

THE BEACON

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOL. 67 NUMBER 10 OCTOBER, 2011



We continue to weave the sacred threads of living out God's story. Recommit to being a part of the marvelous whole.

Pastor's Word

I have always been a big fan of October. When I first moved to Minneapolis I lived in an apartment in Uptown and made a habit of walking to my job downtown. I loved the many benefits of the walk. Six miles a day was good exercise and the step by step commute slowed my frantic pace and fed my soul. It gave me a chance to breathe deeply and to notice things I didn't see when I was on the bus: the sound of leaves crunching underfoot; a squirrel digging to bury an acorn; geese flying south overhead. Fall was always when I appreciated the walk the most. The changing temperatures and vibrant colors made the path different every day. The one constant was that there was always some new thread of beauty or wonder that caught my eye. It's amazing what happens when you pay close attention to your surroundings. You begin to see patterns. It became a kind of spiritual practice for me: helping me to see my place in creation and to see my story as part of a bigger story.

We continue in our sermon series Richly Woven. The idea for the series was born out of positive feedback we received from you about living in John's Gospel for three months last winter. We turned to the Old Testament this time and asked which story most shapes us as God's people. While there are many stories that fit this criteria we were drawn to the Exodus story.

Pastor's Word continued on Page 2...

Seder Meal

Wednesday, October 5, 9:30 am or 6:30 pm

This fall, we're traveling through the Book of Exodus on Sunday mornings, Wednesday nights and perhaps in your reading at home. Join with others on October 5 to experience a Seder – the ritual meal that retells the story of Passover, God's deliverance of the Hebrew people from bondage of slavery—for every generation. We'll experience the ritual part of the meal, then share dessert. All are welcome. Please register online.

Faith in Mind

Sunday, October 16

- ✘ Candle lighting with prayer time in the Chapel 8:00 am-12 Noon. Bring your prayer requests for the prayer basket. Prepared prayers and readings will also be provided. Prayer partners will be available from 9:45-10:45 am and 11:15-11:45 am.
- ✘ Guest speaker in Langemo, 10:15-11:15 am, speaking on "Brain Disorders: The Journey of Recovery." (see personal story on page 5)
- ✘ Mental health resources will be available in the Gallery all morning. Stop by for some food for thought and a sweet treat.

Homebound Communion and Luncheon

Thursday, October 13, 11:00 am



This popular event is a time when those who cannot attend church on a regular basis have the opportunity to come and meet new friends. We provide rides and a companion for those who attend. If you or someone you know would like to attend, please contact Lauren, 612.312.3370.

Pastor Rob Bell sums up its truth this way: "The first exodus was just a hint of the redemption God has in mind for all humanity." [Jesus Wants to Save Christians]

This story teaches us a lot about God and humanity. We're creatures of habit but there's also a pattern to how God works. Learn this story from the past and we become more adept at God sightings in the present. I hope you'll participate in worship in the coming weeks where we will gather to be reminded of the pattern of God's activity and then sent out to live in that pattern, inviting others to live in it too.

Pastor Mary Pechauer

Faithful Love

by Joyce Rupp

**There are days when I reflect
Upon the moments of my history
And I taste satisfied fragrance,
Like a well-aged bottle of wine.**

**It is easy then to ponder
The beauty of Isaiah's God:
Holding me in tender arms,
Etching my name on divine palms.**

**There are other long-spent days
When I chew upon my memories,
Only to taste the dry crumbs
Of stale and molded bread.**

**How difficult then to perceive
The steadfast love of God;
How empty then is my longing
For a sense of divine embrace.**

**There are yet other days
When I sit at a great distance,
Looking at the life that is mine;
Threading the loom of my past
With a deep belief in faithfulness.**

**It is then that I see how fidelity
Has little to do with fine feelings,
And everything to do with deep trust,
Believing the One who holds me in joy
Will never let go when sorrow steps in.**

Counting My Blessings

by Judy Thompson, Stewardship Ministry

Fall. Fall in Minnesota. Oh, how I love it so. The sound of leaves crunching under foot. The smell of freshly baked pies. And the sight of beautiful red apples and cheerful orange pumpkins. How blessed I feel at this time of year!

So many things I cherish are not of my own making. That is so evident in the fall when my senses become filled with delight by all of God's wonders—remarkable displays of cheerful colors, interesting sounds and mouth-watering smells.

On more thoughtful days, I wonder how and why God has provided us with such wonders. It's true that many of his creations are to our advantage. A change in seasons can be explained scientifically, but where is the need for such beauty as it does so? I know this is not being done just for my pleasure. But what I puzzle over most is how to sufficiently thank God. My mom used to say, sometimes you just need to praise God. I do and I thank him, but that doesn't seem to be enough. Then I found this passage in 2nd Corinthians:



God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may provide in abundance for every good work.

