

The Bethlehem Star

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Saint Cloud, Minnesota

Worship Schedule

Saturday:

5:00 pm

Sunday:

8:00 am

9:00 am

11:00 am

12:30 pm*

*Nuer language service

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A congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

February 19-March 31, 2012

Vol. 44, No. 2

Lent Begins Ash Wednesday February 22

Lent 2012 will provide a way for each of us to reflect on how in the cross of Christ, grace trumps judgement. Using video segments from the Re:Form confirmation curriculum we will explore some of the teachings about God's grace that we find in Scripture and hear in the Lutheran Confessions. We'll take time to sing and pray and talk with each other.

Our confirmation classes will literally "take it to the pew" as we ask students and parents to attend these



Lenten worship times together. Worship will wrap up at 7:10pm, with Confirmation small groups meeting from 7:15 to 8pm.

Each week, a Lenten Supper will be served by Bethlehem Youth from 5:30 to 6:20pm. Menu: 2/22—Chili with corn bread; 2/29—Baked Potato Bar & salad; 3/7—Pizza and salad; 3/14—Sloppy Joes with chips; 3/21—Tacos in a Bag; and 3/28—Spaghetti with garlic bread. Cost: \$4/student, \$5/adult and \$15/family with proceeds supporting youth trips.

Ash Wednesday, February 22

6:30pm – Service of Holy Communion, including marking with ashes

Wednesday, February 29

6:30pm – *Can I do something bad enough to make God stop loving me?*

Wednesday, March 7

6:30pm – *Bullhorn*

Wednesday, March 14

6:30pm – *Can someone lose their salvation?*

Wednesday, March 21

6:30pm – *Why should I follow Jesus? Can't I just say I believe in him?*

Wednesday, March 28

6:30pm – *How can Lutherans believe in "grace alone" if they also believe in "faith alone" and "scripture alone"?*

"Forward into God's Future" Dr. Elton Returns to Discuss Hospitable Community

On Sunday, March 18, Dr. Terri Elton from Luther Seminary will return follow-up on her visits a year ago that encouraged Bethlehem to journey together *Forward into God's Future*. The evening begins with a potluck meal

at 5pm, followed by a conversation with Dr. Elton about how we can cultivate a hospitable community of faith in our fluid culture. The evening concludes with a unique worship experience.

Boy Scout Sunday

Sunday, February 19 will be Boy Scout Sunday at Bethlehem. The scouts of Troop 14 will be serving in worship as ushers and greeters. They are also hosting *Bagels with the Boy Scouts*, as a fundraiser, from 8 to 11am in Bethlehem Square.

Wear Your Name Tag

All who regularly participate at Bethlehem are asked to order reusable name tags. Regularly wearing your name tag will help staff and other members put a name with your face.

Stop by the Welcome Center to order your name tag in your choice of fastener: magnetic or clip. A donation of \$2/tag is suggested. Your new name tag will be ready the very next weekend! Then just remember to wear your name tag each time you are at Bethlehem.

Thank You Disciples!

I would like to say thank you to all who give of their time and talents to enrich ministries & worship at Bethlehem. As a large congregation, ministries just would not happen without faithful disciples like you. A special thanks to persons that are involved in the ministry areas I am privileged to work with through my position at Bethlehem:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Funeral Lunch Ministries | Sunday Morning Coordinators |
| Greeters | Ushers |
| Greeter Team Leaders | Usher Team Leaders |
| Prayer Chain Ministers | Plant Watering Team |
| Lay Readers | Bikers of Bethlehem |
| Lay Reader Team Leaders | Communion Bread Providers |
| Outreach Team | Nominating Committee |
| Communion Preparation Teams | Sunday Morning Coffee Teams |
| Assisting Ministers | Office Helpers |
| Board Members | Worship Video Tapers |
| Communion Servers | Habitat for Humanity Workers |
| Communion Team Leaders | Magi Gift's Attendants |
| Chancel Care | New Member Guides |
| Home Delivered Meals | New Member Childcare |

You truly are dedicated disciples, who worship, pray, learn, give, and serve in the mission of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. You are so appreciated! Serving together,

LaNae
LaNae Cobb
Welcome & Serving Ministries

Celebrate Bold Women's Day

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



Help Provide a Community Meal

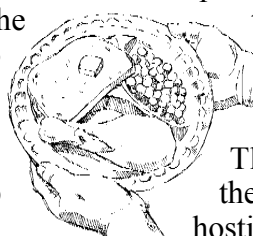
Bethlehem will serve the Saturday Community Meal on February 25 and March 24. Your help is needed for meal prep (9-11:30am), serving (11:30am-12:45pm) & cleanup (12:45-1:30pm). Contributions of milk, salads, fruit or vegetables are also needed for the meal. Sign up at the Serve Board to join a team that includes one or two experienced leaders responsible for overseeing the meal.

