



THE BETHLEHEM STAR
SEPTEMBER 2011



Sunday Worship: 9:45 a.m. on Sept. 4; 8:15 and 10:45 beginning on Sept. 11
Wednesday worship at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel beginning on September 7
The 9:45/8:15 Sunday service is broadcast at 11 a.m. on KTOE 1420 AM.

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A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JAY DAHLVANG

Happy New Year!

I know it's not January 1, or even the First Sunday of Advent. But for all intents and purposes, the church year begins on Rally Sunday, September 11. **Heads up for the following coming to Bethlehem:**

Worship—On September 11, we return to our twice Sunday worship times of **8:15 and 10:45**. Starting September 11, we will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper every Sunday at 8:15, and continue with our first and third Sunday communion schedule for 10:45. Starting September 7, and continuing each Wednesday, we gather in the chapel for a service of prayer and worship at 6 p.m. We will begin each service with a children's sermon, and then dismiss the kids to our new Wednesday children's program. **Come and worship!**

Learning—Financial Peace University is coming to Bethlehem. Financial Peace is a 13-week curriculum on stewardship and money management, led on DVD by Dave Ramsey. This informative and entertaining program is meant not only for learning,

but changing our perspective on our finances. See the inside of the Star for more information. Also starting in September, during our adult forum time, we will learn about six classic spiritual disciplines to help us grow in our faith and life. All are welcome each Sunday at 9:30 in the Heritage Room starting on September 11. LIGHT and Confirmation instruction also begin again in September. **Come and learn!**

Prayer—Starting September 1, you are invited to pray daily for the stewardship of all God has given us at Bethlehem. There is a sign-up poster in the narthex for you to commit to praying for wise and faithful use of all that is God's. On September 11, the first of our witnesses will tell of the goodness, mercy, and faithfulness of God as we invite Bethlehem members to share their stories at the beginning of worship each 2nd Sunday of the month. On September 18, you are welcome to the front of the church following worship so the prayer team can pray with you bringing hopes, worries, dreams, and

loved ones to the Lord in prayer. **Come and pray!**

Serve—Still buoyant after CSI and 2,100 school kits packed and shipped, we continue to follow the foot washing Lord who calls our minds and hearts to the neighbor near and far. September is our Salvation Army month, and if you never have served in this way, come and see what an amazing blessing it is. We are looking for folks to rock babies in the child care center, to sing praise to God in the choir, to teach little ones "Jesus loves me!" in the LIGHT program, to bring companionship and Christ to a shut in. Call us, we will find a place for your light to shine. **Come and serve!**

New Year is a time of celebration—when the old has passed, and the new arises. Our Lord invites us into community to praise and thank God as we begin our "new year" in our life together. Come and be a part of the movement of God's Spirit in and through the faithful of Bethlehem.

~ Pr. Jay

DEADLINE for the October Star is September 15.



PASTOR COLLETTE; SEPTEMBER SERVING GROUP

Happy is the one who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers. But her delight is in the law of the Lord, and in that law she meditates day and night.

Psalm 1:1-2

Listening to a rebroadcast of the Aspen Ideas Festival on public radio this week, I heard Jonathan Haidt talking about his book "The Happiness Hypothesis". He is a psychologist who researches what makes people happy and said some very interesting things about the difference between what we expect will make us happy and the things that actually do.

Haidt uses a lot of religious sources in his research and his writing, quoting especially from Ecclesiastes (which he calls by its Hebrew name Qohelet, meaning "teacher"). And like we often preach, Haidt says that his research bears out that happiness does not come from money or things, but from relationships and an inner sense of purpose.

In Scripture, the word for happy, as in the Psalm quotation above, does not mean a smiley kind of feeling, or a rush of pleasure, but would perhaps better be translated "blessed". This is not to say, of course, that God and Jesus don't want us to be happy in the simpler way. It only means that fleeting feelings are not the only way to measure our happiness.

To be blessed is to be aware of the gifts of God in your life, to recognize the good things (and often simple things) that you have. To be blessed is to recognize that maintaining a good relationship with God and your neighbor are more important than getting a better job, a bigger house, or nice clothes. To be blessed is to understand that God gives us what we need to do the things we are meant to do, even if it doesn't always look like enough.

I think the apostle Paul put it best when he spoke of his contentment from his prison cell: "For I have learned to be content in whatever state I am. I know how to be abased, and I know

how to abound; in any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and want. I can do all things in him who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:11-13)

Regardless of our circumstances, or the feelings of a given moment, we who know God through Christ know how to be happy. We put our trust in God's guidance, and give thanks for all the good in our lives, and we find ourselves blessed, content, and happy every day.

