

THE BEACON

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOL. 67 NUMBER 9 SEPTEMBER, 2011

**Richly Woven...
Art and
Reconciliation
Workshop
Friday, Sept 23 &
Saturday, Sept 24**



The sermon series that starts in September, Richly Woven, will use the book of Exodus to help us explore the richly woven tapestry given to us in our faith journey. The Exodus story reveals the sacred threads of God's activity in the world. Each of us has a story that is part of a bigger story. And the good news is that God continues to weave.

In late September we have an unprecedented opportunity to work with Chuck and Peg Hoffman in a weekend workshop that they have developed to promote peace and reconciliation. Chuck and Peg are the creators of the three large pieces of art that currently hang in the gallery. The workshop itself was developed in Northern Ireland and has been used there and in the United States. The focus is on "creating pathways to God through scripture and art." The workshop will begin on Friday, September 23, 7:00-8:30 pm and conclude Saturday, September 24, 9:30 to noon. It is open to people of all artistic abilities.

Art and Reconciliation Workshop continued on Page 11...

Wednesday Night Dinners Begin September 14

Announcing.....(drum roll please) the Iversons!! Carol and Connie Iverson, owners of Iverson Foods, will be preparing homecooked meals for us in the Iverson kitchen and serving in Iverson Hall!

Carol and Connie live in the neighborhood and cook during the day at the Minnesota Church Center where they provide tasty lunches, treats and cater special events.

They are excited about this opportunity for a food and fellowship ministry at Bethlehem and come highly recommended by our own Bishop, the Methodists, the LPGA staff and many others who regularly eat at the Church Center.

Wed. Church Night Begins September 14

Youth Choir (Gr. 7-12) – 5:15-6:05 pm
Dinner in Iverson Hall – 5:45-6:30 pm
(reservations and menu online)
Children's Choirs – 6:30-7:30 pm
Confirmation and Adult Education –
6:30-7:45 pm
Senior Choir – 6:45-8:15 pm
Higher Ground (Sr. High) - 8:00-8:45 pm

Menus and More continued on Page 7

Pastor's Word

While I remember summers c-r-a-w-l-i-n-g by when I was growing up, these days the summer flies past in the blink of an eye. As in those years past, the anticipation of the coming season continues to excite and inspire me. School begins and our children (or grandchildren, nieces and nephews) either return or begin, and all of us have high hopes for them—new friends, new learning, and new possibilities for growth. Those are all awaiting each of you at Bethlehem this fall as well—opportunities to get to know people, to learn and grow in your faith; opportunities for each of you to understand how your faith connects to where you spend most of your time at home and at work.

At worship, we will be focusing on the story of the Exodus; our theme will be "Richly Woven." Exodus—the journey from slavery to liberation is one of the most important themes in scripture. Often we tend to read ourselves into the story as the Israelites; but as we explore the story, we will find that we can also identify with Pharaoh, the Egyptians, or any of the other fascinating characters we meet throughout the story! Most importantly, we will see God at work in the story and through the story, we see God at work in our daily lives.

You will be receiving an impact card in the mail soon that will detail the fall's theme and schedule and how

Pastor's Word continued on Page 2...

you can participate. I would also encourage you to think about who you can invite to share in our exciting adventure this fall. Pray for the courage to ask, and for the person to be open to the invitation. Share the impact card with them.

If you are able, we suggest you park away from the parking lot. I park in the "Fitness Lot" at Barton School. It is a five minute walk, with the satisfaction that the walk is healthy and you are making a place for someone who, perhaps, has never been to Bethlehem. If you park in the lot, please greet our returning Traffic Control Officers and follow the instructions you will receive.

Remember the "Three Minute Rule." Take the first three minutes after worship to greet someone you don't know. You don't have to ask if the person is a member; they will tell you. You will get to know someone new. They will see that the people of Bethlehem are friendly and eager to share the journey which we travel together. Please know how grateful I am to share that journey with you! Thanks for your continuing partnership in the Good News!