Church of the Week February 20-26

Bethlehem will be partnering with Place of Hope Ministries during the week of February 20-26 to host "Church of the Week." This means Bethlehem will be providing meals and overnight housing for people who are hungry & homeless in our community. There are many ways to help. Check out the SERVE Board and sign up for overnight hosting, driving, serving or bringing food.

Spring Home Delivered Meals

Bethlehem will provide drivers for the Home Delivered Meals program for two weeks this Spring. Eleven drivers are needed each week March 26-30 and April 2-5. Your help is appreciated, whether you can help for a day or a whole week. Sign up at the SERVE Board.



A Word from Pastor Dee . . .

Bethlehem: *Forward into God's Future*

The season of Epiphany began with the story of the Magi being led by the shining of a star to worship the Christ child. It will end with the story of Jesus transfigured on the mountaintop. In these two stories that bookend this church season, we find a frame for viewing life today.

“When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.”

There is a sense of joy in knowing that you're in the right place. The Magi had been led to the Messiah. Our hearts spill over with happiness when we recognize God's presence. You know it when you see it on the faces of people. You can sense this spirit of joy in our congregation right now as people interact with each other. Circles of faith, growing friendships, caring conversations, hands happy to serve—all of these are expressions of joy at being in the presence of Emmanuel—*God-with-us*.

“Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”

There is a deep sense of gratitude and generosity in this congregation. Despite our economic difficulties, the people of this congregation rallied together to a) generously dedicate gifts & commitments of future gifts to the *Build Up* mortgage reduction appeal, and b) help us end 2011 with our financial books in a positive place. At the same time, we are sharing our resources with people around the globe: training evangelists for the new nation of South Sudan, and constructing a church building and sending medical equipment so the Lutheran Church in Liberia can help rebuild a devastated nation.

“And they left for their own country by another road.”

Does this verse mean that the Magi literally followed a different path that wouldn't take them near Herod, or that they were changed people after seeing the Christ child—or both? Either way, there is clear awareness in Christian churches today,

that we have entered a time unlike any other in recent memory. We need to pray about it. We need to live out the Good News of Jesus in ways that will connect, especially with those who have not heard of Jesus Christ or who have left the church because of how the church behaves. We can't operate with what some have called “Little Bo Peep Evangelism”—leave them alone, and they'll come home. They aren't; we can't.

On March 18, we'll continue to look for the new roads God may be opening up before us. I invite you to come and be part of this gathering: 5pm potluck meal, a presentation & conversation with Dr. Terri Elton, Luther Seminary, and then time for prayer and worship.

There is no greater burden on my heart these days, than asking these questions of what God is calling us—Christ's church—to be and do in these fluid times. I hope you will come and be part of this prayerful discerning.

“Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them . . . As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.”

Jesus knew that his disciples would not understand anything he was saying until after they had seen him die and then rise from the dead. There is no new life, no joy, unless God puts to death some part of us: our pride, our strivings, our hypocrisy—in short, our sin. So each of us may wonder: What's getting in the way of my sharing of the Good news? What are the presumptions and assumptions that I carry, that we together carry? What is it that needs to be crucified in me, in us? I don't pretend to have easy answers, but I can assure you that I, our staff and our leaders are in prayer about these questions.

At the end of February we will enter the season of Lent with the theme, *“The Cross: Grace Trumps Judgment.”* I pray that this theme might provide both the grace by which you and I live, and which we give to others each day.

Pastor Dee

VISION STATEMENT

Bethlehem Lutheran Church will be a welcoming community of Christ's disciples -

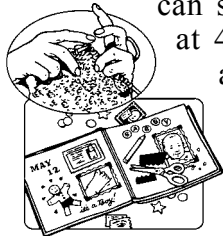
- + called by the Holy Spirit,
- + rooted in prayer,
- + inspired by God's Word, and
- + sent as faithful witnesses to proclaim God's love for the world.

World Day of Prayer

Women, men and children in more than 170 countries and regions will celebrate World Day of Prayer, Friday, March 2, 2012. The women of Malaysia have written the service around the theme "Let Justice Prevail." Locally the prayer service will start at 1pm at St Augustine's Catholic Church and will be followed by a time of fellowship.

Crafting Weekend

Crafters: please join in a weekend of crafting & fellowship March 8 & 9 at Bethlehem. You can start setting up at 4pm on Friday and craft until 9pm. You can even leave your projects set out and continue where you left off starting at 9am on Saturday. The space is free, but we need reservations! Bring your own snacks & drinks; meals are on your own. Please contact Lori at 253-3084 or ljbuegler@charter.net by Monday, March 5.



