

The Bethlehem

Star



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Saint Cloud, Minnesota

August 17-September 30, 2011

Vol. 43, No. 6

Worship Schedule

(through Sept. 4)

Saturday:
5:00 pm

Sunday:

8:30 am

10:30 am

12:00 pm*

*Nuer language service

Inside This Issue:

Fall Stewardship Appeal	2
Talahi Lunch Program	2
Pastors' Letters	3
News for Women of BLC	4
Bikers of BLC	4
Couples & Families Events	4
Calendar	5
Sunday School starts 9/11	6
Confirmation starts 9/14	6
Acolyte Training	7
Children's Choir	7
LEAPP FROGS	7
Soul Tending	7
Teacher/Guide Training	8
NYG Deadline is 9/30	8
Preschool Board Goals	8
New Member Classes	9
Financial Peace University	9
Habitat Home for Hansons	10
Fall Festival is 10/1	10
Financial Update	10
Friendship Lunch	11
Pastoral Acts	11
Staff Directory	11



Fall Schedule Starts September 10

Saturday

5:00pm – This service features strong piano leadership and a variety of music styles.

Sunday

8:00am – This 45-minute traditional service provides an option for early risers.

9:00am – This service has a traditional liturgy with music led by the Adult Choir & accompanied by the organ.

10:05-10:55am – Education Hour for All Ages: Sunday School for Age 3–Grade 4, plus Sunday School for adults using the same curriculum. ★56 for grades 5 and 6. Junior High Bible Study. Adult Ed Forums for adults & high school youth.

11:00am – Guitars, percussion & a vocal ensemble lead this contemporary worship service.

12:30pm – This service is in the Nuer language of our South Sudanese brothers & sisters is held on the second & fourth Sunday of each month. On the first and third Sunday the South Sudanese worship at the 11am service with simultaneous translation into Nuer.

Wednesday

5:00pm – Sunday School Wednesday Option for Gr. 1-4 and ★56 for grades 5 & 6 starting September 14.

6:30pm – Confirmation for grades 7-10 starts September 14 with a required meeting for parents & students. Confirmation classes for Grade 10 run through October 19 in preparation for their Affirmation of Baptism on October 30.

Rally Day Offers Many Opportunities to *Build Up*

As we gather on Rally Day 2011 we will explore the many ways we can “*Build Up...*” at Bethlehem. Rally Day will help us ‘dive into’ our stewardship theme.

We will *Build Up* the Body of Christ as we reconnect with friends after a summer of re-creation.

We will *Build Up* our youth as education programs resume. *Is your child registered yet?* See page 6. *Or would you like to help with this Build Up as a teacher or guide?* See page 8.

We will *Build Up* our faith as we

welcome guest preacher Rev. Tim Coltvet. Pastor Tim is on the Youth & Family Ministry Faculty of Luther Seminary and also happens to be Cheryl Running’s son-in-law, he will surely provide a wonderful foundation to *Build Up* from in this new year!

Rally Sunday is also the tenth anniversary of 9/11. We will *Build Up* bridges of understanding as we welcome Hatim Kareem of the Interfaith Partnership (see page 7) to present a Muslim perspective on the anniversary during the Adult Ed Forum.



A Word from Our Congregational President . . .

Facilities Have Long History of Serving the Gospel

As we look to begin our fall stewardship appeal and mortgage reduction campaign this fall, our planning team wanted to reflect on the history of our church and the buildings we have occupied.

Bethlehem's story reveals strong commitments to both ministry and facilities from which to spread the Gospel. The first eighty years includes the following tidbits of our site history.

■ In 1907 Bethlehem's seven original Norwegian families were invited to worship in the "German" church, i.e. Holy Cross Lutheran. Services were held on Sunday afternoons to reduce heating costs. Although no rent was charged, Holy Cross accepted five dollars a month toward heat and organist expenses.

■ About a year later, the desire for our own space led to the purchase of a vacant building in "Yankee Town", once home of the Congregational Church. This decrepit building was slowly upgraded, including excavation for a basement and a heating system, as funds and volunteer labor became available. (Today this site serves as a center for St Cloud's Muslim community!)

■ Growth trends brought about a building fund effort, even as World War II raged on, and land at



Fourth Avenue & Ramsey Place was purchased in 1946.

■ A triumphant procession from the "old" Bethlehem to the new church a few blocks east took place in 1953. The



Saint Cloud Times covered this historical event, noting that construction costs amounted to about \$150,000, or nearly \$1.3 million today!

■ A bi-level education wing was added 12 years later. The new space was fully used for Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Education Classes; during the week classrooms were rented to the ISD 742 for special education students.

■ As Bethlehem continued to thrive at the Fourth Avenue location, available space for additional classrooms and parking presented new challenges. The decision to relocate was made in 1989, culminating in the wonderful facility we enjoy today.

Members of Bethlehem remain faithful to its ministry and sense of commitment as we work to pay down our current mortgage, thereby releasing future funds for new and expanding ministries.

