

# 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

## Inside This Issue:

Christmas Eve Characters	2
Community Meal	2
A Word from Pastor Dee	3
Drop, Shop & Play	4
News for Women of BLC	4
Great River Chorale Concert	4
Calendar	5
Sunday School Music	6
Education Schedule	6
Register for Ski Club	6
Youth Host Cookie Walk	7
LEAPP FROG Retreat	7
Family Cookie Bake Event	8
Make n' Take Lefse	8
New Member Info	9
Adult Ed Forums	9
Magi Gifts Center	10
Year-end Contributions	10
Financial Update	10
Poinsettia Orders	11
Cookie Shortage	11
Pastoral Acts	11
Staff Directory	11

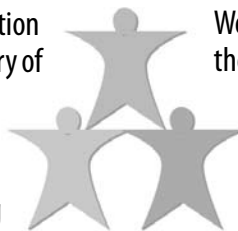


November 16-December 31, 2011

Vol. 43, No. 8

## Build Up Appeal Commitments Gathered November 19 & 20

The Build Up Mortgage Reduction Appeal seeks to build up the ministry of Bethlehem through debt reduction and preserving the facilities of our congregation. It seeks gifts for mortgage principal and building maintenance above & beyond regular, generous support of the congregation's overall ministry and monthly mortgage.



We now have bids totalling \$185,000 to repair the roof and the interior damage caused by the roof leaks. We are thankful the Appeal was already being planned and will help us cover this new expense.

### Commitment Cards

Commitment Cards were mailed November 4. They include space to indicate your 2012 commitment for "Our Congregation's Ministry" and "Our Congregation's Mortgage" as well as the special, over-and-above "Build Up" pledge. Be sure to bring your completed card to offer in worship on **November 19 & 20**. A special light supper will be served following worship on Saturday, November 19. Caribou Coffee and special treats will be served all Sunday morning. Choirs, ensemble and Bells will offer special music at 9 & 11am. Come, join the celebration!

### Goal for the Build Up Appeal

The 2-year goal for the Build Up Appeal is \$600,000. This goal includes:

- funds needed to reduce the mortgage principal and interest so the congregation will be debt-free in 10 years or less;
- funds for maintenance and upgrades essential to preserving our building.

## Christmas Worship Schedule

### Christmas Eve

**2pm** ~ The Christmas Story retold in song & scripture and portrayed by costumed characters

**4pm** ~ The Christmas Story retold in song & scripture and portrayed by costumed characters

**6pm** ~ Lessons, Carols & Candlelight are featured in this service of Holy Communion

**11pm** ~ Candlelight Christmas Eve Service of Holy Communion

### Christmas Day

**10am\*** ~ Festival Service with Christmas Carols

*\*Please note this will be the only service on Sunday, December 25*

### Opportunities to Serve

Ushers, Readers, Greeters, Communion Servers, Pageant Characters & Coordinators (2 & 4pm only) are needed for Christmas services. Sign up at the Serve Board.

## *Shepherds, prophets & camels, all have a place* **Help Tell The Christmas Eve Story**

At the 2pm & 4pm worship services on Christmas Eve the Christmas story will be told in narrative & song and portrayed by costumed characters. Needed at each service are persons to portray baby Jesus (a real baby!), Mary and Joseph (preferably the baby's parents), angels, shepherds, Micah, Isaiah, the Innkeeper, and camels. Magi must weigh no more than 40 pounds, be at least 4 years old & be comfortable being carried by the "camels." Sign-up at the SERVE Board starting Thanksgiving Eve. *Watch for details on a required rehearsal* and costume-fitting early in the week before Christmas.



## **Community Meal Team Seeking Winter Gear and Help with Meal**

Bethlehem will serve the Saturday Community Meal on November 26. 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. This is a wonderful opportunity for families to serve together during the season of giving thanks!

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.

## **Pastor Steve Excited to Return**

Good friends...

It is good to be back among the Bethlehem family again. My sabbatical was a wonderful time "away." I had two great trips – on my motorcycle to San Diego, CA and two weeks in central Europe with Sylvia. I got chores done around the house and had a lot of time to read, think and pray.

When I got back to Bethlehem on November 1 it was clear that lots of things have been happening in my absence. I am excited as we walk together into God's good future.

