



Bethlehem this Week

A Welcoming Community of Christ's Disciples

February 4, 2012 - February 10, 2012

4310 Cty Rd 137; St. Cloud, MN 56301 (320) 251-8356 www.bethlehemlutheran.org



www.elca.org

Saturday, February 4 -

5:00 pm *Worship-Communion*
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, February 5 -

8:00 am *Worship-Communion*
9:00 am *Worship-Communion*
10:10 am Sunday School & ★56
10:10 am Adult Ed Forum
11:00 am *Worship-Communion*
12:00 pm Faith Building Team
12:30 pm *Worship-Nuer language*

Monday, February 6 -

8:00 am Mission Quilters
9:00 am Bethlehem Preschool
9:15 am Women's Bible Study
11:00 am Preschool Chapel
6:30 pm Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, February 7 -

9:00 am Bethlehem Preschool
9:30 am Miriam Circle
10:00 am BLC Staff meeting
12:00 pm Naomi Circle
1:00 pm Eunice Circle
1:00 pm Esther Circle
2:30 pm Priscilla Circle
4:30 pm Hymn Planning
6:00 pm So. Sudanese ELL Class

February 7 (continued) -

6:15 pm Bells of Bethlehem
6:30 pm Troop 14 Adult Leaders
7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 14
7:00 pm Youth Advisory Team
7:30 pm Czech Boys Choir Concert
7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)

Wednesday, February 8 -

6:30 am Men's Bible Study at Perkins Downtown
8:00 am Wednesday Morning Prayer Group
9:00 am Bethlehem Preschool
9:15 am Preschool Parent Ed Class
5:00 pm Wednesday Sunday School & ★56
6:15 pm All God's Children Choir
6:30 pm Gr. 7-9 Confirmation
7:00 pm Adult Choir
8:00 pm Gr. 10-12 Movie Night

Thursday, February 9 -

9:00 am Bethlehem Preschool
9:00 am Preschool Parent coffee & conversations
1:30 pm Renovare
5:30 pm Stewardship Board
6:00 pm So. Sudanese ELL Class
6:30 pm BeFriends
7:15 pm Be Alive! ensemble rehearsal
7:30 pm BLC on Charter Cable ch. 12

Friday, February 10 -

7:30 am Personnel Committee
9:00 am Bethlehem Preschool
2:00 pm So. Sudanese ELL Conversations
5:30 pm Engaged Workshop
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, February 11 -

8:30 am Congregational Life Focus Group
9:00 am Engaged Workshop
9:00 am Suzuki Studio
5:00 pm *Worship-Communion*
7:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, February 12 -

8:00 am *Worship-Communion*
9:00 am *Worship-Communion*
10:10 am Sunday School & ★56
10:10 am Adult Ed Forum
11:00 am *Worship-Communion*
12:00 pm Jr LEAPP FROGS
12:00 pm Sunday School Teacher Meeting
12:15 pm Congregational Life Focus Group
12:30 pm Nuer language Bible Study
1:30 pm Sr High LEAPP FROGS
1:45 pm Congregational Life Board
5:00 pm Forward into God's Future
6:00 pm Great River Chorale rehearsal

Disciples Pray

Hospitalized? Please Let the Church Know: If you or a loved one is admitted to a hospital, either for a planned procedure or via the Emergency Room, please be sure to call the church office so pastors and BeFriends know of this hospitalization and are able to visit.

Let's Keep in Touch! Have you dropped your landline phone service? Changed your email address? Moved? Headed south for the winter? Please update the Church Office whenever your contact information changes. Thanks!

Family Sledding

Please join in the BLC Family Sledding event at Riverside Park on Sunday, February 26 from 2 to 4pm. Bring your sleds, tubes, snowboards, etc. for a day of family fun. Event will be rescheduled, relocated, or cancelled if snow conditions don't improve! Call Shelly with questions, 492-0789.

Women's Spring Retreat

The Women's Spring Retreat is March 24-25 at Breezy Point Resort. Come see what all the buzz is about! Our guest speaker will be Rev. Nancy Lee Gauche from Luther Seminary. She will help each participant identify & embrace their strengths and think about how God is calling us to use them for God's mission in the world. Registration Forms are located by the Discipleship office, and are due March 4 or until spots are filled (*and space is limited!*).

Celebrate Bold Women's Day

The Women of Bethlehem invite all women of the community to celebrate Bold Women's Day on Sunday, February 26 at 2pm. We will view the film, *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*. It tells the story of our Lutheran sister Leymah Gbowee, who won the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize for leading a non-violent movement that helped end Liberia's 14 year civil war. RSVP at the Serve Board.

Concordia Choir Concert

The Concordia Choir from Concordia College, Moorhead, under the direction of René Clausen, will be in concert at Bethlehem Lutheran on Sunday, February 19 at 4pm. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students; available at the door, from the church office, online at www.concordiatickets.com or by phone (800) 838-3006.

Community

Czech Boys Choir Concert

The Czech Boys Choir is touring Minnesota as special guests of the St John's Boys Choir. They will present a special concert at Bethlehem on Tuesday, February 7 at 7:30pm in the sanctuary. A free-will offering will be received.

All Invited to Forward into God's Future Worship Event

All in the congregation and community are invited to join in the Forward into God's Future Team for a special community building meal and worship experience on Sunday, February 12. The evening begins at 5pm with a potluck dinner in Peace Hall. Then join in a special worship experience that offers a new approach to being the church together in our new cultural reality.

Disciples Learn

Adult Ed Forums

Grab a cup of coffee and join in a new series examining God's call to be a light in our changing community at 10:10am in the Magi Room.

