



## Mission Possible

New Sermon Series Begins  
January 10

God has given the church a mission: to share the light of Christ in the world. Easier said than done for many of us but not impossible for any of us. All things are possible with God. God has graced you with exactly what you need to share with others the good news of God's love and mercy. Start with naming the good God has done for you and you will be compelled to be about the work of sharing God's goodness with others. God's mission is changing people, from the inside out. God has already started this work in you. *What's your next step?*

### Next Steps. . .

### Mission Possible: Just Walk Across the Room

Simple Steps Pointing People to Faith  
[Wednesdays, January 6-27, 6:30-7:45 pm]

Should I stay or should I go? Or rather, should I stay safe and keep to myself or should I go out and take some risk in my relationships by telling them about the love God has for them? Jesus tells us to "Go" in Matthew 28. He also tells us he will be with us always. Come hear practical ways you can share God's greatest gift in your everyday relationships. We will use Bill Hybels' video "Just Walk Across the Room" as a starting point for our discussions during these four weeks. Facilitated by Pastor Beth and Intern Bill. Register now at [bethlehem-church.org](http://bethlehem-church.org).

### Mission Possible: Just Look Across the Table

Date Nights with Pastor Mary and Tom  
[Wednesdays, January 6-27, 6:30-7:45 pm]

Sometimes the greatest mission moment is reaching out to the one with whom we live. Set aside four nights this January for candlelight, music and directed one on one, uninterrupted conversation with your spouse. Even Hollywood knows that "date nights can change your life," but don't wait for the movie due out in April. Put it on your calendar now. Register now at [bethlehem-church.org](http://bethlehem-church.org).

## iPsalms: A Playlist for Life

Congregational Learning Event  
Saturday, January 30, 10-Noon



Don't miss the music! This is a great opportunity to grow in faith. Come to the sanctuary Saturday morning, January 30, 10:00 am. Rolf Jacobson, Associate Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary, will be presenting "iPsalms: A Playlist for Life." Jacobson, editor of the book

*Crazy Talk: A Not-So-Stuffy Dictionary of Theological Terms*, has a knowledgeable and humorous viewpoint on all things biblical.

Join Associate Professor Jacobson and Pastor Chris Nelson for a morning of Bible study, singing, guitar playing, learning and fun.

Lunch will be available at Noon followed by Bethlehem's Annual Meeting. Please register by January 27. Childcare available for children up to age 4. Register at [bethlehem-church.org](http://bethlehem-church.org) or contact Katy Ajer, 612.312.3413, [kajer@bethlehem-church.org](mailto:kajer@bethlehem-church.org).

## Bethlehem Annual Meeting

Saturday, January 30, 2010  
1:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Hear highlights of 2009, reports from Council and Senior Pastor, financial report, presentation of 2010 budget and election of new officers. All Bethlehem members are encouraged to attend. No registration necessary.

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## Pastor's Word



It is hard to believe we are in the last year of the first decade of the new century. Someday, we'll be saying "Back in '09..." Already, I have been noticing lists compiled about this decade—sports, politics and the like. The natural tendency is to look back and reflect on what has happened. (*Let me offer just one such reflection: this congregation had an amazing year in 2009. In a very tough year, we were able to accomplish great things together through the ministry of this church, AND have a remarkably successful capital campaign! Way to go People of God!*) However, it makes more sense to look forward and see what the possibilities are that God has placed before us.

One of the things I have noticed about the Bethlehem community is that when we are focused outside of ourselves, God can't wait to use us in ways that are incredibly exciting. When we are focused inward, the wind seems to go out of our sails, and it seems that God simply waits for us to re-focus.

Our focus for the season of Epiphany (the season of the church year that follows Christmas, and centers on Jesus making himself known to the world) will be "Mission Possible." Through worship and education opportunities, we will be offering you next steps you might take as you live out your mission in the world. I would encourage you to take those steps; you never know where they might lead.

As you have heard me say, I had no desire to go to India the first time Deb and I traveled there back in '01 (See. . . "back in '01!"). But that first step has led to a teaching mission and ministry that I never could have dreamed of, and would not have happened had that first step not been taken! It will take on a new dimension at the end of this month when I travel to Copenhagen and work with pastors and lay leaders from across Scandinavia which we pray will result in continuing renewal in churches that have been long dormant. I love the "full circle" that this trip will represent—Bethlehem was served by Norwegian pastors in our earliest years, now we return and serve those who got us started!

So I would encourage you to step out and find your mission. See where God might use you, whether it is serving as a Befriender, a caring friend for someone in need, or with Habitat for Humanity, either in the cities or internationally, or in a medical mission, which several of our members do regularly. (You need not be a physician or a nurse!) Read some of their stories on page 11. The possibilities are countless, and the promises are sure. You will grow in your faith, and God will use you in ways you never could have expected!

