

## **HOW TO REACH US**

### **Staff:**

**Ministry with PreK-Gr. 6:** Melanie Halter 251.8356 x131 or [melanie@bethlehemlutheran.org](mailto:melanie@bethlehemlutheran.org)  
**Ministry with Gr. 7-12 & Families:** Katie Christensen 251.8356 x132 or [katie@bethlehemlutheran.org](mailto:katie@bethlehemlutheran.org)  
**Support for Discipleship Ministries:** Lisa Fujan 251.8356 x130 or [lisa@bethlehemlutheran.org](mailto:lisa@bethlehemlutheran.org)  
**ITC Coordinator:** Heather Moulzolf [hmoulzolf35@hotmail.com](mailto:hmoulzolf35@hotmail.com)  
**Pastor for Discipleship Ministries:** Rev. Janine Olson 251.8356 x103 or [jolson@bethlehemlutheran.org](mailto:jolson@bethlehemlutheran.org)

### **Ministry Partner Contact Info:**

Adult Sunday School	Eric Felsch	<a href="mailto:ericfelsch@mac.com">ericfelsch@mac.com</a>
Couples Group	Marnie Swanson	<a href="mailto:marnieswanson@hotmail.com">marnieswanson@hotmail.com</a>
Family Outings	Shelly Davidson	<a href="mailto:shellyd@callmeyer.com">shellyd@callmeyer.com</a>
Interfaith Partnership	Open	
Jr High MN Youth Gathering	Anne Nikolas	<a href="mailto:annenikolas@q.com">annenikolas@q.com</a>
LEAPP FROGS	Open	
Scrapbooking Weekends	Judy Rogers	<a href="mailto:jrpooh@charter.net">jrpooh@charter.net</a>
Ski Club	Heather or Joe Erickson	<a href="mailto:hutthuttjoe@yahoo.com">hutthuttjoe@yahoo.com</a>
Spring Women's Retreat	Londa Wagner	<a href="mailto:londawagner@isd742.org">londawagner@isd742.org</a>
Youth Fundraisers	Becky Eisenwinter	<a href="mailto:beisenwinter@hotmail.com">beisenwinter@hotmail.com</a>
Trip Coordinator	Karla Mohagen	<a href="mailto:kjmohagen@aol.com">kjmohagen@aol.com</a>

### **Discipleship Ministry Board:**

Shelly Davidson, Chair Board Members: Amy Walk, Charles Miller, Jodi Imholte, Anne Nikolas, Jeff & Jessica Miller, Isaac Shella-Stevens, Youth Representative.

**Junior and Senior High Advisory Team:** Kelly Fandel, Becky Quale, Scott Shella-Stevens, Amy Weaver, Liz Wehrs, Rebecca Schlough, Cheryl Running, Karla Mohagen

**DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES ... CHILDREN ... YOUTH ... FAMILIES ... ADULTS ... BUILD UP FAITH!**

## **BUILD UP: A PLAN FOR DISCIPLESHIP – WHAT IS IT?**

I'm so glad you asked! There is this letter written to the Christians in a town called Ephesus that says this: *Their (Christian disciples) responsibility is to equip God's people to do God's work and build up the church, the body of Christ!*" (4:12) We take this call to building up the church seriously at Bethlehem! Within this planner you will find opportunities for you and the people you love to "build themselves up" as Christian disciples. Everything from Sunday School and Confirmation to adult Bible Study and Family camping!

We believe that the primary way to build up our faith is through caring relationships. Each person at Bethlehem is encouraged to identify their "faith circle" – in other words, those people in their lives that love them AND love God. This might be family members, friends, former Sunday School teachers, etc... The goal is to identify them and encourage them in their role in building up your faith and/or the faith of your child!

Throughout this planner you will see little stories of how the relationship of a faith circle has helped to "build up" the faith lives of people within this community.

## **FAITH CIRCLES**

If you spend any time at Bethlehem, you might overhear a parent saying something like, “They are in my child’s Faith Circle”; or you may hear a young person acknowledge someone as a part of their Faith Circle. Simply put, my six-year-old would tell you that her Faith Circle is “people that love God and love me.” It’s a person who walks along side another in the journey of life. Faith Circle participants take interest in the day to day happenings of the young people in their Circle. They might look for one another at worship; a student might call an adult in their Faith Circle to share in a very happy moment or a very difficult time or an adult may show up to a student’s concert, play or sport activity.

To be a part of someone’s Faith Circle doesn’t mean you have faith all figured out. It means you are willing to sit with someone in the doubts of faith and joys of life without always having any answers but to simply say, “I am here with you and I refuse to allow you to be alone. I will celebrate with you and multiply your joy or I will sit with you in sorrow and divide your pain.”

Faith Circles are the way Bethlehem has found common language to talk about how faith has been passed for hundreds of years and is at the core of all ministries; it’s sharing God’s love through intentional relationships. When first put into action at Bethlehem over a year ago a Faith Circle meant a group of faith-filled adults that surround a young person, but as it has caught on you will also hear adults talk about the people that have been and continue to be in their own Faith Circles.

Bethlehem’s goal is that every child, at every age, would be able to name a minimum of ten adults who they know love God and love them. You’d be surprised how many young people can’t do this and so there is work to be done! God has not left us shorthanded when it comes to available, faith-filled adults. Sometimes, we simply don’t realize that a young person would want anything to do with us or we feel ill equipped. God has promised that we are each equipped for ministry, so that is simply not a valid argument! Start looking for the natural places where God just might be calling you into a Faith Circle!



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## **MILESTONES – CHILDREN’S MINISTRY**

*Milestones a path towards keeping the promise! At your child’s baptism you made a promise to help your child on their faith journey. These Milestone events provide meaningful opportunities for families to grow in their faith together. You are asked to RSVP with Lisa in the Discipleship Office 251-8356 x130 for each Milestone that applies to a child in your household.*

**Baptism**                      Instruction: one Saturday per month, 9am. Celebration: 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> weekends each month  
The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is celebrated by both children and adults once a month. Please call the Main Church Office, 251-8356, for more information on Baptism (for infants thru adults) including dates of the required Baptism Orientation Class.