Peace and joy,  
—Pastor Steve

## **Staff Transitions at Bethlehem**

### *Joyce Resigns to Care for Family*

Joyce Morris-Lloyd completed 11 years of caring for this facility as our weekend & evening custodian in mid-October. She has moved to New York state to care for an aging relative. We thank God for Joyce's attention to detail and hospitality.

### *Thanks Diane, Enjoy Your Retirement*

After serving Bethlehem as the Director of Operations for 9 years, Diane Bublitz retired on 11/11/11. We thank God for Diane's care for our church staff, facilities and finances.

### *Welcome Dennis*

Bethlehem's new Director of Operations, Dennis Webster, was able to do some training & orientation with Diane and is now "flying solo." Dennis brings an expertise in accounting, budgeting, business management, operations, & human resources.

## **Help Prepare the Sanctuary**

The Liturgical Environment Committee is responsible for enhancing the worship experience through seasonally & liturgically appropriate decoration of the sanctuary. The committee is inviting all willing hands to join in preparing for Advent & Christmas on:

**Saturday, November 26;** 9am-12pm—Advent prep  
**Saturday, December 10;** 9am—Christmas trees  
**Friday, December 23;** 9am-12pm—Christmas prep

## **Photo Directory News**

There are just two more opportunities to have a family portrait taken by LifeTouch and be included in Bethlehem's new photo directory. Just a few appointments remain on November 28 & 29, between 2:30 and 9pm! This directory won't be complete without you! Please make an appointment today, using the link at [www.bethlehemplutheran.org](http://www.bethlehemplutheran.org) or sign up in the Square on Sunday, November 20. If you will be unable to have a photo taken you may submit a family photo for the directory. Professional photos must have a signed release.

If you had your photo taken in September or October **but didn't purchase a package**, your free 8x10 is in the Church Office. The directories should arrive at church early in the new year!

*A Word from Pastor Dee . . .*

## What I Have Learned by Being a “God-spotter”

*“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.” —Ephesians 3:20-21 (NRSV)*

This beautiful doxology is at the center of the letter to the Ephesians. Paul began this letter by telling these early Christians that God’s plan, right from the beginning, was that their words and actions might glorify God. Seeing the way the good news of Jesus brought together Gentiles & Jews—outsiders & insiders—Paul praised the inexhaustible grace of God given to all people in Jesus Christ. This grace was and is made known through the church.

In many ways, Paul is a “God-spotter.” He keeps his eyes & ears open, and with eyes & ears of faith, notices God’s grace and God’s activity all around him.

So if you were looking for signs of God’s gracious activity today, what would you see?

Maybe you would point to the way God is working in the –

- honest prayers of a preschooler
- freedom you know in forgiveness received or given
- healing you have received in a surgery
- restoration of a relationship with a friend
- love of someone close

As you read the letter to the Ephesians, you notice quickly that Paul’s praise of God also flows because of what God is doing in the church. The early Christians saw the church as community – the people of God together. For St. Paul, the church was not a corporation, but a corporate people. It was not a temple made with hands, but a building of people, “built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone.”

This fall, I have been glorifying God for the way God is working beyond anything I could ask or imagine – through the people who are the church right here. If you were “God-spotting” around Bethlehem this fall, these are some of the moments you would have seen:

**E**arly in October, the children, youth, and families who were part of summer trips led worship and provided testimonies about their experiences. *Wasn’t that fabulous?!* It truly is amazing to see the way the Holy Spirit is blowing and building life-long relationships across the generations, forming relationships that are “faith circles.” This

way of “being the church together” breaks through the anonymity of a large congregation, makes God’s grace real, and helps each of us know we belong. This is a model of ministry that has taken a significant investment of time and energy and focus, and it is a sweet thing to see the growth that has suddenly taken off because of this commitment. On the walls of sanctuary right now, around us, you can see names of people who have been part of expanding circles of faith for so many.

**W**e have seen the commitment of parents to keep the promises they made when their children were baptized – to hear God’s word and live with God’s people, the church. Parents have “placed in their children’s hands the Holy Scriptures.” Children have come to receive the Lord’s Supper for the first time. Thirty-one students affirmed the promises God made to them in Holy Baptism as they confirmed their faith on October 30.

**E**nergy for leadership at Bethlehem is flourishing. It has been a joy to see the kind of leadership and dedication people of Bethlehem are giving to the “Forward Momentum” effort and the “Build Up Mortgage Reduction Appeal.”

