

Announcements for the week of
December 25, 2011-January 1, 2012
www.bethlehemmankato.org

WEEKLY GIVING/ATTENDANCE

Week of December 18, 2011:
Offered for the Lord's Work: \$8,632.00
December Mission Project:
God's Global Barnyard - \$7,485.00
Worship attendance-Sunday, 12/18/11:
8:15 a.m.: 114 10:45 a.m.: 280

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:45 a.m. ~ Worship Service



Lydia Circle will meet at
2 p.m. on December 27 in
Grounds for Joy.

Wednesday Night Suppers are in the
dining room from 5:00-6:30. The cost
is \$4.00 for adults and \$3.00 for
students through confirmation age. Join
the fellowship! Bring your neighbors
and friends! All are welcome!

**There will be NO supper on
December 28. Suppers will resume
on January 4, 2012.**



A HUGE thank you to all the
members of Bethlehem who
supported the Holiday Sharing
Tree Mission. The Holiday
Sharing Tree provides each
recipient with a gift (valued at
approximately \$25) so that they will
have a gift to open at Christmas.
Bethlehem Lutheran Church graciously
fulfilled that need for 80 recipients this
year for the Holiday Sharing Tree.

~ The Fellowship Committee



**DO YOU GET
E-NEWS?** The Bethlehem E-news goes directly
to the inbox of many Bethlehem
members and friends, informing
them of all that is happening in and
around Bethlehem. Do you get the
E-news? To subscribe, send an e-mail to
blchurch@hickorytech.net with the
subject: subscribe to E-news.

Bethlehem

Lutheran Church ELCA
Mankato, MN

RADIO BROADCAST



RADIO
MINISTRY

Today's radio broadcast is
sponsored by **Geraldine Evers in
memory of Charlie.** To sponsor a
radio broadcast in honor of or
in memory of someone, sign up on the
bulletin board near the church office. The
8:15 service is broadcast on **KTOE 1420
AM or KTOE 102.7 FM** every Sunday
morning at 11:00.

BETHLEHEM MISSIONS

Echo Food Shelf Emphasis:

During the month of December,
we'll be collecting "meal-makers"
-- Hamburger Helper, etc.

Our Mission Project for December: God's Global Barnyard

This time in the church year, we often turn our
hearts to those in our community and around
the world with whom we can share God's
blessings. Our Bethlehem family is acknowl-
edged again and again for the generous contribu-
tions made to mission projects, including
our annual participation in God's Global
Barnyard. As a part of ELCA Good Gifts,
God's Global Barnyard is a creative way to
care for those around the world who live with
hunger and poverty. You can choose from a
number of sustainable life-giving solutions
that mean the most to you and your loved
ones. As the familiar Chinese proverb reads,
"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day.
Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a
lifetime" -- so it is with a fish pond, flock of
chicks, or goat given through God's Global
Barnyard. Your gift in honor of or in memory
of a loved one has the ability to provide a
family with food, funds, and fertilizer,
breaking the cycle of hunger and poverty.
Forms are on the counter in the office. Checks
can be made out to Bethlehem Lutheran
Church, noting "God's Global Barnyard" on
the memo line. Thank you for your continued
support of a mission that changes the lives of
those helped by your generous gifts.

~ Bethlehem Community &
Global Mission Board



**The Sunday volunteer
schedule is now on the BLC
website:**

www.bethlehemmankato.org

720 S. Second St., Mankato, MN 56001
Ph. 507-388-2925 Fax - 507-388-6920
E-mail: blchurch@hickorytech.net

LECTIONARY FOR 1/01/12

First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27
Psalm: 8
Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7
Gospel: Luke 2:15-21

IN OUR PRAYERS

Arlene Stenzel	Fred Otsea
Forrest Glick	Jean Beito
Eric Barnes	Donavon Johnson
Glenn Saxton	Jon Ringgenberg
Paul Sullivan	The family of
Pauline Halvorson	Loretta Snilsberg
Bill Preiss	The family of
Rachel Iverson	Jim Slack
Lorene Heaberlin	

*(Prayer request forms are in the pews and the office.
Please place the completed form in the offering plate
or in the Prayer Requests box in the narthex.)*

Included in our prayers each week are several
"sister" congregations of our SE Minnesota
Synod of the ELCA. The Synod is focusing
upon prayer this year, "A Synod Joined in
Prayer," and is encouraging congregations to
pray for one another.

Nativity of Our Lord Joy to the World!

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone for a
successful Christmas Tea and Cookie sale
last weekend! We continue to plug away
at our goal to fund the New Orleans trip for
the Youth Gathering 2012. Thanks to your
generous donations, we are over half way
to being fully funded! Envelope donations
are around \$5,000 at this point. If you
haven't had the opportunity to help with
this fundraiser yet, there are many more
opportunities coming up! Envelopes are
still available in the narthex. Any and all
donations are greatly appreciated.

