

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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April 1-May 20, 2011

Vol. 43, No. 3

✚ Holy Week & Easter ✚

PALM SUNDAY WEEKEND - April 16 & 17

Saturday 5pm, Sunday 8, 9, & 11am - "The Cry of the Whole People" by Walter Wangerin draws each worshipper into the story of the Passion of Christ. Palm processional begins in the Square.

MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 21

11am - Service of Holy Communion followed by Friendship Lunch.
6:30pm - Service of Holy Communion including celebration of the First Communion Milestone.

GOOD FRIDAY - April 22

11am - ELCA Community Good Friday Children's Service at BLC*
12:30pm - ELCA Community Good Friday Service at Bethlehem*
*sponsored by St Cloud Area ELCA Lutheran Churches
7pm - Liturgy of reflecting for Good Friday

SATURDAY EASTER VIGIL - April 23

8pm - A service of light with baptisms & Holy Communion to welcome the Good News of Christ's resurrection.

EASTER SUNDAY - April 24

6:30, 8, 9:30, & 11am - Festival Services of Holy Communion.
Enjoy a pancake breakfast sponsored by our Sr. High Youth! (see pg. 11)
Offer to assist (usher, serve communion, etc.) at any service. Sign up on the SERVE Board.

Mid-week Worship in Lent asks:

"Who do YOU say that I am?"

When Jesus asked the disciples who they understood him to be, they responded by telling him what they were hearing from others. Jesus then said, "But who do YOU say that I am?" Lent 2011 is providing a way for each of us to reflect on that question as we think through some of the basic teachings about Jesus in Scripture and the Lutheran

Confessions. Confirmation students are attending these engaging times together with their parents throughout Lent.

A *Lenten Supper* is served from 5:30 to 6:20pm by the youth of BLC as a fundraiser for summer trips. \$4/student; \$5/adult; \$15/family. Join in *Worship* from 6:30 to 7:10pm. *Confirmation* small groups meet from 7:15 to 8pm.

Serving in Worship is Easy as 1-2-3

1. Prayerfully consider one of the many roles available to serve in worship: Communion Server, Communion Prep, Usher, Videotaper, Reader, Greeter, Assisting Minister, or Childcare Provider in the ITC.

2. Attend a brief training hosted by the Worship Board on Thursday, **April 14 at 6:30pm.** Deepen your faith and appreciation for worship while learning the why's and how to's of that ministry. This is a wonderful opportunity for families to learn to serve together. Refreshments and door prize drawings will follow the training. Childcare will be available.

3. Put your newly learned skills to use during worship services in the weeks ahead. Sign up at the Worship Opportunities Board.

New Member Groups Serve Together



Each New Member Small Group gathers for at least one community service project as part of the New Member Orientation process (see page 9). The January New Member Groups (led by Glenn & Nancy Farb and Gary & Pat Webber) served a meal at the Westside Boys & Girls Club.

Join a Community Meal Team

Bethlehem will serve the Saturday Community Meal on April 23. Your help is needed for meal prep (9-11:30am), serving (11:30am-12:45pm) & cleanup (12:45-1:30pm).



Contributions of milk, salads, fruit or vegetables are also needed for the meal. Sign up at the Serve Board to join a team that includes one or two experienced leaders responsible for

overseeing the meal. This is a wonderful opportunity for individuals, families and groups to serve others in our community!


Bethlehem Prairie Care Update

This spring marks the fourth year in the Property Board's 5-year prairie management plan being implemented with Prairie Restoration, Inc. The work done by Bethlehem members and Prairie Restoration is turning an area of unhealthy weeds into a beautiful spread of native grasses & flowers.

Last spring the weather was too dry & windy to accomplish all the controlled burns called for in the plan. If the weather cooperates the remaining controlled burns will be completed this spring. Additional native wildflowers will then be over-seeded in the burn area. Prairie Restoration will also mow the area inter-seeded with native grasses last year. Continued management of unwanted plants such as Canadian Thistle will continue to be a priority in the plan over the summer months.

Your continued support of the Bethlehem Prairie through special Earth Day Offerings is visible in the tall waving grasses, fewer thistles and more abundant wildflower colors.

Download additional tickets at:
www.bethlehemlutheran.org

EAT WINGS RAISE FUNDS AN APPETIZING WAY TO RAISE FUNDS FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION	EAT WINGS. RAISE FUNDS. IT PAYS.	 ADMIT 1
	<p>On the day of your event, Buffalo Wild Wings® will donate 10% of all pre-taxed food sales (less alcohol and promotional discounts) from any guest that presents this fundraising ticket.</p> <p>We look forward to helping your organization meet its financial goals. Together, we can make a positive impact and help keep our community working and playing together.</p> <p>(Present this ticket to your server on the date & time listed below)</p> <p>Bethlehem Lutheran Church Youth April 4th, 2011 11:00 A.M. – 9:00 P.M. Must Present Ticket ~ Dine-In or Take Out</p>	

A Word from Pastor Dee . . .

