

The Bethlehem

Star



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Saint Cloud, Minnesota

Worship Schedule

(starting May 29)

Saturday:

5:00 pm

Sunday:

8:30 am

10:30 am

12:00 pm*

*Nuer language service

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May 18-June 30, 2011

Vol. 43, No. 4

Holy Spirit Encourages Disciples to “Go!”

On Pentecost Sunday, June 12, the Christian Church celebrates the way the Father and the Son sent the Holy Spirit to a group of fearful disciples, out of whom the church is formed! Read the story of Pentecost in Acts 2:1-21.

In many ways, Pentecost was a reversal of the Tower of Babel, when people's pride and rebellion against God led God to divide them with languages so they couldn't understand each other. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came and set on fire the hearts of a very diverse crowd. Each heard the Good News of Jesus proclaimed in their own language and then they set out to do just as Jesus had commended: “Go! Make disciples of all nations.”

Today, many communities are divided because of culture or ethnicity,

and we are far from living out the vision of heaven in Revelation chapter 7: “a great multitude from every nation, from all tribes & peoples & languages” singing praise to God.

Pentecost is a festival that celebrates the truth that when we were baptized into Christ, we were baptized into his whole body, and that we need each other in order to be the whole body of Christ. What a blessing! Bethlehem is doubly blessed by the diverse people of faith God continues to send to join us in proclaiming the Good News! And through our recent mission trips to Africa we are further blessed to make a connection with God's faithful disciples in all nations!

Wear something red—symbolic of the Holy Spirit—to worship on June 12!

2011-12 Scholarship Awards Announced

There are four different college scholarships available to Bethlehem students. Additional gifts to the principal amount of any of these funds are welcome at any time, call the Church Office for more details on making gifts.

Debbie Rondeau Memorial Scholarship is awarded to two first-year students of any public or private college. Scholarships of \$500 each awarded to: Anni Johnson (Lawrence University) and Max Albrecht (University of Wisconsin).

Norman & Lorraine Thomas Health Vocations Scholarship is for students preparing for health care professions at any public or private institution. Scholarships of \$1,000 each awarded to: Katie Seehusen (Winona State) and Collin Stinogel (UMD).

Schrader/Melby ELCA College Scholarships Dr. Shirley Schrader initiated this fund to support members at any ELCA college. The Clarence & Katherine Melby Memorial Scholarship supports students attending Concordia College, Moorhead. Scholarships of \$300 each awarded to: Grace Balfanz (Gustavus), Nina Due (Concordia) and Shannon Tschida (Gustavus).

Join a Community Meal Team

Bethlehem will serve the Saturday Community Meal on June 25. 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!

Thanks Webmaster Mike!

After a decade of serving as Bethlehem's webmaster, Mike Christensen has decided to refocus his efforts on other ministries at Bethlehem and at home. We are very grateful for all the passion Mike put into keeping Bethlehem's web presence up-to-date as a resource for the community. With web maintenance moved "in-house" we will be using a Content Management System that will allow staff to update their own content. Watch the Shooting STAR for an invitation to the BETA site.

Retirement on the Horizon for Director of Operations

When I left a 24 year career in Employment & Job Training to enroll in the Accounting program at St. Cloud State University, I had no idea where it would lead. It led to Bethlehem! As I was taking over the League of Women Voters Treasurer's position from Debbie Spuit, I learned of the Director of Operations position opening at Bethlehem.

Thank you for the great opportunity to do challenging and rewarding work since September 3, 2002. This position has allowed me to use my past experience as a non-profit manager and my new skills in accounting. I must also thank Debbie for laying such a great foundation for this position.

I will be retiring on November 11, 2011. I have worked with wonderful colleagues and members of the congregation in carrying out God's mission through Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

If you know of someone with a background in accounting, budgeting, human resources and office management, please tell them about the position. The Personnel Committee will be recruiting applicants this summer and interviewing in the early fall, with a target start date of October 31, 2011.

