

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Week of March 22 - March 29, 2009

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 720 South Second Street, Mankato, MN 56001

For more information, please check our website: www.bethlehemmankato.org.

Sunday	3/22	8:15 am 9:30 am 9:30 am 10:45 am 11:50 am 5 pm 5 pm	Worship Forum: "The Efforts to Build a Greater Mankato" - Barb Embacher - Heritage Rm Education Hour Worship New Member Class - Grounds for Joy - with a light lunch served The Divine Drama - "The Lord's Prayer" Bible Study - Heritage Room Family Movie Night - downstairs theater
Monday	3/23	3-8 pm 6-8 pm	On My Own - Youth Room TOPS
Tuesday	3/24	7 am Noon 1 pm 2 pm 5-9 pm	Bible Study - Dunn Bros., North Mankato ("The Lord's Prayer") - All are welcome! Bible Study - 101 Main Library Board - Library Lydia Circle - Grounds for Joy Mankato Children's Chorus
Wednesday	3/25	9 am 9 am Noon & 6:30 pm 5 pm-8:30 pm 5:30-6:15	Staff meeting TOPS Lenten Wednesday Worship in the chapel (noon) and sanctuary (6:30) See schedule below ~ note several changes during Lent! Bible Study in Room 1 downstairs (off the Fellowship Hall by the kitchen)
Thursday	3/26	10 am-12 pm 6:30-8:30 pm	LSS - Heritage Room Hospice - Grounds for Joy
Friday	3/27	6:30 pm	"Hotel Rwanda" movie/fellowship event - downstairs theater
Saturday	3/28		
Sunday	3/29	8:15 am 9:30 am 9:30 am 10:45 am 11:50 am-12:45 pm 5 pm	Worship Forum: "Introducing the New Testament" video, led by Pastor Arne - Heritage Rm Education Hour Worship New Member Class - Grounds for Joy - with a light lunch served The Divine Drama Bible Study - "Redeemed to be Responsible" - Heritage Room

Week of March 15, 2009:

Offered for the Lord's Work: \$7,298.00

ECHO Food Shelf: \$1,449.00

Worship attendance ~ March 15

8:15 a.m.: 97 10:45 a.m.: 135

Don't have plans for **Friday evening, March 27**? Then come and see the film, "Hotel Rwanda" at the Bethlehem Downstairs Theater. Make this an older teen and adult evening of a good movie with pop and popcorn and good fellowship and discussion. The Rwandan Civil War content makes this film inappropriate for children. Child care will be provided by the TIMES youth. This "Cheap Night Out at the Movies" starts at 6:30 p.m. Bring along a pillow or afghan for at-home comfort. Hope to see you on Friday night!

WEDNESDAY EVENING SCHEDULE


Please note several scheduling changes during Lent!!

5:00-6:30 pm	Wednesday Night Suppers - Dining Room
5:00-6:00 pm	Chancel and Gather Choirs combined - Choir Room
5:00-5:45 pm	Junior Gospbells - Sanctuary
5:00-6:00 pm	TIMES - 10th - 12th grade Teens - Grounds for Joy
5:00-6:20 pm	Confirmation Mentoring during supper
5:30-6:15 pm	Bible Study in Room 1 downstairs - Jesus of Nazareth
5:45-6:30 pm	Bethlehem Gospbells - Sanctuary
6:00 -6:30 pm	The Children of Bethlehem -- choir for 3-year-olds through 4th grade -- Basement, Room H
6:30-7:15 pm	Lenten Worship in the Sanctuary
7:15-8:00 pm	The Messengers - grades 5-12 - Sanctuary

Menu for Wednesday, March 25:

Chicken noodle hot dish, green beans, cranberries, & cheddar biscuits. Team 2 will be serving. For more menu information, check out the web page: www.bethlehemmankato.org.

PASTA with the PADRES



Dinner with the Priests from Holy Rosary, St. Joe's, St. John's and Sts. Peter and Paul

Featuring the Famous "Colletti Spaghetti" Recipe


A BENEFIT FOR
ECHO FOOD SHELF
SPONSORED BY THE
MANKATO / NORTH MANKATO CATHOLIC PARISHES

FREE WILL OFFERING

SILENT AUCTION - 4:00 - 6:45

SUNDAY, MARCH 22ND
4:00 PM - 7 PM
ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
632 SOUTH BROAD STREET

Fair Trade

	Coffee: \$6 per bag
	Tea: \$3 per box
	Cocoa: \$5 per can
	Candy bars: \$3 each

Echo Food Shelf Emphasis: During the month of March, we'll be collecting personal care items.

Someone who attended the funeral of Ken Krause took the wrong coat home, so if you have a men's long beige coat, size 42, with leather gloves in a pocket, please call Sal Frederick at 388-2251. He has your coat, which is identical to his except it's a size 44. Thank you.