Pastor Christopher Nelson

Celebration Sunday is September 11

Looking Ahead to Fall...

by Chris Hegland, Stewardship Ministry

The summer of 2011 has been filled with a great deal of turmoil. We survived a shutdown by our state government. We watched our national leaders deal with the debt ceiling issue. We saw the stock market plunge. Two local candidates commenced their 2012 presidential campaigns. Our neighbors to the east are contending with recall votes. We have experienced record heat waves and devastating tornadoes, including massive destruction in our own northeast Minneapolis. We hear stories of the suffering resulting from East Africa's severe famine. And the list goes on and on and on. It has been a wild ride.



Now that summer is winding down, we have a chance to catch our breath from the last few tumultuous months. Kids return to school and we return to more normal routines. This is a great time to reflect on our many blessings. In the midst of chaos, God blesses us in so many ways. Regardless of the uncontrollable change in our world, God remains constant. God is there for us every moment of every day. Our church is also there for us – helping us connect with God, each other and our mission in the world, and developing new program offerings to meet the ever-changing needs of its people.

To whom much has been given, much is expected. As we reflect on our blessings, consider if increased contributions, given the increased need, is within your possibility this fall. Also, consider this an opportunity to catch up on any donations that may have been missed over the summer. Most of all, thank God for the blessings you have received and thank God for being the constant in an often scary world.

Coming this fall ... a credit/debit card giving kiosk will appear in our church. Watch for more details.



Starfish Ministry

In January, Starfish, a ministry with Judson Memorial Baptist, was born. St. Joan of Arc was instrumental in helping us form the ministry that serves individuals in need. Here are two stories about how we have helped people in crisis.

- ◇ A very young mother was struggling to get rent money so she could complete her court ordered list of things to do in order to get her children out of foster care and be reunited with them. She had been involved in a domestic violence situation and now was working with a guardian ad litem (member of Bethlehem) to move forward with her life. Starfish paid the rent and she did get her children back. They are together and she continues to do well.
- ◇ A member of Bethlehem lost their job and needed rent assistance and groceries to get through a month until their unemployment check came. The individual has been employed for 6 months and is doing well.

Please consider making a donation to this fund and thank you to all who have made this ministry possible so far.

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 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 Church Council met on June 28, 2011. There was no meeting in July. Treasurer Paul Steen reported that giving in May exceeded the budget plan. This makes five consecutive months in which giving has exceeded our budget plan. Thank you for your continued stewardship in all forms, both to the operating fund and to capital, because there are still financial challenges ahead. Maintenance on older buildings is always ongoing, but some upcoming projects in the near term include sewer separation and tuck pointing. As of the June meeting, the mortgage was \$844,708 and the Council approved a motion to make a \$125,000 payment from the *Living, Giving, Thriving* capital campaign towards the mortgage, thereby realizing a significant cost savings in servicing this debt.

As we evolve into a "paperless" society, the stewardship team is exploring new ways to make giving more convenient in today's digital age. Increased access to online pledging, giving by text message from your cellular phone and a credit/debit card giving kiosk are several ideas that are being explored. The stewardship team welcomes your ideas about how we can utilize new tools and technology to make stewardship more convenient, consistent, and relevant, particularly to the younger generation, many of whom have never written a check.

The staff have been involved with a leadership coaching program under the guidance of Jack Fortin who comes with extensive leadership experience in the world of non-profit organizations. Products from this experience include self-evaluations by staff members, updated job descriptions, mission analysis and definitions for mission success. Jack Fortin gave a presentation to the Council explaining the process and sharing some of the product of the experience thus far. We continue to be blessed with a dynamic and vibrant staff of professionals who lead by example.

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:

September 10, 2011

pdunn@bethlehem-church.org

@ Beacon now online

Exodus Bible Study

Wednesdays, 9:30 am and 6:30 pm
September 14 – October 26

Of all the stories in the Old Testament, the narrative of the exodus is central. In it, God hears the cries of the Hebrew people, claims them as his own, leads them to freedom, and establishes a covenant with them for their life together. In the story of the exodus, 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. *Please register online.*



Biblical Fluency Report

This spring, many of you participated in a research project exploring people's relationship to the Bible. Bethlehem and ten other congregations are working with Luther Seminary to explore "best practices" for equipping people to go deeper in their relationship with God through scripture. Here's a glimpse of what we've learned so far. We'll share more with you in the coming months.

