

Bethlehem Star

A Message from Pastor Gary

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“Give liberally and ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all you undertake. Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, ‘Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.’” [Deuteronomy 15:10-11]

Bethlehem Lutheran Church’s mission is...
+ local + regional + global.

Bethlehem’s local mission is to gather the people and the resources in order to worship our Savior, to share our faith with people of all ages, to pray for our community, to feed others in Jesus’ name, to share our building for educational and community activities, and to bear witness to the staying power of Christian faith by maintaining our building and property for the sake of our mission.

Bethlehem’s regional mission is to gather the people and resources in order to worship our Savior, to pray for our partners in ministry, to share our people and resources with the Northern Illinois Synod and its agencies, to share our people and resources with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and to bear witness to the staying power of Christian faith by maintaining our building and property for the sake of our mission.

Bethlehem’s global mission is to gather the people and resources in order to worship our Savior, to pray for our international partners, to share our people and resources with our companions in mission in Tanzania, Russia, and India, to support the Lutheran World Federation through our support of the ELCA, and to bear witness to the staying power of Christian faith by maintaining our building and property for the sake of our mission.

Stewardship and mission cannot be separated. Mission and stewardship are sides of the same coin. We cannot do mission locally, regionally or globally without stewardship. We cannot be faithful stewards without local, regional and global missions.
(continued)

Pastor's letter (continued)

Your faithful and generous gifts of time and money are the foundational supports of our mission. Our mission is the foundational support for all gifts of time and money given to and through Bethlehem. Through the collected work of the congregation Bethlehem's mission touches people locally regionally and globally.

Please "Give liberally and ungrudging..." Many people locally, regionally and globally are blessed by your generosity.

Amani,
Pr. Gary



JANUARY 19, 2009

We congratulate and welcome our new members:

Estuardo & Diane Dardon
Brian & Cathryn Dardon
Benjamin & Alicia Pearson
Ronald & Kimberly Lynch
Brittney Nelson
Courtney Nelson

A HUGE thank you to Donna Bloyd for all her time, effort and work in putting together the "Saturday Afternoon Movies at Bethlehem" program!

Saturday Afternoon Movies

**OUR "MOVIE THEATER" WILL BE
CLOSED FOR VACATION IN JANUARY!**

MOVIES WILL RESUME IN FEBRUARY.

**THANK YOU!
DONNA**

Membership Updates, Concerns and Thanks

The Bethlehem Church Women are continuing to organize some connections from home for Dave Tracy who is currently serving in Iraq. One box has already been sent. The plan is to send a box each month. The box will be in the office and when it is filled the Eve Circle members will mail it in January. In February, another box will be sent and another in March. The items below are some suggestions of things Dave would like. Of course, he would always appreciate cards and letters from you.

Congratulations to Brian & Briana Vanderweele on the baptism of their daughter, Ashton Rose Vanderweele on Dec. 7.

The following are some ideas for packages to be sent to David Tracy in Iraq:
He loves Oreo cookies!
*(Do not send homemade cookies.)
Baby wipes—
(the soldiers love having these for general clean up)
Kleenex or paper towels
Wrapped candy
Magazines and/or newspapers
Flip-top canned goods

Boxes and letters can be sent to David in Iraq at the following address:
+++
**Sgt. David Tracy
509th Eng. Co.
APO AE 09391**

*Dear Bethlehem LCW,
"The meal you provided after Florence's service was delicious. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated. Thank you so much."
The Family of Florence George*

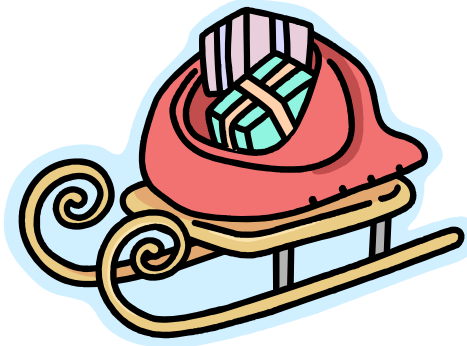
"Thank You! I found it paid to advertise the need for assistance in hanging the Christmas greens in the hallway and in the sanctuary. The entire job took less than an hour to complete. Thanks to all the volunteers who brought the decorations out of storage and who helped to hang them. I am ever grateful for your helpful hands and legs."