Thanks for your partnership in the Good News and a blessed, happy 2010. *Pastor Chris Nelson*



## Community News

### Deaths

**Ardelia Opseth**, 11-21-09

**Helen Berg**, 12-11-09

**Margie Svoboda**, 12-14-09

### Births/Adoptions

**Mari Grace Christopherson**, 11-15-09

*Parents:* Caroline Cochran and Tim Christopherson

*Big Brothers:* John, Eli, Micah

**Jacob William Meyer**, 11-7-09

*Parents:* Jennifer and Scott Meyer

### Baptisms

November 22, 2009

**Catherine Olivia Brekken**, 9-23-09

*Parents:* Alexander and Wendy Brekken

November 29, 2009

**Tora Mattie Krueger-Wolfe**, 7-31-09

*Parents:* Brent Wolfe and Michelle Krueger

December 6, 2009

**Jack Michael Peterson**, 9-14-09

*Parents:* Haylei and Tony Peterson

December 13, 2009

**Otto George Melin**, 9-24-09

*Parents:* Erik and Bethany Melin

**Grant Stanley Severt**, 10-09-09

*Parents:* Anthony and Kathryn Severt

**Ava Marie Hagen**, 8-3-09

*Parents:* Mark and Anjuliet Hagen

**Annika Ellen Hagen**, 6-19-09

*Parents:* Eric and Kari Hagen



It has been another busy month for Bill! Facilitating the Job Transition Workshops, as well as participating in worship planning, pastoral care and adult discipleship meetings has occupied a large portion of each week. Add to that the

monthly grief ministry meeting and the Befrienders meeting where Bill spoke about his experiences serving as a chaplain intern last summer. On the lighter side, Bill planned a surprise birthday party for Pastor Mary with intern alums Ben and Andy and also feasted with his family at Bethlehem's annual lutefisk dinner, which he stated "they didn't mind," a hearty endorsement, don't you think?!

On Sunday mornings, Thanksgiving Eve and Thanksgiving, Bill could be spotted in the nave leading some aspect of worship and has now mastered the standing/sitting aspects of the Lutheran experience. On November 29, Bill preached at all 5 services with attendance increasing by a "busload" of former U.S. Bank coworkers. Looking ahead to Saturday, January 9, Bill has confirmed a men's ministry breakfast with Richard David as keynote speaker. Please keep Bill in your prayers as he learns and serves God in this place.

**Conversations with Dr. Phil**

[Sunday Morning, 9:00 am]

Discussion on the day's Bible readings every Sunday morning. Drop in when it works for your schedule.

**Mission in the Land of Promise?**

[Sunday, Jan. 24, 9:00 &amp; 10:15 am]

Conflict in the Middle East is a regular headline in the news. We are keenly aware of the complicated history in this part of the world, considered Holy Land for a variety of faith traditions. **Come hear Donald Wagner** tell his personal story about how mission is possible in spite of the challenges unique to the Middle East. Learn about the important role we can play in working for peace. Donald Wagner, Presbyterian minister and author of *Anxious for Armageddon*, presently serves as Associate Professor of Religion at North Park University in Chicago, where he is also the Executive Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies. He has also served as the Director of Evangelicals for Middle East Understanding.

**India Photo Exhibit with Pastor Chris**

[Sunday, Jan. 31, 10:15 am]

In January, there will be a photo exhibit on display in the West Hallway featuring pictures from Pastor Chris' spring trip to India. These pictures are mostly from Punjab where he worked with pastors and leaders in the church of North India diocese of Punjab, Himanchal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir. He was also in Bangalore leading a preaching workshop for TAFFTEE (The Association For Theological Education by Extension) students, many of whom are pastors working in the slums who have never had formal theological training. Come see the images and hear Pastor Chris' stories at 10:15 am in Langemo.

**Travel the World's Religions**

[Sundays, Jan. 17-31, 5:00-6:45 pm]

Join us in the Viking Room (3rd Floor) to hear stories, see images and taste flavors from other faith traditions (Hinduism, Islam and Buddhism). We will discuss differences, learn from each other and discover similarities. Most importantly, we will come away with a better understanding of our neighbors. Food will be served that adds to the learning experience. There will be a freewill offering for the meals.

**Wednesday Night—6:30-7:45 pm****Mission Possible: Just Walk Across the Room**

[ Wednesdays Jan. 6-27, 6:30-7:45 pm ]

Simple steps pointing people to faith—facilitated by Pastor Beth and Seminary Intern Bill MacLean. (See front page for more details.)

**Mission Possible: Just Look Across the Table**

[ Wednesdays Jan. 6-27, 6:30-7:45 pm ]

Date Nights with Pastor Mary and Tom. (See front page for more details.)

