



THE BETHLEHEM STAR  
NOVEMBER 2011



Sunday Worship: 8:15 and 10:45 a.m.  
Wednesday worship at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel  
The 8:15 Sunday service is broadcast at 11 a.m. on KTOE 1420 AM.

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A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JAY DAHLVANG

Welcome Mark

*“The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”*  
~ Mark 1:1

On November 27, we begin Mark as the appointed gospel for year B in our lectionary. Mark is the first Gospel witness to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and his story is told to create and sustain faith in Christ. Mark is the rawest of the gospels, and offers three key scenes—baptism, transfiguration, and death—to reveal the man Jesus as the one testified to by the Roman soldier at the cross as the Son of God. There is an urgency in Mark regarding Jesus that is often lacking in our lives and the church today. The word “immediately” appears again and again, emphasizing the impact Jesus is having in his short time on earth. Mark is the gospel with no Christmas or Easter, as there is no birth story, and in what many scholars believe the original ending, the resurrected Jesus does not appear. The closing lines read, “But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.’ So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone for they were afraid.” ~ Mark 16:7-8 Mark told his gospel so that you

and me and all who are claimed by God in Christ might write the end of Jesus’ story with our lives. The early Christians were challenged by a question many of us still wonder: If Jesus did such amazing things, why is life often so tough for us today? Mark Vitalis Hoffman writes, “It is tempting to respond to this question by highlighting the glorious aspects of Jesus’ ministry: his authority, his miracles, and his transfiguration. Mark, however, consistently focuses our attention on the cross. Jesus is indeed the Son of God, but this is not fully realized except in his suffering, serving, and death.” Mark’s story of Jesus’ life is indeed our story, too—in a willingness to serve, to take the last place, and even to give our lives for the sake of the Kingdom of God—we realize the life that God has for us. As we live into that life, we know the love, hope, and peace that God gives in and through his crucified and resurrected Son on the loose in the world. November 27 is the beginning of the good news as told by Mark. As you prepare for that story unfolding in your life, take a few moments to read the gospel from beginning to end. Join us on November 16 at 10:30 a.m., and each

Wednesday following, as we look into Mark in our newest Book of Faith Bible Study. A sign-up sheet will be in the office. ~ Pr. Jay



Thank You!

In this month of Thanksgiving, we give God thanks for the generous outpouring we celebrated on October 16 as we estimated our support for the mission of Christ in and through Bethlehem for 2012. Thanks to our Stewardship Team for their outstanding work, and for all who served a delicious meal. Thanks to those who shared their stories about how Bethlehem matters to them, the community, and the world. Thanks for your confidence in what God is doing among us as we go forward into the life Christ has called Bethlehem to live.

**DEADLINE** for the December Star is November 15.



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](mailto:blchurch@hickorytech.net) with “subscribe to E-news” in the subject line.

## PASTOR COLLETTE; NOVEMBER SERVING GROUP

### A Year of Thanksgivings

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to God and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues to all generations. ~ Psalm 100:4-5*

As Thanksgiving Day approaches each year, we are reminded how important it is to give thanks to God and remember all the blessings we have been given. This year, though, I feel like I need no reminder. For me and my family, this has been a year full of thanksgivings. Last September, we were giving thanks for the new job Josh was enjoying. Last October, I was giving thanks for the kindness of the people at Medo Lutheran Church who reminded me how wonderful church people can be. Last November, we rejoiced in the first Thanksgiving spent with family in years. In December, we thankfully celebrated Ollie's first birthday. In the late winter and early spring, we thanked God for call possibilities that were coming up, and soon after were thankfully accepting the call to Bethlehem and Redeemer. And since I have begun my work among you, I have daily given God thanks for the privilege of serving so welcoming and generous a congregation.

Though my reasons to be thankful are numerous this year, this has not always been the case. In the recent past, there were full years where God's faithfulness was hard to see and my own hard work almost unrewarded. It was in the midst of one of these difficult years that my friend Elizabeth told me about her Happy Scrapbook. The details of her situation are rather personal, but suffice it to say that Elizabeth had had the kind of year that could cause a person to give up hope, both in humanity and in the goodness of God. But, in the midst of her terribly dark year, Elizabeth started keeping a Happy Scrapbook.

It was a simple sketch book, and it started out as a whole bunch of blank pages. But, slowly, over the months, the pages began to fill up. She pasted in letters from friends, e-mails from family, notes from students, a bad joke about a peanut, and some strange and silly information about how Elizabeth was actually very like an elephant.

At first glance, it seemed to me like a collection of random pieces from her life, but they represented one thing. They represent light in the darkness, times when Elizabeth needed a word of encouragement and it arrived in her inbox. Times when Elizabeth did something that took a lot of guts, or that she'd been gearing up to for a long

time, and someone saw and appreciated how much courage it took.

In short, the Happy Scrapbook was a way for Elizabeth to remind herself to be thankful even on the worst days. We all need those reminders at one point or another, and thankfully, the Bible and our worship are full of them. At least half of the Psalms give thanks for the goodness of God in the distant and recent past. Every one of Paul's letters (except Galatians) begins with a thanksgiving specific to the community who would read it. Our hymns and liturgy are full of remembrances of God's good gifts in our lives.