—Diane Bublitz

St John's Bible Print a Send-off Gift for Pastor Dee's Sabbatical

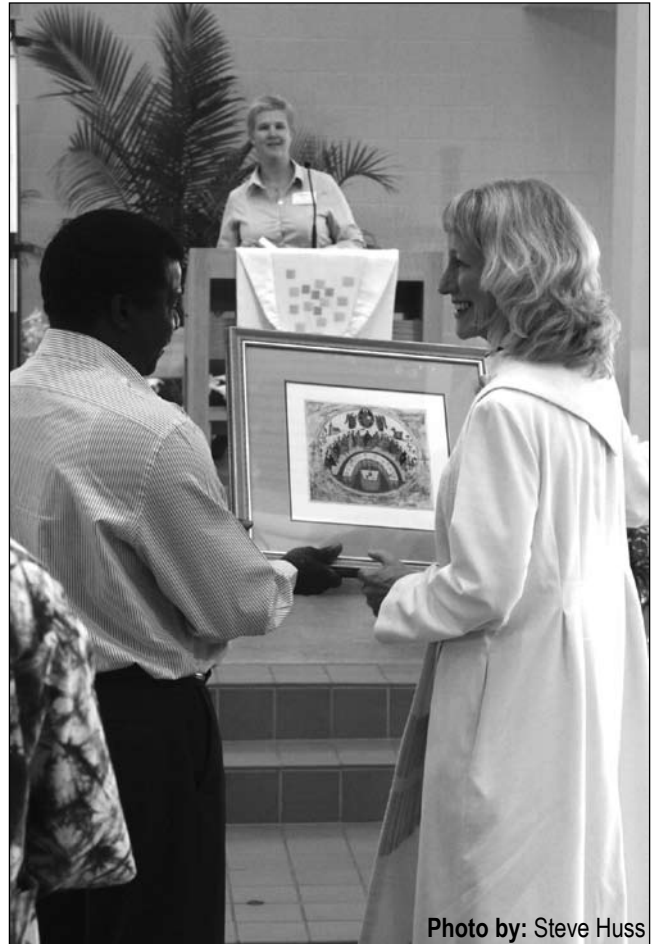


Photo by: Steve Huss

Church Council member James Filiyaro (left) and Congregation President Valerie Felsch (center) present Pastor Dee with a print of the St John's Bible illumination of Acts chapter 4 "Life in Community" at her sabbatical send-off on May 8.

Building on Forward Momentum

Nearly 200 people attended at least one of the three sessions of *Forward into God's Future* with Dr. Terri Elton. There is tremendous energy and excitement as we see what God is doing in our midst! Now is the time to capitalize on this energy and continue moving forward into God's future.

An initial gathering was held on Thursday May 12 (after press time for this issue) to build on the great conversation Dr. Elton led us into. This group will continue to gather to further address the question: *How do we create the community God intended?* Watch for next step details in the weekly announcements, facebook and our website.

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 Steve . . .

We are the Family of God, Joined Together in Faith Circles

As I write this I am on Grandpa duty. Son John called last week. “We need daycare next Thursday. Can you spend the day with Ryan?” Ah, sure!

I love this! Not just being a grandfather, but also having family around. This is the first time in my adult life that I’ve had family close enough so we can have Sunday dinner together without buying a plane ticket. My family spread west from Chicago while Sylvia’s family moved east and together we moved from call to call.

Maybe this is why I have a heart for the strangers in our midst. New people come to our community from another state or another continent, another congregation or no congregation at all. People come to worship, maybe for the first time in years or the first time in their lives, because something has changed. God draws them here. And we welcome them as if they were Christ himself.

This is why Faith Circles are so important. We live in an age where many people are lonely and are

seeking authentic community. Bethlehem is a Faith Circle made up of countless smaller Faith Circles – spheres of relationships of people who love God and love each other.

We say that Bethlehem is “a welcoming community of Christ’s disciples.” Welcoming the stranger takes practice and even courage. It means putting yourself “out there.” Maybe for you wearing a nametag is a way to open the door to building that Welcoming Community. Maybe it is walking across the Sanctuary or the Square to meet someone you don’t already know. Maybe you have the opportunity to build community here at Bethlehem, or in your neighborhood or work or school – wherever you live out your baptismal identity.

What this world needs is to see more Faith Circles; welcome for the stranger, because we are all children of a loving God.

The sun is out! Ryan & I are going for a walk.

—Pastor Steve

A Word from Pastor Janine . . .

