



THE BETHLEHEM STAR
APRIL 2011



Sunday Worship: 8:15 & 10:45
Wednesday Lenten worship at noon and 7 p.m. through April 13
The 8:15 a.m. Sunday service is broadcast at 11 a.m. on KTOE 1420 AM.

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A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JAY DAHLVANG

Resurrection

"What happened in the tomb was entirely between Jesus and God. For the rest of us, Easter began the moment the gardener said, "Mary!" and she knew who he was. That is where the miracle happened and goes on happening -- not in the tomb but in the encounter with the living Lord."

~ Barbara Brown Taylor

We gather April 24 to celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead. It is a day of rejoicing for us because in baptism we have been united in a death like his, and we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his! A simple way to grasp the deep mystery of the resurrection is that God promises to do for us what he did for Jesus—raise us from the dead. God continually resurrects us through Christ Jesus as we sin daily and are forgiven by God's grace.

And that's a good reason for a party. For fifty days we celebrate Jesus' resurrection starting on Easter Sunday as we worship at 8:15 and 10:45. As we anticipate that celebration, we gather to remember Jesus' last night -- his new command, his act of humble service, his body and blood given and shed. On **Maundy Thursday**, we worship conventionally in the sanctuary at noon, and in a new way by gathering downstairs at 7 p.m. for a Passover Seder for Christians. On **Good Friday**, we join at noon and 7 p.m. in the

sanctuary to worship the crucified Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. We stand at the foot of the cross to hear, to sing, to pray. Throughout the season of Lent, we worship on Wednesdays at noon in the chapel and at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary, hearing the Rev. Scott Olson and the Rev. Al Girtz as they share preaching on the seven words of Jesus from the cross. Come and be a part of the miracle that happened and continues to happen as we are met by our crucified and risen Lord.

~ Pr. Jay

Two New Studies Coming in April

How Lutherans Understand the Bible

Dr. Mark Allan Powell is a gifted teacher, devoted pastor, and humorous storyteller at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio. In this seven-session video series, Powell invites you to explore seven important questions about Lutherans and the Bible. He does not prescribe "the Lutheran way" to read the Bible, nor does he dismiss the way you may have come to understand the Bible. Instead, Powell presents a variety of Lutheran perspectives for interpreting the Bible. Through Powell's rich discussions, you will discover

answers to questions you have always had about the Bible, like: How is the Bible the Word of God? How do Lutherans understand the Bible the same as other Christians? Differently than other Christians? How can I make the most of devotional Bible reading? We will meet for seven Sundays from 5-7 p.m. in the Heritage Room starting April 10. We will begin the night with a catered meal, have a short worship time, watch the video, and then discuss what we have seen. There is no charge but a free-will offering to cover the food costs.

The Book of Faith: Exodus

The story of Exodus is as fantastic as a Hollywood movie, while at the same time it is your story and mine. We meet a faithful God and a bound people. We meet a faithful God and a tyrannical leader. We meet a faithful God and a freed people in need of direction. We meet a faithful God and an overwhelmed leader. We meet a faithful God and a faithless people. We meet a faithful God. Come and join us on Wednesdays starting on April 6 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. The cost of the books is \$8, and all are welcome!

To enroll in either study, see the sign-up sheet in the church office or contact pastorjay@hickorytech.net.

DEADLINE for the May Star is April 15.



MONTHLY MISSION PROJECT, HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, APRIL SERVING GROUP

APRIL MISSION PROJECT: BCCC



The **Bethlehem Child Care Center** is our mission of the month. Please join us on **Sunday, April 3**, at the 8:15 or 10:45 service to hear about your wonderful Christian Child Care Center. Did you know that in the last three years, we have added three preschool rooms? Wow! What a great mission of God -- children growing in faith through Bethlehem. We should be full of pride for the joy we see in the shining faces of all the children who are cared for by BCCC! All of you are a great part of this spiritual journey of caring for our families. We

will hear from our parents of Bethlehem about their delightful experiences their families have had in the secure, caring, and learning environment. In between services, join us for a tour of our bright and cheerful center. Meet me and many of our quality staff. Ask questions and get acquainted with our staff. The money raised will be used for scholarships, playground, and essentials. Please write your checks out to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, and put "Bethlehem Child Care Center" on the memo line. We appreciate any amount, big or small. I hope to meet all of you on April 3!