Note: We are so grateful for the historical research done by the late Rev. Richard Vangerud, on which this piece is based.

Talahi Promise Neighborhood Lunch Program Comes to a Successful Close

Thank you to all who made the summer lunch program for the Talahi Promise Neighborhood a success! Lunches were also provided to summer school students at Discovery & Madison School and in the Bel Clare Estates neighborhood. Some weeks 2,400 lunches were prepared!! A very big thank you to all those who helped this summer including: BLC members—Mary Margaret & Gene Bjorklun, Barbara Bloomer, Jan Dahl, Sharon Erickson, Nancy Farb, Chuck Henneman, Sampson Sarclay, Jerry Sparby, Holly St Germain, Dave Strutz; volunteers from The Church of Saint Paul and St Peter's Catholic Parish; and SCSU freshman students. Food was provided through a grant to Sodexo Food Service at SCSU from "Feed our Future."

—Karen Henneman, Church in Society Board



Just one of the crews that made lunches for kids in the Talahi Promise Neighborhood: (from left) Gene Bjorklun, Kurt Neu, Karen Henneman, Deanna Haeg, Jerry Sparby, Trina Molitor, Sharon Knutson, Barb Wilmesmeier and David Strutz.

Over the summer months, while Pastor Dee is on Sabbatical, Pastor Janine & Pastor Steve are splitting this page of *The STAR* to share messages of hope & inspiration.

A Word from Pastor Janine . . .

Things I Learned While Cruising to Country Classics

I have a confession to make: I like country music. Not the new stuff—but the classics. The people I grew up listening to on 8-tracks in our family's Vista Cruiser. Loretta Lynn, Charlie Pride, Johnny Cash, and George Jones provide much of the background noise in my memories.

Lately, Jones' song "Choices" has me humming in the car. *I've had choices, since the day that I was born. There were voices that told me right from wrong...* Perhaps the reason that this song is on a continual loop has something to do with September.

I've always thought of September as the time for resolutions to do things differently.

This year I'm going to ignore the kids who tease. Or, This year I'm going to study as soon as I get home from school and not have to stay up late!

As a parent there was one consistent resolution— *This year we won't be scheduled so tightly that we can't even have a meal together!*

I wish I could say that choices are easier to make for families today, but they are more difficult. It seems that everyone lays claim to our time. At times it seems as if we do NOT have a choice. Athletic practices, games and tournaments held 7 days a week; music and dance are making the same demands—not only on

our calendars but on our wallets also.

David Elkind, author of *The Hurried Child* has been warning parents about the long term effects of over scheduling their children since 1981. Here's the kicker: our children's schedules are not better, they are far more hectic.

Here's the good news—we have choices! I pray that as families begin to plan their school year there will be time for all that we need as children of God; time to learn, time to play, time to grow in our relationships with God and with the people in our lives and time to rest. Maybe even time to Google 8-track players and Vista Cruiser!

—Pastor Janine

A Word from Pastor Steve . . .

Being a "One-Anothering, Each-Othering" Kind of Place

Good friends... This was one of Paul's favorite ways to address his congregations. He uses it frequently in his letters to his churches (even when he is a little annoyed with them!) The phrase is translated as "Dearly beloved" in the New Revised Standard Version that we most commonly use at Bethlehem, but "good friends" is, I think, closer to the warmth and sense of community that Paul hopes to call into being in the people he loves so well.

Pop quiz: In how many places does the Bible describe God's vision for community in phrases like: Love one another – Help one another – Sing praises to God with each other? **Answer:** Literally hundreds! Now, how often does he talk about "pastors" in the sense we use it today – a formal church leader? Exactly one – Ephesians 4:11-14 – Some have the gifts to be pastors "to build up the saints for the work of ministry."

What does this mean? That Church is meant to be a "one-anothering, each-othering" kind of place. And it is!

Often this is easiest to see at times of stress &

grief, such as at a funeral. People with no other connection to each other reach out to bring help and comfort to the bereaved. Sandwiches & cakes are prepared, stories are shared and we assure the grieving that they'll be in our prayers & they are!

Of course this happens in formal ways too. BeFrienders receive training for the work of visiting hospitals, nursing homes and the homes of shut-ins. In the South Sudanese community we recently commissioned three deacons who help tend to relationships, share prayers & scripture and assist with worship. Confirmation Guides build relationships with young people. The quilters support one another and spend their time making comforting quilts for people in need on the other side of the world.

Good friends, whether structured or spontaneous, these are the ways through which the Holy Spirit of the living God forms us into Faith Circles, each-othering and one-anothering us into the Body of Christ.