**Building Faith Circles Milestone**                      Instruction: January 14, 10am. Celebration: January 15  
Being parents of young children brings many responsibilities, including guiding your children’s faith life. Parents of infants and toddlers are invited to attend this milestone each year with their children to be equipped with new and exciting ways of encouraging their child’s growing faith.

**Preschool~Bible Milestone**                      Instruction: October 29, 10am. Celebration: October 30  
Children ages 3 or 4 (at the parent’s choosing) will receive a Spark Story Bible that will be used throughout preschool and early elementary years in Sunday School. Parents & children will become familiar with the features of this Bible and learn about ways to use it as a devotional tool in their home.

**Kindergarten~Learning to Pray Milestone**                      Instruction: February 25, 10am. Celebration: February 26  
Children and parents will gather for a morning focusing on prayer as our primary way to communicate with God. There will be practical, fun and engaging activities that bring prayer to the Kindergarten student in a meaningful way.

**Grade 1~The Lord’s Prayer Milestone**                      Instruction: February 25, 10 am. Celebration: February 26  
First grade students will study the meaning of the Lord’s Prayer presented in a way that even young children will understand.

**Grade 2~Bible Milestone**

Instruction: March 17, 10 am. Celebration: March 18

Students will receive a Bible that is specifically chosen for their reading level. Parents and Children will spend time learning how to use God’s Word as a tool in their faith life.

**Grade 3~First Communion Milestone**

Instruction: October 28 (5:30-9pm) & 29 (10am-2pm), Celebration: All Saints Sunday, Nov. 6, 9am or 11 am

Instruction: March 30 (5:30-9pm) & 31 (10am-2pm), Celebration: Maundy Thursday, April 5, 6:30pm

Students and parents will spend Friday night and Saturday gaining an understanding of the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.

**Grade 4~Disciples Serve Milestone**

Instruction: February 4, 10 am. Celebration: February 5

Working with the LEAPP FROG students, parents and 4th graders will explore the many ways we can serve in God’s world!

**Grade 5~Disciples Give Milestone**

Instruction: February 4, 10 am. Celebration: February 5

Using Thrivent Financial for Lutherans curriculum, Parents, Kids, and Money Matters parents and 5th graders will make the important link between their Christian values and their finances. Students will receive a special bank to help them in their money making decisions

**Grade 6~“What I Believe” Milestone Retreat**

Instruction: April 20 6:30pm. Celebration: April 22

In middle school, students are challenged, sometimes daily, to define their beliefs in subtle and not-so-subtle ways. Using the Apostles Creed as our foundation, 6th grade students and their parents will begin to define their personal beliefs as Disciples of Jesus Christ. This milestone provides an opportunity for faith, fun and friendship to grow!



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## **INFANT TODDLER CENTER**

**School-Year: Sundays at 9:00 and 11:00 am worship**

**Summer: Sundays at 10:30 am worship**

Bethlehem's Infant Toddler Center (ITC) provides more than basic care while parents are busy at church. The ITC recognizes that faith is a vital part of each child's developmental profile and that faith begins to develop from the moment the child takes their first breath. Infancy is the time for the seeds of trust, courage, hope and love to be planted. Parents are the primary teachers of faith in each child's life, however the church can support this growth through programming and resources. While in the ITC children will hear Bible stories and songs from loving care givers. The ITC is staffed with trained, paid and non-paid, caregivers making sure that there is a ratio of 1 caregiver for every 4 children. To assure the safety of our children all staff, paid and non-paid, complete a background check prior to their contact with children.

Parents are asked to register their children for the ITC. The registration process will allow Bethlehem's ITC caregivers to keep track of special needs. Through the registration process parents indicate how they will support the ministry of the ITC through a variety of ministry opportunities.

## **BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL**

**Classes meet 2, 3, or 4 days a week from 9 to 11:30am; Extended Day option available**

**September 12, 2011 – May 25, 2012**

*Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool will inspire creativity and nurture the social, emotional, intellectual, physical and spiritual development of children in a Christian environment.* This is the mission of Bethlehem Preschool. For 44 years, children have been challenged to be the best that they can be and given the opportunity to grow in all areas of development. Staff are licensed in Early Childhood Education by the State of Minnesota use this Mission Statement and the Minnesota Early Childhood Indicators of Progress to develop meaningful curriculum for children ages 2–5. Checkout our website: [www.bethlehemplutheran.org/preschool](http://www.bethlehemplutheran.org/preschool) for registration information or to download a registration form. For questions call 320.251.6775 or email [blpreschool@bethlehemplutheran.org](mailto:blpreschool@bethlehemplutheran.org)

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**Sundays 10:10-10:50**

**September 11- May 13**

Children age 3 through grade 6 will have the opportunity to explore their faith by participating in Sunday School! Three year old students will be attending their first year of Sunday School with their parents. This class will be led by a team of teachers and parents will learn right along with their child. Students age 4 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade explore the same weekly Bible lesson allowing families to explore the Bible and their faith lives together. Classes of approximately 12-14 students will be taught by a team of teachers. Students will also experience a large group time where they will learn songs and help contribute to God's work through their offerings. To enroll, call the Discipleship Office.

***Cost is \$30 per child with a \$70 family cap for either Sunday or Wednesday School.***

**OR**

## **WEDNESDAY SCHOOL**

**Wednesdays 5:00pm-6:00pm**

**September 14-May 9**

Students in grades 1-4 have the option of having their "Sunday School experience" on Wednesday afternoons rather than on Sunday mornings. The Wednesday option will follow the same lesson outlines as the Sunday class. Children will be enrolled in a class of approximately 12-14 children. Students will also experience a large group time where they will learn songs and help contribute to God's work through their offerings. To enroll, call the Discipleship Office.

