

The Bethlehem

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Saint Cloud, Minnesota

Star

Worship Schedule

Saturday:

5:00 pm

Sunday:

8:00 am

9:00 am

11:00 am

12:30 pm*

*Nuer language service

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October 1-November 16, 2011

Vol. 43, No. 7

Build Up Appeal Begins

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.

The 2-year goal for the Build Up Mortgage Reduction Appeal is to raise an additional \$600,000. The Church Council has established the following priorities* for this special appeal:



Priority One: Being debt-free by 2021

In January 2011 the congregation approved refinancing our mortgage of \$1,932,834 into a 10 year note with a balloon payment of \$444,885 due in February 2021. The Build Up Appeal seeks to reduce the mortgage principal & interest paid so that we will be debt-free in 10 years or less.

Priority Two: Preserving the wonderful facilities of the congregation

In a 15 year-old building, maintenance and upgrades are essential to protecting the congregation's investment. There are some big projects that need to be tackled: roof repair, carpet replacement, heating/cooling systems upgrades & repairs, and refinishing the sanctuary floor.

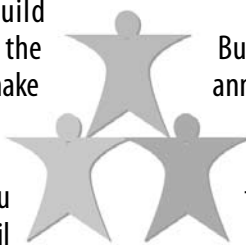
*Gifts to the Build Up Appeal will be applied as needed to the two priorities set out by the Church Council.

Breakfasts Offer Appeal Details

All are invited to attend a Build Up Breakfast to learn more about the Appeal and have an opportunity to make Advance Pledges. Breakfasts will be from 8 to 9am on October 4, 6 & 13; RSVP at the Serve Board if you plan to attend. Also watch your mail for a Build Up Bible Study Guide, arriving in mid-October.

Commitments Gathered 11/19-20

The Commitment Cards for the Build Up Appeal include space for your annual commitment of support for "Our Congregation's Ministry" and "Our Congregation's Mortgage" as well as the special Build Up pledge for principal reduction and facility maintenance. Commitments will be presented in worship on the weekend of November 19 & 20.



Preaching Themes for Build Up Appeal

October 15-16: Ephesians 1—A Plan for the Fullness of Time

October 22-23: Ephesians 1—To Know the Hope to Which He has Called You

October 29-30: Ephesians 2—Built Upon a Strong Foundation

November 5-6: Ephesians 3—Abundantly More Than We Can Ask or Imagine

November 12-13: Ephesians 4—Gifts for Building Up the Body of Christ

Commitment Weekend (Nov. 19-20): Ephesians 5-6—Putting on the Whole Armor of God

Create a Mission Quilt at Home

On Sunday, October 16 learn how you can be part of Bethlehem's mission work. Visit with the Mission Quilters in the Square between services and pick up an easy to sew quilt kit. Examples of the finished product will be on display. Sew the quilt top at home and return it later for the Mission Quilters to complete. Finished quilts are sent to Lutheran World Relief (LWR). LWR will then distribute the quilts around the globe to someone is in need of a comforting quilt made by you! Learn more on October 16.

Habitat Home for Hansons

Construction is underway for BLC member Kyle Hanson's Habitat for Humanity home in the Westwood neighborhood. Kyle is the single father of Erin & Alexandra, ten year old twins, and Zakariah who is six years old. Currently, Erin and Zakariah share a room in Kyle's 3-bedroom apartment so that Alexandra's room has plenty of space for her medical equipment. Signup online at www.cmhfh.org to work at the Hanson site or the Thrivent Builds site on 11th Ave SE!

Opportunities to Worship, Learn & Serve

Opportunities to Serve in Worship

- Communion Prep
- Communion Server
- Scripture Reader
- Usher
- Videographer

Opportunities to Learn to Serve

- Saturday, October 15; 4pm
- Sunday, October 16; 10:10am

Opportunities for all

- Learn from experienced leaders
- Serve together as a family
- No RSVP needed

Car Wash: Not a Fundraiser, Servant Evangelism!



The Outreach Team had as a goal for 2011 to do a servant evangelism event. They decided to host a Dollar Car Wash, with a twist: folks would receive a car wash and when they tried to give the team a dollar, the team would hand the person a dollar attached to a note that thanked them for the opportunity to serve, encouraged them to "pay it forward" and an invitation to worship.

Community Meal Needs

Bethlehem will serve the Saturday Community Meals at Hope Covenant Church on October 22 & 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.

Jr High Servant Event

On Saturday, October 29 from 9am to noon a group will be doing a fall yard clean up at Bethlehem. All students in grades 7-9 are invited to join in a morning of serving your congregation!



A Word from Pastor Dee . . .