- ✓ The great majority of those surveyed at Bethlehem report positive views of the scripture and a common theological orientation to the Bible. Over 40% indicated that their feelings about the Bible are "curious," "inspired," "hopeful," and "encouraged," while only 10% report feeling "skeptical." Yet 19% say they feel "intimidated."
- ✓ The great majority claim neither a very conservative nor very liberal theological understanding of the Bible. 56% view the Bible as "the inspired Word of God...trustworthy in matters of faith and life," and another 31% understand it as "human word about the divine word... useful for spiritual insight."

The study also revealed that the congregation has strong leadership and rich resources, as well as a healthy culture and strong laity. One of the questions we'll be addressing is, how do we build on these strengths and equip lay folks to read and interpret the Bible on their own? We have a tendency to depend on pastors to read, interpret and make connections between the Bible and daily life. How might we grow as a community if every person felt empowered and inspired to make those connections themselves?



Want to Join a Bible or Book Study Group?

Come to a Small Group training session on Monday, September 19 at 10:00-11:30 am or 7:00-8:30 pm in the Commons. *Read more on page 10.*

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.

Thinking of Joining Bethlehem?

Join us for one of the new member series this fall:

Saturday, September 10

Discover Bethlehem 8:30-noon

Sunday, September 18

New Member Sunday

Saturday, October 1

Discover Bethlehem 8:30-noon

Sunday, October 9

New Member Sunday

Saturday, November 5

Discover Bethlehem 8:30-noon

Sunday, November 13

New Member Sunday

"Our experience during the new member process at Bethlehem was phenomenal! We both felt very welcomed, got all of the information we needed, and truly felt that Bethlehem wanted us to be a part of the community as much as we desired to become a part of it. The staff was more than helpful in answering all of our questions and continues to be so today. Becoming members has given us a feeling of belonging in an amazing community and a deeper sense of direction in our faith journey."

Holly Christianson & Dave Drone
June new member group

Contact Pam Paulson

612.312.3415

ppaulson@bethlehem-church.org
to register or for questions.

Healing Touch

By Cheryl Salter, Healing Touch Coordinator

Healing Touch is a relaxing, nurturing energy therapy using gentle touch to balance physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well being. The goal of Healing Touch is to restore harmony and balance and to support the body's natural healing ability. Healing Touch is based upon a heart-centered, caring relationship with the practitioner and client working together to facilitate the client's health and healing. Some of the benefits of Healing Touch include:

- Pain reduction
- Reduction in anxiety, stress, depression
- Enhanced recovery from surgery
- Support through cancer treatment
- Decrease in agitation with dementia
- Support during the dying process
- Deepened spiritual connection

The Healing Touch session is provided while the client reclines in a chair or bed, or lies on a treatment table fully clothed. The practitioner uses his or her hands to assess your energy system and proceeds to clear and balance it as needed using near body or gentle touch. Healing Touch facilitates a deep sense of calm and relaxation as well as overall and specific responses for body-mind-emotional-spiritual healing. A session can be provided in a client's home, a hospital or care facility room, a practitioner's office or the Healing Touch rooms at Bethlehem. Our Healing Touch Ministry team at Bethlehem consists of students and certified practitioners trained through Healing Touch International whose mission is: "Spreading healing, light and love, creating wholeness on earth." Please watch for ongoing articles in the Beacon about Healing Touch and it's affect on our member's lives. I am blessed through God's grace to be a part of our wonderful Healing Touch Ministry Team.



What is Complementary and Alternative Medicine?

Approximately 38% of American adults use complementary alternative medicine (CAM) in pursuit of health and well-being. As defined by the federal government's National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, "CAM is a group of diverse medical and health care systems, practices, and products that are not generally considered part of conventional (also called Western or allopathic) medicine.

Here are some terms that are frequently used in this area of health care:

Complementary medicine: use of CAM together with conventional medicine, such as using acupuncture in addition to usual care to help lessen pain.

Alternative medicine: use of CAM in place of conventional medicine.

Integrative or Integrated medicine: a practice that combines both conventional and CAM treatments for which there is evidence of safety and effectiveness.

CAM practices are often grouped into broad categories, such as natural products, mind-body medicine, and manipulative and bodybased practices. For more details on these practices go to nccam.nih.gov.

Interested in learning more or sharing your CAM expertise with Bethlehem? Please contact Gretchen, 612.312.3414 or gporter@bethlehem-church.org.



