



THE BETHLEHEM STAR
MARCH 2011



Sunday Worship: 8:15 & 10:45

Wednesday Lenten worship at noon and 7 p.m. beginning on March 9
The 8:15 a.m. Sunday service is broadcast at 11 a.m. on KTOE 1420 AM.

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DEADLINE for the April Star is March 15.



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JAY DAHLVANG

Lent 2011-The Word of Life: Reflections on the Words of Jesus from the Cross

“Jesus died for your sins.” Christians piously nod their heads in assent, as well we should. But what does it mean to say that Jesus died for our sins? Why was it necessary? Or was it? And which sins in particular? And how can it really make a difference in the real world today that a good man died a horrible death two thousand years ago? What does it have to do with the lives we have to live and the deaths we have to die?” ~ Richard John Neuhaus

We gather at the foot of the cross in the forty days of Lent to ponder the mystery of Jesus’ suffering and death. This isn’t a mystery to solve like a crime novel or a puzzle, but an invitation to wonder that gives meaning to the mystery of the life we have to live, and the death we have to die. Jesus’ dying words have become known as the **Seven Last Words**. A collection of phrases from each of the four gospels, they embody the wholeness of what it means to be human, and what it means to be God’s, just as Jesus did in the entirety of his life.

I am most pleased to welcome pastors of our neighboring churches, Grace Lutheran and Redeemer Lutheran, to Bethlehem’s pulpit. The Rev. Scott Olson and the Rev. Al Girtz will join me in being our preachers on Wednesdays. You will find it meaningful and enjoyable to hear other voices

during Lent. The schedule is:
March 9: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”
March 16: “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”
March 23: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
March 30: “Woman, behold your son. Son, behold your mother.”
April 6: “I am thirsty.”
April 13: “Father, into your hands I commend my Spirit.”
Holy Week: “It is finished.”

Each Wednesday we have opportunities for worship at Noon and 7 p.m. We continue our Lenten custom of worshipping the Light of the World using the beautiful Holden Evening Prayer liturgy. The Earth Stewards will invite us to take doable steps into deeper stewardship of God’s creation as part of our Lenten discipline. Thank you for sharing your lives, and gathering at the foot of the cross, throughout these forty days. ~ Pr. Jay

Five-Year Task Force Update
 Thanks to your participation, January 23 really was a “Day to Remember.” As we told the story of Bethlehem, God’s Spirit reminded us of God’s faithfulness—the reason why our future is promising. We continue our work in March with “An Evening of Norm Identification.” Bethlehem families and individuals have been prayerfully selected and invited to share what they see

among us as we discern God’s will for our life together. The Task Force will go out this spring to interview leaders in areas of government, education, social services, business, health care, and religion to learn how Bethlehem can better contribute to the needs of the community God has called us to serve. This summer we will shape all of the input into what we believe are the goals and aspirations that God has put before us. The Five-Year Plan will come before the congregation for review and approval. Thank you for your participation, prayers, and role in shaping God’s future for Bethlehem.

How to Connect to the Larger Church

What is happening on a regional level? On a national and international level with those we share our life in Christ? How do we know? Our synod produces a weekly e-news that comes out on Wednesday, and a monthly newsletter called “River Crossings.” If you would like to receive these electronically, you can contact Katie Livingood at livingood@semnsynod.org. The ELCA continues to produce a fine resource called “The Lutheran.” This monthly publication is available via subscription as well as online at: thelutheran.org. Both “River Crossings” as well as “The Lutheran” are available in the church library.

MONTHLY MISSION PROJECT, HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, MARCH SERVING GROUP

MARCH MISSION PROJECT: ECHO FOOD SHELF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



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 Partner. ECHO (Emergency Community Help Organization) began in 1981 in a church basement and was intended for short-term food assistance to people in the Mankato area. New and improved changes at ECHO include their relocation to the facility at 1014 South Front Street and the change to a client choice method of food distribution. The new facility allows ECHO to accommodate the growing need for food assistance in our area. To note, demand for food assistance has increased by 51% in the last decade. The new building also provides more storage and allows ECHO to take advantage of free or reduced cost food from the Second Harvest food bank. The change to the client choice method allows the client to choose the food which best meets the needs of their family; in essence, they can choose their own grocery items instead of receiving a standard food package.

Quick facts:

- From July 2009 through the end of June 2010, ECHO:
- Distributed over 802,000 lbs. of food
- Served 2,626 unique households
- Served 7,591 unique individuals
- Served a total of 39,558 individuals when repeat visits are counted
- Served 828 seniors
- Served 16,497 children
- Provided 962 Thanksgiving meals
- Provided 2,012 summer food packages for clients with school-aged children

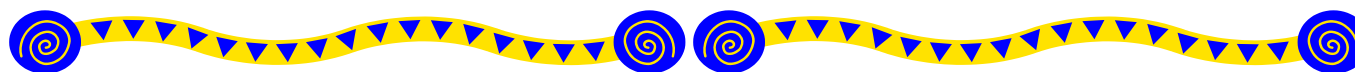
In March, in addition to food collection in the narthex and monetary donations, there is a real need for volunteers. With the new facility brings new needs. Helpers are needed to sort food, restock shelves, and assist clients with shopping. If you have some time and would like to help, please contact Deisy at 345-7477. Thank you in advance for your support of this important organization and mission.

