

Announcements for the week of
November 13-20, 2011
www.bethlehemmankato.org



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

WEEKLY GIVING/ATTENDANCE

Week of November 6, 2011:

Offered for the Lord's Work: \$12,879.00

November Mission Project:

ELCA World Hunger - \$1,240.00

Worship attendance-Sunday, 11/06/11:

8:15 a.m.: 147 10:45 a.m.: 168

Wednesday, November 9: 12

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:15 & 10:45 ~ Worship Services

9:30 a.m. ~ Education Hour; new member orientation in the Dining Room; Adult Forum in the Heritage Room (Council update); coffee in Grounds for Joy

6:30 p.m. ~ Financial Peace University, Heritage Room



New Member Orientation will be held this morning at 9:30 in the dining room. If you are interested in joining the Body of Christ at Bethlehem, please contact the church office at 388-2925 or blchurch@hickorytech.net.

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Join us on **November 16 at 10:30 a.m., and each Wednesday following**, as we look into the Gospel of Mark in our newest Book of Faith Bible Study. The 8-week survey course will take an in-depth look at the themes of the gospel and the person of Jesus as proclaimed by the evangelist. Course books are \$12, and there is a sign-up sheet in the office. **Please sign up by November 14.**



Thank you to the many knitters and crocheters of the prayer shawls on display, and for the many shawls yet to be completed. Thank you for your support. ~ **The Prayer Shawl Committee: Kathryn Hanson, Alice Haugen, and Kathy Crosswell**

The Kijota Tanzania Well Project Celebration planned for today is postponed until January because Ryan Porath, the project leader, is staying in Tanzania until December. We are still looking for help to make the final payment on the well of \$3,444. If you are able, make your check out to Bethlehem and put *Kijota Well* on the memo line.

RADIO BROADCAST



Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by **Duane & Janice Ahlness in honor of all the veterans, and especially Col. Eric Ahlness and his ADT group of 60 members of the MN National Guard who were recently deployed to Afghanistan for one year.** 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/KTOE 102.7 FM** every Sunday morning at 11:00.

BETHLEHEM MISSIONS

Echo Food Shelf Emphasis:

During the month of November, we'll be collecting canned fruit.

Our Mission Project for November:

ELCA World Hunger

ELCA World Hunger is a program that helps individuals and communities lift themselves out of poverty into self-sufficiency. It is a comprehensive and sustainable program that uses multiple strategies to address the root causes of hunger and poverty to our neighbors around the world, including the U.S. ELCA World Hunger responds to Christ's call to "Go and do likewise" [Luke 10:37] serving with compassion people who are most vulnerable. It is funded entirely by the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Over 90 percent of every gift provides direct support for our church's hunger ministry. This mission is especially important today with the drought and subsequent famine in Africa. The World Health Organization estimates 1/3 of the world's population is starving; 15 million children die per year of hunger; and 10 million children under 5 die each year, over half of them from hunger-related causes. The bulletin inserts this month will illustrate how ELCA World Hunger has made a difference in the lives of people all over the world, including the U.S. Please make your check out to Bethlehem and put *World Hunger* on the memo line. Thank you!

~ Community and Global Missions Board

DO YOU GET



E-NEWS?

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

LECTIONARY FOR 11/20/11

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm: 95:1-7a

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

IN OUR PRAYERS

Arlene Stenzel

Forrest Glick

Marvis Glick

Eric Barnes

Glenn Saxton

Paul Sullivan

Rebecca Schreiner

Pauline Halvorson

Rachel Iverson

Lorene Heaberlin

Fern Merrill

Judy Ledwein

The family of

Laura Nelson

(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:

Trinity Lutheran in Hayfield
West Freeborn Lutheran in Hartland
Whalan Lutheran in Whalan
Mwanga Lutheran in Tanzania
St. John Mwando Lutheran in Tanzania

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



**Menu for Wednesday,
November 16:**

Turkey and all the fixings!

Team 5 will be serving.

Bazaar Evaluation Meeting

Tomorrow (Monday, November 14), all coordinators are reminded to attend a 10:00 a.m. meeting in Grounds for Joy to discuss & evaluate the 91st annual Nordic Bazaar -- which, from all indications, will be a joyous time together! It will be a time for sharing all the good things we experienced in providing our community this great time of togetherness and how we can fine-tune it for 2012.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUN FUNDRAISER FOR VINE!

