

THE BEACON

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOL. 67 NUMBER 5 MAY, 2011

New Sermon Series Begins Sunday, May 1

**life
together**

“God taught us to encounter one another as God has encountered us in Christ.” - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

A Story of Life Together. . . by Christy Hallenbeck

Update on Bethlehem's co-sponsorship of a Karen refugee family

Our relationship with Ki Ki, Ma Yi, and their five children began before they arrived in the United States. It began with announcements, phone calls, emails, and donations responding to the Bethlehem community's call to welcome these new neighbors (and answer the call we did, to an awe-inspiring degree!).



Sarah Dossler, Eh Dah Htoo, Aidan (Bethlehem friend), Grant Dossler, Moo Hei Soe, Hair La Moo

Today the relationship continues with “life together.” As we've learned through many silent visits to the family's home, it's not possible to share language together, or ideas together, or culture together. But in the silence, in the laughter, in the game-playing, there is life together.

During a recent visit, the children of the family bestowed beautiful hand-woven shirts upon several of us—a gift beautifully reminiscent of the clothing Bethlehem members donated to them. Another time, we watched a home movie from their former home in Thailand—a video inviting us into the prayer service their refugee camp community held to bless their journey to the United States, this place we now honor as their home.

We invite you with us in sharing “life together” with our Karen brothers and sisters. In May we will join the family for Karen worship at First Baptist Church. We will then welcome them to Bethlehem at an upcoming service. If you are interested in joining the Karen worship experience, contact Christy, christine.hallenbeck@gmail.com.

Pastor's Word

Years ago, when my oldest was 11 years old we had several arguments around her request to quit piano lessons. She hated it. She'd had enough of playing songs by dead people (her words, not mine). She wanted to learn guitar. I dug in my heels. Music was a value that had been passed down for generations in my family. It was part of our DNA. I had learned to appreciate and love music through singing and playing the piano. I was committed to the same process for my children. Then it dawned on me to take a step back and evaluate the situation as objectively as I could. Our value is music. Our goal was to pass that on to our children. Siri was not rejecting music; she just wanted to go about the discovery process differently than I had imagined. So I went back to the negotiating table. I suggested we try a switch for one year: guitar lessons instead of piano. Since then Siri has discovered and nourished a passion for composing, singing and playing music. She values music. Mission accomplished. Not in the way I had imagined, but in a way that met our goal.

Council, lay leadership and staff have been engaged in conversations around Bethlehem's mission, vision and values. After time with scripture, study and prayer, we've articulated our **mission** as: *Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Bethlehem will: **Connect people***

Pastor's Word continued on Page 2...

with Jesus Christ and His church family, **Grow** them towards Christ-like maturity, equip them to **Serve** in the church and to **Reach** others with God's love as we **Worship** God. Our **vision** is connecting people with God, each other and their mission in the world, and we **value** (because God values) unity in Christ, caring for those in need, relationships that share the Gospel in a variety of contexts.

In our next sermon series, Life Together, we'll be reading the Book of Acts. It's the story of how the church began. It's a story about how the Holy Spirit is alive in the world, revealing the unexpected and expansive love of God. Time and time again, when people think they have the good news of Jesus Christ figured out, they experience the disruptive power of the Holy Spirit.

And so it is with us. God's creative Spirit continually challenges us to re-imagine how to be church in a world that's

hungry for *God's creative Spirit continually challenges us to re-imagine how to be church in a world that's hungry for God's love.*
We are the *body of Christ, partnering with God, to bring about God's kingdom on earth.*
This is who God created us to be. It's part of our DNA. Nothing can change that. But how we go about the work continually changes. "God taught us to encounter one another as God has encountered us in Christ" wrote Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Each encounter will be unique but so it is with the beauty and complexity of God's creation. May our imaginations be open as we seek to be faithful to God's vision for the world.

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See you in church—Pastor Mary

Will That Be Cash, Check...or Cell Phone?

by Chris Hegland, Stewardship Ministry Team

I recently read that Google is partnering with MasterCard and Citigroup to embed technology in Android mobile phones that will allow consumers to make purchases with their phone. At the check-out counter, the customer would simply wave their phone in front of a small reader and the payment would be processed. As a result, mobile phones will become an electronic wallet. Looking back at my grandparent's generation, the methods of payment for consumers were basically cash or check. In the 1950's, credit cards came onto the scene. Over the past twenty years, additional payment options such as debit cards, pre-paid cards, on-line banking, and Pay Pal have gained popularity. In the future, our cell phones will become another payment option.

