

Bethlehem Star

A Message from Pastor Gary

And Jesus said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old." [Matthew 13:52]

The old and the new are companions. That which has been around for a while often sparks that which needs to happen – companions on the journey of life.

The congregation gathering at Bethlehem has been around for more than 110 years – yet it is new every time it gathers for worship. Hunger has been with us forever, yet we see new faces at the food pantry each time we open. We have all experienced a number of days. Yet each morning brings the light of a new day for us. That which has been sets in motion that which will be. The following bits and pieces are the “new” springing from the “old.”

*“...each morning
brings the light of
a new day for us.”*



Worship: The Planting Seeds ad-hoc committee visited with individuals and groups. One of their many findings was the need for a second worship service on Sunday mornings. The Worship Committee in collaboration with the Evangelism Committee, the Christian Education Committee and the Church Council debated the good and bad aspects of many time configurations for Sunday morning. This is the schedule that met the many criteria we have for worship, education and fellowship on Sunday mornings. Beginning **August 30, 2009** the worship schedule will be:

- ✦ Worship #1 8:45am – 9:45 am
- ✦ Fellowship following worship # 1
- ✦ Sunday School 10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.
- ✦ Adult class 10:10 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. (or later)
- ✦ Worship #2 11:00 a.m.—11:45 a.m.

Mission: The church has been in mission for its entire existence. But the context of our mission is always changing, always new. The second worship service is a congregational mission effort. Your support is greatly appreciated!

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Pastor's Message *(continued)*

Christian Education: The 50 minute time slot for Sunday School more closely fits the class length our students are used to in their daily routine. The adult class can remain in session long after 10:50, but I will excuse myself at that time to prepare for the second service.

Time: The single worship service on Sunday mornings allowed us to “fudge” on the time. Often the 9:00 am worship began 5 or more minutes late. That late start was always my fault – with our new schedule I resolve to be punctual.

In the mail: Bethlehem's talent pool is deep and wide. On Monday, May 4, I placed the Sabbatical Grant proposal in the mail to send to the Lilly Endowment. Thank you for supporting the grant proposal at our informational meeting in April. Thousands of thanks go to Valerie Talsma, Roberta Linder, and Jerry Johns for their perceptive reading and helpful comments regarding the sabbatical proposal.

Synod Assembly: The 22nd annual Northern Illinois Synod Assembly will be June 19 – 20, 2009 at Augustana College in Rock Island. Please keep your church in your prayers as we debate resolutions regarding the ELCA studies human sexuality and the ministry practices.

50 Days of Prayer: ELCA presiding Bishop Mark Hanson writes, “Beginning Monday, June 29, and for the 50 days leading up to the Churchwide Assembly, I invite the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to become a “group” focused on prayer and scriptural study. As we journey toward the assembly, I encourage you as congregations, groups, and individuals to study and pray for the assembly by using prayers, Scripture, and song drawn from daily worship.”

La Passaggiatta: Our summer salad and study nights take place on the Wednesday evenings in June. Look for the flyer in this newsletter.

Second Mile Giving: Recently the Northern Illinois Synod was able to give a “second mile” gift to a number of church agencies and institutions. “Second mile” gifts are those given above and beyond a pledged gift. The Northern Illinois Synod set a great example and reminded all of us that generosity is a spiritual gift and practice.

The challenge: If you come to the end of your bills for the month and see that you have some surplus please consider becoming a “second mile” giver. Gifts given to Bethlehem do great good in our community, nation and world.

Occasional Devotion: I write an occasional email devotion that goes to a number of church members and friends. If you would like to receive the devotions send me an email at clero1@verizon.net. I'll add you to the list. BTW: occasional means weekly or less!

Amani,
Pr. Gary Erickson



Membership Updates, Concerns and Thanks

Our deepest sympathies go to the family of Marian Luoma on her recent death.

MONDAY, JUNE 1
It's **kitchen clean-up** time!
Come and enjoy a little bit of cleaning plus a lot of fellowship on June 1, 9 a.m.

In the Military ...
Kirk Huhta will be deployed to Iraq for the next few months. He is an F-16 pilot with the New Mexico Air National Guard. You can write to him at this address:

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

Congratulations to the following Confirmands confirmed May 31:

Brooke Bemis, Kristin Olson,
Amy Clark, Sarah Trostle

Thank you to the men of the church for providing the Mother's Day flowers!

A big thank you to Gladys Erickson for her faithful service as secretary to LCW.