~ Marsha Madigan, Director

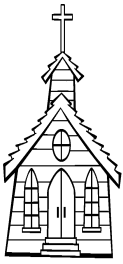
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



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.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING!



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

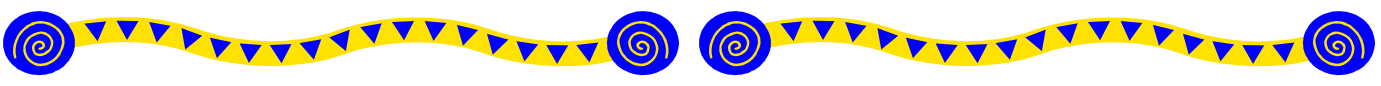
Don't miss Bethlehem's semi-annual meeting on April 17! We will meet downstairs in the dining room following the 10:45 service.

A light lunch will be provided.

BETHLEHEM CHILD CARE CORPORATION MEETING



There will be a meeting of the Bethlehem Child Care Corporation on **April 17** at the time of Bethlehem's semi-annual meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to elect three members of the Board of Directors of BCCC.



APRIL SERVING GROUP ~ Co-Chair: Carolyn Hovick (388-1389) Co-Chair: Jean Thompson (625-6715)



Monthly Serving Group

- Ruth Bell
- John Bipes
- Mike & Kim Blanck
- Judie Bock
- Jan Boyum
- Denise Braun
- Keir Carstensen
- Jason & Tammy Corcoran
- Curt & Helen Crandall
- John & Kathy Crosswell

- Wayne & Gail Date
- Cherryl Eigen
- Shari Elbert
- Dennis & Jana Goedtel
- Brad & Betty Groth
- Paul Hagen
- Pauline Halvorson
- Darlene Hines
- Holly Holmgren
- Irene Jaspersen

- Jim & Janene Kalina
- Dorothy Knedel
- Norm & Lucille Knowles
- Scott & Kami Matteson
- Pat & Kristal Peterson
- Trista Pudenz
- Tanya Ramaker
- Scott & Deb Sims
- Charles & Loen Troidahl
- George & Karla Van Lith



Monthly Serving Group

BETHLEHEM FELLOWSHIP & THE ALS WALK

The Music & Worship Board will be taking orders for the Easter garden on April 3 and 10 between services and after the 10:45 service. **The deadline for ordering flowers is Sunday, April 10.**

<i>Easter Lily</i>	\$ 7.00
<i>Colored Lily</i>	\$ 7.00
<i>Hydrangea</i>	\$20.00
<i>Mixed Bulbs Garden (small)</i>	\$ 8.00
<i>Begonia</i>	\$12.00



You may pick up your flowers following the 10:45 a.m. worship service on Easter Sunday (April 24).



Care Ministry

The Bethlehem Lutheran Care Ministry Team invites you to share coffee and fellowship with our members residing at Pathstone Living. Join us for monthly communion at **10:15 a.m. on Tuesday, April 12,** with coffee to follow. The Care Ministry Team hosts these periodic coffees to refresh our fellowship with our members who are unable to attend services at Bethlehem on Sundays.

Coffee Fellowship

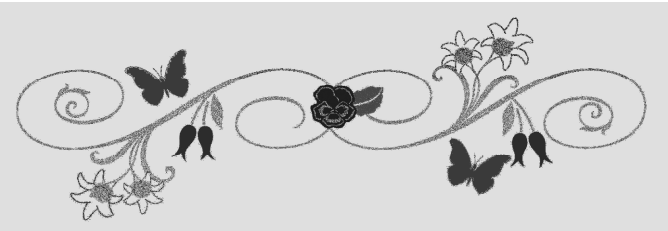
We hope to see you there!



Hello, Girlfriends!