### **Learning to Give**

Children are given the opportunity to present their offerings during Sunday School time. These offerings help to support ELCA's Good Gift program. Last year students raised over \$1000 for God's Global Barnyard. This year we will be looking at different health issues both locally and globally. Our gifts will help support malaria issues, child immunizations and provide clean water. Do you have a passion to serve in this area? Contact Melanie if you would like to learn more about how to help our children feel the joy that comes with being able to give to others.

**\*56- SUNDAYS 10:10-10:50****September 11-May 13**

The \*56 program is a service-based opportunity for students to come together and learn what the Bible says about issues that are important to this age group. Students will build relationships with peers and also caring adults. Opportunities will be given for students to serve both their church and community. Do you love to do hands-on projects and act out goofy skits? This might just be your calling! If you would like to partner in this area contact Melanie to join in the fun!

**OR****\*56-WEDNESDAYS 5:00PM-6:00PM****September 14-May 9**

***Cost is \$30 per child with a \$70 family cap for either Sunday or Wednesday \*56.***

**CHILDREN IN WORSHIP****Mark these dates on your calendars!**

Children will be singing in worship and sharing what they are learning in Sunday School on the following dates at both the 9:00 and 11:00 service:

**October 9** - Students will be singing during worship.

**December 18** - Students will be celebrating Advent on this day.

**February 26** - Students will be wrapping up a study of the Lord's Prayer and leading this prayer in worship

**April 1** - Palm Sunday Students will be singing and sharing their Lent experiences

**May 13** - Children's Worship - All are welcome as we celebrate the wrap up of Sunday School and get ready to kick into summer. This service is focused on saying thank you and surrounding our children with God's love.

**SCHOLARSHIPS  
AVAILABLE**

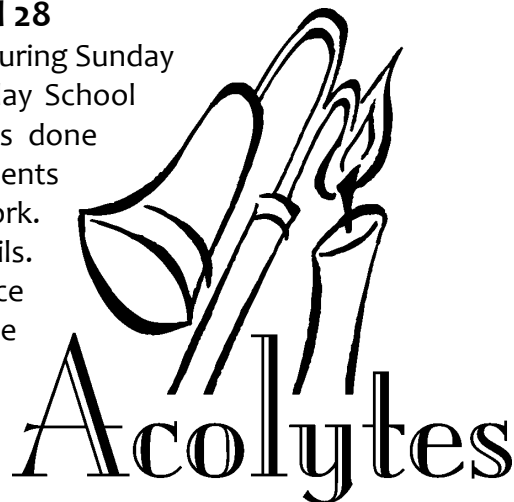
Bethlehem is committed to making trips and activities affordable for all students. Scholarship opportunities are available by contacting any one of Bethlehem's pastors.

## **ACOLYTE TRAINING**

**Sunday School time 10:10-10:50 on September 18, and 25**

**Wednesday School time 5:00-6:00 on September 21, and 28**

Students in both 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade will attend training to acolyte during Sunday School time 10:10-10:50 on September 18, and 25 and Wednesday School from 5:00-6:00 on September 21, and 28. After this training is done families will be assigned a service to acolyte. It will be the students responsibility to change dates if the assigned one does not work. Parent partners are needed to help with reminder calls and e-mails. Contact Melanie if you are able to support this important service area. It is always wonderful to see BLC's youth as part of the worship service!



## **MYSTERY MISSION**

**Six dates: October 29 –**

**November 9 – January 17 – February 4 – March 17 – April 20**

Mystery Mission is a day camp experience designed for children in grades 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. During the summer students will meet and explore the mystery of faith with college interns. During the school year we will be having 6 missions. These missions will take place on Oct. 29, Nov. 9 (742 has no school this day), Jan. 17, (742 does not have school this day) February 4, (after 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Milestone) March 17, and April 20. (after 6<sup>th</sup> grade Milestone) Look for more information as dates get closer. We do need people to help us carry on these missions after our interns are gone. Contact Melanie for more information on how to help our youth continue on their mysteries of faith!

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## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Each summer, Bethlehem Lutheran provides children with a fun, faith-filled week of Vacation Bible School. Children, age 4 through Gr. 6 experience God's word during Bible Story time. In the past we have done both a traditional day-camp style as well as a night family-style. We are always trying to best meet the needs of our families. If you have a passion for crafting, playing games, singing songs, and giving back to the community, this might be a perfect fit for you to serve. Contact Melanie for ways to get involved with teaching and learning more about God's love! Stay tuned for information on dates and our theme for next summer.

## **BETHLEHEM'S BOLD BELIEVERS! THE B- SQUAD!**

Kids entering 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to be a part of the B- Squad! This summer day camp experience takes place once a month during the summers. The B- Squad will be spreading the buzz about God's love. This will be an active day of learning, crafting, gaming, and having loads of fun. Students will need to pack their own lunch and snack. This is a free program and all are welcome to come when you can! Want to spread the buzz? Contact Melanie for how to partner in this fun ministry area!

## **LUTHER CREST BIBLE CAMP**

Luther Crest Bible Camp is located on Lake Carlos, just north of Alexandria, MN. Luther Crest has been providing safe, fun, faith-filled weeks of camp for generations of campers. Luther Crest has dynamic program weeks for students in Grades 3-12. Each year, hundreds of kids' faith journeys are impacted by their time at Luther Crest Bible Camp. There are also a multitude of fall, winter, and spring retreat opportunities for all generations. Watch the Discipleship Ministry bulletin boards and spring issues of The STAR for more information. Or visit [www.luthercrest.org](http://www.luthercrest.org).

Bethlehem partners with other ELCA churches in St. Cloud to provide a Luther Crest day camp experiences for students in grades K-4 right here in the St. Cloud area. Watch for more information about future camps coming in April 2012.

