

# The Star Newsletter

## Star of Bethlehem

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New Berlin, WI  
(262)786-2900  
www.starofbethlehem.org

### Our Mission

As a family of believers united in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the members of Star of Bethlehem Congregation are committed, with the help of the Holy Spirit and directed by God's Word, to glorify God by

#### SERVING

The Triune God through regular worship and faithful use of the Sacraments.

#### TEACHING

God's Word to people of all ages so they can continually grow in faith.

#### ACKNOWLEDGING

That God's grace is the only means of saving sinners and God's Word is the only source of Truth.

#### REACHING

Out with our diverse gifts to bring the lost to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

#### SUPPORTING

One another in daily living – empowered by the freedom God's forgiveness brings.

## The Holy Spirit's Work

I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him.

But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

(Martin Luther / Explanation to the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed)

On the day of Pentecost, the effects of the Tower of Babel were overturned. The punishment of God for their rebellious sin led to the multiplicity of languages throughout the world. That also led to friction and factions among nations, cultures and peoples who struggle now to communicate with one another.

On Pentecost, a harvest celebration, people were in Jerusalem to worship at the temple from many nations of the world. On the day of Pentecost, suddenly there was a sound of a mighty wind. There were little tongues of fire that came to rest on the heads of Jesus' disciples. And suddenly, through a miracle of the Holy Spirit, the assembled crowd heard the unlearned disciples declaring the wonders of God in their own tongues.

*Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"* Those "wonders of God" involved the perfect life, innocent death, victorious resurrection and triumphant return to his throne of our ascended Savior, Jesus Christ. Those "wonders of God" were shared with people in their own languages, so that they could understand the message of God's plan of salvation, believe it through the Holy Spirit's power at work in Word and Sacrament, and take the saving gospel with them back to their own nations and peoples.

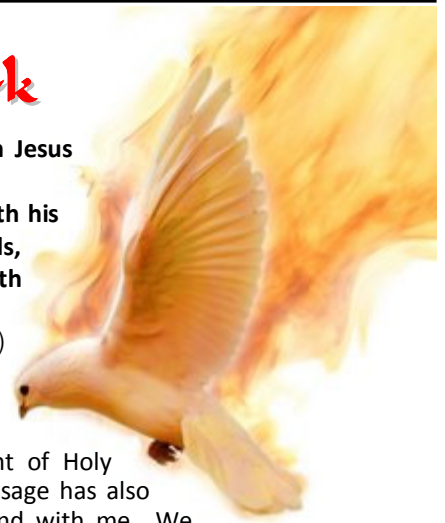
Now, through the miracle of God's inspired Word and the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, that saving message has also been shared with you and with me. We would have considered it to be sheer foolishness and rejected it immediately, had it not been for the work of God's Holy Spirit in our hearts, bringing us to faith. We would have surely lost our love for the gospel and fallen away from our Savior's side, had it not been for the work of the Holy Spirit faithfully and daily keeping us in faith through the power of God's Word and Sacraments, Baptism and the Lord's Supper. We would eventually have returned to our self-centeredness and our spiritual blindness had it not been for the Holy Spirit enlightening us with his gifts and keeping us with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. The Holy Spirit is the one who motivates us to return God's love with lives of loving service lived to his glory and praise. The tools that the Holy Spirit used on the day of Pentecost are the same tools he uses in your heart and mine until he guides us safely home to heaven.

In the meanwhile, God has important work still for us to do. The things we do to demonstrate our love to God and to thank him for sending Jesus to be our Savior are called "good works." There is no need to search out spectacular and unusual activities that will impress the world. While religious activities such as church attendance, prayer, mission work, charity are all included in the work our Lord has asked us to do, secular pursuits are just as pleasing to God when they are carried out in his love and according to his will. The simple performance of our daily callings is what God expects from us first of all, and the very simplest and ordinary tasks done in obedience to his commands are good works in his sight.

As long as we are in this world, our sanctified lives will never be what they ought to be. But our faith grows ever stronger through the power of the Holy Spirit working through the gospel, and our love for our Savior will grow ever deeper by the working of the Holy Spirit. May he continue to encourage and enable each one of us to serve the Lord faithfully in everything we do, so that it may be done to his glory.