In 1995, 53% of payments were by check, 21% by cash, 21% by credit card, and 1% by debit card. In 2005, check writing dropped to 37%, cash dropped to 14%, credit cards increased to 27%, and debit cards increased to 15%. While check writing is not yet a lost art, it is definitely declining in popularity.

To keep pace with these changes and your personal preferences, giving options at Bethlehem have been expanding as well. You have many options to give at Bethlehem:

- Cash / Check
- Credit card / Debit card
- On-line donation
- Simply Giving – electronic giving, a service of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
- Bill-pay – set up an auto-payment with your on-line banking

It's doubtful that you will be able to make your Sunday offering by waving your iPhone, Blackberry, or Android over the offering plate any time soon. However, the Stewardship Committee is dedicated to providing you with many convenient and secure giving methods to support Bethlehem and its mission. We will be hosting a Giving Table between services on Sundays, May 8, 15 and 23. Please stop by and visit with members of the team to learn more about the different ways of giving – including costs and benefits of various methods. We will have sign-up forms available if you are interested in changing the way you are currently giving to Bethlehem.

Thank you very much for the generosity expressed so far this year. It is making a difference and helping us all to live out our vision to "connect people with God, each other and their mission in the world!"

Stop by the Giving Table in the Gallery on Sundays, May 8, 15 or 23 to learn about different ways of giving.

As. It's a short word. But it's immensely powerful, because it gives character and shape to everything that comes after. Jesus sends us into the world, in the same manner that God has sent Jesus into the world. God so loved the world that God sent Jesus into the world. God so loves this world that we too are sent, to be light, to reveal, to uncover God's work all around us.

*Jesus said to them again,
"Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me,
so I send you." - John 20:21*

This Easter season our sermon series will be about *Life Together*. It will be a reminder of, a return to, the love that we first received through Christ, a love that sends us out to share in God's unfolding work in all of creation.

As I think about our work of engaging new communities, I'm struck by the immense opportunities that surround us here at Bethlehem. God has entrusted us with this neighborhood. God has entrusted us with these streets, homes, and businesses that surround Bethlehem. God has entrusted us with our neighbors.

Just as the Father has sent Jesus out ahead of us, so too we are sent to be signs of hope and promise. God is already hard at work bringing life out of death, bringing hope from despair, bringing the kingdom of God into our midst and Christ sends us to join that work.

As we begin to imagine how we might partner with God right here in our neighborhood, we need to be conversant in a series of questions.

- If Bethlehem disappeared from 41st and Lyndale, would we be missed?
- What gives the neighborhood hope for the next five years?
- What makes the neighborhood nervous about the next five years?
- Where is God already at work in this community?

These are tough questions. I covet your prayers as we wrestle with these together.

Pastor Ben Cieslik

Staff News

Did you know? Gena Marie Koeberl has served on Bethlehem's staff as Faith Formation Ministry Assistant for 6 years. During that time she also attended seminary and is now ready to fulfill the internship requirement. Gena has been called to serve Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Owatonna, MN beginning mid-August. With her departure comes some necessary changes. In the months ahead she will be training Whitney Stofflet to assume Faith Formation ministry assistant responsibilities. Gena will also be the interim ministry assistant for Congregational Care Ministries. We're grateful for the many ways in which Gena has blessed the life of this congregation and ask that you include Gena in your prayers as she transitions to this new phase in her call to ordained ministry.

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

Service Times:

- **Sundays— 8:00, 9:00, 10:15, 11:30, 7:00 pm**
- **Nursery available at 9:00, 10:15 & 11:30 am on Sundays**

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

Next Beacon Deadline:

May 10, 2011

pdunn@bethlehem-church.org

@ Beacon now online

Wednesday Night Classes, 6:30-7:45 pm

Eating Well and Caring for the Earth

April 27—Vegetable Gardening

May 4—Backyard and Worm Composting

May 11—Intro to Organic / Local Food: A Closer Look at the Food We Eat

May 18—Rain Gardening—a low maintenance landscape alternative that helps protect and restore water quality.

Featuring guest speakers, horticulturists and master gardeners.

