

Announcements for the week of
December 20-27, 2009
www.bethlehemmankato.org



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WEEKLY GIVING/ATTENDANCE

Week of December 13, 2009:
Offered for the Lord's Work: \$8,105.00
December Mission Project:
God's Global Barnyard: \$6,021.00
Worship attendance - December 13
8:15 a.m. -- 183 10:45 a.m. -- 225

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:15 & 10:45 a.m. ~ Worship Services,
Children's Christmas program at 10:45
9:30 a.m. ~ Adult Forum - Conversation
with the Council (Heritage Room); Coffee
(Grounds for Joy); LIGHT

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 23, 2009
NO Wednesday night supper
NO Chancel or Gather choir rehearsals,
Junior Gospbells, Confirmation,
Children of Bethlehem, Bethlehem
Gospbells, or Messengers. TIMES will
meet in Grounds for Joy from 6:00-7:45.
Normal Wednesday night schedules will
resume on **January 6, 2010.**

TIMES SCHEDULE

*(Teens In Mission
Enthusiastically Serving)*
6:00-7:45 p.m. Wednesday evenings
in Grounds for Joy
December 23 - movie with popcorn
December 30 - no TIMES

CHILD CARE CENTER NEWS

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

RADIO BROADCAST

Today's broadcast is sponsored by
**Geraldine Evers in memory of Charley
Evers.** 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*

Recently, the following items were delivered
to Global Health Ministry in Mpls.: 310
mother's layettes, 89 rolled bandages, a
Glucometer, and an oxygen tank carrier.
Thank you to all who contributed to this
project, which is a year-round mission of
Bethlehem. A special thank you to the
Bethlehem Women, who remembered this
outreach project when distributing the 2009
proceeds from the Bazaar. If you wish to
contribute medical equipment or layette
items, please place them in the blue bin in the
coatroom. Call 388-5626 with any questions.
~ *Community & Global Mission Board*

FROM OUR LIBRARY

The Library Committee would like to
thank everyone who helped us have a
successful 2009. If you browsed the
library and checked out a book to enjoy,
bought books on Bazaar day, or if you
donated a book or a money gift as a
memorial, the Library Committee thanks
you.

LECTIONARY FOR 12/27/09

First Reading: I Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm: Psalm 148
Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-17
Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

IN OUR PRAYERS

Dawn Hernandez	Fran Phelps
Arlene Stenzel	Glenn Saxton
Helen Schwanke	Con Sletta
Willie Hoppe	Sharon Rath
Bernice Wornson	Jada Sivertsen
The family of	The family of
Harriet Brude	JoAnn Davis
Brenda Wold	(sister-in-law of
Richard Wold	Jim Davis)

*(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.

Ascension Lutheran in Albert Lea
Bethel Lutheran in Northfield
Ghairo Lutheran in Tanzania (partnered with
Bethel in Northfield)
Aurora Lutheran in Owatonna
Arendahl Lutheran in Peterson
Ihanja Lutheran in Tanzania

The flowers in the sanctuary today are
from the funeral of Harriet Brude, which
took place here on December 15.

Fair Trade Taste Testing in the Narthex TODAY!

* Ethiopian * Tanzanian Jubilee *
* French Roast * Sisters' Blend *

ALL FAIR TRADE ITEMS ARE
FOR SALE IN THE NARTHEX, TOO!
Coffee, chocolate, tea,
baking cocoa, and hot cocoa



Elizabeth Circle -- December 21, 2:00 p.m.,
Grounds for Joy

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Bethlehem is known for being the "Friendly Church." We'd like to make Sunday mornings a bit friendlier by having a volunteer in the office to answer phone calls and direct guests. This volunteer position would consist of "manning" the office from 8:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., one Sunday a month. We need a total of 3 volunteers (we already have 2 signed up - thank you, Marvis Glick & Arlene Kirchner!). Training will be provided. Please contact Casey or Chris if you are interested in sharing your administrative time and talent with BLC and our guests!

Evangelism Board *Thought for the Week*

The gift of time allows others to "know we are Christians by our love". We can visit a shut-in or someone who is hospitalized, lend an ear in support of someone experiencing difficulty in their life, join a team for the Wednesday night suppers, send a thank-you note to a Sunday School teacher, or volunteer to serve on a board or committee. **"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us daily."** ~ Sally Koch



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

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.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

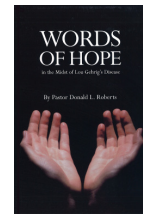
There were 45 boxes delivered to Operation Christmas Child (OCC) this year. Thank you all who gave boxes, individual items for boxes, and money for postage. OCC is a global "outreach" mission program that many churches choose to participate in. Every child has a Sunday School lesson in their language before they are given their shoe box. Along with the gifts in the shoe box, they are given the message of the gift of Jesus' love for each of them.

There is a touchable nativity display in the narthex. Characters are assigned to each age or grade level so that when a child reaches 6th grade, they have a touchable nativity set of their own with a manger and 15 characters. Please help your child keep their characters together, as this is a very large labor-intensive project. If your child has missed a character, there are take-home kits available for you. Please check the list of the characters assigned to each age or grade level to determine if you need a kit. Questions can be directed to Vee Williams at 387-5154 or e-mail fiveboys@chartermi.net.



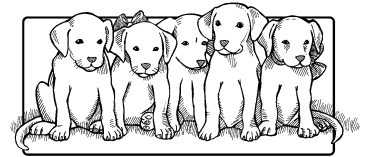
Please pick up your 2010 offering envelopes in the narthex.

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!



Thrivent presents "Pups and Pizza Event"

Date: Monday, December 28, 2009
Time: 4:00 - 7:00 pm
Place: The Paw, Inc.
1741 Premier Drive
Mankato, MN 56001

Come join us for an evening at THE PAW to benefit the Blue Earth-Nicollet County Humane Society (BENCHS). This event is to raise awareness of the needs of people to adopt the animals and/or offer financial support to help them. Donations to BENCHS are most appreciated. The event will be filled with fun and learning opportunities. **The pizza is free to all Thrivent members and their guests.** Plan now to attend!

Please RSVP to Sarah Riechwald Beiswanger (507-625-5834) or to Terry Kvitek (507-287-3004) by **Wednesday, December 23, 2009.**