**God Art**

[ Wednesdays Feb. 3 &amp; 10, 6:30-7:45 pm ]

There is religious art and then there is seeing God in art. Anastasia Pydych guides us in discovering spiritual themes from ancient to modern art in the collection at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. We will explore the sermon series theme "Mission Possible" and ask ourselves how we relate to the art or the artist and what it means as we are asked to share with others the good news of God's love and mercy. Come to one or both classes. Anastasia Pydych is a Bethlehem staff member who is also a Senior Docent (tour guide) at the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

**Women's Bible Study Series—Book of Esther**

[ Tuesdays Jan. 19—Mar. 23, 6:30-8:30 pm ]

The Old Testament Book of Esther is a Bible story filled with faith, intrigue, romance, bravery and honor. A young Jewish orphan becomes the Persian Queen and saves her people from oppression. Just as it was tough being a woman in Queen Esther's day, it's tough today. This portion of God's Word contains treasures to aid us in our hurried, harried and pressured lives. With best-selling author and teacher, Beth Moore, teaching through video and a study guide book, you will enjoy small group fellowship with women of all ages. Organized by Debi Mattson and Bethlehem Moms' Ministry. Cost for study guides is \$20. Register by January 12 by calling Gena at 612.312.3364 or online [bethlehem-church.org](http://bethlehem-church.org).

**New Member Series begins Jan. 17**

Sunday, 1/17, 10:15-11:15 am (Introduction)

Saturday, 1/23, 8:30-12:30 pm (Discover Bethlehem)

Sunday, 1/31 (New Member Sunday)

Sunday, 2/7, 10:15-11:15 am (Small Group)

Contact Pam Paulson, [ppaulson@bethlehem-church.org](mailto:ppaulson@bethlehem-church.org)

## Generosity Abounds

by Gary Nelson, Stewardship Ministry Team

Just as I was getting ready to recap a fabulous year of generosity at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, I came across a news article that ranked the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area as the sixth most generous in the U.S. Shortly after that, I saw another article that ranked Minneapolis-St. Paul as the #1 metro area in the country for volunteerism—for the third year in a row!

Then there's the story of generosity at Bethlehem. The story started generations ago, and continues today. The story is about a congregation that is strong, vibrant, and growing in its stewardship and in its faith. And did I mention generous? Like the city we live in, generosity abounds at Bethlehem. Through the entire fall season beginning with the capital campaign, *Living, Giving, Thriving*, continuing with the annual stewardship campaign, *Sharing My Abundance*, through Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Bethlehem congregation continues a miraculous trend of generosity.

Maybe it's something in the water here; or more likely, it's in our heart as a congregation. We have willingly taken the generosity lead from those who have gone before us—those who have set the stage for us to carry out God's mission from home base in the beautiful church in which we worship. We've added our own exclamation point to the generosity theme through several successful capital campaigns over the years ensuring the long term continuation of our ministries. There is no doubt that our generosity as a congregation has helped us individually grow our relationship with God, and has allowed us to find the true joy that can only come from giving. Plus, let's not forget that what we do as stewards of God's abundance today will carry forward for generations to come.

We're living in a generous city and we're part of an amazing congregation whose generosity is steady as a heartbeat, and is making a huge difference in people's lives.

*On behalf of the Stewardship Ministry Team,  
we thank you for your generous giving.*



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*We've added our own exclamation point to the generosity theme. . . ensuring the long term continuation of our ministries.*

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## Kids' Choice Fund

The idea of incorporating young people into the work of the Bethlehem Foundation surfaced about two years ago. It was part of what convinced Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to help Bethlehem develop this idea further. We are announcing the formation of a \$100,000 designated fund in the Bethlehem Endowment called the Kids' Choice Fund.

It's called the Kids' Choice Fund because all young people in our congregation will have a chance to figure out how to give away money wisely, to make the world a better place because of their decisions. Earnings from this \$100,000 base—about \$5,000 each year—will be used for grants to worthy efforts the young people see as significant. As this fund grows each year, as we hope it will, the impact will increase.

Jeff Mogush and Ted Contag are eager to be among the adult advisors to the young people who will get a "hands on" experience with philanthropic giving at a young age. It's called "learning by doing." The hope is that these experiences will form habits that become examples of wise stewardship and philanthropy among our Bethlehem fellowship, as well as in the community.