Any Bethlehem students who are planning on enrolling (or continuing their studies) in an institution of higher education next fall may apply for a Bethlehem Lutheran Church scholarship. Application forms are in the church office. Completed forms must be returned to the office by **May 1**.

Lectionary For March 29, 2009:

Sunday	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
3/29	Jeremiah 31:31-34	51:1-12 or 119:9-16	Hebrews 5:5-10	John 12:20-33

In Our Prayers: (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.)

Pastor Al Girtz Dawn Hernandez Elaine Kunz Marg Freyberg Dorothy Isdahl

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.

Mona Lutheran in Lyle	St. George Lutheran in Tanzania (partnered with Lands, Zumbrota)
First Lutheran in Glenville	Pontoppidan Lutheran in Ellendale
Lands Lutheran in Zumbrota	San Juan Lutheran in Columbia (partnered with Pontoppidan, Ellendale)

YOUTH ~ TIMES (Teens In Mission Enthusiastically Serving) SCHEDULE:

**March 25: ECHO Food Shelf (meet at church) April 1: Easter Egg Hunt for BLC kids, crafts, games, etc.
April 8: No TIMES April 15: Bake for Salvation Army serving on April 19**



From Our Library...

The last section of non-fiction books are the 900s. This is the History section that contains geography, travel, and histories of all countries. The number for history of the United States is 973, and Minnesota history is 977.6. Some samples are: 1776, by David McCullough (973.3); Flags of Our Fathers by James Bradley (940.54); and Bring Warm Clothes, by Peg Meier (977.6).

Your Bethlehem Lutheran Endowment Committee will host a forum on Sunday, May 3, 2009, in the Heritage Room between services. We appreciate your renewed interest in the Endowment Fund and appreciate this opportunity to discuss the merits of contribution and the disbursement of earnings. Reminder: scholarship requests must be received on or before May 1, 2009. If you have any questions, please call Mavis Saxton, Chair, at 387-3346.



Exercise Kindness!! Are you ready to walk in Mankato's 3-mile D'Feet ALS walk on Saturday, April 18, at West High School? Once again we are honoring Pastor Don Roberts. Sign up now in the church office and order your free T-shirt (sizes S, M, L, XL). Registration is at 9:00 a.m., with the walk beginning at 10:00 a.m. Checks should be made out to Bethlehem Lutheran Church with "ALS" noted on the check. There's no need to walk the entire 3 miles. All ages are welcome. Questions? Call Lori Ruthenbeck (388-7140) or Sandy Birkholz 388-7604).

Wellcome Manor Family Services, a chemical dependency treatment facility for women and their children located in Garden City, is currently seeking women volunteers for "baby rockers". The shifts run Monday through Friday, either 8:30-11:30 or 12:30-3:30. This opportunity includes the care of an 8-month-old child and also a newborn baby. Your help is needed through the month of May. If you are interested in volunteering for one or more of the shifts available, please call Mary at (507) 546-3295. If you love babies, you'll love this job!



March Mission: Echo Food Shelf March is Minnesota Food Share Month. Donations made to the Echo Food Shelf during the dates of March 1-April 1 will be matched proportionately by the Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation and Minnesota Food Share. Donations can be made with cash, checks, or food (food items will be valued at \$1 for each item or pound of food) and may be sent to ECHO, P.O. Box 3212, Mankato, MN 56002. ~ *Global and Community Mission Board*

NEW MEMBER CLASSES: Are you interested in becoming a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church? **New member classes** will be held at 11:50 a.m. every Sunday in March in the Heritage Room. A light lunch is served. All are welcome. Call the office for details at 388-2925, or e-mail us at <blchurch@hickorytech.net>.

Radio Broadcast: To sponsor a broadcast in honor of or in memory of someone, sign up on the bulletin board near the church office. The first service is broadcast on KTOE 1420 AM every Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

God's work, our hands... is the theme for the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly to be held May 1-2 (Friday and Saturday) in Rochester. Bethlehem is eligible to send three lay voting members. Two spaces remain available. Please consider being a voting member from Bethlehem. The assembly gathers for worship, Bible study, workshops, fellowship, and the business of the synod -- budget, elections, resolutions, and reports. The housing deadline is April 16 and the registration deadline is April 24. Check with Marcia Nagel or Pastor Arne if interested and for details.

The 22nd Annual Convention of the Association of Congregations for Gustavus Adolphus College meets on Saturday, April 25. Do you have an interest in GAC? Could you represent Bethlehem at this event? An interesting and rewarding schedule includes three "Relationship with God" workshops titled "Self Transformation", "Loving Our Neighbor", and "Caring for the Whole World". See Pastor Arne for details.



Two Bethlehem members are celebrating their birthdays today — Gert DeRemer and Pastor Al Girtz. Happy Birthday!