

The Messenger

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NOVEMBER 2017

English Lutheran Church of Bateman (ELCB)

11/3 Mary Green **11/22 Jerrod Stone**
11/3 Kassandra Schmidt **11/26 Yelena Knutson**
11/3 Jeanine Michal **11/26 Jacklyn Oldroyd**
11/4 Ken Buckwheat **11/29 Susan Foiles**
11/09 Robert Anderson
11/09 Erin Arneson
11/14 Alvin Johnson
11/16 Rigmor Bergsholm
11/20 Shannon Lindner
11/21 Chris Stein



Happy
Thanksgiving!



Soul Supper resumes as of November 1st at 5:30 pm!
Come join the fun for Wednesday Nite Live!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF BATEMAN

Sunday, November 5th—Youth Sunday & All Saint's Day

Sunday, November 12th—Hymn Request Sunday &

Thursday, November 23rd—Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 26th—Christ the King Sunday

Friday, December 1st—Youth Decorating Christmas Tree

Sunday, December 3rd—Youth Sunday/1st Week of Advent

Sunday, December 24th—Christmas Eve Service

***THE CHURCH CALENDAR IS NOW UPDATED DAILY
AND NOW THERE IS A LINK ON OUR WEBSITE TO
VIEW THE CALENDAR**

Pastor's Thanksgiving Message



I'm sure you are all familiar with the expression, "Attitude of Gratitude." I hesitate to even mention it because it is so often used that it is almost a cliché. But with Thanksgiving coming this month it is a good time to reflect on not only whether we do have an attitude of gratitude but who gets our gratitude. It is one thing to have the attitude; it is another to turn that into a prayer of thanks to God. You may have heard that the more thankful we are, the less anxious we are. Giving God thanks helps remind us that all that we have comes from God. It reminds us that God has provided all that we need and we can trust that God will continue to provide.

We see in the Bible that God is a God of abundance not scarcity. At the wedding in Cana, when they run out of wine, Jesus turns about 180 gallons of water into wine – way more than what was needed. In the feeding of the multitudes Jesus takes a few fish and a few loaves and not only feeds over 5000 people but has leftovers – 12 baskets full. Our God is a generous God.

I believe that the more we are aware of God's blessings and generosity, the more thankful we are, the more generous we become. When we realize and trust that God is going to provide we are free from having to worry about ourselves and can now be generous; with our time and our money.

I recently preached a sermon where I talked about our motivation for giving to the church. I expressed a concern wondering how many people see their giving to the church as a way of paying the bills. If that is how we see it then it is very hard to be joyful about it. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 9:7, "*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*" (NIV) There is, I think a correlation between generosity and cheerfulness. I have yet to meet a grumpy generous person.

"I believe God has created me together with all that exist." (Luther's explanation of the first article of the Apostles' Creed). All that we are and all that we have comes from God as blessing. It is our privilege and responsibility to take care of and use wisely these blessings. They include our time, attention, physical health, energy, talents, possessions, attitudes, relationships, and money. That also includes the sharing of our financial resources to support the ministry of the church. I've heard it said that stewardship is all that you do after you say, "I believe." It is more than how much money we give to the church.

(Pastor's Message: Continued on Page 3)

Mission Statement:

We the family of English Lutheran Church of Bateman are here to serve the Lord through worship, fellowship, stewardship, and discipleship.



(Pastor's Message: Continued from Page 2)

As your pastor I am more concerned about your spiritual life. I'm more concerned with how you are following Jesus. And about how much you trust God. One of the ways we show our trust is through how much we are willing to give away some of the money God has given us. If we think it all belongs to us and that God is not going to provide for us, then that is a spiritual issue. You will not want to part easily with "your" money. But if you believe that it is not really "your" money and that you are a manager or steward of God's money and that God will provide than you will give more freely and generously.

Rather than asking how much should I give to the church, it may be better to ask, "How much do I really need to keep for myself?" Do I need to keep 98% for myself? That is the average that most people do with their giving. They give 2% back to God. But will God provide enough for me if I keep 90% and give away 10%? Personally, I know this to be true.

I don't think it is helpful to make people feel like they have to give a certain percent to the church. But when we see how generous God is then we will become more thankful and generous. Are you able to give your time and money with a sense of joy – to be a "cheerful giver."

Our giving isn't limited to money. Time is also what we can give back to God. I know both churches need people to give their time to serve on councils and committees and to help with the youth and other ministries.

