

# Bethlehem Star

## A Message from Pastor Gary

*"From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded." Luke 12:48b*

You've heard the George Gershwin song, "Summer time, and the livin' is easy, fish are jumpin and the cotton is high..." We wish we could say that at Bethlehem. A paraphrase of that song would sound like this, "Summer time, and the staff is so busy, serving today and planning ahead..."

Here is a summary of what we have been working on:

- Summer Bible study and salad suppers have been well attended. The food has been marvelous and the conversation during our studies has been delicious.
- The Northern Illinois Synod Assembly took place June 19 and 20 at Augustana College in Rock Island. Special thanks to Rob and Maria McMillion and Pat Erickson for sharing their weekend with the larger church.
- Sunday worship.
- July 5— celebration of Noah Brooks' completion of the God and Me program.
- July 22—40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our sanctuary – more on this later.
- July 26—the Mission Endowment Fund distribution.
- August 10-14—Vacation Bible School.
- August 30<sup>th</sup> beginning of our new worship schedule.
- September 13<sup>th</sup> beginning of Sunday School.
- Daily—the struggle to make ends meet as we strive to stretch our income to meet the needs of an active congregation.

Here are details of a couple of the items summarized above:

The Northern Illinois Synod Assembly is the annual meeting of the 162 congregations in our synod. Bishop Wollersheim presides at the 5 business sessions which are called to do many things from passing a synod budget to advising the synod council on important matters. Special guests at this year's assembly were ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson, and recently retired Professor of Old Testament Studies at Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, Dr. Ralph Klein. Highlights of the assembly were the presentations by both special guests and the ordination service on Friday evening setting aside three new pastors for Word and Sacrament ministry.

Noah Brooks and I met for a number of Saturdays discussing the many elements of the God and Me program. We will honor Noah's achievement during worship on July 5<sup>th</sup>. Come, join the celebration!

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## Pastor's Message *(continued)*

Our worship space reaches the milestone of 40 years of service for the people of Bethlehem and our surrounding community. We will celebrate with special music, prayers of rededication, and ice cream on Wednesday, July 22 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. The special music will be provided by Randy Stubbs and his family as they take a brief break from their ministry in Tanzania to check in with friends and supporters. A free will offering to help support their ministry will be taken that evening – plan to be generous.

Our new worship schedule begins Sunday, August 30. I am excited about the possibilities open before us as we offer more options for worship. And, while Sunday School will still be on hiatus when we begin, we look forward to getting our new pattern off the ground right away. The pattern is as follows:

- Worship 1: 8:45 am
- Fellowship follows Worship 1
- Sunday School (September 13 and following) 10:00 am – 10:50 am
- Adult class (September 13 and following) 10:10 – 10:50 am
- Worship 2: 11:00 am – 11:45am

Finally, many of you know what it means to live “hand to mouth.” Many of you have experienced times when you had to juggle the bills and hope the late fees did not add up to too much. These hard economic times have led us to a “good news, bad news” kind of scene. The good news is that Bethlehem does a great deal with our resources. We have stretched every dollar and managed to keep our programs running in spite of financial deficits. The good news continues because every dollar given to Bethlehem goes a long way. Each dollar given supports our staff, our property maintenance, our outreach, our fellowship and our worship. But more than just local support, the dollars you give have a national and worldwide impact through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The bad news is this: the dollars given are not meeting the daily needs of our budget. We can do better, we must do better with the financial stewardship of our congregation. Some of you will be unhappy with me for saying this, but I know the money to support Bethlehem’s ministry is out there. The real question is this, “Is the will to support this ministry out there where the dollars are?” I ask you to generously support the mission and ministry of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. And, I promise that each dollar given will be used prayerfully, wisely, and for the sake of Christ’s church locally and globally. Together, generously, we can make this ministry strong.

I look forward to seeing you at Bethlehem.

Amani,  
Pastor Gary

**THANK YOU !!!**

Dear Lutheran Church Women,

**“Thank you** for the gift certificate to the Christian bookstore. Hopefully I can find a book on spirituality that will assist me with counseling.”

Patrick McMillion

Dear Bethlehem Church Women,

**“Thank you so much** for the lovely luncheon you provided after my mom’s funeral. So many of our friends have mentioned how impressed they were by our church and the hospitality you extended.

