

Announcements for the week of
November 27-December 4, 2011
www.bethlehemmankato.org



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WEEKLY GIVING/ATTENDANCE

Week of November 20, 2011:
Offered for the Lord's Work: \$7,344.00
November Mission Project:
ELCA World Hunger - \$2,900.00
Worship attendance-Sunday, 11/20/11:
8:15 a.m.: 105 10:45 a.m.: 155
Wednesday, November 23: no service

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9 a.m. ~ Coffee in Grounds for Joy
9:45 a.m. ~ **Worship Service**
6:30 p.m. ~ Financial Peace University,
Heritage Room



BLCW Circle Coordinators

Circle coordinators will meet on **Thursday, December 8, at 10:00 a.m.** in the church library to plan for 2012 activities. If you cannot attend, please call Aileen at 625-3549.

Mange Takk

One comment heard over and over following the Nordic Bazaar was this: "It was so much fun!". Truly it was great! Such a splendid day came about because people were able to give of their time, talents, and resources so that others could experience joy and at the same time support mission work as the proceeds from the event are distributed.

The list of people to thank is very long -- not wanting to omit any names of those who served, we offer a huge, soft, and cozy blanket "THANK YOU" (mange takk). As you read this, thank yourself also. It is through the work of many that the load becomes light.

We invite and encourage involvement in the 2012 Bazaar on **November 7, 2012**. Plan ahead as to how you can use your time, talents, and resources to glorify God.
~ Bethlehem Bazaar Coordinators

RADIO BROADCAST



Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by **Gert DeRemer in memory of Glen and Gary**. To sponsor a radio broadcast in honor of or in memory of someone, sign up on the bulletin board near the church office. The early 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 November, we'll be collecting canned fruit.

Our Mission Project for November:

ELCA World Hunger

ELCA World Hunger is a program that helps individuals and communities lift themselves out of poverty into self-sufficiency. It is a comprehensive and sustainable program that uses multiple strategies to address the root causes of hunger and poverty to our neighbors around the world, including the U.S. ELCA World Hunger responds to Christ's call to "Go and do likewise" [Luke 10:37] serving with compassion people who are most vulnerable. It is funded entirely by the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Over 90 percent of every gift provides direct support for our church's hunger ministry. This mission is especially important today with the drought and subsequent famine in Africa. The World Health Organization estimates 1/3 of the world's population is starving; 15 million children die per year of hunger; and 10 million children under 5 die each year, over half of them from hunger-related causes. The bulletin inserts this month will illustrate how ELCA World Hunger has made a difference in the lives of people all over the world, including the U.S. Please make your check out to Bethlehem and put *World Hunger* on the memo line. Thank you!

~ Community and Global Missions Board



We're looking for a **medium-size horse drawn sleigh** to use for inside church decor!!! We need it by December 4 and would gladly come and pick it up!!! Please call Brad or Betty Groth at 387-2401. Thanks so much!!!

LECTIONARY FOR 12/04/11

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalms: 85:1-2, 8-13
Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a
Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

IN OUR PRAYERS

Arlene Stenzel	Rachel Iverson
Forrest Glick	Lorene Heaberlin
Eric Barnes	Fern Merrill
Glenn Saxton	Gladys Olson
Paul Sullivan	The family of
Pauline Halvorson	Berniece Royer

(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:

Calvary Lutheran in Rapidan
Isanzu Lutheran in Tanzania
(partnered with Calvary in Rapidan)
Bethel Lutheran in Scarville, Iowa
Trinity Fellowship SAWC in Rushford
Nazareth Lutheran in Tanzania
(partnered with Trinity Fellowship)

Wednesday Night Suppers are in the dining room from 5:00-6:30. The cost remains at \$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 November 30:

Beef stew, biscuits, and a fruit cup
Team 4 will be serving.



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 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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



MILESTONE NEWS

First, I want thank everyone who participated in the mission project of Operation Christmas Child. During the education hour on November 20, the youth packed the boxes with all the individual items that were donated. This year, we dropped off 35 boxes to our regional site. This is a wonderful way to talk about Jesus' love for all of his children.

On December 4, during the education hour in the dining room, all LIGHT students, three year olds to sixth grade, will be making characters for their "touchable" nativity set. Please help your child to keep their characters together, as each age makes a different one each year. A list will be on the bulletin board by Leah's office about which character each age makes every year. If your child is missing a character, a kit will be available for your child to make at home so that they will have 15 characters by fifth grade. The sixth grade will be making the stable to complete their project.

"Happy Birthday, Jesus" party will be on December 11 for the two year olds and any three year old that is not enrolled in LIGHT. This will be during the education hour and includes the child and their parent(s) or grandparent(s). This is an excellent way for these young children to understand that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus' birth and not a retail holiday!

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 can be addressed to Lance.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Evangelism Thought for the Week

Seven faith practices that help in creating disciples (evangelists):

- 1) study Scripture; 2) worship; 3) pray;
- 4) give; 5) serve; 6) encourage; and 7) witness.



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

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.



E-NEWS?

Buy a Present for a Pathstone Resident!

Pick up a bow in the narthex and purchase a gift for a resident at Pathstone Living. Attached to the bows are tags, which list items that the residents have requested. After you purchase the gift, wrap it, put the bow/tag on it, and bring it back to the church office or drop it off at Pathstone on or before December 14. Thank you for helping to make Christmas a little brighter for some of the Pathstone residents!



Please join the congregation in celebrating Christmas by picking a name off the Sharing Tree and attending a Christmas Open House with coffee/treats on **Sunday, December 4, from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. in the Heritage Room**. Gifts for the Sharing Tree can be brought to the church office any time **before December 16**. This event is sponsored by the Fellowship Committee and the December serving group.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Worship Band Fest!

Come to the Worship Band Fest!
Saturday, December 3, at 7:00 p.m.

Crossroads - Lutheran Campus Ministry (next to the Earley Center for the Performing Arts at MSU-Mankato)
Featured worship bands include Crossroads, CRU, and Chi Alpha.

FROM OUR LIBRARY

A Variety of Christmas Treasures

1. The New Guideposts Christmas Treasure - the warmth of Christmas in the family compiled by the editors of Guideposts (394.2).
2. Sister Wendy's Nativity, by Sister Wendy Beckett. Her personal selection of 40 beautiful paintings from manuscripts held by the Vatican (232.92).
3. The Locket, by Paul Evans - a novel (FIC Eva).

Parents' Morning Out will be offered on Saturday, December 10, from 9:00-12:00. We are extending the offer to all children ages 6 months up to 5th grade. The suggested donation amount is \$5.00 for each child for the FULL 3 hours. **You must register by Sunday, December 4**. Please contact Leah Garry to get your child registered.



The Sunday volunteer schedule is now on the BLC website:

www.bethlehemmankato.org