Perhaps this article will be just one more of those reminders, that God's goodness surrounds us always, whether it has been a particularly wonderful year or a terrible one. For the gift of his Son, for the gift of our congregation, for the blessing of friends and family, for meaningful work, and sometimes for any work at all, we pause this month to say a special "Thanks be to God!". ~ Pr. Collette



### NOVEMBER SERVING GROUP ~ Co-Chairs: Bob & Sue Brown (387-2976) and Duane & Jan Ahlness (345-1982)



Monthly  
Serving  
Group

Jeanan Anderson  
Lois Anderson  
Shane & Michelle Anderson  
Beth Andrews  
Roger & Marlene Barnes  
Jean Benson  
James & Julie Erdman  
Jill Evenson  
Alice Haugen  
Dale & Barbara Jaeger  
Scott & Kristine MacLean

Ron & Eunice Mutch  
Valerie Pearson  
Cherie Perisian  
Stan & Pat Petersen  
Jack & Dorothy Ringgenberg  
Darwin & Kimberly Rogers  
Bruce & Mary Sherwood  
Robert & Vickie Siirtola  
Mike & Marie Slotemaker  
Jamisen & Janeen Swenson  
Brian & Heidi Veith

Darryl & Tammera Wachtel  
Betty Warnke  
Paul Wendt  
Vee Williams



Monthly  
Serving  
Group

**BETHLEHEM FELLOWSHIP ~ 91st ANNUAL NORDIC BAZAAR!**



Seventeen Bethlehem members served a lasagna dinner to 121 guests on **Sunday, September 24**, at the Salvation Army. Thank you to everyone for sharing a meal with our neighbors: Ron & Etta Poole (team leaders); Jack Halvorson; Florence Sassenberg; Shirley Wold; Ginny & Allan Asleson; Lori Ruthenbeck & Don Ziemke; Sandy Kuper; Verona Roberts; John & Judy Corcoran; Yevonne Flatgard; Dennis, Shirley, & Anne Ferris; Jim & Marcia Nagel; Nick & Linda Frederick; Don & Violet Johnson; Wally & Sharon McDougall; Beth Backstrom; Denny & Karen Sandersfeld; Jim & Kari Halbur; Jay Backstrom; Pastor Jay Dahlvang; Shirley Davis; Elaine Kunz; Rae Allan; and Rocky & Ruth Schoenrock.

To participate in this meaningful local mission opportunity, call Bob and Susan Brown (387-2976). You can serve in a way that works for you ~ by donating food, money, or time. Bethlehem will serve again on **Sunday, December 18**.



**DON'T TAKE A VACATION FROM CHURCH!**

Have you traveled recently? Did you visit/attend church in another community? If so, the Evangelism Board would like to hear from you! What do you recall about your church visit? Was it friendly? Inviting? In what ways? How would you describe your impressions as a visitor? What aspects of the service (or its welcome) might have made you want to revisit that church again, if you were given the opportunity? Please take a minute and jot down your reflections. You may leave them in the Evangelism Board mailbox in the church office or send them in an e-mail to Jack Halvorson at [jackh@hickorytech.net](mailto:jackh@hickorytech.net). Thank you!!



Contributed items for the ongoing project of newborn mission kits have been gratefully received over the past five months and were assembled on September 30 by a group of our members, which included: Sue Brown, Gert DeRemer, Barb Girtz, Don & Marilyn Wolner, and Tom & Betty Sanger. The 500 assembled kits will soon be delivered to Global Health Ministries in Fridley, MN. This charitable organization gathers and warehouses all kinds of medical and dental equipment and ships them in sea containers to countries that need and make requests for the supplies. Those of you who have purchased items, knit caps, shared medical equipment, given monetary donations, or helped in any way are appreciated for your concern, love, and caring for the needs of people in developing nations. Thanks so much! ~ *Community & Global Missions Board*

**BETHLEHEM'S 91<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL  
NORDIC BAZAAR**

**91 YEARS OF MISSION**

**November 2, 2011**

Bazaar Sales: 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Chicken Kiev Luncheon: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Luncheon Seatings: 11:00, 11:45, and 12:30  
Take-out is available. Luncheon Tickets - \$7.00  
Luncheon tickets are available on the day of the bazaar, or they can be purchased in advance in the church office.

**Semi-annual meeting  
November 20 at noon  
in the Dining Room**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS (in the Dining Room)**  
**SERVED FROM 5:00-6:30**  
**November Menus:**

November 2 --	potato soup, turkey & ham croissant, fruit cup
November 9 --	hamburger on a bun, French fries, baked beans
November 16 --	turkey & all the fixings
November 23 --	NO supper (Thanksgiving Eve)
November 30 --	beef stew, biscuits, fruit cup

**The Bethlehem Child Care Center** is again participating in **McEducator Night** at McDonald's on Adams. Purchase supper on the 2nd 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!