~ Pastor Collette



Give Thanks
with a
**Grateful
Heart**



SEPTEMBER SERVING GROUP ~ Chair: Diana Olson (389-8975)



**Monthly
Serving
Group**

Wade & Jenny Adams
Leigh Asleson
Bruce & Marilyn Barklow
Marie Brandrup
Linda Bristol
Cindy Crooker
Travis & Cathy Dahl
Ellen Delatorre
Chloe Elmgren
John & Sharon Finucane
Tyler Freyberg

Kelli Hanson
Orlen Hanson
Bonnie Knish Johnson
Bernard & Joanne Kirchner
Jeff & Laurie Lee
Kris & Heather McCormick
Rob & Alyssa Moffitt
Janet Morken
Teresa Mosel
Shane & Rachael Pepper
Alvera Schmidt

Gary & Jennifer Schmidt
Jeff & Lori Steen
Joan Stoffel
Nathan & Gina Wibstad
Randy & Rachel Wood
Ruth Wood



**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. Lunch will follow the service in the Heritage Room. You may sign up for lunch (\$7.00) beginning on Sunday, September 25.



Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting to approve the replacement of the security/fire alarm system in the north side of the building will be convened on **Sunday, September 4, at 10:45 in the sanctuary.** This meeting will be held in accordance with the Bethlehem constitution, which requires all non-budgeted expenditures greater than \$10,000 be approved by congregational vote.



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.



First Annual Bethlehem Dessert Bake-Off!!

On Rally Sunday, September 11, the Fellowship Committee will be sponsoring a Dessert Bake-Off. There will be two divisions: adults and children. Any sweet treat can be submitted, from cookies to bars to pies to cakes. Here's how it works: sign up in the office by September 4 and submit your dish/platter of your best dessert by 9:30 a.m. in the Heritage Room on September 11. Your dish will be judged by the BLC Council and then served during the Fellowship Carnival! The winners will be announced during the second service and awarded custom-made aprons.



WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

The Mankato Alzheimer's Walk will take place at **9:00 a.m. on September 17 in Sibley Park.** This is a fundraiser to provide assistance for families struggling with Alzheimer's and for research support to find a remedy to end this tragic disease. A poster of this event is on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you have any questions, call Mel Alms, 625-4913.



Name tags are a wonderful aid to get to know other people -- or are they a bother to keep track of?? For me, it is both! Let's try harder to wear our name tags. Wearing them will help Pastor Collette and other new members feel part of the congregation. Thank you to those who have been wearing their name tags.

~ Evangelism Board



PANCAKES!

REACHING OUT FOR RACHEL

An all-you-can-eat pancake benefit for Rachel Iverson

9 a.m. ~ 1 p.m. on Sunday, September 18, 2011
Eagle Lake American Legion

There will be a silent auction, raffle, kids' craft corner, face painting, and a bake sale.

Free will donations will be accepted.

Rachel, a very loved 14-year-old girl from Eagle Lake and daughter of Pastor Mary Iverson, was diagnosed with both Cyclic Vomiting Syndrome and Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS) in January of 2009. Since then, her condition has worsened and she now also suffers from a paralyzed digestive system (gastroparesis). Rachel is hospitalized frequently, and her complex illnesses require specialized medical care in Milwaukee. Rachel is waiting to hear if she will be a candidate for an experimental stomach pacemaker in Cincinnati. Funds raised will be used to assist the family with medical expenses. This benefit is sponsored by Epiphany Lutheran Church, "RO4R" (Reaching Out for Rachel) Benefit Committee, and "GIV2U" from Eagle Lake. If you want to donate for the raffle or silent auction, please bring the items to the church office by **Thursday, September 15.** We thank you all for your kind and humble generosity.



GIRLFRIENDS UNLIMITED

will meet at the church at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 8. Marsha Qualset will give us a tour of the church gardens.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS (in the Dining Room)
BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 7 - SERVED FROM 5:00-6:30

September Menus:

September 7 -- Meatloaf, hash brown bake, green beans, rolls

September 14 -- Spaghetti, lettuce salad, garlic bread sticks

September 21 -- Egg bake, muffins, fresh fruit cup

September 28 -- Baked chicken (with the bone in),
mashed potatoes & gravy, dinner rolls, sweet corn



MONTHLY MISSION PROJECT; HEALTH MINISTRY

SEPTEMBER MISSION PROJECT: CROSSROADS CAMPUS MINISTRY

Crossroads ELCA Lutheran Campus Ministry at Minnesota State University - Mankato needs our financial support now more than ever. Their ministry is now local, working for local churches and needing to be funded by them. This is due to the lack of funds from the statewide Lutheran Campus Ministry of Minnesota that they formerly received. Since the majority of students stay in the local area, your donations benefit the young adults from all the ELCA churches as well as many more. We highlight it as a monthly mission project this September because we believe in what it is all about and we know that Christian life is made vital, supportive, and nurturing as students purposely gather there under the new leadership of Pastor Tammy Dahlvang.