Sabbath Rest is Built into All of Creation

It's good to be back! I want to express my thanks to the congregation for allowing me to be away and enjoy a wonderful time of sabbatical this summer. I'm grateful to my Bethlehem colleagues and our lay leaders not only for covering so many ministry areas in my absence, but for doing so with such wisdom and grace. And I am deeply appreciative of Lilly Endowment for providing the Clergy Renewal grant that supported this opportunity. The summer included time with family and friends both here and in Korea, time to rest, pray, think, and even do some work around the house that's been neglected for far too many years.

While I was away I was able to worship at many different churches and learn from them—from the largest Christian church in the world to small and large churches in the US. Being gone for just over 3 months meant I missed some important moments of life at Bethlehem and all the joys and sorrows a congregation shares. I had to figure out who I am apart from my work and what I “produce.” It was a gift to have this time away, but I also missed the work and ministry we do together. I missed all of you! And I returned to work refreshed and renewed and ready to be back with you—people whom I love. I guess that's the best way one could hope to end a sabbatical!

This summer, I also re-discovered how vital and essential it is to have time for rest on a regular basis. “Sabbatical” times are times of “sabbath” away from ongoing duties, times of rest and reflection and renewal. Scripture tells us that creation itself was not complete until God, the Creator of the universe, took a sabbath rest on the seventh day. And in a similar way, God commanded all of us creatures to “Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.” That means that we are wired for times of refreshment. We need times to rest. Summertime, with its changes in schedules, provides wonderful “sabbath” for many of us as we get away on vacation, enjoy the beauty of creation, and reconnect with family and friends.

And yet, I can't believe how quickly we can get back into the rat-race as soon as fall hits! School begins. Church activities ramp up. Sports events swing into high gear. There are days when the rhythm of summer seems like it never happened.

There are moments when we wonder how we can keep up with it all.

So last week, the Holy Spirit gave me a gentle reminder through the changing of the seasons. Monday, September 12, was a beautiful summer day, but over the afternoon, the temperature dropped 20 degrees and the leaves began to fall to the ground. Lots of leaves. Thousands of leaves! I went to my computer and did a little refresher course on why leaves drop their leaves, and I was reminded that it's really a pretty cool thing.

Leaves are essential to the life of a tree, and possess the special talent of helping make food energy so the tree can live and grow. As the days get shorter and cooler, the tree reabsorbs the nutrients in its leaves and gets ready to tell the leaves to drop off so it can conserve moisture and reduce the energy it needs to stay alive. Since trees can't afford to run their little leaf factories and produce energy year-round, the trees rest so that in the springtime, they're ready for a new season of growth. Isn't God's creation amazing?!

As I return to work this fall, see my own calendar fill up, and recognize how frantic-busy your lives are, these falling leaves remind me of our need to rest and renew and refresh. I know, most of us can't “go dormant” for the winter, and we probably don't want to. But in order to do what God calls us to do every day, in order to love God and serve our neighbors, each of us needs to create those opportunities and spaces when we might take a break from “production.” For the Christian disciple, that means not being cut off, but rather resting in God's Word through prayer, Bible study, and worship; receiving the nourishment of the Lord's Supper; and knowing the strength of being connected in the relationships we know in the church community. I'm so glad that these are precisely the gifts God gives to the church.

As we embrace this changing season with its changing schedules, I look forward to seeing you at worship, in our times of Bible study and reflection, and in the relationships the Triune God gives us to share. *“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.”* —Psalm 103:1

Pastor Dee



Friendship Lunch

All who are free for lunch are invited to Friendship Lunch at noon on Thursdays October 20 and November 17. Please bring a dish to share. Pastor Steve will offer a report on his mini sabbatical at the November gathering including incredible photos from his motorcycle trip through the western US.

Photo Directory

If you had your photo taken for the church directory (thanks!) but did not purchase a package, your free 8x10 was delivered to church. Please pick your's up from the Church Office.

News for: Women of Bethlehem

Circle Schedule for October/November

Tuesday, October 4

- Esther:** 1pm Micah Room
- Eunice:** 1pm Mary Room
- Miriam:** 9:30am Carol LeBon's
1015 Diamond Willow Cir; WP
- Naomi:** 12pm Gloria Melby's
2808 Island View Ct; StC
- Priscilla:** 2:30pm Magi Room

Monday, October 11

- Phoebe:** 7pm Sylvia Cook's
3012 19th St S; StC

Thursday, October 13

- Anna:** 1:30pm Gerry Haug's
532 5th Ave NE; StC

Tuesday, November 1

- Esther:** 1pm
- Eunice:** 1pm Mary Room
- Miriam:** 9:30am Jan Dahl's
1008 Killian Blvd; StC
- Naomi:** 12pm Julie Langenfeld's
3111 Dunbar Rd; StC
- Priscilla:** 2:30pm Magi Room

Tuesday, November 9

- Phoebe:** 7pm Joyce Fossum's
26 Fairfield Ln; StC

Thursday, October 13

- Anna:** 1:30pm Lois Sjobeck's
1615 15th Ave SE #137; StC

BLC Hosts VocalEssence on Nov. 5

The internationally-acclaimed VocalEssence Ensemble Singers are traveling the state along scenic Highway 23 with a stop at Bethlehem on Saturday, November 5 at 7pm. Join in a tour of Minnesota's musical heritage—from choral composers, to singer-songwriters, to the folksong traditions of our grandparents—in this high-spirited program of all things Minnesota! Advanced tickets are \$12/adult, \$12/senior & \$8/student; \$15 at the door.