—Pastor Steve

Photo Directory

Bethlehem is doing a new photo directory with Lifetouch Photography. Photography sessions begin September 6, with both daytime and evening appointments available. Sign up in the Square on weekends or online at www.bethlehemplutheran.org



Bikers of BLC Roll Out

The Bikers of Bethlehem (BoB) invite all motorcycle riders to join in their final rides of the season: August 28 & September 25. Rides begin immediately following the last Sunday worship service (about 11:30am on August 28, 12pm on September 25) and cover about 100-150 miles with a stop for lunch. A donation of \$5/person per ride is encouraged, it will be given to a local charity at the end of the season. To join the BoB email list please email lcobb@bethlehemplutheran.org

News for:

Women of Bethlehem

Circle Schedule for September

Tuesday, September 6

Esther: 1pm Peace Hall

Eunice: 1pm Coffee Kitchen at BLC

Miriam: 9:30am Julie Dehnel's; 352 Waite Ave S; StC

Naomi: 12pm Rosemary Benson's; 2906 Crescent Ridge Trail; StC

Priscilla: 3pm Magi Room

Monday, September 12

Phoebe: 7pm Carol LeBon's; Diamond Willow Cir; WP

Fall Women's Retreat

Nourishing Body and Spirit

September 23 & 24 at Luther Crest Bible Camp

The Women of Bethlehem's 31st annual Fall Retreat at Luther Crest Bible Camp is set for the weekend of September 23 & 24. Our guest presenters include Brenda Handel-Johnson, who will lead us in music that will *Nourish Your Spirit* and Brenda Grewell (RN, Licensed Acupuncturist and Laurine Nelson's daughter) will help *Nourish Your Body* with Self-care thru Acupressure. Cost is just \$67/woman for comfortable lodging in the Adult Retreat Center, delicious meals and the nourishing program. *Questions?* Call Sonja, 253-2724 or Barbara, 253-5428. Sign-up at the Serve Board.

Families Invited to Day on Farm

The Family Events Team invites all families in the congregation and community to an afternoon (1-3pm) at Fairhaven Farms on Sunday, September 11. No RSVP needed. Questions? Contact Shelly Davidson at 492-0789 shellyd@callmeyer.com.

PS: The Vikings Kick-off isn't until 3:15!

Join in Grape Stomping Adventure

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 and opportunities to serve together.

On September 17 the group will head to Carlos Creek Winery for their fall festival grape stomp. Contact Brock or Marnie Swanson at swansonbrock@yahoo.com or marnieswanson@hotmail.com for details.

You're invited to:
Lift ev'ry voice and sing
with

Bethlehem's Adult Choir

Rehearsals:

Wednesdays 7-8:30pm

starting September 7

Sing in Worship:

Sundays at 9:00am

Gone part of the year?

Sing the season you're here!

Questions?