The Cut-Ups quilters will raffle off a beautiful quilt on July 13! Raffle tickets will be available in June for \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

Congratulations to our graduates:
Patrick McMillion,
Illinois State University
Jennifer Huffman,
Northern Illinois U
Kristen Farley,
DeKalb High School
Richelle Johnson
Genoa/Kingston H.S.

Thank you to all who helped to make the Spring Banquet a success. Thanks, too, to Rob McMillion and his crew for providing the delicious meal.



JUNE 21

Dear Bethlehem,
"This is just a note to say thanks for the work that you do for the gospel of Christ in your church. As part of our prayer ministry at St. Matthew's, we are lifting up the ministry of our sister congregations of the Northern Illinois Synod of the ELCA. This week we are praying for your congregation: both in prayers of the people during Sunday worship and in our weekly Care and Concerns group. We pray that God blesses your ministry and thank God for our partnership in the gospel."

Yours in Christ,
The Family of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR JUNE

June 7	George Family
June 14	**still needed**
June 21	Justin & Angie Zak
June 28	John & Beth Metzler



Congratulations on their 50th wedding anniversary!

**Bob & Marilyn Hongisto
Jay & Betty Ruby**

Dear Bethlehem,
We would like to thank all our Bethlehem friends for attending our 50th wedding anniversary party. Thank you also to our children and grandchildren for hosting the party. It meant so much to us!

God Bless, Marilyn & Bob Hongisto



JUNE 18-20

Notes from Church Council May 12

Mary Lasits' Report:

Planting seeds: The report from the long-range planning committee is ready and will be passed out soon. See copy on bulletin board.

Fellowship Committee: This is an outgrowth from the Planting Seeds lists. The group which is still being formed will be planning monthly fun activities for Bethlehem congregation and friends. Such activities could be an "eating out" group, backyard barbeque, baseball games, attending concerts—to name a few.

Evangelism Committee: New members will be accepted into the congregation on May 31. The new members are: Mary Jane Huntington and Guadalupe Martinez, children Ariel, Vic, and Ariana; Jane, Emily, and Aiden Truckenbrod; Guy & Diane Faber, Renee Garcia; Peter & Mary Kalamatianos. The council approved these names to be members of Bethlehem.

Youth: Pastor Diane Dardon has volunteered to plan and teach a junior high program on Monday evenings in the fall. This activity would follow the confirmation class. Some of the activities that she is planning include music and puppet making in preparation for a presentation. Sounds like a fun evening.

Christian Education: May 17 was the last day of Sunday School. Vacation Bible School will be held August 10-14 with LOMC again providing teachers.

Committees:

Worship & Music: Not a report from the committee but a discussion within the council group about a need for a second service. The council feels it is time for Bethlehem to add a second service to begin in August 2009. The council is asking the Worship & Music committee to formulate specifics such as times, publicity, and even what the format might be and bring this information to the council for the June 9 meeting so that action might be taken.

Finance: Tammy reported that the income is still not meeting our expenses. A premium for insurance has increased because of the change in the evaluation of the church property. Tammy is going to check out this change.

Stewardship: No report

Social Ministry: The Food Pantry served 538 households in April which provided food for 1,720 adults and children.

Old Business

The church council will serve coffee on June 7 with the funds going to the Boiler Fund.

New Business

Confirmation will be on May 31 with four people in the class: Sarah Trostle, Kristin Olson, Brooke Bemis and Amy Clark. The Confirmation curriculum has included the "Here We Stand" material.

Folders containing the grant proposal that was submitted by Pastor Gary in applying for a sabbatical for August, September and October 2010, are on the counter by the guest book in the narthex. These folders were prepared so that congregation members that are interested might read over the material.

A Free Quart of Ice Cream Can be Yours!

Heartland Gives Thanks to Summertime Donors!

Give blood at the date and location listed here and receive a coupon good for a free quart of Ollie's Frozen Custard!

It's just one more reason to donate blood this summer!

Bethlehem Lutheran Church BLOOD DRIVE

1915 N. First Street, DeKalb

Monday, June 1 3:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Drive will be held on Heartland's Mobile Coach

**Please contact Helen at (815) 758-2982
to schedule an appointment.**

Walk-ins Welcome!

**Give blood on Mondays this summer and you will be entered
into a \$50 gas card raffle. For rules and condition
Visit www.heartlandbc.org.**

Photo ID is Required



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

SATURDAY, JUNE 6
8:30—9:30 A.M.

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!



Midweek Salad Supper & Adult Education for June

Come for a stroll through Scripture:
La Passeggiatta

La passeggiatta is the Italian tradition of a leisurely evening walk through town. The evening stroll occurs when the summer sun sets inviting people to savor the fresh air of dusk. Bethlehem will celebrate a passeggiatta through Scripture on the Wednesday evenings during June. Come for a stroll through Scripture and enjoy a fresh look as we share the Word together.