As we come to the end of another church year, and give thanks for God’s extravagant gifts, we also will offer our gifts and commitments for 2012 general ministry, 2012 mortgage commitments, and the Build Up Mortgage Reduction Appeal. Our response to these commitments grows out of grateful hearts and lives that glorify God and see no limit to the ways God will continue to work in our midst.

*“God can do anything, you know – far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us. Glory to God in the church! Glory to God in the Messiah, in Jesus! Glory down all the generations! Glory through all millennia! Oh, yes!” —Ephesians 3:20-21 (The Message)*

*Pastor Dee*

### Drop, Shop & Play December 17

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 17 from 10am until 2pm when the Congregational Life Board hosts **Drop, Shop & Play**. \$10/child or \$30/family; Proceeds will support the LEAPP FROGS. No age requirement. It's an action-packed time of games, activities, movies, cookie baking and lots of fun while the parents take time for Christmas shopping, cookie baking, or just enjoying a quiet afternoon together. Lunch and a light snack will be provided. Look for registration forms by the Discipleship Office and online.



### News for:

## Women of Bethlehem Circle Schedule for December

#### Tuesday, December 6

**Esther:** 1pm Potluck Lunch  
Park Place Estates Community Rm

**Eunice:** 1pm Mary Room

**Miriam:** 9:30am Barb Johnson's  
3600 West St Germain; StC

**Naomi:** 12pm Mandy Falloon's  
3116 Dunbar Rd; StC

**Priscilla:** 2:30pm Magi Room

#### Monday, December 12

**Phoebe:** 7pm Judy Carlsted's  
1812 11th Ave S; StC

#### Monday, December 20

**Anna:** 1:30 pm Nellie Henry's  
504 1st St NE, #106; Sartell

## Women's Advent Tea Sunday, December 4; 2:00-5:00pm

Beth Ketchum will host an Advent Tea at her St. Cloud home (1310 Cooper Ave. South). RSVP in the Events Sign-up Book by the Welcome Center. Please bring a donation for the Catholic Charities' Homeless Youth Backpack Project, see list posted at the Serve Board.

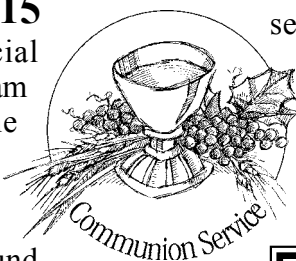


### Let's Keep in Touch!

Have you dropped your landline phone service? Changed your email address? Moved? Please update the Church Office whenever your contact information changes, Thanks!

### Communion Service for the Homebound December 15

Bethlehem will offer a special Service of Holy Communion at 11am on Thursday, December 15. The brief service will be followed by a potluck meal (Friendship Lunch) in the Peace Hall at noon. BLC members known to be homebound will receive a special invitation and a call to arrange transportation. If you or a loved one would like to attend and didn't receive an invitation please call the Church Office, 251-8356.



**Drivers Needed:** People are needed to pick-up the homebound members who will be attending the communion service and return them to their homes after the potluck lunch.

### Great River Chorale presents: "A Star in the Night"

Great River Chorale, the Youth Chorale of Central Minnesota and Cantabile will present their Christmas Concert "A Star in the Night" at Bethlehem on Saturday, December 17 at 7:30pm and Sunday, December 18 at 4pm. This annual concert celebrates the season with old and new settings of Christmas tunes including "O Holy Night", the Appalachian folk song "In Judah's Land" and the return of "Night of Silence." Come early for a good seat at this perennial Christmas favorite! Tickets are available at the door: \$15/adult \$10/senior and \$5/student.

### Official Notice Semi-Annual Meeting Sunday, December 4; 10:10am

**Agenda includes:** 2011 Financial Report; 2012 Income & Spending Plan; Elections of Board & Committee members and Voting Members to the Synod Assembly and Luther Crest Annual Meeting.

