

Bethlehem Star

A Message from Pastor Gary

For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1

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At the heart of most of our vehicles and many machines is the internal combustion engine. While there are many things needed for a finely tuned engine to run at its best, there are three that top the list: fuel, air and spark. Take away any of the big three and the engine will not run.

There are many things needed for the church to function at its best, but there are three that top the list: worship, prayer and stewardship. Take away any of the big three and the church cannot function.

Last month I asked, "Where is our Holy Spirit induced restlessness for church growth?" By asking that question again I hope to stimulate conversation about this congregation's present and future. Some fruitful conversation has been had, but more is needed. From experience I know that congregations seeking to maintain themselves end up shrinking. Congregations intentional about growing discover that thriving is much better than just surviving.

For Bethlehem to function at its best we need to be strong in the big three: worship, prayer and stewardship. Bethlehem does well with worship. Many in this congregation pray often and fervently for the church, the world, family and friends. A few of our families tithe and give generously to the work of the congregation and to other worthy causes.

For Bethlehem to move from just surviving to thriving we need you to know that this is a congregation whose blessings are extended locally, regionally and globally. For Bethlehem to move from just surviving to thriving we need you to be a partner in the congregation's stewardship. The bottom line is this: Bethlehem cannot be a good steward of its many ministries if the members are not good stewards of Bethlehem.

(continued on page 2)



Worship

Prayer

Stewardship

Pastor's Message *(continued)*

As we move into fall and winter I invite you to discover a new level of generosity. Faithful and generous stewardship is both worship and prayer. A part of our stewardship growth must continually ask the question, "Where is our Holy Spirit induced restlessness for church growth?" I hope that through worship, prayer and stewardship you'll discover that our Holy Spirit induced restlessness for church growth is awakening in the hearts of each and every person calling Bethlehem their church home.

Amani,
Pr. Gary

Highlights of Pastor Gary's Autumn Schedule

September 27: Guest preacher at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Seneca, IL

September 28-30: Professional Leaders Conference, Rockford, IL

October 4 – 14: Chennai, India. Meeting of Arcot Lutheran Church, Danish Lutheran Church, ELCA, Global Health Ministries and Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry.

Sunday Educational Opportunities

Sunday educational opportunities beginning September 13: 10:10 – 10:50 am

Studies in the Gospel of Mark

September 13: Mark 8:27-38

Peter readily proclaims Jesus as the Messiah, then rejects Jesus' explanation of the Messiah's task. The reading ends with these words, "Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed..." Who do you say Jesus is?

September 20: Mark 9:30-37

After teaching his disciples Jesus uses an object lesson to make his point. With a child in his arms he says, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me..." What is our role in welcoming others into Christian fellowship?

September 27: open date – study TBA.

October 4: Mark 10:2-16

After being tested by the Pharisees Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." What is the kingdom of God?



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. *
 *
 *  *
 *
 * Men are invited to join us for *
 * the program! *
 *



Offices closed September 7

Our deepest sympathy to the family of George Siebens on his recent death.

Thanks to Mariann Riippi for all her hard work in the church yard pulling weeds. It looks much better!

To Bethlehem & Pastor Gary:

"This thank you note comes to you from my grateful heart and with great appreciation for all you do for me, a fellow member of the church.

I will do my best to pay back the church offerings—and if I possibly can, I will lend a hand at church functions. Thank you for allowing me to have a car that I can drive to work (when my doctor releases me to return to work after my car accident). Thank you! You are in my prayers."

Sincerely,
 Rebecca Koss

Check it out!
 Thank you to Dale Mosher for building the beautiful frame around the picture of Jesus in the chapel. Dale went to church here when he was growing up in the area. His aunt was Bertha Johnson. Dale now lives in Missouri.

**Mark your calendars for
 Crop Walk 2009—
 October 18**

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

Sarah Trostle
 Ryan Ferguson
 Brittany Nelson
 Elizabeth Peregrine
 Noah Brooks

DIAPER DRIVE STARTING SEPTEMBER 6
 Love INC has requested the help of DeKalb County churches in donating diapers, all sizes, to those in need. This will be an ongoing project for Bethlehem. A container will be in the entryway on Sundays for the diaper donations. Love INC will then store and dispense all the diapers from the Church of the Nazarene in DeKalb. Thank you for your help with this project!

Please note: **Confirmation classes** begin September 9, at 5:00 p.m.