**November Mission of the Month:  
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. 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. ~ *Community and Global Missions Board*

**Thanksgiving Baskets**



Again this year ECHO Food Shelf will distribute Thanksgiving dinner baskets to our neighbors who would not otherwise be able to afford them. The baskets will include either a chicken, a turkey, or a ham, potatoes, canned corn, dressing mix, canned cranberries, and apples. The baskets will cost \$18 each, and we expect to distribute about 1,100 of them. If you are able to help by contributing to this project, please send donations to ECHO at P.O. Box 3212, Mankato, or drop them off at 1014 South Front Street. **We are also in need of many additional volunteers to help with distribution from November 14 through November 18.** If you have some extra time and would like to help, please contact Monica Oberle at 345-8321 to arrange scheduling. Finally, if you or anyone you know is in need of a basket, please contact ECHO during the dates listed above. The program is open to all residents of Blue Earth County and North Mankato.

**ECHO FOOD SHELF**

**In November, we'll be collecting canned fruit.**



**Kijota, Tanzania Well Project Celebration on November 13**



For the last two years, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, with the encouragement of Bob and Dorothy Isdahl, has provided the majority of the money needed to complete a water well and storage tanks for the village of Kijota, Tanzania. On Sunday morning, November 13, Bethlehem will celebrate the arrival of life-giving water to Kijota. Joining us that day for church and the forum will be Ryan Porath, who led the project in Tanzania, along with Floyd Hammer of Outreach Africa. They will show pictures and tell stories of how the project came together and was completed. The total cost of Bethlehem's contribution is \$12,784. We have a few more dollars needed to reach that amount -- so if you would like to contribute, write your check out to Bethlehem and specify *Kijota Well* on the memo line. November 13 will be a day to celebrate. Be sure to attend!

**FUN FUNDRAISER FOR VINE! ))**

The Looney Lutherans, featuring actresses from the Church Basement Ladies, use music, comedy, and audience participation to teach us how to live a long and healthy life. Performances include segments on healthy living "the Lutheran way", but you don't have to be Lutheran to appreciate this fun-filled show! Join us for fellowship, musical entertainment, coffee, and a delicious piece of pie from the Rapidan Dam Store!



**Sunday, November 20, 2011  
5:45-6:45 p.m. • pie and coffee  
6:45-8:15 p.m. • program  
Hosanna Lutheran Church  
105 Hosanna Avenue, Mankato**

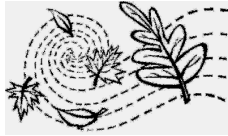
Tickets are \$20 each (a tax-deductible contribution to VINE) and can be purchased at the Summit Center, the VINE Home Thrift Store, and the VINE office. Tickets may also be purchased by mail. Send payment to VINE Faith in Action, 1618 Third Avenue, Mankato. Call (507) 387-1666 for more information.

Proceeds from this event will support VINE's efforts to repurpose the Nichols Office Building. Please attend and help create an Adult Community Center in the Greater Mankato Area. Visit [agingtothemax.com](http://agingtothemax.com) to learn more. All proceeds from this event, including tax-deductible contributions, will be supplemented by Thrivent for Lutherans.

# CALENDAR

## Wednesday Evening Schedule

- 5:00 – 8:00** Child care available (infant to age 5, nursery area located in basement)
- 5:00 – 5:55** Chancel Choir (adults, meets in Choir Room - basement)
- 5:00 – 6:30** Supper served (all are welcome – dining room)
- 5:15 – 6:00** Junior Gospbells (practice held in Sanctuary)
- 6:00 – 6:30** Worship in the Chapel
- 6:00 – 6:40** Kids' Club (meets in the "Moved by the Spirit" room downstairs, for kids in kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade -- a time of music, a message, lessons, and activities)
- 6:00 – 7:45** **TIMES** (Teens In Mission Enthusiastically Serving) in Grounds for Joy
- 6:00 – 7:45** Confirmation classes (grades 7 – 9, Youth Room on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor)
- 6:30 – 7:30** Bethlehem Gospbells (practice held in Sanctuary)
- 6:45 – 7:40** Gather Choir (adults, meets in Choir Room – basement)
- 7:45 – 8:30** The Messengers (music & drama group for Youth grades 7 – 12, meets in the Chapel)