- 2 Corinthians 9:8

That is a great passage and yet it comes with quite a heavy responsibility for "**every good deed.**" How does one react responsibly to such a statement? After thinking about it, I realized I already have a great way to respond. I am a financial partner to "every good work" done through this church. Giving to Bethlehem is more than just helping to maintain our beautiful building, pay salaries or purchase office supplies. Bethlehem is a not just a building, it is a community in which God's mission is carried out. Have you read through the announcements and calendar insert in your Sunday bulletin? Have you checked out the "Star Card" and discovered when and where helping hands are needed? This church family is extremely active in our neighborhood, our city and even foreign lands. Bethlehem members make and serve meals, build houses, and provide many opportunities for spiritual learning and fellowship. The widespread impact of this church is truly amazing.

So when I put my offering in the plate on Sundays, I am praising God for his blessings and supporting every good deed I can.

Thinking of Joining Bethlehem?

Join us for a new member series this fall:

Saturday, October 1 — Discover Bethlehem 8:30-noon

Sunday, October 9 — New Member Sunday

Contact Pam Paulson, 612.312.3415, ppaulson@bethlehem-church.org.



Bridge Builder Dinner Scheduled for October 9

This year's Bethlehem Foundation Bridge Builder's Dinner will be held at the Marriott Hotel Southwest on October 9, 6:00-9:00 pm. Cost is \$35 per person. Pre-paid reservations are due at the church office, 612.312.3400, by October 3, or register and pay online at bethlehem-church.org/register/bridge.

Join fellow Bridge Builders and others from the Bethlehem community for an evening of celebration and recognition of the Bethlehem Foundation, its mission and accomplishments during 2011. Social hour begins at 6:00 pm, followed by dinner, a brief activity review, keynote addresses and entertainment.

The Rev. Dr. Richard Bliese, President, Luther Seminary, and The Rev. Dr. Nancy Maeker, Director, A Minnesota Without Poverty, will be the keynote speakers. Student musicians from the Lutheran Summer Music Program will perform.

The Marriott Southwest is located at 5801 Opus Parkway (Highway 169 and Bren Road) in Minnetonka.

Council Highlights



The council was pleased to hear about the amazing giving over the summer. July was the sixth out of the last seven months ahead of plan. Bethlehem members have been very generous.

Staff continues to implement the "Results Support Management Process" learned from Jack Fortin. The Executive Council spent time understanding Pastor Chris' job, his job description, results expected and support he will need. Council reviewed Pastor Chris' job description as well. The council also approved the extension of Jack Fortin's contract through the end of the year, to continue to work on this same process with all staff members. Jack's initial contract was paid through a Bethlehem Foundation grant and the extension is made possible by a generous unrestricted gift to the church.

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, wearing nametags, available for your questions in the Gallery the last Sunday of each month. You can also email us at council@bethlehem-church.org. Let us know your thoughts.



Don't forget to register for Wednesday Night Dinner.
Weekly menus available online, in the Livewire and in the Sunday bulletin.

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
- 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:
October 10, 2011
pdunn@bethlehem-church.org

@ Beacon now online

Exodus Bible Study

Wednesdays, 9:30 am and 6:30 pm

Continues through October

Of all the stories in the Old Testament, the narrative of the exodus is central. We discover that God prepares, calls, leads, and forgives a chosen people – both then and now. Join Pastors Beth and Kris T.M. on a trip through this fascinating book of the Bible. You're welcome to join any time.

Biblical Fluency Report

by Amy Apperson

As you may remember, Bethlehem is participating in a research project with Luther Seminary that is designed to explore ways for congregations to equip people to deepen their connection to God through scripture. This month, we highlight two areas that were explored in the survey taken by many of you:

1) passages in the Bible that bring comfort and hope to you in difficult times, and 2) Biblical characters with whom you most identify.

✦ The Psalms are a source of great comfort to members of our congregation. Many people noted the importance of Psalm 23 in their lives particularly in times of trouble. Psalm 121 (*"I lift up my eyes to the hills..."*) and Psalm 46 (*"God is our refuge and strength..."*) were also frequently mentioned. Romans 8 (*nothing can separate us from the love of God*) matters greatly to people, as well. These passages provide the assurance that God is with us through everything we experience including death. For hope, members point to Jeremiah 29:11 where God speaks of his plans for us, plans for *"welfare and not for harm."*

✦ The most frequently mentioned characters were Peter, Martha and Mary. Respondents noted that they could connect with Peter because he was the "rock with the feet of clay," "passionate yet bumbling," and "eager yet impetuous." The identification with Peter who was a flawed but devoted believer was summed up by one member who wrote: "If God can use him, God can use me!" Many people also identify with Martha who "focused on the details and wrong things and missed the moments with Jesus." Several identified with both Martha and Mary—wanting to be more like Mary but feeling constrained by their "Martha" sides. Other characters people connect with include Mary, Joseph and Paul all of whom seem "real" to the respondents.