The Looney Lutherans, featuring actresses from the **Church Basement Ladies,** use music, comedy, and audience

participation to teach us how to live a long and healthy life. Join us for fellowship, musical entertainment, coffee, and a delicious piece of pie from the Rapidan Dam Store!

Sunday, November 20, 2011
5:45–6:45 p.m. • pie and coffee
6:45–8:15 p.m. • program
Hosanna Lutheran Church
105 Hosanna Avenue, Mankato

Tickets are \$20 each (a tax-deductible contribution to VINE) and can be purchased at the Summit Center, the VINE Home Thrift Store, and the VINE office. Tickets may also be purchased by mail. Send payment to VINE Faith in Action, 1618 Third Avenue, Mankato. Call (507) 387-1666 for more information. **Proceeds from this event will support VINE's efforts to repurpose the Nichols Office Building.**



Reminder: the Christmas wreaths will be arriving the week of November 14 - 18. We will call when they are in so you can pick them up. We order in case lots, so we have

15 wreaths/sprays yet to sell. They are listed in the office with prices. If you would like a wreath or a spray, put your name on the sheet and leave a check for the amount and the order form in Lance's mail box behind the counter. Thanks. ~ Lance



The Sunday volunteer schedule is now on the BLC website:

www.bethlehemmankato.org

Mary Circle will meet at 101 Main on **Wednesday, November 16, at 9:30 a.m.**

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, November 20, at noon
in the Dining Room



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Evangelism Thought for the Week

Evangelism doesn't rest with the pastor or a board. There are some very simple, concrete ways we can spread the Good News: hospitality, personal relationships, welcoming ministries. Martin Luther stated it very firmly: **"It is the duty of every Christian to be Christ to his neighbors."** And who are our neighbors?

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The community ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service will be held at **7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 23.** There will be **NO ACTIVITIES** here at Bethlehem that evening.

We will have only one worship service on **Sunday, November 27, at 9:45 a.m.** There will be **NO LIGHT program or adult forum that morning.**

The Backpack Food Program sends bags of non-perishable, child-friendly food home each weekend to provide low-income students with a consistent source of nutritious food for breakfast, lunch, and a snack each day school is out. We currently have over 500 children in Mankato enrolled in the program. **You can help by attending a spaghetti dinner benefit on Monday, November 14, beginning at 5 p.m. at the Red Sky Lounge. Free-will donation at the door.**



Help Support Homeless & Hunger Awareness Week

Come to the Happy Chef on Hwy. 169 on November 14 from 4:30-7:30 p.m. for an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner (beverage included). Only \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 4-12; ages 3 and under are free. Proceeds will go to the Welcome Inn & Theresa House homeless shelters.



The Bethlehem Child Care Center is participating in McEducator Night at McDonald's on Adams Street. Purchase supper on the 2nd Monday of each month (**Nov. 14**) through May between 5 and 7 p.m. and give your receipt to the volunteer so the Center can receive a percentage of sales. It's a fun way to eat and visit with friends while supporting the Center!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Operation Christmas Child (OCC) display is now set up in the narthex. Please help by contributing any of the following: plastic shoe boxes; individual donations; checks of \$7.00 (made out to Bethlehem with OCC on the memo line) for postage for each plastic shoebox; or a complete shoe box for a boy or girl (with postage). Flyers with more information are on the table for ideas for the boxes. **Deadline for Operation Christmas Child is Sunday, November 20.**

Next week, the 7th, 8th, and 9th graders will be assembling these boxes during the Education Hour at 9:30 a.m. in the Attic (youth room). Let's try to break last year's record of 37 boxes!

FROM OUR LIBRARY

A big **thank you** to everyone who made this year's Bazaar book sale the best ever! First, thanks to those of you who donated nine big tables of books. Also, thanks to the group of volunteers who bring them upstairs every year for the Library Committee to sort and price. Last of all, thank you to all who stopped and chose a few good books at a great price for their reading pleasure.



A set of Ford car keys were left in the church office on Tuesday, November 1. If they're yours, please stop by the church office during the week to claim them.

FREE HEALTH CHECK-UPS FOR OLDER ADULTS

VINE Faith in Action and Rasmussen College School of Nursing will offer free senior health check ups at Summit Center in Mankato. Most services will be provided by nursing students under the supervision of their clinical instructors.

Services provided include:

Blood pressure checks, foot care, ear care, blood glucose screenings, fitness information, and medication review with a pharmacist.

Wednesday, November 16, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Summit Center, 518 South 5th Street, Mankato. Contact VINE Faith in Action at 387-1666 to reserve a time and to arrange for transportation, if needed.