We are going to have a sip of wine and some hors d'oeuvres on **Thursday, April 14, at 7 p.m.** at the home of Melissa Matthies,

123 Center Street, Mankato. Bring a snack to share, along with your wonderful personality!



What a ***fantastic*** turnout for the 2010 ALS Walk. Can you find yourself in the picture? We'd sure love to see you again this year if you are -- and if not, please join us! We can all be proud of our participation. Last year, we received an award for the largest group at the walk (50+ persons) and we raised \$3,250. We want to exceed that this year, not only in numbers, but in dollars (our goal is \$3,500). **WE NEED YOU!**

Please reserve **Saturday, April 16, 2011,** for this very meaningful day. Registration at West High School begins at 9:00 a.m., and the walk begins at 10:00 a.m. Come celebrate the kick-off, even if you don't walk. We need cheering on from the sidelines, too! You only have to walk as far as you want to -- the total distance is 3 miles, and we're hoping for a really nice day again. **WE NEED YOU!**

The sign-up sheet is in the office, and we'll be in the narthex for several Sundays with our "Boots for Walking" in the hopes we'll see you there. **WE NEED YOU!** If you are unable to walk, but you would like to make a donation, that'd be GREAT, too. We also urge groups within Bethlehem Lutheran Church to help raise money. **WE NEED YOU!**

If you have any questions, please contact Lori Ruthenbeck (388-7140), Ginger Erlandson (278-3007), or Jean Bender (243-4453). Checks may be written to Bethlehem Lutheran Church with "ALS" noted on the memo line.

Thank you for your support.

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. 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 the month of April and May 4:

- April 6** Baked ham, cheesy potatoes, green beans, dinner rolls, bananas
- April 13** Baked fish (cod), baked potatoes, cole slaw, peaches
- April 20** NO Wednesday night supper (Holy Week)
- April 27** Chicken rice hot dish with broccoli, dinner rolls, fruit cup
- May 4** Cook's Choice

May 4 will be the last

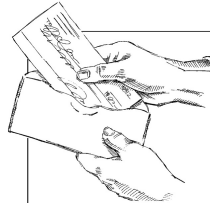
Wednesday night supper until September.

Thanks to Julie Erdman and all of the volunteers for preparing and serving the meals this past year!

Five-Year Planning Task Force Continues

At the Night of Norms on Sunday, March 20, nearly forty Bethlehem members shared with one another and the Task Force the ways in which we at Bethlehem live in Christ and with one another. In coming weeks, the Task Force will be interviewing community leaders to rediscover our role in making a contribution to Mankato and the surrounding area. Coming this summer will be the result of your input, prayers, and thoughtful comments. Look for more in the months to come.

***ENDOWMENT
BOARD NEWS***



The weekly bulletins have been reminding high school seniors and returning college students to submit their scholarship requests. **The**

deadline is May 1, and requests received later will be denied.

Students who have received scholarships continue to send their thanks and their desire to remain involved with Bethlehem. Your Endowment Board sees this as a positive result from a positive investment in the future.

We continue to support our church community and local community with funds given to ECHO, as well as continuing education for staff. Funds have been set aside for the Green Lake Bible Camp, as well as a washer for the Bethlehem Child Care Center.

Your Endowment Board reminds you that the gifts given to the Endowment Fund remain at Bethlehem, as only the earnings on these conservatively-invested dollars are distributed. Gifts given must say ENDOWMENT FUND. These are, indeed, "gifts that keep on giving".



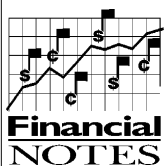
**NORDIC BAZAAR
PLANNING MEETING**

All bazaar coordinators and all interested persons are asked to make note of the upcoming planning session on **May 2 at 10:00 a.m.** in Grounds for Joy. Please come prepared with ideas, questions, and suggestions.



BETHLEHEM WOMEN OF THE ELCA

The annual Spring Luncheon will be on **May 11 at noon.** Mark your calendars! Watch the bulletins and the May **STAR** for more details.



As of February 28, 2011, the general fund deficit was \$13,893.26. This is basically the amount of the year-end 2010 deficit. That is to say, that so far for 2011 we have broken even. While this sounds like good news, we have to remember that we are not paying for two staff positions right now -- an Associate Pastor and the Administrative Assistant. Member giving was at 92% of budget at the end of February. We will need all members of Bethlehem to complete their estimates of giving to the best of their abilities to be able to meet the financial challenges ahead. Quarterly contribution reports will be available in early April. Please review your report for accuracy and report any problems or questions to the church office.