# Nov. 17 - Dec. 31, 2011 Bethlehem Lutheran

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>17</b> 9 am Preschool 9:15 pm Moms Book Study 12 pm Friendship Lunch 6 pm South Sudanese Women's ELL Class 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	<b>18</b> 9 am Preschool 4 pm Jr High Synod Youth Gathering 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>19</b> 9 am Religious Music Workshop 9 am Suzuki Studio 10:30 am African Women's Alliance Board 10:30 am So. Sudanese Ministry Board 2 pm Youth COTW Cooking <b>5 pm Worship</b> 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
<b>Church of the Week at BLC November 14-20 Sign-up at the Serve Board</b>						
<b>20</b> 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10:05 pm Education Hour <b>11 am Worship</b> 12:15 pm New Member Gathering 1 <b>12:30 pm Sudanese Worship Service</b> 2 pm Youth COTW Cooking <b>2 pm Worship-St Ben's</b>	<b>21</b> 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 11 am Preschool Chapel 6:30 pm Prayer Shawls 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	<b>22</b> 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 12:15 pm Women of BLC 6 pm South Sudanese Women's ELL Class 6:15 pm Bells of Bethlehem 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 14 7:30 pm Pastor Steve's Mutual Ministry Team 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	<b>23</b> 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 8 am Prayer Group 9 am Preschool 9 am BLP Parent Ed <b>7 pm Worship- Thanksgiving Eve</b> 8 pm Pie Social	<b>24</b> Church Building CLOSED	<b>25</b> Church Building CLOSED	<b>26</b> 9 am Baptism Orientation 11:30 am Community Meal at Hope Covenant <b>5 pm Worship</b> 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
<b>27</b> 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10:30 am New Member Gathering 2 <b>11 am Worship</b> <b>12:30 pm Sudanese Worship Service</b> with Holy Communion	<b>28</b> 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 11 am Preschool Chapel 2:30 pm Directory Photos 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	<b>29</b> 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 2:30 pm Directory Photos 6 pm South Sudanese ELL 6:15 pm Bells of Bethlehem 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 14 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	<b>30</b> 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 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Confirmation 7 pm Adult Choir 8 pm Soul Tending	<b>December 1</b> 7:30 am Executive Comm. 9 am Preschool 9 am Healthy Clergy 5:45 pm Heritage Quilters 6 pm South Sudanese Women's ELL Class 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	<b>2</b> 9 am Preschool 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>3</b> <b>5 pm Worship</b> 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
<b>4</b> 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10:05 pm Education Hour 10:10 am Semi-annual Congregational Mtg <b>11 am Worship</b> 12:15 pm Music Staff <b>12:30 pm Sudanese Worship Service</b> 12:30 pm NYG Meeting 2 pm Advent Tea	<b>5</b> 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	<b>6</b> <i>See Circle Schedule pg 4</i> 9 am Preschool 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 6 pm South Sudanese ELL 6:15 pm Bells of Bethlehem 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 14 7 pm Youth Advisory Team 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	<b>7</b> 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 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Confirmation 7 pm Adult Choir 8 pm Soul Tending	<b>8</b> 9 am Preschool 6 pm South Sudanese Women's ELL Class 6:30 pm BeFriends 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	<b>9</b> 9 am Preschool 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>10</b> LEAPP FROG Training Retreat 9 am Christmas Trees go into Sanctuary 10 am Family Cookie Baking at Huesers 10:30 am So. Sudanese Ministry Board <b>5 pm Worship</b> 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
<b>11</b> LEAPP FROG Training Retreat <b>8 am Worship</b> <b>9 am Worship</b> <b>11 am Worship</b> 11:30 am Sudanese Conversations 12:30 pm Nuer Bible Study	<b>12</b> 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 11 am Preschool Chapel 5 pm Lefse Make n Take 6 pm Great River Chorale 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study 7 pm Phoebe Circle	<b>13</b> 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 5:45 pm Church Council 6 pm South Sudanese ELL 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 St Cloud Call Up (AA)	<b>14</b> 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 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Confirmation 7 pm Adult Choir	<b>15</b> 8:30 am St Joseph's School rehearsal 9 am Preschool 11 am Homebound Communion Service 12 pm Friendship Club 6 pm South Sudanese Women's ELL Class 7 pm St Joseph's School concert 7:30 pm Service on Ch. 12	<b>16</b> 9 am Preschool 5 pm Christmas Goodie Make n Take 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>17</b> 9:30 am Drop, Shop & Play 10:30 am African Women's Alliance Board <b>5 pm Worship</b> 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous 7:30 pm Great River Chorale concert
<b>18</b> 8 am Worship 9 am Worship-Sunday <i>School Sings</i> 10:05 pm Education Hour <b>11 am Worship-Sunday</b> <i>School Sings</i> <b>12:30 pm Worship</b> <i>Sudanese language</i> 4 pm Great River Chorale concert	<b>19</b> 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 10 am Prayer Shawls 11 am Preschool Chapel 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	<b>20</b> 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 1:30 pm Anna Circle 6 pm South Sudanese Women's ELL Class 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)	<b>21</b> 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 8 am Prayer Group 9 am Preschool 9 am BLP Parent Ed 6:15 pm Children's Choir 7 pm Adult Choir	<b>22</b> 9 am Preschool 6 pm South Sudanese Women's ELL Class 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	<b>23</b> 12 pm Church Offices CLOSE 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>24</b> <b>2 pm Pageant</b> <b>4 pm Pageant</b> <b>6 pm Candlelight</b> <b>11 pm Candlelight</b>
<b>25</b> 10 am Christmas Day Worship	<b>26</b> Church Building CLOSED	<b>27</b> 8 am Mission Quilters 6 pm South Sudanese ELL 7:30 pm Pastor Steve's Mutual Ministry Team 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	<b>28</b> 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 8 am Prayer Group 9 am STAR mailed	<b>29</b> 6 pm South Sudanese Women's ELL Class 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	<b>30</b> 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	<b>31</b> <b>5 pm Worship</b>
<b>Jan. 1</b> 9 am Worship 11 am Worship						