*Holy Spirit, all divine,  
Dwell within this heart of mine;  
Cast down every idol-throne,  
Reign supreme, and reign alone.*

*See, to Thee I yield my heart,  
Shed Thy life through every part;  
A pure temple I would be,  
Wholly dedicate to Thee. Amen.*



# SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

We will begin our Summer Service Schedule on Sunday,

June 6. Sunday Worship will be at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

Monday Night Services will continue to be held at 6:30 p.m. throughout the summer months. Memorial Day Weekend we will still be following the regular schedule with Sunday Services at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. and there will also be a Monday Night Service at 6:30 p.m. Memorial Day Weekend, however, there will be no Kids' Bible Hour or Adult and Teen Bible Studies.

## 19-Minute Summer Bible Class



This summer we will again hold Bible Class between Sunday Services from 9:25 to 9:44 a.m. The course will be a study of the Book of Genesis and begins on June 6. The material is applicable for all ages. There will be no Kids' Bible Hour or Teen Bible Study scheduled throughout the summer months. We thank those faithful Kids' Bible Hour Teachers and Teen Leaders, who serve so faithfully and consistently behind the scenes each week throughout the year!

## Call Update

Rebekah Strong has accepted the call to serve as our Literature and Music Teacher in the Upper Grades next school year. We thank the Lord for leading her to this decision. We look forward to having her as a member of our faculty, and commit ourselves to support her in her ministry among us. She will be arriving in mid-August, as her husband will be completing his vicar year and enrolling in the Seminary for his final year in Fall.

## WELCOME

We welcome to our Star of Bethlehem family this month Jeremy Juern; Addison and Braeden Gentz; and Noah Velez. May the Lord bless your spiritual growth among us and grant you many opportunities to serve him in our midst.

## FOURTH OF JULY



We would like to have a float in this year's Fourth of July Parade in New Berlin. If you have ideas or would like to help, please contact Nan Szaj or Holly June, or come to a meeting on June 2 at 6:00 p.m. Sincere thanks to anyone that can help! The church property is always an excellent spot from which to view the New Berlin fireworks display. Get here early because the church parking lot fills up very quickly.

## Call Information

**Micah Ricke**, graduated from Martin Luther College and will be doing a year of international service in China. **Patrick Freese** was assigned as a vicar at St. John's Lutheran Church in Hastings, MN. Former Vicar, **Matthew Reis**, was assigned to be an Associate Pastor at Good Shepherd's Ev. Lutheran Church in Fond du Lac, WI.



Former member, **Stephen Lehmann**, was assigned to serve as a tutor for another year at Martin Luther College in New Ulm, MN. May they all find joy and delight in serving the Lord in those special places wherever he has called them to serve! Please keep them in your prayers!

## MEMBER REFINANCING COMMITMENTS

Please return commitments for the refinancing program to the small church in the gathering area or a Finance Committee member, as soon as possible. If you think you may have an interest in the Member Mortgage option email (cpatterson22@wi.rr.com) or call (262-549-5603) Cal Patterson with your current mortgage balance, Interest rate, monthly payment and your estimate of the value of your home and he can provide you with a comparison of your current mortgage to a current mortgage refinancing for your consideration.

## GRADUATIONS

Please let our church's administrative assistants know if your son or daughter will be graduating from high school, college, or post-graduate study. We would like to publish their names and recognize their accomplishments in the next issue of "The Star."



# Church Picnic



The Annual Church Picnic will be held at Calhoun Park on Sunday, June 27, beginning at Noon. Calhoun Park is located just south of the intersection of Calhoun Rd. and Beloit Road. Burgers, brats and hotdogs will be featured. Lawn games, softball, basketball, volleyball, horseshoes, piñatas, inflatable jump house for the little ones, together with games and activities for all ages. Watch for the sign-up poster in the gathering area with opportunities to serve and items to bring. We look forward to another enjoyable church picnic with food, fun and fellowship. Sincere thanks to our Stewardship Committee for making most of the arrangements. Please set aside the date and join us!

## LUTHERAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S CLOSING & GRADUATION SERVICE

Our Star of Bethlehem Lutheran School brings another year to a close with the Graduation/Closing Service on Friday, June 4, at 6:30 p.m. All students, faculty, parents and friends are Star of Bethlehem Lutheran School are invited and encouraged to attend. We owe a debt of gratitude to our Lord for his abundant and gracious blessings upon our school over the course of another school year. Thank you for your continued support of our school throughout the year. Former vicar, Matthew Reis, will be preaching for the Graduation/Closing Service. We ask the Lord to bless our graduates wherever they will be attending high school next year. They are: *Kali Evans, Trevor Foren, Joshua Gerhard, Alyssa Grimmer, Collin Imig, Robert June, Lukas Lindemann, Hailey McAdams, Tyler Parbs, Gina Pezze, Caleb Tesch, Jeralise Tylke, Julia Tylke, Nicholas Wayer, and Bonnie Winslow.* Congratulations on your achievements, graduates, and may the Lord enable you to use your God-given gifts to his glory and bless your future growth in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



# PICNIC

Star of Bethlehem Lutheran School will hold its picnic, weather permitting, on Thursday, June 3, beginning at 10:00 a.m., at the Malone Park, Casper Drive and Al Stiegler Road. All families and friends of Star of Bethlehem Lutheran School are invited to join the students and faculty at the park. A hotdog lunch will be served at Noon. Fun and games will be enjoyed throughout the day. Join us at this year's School Picnic!

## BIBLE INFORMATION COURSE

There are a few people who would like to go through the Bible Information Course, a course in basic Christian doctrine, during the Summer. It appears that Wednesday evenings would be the best time for these classes. If you would like to be part of this session, please call Pastor Gawrisch to enroll at 262-786-2900 or email [jgawrisch@starofbethlehem.org](mailto:jgawrisch@starofbethlehem.org). There is no cost and all materials are provided. Classes go for an hour and a half each week for about 10 weeks. If classes are missed, the classes are also on video, so you may go through the material at home. Think about being a part of the next session! Enroll today!

## SOFTBALL PROGRAMS

Our men's team began play the last week in April. We have had one rain-out game, which has been rescheduled for August 3 at 9:00 p.m. Our record is 1 win and 3 losses to date. A total of 22 players are participating in this year's season. Several of our former players help serve as base coaches. All games are played at the Malone Park on Tuesday nights. Our women's team has had one game so far. They lost their first game by a narrow margin. All the women's games are played at the Wisconsin Lutheran College softball field against teams from other WELS churches. Schedules and game times are posted on the bulletin board. Fan support for our men and women is welcomed! Admission is free!



## LINDEN GROVE SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Summer offers an excellent opportunity to provide assistance at our Wednesday morning Worship at the Linden Grove Health Care Center here in New Berlin. The Service begins each Wednesday morning at 9:30 a.m. Volunteers assist the residents in getting to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor cafeteria, where our Services are conducted. Setting up the room begins about 9:00 a.m. and bringing the residents continues up to the time of the half-hour Service at 9:30 a.m. If anyone wants to help, just come to the lobby at the Linden Grove Health Care Center located at Sunny Slope Road and Field Pointe Dr. any Wednesday morning. This work of Christian love is very rewarding and very much appreciated! Thanks especially to our regular group of willing volunteers!

## STAR BOWLING

Members of the Star Bowling League finished their season on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Congratulations to:

**Andy Smith** – Men's High Scratch Game & Series

**Lori Olson** – Women's High Scratch Game & Series

**Bill Wandschneider** – Men's High Handicap Game/Series

**Stephanie Nitz** – Women's High Handicap Game/Series

**The Bowling Stones** – Winner of Team Competition

## News from the Church Library for June

We thank God for the blessing of fathers not only on Father's Day, but every day of the year. Books in the church library that focus on fathers include:

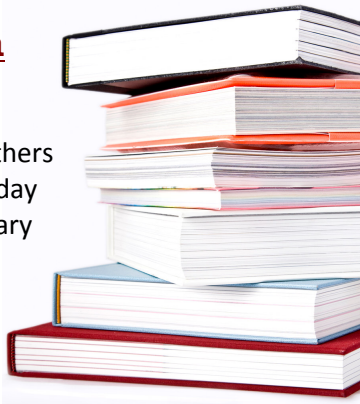
Dads: walking faithful, standing strong, 248.842 FAR

What kids need most in a dad, 646.78 HAN

Make room for daddy: a mom's guide to letting dad be dad, 306.874 MOR

Fathers are people too, 306.8742 STE

501 practical ways to love your wife & kids, 248.8421 SON



Featured fiction author for June is Wanda Brunstetter. Ms. Brunstetter writes novels about the Amish community. She has done much research on the Amish culture and has many Amish friends. Her books accurately portray the lives of the Amish. Books by Wanda Brunstetter include:

*Indiana Cousins series:* Cousin's promise, Cousin's prayer, Cousin's challenge

*Daughters of Lancaster county series:* Storekeeper's daughter, Quilter's daughter, Bishop's daughter

Other books include: Sister's secret and Alison's journey. All are found in the fiction section under call number – FIC BRU.