Family Fun Outing: Trunk-r-Treat!

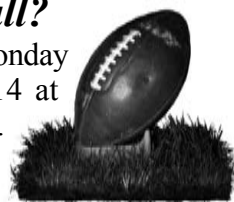
The next Family Fun Outing will be Trunk-r-Treat on Saturday, October 29, 1-3pm! Come dressed up to Trick-or-Treat from trunk to trunk.

This event is truly a congregational event, all members are invited to decorate their car's trunk and hand out treats to trunk-r-treaters! Please no scary decorations, as this event tends to draw our youngest family members! Cars planning to open their trunks must be in place by 12:30pm and stay until after 3pm for the safety of the children in the parking lot. At 3pm prizes will be awarded in following categories: most creative, most thematic, and best costumed adult!



Ready for Some Football?

Join the Couples Group for Monday Night Football on November 14 at Kelly & Shelly Davidson's home. It's not just any Monday Night Football, it's a border battle with the Packers! A main dish will be provided; please bring a side dish to share and your own beverages. Come as early as 6:45 to get a good seat—Kick-off is at 7:30pm. Come for the entire game, stay until half-time, or just drop in to say hi! *Not a football fan? Not a couple?* No big deal! There will be plenty of good food & conversation for everyone, even those brave enough to wear a cheesehead! RSVP to ksdavidson2@charter.net, or 230-0229.



Crafting Weekend November 4 & 5

Crafters & Scrapbookers: you are invited to a weekend of crafting & fellowship November 4 & 5 at Bethlehem. You can start setting up at 4pm on Friday, craft until 10pm. You can even leave your projects set out and continue where you left off starting at 9am on Saturday. The space is free, but we need your reservation! Bring your own snacks & drinks; meals are on your own. To reserve your table, please contact Lori at 253-3084 or ljbuegler@charter.net by Monday, October 24; a minimum of 12 crafters are needed or the event will be cancelled.

