

Sinful man has the inborn tendency to want to be the greatest. Even the Apostles argued as to which of them should be considered the greatest. Yet, no detail is given in Scripture about St. Bartholomew other than his name. You can be sure that St. Bartholomew, obscured by this lack of detail, was not a contender for the honor of the greatest Apostle. Nevertheless, the Church will thank God for St. Bartholomew on Aug. 24th.

Christians today, prompted by sinful pride, are no better than the Apostles. You like to be noticed. Pride motivates some to volunteers to help, so they will be noticed. Pride motivates others to give memorials, and to make sure that proper credit is given. Faith becomes a pious mask you use to look better than you really are. This leads to pride about yourself, and condescension toward others. Christians, prompted by the Holy Ghost, do not draw attention to themselves. Rather, Christians draw attention to Christ and seek His glory. Being a citizen of the kingdom of Christ means dying to yourself and living only for Him. Apostles who seek positions of power or church members who crave the envy of others have a

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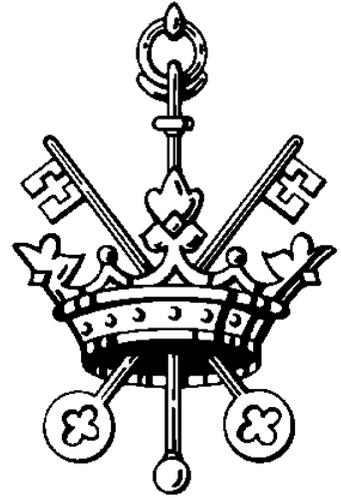
poor understanding of the nature of Christ's kingdom.

Christ clears the confusion over greatness in His kingdom. His principle is simple: leaders are servants and the humble are great in the kingdom of God. In response to this debate among the disciples at the Last Supper, Jesus put on a towel and washed the Apostles' feet! In the culture of that day, only slaves would wash feet. Here the Lord of the universe becomes a slave of sinful men. Christ teaches that the greatest in His kingdom must serve.

In the Lord's Supper, Jesus Himself is among you as One who serves. He serves you with His precious Body and Blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of your sins. This Supper is the greatest ongoing work of your great Lord, for in it He delivers to you the forgiveness of sins purchased for you on the cross.

Those who would follow Christ should not expect better treatment than He received. The Apostles would come to know this truth in their own bodies. St. Bartholomew was flayed alive, which is why he is symbolized in church art by a skinning knife. With this sort of service, the Apostles continued with Jesus in His trials, and followed Him into glory and true greatness.

You are a disciple of Christ. That means you follow Christ, even through trials. You might not be skinned alive, but you are certainly a target for the



devil's hatred. He sends every blight he can imagine your way, from small annoyances to huge catastrophes, in an effort to destroy your faith. But by the strength which God gives, you continue with Him through these trials, as did St. Bartholomew. Knowing the trials they would face, Christ encourages His Apostles with the promise of the kingdom. This kingdom is the Church. Christ bestowed this kingdom upon His Apostles to govern in His stead and with His authority.

This governance of the kingdom continues in the teaching and preaching of faithful Pastors, also here at Bethany. Your Pastors preach the same Gospel as did St. Bartholomew. We baptize with the same baptism as did St. Peter. We absolve yours sins with the same Absolution that St. John bestowed. Your Pastors bring to you the same Body and Blood which St. Paul distributed. Through these works of the Holy Ministry, the one, holy and Apostolic Church has been governed, is governed, and shall be governed until our King returns. Amen.

Pastor Trouten

Bethany Lutheran Church Women News

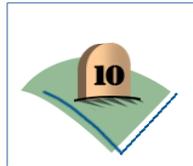
Greetings to you from your new President, Karen Perry! I was the only new officer elected for the various board offices. God has blessed Bethany with loyal members carrying their individual board positions repeatedly, steadfastly. Thank you especially to outgoing President, Dorothy Trouten who served for many years as we attended or no, yet benefited from her leadership.

Our next 'brain-storming' session, a planning meeting, is Tuesday, August 14th at 6:30pm. This meeting is open to all women so bring your calendars and ideas. You are welcome to email me with any ideas, Karen.Perry163@gmail.com and I'll take them to the meeting. Shall we have a Fall Rummage & Bake Sale? Anything else we can take on together?

Ladies Bible Study, continuing our study of 1st Timothy, will resume in the fall.

Our next two Matins services at Englewood will be August 26th and September 23rd (usually the 4th Sunday of a month). The residents do appreciate our time with them.

Karen



August Mile Stones

| <u>Birthdays:</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Baptisms:</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Ryan J. Greene | 1 st | Amelia M. Herdman | 10 th |
| Lydia Heastan | 2 nd | Diann J. Stoll | 10 th |
| Diann J. Stoll | 6 th | Derrek M. Dalman | 13 th |
| Gerald L. Greene | 7 th | Jessica L. Lee | 14 th |
| Michael W. Black | 11 th | Gerald L. Greene | 26 th |
| Richard C. Ramsey | 18 th | Kevin L. Dalman | 31 st |
| Brittany M. Lee | 29 th | | |

| <u>Anniversaries:</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Matthew W. & Heidi L. Densel | 4 th |
| Zachary A. & Traci M. Prindle | 23 rd |
| Richard C. & Jean E. Ramsey | 25 th |
| Charles E. & Pamela S. Pitsch | 25 th |

These are listed so that you can celebrate these milestones with your brothers and sisters in Christ. "If one member is honored, all the members rejoice."