~ Global & Community Mission Board



Habitat For Humanity of South Central MN

is a non-profit, Christian housing ministry dedicated to building simple, decent, and affordable housing with and for families in need. These families are of low to moderate income status and would not otherwise qualify for a conventional loan. Families are required to invest 200 hours in "sweat equity" per adult -- that is, time spent building their own home and other Habitat homes. Habitat has always stood by the philosophy of a hand-up rather than a hand-out. Because houses are built or renovated using as much volunteer labor and donated materials as possible, mortgage payments are kept reasonable. Needless to say, volunteers are the driving force behind Habitat's mission. Habitat is accepting applications for families that are interested in owning a Habitat home to be built in 2011. If you are renting, have low to moderate income, need housing, and are willing to partner with Habitat, we may be your answer. Habitat builds homes for families at 0% interest for a 25- to 30-year mortgage. House payments are approximately \$500/month. For more information, please call 507-388-2081.



MARCH SERVING GROUP ~ Chair: Marilyn Larson (387-1520) **Co-Chair:** Charlene Zimmerman (388-7749)



Monthly Serving Group

- Burton & Dodie Anderson
- John & Bobbi Bastian
- Jason & Angela Bruns
- Mike & Stefanie Buesing
- Tim & Jean Bye
- Steve & Kari Csizmadia
- Jim & Robin Freyberg
- Steve & Lynette Freyberg
- Susan Glaser
- Tom & Peggy Greeley

- Don & Ardis Grotta
- David & Liz Hageman
- Jack Halvorson
- John & Ila Hansen
- Gerald & Jane Johnson
- Marta Krosch
- Dennis & Cindy Loken
- Betty Myhrman
- Gene & Maxine Nordby
- Gary & Jodi Pericak

- Howard & Jan Prouse
- Bob & Marsha Qualset
- Dan & Amy Rademacher
- James & Martha Turner



Monthly Serving Group

BETHLEHEM FELLOWSHIP & ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Life Worth Living

In the future, scientists may be able to prolong life, but will it be worth living? For the apostle Paul, Jesus Christ had made life profoundly worth living. In the letter to the Philippians, Paul writes why this is the case for him and his readers as well.

In our new series, we will look at what Jesus Christ brought to Paul's life and to the lives of the Philippians which made their lives so supremely worth living. As we look at Philippians, we discover what Christ did for Paul and his readers He does today for us.

Our format is similar to Alpha. We gather **each Sunday at 5 p.m. through March 13**. We begin with a delicious catered meal, have a short worship time, watch a video, and break into small groups for conversation. We have you on your way home by 7 p.m. An \$8 donation covers the cost of course materials. Child care is available at no cost. To register, contact the church office.



2011 Mankato Walk to Defeat ALS ~ April 16, 2011

Put your best foot forward in the fight against ALS, often known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. Our team, "The Bethlehem Gait Keepers", will once again walk to honor Pastor Don Roberts. It's time for the annual "Walk to Defeat ALS" on **April 16**. All ages are welcome to participate in the 3-mile walk that begins at West High School at 10:00 a.m., with registration beginning at 9:00 a.m. Walkers do not have to do the entire 3 miles! The success behind the walk includes each of us asking friends, neighbors, and relatives for donations to ALS.

ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) is a progressive neuromuscular disease that slowly robs the body of its ability to walk, speak, swallow, and breathe. Your donations support research and impressive programs such as patient education, support groups, equipment loans, and referrals to ALS clinics and physicians, as well as local and nationally-directed advocacy programs.

ARE YOU READY TO WALK? Please sign up soon in the church office if you want to have a free ALS T-shirt, and include your shirt size (S, M, L, or XL). The shirts will be distributed on April 16. Please call Lori Ruthenbeck (388-7140), Ginger Erlandson (278-3007), or Jean Bender (243-4453) if you have any questions. Checks may be written to Bethlehem Lutheran Church with "ALS" noted on the memo line.



Thank you for your support.



Coffee Fellowship

Care Ministry

The Bethlehem Care Ministry Team will host a fellowship communion service, followed by a coffee party, for our members residing at Old Main Village on Tuesday, March 1, at 1:00 p.m.

We hope to see you there!

**Monday Nights at McDonald's
McEducator Nights**



The Bethlehem Child Care Center receives a portion of the funds from all in-store purchases at the Adams Street McDonald's from 5-7 p.m. on the **second Monday of each month through May, 2011**. We benefited by \$500.00 last year to put toward the playground. The funds will be used in the same way this year.