News for:

Women of Bethlehem

March Circle Schedule

Tuesday, March 6

Esther: 1pm Bea Score's
3700 W St Germain, #214; StC

Eunice: 1pm Mary Room

Miriam: 9:30am Jan Dahl's
1008 Kilian Blvd; StC

Naomi: 12pm Lou Ann Jopp's
23086 Cty Rd 44; Clearwater

Priscilla: 2:30pm Magi Room



Monday, March 12

Phoebe: 7pm Karen Henneman's
1669 Southwood Trail; StC

Spring Women's Retreat

March 24 & 25 at Breezy Point

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

Women's Week at Luther Crest Bible Camp "Middle of the Wheel"

Mark Your Calendars: June 24-29

A week long summer camp designed specifically for women of all ages, plus, programs are provided for children Age 0 through Gr. 8.

Visit www.luthercrest.org for more information

Concordia Choir Concert Feb. 19

The Concordia Choir from Concordia College, Moorhead, under the direction of René

Clausen, will present a concert of spirituals and hymns at Bethlehem on Sunday, February 19 at 4pm.

The 72-voice Choir is widely considered one of the world's premier undergraduate vocal ensembles that tours the world, sings for royalty and garners praise from critics. Tickets will be available at the door: \$15/adult and \$10/student.



Family Sledding

Bring your sleds, tubes, snowboards and join in the BLC Family Sledding event at Riverside Park on Sunday, February 26, 2-4pm. Event will be rescheduled or cancelled if snow conditions don't improve! Call Shelly with questions, 492-0789.