You are a wonderful group and represent Bethlehem well.”  
Sincerely, Laurel & family

*“We’d like to thank our Bethlehem family for your care and concern during the loss of our mother and grandmother, Ellen Hampa. We have been very touched by all your kind expression of sympathy.”*

God bless you all,  
Laurel & Dick Stokke  
Krista, Karin, Greg, Jill & Kate Stokke



# Membership Updates, Concerns and Thanks

**THANK YOU** to all those who donated blood at the blood drive on June 1—29 people signed up!

## IN THE MILITARY

Kirk Huhta, son of Harry & Sue Huhta, is now in Iraq for the next few months. He is an F-16 pilot with the New Mexico National Guard. You can write him at the following address:

**Capt. Kirk J. Huhta,  
332 EFS/Ops,  
APO AE 09315-9997**

+ + +

Letters can also be sent to David Tracy in Iraq at the following address:

**Sgt. David Tracy  
509th Eng. Co.  
APO AE 09391**

Dear Bethlehem Women,

*"Thank you very much for the graduation gift."*

Thanks, Kristen Farley

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to our graduates Patrick McMillion (Illinois State); Jennifer Huffman (NIU); Kristen Farley (DeKalb High); Richelle Johnson (Genoa/Kingston); Chandy Tracy

## Our deepest sympathy

goes to the family of Ellen Hampa on her recent death. Her funeral services were held at the church on June 9.

## THE CUT-UPS RAFFLE

The Cut-Ups Group will raffle off a beautiful quilt in July! Raffle tickets will be available in for \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

**Congratulations** to persons received into membership on June 31:

Guy & Diane Faber,  
Renee Garcia;  
Peter and Mary Kalamatianos;  
Guadalupe, Mary Jane, Ariel, Vince and Arianna Martinez;  
Emily, Aidan and Joan Truckenbrod and . . .  
Confirming their faith:  
Brooke Bemis, Amy Clark,  
Kristin Olson, and Sarah Trostle.

## KITCHEN CLEAN-UP THANKS

Thank you to everyone who helped clean the church kitchen on June 1. The hard workers cleaned the refrigerator, ovens, cabinets and drawers. Wow! What a good crew! Thanks a lot to everyone!

Thank you to the following people for sharing their musical talents with us in June:

Sue Huhta, the Cut-Ups & Gordon Rasmussen, Emily Truckenbrod, Judy Sisler and Larry Vandre.

**Dear Friends,**

**"We would like to thank everyone who helped us celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary by sending a card or attending our party."  
Blessings to all! Jay & Betty**

## ALTAR FLOWERS FOR JULY

July 5           \*\*still needed\*\*  
July 12          Ruby Family  
July 19          \*\*still needed\*\*  
July 26          \*\*still needed\*\*

\*\* Garden flowers are also appreciated! Just call the office or sign up on bulletin board.

## Mission Endowment Distribution

*“As each has received a gift, employ it for another . . . In order that in everything God may be glorified.” 1 Peter 4:10-11*

The Mission Endowment Fund Committee of Bethlehem is pleased to continue the outreach of our congregation, extending God’s work within our church, the community and the world.

**Join us for worship Sunday, July 26, as we present gifts to 14 worthy recipients representing a wide variety of ministries.**

Enjoy coffee hour following worship sponsored by the Committee and take an opportunity to visit the informational tables hosted by this year’s fund recipients.

# FYI

• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

On July 22, we will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Sanctuary at Bethlehem. Randy Stubbs will provide the special music and the program will be followed by an ice cream social.

If you have old pictures of the church or Sanctuary that could be used in a display for this event, please let us know at the church office or call Anna Fischer.

Don't forget to mark your calendars now for this special event!

## Saturday Afternoon Movies at Bethlehem

### JULY Movies

July 4  
2:00      *“Glory”* with Matthew Broderick, Denzel Washington and Morgan Freeman.  
1989/Color/122 minutes  
*This movie is based on a true story of America’s forgotten heroes—the 54th black regiment of Massachusetts.*

July 25  
2:00      *“The Locket”* starring Vanessa Redgrave and Chad Willett. 2002/Color/109 minutes  
*This is a wonderful Hallmark Hall of Fame movie.*

*Note: Please note change of dates due to scheduling conflicts in July.*

Popcorn and soda pop is always provided!

## Long Range Plan — Planting Seeds



### **Long Range Plan – Planting Seeds**

Where Bethlehem wants to be by 2011

**“Jesus is Our Star”**

- Purpose:** To take an honest look at where and how God is calling Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church and to be faithful to that call. Beginning by looking ahead and visioning what we want to look like in five years and getting goals accordingly.
- Goal:** To set up a plan that will bring us to our vision within the five years.
- Objectives:** The goals which have come to light through this planning process.
- A. Accessibility – to create an inclusive and inviting atmosphere by make Bethlehem accessible for all who would join us and so all may participate in the life of the church.
1. Lift or ramp to access the downstairs.
  2. Remodeling to meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act
- B. Worship – provide other opportunities for worship to accommodate the varied schedules and needs of the world today.
1. A service at a later time for those who find it hard to get to worship early in the morning.  
*Example: people with physical disabilities and those with young children.*
  2. Providing more occasions for special music from both honored guests and members.
- C. Fellowship – creating a fellowship committee to enhance the life of the congregation.
1. Provide once a month events that would interest all.
  2. On occasion plan specific events for adults or families.

