

Bethlehem Star

A Message from Pastor Gary

Clap your hands, all you people; shout to God with loud songs of joy. For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth. [Psalm 47:1-2]

Stewardship is walking each day in the gift of God's grace, celebrating God's gifts and sharing them for ministry. Each passing year gives us pause to reflect on our stewardship of all that God has given us. How did you do in the year just closed?

Stewardship is a thankful and joyful response to God's amazing grace in Jesus Christ. The New Year gives us pause to reflect on the many opportunities to celebrate God's awesome gifts of life, love, hope, faith, and salvation. How will you do in the year ahead?

Stewardship involves all of a person's life. Faithful stewards care for God's creation 7 days a week, 365 days each year. How did you do last year? How will you do this year?

Here are some practical ways to support, sustain and grow our stewardship in 2010:

- Caring for all we have been given is intentional
- Telling the story of how God sustains and cares for us is intentional
- Sharing our vision for ministry in and through Bethlehem is intentional
- Growing in our faith through daily prayer is intentional
- Growing our faith through daily Bible reading is intentional
- Thanking God for daily blessings is intentional
- Responding to God's grace by sharing kindness is intentional
- Loving God with our whole heart is intentional
- Loving our neighbors as we love ourselves is intentional

Highlights

Movies	2
Updates & Concerns	3
Thrivent Report	4
Ushers, Greeters	7
The Barnyard	9
Meeting Notes	10
Council Notes	12
Calendar	



(continued)

Pastor's letter (continued)

By now I am certain you have captured the vision of faithful stewardship for 2010 and beyond. Each one of us is called to be intentional in our care for all that God has given us – life, home, family, faith, church.

How will we do in our stewardship in the New Year? If our stewardship is intentional we will do well!

Peace and blessings for the New Year!
Pr. Gary



JANUARY 18, 2009

We congratulate and welcome our new members:

Michael Beaver
Edie Hartman
Jordan Threloff
Darlene Holland
Dick Landwehr
Paul, Julie & Emily Rowland
Ted Woodin
Marja Vlahakis



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.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM DONNA AND
THE MOVIE LADIES!**



Membership Updates, Concerns and Thanks

"Thank you for remembering our mother, Elvi Humo, with cards, visits, the special gift at the Christmas Open House and the cookies from Sarah Circle. Pastor's visits and communion with Kathleen and Sherry are very special blessings. Your thoughts and prayers for us are greatly appreciated."

Pat Humo and Linda Hursh

Baptized on December 6 was Devin Vance, son of Brenda Vance and John Pink. Sponsors were Daniel Vance and Jennifer Rumishek.

"Your congregation has played an important role in helping LSSI bring hope to people. . . Thank you for your gift. Every day across the state, LSSI gives children loving homes, helps seniors live independently, connects families separated by incarceration, and helps people with addictions move toward recovery. These are just a few of the ways LSSI reaches out to those in need.

Your partnership is vital to the work we do. We are grateful that your congregation recognizes the importance of responding to the needs of people who face difficulties in their lives. With Bethlehem Lutheran Church as our partner, we will be able to continue caring for people across the state. Thank you!"

In Faith, Lutheran Social Services of IL

"Thank you for remembering me this past year with visits, cards, the gift card for our beauty shop here, and the plate of cookies from Sarah Circle.

Happy Holidays to all."

Laura Korpi

Deepest sympathy to the family of Don Saari on his recent death. Funeral services were held December 10.

Sympathy to the family of Shirley Johnson. Her memorial service was held December 12.

Dear Bethlehem Church Family, **Thank you** for your support with cards, food and memorials, and your kind words. All was greatly appreciated. Thanks again. God's blessing to all. Alice Saari & Family

Sympathy to the Bob & Donna Rae (Zak) Ewing Family, Kent & Gail Zak Family, and Justin & Angie Zak Family on the recent death of their brother and uncle, John Zak, on December 10 in Texas.

Sympathy to Jerry & Annette Johns on the recent death of Jerry's mother, Mary Christina Johns, in Lynden, Washington.