# November 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 7 am -Café Ambrosia Bible Study  Noon-Men's Bible Study 1 pm - Library Board 1 pm - Comm. at OMV 5:15 pm - Stewardship 6 pm- Music & Worship 6:15 pm - Earth Stewards 7 pm- C&G Missions, Evangelism, Children's Bd.	<b>2</b> NORDIC BAZAAR!  SEE SCHEDULE ABOVE for Wed. Night Activities	<b>3</b>  10 am - Building Committee	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 1-5 pm - Mankato Children's Chorus <b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS</b> Turn your clocks <b>BACK</b> an hour before going to bed!! 
<b>6</b> 8:15 & 10:45 - Worship 9:30 - Ed. Hour, coffee, new member orientation 6:30 pm - Financial Peace University (FPU) in the Heritage Room	<b>7</b> 5-9 pm - Mankato Children's Chorus 5:45 pm - TOPS 7 pm-Youth Band	<b>8</b> 7 am - Café Ambrosia Bible Study 10:15-Comm. at Pathstone Noon - Men's Bible Study 1 pm - Library Board 5:30 - Youth Board 6 pm - Fellowship Comm. 7 pm - Facilities Board	<b>9</b> 7:45 am-Finance Comm. 9 am - TOPS 1 pm- Staff mtg. 3:30 - Women's Bible Study - GFJ <b>Wed. Evening Activities</b>	<b>10</b>  11 a.m. - memorial service for Bob Geary in the chapel	<b>11</b>  Men's Via de Cristo thru 11/13 in New Ulm Youth trip to Eagle Bluff in Lanesboro thru 11/13	<b>12</b>  4:30-8:30 pm - Sons of Norway - Dining Room
<b>13</b> 8:15 & 10:45 - Worship 9:30 - Education Hour, coffee, new member orientation 6:30 pm - FPU	<b>14</b> 5-7 pm - McEducator Night at McDonald's 5-9 pm - Mankato Children's Chorus 5:45 pm - TOPS 7 pm-Youth Band	<b>15</b> 7 am - Café Ambrosia Bible Study 9 am - Quilters Noon-Men's Bible Study 1 pm - Library Board 4 pm - Website Comm. 7 pm - Council meeting	<b>16</b> 9 am - TOPS 9:30-11:30 - Rachael Circle in Grounds for Joy 10:30-Book of Faith Study 1 pm- Staff mtg. <b>Wed. Evening Activities</b> Confirmation Winter Warm-up at Gustavus	<b>17</b> 2 pm - Care Ministry comm. at Gus Johnson Plaza 6:00 - BCCC mtg. in HR	<b>18</b>  3 pm - Book Club - Library Women's Via de Cristo thru 11/20 in New Ulm	<b>19</b>
<b>NEW MEMBER SUNDAY</b> <b>20</b> 8:15 & 10:45 - Worship 9:30 - Ed. Hour, coffee 9:15 & 11:45am - Prayer Team in sanctuary <b>Noon - Cong. Meeting</b> 5 pm - Movie Night 6:30 pm - FPU	<b>21</b> 1-4 pm - Elizabeth Circle in GFJ 5-9 pm - MCC 5:45 pm - TOPS 6:30 - Mom's Circle 7 pm-Youth Band	<b>22</b> 7 am - Café Ambrosia Bible Study Noon - Men's Bible Study 1 pm - Library Board 2 pm - Lydia Circle in GFJ	<b>23</b> 9 am - TOPS 10:30-Book of Faith Study 1 pm - Staff mtg. 3:30 - Women's Bible Study - GFJ <b>7 pm - Thanksgiving Eve svc. at</b> <b>GRACE LUTHERAN</b> <b>NO Wed. Evening Activities</b>	<b>24</b>  Church Office Closed	<b>25</b>  Church Office Closed	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>  9 am - coffee in GFJ 9:45 - Worship 6:30 pm - FPU	<b>28</b> 5-9 pm - MCC 5:45 pm - TOPS 7 pm-Youth Band 7 pm - Health Ministry - Library	<b>29</b> 7 am - Café Ambrosia Bible Study Noon - Men's Bible Study 1 pm - Library Board 6 pm - Fellowship Comm.	<b>30</b> 9 am - TOPS 10:30-Book of Faith Study 1 pm- Staff mtg. <b>Wed. Evening Activities</b>			

**NOTE: Grace Lutheran Church in Mankato will host the community ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 23.**

## CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

### November LIGHT News: God Lights Our Way

**NO** LIGHT on **Sunday, November 27**, due to Thanksgiving.

The children's offering fund for November will be donated to Operation Christmas Child. The money will pay for the postage to mail these important packages to children in need. Please consider sending an offering with your child to help him/her

learn the importance of giving back to others by supporting this wonderful mission.

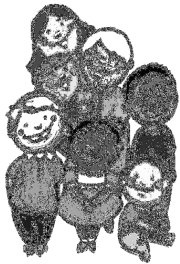
**SAVE THE DATE** for the annual Christmas program! The children will be performing at the **10:45 service on Sunday, December 18.**

LIGHT is in need of YOUR help!! We are always looking for LIGHT Keepers and Facilitators. It takes 25 volunteers each rotation to make

the program run successfully! We need YOU! Please consider donating your time for either a 3-5 week period or the whole year!

Contact Leah Garry at 507-382-2205 or [lgarry@hickorytech.net](mailto:lgarry@hickorytech.net) to volunteer, or just to learn more about the exciting LIGHT program.

***Come and see how  
God Lights Our Way!***



**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*

### Wednesday Night Kids' Club is here at Bethlehem!



Bethlehem Kids' Club is a group of students (kindergarten through 6th grade) who meet in the "Moved by the Spirit" room on Wednesday nights from 6:00-6:40. During this time, we grow in our relationship with Jesus. We praise God through music, and we take time to learn from our Bibles. For the month of November, we will be learning the books of the Bible.

We will have **no** Kids' Club on **Wednesday, November 23**, due to Thanksgiving.

On **Wednesday, November 30**, the children of the Bethlehem Kids' Club will sing at the **6:00 p.m. Wednesday worship service in the Chapel.**

If you have questions about Kids' Club, please see Leah Garry or Laurie Rossow.



