

THE BEACON

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOL. 68 NUMBER 2 FEBRUARY 2012

Lent 2012 Begins February 22



Fear is a powerful force. It fills the world and seeks to take up residence in our hearts. We fear going broke, the doctor's report and the condition of the world. Storms blow in and we're afraid of the future and failure and death. But what happens when faith moves in instead? Jesus says "Do not fear...only believe." He wages war against fear. He lets his life speak...**for God, all things are possible.**

Mid-Week Lenten Worship — Sacred Space

Wednesdays, 11:30 & 7:00 pm (note time change of mid-day service)

Lunch at 12:30 pm; Dinner at 5:45 pm

In the words of the 13th century poet Rumi... "This being human is a guest house. Every morning a new arrival. A joy, a depression, a meanness, some momentary awareness comes as an unexpected visitor. Welcome and entertain them all!" In Christ we live with the promise that God is with us in all circumstances. Join us Wednesday nights to hear about God encounters from people in this community. Discover the potential every space holds because of God's promised presence. **It all begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22.**

Overcome Hunger by Katy Ajer, Junior High Ministry Associate



As the theme of this year's 30 Hour Famine, I admire "Overcome Hunger" for its simplicity, optimism, and strong sense of faith that it promotes. It states that we don't have to accept that 925 million people go to sleep hungry every day. We don't have to accept that a child dies from a hunger related illness every 13 seconds. As a community, we can overcome it. Also, I love what the phrase suggests about our faith. Many of us have heard someone say "If God exists, why are there wars, famines, people who are hungry, etc..." Having faith in God, is not only believing that God has the power to change things, but accepting that God has faith in us. God has given us the skills and the heart to change the inequalities in our communities and around the world. We just have to be willing to do so.

...Overcome Hunger continued on page 10

Pastor's Word

A final thought as we look at 2011 one last time, and then an important look forward at 2012...

Thanks to a generous gift from the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Foundation, Dr. Jack Fortin, from Augsburg College, was engaged to lead staff in the process of clarifying responsibilities, identifying strategic results, and support needed to reach those results. This project was undertaken to strengthen all of us in our understanding of our call, and how we work together as a team, so that we could take the necessary steps to continue moving Bethlehem forward into the 21st century. Processes and practices that have been helpful for us have been honed, sharpened, and articulated in new ways. Those that were not as effective have been discarded. We're grateful for the Foundation's investment in us.

One of the results that came out of the process was to articulate a strategic direction. Three key strategic ends were identified: **First... "Learn the Story."** People connected to Bethlehem will see that their story is part of God's Story. This will happen through on-line, interactive learning, Bible Study rooted in outcome based competencies (at the conclusion of every class and learning opportunity, those engaged will be able to DO something with what you have learned!) We will continue to use the

Pancake Breakfast Sunday, February 5, 8:30-11:30 am in Iverson Hall

Pastor's Word continued on page 2...

*Pastor's Word continued from
Page 1...*

narrative lectionary, developed at Luther Seminary, in our worship life; and we will continue to align adult and child learning with "next steps" for all ages.

Second... "Live the Story."

People connected to Bethlehem will understand that God's activity is most fully revealed in community life. We'll accomplish this by emphasizing hospitality, leadership development, sending people to share their gifts elsewhere, and supporting and caring for all. The goal is for each person to be known, supported and cared for by eight others.

And finally... "Love the Story."

Being connected to Bethlehem means that you see your work as holy and God-given. This means you will be able to answer the question "Why are you at Bethlehem?" You'll see Bethlehem not as a destination, but as a "fueling station" for your life. You'll be able to name God's activity in your life and participate in God's redemptive work in the world. You'll join in the work of strengthening and creating communities for the sake of God's kingdom on earth.

God is doing great things at Bethlehem. I believe God calls us to even greater ones, as we live into this strategic direction. I look forward to the process of growing with you!

Thanks for your partnership in the Good News!

Pastor Christopher Nelson

Giving on Purpose

by Judy Thompson, Stewardship Ministry team

While preparing for this column, I read several passages in 1st and 2nd Corinthians which recount the mission work of the Apostle Paul. I confess I was rather taken aback at his bold and straightforward words to the people at Corinth on many matters of daily life. He did not mince words or just suggest to them what to do. He gave them clear instructions.

