

Announcements for the week of
February 27-March 6, 2011
www.bethlehemmankato.org



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

WEEKLY GIVING/ATTENDANCE

Week of February 20, 2011:

Offered for the Lord's Work: \$4,005.00
February Mission Project:
Global Health Ministries - \$882.00

Worship attendance - Sunday, 2/20/11:
8:15 a.m.: 74 10:45 a.m.: 59

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:15 & 10:45 a.m. ~ Worship Services
9:30 a.m. - Education Hour; Adult Forum;
Bible Study with Pastor Jay (Heritage Room);
Coffee (Grounds for Joy); LIGHT
5-7 p.m.—A Life Worth Living—Heritage Room

2,011 School Kit Bags For Lutheran World Relief



Good news! We've found a company which sells school kit bags for less than we can sew them ourselves. We'll fill the bags you've already sewn with school kit supplies, and we'll set a date this summer to fill 2,011 bags for Lutheran World Relief. We welcome other ideas to help us meet our goal.

~ Community & Global Mission Board

Heritage Room Display Cases

The four display cases in the Heritage Room are works in progress. Notice the sparkling clean glass! Ideas are brewing on how to organize, update, & decorate the cases. Do you have any Bethlehem history or items that you are willing to share? Join our work group, the History Keepers, next Thursday, March 3, from 1-3 p.m. in the Heritage Room.



Bethlehem Lutheran will host the *Minnesota Valley Handbell Festival* on Sunday, March 6, at 3:00 p.m. The concert will feature 11 handbell choirs from six area churches, plus the River Bend Bells, Mankato's Community Handbell Ensemble. Solo numbers by each choir and three massed numbers will be performed. A free-will offering will be received. The Bethlehem Gospbells and the Junior Gospbells will both be participating, so plan to attend and listen to our "joyful noise"!

RADIO BROADCAST



RADIO
MINISTRY

Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by **Tom & Mary Dedricks in honor of Gladys Olson's birthday on February 25.** 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 a.m. service is broadcast on KTOE 1420 AM every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m.

BETHLEHEM MISSIONS

Echo Food Shelf Emphasis:

During the month of February, we'll be collecting personal care items.

Our Mission Project for February: Global Health Ministries

"Helping the hands that heal."

Thank you to everyone who has supported Global Health Ministries now and in the past. The needs are great, but together we have helped this organization ship sea containers filled with needed medical/dental supplies that are sent to countries requesting specific items. Over the past 15 years, Bethlehem has provided funding for shipping costs, thousands of newborn (formerly midwife) layette kits, hospice kits, rolled bandages, and useable medical supplies such as crutches, canes, walkers, wheelchairs, and arm/leg braces. It has been spectacular to witness the outpouring of love and concern for people in the midst of extreme suffering. Together we have been able to offer hope for a better life.

Prayerfully consider how you can "help the hands that heal" through contributing to Global Health Ministries, which is headquartered in Fridley, MN, with paid and volunteer staff led by Director Rev. Tim Iverson. Please write checks to Bethlehem Lutheran Church and put "GHM" on the memo line. For more information, please see the February Star.

~ Community & Global Mission Board

LECTIONARY FOR 3/06/11

First Reading: Exodus 24:12-18
Psalms: 2 or 99
Second Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21
Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

IN OUR PRAYERS

Arlene Stenzel
Forrest Glick
Eric Barnes
Glenn Saxton
Paul Teigen
Eileen Dalluge

Margaret Walsvick
Linda Tiegs
Harvey Menk
Donna Smesrud
Elizabeth Englin

(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. This week we pray for:

Cross of Christ Lutheran in Welch
Christ the King Lutheran in Mankato
Muhintiri Lutheran in Tanzania
(partnered with Christ the King)
Central Lutheran in Winona
Immanuel Lutheran in Tanzania
(partnered with Central)
East St. Olaf Lutheran in Byron

Wednesday Night Suppers

Join us from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.! Cost is \$4 for adults, \$3 for students through confirmation age, and \$11 for families. Join the fellowship! Bring your neighbors and friends! **Let's make Wednesday night BETHLEHEM NIGHT!**

Menu for March 2:

**Spaghetti, garlic bread sticks,
lettuce salad, Jell-O with fruit**




CARE MINISTRY

You are invited to attend a coffee fellowship for our members residing at Old Main Village to keep them in touch with our larger fellowship. It will happen on **Tuesday, March 1**, following our normal monthly communion service at 1:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A NOTE ABOUT CANCELLATIONS...