Oct. 2 - Nov. 19, 2011 Bethlehem Lutheran

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10:05 pm Education Hour 11 am Worship 12:15 pm Music Staff 12:30 pm Sudanese Worship Service 12:30 pm NYG 2012 Mtg 3:30 pm College Fair	3 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 11 am Preschool Chapel 6:30 pm Financial Peace 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	4 <i>See Circle Schedule</i> 8 am Build Up Breakfast 9 am Preschool 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 6 pm South Sudanese Women's ELL Class 6:15 pm Bells of Bethlehem 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 14 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	5 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 8 am Prayer Group 9 am Preschool 9 am BLP Parent Ed 5 pm Finance Comm. 5 pm Wednesday SS ★56 6 pm Childrens Choir 6:30 pm Confirmation 7 pm Adult Choir 8 pm Soul Tending 8 pm Youth Fundraising Mtg	6 8 am Build Up Breakfast 9 am Healthy Clergy 9 am Preschool 9:15 pm Moms Book Study 2:30 pm Directory Photos 5:45 pm Heritage Quilters 6 pm S. Sudanese ELL 7 pm Columbarium Comm 7 pm Youth Advisory Team 7 pm Willow Creek HOA 7:30 pm Service on Ch. 12	7 9 am Preschool 2:30 pm Directory Photos 5 pm Wedding rehearsal 5:30 pm Engaged Workshop 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	8 8:30 am Suzuki Studio 9 am Engaged Workshop 10 am Directory Photos 3 pm Wedding 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
9 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10:10 am Education Hour 11 am Worship 12 pm Jr LEAPP FROGS 12:30 pm Nuer Bible Study 1:30 pm LEAPP FROGS 2 pm Worship at St Benedict Center	10 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 11 am Preschool Chapel 6:30 pm Financial Peace 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study 7 pm Phoebe Circle	11 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 Church Boards 6:45 pm Church Boards 7 pm Beginning Experience 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 14 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	12 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 pm Childrens Choir 6:30 pm Confirmation 7 pm Adult Choir 8 pm Soul Tending	13 9 am Preschool 9:15 pm Moms Book Study 12 pm Rummage Sale Donation Drop-off 1:30 pm Anna Circle 6 pm South Sudanese Women's ELL Class 6:30 pm BeFriends 6:30 pm Forward Momentum 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	14 9 am Rummage Sale Donation Drop-off 5 pm Wedding rehearsal 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	15 8:30 am Suzuki Studio 9 am Rummage Sale 10:30 am African Women's Alliance Board 3 pm Wedding 4 pm Learning to Serve in Worship 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
16 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10:05 pm Education Hour 10:10 am Learning to Serve in Worship 11 am Worship 12:30 pm Worship <i>Sudanese language</i>	17 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 10 am Prayer Shaws 11 am Preschool Chapel 6:30 pm Financial Peace 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	18 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 6 pm South Sudanese ELL 6:15 pm Bells of Bethlehem 6:30 pm African Women's Alliance Book Study 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 14 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	19 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 8 am Prayer Group 9 am Preschool 9 am BLP Parent Ed 7 pm Adult Choir	20 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	21 5 pm Wedding rehearsal 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	22 9 am Baptism Orientation 11:30 am Community Meal at Hope Covenant 3 pm Wedding 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
23 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10:10 am Adult Ed Forum 11 am Worship 12:30 pm Nuer Bible Study	24 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 9 am THRIVE Workshop 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 11 am Preschool Chapel 5 pm THRIVE Workshop 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	25 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 St Cloud Call Up (AA)	26 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 8 am Prayer Group 9 am Preschool 9 am BLP Parent Ed 5 pm Wednesday Sunday School & ★56 5:30 pm Gr. 10 Banquet 6 pm Childrens Choir 6:30 pm Confirmation 7 pm Adult Choir 8 pm Soul Tending	27 9 am Preschool 9:15 pm Moms Book Study 6 pm South Sudanese Women's ELL Class 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	28 9 am Preschool 5:30 pm First Communion Milestone Instruction 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	29 9 am Confirmation rehearsal 10 am First Communion Milestone Instruction 10 am Preschool Bible Milestone Instruction 12:30 pm Mystery Mission 1 pm Trunk-r-Treat 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
30 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10:05 pm Education Hour 11 am Worship 12:30 pm Worship <i>Sudanese language</i> 1 pm Worship <i>Affirmation of Baptism</i>	31 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 11 am Preschool Chapel 6:30 pm Financial Peace 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	Nov. 1 <i>See Circle Schedule</i> 9 am Preschool 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 6 pm South Sudanese Women's ELL Class 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)	2 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 8 am Prayer Group 9 am Preschool 9 am BLP Parent Ed 5 pm Wednesday SS ★56 5 pm Acolyte Training 5 pm STAR Deadline 6 pm Childrens Choir 6:30 pm Confirmation 7 pm Adult Choir 8 pm Soul Tending	3 9 am Preschool 9 am Healthy Clergy 9:15 pm Moms Book Study 5:45 pm Heritage Quilters 6 pm South Sudanese Women's ELL Class 7 pm Youth Advisory Team 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	4 9 am Preschool 4 pm Scrapbooking/Crafting Weekend 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	5 7 am Scrapbooking/Crafting Weekend 5 pm Worship 7:30 pm VocalEssence/and Great River Chorale Concert 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
6 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10:05 pm Education Hour 11 am Worship 12 pm Music Staff 12:30 pm Sudanese Worship Service	7 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 11 am Preschool Chapel 6:30 pm Financial Peace 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	8 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 Church Boards 6:45 pm Church Boards 7 pm Beginning Experience 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 14 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	9 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 pm Childrens Choir 6:30 pm Confirmation 7 pm Adult Choir 8 pm Soul Tending	10 9 am Preschool 9:15 pm Moms Book Study 1:30 pm Anna Circle 5 pm Wedding rehearsal 6 pm South Sudanese Women's ELL Class 6:30 pm BeFriends 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	11 9 am Preschool 6 pm Wedding 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	12 9 am Conversations on Christian Faith 9 am Suzuki Studio 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
13 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10:05 pm Education Hour 11 am Worship 12 pm Jr LEAPP FROGS 12:30 pm Nuer Bible Study 1:30 pm LEAPP FROGS	14 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 11 am Preschool Chapel 6:30 pm Financial Peace 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study 7 pm Phoebe Circle	15 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 6 pm South Sudanese ELL 6:15 pm Bells of Bethlehem 6:30 pm African Women's Alliance Book Study 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 14 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	16 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 8 am Prayer Group 9 am STAR Mailed 9 am Preschool 9 am Mystery Mission 5 pm Wednesday SS ★56 6 pm Childrens Choir 6:30 pm Confirmation 7 pm Adult Choir 8 pm Soul Tending	17 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	18 9 am Preschool 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	19 9 am Religious Music Workshop 9 am Suzuki Studio 10:30 am African Women's Alliance Board 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Church of the Week at BLC November 14-20 Sign-up at the Serve Board

Preschool Bible Milestone

Children ages 3 or 4 (at the parent's choosing) will receive a Spark Story Bible on Sunday, October 29 at 10am (during the Preschool Sunday School class). This Bible will be used throughout preschool and early elementary years of Sunday School. Parents and children will become familiar with the features of this kid friendly Bible and learn about ways to use it as a devotional tool in their home. Please RSVP to the Discipleship Office to attend.