On the topic of stewardship, Paul told these new Christians to contribute on a regular basis and to commit to the amount in an intentional manner:

"On the first day of every week, each of you is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn." 1 Corinthians 16:22

"...arrange in advance for this bountiful gift you have promised." 2 Corinthians 9:5

These two books contain references of responding with a grateful heart, accepting responsibility to help others, giving in proportion to our income on a regular basis, and sharing abundantly.

There are quite a few solicitors at our doors in my neighborhood. Sometimes it's just to sign a petition, but more often, they quickly remind you that this cause needs monetary support as well. So, do you give? And how much? How much would you pay for enjoying clean water or supporting Guthrie tickets for high school students? I resent needing to make a decision on the spot. It feels more appropriate to consider my commitment to that particular cause first and then consider my available funds. All too often I give anyway.

Our commitment to our faith and our recognition of all that our God has provided us cannot be paid back. There is no amount of money which could repay the riches we enjoy on this earth. Instead we must give thoughtfully, with proportion to our income, and willingly. So, unlike the solicitor at the door, Paul guides the thinking of his listeners to pay attention to what they have and give accordingly. What are your passions and values for life? Live your life with generous giving of yourself, your time and your talents and you will discover the joy of a life with Christ.

*"...you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
2 Corinthians 9:7*





Council Minutes

December marked the second to last council meeting for six of our Council members. This gives the Council a unique opportunity to better define council roles, responsibilities and development. Council member Ann Dahlen and Pastor Mary are working on this process.

The council also approved a motion to make another mortgage paydown of \$125,000. This will decrease our mortgage payments by \$1,000 a month and would make the Bethlehem mortgage roughly half of where it was when we started the *Living, Giving Thriving* campaign.

Council information is available on the Bethlehem website; minutes of the meetings are available at the mailboxes across from the office. You can also email us at council@bethlehem-church.org. Let us know your thoughts.

Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly

February 17-18, 2012

Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church, Prior Lake



This year the theme of the Synod Assembly is "Rooted in the Biblical Story." The keynote speaker will be Rev. Susan Briehl, who has served as Director of Holden Village and is currently called to the Indiana-Kentucky Synod. Dr. Diane Jacobson will be the Bible study leader. She serves as Director of the Book of Faith Initiative for the ELCA.

This Synod Assembly will be different than most. With the unexpected resignation of Bishop Craig Johnson last summer, the Minneapolis Area Synod (MAS) will hold an election earlier than expected to fill the vacancy. Currently the Rev. Glenn Nycklemoe, retired, is serving as interim bishop.

At the Conference Assemblies in November 2011 each of the 11 conferences of the MAS nominated up to three persons for bishop. Pastor Chris was one of 18 clergy nominated and has agreed to move forward in the process. While he's very much committed to Bethlehem, he does have ideas about the direction and health of the synod and feels that he can't speak about them with integrity if he's not willing to serve as bishop, if called.

At the Synod Assembly Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson of the ELCA will be present to supervise over the bishop election. There will be a series of ballots that will narrow the field to seven, five, three, and then finally to two candidates. We will be updating our web page with results as soon as they are available. Please keep the election in your prayers, asking that those voting would be open to God's Holy Spirit leading in the discernment process.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

4100 Lyndale Ave South
Minneapolis, MN 55409

Phone: 612.312.3400

Fax: 612.312.3399

Email: church@bethlehem-church.org

bethlehem-church.org

Building Hours:

- Monday-Friday 8 am-9 pm
- Saturday 9 am-9 pm
- Sunday 7 am-1 pm & 5-8 pm

Service Times:

- Sundays—8:00, 9:00, 10:15, 11:30, 7:00 pm
- Wednesdays during Lent beginning February 22 at 11:30 am and 7:00 pm
- Nursery available at 9:00, 10:15 & 11:30 am on Sundays and the 7:00 pm Wednesday Lent Worship

*Connecting people with
God, each other and
their mission in the
world.*

Next Beacon Deadline:

February 10, 2012

pdunn@bethlehem-church.org

@ Beacon now online

Join a Bible Study Group During Lent

Want to connect with others and grow in your faith during the cold winter months? Join a group during Lent to study the Gospel of Mark. Come to a Group Facilitator and Participant Training on Wednesday, February 15, 10:00-11:00 am in Langemo OR 6:30-7:30 pm in the Cinema.

The material we will use for this Lenten journey together will be devotion books written by Bethlehem members, videos available on the Bethlehem website every week and the Sunday Takeout discussion sheets. If you cannot attend, but would like to connect in a group, contact Pastor Beth, bwarpmaeker@bethlehem-church.org.