We like to call the second Monday of the month **McBethlehem night!**

BETHLEHEM CHILD CARE CENTER NEWS

The Bethlehem Child Care Center will be the featured mission for the month of April. We will be using the funds raised to finish our playground, replace some of the outside toys, and help with expenses such as rent and janitorial supplies. Thank you to all who have supported our McEducator Nights at McDonald's. It has been fun to see the families and church members visit and get acquainted. What a wonderful fellowship it is!! ~ Marsha Madigan, Director



Women's Bible Study

Bethlehem Women of the ELCA

At 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, Pastor Jay will lead a Bible study in Grounds for Joy. All Bethlehem women and all circles are invited to attend. Please join us!



**NEW AT
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN:
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.

MISCELLANEOUS

Wednesday Night Suppers

Join us for good food and fellowship in the dining room on Wednesdays from 5:00 to 6:30. Cost remains at \$4.00 for adults, \$3.00 for students through confirmation age, and \$11.00 for families. Nourish your body and your mind as you converse and relax with others before you go to choir, bells, confirmation, etc. Five serving teams are established, with room for more volunteers. Volunteers serve six times during the year. Call the church office to get on a list. **BRING YOUR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS!** This is an opportunity for fellowship with members for Bethlehem and a community outreach. 2500 meals were served as people enjoyed good food and friends last year.

LET'S MAKE WEDNESDAY NIGHT BETHLEHEM NIGHT!

Menus for March:

- March 2** Spaghetti, garlic bread sticks, lettuce salad, Jell-O with fruit
- March 9** Baked chicken, stuffing, cranberries, corn, biscuits
- March 16** Hot dogs/brats, macaroni & cheese, pea salad, apple
- March 23** BBQ meatballs, baked potato, carrot sticks, dinner roll, sherbet
- March 30** California burger, seasoned potato cubes, baked beans, pickles

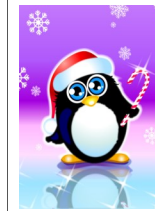


The family of Jim Davis would like to send our thanks to Pastor Jay Dahlvang for his visits and calls to the hospital and expressions of kindness. We are truly grateful for having him and the great musicians within our congregation, Laurie, Christine, and Lance. The music was very beautiful for Jim's service. Thanks also to all of the people who gave memorials to Bethlehem in Jim's name. Last of all, thank you to the January serving group, who served the luncheon and organized the collection of all the desserts. God's blessings on all for your love, prayers, and support for our family.

~ *Shirley Davis and family*



The Lutheran Study Bible features the NRSV translation as well as introductions, notes, and articles written by over 60 Lutheran pastors and teaching theologians. This resource is designed to invite readers to experience the Bible and its message through solid background material, unique Lutheran insights, and opportunities for faith reflection. Reader-friendly, inviting, and engaging, this is the perfect study Bible for both youth and adults who want to encounter Scripture in a fresh and new way. There is a sign-up sheet in the office for those who wish to purchase a Lutheran Study Bible. Group discounts are offered.



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.

2010 NORDIC BAZAAR DISBURSEMENT

Good Earth Village	\$ 200.00
Green Lake Bible Camp	200.00
CADA, Inc.	300.00
ECHO Food Shelf	1500.00
Holiday Sharing Tree	300.00
Open Door Clinic	500.00
Partners for Affordable Housing (Theresa House & Welcome Inn)	800.00
Salvation Army	500.00
VINE	200.00
Backpack food program	400.00
Lutheran Campus Ministry	500.00
LSS (Homeless Youth)	500.00
LSS (On My Own)	500.00
MSU/M International Student Fund	150.00
Marie Sandvik Center	200.00
Habitat for Humanity	300.00
Lutheran World Relief (Haiti & Pr. Comfort)	500.00
Bethlehem Quilters	500.00
Bethlehem Radio Broadcasts	200.00
Bethlehem Staff	400.00
Bethlehem Library	300.00
Bethlehem Youth (for Kids Against Hunger)	200.00
BCCC (for rent)	1000.00
Bethlehem Midwife Kits - GHM	1200.00
Grace Matters	425.00
Kids Against Hunger	200.00
Bethlehem Nursery	200.00
Kid bags for sanctuary	50.00
Hot Meals on Wheels	150.00
	\$12,375.00

CALENDAR

Highlights of activities during March:

3/6	3:00 p.m. - Handbell festival in the sanctuary
3/6 & 13	5:00-7:00 p.m. - A Life Worth Living
3/9	Noon and 7 p.m. - Ash Wednesday services
3/12	SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD BEFORE GOING TO BED!
3/14	McEducator's Night at McDonald's (Adams St.)
3/16, 23, & 30	Noon and 7 p.m. - Wednesday Lenten services
3/20	5 p.m. - Evening of Norm Identification - Heritage Room & Youth Room


Wednesday Night Schedule (see page 10 for the Lenten schedule starting on Ash Wednesday, March 9)