Dear Bethlehem Star Staff & Volunteers,
"Thanks for retaining my name on your mailing list. I enjoy reading about Bethlehem's activities and its members. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a new year overflowing with God's blessings."

Anja Weiherman

Many thanks to those who helped with the Christmas decorating this year . . .

Peter Kalamatianos, Chanara Lach, Chanarith Lach, Don Krehl, Judy Sisler, Eldon & Helen Miller, Ed & Edna Schramm, Gordon Rasmussen, and others. We couldn't have done it without you!

Food Pantry Updates

We Broke Another Record . . .

The Food Pantry has broken another record with almost 2100 clients served in November. This is an especially high number due to the fact that we were closed on Thanksgiving Day—a Thursday when we are usually open) so that day wasn't in the count. As you can see, your continued help with donations to the Food Pantry is greatly appreciated by many people.

Heartfelt Thanks and Appreciation to . . .

Darlene Holland, Terri Hines, Edie Hartman and Sara Garman 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.

A NEW CLINIC HAS OPENED IN DEKALB

Did you know that 9% of the children in DeKalb County are uninsured, 10% are on Kids Care, and the rest are on Medicaid (2008 figures)? That means their parents have to find a physician who accepts Medicaid, many of whom do not. Sometimes it means traveling long distances just to see a doctor. But now a new clinic called Community Care Clinic has opened to fill some of the needs. It is located at 3100 Sycamore Road in an NIU building that the University bought from Monsanto. A collaboration between Kish Health System, NIU, and private donors, the hours are 8:30-5:00 Monday through Friday. One day they hope to have some evening and Saturday hours. They accept Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance, and have a sliding scale for those who have no insurance. They also provide both English and Spanish speakers. Physician's assistant, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, and certified medical assistants are on staff, with three board-certified physicians who provide round-the-clock coverage. Also, they are a clinical training site for NIU nursing, nurse practitioners, dietetics, etc. Please spread the word if you know someone who could use this service.

THRIVENT FUNDRAISER REPORT FOR 2009

"Ask and you shall receive." Thank you to all from the Thrivent Committee. We received \$1,450.00 so far in contributions. Our quota was met which qualifies us for \$1,250.00 from Thrivent in matching funds. You are the best! God bless.

Margaret Hayes
Wayne Coffman
Mona Theisen



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, by Carole Asbell
 Burreight, Martha, by Karen & Paul Gilbert
 Carey, husband Dave, and daughter Linda, by Elmie Carey
 Cox, Chippy, by Chippy's Family
 Ekstrom, Ted, by Irene Ekstrom
 Hakala, Arne & Martha, by Dick & Laurel Stokke
 Haller, Lorraine and Kris Luchsinger, by the Luchsinger Family
 Hampa, Ellen & Laurie, by Dick & Laurel Stokke
 Hughes, Jess & Janie, by Leland & Linda Hoffman
 Jarvi, Elna, by Rev. Ellen & Charles Arthur
 Jarvi, Frank & Ida, by Rev. Ellen (Jarvi) & Charles Arthur
 Loved ones, by Ed & Edna Schramm
 Loved ones, by Eldon & Helen Miller
 Loved ones, by Gordon & Virginia Rasmussen
 Loved ones, by Kathleen Hunt & Family
 Loved ones, by Lauri Koski & Toini Koski
 Loved ones, by Pat & Elvi Humo
 Loved ones, by Rev. Gary & Pat Erickson
 Loved ones, by the Bob Ewing Family
 Miller, Mr. & Mrs. Henry & Hanna, by Wayne Pinkston
 Our Parents by Bill & Sue Gulke
 Our Parents, by Carl & Doris Nordstrom
 Our Parents, by Ed & Judy Sisler
 Our Parents, Matt & Jenny Seppala, by Mayme Lundblad
 Pinkston, Mrs. Elise, by Wayne Pinkston
 Riippi, Reuben, Skinny, & Reino, by Mariann Riippi
 Riippi, Skinny, by Doris Riippi
 Stokes, Jack & Rose, by Andres & Deborah Velez
 Stokke, Laura & Omil, by Dick & Laurel Stokke
 Whitney, Clifford, by June Whitney

And in honor of . . .