Group Facilitator & Participant Training
Wednesday, February 15
10:00-11:00 am
OR
6:30-7:30 pm

Other Group Resources for February

Mark Learner and Leader Guide: Books of Faith by Richard Carlson and Mark Vitalis Hoffman. An 8-session Bible study that challenges participants to explore eight big questions based in the text. Available through augzburgfortress.org.

Mark (N.T. Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guides) by N.T. Wright and Lin Johnson. A 20-session guide that works well for group use or daily personal reflection. Available through amazon.com. For group resource information, contact Pastor Beth bwarpmaeker@bethlehem-church.org.

It's not too late!

Beth Moore Bible Study: Living Beyond Yourself

Monday evenings through April 2 — 6:30-8:30 pm

CALLING ALL WOMEN! Beth Moore Bible Study/DVD Series at Bethlehem—**Living Beyond Yourself, Exploring the Fruits of the Spirit.**

Are you needing a lift as we trudge through these winter months? Indulge yourself! Join us for fun, food (yes, this includes chocolate) and fellowship as we journey together on Monday evenings through April 2, 6:30-8:30 pm. Can't come every week? Not a problem, come when you can.

Sign up at bethlehem-church.org or call the church office, 612.312.3400. Participant books will be available for purchase for \$14.95 on Mondays. Questions? Contact Molly Whitmore, molly.whitmore@gmail.com, or Ursula Tuttle, ursulatuttle@aol.com.

Conversations with Dr. Phil Sunday mornings at 9:00

Study of the weekly Bible readings every Sunday at 9:00 am with Dr. Phil Quanbeck. Join us in Langemo as your schedule allows.

Next New Member Session

Discover Bethlehem
Saturday, March 3, 8:30 am-Noon

New Member Sunday, March 11
at morning worship

The new member session is designed to support you as you explore your faith and mission in the world. It will give you information that will allow you to better use and participate in the many resources and events at Bethlehem. It will give you the chance to meet some others and find out about great opportunities. But mostly it will encourage you and the entire church that God is at work here. Register at bethlehem-church.org or contact Wendy for more information, wosman@bethlehem-church.org, 612.312.3363.

CoAM Life Enrichment Series — February 6-27

Mondays, 9:30-11:45 am
at Bethel Lutheran Church
17th Ave. S. & 42nd St. E.

Check out the wide variety of topics, including Jacob's Well and the Emerging Church with Pastor Greg Meyer. Contact TRUST, 612.827.6159, or www.trustinc.org for more information.

Benefits of Healing Touch *by Cheryl Salter*

There continues to be ongoing research with powerful and exciting outcomes showing the benefit of Healing Touch. One recent study, "The Use of Healing Touch in Integrative Oncology" is published in the most recent Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing. This article describes the integrative use of Healing Touch in conjunction with radiation treatment received by patients with cervical cancer. Findings indicated effects on the immune response and depression. Specifically, Healing Touch recipients demonstrated a minimal decrease in natural killer cell toxicity during the course of treatment compared to the sharp decline in immune function in patients not receiving Healing Touch.

Healing Touch recipients also showed decreases in depressed mood compared to patients not receiving Healing Touch. The findings suggest that integration of complementary modalities into oncology care can enhance the impact of conventional care by putting patients in the best condition to use their innate healing resources. Exciting research indeed!

If you have an interest in learning more, **plan to attend the series on Integrative Medicine at Bethlehem on Wednesday nights through February 15, 6:30-7:45 pm.**

As always, please contact Cheryl Salter at 952.250.8857 or salter.cheryl@gmail.com for information or to schedule a Healing Touch session. Gift certificates are also available.

The Gift to Care

Bethlehem is a place to nurture and grow the "gift to care" that dwells in all of us. Parish Visitors offer an intentional way for individuals to extend the love of Christ through a ministry of listening, care-giving and practical support.

A Parish Visitor is a lay-person who is available as a listening and supportive friend through visits, phone calls, conversations at church, at work and in the neighborhood. Parish Visitor relationships can vary in time from a brief ministry of one or two conversations to regular visits over several years. Parish Visitors meet for ongoing education and support every 2 months.

If you have questions about the Parish Visitor ministry, please contact Gretchen Porter at 612.312.3414 or Julie McChesney at 612.312.3366.