Look for more findings over the coming months, along with ideas or new initiatives that we may explore as we work to strengthen our relationship with God. Thanks again for engaging in the conversation.



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.



CoAM (Cooperative Adult Ministry) Life Enrichment Series

Monday morning classes for adult learners



Humanities and Current Issues topics (Resettlement in Kosovo, Understanding Islam, Immigration in Minnesota, Native American Spirituality, 2012 Elections)

Faith and Bible Series (Context and Content of the Creed, Images of God, Experiencing the Psalms)

Travelogues (Cameroon through eyes of a Peace Corp Volunteer, Washington, DC and the Civil War, Lewis and Clark Great Journey West, Nigeria and the Mission of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, Yellowstone National Park)

Enjoy stimulating sessions and knowledgeable presenters. Classes held at Bethel Lutheran, 42nd St. E. and 17th Ave. S.

CoAM is a program supported by Bethlehem. For more information see TRUST Communicator at www.trustinc.org or call 612.721.5786.

Looking for a book to read?

[Jesus Wants to Save Christians](#), by Rob Bell and Don Golden provides thought-provoking reading on what it means to be a Christian in this time and place and makes a great connection with our current sermon series, "Richly Woven."

My Son Has a Brain Disorder

by Tom Kuder



This month at Bethlehem, you're going to hear a lot about the social, medical, and spiritual sides of mental illness, and I urge you to listen. But for the next few minutes, I'm going to tell you about the personal side, because my son has a brain disorder.

I didn't say "my son is mentally ill," because after five years I've learned to use certain language when describing our family's affliction. I've learned that there is more sympathy in the world for those with brain disorders or a chemical imbalance in the brain than for those with mental illness, and yet these are all synonymous. So when I want someone to keep listening, I use "brain disorder" rather than invoking a wall of silence, mistrust or prejudice.

Still reading? Good. To begin, brain disorders affect real people. My son Jonathan is intelligent, creatively gifted, inventive, and used to smile and hug people a lot. That all changed, and so did my wife Kristi and I, when Jon began to lock himself in his room in his late teens, avoiding people, showers, school, jobs, sleep, everything.

Typical teen angst or hormones? Maybe, but we later learned that schizophrenia, our son's current diagnosis, often strikes just as teens are struggling to mature, confusing everyone about the real nature of their behavior. It sure confused us.

I can't begin to adequately describe the next five years in this short article, but as a family we've gone through the wringer. We've felt denial, anger, frustration, intense love, guilt, loss of faith—sometimes all in one day. We've cleaned out a garbage house after our son abandoned it; wondered if he was alive when he disappeared for almost two years; rejoiced when a hospital out West told us he had been found, nearly dead. I can only imagine what Jon himself was experiencing during this time.

Today we're in a slow recovery, for us and for Jon. Through NAMI and other resources, Kristi and I have become more educated and more committed to righting the wrongs against the mentally ill. Jon has endured multiple hospitalizations and medications, but now seems to have found some balance. He's living on his own and just started back to tech school. Conversations don't come easily, but his occasional smiles are like those of a newborn child to us. He is still our loved son.

Mental illness is personal, real, horrible. But it's not without hope. If you need help, reach out to Bethlehem Health Ministries. If you can help others, please do. Thank you!

Healing Touch Corner

by Cheryl Salter, *Healing Touch Coordinator*

I had the great opportunity to study with one of the founders of Healing Touch International this past year. Myra Tovey is known as "the heart of the program." She teaches "The Attributes of the Heart:"

- **COMPASSION:** A gratitude for self and others and all that surrounds you.
- **INNATE HARMONY:** A stillness that allows your heart to feel light as a feather and embraces peace beyond understanding. A calm in the midst of chaos.
- **HEALING PRESENCE:** Unites opposites and creates wholeness. Feeling relaxed and calm is healing presence.
- **UNCONDITIONAL LOVE:** The mystery that unites all things. No strings attached. She teaches that Healing Touch is always from the heart center using these four attributes. When the four attributes of the heart center are lived with pure intention, they become unified into SELFLESS SERVICE.



