

Bethlehem Star

A Message from Pastor Gary

Membership Updates	2
Membership Updates	3
Movies	4
Buy a Degree	5
Backpack Request	6
Salad Supper	8
Ushers & Greeters	10
Kid's Page	11
Vacation Bible School	12
VBS/SS Applications	14
Calendar	15

Bethlehem's staff includes one full-time Ordained Minister and one Diaconal Minister who works ½ time at Bethlehem and ½ time with the synod. Ordained Ministers, Diaconal Ministers, Associates in Ministry and the Deaconess Community form the 4 rosters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The rosters are the official lists of those who have been "set apart" for ministry in the ELCA. Here we will define 2 of the rosters.

Our church says this about Ordained Ministers:

ELCA pastors carry out their ministry as they proclaim the Gospel. They are called to a ministry of Word and Sacrament, to bring the witness of faith to the lives of God's people. Providing care and nurture of others and reaching out to a hurting world are essential expressions of this form of ministry. Pastors assist the church in transforming congregations into vibrant communities that reach out to serve the world and share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Our church says this about Diaconal Ministers:

Diaconal ministers are consecrated for service in ministries at the intersection of church and world. These rostered lay leaders work to seek wholeness in the world and to help the people of God to live out the Gospel. They are committed to alerting the church to the needs of the world. Diaconal ministry is a ministry of Word and service, sharing the hope of Christ, helping where there is need, and equipping others for healing and justice in the world.

Our Diaconal Minister, Mary Lasits, and I have been publicly commissioned by the whole church and for the whole church. The rostered staff of Bethlehem Lutheran Church is called to serve Christ's kingdom and the world by serving in and through this congregation. Service in and through the congregation does not mean serving only this congregation. The congregation is the vehicle through which the ministers address the needs of the world. Congregations are called, as are the ministers, to "the care and nurture of others and reaching out to a hurting world." Congregations are partnerships of ministers and members who work together to bring the transformative power of Christ to the world – beginning locally and continuing globally.

Keep the points made above in mind. They are important for the rest of this article.

(continued on page 2)

*You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." But I say to you ... if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile... In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.
[Matthew 5: 38, 39a, 41, 7:12]*

Pastor's Message *(continued)*

Statistically speaking, the people living in DeKalb County are financially capable of supporting fiscally thriving congregations. Yet nearly every congregation in our community is, including our own, cutting every expense to the bone to keep the doors of ministry and opportunity open. Why is this so? Income, property and sales taxes paid in this county, along with U. S. Census information, confirm the economic capability of the people living here. So the problem is not one of economic ability.

Why then do the congregations in our community struggle financially? Why does Bethlehem struggle to make ends meet? If the problem is not economics, then is it a problem of will, desire, or the spirit of the members? Is it a problem of lack of knowledge? Our stewardship problem is a combination of all of these with the added dysfunction of complacency.

The Christian Church would never have gotten out of the first century if it had become self-satisfied. Instead the Holy Spirit gave the early Church a kind of restlessness that led the apostles first and then others into giving self, time and treasure to Christ in such a way that others knew they had a deep and abiding faith.

Bethlehem would never have gotten out of the 19th century if the founders of this congregation had not had a Holy Spirit induced restlessness to create a worshiping community for the Finnish immigrants working in DeKalb. And what about the vision of the congregation's members in the late 1950's? They had a Spirit induced restlessness for church growth – they bought a field, they envisioned a facility, they (and some of you) gave self, time and treasure to Christ in such a way that others knew they had a deep and abiding faith.

Where is our Holy Spirit induced restlessness for church growth? Why have we grown self-satisfied with an under-funded budget and dysfunctional stewardship of our church? Does our community know we have a deep and abiding faith in Christ? What has happened to make Bethlehem satisfied with being less than God has called it to be?

This is my seventh year as your pastor. I can honestly say that I have never served a more financially capable congregation. So I wonder, what will it take for us to become a partnership of ministers and members who can truly bring the transformative power of Christ to the world – beginning locally and continuing globally? How and when will we recover that Holy Spirit induced restlessness needed for the growth of our own congregation?