Feb. 19 - March 31, 2012 Bethlehem Lutheran

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10:10 am Education Hour 11 am Worship 12:15 pm New Members 12:30 pm Worship <i>Sudanese language</i> 1 pm Jr High Trip Meeting 2 pm Worship <i>St Ben's</i> 4 pm Concordia Concert 4 pm Sr High Trip Meeting	20 <i>Church Offices CLOSED</i> 7:15 am Sr High Breakfast 9 am LEAPP FROG Day Camp 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 10 am Prayer Shawls 6 pm Lent Sanctuary prep 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	21 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 6 pm So. Sudanese ELL 6:15 pm Bells of Bethlehem 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 14 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	22 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 8 am Prayer Group 9 am Preschool 9 am BLP Parent Ed 5:30 pm Lenten Meal 6:30 pm Worship--Ash Wednesday	23 9 am Preschool 9 am Preschool Families Coffee & Conversation 10 am Wedding Team Mtg. 1:30 pm Renovare 6 pm So. Sudanese ELL 6:30 pm Alzheimer's "Get the Facts" 7:15 pm Be Alive! rehearsal 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	24 9 am Preschool 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	25 9 am Baptism Orientation 9 am Suzuki Studio 10 am Prayer Milestones 11:30 am BLC serves Community Meal 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
Church of the Week February 20-26. Want to help? Check the SERVE Board						
26 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10:10 am Education Hour 10:30 am New Members 11 am Worship 11:30 am So. Sudanese ELL Conversations 12 pm SS Teachers Mtg 12:30 pm Nuer Bible Study 2 pm Bold Women's Day 6 pm Great River Chorale CotW	27 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 11 am Preschool Chapel 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	28 9 am Preschool 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 12:15 pm Women of BLC 6 pm So. Sudanese ELL 6:15 pm Bells of Bethlehem 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 14 7:30 pm Pastor Steve's Mutual Ministry Team 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	29 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 5:30 pm Lenten Meal 6:30 pm Worship 7:15 pm Confirmation 7:15 pm Adult Choir 8 pm Sr High Movie Nite	March 1 9 am Preschool 9 am Preschool Families Coffee & Conversation 9 am Healthy Clergy 1:30 pm Renovare 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	2 9 am Preschool 1 pm World Day of Prayer at St Augustine's 1:30 pm Renovare 2 pm ELL Conversations 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	3 11 am So. Sudanese Fundraiser 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
4 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10:10 am Adult Ed Forum 11 am Worship 12:30 pm Worship <i>Sudanese language</i>	5 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	6 9:30 am Miriam Circle 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 12 pm Naomi Circle 1 pm Esther Circle 1 pm Eunice Circle 4:30 pm Hymn Planning 6 pm So. Sudanese ELL 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 5:30 pm Lenten Meal 6:30 pm Worship 7 pm Adult Choir	8 1:30 pm Renovare 6 pm So. Sudanese ELL 6:30 pm BeFriends 7:15 pm Be Alive! ensemble 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	9 7:30 am Personnel Comm. 2 pm ELL Conversations 4 pm Scrapbooking/Crafting Weekend 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	10 9 am Scrapbooking/Crafting Weekend 10:30 am So. Sudanese Ministry Board 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
11 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10:10 am Education Hour 11 am Worship 11:30 am So. Sudanese ELL Conversations 12 pm Jr LEAPP FROGS 12:30 pm Nuer Bible Study 1:30 pm Sr LEAPP FROGS 4 pm Sr High Trip Meeting 6 pm Great River Chorale	12 7:15 am Sr High Breakfast 9 am Preschool 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 11 am Preschool Chapel 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study 7 pm Phoebe Circle	13 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 5:45 pm Church Council 6 pm So. Sudanese ELL 6:15 pm Bells of Bethlehem 6:45 pm Church Boards 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 5 pm STAR Deadline 5:30 pm Lenten Meal 6:30 pm Worship 7:15 pm Confirmation 7:15 pm Adult Choir 8 pm Sr High Movie Nite	15 9 am Preschool 9 am Preschool Families Coffee & Conversation 12 pm Friendship Lunch 1:30 pm Renovare 6 pm So. Sudanese ELL 7:15 pm Be Alive! ensemble 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	16 9 am Preschool 2 pm ELL Conversations 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	17 9 am Liturgical Environ Design Team 10 am Gr 2 Milestone 10:30 am African Women's Alliance Board Mtg. 12 pm Mystery Mission 5 pm Worship 6 pm Beginning Experience 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
18 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10:10 am Education Hour 10:10 am Special Congregational Mtg 11 am Worship 12:30 pm Worship <i>Sudanese language</i> 1 pm Jr High Trip Meeting 4 pm Sr High Trip Meeting 5 pm <i>Forward into God's Future</i> gathering	19 7:15 am Sr High Breakfast 9 am Preschool 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 11 am Preschool Chapel 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 6 pm So. Sudanese ELL 6:15 pm Bells of Bethlehem 6:30 pm African Women's Alliance Book Study 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 5:30 pm Lenten Meal 6:30 pm Worship 7:15 pm Confirmation 7:15 pm Adult Choir 8 pm Sr High Movie Nite	22 9 am Preschool 9 am Preschool Families Coffee & Conversation 1:30 pm Renovare 6 pm So. Sudanese ELL 6:30 pm Alzheimer's "Get the Facts" 7:15 pm Be Alive! rehearsal 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	23 9 am Preschool 2 pm ELL Conversations 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	24 9 am Baptism Orientation 9 am Suzuki Studio 10 am Women's Spring Retreat 11:30 am BLC serves Community Meal 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
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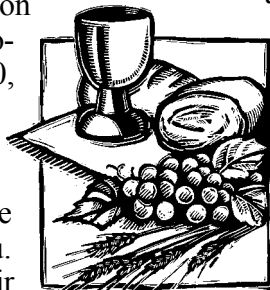
LEAPP FROG Day Camp

Students in Kindergarten–Gr. 4: Don't miss this opportunity to hang out with the LEAPP FROGS in a day packed with fun on the Presidents Day holiday, February 20 from 9am to 3pm! Campers will spend time with the LEAPP FROGS singing, crafting, playing games, watching skits, hearing Bible stories, eating snacks and worshipping in really amazing ways! Registration forms are available outside of the Discipleship Ministry Office; cost is \$15/student.

First Communion Instruction

Third grade students and their parents are invited to attend the First Communion Milestone. This Milestone has a two-part instruction: Friday, March 30, 5:30-9pm and Saturday, March 31, 10am-2pm. Families will learn more about this sacrament and also get suggestions on how to share your faith with those around you. Students will also be decorating their own chalice from *Art As You Like It*. This special event will be celebrated on Maundy Thursday, April 5 at the 6:30pm service. Please RSVP to Lisa in the Discipleship Office; a \$20 registration fee for chalices and supplies.

This is a Milestone requires *a lot* of behind the scenes work. If you are interested in helping with this Milestone contact Melanie. People are needed to pop popcorn, donate a dish of food for the Friday Meal, as well as meal prep and clean up.



HOLY COMMUNION

Second Grade Bible Milestone

To assist parents and Faith Circles in keeping their Baptismal promises the Second Grade Milestone places the Scriptures in the hands of these young readers. On Saturday, March 17 at 10am students will explore the Hands-On Bible with parents and members of their Faith Circle. This Bible is written in a way that encourages children & families to dive deeper into God's Word and is the Bible used during Sunday School time. The cost of the Bible is \$10. Please RSVP to Lisa in the Discipleship office so we have enough Bibles for everyone. This Milestone will be celebrated on March 18 at your choice of the 9 or 11am service.