Community News

Deaths

Dorothy George, 8-22-11

Mark Hanson, 9-6-11

Helen Thompson, 9-11-11

Births/Adoptions

Jackson John Bordenave, 8-22-11

Parents: Beth and Jeff Bordenave

Greta Goulding Cieslik, 8-27-11

Parents: Pastor Ben and Beth Cieslik

Reid Sullivan Behm, 8-1-11

Parents: Andy and Kim Behm

Big Brothers: Ty and Owen

Weston Richard Bruch, 8-30-11

Parents: Matt and Michelle Bruch

Big Brother: Sawyer

Baptisms

August 21, 2011

Ophelia Rose Washington, 3-4-01

Lillian Jeanne Washington, 11-5-06

Parents: Darrell Washington and

Rosemary Lavin

McClain Michael Looney, 2-17-11

Parents: McClain and Rebecca Looney

August 28, 2011

Lincoln Theodore Crouch, 5-20-11

Parents: Evan and Abby Crouch

Elliott Knox Rasmussen, 4-5-11

Parents: Ben Rasmussen and Katie Anthony

Ayslin Mae Wanless, 8-22-10

Parents: Fletcher and Aasha Wanless

September 4, 2011

Roberta Kay Dean, 4-6-11

Parents: Matt and Kristin Dean

September 11, 2011

Grace Kathleen Haase, 1-8-11

Parents: James and Kathleen Haase

Andrew Bailey Metzger, 5-19-11

Parents: Michael and Anne Metzger

Flu Shots at Bethlehem October 12,
4:00-6:00 pm

Foot Clinic

Available 10-2 pm by appointment:
October 7, November 4

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.

Trunk or Treat
Monday, October 31
6:00-7:00 PM
Bethlehem's South
Parking Lot



Help welcome kids from the neighborhood to Bethlehem in one of these ways:

- + Donate candy by dropping it off at the church office during October.
- + Park in the lot, dress up in a costume, and hand out candy from your trunk on Halloween.

If you don't have many kids coming to your home, this is a fun way to participate and a great way to show hospitality to the neighborhood.

October 9 is Bible Sunday!

People of all ages are encouraged to bring their Bibles to worship on October 9! Let's surround the third graders with support as we hold our own Bibles in our hands and participate in a blessing of the Bibles. We'll have Bible resources in the Gallery that day, too, including tabs with Book names that you can purchase to make your Bible easier to navigate.

Curl Up with a Good Bible Story
by Heather Roth Johnson

My oldest son is really into books about facts and figures, true stories and legends. He eagerly waits for the new 'Guinness Book of World Records' to come out each year so he can see all the new and cool reports. He loves to read about the inventions of Da Vinci or how long someone can hold their breath or even on the findings of 'big foot'. He is fascinated by facts.

The other day, I was looking online at Bibles for kids and I found this great resource I knew he would love: *The Amazing Bible Factbook for Kids*. It provides trivia, facts, and resources as kids explore the Bible. It covers topics such as clothing, money, food, weapons, geography and many other answers to questions kids may have. It gets him excited to read the Bible.



On Sunday, October 9, third graders in worship will receive a student Bible for their own use. It is with hope, that they will bring it to Sunday School, faithfully read it, and with their family explore together the amazing facts that the Bible holds. As my son can tell you, there are many exciting details to be found but the greatest fact of all is how the Bible tells of God's love for you and for me. So tonight, simply curl up with your family and read your favorite Bible story.

3rd Grade Bibles

October 9 is a special day for third graders when they receive a Bible from the congregation during worship. In fulfillment of their baptismal promises, parents will place a Bible in their child's hands. Register for this two-part event at www.bethlehem-church.org/register



Saturday, October 8, 9:30-noon

Bible Day Away for 3rd grade students and a parent

Sunday, October 9

Bible Presentation in Worship - 9:00, 10:15 or 11:30

First Communion in November

Is your child ready to receive communion? If your family has decided that it's time for your child to begin receiving communion, please pick up a First Communion packet in the Sunday School area on second floor or at the main office, and register for these events:

Saturday, November 5, 9:30-noon

Day Away for student and a parent

Sunday, November 6

First Communion - 9:00, 10:15 or 11:30 service



Moses and a Burning Bush: A Story for Teens

by Mandy Licklider Baseman, Director of Student Ministries



A few years ago, I listened to Krista Tippet talk with rabbinic scholar Avivah Zornberg about the Exodus story. Zornberg, like many rabbinic scholars, uses a practice called “Midrash” which means “to seek out; to inquire; to fill in the gaps of the ancient stories of Israel [of Old Testament scripture] and to search imaginatively for different meanings for EVERY generation.” Hmm, sounds a bit like ministry with and for youth – creatively imagining, with young people, about what might be going on in the text that relates to their personal and daily lives.

