



THE BETHLEHEM STAR
OCTOBER 2011



Sunday Worship: 8:15 and 10:45
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.

720 South Second Street
Mankato, MN 56001
Phone: (507) 388-2925
Fax: (507) 388-6920
E-mail: blchurch@hickorytech.net
Website: www.bethlehemmankato.org

Pastor Jay Dahlvang: 387-4187
E-mail: pastorjay@hickorytech.net
Pastor Collette Broady Preiss: 380-3049 (cell)
E-mail: pastorcollette@hickorytech.net
Lance Quick: 317-2181 (cell)
E-mail: lquick@hickorytech.net
Leah Garry: 382-2205 (cell)
E-mail: lgarry@hickorytech.net

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- PASTOR JAY 1
- PASTOR COLLETTE, SERVING GROUP 2
- FELLOWSHIP 3
- MISSION PROJECT 4
- CALENDAR 5
- CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY 6
- YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY 7
- STEWARDSHIP, ETC. 8
- DEVOTION, BIBLE STUDIES 9
- MUSIC & WORSHIP 10
- WORSHIP SVCS., PARTICIPANTS 11
- FALL FESTIVAL 12

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JAY DAHLVANG

Time and Money

There never seems to be enough money or time because no matter how little or much we have, we want more. So, as God's people, this invites us into wondering why. Especially when our Lord Jesus invites us to look at the birds and the flowers, how God provides for them, and he asks, don't you think he will care for us? Or consider how in Christ we are promised eternity. Yet, we rush through each day frantic with busyness. Is there a simpler way?

As I am guilty of a toxic attitude of scarcity when it comes to resources, and of hurrying through my days, I need the prophet's voice to call me to return to the Lord our God. That prophet for me has been Richard Foster and his writing on spiritual disciplines. God's people have been gathering on Sunday morning in the Heritage Room to learn from each other six classic spiritual disciplines. In October, we will consider serving, sharing, and relationships. But there are two other coming events in which we are invited into simpler ways of living.

In May, Tammy and I had the opportunity to do a retreat. At first, I found myself exhausted, drained from an unsustainable

pace. Then I found myself anxious, wondering what I would do with this empty time. Finally, I found myself at peace—with a renewed sense of God's presence and love. Bethlehem members have been invited to attend a Via de Cristo weekend in our area. The retreat will be held on November 10-13 for men, and November 17-20 for women, at Our Savior's Lutheran in New Ulm. Via de Cristo gives those attending a living understanding of basic Christian truths. There is music, food, fellowship, and a time for laughter and for prayer. The hosts welcome the retreat participants like royalty, and there is no place you could stay in the state of Minnesota that weekend where you will feel more loved and valued than you will at Our Saviors at Via de Cristo. To apply, see me or visit www.mnviadecristo.org.

In October, we celebrate God's generosity with our annual stewardship emphasis. Christian stewardship pulls the community of believers from the ditches of a legalistic pay the bills mentality of giving to a budget, and an abdication of responsibility when it comes to the church's mission. Christian stewardship is freeing as we thank and praise our generous

God, who invites us to share out of that provision. As we think and pray about stewardship, may we hear God's voice and discern together as God's people how to put material things in proper perspective as we pay the orthodontist's bill, and the cat needs shots, and the brakes in the car are worn out. We will have three themes on the first three Sundays in October:

- God the Generous Giver
- God Our Caretaker
- God, Present in Our Sharing

To practice simplicity is not simple, but is to know that all things -- our lives and our death, our time and our resources, our neighbors and the world -- are redeemed and holy in Christ. To practice simplicity is to seek first the Kingdom of God.

~ Pr. Jay

DEADLINE for the November Star is October 15.



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 "subscribe to E-news" in the subject line.

***Baptism: A New Beginning
That Never Ends***

This month, on October 9, Ollie will be baptized (finally!). Josh and I have been waiting for this day for a long time, and it means a great deal to us. This is the day that Ollie becomes a member of the church, part of the community of believers in which he will be raised. This is the day that we make public our commitment to raise him to know and love the Lord. This the day when he will first have those words spoken to him: "You are a child of God, marked with the cross of Christ and sealed by the Holy Spirit forever."

I intend those words to be our nightly blessing on Oliver, after his bedtime stories are read and his favorite songs sung. Every night before he goes to sleep, we will assure him that he is God's child and nothing can change that. It is my fervent hope that those

words, and God's promises, will be a daily power for Ollie's whole life: that they will speak of his inherent worth as he develops his sense of self-esteem, that they will remind him of God's way when the ways of the world pressure him as a teenager, and that they will call him to meaningful work for the sake of the world as an adult.