As Disciples, We are Equipped to Find Hope in Darkness

Many members of our Bethlehem family are grieving the loss of a beloved Tech High School language arts teacher, Justin Blair. Our prayers are with his family and all of those who will miss Mr. Blair. While this story is new (as I write to you) it is clearly not the only pain and grief experienced by people in our community. Illness, war, the economy, and ultimately, death touches each of us. It leaves me with a question—*how can we equip ourselves and the children & teens in our lives to cope with the highs & lows of life?*

When my husband, Jack, first came home following his stroke, I immersed myself into the busyness of life. There was

a sense that if I simply kept busy I wouldn’t have to deal with our new reality. The truth hit me square in the gut, however, every time I would attempt to sleep. The busyness would stop and I was left with all that I had been running from. The truth is, we can’t run fast enough, or be busy enough to escape the dark times in our life. So where do we find hope in the real world?

For me, I am so grateful to my grandparents and parents for equipping me with the only tool that truly provides hope even in the deepest sadness—Jesus Christ. Worshipping together, praying at each meal, following the example set by my parents and grandparents as they served

their community... all of these were vital in developing and growing my faith today. Now, as a grandmother I pray that this legacy of faith will continue in my family just as I pray that it will grow stronger in your family!

Summer is right around the corner. There are many things that would call us away from gathering with God’s people over the next few months. I pray that we would all hear the call of the Holy Spirit to continue to worship, pray, learn, give and serve no matter what the weather is like outside! It is only when we actively engage in these discipleship practices that we are equipped to face the realities of this life.

—Pastor Janine

Friendship Lunch

All who are free for lunch are invited to Friendship Lunch at noon on Thursday, May 19. Please bring a dish to share. A representative from Quiet Oaks Hospice will be here to share information about this wonderful community resource.

Picnic on the Prairie Sunday, July 17

11:30am

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



Men's Bible Study on Summer Vacation

The men in the Wednesday morning Bible Study who have been meeting at the downtown Perkins are taking a break for the summer. During the summer they hope to encourage more interest from men of the congregation so that this Bible Study can continue successfully in the fall!

Bikers of BLC Roll Out

The Bikers of Bethlehem (BoB) invite all motorcycle riders (all faiths, all motorcycle makes!) to the first ride of the season on Sunday, May 22, following the 11am service which will include a blessing of the bikers! Other ride dates: June 26, July 31, August 28 & September 25. Rides 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. Sign-up for the BoB email list please email lcobb@bethlehemlutheran.org

News for:

Women of Bethlehem

Circle Schedule for June Tuesday, June 7

Esther: 1pm at Bethlehem in Peace Hall

Eunice: 1pm at Bethlehem in the Mary Room

Miriam: 9:30am Muriel Haugen's home in Becker

Naomi: 12pm Gladys Van Quekelberg's home

Priscilla: 2:30pm at Bethlehem in the Magi Room

Luther Crest's Women's Week is June 26-30

The theme, *Follow Me!*, will take a closer look at the lessons we learn from Christ's example that is set out for us to follow. There is separate programming offered for children & youth. Costs range from \$39 for one day to \$289 for the week with lodging in the Adult Retreat Center. For details: call (320) 846-2431 or click www.luthercrest.org

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

'Like' Bethlehem on Facebook for Updates & News

If you are one of the 500 million active users of Facebook and want to include updates on Bethlehem in your newsfeed please "Like" facebook.com/BLC56301 You will be able to RSVP for events, get a sneak peek at sermon topics & even help form parts of sermons, and generally stay



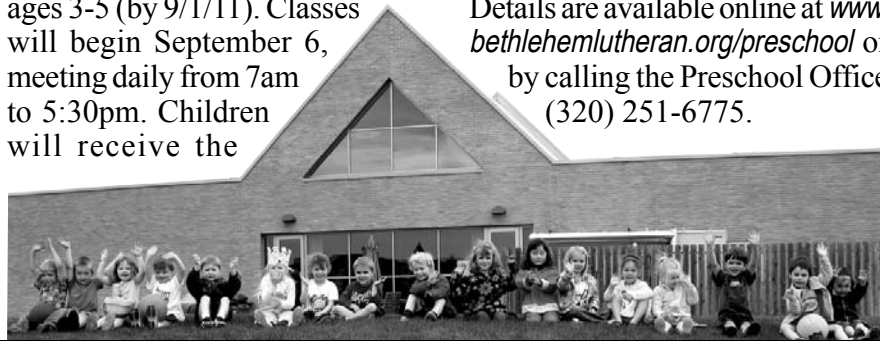
more connected with your congregation. **A couple notes:** our Page Admins (the Pastors &

Communications Coordinator) will carefully moderate all posts to Bethlehem's wall; also know that only your Facebook friends & Page Admins can see your posts to our wall; and Bethlehem does not receive your status updates.

