

Announcements for the week of
December 26, 2010-January 2, 2011
www.bethlehemmankato.org



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WEEKLY GIVING/ATTENDANCE

Week of December 19, 2010:

Offered for the Lord's Work: \$18,170
(this figure includes gifts
toward deficit reduction)
Dec. Mission Project: God's Global
Barnyard: \$6,661.00

Worship attendance-Sunday, 12/19/10:
8:15 a.m.: 137 10:45 a.m.: 214

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30 a.m. - Worship
10:30 - coffee (Grounds for Joy)
2-9 p.m. - youth skiing/lock-in



The Family of Arlet Lokkesmoe would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone for the kind wishes and memorials on the loss of our Mom and Grandma. Bethlehem Lutheran Church was always a very important part of Arlet's life, and she loved this church. Thank you for being such a big part of all of our lives. Special thanks to Pastor Jay and Florence Sassenberg. With gratitude, Amy, Scott, and Christa Wolner, Jacki and Ryan Boon, and Dean, Loris, Ayla, Spencer, Savanna, and Paige Lokkesmoe.



Alpha Sprouts is coming to Bethlehem!

What: 9-week exploration and study of the Christian faith for children
Who: children going into Kindergarten through completed 5th grade
Where: Bethlehem Lutheran Church
When: Sunday evenings from 5:00-7:00 beginning on **Sunday, January 9**
** For children under kindergarten age level, child care will be available in the church nursery **

Registration is required by January 1 so the proper staffing/volunteers can be in place.

Please contact Leah Garry with questions and/or to register -- lgarry@hickorytech.net

RADIO BROADCAST



RADIO MINISTRY

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 every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m.

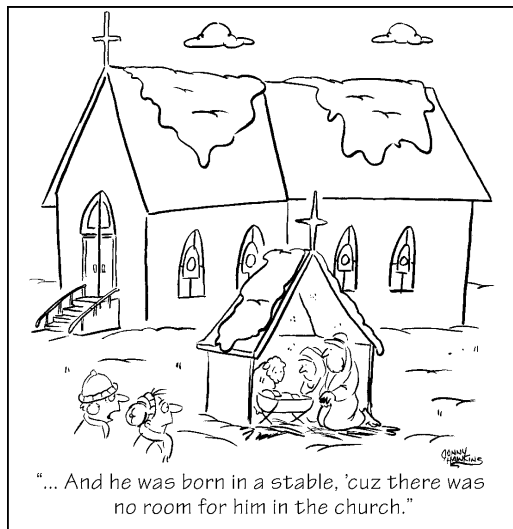
BETHLEHEM MISSIONS

Echo Food Shelf Emphasis:

During the month of December, we'll be collecting meal makers - Hamburger Helper, etc.

Our Mission Project for December: God's Global Barnyard

It is another year to celebrate the generous contributions of our Bethlehem family. God's Global Barnyard, along with Heifer International in the past, has been, and continues to be, our annual opportunity to provide gifts of life-sustaining hope throughout the world. This life-changing ministry through ELCA World Hunger is something we can do together as a response to Christ in our lives. Because ELCA operating expenses to provide these animals to families throughout the world are lower, more of our dollars go directly to the recipients. Goats, pigs, sheep, chicks, and other animals provide families with food, funds, and fertilizer, breaking the cycle of hunger and poverty. These gifts go beyond livestock to provide training, access to safe water sources, help securing markets, and much more. Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry.



LECTIONARY FOR 1/2/11

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm: 147:12-20
Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14
Gospel: John 1: [1-9] 10-18

IN OUR PRAYERS

Arlene Stenzel
Forrest Glick
Eric Barnes
Vanessa Royer
The family of
Carole Morphew

(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:

First Lutheran in Lake City
LeSueur River Lutheran in New Richland
Grace Lutheran in Austin
Divino Redentor Lutheran in Colombia
Kisimba Lutheran in Tanzania
Mijuhu Lutheran in Tanzania

Wednesday Night Suppers

Join us from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.! Cost is \$4 for adults, \$3 for students through confirmation age, and \$11 for families. Join the fellowship! Bring your neighbors and friends! **Let's make Wednesday night BETHLEHEM NIGHT!**

NO SUPPER ON DECEMBER 29



Please pick up your **2011 offering envelopes** in the narthex today. Members who have signed up for the Simply Giving program will not receive an envelope package. Those members can place a Simply Giving card (found in the pews) in the offering plate. If you would like envelopes and can't locate yours, please contact the church office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

FROM OUR LIBRARY

Christmas has arrived at our library, especially in the children's section -- there are so many beautiful, colorful books. Two of the books even have a DVD that comes with them. When you come in the library, you will find these books on top of the children's bookcases and on the rolling cart. Come in and enjoy!



