

Announcements for the week of
March 20-27, 2011
www.bethlehemmankato.org



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WEEKLY GIVING/ATTENDANCE

Week of March 13, 2011:

Offered for the Lord's Work: \$9,924.00
March Mission Project:
ECHO Food Shelf - \$1,966.00

Worship attendance - Sunday, 3/13/11:
8:15 a.m.: 105 10:45 a.m.: 215

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:15 & 10:45 a.m. ~ Worship Services
9:30 a.m. - Education Hour; Adult Forum;
Remembrance Day - sharing of stories about
Bethlehem's history (Heritage Room); Coffee
(Grounds for Joy); LIGHT
5 p.m. ~ "Day of Norms"-Heritage Rm./Youth Rm.



The Bethlehem Youth (6th-9th grades) had their annual Jr. High Retreat last weekend. Their mission focus was the Backpack Food Program. The Backpack Food Program provides children with a pack of child-friendly, nutritious food to take home before school dismisses for the weekend or holiday break. While every child has access to nutritious breakfast and lunch during school, the same cannot be said for weekends and school breaks. Every \$3.00 raised feeds one child in the Mankato community for one weekend. Bethlehem Youth are proud to say they raised over \$370.00 last weekend for this important mission! In addition to raising funds, they also collected several pounds of food to donate.

All You Can Eat "Flippin Fun" Pancakes by Chris's Cakes

9:00 a.m. - noon TODAY, March 20

Christ the King Lutheran Church
222 Pfau Street, Mankato

All proceeds from the free-will offering will support The Reach, LSS Youth Drop-in Center.



You could eat pancakes at Christ the King for THE REACH and have a spaghetti dinner (4-7 p.m.) at St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church for the ECHO Food Shelf on the same day!

RADIO BROADCAST



RADIO
MINISTRY

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 March, we'll be collecting peanut butter.

Our Mission Project for March:

ECHO Food Shelf

Bethlehem is supporting the local community's need for food assistance by designating the ECHO Food Shelf as our March Mission Project. In addition to food collection in the Narthex and monetary donations, there is a real need for volunteers. With the new facility, there are new needs. Helpers are needed to sort food, restock shelves, and assist clients with shopping. If you have some time and would like to help, please contact Deisy at 345-7477. Thank you for your support of this important organization and mission.

~ Community & Global Mission Board

Earth Hour 2011 - Go Beyond the Hour

On March 26, turn off your lights at 8:30 p.m. for Earth Hour, a worldwide collective display of commitment to protect the one thing that unites us all: the planet. Every year, Earth Hour asks individuals, businesses, and communities worldwide to show their commitment to the environment. This Earth Hour, we hope you will turn off your lights. But when the lights go back on, we want you to go beyond the hour and think about what you can change in your daily life that will benefit the planet. Let's work together to create a better future. Our actions can add up. In keeping with reducing your carbon footprint for Lent, we hope you will be a part of this. For more information, go to www.earthhour.org/.

Earth Stewards Tips

Reduce the amount of trash you produce -- buy products with less packaging, and reuse/recycle what you can. Ideas: bring your lunch using reusable containers, bring your own grocery bags, buy in bulk, examine your real need for the products you buy, purchase long-lasting items, and see how little garbage you can make. Make it into a game.

LECTIONARY FOR 3/27/11

First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm: 95

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-11

Gospel: John 4:5-42

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

Lorraine Carpenter

Dixie Ortley

(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:

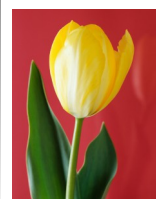
Mona Lutheran in Lyle
First Lutheran in Glenville
Lands Lutheran in Zumbrota
St. George Lutheran in Tanzania
(partnered with Lands Lutheran)
Pontoppidan Lutheran in Ellendale
San Juan Lutheran in Colombia
(partnered with Pontoppidan in Ellendale)

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 23:

BBQ meatballs, baked potato,
carrot sticks, dinner roll, sherbet



The Music & Worship Board will be taking Easter flower orders at the kiosk in the narthex between services and after the 10:45 service today, March 27,

April 3, and April 10. **The deadline for ordering flowers is April 10.** Forms are available at the kiosk.

