

Announcements for the week of  
January 1-8, 2012  
www.bethlehemmankato.org



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### WEEKLY GIVING/ATTENDANCE

**Week of December 25, 2011:**  
Offered for the Lord's Work: \$10,307.00  
December Mission Project:  
God's Global Barnyard - \$8,185.00  
**Worship attendance-Sunday, 12/25/11:**  
9:45 a.m. - 110  
**Christmas Eve, December 24:**  
4 p.m. ~ 515 7 p.m. ~ 95

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9-9:30 a.m. ~ Coffee in Grounds for Joy  
9:45 a.m. ~ Worship Service

**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!

#### Menu for January 4, 2012:

Breaded pork chops, mashed potatoes, country gravy, & California blend vegetables  
*Team 1 will be serving.*



A HUGE thank you to all the members of Bethlehem who supported the Holiday Sharing Tree Mission. The Holiday Sharing Tree provided each recipient with a gift (valued at approximately \$25) so that they had 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

**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](mailto:blchurch@hickorytech.net) with the subject: subscribe to E-news.

### RADIO BROADCAST



Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by Arlene Kirchner in memory of Joe Kirchner. 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 January, we'll be collecting pasta.

#### Our Mission Project for January: CADA House

Bethlehem's monthly mission project for January is CADA House. CADA stands for the Committee Against Domestic Abuse. Their Mission Statement is: To provide safety and support to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault through education, advocacy, and shelter. CADA provides 24-hour crisis intervention, emergency safety shelter, short- and long-term safety planning, legal advocacy, a supervised parenting time center, support groups, community education, information, and referrals. CADA serves not only Nicollet County and Blue Earth County, but the counties of Brown, Waseca, Watonwan, Faribault, LeSueur, and Sibley as well. For many in crisis, CADA may be the only place they can turn to. Please join us for an Adult Forum on **January 15** to learn more about CADA's work and how you can help.

~ Bethlehem Community & Global Missions Board



The Sunday volunteer schedule is now on the BLC website:  
[www.bethlehemmankato.org](http://www.bethlehemmankato.org)

### LECTIONARY FOR 1/08/12

**First Reading:** Genesis 1:1-5  
Psalm: 29  
**Second Reading:** Acts 19:1-7  
**Gospel:** Mark 1:4-11

### IN OUR PRAYERS

Arlene Stenzel	Fred Otsea
Forrest Glick	Jean Beito
Eric Barnes	Donavon Johnson
Glenn Saxton	Jon Ringgenberg
Paul Sullivan	Richard Bahner
Pauline Halvorson	The family of
Bill Preiss	Loretta Snilsberg
Rachel Iverson	The family of
Lorene Heaberlin	Evelyn Gilbertson

*(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**

#### Dinner For Six (or Eight!)

Starting in the New Year, new groups will be forming. We shall have a sign-up sheet in the narthex on Sundays; during the week, the sheets will be on the counter in the church office. We encourage all of our members to participate in sharing a meal and socializing with new and old members of our congregation. There are no special requirements, other than to be willing to share your home for one meal with others. This will be our sixth social event, which will be from January 1 to July 1, 2012. If you have any questions, please contact Roger and Dee Saman at 388-6756.



*Additions to God's Global Barnyard Donations*

Given by **Jim & Marcia Nagel**  
in honor of Earl Ruga (Marcia's dad)  
Given by **Wally & Sharon McDougall**  
in memory of Scott, Kari, Dave, & Dale

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Because of the seasonal importance of the video, "The Star of Bethlehem" (which was shown at a recent Adult Forum) for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, I am willing to make the video available for members wishing to view it. Please send an e-mail to [bstenzel@hickorytech.net](mailto:bstenzel@hickorytech.net) if you would like to borrow the video from me and use it to enhance your own understanding and appreciation of God's greatest gift to the world -- the birth of his beloved son. The premise of this video is that from the beginning of time--the moment he created the universe--God had programmed the celestial clock to announce the birth and death of Christ. As scripture clearly points out, there would be signs in the heavens announcing these momentous events. Through the use of computer animation technology, the video makes a compelling argument that it is now possible to recreate the skies over Bethlehem the night the Magi arrived (December 25, 2 B.C.) to present their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the Christ Child, as well over Jerusalem on the day of Christ's crucifixion (April 3, 33 A.D.). While this is by no means the only interpretation of what the Star of Bethlehem was, as described in Matthew's Gospel, it is interesting. The video was produced by Stephen McEveety, who is best known for producing "*The Passion of the Christ*".

May you all have a happy,  
healthy new year.  
~ Bryce Stenzel,  
Adult Education Board Chair



ECHO  
FOOD SHELF

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

### Evangelism 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 Bethlehem Child Care Center** is participating in McEduicator 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!



The **FIRST EVER** National Choir Appreciation Sunday is scheduled for **Sunday, January 8, 2012!** On this day, churches across America plan to celebrate their choirs.

There are more than 32.5 million choir members in churches around the nation, who collectively volunteer 8.5 billion hours every year! (WOW!) What would our weekly worship be without the volunteers that share their musical talents? Come and show your appreciation to our church musicians. We will have cake and coffee between services in Grounds for Joy on **Sunday, January 8**. This day has been dedicated to thank our choirs for the joyous noise they provide each week.

**"Music is the shorthand of emotion."**  
~ Leo Tolstoy

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



Meals  
for  
Moms

Are you expecting a new addition to your family? Or do you know someone who is? Let the Mom's Circle of Bethlehem help by getting some home-cooked meals to you through the Meals for Moms program. Bringing home a new baby is an overwhelming & stressful time for many, especially during the first two weeks. Hopefully by providing meals, we can make that transition period smoother for the families. If you're interested, please contact Kami Matteson at [klmatteson3@gmail.com](mailto:klmatteson3@gmail.com).

## FROM OUR LIBRARY

### Feature of the Month

With the new arrangement of books in the library, we have gained a couple of free shelves. They are at the end of the fiction section. One shelf will now be labeled "**Feature of the Month**". Each month, we'll keep a certain type of book or author featured for a month.

For the month of **January**, we will feature family and coping books. Examples: Becoming Family, by Lauer; Fourth Generation, understanding people over the age of 75, by Mason; and The Art of Growing Old, by Saussy.



"Very few people realize this, but the cornerstone of this church is actually a fruitcake given to me by Ethel Mabeline during the Christmas of '72."