Sabbatical Provides Time to Break Bread with Friends, Family

In his ministry, Jesus showed the disciples the importance of taking Sabbath rest. He said, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest for a while.” (Mark 6:31 NRSV) They took time away from the crowds in order to be refreshed by prayer, reflection, conversation, and teaching. In the same way, all of us seek times of renewal & rest, apart from the schedules, tasks, and commitments that fill every day. For some, renewal happens in a warm place in the wintertime; for others, in a boat on a lake. For still others, it’s the magic of taking a class to discover new knowledge or skills.

I will be taking some time “apart” as a summer sabbatical. Thanks to a policy established by Bethlehem in 1997, and included as part of the pastoral Letter of Call, Bethlehem committed itself to provide pastors time away for a sabbatical every five years.

What’s a sabbatical? The idea is drawn from the creation story and the Sabbath—when creation was completed and God rested on the seventh day. The Ten Commandments include this mandate to “remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.” In the church, true to the “Sabbath,” a sabbatical provides time to step away from the ever-present obligations and pace of daily parish life and engage a period of renewal and re-creation.

I am thankful for Bethlehem’s sabbatical provision, and was blessed by my first sabbatical in the summer of 1998. Plans for a sabbatical in the years following needed to be delayed due to staffing needs and financial restrictions; we have not yet been able to build sabbatical funding back into our annual budget.

A wonderful national resource—Lilly Endowment, Inc. —provides clergy renewal grants for pastoral sabbaticals. The grant guide notes that these sabbaticals should not be used for academic study, and they “are not vacations, but times for intentional exploration and reflection, for regaining the enthusiasm and creativity for ministry, for discovering what will make the pastor’s heart sing.” The grant provides funds for the pastor’s sabbatical time with family, as well as funds to support renewal activities for the congregation and help the congregation fulfill pastoral duties during the pastor’s absence.

In 2008, I assembled a team to help prepare the grant application. Kathy Dahlberg, Beth Ketchum,

Paul Peterson, and Sarah Shella-Stevens graciously worked with me to develop a plan and prepare the detailed application for this generous grant. Inspired by the translation of Bethlehem’s name - “House of Bread” - our proposal focused on the importance of being nourished by God’s Word and on renewing faith through fellowship and breaking bread with others. In September 2008, we received the good news that we had been awarded the grant.

Part of the grant funds provide for congregational renewal activities, and allowed a group of 20 from BLC to attend the Willow Creek Leadership Summit in Chicago in August 2009. The group included leaders from boards, council, mutual ministry teams, staff, and several spouses: Tim Brown, Kelly & Shelley Davidson, Kelly Fandel, Lee Hanson, Tamara Heusers, Beth & Larry Ketchum, Chris Kiewel, Joanie Meyer, Stacy Miller, John Pederson, Paul & Vickie Peterson, Bruce Regan, Sarah Shella-Stevens, Pat Webber, and Pastors Janine, Steve, & me. The insights, ideas, and skills discovered in this training continue to bear fruit today.

With my academic Doctor of Ministry degree completed, this time away will be one of reflection, renewal, and reconnection. I will spend some of my time “breaking bread” over rice bowls with my children’s birth-families. I’ll worship with ELCA partners in Seoul and at Yoido Full Gospel Church - the largest church in the world with 1 million members. I’ll also spend time nourishing relationships with family and friends in the Midwest and West, reading, and reflecting on how God is at work in our Bethlehem community. I’ll return to work at the end of August. Pastor Steve graciously offered to take 8 weeks (August-October) without pay as a sabbatical, and this time plus a bit of vacation. During these sabbaticals, the congregation can count on continued fine leadership by our staff.

While I’m on this journey of renewal, prayer, and fellowship, I ask you to engage in a parallel journey as a congregation. Read God’s Word. Be refreshed through prayer and fellowship. Break bread with one another. And discover the renewal God intends for all through “Bethlehem: House of Bread”

Pastor Dee

Preschool Sunday Includes Art Fair

The end of another school year is quickly approaching and that means it is time to *celebrate* another great year at Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool! Our celebration will take place the weekend of April 30 & May 1, with Lisa Kent, a long time Preschool mom, sharing reflections on her family's experience at BLP. Preschool families will join the congregation in worship at the 11am service.

The celebration also includes the Preschool Art Fair. This is your chance to purchase a fabulous piece of art by one of our preschoolers and contribute to the Preschool Scholarship Fund. Art will go on display April 23.