Parish Visitor Training Series

Thursdays
February 9 and 16
6:30-8:30 pm

To register, contact
Lauren Skalicky,
612.312.3370

An Invisible Problem: Alcohol & Older Adults

When people think about getting older, many things come to mind: retirement, grandchildren, and hobbies. But one thing we don't often think of is alcohol problems. Right now, it is estimated that more than 2 million older persons in the United States have some sort of alcohol problem.

An alcohol problem is defined as drinking above the limits recommended by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, using alcohol while taking prescription drugs, or using alcohol in any other way that is harmful. It is crucial to address alcohol problems among older persons, because these problems can be harmful and even fatal.

If you are concerned about a friend or loved one, call the Care Ministries office at 612.312.3405.



Community News

Deaths

Ione Marjorie Rusinko, 12-28-11

Elaine "Barb" LaLonde, 12-31-11

Maxine A. Anderson, 1-13-12

Births/Adoptions

Metta Jeanette Mae Snyder, 12-8-11

Parents: Alyssa and Nils Snyder

Siblings: Bjorn and Signe

Baptisms

December 18, 2011

Ava Elaine Garrett, 9-20-11

Parents: Darren and Kristin Garrett

December 25, 2011

Greta Goulding Cieslik, 8-27-11

Parents: Pastor Ben and Beth Cieslik

Reid Sullivan Behm, 8-1-11

Parents: Andrew and Kimberly Behm

January 8, 2012

Dorothy Mary Maloiee Sogn, 10-11-11

Parents: Jordan and Margaret Sogn

January 15, 2012

Lola Grace Delayne Kittelson, 9-6-11

Parents: Wade Kittelson and Anna Wynn

Foot Clinic

Available 10-2 pm by appointment:

February 3, March 2.

Healing Touch

Available in nursing homes, hospitals, member's homes, or at Bethlehem. Call Cheryl Salter to schedule, 952.250.8857.

Gathering

2nd and 4th Thursday of the month.

Can be a volunteer or participant.

Call the church office to reserve a spot, 612.312.3400.

SAVE THE DATE!



Vacation Bible School

Monday-Friday, June 18-22

9:00am - Noon



Afternoon Day Camp

Monday-Thursday, June 18-21

Noon - 4:30pm

Completed 1st-5th grades



Andy's Gang at Shores of St.

Andrews Bible Camp

Check Bethlehem's website for up-to-date information.

Completed 2nd-5th Grades

gllm.org

Lenten Opportunities *by Heather Roth Johnson*

My friend's little boy loves to read his Bible. Every night he chooses a different Bible, from a funny Veggie Tales version to a bedtime storybook, only to hear the same beloved stories read over and over again. It is no question that he finds comfort in those familiar words. Yet, there is always one question that nagged this curious 2nd grader: Why did Jesus have to die on the cross? Baffled, his mother turned to her church for answers.

Soon we will enter the season of Lent—a time when we prepare our hearts and mind for the Lenten journey. Knowing that the events during Lent, Holy Week, and Easter can be confusing to young children, Bethlehem wants to provide you opportunities and tools to engage your children.

Consider these options:

Ash Wednesday Family Blessing

Wednesday, February 22, 5:45 pm

We invite you to the Ash Wednesday Family Blessing, which marks the first of 40 days leading up to Easter. This family friendly service is geared for kids of all ages. Dinner is served from 5:15 to 6:45 pm in Iverson Hall.

Devotional Materials for Families during Lent

Each family is invited to pick up devotional materials for the days of Lent. Available in the Sunday School areas.

Lent Service Project for Kids

Help restock the food shelves at the Simpson Food Shelf during Lent by bringing in your favorite food including: canned meats, soups, canned vegetables and fruits, chips and crackers, hot and cold cereals, pasta and pasta sauces, peanut butter and jelly.

Holy Communion Training for your child

Would you like to have your child begin communing this spring? Then please pick up a First Communion packet in the Sunday School areas and register for these events:

Day Away 9:30 am-Noon, Saturday, March 24 or Saturday, April 14

First Communion Maundy Thursday, April 5, 7:00 pm or Sunday, April 15, any service.

1-Year-Old Easter Celebration

Sunday, April 1, 3:00-4:30 pm (in classroom 08, downstairs)

Children between the age of 1-2 and parents are invited to gather with friends and peers for song, a snack, and hands-on play! RSVP to Jess Wood, nursery@bethlehem-church.org or 612.312.3401.