Gordon Rasmussen

Heartfelt Thanks and Appreciation to . . .
Jeannette and Darlene for all their help in volunteering for the Food Pantry. They have helped feed many hungry people and families through times of need. A special thank you to Annette and Jerry Johns, Don & Sherry Krehl, and Gordon Rasmussen for their help in coordinating, stocking deliveries, and many other tasks.

Food Pantry Christmas Hams

Ham it Up!



**For the Food Pantry
this Holiday Season!**

Hams were ordered for the Christmas/Holiday Season! ***Please help our Food Pantry pay for 200 hams.***

You can buy 6 hams for \$7.00, 12 hams for \$14.00, or 24 hams for \$28.00!

Make your check out to Bethlehem and note that it's for the pantry.

Many thanks for your continued support of our Food Pantry!

THRIVENT FUNDRAISER REPORT FOR 2008

Many thanks for your generous support of the 2008 fundraiser. It breaks down as follows:

Boilers	\$1,960.00
LSSI	170.00
Safe Passage	166.00
Undesignated	<u>114.43</u>
	\$2,410.43
Thrivent Contribution	<u>1,600.00</u>
Total	\$4,010.43

(Thrivent Financial also donated \$100 for kitchen supplies.)

The Thrivent Committee

Christmas Poinsettias for Christmas Eve

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS ON THE ALTAR CHRISTMAS EVE

Poinsettias on the altar were given to the glory of God in memory of:

Asbell, Donald, from Carole Asbell
 Brook, Mildred, from Gil & Jean Brook, Wayne & Nancy Coffman
 Burreight, Martha, from Butch Burreight
 Carey, Dave, from Elmie Carey
 Davis, John (Jack), husband of Genevieve Davis
 Davidson, Forrest & Selma, from Don Davidson
 Ebner, Joseph & Julia, from Andres & Deborah Velez
 Ekstrom, Ted, from Irene Ekstrom
 Hampa, Laurie, from Dick & Laurel Stokke
 Hietikko, V. Richard, from Anne Hietikko
 Hughes, Jess & Jane, from Linda & Leland Hoffman
 Jarvi, Elna, from Charles & Ellen Jarvi Arthur
 Jarvi, Frank & Ida, from Charles & Ellen Jarvi Arthur
 Koski, Oscar & Maria, from Lauri Koski and Toini Koski
 Loved ones, from Carl & Doris Nordstrom
 Loved ones, from Donald & Sherry Krehl
 Loved ones, from Eldon & Helen Miller
 Loved ones, from Elvi & Pat Humo
 Loved ones, from Frank & Rose Mary Garcia
 Loved ones, from Ed & Edna Schramm
 Loved ones, from Gary & Pat Erickson
 Loved ones, from Kent & Gail Zak, and Bob Ewing Family
 Makela, Jack & Sigrid, parents of Genevieve Davis
 Maki, Uuno, from Dee Maki
 Miller, Henry & Hanna, from Wayne Pinkston
 Newtonson, Linda, daughter of Elmie Carey
 Our Parents, from Bill & Sue Gulke
 Our Parents, from Ed & Judy Sisler
 Our Parents, from Harry & Mona Theisen
 Pinkston, Mrs. Elise, from Wayne Pinkston
 Riippi, Skinny, from Doris Riippi
 Stokes, John & Rose, from Andres & Deborah Velez
 Stokke, Omil & Laura, from Dick & Laurel Stokke
 Tom and all our loved ones, from Kathleen Hunt & Family
 Whitney, Clifford, from June Whitney
 Wiemer, Susan Yarde, from Tad & Marilyn Yarde
 Zak, Frank & Lila, from Kent & Gail Zak, and Bob Ewing Family
 Zak, Meagan Ashley, from Kent & Gail Zak, and Bob Ewing Family
 Zak, Robert, from Kent & Gail Zak, and Bob Ewing Family

And in honor of . . .