The Lutheran Campus Ministry at MSU-Mankato has had many different names, leaders, and functions. Throughout the decades, however, LCM has been one of the many ways that God works on the MSU-M campus. Students have gathered at the LCM buildings for fun and worship. Some students have been baptized at Crossroads, and others were married there. Countless students have

seen the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit unfold in their young lives.

Crossroads is the only ELCA Lutheran Student Ministry on the MSU-M campus. They are there to support the students, faculty, and staff who make up the University community. They offer worship, small group activities, community service, and old-fashioned Lutheran hospitality to students and other members of the MSU-M community. Sisters and brothers in Christ, they are there because of you! You have entrusted them with the responsibility of ministering to the college students who are members of our congregations. They are thankful for the privilege of acting on your behalf on the campus of MSU-Mankato.

Will this ministry survive and thrive? You can assist them in the difficult task of fundraising by your gifts to the September mission project. Please put "Crossroads" on the memo line of your check.

~ Bethlehem Community & Global Missions Board

Update on Lutheran World Relief August Mission School Kit Project



Picture this: stacks and boxes and bundles of 2,000 drawstring backpacks, 2,000 erasers, 2,000 rulers, 2,000 pencil sharpeners, 2,000 crayon boxes, 8,000 notebooks, 10,000 pens, and 10,000 pencils.

Picture this: individuals spending many hours UNpackaging scissors and pencil sharpeners, sewing drawstring bags, and bundling pencils and pens with rubber bands.

Picture this: our Heritage Room or a Sunday School room full of empty boxes and stacks of school kit supplies on tables, a different assembly line of 8 young people and 4 adults working as a team every 2-3 hours for a total of 14 hours packing 2,038 school kit bags to send to Lutheran World Relief for needy children around the world.

Picture this: strong people loading up two pickup trucks and a large van to deliver school kits to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in St. Paul.

PICTURE THIS: 2,038 needy children opening the colorful bags filled with school supplies and given a chance to learn.

Thanks to everyone who participated in this challenge: VBS, CSI, Bethlehem quilters, office volunteers, bulletin stuffers, and others. We couldn't have done it without YOU! ~ Comm. & Global Missions Board

15 Proven Stress Reducers - Health Ministry Team

1. If an unpleasant task faces you, do it early in the morning and get it overwith!
2. Do just one thing at a time.
3. Remind yourself that Babe Ruth struck out 1,330 times.
4. Remember that the best things in life aren't things.
5. **Stop worrying!** If something concerns you, do something about it. If you can't do anything about it, let it go.
6. Make friends with non-worriers.
7. Relax your standards. The world won't end if the grass doesn't get mowed this weekend.
8. Remind yourself that you are not the reason for everyone's bad mood.
9. Less is more. Being happy with one dog (or cat!) doesn't mean that you'll be twice as happy with 2.
10. Shop on off-hours and off-days to avoid crowds and traffic.
11. Try to create a peaceful, quiet home.
12. Be willing to sit on your ego and let someone else get the recognition, catch the ball, etc.
13. Are you human? Well, then, it's okay to make a mistake.
14. Talk over your problems with a trusted friend or, if necessary, a health professional. Try to nip things in the bud.
- 4 15. Give yourself plenty of time to get used to one big change in your life before you take on another big change. Spread big changes out over time.

CALENDAR

Wednesday Evening Schedule starts on September 7!!