Bikers of BLC Potluck

The Bikers of Bethlehem (BoB) invite all motorcycle riders to a potluck lunch on Sunday, April 10. The first official ride of the season will be May 22 following the 11am worship service. All riders in the congregation and community are welcome. To stay informed of BoB rides email: lcobb@bethlehemplutheran.org

Concert Double-Header

On Sunday, May 15 the Bethlehem Chamber Orchestra will perform at 3pm. Their featured piece is *Carnival of the Animals* by Saint-Saens. Each animal is represented by the orchestra with piano duets. A listening/study guide is available for families. Following the Chamber Orchestra at 4pm, St Cloud Suzuki Studio students (ages 4-18) of violin and cello will perform.

News for:

Women of Bethlehem

Circle Schedule for April & May

Tuesday, April 5

Esther: 1pm Peace Hall

Eunice: 1pm Mary Room

Miriam: 9:30am Youth Room

Naomi: 12pm Bette Raffenbeul's
111 Goldfinch Ln; Clearwater

Priscilla: 3pm Magi Room

Monday, April 11

Phoebe: 7pm Trish Melin's
910 Willow Vw Cir; SR

Tuesday, May 3

Esther: 1pm Peace Hall

Eunice: 1pm Mary Room

Miriam: 9:30am Bette Johnson's
66 Woodhill Rd; StC

Naomi: 12pm Marie Hasselfeldt's
940 Spruce Dr; StC

Priscilla: 3pm Magi Room

Monday, May 9

Phoebe: 7pm Barbara Bloomer's
1313 River Ave N; SR

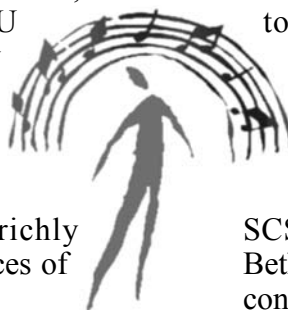
Mother-Daughter-Sister-Friend Brunch May 7 Spring into Health

Invite your grandmothers, mothers, daughters, sisters and friends to join you for a great brunch and an inspirational program on May 7. Registration begins at 10:30am. Brunch will be served at 11am, followed by the program. Cost: \$10/woman; \$5/girl. Sign-up in the Square.



Concert Series Concludes with a Fan Favorite

The tenth annual *Her Story - Her Song Concert* will complete the 2010-11 Bethlehem Concert Series on Tuesday, April 26, 7:30pm. Each year, the concert gives participants and audience members an opportunity to explore an aspect of life from the feminine perspective through performances by the SCSU Women's Choir and Cantabile Girls Choir, along with SCSU music faculty members. Together they will perform music and poetry portraying the richly diverse experiences of women and girls.



As a part of the concert each year, a community connection is established with an agency that provides services to women and/or children. This year, participants are happy to be collaborating with Central MN Habitat for Humanity's Women Build Project. Women Build brings together women from all walks of life and all sectors of the community to tangibly and immediately address the housing crisis that affects millions of women and children.

Tickets (\$8/adult, \$5/student or senior, free with SCSU ID) will be available at Bethlehem two weeks prior to the concert and at the door.