I was reminded of the lifelong power of these words last week in doing the memorial service for a man who had not attended church regularly for the last 25 years of his life. When I visited him in the hospital to give him communion in the week before his death, he thanked me profusely for coming, saying he knew he should have gone to church more often and been more faithful in practicing what he believed. By his bedside, I was able to speak confidently of God's promises to him, not negated by his lack of faithfulness. To his family and

friends gathered to remember and mourn, I was able to offer reassurance of God's claim on him because he too had been marked with the cross of Christ at baptism.

The promise that God makes to each of us when the water is poured over us and the cross traced on our foreheads is everlasting, unbroken even by our inability or unwillingness to live up to the promises we have made. With God's mark on our foreheads, we sleep every night in the assurance of God's love and wake every morning to the opportunity of God's forgiveness. Baptism is a gift that never stops giving, and for which we should never stop giving thanks.

~ Pr. Collette



OCTOBER SERVING GROUP ~ Chairs: Darryl & Karen DeRemer (340-3575)



**Monthly
Serving
Group**

Stephen & Jolene Anderson
Gordon & Jean Beito
Gene & Laurie Bentsdahl
Paul & Susan Boettcher
John & Judy Corcoran
Darin Dalluge
Kathryn Hanson
Dave & Tammy Matteson
Wally & Sharon McDougall
Gerry & Debbie Morris
Hazel Neubert

Diann Olson
Jodi Orchard
George & Mary Jane Patchin
Loren & Noreen Roberts
Norbert & Ruth Schoenrock
Audrey Simonson
Bob & Deloris Singelstad
Arlen & Kay Skorr
Jason Stresemann
Norman & Joyce Stresemann
Gordy Struss

Eunice Swanson
Lois Swanson
Rodney & Bonnie Torgerson
Henry & Shirley Torgerson
Scott & Amy Wolner



**Monthly
Serving
Group**

BETHLEHEM FELLOWSHIP

Thankoffering
Service



Save the date! All women are invited to our Thankoffering service and lunch on **Wednesday, October 19, at 11:30 a.m. in the chapel.** Pastor Collette will lead the service, which will be followed by lunch in the Heritage Room. You may sign up for lunch (\$7.00) in the church office.

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 allowing us to get 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.



Church
Office
Cleaning!

We are in the process of doing some fall cleaning in the office! Please come and claim your cake pans, cookie sheets, and plastic containers left here after church gatherings, potlucks, etc. We have them stored in the office cupboards. Anything left here after October 31 will be donated to the church kitchen or given to the Salvation Army.

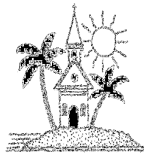


Kubbestol

What is a **kubbestol**? Bob Singelstad has donated one to be sold through a silent auction at the **Bethlehem Nordic Bazaar on November 2, 2011.** A kubbestol is a chair. Bob hollowed out a basswood tree and treated the wood so it would not crack before Stan Holtan of Forest City, Iowa, artistically carved it in traditional Norwegian style. (You can see a picture of the chair in the narthex in mid-October.) On the last three Sundays in October, you will have the opportunity to view and place a bid on this unique chair before it is featured at the bazaar silent auction on November 2, at which time you may want to raise your bid. We are so thankful that Bob has gifted us in this way, because all proceeds from the bazaar sales are used to support mission outreach.

The theme of this year's bazaar, **"#91 and Still Fun!,"** was submitted by Lynor Blom. Yes, we'll have fun preparing for and offering this special day to our community of friends. Jill and Gene are planning to offer a digital photo opp of you with your friend/friends having fun at the bazaar. The excitement is building!!

~ Bazaar Coordinators



DON'T TAKE A
VACATION
FROM CHURCH!

Did you travel this past summer? 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? 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.



Happy Birthday,
Johanne!

