

The Bethlehem

Star

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Saint Cloud, Minnesota

July 1-August 17, 2011

Vol. 43, No. 5

In Summer Faith Grows Outside the Sanctuary

Worship Schedule

(through Sept. 4)

Saturday:

5:00 pm

Sunday:

8:30 am

10:30 am

12:00 pm*

*Nuer language service

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Join a Community Meal Team

Bethlehem will serve the Saturday Community Meal on July 23. 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. This is a wonderful opportunity for individuals, families and groups to serve others in our community!

Thrivent Builds Needs Your Help

This year's *Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity* is a twin home at 815 & 817 11th Ave SE in St. Cloud. Construction is underway and will continue through September.

Lutherans and Thrivent members are needed to fill 50% of the volunteer slots at this site in order for Habitat to receive the grant from Thrivent. Bethlehem has reserved Thursdays **July 7, 14, & 21** as **BLC work days**. Sign-up at the *SERVE* Board.

Donations are also needed. \$40,000 needs to be raised from Lutherans in order for Habitat to receive the Thrivent grant of over \$200,000! To make a donation, write a check to Bethlehem and note "Habitat" in the memo line.

Community Garden Work Nights

All are welcome to work in Bethlehem's Community Garden. Everyone who works in the garden—planting, weeding, mulching, watering—shares in the harvest, with a portion also being shared with Catholic Charities Food Shelf. You are welcome to work in the garden on whatever schedule works for you, just document your work in the logbook kept in the garden shed. *Want some fellowship while working?* Join the small group that gathers on **Wednesdays** from **6 to 8pm**. Water & lemonade are provided.

The Talahi Promise Lunch Program

You may have heard the troubling news of the great number of Talahi Elementary students living below the poverty level. *What can Bethlehem do to help?* Join in the Talahi Promise Lunch Program by preparing bag lunches at SCSU's Garvey Commons. The program operates Monday thru Wednesday through August. Sign up at the *SERVE* Board.

New Member Groups Spend Time Exploring *Made for Ministry*



Ginny (center) & **Bruce** (right) **Wagner** lead their **New Member Small Group** through the *Made for Ministry* workbook to help them discover ways in which they can serve at Bethlehem and the wider community. All new members work through this workbook and then do a community service project together. **Special Thanks** to our New Member Guides for May: **Bruce & Ginny Wagner** and **Marlys DeBettignies**.

Welcome New Members

The following members formally joined Bethlehem in mission & ministry on May 22.

Karen Beckman

Chad & Jennifer Emery

Heidi Halverson

Cody & Katrina Lorenzen
Ethan

Janene (Jan) Nelson

Jayson & Erin Osmundson
Sophie & Grace

Ivan & Becky Rodenberg

Daniel Shub

Jill Schwartz

Jamie & Melissa Slettedahl

Interested in Membership?

New Member gatherings will resume in the fall, watch for more information in the next issue of *The STAR*. Until then, please know that you are welcome in worship and all other ministries & events at BLC.

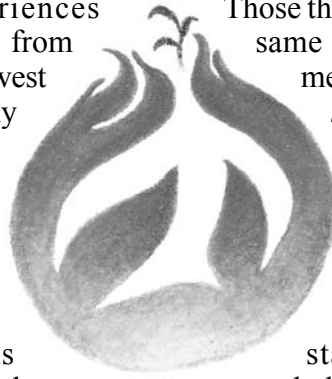
Over the summer months, while Pastor Dee is on Sabbatical, Pastor Janine & Pastor Steve are splitting this page of The STAR to share messages of hope & inspiration.

A Word from Pastor Janine . . .

As Disciples, We are Equipped to Find Hope in Darkness

My mind continues to contemplate the experiences shared by 660 people (9 from Bethlehem!) at the Southwest Minnesota Synod Assembly in St. Peter on June 9-12. The theme of that assembly was *Prairie Fire*. Now, as the chair of the synod assembly planning team I have been thinking about this theme for the past 10 months. It wasn't until June 9, however, that the reality of *Prairie Fire* hit me at my core.