5:00 - 6:30 p.m.	Wednesday Night Supper
5:15 - 6:00 p.m.	Junior Gospbells
5:15 - 6:15 p.m.	Chancel Choir
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	TIMES
6:00 - 7:45 p.m.	Confirmation
6:15 - 6:45 p.m.	Children of Bethlehem
6:30 - 7:45 p.m.	Bethlehem Gospbells
6:45 - 7:45 p.m.	Gather Choir
7:45 - 8:30 p.m.	The Messengers



March 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7 am - Sweet Shoppe Bible Study 9 am - Quilters 9 am-12 pm - school bags - DR Noon-101 Main Bible Study 1 pm - Library Board 6 pm - Children's Board, Music & Worship Board 7 pm - Evangelism, Facilities, C & G Missions	2 9 am - TOPS Noon-Adult Ed. meeting 1 pm - Staff mtg. 3:30 pm - NCD - GFJ WEDNESDAY EVE. ACTIVITIES	3	4	5
6 8:15 & 10:45 am - Worship 9:30 am - Ed. Hour 3 pm - Handbell Festival - sanctuary 5-7 pm - Life Worth Living	7 5-9 pm - Mankato Children's Chorus 5:45 pm - TOPS 6:30 pm - 5-year task force - Heritage Rm.	8 7 am - Sweet Shoppe Bible Study 9 am-12 pm - school bags - DR 12 pm-101 Main Bible Study 1 pm - Library Board 5:15 pm - Stewardship 6:30 pm - Earth Stewards	9 ASH WEDNESDAY 7:45 - Finance Comm. 9 am - TOPS Noon & 7 pm - Worship 1 pm - Staff mtg. 3:30 pm - Women's Bible Study - GFJ WEDNESDAY EVE. ACTIVITIES	10 5:30 - Youth Board	11 Jr. High Retreat (through Saturday) - Youth Room	12 Jr. High Retreat - Youth Room 10 am-2 pm - Sons of Norway - Heritage Room TURN CLOCKS AHEAD!
13 8:15 & 10:45 am - Worship 9:30 am - Ed. Hour 5-7 pm - Life Worth Living (final session)	14 5-9 pm - MCC 5-7 pm - McEducator's Night at McDonald's 5:45 pm - TOPS 7 pm - Parish Nurse mtg.	15 7 am - Sweet Shoppe Bible Study 9 am - Quilters 9 am-12 pm - school bags - DR Noon-101 Main Bible Study 1 pm - Library Board 7 pm - Council	16 9 am - TOPS Noon & 7 pm - Worship 1 pm - Staff mtg. 2-4 pm - Elizabeth Circle WEDNESDAY EVE. ACTIVITIES	17 	18 3 pm - Book Club - Library	19 1-5 pm - Mankato Children's Chorus
20 8:15 & 10:45 am - Worship 9:30 am - Ed. Hour 5 pm - Evening of Norm Identification - YR & HR FIRST DAY OF SPRING!	21 4 pm - Website Committee 5-9 pm - MCC 5:45 pm - TOPS 6:30 pm - Mom's Circle	22 7 am - Sweet Shoppe Bible Study 9 am-12 pm - school bags - DR Noon-101 Main Bible Study 1 pm - Library Board	23 9 am - TOPS Noon & 7 pm - Worship 1 pm - Staff mtg. 3:30 pm - Women's Bible Study - GFJ WEDNESDAY EVE. ACTIVITIES	24	25	26
27 8:15 & 10:45 am - Worship 9:30 am - Ed. Hour 2 pm - Council as Leaders mtg. - Owatonna	28 5-9 pm - MCC 5:45 pm - TOPS	29 7 am - Sweet Shoppe Bible Study 9 am - Quilters 9 am-12 pm - school bags - DR Noon-101 Main Bible Study 1 pm - Library Board	30 9 am - TOPS Noon & 7 pm - Worship 1 pm - Staff mtg. WEDNESDAY EVE. ACTIVITIES	31		

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

MARCH LIGHT NEWS

The 6th Rotation will begin on Sunday, March 6: The Prodigal Son.

The LIGHT Offering/Mission for March will be to help support the congregational mission of the ECHO Food Shelf. Consider sending non-perishable food items with your child throughout the month in lieu of the monetary offering. If a monetary offering is sent, it will go to help ECHO fund their new location.

LIGHT is in need of YOUR help!!
We are always looking for Light

Keepers and Facilitators. It takes 25 volunteers each Rotation to make the program run successfully! We need YOU! Please consider donating your time for either a 3-5 week period or the whole year! Contact Leah Garry at 507-382-2205 or lgarry@hickorytech.net to volunteer or just to learn more about the exciting LIGHT program.

*Come and see how
God Lights Our Way!*

Save the Date!