April 1 - May 21, 2011 Bethlehem Lutheran

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10:05 am Education Hour 11 am Worship 12 pm Forward into God's Future session 2 12:30 pm Sudanese Worship Service 2:30 pm Sr. High Trip Mtg 2:45 pm Jr. High Trip Parent Meeting	4 7 am Prayer Group 9 am Preschool 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Financial Peace University 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	5 9 am Preschool 9:30 am Miriam Circle 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 12 pm Naomi Circle 1 pm Esther & Eunice Circles 2:30 pm Priscilla Circle 6 pm Sudanese Women 6:15 pm Bells of Bethlehem 6:30 pm Gr. 7-12 Mini-Forum 7 pm Celiac Sprue 7:30 pm Youth Advisory 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	6 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9 am Preschool 5 pm Wednesday Sunday School & ★56 5:30 pm Lenten Meal 6:30 pm Worship 7:15 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm Gr 7-9 Confirmation Small Groups	7 9 am Preschool 9 am Healthy Clergy 9:15 am Moms Book Study 11 am Preschool Chapel 5:45 pm Heritage Quilters 6 pm All God's Children 7 pm Columbarium Comm. 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	1 7:30 am Personnel Comm. 8 am Central Lakes Conf. Music Festival 5 pm Wedding rehearsal 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous (NA) 8 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	2 9:30 am Suzuki Studio 10 am Gr. 2 Bible Milestone 11 am Chamber Orchestra 3 pm Wedding 5 pm Worship 7 pm Couples Group 7 pm NA 9 9 am Community Garden 5 pm Worship 7 pm NA
10 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10:05 am Education Hour 11 am Worship 12 pm Bikers of BLC potluck 12:30 pm Nuer Bible Study 3 pm Sr High Coffee House 6 pm Great River Chorale	11 7 am Prayer Group 9 am Preschool 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 6 pm Girl Scout Troop 345 6:30 pm Financial Peace University 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study 7 pm Phoebe Circle	12 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 5:45 pm Church Council 6 pm Sudanese Women 6:15 pm Bells of Bethlehem 6:30 pm Troop 14 Adults 6:45 pm Church Boards 7 pm Beginning Experience 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 14 7:30 pm Anna Circle 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	13 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9 am Preschool 5 pm Wednesday Sunday School & ★56 5:30 pm Lenten Meal 5:30 pm Sr High Leadership 6:30 pm Worship 7:15 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm Gr 7-9 Confirmation Small Groups	14 9 am Preschool 9:15 am Moms Book Study 11 am Preschool Chapel 6 pm All God's Children 6:30 pm BeFriends 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	15 5:30 pm First Communion Milestone 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	16 10 am First Communion Milestone 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
17 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10:05 am Education Hour 11 am Worship 12 pm Baptism Cards 12 pm Forward into God's Future session 3 12:30 pm Sudanese Worship Service 6 pm Great River Chorale rehearsal	18 7 am Prayer Group 9 am Preschool 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 10 am Prayer Shawls 6:30 pm Financial Peace University 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	19 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 6 pm Sudanese Women 6:15 pm Bells of Bethlehem 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 14 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	20 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9 am Preschool 9 am Martha Circle 5:30 pm Sr High Leadership 7:15 pm Adult Choir	21 9 am Preschool 11 am Homebound Communion Service 12 pm Friendship Lunch 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	22 11 am Good Friday Family Service 12:30 pm Community Good Friday Service 7 pm Good Friday Service 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	23 11:30 am Community Meal at Hope Covenant 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous 8 pm Easter Vigil Service
24 6 am Worship 8 am Worship 9:30 am Worship 11 am Worship 12:30 pm Sudanese Worship Service 2 pm BLC Pastor at St Benedict's Center	25 <i>Church Building CLOSED</i>	26 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 12:15 pm Women of BLC 6 pm Sudanese Women 6:15 pm Bells of Bethlehem 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 14 7:30 pm <i>Her Story, Her Song</i> Concert 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	27 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9 am Preschool 5 pm Wednesday Sunday School & ★56 5:30 pm Sr High Leadership 6:30 pm Gr 7-9 Confirmation 7 pm Adult Choir	28 9 am Preschool 9:15 am Moms Book Study 9:30 am Renovare Group 11 am Preschool Chapel 6 pm All God's Children 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	29 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	30 9 am Spring Rummage Sale 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
May 1 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10:05 am Education Hour 11 am Worship 12 pm Jr High Trip Mtg 12:15 pm Music Staff 12:30 pm Sudanese Worship Service 3 pm Sr High Trip Mtg	2 7 am Prayer Group 9 am Preschool 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 4 pm Angushere Meadows Homeowners 6:30 pm Financial Peace University 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	3 9 am Preschool 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 6 pm Sudanese Women 6:15 pm Bells of Bethlehem 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 14 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA) 7:30 pm Youth Advisory	4 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9 am Preschool 5 pm May/June STAR deadline 5 pm Wednesday Sunday School & ★56 5:30 pm Sr High Leadership 6 pm Confirmation Curriculum Mini-Forum 6:30 pm Gr 7-9 Confirmation 7 pm Adult Choir	5 9 am Preschool 9 am Healthy Clergy 11 am Preschool Chapel 5:45 pm Heritage Quilters 6 pm All God's Children 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	6 5 pm Wedding rehearsal 6:30 pm Gr 6 Milestone 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	7 9 am Conversation on Christian Faith 10:30 am Mother-Daughter-Sister-Friend Brunch 2 pm Wedding 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
8 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10:05 am Education Hour 11 am Worship 12:30 pm Nuer Bible Study	9 7 am Prayer Group 9 am Preschool 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Financial Peace University 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study 7 pm Phoebe Circle	10 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 5:45 pm Church Council 6 pm Sudanese Women 6:15 pm Bells of Bethlehem 6:45 pm Church Boards 7 pm Beginning Experience 7 pm Boy Scout Troop 14 7:30 pm Anna Circle 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	11 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9 am Preschool 5 pm Wednesday Sunday School & ★56 6:30 pm Gr 7-9 Confirmation 7 pm Adult Choir	12 9 am Preschool 11 am Preschool Chapel 6 pm Willow Pond HOA 6:30 pm BeFriends 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	13 5:30 pm Engaged Workshop 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	14 9 am Engaged Workshop 12 pm Sudanese Celebration 5 pm Worship 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous
15 8 am Worship 9 am Worship 10:05 am Education Hour 11 am Worship 12 pm Baptism Cards 12 pm LEAPP FROGS 12:15 pm New Members 12:30 pm Sudanese Worship Service 3 pm BLC Chamber Orchestra Concert	16 7 am Prayer Group 9 am Preschool 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Financial Peace University 6:30 pm Prayer Shawls 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	17 8 am Mission Quilters 9 am Preschool 10 am BLC Staff Meeting 6 pm Sudanese Women 6:15 pm Bells of Bethlehem 6:30 pm Troop 14 Adults 7:30 pm St Cloud Call Up (AA)	18 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 9 am STAR Mailed 9 am Preschool	19 9 am Preschool 11 am Preschool Chapel & Year-end Picnic 12 pm Friendship Lunch 7:30 pm BLC service on Charter Cable Ch. 12	20 4 pm Scrapbooking Weekend 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous	21 7 am Scrapbooking Weekend 5 pm Worship 6:30 Schimmich Recitals 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Gr. 2 Bible Milestone April 2