I ask you to each day for one month– maybe before going to bed – to write down at least three things for which you can give thanks to God. Then pray about how generous you are in using your time and money (really God's time and money). Is it a good reflection of your gratitude and your trust in God who provides? See you in worship.

—Pastor Rick Biedermann

"You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God." (2 Corinthians 9:11-12 NRSV)



God's Blessings to Jacklyn Oldroyd, Grace Christie and Jordan Gilles as they affirmed their baptism October 29th. We thank all those who have been a part of their faith journey to this point. May they continue to grow in their faith and learning what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

—Pastor Rick

YOUTH MINISTRY

October recap: During our fall maker space, we made creches! Thank you to the Barone family for letting us use their workshop to build, and for Sheri for organizing this great maker space!

Confirmation: We have decided that we are going to take a mission trip in July to Denver, Colorado for one week! During this trip we will be working with local organizations working with the homeless population and people who are in poverty. Currently we have 13 youth signed up along with 5 adults. We will continue fundraising, and we are so thankful for all of the support!

October 29 we affirmed the baptism of 3 students- Jordan Gilles, Grace Christie and Jacklyn Oldryod! We are so proud of you girls!

Up coming in November:

11/1: WNL - Soul Supper at 5:30pm, small groups at 6pm

11/5: YOUTH SUNDAY!

11/8: WNL- classes at 6pm

11/15: WNL- classes at 6pm

11/22: NO WNL! Happy Thanksgiving!

11/29: WNL- classes at 6pm





**Brief notes from the
Oct. 9, 2017 Meeti**

Buildings and Grounds –Consensus to go ahead with installing a new HVAC, hopefully including a financial break for trading in our old system. Many thanks to the many contributors for this project!

Council Terms were clarified in preparation for the 2018 slate:

Council 3-year term limit, max. 2 consecutive terms

(Possibly changing to a 2-year term at the annual meeting in January 2018)

Steve Thon – 2nd term ends 2019, Vice President, Buildings and Grounds

Darin Fellom – 2nd term ends 2018, President

Angela Sieg-Bruhn – 1st term ends 2018, Parish Ed (Replaced Robin Engel)

Linda Stockinger – 2nd term ends 2019, Secretary, Worship/Music

Vacancy, 1st term ends 2019 – Jack Rokser volunteered to fill this vacancy

Vacancy, 1st term ends 2018 – Cliff Slater volunteered to fill this vacancy

Cliff will also help on the nominating team and may run for reelection

3 vacancies to end in 2020

Non-voting youth representative – Mason Bruhn

Discussion on possible constitution changes to be addressed by the congregation in Annual Meeting January 2018 – Possibly revising the term of serving on council from three years to two years and/or reducing the number of Council people to 6 or 7. Further discussion scheduled for December.

Julie Mitchell and Carol Peterson were elected in January 2017 to be on the nominating committee. Cliff and Darin will also serve from the Council. There are 5 council positions in need of nominees.

Updated church directory – Carol Dittmar has consented to head up the task of working with LifeTouch in creating a new photo directory, likely in the spring of 2018.

PrayGround –An activity center for children ages 2-6 is being developed. Jack Rokser volunteered to help make this a welcoming space for our young ones and families.

Initiation of a task force to look at scenarios and costs for recording and posting sermons or services on our website or social media.

An outdoor food pantry was approved in March 2017. Plans are underway for this to be completed.

11TH ANNUAL *LEFSE* BAKING DAY AT ELCB

September 30, 2017

Another successful *Lefse* baking day was held the end of September with 18 helping out with the various tasks and many hands needed! Thank you to all for your "time and talents" on this day of fellowship. We made 111 bags of 3 to sell at our Harvest Home Tour bake sale the following week! Plus we were able to taste our "rejects" along with our lunch! Fifty pounds of cooked potatoes were brought in by Turners, Nancy Nerdrum, Cathy Thompson and Karen Rokser to be riced by Ian Turner and magically transformed into *Lefse* by our talented crew! THANK YOU! Turners, Nancy Nerdrum, Donna Martin, and Donna Harings brought *Lefse* making equipment for all of us to use. THANK YOU! Our mixers, rollers, turners who helped out were Nancy Nerdrum (& sister, Elaine), Karen Rokser, Sandy Winrich, Vicki Seidlitz, Deb Neitge, Susan Gillig, Donna Martin, Eli & Lucas Wahlin, Jane Hvizdak, Donna Harings, Ron Iverson, Carol & Ian Turner. THANK YOU! And last, but not least Carol Peterson and Marty Iverson came to package!! THANK YOU! Well done everyone!