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.

CALENDAR

Highlights of activities during April:

4/2-4/3	Sr. High Retreat - Minneapolis
4/2	9:30-11:30 - Board/Council planning meeting
4/6, 20, 27	10:30 - Book of Exodus Bible Study
4/8-9	30-hour famine (youth)
4/12	10:15 - Care Ministry at Pathstone Living
4/16	10 a.m. - ALS Walk - begins at West High School
4/21 - 4/22	Noon & 7 p.m.-Maundy Thursday/Good Friday svcs.
4/24	8:15 & 10:45 a.m. - Easter Worship services

Wednesday Night Schedule resumes back to normal on April 27 (see page 10 for the Lenten schedule through April 13)

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



April 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Sr. High Retreat - Mpls. 9:30-11:30- Board/Council Planning Meeting - GFJ
3 8:15 & 10:45 am— Worship 9:30 am—Ed. Hour Sr. High retreat ends	4 5-9 pm - Mankato Children's Chorus 5:45 pm-TOPS	5 7 am - Sweet Shoppe Bible Study 9 am - Quilters Noon-101 Main Bible Study 1 pm - Library Board 5:15 - Stewardship 6 pm - Music & Worship 7 pm-Evangelism, Facilities, C & G Missions	6 9 am - TOPS 10:30 - Bible Study Noon & 7 pm-Worship 1 pm- Staff mtg. 3:30 pm - Women's Bible Study - GFJ WEDNESDAY EVE. ACTIVITIES	7	8 30-hour famine - Youth (through tomorrow)	9 30-hour famine ends 4:30-8:30 - Sons of Norway
10 8:15 & 10:45 am— Worship 9:30 am—Ed. Hour 5-7 pm - Bible Study	11 5-9 pm - MCC 5-7 pm- McEducator's Night at McDonald's 5:45 pm - TOPS	12 7 am - Sweet Shoppe Bible Study 10:15 - Care Ministry at Pathstone Noon-101 Main Bible Study 1 pm - Library Board 6 pm - Children's Board 6:30 pm - Earth Stewards	13 9 am - TOPS Noon & 7 pm- Worship 1 pm - Staff mtg. 3:30 pm - Women's Bible Study - GFJ 5 pm - WOYC meal event WEDNESDAY EVE. ACTIVITIES	14 5:30 pm - Youth Bd.	15 3 pm-Book Club - Library	16 10 am - ALS Walk - begins at West High School
17 8:15 & 10:45 am— Worship 9:30 am—Ed. Hour Noon - semi-annual mtg. 4 pm - installation of Rev. Tammy Dahlvang at Crossroads - MSU campus 5-7 pm - Bible Study	18 4 pm - Website Committee 5-9 pm - MCC 5:45 pm - TOPS 6:30 pm-Mom's Circle	19 7 am - Sweet Shoppe Bible Study 9 am - Quilters Noon-101 Main Bible Study 1 pm - Library Board 7 pm - Council	20 9 am - TOPS 9:30-11:30- Rachael Circle - Heritage Room 10:30 - Bible Study 1 pm - Staff mtg. 3:30 pm - Women's Bible Study - GFJ NO SUPPER OR EVENING ACTIVITIES	21 MAUNDY THURSDAY Noon - Worship in Sanctuary 7 pm - Worship in Dining Room	22 GOOD FRIDAY Noon and 7 pm - Worship in Sanctuary	23
24 EASTER 8:15 & 10:45 am— Worship NO Forum or LIGHT	25 OFFICE CLOSED 5-9 pm - MCC 5:45 pm - TOPS	26 7 am - Sweet Shoppe Bible Study Noon-101 Main Bible Study 1 pm - Library Board 2 pm - Lydia Circle - GFJ	27 9 am - TOPS 10:30 am - Bible Study 1 pm - Staff mtg. 3:30 pm - Women's Bible Study - GFJ WEDNESDAY EVE. ACTIVITIES	28	29	30

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

APRIL LIGHT NEWS

The 7th Rotation began on Sunday, March 27: The Disciples.

The LIGHT Offering/Mission for April will be to continue to support 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.