Journey to the Cross

Good Friday, April 6, 9:30 am in the Lower Level

Journey to the Cross is designed for children age 2 through second grade to walk through the stories from Palm Sunday to Easter. You will be amazed by what you see and do as we journey together following in Christ's footsteps! Siblings are welcome, friends are encouraged.

Mission Trip Spotlight—*Finding Hope in a Hopeless Place*

by Mandy Licklider Baseman

On the Northern Cheyenne Reservation, nearly 50% of the population lives under the poverty level and over 20% are unemployed (compared to only 8% in the whole of Montana). To the reader, these are just numbers. And if you are like me, numbers are not my chosen language. It is easier for me to understand through stories, relationships and senses. Upon visiting an American Indian Reservation, I sensed an undercurrent of hopelessness, with an overlayer of forgotten. I have met and spoken with many residents and various tribal leaders. In almost every conversation, I am told that the greatest challenge is generating hope. And without that hope, all the services and programs offered remain only partially successful.

There is a movement to teach the young and new generations the traditions, stories and history that ground the Northern Cheyenne Nation. Those at the forefront of this movement believe that by acknowledging their roots, young people can begin to find confidence in the resilience of their ancestors.



The Fort Robinson Outbreak Spiritual Run takes young members of the southeastern Montana tribe on journey to their past. 90 young runners begin on a Monday at Fort Robinson, Nebraska and finish on the following Saturday in Busby, Montana, 400 miles from Lame Deer. Fifth-graders up to high school seniors took part in the 16th annual run. This run retraces the steps of Chief Dull Knife and 150 Northern Cheyenne men, women and children, who broke out of their

wooden barracks and escaped, where they had been relocated by the American government against their will. At the end of 1878, with temperatures at 30 or below, these brave people set out for their Montana homeland. Many died or were killed by soldiers, but a few survived to reach southeastern Montana. A young teen runner, who has participated since she was 8, had this to say about how this run has impacted her, "As a kid it makes me realize what I can do in the future to help people," she said. "Like help out on our reservation and talk to kids about suicide and drinking and being an alcoholic. There's consequences to everything they do." These are words spoken by one who has found hope.

Learn more about our upcoming youth Mission Trip to Lame Deer, Montana, tribal headquarters for the Northern Cheyenne Reservation, by attending the Pancake Breakfast, Sunday, February 5, in Iverson Hall.

Important Information for Lent

Wednesday programming for youth changes a bit during the Season of Lent. Beginning on Wednesday, February 22, Reform (Confirmation) Small Groups will meet in their usual classrooms at 6:30pm and will then go to 7pm Lent Worship together. There will be a reserved student section. This is a great time to catch up on Sermon Notes!

Peer Ministry Training (9th grade) will **NOT** meet during Lent, February 22 – March 28.

2012 Graduates:

Come Sail Away

Bethlehem has a vibrant sailing ministry and a tradition of taking high school seniors sailing in June. This year's trip is *June 25-29, Monday through Friday*. We spend 3 nights and 3 ½ days on the water. From Bayfield, Wisconsin, our boats will sail around various islands, anchoring in their bays and exploring sea caves, old



lighthouses and sand beaches. In between our island exploration and sailing excursions, you will have an opportunity to enjoy the company of friends and share the stories of high school and recall the memories that have shaped your faith thus far. Together, we will reflect on how "where you've been" will influence "where you go!" Cost: \$375; includes transportation, sailing program and food on the boat (lunches during travel to Bayfield are your responsibility, along with first night's supper at a local restaurant).

Deadline: March 1; nonrefundable deposit of \$100 is required with online registration form.

Contact Mandy, 612.312.3406 or mlickliderbaseman@bethlehem-church.org, with questions.



It's Time for Another Bethlehem Directory



It has been 4 years since our last directory. There are new members and new staff, and new contact information for many. To help us connect with one another we will be producing a new pictorial directory this year. Once again Olan Mills will bring photographers here to take photos of members and put together the ever useful directory. This is free of charge with the opportunity to purchase additional photos if you wish. If you have ever forgotten a name or just can't place a person, you have pulled out the directory for help. Please have your picture taken to be placed in the directory. It is very helpful to everyone!

Photos will be taken during the first half of March, with limited appointments also available in early June. **Beginning February 5 you can schedule appointments through a link on our web page or by calling 1.800.866.2263.** There will also be an information table in the Gallery on Sundays in February for appointment scheduling.