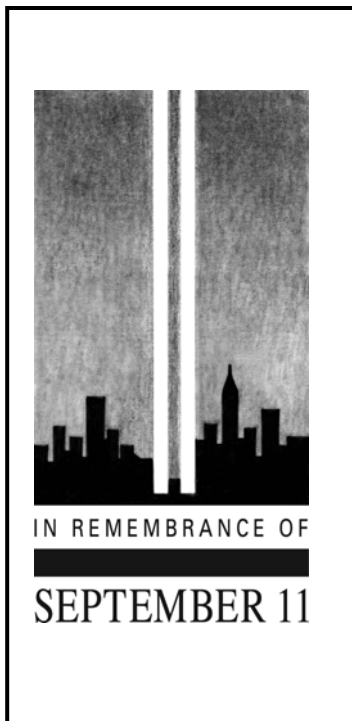
LCW Salad Supper

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.



Saturday Afternoon Movies at Bethlehem

September Movies

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| September 19 | <i>"The Terminal"</i> starring Tom Hanks and Catherine Zeta-Jones
2004/Color/2 hours 9 minutes |
| September 26 | <i>"The Bridges of Madison County"</i>
Starring Clint Eastwood and Meryl Streep
1995/Color/135 minutes |



Notes from Bethlehem Council Meeting August 11

Pastor chaired this meeting. In **Pastor's report**, Pastor said the response about the beginning of a second service on August 30 has been met with enthusiasm. The needed ushers, readers, greeters have been scheduled. The council suggested that counting for the second service be included with the first service on the following Sunday. This will allow for one set of counters and one deposit.

Pastor shared his anticipated schedule for the fall. It is a very busy one. More details are in his monthly letter of this issue. A meeting on anti-racism will be held on September 19 at the First Congregational Church. Pastor is attending and invited council members to also attend. Anna Fischer signed up to go. Interested persons should contact Pastor.

Mary Lasits' report: 56 children attended Bethlehem's VBS—of this group 20% were Bethlehem members—truly an outreach program. Two more teachers are needed for the Sunday School program which begins on September 13. Talk to Mary if interested.

Evangelism is planning to run an ad announcing the second service. The summer barbeques were very successful. Plans are being formulated for fall activities.

Social ministry—In June the pantry served 640 households with 2,006 persons benefiting. In July, 620 households were involved with 1,784 persons.

Property committee—The group suggested that some pews be shortened to make room for wheelchairs in the sanctuary. The Property Committee will discuss this with the Worship and Music Committee and get back to council for approval. Along with these changes Pastor suggested that the altar rail be moved down so that members will not need to climb steps to get to communion and it would then be wheelchair accessible. This, too, will be discussed at Worship and Music.

Old business: Time for committees to begin making recommendations for the 2010 budget.

Next meeting: September 8.

Submitted by,
Anna Fischer

*Mark your calendars now!
Saturday, September 12, 4-7 p.m.
"Wine on the Terrace" at Ellwood House Museum
Tickets \$50.00/person*

Ellwood House Assn. is joining forces with Inboden's to produce the second annual "Wine on the Terrace"—a spectacular afternoon of wines, elegant appetizers and music in the incomparable setting of the Ellwood House porches and gardens. This event is a benefit fundraiser for the not-for-profit Ellwood House Assn. and all proceeds will be used to support the free school tours and other free educational programs of the Ellwood House Museum. See Jerry Johns for tickets to this event!

Sunday School Registration

It's time to start thinking about the school year again. It seems we've barely had time to vacation BUT time keeps moving forward. Sunday School this year will begin on September 13, at the new time of (10:00-11:00 a.m.). We've worked some more fun into learning and getting to know God. We are looking forward to seeing you at Rally Day on September 13. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mary Lasits at (815) 756-3203. A registration form is located in this issue of the *Star*.

Bell Choir to Resume Ringing

News Release: Bell Choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 9, at 5:00 p.m. Anyone who would like to join the Bell Choir can contact Gin Rasmussen at (815) 895-8956.

Choir Returns 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. See you there! Sue Huhta

Our New Expanded Schedule Reminder

Our church began the second worship service on August 30. The enhanced Sunday morning worship schedule will include: 8:45-9:45 a.m. worship with coffee and fellowship afterward, and an 11-11:45 a.m. worship.

Beginning September 13, an educational component will round out the morning with Sunday School for children age 3 through those in eighth grade from 10-10:50 a.m. An adult education class will be offered at this time, as well.

The 8:45 a.m. service will feature sung liturgy an hymns, scripture readings, a sermon, prayers and Holy Communion. A time for fellowship and refreshments will follow the first service and provide a chance to greet friends and meet visitors, while Sunday School will offer a variety of study opportunities throughout the year in a casual atmosphere. The 11:00 a.m. worship service will follow the same pattern as the earlier service, although the liturgy will be spoken rather than sung.

Ushers for Sundays in September 8:45 a.m.