The LIGHT children will sing for the Palm Sunday worship service at 10:45 on April 17. NO LIGHT due to Easter holiday on Sunday, April 24. We will resume with the last Rotation on Sunday, May 1.

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!

Upcoming Children/Family Fellowship Events



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27 FAMILY FELLOWSHIP NIGHT - 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Open swim in the Taylor Pool at the Mankato Family YMCA! The Taylor Pool is a zero-depth entry with water toys and a waterslide! **Join us from 5:30-7:30 p.m.** Cost is \$1 per person for non-members. Please RSVP to Leah Garry by April 15.

SUNDAY, MAY 22 FAMILY FELLOWSHIP CARNIVAL

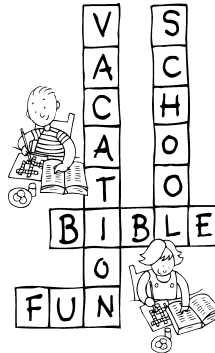
Join us immediately following the 10:45 a.m. service for a carnival in the parking lot of Bethlehem. There will be carnival games, face painting, a moon bounce house, etc. Popcorn, hotdogs, and DQ Treats will be available for a free-will offering.



Save the Date!

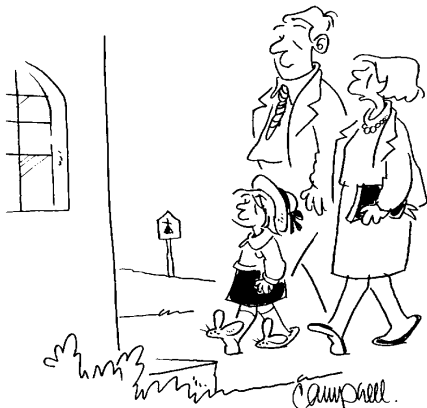
What: Vacation Bible School 2011
Where: Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Who: 3 year olds thru 5th grade
When: August 7-August 11 from 6:00-8:00
(free-will offering meal before at 5:30)

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



MILESTONE NEWS

The 5th graders will continue their study of communion with teachers Sandy Abild and Lynea Flom. They will visit the sacristy to learn how to set up communion. On April 10, the students and their parents will meet in the dining room during LIGHT (the education hour) to make "What Holy Communion Means to Me" banners. On the 17th, the class will make the communion bread for Holy Thursday which will also be served to them on May 1 at the 10:45 church service when they take communion with their class and families.



"What could I say? They are her most Easterly shoes."



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.



February and March were difficult from an "I am sick of winter" standpoint. Most of us felt enough is enough, and the youth were no exception to this. Through God, all things are possible (Matthew 19:26). We tried to brighten the day for a few of the less fortunate in our community. As part of our confirmation class, we had a week off from lessons and "tied" blankets (five to be exact) for the Salvation Army's men's shelter. This was a joint effort from the two programs (Milestones Ministry and Confirmation). Vee Williams was our leader and commander as 25 youth formed five groups to tie the five blankets. Vee brought the materials. Our youth -- with instruction from Vee and some of the youth, who had done it before -- completed the five blankets. It was fun to see the

youth take a break from studying and get excited about service. We delivered the blankets that Friday to smiles from the staff at the Salvation Army. Thanks, Vee, and Confirmation youth for the light shining in the darkness (Matthew 5:16). We also had a Junior High Retreat on March 11 and 12. Leah made arrangements for a servant project for this retreat and lock-in with the Hy-Vee stores in Mankato. The Backpack Food program provides children with a pack of child-friendly, nutritious food to take home before school dismisses for the weekends or holiday breaks. While every child has access to a nutritious breakfast and lunch during school, the same cannot be said for weekends and school breaks. The Backpack Food program was developed to ensure that every child has food when school is out. We had 23 youth join us for this part

of the retreat (others came later). We positioned ourselves at the entrance of the stores and collected donations (with our noisy offering cans) and passed out shopping lists for the barrels in the entrance. We collected \$370, plus we filled the 55-gallon deposit barrels and brought another six shopping bags of food in 1-1/2 hours. Thank you, Mankato! We provided another light shining in the dark winter months. Thanks to John Odegard and Tanya Ringgenberg for helping Leah and me on the retreat. See you in church. (Pastor Jay has been providing some very good light himself with his sermons!) ~ Lance



HOT Summer Activities for Youth (and others):

CSI: Mankato (Christ's Servants Involved) -- change of date:
August 7-12

Due to the size of CSI, we have outgrown Linda Good's home and are currently scheduled to stay at the Youth Hostel at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter. This lodging accommodates our growth and has a facility which gives us showers and beds. There will be a cost associated with this, but it is a necessary move to allow everyone who wants to participate to have an opportunity. It also opens some additional opportunities for evening activities.

