

**Announcements for the week of  
December 13-20, 2009**

[www.bethlehemmankato.org](http://www.bethlehemmankato.org)



**720 S. 2nd St., Mankato, MN 56001  
Ph. 507-388-2925 Fax. 507-388-6920**

**Email: [blchurch@hickorytech.net](mailto:blchurch@hickorytech.net)**

**WEEKLY GIVING/ATTENDANCE**

**Week of December 6, 2009:**

**Offered for the Lord's Work: \$12,292.00**

**December Mission Project:**

**God's Global Barnyard: \$500.00**

**Worship attendance - December 6**

**8:15 a.m. -- 154    10:45 a.m. -- 190**

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

8:15 & 10:45 a.m. ~ Worship Services,  
Choir Christmas program at both svcs.  
9:30 a.m. ~ Adult Forum - "The Christmas  
Story" with Pastor Jay (Heritage Room);  
Coffee (Grounds for Joy); LIGHT  
5 p.m. ~ Youth game night/pizza

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE**

**5:00 - 6:30 p.m.** Wednesday Night Supper  
**5:15 - 6:00 p.m.** Junior Gospels  
**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  
**6:15 - 7:30 p.m.** Bethlehem Gospels  
**6:45 - 7:45 p.m.** Gather Choir  
**7:45 - 8:30 p.m.** The Messengers

Join us for Wednesday Night Suppers

in the dining room from 5:00 to  
6:30. Cost remains at \$4.00 for  
adults/\$3.00 for students through  
confirmation age.

Menu for December 16:

Pork loin, mashed potatoes & gravy

**TIMES SCHEDULE**

(Teens In Mission Enthusiastically Serving)

6:00-7:45 p.m. Wednesday evenings  
in Grounds for Joy

December 16 - Christmas caroling

December 23 - movie with popcorn

December 30 - no TIMES

**CHILD CARE CENTER NEWS**

Starting on Dec. 14, the BCCC will hold a  
McEducator Night from 5-7 p.m. every  
second Monday through May. Eat at  
McDonald's on Adams Street, leave your  
receipt with one of our volunteers, and 15%  
of sales will go to the BCCC. Proceeds will  
go for a new playground, upgrading toys,  
books, etc. ~ Marsha Madigan & Staff

**The BCCC Christmas program will be on  
Dec. 18 at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary.**  
Everyone is invited. There will be treats  
afterwards in the Heritage Room.

**RADIO BROADCAST**

Today's broadcast is sponsored by **Elizabeth  
Englin in memory of her nephew, Ezekiel  
Wetlesen.** To sponsor a broadcast in honor  
of or in memory of someone, sign up on the  
bulletin board near the church office. The  
8:15 a.m. service is broadcast on KTOE 1420  
AM every Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

**BETHLEHEM MISSIONS**

**Echo Food Shelf Emphasis:**

During the month of December, we'll be  
collecting "meal makers" (i.e., Hamburger  
Helper, etc.)

**Bethlehem's Mission Project for  
December: God's Global Barnyard**

This is an ELCA program similar to  
Heifer International, which we have  
supported for the last several years. The  
dollars that you give will be used to  
purchase animals for hungry people  
throughout the world. Please see the  
bulletin inserts and the December Star for  
more details. ~ *Bethlehem Community  
and Global Mission Board*

**Fair Trade - New Coffees & Chocolate  
are now available in the office!**

Look forward to taste testing next Sunday:  
Tanzanian Jubilee; Ethiopian; French  
Roast; and Sister's Blend. These are in  
addition to the popular Columbian and  
Hazelnut Crème in both regular and decaf.  
Baking cocoa is now for sale in  
addition to the hot cocoa and teas.  
New chocolate bars will also be on  
display and for sale in the narthex  
on Dec. 20. All are great gift items  
or for use in entertaining!



**FROM OUR LIBRARY**

The children's corner of our library is  
aglow with Christmas stories. Some  
of our favorites are: The Very First  
Christmas; B is for Bethlehem; The  
Nutcracker; A Stable in Bethlehem (a  
pop-up book); The Tomten; and The  
Fox.

**LECTIONARY FOR 12/20/09**

**First Reading:** Micah 5:2-5a

**Psalm:** Psalm 80:1-7

**Second Reading:** Hebrews 10:5-10

**Gospel:** Luke 1:39-55

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

**Dawn Hernandez  
Arlene Stenzel  
Helen Schwanke  
Willie Hoppe  
Bernice Wornson**

**Fran Phelps  
Glenn Saxton  
Con Sletta  
Sharon Rath  
Jada Sivertsen**

*(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 en-  
couraging congregations to pray for one another.

First Lutheran in Blooming Prairie  
Concordia Lutheran of Pickrel Lake in Albert Lea  
First English Lutheran in Faribault  
Rejoice! in Northfield  
Msingi Lutheran in Tanzania (partnered with  
First, Faribault)  
Amani Lutheran in Tanzania

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

During the months of October and  
November, offerings have been very  
good. As a result, our deficit situation  
has been substantially reduced. In order  
to make budget at year-end 2009,  
however, we need \$47,358 in general  
fund offerings. This means that we need  
offerings of \$11,839.50 per Sunday in  
December. We are moving in the right  
direction. Let's keep going!!