What: Vacation Bible School 2011
Where: Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Who: 3 year olds thru 5th grade
When: August 7-August 11 from 6:00-8:00
(free-will offering meal before at 5:30)

Registration forms will be available in the church office or online at www.bethlehemmankato.org beginning in May.

MILESTONE NEWS

March 6 - Parents and 4th graders meet in the dining room at 9:45 after LIGHT has their worship time in the chapel. Pastor Jay will be talking about the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. All parents or grandparents should be with their child. We will be celebrating our Christian birthdays. **March 13** - Parents and kindergartners will meet in Classroom E to learn about prayer. At the beginning of the 10:45 church service, each kindergartner will receive a prayer quilt with prayer cards in the jean pocket sewn onto the quilt. This year and each year afterwards, the child will receive new prayer cards. **Also on March 13**, the 6th graders will meet in classroom A after chapel worship time to learn about the importance of prayer. This class will meet with Betty Sanger on the 13th and 20th to study prayer and make a class prayer. **On March 27**, the 6th graders will present their class prayer as "Prayer of the Day" during the 10:45 service. We will practice in the sanctuary during the Education/LIGHT hour. Each student will receive a copy of their prayer. **March 27** - Parents and 5th graders will meet in the chapel after the LIGHT students have finished their worship service. Pastor Jay will explain the Sacrament of Communion. This is the beginning of five weeks of study, and a letter will be sent out to give more details. Any questions should be directed to Vee M.G. Williams at (507) 387-5154 or e-mail fiveboys@chartermi.net.



Upcoming Children/Family Fellowship Events

SUNDAY, MARCH 20 MOVIE NIGHT

Join us at 5 p.m. in the Youth Room of Bethlehem. We will watch a family-friendly movie. Stay tuned for the film announcement. Pizza, popcorn, and beverages will be provided.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13 FAMILY SWIM DAY

Join us at the Mankato Family YMCA for a swimming party!

SUNDAY, MAY 22 FAMILY FELLOWSHIP CARNIVAL

Join us immediately following the 10:45 a.m. service for a carnival in the parking lot of Bethlehem. There will be carnival games, face painting, a moon bounce house, etc. Popcorn, hotdogs, and DQ Treats will be available for a free-will offering.



Save the dates
for the following opportunities
provided through
Green Lake Lutheran Ministries:

- * **May 13-14 (please note date change)**, an overnight retreat for the 2nd-5th graders of BLC
- * **June 12-June 16** for Day Camp at BLC. The theme for 2011 is "Cling to the Cross" and focuses on the theme verse "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." Registration will begin in May.

And, of course, it's never too early to think about a week-long summer camp adventure for your child! Camp is one of the best feeder systems the church has, helping to provide future leaders for ministry. We are corporate members of Green Lake Lutheran Ministries in Spicer, MN. This will get our members special rates to attend camp.

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



We have two major retreats coming your way. The **Junior High Retreat** is scheduled for **March 11-12**. This is fashioned as a service project for the Backpack Food Program at the two Hy-Vee locations, plus a lock-in at the church. You can get more information on this from Leah's article below. Grades 6-9 are invited to this retreat.

The other retreat is the **Senior High Retreat** for grades 9-12 on **April 2-3**. We will be going to St. Paul and staying at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church. Our main service project is homeless youth in Minneapolis with Jen Fairbourne, LSS. You can meet Jen with this small introduction at www.centerforchanginglives.org/

[node/60](#). We have been active with our local homeless youth effort in Mankato, and I wanted to give the youth an opportunity to see where this started. There are sign-ups for both in the office. The specifics are with the sign-up sheets in the office.

We are also having another 30-hour famine, joining with other youth groups from Mankato. Our famine begins Friday, April 8, at 12:30 p.m. at school and breaks at 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 9. We will raise money for Kids Against Hunger and World Vision. There will be a joint get-together to package food and worship with our neighbor youth groups at Bethany College from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. We will break our fast at the church with a spaghetti feed at 6 p.m.

Save the dates for the Mission Trip to Tennessee (June 17-26), Boundary Waters (July 11-17), and CSI (July 31-August 5). Mark your calendars. Information is also in the office for these. We will have meetings on these as we get closer. See you in church. ~ Lance



JUNIOR HIGH RETREAT!!

Who:
6th graders through
9th graders
When:
Friday, March 11 -
Saturday, March 12



We will start the retreat by meeting at Bethlehem at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 11. After everyone arrives, we will be splitting up into two groups and heading over to the two HyVee locations. We will be helping to raise donations for 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 a nutritious break-

fast and lunch during school, the same cannot be said for weekends and school breaks. The Backpack Food Program was developed to help ensure that every child has access to nutritious food when school is out. **For every \$3.50 raised, we can feed one hungry child in our community over the weekend.**

We will finish the day off by coming back to the Attic (Youth Room) for a LOCK-IN! This will be an evening filled with munchies, fun, and fellowship.