Here are major events into the summer:

- April 2-3 Senior High Retreat (9th-12th grades) Minneapolis/St. Paul
- April 8- 9 30-Hour Famine (lock- in)
- April 21 Holy Thursday Seder Meal Worship
- April 22 Good Friday Worship
- April 24 Easter (No Breakfast this year but we could use help making Cinnamon rolls)
- May 18 Confirmation Picnic and Party!

Summer Schedule:

- June 17-26 Mission Trip to Newport, TN
- July 10-16 Boundary Waters Trip
- Aug. 7-12 CSI: Mankato



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!

NICE TO KNOW...



"...To Bind Up the Nation's Wounds..."

Lincoln's Last Days

Dramatic Play

Written and

Directed by:

Bryce O. Stenzel

Published in 2007

by Minnesota Heritage Publishing of Mankato, Minnesota

The title of this play, "To Bind Up the Nation's Wounds," was derived from Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address delivered on March 4, 1865. The phrase set the tone for what Lincoln hoped to accomplish in his second term as President of the United States. Tragically, Lincoln's dream for a "just and lasting peace" was cut short by the fanatical, misguided actions of John Wilkes Booth in Ford's Theatre on April 14, 1865. Although Lincoln's assassination will be depicted in this drama, his greatness and enduring legacy as a humanitarian did not

originate in the way he died, but rather in the way he lived. Lincoln's decisions and actions made during the final few weeks of his life were some of the most critical ones of his entire career. Of particular historical significance was the way in which Lincoln instructed his military commanders to treat the vanquished Confederate foe; he insisted the Southern soldiers be treated as wayward brothers being welcomed home by their Northern counterparts, despite the Southerners turning their backs on the Union, and in the process, threatening to destroy the American experiment in self-government. Lincoln's humble entry into Richmond, Virginia, on April 4, 1865 -- not as a conqueror, but as the elected representative of all the people -- further demonstrated his desire to unite the war-torn nation.

Although Lincoln is the central figure in the drama, it is told through the eyes of his faithful bodyguard, William Crook; through the eyes of his military

officers: General Grant, General Sherman, and Admiral Porter; and through the eyes of his wife, Mary Todd [Lincoln] and sons Robert and Tad. Of all the characters, Tad grew the most in his appreciation for his father.

Please join our talented troupe of child actors and community members from the greater Mankato area in the Dining Room of Bethlehem Lutheran Church as they bring the story of Lincoln's last days to life. Performance dates are **Saturday, May 21, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, May 22, at 2 p.m.** Tickets are \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students 5 and over. Students under 5 are free. Proceeds will be used to purchase equipment for future productions and to cover rental fees. Checks may be made to: "Abraham Lincoln Dramatic Play." Tickets may be purchased at the door.



April is Poetry Month!

- Tom Hegg, author of Cup of Christmas Tea, has another book called Up to the Lake.
- A Gift of Joy and Gladness, by Perry Tanksley. "A hug is a perfect gift. One size fits all, and nobody minds if you exchange it."
- Kept Moments, by G. Frost.
- Classic poetry - Rubiyat, by Omar Khayyam.
- Beautiful paintings & verse in Reach for the Moon, by Samantha Abeel.



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 (April 11) 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!**

Without Jesus ...

Without the risen Savior in our hearts, life is like:

- A chocolate Easter Bunny — empty on the inside;
- An Easter bonnet — easily blown off kilter;
- Last year's Easter outfit — it doesn't quite fit right;
- An Easter lily — it soon withers and dries up;
- A bag of jellybeans — sugary and sweet but lacking substance;
- An unfound Easter basket — full of gifts that spoil and go to waste;
- A colored Easter egg — looks great but cracks under pressure;
- The Easter bunny — always hopping here and there;
- Marshmallow Peeps — become hard when opened up;
- Easter parade — a long journey with no destination;
- An unopened Easter card — a message of love unclaimed.