Our grandchildren, Aidan, Hope & Jordan, by Carl & Margie Hargrave
 Our grandchildren, Molly, Ellie & Alex, by Karen & Paul Gilbert
 Our shut-ins, by Frank & Rose Mary Garcia



IN THE HOSPITAL?

As policies surrounding confidentiality and patients rights are now governed by HIIPPA, hospitals can no longer let us know that you have been hospitalized unless church members specifically request this. If you would like to have a visit from Pastor Gary during your admission, please tell the hospital that you are a Bethlehem member and that you would like a visit. Have them notify the church office.

You can also contact us yourself or have a friend or family member contact the church to request a visit.

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2
8:30—9:30 A.M.
(Mark your calendars for February 6.)


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!

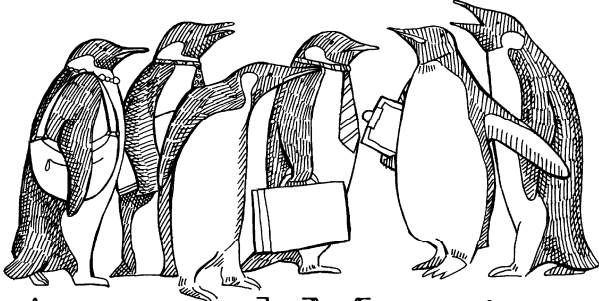
Weekly Men's Breakfast

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 24



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

Ushers for Sundays in January at 8:45 service

January 3	Don & Sherry Krehl Virginia Luedtke Lorna Bemis	January 24	Louis & Lysa Wright Logan & Lucas Wright
January 10	Betty Ruby Ray Steinbis Dick & Laurel Stokke	January 31	Donna Bloyd Norma Wiegartz Jane Bidstrup LaVern Burhop
January 17	Larry & Joan Vandre June Whitney Carole Asbell		



Greeters for Sundays in January at 8:45 service

January 3	Donna Bloyd and Elmie Carey
January 10	Ann, Noah, & Abbey Brooks
January 17	LaVern & Louise Burhop
January 24	Paul & Karen Gilbert
January 31	Don Davidson and Lorna Knuuttila

Lectors 8:45

January 3	Rob McMillion
January 10	Jay Ruby
January 17	Judy Sisler
January 24	Betty Ruby
January 31	Laurel Stokke

Communion Asst. 8:45

January 3	Margie Hargrave Bob Hongisto
January 10	Jerry & Annette Johns
January 17	Sherry Krehl Barb Luchsinger
January 24	Virginia Luedtke Judy Sisler
January 31	John & Beth Metzler



Ushers for January at 11:00 a.m. service

January 3	Loren & Margaret Hayes
January 10	Kathleen Hunt and Angela Root
January 17	Rob & Maria McMillion
January 24	Don & Sherry Krehl
January 31	Barb & Amanda Luchsinger

Greeters for January at 11:00 a.m. service

January 3	Barb & Amanda Luchsinger
January 10	John & Beth Metzler
January 17	Gordon & Virginia Rasmussen
January 24	Dick & Laurel Stokke
January 31	Myron Bond and Pat Erickson

Lectors for January at 11:00 a.m. service

January 3	Virginia Rasmussen
January 10	Angela Root
January 17	Laurel Stokke
January 24	Michael Beaver
January 31	Myron Bond

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)

Senior and Junior High Ski Trip: We are ready to go skiing again this year. The cost is \$30.00 for lift ticket only, \$50.00 for lift, lesson and rental. We will be leaving church at 7:00am and returning at around 10:00pm on January 18, 2010, Martin Luther King Junior Day! *Deadline is January 6 for signing up!* **Anybody willing to drive may ski at no cost!**

Monday Night Youth Group: We are having a good time so if you haven't joined us yet come on Monday (every Monday) from 6pm – 7:30pm in the Frog Pond. Friends are always invited.

Sunday School: We meet every Sunday from 10am – 10:50am. Bring your friends. See you then!

The Rest of the Barnyard

Sunday School: We are studying Joseph and His Brothers this first semester and beginning in January will begin Ruth and Esther.