Preschool Offers Full-Day Year-Round Program

Bethlehem Preschool is now offering **Full-Day, Full-time, Year-round Preschool** for children ages 3-5 (by 9/1/11). Classes will begin September 6, meeting daily from 7am to 5:30pm. Children will receive the

same preschool philosophy and quality early childhood education offered in the half-day program. Details are available online at www.bethlehemlutheran.org/preschool or by calling the Preschool Office (320) 251-6775.



May 18 - June 30, 2011

Bethlehem Lutheran

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Official Notice Congregational Meeting May 22 ~ 10:10am Sanctuary

Board & Council Elections; Annual Report

<p>18 8 am Prayer Group 9 am Preschool 9 am STAR Mailed 5:30 pm Sr High Leadership 6:30 pm Gr 7-9 Confirmation 7 pm Adult Choir</p>						
<p>19 9 am Preschool 10 am Preschool Chapel and Year-end Picnic 12 pm Friendship Lunch 6 pm Sudanese Women 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12</p>						
<p>20 4 pm Scrapbooking Weekend 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous</p>						
<p>21 7 am Scrapbooking Weekend 9 am Baptism Orientation 5 pm Worship 6:30 pm Piano Recital 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous</p>						
<p>22 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10:10 am Semi-Annual Congregational Mtg. 10:30 am New Member Gathering II 11 am Worship 12:30 pm Bikers of BLC 12:30 pm Nuer Bible Stdy 2 pm Piano Recital</p>						
<p>23 8 am Mission Quilters 9:15 am Women's Bible Stdy 6:30 pm Financial Peace University 6:30 pm Women's Bible Stdy</p>						
<p>24 8 am Mission Quilters 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 12:15 pm Women of BLC 6 pm Sudanese Women 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 14 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)</p>						
<p>25 8 am Prayer Group 6:30 pm <i>Love Wins</i> Book Discussion</p>						
<p>26 6 pm Sudanese Women 7 pm Piano Recital 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12</p>						
<p>27 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous</p>						
<p>28 11:30 am BLC serves Community Meal at HCC 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous</p>						
<p>29 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship 12 pm Sudanese Worship Service</p>						
<p>30 Church Building <i>CLOSED</i></p>						
<p>31 8 am Mission Quilters 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 6 pm Sudanese Women 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 14 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)</p>						
<p>June 1 8 am Prayer Group 6:30 pm Piano Recital</p>						
<p>2 9 am Healthy Clergy 5:45 pm Heritage Quilters 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12</p>						
<p>3 5 pm Wedding rehearsal 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous</p>						
<p>4 3 pm Wedding 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous</p>						
<p>5 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship 12 pm Sudanese Worship Service 12 pm Music Staff 2 pm Worship at St Benedict's Center 3 pm Music Recital</p>						
<p>6 6:30 pm Women's Bible Stdy</p>						
<p>7 9:30 am Miriam Circle 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 12 pm Naomi Circle 1 pm Esther Circle 1 pm Eunice Circle 2:30 pm Priscilla Circle 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 14 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA) 7:30 pm Youth Advisory Comm</p>						
<p>8 8 am Prayer Group</p>						
<p>9 6:30 pm BeFriends 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12</p>						
<p>10 SWMN Synod Assembly 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous</p>						
<p>11 SWMN Synod Assembly 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous</p>						
<p>12 SWMN Synod Assembly 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am VBS Kick-off 12 pm Nuer Bible Stdy</p>						
<p>13</p>						
<p>14 8 am Mission Quilters 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 5:45 pm Church Council 6:45 pm Church Boards 7:30 pm Anna Circle</p>						
<p>15 8 am Prayer Group 9 am Sr High Trip Urban Plunge 5 pm STAR Deadline</p>						
<p>16 12 pm Friendship Lunch 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12</p>						
<p>17 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous</p>						
<p>18 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous</p>						
<p>Vacation Bible School (5:30-7:30pm; June 13-16)</p>						
<p>19 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship-- Outdoors 12 pm Sudanese Worship Service</p>						
<p>20 10 am Prayer Shawls 6:30 pm Women's Bible Stdy</p>						
<p>21 8 am Mission Quilters 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 14 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)</p>						
<p>22 8 am Prayer Group 9 am Mystery Mission 6:30 pm Jr High Summer Trip Family Picnic</p>						
<p>23 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12</p>						
<p>24 5 pm Wedding rehearsal 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous</p>						
<p>25 8:30 am Kamp Kimchee 9 am Baptism Orientation 11:30 am BLC serves Community Meal at HCC 3 pm Wedding 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous</p>						
<p>26 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Worship 12 pm Nuer Bible Stdy 12 pm Bikers of BLC ride 2 pm Laurine Nelson 90th Birthday Celebration</p>						
<p>27 6:30 pm Women's Bible Stdy</p>						
<p>28 8 am Mission Quilters 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 12:15 pm Women of BLC 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 14 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)</p>						
<p>29 8 am Prayer Group 9 am Mystery Mission</p>						
<p>30 9 am Bold Believers 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12</p>						
<p>Church Directory  Photography Sessions begin in July! (see pg. 11)</p>						