Writing Our Stories and Uncovering Our Thoughts

Wednesday Nights May 4, 11 & 18

Led by Siri Myhrom, Bethlehem member and free-lance writer and editor

Have you ever found yourself "stuck" thinking about something, then journaled about it and discovered new insights? Writing is a wonderful way to gain clarity and also a tool for going deeper. Over the course of three weeks, Siri will invite you to write in response to poetry, music, film clips and more as we consider questions of purpose and belonging—questions like: What are my gifts? What do I have to contribute? How might God use me?

Register at bethlehem-church.org.

Wednesday Evening Women's Book Group

In May we will discuss "Their Eyes Were Watching God" by Zora Neale Hurston, written in 1937. When she was 17, Ms. Hurston left her black community in Florida to finish high school in Baltimore and go to college in New York City. She became part of the Harlem Renaissance. Jamie Crawford, the protagonist of "Watching God," sets out to be her own person, no mean feat for a black woman in the 1930's. Her quest for identity takes her through 3 marriages and back to her roots.

Our book for June will be "The Italian Shoes" by Norwegian mystery writer Mantell Henning. Summer meeting place to be announced. Join us for a lively discussion. All women are welcome. Bring a friend.

Spiritual Practices 101

Summer Reading – "Celebration of Discipline," by Richard Foster

Wednesdays, 9:30 am or 7:00 pm, beginning June 1

During Lent, our Wednesday night focus was on spiritual habits that help us grow deeper in relationship with God – practices like reading scripture, meditation, submission, confession and simplicity. Here's an opportunity to learn more about the disciplines and practice them in community with others. Over the course of the summer, we'll read Foster's book and engage with scripture daily. Those who are interested will also join with others on Wednesdays to practice the disciplines and be encouraged by each other's insights and experience. **Register online at bethlehem-church.org.**

Biblical Fluency Project

Time to take the survey!

Not long ago, Bethlehem and ten other congregations from across the country were selected to participate in a study exploring the link between a congregation's vitality and its engagement with the Bible. This 18-month study is being directed by Luther Seminary and supported through a grant from the Lily Foundation. The expected outcome of the study is to identify and develop several "best practices" for equipping people to engage with the Bible. The findings will then be passed on to other churches and the seminaries for training future leaders.

We are asking all adults in our congregation to complete a survey by the middle of May. The survey consists of 20 questions and should take no more than 15-20 minutes to complete. It will provide us with a baseline understanding about your current Bible study experience and what and how you would like to learn about the Bible. We will also interview 20-30 members to obtain more detailed feedback about how we can make engaging in "Bible Study" more appealing to a broader range of people.

You may take the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/BethLutheran. We are asking people to take the survey online, if possible, so that your responses can go directly to Luther Seminary. For those without computer access, paper copies of the survey will be available at church. Your response will be anonymous. If you have questions, contact Lisa Johnson (612.825.2327) or Pastor Kris Tostengard Michel (612.312.3410). Thanks for your participation and honest feedback!

Congregational Care

by Diane Waarvik, Director of Care Ministries



There have been many changes at Bethlehem over the last several months. Many of these changes are related to congregational care.

We have broadened our services to our members by visiting individuals in hospitals, nursing homes, their homes and at church. Visits are made by members of the pastoral staff, (Chris Nelson, Mary Pechauer, Beth Warpmaeker, Kris Tostengard Michel, and Ben Cieslik) and the care ministry staff, (Diane Waarvik, Gretchen Porter and Julie McChesney). In addition to staff visits we have parish visitors, lay eucharistic ministers and individuals who provide meals to those in need.

In order to provide services to our members, the pastors and I meet on a weekly basis to share needs and concerns of members. We develop a plan of who is to visit and what services might be of help. We hope members are seen more often so they feel more connected to their church family.

One way we become aware of needs is through each of you! We ask that you call us if you or someone you know is in need of a call or visit from us. **We want to hear from you.** Bethlehem is a large congregation and it is difficult to keep up on all the needs, so we ask that you be our eyes and ears.

Here are a few services to be aware of:

- Contact Julie McChesney, 612.312.3366 if you need help finding an assisted living facility or nursing home
- Healing Touch - Contact Cheryl Salter, 952.250.8857
- Healing service at home before surgery
- Health resources, including mental health and recovery information
- Health education regarding medications, treatment, etc.

We are excited about how we are now providing ministry to our members.

We ask for your prayers and help as we move forward.