—David Patterson

A Happy Ending

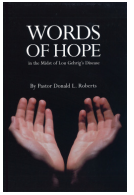
"Our Lord could die with the same calm in which He had lived. He had known all along how things would turn out. He knew his apparent defeat would result in universal glory for the human race." — A.W. Tozer

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.

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.' ~ Psalm 91:1-2



Shelter. Refuge. Fortress. These words, from the verses above, tell us what God is for us. These words imply attacks. All of us have had our faith attacked. In the world in which we live, there are malevolent forces to our faith. Let's look to Christ. He was abused, tortured, and killed. Christ made the way of the cross, as we are aware during this Lenten season. However, Christ triumphed over these attacks. He defeated them on Easter Sunday. He gave that victory to us. When we die, we have

everlasting life with Christ. Through Christ we have this victory. What about victories in this life? We would be amazed if we knew how many attacks Christ has prevented in our lives. What about the attacks to ourselves and our faith that he doesn't prevent? If we are fervent in prayer when those attacks come, he may give us a new method to combat them. That in itself is victory. If we are fervent in prayer, those attacks might increase our faith. This is victory. Shelter. Refuge. Fortress.

This is what God does for us and is for us.



ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE - Heritage Room, Sundays at 9:30 a.m.


- April 3** Tour of the Bethlehem Child Care Center (see BCCC, page 2)
- April 10** Healing Touch
- April 17** The Easter story, with Pastor Jay Dahlvang
- April 24** No forum (Easter Sunday)

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 April meeting will be on **April 18; place is yet to be determined.**



Men's Bible Study

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/ Discussion Group will meet on **April 13 and 27** at 3:30 p.m. in Grounds for Joy.



MORNING BIBLE STUDY

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!

A Musical Note from Laurie Rossow, Coordinator of Music

This month we look forward to celebrating Easter. Those of you that know me well know that I am no “Suzie Homemaker” (because I am never home!) or “Betty Crocker” (my husband, Al cooks!). With that said, I would still like to share a recipe with you again this month that was passed on to me by my mother from one of her friends. Making these cookies together as a family may become an Easter tradition for you.

Recipe for Easter Cookies (to be made the evening before Easter)

You will need:

1 cup whole pecans	1 tsp vinegar	1 cup sugar
3 egg whites	pinch of salt	

Preheat oven to 300 degrees (This is important – don’t wait until you’re half done with the recipe!) Place pecans in zipper baggie and let children beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, He was beaten by the Roman soldiers. READ John 19:1-3.

Let each child smell the vinegar. Put 1 tsp vinegar into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross, He was given vinegar to drink. READ John 19:28-30.

Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us life. READ John 10:10-11.

Sprinkle a little salt into each child’s hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus’ followers and the bitterness of our own sin. READ Luke 23:27.

So far, the ingredients are not very appetizing. Add 1 cup sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know and belong to Him. READ Psalm 34:8 and John 3:16.

Beat with a mixer on high speed for 12 to 15 minutes (YES, 12-15 minutes! This is correct and extremely important for a good end result.) until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the color white represents the purity in God’s eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. READ Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:1-3.

Fold in broken nuts. Drop by teaspoons onto wax paper covered cookie sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus’ body was laid. READ Matthew 27:57-60.

Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door, and turn the oven OFF. Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus’ tomb was sealed. READ Matthew 27:65-66.

GO TO BED! Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Jesus’ followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed. READ John 16:20 and 22.

On Easter morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the first Easter, Jesus’ followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty! READ Matthew 28:10.

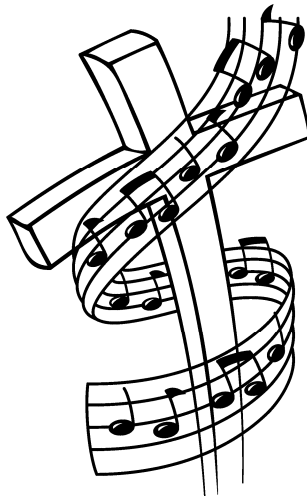
Jesus is alive! Sing and rejoice! Jesus is alive today! What a thrill to know that my redeemer lives! Look at the words from the hymn, “I Know That My Redeemer Lives!” (ELW #619). Look at all the exclamation marks!