Johanne Knudsen, a member of Bethlehem for over 60 years, is celebrating her **99th birthday on October 20.** Johanne moved to Waite Park to be near her immediate family, who love her and take very good care of her. Even though Johanne lives in Waite Park, we know that she loves her Bethlehem family and stays connected with us as much as possible through letters, phone calls, and the Bethlehem Star. We miss you, too, Jo, and we wish you a very happy 99th birthday! If you'd like to send her a birthday card, her address is: **Johanne Knudsen, 35 First Avenue North, Apartment #101, Waite Park, MN 56387.**

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS (in the Dining Room)

SERVED FROM 5:00-6:30

October Menu:

- October 5 -- Hamburger/wild rice casserole, cranberries, dinner rolls
- October 12 -- Ham, cheesy hash browns, dinner rolls, peas & carrots
- October 19 -- NO SUPPER -- MEA
- October 26 -- Chicken noodle hot dish, biscuits/honey, 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 (October 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!

**October Mission of the Month:
Theresa House and Welcome Inn**

Five Mattresses and Box Springs Needed!

Do you know anyone who can no longer make rent or house payments because she has lost her job, been divorced, been abused, or incurred high medical bills? Mankato shelter programs, Welcome Inn and Theresa House, provide emergency and short-term transitional housing for homeless women and families. Last year, the two houses sheltered 49 children, 10 men, and 39 women. Families and single women are offered stable housing in a safe, supportive environment. They receive encouragement from paid staff who help them secure economically viable long-term housing. The children attend school regularly, receive tutoring, playtime, and loving attention. Theresa House and Welcome Inn need five twin bed sets (mattresses and box springs) for a total of \$1,000. Call 387-8189 to inquire about volunteering or providing other needed supplies, such as cleaning products, laundry soap, plastic mattress covers, dressers, and size 3-5 diapers. Please write a check to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, with *Theresa House* on the memo line. Thank you!

~ Community and Global Missions Board



Adult Immunizations

We are all aware that children need specific immunizations at designated times. But we believe that most adults are somewhat confused about what immunizations are necessary after maturity. Here are some guidelines to help:

- 1) All adults should receive tetanus-diphtheria toxoid boosters once every 10 years. If an injury that might lead to tetanus occurs more than five years after the last shot, another booster should be given.
- 2) People over age 65 and those in high-risk groups should receive pneumococcal vaccine once and also should receive influenza vaccine every year. High-risk groups include people in nursing homes and anyone with a chronic disease.
- 3) Anyone born after 1956 who was never diagnosed with measles, mumps, or rubella, or who lacks proof of prior vaccination with the "live" measles vaccine should get one shot of MMR vaccine. People born before 1957 are immune to all three.
- 4) Health-care workers, homosexual and bisexual men, and IV drug users should get the three-shot hepatitis B vaccine series.
- 5) Travelers to less-developed countries where polio persists should get one polio booster.

**Guidelines from Consumer Reports on Health
The Bethlehem Health Ministry Team**

**ITEMS NEEDED FOR NORDIC BAZAAR
November 2, 2011**

Christmas Items * Crafts * Plants * Dried Flowers *
Bittersweet * Jams * Jellies * Salsa * Gourds
Floral Arrangements * Bake Sale Items * Candy
Scandinavian Cookies * Breads * Pies * Tea Rings
Handiwork * Jewelry
Books - no textbooks, religious books, or musty books
Elephant's Trunk – good clean saleable items only,
no clothes
Antiques or collectibles – Charitable gift receipts available

October is Be Kind To Your Pastor Month!

During this month, you can:

- * **Thank your pastors.**
- * **Pray for your pastors.**
- * **Encourage your pastors.**
- * **Honor your pastors.**
- * **Humor your pastors.**
- * **Invite your pastors to dinner flavored with good jokes & laughter.**
- * **Tithe.**



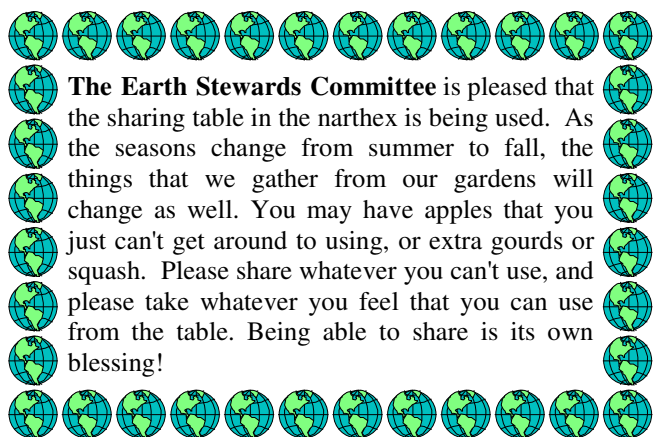
Youth Trip

BIG GOAL

FOR THE BIG EASY!