As the school year draws to a close, please carefully check your shelves and return any materials that are from the Church Library. Thank you and have a wonderful summer!

## Going Nutty for Nuts!

Submitted by Nicole Marrari, RD, CD

Adapted from Today's Dietitian Magazine March 2009 Vol. 11, #3

**Almonds:** Contain the most fiber and vitamin E on any nut. Vitamin E can help prevent heart disease, boost the immune system and play a role in healthy skin and hair.

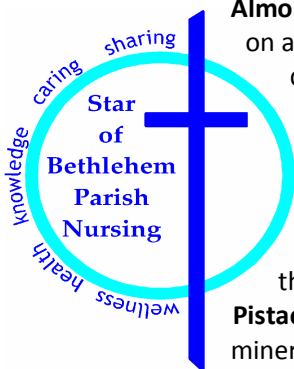
**Pecans:** Pecans are free of sodium and contain more than 19 vitamins and minerals. Pecans contain more antioxidants (cancer-fighting substances) than any other nut.

**Pistachios:** Contain more than 30 vitamins and minerals. Pistachios also contain arginine (an amino acid) which may help reduce blood pressure and heal wounds.

**Walnuts:** Walnuts are much higher in Omega-3s than other nuts and also have a high level of antioxidants.

Try blending walnuts into oatmeal or adding pecans to yogurt. Ground nuts can be used as a coating for chicken or fish prior to baking. Combining nuts and dried fruit makes an excellent snack.

***They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness. Psalm 145:7***



## Book Club

The next Book Club meeting will be on June 30 at 6:30 p.m. at Linda Smith's home. Two books will be read this month: *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee and *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Alborn. Anyone can join; give the group a try!

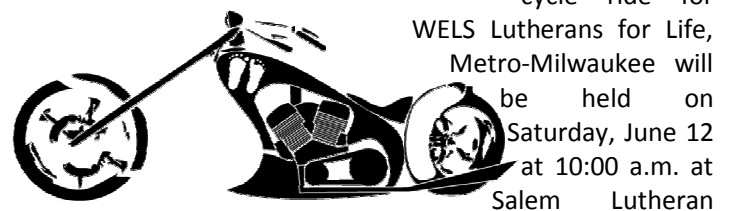
## INSTALLATION

Pastor Jon Balge will be installed as Pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Milwaukee on Sunday, June 6 at 3:00 p.m. You are cordially invited to attend.

## MISSION BENEFIT CONCERT

Soli Deo Gloria Institute for the Arts is sponsoring a benefit concert to support Pastor John Miller and his wife to Mexico this summer for three months to attend Spanish language immersion classes at the Spanish Institute of Puebla. You can support the mission by attending the concert and contributing prayers and financial support. The concert is at St. Andrew's Ev. Lutheran Church, 1132 W. Oklahoma Ave., Milwaukee, on Friday, May 28 at 7:00 p.m. A reception follows. If you are unable to attend the concert and want to support the mission financially, checks can be mailed to and made payable to Soli Deo Gloria, P.O. Box 2092, Waukesha, 53187-2092.

## SOUL Ride



The "SOUL Ride" charity motorcycle ride for WELS Lutherans for Life, Metro-Milwaukee will be held on Saturday, June 12 at 10:00 a.m. at Salem Lutheran Church on 107th St., wind through scenic Kettle Moraine/Holy Hill area and end at Sam's Club on North 76th and Calumet. All paid registrants will receive a t-shirt and picnic lunch. The cost is \$30 per rider. Pre-registration closes on May 28. Register at [www.SOULRide.org](http://www.SOULRide.org) or call 414-727-8176.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Wisconsin Lutheran High School is currently seeking an individual to serve as a part-time receptionist to work in the Central Office. The person seeking this position must be able to work a flexible schedule which includes working throughout the summer. Other qualifications for this position include the ability to work well with people, must have excellent communication and organizational skills, must be able to multi-task, and must have computer experience. Please email your resume by June 1 or any questions to Kathy Kargus at [kathy.kargus@wlhs.org](mailto:kathy.kargus@wlhs.org).