All our servicemen and women, from Carole Asbell
 Hampa, Ellen, from Dick & Laurel Stokke
 Our Grandchildren Aidan & Hope, from Carl & Marjorie Hargrave
 Our Grandchildren Patrick & Christine McMillion, Andrew & Peter Hongisto from
 Bob & Marilyn Hongisto.
 Our Grandchildren, Alex, Molly & Ellie, from Paul & Karen Gilbert
 Our Lord Jesus at His birth, from Gil & Jean Brook, Wayne & Nancy Coffman
 Our Savior Jesus Christ, from Lauri Koski and Toini Koski
 The Saints of Bethlehem, from Gordon & Gin Rasmussen

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3
8:30—9:30 A.M.
(Mark your calendars for February 7.)

We spend an hour reading Scripture and talking about issues important to faith, life and the issues that face us publicly and personally.

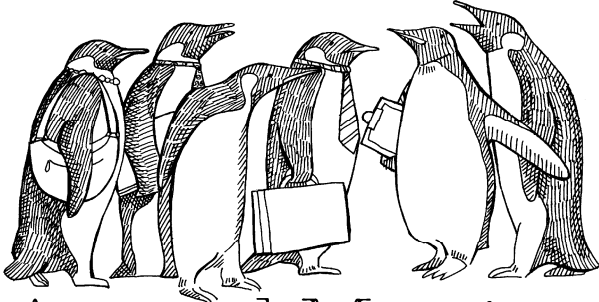
Come once, or come each month, the coffee's always on!

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!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR ANNUAL MEETING



Annual Meeting

JANUARY 25



**COMMITTEE LEADERS:
YOUR ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE
NOW!!**

Ushers for Sundays in January

January 4	Carole Asbell Lorna Bemis Jane Bidstrup LaVern Burhop	January 18	Don Davidson Lorna Knuuttila Don & Sherry Krehl
January 11	Butch Burreight Virginia Luedtke Wayne & Nancy Coffman	January 25	Paul Gilbert Loren & Margaret Hayes Anne Hietikko



Greeters for Sundays in January

January 4	Irene Kuusisto Dee Maki	January 18	Barb Luchsinger Liz Luchsinger
January 11	Lauri Koski Kathleen Hunt	January 25	Kim Martin Maria McMillion

Lectors

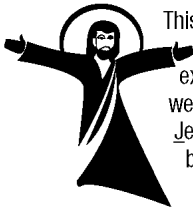
January 4	Rob McMillion
January 11	Gordon Rasmussen
January 18	Virginia Rasmussen
January 25	Betty Ruby

Communion Asst.

January 4	Judy Sisler Laurel Stokke
January 11	Ray Steinbis Sherry Krehl
January 18	John Metzler Beth Metzler
January 25	Margie Hargrave Wayne Coffman

Kid's Fun Page

WWJD key chain



This craft is a reminder of Jesus' perfect example for us. When we ask "What Would Jesus Do?" we can build our character to be more like his.

What you need:

- 16 inches of bead and jewelry cord (about 1 mm thick)
- 32 mm split ring (key ring)
- 4 wooden beads (about 1 cm or 3/8")
- 5 jewelry beads (plastic or wooden, about 1/2 cm or 1/2")
- black permanent marker

What you do:

1. Fold your jewelry cord in half.
2. Put the loop of the jewelry cord through the split ring.
3. Put the ends of the cord through the loop to make a knot.
4. Thread the two ends through one of your small beads.
5. Then thread the rest of the beads (alternating between small and large, ending with a small bead).
6. Tie two or three knots at the end to hold the beads in place.
7. With a permanent marker, write a letter (W, W, J and D) on each of the four wooden beads. On the opposite side of each bead, write the same letter.

CHARACTER THAT PLEASURES

The New Year is a time for renewed commitments and changes in our behavior. Complete the puzzle below to see whose example is worthy of imitating or copying.

Match the blocks of spaces and letters to finish the NIV Bible verse.