Call Keith Magsam, 253-3609

1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,

Aug. 17 - Sept. 30, 2011

Bethlehem Lutheran

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			17 8 am Prayer Group 9 am Mystery Mission 5 pm Fifth Voice rehearsal	18 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	19 5 pm Wedding rehearsal 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	20 10:30 am African Women's Alliance Board Mtg 3 pm Wedding 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
21 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship—Outdoors 12 pm Sudanese Worship Service	22 8 am Mission Quilters 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	23 8 am Mission Quilters 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 14 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	24 8 am Prayer Group 6 pm Sunday School Teacher & Confirmation Guide Training	25 7:30 am Executive Comm. 9 am Bold Believers 4:45 pm Hymn Planning 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	26 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	27 9 am Baptism Orientation 11:30 am BLC serves Community Meal at HCC 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
28 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship 12 pm Nuer Bible Study 12 pm Bikers of BLC Ride 2 pm Worship at St Ben's Center	29 8 am Mission Quilters 8 am Preschool Workday 6:30 pm Building on Forward Momentum 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	30 8 am Mission Quilters 8 am Preschool Workday 9 am Preschool Parent Orientation 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 12:15 pm Women of BLC 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	31 7 am Preschool Parent Orientation 8 am Prayer Group 8 am Preschool Workday 9 am Preschool Parent Orientation 6 pm Sunday School Teacher & Confirmation Guide Training 7:30 pm Bells of Bethlehem	September 1 8 am Preschool Workday 9 am Healthy Clergy 5:45 pm Heritage Quilters 6 pm South Sudanese Women's ELL Class 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	2 8 am Preschool Workday 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	3 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
4 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship 12 pm Sudanese Worship Service	5 Labor Day Church Offices CLOSED	6 <i>See Circle Schedule</i> 8 am BLP Teacher Workshop 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 2:30 pm Directory Photos 5:45 pm Church Council 6 pm South Sudanese Women's ELL Class 6:15 pm Bells of Bethlehem 7 pm Youth Advisory Team 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	7 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 8 am Prayer Group 8 am BLP Teacher Workshop 2:30 pm Directory Photos 7 pm Adult Choir	8 8 am BLP Teacher Workshop 2:30 pm Directory Photos 5 pm Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool Open House 6 pm Childrens Choir 6 pm South Sudanese Women's ELL Class 6:30 pm BeFriends 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	9 8 am BLP Teacher Workshop 2:30 pm Directory Photos 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	10 10 am Directory Photos 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
11 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10:10 am Rally Day 11 am Worship 12 pm LEAPP FROGS 12:30 pm Nuer Bible Study 1 pm Family Event—Fairhaven Farm	12 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 2:30 pm Directory Photos 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study 7 pm Phoebe Circle	13 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 2:30 pm Directory Photos 6 pm South Sudanese Women's ELL Class 6:15 pm Bells of Bethlehem 7 pm Beginning Experience 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 14 7:30 pm Anna Circle 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	14 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 8 am Prayer Group 9 am Preschool 9 am BLP Parent Ed 5 pm Wednesday Sunday School & 56 6 pm Childrens Choir 6:30 pm Confirmation Parent/Student Mtg 7 pm Adult Choir 8 pm Soul Tending	15 9 am Preschool 12 pm Friendship Lunch 2:30 pm Directory Photos 6 pm South Sudanese Women's ELL Class 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	16 9 am Preschool 2:30 pm Directory Photos 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	17 10 am Directory Photos 10:30 am African Women's Alliance Board Mtg 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
18 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10:05 pm Education Hour 10:10 am Acolyte Training 11 am Worship 12:30 pm Sudanese Worship Service	19 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 2:30 pm Directory Photos 6:30 pm Prayer Shawls 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	20 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 2:30 pm Directory Photos 6 pm S Sudanese Women 6:15 pm Bells of Bethlehem 6:30 pm African Women's Alliance Book Club 7 pm Beginning Experience 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 14 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	21 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 8 am Prayer Group 9 am Preschool 9 am BLP Parent Ed 5 pm Wednesday Sunday School & 56 5 pm Acolyte Training 6 pm Childrens Choir 6:30 pm Confirmation 7 pm Adult Choir 8 pm Soul Tending	22 9 am Preschool 2:30 pm Directory Photos 5 pm Wedding rehearsal 6 pm South Sudanese Women's ELL Class 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	23 9 am Preschool 2:30 pm Directory Photos 5 pm Wedding 5 pm Women's Fall Retreat 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	24 Women's Fall Retreat 9 am Baptism Orientation 10 am Directory Photos 11:30 am BLC serves Community Meal at HCC 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
25 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10:05 pm Education Hour 11 am Worship 12:30 pm Sudanese Worship Service 12:30 pm Bikers of BLC ride	26 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	27 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 12:15 pm Women of BLC 6 pm South Sudanese Women's ELL Class 6:15 pm Bells of Bethlehem 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 14 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	28 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 8 am Prayer Group 9 am Preschool 9 am BLP Parent Ed 5 pm Wednesday Sunday School & 56 5 pm Acolyte Training 6 pm Childrens Choir 6:30 pm Confirmation 7 pm Adult Choir 8 pm Soul Tending	29 9 am Preschool 6 pm South Sudanese Women's ELL Class 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	30 8 am Fall Festival Set-up 9 am Preschool 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	Oct. 1 9 am Fall Festival 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday School Starts September 11; Wednesday Option Starts Sept. 14

Children age 3 through grade 6 will have the opportunity to explore their faith by participating in Sunday School on Sundays from 10:10 to 10:50!

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 grade 2 will explore the same weekly Bible lesson allowing families to explore the Bible and their faith lives together. Third and fourth grade students will meet separately to really dig into the Bible and explore what God's love is all about.

Classes of approximately 12-14 students will be taught by a team of teachers. Students will also have large group time where they will learn songs and contribute to God's work through their offerings.

Students in grades 1-4 have the option of having their "Sunday School experience" on Wednesday afternoons. The Wednesday option will follow the same lesson outlines as the Sunday class and follow the same format of large group & classroom time.

To enroll, call the Discipleship Office or download forms at www.bethlehemlutheran.org/forms. Cost for either Sundays or Wednesdays is \$30/child, with a \$70/family cap.

Calling All Families, Literally!

The Discipleship Team (board members & staff) have been calling all families who have been involved in Sunday School in the past. The goal of these calls is to help make people aware of all that Discipleship Ministry at Bethlehem has to offer and get feedback on what has worked well & where we could grow. If you have not yet received a call and would like to offer feedback, please contact Melanie in the Discipleship Office.



★56 Offered Sundays & Wednesdays

The ★56 program is a service-based learning opportunity for students in grades 5 & 6 to come together and learn what the Bible says about issues that are important to this age group. The Sunday program meets from 10:10 to 10:50am (starting Sept. 11) and the Wednesday program gathers from 5 to 6pm (starting Sept. 14). Students will build relationships with peers and caring adults. Opportunities will be given for students to serve both their church and community.

Do you love doing hands-on projects and acting 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!

To enroll, call the Discipleship Office or download forms at www.bethlehemlutheran.org/forms. Cost for either Sundays or Wednesdays is \$30/child, with a \$60/family cap.

Confirmation Begins September 14

Students in grades 7-9 will meet on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8pm for Confirmation Classes that provide a deeper understanding of the faith in which they were baptized. Using a popular DVD curriculum, small group discussion and hands-on activities, students learn and experience how worship, prayer, giving and service fit into their lives. Confirmation begins with a

Parent/Student meeting on Wednesday, September 14. To enroll, call the Discipleship Office or download forms at www.bethlehemlutheran.org/forms. Cost is \$70/student and includes all mandatory retreat fees as well as class curriculum.