-WELCA

PRAYGROUND:

Available at any time during the service for children. The PRAYground offers a spot for young children during the worship service. There are coloring sheets, crayons, books, puzzles and soft toys at a table and chairs for little ones. We celebrate that Jesus put the *wiggle* in these children, and this is a place that is age appropriate for them to worship.

LET'S BUILD A FIRE – OUR FELLOWSHIP MISSION TOGETHER



Summer has passed by and we start to think of fall and winter and the inevitable heating season. The same works for our church.

Our fellowship hall furnace has served us well for many years, so long in fact that we are told when it goes – replacement parts cannot be found; and it could go at any time. We take our furnace for granted but it's an important part of our fellowship mission. Think of all the regular weekly events taking place in that hall and all the extra things – meetings, presentations, food pantry, a dining room, educational space, library, kitchen, serving areas and the list goes on. It's obvious that our fellowship hall and kitchen play a critical role in our missions.

Our Building and Grounds team has prudently done their homework and discovered that a new furnace unit will cost about \$7,600. The reality is that kind of money just isn't available to us without your financial help. We have a great start and are over three quarters there with over \$6,500 given so far. A bright red thermometer in the fellowship hall marks our progress. Let's make that final push to reach our goal! There's no time to lose. Thank you for considering this.

Finance/Stewardship Team— Ray Peterson, Steve Thon, Dennis Knutson, Karen Rokser, Sue Gillig

LIBRARY NEWS!

New Books for Your Fall Reading

Hidden Places by Lynn Austin

Until We Reach Home by Lynn Austin

The Other Einstein by Marie Benedict

A Dog's Purpose by W. Bruce Cameron

The Christmas Bus by Melody Carlson

The Whole Town's Talking by Fannie Flagg

Victoria by Daisy Goodwin

The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah

Song of the Silent Harp by BJ Hoff

Heart of the Lonely Exile by BJ Hoff

To Be Where You Are by Jan Karon

Call Me Mrs. Miracle by Debbie Macomber

The Summer Before the War by Helen Simonson

A Place to Belong by Lauraine Snelling

See Me by Nicholas Sparks

The Christmas Light by Donna VanLiere

The Christmas Note by Donna VanLiere

NONFICTION

Signs of Belonging Luther's Marks of the Church and the Christian

Life by Mary E. Hinkle

A Field Guide for the Missional Congregation by Rick Rouse and Craig Van Gelder

Beyond Maintenance to Mission by Craig L. Nesson

H Is for Hawk by Helen Macdonald

When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot





CLOVERTON CONCERT for Hope Village

WHAT A NIGHT! THE CLOVERTON BAND hit all the right themes and notes last Monday night at the Heyde Center. Over 150 people, of all ages, heard the Christian message about being a man of God, having hope and inspiration through the songwriting of Cloverton.

Not only was the entertainment amazing, but the partnerships among the sponsors and supporters of the Cloverton Concert was truly unique. The partners included Luann Gerl, a member of ELCB, Jennie Childs and Brady Zwiefelhofer of Thrivent Financial, Mike Cohoon of Hope Village—Tiny Houses, Ray Peterson, Judy Gilles, Zoe Vogler, Chris Stein, Margo Gramling, Tom Drehmel, Director of Chippewa Valley Mission Coalition, Christena O'Brien of the Leader Telegram and a member of St. James Trinity, and myself. When you get a chance, please say THANKS for all their hard work!

We certainly need to thank the "Pack Mules." These folks from ELCB did the heavy lifting of unloading and loading a ton of equipment. Our thanks go to Darin Fellom, Derrick and Sheri Lindner, Roy and Kathy Thompson, Rob Gramling, Zoe Vogler, Laurel Boyer and Chris Stein.

Now for the "reason for it all." This benefit concert supported the work of Hope Village and their Tiny House initiative. A check for \$1,400 was given to Hope Village from Thrivent Financial. The Tiny House initiative is addressing the issue of Homelessness in Chippewa Falls. The concert goers had a chance to explore the "insides" of a Tiny House. I think you might like to read some comments from people who have used the Tiny House.