Bishop Jon Anderson shared a picture of an actual prairie fire that he happened upon while driving through this synod. It was big. It



was scary. It was necessary. Those three thoughts in the same breath still catch me off guard. *Things like destructive fire necessary? Really? YES! Without a prairie fire things that need to be burned away stay too long and choke out the new life.*

Without a prairie fire, seeds that need the heat of that fire remain dormant and useless.

I began to think about our life at Bethlehem. *Do we have things that choke out new life? Are there seeds of great ideas and ministry*

moments that lie dormant, waiting for something to "crack" them open?

I truly don't have the answer to that question, but I do know that if God is directing the fire—through God's Holy Spirit—then the result will be truly beautiful. Our theme text for the weekend, Psalm 104:30 "*When you give them your breath, life is created, and you renew the face of the earth,*" gives us the promise of God's regenerative, life giving Spirit working in all parts of our life!

May we continue to lean on the fire of God's Holy Spirit to reveal in us those things that are no longer necessary and are choking out new, beautiful growth!

—Pastor Janine

A Word from Pastor Steve . . .

Where Have You Seen God at Work?

Our SWMN Synod Bishop, Jon Anderson, likes to ask this question. At the Synod Assembly earlier this month he asked this several times. "Where do you see God at work: . . . in your congregation? . . . in your community? . . . in this Assembly?"

Mostly I see God at work in small but powerful ways. I've seen God at work among adults and children in a terrific Family Vacation Bible School last week. I've seen sign of this Life when the Mission Quilters took time to invite "Emeritus" members to a special coffee, in the commissioning of a new BeFriender minister and in Board members welcoming newly elected members and planning for a great year in mission. And all this in just one week!

Small yet powerful

No big surprise! The God of the Bible, the God who Jesus taught us to call "our Father" specializes in working in small hidden ways. "*It is like yeast,*" Jesus said. "*Without it it's just flour and water. But knead a little yeast in – just a pinch! – and it goes to*

work and the dough rises. That is how the Kingdom of God works." Matthew 13:33

Keep your eyes open to see what God is up to all around, and then talk about what you see, so that we can all become more yeasty! We are, after all, a house of bread.

A time away

Through a combination of unpaid leave and vacation I'll be spending time away from Bethlehem this fall. I will begin this time away following worship on August 14 and I'll be back for Reformation Sunday, October 30. Pastor Dee will return before I leave and all three of your pastors will spend a day together catching up and looking ahead in early August.

During this time I'll travel to see family and friends and work on a writing project as well as take a trip with Sylvia. I look forward to returning refreshed and energized to all that has arisen in the mean time.

—Pastor Steve

Friendship Lunch is Taking a Summer Break

At the May gathering it was the consensus of the group that Friendship Lunch should take a break for summer. This potluck fellowship luncheon will resume on September 15, details will be published in the August/September issue of *The STAR*.

Bikers of BLC Roll Out

The Bikers of Bethlehem (BoB) invite all motorcycle riders (all faiths, all motorcycle makes!) to join in their upcoming rides: July 31, August 28 & September 25. Rides begin immediately following the last Sunday worship service (about 11:30am in July & August, 12pm in September) 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 July & August

Tuesday, July 5

Esther: 1pm Dorothy Johnson's
421 41st Ave S #2054; StC

Eunice: 1pm Mary Room

Priscilla: 2:30pm Magi Room

Tuesday, July 12

Miriam: 9:30am Ceil Johnson's
5910 16th Ave SE; StC

Tuesday, August 2

Miriam: Mabeth Gyllstrom's
Call Sonja, 253-2724, to carpool

Naomi: 12pm Vera Peterson's
19461 E. Shore Dr; Kimball

Priscilla: 2:30pm Magi Room

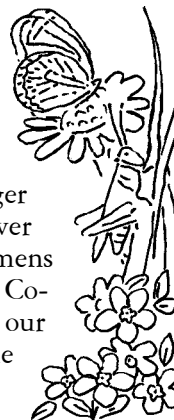
Mark your Calendars: September 23 & 24 Women's Fall Retreat at Luther Crest

All women of the congregation
and community are invited to:

A Garden Party

Wednesday, July 20; 7:00pm

Invite a friend to join you for a guided tour of the Munsinger & Clemens Gardens followed by friendly conversation over lemonade and treats. The evening begins at the Clemens Garden Gift Shop where we will meet Joan Anderson, Co-Chair of the Munsinger Clemens Botanical Society for our tour. Following the tour we will meet at Jan Dahl's home for cookies & lemonade. RSVP at the SERVE Board.