Jr High Summer Trip to Camp Annicon

Family friendly meals by local restaurants Vacation Bible School 6/13-16

Please join us on Sunday, June 12 after the 10:30am worship service as we kick off this year's Vacation Bible School: *Fruits of the Spirit*. This year we will be doing a family-style VBS from 5:30-7:30pm, **June 13-16**.

Families are welcome to come and eat supper together from 5:30-6pm. Meals are being provided by area restaurants including Texas Roadhouse.

VBS activities will begin at 6pm. Families will learn how to produce more 'fruit' in their homes by studying God's words on Love, Joy, Peace, Kindness and Self-Control. Families will rotate through crafts, games, and a devotion time.

In order to provide the best experience possible for your family we ask that you register, forms are available online at www.bethlehemplutheran.org and outside the Discipleship Office. This FREE family event is for all so please invite your friends and neighbors to join your family in the fun!

Bethlehem's Bold Believers

Kids entering 3rd and 4th grade are invited to join spreading the Buzz about God's love on 3 special days: June 30, July 28, and August 25 from 9am to 3pm with an extended day option from 7:30am-9am. These will be active days of learning, crafting, playing games, and having fun. Students will need to pack their own lunch and snack. These are free events and all are welcome to come when you can, even if it is just for a small part of the day.

Missions Uncover Mystery of Faith

This summer the Mystery Mission Interns will lead students entering Grades 5 & 6 on missions to discover the mystery of faith. Each day-long (9am-3pm) mission on Wednesdays **June 22 & 29, 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!

**MYSTERY
MISSION**



Luther Crest Day Camp

Luther Crest Day Camp is a great way for students to get a Bible Camp experience close to home. Campers will be dropped off at a local park in St. Cloud during the week of **July 11-14**. Activities will be led by camp counselors from Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria. This year's theme is *Follow Me!* The theme verse this year comes from Matthew 16:24, "You must forget yourself, carry your cross and follow me." This theme will focus 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 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. If you have questions contact Katie Christensen at katie@bethlehemplutheran.org

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

Thank You to Sunday School Teachers!

Our children are so blessed to have such caring and devoted people as part of their Faith Circles. Special Thanks to our many teachers

Thanks to Our Sunday School Crew



and support partners; Michelle Redding, Janet Reagan, Nicole Bottelberghe, Deana Hausmann, Dana Claseman, Kelly Wubbels, Mike Christensen, Anne Nikolas, Trista Lane, Amy Walk, Katie Hellman, Kevin Donnelly, Jen Sell Matzke, Karla Mohagen, Steve Wagner, Gordon Schlagheck, Julie Schlagheck, Lonna Chistenson, Dan Christenson, Jodi Laudendach, Melinda Sanders, Tamara Underwood, Monica Ims, Sarah Schultz, Stacy Martig, Leslie Seehusen, Camille Murphy, Deb Ellingson, Jessica Rodenberg, Jackie Polipnick, Mardi Noyes, Joe Erickson, Sondra Glenn, Mary Smith, Charles Miller, Wendy Daniels.