## Sunday School Kids Offer Special Christmas Music on December 18

This Advent there will be opportunities for children and adults to take part in skits (both speaking and nonspeaking parts and parts for all ages are available) that will help us get ready for Christmas. If your child (or you) is interested in taking part in a skit please contact Melanie in the Discipleship Office.



On December 18, all Sunday School children will provide special music for worship at 9 & 11am. Parents should plan to attend worship on December 18 to hear the children sing as we all prepare for Jesus' birth.

## Youth Use Movies to Explore Faith

"Soul Tending" doesn't really capture what the Gr. 10-12 Wednesday night gatherings have become. We need a new name for this gathering time, but regardless of the name, our purpose is clear. This group views 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. We'll watch a movie together on Wednesday, November 30 and then discuss it December 7 before taking a break for Christmas. This group will gather again on January 4 watching another film to be discussed January 11.

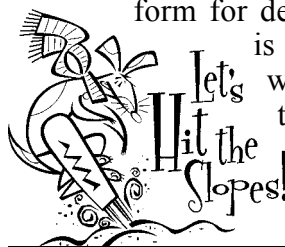
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## Register Now for Ski Club

Registration forms are out and it's time to get registered for this year's ski club! This is a Bethlehem sponsored event for the family! We'll grab a space in the chalet just for Bethlehem friends to congregate and visit while those interested in skiing hit the slopes. Children must be supervised as this is not a chaperoned event. See registration form for details. Registration deadline

is December 12 and ski dates will be Fridays January 6 to February 3. If you have questions please contact Joe or Heather Ericson at [hfallingerickson@yahoo.com](mailto:hfallingerickson@yahoo.com)



## Education Schedule Notes

- Nov. 23 -- **NO** Wednesday Classes
- Nov. 27 -- **NO** Sunday School Classes
- Dec. 18 -- Sing Christmas songs in worship
- Dec. 25 -- **NO** Sunday School Classes
- Dec. 28 -- **NO** Wednesday Classes
- Jan. 1 -- **NO** Sunday School Classes

## Jr High Summer Trip

On November 9 a group of parents gathered to plan the Jr High Summer trip. Watch the website, weekly announcements and the Confirmation announcements for details on what is sure to be a great adventure for summer 2012!

## National Youth Gathering News

Forty-three youth and 11 adults will be traveling to New Orleans in July to meet up with 40,000 other youth from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for the National Youth Gathering!

Congregational prayer is requested as these students and adults begin the long, exciting process of preparation for this event! This Gathering's theme is *Citizens with the Saints* and focuses on Ephesians 2:14-20. A website will be set up for the congregation to follow these students as they prepare and then travel to New Orleans as ambassadors of Bethlehem! The next meeting for registered youth is Sunday, December 4: youth & chaperones 12:30-1:30pm and parents 1:30-2pm

## Fundraising and Scholarships

If you are a student looking to participate in fundraising or an adult interested in coordinating a fundraiser, please contact Becky Eisenwinter [beisenwinter@hotmail.com](mailto:beisenwinter@hotmail.com).

December's fundraiser is the Cookie Walk December 10-11. Proceeds will support the youth attending the National Youth Gathering.