Kindergarteners Learn to Pray

Kindergarten students, their families and members of their Faith Circle are invited to the Learning to Pray Milestone instruction on Saturday, February 25 at 10am. This Milestone will be celebrated on February 26 at your choice of the 9 or 11am service. Please RSVP for either Milestone with Lisa in the Discipleship Office so that we have supplies prepared for everyone!

First Graders Lead Lord's Prayer

First Grade families: Invite your student's Faith Circle to join you in The Lord's Prayer Milestone on February 25 at 10am. Pastor Janine will lead us in activities that will help us discover the meaning and joy of praying this special prayer. Please RSVP to Lisa in the Discipleship office so we have enough supplies for everyone. These students will lead the congregation in The Lord's Prayer at your choice of the 9 or 11am service on February 26. As with every Milestone this helps everyone to engage more deeply in the promises made in Baptism!

Mystery Mission Scavenger Hunt

The next Mystery Mission for Fifth & Sixth Graders is a Food Shelf Scavenger Hunt on Saturday, March 17! Parents join your child at BLC at noon for rules and guidelines. Then spend two hours gathering Food Shelf donations, returning to Bethlehem by 2pm for the awards ceremony featuring amazing prizes!!! Please RSVP to Melanie if you are interested in joining this mission.

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

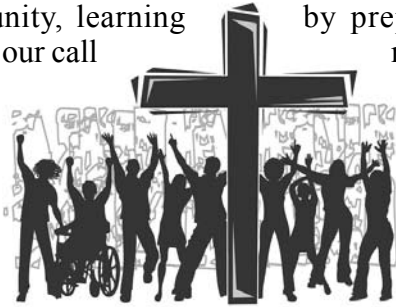
Ministry with Adults & Families: Katie Christensen
251.8356 x132 or katie@bethlehemlutheran.org

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

Prep for National Youth Gathering Continues

Students and adults preparing for the next summer's trip to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans are having a blast! In all 43 youth, and 21 adults are working together to prepare for this event. Students are spending time building community, learning about justice and our call as partners in God's mission in the world and getting ready to be sent out as ambassadors of Christ. We go back to New Orleans ready



2012 ELCA Youth Gathering citizens with the saints

to learn and grow in new ways and eager to be partners with all the people we meet along the way!

This month, February 19, 4-7pm, participants will be assisting with Bethlehem's hosting of Church of the Week by preparing and serving meals.

Thanks to the congregation for their prayer and financial backing through your support of fundraisers. We couldn't get there without you!

Let the Good Times Roll

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

And mark your calendars for our next event on Friday, April 13. We'll be baking cookies and watching a movie with popcorn! More details to come in the next issue of *The STAR*.

Summertime Mystery Missions

Mystery Mission is designed students Grades 5 & 6. All missions will be at Bethlehem from 6:30-8pm on the following dates June 13, 21, & 27; July 3, 11, & 19; and August 1, 9, & 15. This year we are asking for students to register in advance. Look for registration forms online and at the Discipleship Office starting on March 1. As always friends are welcomed to participate! Parents are asked to attend at least one of the sessions and to be prepared for *FUN!* We'll soon be looking for college interns for this program, more details in the next issue of *The STAR!*

**MYSTERY
MISSION**



Bold Believers Returns for 2012

Students in Grades 3 & 4 have a place on the B-Squad—Bethlehem's Bold Believers! We will be meeting once a month from 6:30 to 8pm: June 20, July 11 and August 15. This year we are asking for students to register in advance. Look for registration forms online and at the Discipleship Office starting on March 1. Invite your friends, they are welcome too! Parents are asked to attend at least one of the evenings to assist the summer interns and to join in the *FUN!*

VBS & Day Camp Rolled Into One

Join the staff of Luther Crest Bible Camp right here at Bethlehem the week of July 22-26 for VBS! Our theme is Splashing into the Center of God's Word. Camp begins at 9am; preschoolers will wrap up at 11:30am and camp ends at 3pm for Kindergarten-Gr. 6. Luther Crest Staff will run the Day Camp and Bethlehem congregation members will support the preschoolers. Look for registration forms coming March 1! Vacation Bible School is a great way to connect with our young families; talk to Melanie about how to get involved in this exciting opportunity!