Tenth Graders: Watch for a letter coming soon from Pastor Dee regarding preparations for your Affirmation of Baptism on Sunday, October 30.



How to Reach the Discipleship Ministry Staff

- Ministry with PreK-Gr. 6:** Melanie Halter
251.8356 x131 or melanie@bethlehemlutheran.org
- Ministry with Grades 7-12:** Katie Christensen
251.8356 x132 or katie@bethlehemlutheran.org
- Ministry with Adults & Families:** Katie Christensen
251.8356 x132 or katie@bethlehemlutheran.org
- Support for Discipleship Ministries:** Lisa Fujan
251.8356 x130 or lisa@bethlehemlutheran.org
- Pastor for Discipleship Ministries:** Rev. Janine Olson
251.8356 x103 or jolson@bethlehemlutheran.org

Students are Learning to Give

Children are given the opportunity to present their offerings during Sunday School time. The students also learn about how their offerings are put to work through the ELCA's *Good Gift* program. Last year students raised over \$1,000 to purchase livestock through *God's Global Barnyard*.



This year we will be looking at different health issues both locally & globally. Students gifts will support anti-malaria efforts, child immunization programs and provide clean water. *Do you have a passion to serve in this area?* Contact Melanie to learn more about helping our children discover the joy that comes from giving.

Children's Choir Seeks New Voices

All God's Children Choir is looking for energetic singers and musicians to join the group for the 2011-12 school year. The choir uses their voices, barred instruments, handchimes, movement and creative ideas to praise God during Wednesday night rehearsals and once each month on Sunday mornings at worship. Children in grades 1- 5 are invited to attend the first rehearsal on Thursday, September 8 at 6pm. Regular rehearsals will take place Wednesday evenings beginning September 14 from 6 to 6:45pm. The choir will be very busy with a couple of exciting projects this fall. *Questions?* Call Brenda Handel-Johnson at 654-8014.

Jr High Youth Gathering

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! Worship will be led by popular Christian bands, speakers will engage students and breakout sessions cover an array of topics that directly impact young people. Plus, there is time set aside to just hang out at the dance party, swimming pools and at meals. This event takes place at the Willmar Holiday Inn on either November 18-19 or 19-20; it's so popular they have to offer two identical gatherings! Registration information will be available in late September. Please contact Anne Nikolas, trip coordinator, at annenikolas@q.com with questions or to chaperone this fun event!

Gr. 5 & 6 Receive Acolyte Training

Students in grades 5 & 6 will attend training to serve as an acolyte in worship during Sunday School time on September 18 & 25 and Wednesday School on September 21 & 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 make reminder calls/e-mails, contact Melanie to support this service area.

Big News for Interfaith Partnership

The Interfaith Partnership, comprised of youth workers from the St. Cloud area and the Center for Service Learning & Social Justice, has received a grant that will support many of the learning opportunities the group hopes to provide this year. These opportunities are meant to be Christian-Muslim exchanges that provide opportunities for learning, understanding, respect and common ground between people of different faiths.

Learn More About LEAPP FROGS

LEAPP FROGS is a leadership/discipleship development program for grades 7-12. Students spend time developing their understanding of servant leadership and our call as Christians to be servants first. The FROGS first gathering for the 2011-2012 will be from noon to 2pm on Sunday, September 11. All Jr & Sr High students are invited to come, check things out! Pizza will be served! *Questions?* Contact Katie in the Discipleship Office

Gr. 10-12 Begin Soul Tending

Run, run, run... The pace of life is never ending, especially for high school students! Yet, we were created to need down time and time to connect with our Creator. On Wednesday evenings from 8 to 9pm students in grades 10-12 will engage in opportunities to discern God's call. We will use contemplative formats and current films to reflect how God is present & active in the world. 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!



Training Set for Teachers & Guides

Do you have a passion for learning? Do you have a gift area in music, organizing, teaching, networking, or just plain love having fun? Reserve a spot on your calendar to attend Sunday School Teacher & Confirmation Guide Training from 6 to 7:30pm on either August 24 or 31. 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 how everyone's Faith Circle is growing! Contact Melanie in the Discipleship Office for details.

Trip Youth Lead Worship Oct. 1 & 2

Forty six students and adults traveled on youth trips this summer. The Jr High students traveled to the Northwoods of Wisconsin where they traveled by canoe camping along the way and learning about God in creation. Sr High students lived in Manhattan for a week, using the subway to travel to different service sites where they met amazing people & saw God at work in the world.

Students will lead *worship* and share *reflections* on the weekend of **October 1 & 2**. Check out photos and journals from the trip at www.bethlehemplutheran.org/youth Thanks to the congregation for its support through prayer and financial support; these trips wouldn't happen without this kind of backing!