Community News

Deaths

Katherine Ness, 7-11

Births/Adoptions

Grace Kathleen Haase, 1-8-11
adopted 7-1-11
Parents: Jim and Kathleen Haase
Big Sister: Emily

Frank Lindan Hedden, 7-27-11
Parents: Andrew and Lisa Hedden
Big Brother: Finn

Teagan Marie McVay, 7-19-11
Parents: Brent and Monica McVay
Big Brother: Thomas

Riley Jed Dhein, 4-7-11
Parents: Robyn and Travis Dhein
Big Brother: Parker

Baptisms

July 31, 2011

Sullivan Isaac Watt, 5-30-11
Parents: Jason and Katherine Watt

Christopher Callum Ash, 9-16-10
Parents: Matthew and Nancy Ash

Oliver Henry Pragman Norton, 10-5-10
Parents: David Norton and Alexa Pragman

Andrew Thomas Salter, 6-4-11
Parents: John and Randi Salter

August 14, 2011

Reese Marie Blazek, 3-29-11
Parents: Timothy and Sara Blazek

Sophia Elizabeth Hall, 5-9-11
Parents: Christopher and Tricia Hall

Katherine Elizabeth Spilker, 12-25-10
John Erling Spilker, 12-25-10

Parents: Timothy and Ann Spilker

Zachary Jason Vogt, 5-19-11
Parents: Joel and Melissa Vogt

Foot Clinic

Available 10-2 pm by appointment:
October 7.

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.

Children's Choirs begin Wednesday, September 14

Sign up online for:
Little Lambs - age 3
Kinder Choir - age 4-5
Joyful Noise - Kindergarten
Cherub Choir - grades 1-2
Choristers - grades 3-6

Looking ahead to October...

Third Grade Bibles Saturday, October 8 9:30-noon

Day Away for child and parent
Sunday, October 9 - presentation
during worship

Register online or complete the
registration card sent in the mail.



Trunk or Treat Monday, October 31 6:00-7:00 pm

Provide children with a safe and fun
environment for Trick or Treating.
Decorate your car, put on a costume
and pass candy out in the church
parking lot. Sign up online to host a
trunk. All are welcome to donate
candy, beginning in October.

Welcome to a New Year of Sunday School Celebration Sunday is September 11!

As the onset of Sunday School approaches, I get excited about seeing all the registrations, volunteer sign-ups and meeting new people. It is like being a little kid again waiting for the first day of school. One thing I really enjoy doing is putting Sunday School classes together. I look over friend requests and think about personalities and group dynamics. It is a process that is a labor of love and filled with prayer.

You see, Sunday School doesn't happen by chance. It is a way that God has moved people to be in relationship with one another. Our lives, our stories, and even our prayers are all intertwined. This fall as a congregation, we will walk together through the Exodus story learning about Moses, the Hebrew people and God's unfailing love into our daily lives. It is a story that will weave us, bringing together visitors and congregants, new and old friends, teachers and students. It will move us to worship, to care, and to hopefully pray.

So this fall, don't miss this chance to be a part of God's great goodness in the world, a world that is *Richly Woven* together. I invite you in the midst of all your wanderings, to check out the Family Devotional Materials available Sunday, September 18 in the Sunday School areas and prepare to weave your own stories together as a family. It is sure to be a wonderful journey this year as we discover together God's grace and love.

See you in church!
Heather Roth Johnson

Sunday
SCHOOL
2011-2012

Still need to Register?

If you haven't signed up yet, it is
never too late:

Fill out a Sunday School form at the
church office -**OR**- register online at
www.bethlehem-church.org

Want to Help?

It takes many hearts and hands to make Sunday School a success. Check out these available positions:

- 2 year old Sunday School teachers at 10:15 am
- Sunday School teachers for age 3 - 6th grade
- Large group storytellers and puppeteers for Early Childhood

All positions are a two Sunday a month commitment from September to June; no prep is needed. If interested, please contact Heather Roth Johnson at 612.312.3420 or hrothjohnson@bethlehem-church.org.

Where to go?