First Communion Milestone

Third grade students are invited to participate in the First Communion instruction on Friday, October 28 from 5:30 until 9pm (includes dinner together) and again on Saturday, October 29 from 10am to 2pm (includes lunch). Families will be learning more about Communion by doing various activities together including creating a chalice to be used for their First Communion. Students and one parent must attend both parts of the instruction.

Registrations are needed (turn in to the Discipleship Office) for this Milestone to order meals and chalices. We will celebrate this Milestone in worship on All Saints Sunday, November 6 at your choice of 9 or 11am worship services.

Mystery Missions Continue

The next Mystery Mission for all students in Grades 5 & 6 is: Trunk-r-Treat on Saturday, October 29. This mission is all about creativity & fun! Dress up in your silliest costumes and talk your folks into letting you decorate the trunk of the family grocery getter! Have your family's car parked in the Bethlehem parking lot, decorated, and ready to give out yummy treats by 12:30 for this year's Trunk-r-Treat. Families will be trunk or treating from 1pm-3pm.

Once the candy is gone we will head over to Vilo Lanes for some costumed bowling! Mystery Prizes will be given out throughout the day! Contact Melanie for more information.

District 742 is taking a break on November 16 and Mystery Mission will have a special day camp just for fifth & sixth graders from 9am to 3pm. Contact Melanie to RSVP. An extended day option will be offered from 7:30-9:00 if we have more than 4 people registered by November 9.

Synod Jr High Youth Gathering

Jr High students are not quite old enough to attend the National Gathering just yet, but the Synod Jr High Youth Gathering is an awesome way for students to get a similar experience on a smaller scale much closer to home! Worship is led by some of the most exciting Christian bands around, speakers engage students as they connect to the cultural realities of youth and breakout sessions cover an array of topics that provide practical application to their lives. There will of course be time to hang out with other Lutheran youth through dance parties, swimming & meals.

This event takes place at the Willmar Holiday Inn on either November 18-19 or 19-20 (it's so popular they have to offer identical back-to-back sessions!). Registration information is on the Youth Table outside of the Discipleship office or online. Registration deadline is September 30. Please contact our trip coordinator, Anne Nikolas at annenikolas@q.com with questions or if you would like to chaperone this fun event!



Gr. 10-12 Soul Tending

This Senior High study, meeting most Wednesdays from 8 to 9:30pm, seeks to connect faith to life in real ways in a low key, reflective setting. Students in grades 10-12 are welcome to join in at any time and friends are always welcome! Some lessons will carry over from one week to the next as we view a movie together the first week and then engage in conversation the following week, but don't let that stop you from joining in! If you have any questions 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@bethlehemlutheran.org

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

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

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

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

LEAPP FROGS

We had a great kick off meeting in September! Students in Grades 7-12 are welcome to join this Leadership & Discipleship Development program at any time!

October's training will take place on Sunday, October 9. Jr High FROGs should come from noon to 1:30pm and Sr High FROGs will gather from 1 to 2:30pm. This month we will focus on LEAPP FROGs 101 and preparing for the Trunk-r-Treat on October 29. For Trunk-r-Treat, FROGs should plan to be at the church by 10am for set up and stay until 3:30 for clean up.

Questions? Please contact Katie in the Discipleship Office.

Jr High Trip News

Jr High parents are invited to gather during Confirmation (6-7:30pm) on Wednesday, November 9 from 6-7:30 to look over options and help choose next summer's Jr High Trip. Contact Katie in the Discipleship Office for more information.

Sr High Trip News

Bethlehem's registration for the 2012 ELCA National Youth Gathering closed September 30. If you have registered you'll want to keep an eye on the weekly bulletin or website for trip meeting details.

The first trip meeting for registered youth will be Sunday, October 2, immediately following the 11am service. Parents should attend this meeting which will cover trip details and fundraising opportunities. Bring your calendars for setting trip meeting dates.

Oct. 2 College Fair at BLC is Gr. 11 Milestone

Juniors: It's already time to begin thinking about your post high school plans. Juniors & Seniors from all around central Minnesota have been invited to attend the Lutheran College Fair to be held at Bethlehem on Sunday, October 2 from 3:30 to 5:30pm and that includes you!

The event will begin with a financial aid seminar from 3:30 to 4pm with the colleges representatives prepared to speak with students and families from 4 to 5:30 pm. Students and families can speak with the colleges listed below while enjoying an hors d'oeuvre or two.