When we began, we weren't sure how our young people would react. Will they like the idea or not? We are happy to say that we were overwhelmed by their enthusiasm and commitment. The young people were well represented and celebrated at the Bridge Builders dinner on December 6 and we now introduce the youth who will serve on the Kids' Choice Fund Board:

- |                        |                               |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Calvin Loch</b>     | <b>Jake Smith</b>             |
| <b>Sarah Layon</b>     | <b>Luke Anderson</b>          |
| <b>Kennedy Helberg</b> | <b>Charlie Haakenson</b>      |
| <b>Josh Ousley</b>     | <b>Ali Graba</b>              |
| <b>Abby Pansch</b>     | <b>Marielle (Mari) Foster</b> |
| <b>Peyton Lauber</b>   |                               |



If you are considering charitable giving ... the Kids' Choice Fund at Bethlehem is a great new option. If you would like more information, please contact Cheryl McGrew, Development Director, at 612.312.3366 or [cmcgrew@bethlehem-church.org](mailto:cmcgrew@bethlehem-church.org).

## Connect

### Men's Breakfast Saturday, January 9, 2010 7:30-9:00 am



Join us for the first Bethlehem quarterly men's breakfast—a great opportunity to come together for fellowship, to hear a couple great speakers, good music, and learn about upcoming service/group opportunities. Please come and bring a friend.

**Keynote Speaker** – Richard K. Davis, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of U.S. Bancorp, Minneapolis. Richard successfully navigated U.S. Bancorp through the financial crisis to maintain its ranking as one of the top performing banking institutions in the country. He is also a man of faith with a deep commitment to the community. He will share his perspective on “Business Based on Faith.”

Many of you have asked how our intern, Bill MacLean, went from being a bond trader at U.S. Bancorp to our pastor intern on track for ELCA ordination. Come and hear Bill share his journey of faith. And there will be a surprise musical guest.

Register online, [bethlehem-church.org](http://bethlehem-church.org), or call Gena, 612.312.3364.



### Couple's Mystery Outing Friday, February 5, 6:00-11:00 pm Meet at the South Parking Lot

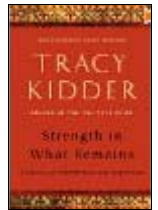
Here's your chance for a date night you don't have to plan and you won't soon forget. Join us for an evening of FUN with your partner and other couples. Transportation for the evening will be provided. We will meet in the south parking lot and travel to. . . oh, that would be giving away the surprise now, wouldn't it? Bring your friends along! \$75 per couple. Space is limited. Reserve your spot online, [bethlehem-church.org](http://bethlehem-church.org), or with Gena, 612.312.3364.

### Young Adults Game Night

Game Night at Andy and Jenna's house on January 15, 7:00-10:00 p.m. For more information check out Bethlehem Young Adults on Facebook.

### Evening Women's Book Group Wednesdays 6:30 pm beginning Jan. 6

January read is *Strength in What Remains*, by Tracy Kidder, the story of Deo, a 23 year old medical student from Burundi, who has fled the horrific genocide between Tutsi and Hutu, only to land in New York City with no connections, no money and no English. (He is fluent in French.) There is much to learn about immigrants, homelessness, and the survival of the human spirit.



Mr. Kidder's book *Mountains Beyond Mountains* told about Dr. Paul Farmer's work in Haiti with international health. Kidder uses a combination of interviews with people close to his subject and thorough research to build an in depth portrait of a person and his life journey.

*Thank you for all the prayers during my recent illness and hospitalization. Special thanks to Pastors Chris and Beth and Diane Waarvik. I am grateful to be on the road to recovery.*

*Lois Dokken*

## Worship/Arts/Music



Bethlehem Music Series Presents. . .

### Harps-a-Hummin' Sunday, January 24, 4:00 pm

Have you ever wondered what the sound of heaven might be? Come to the next Music Series and get a glimpse of heaven as you experience Harps-a-Hummin' on Sunday, January 24, 4:00 pm with professional harpists

**Andrea Stern   Elinor Niemisto   Jann Stein   Min Kim**

This promises to be a concert of epic proportions which will include classical, popular and Latin American music, with a stunning surprise ending! 3:30 pm pre-concert conversation with the artists and a reception follows the concert. Nursery is available.



## Children

### Mission Possible...for Kids

By Chase Taylor (2nd grade)



On the Saturday before Thanksgiving, Chase Taylor and his family helped serve breakfast at Messiah Lutheran Church. Folks from Bethlehem, St. Phillip the Deacon and St. Stevens helped serve 500 meals, in addition to packing groceries for the food pantry. Here is Chase's story about the day:

"When I went to the food shelf I did many things...After I packed seven grocery bags, I went to the kitchen and helped cook scrambled eggs for the breakfast that was served. We ran out of eggs and sausage, so me and my grandpa and my younger brother went to the store and bought 15 dozen eggs and 100 more pieces of sausage. When we got back, we helped serve the food for the breakfast and talked to the people that were there. It was a lot of work but fun! I would want to do it next year too."