September 6	Frank & Rose Mary Garcia Loren & Margaret Hayes	September 20	Kathleen Hunt Jerry & Annette Johns Barb Luchsinger
September 13	Anne Hietikko Evelyn Hoffman Bob Hongisto Pat Humo	September 27	Don & Sherry Krehl Maria McMillion Lou Meinert



Greeters for Sundays in September 8:45 a.m.

September 6	Carole Asbell and Pat Erickson
September 13	Ann, Noah & Abbey Brooks
September 20	LaVern & Louise Burhop
September 27	Wayne & Nancy Coffman

Lectors for September 8:45

September 6	Anna Fischer
September 13	Margie Hargrave
September 20	Paul Gilbert
September 27	Bob Hongisto

Communion Assistants 8:45

September 6	Kathleen Hunt Laurel Stokke
September 13	Wayne Coffman Margie Hargrave
September 20	Bob Hongisto Sherry Krehl
September 27	Jerry & Annette Johns

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

(First Saturday of each month)

SATURDAY, SEPT. 5

8:30—9:30 A.M.

(Mark your calendars for October 3.)

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!



A BIG Vacation Bible School Thanks!

Vacation Bible School was a great success this year with 60 kids signed up and an average of 56 students in attendance on any given day. We had more than 40 volunteers involved just from Bethlehem alone! The young people who participated give a great big thanks to the counselors who came from Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center. A great big thanks also to all who provided housing, lunch and dinner to the counselors: Veldhuizen Family, Jerry & Annette Johns, Gary & Ann Brooks, Dick & Laurel Stokke, and Bob & Anna Fischer. A great big thanks goes to all those who served snacks to the youngsters: Elmie Carey, Betty Ruby, Norma Wiegartz, Eve Circle, Edna Schramm, Valerie Talsma., Helen Miller, Karen

Gilbert, Carole Asbell, and Amanda Luchsinger. A special thanks to the people who helped shepherd the students: Bob Hongisto, Valerie Talsma, Amanda Luchsinger, Sam Martin, Richelle Johnson, Jennice O'Brien, Ariel Martinez, Kobe Lohr, and Ann Brooks. Thanks to Ann Brooks for her wonderful leadership and insight to help make VBS run like clockwork and to Pat Erickson for publicity. None of this could have happened without you!!

Ushers for Sundays in September 11:00 a.m.

September 6	Barb Luchsinger Amanda Luchsinger	September 27	Larry & Joan Vandre
September 13	Dick & Laurel Stokke		
September 20	Kathleen Hunt Dick Stokke		



Greeters for Sundays in September 11:00 a.m.

September 6	Pat Erickson
September 13	Myron Bond
September 20	Gordon Rasmussen
September 27	John Metzler

Lectors for September 11:00

September 6	Margie Hargrave
September 13	Myron Bond
September 20	Gordon Rasmussen
September 27	John Metzler

Communion Assistants

September 6	Margie Hargrave
September 13	Myron Bond
September 20	Kathleen Hunt
September 27	Beth Metzler

Mark Your Calendars for Rally Day!

Rally Sunday at Bethlehem September 13

A big welcome to learners ages 3 years through High School!
Join us for a fun-packed year of Bible exploration!



Re-discover the age-old Bible stories with
tons of cool activities!



Have fun learning how to live the Good News!

Mark your calendars – the fun begins on

Rally Day – September 13 – 10:00 a.m.

*Sunday School takes place each Sunday from 10:00 to 10:50 a.m.
See you there!*

It's Sunday School Registration Time!

Sunday School Registration



Beginning September 13, 2009
and ending May 16, 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 _____

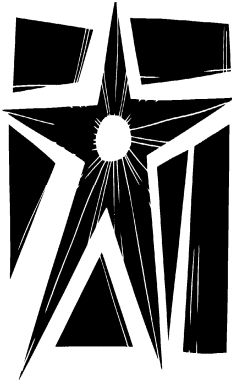
Please list any allergies the staff should be aware of

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



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

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

Address Label Here

Return service requested

Birthday List for September

Birthday Greetings to:

1	Annette Johns	13	Kathleen Hunt
	Connor Matthew Reidl		Ron Marten
2	Kent Signorella	19	Reilly Zak
3	Jesika Lowe	20	Allison Farley
8	Wayne Coffman	21	Marjorie Hargrave
	Jennifer Ewing		Aaron Bloyd
9	Carl Nordstrom	23	Alan Garcia
10	Jane Bidstrup	25	Lisa Cole
11	Betty Ruby		Hayden Vanderweele
12	Helen Miller	27	Anna Bidstrup
	Erika Cole		John Whitney
			Rowan Christopher Fowler
		30	Ingrid Inboden

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