BLC at Luther Crest June 24-28

Students in Grades 3 to 6 are encouraged to attend Luther Crest Bible Camp for BLC Week June 24-28. The 2012 summer theme is "Middle of the Wheel," which focuses on making God the center of our life. Each day campers will grow in their faith as they learn fun, new ways to talk about the Bible, make crafts, play games, hang out at the beach and praise God through meaningful worships and campfires. Campers will be supervised by college staff-members who have received two weeks of intensive training. Look for registration forms by the Discipleship Office or check out www.luthercrest.org for more information.

Moms of Tweens/Teens Invited to View & Discuss the Movie *Thirteen*

Are you a mom with a tween or already deep in the midst of parenting a teen? Join other moms of tweens & teens on Thursday, March 1, 6-8:30pm, as we view the movie *Thirteen* and then discuss the joy, challenges, fears and faith involved in parenting a teenager. This movie will not be edited and some may find the content difficult to watch or even offensive. *Thirteen* is a screenplay written by a 13 year-old girl who was in a downward spiral, pushed to the edge by the pressures of wanting to fit in and the struggles of her personal life. This is one child's story but there are many things to be learned about the pressures of our children's world. It will also offer insight on how we as parents can reflect the light of Christ into what can sometimes feel like a dark world for our teens. RSVP with Katie if you plan to attend.

Milestones at Bethlehem: *Observations of a Grandmother*

Being a curious grandmother, I attended the training session on Saturday, January 14 for Building Faith Circles Milestone. It was for parents of infants & preschoolers and their children. Since my children never had specific opportunities like this when they were growing up in Bethlehem I wanted to check it out. I was impressed. The parents and children seemed comfortable with Melanie and Pastor Janine.

To me it was building on a parent's love for their child and giving them helpful hints on sharing their faith with their child. It was followed up with an appearance in one of the church services on Sunday where the congregation bestowed their blessings on the family. Church is like a big home to children where they know they are loved and belong.

—Cheryl Running

Faith Circles Provide the Encouragement Needed for Faith to Grow

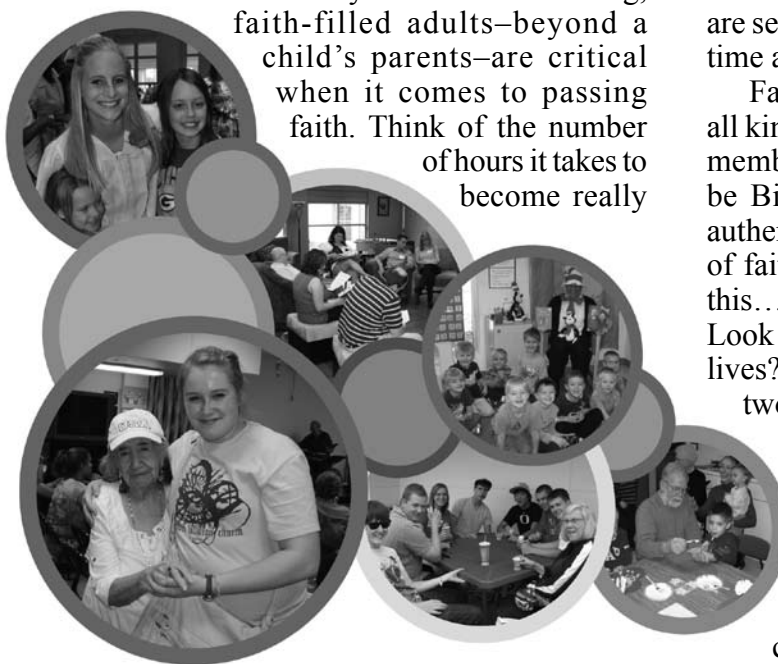
By now Faith Circles have become common language around Bethlehem. These are the people that surround each of us who love us and love God. These are the people that are available to journey with us through the hills and valleys of life and point to God's work in our lives. These are the people who become vessels by which the Holy Spirit does its work to pass faith!

Statistically we know that caring, faith-filled adults—beyond a child's parents—are critical when it comes to passing faith. Think of the number of hours it takes to become really

proficient at anything. I recently heard that anyone can become an expert on any instrument as long as they are willing to put in 10,000 hours. But, we can't become an expert musician simply by purchasing an instrument and sitting for 10,000 hours alone in a room squeaking out noises. We find teachers who can guide us, teach us, and encourage us and point us in the right direction. Faith is no different. We are not seeking to be spiritual experts but we are seeking to learn and grow in faith and that takes time and relationships of encouragement!

Faith Circles include people of all ages, with all kinds of interests and backgrounds. Faith Circle members don't need a degree in theology or to be Biblical experts. They need to be available, authentic, caring and willing to share the journey of faith with another. If you don't see yourself in this...think again! It includes ALL of God's people! Look around you. Who needs your witness in their lives? Start with baby steps. Make it a goal to meet two young people in the Square in the next few weeks. Look for them every week. Call them by name. Ask them what their interests are. Introduce yourself to their family. It may never go beyond this simple interaction but you may also never know how important that simple interaction might be to that one child!