Y	
A	S
O	F
.	
:	1

	M
E,	
O	W
E	
S	T
1	1

L	L
A	M
F	O
	T
A	M
C	H
C	O

O	W
P	L
L	L
H	E
P	L
R	I
R	

F	O
E	X
I	
E	X
1	

1 Cor. 11:1
Answer: Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

Sunday School News

The Barnyard

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them

Mark 10:13

The Frogpond (Senior and Junior High)

Lutheran Youth Organization Gathering: The Synod LYO is hosting a gathering of food, fun, and games on **January 10, 2009** at Light of Christ in Algonquin. We will leave church around 8:30 a.m. and return around 2:30 p.m. Mary is in charge of this event and we need to be there a few minutes early. Let Mary know if you are interested in going.

Annual Northern Illinois Synod Ski Trip: Save Martin Luther King Jr. Day, **January 19**, to go skiing! This trip is not only a deal with Lift Ticket, Rental and Lesson for \$45.00 and Lift Ticket only for \$25.00 but it's a blast. It's the perfect time to learn to snow board and/or ski. The deadline for registration is January 4!!

Christmas/Epiphany Program:

This year the children's program for share the story of the birth of our Lord will be **"Live from Bethlehem" on January 4, during worship at 9:00 a.m.**

January 3, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., if needed, another Christmas Program Practice.

If you have questions please feel free to contact Mary Lasits @ mlasits@yahoo.com or (815)758-3203.

Notes from Annual Meeting Part I — December 7

Meeting followed the Agenda sent out to each member prior to the meeting.

The nominations were elected by unanimous ballot. The following positions and persons were voted upon:

Church Council

Myron Bond—3 year term
 Bill Gulke—3 year term
 Lisa Wright—3 year term
 Gordon Rasmussen-1 year term
 Renee Garcia—Youth Rep

Nominating Committee

Loren Hayes
 Sue Huhta
 Barb Luchsinger

Synod Delegates & Alternates

Mona Theisen
 Kathleen Hunt
 Maria McMillion
 Rob McMillion

Endowment Fund

Pat Erickson
 Don Krehl
 Ray Steinbis-1 year term

Congregation Treasurer

Harry Theisen

Congregation Secretary

Sherry Krehl

Mission Gift Fund

Kathleen Hunt

Audit Committee

Nancy Coffman

The 2009 Operating Budget was approved as presented. Chairperson Tammie Farley pointed out that the budget represented a bottom-up approach—the committees reviewed expenses and made suggestions; the Finance Committee pulled together all the information; the council reviewed the proposal line by line. The Budget includes a 2% raise for all the salaried positions.

The Pantilla Estate Gift amounting to \$27,448 was discussed. The constitution provides that 40% of the fund go to Mission Endowment, 40% to Mission Gift Fund, with 10% to Outreach; and 10% to be used by Bethlehem. It was the use of the 10% for Bethlehem that provided a discussion by the members attending. Several suggestions came from the membership: applying the funds to the boiler project, consider implementing easy access to the lower level, and the lighting project for the Fellowship Hall. The members voted to accept the proposal from the Property Committee to use the funds which amount to \$1,700 for Fellowship Hall lighting. The project “Fellowship Lighting” will be voted upon at the Annual Meeting, Part II.

Meeting adjourned,
 Anna Fischer, unofficial recorder

Congregational Meeting, Part 11
 January 25, 2008

Thanks You Notes Received

The Mission Endowment Fund of the Church has received the following thank you notes:

From Grace Lutheran School . . .

“Thank you for your generous donation of \$500 in October to Grace Lutheran School. Every gift helps us to meet our budget and continue our ministry of sharing the love of Jesus with the children in our school. We truly appreciate all our donors and we pray that God will bless you for your faithfulness! The school year is progressing rapidly! We are thankful for the 80 students that God has blessed our school with, and pray He will send us more children eager to learn about Him and His love for us. Thank you for your support of our school and its ministry. Please keep us in your prayers.” Belinda Bjorklund, Development Coordinator

From the Northern Illinois Synod . . .

“On behalf of Diane Dardon and her congregation at Lutheran Campus Ministry, we are grateful for your recent gift in support of our ministry. Your gift will enrich opportunities for worship, Bible study, prayer, pastoral care and leadership development for all who are engaged in this ministry in the name of Christ.