Encountering a bush engulfed in flames but not consumed by those flames, Moses turns from his ordinary path (tending the flocks of his father-in-law’s sheep) to take note. He turns from the “straight and narrow,” from his “own concerns,” simply to notice an anomaly in the world and to look for meaning in it. Sounds like a teenager encountering scripture, mysteries in faith, and not being satisfied to take it at face value but rather to question it, examine it, make sense of it. There is wonder, curiosity.

God names this encounter Holy Ground. And a dialogue ensues. A dialogue that is characterized by Moses’ reluctance and God’s insistence. The midrashic tradition says this long, drawn out process takes seven days. So often I have heard Moses’ reluctance and excuses a sign of his modesty and unbelief in himself as a qualified leader. Yet midrash offers another explanation, one that I believe offers insight into not only humankind but most specifically “teenage-kind” – Moses is simply skeptical about everything God says. Parents of teens, sound familiar? This unwillingness to open oneself up to an alternative reality is not just something we see in young people, but it is a challenge God faces in all of us.

As Moses continues to argue with God and asks, “Who will I say sent me?” God provides a name, “I will be who I will be.” God does not give Moses something to hold onto, which in this case would be a name. Instead God says to Moses I am the very principle of becoming, allowing the possible to happen. It is an invitation to live in this new reality offered through our Creator, to trust and to hope that with God ALL things are possible. And God does not stop us from continually asking questions and seeking deeper meaning. In fact, God invites us into dialogue. Like Moses, our young people will “grapple” and “wrestle,” ask questions and imaginatively seek for God’s presence and meaning in their daily lives. Let us honor this quality of the Spirit and share God’s story as our story with them.

Blessings to all Students Affirming their Baptisms Sunday, October 30, 1:00 pm



*Nils Akesson
TJ Ballard
Ian Berg
Katie Conover
Ryan Cumming
Lukas Dommer-Koch
Lizzy Furey
Eleanor Goodnow
Calvin Hafermann
Grete Hammes
Gray Harlow
Joshua Kennedy
Alexander King
Hanna Kloos
Seth Koepcke
Grace Krainak
Sarah Layon
Mia Lloyd
Calvin Loch
Jack Madson
Jack Mortenson
Laura Nierengarten
Michael Nordland
Andrew Nylin
Emma Orndorf
Jane Pena
Allsion Pepin
Siri Peterson
Mikaela Potter
Lucia Renikoff
Sarah Roe
Ian Severns
Elliot Shuster
Jacob Smith
Thomas Specht
Santana Sunde
Mikkel Undlin
Elizabeth Varberg*

Bethlehem Music Series
Presents **Summit Hill and**
St. Anthony Brass Quintets
Sunday, October 16, 4:00 pm

Not one, but two brass quintets in concert! Join the excitement as these premiere ensembles salute our sensational 30th season with great brass music by Handel, Rovigo, Susato, featuring the Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 by J. S. Bach. Ignite your senses with resounding echoes and thrilling fanfares.

Save the Date...

Art & Soul Women's Retreat
November 18-20—Friday, 7 pm
to Sunday 10 am at Green Lake Bible Camp in Spicer, MN

Led by artist Robyn Sand Anderson and spiritual director Pastor Kathie Nycklemoe, this retreat will combine creating space for listening and prayer, and using paint on paper for meditation and reflection. All are welcome; no need for prior art (or prayer) experience!

Register directly with the camp at www.gllm.org. In addition, register at www.bethlehem-church.org to travel with other women from Bethlehem to the retreat. For more information, contact Pastor Kris Tostengard Michel, kristm@bethlehem-church.org.

Christian Yoga at Bethlehem
Mondays at 11:30 am in
Assembly Room (downstairs)

Blessing of the Animals
Sunday, October 2, 4:00 pm on the West Lawn

For many, one's pet is truly a part of their family...a faithful companion. The love we give to a pet, and receive from a pet, draws us more deeply into the larger circle of life, into our common relationship with our Creator.

People the world over enjoy the opportunity to take their animal companions to church for a special blessing. Also known as "World Animal Day," it is celebrated annually on October 4, to align with the feast day of Francis of Assisi, a nature lover and patron saint of animals and the environment. Many churches throughout the world observe the Sunday closest to October 4 with a Blessing of the Animals. Join us for a Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 2.



Bethlehem Women's Coffee Connection
Wednesday, October 19, 11-Noon OR 6:30-7:30 pm

Every woman yearns for friends who will walk with her through life. It is through the sharing of our faith and life experiences that true relationships are built. With the support of these friends, women are energized and have the opportunity to live out what it means to be a child of God. Join with other women this fall at the Bethlehem Women's Coffee Connection Open House on October 19, 11:00 to noon OR 6:30-7:30 pm. Come see what's happening, meet some new friends, share your ideas and find a place to belong. For more information, contact Pastor Beth, bwarpmaeker@bethlehem-church.org.