In case of inclement weather on Sunday mornings, listen to KTOE 1420 AM for cancellation announcements for worship and church activities. In case of inclement weather on Wednesdays, our evening events will follow the cancellation decision of the Mankato Public Schools.

Hospice ~ "We Live Until We Die"

Hospice provides individuals and their families with comfort, compassion, and dignity at the end of life. Living with a terminal illness can be a time of stress and confusion, but you are not alone! For more information, call (507) 385-2618 or 800-327-3721, ext. 2618.

Immanuel-St. Joseph's Hospice Sponsors:
Journey Through Grief - a 7-week grief group for people over 60 who have experienced the death of a loved one.

Thursdays through March 10

10 a.m.-noon at Christ the King Lutheran

Journey Through Grief - a 7-week grief group for anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one.

Mondays through March 7

6-8 p.m. at First Congregational UCC

There is no charge for these programs, but pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, please call the Hospice office at (507) 385-2989 or 800-327-3721, extension 2989.

Lenten Retreat: "O Taste and See

How Good God Is" ~ Psalm 34

Date: March 16, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Presenter: Sister JoAnn Haney

In this Lenten season, are you open to a new experience of God's love for you? Come and reflect on your journey this Lent with prayer, quiet, and input. A good trilogy for Lenten practice is Scripture, trust, and worship; we will explore these three in anticipation of Easter joy.

Suggested donation: \$20, which includes lunch. Location: Holy Spirit Retreat Center, 3864 - 420th Avenue, Janesville, MN 56048.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Evangelism Thought for the Week

Oftentimes what we do as Christians may have a greater impact on others than anything we say: "Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours; yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion looks out on the world; you are the feet with which He is to go about doing good; and yours are the hands with which He is to bless us now."

~ Teresa of Avila

Looking for Spiritual Growth this Lenten Season?

Join the River of Life Prayer Group, dedicated to prayer, worship, praise and renewal by the power of the Holy Spirit. Ecumenical prayer meetings will be every first and third Tuesday at Holy Rosary School (first floor), 546 Grant Avenue, North Mankato, Minnesota, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Join us for an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ and receive his gifts. For further information, contact Darlene Schorn, 345-8667, or www.riveroflifemankato.com.

FROM OUR LIBRARY

Nonfiction - 158 section

The library has almost a full shelf of self-help books that are found under the 158 number. Some interesting titles are: Remembering Wholeness - a personal handbook for thriving in the 21st century; Always Daddy's Girl - understanding your father's impact on who you are, by H. Norman Wright; and Life on the Edge - a young adult's guide to a meaningful future, by Dr. James Dobson.

As one of our mission partners, we would like to invite your members to join with us in celebrating 25 years of ministry at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Eagle Lake.

Sunday, April 3, 2011

Schedule for the day:

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Guest Speaker - Bishop Harold Usgaard

Pastor Mary Iverson

11:15 a.m. - Celebration Meal

12:30 p.m. - Anniversary Program

Please join us!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lutheran Social Service is in need of Foster Grandparents at Good Shepherd Lutheran School and at Hoover Elementary School. These are volunteer positions that include a tax-free stipend and mileage. Volunteers are asked to commit to 15 hours a week, and they must be 55 years of age or older. They will work with children in group activities and also individually. For more information, please contact Gail at (507) 530-2295 or (507) 337-0382.

Bethlehem Women of the ELCA

At 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 9, Pastor Jay will lead a Bible study in Grounds for Joy. All Bethlehem women and all circles are invited to attend.

Please join us!



If you haven't filled out a Parish Nurse Survey, there are some on the counter in the office. Please pick one up and fill it out!



NEW AT BETHLEHEM: NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT (NCD)

Bethlehem has begun a process to develop natural church growth. Our team has chosen two focus areas for development: that of passionate spirituality and loving relationships. We believe that people here at Bethlehem live committed lives and practice their faith with joy and enthusiasm devoted to Jesus Christ and His work. To this end, it is our hope to inspire a Christian walk that extends from church on Sunday to everyday life on Monday. In the future, we hope to implement practices which will promote Christian love and care for each other.

NCD team members: Karla Van Lith (leader), Pastor Jay Dahlvang, Laurie Rossow, Pastor Al Girtz, and Tom & Betty Sanger.