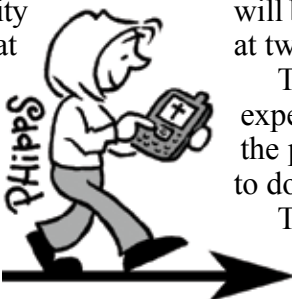
Your Voice is Needed in Order to Keep Building on Forward Momentum

How are we to become the community God intended? This is the question that drives a group of Bethlehem folk who meet monthly to continue the work begun last spring in the Forward Into God's Future Events with Dr. Terri Elton.

Knowing the changes in demographics in our community, as well as the rapidly changing culture in the greater world, how is God calling Bethlehem to be disciples in this place at this time?

This discussion didn't start with Dr. Elton, in fact, it is a continuation of a process that began years ago as Bethlehem looked at our strategic plan and vision/mission statement.

Using that important work as our base we are ready to build on this forward momentum! There



will be two focus groups that will look strategically at two different areas.

The first will look at the entire worship experience—from the moment someone drives onto the property until they are sent out into the world to do God's work.

The second group will focus on how we form faith. They will focus specifically on this question: *Why do some Christian people mature in faith and become devoted disciples of Jesus Christ when many don't?*

Both groups will take "field trips" to other congregations, interview people in the greater St. Cloud area as well as people right here at Bethlehem.

If this sounds exciting to you, please contact Pastor Janine, 251-8356x103 or jolson@bethlehemplutheran.org to join the process! Your voice is needed!

July 1 - August 20, 2011

Bethlehem Lutheran

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			June 29 8 am Prayer Group 9 am Mystery Mission	30 9 am BLC Bold Believers 6 pm South Sudanese Women's ELL Class 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	July 1 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	2 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
Jr High Summer Trip to Camp Amnicon						
3 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship 12 pm Sudanese Worship Service	4 Independence Day Church Building <i>CLOSED</i>	5 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 1 pm Esther Circle 1 pm Eunice Circle 2:30 pm Priscilla Circle 7 pm Youth Advisory Comm 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	6 8 am Prayer Group 9 am Mystery Mission 6:30 pm Sr High Trip Family Picnic	7 8am BLC Habitat work day 5:45 pm Heritage Quilters 7 pm Columbarium Comm. 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	8 5 pm Wedding rehearsal 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	9 3 pm Wedding 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
10 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship 12 pm Nuer Bible Study	11 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Luther Crest Day Camp 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	12 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Luther Crest Day Camp 9:30 am Miriam Circle 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 5:45 pm Church Council 6:45 pm Church Boards 7 pm Beginning Experience 7:30 pm Anna Circle 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	13 8 am Prayer Group 9 am Luther Crest Day Camp	14 8 am BLC Habitat work day 9 am Luther Crest Day Camp 6:30 pm BeFrienders 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	15 5 pm Wedding rehearsal 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	16 10:30 am African Women's Alliance Board Meeting 3 pm Wedding 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
Sr High Summer Trip to New York City						
17 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship- <i>Outdoors</i> 12 pm Picnic on the Prairie 12 pm Sudanese Worship Service 2 pm Worship at St Ben's Center	18 8 am Mission Quilters 6:30 pm Prayer Shawls 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	19 8 am Mission Quilters 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 6:30 pm African Women's Alliance Book Club 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 14 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	20 8 am Prayer Group 9 am Mystery Mission	21 8 am BLC Habitat work day 4 pm Wedding rehearsal 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	22 4:30 pm Wedding 6:30 pm Wedding rehearsal 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	23 9 am Baptism Orientation 11:30 am BLC serves Community Meal at HCC 3 pm Wedding 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
24 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship 12 pm Nuer Bible Study 12 pm Bikers of BLC Ride	25 8 am Mission Quilters 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	26 8 am Mission Quilters 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 12 pm LEAPP FROGS 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 14 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	27 8 am Prayer Group 9 am Mystery Mission	28 9 am BLC Bold Believers 5 pm Wedding rehearsal 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	29 4 pm Wedding 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	30 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
31 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship 12 pm Sudanese Worship Service	August 1 9 am FROG's Day Camp 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	2 <i>See Circle Schedule</i> 9 am FROG's Day Camp 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 6 pm Sudanese Women 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 14 7 pm Youth Advisory Team 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	3 8 am Prayer Group 9 am FROG's Day Camp	4 9 am FROG's Day Camp 5:45 pm Heritage Quilters 6 pm South Sudanese Women's ELL Class 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	5 5 pm Wedding rehearsal 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	6 3 pm Wedding 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
7 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship 12 pm Music Staff 12 pm Sudanese Worship Service	8 8 am Mission Quilters 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	9 8 am Mission Quilters 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 5:45 pm Church Council 6 pm Sudanese Women 6:30 pm Troop 14 Adults 6:45 pm Church Boards 7 pm Beginning Experience 7 pm Troop 14 7:30 pm Anna Circle 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	10 8 am Prayer Group	11 6 pm South Sudanese Women's ELL Class 6:30 pm BeFrienders 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	12 5 pm Wedding rehearsal 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	13 2 pm Wedding 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
14 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship 12 pm Nuer Bible Study	15 8 am Mission Quilters 10 am Prayer Shawls 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	16 8 am Mission Quilters 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 2:30 pm Photo Directory 6 pm South Sudanese Women's ELL Class 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 14 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	17 8 am Prayer Group 9 am Mystery Mission 2:30 pm Photo Directory	18 2:30 pm Photo Directory 6 pm South Sudanese Women's ELL Class 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 Meeting 3 pm Wedding 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Luther Crest Day Camp July 11-14