La passeggiatta begins at 5:45 pm with a salad supper. Lettuce and beverages will be provided, please bring a salad dressing or topping to share. Our stroll through Scripture begins at 6:30 and ends at 7:30.

Wednesday, June 3: 1 Kings 18 – 19: A significant contest.

Wednesday, June 10: Jeremiah 36: The Word remains.

Wednesday, June 17: Acts 10: A new look.

Wednesday, June 24: Revelation 21 – 22: The home of God.

Ushers for Sundays in June

June 7 Paul Gilbert
Loren & Margaret Hayes
Evelyn Hoffman

June 14 Leland Hoffman
Pat Humo
Kathleen Hunt
Virginia Luedtke

June 21 Jerry & Annette Johns
Don & Sherry Krehl

June 28 Maria McMillion
Lou Meinert
Eldon & Helen Miller



Greeters for Sundays in June

June 7 Lauri Koski
Irene Kuusisto

June 14 Don & Sherry Krehl

June 21 Barb Luchsinger
Dee Maki

June 28 Kim Martin
Maria McMillion

Lectors

June 7	Virginia Rasmussen
June 14	Brittany Nelson
June 21	Laurel Stokke
June 28	Frank Luedtke

Communion Asst.

June 7	Kathleen Hunt Edna Schramm
June 14	Judy Sisler Ray Steinbis
June 21	Wayne Coffman Margie Hargrave
June 28	Myron Bond Valerie Talsma

Help the Homeless

It is time for Hope Haven's fifth annual "Night by Night" campaign to raise funds for homeless men, women, and children. Each year local citizens, churches, schools, groups, organizations and businesses sponsor nights of shelter for \$20. Last year, Hope Haven provided 24,112 nights of shelter and served 32,034 meals to homeless individuals and families living in our community.

Hope Haven will need your support again by participating in the 2009 "Night by Night" campaign to help the homeless "one night at a time." Collectively we can ensure that all of our neighbors have access to adequate food, safe shelter and genuine support. Please help support this effort by mailing your tax-deductible gift to:

Hope Haven
1145 Rushmore Drive
DeKalb, IL 60115

Help Clinton-Rosette Again this Year

The congregation can again help Clinton-Rosette with their 2009-2010 Backpack Donation requests 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. Collect the following backpack and supplies OR donate \$25.00 per child:

1. Backpack
2. Pencils
3. Glue stick
4. Ruler
5. Colored pencils
6. Thin markers
7. Scissors
8. Blue pens
9. Compass
10. Protractor
11. Red pens
12. 2 packs of paper

Supplies can be delivered to Clinton-Rosette on August 7.

Saturday Afternoon Movies at Bethlehem

JUNE Movies

Saturday, June 6

"When Harry Met Sally" with
Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan
1989/Color/96 minutes

Saturday, June 20

"Crossing Delancy" with Amy
Irving and Peter Riegert
1988/Color/97 minutes

*All movies start at 2:00 p.m. Popcorn and soda pop will be provided.
Come and enjoy!*

Worship Notes

"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

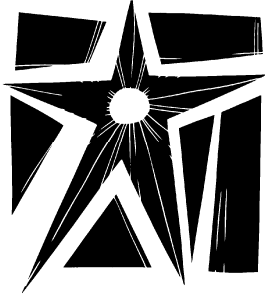
Beginning August 30, 2009 the order for Sunday morning is:

- 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!

Bethlehem Star



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Fax: 815-758-1411
Email:
belcdekalb@comcast.net
website:
bethlehemdekalb.org

Address Label Here

Return service requested



Birthday List for June

Birthday Greetings to:				
1	Irene Kuusisto		16	Leea Mattie Lowe
2	James Licking		17	Donna Bloyd
4	Lucas Wright		20	Joyce Marten
7	Elizabeth Knuuttila			Ray Steinbis
8	Toesanna Johnson		21	Kristina Lauritzen
	Walter J. Kukkonen		22	Emily Bidstrup
11	Matthew Dumdie		23	Aaron Steven George
	Carole Asbell		24	Debbie Killham
12	Elizabeth Denny		25	June Whitney
13	Kierstin Cole			Edward Schramm
14	Elmie Carey			Nancy Coffman
15	Sonja Ewing		26	Kathy Culp
	Kaitlin Marie Siener			Karen Gilbert
	Stacy Ann Veldhuizen			Louis Meinert
16	Marlene Schoonmaker		27	Stefany Rose Veldhuizen
				Nicholas Silk
				Kathleen Huhta