

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.

January-February 18, 2012

Vol. 44, No. 1

A New Year, A New Reality for Ministry

2012 is beginning, and our God is One who specializes in new beginnings:

- becoming one of us in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
- bringing life out of death,
- sending the church into God's mission in the world.

So we shouldn't be surprised that God continues to work to bring about new things in our lives today. Long ago, God spoke through the prophet, *"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"* Isaiah 43:25.

During the past year, our Bethlehem leaders and staff have been praying about the new things God may intend to do through our congregation as we follow Jesus into the future. We know that we are doing ministry today in a world that is radically different than the one in which many of us were raised.

• Church membership and worship attendance have declined across all Christian churches.

• People are not staying with the church in which they grew up.

• People report that they are spiritual, but not religious.

• The biggest gains are with those who cite "no affiliation" for faith connection.

• One source states that 4% of Generation Y (those under 30 years of age) are in a church service regularly.

Given this changed reality, we're working to better understand what God is calling our 103-year-old congregation to be and do today. We have some hunches about how important it is to

be a community of disciples deeply committed to building relationships, extending hospitality, imagining new ways to do faith formation, and considering how worship might speak especially to young adults who are not connected to a church. We're listening to God's Word and to each other, and taking cues from our St. Cloud area community. It seems that today, our congregation is being called in new ways to be a mission outpost on a mission field, and God is sending each of us to be missionaries – right here!

Interested in joining the conversation? Now is the perfect time! Gather with other Bethlehem folk who have been thinking about these questions for a number of months now as part of the "Forward into God's Future" effort. On Sunday, January 8, 5–7pm, we'll come together for a meal, brief worship, and conversation. All are welcome. Feel free to talk to any of us if you'd like to learn more or to sign up.

Today – the future has arrived! Swedish diplomat Dag Hammarskjold put it well, *"For all that has been, thanks. For all that is yet to be, Yes."* As we enter 2012, please join us in walking into God's future by rediscovering and recommitting ourselves to the ancient practices of discipleship that are at the heart of Bethlehem's mission statement: worship, pray, learn, give, and serve.

+ Your pastors in Christ,

Pastor Lee
Pastor Steve *Pastor June*

Dinner at Five Guys Supports BLC

Enjoy a quick dinner before Confirmation or choir on Wednesday, January 18 at

Five Guys Burgers and Fries and 10% of your purchase will be donated to Bethlehem's

Sr. High Youth attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans next summer.



News for:

Women of Bethlehem

Women's Circle Schedule



Monday, January 9

Phoebe: 7pm Deidra Anderson's
1169 Willow Run Ct; WP

Tuesday, January 10

Esther: 1pm Shirley Youngner's
4005 24th St S #319; StC

Tuesday, February 7

Esther: 1pm Walene Fairbanks'
Park Place Community Room; StC

Eunice: 1pm Mary Room

Miriam: 9:30am Carol LeBon's
1015 Diamond Willow Cir; WP

Naomi: 12pm Mary Rethmeier's
4125 6th St S; StC

Priscilla: 3pm Magi Room

Monday, February 13

Phoebe: 7pm Deidra Anderson's
1169 Willow Run Ct; WP

Global Mission Weekend—Jan. 28/29

Bethlehem is a community that serves locally, regionally, nationally and even internationally. On January 28 & 29 we will celebrate our international partnerships with the Lutheran Church in Liberia and the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. In Liberia we are helping to reestablish a congregation & mission station in Sinoe County—the home area of Sampson & Vicky Sarclay. In Ethiopia & South Sudan we support ministry among Nuer people, in particular a regional clinic and are making plans to fund the training of two evangelists/community leaders through Mekane Yesus. All weekend there will be opportunities to learn about and financially support these partners; watch the announcement pages, website and Facebook for details!

Exchange Your White Elephants at Next Couples Group Event

Don't miss what has become an annual Couples Group post-holiday tradition: the White Elephant Exchange at Beth & Kevin Donnelly's is January 14. Bring your White Elephant (Don't buy it; check your closet, garage & basement!), a dish to share and your own beverages. The fun begins at 6:30pm. RSVP to kbdonnelly@charter.net.

Everyone is always welcome to participate in this group; couples can include bringing a friend! *Questions?* Contact Brock or Marnie Swanson at swansonbrock@yahoo.com or marnieswanson@hotmail.com.