Help Plan the 2011-12 Sunday School Program

We are always looking for ways to make this program the best it can be for both families & kids. If you feel called to teach, help with music, or support teachers on Sundays follow your calling and get involved. We would love to hear your ideas and partner with you in this important faith journey all of us are on. Contact Melanie in the Discipleship Office to sign-up to help next fall or to help in the planning & organizing of next year's program right now.

Preschool Registration Underway for 2011-12

Registration is in progress for the 2011-12 school year at Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool. BLP will continue to offer a complete menu of half-day programming for children ages 3-5 years. Classes are available Monday-Friday from 9-11:30am, September-May. There are 2,3,4

and 5 day/week options. Extended Day care will be available from 7-9am and 11:30-12:30pm. A 2-year-old Parent/Child class is being offered on Friday mornings. Details are available online at www.bethlehemplutheran.org/preschool or by calling the Preschool Office (320) 251-6775.

Students Prepared for Faith Growing Summer Trip Experiences

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. This summer Junior High students will be traveling in June to camp Amnicon in Northern Wisconsin for a week spent living and learning in God's awesome creation! Then in July 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.

Jr High Summer Trip Schedule

Questions? Contact the trip coordinator Tamara Underwood at tunderwood@infionline.net

June 22– Family picnic, 6:30pm. Please bring a dish to share. The entire family is invited!

June 26– Worship as a family and receive a blessing, 10:30am. Depart from Bethlehem at noon.

July 1– Return to Bethlehem, in the afternoon.

Sr High Summer Trip Schedule

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

June 15– Urban Plunge, 12-5pm

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.

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

We're pleased to announce that the ELCA Youth Gathering is returning to New Orleans in 2012.

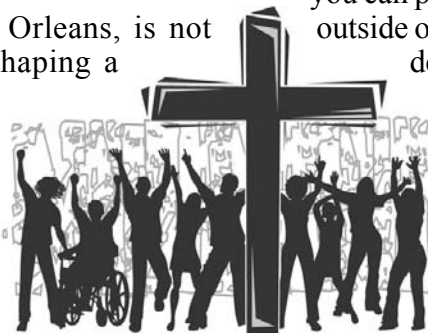
In 2009, 40,000 ELCA youth went to New Orleans as guests. We return in 2012 as friends, citizens with the saints. The theme, *citizens with the saints*, comes directly from the text around which the ELCA Youth Gathering is being shaped: Ephesians 2:14-20.

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

Thank You to Gr. 7-12 & Family Discipleship Ministry Partners

Discipleship Ministry at Bethlehem is a lay led ministry. Without the contributions and leadership of the following individuals ministry could not happen as it does. Sincere thanks to the following people for their dedication, vision and energy for ministry with families and youth in Grades 7-12!

In no particular order:
Tamara Underwood, Shelly Davidson, Bill Albrecht, James Mohagen, Jodi Imholte, Isaac Shella-Stevens, Becky Quale, Rebecca Schlough, Amy Weaver, Karla Mohagen, Kelly Fandel, Liz Wehrs, The MOB, WELCA, Jane Oxtan, Ty Hamerlik, Christina Nebel-Dickerson, Leslie Seehusen, Angie Gebhardt, Wendy Daniels, Jane Oxtan, Vickie O'Hara, Julie Anderson, Janet Reagan, Eric Felsch, Cheryl Running, Doreen Meier, Brock Swanson, Kelly Davidson, Mark Eisenwinter, Meg Oehrlein, Tom Oehrlein, Scott Shella-Stevens, Ed Krafnick, Marnie Swanson, Londa Wagner, Lisa Albrecht, Heather Erickson, Joe Erickson, Lori Nilson, Lynette McGrath-

Mansour, Shelly George, Barb Searles, Chris O'Hara, Kevin Amdahl, Neal Wurm, Becky Eisenwinter, Lisa Fujan, Wayne Rosenow, Kris Moran, Brenda Johnson, James Mohagen, Jenny Winkelman, Rochelle Krantz, Suzanne Stenseth, Heather Moulzolf, Matt Staehling, George Zahn, Anne Nikolas, Beth Donnelly, DeEtte Wurm, Melinda Sanders, Shelly Nikolas, Mike McGrath-Mansour, Sandi Thornton. Kim Johnson, Roger Minks, Valerie Weyer, Nancy Balfanz, Stacy Pinske, Susan Miller, Kim Kronebusch, Kirsten Doering, Jane Anderson, Diana Fink, Bob Anderson, Kelly Feddema, Denny Durand, Perry Lee Pierce, Brenda Handel-Johnson

Please forgive me if you have been involved in these ministries and your name is not listed. My only fear in listing partners is leaving someone out! Thanks also to those who pray fervently for these ministries and provide financial support. It truly is a team effort!