Support our youth to attend the **ELCA Youth Gathering 2012 in New Orleans in July!** Check out the display in the Narthex. Choose one (or more!) envelopes from the display ranging from \$1-\$144, then return the envelope with the amount of money indicated. Fun math! 144 envelopes filled and returned = \$10,000! Help our youth to get to New Orleans next year and experience being with over 30,000 other ELCA youth to pray, worship, learn, and serve. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated!



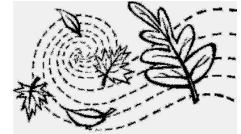
CALENDAR

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 6th 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 3rd 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)



October 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Youth overnight Sleep-Out-in-a-Box at the Salvation Army (ends at 7 a.m. Sunday)
2 8:15 & 10:45 - Worship 9:30 - Ed. Hour, coffee 6:30 pm - Financial Peace University (FPU) - Heritage Room	3 9 am - lefse making 5:9 pm - Mankato Children's Chorus 7 pm - Youth Band 5:45 pm - TOPS	4 7 am - Café Ambrosia Bible Study 9 am - lefse Noon - Men's Bible Study 1 pm - Library Board 1 pm - Care Ministry at OMV 5:15 pm - Stewardship 5:30 pm - Youth Board 6 pm - Music & Worship, Children's Board 6:15 pm - Earth Stewards 7 pm - C&G Missions, Evangelism, Facilities	5 9 am - TOPS 1 pm - Staff meeting 7:30 pm - Adult Ed. SEE SCHEDULE ABOVE for Wed. Night Activities	6	7	8
9 8:15 & 10:45 - Worship 9:30 - Education Hour, coffee 6:30 pm - FPU - Heritage Rm.	10 9 am - lefse making 4:30 - Budget comm. 5:7 pm - McEducator Night at McDonald's 5:9 pm - Mankato Children's Chorus 7 pm - Youth Band 5:45 pm - TOPS	11 7 am - Café Ambrosia Bible Study 9 am - lefse 10:15 - Pathstone comm. Noon - Men's Bible Study 1 pm - Library Board	12 7:45 - Finance Comm. 9 am - TOPS 1 pm - Staff mtg. 3:30 - Women's Bible Study - GFJ Wed. Evening Activities	13 4:30-8 pm - Harry Meyering Center - Dining Room	14	15 10 am - 10th grade Confirmation Retreat
16 8:15 & 10:45 - Worship 9:30 - Ed. Hour, coffee 9:15 & 11:45 am - Prayer Team in sanctuary Noon - luncheon 6:30 pm - FPU - Heritage Rm.	17 9 am - lefse making 5:9 pm - MCC 7 pm - Youth Band 5:45 pm - TOPS 6:30 - Mom's Circle	18 7 am - Café Ambrosia Bible Study 9 am - lefse Noon - Men's Bible Study 1 pm - Library Board 4 pm - Website Comm. 7 pm - Council	19 9 am - TOPS 9:30 am - Rachael Circle in Grounds for Joy 11:30 am - Thankoffering svc. 1 pm - Staff mtg. Wed. Evening Activities (NO supper or youth activities)	20 6:30 - BCCC mtg. at Jake's	21 3 pm - Book Club - Library	22
23 8:15 & 10:45 - Worship 9:30 - Ed. Hour, coffee 6:30 pm - FPU - Heritage Rm.	24 9 am - lefse making 5:9 pm - MCC 7 pm - Youth Band 5:45 pm - TOPS	25 7 am - Café Ambrosia Bible Study 9 am - lefse Noon - Men's Bible Study 1 pm - Library Board 2 pm - Lydia Circle - GFJ 6 pm - Fellowship Comm.	26 9 am - TOPS 1 pm - Staff mtg. 3:30 - Women's Bible Study - GFJ 6:30-7:30 pm - Fall Festival (see pg. 12) Wed. Evening Activities	27	28	29 1-4 pm - James & Linda Bristol 40th Anniversary party - Heritage Room
30 8:15 & 10:45 - Worship (10:45 - Confirmation) 9:30 - Ed. Hour, coffee 6:30 pm - FPU - Heritage Rm.	31 9 am - lefse making 5:45 pm - TOPS 		5			

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

God Lights Our Way

Thank you to all the parents and volunteers for a successful Rally Day 2011! We have 81 children in our LIGHT program.

The children pre-K thru 6th grade will sing in church on **Sunday, October 16, at the 10:45 service.**

NO LIGHT on **Sunday, October 23**, due to MEA break.