February 5 - Monica Segura-Schwartz, Catholic Charities, will share her perspective on the changing cultural environment of the St. Cloud area.

February 12 - State Representative and SCSU Professor of Economics, King Banaian, will present data about our changing economic picture of our community.

Interested in Membership?

Contact LaNae Cobb, Membership Coordinator, lcobb@bethlehemlutheran.org or 251-8356 x107 to register by February 10. **Introduction to Life at Bethlehem**, Sunday, February 19, 12:15-3pm. Lunch is provided. **Finding Your Neighborhood**, Sunday, February 26, 12:15-2pm, following a welcome to BLC at the 11am worship service.

Disciples Give

Gifts for Global Mission

During Epiphany we are celebrating Bethlehem's partnerships with the Lutheran Church in Liberia and the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. We are also seeking additional gifts to fund some important projects, see the special yellow envelopes at the ushers' table or the Welcome Center.

In 2007 Bethlehem began conversation with ELCA Global Mission and leaders of the Lutheran Church in Liberia about plans for a mission outpost in Troh. This year, the church in Troh is ready to launch. **So what will it take to build Gee-Troh Bethlehem Lutheran Church?**

Foundation	1,600
Floor Work	900
Walls	1,500
Roof	4,500
Doors	2,300
Plaster	450
Ceiling	600
Plumbing	800
Electrical	1,750
Painting	1,400
140 Pews	1,455
Chancel furniture	225
<i>Plus Labor, Transportation, Contingency</i>	
Total Goal:	\$20,000

On July 9, 2011 South Sudan declared independence. As families begin returning to their villages from refugee camps in Ethiopia, there is need for medical & spiritual care. Bethlehem is committed to funding the education of evangelists to serve in Nuer villages and to help support a medical clinic in the village of Lare. **Total goal=\$6,000.**

Let the Good Times Roll!

Attn 7th & 8th Graders: You're invited to an evening of fun at The Skatin' Place on Friday, February 24 from 6-9pm. For only \$13, you get admission, skates, unlimited pizza, pop & laser tag; in-line skates are just \$2 more. Please sign up at the Discipleship Bulletin Boards. You'll pay at the door & need to arrange your own transportation to/from The Skatin' Place. Friends are welcome!

Preschool Registration

Registration for the 2012-13 school year at Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool opens Monday for currently enrolled families, church members and alumni families (opening to the public on 2/27). Classes are 2, 3 or 4 mornings a week for ages 3-5 and a Parent & 2 year-old Child Class one morning a week. Extended care is available 7:30-9am and 11:30am-12:30pm. Please contact Anne in the Preschool office at 251-6775 or blpreschool@bethlehemlutheran.org to schedule a visit or be added to our mailing list!

Because of you . . .

Our offerings empower a host of ministries: worship, learning & discipleship, giving, serving, and providing for our church building. A portion of our offerings (\$150) to provide ongoing training & coordination of BeFriender Ministries in which members of the congregation provide caring ministry to homebound and hospitalized members and friends of the congregation.

Cookie Shortage

Do you enjoy a treat with your morning coffee? Sign up on the Serve Board to bring treats, homemade or purchased, for Sunday morning. Alternative treats welcome: pretzels, fruit, crackers & cheese, etc.

Current Financial Focus Our Congregation's Ministry

Offering Target for week of 1/29: \$12,560
Actual Offerings the week of 1/29: \$8,978
-3,582

Offering Target Year-to-Date: \$62,800
Actual Offerings Year-to-Date: \$59,194
-3,606

Our Congregation's Mortgage

Offering Target for week of 1/29: \$2,980
Actual Offerings for week of 1/29: \$1,872
-1,108

Offering Target Year-to-Date: \$14,900
Actual Offerings Year-to-Date: \$14,483
-417

Build Up Mortgage Reduction

Year to date gifts: \$3,159

Sunday School Corner

Visitors please know your children are welcome to join in the appropriate Sunday School Class (10:10-10:50am Sundays). Stop by the Welcome Center to learn more. Students age 4 through 6th grade and the Adult Sunday School Class explore the same weekly Bible lesson. **Upcoming Sunday School Lessons:** February 5—*The Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin*; February 12—*The Lord's Prayer*

Bible Study Opportunities

All **women** in the community are invited to join in either the morning (9:15am) or evening (6:30pm) Bible Study at church on Mondays.

Men of all ages are invited to a Men's Bible Study at the downtown Perkins on Wednesdays at 6:30am.

Prayer Milestones

On Saturday, February 25 **Kindergarten** and **Grade 1 students** along with their parents will gather for a morning focused on prayer as our primary way to communicate with God. There will be practical, fun, and engaging activities that bring prayers to life for the students in meaningful ways! First Graders will focus specifically on The Lord's Prayer. The instruction for both these Milestones will be February 25 at 10am and the Celebration will be Sunday, February 26 at your choice of the 9 or 11am service. Please pre-register by calling the Discipleship Office at 251-8356 x130.

Disciples Serve

Community Meal Needs

Bethlehem will serve the Saturday Community Meal at Hope Covenant Church on February 25. Your help is needed for meal prep (9am), serving & cleanup (until 1:30pm). Contributions of milk, salads, fruit or vegetables are also needed. Sign up at the *SERVE* Board.

Church of the Week Feb. 20-26

Bethlehem will be partnering with Place of Hope Ministries during the week of February 20-26 to host "Church of the Week." This means Bethlehem will be providing meals and overnight housing for people who are hungry & homeless in our community.

There are many ways to help, both by serving with your time and giving of your abundance. Check out the *SERVE* Board and sign up for overnight hosting, driving, serving meals or providing food.