It's Time to Apply for Church's College Scholarships

Application materials for all four scholarships are now available from the church office and must be returned by February 1, 2012. Students home on break should take this opportunity to complete their application for next year.

Students who will be attending any ELCA college in the 2012-13 school year may apply for the *Shirley Schrader Scholarship*.

The *Clarence A. and Katherine N. Melby Scholarship* is available to students who will be attending Concordia College, Moorhead, MN.

The *Debbie Rondeau Memorial Scholarship* is awarded to two first-year students of any public or private college.

The *Norman & Lorraine Thomas Health Care Vocations Scholarship Fund* is intended for Bethlehem members preparing for health care professions at any public or private institution.

Crafting Weekend January 27 & 28

Crafters: please join in a weekend of crafting & fellowship January 27 & 28 at Bethlehem. You can start setting up at 4pm on Friday and craft until 10pm. 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 your reservation! Bring your own snacks & drinks; meals are on your own. To reserve your table, please contact Lori at 253-3084 or ljbuegler@charter.net by Monday, January 23.

Jan. 4 - Feb. 18, 2012 Bethlehem Lutheran

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			4 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 8 am Prayer Group 9 am Preschool 9 am BLP Parent Ed 5 pm Wednesday SS ★56 6:15 pm Childrens Choir 6:30 pm Confirmation 7 pm Adult Choir 8 pm Sr High Movie Nite	5 7:30 am Executive Comm. 9 am Preschool 9 am Preschool Families Coffee & Conversation 9 am Healthy Clergy 5:45 pm Heritage Quilters 7 pm Columbarium Comm 7:30 pm Service on Ch. 12	6 9 am Preschool 6 pm BLC Staff Epiphany Party 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	7 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
8 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10 am SS Teachers' Mtg. 10:10 am Education Hour 11 am Worship 12:30 pm Nuer Bible Study 5 pm Forward into God's Future 6:30 pm ANTHONNIS Bells	9 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 7 pm Phoebe Circle	10 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 1 pm Esther Circle 5:45 pm Church Council 6:15 pm Bells of Bethlehem 6:30 pm Troop 14 Adults 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)	11 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 6:15 pm Childrens Choir 6:30 pm Confirmation 7 pm Adult Choir 8 pm Sr High Movie Nite	12 9 am Preschool 9 am Preschool Families Coffee & Conversation 6:30 pm BeFriends 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	13 9 am Preschool 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	14 10 am Building Faith Circles Milestone 10:30 am So. Sudanese Ministry Board 5 pm Worship 6 pm Beginning Experience 6:30 pm Couples Group at Donnelly's 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
15 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10:10 am Education Hour 11 am Worship 12 pm Jr LEAPP FROGS 12:30 pm Worship <i>Sudanese language</i> 1:30 pm LEAPP FROGS 2 pm Worship St Ben's 6 pm Great River Chorale 6:30 pm ANTHONNIS Bells	16 <i>Church Offices CLOSED</i> 7:15 am Sr High Breakfast 9 am LEAPP FROG Day Camp	17 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Mystery Mission 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 6 pm Mutual Ministry Teams 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)	18 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 6:15 pm Childrens Choir 6:30 pm Confirmation 7 pm Adult Choir 8 pm Sr High Movie Nite	19 9 am Preschool 9 am Preschool Families Coffee & Conversation 12 pm Friendship Lunch 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	20 9 am Preschool 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	21 8 am Cub Scout Pack 113 Pinewood Derby 9 am Baptism Orientation 10:30 am African Women's Alliance Board 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
22 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10:10 am Education Hour 11 am Worship 12:30 pm Nuer Bible Study 4 pm Sr High Trip Meeting 6:30 pm ANTHONNIS Bells	23 7:15 am Sr High Breakfast 9 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 11 am Preschool Chapel 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	24 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 12:15 pm Women of BLC 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)	25 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 6:15 pm Childrens Choir 6:30 pm Confirmation 7 pm Adult Choir 8 pm Sr High Movie Nite	26 9 am Preschool 9 am Preschool Families Coffee & Conversation 6:30 pm Alzheimer's Assoc. 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	27 9 am Preschool 4 pm Scrapbooking/Crafting Weekend 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	28 9 am Scrapbooking/Crafting Weekend 11:30 am Community Meal at Hope Covenant 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
29 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10:10 am Education Hour 11 am Worship 12:30 pm Worship <i>Sudanese language</i> 6 pm Great River Chorale 6:30 pm ANTHONNIS Bells	30 7:15 am Sr High Breakfast 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	31 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 6 pm Preschool Staff First Aid & CPR Training 6:15 pm Bells of Bethlehem 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 14 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	February 1 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 8 am Prayer Group 9 am Preschool 9 am BLP Parent Ed 5 pm Wednesday SS ★56 5 pm STAR Deadline 6:15 pm Childrens Choir 6:30 pm Confirmation 7 pm Adult Choir 8 pm Sr High Movie Nite	2 9 am Preschool 9 am Preschool Families Coffee & Conversation 9 am Healthy Clergy 5:45 pm Heritage Quilters 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	3 9 am Preschool 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	4 10 am Gr. 4 & 5 Serve and Give Milestones 12 pm Mystery Mission 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
5 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10:10 am Education Hour 11 am Worship 12:30 pm Sudanese Worship Service 6:30 pm ANTHONNIS Bells	6 7:15 am Sr High Breakfast 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	7 <i>See Circle Schedule</i> 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 10 am BLP Staff Meeting 4:30 pm Hymn Planning 6:15 pm Bells of Bethlehem 6:30 pm Troop 14 Adults 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 14 7 pm Youth Advisory Team 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	8 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 6:15 pm Childrens Choir 6:30 pm Confirmation 7 pm Adult Choir 8 pm Sr High Movie Nite	9 9 am Preschool 9 am Preschool Families Coffee & Conversation 6:30 pm BeFriends 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	10 9 am Preschool 5:30 pm Engaged Workshop 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	11 9 am Conversations on Christian Faith 9 am Engaged Workshop 10:30 am So. Sudanese Ministry Board 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
12 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10:10 am Education Hour 11 am Worship 12 pm Jr LEAPP FROGS 12:30 pm Nuer Bible Study 1:30 pm LEAPP FROGS 5 pm Building on Forward Momentum 6 pm Great River Chorale	13 7:15 am Sr High Breakfast 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 7 pm Phoebe Circle	14 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 5:45 pm Church Council 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)	15 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 8 am Prayer Group 9 am STAR Mailed 9 am Preschool 5 pm Wednesday SS ★56 6:15 pm Childrens Choir 6:30 pm Confirmation 7 pm Adult Choir 8 pm Sr High Movie Nite	16 9 am Preschool 9 am Preschool Families Coffee & Conversation 12 pm Friendship Lunch 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	17 9 am Preschool 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	18 10:30 am African Women's Alliance Board 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Building Faith Circles Milestone