### Family Movie Night Sunday, November 20

Join us at 5 p.m. in the Movie Theater Room of Bethlehem. We will watch a family-friendly movie. Stay tuned for the film announcement. Pizza, popcorn, and beverages will be provided for a free-will offering.



As I said in one of our bulletins last month, October 1 and 2 was the second annual Sleep-Out-in-a-Box in support of youth homelessness.

Collectively, we raised over \$2,000 for The REACH (an LSS youth-based program to fight youth homeless and at-risk teens). The REACH has served over 130 youth since opening in February. This year, 100 students (grades 7-12) from over 10 churches gathered together and made a visual statement to the Mankato community about the issue of youth homelessness by spending the night outside in cardboard boxes at the Salvation Army, and they also raised money for the cause! Two of our youth, Wes Heiser and Mara Salfer, were two of the top three fundraisers in the larger-combined group. I am proud

to say we had one of the larger church groups, with 15 youth present. Our youth followed up with a noisy offering Sunday and raised \$218 from BLC. This group of youth practiced discipleship in the community in our "CSI" tradition. Good job, youth!! The event was co-sponsored by the MAYM (Mankato Area Youth Ministers) and the Youth Outreach Committee (formerly Circle of Hope). The Youth Outreach Committee has members from Bethlehem, Grace, Christ the King, St. John the Baptist, and a few more churches. The purpose is support for The REACH.

A personal side of this is two "older" guys acting like kids and freezing for the cause. Bob Qualset and I were the chaperones, and I think we had as much fun as the kids! It was really fun to see the boys try for honks with their signs

"Honk if you support Youth Homelessness" (they even got a toot from the siren of a police squad car), a midnight basketball game full court (no, we didn't play -- we watched!), an unscheduled worship sing-in with people from different churches, and a trip to The REACH so each participant had an opportunity to talk to the personnel and counselors. Everyone felt close to the project and included in the event. Discipleship is local support for local people in need. The point was driven home, and we all felt good about it. The two "older" guys both had smiles when the event ended—in fact, we both had smiles the next Wednesday night when over half of the confirmation class stood up front and told about the experience. Youth ministry should always be like that!

See you in church! ~ Lance

## TIMES KIDS

**(TEENS IN MISSION ENTHUSIASTICALLY SERVING)**

**Wednesdays ~ 6:00-7:45 p.m. in Grounds for Joy**

- November 2 - Movie "For the Bible Tells Me So" and discussion
- November 9 - Bowling
- November 16 - Make Cards for Singing Christmas Cards
- November 23 - NO TIMES (Happy Thanksgiving!)
- November 30 - Ring Bells for Salvation Army
- December 7 - Bake Christmas Cookies
- December 14 - Singing Christmas Cards
- December 21 - Singing Christmas Cards
- December 28 - NO TIMES (Happy Christmas Break!)



## Milestone News for November

First graders and their parent(s) or grandparent(s) will meet in Classroom A during the education hour on **November 6**. We will be making prayer placemats. Different table prayers and pictures of the child's favorite foods will be glued onto large construction paper and laminated. With several table prayers on the placemat, new mealtime prayers can be introduced to the family, and the child can pick a prayer for the family to say. On **November 20**, the 7th, 8th, and 9th graders will be packing up the plastic 6-quart shoe boxes during the education hour for Operation Christmas Child (OCC). A display for OCC will be in the narthex on November 3, where shoe boxes and individual items can be dropped off. The OCC organization has requested plastic shoe boxes, as they are more sturdy than cardboard boxes. Some of these plastic boxes are even used to carry water. OCC is a mission project that provides a Sunday School message about Jesus' love for all of God's children in their language. Each box donated should have a \$7.00 check (made out to Bethlehem Lutheran Church with OCC on the memo line) taped onto the outside of the box. Donations for shipping boxes can also be made. These checks should be placed in Elizabeth's box in the office. **All OCC boxes must be turned in to the church by November 20.** This would make an excellent family project. Any questions should be directed to Vee M.G. Williams at [fiveboys@chartermi.net](mailto:fiveboys@chartermi.net).

## Youth Trip



### BIG PLANS, BIG GOALS FOR THE "BIG EASY"!

Fourteen youth have made the commitment to attend the youth gathering in New Orleans in July, 2012. This is just the beginning of the planning and preparing to gear up for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for many of these teens. All youth have made a financial commitment towards this trip, but they will be working to raise funds throughout the next nine months to subsidize the cost. Please prayerfully consider what you can do to help support these youth. The envelope fundraiser in the narthex is a quick and easy way to show your support. The youth are also planning an exciting evening of food and entertainment for "Fat Tuesday" with a New Orleans party theme in February. Later in the spring, youth will use some elbow grease to spiff up your vehicles at a car wash. Any and all financial support and prayers for a safe and successful trip are greatly appreciated!





**Minnesota Heritage Publishing** announces its latest book release, *Discover Deep Valley: A Guide to Maud Hart Lovelace's Mankato* by Julie A. Schrader. The book will make its sales debut at Bethlehem Lutheran Church's Nordic Bazaar on November 2, 2011.