The Youth Experience

- Worship Education Faith
- Christian Fellowship Leadership
- Creative Expression Welcoming New and Different Faces
- Local Stewardship-Serving Our Community Trip Ministry

Bethlehem Lutheran can provide you with a solid Christian foundation and Spiritual resources so you can share the good news of God's love... just by being you!



Earth Stewards

TAKE A 40-DAY JOURNEY INTO LENT

We, Earth Stewards, invite you to take a 40-day journey into Lent to actively look at your impact on God's Earth (Creation).

A choir anthem based on John 3:16 states that God sent his Son so that we through him might be saved. When considering that we, through baptism, become little Christs, taking care of this Earth (given us in Genesis) falls right on our shoulders. Our carbon footprint, which comes from our lifestyle choices, affects others on this earth. We ask you to consider one part of your life each week and to use our suggestions as a way to "give up" for Lent and later to make small changes that can make big differences. Try the suggestions for one day each week, or continue to

use them all as Lent continues. We hope that they will then become second nature to your life.

Weekly challenges are:

1. What is your carbon footprint? Calculate it at Earthlab.com.
2. Don't buy anything nonessential for one day. Check out NoImpactProject.org.
3. Reduce trash – reduce packaging you buy, re-use what you can, and recycle the rest.
4. Cut energy use in the home & transportation.
5. Eat healthy.
6. Use less water.
7. Gratitude--give back through volunteering.

Take the walk with us.
 "We have just one Earth,
 If we take care of it,
 It will take care of us."

NoImpactProject.org

Other sources for use include:

- *Web of Creation and Stewardship of Creation, a Thirty-Day Discipline at the ELCA website
- *Minnesota Energy Challenge
- *www.reduce.org - Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- *www.xcelenergy.com
- *[www.energystar.gov/changethe world](http://www.energystar.gov/changetheworld)

STEWARDSHIP -- DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT!

The Earth Stewards meet monthly at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday. All interested are invited. For more information, contact Marcia Nagel, Marsha Qualset, Barb Girtz, Kay Wilking, or Linda Engstrom.



Earth Stewards



Easy, Easy, Easy!

We have added many new titles to our easy books for little children. Some of the series are Mercer Mayer, Berenstain Bears, Curious George, Fancy Nancy, Corduroy, If You Give a Cat a Cupcake, I Spy, and many others. Most of these new titles are in a blue basket on the easy cart or on display on top of the easy bookshelves.

2,011 School Kit Bags!

Good news!



We've found a company that 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 will set a date this summer to fill 2,011 bags for Lutheran World Relief. We welcome other ideas to help us meet our goal!

ENDOWMENT BOARD

Your Bethlehem Endowment Board reminds you "It's time!". It's time for all Bethlehem graduating seniors and eligible college students to submit their scholarship requests for funds. Forms are available in the church office. Scholarships are not available for Masters or Ph.D. programs. **The May 1 deadline is rapidly approaching!** Requests will be honored only for those received on or before May 1. Requests received after that date will be denied.

Continuing to serve our community, Endowment checks were recently issued to VINE and House of Hope. House of Hope continues to expand and offers a safe haven for those recovering from various addictions. Hopefully, a forum date will be available here at Bethlehem to explain their programs.

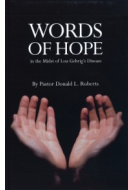
Funds have been paid to Luther Seminary for the continuing education of Leah Garry. Pastor Jay and the Bethlehem Council have encouraged her pursuit of a degree in Children, Youth, and Family Ministry.

Your Endowment Board reminds you that any gifts given to the Endowment Fund remain at Bethlehem, as only the earnings on these conservatively invested dollars are distributed. These are, indeed, the "gifts that keep on giving". Contact Bob Qualset (388-4970) or Mavis Saxton, Chair (387-3346), with suggestions or questions.

DEVOTION/ADULT FORUMS/BIBLE STUDIES

A Devotional from Pastor Don Roberts

Pastor Don Roberts served as pastor at Bethlehem from 1989-1996. He was diagnosed with ALS/Lou Gehrig's Disease in 1995 and continues to be an inspiration of life and faith to our congregation. His devotionals are written with the aid of a letterboard and an assistant. Pastor Don's book is available in the church office ~ \$15 each.



“For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness.” ~ Psalm 84:10

This verse tells us important things about worship. There was a reason the psalmist valued worship so highly. Worship is God's "Yes" to us, while the world in which we live too often says "no". Those "no's" take many forms: accidents, illnesses, abuse, hunger, oppression, etc. Worship is God's "yes" to us. In worship, we hear about Christ. Through that hearing, the Holy Spirit strengthens our faith. If we are able to worship through those "no's", worship can strengthen our faith in

spite of those "no's" all around us. Worship gives us a chance to connect with God. We were created to connect with God and live in fellowship with God. Only in Christ do we get it right. In Christ, we connect with God. In Christ, we have fellowship with God. In worship, we hear about Christ. Therefore, in worship we connect with God. In worship we find what we were created to be. We pray and praise God in worship. Praying for ourselves and others and praising

God will help us to grow in Christ. Worship is God's "yes" to us.

