

Announcements for the week of
December 18-25, 2011
www.bethlehemmankato.org



720 S. Second St., Mankato, MN 56001
Ph. 507-388-2925 Fax - 507-388-6920
E-mail: blchurch@hickorytech.net

WEEKLY GIVING/ATTENDANCE

Week of December 11, 2011:
Offered for the Lord's Work: \$10,660.00
December Mission Project:
God's Global Barnyard - \$4,530.00
Worship attendance-Sunday, 12/11/11:
8:15 a.m.: 198 10:45 a.m.: 229
Wednesday, December 14: 18

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:15 & 10:45 a.m. ~ Worship Services
9:15 & 11:45 ~ prayer team in the sanctuary
9:30 a.m. ~ Education Hour; Adult Forum:
"Star of Bethlehem" video, Heritage
Room; Christmas Tea - Grounds for Joy
Noon ~ serve meal at the Salvation Army
6:30 p.m. ~ Financial Peace University,
Heritage Room



Lydia Circle will meet at
2 p.m. on December 27 in
Grounds for Joy.

Wednesday Night Suppers are in the
dining room from 5:00-6:30. The cost
is \$4.00 for adults and \$3.00 for
students through confirmation age. Join
the fellowship! Bring your neighbors
and friends! All are welcome!

**There will be NO suppers on
December 21 or 28. Suppers will
resume on January 4, 2012.**



A HUGE thank you to all the
members of Bethlehem who
supported the Holiday Sharing
Tree Mission. The Holiday
Sharing Tree provides each
recipient with a gift (valued at
approximately \$25) so that despite need,
they will have a gift to open at
Christmas. Bethlehem Lutheran Church
graciously fulfilled that need for 80
recipients this year for the Holiday
Sharing Tree. ~ The Fellowship
Committee

RADIO BROADCAST



Today's radio broadcast is
sponsored by **Jean Thompson** in
**honor of Betty Myhrman's 90th
birthday on December 22.**

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 service is broadcast on **KTOE 1420
AM or KTOE 102.7 FM** every Sunday
morning at 11:00.

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**

This time in the church year, we often turn our
hearts to those in our community and around
the world with whom we can share God's
blessings. Our Bethlehem family is acknowl-
edged again and again for the generous contri-
butions made to mission projects, including
our annual participation in God's Global
Barnyard. As a part of ELCA Good Gifts,
God's Global Barnyard is a creative way to
care for those around the world who live with
hunger and poverty. You can choose from a
number of sustainable life-giving solutions
that mean the most to you and your loved
ones. As the familiar Chinese proverb reads,
"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day.
Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a
lifetime" -- so it is with a fish pond, flock of
chicks, or goat given through God's Global
Barnyard. Your gift in honor of or in memory
of a loved one has the ability to provide a
family with food, funds, and fertilizer,
breaking the cycle of hunger and poverty. See
the bulletin insert for more details. Checks
can be made out to Bethlehem Lutheran
Church, noting "God's Global Barnyard" on
the memo line. Thank you for your continued
support of a mission that changes the lives of
those helped by your generous gifts.

~ Bethlehem Community &
Global Mission Board



**The Sunday volunteer
schedule is now on the BLC
website:**
www.bethlehemmankato.org

LECTIONARY FOR 12/25/11

First Reading: Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm: 97
Second Reading: Titus 3:4-7
Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

IN OUR PRAYERS

Arlene Stenzel	Fern Merrill
Forrest Glick	Gladys Olson
Eric Barnes	Donavon Johnson
Glenn Saxton	Jon Ringgenberg
Paul Sullivan	The family of
Pauline Halvorson	Loretta Snilsberg
Bill Preiss	The family of
Rachel Iverson	Jim Slack
Lorene Heaberlin	

*(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:

Ascension Lutheran in Albert Lea
Bethel Lutheran in Northfield
Aurora Lutheran in Owatonna
Arendahl Lutheran in Peterson
Ihanja Lutheran in Tanzania
Ghairo Lutheran in Tanzania



Join us for a Christmas Tea/
Christmas Cookie party
**TODAY between services
in Grounds for Joy!**

Sample the tea and cookies and also
have the opportunity to purchase a
plate of home-baked cookies to take
home! There will be a free-will
donation for the Youth Gathering in
New Orleans in July, 2012.