Mankato, the birthplace of Maud Hart Lovelace, is the setting for the well-known Betsy-Tacy children's books. For many years, Lovelace fans have traveled to Mankato to visit the homes of Betsy and Tacy and seek out the places of Maud's childhood.

Maud's childhood in Mankato shaped her life and provided scenery and plots for the Betsy-Tacy books. It is still possible to revisit the streets of Maud Hart Lovelace's "Deep Valley". Let your imagination take you back in time to an era when Maud was a young Victorian girl. Step into the pages of the Betsy-Tacy books when you visit Maud Hart Lovelace's childhood home. Walk in her footsteps through the historic Lincoln Park neighborhood, or read about Front

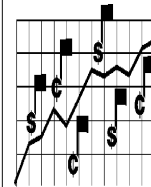
Street at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Whether you're a fan of the Betsy-Tacy books or someone with an interest in local history, this book is for you. The guidebook identifies 100 places associated with the Betsy-Tacy books. Although some buildings have been lost over time, many still exist. Learn more about Mankato's famous literary daughter, Maud Hart Lovelace.

The author, Julie Schrader, and her husband, Ken, have been members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church for over 30 years. She established Minnesota Heritage Publishing and has published books for other local authors, including *Words of Hope* by Pastor Donald Roberts and several books by Bethlehem member Bryce Stenzel.

*"To find Deep Valley in this bustling modern city, you have to close your eyes to the airport, to the streams of automobiles, and to many beautiful new homes and schools and shops. You have to imagine horses and carriages, ladies with trailing skirts and ruffled parasols and children in long black stockings."*

~ Maud Hart Lovelace, 1961

For more information, visit [www.mnheritage.com](http://www.mnheritage.com) or Minnesota Heritage Publishing on Facebook.



**Financial NOTES**

September is traditionally a month in which expenditures exceed income. This year was no exception.

The month-end deficit increased by \$6,636 to a total of \$10,110. The projected deficit for this time period was \$32,127. So, in that regard, we are doing very well (although we always have to remember that we were not at full staff for the first half of the year).

Member giving year-to-date is \$310,339, which is 96% of budget. At this time in 2010, we were at \$294,877. This is an increase of \$15,462 over last year. The deficit at this time last year was \$32,000. Thank you to all of the dedicated members of Bethlehem for their continuing financial support of the church.



**A note about cancellations...**

We don't want to think about this happening already in November...but... in case of inclement weather on Sunday mornings, listen to KTOE 1420 AM for cancellation announcements for worship and church activities. In case of inclement weather on Wednesdays, our evening events will follow the cancellation decision of the Mankato Public Schools.

**CARE MINISTRY**



On Thursday, November 17, the Care Ministry Team will be at Gus Johnson Plaza with communion at **2:00 p.m.** Coffee, treats, and fellowship will follow. We hope you can join us! Blessings ~ Kathy Crowell, Florence Sassenberg, & Pastor Jay.

**New Member Sunday -- November 20, 2011**



"We agree with the doctrine, submit to your form of government and will endeavor to give of our time, gifts and talents. Now let's say the sermons start to run long; what is our recourse?"



**LIBRARY NEWS...**In the October bulletins, we reviewed several new DVDs that have Christian themes. Our library also has three new CDs for you to check out:

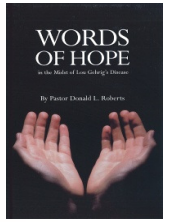
1. Amish Peace: Simple Wisdom for a Complicated World.
2. The Shack: Where Tragedy Confronts Eternity.
3. Glimpses of Heaven: True Stories of Hope and Peace at the End of Life's Journey.

# DEVOTION/BIBLE STUDIES

## A Devotional from Pastor Don Roberts

Pastor Don Roberts served as pastor at Bethlehem from 1989-1996. He was diagnosed with ALS/Lou Gehrig's Disease in 1995 and continues to be an inspiration of life and faith to our congregation. His devotionals are written with the aid of a letterboard and an assistant. Pastor Don's book is available in the church office ~ \$15 each.

**"You call me teacher and Lord -- and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you." ~ John 13:13-15**



FOOT WASHING

Foot washing was a practical thing in first century Palestine. In the dry season, feet were covered with dust. In the rainy season, feet were covered with mud. It was a practical aspect when guests came to a home to wash their feet. It was usually done by a slave. Jesus assumed the role of a slave when he washed the disciples' feet. It was symbolic of

another mission Jesus was going to accomplish the next day. Jesus, the Son of God, and in John 1 the agent of creation, went to the cross to forgive our sins and to give us eternal life. In essence, Jesus became a slave to us. Jesus, the Son of God and the agent of creation, became a slave to us. He gave us a practical thing we needed -- the forgiveness of sins. Let's thank Jesus for this. Let's praise him. With Thanksgiving coming this

month, we all have this for which to be thankful. It was a practical thing we needed.

Most of us, if we are fully dressed, don't want our feet washed. We do appreciate practical things done for us that we need. We thank other people for doing practical things for us. Let's assume the role of a slave and do practical things for other people. Jesus gave us an example. Let's do practical things for others.