—Katie Christensen



Preschool Registration

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

Adult Ed Forums for February & March

Grab a cup of coffee and join the Adult Ed Forum at 10:10am on Sundays in the Magi Room.

Feb. 19-*Being a Light to Our Changing Community*: Our exploration of the changing face of our community into which God has called us to be a light with a conversation with Mayor Dave Kleis.

Feb. 26-April 1-*Making Sense of The Cross*: Lent is that time when Christians around the world stop and reflect on the amazing power of the cross of Jesus Christ. Would it surprise you to know that when we do so,

there are many different ways we look at the cross? For some, the cross signifies an instrument of torture used to satisfy an angry God. For others, the cross is the ultimate example of God's love for the world. Neither of these understandings are wrong—but can they both be right? What about the other understandings of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross?

Join Pastors Dee, Steve and Janine as we explore Dr. David Lose's book, *Making Sense of the Cross*. Dr. Lose is a professor of Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary.

Day Camp Crafts Empty Bowls



Mystery Mission Day Campers decorated bowls which were donated to the Empty Bowls Soup Supper to be held on Sunday, March 25, 12-6pm at Calvary Community Church. Proceeds benefit Lutheran Social Services and Place of Hope. Campers also made a video highlighting hunger statistics and made a banner that is displayed near Peace Hall.

Have Questions of Faith?

Conversation on Christian Faith is an informal conversation on the Lutheran church and the core beliefs shared by Christians around the world. This conversation will take place on Saturday, April 14, 9-11:30am. For details contact LaNae Cobb, Welcome & Serving Ministries Coordinator, 251-8356x107 or lcobb@bethlehemlutheran.org

Next New Member Gatherings

Bethlehem's New Member process involves two learning gatherings and an opportunity to serve together, all based in a small group of about 3 households and a New Member Guide.

Introduction to Life at Bethlehem, Sunday, April 22, 12:15-3pm, is focused on the Vision & Mission of the congregation, ways to live out our discipleship. Lunch is provided.

Finding Your Neighborhood, Sunday, April 29, 12:15-2pm. Discover your gifts for serving following a welcome to BLC at 11am service and lunch together.

Serving Together is a time for New Member Small Groups to share fun & service together in a time, place & manner of their choosing.

Contact LaNae Cobb, Welcome & Serving Ministries Coordinator, lcobb@bethlehemlutheran.org or 251-8356x107 for details.

Set Aside Rummage Sale Donations

The Spring Rummage Sale is Saturday, April 28 from 9am to 1pm. Proceeds from the sale will benefit Bethlehem Youth (50%), Boy Scout Troop 14 (25%), and the Mission Quilters (25%). Donations will be accepted: Thursday, April 26, 12-6:30pm and Friday, April 27, 9am-6pm.

We are looking for good, clean used (or new) items for the sale. Clothing and household items are welcome. There is a "treasure room" for better items and antiques. The following cannot be accepted: computers, TVs, microwaves, electronics, cribs, car seats, bike helmets, and light fixtures.

Workers are needed on Thursday & Friday to set up the sale; sign up at the Serve Board in mid-March. *Questions?* Contact Cheryl, 251-3052.

Many Ways to Support BLC Youth Flower Sales Begin in March

Youth will be taking orders for flowers and bedding plants beginning in March.

Bake Sale on Palm Sunday

Stock up on Easter goodies at a Bake sale on Palm Sunday, April 1. Donations are also needed, bring in baked goods on Saturday morning.

Caramel Rolls at the Rummage Sale

Youth are selling fresh baked caramel rolls on the second Sunday of the month. They will also be baking them for the Spring Rummage Sale April 28. A portion of the Rummage Sale proceeds will also benefit youth.

Dinner Out Can Benefit Youth

Mark your calendar for days you can get a night off from cooking and support the youth of Bethlehem!

Monday, March 12, 11am-9pm @ Buffalo Wild Wings—Stop in for lunch or supper (or both!) Bring in the pre-printed coupon (*see page 11*) or tell them you are there to support BLC's Sr High Youth

Monday, April 16, 5-8pm @ Pizza Ranch*—Tell them you are there for BLC's Sr High Youth

Monday, May 14, 5-8pm @ Pizza Ranch*—Tell them you are there to support Bethlehem's Jr High Youth

**Pizza Ranch doesn't accept discounts or coupons on fundraiser nights.*

Donations from BLC increase as need increases Giving During FoodShare Month Increases the Impact of Donations

March is Minnesota FoodShare Month. All donations to our mission partner, Catholic Charities Caritas Emergency Food Shelf, are supplemented by corporate donations. This is the most powerful time of the year to support this important work.