The Bethlehem Quilters donated 15 baby quilts and 16 flannel quilts to the Salvation Army this December. Thank you, BLC QUILTERS!

QUILTING GROUP

"Christmas began in the heart of God. It is complete only when it is in the heart of man."

~ Anonymous

Bethlehem will provide and serve the Sunday noon meal at the Salvation Army **TODAY**. If you'd like to donate food, Christmas cookies, cash, or your time, please contact Bob and Susan Brown (387-2976). Being part of this local mission program brings joy to the guests and the hosts! Randy Drager is the team leader of this meal.



The price of **Fair Trade** coffee has increased to \$7/bag.

McEducator Nights!

The Bethlehem Child Care Center will receive a portion of 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**. We like to call the second Monday "McBethlehem Night".

~ BCCC Board

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Evangelism Thought for the Week

If you are walking with Jesus, in the Spirit, you need not fear going too far. No believer has gone as far as God wants him to go.

~ A.A. Allen



God's Global Barnyard Donations Since 12/19/10:

Given By:

Ken & Cindy Wenkel

In honor of our children



Given By:

Barbara & Al Girtz

In memory of Dorothy Johnson

Given By:

Leonhard Mickelsen

In memory of my parents and brother
In honor of Christine Schulz

Given By:

Elaine Kunz

In memory of Ruth Kunz



Given By:

Gene & Barb Nelson

In memory of Lorelea Nelson and
Jim Sackett

In honor of Noah Nelson



Given By:

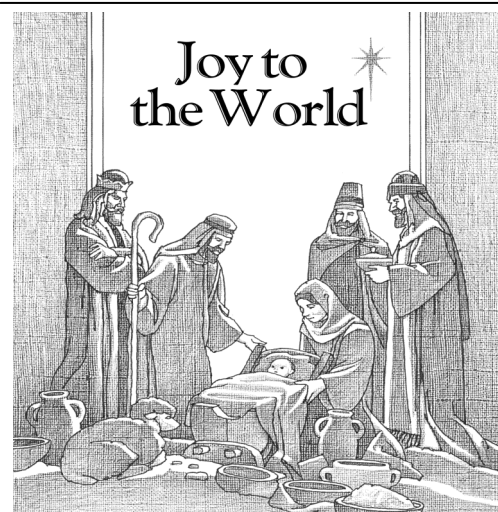
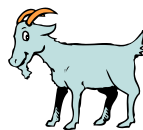
Donna Skarpohl

In honor of our grandchildren and
great-grandchildren

Given By:

John & Denise Schaefer

In loving memory of
Fran Hoff



ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

33 plastic shoe boxes were delivered to the mission project, Operation Christmas Child. Thank you to all who supplied funds for postage, plastic shoe boxes, individual items for the boxes, and completed boxes. All boxes that came in after the delivery date can be kept at church to be used for next year.

Thanks again ~ Vee M.G. Williams



RECYCLE YOUR HEARING AID BATTERIES!

On a counter in the church office, you will find a small wooden box for you to put your old hearing aid batteries in.

Milestone News

NATIVITY CHARACTERS PROJECT

Below is the list of characters each child should have at their age or grade level. An example is that all three year olds and older children should have Baby Jesus. A second grader should have Baby Jesus, Mary, an angel, Joseph, and a donkey, and make the star and second shepherd in 2nd grade. Kits are available if a character was missed. Please help your child/children keep their characters together and have their name(s) and dates on the back of the blocks. The project is labor intensive, so please save all of your blocks for your complete nativity set.

Three year olds - Baby Jesus; four year olds - Mary; five year olds - angel; 1st grade - Joseph and donkey; 2nd grade - second shepherd and star; 3rd grade - first shepherd and two sheep; 4th grade - cow, camel, and first king; 5th grade - 2nd king and 3rd king; 6th grade - crèche.

If your child is missing some of the characters from past grade level characters, take-home kits are available. A sign up sheet is in the narthex for the take-home kits for missing characters; the kits include the wood block, cut-out felt pieces, and directions. The kits will be available for you and your child. Any questions should be directed to Vee Williams at 387-5154 or fiveboys@chartermi.net.