- 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 Children’s Time (meets in Chapel, then moves to basement, for kids 6th grade and under -- a time of music, 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)



September 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9 - 9:45 am - coffee 9:45 am –Worship 10:45 - Congregational meeting in Sanctuary	5 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	6 7 am - Café Ambrosia Bible Study 9 am - Quilters Noon-Men’s Bible Study 1 pm - Library Board 5:15 - Stewardship 6 pm- Music & Worship, Children’s Board 7 pm- C&G Missions, Evangelism, Facilities	7 9 am - TOPS 1 pm - Staff meeting 7:30 pm - Adult Ed. SEE SCHEDULE ABOVE Wed. Night Activities begin!	8 7 pm - Girlfriends Unlimited	9	10 9 am-noon - Mankato Children’s Chorus registration
11 RALLY SUNDAY 8:15 & 10:45 - Worship 9:30 - Education Hour, coffee Noon-picnic & carnival in the parking lot	12 5:9 pm - Mankato Children’s Chorus 5:45 pm - TOPS	13 7 am - Café Ambrosia Bible Study 10:15-Care Ministry at Pathstone Living Noon-Men’s Bible Study 1 pm - Library Board 5:30 - Earth Stewards	14 7:45-Finance Comm. 9 am - TOPS 1 pm- Staff mtg. 3:30 - Women’s Bible Study - GFJ Wed. Evening Activities	15 5:30 - BCCC Board at Jake’s	16	17 9 am - Alzheimer’s Walk at Sibley Park
18 8:15 & 10:45 - Worship 9:1:00 - Iverson benefit 9:30 - Ed. Hour, coffee 9:15 & 11:45am-Prayer Team 6:30 pm - Financial Peace University - Heritage Rm.	19 5:9 pm - MCC 5:45 pm - TOPS 6:30 - Mom’s Circle	20 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	21 9 am - TOPS 9:30 am - Rachael Circle in Grounds for Joy 1 pm - Staff mtg. Wed. Evening Activities	22	23 FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN	24
25 8:15 & 10:45 - Worship 9:30 - Ed. Hour, coffee Noon - serve meal at Salvation Army 5 pm - Movie Night	26 5:9 pm - MCC 5:45 pm - TOPS 7 pm - Health Ministry Comm.	27 7 am - Café Ambrosia Bible Study Noon - Men’s Bible Study 1 pm - Library Board 2 pm - Lydia Circle - GFJ	28 9 am - TOPS 1 pm-Staff mtg. 3:30-Women’s Bible Study-GFJ Wed. Evening Activities	29	30	



Save the Date:

Fellowship Carnival on Rally Sunday!

Join us immediately following the 10:45 a.m. church service on Sunday, September 11, for a carnival in Bethlehem's parking lot. There will be carnival games, candy making, face painting, a moon bounce house, etc., for children. A meal will be provided for a free-will offering.



Vacation Bible School



There were 47 children who enjoyed a BIG Jungle Adventure at Vacation Bible School in August. We enjoyed fellowship through food, songs, crafts, and games while celebrating the amazing love of Jesus all day, every day! The children also got to experience our congregational school bag mission project by packing over 100 school bags with supplies they brought throughout the week. Thank you to the volunteers listed below who donated their time & talent to make VBS 2011 a HUGE success!

Maria Larson
 Elisabeth Larson
 Sarah Mills
 Emily Pipes
 Maria Soroka
 Jessica Trautman
 Abbie Flom
 Shelley Pettis
 Tracy Davis
 Elizabeth Englin
 Liz Macrafcic
 Gabby Palmer
 James Dahlvang
 Shirley Davis
 Pastor Collette
 Melissa Matthies
 Joel Zimmerman
 Rachel Wood

Lance Quick
 Florence Sassenberg
 Ginger Erlandson
 Jean Bender
 Amanda Klanderman
 Marie Slotemaker
 Lynette Freyberg
 Kami Matteson
 Jenny Adams
 Jason Bruns
 Andrea Bruns
 Marsha Qualset
 Werner Fick
 Kay Wilking
 Beth Backstrom
 Carolyn Hovick
 August Serving Group Members
 Eric Pipes



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*

Rally Sunday
September 11, 2011

"Planting the Seeds of Faith"

WHO: 3-year-olds thru 6th grade
WHAT: Rally Sunday - kick off the LIGHT year
WHEN: 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 11
WHERE: LIGHT classrooms at Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Please register your child for the LIGHT program by coming to the basement dining room PRIOR to the Education Hour on Sunday, September 11.

LIGHT registration forms and the 2011-2012 schedule are AVAILABLE NOW online at www.bethlehemmankato.org.

Contact Leah Garry at 507-382-2205 or lgarry@hickorytech.net to volunteer or to learn more about the exciting LIGHT program.

Wednesday Night Kids' Club
is coming to Bethlehem!

What: 40 minutes of Christian Instruction & Music
Who: Kindergarten through 6th grade
Where: Bethlehem's Chapel
When: Wednesday evenings from 6-6:40



For children under Kindergarten age level, child care will be available in the church nursery.