This is also a great time to think about membership at Bethlehem. Our next new member session is March 3, just in time for the directory. For more information about membership, contact Wendy 612.312.3363 wosman@bethlehem-church.org.

A New Men's Book Group: B-cubed

A group of men is starting a new men's book group called B-cubed (Book, Beer, Brothers in Christ). If you are interested in gaining insights to support your faith along with some good fellowship and good beer, contact Rusty at rekness@yahoo.com. The first book to be discussed is *Love Wins: A Book About Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived* by Rob Bell.



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Mom's / Women's Ministry Upcoming Events...

Faithbooking

Friday, February 24, 9:00-11:00 am in Langemo

Faithbooking is an opportunity to create a testimony in words and pictures of your own personal faith journey. Amazing things happen when you take the time to record what God has done in your life. Think about the large and small miracles you have witnessed, the hard times and hard decisions you've faced, the people who have helped you along the way. You may not think your story is all that important. But personal stories, told simply and shared honestly from the heart have the power to change lives.*

Session led by Beth Monsen, Independent Creative Memories Consultant. Paper and digital options will be available. Register online bethlehem-church.org. Questions, contact Beth Monsen, bethannmensen@q.com.

** Excerpt from www.faithbooking.com by Rhonda Anderson, co-founder of Creative Memories.*

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"SEVEN" Chain Reaction Theatre Project

Friday, March 16, 7:00 pm in Iverson Hall

"SEVEN" is an inspirational documentary play about the remarkable lives and work of seven courageous and diverse women. The play is a collaboration by seven award winning playwrights who traveled to interview these seven women who have overcome enormous obstacles to bring about major changes in their individual home countries. A discussion and reception will follow the performance.

Questions, contact Nicole Claeson, nclaeson@yahoo.com, 612.770.4422, or Christine Carney, christinecarney@msn.com, 612.366.7664

Starfish

a partnership ministry of Judson Baptist and Bethlehem to respond with Christian concern and emergency financial assistance to our neighbors in need



He appeared at the church office, nervous about asking for help. As a husband and father, he had always been able to provide for his family, but he had missed work to care for his sick child and lost his job. His wife's check was not enough to pay for rent and food. He hoped the church could help! An office staff member connected him with STARFISH.

Each month \$500 comes from both Judson and Bethlehem toward the monthly budget of \$1500 for Starfish. Individual donations are vital and welcomed to support this ministry. Referrals come from area churches and 211, a referral line for social services. Requests for rent, food, transportation and utilities are the most frequent and can bridge an individual or family through a tough time and make a difference in their lives.

The husband and father is representative of those we help. We thank you for your contributions both past and in the future to the Starfish Ministry.

Your Bethlehem Starfish Team: Diane Daehlin, Keri Graefing, Nan Grube, Paul Hauge, Lisa Johnson, Sue Johnson, Kristin Jones, Joel Kvamme, Chair, David Wething, Diane Waarvik

Caring for Creation

Most of us realize that we can't go on this way. We are running out of planet to consume and will need three to five more Earths to maintain the rate of our current consumption. Let's embrace a culture built on conservation of resources instead of waste and excess. Here are a few New Year's resolutions that will set us on the right track:

- ✘ **Take the 100-Mile Diet challenge.** The average American fork-full of food traveled 1500 miles to reach your mouth. By eating locally, we save emissions of transporting food and the livelihoods of local farmers. We also eat fresher, more nutritious food, and we become intimately connected to the land and the seasons. (100MileDiet.org)
- ✘ **Set a zero-waste goal.** Make recycling, composting, washing and reusing into common practices. Carry your own mug or reusable water container to avoid generating more petroleum-based plastics. Stash a set of tote bags in your car for shopping, and refuse to accept any disposables. (GRRN.org)
- ✘ **Take the 10 percent challenge.** Try spending 10 percent of your income at locally-owned businesses. Move your mortgage to a local bank or credit union, buy from consignment stores instead of chain stores, and eat at locally owned restaurants. This one act will improve your local economy and save Main Street — and maybe even your job. (LivingEconomies.org)

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 ★ *"The day is yours,* ★
 ★ *and yours also the night;* ★
 ★ *you established the sun* ★
 ★ *and moon. It was you* ★
 ★ *who set all the* ★
 ★ *boundaries of the earth;* ★
 ★ *you made both* ★
 ★ *summer and winter."* ★
 ★ *Psalms 74:16-17* ★
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Bethlehem Music Series Presents...