Children in second grade are invited to attend the Bible Milestone on April 2, 10-11am. Children will receive *The Hands-On Bible* which helps families explore God's word together in a hands-on style. As with all Milestones, activities and suggestions will be presented to expand your family's Faith Circle and help you talk about your faith with your children. RSVP to Lisa in the Discipleship Office.



Family Activities for Lent

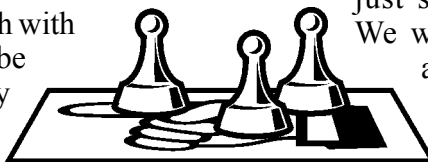
Each Sunday during Lent families will be able to purchase a faith-based activity to make at home.

March 27 & April 3—Assemble a Foam Cross with the books of the Bible listed on it. Resources will also be provided to help the whole family memorize the books using songs & chants. This is a great starting point for becoming more comfortable digging into the Bible as a family.

April 10 and April 17—Learn The Lord's Prayer. Make a beautiful bookmark with The Lord's Prayer on it. A great bookmark to use with your Spark Bible and include in your bedtime routine.

First Communion Milestone

Third grade students and their parents are invited to attend the First Communion Milestone. This Milestone has a two-part instruction: Friday, April 15, 5:30-9pm and Saturday, April 16, 10am-2pm. Families will learn more about this sacrament and also get suggestions on how to share your faith with those around you. This special event will be celebrated in worship at 6:30pm on Maundy Thursday, April 21. Please RSVP to Lisa in the Discipleship Office.



Jr High Coffee House

The new games are in! Come Sundays from 10:05 to 10:55am in the Youth Room for fun, fellowship and lots of new games! No registration needed just show up. *Schedule notes:* We won't meet Easter Sunday and our last meeting is May 15. If you have questions about Jr. High Coffee House or would like to

be an adult participant contact Leslie Seehusen at leslieseehusen@gmail.com.

Gr. 6 "What I Believe" Milestone

In middle school, students are challenged daily to define their beliefs in subtle and not so subtle ways. Using The Apostles Creed as our foundation, sixth grade students and their parents will begin to define their personal beliefs as disciples of Christ. The instruction for this Milestone on Friday, May 6 from 6:30-9:30pm and will be celebrated in worship on Sunday, May 8! *Note schedule change* from Discipleship Handbook, this is *NOT* an overnight.

Preschool Accepting Registrations for 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. Parents will now be able to have their children in preschool and childcare, at the same site throughout the day and year. Details are available online at www.bethlehemlutheran.org/preschool or by calling the Preschool Office (320) 251-6775.

Sunday School Worship Celebration

Mark your calendars for May 15. Students will be celebrating and sharing all they have learned this year in Sunday School during the 9 & 11am worship times. This will be a great way to celebrate your many Faith Circle friendships!

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



Mark Your Summer Calendars Today!

Luther Crest Day Camp

Summer is just around the corner and it is time to put Luther Crest Day Camp on your calendars! Camp is a great way for students to get a 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. Look for more information soon!



VBS 2011 Moves to Free Evening Sessions in a Family-style Format

Please join us on Sunday, June 12 after the 11am 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. 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, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control. Families will rotate through crafts, games, and a devotion time. Parent

Partners are needed to make this event a success. Please contact Melanie if you are able to lead a craft, game, or devotion station. Meal prep partners are also needed. Come and expand on your families Faith Circle! This year VBS is FREE! Look for registration materials coming soon!