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY - AT A GLANCE!**

<p><b>SEPTEMBER:</b>  September 11 – Sunday School &amp; *56 begin  September 12 – Preschool begins  September 14 – Wednesday School &amp; *56 begin  September 18, 21, 25, 28 – Acolyte training</p>	<p><b>FEBRUARY:</b>  February 4 – 4<sup>th</sup> &amp; 5<sup>th</sup> Gr. Milestone inst. &amp; Mystery Mission  February 5 – 4<sup>th</sup> &amp; 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Milestone celebration  February 25 – Kindergarten &amp; 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Milestone instruction  February 26 – Children in worship &amp; Milestone celebration</p>
<p><b>OCTOBER:</b>  October 9 – Children in worship  October 28 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Milestone instruction  October 29 – PreK &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Gr. Milestone inst. &amp; Mystery Mission  October 30 – Preschool Milestone celebration</p>	<p><b>MARCH:</b>  March 17 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Milestone instruction  Mystery Mission  March 18 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Milestone celebration  March 30 &amp; 31 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Milestone instruction</p>
<p><b>NOVEMBER:</b>  November 6 – 1<sup>st</sup> Communion celebration  November 9 – Mystery Mission (742 – no school)</p>	<p><b>APRIL:</b>  April 1 – Children in worship &amp; Summer registration begins  April 5 – 1<sup>st</sup> Communion celebration  April 20 – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Milestone instruction &amp; Mystery Mission  April 22 – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Milestone celebration</p>
<p><b>DECEMBER:</b>  December 18 – Children in worship</p>	<p><b>MAY:</b>  May 9 – Wednesday School &amp; *56 end  May 13 – Sunday School &amp; *56 end &amp; Children in worship  May 25 – Preschool ends</p>
<p><b>JANUARY:</b>  January 14 – Building Faith Circles Milestone instruction  January 15 – Building Faith Circles Milestone celebration  January 17 – Mystery Mission (742 – no school)</p>	<p><b>SUMMER:</b> Dates TBD – info available in April  Vacation Bible School  Bold Believers  Mystery Mission  Luther Crest Bible Camp &amp; Day Camp</p>

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## **MILESTONES – YOUTH MINISTRY**

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### **Grades 7-9~Walkin' My Talk Milestone**

Instruction: January 25, 6:30pm Celebration: January 25

Our faith journey does not stop once we leave the building known as the church. Faith follows us in all places, including behind the wheel, at school and at work! Students and parents will hear from guest speakers as we explore together the importance of making safe choices that reflect our faith.

### **Grade 10~Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) Milestone**

Celebration: October 30, 1pm

One of the most important days in a person's life is the day they stand in front of a body of believers and publicly state that this faith, once theirs through the promises made on their behalf at their baptism, is now theirs as they personally affirm their baptism. While this Milestone is a celebration of each student individually coming into the full communion of the Body of Christ, this is NOT graduation! Indeed, as each student affirms their baptism they are making a commitment to continue on their journey as disciples of Jesus Christ!

### **Grade 11~Exploring the World Ahead Milestone**

Instruction: October 2 Celebration: October 9

Join other Juniors and their parents on Sunday afternoon October 2 as Lutheran Colleges from around the United States hold a college faith at Bethlehem. The evening will begin with a seminar on Financial Aid opportunities led by staff from The Lutheran Education Conference of North America.

### **Grade 12~Graduation Milestone**

Celebration: May 20

Families are encouraged to bring photos and biographies of their graduating Seniors to BLC on or before May 1. We will gather this information and celebrate all those who move to the next chapter in their life with Christ.

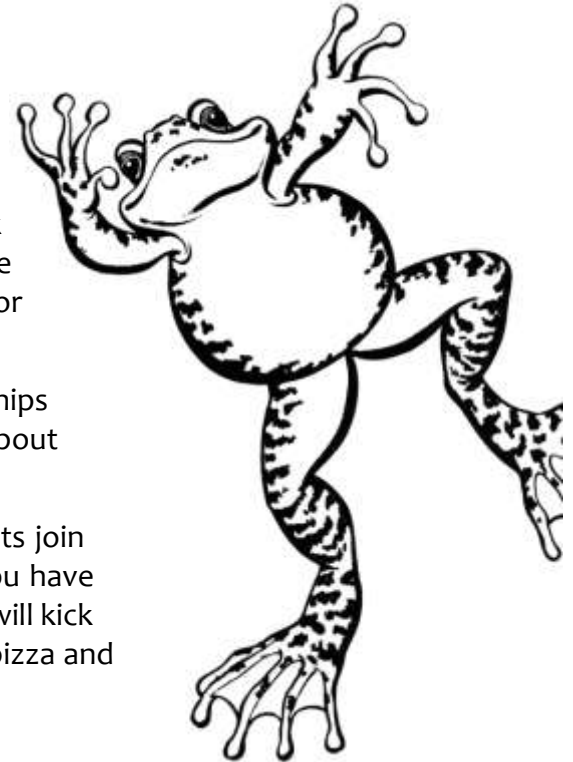
## **LEAPP FROGS**

### **New School-Year Kick Off – September 11 noon**

LEAPP FROGS is a leadership, discipleship program for students in Jr and Sr High. The mission of this group is to “Go and Make Disciples”! Students meet monthly to train and plan for upcoming events. Students are encouraged to track their training and service hours as many students have used these hours for school requirements or in writing school applications or requesting scholarships.

Most importantly this program is all about the amazing relationships that form between older students and younger students, talk about Faith Circles in action! (See page 3 for definition of Faith Circles.)

All Jr and Sr students are welcome to participate. Once students join regular but flexible participation is required. Contact Katie if you have questions or would like to become a member of this group! We will kick off the year on September 11 at in the Youth Room at noon for pizza and introductions!



## **10-12 SOUL TENDING**

### **Wednesdays 8:00-9:00pm**

Run, run, run.... The pace is never ending especially when you are in high school! Yet, we were created to need down time and time to connect with our creator. Wednesdays evenings from 8-9:00 pm 10-12 grade students will engage in contemplative Bible study. Our goal? We will take time for stillness, quiet and connecting with how faith connects with our lives? How can we live faith in a world that seems to not want to make room for such things? Students are invited to join at anytime but be aware that a session may continue from one week to the next. Non-member friends are always welcome.