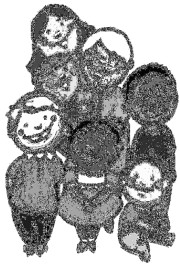
The 2nd Rotation will begin on **Sunday, October 2:** Samuel & Hannah.

The children's offering fund for the months of September & October will be donated to ECHO. 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.

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 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 October, we will be studying the Lord's Prayer.

We will have no Kids' Club on **Wednesday, October 19**, due to MEA break.

On **Wednesday, October 26**, 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.



"Danny, I know your youth pastor encouraged you to be the 'Light of the World,' but I rather prefer incandescent in our living room."





What is exciting for the youth this fall? We are preparing for three fun fall events and a trip to New Orleans

for next summer and the ELCA Youth Gathering.

First, let's discuss the fall. **October 1 & 2** is the second annual Sleep-Out-in-a-Box in support of youth homelessness (money raised goes to the Reach). This year, it will take place downtown at the Salvation Army. Hundreds of students from grades 7-12 will gather together and make a visual statement to the Mankato community about the issue of youth homelessness by spending the night in cardboard boxes, while at the same time raising money to do something about it! If you do not have a youth contact, you can stop by the Salvation Army and make a contribution at the site on Saturday evening so you can see the youth in action. There will be speakers, bands, etc., which all add to the excitement. We will end the sleep-out on Sunday morning at 7 a.m., attend the church services with a

temple talk about youth homelessness, and ask for donations from the congregation to support the cause.

October 14-16 is a trip to Lanesboro, Minnesota, to Eagle Bluff Nature Center. This is hopefully in the best leaf color time of the fall. Eagle Bluff is a mixture of challenge and self-esteem building. They have a climbing wall (room, actually), a ropes course (two of them), and educational programming to educate us on living in the natural environment. This has become an annual favorite with the youth. We had a large group go last summer and expect as large a group or even larger this fall.

November 16 is Winter Warm Up. The Common Ground Lutheran churches in Mankato have disbanded as a group, but the positive outcome of the group is that the youth continue to get together for one larger event annually on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving week. This year, our speaker is Collins Tuohy from "Blind Side" movie fame. The movie is about the well to do Tuohy family values and why they adopted Michael Oher, the

African-American teen who grew up in an unstable one-parent home. Michael became a pro football player with the Baltimore Ravens. Collins will talk about the family Christian values and the problems that occurred from the adoption of a black man to a white family in the South. The movie, starring Sandra Bullock, was great, and we are looking forward to the real story behind the movie.

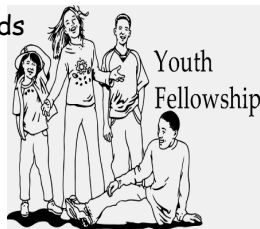
Last -- and certainly not least -- we are fundraising for the Youth Gathering, which will be **July 18-22, 2012, in New Orleans**. The theme will be "Citizens with the Saints" (Ephesians 2:14-20). This is a large commitment for our youth, as we need to raise approximately \$850 per youth attending. I am really encouraged with the impact that the previous gathering two years ago made on the city recouping from the hurricane. It was so positive that the group was asked back. What can you say when 37,000 youthful Lutherans descend on a city? Lots of things -- but "come back" is as positive as it gets. Fire up, Bethlehem youth! We have lots to do. See you in church. ~ Lance

TIMES KIDS

(TEENS IN MISSION ENTHUSIASTICALLY SERVING)

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

- October 5 - Fall Clean-up walk
- October 12 - Planning for Fall Festival/Board Games
- October 19 - NO TIMES (Happy MEA break!)
- October 26 - Fall Festival
- 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 October

The third graders continue with their study of how to use the Bible on **October 2 and 9**. On the 9th, they will receive their Bibles at the 10:45 church service. The pastor will give their Bibles to the parents, who will then give their child the Bible that they have been using for the last four weeks in class. With the parents giving the child their Bible, they are fulfilling part of the baptismal promise of handing the scriptures to their child. On **October 9** during the LIGHT hour, our 4-year-olds will be making "Jesus Loves (their name in their favorite color)" banners. A make-up session will be held on the next Sunday (October 16). **On the 16th**, the children will be singing at the 10:45 a.m. church service, with the 4-year-olds holding up their banners. Before the 16th, the banners will be displayed in the narthex for the congregation to enjoy. **On October 30**, the tenth graders will be confirmed at the 10:45 church service.