Preschool Board Sets a Familiar, but Powerful Goal for the Year

Several signs indicate that September 12, and the beginning of Preschool, will be here before we know it. Registration packets come in daily, phone calls inquiring about openings are a regular occurrence, and the teachers are beginning to stop in & talk about what is next. Another regular August activity is goal setting. Bethlehem Preschool Board has set the following as Goal Number 1 for the upcoming school year. I have to say it is my favorite.

GOAL #1: *Children and families enrolled in Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool will be provided a high quality, developmentally appropriate Early Childhood experience throughout the 2011-2012 school year, as has been the practice for the past 46 years. Teaching will be guided by the Mission Statement, Beliefs, Goals and Objectives found in the Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool Handbook.*

We have the same #1 Goal every year with just a little tweak here and there. It really says it all.

Youth Gathering Deadline Nears

The ELCA Youth Gathering is returning to New Orleans July 18-22, 2012. In 2009, 40,000 ELCA youth went to New Orleans as guests. We return in 2012 as friends, *Citizens with the Saints*. The **registration deadline** for the gathering will be **September 30!** All students entering Grades 9-12 are welcome and encouraged to participate in this trip, contact Katie for an information packet! If you are an adult interested in chaperoning, please contact Katie for a chaperone application form!

LEAPP FROGS Rock Day Camp!

About 50 students in grade K-12 gathered the first week in August for a LEAPP FROG sponsored day camp. One mom texted me to say that her daughter came home saying that she'd never learned so much about Jesus in one day and that she felt closer to Him. Another student skipped his final baseball championship game because he didn't want to miss a day!

Special thanks goes out to Max Albrecht and Anni Johnson who will be leaving the FROGS' lily pad after 7 great years of consistent, wonderful leadership will be deeply missed!

LEAPP FROG sponsored activities continue on October 29 with the Trunk-r-Treat. Watch for news of a possible Day Camp in October.

- We serve families: children *and* parents
- Bethlehem Preschool offers a high quality program that is developmentally appropriate
- We have longevity, serving the community for 46 years!!!
- We strive everyday to live out our mission statement: *Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool will inspire creativity and nurture the social, emotional, intellectual, physical and spiritual development of children in a Christian environment.*
- Teachers are guided by our beliefs, goals and objectives when interacting with families, choosing activities and planning each day.

For those of you new to Bethlehem Preschool, WELCOME! For those of you who know us well, thank you for your support.

—Laurie Tritabaugh, director
Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool

New Member Gatherings Begin Again in November

Bethlehem's New Member process involves two learning gatherings and one gathering to serve in our community. Relationship building is woven throughout all three as a key component. Our hope and prayer is that every new member finds a good fit within the congregation, becoming fully involved in the life of the church. Please

note: the *Conversation on Christian Faith* (see below) is strongly recommended for any New Members coming from a non-Lutheran Church or those who are new to the Christian faith. Childcare is provided if requested. Contact LaNae Cobb, Welcome & Serving Ministries Coordinator, lcobb@bethlehmlutheran.org or 251-8356 x107 to register.

New Member Gathering I *Introduction to Life at Bethlehem* Sunday, 12:15-3pm Nov. 20, Feb. 19, April 22

This gathering is designed to help each person learn about life at Bethlehem. Focusing on the Vision & Mission of the congregation, ways to serve and first fruits giving. New Members will begin to develop relationships with others in a small group with discussions led by guides.

New Member Gathering II *Finding Your Neighborhood* Sunday, 10:30am-2pm Nov. 27, Feb. 26, April 29

Following a formal welcome into the congregation at the 11am service, New Members will gather for lunch and deepen connections with their small group. At this session New Members will discover they have gifts for serving that are truly: "Made for Ministry."

New Member Gathering III *Serving Together* Time & Place to be determined by each small group.

Each New Member small group that first formed relationships in the *New Member Gathering I* will share fun and service together in a time, place and manner they choose, suggestions will be available though groups are encouraged to discover a project that makes use of all their gifts.

Moms Book Study Begins *For Heaven's Sake!*

All are welcome to join a discussion of, *For Heaven's Sake! Parenting Preschoolers Faithfully* by Marilyn Sharpe. It brings together the wisdom of experts—those in the field of child development, those who daily live

with & shape the lives of children, even kids themselves—to help us view parenting as a spiritual journey! We will meet in the Youth Room at 9:10am on Thursdays beginning October 6. *Need childcare?* Contact Melanie.

New to the Faith?

Conversation on Christian Faith is an informal conversation on the core doctrine of the Lutheran church and the common core beliefs shared by Christians around the world. There will also be opportunities to ask questions about the Christian faith and Lutheran denominations. This session is suggested for New Members transferring from a non-

Financial Peace University Returns to Bethlehem

At Financial Peace University (FPU) you will learn what the Bible says about being stewards of the gifts of income, wealth and time that God has given to each of us. FPU has helped millions of people gain the freedom to grow in their stewardship as disciples.