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## **CONFIRMATION**

### **September 14 – May 16; 6:30-8:00pm**

7<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> graders meet on Wednesdays from 6:30 – 8 pm to gain a deeper understanding of the faith in which they were baptized. Using DVD's, small group discussion and hands on activities, students learn and experience how worship, prayer, giving and service fit into their lives. On three occasions during the year, parents will join their students as we discuss important issues that all teens and families face! These dates are listed on page 21 in this planner.

## **INTERFAITH PARTNERSHIP**

The schools that our children attend are a snapshot of a community whose diversity is ever growing and changing in wonderful and exciting ways but these changes also bring about questions and challenges. Without ways for young people to process and learn in positive environments, unhelpful assumptions and biases can be created. A small group of Protestant youth workers have been networking for two years now with the Center for Service-Learning and Social Change to help youth build understanding, bridges and partnerships with people of other religions and from different cultures. With the Center's leadership we are connecting with the Islamic Center in St. Cloud in hopes of providing opportunities for young people to come together in learning and community. As we grow in our understanding of religions outside of our own belief systems we are pushed to more deeply understand our own faith. Watch the STAR newsletter and weekly bulletin for ongoing opportunities for learning, discussions and partnerships throughout the year. If you have specific questions or would like to participate, contact Katie Christensen [katie@bethlehemlutheran.org](mailto:katie@bethlehemlutheran.org).

## **SKI CLUB**

Ski Club is an awesome opportunity for families to hit the slopes of Powder Ridge on Friday evenings for a very reasonable rate! It's also a great time to connect with other Bethlehem families. Children of all ages can participate, but this is not a chaperoned event so parents are required to be present. More details along with registration forms will be available in October. If you have questions, contact Heather or Joe Erickson at [hutthuttjoe@yahoo.com](mailto:hutthuttjoe@yahoo.com).

## **JUNIOR HIGH SOUTHWESTERN MN YOUTH GATHERING**

**Nov. 18 - 19 or 19-20**

Junior high students are not quite old enough to attend the National Gathering just yet, but this is an awesome way for students to get a similar experience on a smaller scale! Worshipers will be led by some of the most exciting and popular Christian bands, speakers will engage students as they connect to the culture and realities of youth and breakout sessions will be available covering an array of topics that pertain to the lives of young people. There will of course be time to hang out with the many other Christian youth through dance parties, swimming pools and meals. This event takes place at the Willmar Holiday Inn on either Nov. 18 - 19 or 19- 20. Registration information will be available in late September. Anne Nikolas will be the trip coordinator. Please contact Anne at [annenikolas@q.com](mailto:annenikolas@q.com) with questions or if you would like to chaperone this fun event!

## **JUNIOR HIGH SUMMER TRIP**

**DATES and DESTINATION to be determined**

**Registration Deadline: January 1, 2012**

The registration deadline for this trip will be January 1, but students are encouraged to begin fundraising right away! Registration packets will be available the end of November. All students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade during the 2011-2012 school year are invited to join the fun and non-Bethlehem students are welcome!

Adult chaperones are an important component to this ministry. Those who have chaperoned in the past have formed wonderful relationships and enjoyed the opportunity to become a part of these young people's Faith Circles and surprised to see their own Faith Circles grow! Anyone interested in chaperoning should contact Katie in the discipleship office for an application form.

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## **NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING NEW ORLEANS 2012! WE'RE BACK!**

**July 18 – 22, 2012 plus travel days**

**Registration Deadline: September 30, 2011**

We're pleased to announce that the ELCA Youth Gathering is returning to New Orleans in 2012. In 2009, ELCA youth went to New Orleans as guests. We return in 2012 as friends, ***citizens with the saints***. The theme, ***citizens with the saints***, comes directly from the text around which the ELCA Youth Gathering is being shaped: Ephesians 2:14-20.

But the destination, New Orleans, is not the ultimate focus. We are shaping a service learning experience that will affirm young people's welcome into God's story through baptism, will help them draw closer to God by engaging in intentional faith practices, will train them to bear witness to Jesus' activity for the sake of the world, and will arouse in them their vocational call to "serve all people, following the example of Jesus" (ELW pg. 236).

The journey of discipleship that is the ELCA Youth Gathering starts a year before students come together in New Orleans through monthly meetings of preparation.

If you missed the informational parent meeting in April, you can pick up packets of information on the table outside of the Discipleship Office. The **registration deadline for the gathering will be September 30, 2011**. All students going into 9-12 grades in the fall of 2011 are welcome and encouraged to participate in this trip! If you are an adult interested in chaperoning please contact Katie for a chaperone application form and to fill out a background check. We have a strong history of chaperones returning year after year because the bonds they form with students are so deep. It's sure to be another great opportunity where relationships will be created, faith developed, and our sense of call enhanced or in other words.... IT'S GONNA BE A BLAST!

**Scholarship is available for both students and adult chaperones in accordance with the scholarship guidelines which can be found on pages 18 & 19 of this handbook.**

## **FUNDRAISING – BECKY EISENWINTER**

Raising money for activities is an important opportunity and necessary for most students in order to participate in summer trips and other programs. Bethlehem's fundraising is a completely lay (non-paid staff) run. If you would like to participate in fundraising or assist with a fundraiser, please contact Becky Eisenwinter at [beisenwinter@hotmail.com](mailto:beisenwinter@hotmail.com). There will be an informational parent meeting in September that any student in 7-12 grade student intending to participate in fundraising this school year should attend. Detailed fundraising guidelines will be available at this meeting along with a master sign-up sheet that students wishing to fundraise must get on.

This is the current list of this year's fundraising opportunities. Others can be added as long as there is an adult willing to coordinate. Contact Becky if you have an idea you'd like to run with!

**Monthly** – Carmel Rolls on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month and Flamingo-ing

**October** – Wreath Sales

**November** -

**December** – Cookie sale

**January** -

**February** – Pancake Breakfast

**March** – Flower Sales

**April** – Rummage Sale

**May** – Brat Sale



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## **YOUTH FUNDRAISING POLICIES**

Any students planning to participate in Bethlehem Lutheran Church sponsored activities in grades 7-12 will have opportunities to raise money through fundraisers organized and facilitated by participating student's parents. Parents will meet to plan fundraising opportunities for the year and designate leadership for each opportunity. Bethlehem staff are not responsible for organizing or providing fund-raising opportunities.