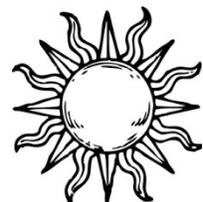


Worship Anew airs Sunday mornings at 7 AM on channel 21.2 EPTA, Sunday at 8 AM on Comcast 252 or Frontier 9, and on Comcast 55 or Frontier 25 at 4:00 PM on Sundays and Mondays at 10 AM. This month's schedule is:

5th – on John 6:22-35 by Rev. Dr. D. J. Brege
 12th – on John 6:35-40 by Rev. Dr. T. R. Ahlersmeyer
 19th – on John 6:51-69 by Rev. J. Elsner
 26th – on Mark 7:1-13 by Rev. W. Mueller

Sunshine Corner

Please remember in your prayers our shut-ins: Stella Westerfield, Jerry Greene, Florine Sievers, Marilyn Dalman, & Mary Allmandinger.



Life of the Church

"It's high noon on Thursday. The office secretary and church musician earnestly desire the hymns for Sunday so that they can finish their respective work—namely, publishing the Sunday bulletin and practicing for the service. So in order to accommodate his coworkers in Christ, the pastor quickly chooses a few hymns. While this swift selection process may accomplish the short-term task of identifying hymns for the upcoming service, it fails to take advantage of a wonderful opportunity. Simply put, congregational singing can be much more than simply the singing of several hastily chosen hymns.

"The church's hymns are, in fact, central to the worship life of the congregation. Not only do they allow the congregation to participate in the Divine Service, they also serve to reinforce both the readings of the day and the pastor's sermon. Selecting hymns that are related to the readings of the day allows the congregation to be exposed to important thoughts through both the written and sung Word. Granted, pastors do have busy schedules and perhaps cannot always spend the needed time to select such fitting hymns. Perhaps pastors might consider setting aside a planning day each quarter for the purpose of sketching out Sunday services. Inviting congregational musicians to assist in such planning sessions is an excellent way to gather their input.

"Hymns are important resources to assist in the pastor's ministry. In turn, hymn selection should be taken seriously. Hymn selection is more than randomly picking only the congregation's favorite hymns. They assist the pastor in teaching the faith once delivered to the saints." [The preceding paragraphs are from the LCMS website.]

Here at Bethany, Pastor Trouten takes hymn selection very seriously. I recognize how valuable hymns are in teaching and reinforcing the Faith. I always strive to match the text of the hymns to the lessons for each Sunday; I also take into consideration the familiarity or difficulty of the tunes. I work with our parish organist, Mrs. R. K. Schwanz, to pick just the right hymns a full six months in advance. I also review hymns picked after the Tuesday after they are sung. It is my sincere desire that the quality of the hymns sung at Bethany are second to none. I pray that you are strengthened, comforted, and aided in your worship of Christ by the hymns sung here at Bethany.

The Confessions

Augsburg Confession, Article XXIV:1-7: **Of the Mass**

"Falsely are our churches accused of abolishing the Mass; for the Mass is retained among us, and celebrated with the highest reverence. Nearly all the usual ceremonies are also preserved, save that the parts sung in Latin are interspersed here and there with German **hymns, which have been added to teach the people.** For ceremonies are needed to this end alone that the unlearned be taught. And not only has Paul commanded to use in the church a language understood by the people (1 Cor. 14:2-9), but it has also been so ordained by man's law. The people are accustomed to partake of the Sacrament together, if any be fit for it, and this also increases the reverence and devotion of public worship. For none are admitted except they be first examined. The people are also advised concerning the dignity and use of the Sacrament, how great consolation it brings anxious consciences, that they may learn to believe God, and to expect and ask of Him all that is good."

Lutheran Education

Sunday School & Bible Class continue to meet after church every Sunday. The adult Bible Class is studying the book of Proverbs.

Parish Planning Meeting



On Sunday, Aug. 19th, the leaders and main volunteers of Bethany will meet after church to plot out parish events for the coming year. All those involved in decision making for various boards and groups or those interested in giving their input should plan to attend. We hope to conclude by 11:00 AM.

| July | | | | | | |
|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

August 2018

| September | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | |

| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|----|--|-----------|--|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 30 | 9:00 AM Divine Srvc 10:30 AM Bible Class | | | | | | |
| | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 31 | 9:00 AM Divine Srvc 10:30 AM Bible Class | | | | | | |
| | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 32 | 9:00 AM Divine Srvc 10:30 AM Bible Class | | 6:30 PM Ladies' Mtg | | | | |
| | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 33 | 9:00 AM Divine Srvc 10:30 AM Planing Mtg | | 6:30 PM Edlers' Mtg 7:00 PM Council Mtg | | | | |
| | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 |
| 34 | 9:00 AM Divine Srvc 10:30 AM Bible Class 2:00 PM Englewood | | | | 10:00 AM Banner Folding | | |