Numbers to Live By -by Gretchen Porter, Parish Nurse

Mental Illness - Not a Choice

One in five families is affected by a biological brain disorder, a.k.a. mental illness. That's a lot of Bethlehem folks! In its various forms, mental illness causes a disturbance in a person's thinking, feeling, mood and ability to relate to others. Yet, like other medical illnesses, the symptoms are often controlled and invisible although the toll on individuals and families can be significant.

Ten common warning signs of mental illness: marked personality changes, inability to cope with problems and daily activities, strange or grandiose ideas, excessive anxieties, prolonged depression and apathy, marked changes in eating or sleeping, thinking about suicide, extreme highs and lows, abuse of alcohol or drugs, excessive anger, hostility or violent behaviors. Children and adolescents may display other behavioral changes.

There is hope and help. **Stop by the Care Ministries table on Sunday, May 1 in the Gallery for information** or call Gretchen Porter, 612.312.3414.

Foot Clinic available 10-2 pm by appointment on June 3.

Healing Touch available in nursing homes, hospitals, homes, etc. Call Cheryl Salter to schedule, 952.250.8857.

Gathering on 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. Can be a volunteer or participant. Call the church office to reserve your spot, 612.312.3400.

Community News

Deaths

Lee Graba, 4-2-11

Births/Adoptions

Kathryn Annette Feile, 3-9-11

Parents: Laura and Chris Feile

Aubrey Ana Manganiello, 2-7-11

Parents: Micah and Sarah Manganiello

Grandmother: Cheryl Holmes

Ruby Hope Tritabaugh, 3-15-11

Parents: Adam and Kelsey Tritabaugh

Big Brother: Tate

Bridget Murphy Hatch, 3-13-11

Parents: Rob and Marian Saksena Hatch

Ian Lucas Miller Winskowski, 4-5-11

Parents: Ann Marie and Luke Winskowski

Baptisms

March 27, 2011

Kyra Jean Kamrath, 2-2-11

Parents: Jonathan and Heidi Kamrath

Samantha Ashley Stish, 11-11-10

Parents: Bradley and Andrea Stish

Sidney Marie Bengtson, 1-15-11

Parents: Peter and Sharleen Bengtson

April 3, 2011

Jenr James Koppen, 11-14-10

Owen Henry Koppen, 11-14-10

Parents: Aaron and Josie Koppen

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Daily Readings for Lent devotional. From Dick Dronen's prayer, to "form us so we're not like sheep who need constant direction," or picturing Heidi Mogush, cleaning her floor in prayer from the abundant gifts of her family, the conversations with and about God were delightful. It felt like I was joined for coffee every morning by a caring friend, sharing good news. It only took one simple idea to enrich each day.

Beryl Deskin

My heartfelt gratitude for all the loving support during various health issues these past couple of months. You've lifted me up in prayer, lifted my spirits with cards, calls, visits, warm and hearty meals. Rides to appointments have been very helpful. The healing touch sessions have soothed my body, mind and soul. And through all your hands and hearts I know God's presence is guiding. Thank you so much my dear friends for all your continuing loving support. Blessings and peace,

Pamela Paulson

4-5-6 Event - Save the Date

Saturday, May 21, 6:15-9:30 pm

Feed My Starving Children at the Chanhassen location. Parents are needed to drive. Sign up online at bethlehem-church.org.

Summer Nursery

Sign up to help in the nursery one or more Sunday mornings during the summer! Contact Jess at nursery@bethlehem-church.org or 612-312-3401.

Vacation Bible School

Monday-Friday, June 20-24

9:00-Noon

\$25/child or \$50/family maximum

Register online at bethlehem-church.org or pick up a form in the Sunday School areas.

Afternoon Day Camp

Monday-Thursday, June 20-23

Noon-4:30 pm

Completed Grades 1-5, \$60/child
Contact Kris TM if you're interested in hosting the Counselors for dinner or lodging that week.

Celebration on the Lawn

Sunday, June 5

Worship together, and then play together outside on the west lawn. This parent-child event will have bounce houses, face-painting, snacks and more.

Summer Camp at Shores of

St. Andrew

July 31 - August 5

Kids who have completed grades 2-5 register for Andy's Gang at Shores of St. Andrew near New London, MN. Register at gllm.org.

Cherubs Make Change by Linda Madson, Director of Cherub Choir

This is the 2nd year that the Cherub Choir will give back to the community through the Cherubs Make Change program. I started the program last year to piggyback with the Sunday School Lenten food drive. It seemed a great way to give the Cherubs something to work toward during Lent, and we easily reached our goal of collecting 150 items or dollars for the Zoom House. It was a wonderful experience for all involved, and it created a connection that we are excited to continue this year.