### Family Volunteer Opportunity

**Sunday, February 7**

**12:30-2:30pm**

People of all ages are welcome to help restock the food shelf at Community Emergency Services. Sign up online at [bethlehem-church.org](http://bethlehem-church.org)

### Epiphany Party for Two Year Old Sunday School

**Sunday, January 3**

**9:00 & 10:15 am Sunday School hours**

Parents and their two year olds come together in Sunday School to celebrate the coming of the wisemen on Epiphany to visit the new born baby Jesus. Read the Christmas story together about the wisemen bringing gifts, take an Epiphany family photo at the manger, and do a service project together to give a gift to someone else. God gave us the best gift in Jesus Christ, let us together be a blessing to someone else!



### Thank You...

To all the parents, kids, leaders, musicians, choirs, behind-the-scene workers, pastors and staff that came together to make the Sunday School Christmas Programs of 2009 a success. We cannot do it without you.



## On Behalf of the India Trip Group

*Written by Abby Pansch and Sidney Tolo*

As some of you may know, a small group of Bethlehem youth are planning an international mission trip to India with help from Kim Dickey, Mandy Licklider Baseman, and Pastor Chris Nelson. We are hoping to go in August of 2010, but the timing depends on our ability to raise enough money so anyone who wants to go is included. When this trip happens, we plan to visit the same places Kris Tostengard Michel and Pastor Mary Pechauer recently traveled. There, we will visit the children Bethlehem's Sunday School sponsors, along with the school where we sponsor a library. Right now, we are working with Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry and Global Health Ministries to come up with an appropriate service project for us to get involved in.

### 2010 Senior High Trip to India



From this trip, the students going want to learn about the unique Indian culture, and gain knowledge of other religions, seeing the world from a fresh perspective. Our goal is to come back to America having made an impact on a child's life and having had an experience that is transformational for each student. Our group as a whole wishes to share stories with the congregation so you, too, will feel involved with this mission. We ask for your support and hope you will keep us in your prayers.

## Winter Thaw

**Wednesdays, 6:30-7:45 pm**

**January 6 - February 10**



Hot cocoa, cozy fire and interesting movies to explore this season.

Movies include:

- ◆ *Keeping the Faith*
- ◆ *End of the Spear*
- ◆ *Whale Rider*
- ◆ *To Save a Life*

## 2010 Mission Mexico

**July 6-15**

**Cost: \$1,200/student (includes airfare)**

**Adult Leaders (First 8): \$300**

Mexico is more than a spring break destination - it takes center stage in debates about globalization, U.S. immigration policy, and economic development. Our specific mission destination is Cuernavaca, a vibrant and cosmopolitan city in central Mexico known for its innovative grassroots organizations, education, alternative health practices, and history of social struggle, as well as its appeal as a manufacturing base for numerous multinational businesses.

And this summer, it is our youth mission focus! Bethlehem will partner with the Center for Global Education at Augsburg College (CGE) to offer this unique mission experience. Our Mission Theme is "Who is Our Neighbor?" Learn more by checking the Bethlehem website and register to attend.

## Giants Ridge Ski Trip

**7th-12th grades**

**February 13-15**



Check the website for costs and registration.

## Let your Light so Shine Before Others in the World

During the 30 Hour Famine last year, students were asked to journal about how they can “Let their light so shine before others in the world” or “How they can make a difference in the world.” They responded:

- ◆ I can donate to charities and shelters and participate in things like Feed My Starving Children
- ◆ By taking that extra time to really see struggle and not judge
- ◆ Spread the word
- ◆ By raising money and helping people not only in other countries, but in my own community
- ◆ By doing these 30 Hour Famines, I really feel I am accomplishing something and giving back to our community
- ◆ By doing more to support people in developing countries
- ◆ Do community service for the homeless and hungry

## Volunteer at Community Emergency Services

**Sunday, February 7**  
**12:30-2:30 pm**



Meet at Bethlehem parking lot at 12:15 pm and carpool to Community Emergency Services (CES) to help restock the food shelf and participate in an educational time for all ages. We encourage doing this as a small group or family activity. Register online at the Bethlehem website.

## Next Junior High Ministry Team Meeting

- ◆ Tuesday, January 5 @ 7:00pm

## New Sunday Morning Classes begin January 3

Check your Confirmation binders to see what class you signed up for.

- 9:00 am Core Class - More Old Testament Stories
- 9:00 am Elective Class - God’s Mission, My Purpose
- 10:15 am Core Class - God’s Daughters
- 10:15 am Elective Class - God’s Mission, My Purpose

## Mission Possible: 30 Hour Famine February 19-20, 2010

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. Before the famine, students raise money through donors and sponsors to help starving and hurting children in some of the world’s poorest countries. During the Famine, students go for 30 hours without food (consuming only juice) while they learn more about hunger through resources, games and activities. They also perform service projects in and around our neighborhoods.