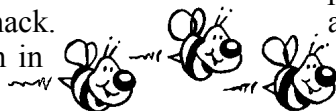
LEAPP FROGS Host Day Camp

The LEAPP FROG Day Camp, **August 1-4**, is sure to be another week of fast paced fun! Each day (9am-3pm; 7:30-9am extended day option is available) we'll make lots of cool crafts; learn about some cool people in the Bible and enjoy building relationships with one another! Students will also spend lots of time outside playing water games and enjoying nature. This camp is planned and run by the Jr & Sr High student leaders in the LEAPP FROG program. Don't miss this great opportunity for your kids! Registrations are available on the table outside the Discipleship Office. If you have questions contact Katie in the Discipleship Office.

The Buzz About B-Squad

If you are going into grades 3 or 4 we welcome you to the B-Squad! The B-Squad stands for Bethlehem's Bold Believers! The B-Squad will meet from 9am to 3pm on Thursdays, **June 30, July 28, and August 25**. An extended day option is available from 7:30-9am. The B-Squad will be participating in spreading the Buzz about God's love. This will be an active day of learning, crafting, gaming, and having loads of fun. Students will need to pack their own lunch and snack.

These events are free to join in whenever you are able!



The Mystery & Mission Continues

Mystery Mission was such a HUGE success last summer that we are continuing the mission in 2011 and making it better than ever! This summer the Mystery Mission Interns will lead service oriented missions for kids going into Grades 5 & 6. There will be day-long (9am-3pm) missions on Wednesdays **June 22 & 29, July 6, 20 & 27, and August 17**. An extended day option will be offered from 7:30 to 9am. Please bring your own snack & lunch. Little League in the morning? Basketball in the afternoon? No worries! Come when you can. Your help in completing the mission is needed even if you can't stay for the whole time. There is no cost to participate in any of the Missions! For more details contact Melanie in the Discipleship Office.

Mystery Mission Interns Sought

Applications are now being accepted for 2-3 college interns to work with our Mystery Mission program, very part-time, this summer. For details on applying for these internships please contact Diane Bublitz, Director of Operations, at dbublitz@bethlehemlutheran.org or 251-8356 x104.

April & May Adult Ed Forums

Forums gather in the Magi Room at 10:10am on Sundays. May 1 features a topic from "Making Sense of Scripture" from the ELCA's *Bible: Book of Faith Initiative*. The topic for May 15 comes from the "Christian Basics" series—the foundational teachings of the Church as Lutherans understand them.

April 3-Forward into God's Future Recap with Dr. Terri Elton

April 10-Quiet Oaks Hospice with hospice staff

April 17-Palm Sunday-No Forum

April 24-Easter Sunday-No Forum

May 1-What kind of authority does the Bible hold?

May 8-Full Day Preschool with Laurie Tritabaugh, Preschool Director

May 15-If there is one God, why are there so many religions?

Buffalo Wild Wings Fundraiser

On Monday, April 4 from 11am-9pm Buffalo Wild Wings will donate 10% of all pre-taxed food sales (less alcohol & promotional discounts) from any guest presenting a "Eat Wings. Raise Funds." ticket (see page 2) to Bethlehem Youth Trip participants. Download additional tickets at www.bethlehemlutheran.org

Sr High Summer Trip Agenda

Questions? Contact Trip Coordinator Karla Mohagen, kjmohagen@aol.com

April 3, 2:30-4:30pm—Regular meeting*

May 1, 3-5pm—Project reports, NYC planning

June 15, 12-5pm—Urban Plunge

July 6—Family Picnic

July 10—Depart

July 16—Return

Jr High Summer Trip Agenda

Questions? Contact Trip Coordinator Tamara Underwood at tdunderwood@infionline.net

April 3, 2:45pm—Brief meeting*

May 1, 12-2:30pm—Survivor Challenge

June 22, 6:30pm—Family picnic

June 26—Depart

July 1—Return

* Students and parents are encouraged to attend *Bethlehem: Forward into God's Future*, see back cover for details.

Preschool Registration Underway

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.bethlehemlutheran.org/preschool or by calling the Preschool Office (320) 251-6775.

Family Service Opportunity

Families are encouraged to help host the Community Children's Service to be held at Bethlehem at 11am on Good Friday, April 22. Ushers & greeters are needed. Please sign up at the Serve Board.

Sr High Coffee House Wraps Up

The final Sr. High Coffee House will take place April 10 from 3-5 at Bo Diddley's downtown. We'll wrap up the year with music & prizes. Tell your friends and join the fun! If you have questions about contact Vicki O'Hara at vickiohara@msn.com.