Our new goal this spring is 300--either items or dollars--for Zoom House. Instead of food, we are collecting household items that Zoom provides when a new family moves in. If you would like to help us reach our goal, here are some ideas of things we need:

Household cleaners, dish soap, shampoo/conditioner/lotion, kitchen/bathroom towels, full/queen sheets & blankets, broom/mop, laundry baskets or donations for operating and supportive services costs.

We would gladly welcome anything you could contribute. There will be a laundry basket marked "Cherubs Make Change" outside the Assembly Room, and monetary donations can be sent to the Bethlehem office. Delivery will be on May 8th--and we'll sing at Zion Lutheran Church's 10:00 service. Through our sharing and with the love of God, we hope to spread Bethlehem's spirit to our greater community!

'PANDAMANIA' Needs You!

Consider volunteering! We're looking for:

- Decorating
- Crew leaders and assistants
- Station, Snack, and Game leaders
- Registration

Register online or in the Sunday School areas.

Please contact Heather for questions,

hrothjohnson@bethlehem-church.org or 612.312.3420.

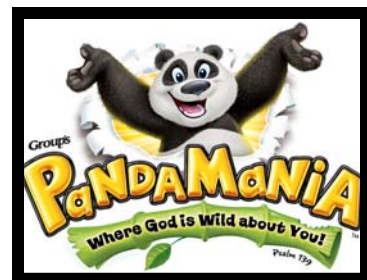
Under time constraints? Consider donating supplies.

Immediate needs for a bamboo forest:

- + Long cardboard tubes from carpet or fabric, or wrapping paper
- + garden stakes or wooden dowel rods at least 36" long
- + PVC pipe,
- + old broom handles

Other objects we'd like to borrow:

- + Chinese motif paneled screens
- + Bonsai trees
- + Artificial greens - especially ferns and vines
- + Paper kites, parasols, fans, or lanterns
- + Wind chimes/ Gong
- + Small garden water fountain
- + Chinese and Asian fabric
- + Stuffed animals: pandas, snow leopards, monkeys



Please put your name on your items and deliver them to the Sunday School area on the lower level. *Thank you!*

Bethlehem Youth Make an Impact in India

While in India last August, a group of Bethlehem students visited The Danish Mission Hospital (DMH) in Tirukoilur, Tamil Nadu, in Southern India, a ministry project site through Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry. DMH provides high quality and affordable or free care to a large rural population,



DMH medical staff with new blood analyzer.

especially through its Eye Program, Safe Motherhood Program and Village Outreach. The students had the opportunity to tour the hospital and speak with its director, Dr. Franklin, about the impact the hospital programs make in the lives of so many people. Dr. Franklin's testimony and conversations with

other doctors and nurses left quite an impression. Bethlehem's student group wanted to do something to assist DMH's amazing service and ministry, so they asked, "How can we help; what does this hospital need?" A quick response was given, "The hospital needs a blood analyzer but simply cannot afford it." The old one broke years ago, so they haven't been able to make accurate diagnoses without it. Without it, the hospital's capacity to care is severely hindered. So right then and there, the student group, along with Kim Dickey and Anne Senne, decided they would find a way to raise the funds necessary for a new blood analyzer.

Upon returning home from India, the group got right to work! They took their first step by applying for a grant from Kids' Choice Fund. They received \$1,000. Additional funds were raised through other efforts and \$2,400 made their way to Southern India in the form of a brand new blood analyzer, providing DMH's doctors and lab staff the opportunity to increase their capacity for care.

All Bethlehem high school graduates please contact Whitney Stofflet, wstofflet@bethlehem-church.org, in the church office by **May 6** with the following information:

Name
High School Attended
Plans for Fall 2011
Highlights at Bethlehem
Words of Advice to students
Digital Picture

Calendar Items

June 5 -Graduate Recognition Sunday—*More details to come.*

West Virginia Mission Trip

Important Dates

Next Payments Due: May 1, June 1
Prayer Partners Due: May 1
Forms Due: May 1
-YouthWorks Participant Release
-Youth Covenant
-Rafting Waiver

Be sure to keep checking your email and the Youth in Mission page for up-to-date information.

Kids' Choice Fund Can Help!