Lower Level

Age 2: Room 08

Age 3: Kindergarten: Assembly Room

Second Floor

Grades 1-4: Classrooms near Cinema

Grades 5-6: Drama Room 207/208

WEDNESDAY CHURCH NIGHTS

Confirmation students (7th and 8th grades) will engage in another year of faith questions. Together, we will walk a journey of faith, listening and seeing God's story unfold, while celebrating the intersections by which God's story becomes our own story!

Large group will meet at 6:30 pm in Harrisville, followed by small group time. **All new 7th graders and returning 8th graders MUST register for the 2011-12 program year, which includes medical information and parent permission.**

Reform (Confirmation) volunteers meet on Wednesday, September 14 at 6:30 pm for training. On September 21, 6:30 pm, BOTH parents and students, along with adult and senior high leadership, are asked to be present. Together we will celebrate a new year and check out the landscape that is Confirmation at Bethlehem.

9th grade students will begin Peer Ministry on Wednesday, September 28 at 6:30 pm in the Viking Room. Learn how to be a better friend to those within and outside the church community, and how this kind of friendship can deepen your faith. Registration for Peer Ministry is available online. Registrations must be received by Sunday, September 25. Contact Mandy for more details or questions.

Another year of Higher Ground awaits high school students. After the main buzz of WCN, we'll take advantage of the calming stillness and lay claim to the 3rd floor where we'll center ourselves through friends and prayer. Use Higher Ground as a mid-week break from homework and/or sports. Come as you are to a place just for you. Each week, discover God's refreshing Spirit, 8-8:45 pm.

Menus and More continued from Page 1...

Wednesday, Sept. 14

Herbed Baked Chicken
Scalloped Potatoes
Seasonal Veggies
Fresh-baked rolls
Mini cupcakes, brownies, cream puffs, cookies

Wednesday, Sept. 21

Bavarian Meatballs/Gravy
Buttered Spaetzel
Seasonal Veggies
Fresh-baked rolls
Cakes

Wednesday, Sept. 28

Chicken Marsala
Real Mashed Potatoes
Seasonal Veggies
Fresh-baked rolls
Brownies

Cost: \$7/adults; \$3/kids 3-10, 2 & under free; \$25 family max

What's new? The menus for each month will be published in the Beacon and posted on Livewire. **What's not?** The emphasis will be on high quality, cooked from scratch food, good for both kids and adults.

To help out our new chefs, we'd like to try to get a count every week. Register online (*look for the link on the Livewire every week*) or call the church office, 612.312.3400. If you forget, don't hesitate to join us anyway. As Carol noted, "if we prepare for 100 and get 80 then after a month we have wasted a whole week's worth of food. Better to spend that on tenderloin and walleye!"

Sundays for Students

This fall, we welcome back "Senior High Discussions" at both the 9:00 and 10:15 hours. All 9th-12th graders are invited to connect over good food and great conversation. Discover God's work in your life through the support of friends and caring adults, and dig deeper as you seek your purpose as God's fantastically and wonderfully created child.

"Breakfast Club" continues this year, but will now be offered at both 9:00 and 10:15 hours and for ONLY grades 7-8. Yummy breakfast goodies will be served each week, and friends are always welcome!

Sundays for Students kicks off on Celebration Sunday, September 11. Keep your eyes open for a personal invite!

September Highlight

Confirmation's Fall Retreat is September 23-25 at Camp Ihdhapi. Registration is a MUST for all 7th and 8th grade students. Details online.

Save the Date!

Sunday, October 2

Blessing of the Animals



If you're interested in making this event meaningful for the Bethlehem community and neighborhood, please contact Pastor Mary Pechauer.

Thank You, Thank You

A Word from Gena Koeberl

Nearly six years ago I began working for Bethlehem as Faith Formation Ministry Assistant. I introduced myself as a servant minister, called to serve the ministries I assisted and the community of Bethlehem. It wasn't long before I realized the call to ordination I had put on hold since 2000 was calling me back. In 2007 I began taking one or two of the remaining ten courses of the Master of Divinity degree I had begun in 1995. Now I have finished my academic work and am preparing for the final phase of my degree. I will begin internship on September 1 at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Owatonna, MN. I have been so honored to serve Bethlehem and live out my leadership skills in my home church of Spirit Garage. Bethlehem is blessed to be a blessing to others. You have been a blessing to me. I plan to keep you in the loop as I complete this vocational journey. - Gena Koeberl



Thank you to the staff and congregation for your support following the sudden death of my mother and to Pastor Chris Nelson and Pastor Ben Cieslik, Maria Bucka and Peggy Dunn for making the funeral service so comforting. Our family is deeply grateful for all of the prayers, calls, and cards during this difficult time and feel truly blessed to be a part of this faith community.