This overnight event lasts from 7:00pm Friday to 7:00pm Saturday. **All Junior and Senior High students and their parents are invited to participate.** This is an excellent event to share with friends, as well.

**Adult Volunteers Needed:** We especially need parents and other adults to drive and serve as chaperones for a couple of hours or the entire event. Contact Pastor Beth Warpmaeker at 612.312.3367.

**Parent’s Meeting:** Wednesday, January 27 from 7:15-7:45pm in Harrisville to answer any questions.

### Announcements

- ◆ Wednesday Confirmation Nights resume **January 6**
- ◆ Mentor News: If confirmation students or mentors do not have discussion booklet, please contact Gena at 612.312.3364 or [gkoeberl@bethlehem-church.org](mailto:gkoeberl@bethlehem-church.org)
- ◆ **SAVE THE DATE: August 1-6** all 6th-12th grade youth are encouraged to attend Summer Camp at Green Lake Camp, Spicer, MN.

## Next Steps. . .

### Volunteer at Community Emergency Services Sunday, Feb. 7, 12:30-2:30 pm

Help out at CES (Community Emergency Services). Meet at Bethlehem parking lot at 12:15 pm and carpool to CES or meet at CES at 12:30 pm. Help restock the food shelf so that food can be distributed on Monday the Feb. 8. Pastor Don Rudrud will help to make this an educational time for all ages. Sign up to help at [bethlehem-church.org](http://bethlehem-church.org) or call Gena at 612.312.3364.

### Women's Day of Service Sunday, Feb. 6, 9:30-1:00 pm

Mark your calendars to join Bethlehem women of all ages, for a morning of fellowship and service preparing quilts and midwife, health and hospice kits at the Day of Service, Saturday, February 6, 2010, 9:30 am—1:00 pm. You are free to come for part, or all of the morning. Janet Krofta will be speaking at lunch about her experience as a Lutheran World Relief volunteer.

In 2009, more than 300 kits and quilts were assembled and delivered to Global Health Ministries and Lutheran World Relief. Look for the collection spot for kit contents in the gallery and an information table on Sundays.

**The greatest needs are:** ▶ new or gently used regular size, not oversize bath towels; ▶ washcloths; ▶ bars of Ivory soap; ▶ picks or wide-toothed combs; ▶ newborn size onesies or t-shirts; ▶ infant receiving blankets; ▶ 2-3 gallon plastic bags; ▶ toothbrushes; and ▶ yellow kitchen gloves. Cash donations are also needed to purchase items in bulk. If you have any questions, please contact Betty Scheurer at 612.822.1074.



### Young Adults Serve at Crisis Nursery

Bethlehem Young Adults group are looking for people that are interested in possibly preparing a meal at the Crisis Nursery in the month of January for their monthly service project. If you are interested in giving a few hours of your time at the Crisis Nursery please contact Michelle Mattox, [michellemattox@hotmail.com](mailto:michellemattox@hotmail.com), or 651.328.4183 for further information.



### Council Highlights

The Bethlehem Church Council met on November 17.

The council received a financial report that four of the last five months (July – October) have had generous congregational giving above plan. This is tremendously encouraging.

The council also heard a report from Worship Ministries.

Council information is available on the Bethlehem web site; minutes of the meetings are available at the mailboxes across from the office; and there are Council people available for your questions in the Gallery on many Sundays. You can also email us at [council@bethlehem-church.org](mailto:council@bethlehem-church.org). Let us know your thoughts.

### Elected Leadership Positions 2010

Introducing nominees for congregational officers and Council members, 2010 for election at the annual meeting on January 30, 2010:

**\* President** Sara Ausman

Member 5 yrs *Occupation:* Senior Vice President, Professional Services, Business Banking, M&I Bank, *Church Activities:* Council member, Foundation, Sunday School, *Community:*



Supporter of various non-profit organizations in Twin Cities that focus on children, health and women.

**\* President-Elect** Steve Tjeltveit

Member 5 yrs *Occupation:* Director of Finance and Human Services, *Church Activities:* Co-Chair 40 Days of Community, Member Ethics in Action, Adult leader, High School Youth Trips, *Community:* Manager for Traveling Soccer Team, Booster club for High School Sports Teams, Various other outreach activities.



**\* Council Member** Jim Haase

2 year term, Member 1 yr, *Occupation:* Attorney, MN Attorney General's Office, Lieutenant Colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve, *Church Activities:* Senior Choir, Former Choir President.



**\* Council Member** Lee Henderson

2 year term, Member 5 yrs *Occupation:* Lawyer, Owner of small technology company. *Church Activities:* Ethics and Action, Adult Ministries Team, *Community:* LSS Board Member, Mpls. Area Synod Committees.