Men's Breakfast
Saturday, October 29, 7:30 am

Chef Erik Dietrich from Butter Café will be cooking up the breakfast. The speaker will be Pete Larson, Director of Family Fest Ministries which seeks to strengthen families in the Christian faith through weeklong and weekend retreats for families and couples. He has spent over twenty years working with youth in a variety of settings. For ten years Pete was the Youth and Family minister at St. Patrick's Church in Edina, MN. Pete has worked with Youth Frontiers leading over 600 retreats. He also was host of The Wishing Well Show, which is an interactive TV program at the Minneapolis & St. Paul Children's Hospitals. Register online or call the church office.



Help Clean Up at Peavey Park in Phillips Neighborhood October 8, 1:30-3:00 pm

Honor creation by keeping our city clean and showing love for our neighbors. Pick up trash and do some light garden clean up in the Phillips neighborhood, October 8, 1:30-3:00 pm at Peavey Park (meet at Park Ave. S. and 22nd St. E.). Bags and gloves provided (or bring your own gloves). Come to Nancy and Rod Maeker's house (on the 2400 block of Park Ave. S.) after the clean-up for refreshments!

Rake, Rattle and Roll on November 12, 10:00-Noon A Great Family Activity this Fall

The HandyWorks fall Rake, Rattle, and Roll, a program of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches, takes place this year beginning very late October through early November with weather permitting. This year congregation member and GMCC Board member Simon Foster will be organizing a Bethlehem volunteer group to do a little rake, rattle and rolling to bag leaves and rake lawns for at least three seniors in the Phillips neighborhood. This is important work since this helps them get ready for winter and to be able to stay in their homes.

We will rake leaves for a couple of hours and then grab a bite to eat and socialize a little afterwards at Maria's Café at 1113 East Franklin Ave. All this will take place Saturday morning November 12, 10-Noon, followed by lunch at Maria's Café. All you need to bring is your own rake and gloves. The homes will supply the bags, though it is good to bring extra bags for the occasional homeowner who is homebound and unable to get their own. Meet at Bethlehem at 9:30 am and we will divide up into work groups. Hope to see you then!



Learn about our Our Saviour's Community Services Sunday, October 23, 10:15 am in Langemo Lounge

Come hear about the ministries of Our Saviour's Community Services, Bethlehem's neighbor just a few miles away in the Phillips neighborhood. Our Saviour's Community Services has two life changing programs—

- ✘ English Learning Center, a learning community of refugees, immigrants and advocates building knowledge for better lives.
- ✘ Our Saviour's Housing, a community of hope eliminating homelessness by providing shelter, support, and a chance to start over.

See and hear the meaningful and powerful OSCS video production. It tells the exciting story of the role OSCS plays in eliminating poverty. Hear how Bethlehem members are continuing to be partners in this important ministry. Visit with OSCS staff and Bethlehem volunteers. Bethlehem has had a long association with Our Saviour's.

October Baby Food and Hygiene Drive for CES

This October there will be two opportunities to contribute to Community Emergency Services:


1) Donate baby food and hygiene items. Currently the items most needed are: Enfamil with Iron baby formula, toilet paper, laundry & dish detergent, shampoo, deodorant and other hygiene items. Bring donations by Sunday, October 16 and place them in the designated grocery baskets located around the church. If you prefer, you can make a monetary donation by writing a check to Bethlehem Lutheran Church and noting in the memo line that it is for CES.

2) Join us on Saturday, October 22 for a few hours at Community Emergency Services (CES) in Minneapolis for shelving, bagging food requests or providing other much needed assistance. Meet at Bethlehem at 9:00 am to load up donations and then proceed to CES, located at 1900 11th Ave S, Minneapolis. Please indicate on the STAR card in your Sunday bulletin or contact Barb Raymond at 612.235.6738 or Sandy Jackson at 612.929.2881 if you wish to help on October 22.

Help Kids With Homework at Kaleidoscope

Kaleidoscope is an after school program for 5-17 year old low-income children located at the Center for Changing Lives at 2400 Park Ave. Contact Diane Daehlin at dianedae@aol.com to volunteer.

Home Energy Efficiency 101 Wednesday, October 12 6:30 – 7:45 pm

Speaker: Neely Crane-Smith,
Center for Energy and Environment,
a local non-profit that promotes energy efficiency to strengthen the economy while improving the environment. This class will cover practical and cost-effective ways to reduce energy waste in your home, including the best no/low-cost actions, new technology and local energy efficiency resources. Minneapolis residents who attend this workshop will be eligible to schedule a home energy visit with Community Energy Services (mnces.org). 