Renee Kirchner



I want to thank all who prayed for me when I had cancer and was going through chemotherapy and radiation treatments. I especially want to thank Pastor Kris for visiting me at my home and in the hospital. My recovery has been good. God bless you.

Jo Ann Osborne

Staff News

Welcome Jess!



We're pleased to welcome Jess Wood - a familiar face in the nursery and early childhood Sunday School - as Director of Infant and Toddler Ministry. Jess coordinates staffing for the nursery, leads 2-year-old Sunday School, and supports young families through baptism classes. Originally from Willmar and a teacher by trade, Jess lives in SW Minneapolis with her husband, Erik, and sons, Miles and Graham, all of whom are actively involved at Bethlehem.

Welcome Lauren!



Lauren Skalicky is from New Brighton, MN and is excited to start her adventure at Bethlehem as Receptionist and Administrative Assistant. She graduated from Bethel University in December 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. A few of the things she likes to do in her spare time include biking, reading, enjoying coffee (preferably several times a day), and spending time with family and friends. She feels incredibly blessed to have the opportunity

to work with amazing people in a rewarding community and looks forward to meeting everyone!

Welcome Juan!



Juan Equihua is our newest part time member of the Custodial Team. He is married and has two children, and lives in Inver Grove Heights. Football (soccer) is his favorite thing. Juan will be covering the afternoon shift on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

Be sure to introduce yourself!

Thank you and Godspeed, Gena!



A long-time member of Spirit Garage, Gena Koeberl started working at Bethlehem in February 2006 as the Faith Formation Ministry Assistant. She is the one who sent emails and communication to all parents until recently. While working full-time in this position, she completed her

seminary education. (See Gena's thank you in left side column.) She will be leaving to go to her seminary internship site at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Owatonna this Friday. If you would like to send Gena a note of thanks for all the work she has done over the years, email her at gkoeberl001@luthersem.edu or write to her at 1867 St. Paul Rd., Owatonna, MN 55060.



Celebrate the New Kitchen with Loaves and Fishes Teams

Saturday, September 10,
1:00-3:00 pm

Bethlehem contributed to the renovation of the new kitchen at

River of Life which is the site where our members volunteer every other month. All are invited to the remodeled kitchen celebration at River of Life Lutheran Church, 2200 Fremont Ave. N, Minneapolis, on Saturday, September 10, 1:00-3:00 pm. Hear from honored guests, appreciate all teams for their dedication this summer, thank contributors, enjoy special music, and eat together. For more information, contact Marcia Bell at bell.marcia1@gmail.com.

Serve a Meal at Our Saviour's Shelter September 25

Help prepare a meal and serve the guests at Our Saviour's Housing Shelter on September 25. 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 offset the cost of the meal. Contact Mary Tinkham at 612.827.7216 for more details or register on-line at www.bethlehem-church.org.

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.

Give the Gift of a Good Meal and Fellowship September 17

Help prepare food and/or serve at the Friendship Dinner at the Hospitality Center for Chinese students by the U of M, St. Paul Campus on Saturday, September 17, 4:00-9:00 pm. We would also welcome contributions of salads, vegetable dishes and apple desserts, or cash contributions toward food purchases. Call Ellen Erdahl, 952.890.5273 or Judy LeMunyon, 952.884.0570, judylemunyon@aol.com

Opportunities in October:

- ✓ Volunteer at Community Emergency Services
- ✓ Learn more about Our Saviour's English Learning Center on October 23 at 10:15 am
- ✓ Help clean up in the Phillips neighborhood by cleaning up trash and raking.

Travel to Holden Village October 22-31

Join the group traveling to Holden Village in Washington for a week of work, worship and recreation as



we prepare the village for winter. Contact Pastor Kris Tostengard Michel for more information, kristm@bethlehem-church.org.

Way to Care for God's Creation!