Sara – Had a string of unfortunate events happen to her that brought her to a Hope Village tiny house. Sara lost a teenage daughter to cancer during the winter of 2015 and in 2016 her significant other had health conditions that kept him from working. On top of those two things their vehicle just wore out from the many trips to medical clinics. Sara was able to find a job while in a Hope Village tiny house, pay off some past bills, and a car was donated to her by a concerned Hope Village volunteer from Our Saviors Lutheran Church. Sara was an experienced Nurses Aide and has moved in with a person that needs a personal aide to help her with her daily living as she recovers from an illness.

Renee – Renee was literally able to find room to stretch out in a Hope Village tiny house. I can't imagine spending the winter sleeping, sitting up, in a Walmart parking lot. Renee was able to make many new friends at Landmark as she joined us on Sundays and for a number of our small groups/classes. She was able to consolidate some debt to make paying rent possible. She was recently able to move into the Landings Apartments near Homestead Village. Renee hopes to finish up a Real Estate Inspectors course in the near future.

Kevin – Was his mother's caregiver, when she moved into a nursing home he lost his housing and his job. While living in a Hope Village tiny house Kevin was able to borrow a car, from a church member, while his was being repaired. Kevin was also able to gain employment and get his truck repaired. Kevin spent quite a few hours helping to build a couple of Hope Village tiny houses. Once his truck was repaired he decided to move to Montana, to work for a friend from college that had just started a new business.

-Submitted by Laurel Boyer





CHIPPEWA FALLS MISSION COALITION NEWS

Notes taken by Ray Peterson

English Lutheran is part of the Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition and has supported them in various projects over the past few years. I am currently attending their monthly meetings on behalf of our church. I am very impressed with the work they do, their commitment and the things that can be achieved by talking and meeting together.

The Mission Coalition started in 2011 with six area churches and has grown today to 17 churches and 20 local non-profit agencies. Their Oct 2017 meeting that Sandy Winrich and I attended was conducted on October 2nd at Valley Vineyard Church. Here are notes from the meeting:

- **The guest speaker** was Michelle Pride, Field Services Specialist for Feed My People. Her discussion was the local effect of the closing of the Community Closet Food Pantry and Gordy Markets. With growing supplemental food needs this is a very serious problem. The closed Chippewa Gordy's was providing 33,000 lbs of food annually which is now lost to the community. Michelle also noted that Feed My People was starting a 'Choose Healthy' program where they will be suggesting healthy food choices.
- **Cloverton Concert Wrap-up.** \$1,600 was raised by the concert. Over \$1,700 was raised by the First Presbyterian Spaghetti feed and bake sale.
- **Lighten Your Load update.** It was reported that approximately 10-12 individuals/families come to each session. Costs have been averaging \$100-\$125 per session. The mission continues to grow and provide services.
- **Tiny Houses/Hope Village Update.** Three houses are available for occupancy with two others being used at present. Rides are needed for the Tiny House guests since they often do not have transportation.
- **Community Care Cabinet Donations.** The Community care Cabinet at 508 N. Bridge St is in need of non-perishable food items and health care items.
- **Carelink.** Carelink, which supports indigent individuals and families as they pass through our community, is short of funds and volunteers. First Presbyterian Church in Chippewa coordinates this activity.
- **Shoebox Christmas Child Ministry.** Landmark Christian Church is again doing a Shoebox ministry where they gather selected items, place them in shoeboxes and distribute them to those in need.
- **Health Care items for schools still needed.** Toothbrushes/tooth paste, Hair combs, hair ties, dental floss, soaps/shampoos, head lice kits, deodorant, body wash, chap sticks, detangler spray, clothing items such as shoelaces, shoes/boots/hats/mittens/coats. Children in our school system lack all these essentials that we take for granted. More information contact Heidi Olson 715-726-2415 ext 3503

November 6th meeting will occur at English Lutheran Church. Roger Elliot, Coordinator, HSHS St. Joseph's Community Garden will be the speaker.

These are good neighbors and we can participate both individually or collectively as our time and talents allow.



ENDOWMENT FUND NEWS

The English Lutheran Endowment Board just completed its final meeting for the year and focused on enhancing the value and income of the fund going forward. We can do this partially by our investment selections and we spent a lot of time with professional guidance through Edward Jones and discussion/decision making.

Another way to enhance the value is to grow internally through contributions by church members and planned giving. Unfortunately not much of this has happened since our fund was created in 1998. We want to say that contributions to the fund don't need to be an end of life decision. The fund serves the living through our annual distribution of income. In fact through 2017 we have already given away more income \$59,000 than the value of the original investment (\$58,000 in 1998); and, the fund value has still grown to almost \$100,000 today.