Hey kids, have you got ideas for making the world a better place? Need some help with funding? The Bethlehem Foundation has a program for helping kids put their service ideas into action. Grant requests can be made for up to \$1,000. The grants must be generated by more than one youth and supported by an adult in association with Bethlehem. Projects must be in keeping with Bethlehem's mission. The next application deadline is July 1. For more information, go to bethlehem-church.org/giving/kids-choice-fund or contact wstofflet@bethlehem-church.org.



Celebrating 27 Years of Pam Paulson's Ministry! Sunday, May 1, 1-2 pm

The year is 1984: Ronald Reagan is reelected, defeating Walter Mondale by a landslide; the space shuttle Discovery makes its maiden voyage; and Pam Paulson joined the Bethlehem staff. She has been part of this community since she was a teenager and has served in countless ways over the years. Pam has now moved to part-time hours. Join us on Sunday, May 1, 1:00-2:00 pm for an opportunity to thank and celebrate Pam's gifts for ministry in this place as she faithfully leads us in the work to which God continually calls us.



Ladies' Afternoon Tea May 7, 2:00 pm

Ladies of all ages are cordially invited to attend the "Ladies Afternoon Tea" on Saturday, May 7, 2:00 pm at Bethlehem. Scrumptious desserts, delicate sandwiches and yummy pastries will be served, along with aromatic teas. We will chat to the tunes of live music and try our luck at raffle and door prizes. Our afternoon tea will be modeled after an English "high tea" with gloves and hats encouraged, but strictly optional. This event promises to be fun but also has a higher purpose. Our sponsoring groups--Moms' Ministry, BLCW and LOCA--are donating all proceeds to the Community Emergency Services (CES) agency for its work in serving struggling families in our community.



Tickets are \$15 and are available online at bethlehem-church.org. Contact Ruth Broman (952.942.0750) or Carole Peterson (952.944.0261) for more information. It's a wonderful early Mother's Day treat or just a special time with special friends!

Annual Missionary Luncheon May 10, 12:15 pm in Iverson Hall

Bethlehem members and friends are invited to the luncheon honoring our retired missionaries and those who are home on furlough. The luncheon begins at 12:15 pm in Iverson Hall. Tickets are \$5.00 and will be on sale in the Gallery on Sunday mornings, May 1 and 8.

We are pleased to have Charles P. Lutz as our guest speaker. He has visited Israel/Palestine eight times, and currently is Minnesota's grassroots coordinator with Churches for Middle East Peace. He is the co-author of the book "Christians and a Land Called Holy: How Can We Foster Justice, Peace and Hope." Join us.

A Report from the Holy Land Sunday, May 15, 10:15 am

In March, a group of eight visited Israel/ Palestine to learn more about our mission partners at Christmas Lutheran Church in the city of Bethlehem. They will be sharing the challenges they saw and the hope they witnessed on May 15 in Langemo Lounge at 10:15 am. Come hear their stories and see their pictures. Then together, brainstorm new ways to support our Lutheran brothers and sisters who are making peace a reality in Palestine.

Bethlehem Music Series Presents...

Choral Contrasts

Bethlehem Senior Choir and Orchestra

David Mennicke, Director

Sunday, May 22, 4:00 pm

Singet dem Herrn by Bach, the Coronation anthem, *Zadok the Priest*, by Handel, the *Cantique de Jean Racine* of Faure, culminating with the *Lux Aeterna* by Morten Lauridsen.



Worship Prep Team Opportunity

Information Meeting June 4, 9:30 am

What comes to mind when you hear someone talk about worship? There are many different styles of worship in the 21st century. Most people who come to Bethlehem will say that worship is an important part of their faith life. Worship at Bethlehem is our response to the gifts God has given us and our desire to connect in relationship with God. A worship service here may include, people, candles, music, communion, baptism, banners and much more. Bethlehem has a Worship Prep Team that works behind the scenes each week. People on the team volunteer once or twice per month to get things ready for Sunday. Most volunteers work on Saturday or Sunday morning, the schedule is flexible. You need no experience to volunteer. All that is needed is a willingness to work with others. We will have an information meeting on Saturday June 4, 9:30 am. Come find out more or contact Wendy 612.312.3363, wosman@bethlehem-church.org.