\*Other ideas were shared and have been passed on to the appropriate committee. These goals were established based on the highest number of suggestions from members both at meetings, events, and from questionnaires in bulletins and newsletter.

## Worship Notes Reminder

*“Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.”* Psalm 29:2

The Worship Committee, in collaboration with the Planting Seeds Committee, the Christian Education Committee, the Evangelism Committee and the Church Council, is pleased to announce a new worship schedule beginning August 30, 2009. The new schedule is about:

Providing another worship opportunity  
Reaching out to members and our community  
Responding to people’s needs  
Being open to the Holy Spirit  
Being the church in mission

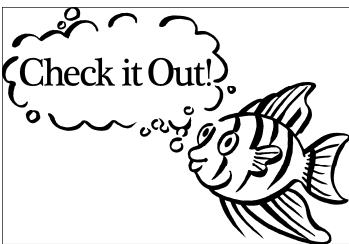
Beginning August 30, 2009 the order for Sunday morning is:

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!

## Lutheran Social Services of Illinois Can Help!



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) offers affordable home care services in DeKalb County through Intouch Home Care Services. The program’s mission is to help seniors maintain their independence and remain in their homes for as long as possible. Our home care assistants are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Intouch’s trained home care assistants and CNA’s provide non-medical services, such as personal care, companionship and supervision, grocery shopping and errands, laundry and transportation to appointments. For further information, contact Audrey Herrmann at (815)289-1679.

### Volunteers Needed:

The 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.

### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

(First Saturday of each month)

#### No meeting due to holiday!

*(Mark your calendars for August 1.)*

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!

## Bethlehem Backyard BBQ



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

Bethlehem continues with monthly BBQ's in the backyard!

**Dates:** The second Sunday of the month,  
July 12, and 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](mailto:mlasits@yahoo.com) or 815-758-3203.



## Sign Up for Magic Waters Trip!

# MAGIC WATERS TRIP FOR JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH

**WHEN:** July 13, 2009

**TIME:** Leaving Bethlehem at 4:30pm and returning to church at 10:00pm

**COST:** \$ 7.00 before July 5, then \$8.00 at the door.

**HOW:** Sign up with Mary by turning in your money on or before July 5!  
Drivers will be needed so please sign up as soon as possible so there is room for everybody in a car!

*Friends are invited!*

***Parents if you are interested in going and being a driver your admission will be covered!***

# VBS Volunteers Needed

Bethlehem Lutheran Church invites you to participate in:



**"Here I am, Called to Serve"**

*A great way to show young students how to serve is by example!*

**We need help with the following:** If you feel called to any of the following, please fill in your name and contact information on the blank line associated with the opportunity you are interested in.

Host House: I would be willing to host two/three LOMC counselors. \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Host: I would be willing to provide dinner to the LOMC counselors. \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch Host: I would be willing to provide lunch to the LOMC counselors. \_\_\_\_\_

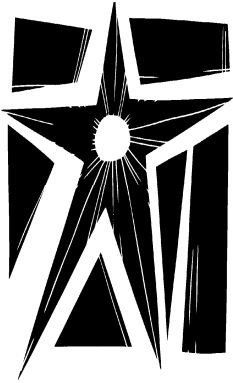
Snack Team: I would be willing to be part of a team to provide snacks during VBS to the participants. \_\_\_\_\_

Assistant Counselor: I would be willing to help assist with a class so the counselor can concentrate on teaching. \_\_\_\_\_

Adult On Site "Go-To" Assistant: I am willing to help out administratively during the week. \_\_\_\_\_

**Any questions contact Mary Lasits at 815-758-3203 or [mlasits@yahoo.com](mailto:mlasits@yahoo.com)**

Bethlehem Star



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

Address Label Here

Return service requested

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## Birthday List for July

### Birthday Greetings to:

- 2 Donna Rae Ewing
- 4 Sonia Garcia
- 5 Doeun Lach  
Pastor Gary Erickson
- 6 Gary Brooks  
Paige Newtson  
Pat Erickson
- 7 Sara Dumdie
- 9 David Farley
- 10 Robert Ewing  
Lysa Wright
- 12 Helen Ester
- 13 Ryan Johnson



- 15 Robert Fischer
- 19 Kimberly Martin  
Brittany Turk  
Taylor Zak
- 21 John Cole
- 25 Edward Sisler
- 26 Wayne Pinkston
- 28 Patricia Humo  
Heather Ewing  
Sarah Ewing  
David Gruben
- 29 Sarah Luchsinger
- 31 Kristin Stone  
Lorna Bemis  
Edna Kukkonen

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