So, it is with a sense of great joy that we thank you for your recent contribution of \$2,000 in expanding the work of LCM at NIU through the “Growing God’s Loving and Caring Mission Appeal.” Your gifts have extended our total giving to date to \$53,000 with a total goal of \$200,000 by 2010. Please continue to offer your prayers on behalf of this mission field among our young adults and future leaders in church and society.” Sincerely in Christ, Bishop Gary Wollersheim

From Boy Scout Troop #32 and Venture Crew #32 . . .

“Thank you for the generous gift of \$500 to Boy Scout Troop 32. Your continued support of Troop 32 and Venture Crew 32 as our Chartered Organization is greatly appreciated.

The use of Bethlehem’s facilities helps support our mission of providing young people with a positive experience to build character, become responsible citizens and possibly our future leaders. We truly appreciate all your support.” Tim Parker, Scoutmaster, Troop #32

Planting Seeds!

We are praying about where God is calling Bethlehem. Please give us a few moments of your time and share where you see the Holy Spirit working and calling us. Thank you!! (The Planting Seeds Committee will also be going to different groups to ask a few questions and get feedback.)

What needs are being met here at Bethlehem?

What needs are not being met here at Bethlehem?

What programs would you like to see for your family and yourself?

What programs do you not like that we are doing and why?

Happy New Year!

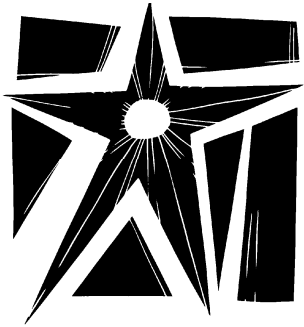
A New Year with New Possibilities and Opportunities

It's a new calendar year, and 2009 gives all of us an opportunity to start fresh. There are many things that you can consider at Bethlehem, and I've listed some possibilities below. They are my ideas; nobody told me what to include. I know the list could be long, but I've listed ten. Consider how many you can do.

1. Worship regularly.
2. Use those offering envelopes. Call the church office if you need some.
3. Get together with others and sign up for after-church refreshments. There are lots of dates available. The calendar is in the hallway leading down to the Fellowship Hall.
4. There is also a calendar for flowers. You can honor birthdays, anniversaries, and special occasions as well as memories of friends and loved ones. Flowers can also be given to the Glory of God.
5. Take a look at your 2008 giving statement. Can you do better in 2009?
6. When you see the names of members who are being prayed for by the Prayer Ministry Team (see the Announcement section of the bulletin), say a prayer for these people. You can do it right in the pew.
7. Dave Tracy is in Iraq. A box will be sent each month. Oreo cookies, baby wipes, tissues, paper towels, wrapped candy, flip-top canned goods, magazines, or news papers are recommended items. The box is in the church office.
8. Use your offering envelopes to support the Food Pantry and other ministries.
9. Introduce yourself to someone you see in church who may not know you.
10. Think of other things you might do to make 2009 a great year at Bethlehem.

Jerry Johns

Bethlehem Star



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Fax: 815-758-1411

Email: belcdekalb@comcast.net

Address Label Here

Birthday List for January

January 2009

Birthday Greetings to:

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 2 | Chippy Cox | 16 | Laura Korpi |
| | Dawn George | | Norma Wiegartz |
| | Nadia Schoonmaker | 17 | Virginia Luedtke |
| | Cory McCaslin | 18 | Tim Marten |
| | Sarah Trostle | | Carolyn Siebens |
| 5 | Skylar Winifred Martin | 24 | Kenneth Weidman |
| 7 | Harry Huhta | | Ashton Rose Vanderweele |
| 8 | Marie Humes | 26 | Dan Siener |
| 10 | Doris Riippi | 27 | Arlene Hampa |
| 12 | Toini Koski | | Nick Killham |
| 13 | Michael Graddy | | Barb Luchsinger |
| | Briana Vanderweele | 29 | Mayme Lundblad |
| 14 | Mayme Makela | 30 | Kristen Farley |
| 14 | Kari Rotvold | 31 | Charlotte Martin |
| | | | Benjamin Martin |