* * * * *



Pastor Don's birthday is on **March 20**. If you'd like to send him some "Happy Birthday" wishes, his address is:

1609 James Drive
North Mankato, MN
56003


CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & BIBLE STUDIES

ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE - Heritage Room, Sundays at 9:30 a.m.	
March 6	ECHO Food Shelf, Bethlehem's mission project for the month
March 13	Lenten Bible Study with Pastor Jay
March 20	"Remembrance Day" -- a time for members to share personal stories and remembrances about the history of Bethlehem
March 27	"Sustainable Living" presentation by Lisa Coons

Prayers Wanted! Our Bethlehem prayer team invites you to join us twice a month for a time of prayer, learning, and ministry to God's people at Bethlehem. The Prayer Team meets on the first Sunday of each month for a time of conversation, learning, and prayer. Starting this spring, we will meet on the third Sunday to pray with those who long for healing. All are welcome -- tell Pastor Jay you are interested.



Mom's Circle Bible Study
 Mom's Circle is a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Our callings are to engage in ministry and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world. A group of moms with young children meets on the third Monday of every month during the year at 6:30 p.m. The March meeting will be on **March 21; place is yet to be determined.**



Men's Tuesday Noon Bible Study
 meets at 101 Main in the City Center Hotel. Lunch is followed by an informal Bible study -- this is very low-keyed, and no one is ever "put on the spot" or in any way made to feel anything but very comfortable. All men are welcome.

Wednesday Women's Bible Study
 will meet on March 9 and 23 at 3:30 p.m. in Grounds for Joy.



New Location - Sweet Shoppe 2!
 We've changed our meeting location! Join us every Tuesday morning at 7:00 a.m. at Sweet Shoppe 2, which is located in the former Dunn Bros. Coffee building, 1745 Commerce Drive in North Mankato.
Men & women are welcome.
Come and join us -- we have room for more!

MUSIC & WORSHIP

A Musical Note from Laurie Rossow, Coordinator of Music

Lent is traditionally a time of contemplation. We use the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter to find a quiet place in our hearts and minds for prayer and self-reflection. I want you to consider making this Lent about commotion. Sacrifice being a couch potato. Allow some commotion in your thoughts, words and deeds. Come to worship. Come to the cross. Come to Christ. Come join your family at Bethlehem. Allow yourself to participate in our Lenten journey. Here is an activity that will help you get started with your commotion this Lent followed by prayer, scripture, and music for contemplation.

Below is a recipe for making homemade pretzels. This can be a fun activity for you and your family during the long weeks of Lent. Pretzels have an important meaning during Lent. Pretzels were made in the 5th century as a Lenten food in Austria, Germany, and Poland. People began to make them on Ash Wednesday, the very first day of Lent. Pretzels were made to take the place of bread, since milk, eggs, and fats were not used during Lent. On certain days during Lent, it was the custom to give pretzels to the townspeople who were poor.

The word "pretzel" is a German word meaning "little arms". The dough was shaped in such a way to look like two arms crossed in prayer. The Lenten season is a time of prayer. Before you eat your pretzels, say this prayer: Dear God, keep your loving arms around us. Hold us and protect us in our daily Lenten journey. Help us to remember to pray for others who have yet to come to know the comfort, love, and protection to be found in your arms each day. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Recipe for Bread Pretzels

1 ¼ cups warm water	1 egg yolk
1 tablespoon dry yeast	1 to 2 teaspoons water or milk
½ teaspoon sugar	4 ½ cups flour
Coarse salt	

Let the yeast and sugar dissolve in water for one hour. Add flour to yeast mixture and beat until smooth. Knead mixture for seven to eight minutes. Place in a greased, covered bowl and let the dough rise until double in size. Divide the dough in half, and then divide each half into smaller pieces of equal size. Roll each piece in your hands to make pencil shapes 12-15 inches long. Shape each length of dough into pretzels (think of shaping a heart from the bottom up and then crossing the ends over each other to extend back to the bottom again). Place each pretzel shape on a greased baking sheet. Beat together the egg yolk and water or milk mixture and brush onto the pretzels. Sprinkle with coarse salt. Bake at 325 degrees until lightly browned on top. Enjoy!

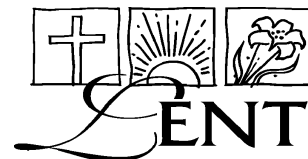
Scripture: Deuteronomy 33:27 -- "God is our hiding place; He carries us in His arms."