Family Movie Night
Sunday, September 25

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.

MILESTONES; YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

MILESTONE MINISTRY NEWS

September has arrived, school is starting, and church activities for young and old have been planned. Our theme this year is "Plant the seed of Faith and let it grow." Milestone Ministries is a program that helps nurture our seeds of Faith with a planned activity for each age. Please attend these sessions with your child. It is very important that parent(s) or grandparent(s) accompany their child. On registration Sunday, the Milestone Ministry schedule for the year will be available and will be posted on our web page. Letters will be sent out as reminders throughout the year, too. **September** has four Milestones: **September 11 - Rally Sunday.** At the beginning of the 10:45 church service, there will be the Blessing of the Backpacks. Children, including pre-schoolers, are encouraged to bring their backpacks so that they can be blessed as we start a new academic year. Also, three-year-olds and their parent(s) or grandparent(s) will meet in Classroom E (by the church nursery) during the Sunday school (LIGHT) hour for an introduction to Sunday school. At the 10:45 church service, these children with their families will be blessed. **September 18** -- Third graders and their parent(s) or grandparent(s) will meet in

the drama room (by the dining room) for four weeks to learn "How to use the Bible." The third graders' Bibles will be presented to them on **October 9** at the beginning of the 10:45 church service. The Bible will be presented to the parents, and they will give it to their child. This is part of the Baptismal promise that they made when their child was baptized: "You will place the scriptures into their hands". Pictures can be taken after the church service. **September 25** -- Seventh graders will be blessed at the 10:45 church service as they start their study of their Faith, confirmation. **October** will have more Milestone steps that will be covered in the next Star. Thank you to all who have contributed to Operation Christmas Child (OCC) already. Back-to-school items are great things to put into these plastic 6-quart boxes (size of a shoe box). A collection box will be in the Narthex after November 2. The youth will help assemble these boxes on Sunday, November 20. Postage offerings will be needed for the shipping of each box. The postage fund can be put into Elizabeth's box with "OCC" marked on the memo line. Any questions or concerns should be directed to Vee M.G. Williams at 387-5154 or e-mail fiveboys@chartermi.net.

CSI: Mankato 2011 is in the history books. I was exhausted but proud: of 40+ youth who took the challenge and made a difference; of 60+ adults who put their personal resources into action; and of VINE, Salvation Army, MRCL, Echo Food Shelf, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Epiphany Lutheran Church, Grace Lutheran Church, parents, and friends of these elite youth. They stood tall together and made a difference to the Mankato Community. Thank you, God.

This year, we also worked with a group of adults from our church in a special program by organizing, putting together, and packaging about 2100 school kits for the Lutheran World Relief program, which supplies underprivileged countries with badly needed school supplies. We painted two sheds/garages for the Betsy - Tacy Society in the Lincoln Park area and painted the lower portion of Kathy Yale's house. All of these projects were a step in a different direction as we learned by doing discipleship together.

One of my frustrations with perceptions of youth ministry is that many people in the community have the misperception that youth are not capable of doing a day's work--that the "new 20 is age 30"--or that today's youth are relegated to demeaning tasks that no one else wants to do. I have often told the youth that you are not the "future of the church" but are part of the church today. Society states that our youth are learning to become "adults that care" but I feel strongly that "doing" and taking risks is a significant part of learning. CSI is showing our community that youth can stand up and make a difference, which is our CSI theme: **With God, We Can Make a Difference!**

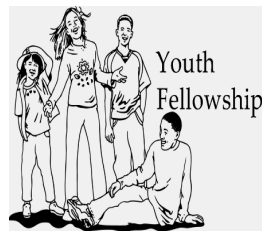
Dr. Robert Epstein, in his landmark book TEEN 2.0: Saving our Children and Families from the Torment of Adolescence, states that teens don't have enough freedom--to make mistakes, to work alongside adults, to feel like responsible members of society. He goes so far to say that adolescence is a creation of the industrial society--that in other parts of the world, adolescence doesn't exist because youth take the same risks as adults in society. He shows teens to be more competent than half of our adult society. We can't change perceptions overnight, but we can create an environment for our youth to succeed and fail while they are "safe" within loving reach of caring adults. I grew up in such an environment--a small town where every adult parented you and cared for you. Sounds like a good church environment to me. See you in church.