Colleges represented at the October 2 College Fair:

Augsburg	Augustana, So. Dak.	Augustana, Ill.
Bethany, Mankato	Carthage	Concordia, Moorhead
Concordia, Neb.	Concordia, St. Paul	Concordia, Wis.
Gustavus Adolphus	Luther	Midland
Pacific Lutheran	St. Olaf	Trinity Lutheran
Valparaiso	Wartburg	

Fundraising & Scholarships Offset Trip Costs

Summer Trips can be expensive endeavors for youth, but the value of these trips can't be matched. Fundraisers are offered throughout the year to help students defray the cost of summer trips.

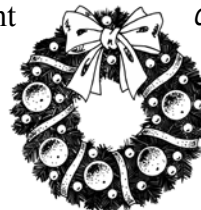
Jr High students and parents received fundraising information at the Confirmation Parent Meeting in September. Sr High students will get more information at the first National Youth Gathering Trip Meeting on October 2, 12:30-1:30pm. There will also be a fundraising meeting

on Wednesday, October 5 at 8pm. Detailed fundraising guidelines are shared at these meetings and a master list of upcoming fundraising opportunities students can sign up for. Adults interested in helping coordinate a fundraiser or students with questions are asked to contact Becky Eisenwinter, beisenwinter@hotmail.com.

Scholarships are also available in form of matching funds to students fundraising efforts. Contact Katie or a pastor for scholarship details for Bethlehem sponsored activities.

Ski Club News

The snow should start flying soon and that means it's time to register for Ski Club! Registration forms will be available in early November. This family event provides great group rates on ski & snowboard packages at Powder Ridge and great fellowship. Ski Club begins in January. *Questions?* Contact Heather & Joe Erickson at hfallingerickson@yahoo.com



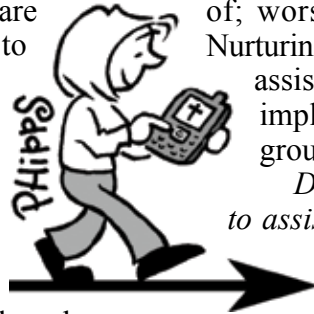
Wreath Sale Packets

Wreath Sale Packets can be signed out from Christina on Wednesday evenings 6-6:30pm or call 492-2041 or cnebel@clearwire.net with any wreath questions. Orders are due October 30 and will be delivered to church on November 14 when you will pick them up and deliver them to your customers.

Forward Momentum Group Continues to Discern God's Future for BLC

How are we 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* is made up of Bethlehem members, 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. As we meet and discuss opportunities and needs, there is excitement and mystery about what is to come of our work.

Bethlehem's over 100 year history in Saint Cloud has been marked by significant changes in "where" worship takes place. During this same time Saint Cloud has changed too: cultural changes and increased diversity of religion, language, and ethnicity. It seems clear that God is



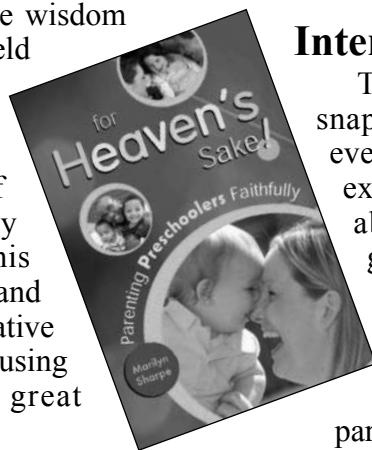
calling Bethlehem to find our way in a community and culture that is changing ever more rapidly.

At their August meeting *Building Forward Momentum* began connecting with Church Boards who share responsibility in the identified areas of; worship, faith formation and hospitality. Nurturing and building these key partnerships will assist in the further planning and the critical implementation of ideas that are part of the group's work plan.

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. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 13, 6:30pm at church. For additional information please contact Pastor Janine jolson@bethlehemlutheran.org or 251-8356x103.

Moms Book Club Discusses Book on Parenting Preschoolers

All parents (not just Moms!) are welcome to join the discussion of: *For Heaven's Sake! Parenting Preschoolers Faithfully* by Marilyn Sharpe. This book helps us view parenting as a spiritual journey. This realistic, encouraging, and supportive book is a treasure for all who want to nurture faith in the home. It brings together the wisdom of the experts—those in the field of child development, those who daily live with and shape the lives of children, and by children themselves. Full of practical suggestions for daily life together, this class and this book will be your companion and guide as you navigate this formative time in your child's life, while using proven methods for raising great preschoolers.



This is also a wonderful opportunity for grandparents, godparents nursery school teachers, daycare providers, and all adults who care about raising God's youngest children faithfully. We will be meeting at 9:10 in the Youth Room on Thursdays October 6 through November 17. Please contact Melanie in the Discipleship Office if child care is needed. Look for another Book Study coming in January!