I know that my Redeemer lives! What comfort this sweet sentence gives!

He lives, he lives, who once was dead; he lives my ever living head!

Perfect Attendance!

The church choir director was frustrated because at least one member was missing from each Easter cantata rehearsal. At the final rehearsal, she announced, “I wish to publicly thank the tenor for being the only choir member to attend every rehearsal.” “It’s the least I could do,” said the tenor, “since I won’t be here for Easter.”



Wednesday Lenten Schedule (through April 13)

Noon	Lenten Services - in the Chapel on April 6 and April 13; in the Sanctuary on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday
5:00 – 6:30 p.m.	Wednesday Night Suppers
5:15 – 6:00 p.m.	Junior Gospbells
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 Gospbells
6:15 – 6:45 p.m.	Children of Bethlehem Choir
7:00 – 7:45 p.m.	Lenten Services – Holden Evening Prayer (through April 13)
7:45 – 8:15 p.m.	The Messengers

WORSHIP SERVICES, LECTIONARY, & PARTICIPANTS

Date	<u>Sunday, 8:15 a.m.</u>	<u>Sunday, 10:45 a.m.</u>	<u>Special Events</u>
4/3	With One Voice #5 Chancel Choir	With One Voice #5 Gather Choir, WOV Ensemble	Communion (intinction)
4/10	ELW #3 Junior Gospels	Contemporary Junior Gospels, Gather Choir, The Children of Bethlehem	
4/17	ELW #10 Chancel Choir	ELW #10 LIGHT, The Children of Bethlehem	PALM SUNDAY Communion (kneeling)
4/24	ELW #8 Bethlehem Gospels, Combined Adult Choirs	ELW #8 Bethlehem Gospels, Combined Adult Choirs	EASTER Communion (intinction)



Special Music for Evening Services in April:

April 6 Bethlehem Octet
April 13 Junior Gospels
April 21 (Maundy Thursday) Gather Choir
April 22 (Good Friday) Chancel Choir



LECTIONARY FOR APRIL

Date	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
April 3	I Samuel 16:1-13	23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
April 10	Ezekiel 37:1-14	130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45
April 17	Isaiah 50:4-9a	31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 26:14-27:66
April 24	Acts 10:34-43	118:1-2, 14-24	Colossians 3:1-4	Matthew 28:1-10 <u>or</u> John 20:1-18

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR APRIL

DATE	TIME	READER	USHER	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS				GREETERS	COMM. SET-UP	COFFEE	
April	3	8:15 a.m.	Mary Beth Royer	2	John Crosswell	Kathy Crosswell	Lorraine Carpenter	Lowell Carpenter	Bob & Ginger Erlandson	Eunice & Florence Sassenberg	Harvey & Alice Kollos
April	3	10:45 a.m.	Marge Orness	3	Need Volunteer	Melissa Matthies	Kathryn Hanson	Lori Ruthenbeck	Arlo & Carolyn Hovick		
April	10	8:15 a.m.	Jan Boyum	4					Randy & Rachel Wood		Kevin & Holly Nevills
April	10	10:45 a.m.	Etta Poole	5					Jim & Marcia Nagel		
April	17	8:15 a.m.	Sally Burdick	6	Jan Boyum	Sally Burdick	Lee Drake	Linda Engstrom	Duane & Janice Ahlness	Lavon & Sally Burdick	Tom & Betty Sanger
April	17	10:45 a.m.	Mary Bliesmer	7	Brenda Boyer	Wally Boyer	Barb Girtz	Kathryn Hanson	Jim & Marcia Nagel		
April	24	8:15 a.m.	John Crosswell	8	James Erdman	Betty Groth	Brad Groth	Sandy Kuper	Lavon & Sally Burdick	Tom & Betty Sanger	Eunice & Florence Sassenberg
April	24	10:45 a.m.	Lan Evenson	1	Carolyn Hovick	Jerry Orness	Marge Orness	Etta Poole	Jeff & Amy Smith		

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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