Being parents of young children brings many responsibilities, including guiding your children's faith life. *Are your children able to identify at least 10 people in their lives who love them and love God? Are YOU able to identify at least 10 people who love you and love God?* Parents of infants and toddlers are invited to attend this Milestone instruction each year with their children to be equipped with new and exciting ways of encouraging their child's growing faith. This instruction is taking place on January 14 at 10am and will be celebrated in worship at your choice of service on Sunday, January 15.



Milestones for Grades 4 & 5

On February 4, 10am, students in Grade 4 and their parents are encouraged to attend the Milestone: Disciples SERVE. Working with the LEAPP FROGs, we will be looking at how we can serve God using our talents in worship & praise and to share God's love with others.

The Grade 5 Milestone: Disciples GIVE is also February 4, 10am. Using Thrivent Financial for Lutherans' curriculum, *Parents, Kids, and Money Matters* parents and Fifth 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

Please RSVP for either Milestone with Lisa in the Discipleship Office.

Kindergarten and Gr. 1 Milestone

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

LEAPP FROG Day Camps

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 Martin Luther King holiday, January 16! The regular day camp hours go from 9am to 3pm; an extended day option is offered from 7:30 to 9am. Campers will spend time with the LEAPP FROGs singing, crafting, playing games, watching skits, hearing Bible stories, eating snacks and worshiping in really amazing ways! There will be another similar opportunity on February 20 for Presidents Day.

Registration forms are available outside of the Discipleship Ministry Office. Individual registration is \$15 for one day camp or \$25 for both camps. There is a family cap on the cost and limited amounts of scholarship are available by talking to Katie or any of Bethlehem's pastors.