Butch Thompson Trio
 Sunday, February 12, 4:00 pm



The **BUTCH THOMPSON TRIO**, widely remembered for its long association with public radio's A Prairie Home Companion, has earned wide acclaim for its creative approach to the early jazz repertoire. From Scott Joplin's ragtime to Jelly Roll Morton's New Orleans jazz, Harlem stride piano, and south side Chicago blues, this little band puts on a very big show. In keeping with the music's spontaneous nature, Butch will announce his program from the stage.

Pre-Concert Conversation at 3:30 pm. Free admission, nursery available.

Upcoming Mission Trips...

November 4-17, 2012

Travel to Ethiopia with HMCHA (Holistic Ministry of the Children of the Horn of Africa). Contact Carol Pfleiderer at CarolPfl@aol.com or Roy LaFayette roy@lafayetteandco.com for more information.



January 2013

Israel/Palestine Trip

Interest Meeting Sunday

March 4, 10:15 am

All those interested in traveling to Israel/Palestine in January 2013 are invited and encouraged to come to a meeting on Sunday, March 4 at 10:15 am in Langemo. The main focus of the trip is to visit our mission partners at Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem and the Dar al-Kalima College which focuses on the arts. Artists Chuck and Peg Hoffman will be traveling with us and plan to lead the group in an Arts and Reconciliation workshop at the college. 16 people have shown interest, so we need to hear from you soon. Contact Pastor Beth at bwarpmaecker@bethlehem-church.org or Sandra Anderson at sandra@willowlane.net.



Overcome Hunger continued from front page...

For those of you who are unfamiliar, the 30 Hour Famine is an international, hunger-fighting program, which began in the U.S. in 1992 and is sponsored by World Vision, the Christian relief and development organization helping children and families tackle the causes of poverty in nearly 100 countries. We, as a congregation, encourage youth to participate every year by raising money and fasting for 30 hours while learning more about hunger in the world and their communities and participate in hunger-related service projects around the Twin Cities.



This year, we encourage all people to join in the 30 Hour Famine effort with Bethlehem youth happening Friday, February 10 and Saturday, February 11. This is an opportunity for all of us to spend time intentionally working towards "Overcoming Hunger" as a community and a chance to show our youth that service is not just something that is done in Confirmation or youth group but is a lifelong way of living. Here are some ways you might get involved:

- ✘ Help raise money for World Vision through donors and sponsors, packets are available in the office.
- ✘ Show solidarity with the youth by going 30 hours without food.
- ✘ Join youth on Saturday, February 11 for service projects in and around our neighborhoods.
- ✘ Help for a couple of hours, stay the night or for the entire event.
- ✘ Cook the meal to celebrate the end of the fast.



For more information on how you can get involved with this great program, please contact Katy Ajer at kajer@bethlehem-church.org. Thank you for your support of the youth and your support in Overcoming Hunger!

In Isaiah 58:6-7 (NLT), God tells us, "This is the kind of fasting I want . . . Share your food with the hungry."

TRUST (Toward Renewed Unity and Service Together)

an ecumenical coalition of congregations

Annual Report to Congregations

February 7, 7:00 pm at Bethlehem

If you are interested in becoming involved in TRUST's Meals on Wheels program that delivers meals to seniors or TRUST's Chore program which provides household chore and maintenance services to elderly and disabled people, contact Cindy Tintner, c.tintner@gmail.com or Bev Robinson, carmg1@aol.com.

Women's Day of Service

February 4, 9:30 am-1:00 pm

Zoom House Representative is Luncheon Speaker

Join Bethlehem women of all ages in Iverson Hall on Saturday, February 4, for a fun morning of fellowship and service. We'll spend the morning preparing quilts, knitting for newborns and (for those of us not gifted in those arts) putting together supplies for Global Health Ministries and Lutheran World Relief. We'll also be collecting donations of diapers for Zoom House, a local ministry serving low-income and homeless families who are in transition, struggling to become self-sufficient. Their food shelf, and other food shelves in our community, could use diapers of any size. A representative from Zoom House will speak at lunch.



Bring diapers for Zoom House

Bring your daughters, invite a friend, and join us for all or even just part of the morning. Cash donations are also needed to cover shipping costs for the Newborn Kits, Hospice Kits and School Kits we will be sending to our mission partners. Questions? Call Kim Dickey, 612.823.8110, or Ann Senne, 612.922.4172.