If you have updated information; new phone number, address, or email let us know!

Adults, we would love to see you too. If you are interested in helping out, talk to Mary and sign up to lead Art (Crafts), Storytelling (teaching a skit, make a craft puppet...), Kitchen Experiments (using food and science to teach the lesson. We give you step by step instructions including what to say to the youngsters. **Very easy and fun!!**

Epiphany Program Practices: Practice for our annual program will be on January 2, from 10:00am – 11:30am and January 9, from 10:00 – 11:00am.

Epiphany Program: Keep your calendar clear for January 10, at the 8:45am service! Kids should expect to arrive at 8:00am. I know it's early but everybody loves watching them.

Notes from Annual Meeting, Part I, December 13, 2009

The agenda for this meeting included a vote on a by-law change, election of leaders for Bethlehem, and approval of a 2010 budget.

The by-law change involved deleting the words "treasurer and secretary" from the by-laws under the section titled Nominating Committee. The constitution states that these officers shall be elected by the Church Council from the council membership. The inclusion of those positions in the by-laws made for a conflict of information.

The following slate of officers was elected:

Church Council:	Peter Kalamatianos (3 years) Annette Johns (3 years) Van O'Brien (3 years) Heather/Kevin Breuer (shared 1 year) Sarah Trostle (youth representative)
Nominating Committee:	Tammie Farley Frank Luedtke Valerie Talsma
Mission Endowment Fund:	Pat Humo (3 years) Marlene Schoonmaker (3 years) Jerry Johns (1 year)
Auditing Committee:	Dick Stokke (1 year) Vacant position Nancy Coffman is already on this committee
Synod Assembly Delegates:	Maria McMillion Rob McMillion
Synod Assembly Alternates:	Beth & John Metzler
Financial Secretary:	Doris Riippi

The proposed budget was accepted without change. During the discussion about the anticipated shortfall in the budget at the end of the year, the item about the use of parsonage funds was clarified. Margaret Hayes was president at the time and said the money was to be used to support housing for the pastor and that the only money to be used was the earnings from the principle. The congregation voted to not use that fund to make up shortage in the general fund.

Annette Johns proposed that congregation members be challenged to dig deep and fill in the shortage by special contributions. The motion passed.

A standing applause and appreciation was given to Tammie Farley and Harry Theisen for their years of service. Tammie has been president of the congregation for six years and Harry has been the treasurer for twenty plus.

Notes by Anna Fischer

Notes from Council Meeting December 16, 2009

The purpose for this meeting was to elect officers for the 2010 congregation Church Council. These officers are also the officers for the congregation.

Elected from the council are:

President — Peter Kalamatianos

Vice President — Bill Gulke

Treasurer — Tammie Farley

Secretary — will be sought from the church membership.

This person will be on the council with a voice but not a vote.

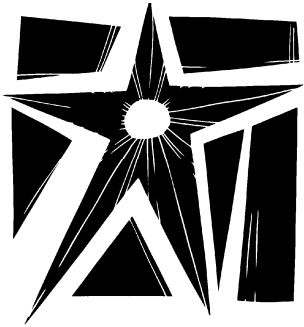
Pastor reported that attendance was up about 20% since the adoption of the second service.

Sunday School — Mary is looking for more help with the rotation classes. The Sunday School is also growing.

The next council meeting will be January 6 at 7:00 p.m.

Notes by Anna Fischer

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

Return service requested



Birthday List for January

January 2010

Birthday Greetings to:		17	Virginia Luedtke
		18	Tim Marten
2	Dawn George		Carolyn Siebens
	Nadia Schoonmaker	24	Ashton Rose Vanderweele
	Cory McCaslin	26	Dan Siener
	Sarah Trostle	27	Arlene Hampa
4	Pearl Belluzzi		Nick Killham
5	Skylar Winifred Martin		Barb Luchsinger
7	Harry Huhta	29	Mayme Lundblad
8	Marie Humes	30	Kristen Farley
10	Doris Riippi	31	Charlotte Martin
12	Toini Koski		Benjamin Martin
13	Briana Vanderweele		
16	Laura Korpi		
	Norma Wiegartz		