Youth & Children Add to Worship

On the weekend of October 1 & 2, Jr & Sr High Youth Trip and Family Camp participants will lead worship & offer reflections. On Sunday, October 9, Sunday School kids will offer special music at the 9 & 11am services. They will be singing in worship once each month throughout the school year.

Interfaith Partnership

The schools that our children attend are a snapshot of a community whose diversity is ever growing and changing in wonderful and exciting ways but these changes also bring about questions and challenges. A small group of Protestant youth workers have been networking for two years with the Center for Service-Learning and Social Change to help provide opportunities for youth build understanding, bridges and partnerships with people of other religions. With the Center's leadership we are connecting with the Islamic Center in St. Cloud in hopes of providing opportunities for young people to come together in learning and community. As we grow in our understanding of religions outside of our own belief systems we are pushed to more deeply understand our own faith. If you have specific questions or would like to participate, contact Katie Christensen katie@bethlehemlutheran.org

New Member Gatherings Begin Again in November

Bethlehem's New Member process involves two learning gatherings and one gathering to serve in our community. Relationship building is woven throughout all three as a key component. Our hope and prayer is that every new member finds a good fit within the congregation, becoming fully involved in the life of the church. Please

note: the *Conversation on Christian Faith* (see below) is strongly recommended for any New Members coming from a non-Lutheran Church or those who are new to the Christian faith. Childcare is provided if requested. Contact LaNae Cobb, Welcome & Serving Ministries Coordinator, lcobb@bethlehemplutheran.org or 251-8356 x107 to register.

New Member Gathering I *Introduction to Life at Bethlehem* Sunday, 12:15-3pm Nov. 20, Feb. 19, April 22

This gathering is designed to help each person learn about life at Bethlehem. Focusing on the Vision & Mission of the congregation, ways to serve and first fruits giving. New Members will begin to develop relationships with others in a small group with discussions led by guides.

New Member Gathering II *Finding Your Neighborhood* Sunday, 10:30am-2pm Nov. 27, Feb. 26, April 29

Following a formal welcome into the congregation at the 11am service, New Members will gather for lunch and deepen connections with their small group. At this session New Members will discover they have gifts for serving that are truly: "Made for Ministry."

New Member Gathering III *Serving Together* Time & Place to be determined by each small group.

Each New Member small group that first formed relationships in the *New Member Gathering I* will share fun and service together in a time, place and manner they choose, suggestions will be available though groups are encouraged to discover a project that makes use of all their gifts.

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.

October 2—*Stories of Faith* with summer youth trip participants

October 9—*Book of Faith* "What the Bible says about Forgiveness?" with Pastor Janine

October 16—*Talahi Promise Neighborhood* with GRIP coordinator Amy Weston

October 23—*Re:Form* "What Did Martin Luther Really Say about the Pope?" with Pastor Dee

October 30—*Build Up Campaign* with Congregational Leaders Valerie Felsch & Doreen Meier

November 6—*Book of Faith* "Who Is Jesus?" with Pastor Dee

November 13—*Sabbatical Report* with Pastor Steve

November 20—*Re:Form Ancestors* *David: The Flawed and Beloved King* with Pastor Janine

Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School class is one of the Adult Education options offered on Sunday mornings. This group uses the Re:Form Curriculum to study Bible Stories in a very interactive format. This Fall the group is studying the main Old Testament stories, the very same stories children are studying in Sunday School. Aligning the curriculum like this allows families to dig deeper into the Bible together during the week.

There is no need to register; all are welcome to join the class as they are able. Just grab a treat and a coffee cup and meet in the Gloria Room at 10:10am any Sunday that children's Sunday School is in session. If you have questions or would like to be a part of the facilitation team, please contact Eric Felsh at ericfelsch@mac.com



New to the Faith?

Conversation on Christian Faith is an informal conversation on the core doctrine of the Lutheran church and the common core beliefs shared by Christians around the world. There will also be opportunities to ask questions about the Christian faith and Lutheran denominations. This session is suggested for New Members transferring from a non-Lutheran congregation or those seeking to join a church for the first time; although it is open to all who are interested in learning more about the core of Lutheran Christian beliefs. These conversations take place on Saturdays November 12, February 11 & April 14, from 9 to 11:30am. For details contact LaNae Cobb, Welcome & Serving Ministries Coordinator, 251-8356x107 or lcobb@bethlehemplutheran.org

Oct. 15 Rummage Sale Benefits Bells of Bethlehem & Preschool

The Fall Rummage Sale is October 15 from 9am until 1pm. In order for this fundraiser to be a success we need all your extra “stuff”! Invite your neighbors, friends and relatives to bring their extras to Bethlehem too! Sale proceeds benefit the Bells of Bethlehem and Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool.

You may drop-off donations on Thursday, October 13 from 12 to 6pm and Friday, October 14 from 9am to 6pm.