Bethlehem's Annual Picnic was nearly a

zero-waste event! Lake Harriet now has green compost carts around the bandshell to collect compostable trash. We were able to use the system to compost almost all of our waste this year. Thanks to compostable utensils, plates, and cups, reusable table cloths and members who brought their own plates and utensils, the only items that went to the landfill/incinerator were condiment packets and a small amount of plastic wrap! We even recycled the chip bags through a program with TerraCycle.

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 is looking for ways for the church to be more efficient and save energy, including ways for members to save energy at home. We'll be promoting challenges for members to do at church and at home to help save energy. Look for our display Sunday mornings this fall.

Christian Yoga at Bethlehem Mondays at 11:30 am

in Assembly Room (downstairs)

Julie Mueller returns to Bethlehem this year to offer weekly sessions in Christian yoga. Julie has taught yoga, pilates and dance in Minneapolis for 29 years and is also a certified therapeutic massage therapist. We are so very fortunate to have her at Bethlehem.

Our sessions begin and end with a brief Christian meditation. Julie leads us through a series of yoga movements with an occasional pilates stretch. She is able to tailor the classes to a variety of people – from beginners to advanced practice to those who need restorative help to get started. We welcome new members from the church and the community! Cost: \$15/session or 4 for \$40.



Living Lutheran Creed

Remember to participate in this nationwide event on Saturday, September 10 from 10-12.

- ✘ Make a sign on a piece of cardboard that states something you believe in.
- ✘ Stand on a corner in your neighborhood, holding your sign.
- ✘ **Bring your sign to worship on September 11. We'll include a blessing of our public faith statements, that we might continually be strengthened to be witnesses to God's activity in the world.**

CareerWalk Kicks Off Session Two September 29

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.

What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up? Panel Discussion Sunday September 18, 10:15 am

Featured panelists:

Bill MacLean, former Bethlehem intern and
Tom Mulhere, long-time Bethlehem member.

Their presentation will focus on why and how they successfully transitioned between careers.

Join this group of panelists as they discuss how seeking new directions in their professional lives have re-energized them and changed their worlds.

Small Group Training September 19

10:00-11:30 am or 7:00-8:30 pm in the Commons

We will use the first session from the Exodus Bible Study for our sample training session, but there will be other study options from which you can choose. Pastor Beth will be facilitating this training and will have a list of other resources. This will be a time for you to connect with others who want to be in a group or to find out ways to connect and form your own group. If you cannot attend, but would like to connect in a group or facilitate a group, email bwarpmaeker@bethlehem-church.org.

Each month we highlight different resources that will complement what you are hearing about in the sermon series.

- ✘ Exodus (a video, leader and discussion guide from the Book of Faith Series) by Mark D. Johns—available from Pastor Beth
- ✘ Sunday Take Out—a discussion guide based on each Sunday's sermon available at bethlehem-church.org
- ✘ *Jesus Wants to Save Christianity* by Rob Bell



Park Town School in India Deepen Partnership with Group Trip in February 2012

Park Town School is a very special place in the very bustling city of Chennai, South India. Park Town, one of the schools of the Arcot Lutheran Church in India, serves elementary through high school-aged children in one of the poorest sections of the city. Founded more than 100 years ago as a girls school (even though girls weren't often sent to school), serving poor children, Park Town has survived and is filled to the brim with some of the most marginalized and disadvantaged boys and girls in this city. Some students are orphans, but most are platform dwellers, street children whose makeshift homes are on the sidewalks or in the neighboring slums. Despite seemingly overwhelming challenges, these children are working hard to learn and in fact Park Town earned the highest marks among all the Arcot Lutheran Church schools in last year's 10th Standard tests.

Bethlehem members who have had the good fortune to visit the school have been moved by the energy of these children, their curiosity, their desire to learn and their brilliant smiles. Bethlehem has had a relationship with Park Town School for several years. Our VBS has sponsored the library at Park Town for the last three years and has committed to continue that sponsorship through 2013.

Some Bethlehem members are considering a trip to Park Town in February 2012 to explore ways to deepen our relationship and strengthen our partnership with this remarkable place. Others are interested in ways to support this partnership without traveling there. Join us for a meeting on September 25 at 10:15 in Langemo Lounge to learn more or email Pastor Beth to let her know you are interested at bwarpmaecker@bethlehem-church.org.