Bethlehem Efficiency Challenge!

"The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." *Gen 2:15*

The Caring for Creation Ministry will have a display in the Gallery on Sundays, October 9 and 16 with ideas for you to save energy in your home. Stop by and take the pledge! You'll be able to track your savings and that of the congregation's at the MN Energy Challenge website and compete with other churches.

Reaching Out to Our Military

For the past two years, Bethlehem has been growing a small military ministry to reach out to both deployed and stateside service persons. The focus has been to let them know that each is being prayed for by name and that we as a congregation support their efforts for our country. We need 12 persons who would like to write to a service person. Your time and caring will be a real example of concern to a young person in uniform. Call Ann Sewich, 612.861.2293, or Nan Grube, 952.831.0663.

CareerWalk Kicks Off Fall Session

Bethlehem's recent outreach into the job transition arena is the perfect embodiment of the church's mission... "Connecting people with God, each other, and their mission in the world." CareerWalk, launched earlier this spring, provides networking, camaraderie, encouragement and skills development. The group is open to members and non-members, under-employed, unemployed, and employed-but-in-transition job seekers.

The meaning of words to describe our daily work —employment, career, job—is evolving. We remain in the midst of a period of economic downturns. Layoffs, restructuring, "right-sizing" — once unusual ideas, are the new normal in corporate America. Keeping your resume current and your networking skills sharp are a must in this environment.

WHAT: A six-step process to jump start your job search, spread over 12 weeks, addressing: Attitude, Strength Assessment, Resume Writing, Networking, Interviewing and Assessing Offers.

WHEN: Starting Thursday, September 29, 6:30-8:30 pm. Attend all or one.

WHERE: All sessions are held at Bethlehem Lutheran, free of charge.

WHO: Anyone, at any stage of employment, interested in networking or sharpening their job search skills.

HOW: Register at bethlehem-church.org, call the church office, 612.312.3400, or just show up.

Is Sunday Your Day?

Life is busy! There is no one who can't or doesn't say this. Maybe Sunday is the day you purposefully set aside to worship God and connect with his family. How can you get more involved on Sundays and serve God and this community? First, come worship together and invite others to join you. We also have many opportunities for you to serve and make connections with others on Sundays. All opportunities are on a rotating schedule. Some opportunities can even be once per month. We want you to find something that works for your schedule. Knowing others and serving together enriches your experiences at Bethlehem. Here are some great Sunday opportunities:

- ✓ **Usher Ministry:** teams serve at scheduled services, four rotating months of the year.
- ✓ **Worship Preparation Team:** assist the Pastors behind the scenes with setting up communion, filling candles and preparing for baptisms.
- ✓ **Parking Lot Ministry:** be a friendly face helping people find an open place to park. This creates a feeling of being welcomed even before people enter the door.
- ✓ **Welcome Ministry:** assist with questions at the Welcome Desk or at one of our doors. Greet people new and old to this energetic community.

If Sunday is your day to come to Bethlehem we want you to be involved! Contact Wendy to find out more: 612.312.3363, wosman@bethlehem-church.org.

Trip to India in February 2012

Join Pastor Beth and others from Bethlehem who are planning a trip to India in February 2012. The group will be traveling to the city of Chennai in Tamil Nadu, South India, where they look forward to spending some time with the students and staff at Park Town School. Park Town is an inner-city school that serves some of the poorest, most marginalized children in this part of India. It is our hope that this visit will deepen our relationship and help us discern tangible ways to strengthen Bethlehem's partnership with Park Town. The final itinerary (including travel dates) is still being planned but is expected to include a visit to the holy city of Tiruvannamalai, where the group will meet the women at Lebanon Home who weave the beautiful linens you sometimes see for sale in the Gallery. Tiruvannamalai is also the home of Quo Vadis, a serene and peaceful interfaith dialogue center where people of all backgrounds are welcomed and invited to join conversations about faith. It is the perfect place for reflection, and to seek God's guidance as we work to discern how we are called to serve his children in this amazing place. Contact Pastor Beth, bwarpmaeker@bethlehem-church.org, or Kim Dickey, kimBDickey@aol.com, if you would like to learn more, or are interested in joining this group of sojourners to India.



Sweet Sixteen with Bethlehem and Habitat

In 1996 Habitat switched from a day here and a day there volunteer commitment to week-long commitments from volunteer organizations. Their goal was to create a more productive experience for both Habitat and their volunteers. Bethlehem immediately signed up for a week long commitment and have been doing so every year since. This year was our sweet sixteen! Our house this summer was new construction. We worked on the nearly completed north Minneapolis home from August 15 – 19, installing doors, cabinets and appliances. We also trimmed out the doors and the windows and did some taping and painting. The house looks great and will make a great home.