Great sale items include: clothing in all sizes, toys, housewares, small household furniture, jewelry, tools, sporting goods, books, videos/DVDs and CDs.

Items that can't be accepted: TV's, electronics, light fixtures, curtain/drapery rods, computers & printers, skis, golf clubs, car seats, cribs, bike helmets, microwaves, opened makeup and household chemicals. BLC must pay to properly dispose of these items, which reduces proceeds for these ministries!

Church of the Week November 14-20

Bethlehem will be partnering with Place of Hope Ministries during the week of November 14-20 to host “Church of the Week.” This means Bethlehem will be providing meals and overnight housing for people who are hungry & homeless in our community. There are many ways to help. Check out the SERVE Board and sign up for overnight hosting, driving, serving or bringing food.

Fundraisers Support Youth Trips

Summer Trips are invaluable experiences for our youth, unfortunately these trips are also very expensive. The youth appreciate your support through fundraisers like the fresh baked caramel rolls available between services on the second Sunday of each month.

Youth are also taking orders for wreaths & other Christmas greens through October 30. Orders will be delivered just before Thanksgiving.

Our Neighbors' Needs are Great

Bethlehem has continued to see an increase in requests for assistance both large and small. To help meet these requests your generous gifts are needed to “Local Food Needs” and “Families in Need.”

Your “Local Food Needs” offerings are divided, 1/3 going to the Catholic Charities Food Shelf, \$50-75 to support the monthly Community Meal and the remainder for Coborn's Gas & Grocery cards to be given by the pastors to members of the congregation and community in need of assistance.

“Families in Need” provides funds for emergency needs that go beyond food or gas cards. These funds help pay for things like car repairs, utilities, even school supplies.

Please consider a special gift or ongoing support to help meet the needs of our neighbors. Use the special “Local Food Needs” offering envelopes or make a check out to Bethlehem with a note on the memo line or donate online via the secure link at www.bethlehemlutheran.org/give

Fundraiser Applications

The Congregational Life Board is currently accepting applications, until October 30, for groups interested in coordinating the BLC Spring Rummage Sale on April 28, 2012. This fundraiser has in the past benefitted ministries including BLC Youth, Women of Bethlehem, and African National Ministry. Applications are available at the Welcome Center. Any questions can be addressed to the Congregational Life Board.

Financial Update

as of 8/31/11

	Income	- Expenses	=	Difference
General Fund¹	538,162	- 553,092	=	-14,929
Preschool	51,807	- 54,383	=	-2,576
	Target	vs Received		Difference
Offering YTD²	508,200	vs 516,610		8,410
	Offerings	- Payments	=	Difference
Building Mortgage	135,776	- 157,292	=	- 21,516

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.

Name Tags Welcome

Regularly wearing your name tag will help staff and other members put a name with your face. People feel more comfortable when greeted by name and a friendly smile!

All who regularly worship or participate at Bethlehem are asked to order reusable name tags. These high quality vinyl badges come in your choice of fastener: magnetic or clip. They are easier to read than handwritten tags and don't leave a sticky residue like stickers!

Stop by the table in the Square to order your name tag. A donation of \$2/tag is suggested. Your new name tag will be ready the very next weekend! Then just remember to wear your name tag each time you are at Bethlehem.

Recent Pastoral Acts

Weddings

August 13, 2011
 Gregory Michael Roth
 Jennifer Clara Edin
 August 20, 2011
 Aaron Dale Stromley
 Megan Lucille Gessell

Baptisms

August 27, 2011
 Holden Andrew Nuy
 August 28, 2011
 Ireland Brienne Christianson
 London Gabriel McAnally
 Jack Joseph Wiger
 Owen Allan Wiger

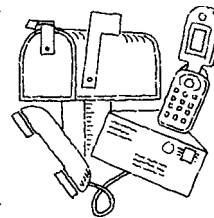
Prayer Requests: Complete the Prayer Request Form or call the church office, 251-8356. Prayer requests will be printed for up to 4 weeks, call the church office to extend listing.

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.

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!



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: VACANT

Secretary: Larry Ketchum

Church Council

Church in Society: Stacie Black

Congregational Life: Tamara Huesers

Evangelism: Jake Miller

Preschool:

Property:

Stewardship: James Filyaro

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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BETHLEHEM

Lutheran Church
4310 County Road 137
Saint Cloud, MN 56301

(320) 251-8356
www.bethlehemplutheran.org

Fall Festival

October 1, 2011

9am-1:30pm

- Farm-fresh Produce
- Fine Art by Local Artisans
- Charming Local & Global Crafts
- Beautiful Mums in Fall Colors
- Fresh Homemade Baked Goods
- Gently Used Books
- A Delicious Soup Lunch



*Proceeds will establish a scholarship fund
for Luther Crest Bible Camp programs.*