~Lance



TIMES KIDS ~ 6:00-7:45 p.m. in Grounds for Joy (TEENS IN MISSION ENTHUSIASTICALLY SERVING)

- September 14 - Scavenger Hunt
- September 21 - Minute to Win It Games
- September 28 - Movie "Saved" and discussion
- 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!)





Financial Peace University Coming to Bethlehem!

Free Preview—

Sunday, Sept. 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the Heritage Room

Financial management is a fun and easy topic to talk about with your spouse! Yea, right! This is not exactly a “fun” or “easy” topic for the vast majority of couples, including Brad and I. However, after talking casually one day at work with one of our financial counselors at LSS about this issue, he strongly recommended attending the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University program at a local church. He promised that it would be “entertaining, informative, and it has worked wonders for couples struggling with financial issues”. So, for the small price of the information kit, Brad and I thought it was worth a try. We actually had Todd and Maria King attend with us. Now mind you, we weren’t in financial trouble, but we certainly had different ideas of what to do with our money and different “financial styles”. Dave Ramsey’s Christian/Biblical-based program taught us how to work together with our different styles, talk about money without arguing, and helped us to road map out

our financial plan to reach our financial goals. Sounds pretty good, huh? It is a 13-week class which takes you step-by-step through all the obstacles that create financial hardships and sets you on the path to financial freedom. As a bonus, it WAS entertaining (we laughed a lot during the videos!), and Dave Ramsey explains the issues in very simple, easy to understand terms. Now if you are looking for a “get rich quick” program, this is not it, but it will give you the steps and tools that you need to get on the right path. This program is not just for those who are struggling and in financial trouble, but for anyone looking to improve their financial health. Whether you are living paycheck to paycheck, in debt up to your eyeballs, or just looking for some guidance with how God wants you to use the gifts that you have been given, this program is for you! You are not required to share any personal financial information with anyone, except your spouse. I strongly recommend this program and encourage you to talk to any of us if you have any questions or hesitations about embarking on this financial journey. ~ Shannon Butler

There is no need to pre-register for this preview event. Child care and dessert will be provided. Come and join us on September 18!



At the end of the month of July, the general fund had a deficit of **\$53**. That is very good news, considering that the deficit was \$4,300 at the end of last month, and \$23,000 at the end of July, 2010. Member envelope giving was down a bit. We are now at 96% of budget, or \$245,900 year-to-date, which is \$14,000 ahead of the same time last year. Expenses for the month of July were about \$4,000 less than budget. As stated in last month’s report, as we move forward with a full staff, the Finance Committee and the Church Council will continue to monitor the financial health of the church and keep the congregation updated.

Sentence Sermon

Your name is inscribed in God’s Hall of Fame just by believing in His Son, Jesus Christ.



From the Library...

This is a reminder: if you have an overdue book, we will be sending out notices soon. It would save postage if the late books could be returned to the library as soon as possible. Thank you!

ECHO FOOD SHELF

In September, we’ll be collecting personal care items.



Coffee Fellowship

CARE MINISTRY

The Bethlehem Lutheran Care Ministry Team is hosting a fellowship coffee party at Pathstone Living on **Tuesday, September 13**. Communion will be at

10:15 a.m., with coffee and fellowship to follow.

We hope you can join us!



Our Celebrate Generosity Sunday will be **October 16**. On that day, we will prayerfully estimate our giving to support Bethlehem’s mission in 2012. On the first three Sundays in October, the focus of our worship will be on stewardship. Because we believe in the program we are offering to you, we believe in you and the inspiring ways you live out your faith, and we believe in our God from whom all good things come, we are anticipating October 16 with eagerness and hope.

In the meantime, we are inviting you to join us in praying daily for the stewardship life of Bethlehem starting September 1. All of the Stewardship Committee, as well as the prayer team, have pledged to pray daily for the wise and faithful use of all God has given us, and we hope you will pray with us. There is now a poster in the narthex, and we invite you to sign your name as a public promise to pray. You can join in at any time. As we pray, we ask that God might show us the abundance of God’s love and give us thankful and generous hearts. As we pray, we ask that we might be thankful for all we receive to advance God’s kingdom in Mankato and beyond.

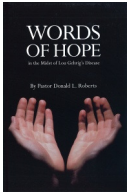
*Bethlehem Lutheran Stewardship Team
Bethlehem Lutheran Prayer Team*

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.