Let's start with what we know – prayer. Please pray and consider how you can build and strengthen the partnership of ministers and members at Bethlehem so that we can be the congregation God is calling us to be.

Let's continue with what we know – worship. Worship regularly and be a part of building and strengthening the partnership of ministers and members at Bethlehem so that we can be the congregation God is calling us to be.

Let's keep going with what we know – giving. Your regular financial commitment to this congregation, whether small or great, makes the partnership of ministers and members at Bethlehem possible so that we can be the congregation God is calling us to be.

Through Word, Sacrament and service your ministers are called to care for the human community locally and globally in and through Bethlehem. Let us all pray for a Holy Spirit induced restlessness to become a truly transformative partnership of ministers and members.

Amani,
Pastor Gary

Membership Updates, Concerns and Thanks

 * ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED *
 * *
 * TO THE *
 * *
 * FALL SALAD SUPPER *
 * ON TUESDAY, *
 * SEPTEMBER 1 *
 * AT 6:30 P.M. *
 * *
 * Please bring your favorite *
 * salad to share. Dessert, rolls *
 * and coffee will be provided. *
 * *
 * Program: *
 * "Touch the Nations" *
 * with Bonnie Seigel *
 * *
 * Men are invited to join us for *
 * the program! *
 * *

Prayer list:
 Helen Riihimaki, Eleanor
 Garcia, George Siebens

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY
 GOES TO THE FAMILY OF
 CHIPPY COX ON HER RECENT
 DEATH.

**Winner of our Quilt
 raffle was Kay Erickson,
 mother of Pastor Gary.
 Thank you to everyone
 who entered the raffle.**

*In appreciation . . .
 Thank you so much for the cof-
 fee and sweets you provided
 after Henry's memorial service.
 The tables looked so nice and
 the treats were delicious.*

 Henry R. Fick Family

Birth Announcement
 Michael & Sarah Tracy
 announce the birth of a
 daughter, Madelyn Claire,
 on June 21, 2009. Maddie
 weighed 7 lbs. 2 oz. and
 was 19 inches long and
 joins Hannah, 2 1/2 years.
 Grandparents are Bob &
 Donna Rae Ewing.

**Thank you to the following
 people for sharing their musi-
 cal talents with us in July!**
 Nolan & Lucas Clay
 Mary Von Zellen
 Cindy Mogenson

Our second worship service will be starting August 30. If you would be willing to serve as an usher, greeter, lector or communion assistant at this service, please let Margie Hargrave (895-2738) or Laurel Stokke (758-0942) know.

If you have donated furniture or other physical items to the church specifically for church use, please let Marilyn know so she can put it in her yearly report.

Equipment for Accessibility Needs:
 Bethlehem has some equipment to loan such as a wheel chair, walkers, and canes. The office staff can help you locate these items if you are in need. The church is also interested in receiving items such as those mentioned above. Often the need for such equipment comes with very short notice and knowing where one might find the needed items can be a huge help.

BAPTIZED ON JUNE 19:
 Congratulations to Ben & Alicia Pearson on the baptism of their daughter Anna Elizabeth Pearson.

Congratulations on the weddings of the following couples:
 July 17—Oscar & Valerie Cornejo
 July 18—Guadalupe & Mary Jane Martinez

Choir is Returning to Bethlehem

Choir has been on hiatus and returns in September! Now that Jim Nerstheimer is on board as our very fine organist, we can resume choir practice and singing at the worship service. You don't need to be a soloist, just have a willing heart and voice. If you are reluctant, ask a friend to come along and sing with you. As they say, "there's safety in numbers!"

This doesn't need to be a lifetime obligation. If a regular commitment to choir is just too much for your schedule, try a shorter term like Advent-Christmas, Lent-Easter, First Sunday after Easter-Trinity Sunday.

There will also be special choirs for Christmas and Easter. Rehearsals will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings, in Fellowship Hall. If singers would prefer an earlier start time, we will be happy to accommodate. The first practice is set for September 10.