**Martha Circle** -- December 16, 9:30 a.m., at  
Carolyn Hovick's home  
**Deborah Circle** -- December 19, 9 a.m., at  
101 Main  
**Elizabeth Circle** -- December 21, 2:00 p.m.,  
Grounds for Joy

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



A **HUGE** thank-you to the following people for helping with last Sunday's Open House: Ardis & Don Grotta; Yevonne Flatgard and the December serving group for preparing the food; the Confirmation children for helping with serving; Jill & Ethan Evenson for providing the music; Mary Beth & Bruce Royer for providing and decorating the Sharing Tree; and to all of you for joining us and providing gifts for the Sharing Tree. You may still donate by making your checks payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church and writing "Sharing Tree" in the memo. ~ *The Fellowship Committee*

### Evangelism Board Thought for the Week

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



You are invited to gather with Bethlehem's Mature Members on **Wednesday, December 16, from 2:30-4:00 p.m. in the Heritage Room** to celebrate Advent and Christmas. There will be music, games, and Christmas cookies. Bring some cookies to share, a wrapped white elephant gift, and a joyful heart to celebrate Christ's birth. There will be a prize for the winner of the Name the Senior Fellowship Group Contest. **Upcoming events include:** January -- Game Day.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.



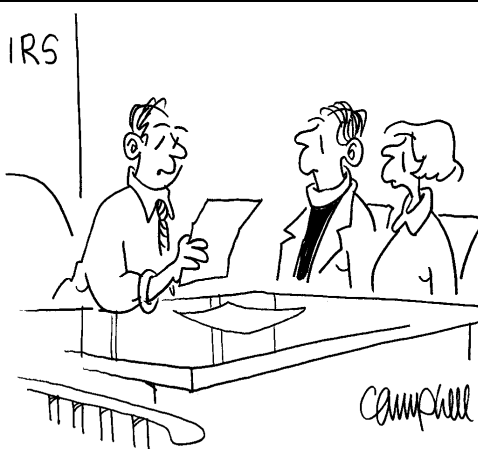
"HERE WE COME H-CAROLING!"

### GIVE THE GIFT OF MUSIC!

Send a personal singing greeting to a friend, relative, shut-in, co-worker, or anyone special this Christmas AND help support the Youth at Bethlehem! Bethlehem youth will be delivering singing Christmas Cards to anyone you would like in the Mankato area. Youth will be singing "We Wish you a Merry Christmas" and other carols and present your special someone with a hand-made Christmas Card and message from you to help brighten the holidays and raise some money for youth! Singing Christmas Cards will be delivered TODAY from 4-6 p.m. and December 23 from 4-6 p.m. Pick up a card in the narthex and add your special person's name, address, special message, and preference for delivery date and turn in with a donation to the youth and we will take care of the rest!

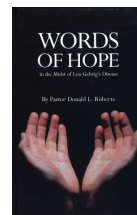


The Mankato Children's Chorus will have their annual winter concert at Christ Chapel (Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter) on **Sunday, December 20, at 3:00 p.m.**



"I see you've laid up for yourselves treasures in heaven. Is this some sort of tax dodge?"

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



Because of the success of our summer series, we are offering the Pastor Don Bible Study once a month as part of **Connection** (the 9:30 Sunday School hour for grades 7-12). This Bible study is based on the book Words of Hope in the Midst of Lou Gehrig's Disease by Pastor Donald Roberts. **Connection** dates for this study are **January 10, February 14, March 14, April 11, and May 9.**

**ALL are welcome to attend!**

### Calendar for the week of 12/13

#### Sunday, 12/13

8:15 & 10:45 am - Worship Services - Choir Program  
10:30 am - Adult forum with Pastor Jay (Heritage Room); Coffee (Grounds for Joy); LIGHT  
5 pm - Youth (grades 7-12) - game night/pizza

#### Monday, 12/14

5:45 pm - TOPS

#### Tuesday, 12/15

7 am - Best Webster Bible Study  
9 am - Quilters  
Noon - 101 Main Bible Study  
1 pm - Library Board  
4-9 pm - Mankato Children's Chorus  
6:30 pm - Mom's Circle  
7 pm - Council meeting

#### Wednesday, 12/16

9 am - TOPS  
9:30 am - Martha Circle (Carolyn Hovick's home)  
1 pm - Staff meeting  
2:30 pm - Senior Citizens' group mtg. - Heritage Rm.  
3:30 pm - Women's Bible Study - Grounds for Joy  
Wednesday Evening Activities

#### Thursday, 12/17

7 pm - BCCC Board meeting

#### Friday, 12/18

3:30 pm - BCCC Christmas Program - Sanctuary

#### Saturday, 12/19

9 a.m. - Deborah Circle, 101 Main

#### Sunday, 12/20

8:15 & 10:45 - Worship Services (10:45-Children's Christmas program)  
9:30 am - Adult forum - Conversation with the Council (Heritage Room); Coffee (Grounds for Joy); LIGHT

**The new church directories are expected to be delivered by late January or mid-February.**