

**ANNOUNCEMENTS: Week of March 29 - April 5, 2009**  
**Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 720 South Second Street, Mankato, MN 56001**  
*For more information, please check our website: [www.bethlehemmankato.org](http://www.bethlehemmankato.org).*

Sunday	3/29	8:15 am 9:30 am 9:30 am 10:45 am 11:50 am 5 pm	Worship Forum: "Introducing the New Testament" video, led by Pastor Arne - Heritage Rm Education Hour Worship - Youth Service New Member Class - Grounds for Joy - with a light lunch served The Divine Drama - "Redeemed to be Responsible" Bible Study - Heritage Room
Monday	3/30	3-8 pm 6-8 pm	On My Own - Youth Room TOPS
Tuesday	3/31	7 am Noon 1 pm 5-9 pm	Bible Study - Dunn Bros., North Mankato ("The Lord's Prayer") - All are welcome! Bible Study - 101 Main Library Board - Library Mankato Children's Chorus
Wednesday	4/1	9 am 9 am Noon & 6:30 pm 1 pm 5 pm-8:30 pm 5:30-6:15	Staff meeting TOPS Lenten Wednesday Worship in the chapel (noon) and sanctuary (6:30) Circle Leaders' Bible Study - Library <b>See schedule below ~ note several changes during Lent!</b> Bible Study in Room 1 downstairs (off the Fellowship Hall by the kitchen)
Thursday	4/2		
Friday	4/3	8 am-5 pm 7:30 pm	Annual Rummage Sale - Belgrade Avenue United Methodist Church, North Mankato Bemidji State University Choir concert - Sanctuary
Saturday	4/4		
Sunday	4/5	8:15 am 9:30 am 9:30 am 9:30 am 10:45 am 5 pm	Worship Forum: Council Forum Education Hour New Member Reception at 9:30 in Grounds for Joy Worship The Divine Drama Bible Study-"Therefore, Beloved Brothers & Sisters"-Heritage Room

**Week of March 22, 2009:**  
**Offered for the Lord's Work: \$5,278.00**  
**ECHO Food Shelf: \$1,449.00**  
**Worship attendance ~ March 22**  
**8:15 a.m.: 139 10:45 a.m.: 152**



Ring into Spring! The Bethlehem Gospbells and the Junior Gospbells will both be participating in the Minnesota Valley Handbell Festival **TODAY**, March 29, at 3:00 p.m. at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 222 Pfau St., Mankato. The concert will feature eleven handbell choirs from six area churches plus Riverbend Bells, Mankato's Community Handbell Ensemble. Solo numbers by each choir and three massed numbers will be performed. A free-will offering will be received. Plan to attend and hear our bell choirs "Ring into Spring!"

There will be a rummage sale on Friday, April 3, at Belgrade Avenue United Methodist Church, 325 Sherman Street, North Mankato. The hours of the sale are 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Proceeds go towards the Women of BAUMC and in turn are used to support community missions.



The Bemidji Choir is on a spring concert tour and will give a concert in our sanctuary on **Friday, April 3, at 7:30 p.m.** This is a free concert; however, there will be a free-will offering.

**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, April 1:**

**Fettuccine Alfredo, asparagus, and cheddar biscuits.**  
 Team 1 will be serving. For more menu information, check out the web page: [www.bethlehemmankato.org](http://www.bethlehemmankato.org).



**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. In April, we'll be collecting cereal.

If you would like to order an Easter lily for the Easter morning services, forms are available at the kiosk in the narthex.



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**.

**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.

**Lectionary For April 5, 2009:**

Sunday	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
4/5	Isaiah 50:4-9a	31:9-16	Phil. 2:5-11 or Mark 15:1-39	Mark 14:1-15:47

**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.) **The family and friends of Carlyle Peterson**

**Pastor Al Girtz    Verna Williams    Elaine Kunz    Marjorie 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.

Hosanna Lutheran in Rochester	North Waseca Lutheran in Waseca
Emmons Lutheran in Emmons	Itigi Lutheran in Tanzania
Grace Lutheran in Nerstrand	Mang'onyi Lutheran in Tanzania

I would like to thank the congregation for all your thoughts, prayers, and cards during my illness and the passing of my father last week. It is wonderful having such a caring church family. ~ Dawn Hernandez

**From Our Library... BC Biography Collection**



The last section of nonfiction books are the biography books. These books are in a section by themselves with labels reading BC and then the first three letters of who the book is about and placed in alphabetical order. This is the only section in a library where it doesn't make any difference who wrote the book. Example: Billy Graham (BC Gra); Second Wife, Second Life, by Marjorie Holmes (BC Hol); and From This Good Ground, by Edna Hong (BC Hon). Check our biographies and see what we have on these four shelves.

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).

**Maundy Thursday Foot Washing**

The rite of foot washing finds its roots in scripture. To prepare for this special, optional feature of our Maundy Thursday evening, read John 13:1-15. In John's gospel, Jesus washed his disciples' feet during the Last Supper. Jesus' foot washing was not to clean the disciples' feet but to make a point about humble service. Jesus loved his disciples to the end and showed them, by washing their feet, how they should love one another. Jesus acknowledges that this act is incredibly uncomfortable. "Do you know what I have done for you?" Jesus asks (John 13:12b). Please consider stepping out of your comfort zone this Maundy Thursday to participate in the foot washing from 5:30 to 6:30 in the Narthex. Our act of foot washing will be symbolic with only a pouring of water from a pitcher over the foot into a basin and drying the foot.



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*

ECHO Food Shelf is in need of volunteers to pack food orders and to help with food distribution on Thursday evenings from 4:30-7:00 beginning April 2. Volunteers will be scheduled to work one Thursday evening each month. ECHO hours are being extended to better accommodate clients who are unable to use its services during regular hours because of varying work schedules. Please call Carolyn Kanyusik at 345-3270 or Deisy DeLeon at 345-7477 for more information. Because of an opportunity to greatly increase our food inventory at a minimum cost, ECHO Food Shelf is in need of several volunteer drivers to pick up grocery items from local grocery stores each week and deliver to the food shelf. Each delivery will take about 45 minutes, and pick up times can be arranged to fit your schedule. Please call Barb Manske at 345-5246 or Nancy Zwickey at 726-2423 for more information or to volunteer.

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

**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    April 22: Walk dogs at the Humane Society (meet here)**

**Rachel Iverson Benefit** — On Sunday, May 3, a benefit is planned for Rachel Iverson, 11-year-old daughter of Pastor Mary Iverson. Rachel suffers from two chronic illnesses: Cyclic Vomiting Syndrome (CVS) and Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS). We want to show our love and support to the Iverson family. Please save this date and come enjoy a wonderful meal on May 3 at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Eagle Lake. Serving will be from 10:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Funds collected will be used to assist with medical costs.



There will be a 90th birthday party for Dorothy Pfeffer on April 19 from 2-4:00 p.m. The party will be held at the North Mankato Police Annex. All are welcome!

03/26/2009