

Bethlehem Star

A Message from Pastor Gary

"...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things." [Galatians 5:22-23]

This is not a product endorsement! However, I have been fascinated by the advertising campaign for BMW automobiles. One ad says, "We make joy." Another says, "Joy is futureproof." Fascinating stuff!

The English word "joy" has its roots in the Latin word "gaudium." Joy is defined as a feeling of ecstasy or exultant happiness. From the noun "joy" we get our verb "enjoy." To enjoy something is to experience joy in that something. From the noun comes yet another verb, "rejoice." Rejoicing is a response to joy – exultant happiness.

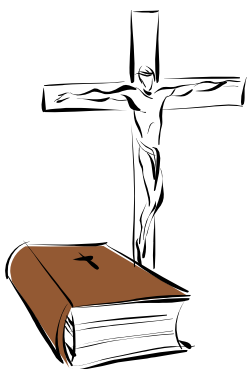
This rather academic word study leads me to the topic of this article: Enjoying Bethlehem!

A simple question: do you enjoy your church? Another: if you do enjoy Bethlehem, why? These are great questions for us to dialog about. Allow me to get the dialog started by telling you some of the things I enjoy about Bethlehem:

- Worship is just the beginning. We have a long history of a traditional and yet flexible worship style.
- People. Bethlehem is filled with great people.
- Staff. Bethlehem has an excellent staff, including those on the payroll and our volunteers. We are staffed with talented, intelligent and caring people.
- Activity. Bethlehem is neither the largest nor wealthiest congregation in the area. But we are busy and we are always open to new avenues of service.
- Property. We have a very useful building. Our lawn is large enough to host events and allow the energetic to romp and play.

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Pastor's Letter (continued)

- Partnership. We have strong and growing relationships within our community, among the congregations of our synod, and internationally.
- Education. We have a great Christian education team, quality classes, and something for people of every age.

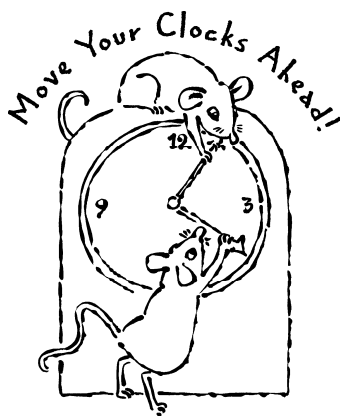
This list could be longer – but you get the point. There is much to enjoy in and through Bethlehem.

What is the root of the experience of joy at Bethlehem? It is not because we all have BMWs! The joy we have at Bethlehem is evidence that the Holy Spirit is active among us. St. Paul says that joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit.

Evidence of the Holy Spirit at work among us is seen in our joy. The many ministries we share that bring the joy to people in and outside of our congregation is confirmation that the Spirit has taken up residence at Bethlehem. We demonstrate the Spirit's work in and through us when enjoy our congregation and its many ministries.

I invite you to enjoy your congregation – to summon the Holy Spirit's assistance in rejoicing at the marvel that is Bethlehem!

Amani,
Pr. Gary



MARCH 14

Saturday Afternoon Movies

March Movies

March 13
1:00 p.m.

"As Good As it Gets" starring Jack Nicholson, Helen Hunt and Greg Kinnear.
(Best movie of 1997) Color/139 minutes

March 27
1:00 p.m.

"Forrest Gump" starring Tom Hanks, Robin Wright, Gary Sinise and Sally Field.
(Best Actor of 1994) Color/142 minutes

Popcorn and soda pop will be provided so join us for these two great, award-winning movies!

Membership Updates, Concerns and Thanks

Thank you so much to Bill Gulke, Andy Velez and others for their hard work on for the balcony reconstruction project. Much of the work has been accomplished already and the carpeting has been ordered. Great job!

A BIG thank you
to Alice Saari for donating her freezer to the Food Pantry. We will put it to good use!

LINEN MINISTRY

First Lutheran Church is offering a linen closet as a Gap Ministry with Love Inc. First Lutheran is collecting and storing new and gently used linens: sheets, pillows, mattress pads, blankets, comforters, quilts, and towels for kitchen or bath, for people in need.

If you have a donation for them you can call (815) 758-0643.

The greater Kishwaukee Area Concert Band will present "World of Music" on Sunday, March 14, 3 p.m. in the Boutell Memorial Concert Hall. John Hansen is the director and has chosen music sure to please everyone.



St. Patrick, Bishop of Armagh (d. 461), was a Roman citizen who was kidnapped and sold into slavery in Ireland. After escaping to his native Britain, Patrick heard a voice telling him to return to Ireland to serve the people he had met there. It is said that St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach about the Trinity. Its three-in-one leaf symbolizes Father, Son and Holy Spirit in one Supreme Being. The Irish people knew intuitively that God is present in all of creation, and St. Patrick showed them that, in the mystery of the Holy Trinity, God was beyond all creation as well. St. Patrick's Day is March 17.

ALTAR FLOWERS ARE NEEDED FOR MARCH & APRIL. SIGN UP ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE HALLWAY!