Information meeting Sunday, September 25, 10:15 am in Langemo

If you are interested in going on a group trip to India or joining this ministry in other ways, join us in Langemo to learn more or contact Pastor Beth, bwarpmaecker@bethlehem-church.org

Celebration for Changing Lives Saturday, September 17

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota / Center for Changing Lives prevents adult and youth homelessness, provides adoption and financial counseling services. It is located at 2400 Park Ave. and will have its Annual Celebration for Changing Lives Dinner and Program Saturday, September 17, 5:30 pm at the Hilton Minneapolis. To register, call 651.969.2309 or go online at www.lssmn.org/celebration by September 9 or call Pastor Beth. We're trying to get a Bethlehem table together for this event.

Leadership Transition Service Saturday, September 17, 2:30 pm

In praise to God for 146 years of continuous service in Minnesota, we cordially invite you to a Service of Leadership Transition. Join the six Bishops of the ELCA of Minnesota as they bless Mark Peterson upon his retirement and commission Jodi Harpstead as the new CEO of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. Reception 2:30 pm; worship service 3:30 pm. RSVP by September 9 to Lolyann Connor, lolyann.connor@lssmn.org or 651.969.2273.

Mission/Outreach Donations for September

Every month, money is designated to go to three of our mission partners. This month's mission partners are Kaleidoscope, Park Town School in India, ELCA World Hunger

Art and Reconciliation Workshop continued from Page 1...

Chuck, a painter, designer and workshop facilitator, received his BFA from Miami University. Chuck worked as an Associate Creative Director for the Walt Disney Company, Orlando and most recently held the post of Artist-In-Residence at Luther Seminary in St. Paul where he was awarded a Master's in Art and Reconciliation. Peg's passion for art and faith includes designing worship spaces and experiential environments for others to engage the Holy. Currently the Director of Retail Product Development for Hallmark Cards, Peg teaches workshops on calligraphy, design and creativity. The Hoffmans live and have a studio in Kansas City.

Plan to join us as we add color and depth to the tapestry of our personal and collective experiences. This opportunity is free and open to the public but requires pre-registration so enough materials are on hand. Tell your friends and neighbors and sign up at bethlehem-church.org.

September 4 —Heaven on Earth/*Be the Church*

Psalm 95:1-7 Matthew 18:15-20

September 11—Celebration Sunday

Genesis 18

September 18—Richly Woven / Moses

Exodus 2:1-25

September 25—Richly Woven / The Burning Bush

Exodus 3:1-15

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

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DATED MATERIAL

Reading the Bible in 2011



As summer comes to an end and we move into fall, we'll fling wide the doors of hospitality, then turn our attention to the book of Exodus. Savor these great stories from the Old Testament, then ask how God might be speaking to us today.

Week of Aug 29-Sept 4

- Matthew 18:15-20
- Matthew 18:21-22
- Matthew 16:19
- Psalm 95:1-2
- Psalm 95:3-5
- Psalm 95:6-7

Week of Sept 12-18

- Exodus 1:8-14
- Exodus 1:15-22
- Exodus 2:1-10
- Exodus 2:11-15
- Exodus 2:16-25

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 12:1-14

Week of Sept 19-25

- Genesis 17:1-8, 15-16
- Genesis 17:17-22
- Genesis 18:1-19
- Hebrews 13:2
- Genesis 21:1-7
- Exodus 3:1-15
- Exodus 4:1-17
- Exodus 4:18-23
- Exodus 4:27-31
- Exodus 5:1-23
- Exodus 6:1-13

PEP Club Event September 10

6:00 pm Supper in Iverson Hall

In October 2010, Bethlehem members Diane and Dan Waarvik traveled to Tanzania with a medical team from Fairview Medical Missions. They will share their experiences of working in three communities where they set up clinics to serve more than 100 patients per day.

Dan, self employed in the area of construction administration, traveled to Tanzania as a way to discover building or water needs in the area. Diane, Director of Care Ministries at Bethlehem, and a pediatric nurse practitioner was on the trip to care for the pediatric population.

Join us for supper at 6:00 pm followed by the presentation.

Menu: pulled turkey on bun, potato salad, baked beans, apple bars and coffee. Cost: \$10. RSVP by Sept 7, Hauges 952.935.2578 or Phyllis Brynstad 952.946.1857.