—Katie Christensen

Another Very Good Year Filled with Growth & Memories at Preschool

The end of another school year is always a little sad. Throughout the year preschool families have developed relationships, shared exciting times, made friends (children and grown-ups), worked hard each day, learned how to get paint everywhere, including on clothes, learned how to remove those same paint stains, grown, loved, been nurtured, the list is endless.

Also endless, is the list of activities children and families have shared with each other. There are big events like field trips, 6th grade partners, special days, an indoor sandbox and



The Cat in the Hat visits Bethlehem Preschool

grandparents visiting. There are regular days where children learn and explore the classroom, the Star Room and our outdoor area. There are small moments that make us all smile. A child zips their jacket for the first time and says "I did it myself!" Separation comes more easily for parent and child, no more tears. A child paints their first picture.

These are just a few big events and highlights of the 2010-2011 school year. I like to think that each child, parent, staff member and anyone else who knows BLP has their own list of highlights, some huge and some teeny, all special, that they will carry in their memory for years to come.

It has been a very good year.

—Laurie Tritabaugh, Director
Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool

Discussing *Love Wins* by Rob Bell

Rob Bell's new book *Love Wins* has been generating a lot of press lately. Join a discussion of this book with Pastor Janine on Wednesday, May 25 at 6:30pm at Grizzly's. Invite your friends who have been asking "God questions" prompted by this book and recent press about Bell.

Family Camp in Idaho

Nine families from Bethlehem are headed out to the beautiful Sawtooth mountains of Idaho for Family Camp at Luther Heights Bible Camp. August 4-15. Please keep them in your prayers!

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.

Family Camping Trip

The second annual Bethlehem family camping event at Bunker Hills will be June 24-26. All families are invited. Sites can accommodate campers or tents. Contact Valerie Felsch, valerie.felsch@allianzlife.com to reserve your camp site. Each campsite is \$50 for the weekend and checks should be made payable to Valerie Felsch at the time of reservation.

A Proud South Sudanese Graduate



James Khat (left) and **James Puotyual**, Bethlehem's African Nationals Ministry Leader, are pictured at a celebration of James Khat's graduation from SCSU. James received a degree in International Relations. In January, the people of southern Sudan voted overwhelmingly in favor of a referendum for independence. James Khat will return to his homeland to take a government position in the newly formed South Sudan. James' stole is South Sudan's new flag, a blue field with a yellow star and black, red, green & white stripes. Congratulations James!

Electronic Giving Options Great for Summer Giving Consistency

Bethlehem offers a number of options to help you maintain consistent financial support of your home congregation even while you are away from Bethlehem. There is an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) program that works with your checking/savings accounts. A newer option adds the ability to manage gifts online and also adds the ability to use your credit/debit card for offerings. The secure site is hosted by the same company that has been doing Bethlehem's EFT. In keeping with Financial Peace University principles, we ask that you only use the credit card option if you pay off your entire balance in full each month.

Thank You for Sabbatical Send-off

Dear Friends in Christ: Thank you, thank you for the wonderful and surprising send-off you provided on Sunday, May 8 as I begin my sabbatical. The wonderful breads really reflected our congregation's identity as "Bethlehem: House of Bread!" Thanks to all who provided such wonderful goodies—including the "bread" of lefsa! It is only by the work of the Holy Spirit that you would have chosen the St. John's Bible print of "Life in Community"—the illumination for Acts 2—one of the texts upon which I preached that Sunday!

I will miss you all over the course of the summer, and truly am grateful for this time of renewal. Take care! I'll look forward to seeing you at the end of August and will hold you in prayer during these beautiful weeks of summer.

+ Grace and peace,
Pastor Dee

LCBC Quilt Auction

Luther Crest Bible Camp's Quilt Auction will be Saturday, **July 9** (quilt review starts at 9:30 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, an option for those unable to be present for live bidding. Bid on a beautiful quilt and support this wonderful ministry partner!