Fundraisers will be designated at times for specific age groups or trips, but most often will be open to anyone in grades 7-12 planning to participate in Bethlehem sponsored activities. This does include non-member 7-12 grade students who plan to participate in Bethlehem programming. Clarity as to which fundraisers are dedicated will be spelled out in the monthly Star and available on the Bethlehem website. (See page 20 for current year's plan).

Students interested in fundraising...

- Sign up on the master fundraising sheet at the kick off fundraising meeting in the Fall or after that in the Discipleship office or by contacting the parent fundraising coordinator.
- Students will be assigned work dates and get rotated through fundraising opportunities in order to allow all students access to working fundraisers.
- If a student is assigned to work a shift that they are unable to make, they must contact the coordinator of that fundraiser a minimum of one week prior to the day of the event so the coordinator can find a replacement worker. If an unavoidable last minute conflict arises such as illness, students should call the coordinator with as much notice as possible.
- Students who “no show” for an event will be required to miss one rotation of fundraising opportunity. Multiple “no shows” may result in student's removal from fundraising eligibility.

Money Distribution...

- The total amount of revenue from all fundraisers will be divided three ways.
  - a. The first 10% is designated for the mission account. At the end of the year, students choose a mission to support.
  - b. The second 5% is designated to the group fund (except in Gathering years). This account is used for anything that will benefit the youth as a whole.
  - c. The remaining amount will be divided equally among student participants at an hourly wage or per units sold. All students participating in fundraising will be paid the same hourly rate regardless of age.

- Money will be distributed after each time through a rotation. All fundraisers held during that period of time will be pooled together and one hourly rate will be designated. Exceptions would be for things that students sell individually. These sales are still subject to the mission and group percentages but after that the remaining amount sold by each student will go to credit their personal account.
- Parents helping to organize and run fund-raisers will not be paid for their time but rather are considered parent partners.
- Students registered for a trip will have their money automatically transferred to pay for their trip balance unless instructed not to by the family.

#### Use of Funds

- Fundraised money cannot be received by students in the form of cash at any time.
- Fundraised money can only be used to fund a Bethlehem sponsored activity.
- Balances do carry over from one year to the next however if money remains in a student's account after they graduate from high school and have completed their last trip or activity as a student, the remaining money can be transferred to a younger sibling in grades 7-12. If there is not a younger sibling in that age group the money will be transferred to the Group Account and the student will lose any access or ownership of that money.

#### Scholarship

- Scholarship is available to any student once during their junior high years and one time during their senior high years by making request for scholarship at the time of registration. Exceptions are made for later request due to circumstance.
- Requests can be made with any of Bethlehem's pastors and is considered confidential.
- Scholarship will be granted to students who fundraise aggressively, in the form of matching funds. For example if a student makes \$200 fundraising they would be eligible for up to \$200 in scholarship. This is not a guaranteed match however as limited funds are available. If a student receives scholarship and then voluntarily and without medical or family emergency cause does not attend the trip, they are no longer eligible for that scholarship and become responsible for the full amount of the trip.

***Please visit with the Discipleship Team to sign the scholarship agreement.***

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## **YOUTH MINISTRY - AT A GLANCE!**

### **SEPTEMBER:**

September 11 – 10<sup>th</sup> Gr. Retreat  
 12pm LEAPP Frog Kick Off  
 2pm Jr High Trip meeting  
 4pm Sr High Trip meeting  
 September 12 – 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat  
 September 14 – Confirmation begins – Parents mandatory  
 September 14 - 8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending  
 September 21 - 8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending  
 September 23-24 – 7 & 8 Grade Retreat  
 September 28 - 8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending  
 Sept. 30 – National Youth Gathering Registration Deadline

### **OCTOBER:** Fundraising – Wreath sales

October 2 – College Fair  
 October 5 - 8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending  
 October 9 – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Milestone celebration  
 12:30pm LEAPP Frog meeting  
 2pm Jr High Trip meeting  
 4pm Sr High Trip meeting  
 October 12 - 8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending  
 October 19 - 8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending  
 October 26 – Confirmation banquet  
 7:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending  
 October 30 – Milestone celebration – Confirmation

### **FEBRUARY:** Fundraising – Pancake Breakfast

February 1 - 8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending  
 February 8 - 8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending  
 February 12 - 12:30pm LEAPP Frog meeting,  
 2pm Jr High Trip meeting  
 4pm Sr High Trip meeting  
 February 15 - 8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending  
 February 20 – LEAPP Frog Day Camp  
 February 29 - 8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending

### **MARCH:** Fundraising – Flower sales

March 7 - 8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending  
 March 11 - 12:30pm LEAPP Frog meeting,  
 2pm Jr High Trip meeting  
 4pm Sr High Trip meeting  
 March 14 - 8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending  
 March 21 - 8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending  
 March 28 - 8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending

<p><b>NOVEMBER:</b>  November 2 - 8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending  November 9 - 8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending  November 13 - 12:30pm LEAPP Frog meeting,  2pm Jr High Trip meeting  4pm Sr High Trip meeting  November 16 – Parents mandatory at Confirmation  8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending  November 18, 19, 20 – Jr. High SW MN Youth Gathering  November 30 - 8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending</p>	<p><b>APRIL:</b> Fundraising – Rummage Sale  April 8 - 12:30pm LEAPP Frog meeting,  2pm Jr High Trip meeting  4pm Sr High Trip meeting  April 11 - 8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending  April 18 - 8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending  April 25 - 8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending</p>
<p><b>DECEMBER:</b> Fundraising – Cookie sale  December 7 - 8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending  December 11 - 12:30pm LEAPP Frog meeting,  2pm Jr High &amp; Sr High Trip meetings  December 14 - 8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending  December 21 - 8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending</p>	<p><b>MAY:</b> Fundraising – Brat sale  May 2 - 8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending  May 9 - 8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending  May 13 - 12:30pm LEAPP Frog meeting,  2pm Jr High &amp; Sr High Trip meetings  May 16 – Confirmation ends  8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending  May 20 – Milestone celebration – Graduation</p>
<p><b>JANUARY:</b>  January 1 – Jr. High Trip Registration Deadline  January 4 - 8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending  January 8 - 12:30pm LEAPP Frog meeting,  2pm Jr High &amp; Sr High Trip meetings  January 11 - 8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending  January 16 – LEAPP Frog Day Camp  January 18 - 8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending  January 25 – Parents mandatory at Confirmation  8:00pm Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending</p>	<p><b>SUMMER:</b>  Jr. High Trip  Luther Crest Bible Camp  July 18-22 National Youth Gathering  LEAPP Frog Day Camp</p>