~ Vee M.G. Williams,
Milestone Ministries coordinator



Dear Friends in Christ,

God continues to do marvelous and generous things for each of us as individuals and for us together as a Bethlehem Lutheran Church community of faith. The first three weeks in October will be a time of stewardship focus when through prayer, sermons, and temple talk messages we will all have an opportunity to celebrate God's abundant and generous love for us.

The Stewardship Team hopes that through the Celebrate Generosity program, each of you as a Bethlehem member will recognize and be excited about all of the wonderful things that are happening at and through this congregation's mission and ministry efforts. We hope that your faith will be strengthened as you consider how God blesses and cares for you. We hope that you will more fully understand God's call to be a faithful steward of the gifts and blessings God

provides. There are so many more ways that we as a congregation can fulfill God's mission and love. Imagine the possibilities if we each commit to live out our stewardship response with prayerful deliberate growth in giving.

October 16 will be "**Celebrate Generosity**" Sunday when we each will be asked to prayerfully make an estimate of financial stewardship toward the ministry in and through this Bethlehem congregation. On October 16, pledge cards will be brought forward during the service. After worship that day, we will gather in celebration as the Bethlehem faith community and share a meal.

*In Celebration, Thanks be to God,
Marcia Nagel
General Chair, Stewardship*



Financial NOTES

At the end of the month of August, the general fund deficit had grown to \$3,882. This is an increase over last month, but the deficit usually grows in August and September each year due to seasonal and quarterly expenditures. Member envelope giving slipped a bit farther behind. We are now at 95% of budget, or \$276,100 year-to-date, which is still \$10,600 ahead of the same time last year. Expenses for the year are about \$14,000 less than budget. This, of course, is because we did not have a full staff for the first half of the year.

As we enter that time of year when we plan the budget for 2012, the Budget Committee, Finance Committee, and Church Council will be working hard to present the most financially responsible budget possible. Please keep all of these people in your prayers as they work on the financial health of the congregation.



Jesus talked about money. Matthew quotes Jesus talking about money 109 times; Mark, 57 times; Luke, 94 times; and John, 88 times. Jesus talked about money and materialism five times more often than any other topic! No wonder someone said that Jesus preached the "Sermon on the Amount". — Rev. Felix A. Lorenz, Jr.

ECHO FOOD SHELF

In October, we'll be collecting cereal.



Coffee Fellowship

CARE MINISTRY

Join the Care Ministry Team of Bethlehem Lutheran Church on **Tuesday, October 4, at 1:00 p.m.** for a communion service at Old Main Village. The service will be followed by coffee and fellowship.

We hope to see you there!



Campbell.

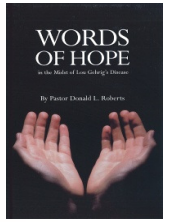
"The dog ate our pledge card, but the veterinarian made him spit it out."

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.

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ~ Acts 1:6-8



The disciples asked the risen Christ when he would restore the kingdom to Israel. That's what they wanted. They longed for the glory days of old. In essence, they were asking, "Lord, what can you do for us?". We are similar to the disciples. We often think, "Lord, what can you do for us?". The Lord had a larger plan for them -- and us. He told them the Holy Spirit would come and give them power. Acts Chapter 2 is the story of them receiving the Holy Spirit. With that power, they

converted many to the risen Christ. We have the same power. In our baptism, we receive the same power the disciples received in Acts 2. Jesus told them they would be his witnesses to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. This is our Christian job description. When someone is down, tell them the hope you have in Christ. When a new neighbor moves into your block, invite them to church. Invite a non-churched member of the community to church. We witness to the hope

we have in Christ by our attitude toward life. We witness by the way we do our jobs. We witness by the way we treat people. It is our job description to witness to the hope we have in the risen Christ.



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

Six Marks of Discipleship (continued), led by Pastor Jay



October 2 **Serving**
 October 9 **Giving**
 October 16 **Relationships**

October 23 **PBS Luther movie**
 October 30 **Confirmation**

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



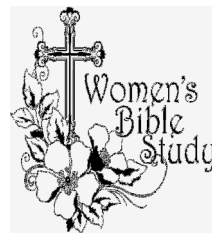
Mom's Circle is a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Our callings are to engage in ministry and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world. A group of moms with young children meets at **6:30 p.m.** on the third Monday of every month during the year. **We will meet at Marie Slotemaker's home on October 17.**

Men's Bible Study

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 **Oct. 12 & 26** at **3:30 p.m.** in Grounds for Joy.