Luther Crest Day Camp is a great way for students to get a Bible Camp experience close to home. This Day Camp will take place at St Cloud's Wilson Park the week of July 11-14. Activities will be led by camp counselors from Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria. Registration Forms are available online at www.bethlehemplutheran.org and outside the Discipleship Office.

This year's theme: *Follow Me!* is focused on discipleship. Worship, Bible chats and activities will examine the stories from Jesus' life and what these teach us about devoting our lives to Jesus living in our hearts every day. As part of their focus on discipleship, children will be working on a service project to support Talahi Elementary School.



LEAPP FROGS Day Camp

The LEAPP FROG Day Camp August 1-4 from 9am-3pm, with extended option 7:30-9am, is sure to be another week of fast paced fun!

Students will spend lots of time outside playing water games and enjoying nature. We'll also make lots of cool crafts, learn about some cool people in the Bible and enjoy building relationships with one another! This camp is planned and run by the Jr & Sr High LEAPP FROG students. Don't miss this great opportunity for your kids! Registrations are available outside the Discipleship

Office and online. *Questions?* Contact Katie in the Discipleship Office.

Missions Uncover Mystery of Faith

This summer the Mystery Mission Interns, Jon Rundquist & Becky Preusser, will lead students entering Grades 5 & 6 on missions to discover the mystery of faith. Each day-long (9am-3pm) mission on Wednesdays **July 6, 20 & 27**, and **August 17** will uncover another mystery. An extended day option (7:30-9am) will be offered. Please bring your own snack & lunch. Your help is needed in completing the mission even if you can't stay the whole time. There is no cost to participate in any of the missions!

We are excited to announce that six new missions have been added for the school year! These missions will take place on dates when ISD 742 is not in session and following Milestones. Watch for another mission briefing in September.

We need adults to help students carry out their missions after Jon & Becky have returned to school. Contact Melanie in the Discipleship Office.

Sunday School Starts September 11

Fall is fast approaching and that means it is time to go back to school. Sunday School that is! Sunday School will be held Sundays (starting 9/11) 10:05-10:50 for ages 3-Gr. 6 and Wednesdays (starting 9/14) 5-6pm for Gr. 1-6. Cost is \$30/child, up to \$70/household. Registrations are available at the Discipleship Office and www.bethlehemplutheran.org

Bethlehem's Bold Believers

Kids entering 3rd and 4th grade are welcome to be a part of the B-Squad, Bethlehem's Bold Believers! This summer day camp experience takes place once a month during the summer.