### ADULT FORUMS -- 9:30 a.m. in the HERITAGE ROOM



November 6  
November 13  
November 20  
November 27

Presentation by VINE  
Kijota Well update  
Council Forum  
No forum

**Prayers Wanted!** Our Bethlehem prayer team invites you to join us twice a month for a time of prayer, learning, and ministry to God's people at Bethlehem. The Prayer Team meets on the first Sunday of each month for a time of conversation, learning, and prayer. **We will meet after the services on the third Sunday of each month to pray with those who long for healing.** All are welcome -- tell Pastor Jay if you are interested.

### Mom's Circle Bible Study



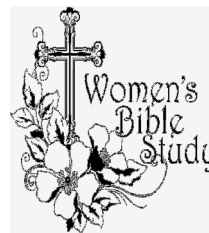
Mom's Circle is a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Our callings are to engage in ministry and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world. A group of moms with young children meets at **6:30 p.m.** on the third Monday of every month during the year. **We will meet at Pastor Collette's home on November 21.**



**Men's Tuesday Noon Bible Study** meets at 101 Main in the downtown City Center Hotel.

**Wednesday Women's Bible/ Discussion Group**

will meet on **Nov. 9 & 23** at **3:30 p.m.** in Grounds for Joy.



### Come to Café Ambrosia!

Join us every Tuesday morning at 7:00 a.m. at Café Ambrosia, which is located at 1720 Commerce Drive in North Mankato.

**Men & women are welcome.**

***Come and join us -- we have room for more!***

A Musical Note from Laurie Rossow, Coordinator of Music

With Halloween behind us now, I can tell you we had some adorable little goblins come to our door in their masks and costumes for tricks and treats (mostly treats!). Who were those masked kids? One adult male escorted a small group of children and he, too, was hidden behind a mask. My husband and I laughed and asked each other, "Who was that masked man, anyway?". Some of you who are older will remember the radio program, *The Lone Ranger* (who was known as "The Masked Man").

Paul tells of a masked man in 2 Corinthians 3:12. "Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside." The masked man in the Bible was Moses!

This brings to mind another quote from William Shakespeare: "All the world's a stage. And all the men and women merely players. They have their exits and their entrances. And one man in his time plays many parts."

Aren't we all just players in this drama we call life? Are you hiding behind a mask as you play out your everyday roles? Do you ever feel like an imposter just trying to blend in and not draw attention to yourself, hoping desperately that no one figures out that you really have no idea what you're doing? I have had those feelings many times throughout my life. With my peers in high school, with college experiences, selecting a career path,

starting my married life, becoming a new mother, and the list goes on.

Occasionally those same feelings of inadequacy rise to the surface in my leadership roles here at church. Not because my walk with Christ isn't real. It is; but it is not perfect. Not because I don't know a thing or two about music. I do. Although I don't have a music degree, I have always participated with music groups and continue to apply what I am still learning through the help of many great mentors. There are many great musicians here at Bethlehem that know far more about music theory, composition, arranging, etc., than I do. And when I focus on my inadequacies, it can stop me in my tracks and keep me from running toward where God has called me. Do you ever have feelings like that?

I try to be many things. I am frequently changing my costume to fit my role. I am a Christian, a daughter, a sister, a wife, a mother, an aunt, a mother-in-law, a dental assistant, a neighbor, a friend, a worship leader, and a choir director. These things I know. But as I seek to balance those roles, sometimes I feel a little like an imposter, hoping someone doesn't blow the whistle on me while I am playing my part, learning the drill, becoming familiar with the lingo, and figuring out what God is trying to teach me in all this. For God has called me to all of these roles.

During my recent review by the Personnel Committee, we discussed

how I have taken ownership of the music coordinator and choir director positions and how my self-confidence is increasing. I have all of you here at Bethlehem to thank for this. God has called me to serve Him by being part of a thriving, dynamic team of staff and worshipers here at Bethlehem. We are all learning together our roles before God in worship and how to live out that worship as we leave the walls of Bethlehem. We must put these words from John 4:23, "God the Father is out looking for those who are simply and honestly themselves before him in worship" together with the words from 1 John 3:18, "Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and with truth". Do we as individuals – staff and congregation – do it perfectly every day? Do we have it all figured out? I wish that I did, but I don't. But what I am learning is that God seems to use me best when I come humbly before Him admitting that I am completely inadequate for the task He's calling me to do. God seems okay with my imperfections during Sunday morning worship and Wednesday choir rehearsals, and He allows the Holy Spirit to move within me far more powerfully that I could have ever imagined.