Note for FROGs: Meeting date change, we will meet on Sunday, January 15, Jr High: 12-1:30pm and Sr High: 1-2:30pm to prep for the Day Camp.

Thanks to Advent Skit Players

Thank you to the wonderfully talented children who introduced the Advent Gospel lessons through creative skits: Carl Balfanz, Maddie Davidson, Grace Davidson, Sonja Felsch, Zoe Felsch, Sarah Fujan, Anna Hartung, Emily Hartung, Erin Hartung, Gunnar Johnson, Katie Miller, Owen Miller, Allison Mueller, Becca Nikolas, Madeline Preppernau, Chloe Schlough, Julia Schlough, Allison Seehusen, Kelsey Seehusen, and Tate Wagner

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

Gr. 7-9 Walkin' My Talk Milestone

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! During Confirmation on Wednesday, January 25 students and parents (one of the mandatory parent nights) will hear from guest speakers as we explore together the importance of making safe choices that reflect our faith.

Mystery Mission Fights Hunger

The next Mystery Mission for students in grades 5 & 6 will be a Day Camp on January 17, 9am-3pm. This mission will be to help address hunger locally in fun creative ways. Participants will be decorating soup bowls from *Art As You Like It* for the Empty Bowls Fundraiser in March. The bowls are used as "gifts" to those who attend the soup & bread supper as a reminder that someone's bowl is always empty. Cost is \$25/student (please bring a bag lunch) and pre-registrations are required!

Jr High Summer Trip!

The Jr High Summer Trip location has been chosen, but it's still a secret! The week of June 24-29 students in Grades 7 & 8 will be taking part in Mystery Missions (not to be confused with BLC's Mystery Mission day camps). Students will set out each day on a bus for unknown destinations across Minnesota where they will serve their neighbor in Christ's name. A couple of fun & adventure stops are also thrown into the mysterious schedule; you never know where the bus will be stopping next! Registrations are available outside the Discipleship Ministries Office. Registration closes January 18 or sooner if full!

W O R T H



February Mystery Mission is an Afternoon of Flips & Fun

Students in grades 5 & 6 are invited to meet at Air Maxx Trampoline Park from noon to 2pm on Saturday, February 4. The \$20 cost includes jump fee, socks, a snack, and a drink. Join us for an afternoon filled with dodge ball, foam pits, basketball and an overall bouncy good time! See Melanie for payment and to get a waiver form.

Adult Ed Forums

The Bible: Our Common Story

In January Pastor Steve will lead us through in discussion of some Bible Basics! Bring your Bibles and join us at 10:10 in the Magi Room for:

January 8: *Meet the Bible again; for the first time!*

January 15: *The story the Bible tells us*

January 22: *One story, many voices!*

January 29: *How to read the Bible & not get lost!*

Our Changing Community: the Church's Role

God's vision for the church is as a light to the nations. One body, working in the communities God has placed us to shine God's light of mercy & grace. As we look at this community we can identify many areas where we are called to shine that light. Join the pastors and special guests throughout the month of February as we look deeper into the changing face of our community. Watch the weekly Announcement Pages for specifics in late January.

NEW! Sr High Breakfast Club

Starting January 16, Sr High Youth are invited to begin your week with prayer, community and food! All 9-12 graders are invited to Katie Christensen's home for a light breakfast on Mondays from 7:15 to 8am. Please don't arrive any earlier as Katie will be getting her own kiddos out the door for school! Contact Katie for more details and directions.

Youth Use Movies to Explore Faith

On Wednesdays beginning at 8pm Sr High Youth are invited to gather to view a current movie one week and then the following week reviews the movie, dissecting its themes using the lenses of our faith and life experiences. Watch for movie titles and a discussion schedule. On movie watching nights this group meets until about 10pm and about 9pm on discussion nights.

Sr High Summer Trip is Underway

Each month, 43 Youth, and 21 adults are preparing their adventure to New Orleans this summer for the National Youth Gathering! The prayerful support of the congregation is so appreciated as we prepare for this experience! Upcoming meetings include January 22 & February 19 from 4-7pm.

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, February 11, 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, February 19, 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, February 26, 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.