The 10th annual Alternative Gift Fair impacts hundreds of families in need both in the United States and all over the world. **138 individuals and families from Bethlehem and Spirit Garage raised an amazing \$18,200 in December. Thank you!**

Serve a Meal to Your Neighbor in 2012 at Loaves and Fishes

Bethlehem participates in this city-wide program providing free meals for women, children, and men who are hungry. We prepare and serve the meal on the third Friday of every other month at the River of Life Lutheran Church in north Minneapolis. The next serving date is Friday, February 17. Bethlehem will continue to serve meals at Loaves and Fishes on the third Fridays of April, June, August, October and December. Register at bethlehem-church.org or contact Marcia Bell, bell.marcia1@gmail.com.

Your Donations are Needed...

Food, Hygiene Products, Clothing, and Household Goods

- ⇒ Bring clothing and household goods to the Salvation Army drop box located at the southeast corner of the church building near Lyndale Ave.
- ⇒ Bring food donations inside Bethlehem and place in the grocery carts. Toilet paper, soap, laundry detergent and other non-food items are needed as well.
- ⇒ Watch for the opportunity to volunteer as a group at Community Emergency Services in March.

What Are India Travelers Doing This Month?

On January 31, the group of ten travelers arrived in Chennai, South India, to deepen our connection with Park Town School. This school serves children who live on the streets in the poorest areas. In addition to replenishing the library from the generous donations of Bethlehem members, they will be taking youth on their first ever field trip to a science exhibit. They will also be playing and reading with the kids and painting several murals to make the school more inviting. Students who traveled to Park Town in summer 2010 were asked to help design one of the murals. Due to the cyclone that hit this area at the end of December, there may also be some need to help with clean up.



Travelers include: Pastor Beth and Mark Warpmaeker, Steph and Jake Smith, Dave and Nicole Nelson, Carol Pfleiderer, Scott Seal, Carmen Fingerson, and Norma Aasvold. Please keep them in your prayers until their return on February 11. Continue to keep all the children and staff at Park Town School in your prayers.

February 5 —Crash Course/When Hope Dries Up

Mark 5:21-43

February 12—Crash Course/Dangerous Mission

Mark 6:1-29

February 19—Transfiguration Sunday

Mark 8:27-9:13

February 26—For God All Things Are Possible

First Sunday in Lent

Mark 10:17-31

Service times: Sundays – 8:00, 9:00, 10:15, 11:30, 7:00 pm

Wednesdays at 11:30 am and 7:00 pm during Lent

Nursery available at 9:00, 10:15 & 11:30 am Sundays and

7:00 pm Wednesday services during Lent



**Bethlehem
Lutheran Church**

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Email at church@bethlehem-church.org

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DATED MATERIAL

Reading the Bible in the New Year



February finds us continuing in the Gospel of Mark. Here's a word of encouragement to read the whole Gospel in one sitting sometime this month. What are the themes that emerge, and what stories get repeated? Blessings on your quiet time with God.

January 30 – February 5

- Mark 5:21-24
- Mark 5:24b-34
- Mark 5:35-36
- Mark 5:35-43
- Mark 5:43
- Mark 5:32-34

February 13-19

- Mark 8:22-26
- Mark 8:27-30
- Mark 8:31-9:1
- Mark 9:2-8
- Mark 9:9-13
- Mark 9:14-29

February 27 – March 4

- Mark 10:35-45
- Mark 10:46-52
- Mark 11:1-11
- Mark 11:12-26
- Mark 11:27-33
- Mark 12:1-12

February 6-12

- Mark 6:1-6a
- Mark 6:6b-32
- Mark 6:30-56
- Mark 7:1-23
- Mark 7:24-37
- Mark 8:1-21

February 20-26

- Mark 9:30-37
- Mark 9:38-41
- Mark 9:42-50
- Mark 10:1-12
- Mark 10:13-31
- Mark 10:32-34

PEP Club Event



Saturday, February 11

5:00 pm at 7500 York Ave. S.

Come and enjoy a night of dinner, music and friendship at the PEP Club Valentine Party.

5:00 pm Dinner in the Yorke Room



7:00 pm
Program in the
Social Room

**Nicolas Carter,
Latin American
Harpist**

Cost: \$17. Reservations are required.
Contact Mary Ann Matson,
952.893.3092 or Phyllis Brynstad,
952.946.1857