Year end is a good time to think about these things and consider a donation to the Endowment Fund. A cash windfall, a life insurance policy no longer needed, tax saving considerations, a good year in the market or a special thank you to our Lord are all great reasons to make a contribution. It's hard to beat the Endowment Fund for a special gift that helps so many, gives year after year and grows in value! We talk often about blessings. What a great way to give a blessing to those who will follow us. A gift of any amount is welcome.

Please Consider Simply Giving® This Year

We have been talking about Simply Giving® periodically during the past year. Simply Giving® is a confidential, no charge, automatic offering program. It allows you to give without the hassle of envelopes and check writing and helps the church by establishing a consistent flow of funds. We encourage all members of our congregation to consider Simply Giving®. Getting started is easy.

Many of our members have been enrolled for many years and enjoy the convenience of the program.

You may ask why should I consider this? Here are some reasons:

- ◆ It provides convenience to you.
- ◆ It provides much needed offering consistency for our congregation.
 - ◆ It is very easy to start or make changes.
 - ◆ Many church families are enrolled and enjoy its features.
- ◆ It's a way to express your own personal Biblical 'First Fruit Offering'.

We know folks have been thinking about this – **why not give it a try?**

Contact Karen Rokser or Ray Peterson to get started or for more information.

Together in Christ,

Ray Peterson for ELCB Finance/Stewardship Committee

NOVEMBER

Nov	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>0:00am - Nov 1st</p> <p>0:00am - Nov 1st</p>	<p>0:00am - Nov 2nd</p> <p>0:00am - Nov 2nd</p>	<p>0:00am - Nov 3rd</p> <p>0:00am - Nov 3rd</p>	<p>0:00am - Nov 4th</p> <p>0:00am - Nov 4th</p>	<p>0:00am - Nov 5th</p> <p>0:00am - Nov 5th</p>	<p>0:00am - Nov 6th</p> <p>0:00am - Nov 6th</p>	<p>0:00am - Nov 7th</p> <p>0:00am - Nov 7th</p>
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English Lutheran Church of Bateman
God's work. Our hands.

ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF BATEMAN

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Pastor Email: pastor@elcbateman.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: LAUREL BOYER

Church Email: secretary@elcbateman.org

Church Office Phone: 715-723-4231

Office Hours: Tues & Wed: 9 am - 1 pm

Thurs: 9 am - Noon

Mission Statement:

We, the family of English Lutheran Church of Bateman, are here to serve the Lord through worship, fellowship, stewardship and discipleship.

I found this in article last month in *The Bell*, First Presybertian Church's newsletter... thought it would be a good one to share.

Editor's Note: Tom Drehmel of Central Lutheran Church works with the Mission Coalition. He has shared this amazing story from the *Lighten Your Load* project with us.

On June 17th, Tom received an email from Sander Engelsgerd letting him know that Arlan Bergquist had a washing machine to give away and asking if he knew of anyone that could use one. Normally the answer would be "No." How many people come up to you and say, "I could use a washing machine?"

But, then Tom got to thinking about a young lady he had met at *Lighten Your Load* earlier that month. She was a young, divorced mother in her early 30's with seven children. She brought in several stacks of soaking wet laundry. When he asked her what happened, she said her washing machine broke down and filled her laundry room with water, soaking all her dirty laundry in the process. She lived in Stanley and worked in Eau Claire or Chippewa cleaning motel rooms.

Tom listened to her to about half an hour or more as she told of her struggles with seven children, her divorce, and the abuse she endured, keeping food on their table and now a broken washing machine.

Tom said it was overwhelming listening to her story. It was one of those stories where you can't just say, "Go to church and it will all be better." However, she has faith in God through all of this, which is amazing in itself with all she has been through. He did his best to give her encouragement, but where do you start?

Then Tom got this email about the washing machine. He thought, "Maybe it starts with a washing machine to replace the one that broke along with a prayer for God to give her strength through all the turmoil in her life.

Tom was able to get the woman's contact information from the laundromat, which he passed along to Sander and Arlan. They contacted her and she was still in need of a washing machine.

On June 19th, the washing machine was delivered to this young lady. She was surprised, happy, and thankful.

While all her problems aren't solved by one washing machine, maybe this will be the start of good things for her. We can only hope so.