National Youth Gathering 2012

Believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about the National Youth Gathering for 2012. Bethlehem and 40,000 other youth, will be making a return trip to New Orleans, July 18-22, where we all sadly recognize there is still work to be done even 6 years after Hurricane Katrina. So we go back once again to partner with and learn from the people of New Orleans.

Any adult interested in assisting with the planning or chaperoning of this trip should attend a meeting on Wednesday, April 27, from 6-7pm.



2012 ELCA Youth Gathering citizens with the saints

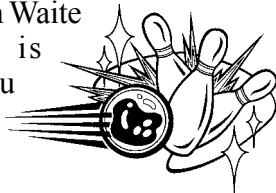
Nationwide registrations open at noon on October 9 and will likely close by the end of the day! Because this event is so popular students will need to commit to attending at the beginning of the school year. Watch for registration forms soon!

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 all Christians. 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. It is open to all, including current members, who are interested in learning more about core Lutheran Christian beliefs. This conversation takes place on Saturday, May 7, 9-11:30am. For details contact LaNae Cobb, Welcome & Serving Ministries Coordinator, 251-8356x107 or lcobb@bethlehmlutheran.org

★56 Bowling Party

All fifth and sixth graders are invited to a bowling party on Sunday, April 10, 1-3pm at Vilo Lanes in Waite Park. Cost is \$10. Hope you can join in the fun!



Couples Group Event

Games, Games, and Karaoke! Mark your calendar's for the next couples group event that will be on Saturday, April 2 at 7pm at Steve & Londa Wagner's. Bring whatever you would like to drink and your singing voice! RSVP to Londa, Londa. Wagner@isd742.org



Final New Member Gatherings of the School-year

Bethlehem's New Member Orientation process involves two learning gatherings and one gathering to serve together in our community. All gatherings include time spent in a small group of about 3 households and a New Member Guide.



Introduction to Life at Bethlehem, Sunday, May 15, 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, May 22, 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, Membership Coordinator, lcobb@bethlehmlutheran.org or 251-8356 x107 for details or to register.

Gr. 7-12 Ministry Planning Mini-Forums

There will be two opportunities to come and share your ideas and visions for 7-12 grade ministry at Bethlehem. It is also an opportunity for ideas already in the works to be shared and developed. If you have constructive, exciting ideas and energy for ministry with this age group, please come on Tuesday, April 5, from 6:30 to 7:30pm to

continue the partnership.

There will also be a separate meeting to reflect on this year's Confirmation curriculum *re:form* used this year on Wednesday, May 4 from 6 to 7pm. Please feel free to come to both meetings! If you have questions about these meetings please contact Katie in the Discipleship Office.

LEAPP FROG Schedule

Gr. 7 & 8

April 17-12-2:30pm*
May 15-noon-1:30pm

Gr. 9-12

April 17-12-2:30pm*
May 15-12-2:30pm

Sr High Leadership

April-Watch for a text with schedule details.

May 4 & 11-Summer schedule planning, bring a calendar.

* Students & parents should attend *Bethlehem: Forward into God's Future*, see back cover for details.

Family Camping Trip



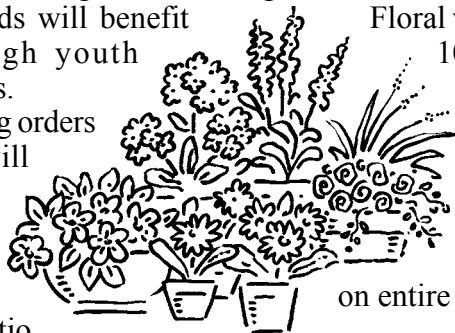
All families in the congregation and community are invited to the second annual Bethlehem family camping event at Bunker Hills June 24-26. Sites can accommodate campers or tents. Contact Valerie Felsch, valerie.felsch@allianzlife.com, to reserve your campsite. Each campsite is \$50 for the weekend and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

Spring Flower Sale Supports Youth

Bethlehem Youth will once again be selling flowers this Spring. Proceeds will benefit Bethlehem Jr & Sr High youth participating in summer trips.

Individual youth are taking orders through April 10. Youth will also be taking orders in Bethlehem Square on April 3 & 10.

The Spring Flower Sale will include hanging pots, patio pots, bedding plants and other specialty items. Flowers will be delivered to Bethlehem just in time for Mothers Day. If you have any questions regarding the sale, please contact either Lisa Albrecht, 203-1844 or Karla Mohagen, 230-0785.



Southway Gift Certificate Sale

Gift Certificates to Southway Greenhouse & Floral will be on sale in the Square starting April 10 through Mothers Day May 8. For each \$15 certificate sold Bethlehem receives \$5. Proceeds support Bethlehem's Community Garden. **Notes:** Not applicable to cut flowers, arrangements, delivery, prior purchases or sales tax. Customers are responsible for sales tax on entire purchase. Certificates expire 6/30/11.