Each of the 13 2-hour sessions is packed with practical tools and ideas! Don't worry if you have to miss a session, each stands alone and you can attend that session at any other location at any other time! No one will try to sell you financial products!

Financial Peace University will meet on Monday nights from 6:30 to 8:30pm beginning September 26. Membership in FPU is \$93 which allows unlimited attendance for family members, including older children, at any FPU session, at any site.

Interested? Register online at www.daveramsey.com/fpu or simply attend the *FREE* introductory session on September 19 at 6:30pm.



Lutheran congregation or those seeking to join a church for the first time; although it is open to all who are interested in learning more about the core of Lutheran Christian beliefs.

These conversations take place on Saturdays November 12, February 11 & April 14, from 9 to 11:30am. For details contact LaNae Cobb, Welcome & Serving Ministries Coordinator, 251-8356x107 or lcobb@bethlehmlutheran.org

LWR Mission Kit Donations

Thank you for your many donations, so far this year the Mission Quilters have completed: 346 quilts, 100 layettes, 109 health kits, and 47 school kits!

We are running low of fabric for quilts. Gently used flat sheets and spare fabric pieces from your sewing basket work great for mission quilts; cast-off clothes do not, sorry!

The Back-to-School Sales are wrapping up already! If you find a great last minute bargain, we are in need of the following for school kits: 70 sheet spiral bound notebooks, rulers (inch & cm marks), pencil sharpeners, blunt scissors, #2 pencils, ball point pens (no gel ink), crayons (16 or 24 ct.) Place donations in the Mary Room or in the tub marked 'LWR' outside the Gloria Room.

A Habitat Home for a BLC Family

Construction is underway for BLC member Kyle Hanson's Habitat for Humanity home in the Westwood neighborhood. Kyle is the single father of Erin & Alexandra, ten year old twins, and Zakariah who is six years old. Currently, Erin and Zakariah share a room in Kyle's 3-bedroom apartment so that Alexandra's room has plenty of space for her medical equipment. Watch for more info on BLC work days at the Hanson's future home coming soon.

'Local Food Needs' are Great

Your "Local Food Needs" offerings are divided, 1/3 going to the Catholic Charities Food Shelf, \$50-75 to support the monthly Community Meal and the remainder for Coborn's Gas & Grocery cards to be given by the pastors to members of the congregation and community in need of assistance. The number of requests for assistance continues to increase in these troubled financial times and the generous gifts to this fund can't keep pace. Please consider a special gift or ongoing support of this fund. Use the special "Local Food Needs" offering envelopes or make a check out to Bethlehem with a note on the memo line or donate online via the secure link at www.bethlehemlutheran.org/give

Thanks for Supporting Habitat

A huge 'Thank You!' to all who helped fill Bethlehem's Work Days (even those who were rained out!) at this year's Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity project! One of the grant requirements that helps build this home is a majority of the work crews must be Lutheran. Bethlehem's work days helped meet this requirement, when combined with work days filled by other Lutheran Churches.

Another requirement of the Thrivent Builds is that \$40,000 needs to be raised from Lutherans in order for Habitat to receive over \$200,000 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans! **Bethlehem's financial commitment** for 2011 is \$1,000; \$325 has been given to date. Write a check to Bethlehem and note "Habitat" in the memo line.



Fall Festival Supports Camperships

Plan on attending the Bethlehem's Fall Festival on Saturday, October 1 from 9am to 1:30pm. A light lunch will be served. Shop sales of baked goods, fresh produce and hand-crafted items done by members of Bethlehem. *Need a baby shower gift?* The quilters will have a number of wonderful baby quilts for sale. Proceeds from this year's Fall Festival will be used to build a Bible Camp Scholarship Fund.

Financial Update

as of 7/31/11

	Income	-	Expenses	=	Difference
General Fund¹	486,836	-	489,200	=	-2,364
Preschool	51,657	-	47,915	=	3,741
	Target	-	Received	=	Difference
Offering YTD²	448,200	-	463,213	=	15,013
	Offerings	-	Payments	=	Difference
Building Mortgage	121,442	-	138,042	=	-16,600

1 - This reflects actual income from all sources and actual expenses year-to-date.

2 - This reflects actual General Fund Offerings year-to-date against a weighted average target based on three years of actual offering data.

Friendship Lunch

All who are free for lunch are invited to Friendship Lunch at noon on Thursday, September 15. Please bring a dish to share. Pastor Dee will share photos and stories from her Sabbatical travels and invite you to share stories of your summer sabbath!

Community Meal Needs

Bethlehem will serve the Saturday Community Meal at Hope Covenant Church on August 27 & September 24. Your help is needed for meal prep (9-11:30am), serving (11:30am-12:45pm) & cleanup (12:45-1:30pm). Contributions of milk, salads, fruit or vegetables are also needed for the meal. Sign up at the *SERVE* Board.