Thrivent Builds with Habitat 2011

This year's *Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity* project in St Cloud will be building a twin home on 11th Ave SE in St. Cloud. A special kick-off event will be held on June 9 to mark the beginning of the 2011 build. Construction will continue from June through September. Lutherans and Thrivent members are needed to fill 50% of the volunteer slots at the construction site in order for Habitat to receive the grant from Thrivent.

Bethlehem has reserved Thursdays July 7, 14, & 21 as BLC work days at this site. Sign up on the Serve Board to work a morning, afternoon or all day shift. You may also sign up individually for other days on Habitat's website: www.cmhfh.org and click on "volunteer" and then on "on-line sign up" or call Habitat at 656-8890.

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.

Could you be our Champion?

Bethlehem is seeking someone passionate about Habitat's ministry to serve as our Congregation Champion. Contact Welcome & Serving Ministries Coordinator LaNae Cobb at (320) 251-8356x107 or lcobb@bethlehmlutheran.org to offer your time in this housing ministry.

Another way to support Habitat

On Wednesday, May 25 at 9am there will be a Ribbon Cutting to open Central MN Habitat for Humanity's ReStore a retail home improvement center selling donated new & used building materials. Visit www.cmhfh.org/restore for details on donating, volunteering & shopping at ReStore.

Financial Update

as of 4/30/11

	Income	- Expenses	=	Difference
General Fund¹	284,593	- 283,604	=	988
Preschool	41,053	- 28,081	=	12,972
	Target	- Received	=	Difference
Offering YTD²	122,500	- 119,564	=	-2,936
	Offerings	- Payments	=	Difference
Building Mortgage	68,589	- 80,292	=	- 11,703

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.

Directory Photography Begins in July

Bethlehem is doing a congregational photo directory with Lifetouch Photography this summer. Each household being photographed will receive a free 8"x10" portrait of your choosing and a completed photo directory.



Photography sessions will happen between July 18 and September 17, with both daytime and evening appointments available. Watch the weekly Announcements, BLC website and the next issue of The STAR for details on scheduling your appointment.

Recent Pastoral Acts

Baptisms

March 26, 2011

Lilly Keoni Blaske
Annika Nikolet Hennen
Miranda Leigh Hennen
Chloe Mae Reinarz
Lola Gail Rood

March 27, 2011

Maren Michelle Kolkman
Addison Mae Pulliam

April 23, 2011

Ann Elizabeth Reisinger
Karrigan Faith Onstad
Kaylin Rae Onstad
Jack Michael Onstad

Weddings

March 26, 2011

Mark Daniel St. Germain
Holly Victoria Harris

April 2, 2011

Grant Holger Swenson
Melany Irene Thull

May 7, 2011

Dominic Lee Johnson
Christina Ann Stevens

Funerals

January 13, 1926-April 10, 2011

Edward Ira Smith

July 13, 1977-April 12, 2011

Matthew John Stich

August 2, 1918-May 9, 2011

Lenore M. Ward

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.

Hospitalized? Please Let the Church Know: If you or a loved one is admitted to a hospital, either for a planned procedure or via the Emergency Room, please mention Bethlehem as your faith community during the admission process and be sure to call the church office.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Leadership

Lead Pastor: Dee Pederson [on Sabbatical until August 25]

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 Schimmich

Saturday Cantors: Brenda Handel-Johnson, Marcia Benson

Sound Technicians: Todd Karolus, Chris Huss, Collin Motschke

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: Tamara Underwood

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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Lutheran Church
4310 County Road 137
Saint Cloud, MN 56301

(320) 251-8356
www.bethlehemplutheran.org



Summer Worship Schedule *Begins May 28*

Saturday

5:00pm – Come as you are to this service that features strong piano leadership.

Sunday

8:30am – An inspiring service that unites worshipers in a traditional liturgy.

10:30am – This energetic worship service is led by a contemporary ensemble. Weather-permitting, this service will be held *outdoors on the third Sunday* of each month.

Summer Programs for Kids

Registration forms are available online and outside the Discipleship Office. See page 6 for details on these and other summer programs for Elementary age youth.

Vacation Bible School– June 13-16

Luther Crest Day Camp– July 11-14

LEAPP FROG Day Camp– August 1-4

Questions? Contact Melanie Halter, melanie@bethlehemplutheran.org or 251-8356 x131.