Support Evangelists in South Sudan

Recently the people of southern Sudan voted to form an independent country. ELCA Global Mission is beginning to work with partner churches in Ethiopia to plant the Lutheran Church in this "new" land. The Sudanese members of Bethlehem and the Church & Society Board invite all BLC members to support these efforts.

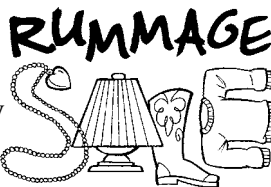
On April 9 & 10, we hope to raise \$3,000 or more for two scholarships for the Evangelist School in Gambela, Ethiopia. This is a two-year program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ethiopia. Evangelists are the main leadership of local congregations in the soon-to-be South Sudan. You can make a donation at any time simply by noting "Sudanese Mission Project" on the memo line of your check.

Preschool Hosts Shredding Event

Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool will be hosting a shredding fundraiser on Saturday, April 16. A Shred-Right truck will be located in the parking lot from 9am-1pm. Donations & documents may also be dropped off in the Preschool Office beginning April 10. With this fundraiser you can support Bethlehem Preschool while securely shredding outdated documents to prevent identity theft!

Spring Rummage Sale April 30

The Spring Rummage Sale will be April 30 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 Discipleship



Ministries at Bethlehem including Jr. High and Sr. High Summer Trips.

You may drop-off donations on Thursday, April 28 from 12 to 7pm and Friday, April 29 from 10am to 6pm.

If you need assistance in getting your donations to church please call the Discipleship Ministry Office, 251-8356 x130.

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

Items that can't be accepted: electronics (like computers & TVs), cribs, carseats, mattresses, light fixtures, stained or damaged items; BLC must pay to dispose of these items, which reduces proceeds for these ministries!

Financial Update

as of 2/28/11

	Income	- Expenses	=	Difference
General Fund ¹	125,243	- 139,904	=	-14,662
Preschool	20,243	- 14,510	=	5,733
	Target	- Received	=	Difference
Offering YTD ²	122,500	- 119,564	=	-2,936
	Offerings	- Payments	=	Difference
Building Mortgage	33,141	- 41,792	=	-8,651

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.

Easter Lily Orders

Flowers in the sanctuary will add their beauty to the celebration of the Resurrection on Easter morning. Lilies may be offered in memory or honor of a loved one. Order forms are available in the Square, enclose \$12/plant & return by April 18.



Recent Pastoral Acts

Baptisms

February 26, 2011
Brynn Wallee Baarson
February 27, 2011
Zoey Faith Larson
March 19, 2011
Anastasia Lynn Ballard
Gabriella Marie Ballard
Nathan Thomas Strutz

Deaths

June 13, 1915–December 23, 2010
Helen S. Monson
May 21, 1934–January 7, 2011
Merlin A. Olson

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.

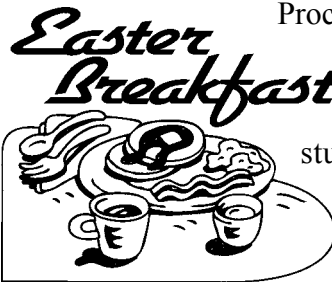
Thank You from Scouts

Thank you for allowing Cub Scout Pack 113 to hold our annual Pinewood Derby in your gathering space (Peace Hall). It was a great success, with many commenting on the open space, great location, and wonderful inviting environment!

–Pack 113 Parents & Scouts

Youth Host Easter Pancake Breakfast

The youth of BLC are Hall from 7:30 to 11am. hosting an Easter Sunday Pancake Breakfast on April 24. We will be serving pancakes, ham, and scrambled eggs in Peace



Proceeds benefit Jr & Sr High students attending Bethlehem's summer trips. Parents and students should watch the weekly announcement pages for information on getting involved!

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, 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 Filyaro

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 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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(320) 251-8356

www.bethlehemplutheran.org



Bethlehem: *Forward into God's Future* Conversation Continues April 3 & 17

On March 13, a great conversation began on how God is calling our congregation into the future. About 150 people of all ages gathered to think and learn about what it means to be church in this time and place. Dr. Terri Elton, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, will be back on Sundays April 3 & 17, 12-2:30pm,



to take the conversation further and look more deeply at how God is calling Bethlehem, specifically, into the future. Each gathering begins with a meal and childcare will be available for those who RSVP; free-will donations for lunch & childcare will be accepted. RSVP to Lisa at 251-8356x130 or lisa@bethlehemplutheran.org

Miss the first session? Dr. Elton will provide a review at the Adult Ed Forum at 10:10am on April 3.