Upcoming dates are July 28 and August 25 from 9am to 3pm. The B-Squad will be spreading the buzz about God's love. This will be an active day of learning, crafting, gaming, and having loads of fun. Students will need to pack their own lunch and snack.

This is a free program and all are welcome to come when you can! *Want to spread the buzz?* Contact Melanie for info on how to partner in this fun ministry area!

**MYSTERY
MISSION**



How to Reach the Discipleship Ministry Staff

Ministry with PreK-Gr. 6: Melanie Halter
251.8356 x131 or melanie@bethlehemplutheran.org

Ministry with Grades 7-12: Katie Christensen
251.8356 x132 or katie@bethlehemplutheran.org

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

Support for Discipleship Ministries: Lisa Fujan
251.8356 x130 or lisa@bethlehemplutheran.org

Pastor for Discipleship Ministries: Rev. Janine Olson
251.8356 x103 or jolson@bethlehemplutheran.org

Training Camp Offered for Sunday School & Confirmation

Calling all people who want to learn and grow right alongside Bethlehem's youth. Consider serving as a Sunday School Teacher or Confirmation Guide and mark your calendars for Training Camp: 6 to 7:30pm on your choice of Wednesday, either August 24 or 31.

We will be going over much more than where to find emergency exits! There's lots of wonderful new resources to share with you. Plus, we can't wait to see how everyone's Faith Circles have been growing with both old & new relationships.

Do you have a gift in music, organizing, teaching, networking, or just plain love having fun? Contact Melanie in the Discipleship Office for more information on how to partner in these areas.

Confirmation Starts September 14

Confirmation students in grades 7-9 gather for instructional & small group time on Wednesdays, 6:30-8pm. Registration Forms are available at the Discipleship Office and www.bethlehemplutheran.org

Preschool Registration Open

Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool is taking registrations for the 2011-12 school year. BLP continues to offer a complete menu of half-day programming for children ages 3-5 years and a Wednesday morning Parent & 2-year-old Child class. Classes are offered 2-5 days/week, Monday-Friday, 9-11:30am, September-May. Details at www.bethlehemplutheran.org/preschool or call the Preschool Office 251-6775.

Family Events Build Faith Circles

As we continue the ministry of Faith Circles, family events are another way for circles of faith to grow. Families of all ages, make-ups and Bethlehem membership or not are invited to participate!

Coming in August: Family Day at the Lake. September will feature a trip to Fair Haven Farm. If you would like to plan or host an event, please contact the Family Ministry Coordinators, Shelly & Kelly Davidson ksdavidson2@charter.net. New families join in the fun every month so please feel free to come anytime!

Many Families Grow Fruits of the Spirit at Home Thanks to VBS

Over 60 people came together to celebrate the Fruits of the Spirit Family Vacation Bible School. Families joined together and enjoyed meals donated by Texas Roadhouse, White Castle, Pizza Hut, and Old Chicago; thanks to these local businesses and to Melissa Onstad for making this possible! Special thanks also

goes out to Barbara Bloomer, Bill Chaffee, Christina Flakne, Jerry & Carol Gebhardt, Elizabeth Harrison, Sandy Harrison, Chuck & Karen Henneman, Jodi Imholte, Tom & Karen Jones, Dorothy Loch, Barb McPhail, Lois Meiners, Melinda Mlenek, Katie Mohagen, Anne Nikolas, Sandy & Wally Osterholt, Jon &

Tiffany Rundquist, Al Stark & Joanie Meyer, Gloria Wendlandt, Chad Johnson of the YMCA and the Troop 14 Boy Scouts. I am sure there are many more to thank for making VBS such an amazing week! Thank you for supporting Bethlehem's families in learning more about their faith together.

—Melanie Halter



Summer Trips Help Youth Grow Faith Circle of Peers & Adults

Summer trips are an amazing way for young people to grow in faith. Bethlehem has a long history of providing these experiences for our young people. As you read this the Junior High students will be returning from a week spent living and learning in God's awesome creation at Camp Amnicon in Northern Wisconsin. Then in a couple weeks the Senior High students will board a plane to Manhattan, New York for a week of service learning in the Big Apple! Both groups have spent a year planning and preparing for their travels. Thanks

to the congregation for their support of students through fundraising, prayer and encouragement. Students will be sharing about their experiences in worship on October 2.