CoAM Life Enrichment

May Monday mornings, 9:30 & 10:50

Handel's Messiah - a closer look and listen. Enjoy four sessions at 9:30 am taught by Bethlehem member Carolyn Bliss. Other classes include: Metro Transit planning, fire safety, rebuilding Haiti, health care reform, travelogues, Bible study. Classes held at Bethel Lutheran Church, 42nd St. and 17th Av So. For more information/newsletter call CoAM 612.721.5786 or TRUST 612.827.6159



Summer Sunday Worship at the Bandshell begins May 29, 10:00 am with Judson Church

Bethlehem's Sunday at the Bandshell is July 17. Mark your calendars now.

New Member Session

This spring we are offering a new streamlined session schedule; same great experience!

- Saturday, May 14, Discover Bethlehem 8:30-12:30 pm
- Sunday, May 22, New Member Sunday

Here's what one recent new member has to say:

"Discover Bethlehem is the first step in a long-lasting, two-way commitment. My wife Kris and I couldn't ask for a better way to begin. I found the presentations by Pamela and Chris enlightening, educational and enjoyable. It's a phenomenal way to learn about the past, present and future of Bethlehem and feel like a part of it all. Plus, it's a fun way to meet other new members embarking on the same journey. I'll carry that day with me always." - Eric Davis

Register online or contact Pam Paulson, 612.312.3415 or ppaulson@bethlehem-church.org.



SAILING !

**August 5-7
September 23-25**

Join in the fun as we sail the Apostle Islands.

Register at bethlehem-church.org.

FRESH Movie Night at Bethlehem Friday, May 6, 6:30-8:30 pm in Iverson Hall

Join us for popcorn and a screening of FRESH, an inspiring, entertaining and thought-provoking documentary film about the state of food production in America. This film



takes a creative look at how we can shift toward a healthier, more humane, locally-based food system. Discussion panel will follow featuring:

- **Scott Pampuch** of Corner Table
- **Eva Jensen**, Ph.D. and ELCA pastor
- **Megan Smith** of Land Stewardship Project.

Register for the event online at bethlehem-church.org. More information about the film is available at freshthemovie.com.
Hosted by Caring for Creation ministry.

If you are interested in helping provide hospitality for this fun, community event, please contact Amy Rimington, 612.922.6492, or rimdawg71@hotmail.com.



Career Transition and Networking Ministry

In order to connect people with God, each other, and their mission in the world, Bethlehem is launching a career transition and networking ministry. We know that career paths have changed. Lay-offs are more frequent because of economic downturns, business restructuring and mergers or acquisitions. Some experts predict that individuals just starting their careers will have up to 13 different jobs; executive tenure has shrunk to just 2 ½ years. The career transition and networking group will provide a 6-step process for the job search and also for building networking opportunities.

► Who is invited?

Members and friends of Bethlehem who are unemployed, or thinking about changing jobs and wanting to build their job-search skills.

► How can I help if I'm not in a job search myself?

Share job openings with members of the leadership team.

Be open to networking conversations with individuals who are in job search.

► When?

May 12, May 26, June 9, June 23, July 14, July 28
7:00-9:00 pm

Attend each session to get the most value, but feel free to come to any or all sessions.

► What is the format and topic of the meetings?

Each meeting will have a topic for learning and discussion (1 hour) and about 1 hour for networking.

May 12: Attitude

May 26: Assessing One's Strengths

June 9: Resumé Tips

June 23: Networking & Marketing

July 14: Interviewing

July 28: Assessing Offers (including compensation)

All sessions will be held at Bethlehem Lutheran, free of charge. Please register at bethlehem-church.org, or call Gena Koeberl, 612.312.3400. If you don't sign up, you are still welcome.

TRUST Plant Sale and Swap Saturday, May 7, 8:00 am-Noon

Stop by Bethlehem's parking lot on Saturday, May 7 to "swap" plants for new ones, buy homegrown plants, get advice from Master Gardeners and raise money for the programs of TRUST. For more information call 612.827.6159 or visit trustinc.org.



Project Homeless Connect—May 23 at Minneapolis Convention Center

Project Homeless Connect brings volunteers of all ages, backgrounds, and experience levels together to serve people in our community experiencing homelessness. There are a variety of volunteer opportunities, but the majority of volunteers will act as guides, partnering with guests to help them find the resources they want. All first-time volunteers are required to attend a training and orientation session. Returning volunteers are strongly encouraged to attend. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age. Register to volunteer by May 16 at homelessconnectminneapolis.org.