Recent Pastoral Acts

Weddings

June 25, 2011

Jered Paul Magsam
Amanda Rae Posch

July 9, 2011

Adam Bryan Wendt
Katherine Ruth Quiring

July 16, 2011

Adam Raymond Tri
Krista Jean Faber

July 22, 2011

Tyler Michael Abfalter
Amanda Jeanne Arnold

July 23, 2011

Matthew Jeffrey Milbert
Kelsey Kay Cotton

July 29, 2011

Michael George Cook
Melissa Ann Philabaum

Baptisms

July 23, 2011

Matthew David Dilks

July 30, 2011

Danielle Lani Lane

Funerals

June 5, 1973-July 4, 2011

Nyalat R. Minydhroat

May 15, 1931-July 16, 2011

Marjorie A. Pallansch

March 9, 1955-July 16, 2011

Joseph 'Dean' Hughes

August 6, 1950-July 21, 2011

Edward J. Butterfass

June 14, 1915-July 25, 2011

Gertrude A. Midtdahl

July 3, 1971-August 4, 2011

Amy C. Gronhovd

July 3, 1923-August 8, 2011

Harold J. Larson

Prayer Requests: Complete the Prayer Request Form or call the church office, 251-8356. Prayer requests will be printed for up to 4 weeks, call the church office to extend listing.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Leadership

Lead Pastor: Dee Pederson [102]

Pastors: Steve Cook, Pastor for Congregational Care & Community Outreach [101]; Janine Olson, Pastor for Discipleship Ministries [103];

Director of Operations: Diane Bublitz [104]

Welcome & Serving Ministries Coordinator: LaNae Cobb [107]

Discipleship Ministry with Grades 7-12: Katie Christensen [132]

Discipleship Ministry with Grades K-6: Melanie Halter [131]

Discipleship Ministry with Families: Katie Christensen [132]

Discipleship Ministry Support Staff: Lisa Fujan [130]

Infant Toddler Center Coordinator: Heather Moulzolf

Preschool Director: Laurie Tritabaugh [112]

Preschool Support: Anne Fuchsteiner [111]

Communications Coordinator: Chris Kiewel [108]

Administrative Staff: Linda Agre [106], Jennie Meemken [105]

Facilities Manager: John Pederson [121]

Custodian: Joyce Morris-Lloyd

Sudanese Ministries: James Puotyual [129]

Music Coordinator (Traditional): Keith Magsam

Music Coordinator (Contemporary): Brenda Handel-Johnson

Adult Choir Director: Keith Magsam

"All God's Children" Choir Director: Brenda Handel-Johnson

11am Worship Band Director/Cantor: Jason Parker

Bells of Bethlehem Director: Al Marquardt

Organist: Kaye Schimnich

Saturday Cantors: Brenda Handel-Johnson, Marcia Benson

Sound Technicians: Todd Karolus, Chris Huss

Wedding Assistants: Nancy Farb [163], Jane Laugen [162]

Congregation Officers

President: Valerie Felsch

Vice President: Doreen Meier

Treasurer: VACANT

Secretary: Larry Ketchum

Church Council

Church in Society: Stacie Black

Congregational Life: Tamara Huesers

Evangelism: Jake Miller

Preschool:

Property: Jodi Teich

Stewardship: James Filiyaro

WELCA: Cheryl Skalbeck & Jane

Mastroianna

Worship: David Haugen

Discipleship Ministry: Shelly Davidson

Bethlehem Media Team

STAR Editor: Christopher Kiewel [108]

STAR Assembly: Martha Circle & friends

When calling the church office you will greeted by an Automated Attendant which will offer a main menu from which you can choose a directory of staff extensions, or choose for an abbreviated list of topics, or you may enter the extension listed behind their name.



BETHLEHEM

Lutheran Church
4310 County Road 137

Saint Cloud, MN 56301

(320) 251-8356

www.bethlehemplutheran.org



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 345
St. Cloud, MN

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Introducing the new: www.bethlehemplutheran.org

By the time you receive this newsletter the newly redesigned www.bethlehemplutheran.org will be "live." The new site is organized according to Bethlehem's Mission Statement: Welcome, Community, Worship, Pray, Learn, Give, and Serve; plus a tab for Preschool. As you explore the new site

please make use of the search bar on each page to locate hard to find items. Thank you to all who provided feedback on the BETA site sent out in July! Aesthetic and functional improvements will continue in the weeks ahead but for now feel free to explore and use the new site!

Start Saving Items for October 15 Rummage Sale

Bethlehem's Rummage Sales are renowned in the community for the nice, clean items for sale a great prices! Proceeds from the October 15 (9am-1pm) sale will go to Bethlehem Preschool & The Bells of Bethlehem.

As you clean out your closets this fall please set aside those nice, clean items the community has come to expect like: clothing, shoes, household items, furniture, antiques, bedding and

linens.

The following items *cannot* be accepted (items we must use sale proceeds to dispose of safely): TV's, electronics, light fixtures, curtain/drapery rods, computers & printers, skis, golf clubs, car seats, cribs, bike helmets, microwaves, opened makeup and household chemicals.

Drop-off times: October 13, 12-6pm; October 14, 9am-6pm.