And while 2011's summer trips haven't even wrapped up, plans for 2012 are firmed up! Here is a first glimpse of what's to come!

For Junior High it is back to Atlantic Mountain Ranch in Custer, SD. And for Senior High it is back to NOLA for the 2012 ELCA National Youth Gathering!

2011 Sr High Summer Trip Schedule

Questions? Contact the trip coordinator Karla Mohagen at kjmohagen@aol.com

July 6- Family Picnic, 6:30pm. This important meeting covers final travel plans, paperwork & packing information. The entire family is invited, please bring a potluck dish to share!

July 9- Worship as a family, 5pm. Students will receive a blessing & a travel Bible. All gear must be checked-in at 6pm.

July 10- Depart from Bethlehem, 6am. We will not wait for late arrivals!!

July 16- Return to Bethlehem, about 9pm.

Fundraising for Summer Trips

Raising money for activities is an important opportunity and necessary for most students in order to participate in summer trips and other programs. There are still a couple fundraising opportunities left this summer and many more will be offered in the coming school year. If you would like to participate in fundraising or assist with a fundraiser, please contact Becky Eisenwinter beisenwinter@hotmail.com. There will be an Informational Meeting in September for all 7-12 grade students & parents intending to participate in fundraisers should attend.

National Youth Gathering Back to New Orleans to Serve with the Saints

The ELCA Youth Gathering is returning to New Orleans July 18-22, 2012.

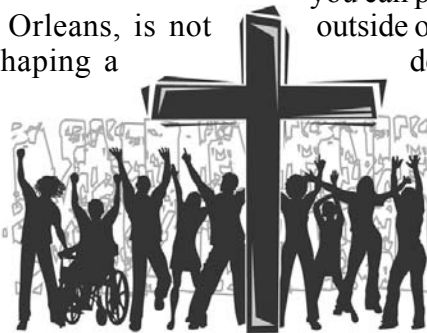
In 2009, 40,000 ELCA youth went to New Orleans as guests. We return in 2012 as friends, citizens with the saints. The theme, *citizens with the saints*, comes directly from the text around which the ELCA Youth Gathering is being shaped: Ephesians 2:14-20.

But the destination, New Orleans, is not the ultimate focus. We are shaping a service learning experience that will affirm young people's welcome into God's story through baptism, will help them draw closer to God by engaging in intentional faith practices, will train them to bear witness to Jesus' activity for the sake of the world, and will awake in them their

vocational call to "serve all people, following the example of Jesus" (ELW pg. 236).

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

If you missed the informational parent meeting you can pick up packets of information on the table outside of the Discipleship Office. The registration deadline for the gathering will be September 30, 2011. All students going into Grades 9-12 are welcome and encouraged to participate in this trip! If you are an adult interested in chaperoning please contact Katie for a chaperone application form! It's sure to be another great opportunity where relationships will be created, faith developed, and our sense of call enhanced or in other words...IT'S GONNA BE A BLAST!



2012 ELCA Youth Gathering
citizens with the saints

*A Word from Our Congregation President . . .***Fall Stewardship Appeal to Include Debt Reduction**

As you may recall, we had a special congregational meeting in January to approve refinancing the terms of our mortgage. Most important in that transaction was the extension of the maturity date of our mortgage to February 2021. At that date, the remaining balance on the mortgage must be paid in full. The amount of this final payment will be approximately \$445,000 if our interest rate stays at its current level. It will be higher if the rate adjusts upward as is allowed by the terms of the mortgage.

The Finance Committee recommended to the Executive Committee that they consider the possibility of a capital appeal to raise funds for the mortgage. The Executive Committee discussed the matter and sent a motion to the full Church Council. The Council approved the formation of a Task Force to assess whether to conduct a Capital Appeal.

Since early April 2011, Pastor Dee, Congregational VP Doreen Meier, and I have been working with a team of others and have made the decision to move forward with a capital appeal, which will run alongside our annual stewardship appeal this fall.