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## **FAMILY DEVOTIONS & RESOURCES**

- [www.commongoodradio.org](http://www.commongoodradio.org) – Founded by Rev. Robin Blair, this streaming radio station has podcasts and music that is completely family friendly.
- [www.forheavens-sake.com](http://www.forheavens-sake.com) – Along with her new book by the same title, speaker, consultant, and author Marilyn Sharpe provides lots of helpful content on this new website that introduces folks to the key role that parents play in their kids' faith formation.
- [www.lifelongfaith.com](http://www.lifelongfaith.com) – Resources for family and church faith development.
- <http://www.faithformationlearningexchange.net/index.html> - Discover a wide array of resources for all ages!
- <http://fulleryouthinstitute.org/> - Blogs, podcasts and research help families and professionals with teen faith formation on this comprehensive web site.
- [www.vibrantfaith.org](http://www.vibrantfaith.org)
- <http://www.faithformation2020.net/>

### **Recommended Reading:**

*The Third Chapter, Passion, Risk and Adventure in the 25 years After 50*; Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot  
*Shaped by God: Twelve Essentials for Nurturing Faith in Children, Youth and Adults*; Robert J. Keely, editor.

*Grow in Faith: Helping Our Children Grow in Faith*; Robert J. Keely

*ChildFaith: Experiencing God and Spiritual Growth with Your Children*; Donald and Brenda Ratcliff

*Understanding the Digital Generation: Teaching and Learning in the New Digital Landscape*; Ian Jukes, Ted McCain and Lee Crocket

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION TRAINING DAY**

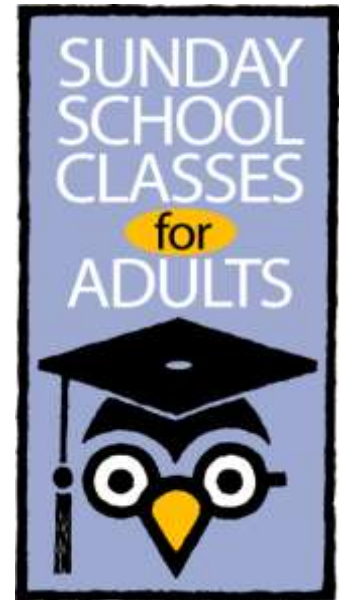
**August 24 or 31 from 6:00-7:30**

Calling all people who want to learn and grow right along with Bethlehem's Youth. Mark your calendars for either August 24 or 31 from 6:00-7:30. We will be going over much more than where to find your emergency exits! We have lots of wonderful new resources to share with you and can't wait to see everyone's faith circle growing and blooming with both new and past relationships. Do you have a passion for learning? Do you love children? Do you have a gift area in music, organizing, teaching, networking, or just plain love having fun? Contact Melanie in the Discipleship office for more information on how to partner in these areas.

## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**September 11- May 13**

In its fourth year this has been a great spot for adults who are connected to Sunday School age children as parents or Faith Circle participants, to dig into the lesson of the week. Adults have commented that they feel more equipped to visit with their children or the young people in their Faith Circles about the day's lesson after participating in the discussion. This is a facilitated Bible study which means someone will come prepared to facilitate the discussion. Anyone is welcome at anytime! If you have questions or would like to be a part of the facilitation team, please contact Eric Felsch at [ericfelsch@mac.com](mailto:ericfelsch@mac.com). This group meets every Sunday when regular Sunday School is in session.



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## **FAMILY EVENTS**

As we continue the ministry of Faith Circles (see page 3 for details on Faith Circles) family events are another way for these relationships to take hold. Families of all ages, make-ups and Bethlehem church affiliation or not are invited to participate! Watch the monthly STAR for more details on these events. If you would like to plan or host an event, please contact the Family Ministry Coordinators, Shelly and Kelly Davidson [ksdavidson2@charter.net](mailto:ksdavidson2@charter.net). New families join in the fun every month so please feel free to come anytime! A tentative schedule is laid out below.

**August** - Family day at the lake

**September** - Fair Haven Farms

**October** - Trunk R Treat

**December** - Christmas Cookie baking/decorating at Huesers

**January** - Sledding

**March** - Bowling

**May** - Bounce Depot

## **COUPLES GROUP**

Adults need Faith Circles too (see Faith Circles page 3 for more details)! Couples group is an opportunity for adults to grow in their sense of community and realize the partners that surround them in their own journeys as couples, parents and Christians. This group participates in social activities such as home gatherings, football games or a lake cruise and is also looking for opportunities to serve together. This year the group will be intentionally taking on a role with hosting Church of the Week!

It's NEVER too late to join the fun of this group! It's come as you can and everyone is always welcome! If you'd like to organize or host an event or have questions, please contact Brock or Marnie Swanson at [swansonbrock@yahoo.com](mailto:swansonbrock@yahoo.com) or [marnieswanson@hotmail.com](mailto:marnieswanson@hotmail.com). Watch the monthly Star and weekly bulletin and website for updated information on this ministry. See below for a tentative list of gatherings for the coming year and watch the Star, bulleting and website for updated information.