"In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith--being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed." ~ 1 Peter 1:6-7



The author, in the previous verses, writes about our hope in Christ for the future. Then he says, "In this you rejoice...". So do we. We rejoice in Christ for our hope for the future. Then the author writes about suffering. We all suffer in various ways. He says that suffering strengthens our faith. I believe the author is correct. Speaking personally, I have been angry with God many times during this illness. That's o.k. God can handle it. I have to say, my faith has grown stronger through the

16 years of my illness. I'm not saying I have arrived. I still get angry with God. God has led me to accept my situation more and my faith has grown stronger during the 16 years of this illness. It's a journey through suffering. Most of us get angry with God during suffering. That's o.k. As I said previously, God can handle our anger. As we pray during suffering, God will either lead us to find a different way to handle our suffering or lead us to accept our situation. Both are peaceful and lead to a

stronger faith. I must note that God doesn't create suffering. I believe that suffering comes because we live in a world that is out of sync with God. We live in a sinful world. That is why things happen that are unjust and unfair. As evidence of this, God came to us in Jesus. What did we all do? We crucified him. God raised him so that we might have forgiveness and love. Trust God in the midst of suffering. It will make your faith stronger.



ADULT FORUMS -- 9:30 a.m. IN THE HERITAGE ROOM

Six Marks of Discipleship, led by Pastor Jay



- September 11 - Prayer
- September 18 - Worship
- September 25 - Scripture
- October 2 - Serving
- October 9 - Giving
- October 16 - Relationships

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

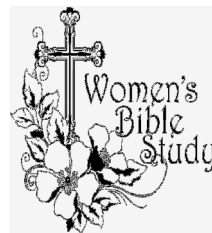
Mom's Circle is a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Our callings are to engage in ministry and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world. A group of moms with young children meets at **6:30 p.m.** on the third Monday of every month during the year. **We will meet at Emily Hanselman's home on September 19.**



Men's Tuesday Noon Bible Study will meet at 101 Main in the City Center Hotel starting **September 6.**

Wednesday Women's Bible Discussion Group

will meet on **Sept. 14 & 28** at **3:30 p.m.** in Grounds for Joy.



New Location - 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

Raise Your Voice—



Join the Choir...
You'll Be Glad
You Did!

A Musical Note from Laurie Rossow, Coordinator of Music

Join the Choir!

Every ministry in the church must have a purpose. Such a simple statement! What is the purpose of our music ministry? Let me share my feelings with you here. I feel that as the Music Director for Bethlehem, it is my responsibility to bring the word of God to the Congregation through the music selected for worship by all of our music groups.

This time of year, I am faced with the most challenging aspect of my job – RECRUITMENT. Every September and January, I find myself recruiting new choir members. Our music groups experience turnover resulting from any number of things, such as school and job conflicts, scheduling of sports activities, homework, families moving away, retirement, and, of course, our snow birds.

I find that many eagerly join a group for the fellowship and the joy of sharing beautiful music. While these have merit and are a vital part of our groups, they cannot sustain our ministry. As a choir director, I constantly remind the choir members and myself of the fundamental purpose of our choirs – to lead the congregation in worship. The accomplishment of this purpose does not happen as a result of well trained ears, balanced voicing, or even energetic stage presence. Instead, true worship leading is an extension of our relationship with Christ (Matthew 22:37, 38).

Please see the enclosed fall schedule for our music groups. **Rehearsals start on Wed., September 7.** The important time we share together is centered on practice, praise, and prayer. Come and join us! Our rehearsals are a retreat where you'll develop new relationships, experience renewal, and leave revitalized. All this to fulfill our purpose – leading the people of God in praising Him through music.

In closing, "I WANT YOU!" (yes, you!) to prayerfully consider joining a choir. Our Wednesday evening schedule allows the whole family to participate in music from age 3 to 93! **Starting at 5:00 p.m., make plans to get involved at church on Wednesdays!** E-mail or call me and I can find an activity or group for you to be a part of here at Bethlehem.

Laurie Rossow
ljam@hickorytech.net
phone: 779-9114

Scripture Verse – Matthew 22:37, 38

He said to them, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment.

Hymn – ELW #841
"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Prayer: Dear Lord, call to me so that I may be moved to lift my voice in song. Let me offer You my praise and thanksgiving through music. You have blessed me with many gifts and I will share them with others for the purpose of your continued ministry. Amen.

◆.....◆
NEW this FALL for WORSHIP
Introducing new ideas to enhance our worship experiences:

NEW to all on Wednesdays:
6:00 p.m. -- Worship in the Chapel
This fall, we will add a worship service at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel to our Wednesday evening schedule.