Saturday Afternoon Movies at Bethlehem

AUGUST Movies

Join us on the following Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. for these delightful movies:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| August 8 | <i>"Michael"</i> with John Travolta, Andie MacDowell and William Hurt
1996/Color/106 minutes
<i>(This movie is about an angel with a devilish side.)</i> |
| August 29 | <i>"Practical Magic"</i> starring Sondra Bullock, Nicole Kidman, Stockard Channing and Dianne Wiest 1998/Color/104 minutes
<i>(A terrific brew of fun and fantasy.)</i> |

Happening Around Town . . .

50 Men Who Cook

This year's benefit fundraiser for Family Service Agency and CASA will take place on August 8, 6-9 p.m. The event will be held at Barsema Alumni and Visitor Center on the NIU campus. Tickets are \$40 per person and are available for sale at Family Service Agency, National Bank & Trust and Resource Bank. There are 53 chefs entered in 48 teams. This year a professional category of chefs has been added.

Love INC Wants & Needs

Love INC is looking for the following items:

- Storage space for furniture, appliances and household goods (Love INC)
- Trailer for pick up and delivery of donations (Love INC)
- Clean furniture in good condition (client needs)
- Window air conditioners (client needs)
- Bikes in good condition (client needs)
- Webmaster (5-10 hours/month)

Love INC volunteers take calls Monday-Friday from 9-12 Noon. We are looking for more phone volunteers to work existing shifts. In addition, we are staffing an afternoon shift. Will you help? Contact us at (815) 217-0082.

VAC's Community Dinner

The Community Dinner is open to anyone in need and available at no cost. Dinners will be available on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday serving from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at VAC's dining room located within the DeKalb Community Center, 330 Grove St. The success of the Community Dinner will depend greatly on the time and items donated by others. To volunteer, please contact Ellen Rogers at (815) 758-3932 or to make a donation contact the Voluntary Action Center at the same number. Funding for VAC's Community Dinner is available for 3 months. At that time, dinner service will continue if more funding is provided or private donations are made.

New Worship Schedule Reminder

Beginning August 30, 2009 the order for Sunday morning is:

- 8:45 am – 9:45 am Worship 1
- Fellowship follows worship 1
- 10:00 am – 10:50 am Sunday school for youth
- 10:10 am – 10:50 am Adult class
- 11:00 am – 11:45 am Worship 2

Notes: Worship 1 will continue our pattern of sung liturgy, hymns and communion. Fellowship, an important part of our Sunday morning, is a great time to greet friends and meet our visitors. The Adult class can remain in session as long as desired, however pastor will make his exit at 10:50. Worship 2 will follow the same pattern as Worship 1, although the liturgy will be spoken rather than sung to accommodate the shorter time period.

Jesus is our STAR! Let our STAR lead you to the worship service that best suits your needs and schedule. We are always open to friends and visitors. Make Bethlehem's mission your own by inviting someone to worship with you!

Clinton Rosette Backpack Donation Request

Clinton Rosette is asking for your continued support again this year for the 2009 Fall Backpack Drive for economically disadvantaged students. Rosette's student population is currently 45% on free and reduced lunch, an increase from last year.

Your participation last year was invaluable! Over 200 students had a good start to the school year. Last year was the first year of the Backpack Drive.

Check the following list of needs for this school year:

- Backpack
- Pencils
- Glue Stick
- Ruler
- Colored pencils
- Thin markers
- Scissors
- Blue pens
- Compass
- Protractor
- Red pens
- 2 packs of paper

You can collect the items above for a backpack or just donate \$25.00 per child and the school will purchase the supplies.

Deliver your items to the office at Clinton Rosette by August 7.

On August 11, the backpacks will be put together and on August 12 & 13 parents will pick up the backpacks.

If you have any questions you can call Sheryl at (815)761-1497.