**September 17<sup>th</sup>** - Carlos Creek Grape Stomp and Fall Festival

**November 14<sup>th</sup>** - Monday Night Football at the Davidson's

**December 10<sup>th</sup>** - 'Laughing All the Way' at Pioneer on 5th

**January** - White Elephant at the Donnelly's

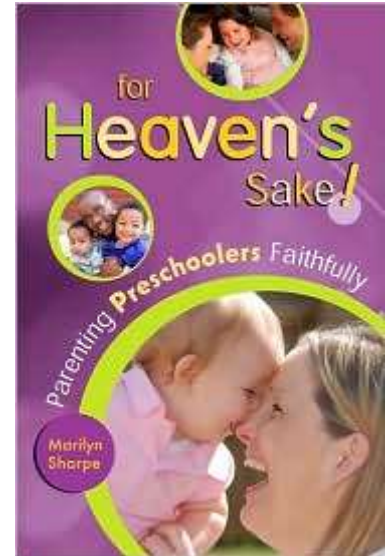
**April** - Always 80's at the Wagner's



## **MOM'S BIBLE STUDY/ BOOK CLUB**

***For Heaven's Sake! Parenting Preschoolers Faithfully***  
**Thursdays 9:10am beginning October 6-November 17**

All parents are welcome to join us as we read, *For Heaven's Sake! Parenting Preschoolers Faithfully* by Marilyn Sharpe. This book helps us view parenting as a quintessentially spiritual journey. This realistic, encouraging, and supportive book is a treasure for all who want to nurture faith in Jesus Christ in the home. It brings together the wisdom of the experts—those in the field of child development, those who daily live with and shape the lives of children, and by children themselves. Full of practical suggestions for daily life together, this class and this book will be your companion and guide as you navigate this formative time in your child's life, while using proven methods for raising great preschoolers. This is also a wonderful opportunity for grandparents, godparents, nursery school teachers, daycare providers, and all adults who care about raising God's youngest children faithfully. It is time to begin, and here is your opportunity. We will be meeting at 9:10 in the Youth Room on Thursdays beginning October 6-November 17. Please contact Melanie if child care is needed. Look for another Book Study coming in January!



## **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

**Monday mornings, 9:15am**

In its third year this Bible Study is intentionally set up in such a way that people can join in at any time and come and go as it fits into life. Whether this would be your first Bible study or your 50th you'll enjoy the laid back setting that goes deep into the Word. Lead by Pastor Janine Olson, this group does both book studies and topic studies. Childcare is available for toddler and preschool age children during the morning Bible study session by contacting the Discipleship office ahead of time. It's a great way to start the week. Don't let another week slip by. Come today!

**OR**

## **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

**Monday evenings, 7pm**

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## **WOMEN'S SPRING RETREAT**

**March 24-25, 2012**

This popular retreat is for women of all ages and their need for time away to renew physically and spiritually. This year we will be focusing on giftedness. Nobody was created to be good at everything so why as women do we tend to beat ourselves up when we can't be Mother Theresa, Martha Stewart and Joan Cleaver all at once. Using the Gallop Poll created Strength Finders, women will come to know their five top strengths and how God might be calling them to use those gifts through the callings in their lives. When we focus on the things we are naturally good at (or our God given talents) we can find joy in all that God calls us to. Join the fun as we each live into being, liking, respecting and loving the unique person God created us to be!

As always the schedule is left loose and open with lots of time for rest, relaxation, reading, connecting or whatever else might be on the top of your list!

This year's retreat will once again be held at the beautiful Breezy Point Resort. Registration forms will be out in January but mark your calendars today - March 24-25, 2012! See you there!

## **SCRAPPING /FAITHBOOKING MINISTRY**

Now in its third year this opportunity has become a dynamic community dedicated to reflecting on all the good memories God has given us. There will be three weekends throughout the late Fall and winter months to come together to enjoy time with fellow scrappers. This year Lori Buegler and Judy Rogers will be heading up the ministry. An RSVP is required one week prior to the event to Judy at jrpooh@charter.net. Events without a minimum of 12 participants are subject to cancelation so please don't forget to RSVP. These events are free of charge and all are welcome!



## **FAMILY & ADULT MINISTRY – AT A GLANCE!**

<p><b>AUGUST:</b>  August 24 – Sunday School &amp; Confirmation Training Day  August 31 – Sunday School &amp; Confirmation Training Day  Family – Day at the Lake</p>	<p><b>JANUARY:</b>  Couples: White Elephant at Donnelly’s  Family – Sledding</p>
<p><b>SEPTEMBER:</b>  September 11 – Adult Sunday School begins  September 12 – Women’s Bible study begins AM &amp; PM classes  September 17 – Couples: Carlos Creek Grape Stomp  Family – Fair Haven Farms</p>	<p><b>FEBRUARY:</b></p>
<p><b>OCTOBER:</b>  October 6 – Mom’s Book Club begins  October 29 – Family – Trunk R Treat</p>	<p><b>MARCH:</b>  March 24-25 – Women’s Spring Retreat at Breezy Point  Family – Bowling</p>
<p><b>NOVEMBER:</b>  November 14 – Couples: Monday Night Football at Davidson’s  November 17 – Mom’s Book Club ends</p>	<p><b>APRIL:</b>  Couples: Always 80’s at Wagner’s</p>
<p><b>DECEMBER:</b>  December 10 – Couples: ‘Laughing All the Way’ - Pioneer on 5<sup>th</sup>  Family – Christmas Cookies at Huesers’</p>	<p><b>MAY:</b>  May 13 – Adult Sunday School ends  Family – Bounce Depot</p>

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**OUR FAMILY'S DISCIPLESHIP PLAN – AT A GLANCE!**

<b>SEPTEMBER:</b>	<b>FEBRUARY:</b>
<b>OCTOBER:</b>	<b>MARCH:</b>
<b>NOVEMBER:</b>	<b>APRIL:</b>
<b>DECEMBER:</b>	<b>MAY:</b>
<b>JANUARY:</b>	<b>SUMMER:</b>