Scholarships are also available in the form of matching funds to money that a student fundraises. Please contact Katie or any of Bethlehem's pastors to learn more about scholarships for Bethlehem sponsored activities.

## Monkeyin' Around at Trunk-r-Treat



Thirty-two LEAPP FROGS and 25 vehicles came together for the 4th annual Trunk-r-Treat at Bethlehem. LEAPP FROGS dressed up and trunks came in many different themes. Trunk-r-Treaters not only had fun Trick-or-Treating for candy, they visited the Bethlehem pumpkin patch where they picked a pumpkin of their very own to decorate. This is such a great way for all generations to come together and have some fun!



Students at the First Communion Milestone decorated a chalice as part of their instruction. The students then used their chalice to receive their First Communion on November 6.

## Youth Host Cookie Walk Dec. 10 & 11

**Love to bake?** Please consider donating a batch or two of your favorite holiday breads, cookies and candies. Donations can be dropped off in the Square from 3-5:30pm on Saturday, December 10.

**Hate to bake?** The Cookie Walk, following 5pm service on Saturday, Dec. 10 and between services on Sunday, Dec. 11, is an easy way to get all of your favorite holiday treats in one place!

**Want to support BLC Youth?** All proceeds support BLC youth attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans next summer.

## Momentum Team Welcomes Input

**How is Bethlehem to become the community that God intended?** Following up on the *Forward into God's Future* events this spring a small group has been tackling this question. *Building Forward Momentum* was authorized by the Church Council to discern what we are doing now and what we could be doing to continue to move us into God's future for our church community. This group is seeking additional input as they begin to explore three key areas: worship, faith development and hospitality.

*Do you have a voice, passion or a calling to assist in this important work?* Please know that you have an invitation to join the conversation at any time. Watch the weekly announcements, Bethlehem's website and Facebook for upcoming meeting dates. For additional information please contact Pastor Janine [jolson@bethlehemplutheran.org](mailto:jolson@bethlehemplutheran.org) or 251-8356x103.

## LEAPP FROGS Training Retreat

There will be a Training Retreat at Luther Crest December 10-11 for Sr High Students in the LEAPP FROG program. Cost is \$50 and includes lodging, food, transportation and training. All interested LEAPP FROGS should register by December 2 (the 40 spots available are filling fast!) Registration forms are available outside of the Discipleship Office.

Jr High FROGS will next gather on Sunday, January 8 from noon until 1:30pm. Sr High FROGS will gather from 1 to 2:30pm on January 8.

If you have questions about this discipleship & leadership development program, please contact Katie in the Discipleship Office.

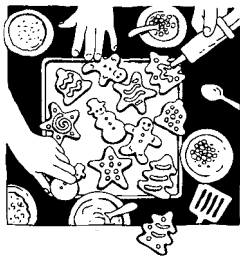
### How to Reach the Discipleship Ministry Staff

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

## Family Ministry Team Seeks Recipes for Cookie Baking Event

Families are invited to a cookie baking day at Pat & Tamara Hueser's home on Saturday, December 10, 10am–2pm. As part of this event, we are looking for cookie suggestions. Once we have a few recipes picked out, we will divide up the ingredients among the registered families. We will also be doing cut-out Christmas cookies (this dough will be provided). Pizza will be served for lunch. RSVP with your favorite cookie recipes to Tamara, [tezers@pamsauto.com](mailto:tezers@pamsauto.com) or call 282-8266, by Saturday, December 3.

If you would like to plan or host an event for Families, please contact the Family Ministry Coordinators, Shelly and Kelly Davidson [kdsdavidson2@charter.net](mailto:kdsdavidson2@charter.net). New families join in the fun every month so please feel free to come anytime!



## Adult Sunday School

This group meets at 10:10am every Sunday that Sunday School gathers to explore the same lessons that students are learning but from a grown-up perspective. No registration needed. If you have questions or would like to join the facilitation team, please contact Eric Felsh at [ericfelsh@mac.com](mailto:ericfelsh@mac.com)

## Make n' Take Events Answer: "How'd they do that?"

If you've ever wondered that about the Scandinavian holiday staple, Lefse, you are invited to a special event on Monday, December 12 at 5pm. You will have a chance to learn the process and practice your new skills at this Make 'n Take event. Mary Ann Jordet will demonstrate the process and help you continue this wonderful tradition into the next generation. Participants will take home the fruits of their labors for holiday feasting! A similar Make n' Take event for other Christmas Goodies will be held on Friday, December 16 at 5pm.