Mission Endowment Fund Distribution

The Mission Endowment Fund was pleased to distribute funds to the following organizations during the worship service on Sunday, July 26, 2009:

Peace House Africa, Heritage Woods of DeKalb, Bethlehem Vacation Bible School, Feed My Starving Children, LCM Guatemala Mission Trip, Bethlehem Good Samaritan Fund, DeKalb Co. Nursing Home Foundation, LOMC, Love in the Name of Christ, Lutheran Campus Ministry at NIU, Feed My Sheep Food Pantry, Naberera Lutheran Parish, Tanzania, St. Mary's Parish, St. Petersburg, Russia, Resurrection Lutheran Church

Notes from Church Council—June 9

I apologize for missing the *Star* deadline to get these notes to Gretchen for the July *Star*.

Pastor's report: Pastor talked about the farewell service for the members leaving Bethlehem—the Pearsons, Emily and Aidan Truckenbrod, and Roberta Linder. Karin Stokke is leaving for medical school. On July 22, a celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Sanctuary will be held. The Stubbs family will provide the music. A social with ice cream and treats is planned following the program.

Mary Lasits' Report: Mary announced that a new curriculum has been ordered for fall. Pastor Diane Dardon will provide a program for youth on Monday evening. The recliner and furniture in the big Sunday School room was donated by Ed & Edna Schramm. Mary talked about the plans for the summer barbeques—one to be held each month.

Committees:

Mission Endowment: Earnings from the last quarter will be distributed on July 26.

Finance: The committee continues to improve the payroll process. Gretchen is now doing the payroll.

Social Ministry: The Food Pantry served 477 households, 1,512 adults and children during the month of May.

Worship & Music: We discussed the schedule changes which will take place on August 30. The first service will begin at 8:45, the second service will begin at 11:00 a.m. with Sunday School from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Property: The Property Committee, responding to a request from the Bell Choir, has been looking into the possibility of making more space in the balcony for the Bell Choir.

New Business: A new counter was added to the roster. The council approved the appointment of John Metzler to fill a vacancy. Council approved the sale of a stock gift. The next meeting will be August 11.

Submitted by, Anna Fischer

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY
(First Saturday of each month)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1
8:30—9:30 A.M.
(Mark your calendars for September 5.)

We spend an hour reading Scripture and talking about issues important to faith, life and the issues that face us publicly and personally.
Come once, or come each month, the coffee's always on!

Weekly Men's
Breakfast

This group meets Friday mornings just before 8:00 a.m. at the Lincoln Inn in downtown DeKalb.

Come as often
as you can!

LCW Salad Supper

A Salad Supper kicks off fall activities for the Bethlehem Church Women. Mark September 1, 6:30 p.m., for this meeting. The program will be presented by Bonnie Seigel who traveled to Africa and brings back a tale of two phenomenal servants of God—Suzanne Nyanzobe and Pastor Samuel Menyongar.

Bonnie Seigel, a niece of Gladys Erickson, has an awesome story to share about her experiences with starting a non-profit organization called "Touch the Nations." Following the horrendous genocide about 10 years ago in Rwanda and Burundi, the countries were overrun with widows and orphans.

In 2008, Bonnie visited the orphanage that was purchased to house these homeless individuals and met with the teachers running the program. The story of this visit will be the focus of her presentation.

Members of Bethlehem are asked to bring a salad to share. Our guests are just asked to come. The Church Women Board will furnish desserts. Please ask your friends to join us for this interesting program.

Ushers for Sundays in August

August 2	Steve & Carol Cook Emily & Amanda Cook	August 23	Elmie Carey Wayne & Nancy Coffman Paul Gilbert
August 9	June Whitney Norma Wiegartz Carole Asbell Jane Bidstrup	August 30 8:45 a.m.	Don Davidson Lorna Knuuttila Sandy Woodin Matt Dumdie
August 16	Lorna Bemis Virginia Luedtke LaVern Burhop Butch Burrigh	August 30 11:00 a.m.	Don & Sherry Krehl



Greeters for Sundays in August

August 2	Ed & Edna Schramm	August 23	Harry & Mona Theisen
August 9	Ray Steinbis Elmie Carey	August 30 8:45 a.m.	June Whitney Norma Wiegartz
August 16	Dick & Laurel Stokke	August 30 11:00 a.m.	Dick & Laurel Stokke

Lectors for August

August 2	John Metzler
August 9	Lorna Bemis
August 16	Wayne Coffman
August 23	Don Davidson
August 30 8:45 a.m.	Pat Erickson
August 30 11:00 a.m.	Pat Erickson

Communion Asst.