Hymn – "Safe in the Arms of Jesus"

Fanny Crosby, the beloved hymnist, wrote the words to "Safe in the Arms of Jesus" in 1868. It is said that Crosby wrote the words for her good friend, W. Howard Drone, also a gifted musician, one day when he stopped by for a brief visit. Drone related to Crosby the need for her to come up with the words for his melody, but he went on to explain that he had a train to catch in 40 minutes. Amazingly, in just 20 minutes, Fanny told Howard the lyrics, wrote them down for him, and he left for the train station. Here are the words to the REFRAIN of the hymn, "Safe in the Arms of Jesus":

Safe in the arms of Jesus. Safe on His gentle breast. There by His love o'ershaded, Sweetly my soul shall rest.

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, March 9**, with worship service times at noon and 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Noon worship services will move to the Chapel for the following weeks and return to the Sanctuary during Holy Week. This year's Lenten theme is "The Seven Last Words of Christ". Come and worship.



Wednesday Lenten Schedule starting on Ash Wednesday (March 9):

Noon	Lenten Service
5:00 – 6:30 p.m.	Wednesday Night Suppers
5:15 – 6:00 p.m.	Junior Gospels
5:15 – 5:45 p.m.	Chancel Choir
5:45 – 6:15 p.m.	Gather Choir
6:00 – 7:45 p.m.	Confirmation (includes church service)
6:00 – 6:45 p.m.	Bethlehem Gospels
6:15 – 6:45 p.m.	Children of Bethlehem Choir
7:00 – 7:45 p.m.	Lenten Service – Holden Evening Prayer
7:45 – 8:15 p.m.	The Messengers

WORSHIP SERVICES, LECTIONARY, & PARTICIPANTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sunday, 8:15 a.m.</u>	<u>Sunday, 10:45 a.m.</u>	<u>Special Events</u>
3/6	With One Voice Chancel Choir	With One Voice Gather Choir, WOV Ensemble	Communion (intinction)
3/13	ELW #3 Chancel Choir	Contemporary Gather Choir, The Children of Bethlehem	
3/20	ELW #3 Gospbells	ELW #3 Gospbells, Messengers	Communion (kneeling)
3/27	ELW #3 Octet	Contemporary Octet	



Special Music for Wednesday Evening Services in March:
March 9 (Ash Wednesday) Chancel/Gather Choirs
March 16 Chancel Choir
March 23 Bethlehem Gospbells
March 30 Gather Choir



LECTIONARY FOR MARCH

<u>Date</u>	<u>First Reading</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Second Reading</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
March 6	Exodus 24:12-18	2 or 99	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matthew 17:1-9
March 13	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11
March 20	Genesis 12:1-4a	121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17
March 27	Exodus 17:1-7	95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR MARCH

DATE		TIME	READER	USHER	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS			GREETERS	COMM. SET-UP	COFFEE	
March	6	8:15 a.m.	Lan Evenson	2	Brad Groth	Betty Groth	Melissa Matthies	Jan Boyum	Gordy & Marilyn Larson	Tom & Betty Sanger	Brad & Betty Groth
March	6	10:45 a.m.	Sandy Kuper	3	Barb Girtz	Sandy Kuper	Karla Van Lith	Need Volunteer	Deloris Guenther Kay Hubbard		
March	13	8:15 a.m.	Melissa Matthies	4					Les & Lavon Mutch		Tim & Amy Heiser
March	13	10:45 a.m.	Betty Sanger	5					Lori & Amber Steen		
March	20	8:15 a.m.	Sandy Kuper	6	Frank Larsen	Karen Sandersfeld	James Erdman	Need Volunteer	David & Shirley Ruby	Brad & Betty Groth	Donavon & Violet Johnson
March	20	10:45 a.m.	Mary Bliesmer	7	Tom Sanger	Betty Sanger	Jerry Orness	Marge Orness	Jack & Pat Bengtson		
March	27	8:15 a.m.	Shirley Ruby	8					Jeff & Amy Smith		Jack Halvorson
March	27	10:45 a.m.	Lori Ruthenbeck	1					Shannon Butler Gunnar Boettcher		

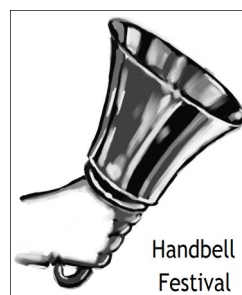
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Mankato, MN 56001

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Mankato, MN

Handbell Festival...and giving up vegetables for Lent!!



Handbell
Festival

Save the Date!

Bethlehem Lutheran Church will host the **Minnesota Valley Handbell Festival** on Sunday, March 6, at 3:00 p.m. First Presbyterian Church is co-hosting and helping with the arrangements. The concert will feature 14 choirs representing seven Mankato churches plus the Riverbend Bells, Mankato's community handbell ensemble. Solo numbers by each choir and three mass numbers will be performed. There is no admission charge, but a free-will offering will be received to help cover expenses. The Bethlehem Gospbells and the Junior Gospbells will be participating, so we hope many of you will plan to attend and listen to our "joyful noise!"

**Sunday, March 6, 2011
3:00 p.m.**



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"These are vegetables, mother. You wouldn't want me to eat something I've given up for Lent, would you?"