LSS Metro Homeless Youth Event

Learn more about homeless youth in Minnesota and what Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota is doing to address the issues. Come to a luncheon on Tuesday, May 17, 12:00-1:00 pm (registration opening at 11:30 am) at the Ramada Plaza Minneapolis (located off of 35W and Industrial Blvd.). This is a complimentary event (both the ticket and parking). Supporters and those interested in learning more are encouraged to attend. Contact Pastor Beth at bwarpmaeker@bethlehem-church.org if you are interested in attending.



Serve a Meal at Our Saviour's on May 22

Help prepare a meal to serve the guests at Our Saviour's Housing Shelter on May 22. Meet at Bethlehem at 4:00 pm to prepare the meal. We will transport the food to the shelter and dine with the shelter guests, returning to Bethlehem by 8:30 pm. We ask each person to make a small contribution to help off-set the cost of the meal. Contact Mary Tinkham at 612.827.7216 for more details or register online at bethlehem-church.org.



Bethlehem chefs spanning three generations served a meal for 40 residents in March.

Habitat for Humanity Summer Work Week August 15-19

Our Habitat work week is set for August 15-19 and we have a Minneapolis location. The home will be new construction. If you have any interest at all in Habitat, this would be the time to participate. Please put the dates on your calendar and note you do not need to commit to the whole week – 1 day works! Watch for information in upcoming Beacons and Sunday bulletins. Ready to sign up now? Please email Rick Jackson at jacksrj@dept56.com.

“I was hungry and you gave me food.”

- Matthew 25:35

For your generosity to CES during the March food drive, thank you! During March, Bethlehem donated 436 pounds of groceries, hundreds of grocery bags to be used for the distribution of food to CES's clients, \$1470 which will buy approximately 14,700 pounds of food; and on April 2, seventeen members, young and old, donated approximately 50 person hours sorting and shelving groceries at CES. Others lifted up prayers for CES and those it serves. However you participated in this generous outpouring of love to the hungry, may you be blessed with a grateful heart and a desire to continue your support of those who don't have enough.



Mission/Outreach Donations for May

Every month, donations are designated to go to three of our mission partners. This month's mission partners are Our Saviour's Housing Shelter, Habitat for Humanity, and Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry.

May 1 —Life Together

John 20:19-31

May 8—Life Together

Acts 6:1-7

May 15—Life Together

Acts 9:1-19

May 22—Life Together

Acts 10:1-48

May 29—Life Together

Acts 15:1-17

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



Visit us at www.bethlehem-church.org or

Email at church@bethlehem-church.org

Telephone 612.312.3400 Fax 612.312.3399

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55409-1499 - Office telephone 612.312.3400.

DATED MATERIAL

Reading the Bible in 2011



After “dwelling” in the Gospel of John four months, we are moving on to the Book of Acts. Acts was written by the same author as the Gospel of Luke. It tells the story of the rapid growth of the church and the work of the Holy Spirit as the early Christians shared life together. During May,

our Sunday worship will focus on four stories from Acts. Use the following reading plan to see the story unfold. Whereas John interwove stories and teachings of Jesus, these readings are mostly narrative, revealing the life-changing power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of people; it’s true today, just as it was then. Blessings on your quiet time with God!

Week of May 2-8

- Acts 1:1-11
- Acts 2:1-24, 37-47
- Acts 3:1-10
- Acts 4:1-22
- Acts 4:32-37
- Acts 6:1-8

Week of May 9-15

- Acts 6:8-15
- Acts 7:54-8:1
- Acts 8:1-3

- Acts 8:4-13

- Acts 8:26-40
- Acts 9:1-19a

Week of May 16-22

- Acts 9:19b-25
- Acts 9:26-31
- Acts 9:32-35
- Acts 9:36-43
- Acts 10:1-23
- Acts 10:24-38

Week of May 23-29

- Acts 11:1-18
- Acts 11:19-30
- Acts 12:1-19
- Acts 12:20-13:3
- Acts 14:1-20
- Acts 15:1-17

PEP Club Event Friday, May 13



Saint John’s Bible Tour

Leave Bethlehem parking lot at 10:00 am, arriving at St. John’s University in Collegeville for a Noon Prayer Service with the monastic community. Lunch in the Alumni Lounge followed by a private presentation on The Saint John’s Bible. *Prepaid reservations are required.* Cost is \$25 which includes deluxe bus and lunch. Return to Bethlehem at 5:00 pm. Sign up in the Gallery on May 1 and 8. Maximum: 47 attendees. Questions? Audrey and Dick at 952.938.9153.