NEW for Young Families:
6:00 p.m. -- Children's Time
Features: children's message as part of worship, and music/activity time with Laurie Rossow and Leah Garry for school age K – 6 grades. Activities in the Nursery for children age infant - pre-K with Marci Rossow. Starting on Wednesday, September 7, you can enjoy an evening together as a family here at Bethlehem. Come for supper starting at 5:00, stay for worship and kids' programs at 6:00, pick a choir to be a part of, be a confirmation guide, attend a Bible study, or work on a serving group. There is so much to choose from!

NEW this Fall for Sundays:
We will begin learning a new liturgy-- Setting One from the ELW hymnal.
Come learn a new song on Sundays!



INSTRUMENTALISTS *Needed*

Do/did you play a musical instrument? Is/was it the trumpet, flute, clarinet, saxophone, oboe, bass, percussion, tuba, recorder, spoons, or kazoo?!? Maybe you play the guitar, piano or organ. Come out of hiding and have some fun! Instrumentalists are needed here at Bethlehem. We currently have a small string ensemble that plays once a month leading the liturgy from the With One Voice hymnal. It would be wonderful to expand this volunteer group of musicians. Or maybe you could help out just one time by playing with a choir anthem. Get those instruments up out of the basement, out of the closet, or from under the bed! Call or e-mail Laurie Rossow (507)779-9114 or ljam@hickorytech.net.

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. **Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 7.** 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...*

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES, LECTIONARY, & PARTICIPANTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>8:15 a.m.</u>	<u>10:45 a.m.</u>	<u>Special Events</u>
9/4	<i>Final 9:45 a.m. service - ELW #10</i>	--	Hymn sing, communion
9/11	ELW #8 with communion Chancel/Gather Choirs	Contemporary Praise Band Milestones: Blessing of the Backpacks and 3-year-olds	Rally Sunday; picnic & carnival in parking lot at noon
9/18	ELW #1 with communion Gospbells, Chancel Choir	Gather liturgy with communion Gospbells, Gather Choir	--
9/25	ELW #1 with communion Bethlehem Octet	Contemporary Praise Band Bethlehem Octet	10:45 - Blessing of the 7th Graders

LECTIONARY FOR SEPTEMBER

<u>Date</u>	<u>First Reading</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Second Reading</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
9/4	Ezekiel 33:7-11	119:33-40	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20
9/11	Genesis 50:15-21	103:[1-7] 8-13	Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35
9/18	Jonah 3:10--4:11	145:1-8	Philippians 1:21-30	Matthew 20:1-16
9/25	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32	25:1-9	Philippians 2:1-13	Matthew 21:23-32

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR SEPTEMBER

DATE	TIME	READER	USHER	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS				GREETERS	COMM. SET-UP	COFFEE
9/4	9:45 a.m.	Kathy Yale	8	Jim Erdman	Wally Boyer	Brenda Boyer	Barb Girtz	John & Kathy Crowwell	Tom & Betty Sanger	Harvey & Alice Kollos
9/11	8:15 a.m.	Sally Burdick	1	Sally Burdick	Betty Groth	Brad Groth	Sandy Kuper	Wayne & Gail Date	Lavon & Sally Burdick	Tim & Amy Heiser
9/11	10:45 a.m.	Jack Halvorson	2					Mary Hall & Kay Hubbard	No comm.	
9/18	8:15 a.m.	John Crowwell	3	Frank Larsen	Melissa Matthies	Dee Saman	Roger Saman	Bob & Ginger Erlandson	Eunice & Florence Sassenberg	Bruce & Sandy Abild
9/18	10:45 a.m.	Kathryn Hanson	4	Brenda Boyer	Wally Boyer	Barb Girtz	Kathryn Hanson	Jeff & Amy Smith		
9/25	8:15 a.m.	Jan Boyum	5	Bruce Royer	Jan Boyum	Melissa Matthies	Amber Steen	Denny & Shirley Ferris	Brad & Betty Groth	Duane & Janice Ahlness
9/25	10:45 a.m.	Sandy Kuper	6					Lori & Amber Steen	No comm.	

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**Fellowship Carnival
on Rally Sunday!**

Join us immediately following the 10:45 a.m. church service on **Sunday, September 11**, for a carnival in Bethlehem's parking lot. There will be carnival games, candy making, face painting, a moon bounce house,

etc., for children. A meal will be provided for a free-will offering. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**



Also on Rally Sunday, we will be having the **First Annual Bethlehem Dessert Bake-Off!!** Sign up in the office by **September 4** and submit a dish/platter of your best dessert in the Heritage Room by 9:30 a.m. on September 11.

See page 3 for more details!

