	****open****	Carole Johnson	****open****

Date	Readers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Ushers	Greeters
Dec 1	Donna Mott	Pr Ingmar Levin	Griffin Maline	David & Mary Hicks	***open***
Dec 8	Teddy Nelson	Clyde Johnson		Todd & Cody Kangas	***open***
Dec 15	Naomi Fletcher	Teddy Nelson	Griffin Maline	Todd & Cody Kangas	***open***
Dec 22	Sunday School Program	Linda Mason		***open***	***open***
Dec 24	Naomi Fletcher	Pr Ingmar Levin	Griffin Maline	Jim & Mary Nelson	Kangas Family
Dec 29	Lessons & Carols	Naomi Fletcher		***open***	***open***

Communion Ushers: Naomi Fletcher & Teddy Nelson

Altar Guild: Verda Kreuzwiser & Joanne Nelson

Tellers: Naomi Fletcher & Cathy Wargo

Giver _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

<p>DONATION OF \$ _____ (any amount) To the Floral Fund</p> <p>Donations to the Floral Fund will support the beautification of the sanctuary and narthex throughout the church year.</p>	<p>PLANT PURCHASE TO TAKE HOME</p> <p>_____ Poinsettia(s) \$10.00</p> <p>\$ _____</p>
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If you are ordering a plant please have your orders in by December 15th.