**Council Members Accepting Election for 2nd Terms:** Paul Steen, Treasurer, Jeff Hedlund, John Helberg, Kelly Larson, Brent McVay **Continuing on Council:** Lisa Sheppard Pearson, Secretary, Karen Contag, Betsy Hoium, Barbara Taft

## Health Ministries

### Healing Touch Sign-Up

Start the new year with a healthful gift that will grow for you, your family and friends. Begin or advance your skills in Healing Touch with experienced trainers in Bethlehem's supportive atmosphere.



The Health Ministries program will offer Healing Touch International™ Levels 1, 2, and 3 training at Bethlehem during 2010. The first course is **Level 1 January 22 and 23, 8:30 am-6:00 pm.**

Course fee: \$200 (Bethlehem and TRUST members) \$270 (non-members) includes tuition, class handouts, \* Healing Touch International™ certificate fee, am and pm snacks, and Friday lunch. (Saturday is bag lunch.) \*Participants are responsible for course text books syllabus available ahead of class.

**Payment Option:** Make an initial payment of at least \$50; then have up to 3 more months to pay the remainder. Continuing Education Credits: 16 CEUs For more information, call Gretchen Porter at 612.312.3405. To register: [www.bethlehem-church.org](http://www.bethlehem-church.org)

**Brain Power**

**The brain operates on the same amount of power as 10-watt light bulb.** The cartoon image of a light bulb over your head when a great thought occurs isn't too far off the mark. Your brain generates as much energy as a small light bulb even when you're sleeping.

### Gathering

The Gathering is a group respite program for people in early to mid-stage memory loss and it also provides caregivers a much-needed break. It meets for 5 hours on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, during which time 1:1 care is provided by trained and dedicated volunteers. If you know someone who would benefit from this program or if you are interested in being a volunteer please contact Julie McChesney at 612.312.3405 or [jmcchesney@bethlehem-church.org](mailto:jmcchesney@bethlehem-church.org).



### Foot Clinic

Friday, **January 8th** (Note this is a week later than normal)  
10:00 - 2:00 Room 204  
Call 612.312.3400 to register.



### Active All Year Long

- Grab that rain gear and go sing in the rain
- Bird Watching
- Join a dancing class
- Shovel Snow
- Go ice skating or roller skating
- Coach a children's sport
- Play ping pong
- Play with the children
- Walk the kids to school
- Play a game with friends
- Take a yoga or tai chi class
- Mop the Floor
- Vacuum to your favorite dance music
- Work out with a punching bag
- Swim at the local pool or lake
- Refinish a piece of furniture
- Go Sledding
- Work out with an exercise video
- Walk around the mall before shopping



### Befriender Upcoming Training

*"Every human being has a great, yet often unknown gift to care, to be compassionate, to become present to the other, to listen and to receive. If that gift would be set free and made available, miracles could take place."*  
-Henri Nouwen



Would you like to learn to be an active, compassionate listener, learn how to accept people where they are in life's journey of transitions and struggles? In Befriender training you learn this while deepening your own spiritual life so that you may be the active presence of Jesus to those you serve. We will be holding Befriender training sessions on **February 3 and 10, 6:30 to 8:30pm.** After the training, you will work with one of the staff of Health Ministries to identify your gifts of service to our members. This may be being with someone who is grieving, someone who has lost a job, someone who is ill, or someone who is in need of friendly visits. There is ongoing support and education at bi-monthly meetings held at church. Come join us in February. Contact the parish nurse or social worker at 612.312.3405 for more information.

## Mission Possible Stories. . .

God has given the church a mission: to share the light of Christ in the world. Easier said than done for many of us, but not impossible for any of us. Here are the stories of some Bethlehem members.

### Carol Pfleiderer's story...

Antonia was a widow living in a thatch-covered, mud-walled house with a string bed and single wooden bench for furniture. Her dirt floors were swept clean, the mud stove was ready to make us lunch, and she grabbed a chicken that was running around outside when she decided the frozen chickens we had brought with us wouldn't be enough. She wrung its neck before we started work on her new Habitat house far from the small town of Sandolandia, Brazil. Antonia was caring for a mentally handicapped grandchild and 2 other children. She grew a little coffee and food for them and tried to survive as best she could since the death of her husband. As our team of 11 worked together with other families who had come to help, she told her story and we shared why we were there—we are called to love others as God loves us. Her life had been incredibly hard but her faith and spirit were strong. She had what was important—a family she loved and who loved her, faith, and the will to provide as best she could for her family. What she lacked was a safe and healthy place to live. That's where we came in. When we left, her new house was almost ready, and we had formed bonds with a new sister in Christ.

This was my second Habitat international experience, the one that made me know that I would continue to do the work of international and local service by helping provide families with safe, decent places to live; and to help fellow church members and those who live in the first world have the experience of serving God's people in need.