At the semi-annual congregational meeting on May 22, 2011, I announced to the congregation that this capital appeal will be conducted. The primary focus of the appeal is to raise funds to pay off our mortgage by 2021 and to take care of the existing maintenance needs for our building. The Property Board is in the midst of identifying and prioritizing the maintenance needs. Bethlehem currently does not have funds in reserve for emergency or even routine maintenance.

Why conduct a Capital Appeal now?

Now is the time we can really make a difference in impacting the amount of interest we pay toward our mortgage on a long-term basis. If we act now, we can realistically pay off our mortgage on or before the maturity date of February 2021. In addition, by investing in the maintenance of our building, we can ensure that our gathering place will be a resource for people for many years to come.

Why Is This So Important?

Bethlehem Lutheran Church is not just a building: The Church is US, the people of Bethlehem. But as the people of Bethlehem, we do need to take care of our building. Our beautiful facility is a great asset, not only to our congregation, but also to our community as we do God's work on a daily basis. It is a gathering place for worship, fellowship, baptisms, funerals, weddings, AA/NA, and Boy Scouts, for example. By taking this proactive approach, we will ensure we have a place to do ministry for years to come.

How Can You Help?

There are and will be many opportunities to help shape this campaign. Prayerfully consider how your gifts could be used in this type of efforts. If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact me at vcfelsch@gmail.com

Please keep your eye on the next issue of the Star for more information. This is sure to be an exciting effort that can have a great impact on the mission and future of Bethlehem!

—Valerie Felsch, Congregation President

Applicants Sought for Director of Operations Position at Bethlehem

In the last issue of *The STAR* Bethlehem's Director of Operations, Diane Bublitz, announced she would be retiring on November 11, 2011.

The Personnel Committee has reviewed the position description and is beginning to accept applications.

This position is a working supervisor, reporting to the Lead Pastor, responsible for financial and human resources administration

of the church. The position also oversees administrative services, property management and technology systems. The right candidate will have background in accounting, Human Resources, current technology, and previous supervisory experience. People skills and an ability to work in a team environment are required.

This is a salaried position, full-time October–March and 80% April–September.

Applicants should include cover letter, resume and Bethlehem Employment Application (available at www.bethlehemplutheran.org).

Application deadline—August 15. Planned start date—October 31.

If you know of someone with a background well suited to this position, please encourage them to find out more and apply.

Maxine Johnson Hand Quilts Bethlehem's Entry in July 9 Luther Crest Quilt Auction

Luther Crest Bible Camp's Quilt Auction will be Saturday, **July 9** (quilt review starts at 9:30am and the auction begins at 12:30pm) at the camp in Alexandria. Quilts of all sizes and patterns will be sold in a live auction. There will also be a silent auction that begins online and concludes on July 9, as an option for those unable to be present for live bidding. Bid on a beautiful quilt and support this wonderful ministry partner!

Bethlehem's donation to the quilt auction is a Dresden Plate pattern hand-pieced and hand-quilted by Maxine Johnson and finished by Alice Kline. It is on display in the Square through Friday, July 8. A silent auction has started on this quilt and the high bid will be used as the opening bid at the live auction on July 9.



This quilt will be part of the Luther Crest Bible Camp's Quilt Auction. Maxine Johnson (right) hand-pieced and quilted the field of the quilt and Alice Kline (left) completed the border using spare pieces Maxine had quilted.

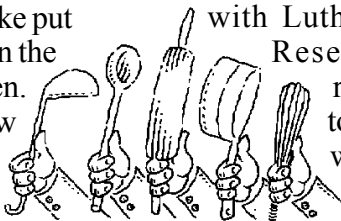
LWR Mission Kit Donations

Lutheran World Relief has made some changes in the number and kinds of items they would like put in their mission kits. Updated lists are posted on the bulletin board across from the Coffee Kitchen.

Immediate needs include: new or like-new baby socks, gowns or sleepers up to size 24 months, and receiving blankets.

Board Seeks Pots & Pans for LSS

The Church in Society Board is partnering with Lutheran Social Service's Refugee Resettlement program to provide refugees with the household goods to furnish an apartment. In July they will be collecting gently used pots & pans, and other kitchen wares.