2012 Commitment Cards

Thank you, thank you to the 219 households who returned Commitment Cards for the Build Up Appeal. To date total commitments, including ongoing electronic gifts, are \$500,675 for 2012 General Ministry, \$175,874 for 2012 Mortgage payments and \$200,541 for debt reduction and building preservation through the Build Up Appeal.

Commitment Cards may be returned in worship, by mail or in person to the Church Office. You can also contact our Director of Operations, Dennis Webster, and leave a confidential voice message (251-8356 x104) or send a confidential email (dwebster@bethlehemlutheran.org) to indicate your pledge.

New Members Welcomed November 27, 2011

Special Thanks to the small group guides for this session: Karen Beckman and Scott & Suzanne Stenseth. For information on Membership at Bethlehem see page 5.



Lynn-Brigette Boerger

Kari Christopherson

Sara Christopherson

Nate Gerlach & Ashley Anderson
Emmett

Cory & Kristine Grove
Ashlee & Kaylee

Roger & Dagny Oliver
Molly

Bart & Heather Mueller
Kyle, Allison, Garrett

Richard Waldoch & Kayla Marketon

Community Meal Team Seeking Winter Gear and Help with Meal

Bethlehem will serve the Saturday Community Meal on January 28. 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.

The Community Meal Team is also collecting gently used hats, mittens, gloves, scarves and new personal care products. Place donations in the "house" by the Serve Board.

Financial Update

as of 11/30/11

	Income	-	Expenses	=	Difference
General Fund¹	752,492	-	757,115	=	-4,623
Preschool	81,263	-	75,742	=	5,522
	Target	-	Received	=	Difference
Offering YTD²	706,800	-	718,210	=	11,410
	Offerings	-	Payments	=	Difference
Building Mortgage	185,065	-	215,042	=	-29,977

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.

Thanks for Feeding & Housing Our Neighbors

Thank you to all who have had a part in fighting hunger and homelessness in our community!

If you worked at or provided food for the monthly Community Meal, *thank you!*

If you served a meal, prepared food, provided breakfasts & snacks, drove a van or stayed overnight during Church of the Week, *thank you!*

If you delivered meals to the homebound through the Home Delivered Meals program, *thank you!*

If you contributed to the Catholic Charities Emergency Foodshelf or Bethlehem's Local Food Needs Fund, *thank you!*

Recent Pastoral Acts

Baptisms

November 19, 2011
Madelynn Kay Slettedahl

November 26, 2011
Emmett Nathaniel Anderson-Gerlach
Abby Joann Dreher

Funerals

August 20, 1926-November 9, 2011
Erna L. Cass

Wedding

November 11, 2011
Cary Mathew Pogatchnik
Monica Kay Lindlief

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.

A Thank You Note

A heartfelt thank you to the pastors and members of Bethlehem for your prayers, visits, cards and calls. Your encouragement and concern were greatly appreciated following my knee surgery. Blessings to you always,
—Sandy Burtness

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.

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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St. Cloud, MN



BETHLEHEM
Lutheran Church
4310 County Road 137
Saint Cloud, MN 56301

(320) 251-8356
www.bethlehemlutheran.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Preschool Registration for 2012-13 Opens Feb. 6

Where does the time go? It is already time to think ahead to the 2012-13 school year and plan for Preschool Registration. Registration opens February 6 for currently enrolled families, church members and alumni families. Please contact Anne Fuchsteiner in the Preschool office at 251-6775 or blpreschool@bethlehemlutheran.org, to be placed on our mailing list or schedule a visit to see just what BLP is all about!

Bethlehem Preschool is a wonderful place for children to grow and learn. It is also a place where families gather and form new friendships. Please give us consideration when choosing a program for your preschooler.

We will offer classes 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 starting at 7:30am and after class, 11:30am–12:30pm.

Building Preschool Family Connections

Preschool Families are welcome to gather in the Youth Room on Thursdays from 9:00-11:30am during the school year. This is a great time to connect with other preschool families and get the support & prayers needed to raise a family! All are welcome: moms, dads, grandmas, grandpas... Anyone who is a part of your

preschooler's Faith Circle is welcome join in the conversations and community of other preschool families. Young children are also welcome to join us. Coffee and treats will be provided. Contact Melanie Halter in the Discipleship Office, melanie@bethlehemlutheran.org or 251-8356x131 if you have any questions.

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