Dinner For Six (or Eight!)

Starting in the New Year, new groups will
be forming. We shall have a sign-up sheet
in the narthex on Sundays; during the
week, the sheets will be on the counter in
the church office. We encourage all of our
members to participate in sharing a meal
and socializing with new and old members
of our congregation. There are no special
requirements, other than to be willing to
share your home for one meal with others.
This will be our sixth social event, which
will be from January 1 to July 1, 2012. If
you have any questions, please contact
Roger and Dee Saman at 388-6756.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



CHILDREN'S MILESTONES

MILESTONE NEWS

On Wednesday night, December 28, past and present senior high youth will meet in the Attic (youth room). They will meet, reconnect, and share

their experiences about college or the work world. Our "Welcome Back" party will have food, a movie, games, and a chance to just hang out. Postcards will be sent out with more information for these students. Any questions or concerns should be directed to Vee M.G. Williams at 387-5154 or fiveboys@chartermi.net.

Because of the seasonal importance of the video, "The Star of Bethlehem" (which was shown at last week's Adult Forum) for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, I am willing to make the video available for members wishing to view it. Please send an e-mail to bstenzel@hickorytech.net if you would like to borrow the video from me and use it to enhance your own understanding and appreciation of God's greatest gift to the world -- the birth of his beloved son. The premise of this video is that from the beginning of time--the moment he created the universe--God had programmed the celestial clock to announce the birth and death of Christ. As scripture clearly points out, there would be signs in the heavens announcing these momentous events. Through the use of computer animation technology, the video makes a compelling argument that it is now possible to recreate the skies over Bethlehem the night the Magi arrived (December 25, 2 B.C.) to present their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the Christ Child, as well over Jerusalem on the day of Christ's crucifixion (April 3, 33 A.D.). While this is by no means the only interpretation of what the Star of Bethlehem was, as described in Matthew's Gospel, it is interesting. The video was produced by Stephen McEveety, who is best known for producing "*The Passion of the Christ*".

May you all have a blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy new year. **Bryce Stenzel, Adult Education Board Chair**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Evangelism Thought for the Week

*On Christmas,
God came from heaven to earth
so that we might go
from earth to heaven.*



FAIR TRADE THANKS YOU!

By choosing to buy fair trade, you help many artisans and farmers to receive a fair wage for their labor. You can buy coffee, tea, cocoa, and chocolate bars in the office. They make great gifts! Bars are available in milk chocolate with almonds, coffee milk chocolate, dark chocolate, and mint dark chocolate. You can purchase chocolate bars whenever Debbie's office is open.



The Bethlehem Child Care Center is participating in McEduicator Night at McDonald's on Adams Street. Purchase supper on the second Monday of each month (**January 9**) through May between 5 and 7 p.m. and give your receipt to the volunteer so the Center can receive a percentage of sales. It's a fun way to eat and visit with friends while supporting the Center!



The **FIRST EVER** National Choir Appreciation Sunday is scheduled for **Sunday, January 8, 2012!** On this day,

churches across America plan to celebrate their choirs. There are more than 32.5 million choir members in churches around the nation, who collectively volunteer 8.5 billion hours every year! (WOW!) What would our weekly worship be without the volunteers that share their musical talents? Come and show your appreciation to our church musicians. We will have cake and coffee between services in Grounds for Joy on **Sunday, January 8**. This day has been dedicated to thank our choirs for the joyous noise they provide each week.

"Music is the shorthand of emotion."
~ Leo Tolstoy

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, 12/25

9:45 a.m. - Worship Service

Monday, 12/26

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, 12/27

7 a.m. - Café Ambrosia Bible Study, North Mankato
Noon - Men's Bible Study - 101 Main
1 p.m. - Library Board

Wednesday, 12/28

9 a.m. - TOPS
1 p.m. - Staff meeting
4-6 p.m. - Youth going to Kids Against Hunger
6 p.m. - Youth "Welcome Back" party - Youth Room
NO Wednesday Evening Activities

Thursday, 12/29

11 a.m. - Memorial Service for Loretta Snilsberg

Friday, 12/30

Saturday, 12/31

Sunday, 1/1/2012

9-9:30 a.m. - Coffee in Grounds for Joy
9:45 a.m. - Worship Service led by the youth

Monday, 1/2/2012

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
5:45 p.m. - TOPS

FROM OUR LIBRARY

Come and see the changes!

The committee has made significant changes in the arrangement of our library. The new plan is easily recognized and well identified. All fiction is straight ahead and identified with labels as you come through the door. To the right, all of the books on that wall are non-fiction and are well labeled. Our biographies and junior books are on the remaining wall. You'll see the signs. Easy books remain the same.