James Puotyual Represents ELCA at South Sudan Independence Celebration

In January, the people of southern Sudan voted overwhelmingly in favor of a referendum for independence. On July 9, South Sudan will become an independent nation. Many of our Bethlehem members from Sudan voted in the referendum and are very excited that peace may finally be coming to their homeland.

ELCA Global Mission invites us all to a Season of Prayer for South Sudan setting aside 30 minutes for prayers of peaceful transition on Fridays July 1 & 8 and on Saturday, July 9.

Bethlehem will be represented at the celebration in South Sudan. As President of the Sudanese Community in the ELCA, James

Puotyual will be part of a four person delegation on behalf of ELCA Global Mission travelling to South Sudan July 2-23. While there the team will begin planning with Southern Sudanese church

leaders about the ELCA assisting in establishing a church mission center. Please keep James, the rest of the ELCA delegation and all the people of South Sudan in your prayers.

Financial Update

as of 5/31/11

	Income	-	Expenses	=	Difference
General Fund¹	355,709	-	356,972	=	-1,263
Preschool	50,485	-	35,215	=	15,270
	Target	-	Received	=	Difference
Offering YTD²	330,200	-	337,062	=	6,862
	Offerings	-	Payments	=	Difference
Building Mortgage	85,132	-	99,542	=	-14,410

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 from Shirley

To my Bethlehem family,

Thank you for the many ways you have found to help & cheer me—everything from asparagus to visits. These five housebound months have been a humbling experience for this independent gal. Hopefully I'll soon be able to do my share, which I could & should have been doing for years.

With love,

—Shirley Youngner

Thanks for Support

We would like to express a sincere thank you to all those who purchased roses this spring to support the Star Garden. We have received many reports that the roses are beginning to show their beauty!

—the Star Garden Team

'Like' Us on Facebook

If you are one of the 600 million active users of Facebook and want to include updates on Bethlehem in your newsfeed please "Like" facebook.com/BLC56301 This is another great way to stay more connected with your congregation and learn about local & global current events.

Join Tour of Saints

Join your friends from Bethlehem for the 2011 Tour of Saints on Sunday, July 17. This 35 mile bike ride (not race) begins & ends in St. Joseph, with stops along the route. Now is the time to start getting in shape, and we can do it together with several shorter rides. *Sound like fun?* Contact Andy: 654-8014 or andrewjohnson@hotmail.com

Recent Pastoral Acts

Baptisms

May 21, 2011

Gavin Dale Danielson
Zander Alan Raden
Matthew Francis Remer

May 22, 2011

Ellen Marie Miller
Hannah Rebecca Granowski
Isaac Donald Midthun

May 22, 2011

Landon David Martin-Chaffee

June 4, 2011

Ava Marie Bauck

June 5, 2011

Carter Russell Moynihan

June 12, 2011

Hayden Jace Meyer-Thovson

Funerals

August 18, 1921-May 28, 2011

Shirley J. Ecklund

June 15, 1914-June 5, 2011

Hattie W. Kjos

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: Mark Seehusen

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 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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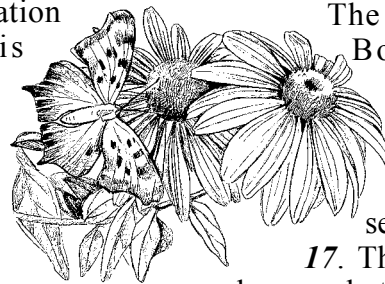
Saint Cloud, MN 56301

(320) 251-8356

www.bethlehemplutheran.org

Outdoor Worship & Picnic on the Prairie

Worship moves outdoors in the midst of creation several times this summer. There is something special about worshipping God surrounded by creation!



Picnic on the Prairie July 17

The Congregational Life Board invites all in the congregation to a "Picnic on the Prairie" immediately following the 10:30am service, on **Sunday, July**

17. The Board will provide burgers, hot dogs, lemonade, plates & utensils. Those attending are asked to bring a dish according to the list below:

A-F Desserts G-P Salads
Q-Z Hotdishes

Outdoor Worship

On Sunday, **July 17** the **10:30am** service, weather permitting, will be held outdoors. Again, weather permitting, the **10:30am** service on **August 21** will be held outdoors.