MORNING BIBLE STUDY

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!

MUSIC & WORSHIP

A Musical Note from Laurie Rossow, Coordinator of Music

When my daughters were in grade school, they learned the 3R's. No, not Reading, wRiting and aRithmetic. I mean, YES, they learned to read, write, and do math. Their generation also learned to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. The girls came home from school and made it their mission to educate us. It wasn't easy at first, but we learned to recycle our aluminum cans, glass, plastics, cardboard, and newspaper. When we were shopping, we learned to avoid purchasing items with excess packaging. We pushed for recycling when it was not offered by the refuse company in our small-town rural location. We were referred to as "tree-huggers" then.

Today, we are still learning -- but the whole idea seems so much easier and has become nearly second nature. We are now labeled "green advocates". We have our very own "green" committee here at Bethlehem. We know them as the "Earth Stewards", and they provide us with numerous suggestions that aid in our being good stewards of this earth.

God has provided us specific instructions on how we are to interact with the earth, its proper care, and use. These instructions are found in the Bible within the creation story. Read Genesis 2:15 and you will see that God took Adam into the Garden of Eden and told him to cultivate and keep it.

"To cultivate" means to encourage growth. "To keep" means to maintain. In gardening, you maintain the plants you have by weeding, watering, and fertilizing, and you encourage new growth by planting more seeds and building new areas to plant. "Planting Seeds of Faith" was our theme on September 11 for Rally Sunday. God has called us to worship Him by both maintaining what He has given us and by growing it into something bigger.

For the first three Sundays in October (Oct. 2, 9, & 16), we will turn our focus toward Stewardship. A steward is someone who is put in charge of caring for something they do not own. We should be good stewards of everything God has given us; from family and

friends, to our material possessions, to the earth and all its resources.

One of my favorite hymns is "For the Beauty of the Earth" - ELW #879. The hymn text writer, Folliott S. Pierpoint (1835 - 1917), expresses so many wonderful blessings that we often take for granted. He gives grateful praise to God, the creator of all things, and His most perfect gifts. Singing this hymn reminds us of all our blessings, from the beauty of nature that surrounds us to the joy and love of our family. The scripture reference for this hymn is based on Hebrews 13:15.

Let us pray: Eternal God, today we come before you with thanksgiving for the many blessings in our lives. Just as you are always faithful to us, help us to remember our responsibility to be faithful to you. As we make decisions about how to use the many gifts we have received from you, guide us by your Holy Spirit to be good stewards so that we will make the best use of those gifts for the sake of your Earth and your Kingdom. Amen.

THIS IS YOUR INVITATION TO JOIN A CHOIR!

Come; make a joyful noise unto the Lord! We have a choir for everyone at Bethlehem. I have a little secret to share with you... You can join a choir at any age! The purpose of our choirs is to support the congregation in the singing of liturgy and hymns and to present choral anthems. Anthems are chosen from a variety of musical styles to coordinate with scriptures for the week and with the seasons of the church year. Some songs are old favorites that we all know and love to hear again and again. Some are from composers who are well-known music masters. Still others are fresh and lively pieces from contemporary artists. There is something for everyone, so come and sing! We love to sing and work together as a team, as friends, and as family. Music prepares us for worship, adding meaning to the spoken word. Music heals, inspires, and uplifts us spiritually, helping us feel closer to God and each other. We look forward to you being part of the process of making beautiful music in worship at Bethlehem. Please join us in what promises to be an inspiring musical year!! *Lift every voice and sing...* Contact Laurie Rossow at (507) 779-9114.



"It's my first day in the choir. Where's the lip-synch section?"

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES, LECTIONARY, & PARTICIPANTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>8:15 a.m.</u>	<u>10:45 a.m.</u>	<u>Special Events</u>
10/2	WOV #5 with communion Jr. Bells, Jean Hoppe & Jack Halvorson	WOV #5 with communion, Gather Choir, Jr. Bells, WOV Ensemble, Jean & Jack	Stewardship Sunday #1
10/9	ELW #8 with communion Chancel Choir & Children of Bethlehem	Contemporary Praise Band The Messengers	Stewardship Sunday #2
10/16	ELW #1 with communion Bethlehem Gospels	Gather Service Gospels, LIGHT, Gather Choir	Stewardship Sunday #3 "Celebrate Generosity" Luncheon after the 10:45 service
10/23	ELW #8 with communion Chancel Choir	ELW #8 Gather Choir	--
10/30	ELW #10 with communion Chancel Choir	Contemporary Praise Band The Messengers	Reformation Sunday Confirmation at 10:45