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.

Milestone News

The 5th graders and their parents will have their introduction to the Sacrament of Communion with Pastor Jay in the chapel at 9:45 today. This is the first session of five. The students will have two classroom sessions with their teachers, Sandy Abild and Lynea Flom, that will include a trip to the sacristy to learn about the way communion is set-up, the making of the "What Communion Means to Me" banner, and the making of the communion bread used for Holy Thursday. This same bread will be used for the class's communion on May 1 at the 10:45 service. The 6th graders will continue their study of prayer with Betty Sanger. Next Sunday at the 10:45 service, these students will present the prayer that they made as a class. This will be the "Prayer of the Day" for next Sunday. The congregation will read their prayer at the 8:15 service.



New Bible Study Series

You are welcome to our Book of Faith: Exodus Study, beginning Wednesday, April 6. We meet Wednesdays for six sessions at 10:30 a.m. to discover how God acted in history to free a powerless people and to bring them in covenant relationship. Sign up by contacting the church office.

Exercise Kindness!



Are you ready to walk in Mankato's 3-mile D'Feet ALS Walk on Saturday, April 16, at West High School? Once again we are honoring Pastor Don Roberts. Sign up now in the church office and order your free T-shirt. Registration is at 9:00 a.m., with the walk beginning at 10:00 a.m. Checks should be made out to Bethlehem with "ALS" noted on the check. There is no need to walk the entire 3 miles. All ages are welcome. If you have questions, contact Lori Ruthenbeck (388-7140), Ginger Erlandson (278-3007), or Jean Bender (243-4453).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Evangelism Thought for the Week

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

~ Acts 1:8



The Sioux Trails Chapter of the American Guild of Organists presents "Organ Music for the Feast of the Annunciation" at 7:45 p.m., Friday, March 25, at SS. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, 105 North Fifth Street, Mankato. Free admission. Members of the chapter will perform pieces by Bach, Liszt, Dupre, and others.

FROM OUR LIBRARY

Easter Reading

1. Stories Behind the Traditions and Songs of Easter, by Ace Collins, which includes 20 stories of symbols, events, and backgrounds that shaped the best-loved customs and songs of Easter. These will give a deeper appreciation for familiar traditions. This is a new book in our library.
2. First Easter, by Paul Maier.
3. The Days Before Easter, by W. A. Pooney.

There are also several children's books on display and for check-out.

The Endowment Board reminds high school seniors and returning college students that you have SIX WEEKS to submit your scholarship request. Requests received after May 1 will be denied. Please call Mavis Saxton at 387-3346 if you have any questions.

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

USHERS



The Worship and Music Committee invites you to usher! Let us know if you can help welcome people to worship and serve the church in this way. You can contact the church office or Mary Beth Royer at 345-3113.

Immanuel-St. Joseph's Hospice Sponsors: Men's Grief Support Network - a supportive social gathering for men who have lost a spouse or significant other.

First and third Sundays of each month from 5:30-7 p.m. at a local restaurant.

First meeting: March 20

Journey Through Grief - an 8-week grief group for people who have experienced the death of a loved one.

Monday evenings, March 21-May 9

6-8 p.m. at First Congregational UCC
150 Stadium Court, Mankato

Journey Through Grief - an 8-week grief group for people over 60 who have experienced the death of a loved one.

Thursdays - March 24-May 12

10 a.m.-noon at Christ the King Lutheran
222 Pfau Street, Mankato

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.



Coffee Fellowship

CARE MINISTRY

The Bethlehem Lutheran Care Ministry Team is hosting a fellowship coffee party at Pathstone Living on Tuesday, April 12.

Communion will be at 10:15 a.m., with coffee and fellowship to follow. We hope you can join us!



The fourth annual "Pasta with the Padres", a fund-raising dinner to benefit the ECHO Food Shelf, will be held **TODAY** at St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church, Blue Earth and Hubbell Streets, in Mankato. The spaghetti dinner will be served from 4-7 p.m. There will also be an extensive silent auction. A free-will offering will be collected.