August 2	Dick & Laurel Stokke
August 9	Virginia Luedtke Edna Schramm
August 16	Judy Sisler Ray Steinbis
August 23	Valerie Talsma Myron Bond
August 30 8:45 a.m.	John & Beth Metzler

Bethlehem's Backyard Barbeque

JOIN US!

Summer's here so let's have some fun!

Mark your calendars —Bethlehem is having a BBQ in the backyard.

Dates: August 9

Times: 5pm – 7pm

What: Bring a dish to pass and a meat to grill! Each night a family/
individual will host by setting up.

Come for friendship, fun, and food!

Any questions contact Mary Lasits at mlasits@yahoo.com or 815-758-3203.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Bethlehem is assigned August 8 as our work date for Habitat for Humanity. The full day is 8-4 p.m. but any help volunteers can provide is appreciated. Volunteers need to be age 16 and over to be on the worksite and at least 18 to climb ladders or operate power tools. We will be paired with another DeKalb Co Lutheran church for the day, but we are asked to provide 9 workers for the day.

If you are able to help the project out on August 8, please sign up on the list in the lounge, or call Don Krehl before Tuesday, August 4. I will need to submit a list of workers on Tuesday.

Also, if anyone would like to put a lunch together for this day for 25 workers (a sack-type lunch), please let Don Krehl know. Habitat informed me they are looking for someone to provide a lunch. I also need to report this by Tuesday. Thank you, in advance, for your support of this community project. Don Krehl



August 10-14

9-12

It's Sunday School Registration Time!

Sunday School Registration



Beginning September 13, 2009
and ending May 6, 2010

Please return this form to:

Bethlehem Lutheran Church 1915 N First St. DeKalb, IL 60115

Student's Name _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Ad-
dress _____

Home Phone _____ Alt. Phone _____

Student's Age _____ Grade _____

Emergency contact if parent/guardian cannot be reached:

Name _____

Phone _____ Relationship to student _____

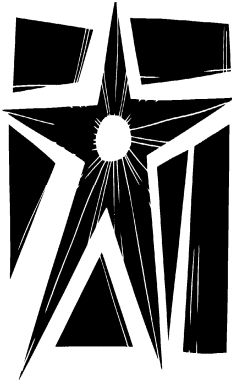
Please list any allergies the staff should be aware of

Person responsible for picking up this student at the end of the hour

Permission for: Photo release - YES ___ NO ___ & Web photo release YES ___ NO ___

Signature of parent or guardian _____

Bethlehem Star



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
DeKalb, IL 60115
Permit #121

Bethlehem Evangelical
Lutheran Church
1915 N. First Street
DeKalb, Illinois 60115

Address Label Here

Phone: 815-758-3203
Fax: 815-758-1411
Email: belcdekalb@comcast.net
Website: bethlehemdekalb.org

Birthday List for August

Birthday Greetings to:

2 Butch Burrigh
Margaret Louise Silk
3 Paul Gilbert
4 Maria McMillion
8 Eldon Miller
10 Mariann Riippi
13 Alice Saari
14 Rhonda Huffman
Nathan Ewing
17 Gladys Erickson
22 Kyle Knuuttila
Eric Armstrong



24 Laurel Trostle
25 Nicholas Olson
26 Doris Rauman
Dorothy Bierman
Kathleen Shriver
28 Allie Wahl
29 Rob McMillion
Julie Stone
31 Christine Turk

If you don't find your name on the Birthday Lists, please call the church office at 758-3203.