Please join in one or both sessions for a fun time of learning and fellowship during treat making. There will be a small fee to cover supply expenses to be determined by the number of participants. Please reserve your spot at the SERVE Board.

## Applying to a Lutheran College?

**Seniors:** If you are applying to one of the forty participating Lutheran Colleges & Universities you can get an Application Fee Waiver. Speak with Pastor Janine to learn more. Find more details about participating colleges at [www.lutherancolleges.org](http://www.lutherancolleges.org)

## 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 **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.

## 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.



## Sunday Forums

Sunday morning forums gather in the Magi Room at 10:10am on Sundays and cover a variety of topics from Bible Studies to Social Justice to travel logs.

**November 20—*Re:Form Ancestors***  
*David: The Flawed and Beloved King*—Who was David and why do we still hear about this king 3,000 years later?

**December 4—*Semi-annual Congregational Meeting***

**December 11 & 18—*Gifts worth Giving!*** Come explore alternative gifts to give this Christmas that can bring joy to more than just the recipient!

## *New to the 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](mailto:lcobb@bethlehemlutheran.org)

## Next New Member Gatherings Set for February

Bethlehem's New Member Orientation process involves two learning gatherings and an opportunity to serve together. All gatherings include time 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](mailto:lcobb@bethlehemlutheran.org) or 251-8356x107 for details.

## Couples Group Events Promise Lots of Laughter

In December the Couples Group will be "Laughing All the Way" at Pioneer Place, Saturday, December 10; 7:30pm.

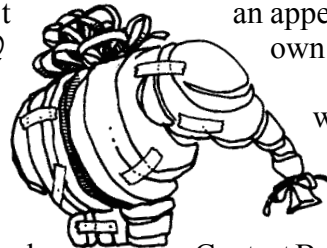
Contact Marnie at [marnieswanson@hotmail.com](mailto:marnieswanson@hotmail.com) by November 27 to reserve your tickets (\$24/person).

Don't miss what has become an annual post-holiday tradition: the White Elephant Exchange at Beth &

Kevin Donnelly's the evening of January 14. Bring your White Elephant (Don't buy it; check your closet, garage & basement!), an appetizer to share and your own beverages.

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](mailto:swansonbrock@yahoo.com) or [marnieswanson@hotmail.com](mailto:marnieswanson@hotmail.com).



## Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool Goals Include Raising Awareness

One of the goals for the 2011-2012 Preschool Year is as follows: Congregation members will become more aware of Bethlehem Preschool through monthly participation by Preschool Families in worship services, display of children's art in Bethlehem Square and bulletin artwork provided by the Preschool children. Bethlehem Preschool is an important ministry of Bethlehem Church. As a Board and Staff we feel it is important to



have visual reminders, real people, art work or messages, that bring the preschool to the attention of the congregation. Equally important is a reminder to Preschool Families that Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool and Church are strongly connected. The intent is to have families greet, usher and be present at one service each month. Children will provide artwork for the bulletin that fits the church season or the topics discussed in weekly Chapel Time. As most of you know, WE LOVE ART! We also love to show off our art to others. We intend to create an "Art Wall" where others can enjoy the process of our art experiences. Look for us monthly. We are happy to become a presence at worship throughout the year.

## Magi Gifts Center is Open

The Magi Gifts Center will be open on Sundays, December 4, 11, 18 from 8:30am to 11:15am. Check out all the great Fair Trade and faith-building gifts available including: olivewood and jewelry from the Holy Land, crosses from Ethiopia, weaving from Guatemala, unique "Pins by Lucida", devotional books, children's books & more!



## ThriventChoice Dollars

*Thrivent Members:* remember that both Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool are eligible organizations for *ThriventChoice* designations. Please take a couple minutes to designate your *ChoiceDollars* (either online or by phone 800-THRIVENT). The Church Council has decided that *ChoiceDollars* currently directed to the church, will be used to upgrade the phone system.

## Year-end Contributions and Holiday Office Schedule

All contributions for the 2011 tax year must be postmarked by the USPS on or before December 31, placed in the Saturday evening offering plate on December 31 or dropped off in the church office by 4pm Friday, December 30. Thank you for your help in closing the 2011 books on a positive note!



### Holiday Schedule

During the holidays the Church Office will be open until noon on December 23 and closed all day on both Mondays December 26 & January 2.