ECHO Food Shelf is in need of
volunteers to help in several
areas. We need drivers to pick
up 'food rescue' items from
local grocery stores, volunteers
to help clients while shopping at ECHO,
and volunteers to help restock shelves. If
you have an interest in ECHO and time to
help, please call Deisy at 345-7477. Thank
you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



CHILDREN'S MILESTONES

MILESTONE NEWS

On Wednesday night, December 28, past and present senior high youth will meet in the Attic (youth room). They will meet, reconnect, and share

their experiences about college or the work world. Our "Welcome Back" party will have food, a movie, games, and a chance to just hang out. Postcards will be sent out with more information for these students.

Any questions or concerns should be directed to Vee M.G. Williams at 387-5154 or fiveboys@chartermi.net.

Help Support the BackPack Food Program!

The Backpack Food Program sends bags of non-perishable, child-friendly food home each weekend to provide low-income students with a consistent source of nutritious food for breakfast, lunch, and a snack each day school is out. We currently have over 500 children in Mankato enrolled in the program. Join Hy-Vee and shop for the Backpack Food Program. Donation barrels are located at both Hy-Vee locations in Mankato. **Food donations will last through April of 2012.** Shopping lists are provided at each store.



We Welcome Children! We want children to know they are welcome in our church. We offer children's worship bags with activities each week as well as a children's bulletin to help them with their worship experience. Please see the ushers for bags & bulletins. We also have a professionally-staffed nursery with a parent paging system available.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Evangelism Thought for the Week

During Advent, we celebrate Christ coming as the light to the world. How can we share this light with our friends and other worshipers, including visitors? One way is a warm greeting, introducing ourselves, and being interested in others.

*God did not send a substitute
to save us -- He came Himself
on that first Christmas.*



FAIR TRADE THANKS YOU!

By choosing to buy fair trade, you help many artisans and farmers to receive a fair wage for their labor. You can buy coffee, tea, cocoa, and chocolate bars in the office. They make great gifts! Bars are available in milk chocolate with almonds, coffee milk chocolate, dark chocolate, and mint dark chocolate. You can purchase chocolate bars whenever Debbie's office is open.

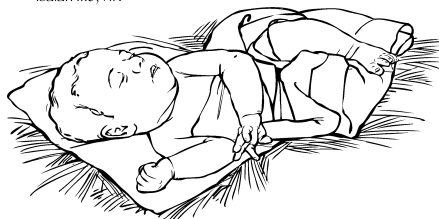


DO YOU GET E-NEWS? The Bethlehem E-news goes directly to the inbox of many Bethlehem members and friends, informing them of all that is happening in and around Bethlehem. Do you get the E-news? To subscribe, send an e-mail to blchurch@hickorytech.net with the subject: subscribe to E-news.



The Bethlehem Child Care Center is participating in McEducator Night at McDonald's on Adams Street. Purchase supper on the second Monday of each month (**January 9**) through May between 5 and 7 p.m. and give your receipt to the volunteer so the Center can receive a percentage of sales. It's a fun way to eat and visit with friends while supporting the Center!

"A little child will lead them."
Isaiah 11:6, NIV



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bethlehem will provide and serve the noon meal at the Salvation Army today. Team 4 is in charge. Additional donations always make a difference. If you would like to help, please call Bob & Susan Brown (387-2976).

FROM OUR LIBRARY

Come and see the changes!

The committee has made significant changes in the arrangement of our library. The new plan is easily recognized and well identified. All fiction is straight ahead and well identified with labels as you come through the door. To the right, all of the books on that wall are non-fiction and are well labeled. Our biographies and junior books are on the remaining wall. You'll see the signs. Easy books remain the same.

Earn An Extra \$150-\$200 PER MONTH TAX-FREE. Become a Senior Companion! Volunteer in the Mankato/Amboy area by making friendly visits to older adults in need. Senior Companions must be 55 years of age or older; service of 15 hours or more a week earns a small hourly tax-free stipend, plus receive travel reimbursement. For more information, contact Gail at 507-337-0382 or 507-530-2295.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



"I knew someday I'd be a star!"