Even as Food Shelves across the state were feeling the impact of the economic recession, both in lagging donations and increasing use, the people of Bethlehem continued to grow in their generosity supporting the work of our community partners.

Monetary donations are preferred. The food shelf can leverage various discount purchasing programs to stretch each dollar further and it also gives them the flexibility to purchase perishable meat, dairy and produce. Let's make 2012 another year of growth in Bethlehem's giving to local food needs!



Special Congregational Meeting March 18, 10:10am

For the sole purpose of: taking action on the Church Council's recommendation related to the repair of the sanctuary roof.

2011 Ends Strong and Now We are Looking Ahead to 2012

Thank you for your generosity that allowed Bethlehem to finish 2011 strong. Together our gifts make mission happen!

Thank you, too, to all those who have made the following commitments for 2012:

Our Congregation's General Ministry

288 pledges for \$511,255

Our Congregation's Building Mortgage

288 pledges for \$184,940

Build Up Mortgage Reduction Appeal

224 pledges for \$204,726

May God bless our ministries for the sake of Jesus.

Thanks for Support

5 Guys Burger & Fries along with the Sr High Youth would like to send out a "THANK YOU" to all those that supported us at the fundraiser on January 18!

Birthday Thanks

Jan Dahl extends a special thank you to the Adult Choir for a very special 90th Birthday celebration as part of their Christmas/Epiphany Party.

Fundraiser Applications

The Congregational Life Board is accepting applications currently until March 31 for ministries interested in coordinating BLC's Fall Rummage Sale.

Recent Pastoral Acts

Funerals

January 18, 1924-January 24, 2012
Esther L. Millard

September 4, 1927-January 30, 2012
Phyllis J. Shern

June 26, 1920-February 3, 2012
Archie N. Weflen

Baptisms

January 21, 2012
Reid Landwehr Frantesl

January 22, 2012
Reagan Anne Loch

January 28, 2012
Kinsley Mara Zellmann

January 29, 2012
Isaac Nicholas Sanner
Isaac Myron Thompson

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.

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AN APPETIZING WAY TO RAISE FUNDS FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION

EAT WINGS. RAISE FUNDS. IT PAYS.

On the day of your event, Buffalo Wild Wings® will donate 15% of all pre-taxed food sales (less alcohol and promotional discounts) from any guest that presents this fundraising ticket.

We look forward to helping your organization meet its financial goals. Together, we can make a positive impact and help keep our community working and playing together.

(Present this ticket to your server on the date & time listed below)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Sr High Youth Group
Monday, March 12, 2012
11am – 9pm
Dine In and Take Out

ADMIT 1
ONE TICKET TO ONE MEAL

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: Dennis Webster [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]

Custodians: Denise Bromenschenkel; John Gatdet; Bruce Wagner

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: Pat Plamann

Secretary: Larry Ketchum

Church Council

Church in Society: Stacie Black

Congregational Life: Tamara Huesers

Evangelism: Jake Miller

Preschool:

Property:

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 be 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.

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www.bethlehemlutheran.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Mission Quilters Thank You for Successful Year

The Women of Bethlehem and the Mission Quilters send a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped make 2011 successful. A special thank you to the 15 women who took quilt kits home and sewed 39 quilt tops which were later tied, finished and sent to Lutheran World Relief (LWR). We also give thanks for the two large fabric donations which came at a time when our supplies were very low.

In 2011 we completed 663 quilts, 109 health kits, 133 school kits, and 119 layettes. 574 quilts were sent to Lutheran World Relief, 69 quilts were given to Anna Marie's Shelter, Place of Hope and the Salvation Army. The remaining 20 quilts were given to Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, who gave them to children affected by last spring's tornado in North Minneapolis.

Shipping costs LWR \$2.25/quilt, \$1.30/layette, \$2.65/health kit, and \$1.40/school kit. The Women of Bethlehem and the Mission Quilters contributed \$1,000 each, to cover the shipping of our quilts & kits.

How can you help 2012 be another successful year? We can use people who can sew quilt tops at home. Contact Jane at janemast@charter.net for kits. *Can you tie your shoes?* Then, you can tie a quilt top. We meet on most Monday and Tuesday mornings in the Mary Room. If you are interested in some non-sewing activities contact Jerry at 253-6329.

Again, thank you to everyone who has offered their time, talent, dollars, supplies and prayers. Our mission projects are truly a reflection of many caring hands and hearts!

A congregation of the
 **Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.