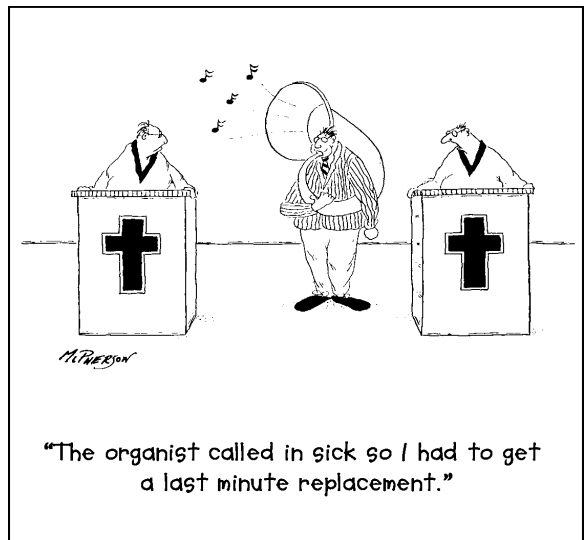
Allow yourself the freedom to play all of the roles God is calling you for today. Don't hide behind a mask. Remove your mask and let this be your reply: "Here I am, Lord!".

Sing Hymn ELW #574 --  
"Here I Am, Lord".

Hymn History – "Now Thank We All Our God" – ELW #840

*"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:18

There are 138 passages of scripture on the subject of Thanksgiving. Unfortunately, few hymns are devoted to thanking God. This hymn was written by Martin Rinkart (1586-1649), a Lutheran pastor in the little village of Eilenberg, Saxony. He began his ministry just as the Thirty Years' War was raging in Germany. It was the most difficult of times within this walled city, as there was nothing but plague, famine, and fear. As people began dying in increasing numbers, there were some days when he conducted as many as 50 funerals! Rickart, knowing there is no healing without thanksgiving, composed this hymn for the survivors of Eilenberg.



## SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES, LECTIONARY, & PARTICIPANTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>8:15 a.m.</u>	<u>10:45 a.m.</u>	<u>Special Events</u>
<b>11/6</b>	WOV #5 with communion Bethlehem Gospbells, Chancel Choir	WOV #5 with communion WOV Ensemble, Gospbells, Gather Choir	All Saints Sunday <i>Daylight Saving Time ends</i>
<b>11/13</b>	ELW #10 with communion Junior Gospbells	Gather Junior Gospbells, Gather Choir	--
<b>11/20</b>	ELW #8 with communion Bethlehem Octet, Chancel Choir	ELW #8 with communion Bethlehem Octet	Christ the King Sunday New Member Sunday Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting
<b>11/27</b>	<u><b>ONE SERVICE AT 9:45 a.m.</b></u> Contemporary Praise Band with communion	--	First Sunday of Advent

### LECTIONARY FOR NOVEMBER

<u>Date</u>	<u>First Reading</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Second Reading</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
<b>11/6</b>	Revelation 7:9-17	34:1-10, 22	I John 3:1-3	Matthew 5:1-12
<b>11/13</b>	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18	90:1-12	I Thessalonians 5:1-11	Matthew 25:14-30
<b>11/20</b>	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	95:1-7a	Ephesians 1:15-23	Matthew 25:31-46
<b>11/27</b>	Isaiah 64:1-9	80:1-7, 17-19	I Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37

### SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR NOVEMBER

DATE    TIME    READER    USHER    COMMUNION ASSISTANTS    GREETERS    COMM. SET-UP    COFFEE

<b>11/6</b>	<b>8:15 a.m.</b>	Sandy Kuper	1	Frank Larsen	Melissa Matthies	Jim Nagel	Roger Saman	Bob Ihrig & Bob Isdahl	Tom & Betty Sanger	Paul & Lisa Hagen
<b>11/6</b>	<b>10:45 a.m.</b>	Kathryn Freyberg	2	Jim Erdman	Betty Groth	Brad Groth	Sandy Kuper	Lori & Amber Steen		
<b>11/13</b>	<b>8:15 a.m.</b>	Melissa Matthies	3	Lee Drake	Linda Engstrom	Karen Sandersfeld	Bruce Royer	Arlene Kirchner & Verona Roberts	Bob & Ginger Erlandson	Harvey & Alice Kollos
<b>11/13</b>	<b>10:45 a.m.</b>	Dave Hageman	4					Jack & Pat Bengtson		
<b>11/20</b>	<b>8:15 a.m.</b>	Mary Beth Royer	5	Matt Drewitz	Chuck Piehl	Frank Larsen	Etta Poole	Brad & Betty Groth	Brad & Betty Groth	Lavon & Sally Burdick
<b>11/20</b>	<b>10:45 a.m.</b>	Jessica Hagen	6	Bruce Royer	Carolyn Hovick	Melissa Matthies	Lori Ruthenbeck	Jim & Marcia Nagel		
<b>11/27</b>	<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	Shirley Ruby	7	Jan Boyum	Sally Burdick	Lorraine Carpenter	Lowell Carpenter	Les & Lavon Mutch	Lavon & Sally Burdick	Tim & Amy Heiser



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**BETHLEHEM'S 91<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL  
NORDIC BAZAAR  
91 YEARS OF MISSION**

**November 2, 2011**

**See page 3 for more details!**



**Bazaar Sales: 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

**Chicken Kiev Luncheon Seatings:  
11:00, 11:45, and 12:30**

**Join us and celebrate –  
“91 and Still Fun!”**



12

“I don't know where Cain and Abel went for Thanksgiving, Son. I just know they didn't go to Grandma's.”