LECTIONARY FOR OCTOBER

<u>Date</u>	<u>First Reading</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Second Reading</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
10/2	Isaiah 5:1-7	80:7-15	Philippians 3:4b-14	Matthew 21:33-46
10/9	Isaiah 25:1-9	23	Philippians 4:1-9	Matthew 22:1-14
10/16	Isaiah 45:1-7	96:1-13	I Thessalonians 1:1-10	Matthew 22:15-22
10/23	Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18	1	I Thessalonians 2:1-8	Matthew 22:34-46
10/30	Jeremiah 31:31-34	46	Romans 3:19-28	John 8:31-36

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR OCTOBER

DATE	TIME	READER	USHER	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS				GREETERS	COMM. SET-UP	COFFEE
10/2	8:15 a.m.	Lee Drake	7	Karen Sandersfeld	Jim Erdman	Lorraine Carpenter	Lowell Carpenter	John & Sharon Finucane	Lavon & Sally Burdick	Jack & Pat Bengtson
10/2	10:45 a.m.	Marge Orness	8	Lori Ruthenbeck	Jerry Orness	Marge Orness	Etta Poole	Joan Stoffel & Jean Thompson		
10/9	8:15 a.m.	Kathy Crosswell	1	Lee Drake	Linda Engstrom	Sandy Kuper	Frank Larsen	Brad & Betty Groth	Tom & Betty Sanger	Tom & Betty Sanger
10/9	10:45 a.m.	Etta Poole	2					Shannon Butler & Holly McCarron	No comm.	
10/16	8:15 a.m.	Linda Engstrom	3	Jan Boyum	Sally Burdick	Lee Drake	Linda Engstrom	Don Grotta & Deloris Guenther	Bob & Ginger Erlandson	Florence Sassenberg & Eunice Sassenberg
10/16	10:45 a.m.	Lori Ruthenbeck	4	Sandy Kuper	Karla Van Lith	Bruce Royer	Jim Erdman	Jim & Marcia Nagel		
10/23	8:15 a.m.	Jim Erdman	5	Karen Sandersfeld	Melissa Matthies	Amber Steen	Jan Boyum	Mary Hall & Kay Hubbard	Lavon & Sally Burdick	Brad & Shannon Butler
10/23	10:45 a.m.	Kathy Yale	6					Lori Ruthenbeck & Margaret Ryan	No comm.	
10/30	8:15 a.m.	Lan Evenson	7	Jim Erdman	Lorraine Carpenter	Lowell Carpenter	Sandy Kuper	Arlo & Carolyn Hovick	Eunice & Florence Sassenberg	Lavon & Sally Burdick
10/30	10:45 a.m.	<u>NEED VOLUNTEER</u>	8			11		Jeff & Amy Smith	No comm.	

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

720 South Second Street
Mankato, MN 56001

Non-profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 418
Mankato, MN

Return Service Requested



WHO: ALL ages

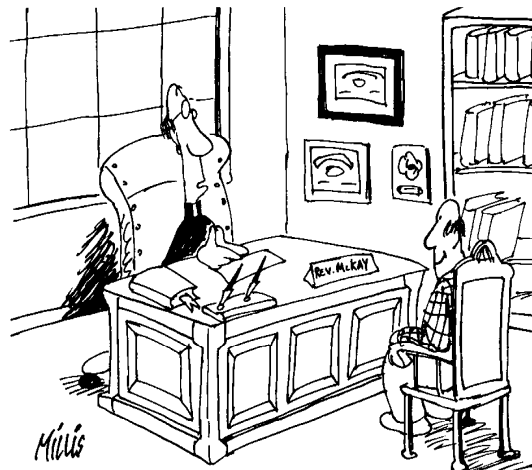
WHAT: Bethlehem Fall Festival – join us for pumpkin decorating, games, cookie decorating, and much, much more!!

WHEN: Wednesday, October 26, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Grounds for Joy & Narthex

NO COST ~ BRING FRIENDS!

*SPONSORED BY: The Bethlehem Times
(Teens in Mission Enthusiastically Serving)*



“We’re grateful for the checks that you have put in the collection plate, but in order for us to cash them, you’ll have to make them out to the church, and not “The Big Guy Upstairs.””