Speaking of great, we had a great volunteer turn out from Bethlehem and Spirit Garage, filling everyday and in some cases exceeding our volunteer targets. Making sure our crew was kept busy and out of trouble all week was once again aptly handled by our own Craig Schiller and we were all well fed by Melissa Sternal through Thursday. On Friday Spirit Garage handled lunch! And last but not least none of this would have been possible without the generous offerings from the Bethlehem congregation which makes Outreach programs such as our participation in Habitat possible. Thank you one and all.



Bethlehem Provides Ice Cream for Back to School Event at Lyndale Community School

Thank you to all of our mentors and Lyndale friends who provided ice cream, sprinkles, chocolate syrup and/or whipped cream for the school's welcome back event. Our work with our neighborhood school continues! With Kinship of Greater Minneapolis' guidance, we are mentoring kids from Lyndale Elementary. If you are interested and able to get involved weekly with a child's life, please contact Steph Smith at stephsmith@msn.com or 612.978.7272. We have numerous Bethlehem mentors who are making huge contributions to neighborhood kids' lives, with only an hour or two of their time weekly, but we are looking for more. Think about the difference you can make.

Did You Know?

Every year the Alternative Gift Fair at Bethlehem helps hundreds, or even thousands, of families and children around the world, but you may not know that it helps hundreds of families in the Twin Cities as well. Our shopping list has a hidden benefit! Three years ago Tom Mulhere suggested that we apply for the grant available to local food shelves where an alternative gift fair is held. Alternative Gifts International divides the money collected for food shelves all over the country who ask for a grant. The first two years the grant went to Our Saviour's and in 2011 a grant of over \$2600 was given to Joyce Foodshelf on 31st and Emerson Av. S. They serve approximately 1400 people per month, many of them families and elderly neighbors. They were very grateful for the grant.

October 2 —Richly Woven / *Plagues*

Exodus 7:1-13, 12:1-14

October 9—Richly Woven / *Crossing the Red Sea*

Exodus 14:19-30a

October 16—Richly Woven / *Wandering in the Wilderness*

Exodus 16:1-25, 35

October 23—Richly Woven / *Golden Calf*

Exodus 32:1-24

October 30—Richly Woven / *New Tablets*

Affirmation of Baptism 1:00 pm

Exodus 34:1-10

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

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DATED MATERIAL

Reading the Bible in 2011



This fall, our reading takes us through the Book of Exodus. We'll recognize parts of our own story as we read about God's call and Moses' reluctance to respond, the challenge of learning to live as God's people, and setting aside a place for God in the midst of busy lives. Of all the stories that shape the

people of God, this is one of profound impact. Blessings on your reading!

Week of Sept. 26—Oct. 2

- Exodus 7:1-13
- Exodus 7:19-22;
8:5-15; 8:16-19
- Exodus 8:20-32;
9:1-7; 9:8-12
- Exodus 9:22-35;
10:13-20; 10:21-29
- Exodus 11:1-10
- Exodus 12:1-28

Week of Oct. 3-9

- Exodus 12:29-42
- Exodus 13:3-10
- Exodus 13:11-22
- Exodus 14:1-18
- Exodus 14:19-31
- Exodus 15:1-21

Week of Oct. 10-16

- Exodus 15:22-27
- Exodus 16:1-36
- Exodus 17:1-16
- Exodus 18:1-27
- Exodus 19:1-25
- Exodus 20:1-21

Week of Oct. 17-23

- Exodus 20:22-26
- Exodus 23:10-19
- Exodus 23:20-33
- Exodus 24:9-18
- Exodus 31:12-18
- Exodus 32:1-35

Week of Oct. 24-30

- Exodus 33:1-23
- Exodus 34:1-28
- Exodus 34:29-35
- Exodus 35:1-29
- Exodus 39:32-43
- Exodus 40:16-34

PEP Club Event October 8

6:30 pm in Iverson Hall

"Minnesota and the Civil War"

Even though our nation's Civil War began thousands of miles from Minnesota – 150 years ago, off the coast of Charleston, SC, our state offered the first volunteers and our soldiers still served after most volunteers went home. The last surviving Civil War soldier was a Minnesotan.

Hear more about "Minnesota and the Civil War" in an illustrated presentation by Stephen Osman, Civil War historian and member of Bethlehem. Enjoy colorful images and stories of Minnesotans' heroic service.



Come for coffee and dessert at 6:30 pm in Iverson Hall followed by Osman's illustrated presentation.