## Wreaths Delivered November 20

If you ordered a wreath in October from Bethlehem Youth in the Square your order will be ready to pick up at church on Sunday, November 20. If you ordered directly from a Bethlehem youth that student will deliver your order personally.

## Pick-up Your Offering Envelopes

Offering Envelopes for 2012 are available for pick up in Bethlehem Square. Please pick yours up soon to save the expense of mailing, thanks!

## Thanks for Rummage Sale Donations



*The Bells of Bethlehem & Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool thank everyone who donated items to the Fall Rummage Sale and those who gave of their time. It was one of the most successful sales ever! The funds raised (\$4,174!) will help The Bells of Bethlehem attend the regional handbell conference next summer in Duluth. Preschool's portion of the proceeds will be used to replace the flooring in one classroom.*

## Angel Tree Project

The Salvation Army is expecting to see increased need again this Christmas. Please consider picking up a tag or two from the Angel Tree starting on Thanksgiving Eve. The tree also includes special tags seeking gift cards for families in need within the Bethlehem community. Gifts need to be returned, unwrapped with gift tag securely attached, to the church by December 18.

## Financial Update

as of 10/31/11

	<b>Income</b>	-	<b>Expenses</b>	=	<b>Difference</b>
<b>General Fund<sup>1</sup></b>	693,427	-	694,027	=	-600
<b>Preschool</b>	70,624	-	68,576	=	2,048
	<b>Target</b>	-	<b>Received</b>	=	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Offering YTD<sup>2</sup></b>	638,800	-	661,203	=	22,403
	<b>Offerings</b>	-	<b>Payments</b>	=	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Building Mortgage</b>	169,947	-	195,792	=	- 25,845

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

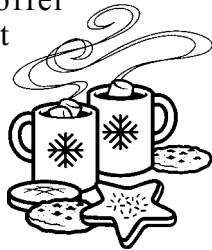
2 - This reflects actual General Fund Offerings year-to-date against a weighted average target based on three years of actual offering data.

## Order a Poinsettia

Stop by the Welcome Center to order a poinsettia for \$12 to add to the Christmas splendor in the sanctuary. Plants may be offered as a memorial for a loved one or in celebration of a special event.

## Cookie Shortage

*Do you love to bake or really enjoy a treat with your morning coffee? Sign up on the Serve Board to bring treats, homemade or purchased, for Sunday mornings. Or offer funds for the next Cookie Baking Day on Saturday, December 17, simply put a note in your check's memo line.*



## Recent Pastoral Acts

### Baptisms

August 27, 2011  
Holden Andrew Nuy

September 24, 2011  
Haley Kay Gleisner

September 25, 2011  
Avery Grace Laudenbach

October 22, 2011  
Liam Chad Emery  
Calvin Niklas Fischer  
Isabella Ann Jeanine Lykken

October 23, 2011  
Cody Kenneth Bye  
Sloane Elizabeth Knettel  
Jude Jerome Schnabel

October 29, 2011  
Joseph Adam Sweeney

### 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.

### Wedding

September 23, 2011  
Chad Arland Anderson  
Dawn Marie Detloff

October 8, 2011  
Eric Brian Callander  
Beth Lynn Kissner

October 15, 2011  
Bryan Joel Brands  
Sarah Marie Schultz

October 22, 2011  
Todd Allen Plante  
Heather Lynn Moulzolf

### Funerals

March 12, 1934-September 22, 2011  
Harold D. Groustra

March 22, 1944-September 24, 2011  
John M. Christianson

February 19, 1923-October 2, 2011  
Donald L. Millard

## 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]

**Custodian:**

**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

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

### Congregation Officers

*President:* Valerie Felsch

*Vice President:* Doreen Meier

*Treasurer:*

*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:* 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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## BETHLEHEM

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

(320) 251-8356  
[www.bethlehemplutheran.org](http://www.bethlehemplutheran.org)



## Thanksgiving Eve Service & Pie Social

Gather at Bethlehem on Thanksgiving Eve Wednesday, November 23 for a 7pm service of praise and thanksgiving with the theme "We Thank God for: People-Places-Things" Share in your abundance by bringing canned goods to help stock

area food shelves. Special Offering Envelopes will be available to support the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.



Following the service enjoy a piece of pie, some fruit or a cookie in Bethlehem Square. It's a time for fellowship with others for which we all can be thankful!