### Laurie Linnes-Bagley's story...

We worked hard physically, which felt wonderful. We connected with people, which warmed my heart. We made a positive difference to the orphans. We did not cook, talk on the phone, or pay bills. We were removed from our usual reality and living in the moment of the here and now in a third world country. The feeling of freedom was like going to camp as a child, that something wonderful was bound to happen each day.

God Calls Each of  
Us To Be In Mission

### Valeria Christensen's story...

Now to sum up my experience during the global volunteer trip to Cochabamba, Bolivia—a grand adventure which touched my heart, challenged my senses, ignited my compassion, excited my intellect and allowed me to rediscover the essence of my values and my inner being.

The volunteers varied in ages, personalities and backgrounds, but we forged a cohesive team committed to working together for a common goal. The camaraderie was exceptional with friendships forged, lots of laughter, sharing of ideas and genuine respect for all. We all saw first hand the difference our involvement made in so many lives. Our volunteer service immersed us in the local community. Although the conditions weren't always ideal and the manual work was hard, we were also able to explore the culture through recreational activities and community events.

### Lila Mayes, RN story. . .

We work very closely with a physician group, who live year round in Guatemala, as our referral base for the patients we care for when we work at the charity hospital in Antigua, Guatemala. Many of the patients come from very rural areas in Guatemala and travel on buses for many hours, and sometimes days, to come to us for surgery. One 10 year old boy came from his village with his 14 year old brother because the entire family could not afford to travel. They spoke limited Spanish and the native Mayan language. The family was very proud of the fact that they had managed to save 100 Q's (Guatemalan currency) and had sent the money with the older son. The 10 year old was very stoic and brave through all of the pre-op process and did not reveal his fright until actually walking to the OR. Knowing that I would never have been able to send my 10 year old son off alone to have surgery, I took him under my wing. I explained to the older brother that extra food and medicine would be needed for healing after surgery and gave him back the 100 Q's from my own personal money. Guatemalan people are very proud people and I knew that I needed to give the money in a way that would not offend the parents. 100 Q's, which equals approximately \$12 American, probably took the family months to save. One of the older patients saw me do this and gave me the "thumbs up" as I explained that I too was a Madre.



# THE BEACON



## January 3—

Isaiah 60:1-6

Matthew 2:1-12

## January 10—Mission Possible: Bold in Baptism

Isaiah 43:1-7

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

## January 17—Mission Possible: Gifts Galore!

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

## January 24—Mission Possible: Good News

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Luke 4:14-21

## January 31—Mission Possible: Lessons from the Master

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30

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

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



**Bethlehem**  
Lutheran Church

Visit us at [www.bethlehem-church.org](http://www.bethlehem-church.org) or

Email at [church@bethlehem-church.org](mailto:church@bethlehem-church.org)

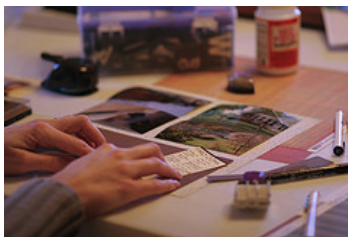
Telephone 612.312.3400 Fax 612.312.3399

## Memory Keepers / Scrapbookers

Next meeting is Friday, January 15, 2010, 3:00-9:00 pm and Saturday, January 16, 9:00-4:00 pm. All are welcome; please feel free to bring a friend. We meet in Harrisville on 2nd Floor. Bring a snack to share, a food item for a pot-blessing on Friday and Saturday, an item for the food shelf, your own equipment, supplies, and projects.

*Food Shelf:* Our running total for the school year is 24.71 pounds! – Let's see if

we can top that in January! If there are any questions, please contact Dorine King, [Dorine.King@q.com](mailto:Dorine.King@q.com), 612.825.8425. Sorry, no child care available.



## SAVE THE DATE!

### Moms' Ministry Retreat

Saturday, March 6, 2010, 9:30 am—2:00 pm

Watch for more details coming soon.



**Next Beacon Deadline: January 10, 2010**  
[pdunn@bethlehem-church.org](mailto:pdunn@bethlehem-church.org)

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**DATED MATERIAL**

## PEP Club at the Cinema

*Secondhand Lions*

Saturday, January 9, 1:30 pm  
in Bethlehem's Cinema (Room 215)

Set in Texas in the 1950's, *Secondhand Lions* tells the touching story of Walter, a shy teenager sent to stay with two estranged uncles for the summer. Various rumors surround the two uncles (Robert Duvall and Michael Caine), who appear to be extremely wealthy, having stashed over one million dollars in cash at an undisclosed location. The two men soon warm to the child and tell him incredible tales

of their adventures. As all the characters become invigorated by the stories and tall tales, a neat bond is formed between them providing touching and valuable lessons in life. This is a moving coming-of-age film the whole family can enjoy.