ALSO, SIGN UP ON THE BULLETIN BOARD TO BRING GOODIES FOR FELLOWSHIP TIME ON FIRST & FIFTH SUNDAYS.

Don't forget to sign up for your Easter Lily on the insert included in this newsletter!

World Day of Prayer

**March 5,
9:00 a.m. at**

Victory Baptist Church

1930 Sycamore Rd in DeKalb

Dear Bethlehem Family,

"You blessed us with your tender-loving care, encouragement and support during the time of the loss of our dear Mother, Martha Miller.

Words are not adequate to express how grateful we are for the opportunity to share time with our family and friends in the Fellowship Hall and to enjoy the excellent luncheon prepared and served by the church ladies.

With our deep gratitude and appreciation,"

Love,

Marcia Nelson and family

Lauren Miller and family

Lenten & Holy Week Schedule

“Our Mission: Serve”

Lent 2010

February 17 – April 4

The 2010 Lenten series will deepen our understanding of the purpose of our mission. We will grow in our understanding of Jesus' words, "...the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." [Matthew 20:28] Our purpose will be enlivened through this exploration of these 6 dynamics of mission. "Our Mission: Serve!"

Planning Ahead

Midweek Lenten Schedule for March

Wednesday, March 3, 7:00 p.m.

“Created to Serve”

Wednesday, March 10, 7:00 p.m.

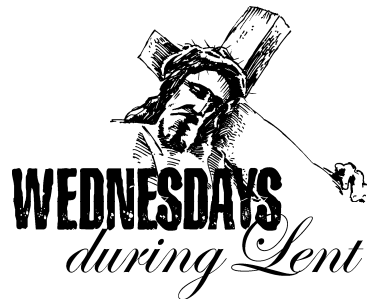
“Called to Serve”

Wednesday, March 17, 7:00 p.m.

“Saved to Serve”

Wednesday, March 24, 7:00 p.m.

“Sent to Serve”



Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 1, 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday

Friday, April 2, 7:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil

Saturday, April 3, 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 4, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

ELCA World Hunger

The following are a few of your ELCA Good Gifts at work this past Christmas:

- \$25 United States—In Alameda Co, California, 1,500 children go to school better able to concentrate and eager to learn thanks to a local backpack program. Before the weekend, students go home with a bag of nutritionally balanced food to sustain them on days when they do not benefit from subsidized school meal programs.
- \$75 Democratic Republic of the Congo—Survival Kits are assisting refugees displaced by war and conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These kits include a tarp, water jug, clothes, and cooking supplies.
- \$100 West Bank—Toys are serving as therapeutic and educational agents for preschool-kindergarten children who live in war-torn West Bank.
- \$200 Columbia-Community vegetable gardens are easily started and quickly reduce hunger in communities of people who have been forced to flee their land because of conflict and violence.



world day of prayer
victory baptist church
1930 sycamore road, dekalb
friday, march 5 — 9:00 a.m.



World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of women of many faith traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer every year on the first Friday of March. Each year a different country serves as the writer of the World Day of Prayer worship service. For 2010 the theme for the year will be "Let everything that hath breath praise God," written by the women of Cameroon.

Everyone is invited to attend. Refreshments will be served at 9:00 a.m. followed by the program at 9:30 a.m.

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


SATURDAY, MARCH 6
8:00 a.m.
(Mark your calendars for April 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!



LCW Banquet Date Set

*MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THE LCW'S
SPRING BANQUET*

SATURDAY, APRIL 24 – 12 NOON

Jay Ruby will present a program
on *Mooseheart*.

More information and a menu
will be in the next Star and
upcoming bulletins!

Ushers for Sundays in March 8:45

March 3 <i>Lenten Service</i>	Pat Humo Bob Hongisto	March 17 <i>Lenten Service</i>	Dick & Laurel Stokke
March 7 <i>Sunday</i>	Paul Gilbert Anne Hietikko Leland & Evelyn Hoffman	March 21 <i>Sunday</i>	Ed & Judy Sisler Larry & Joan Vandre
March 10 <i>Lenten Service</i>	Don & Sherry Krehl	March 24 <i>Lenten Service</i>	Norma Wiegartz Donna Bloyd
March 14 <i>Sunday</i>	Virginia Luedtke Maria McMillion Betty Ruby Ray Steinbis	March 28 <i>Sunday</i>	Carole Asbell Jane Bidstrup LaVern Burhop Butch Burrig

Greeters for Sundays in March at 8:45

March 3	Ed & Judy Sisler
March 7	June Whitney and Norma Wiegartz
March 10	Dick & Laurel Stokke
March 14	Irene Kuusisto and Dee Maki
March 17	Don & Sherry Krehl
March 21	Kim Martin and Maria McMillion
March 24	Elmie Carey
March 28	LaVern & Louise Burhop

Lectors at 8:45

March 3	Wayne Coffman
March 7	Dick Stokke
March 10	Anna Fischer
March 14	Heather Breuer
March 17	Margie Hargrave
March 21	Paul Gilbert
March 24	Annette Johns
March 28	Frank Luedtke

Communion Asst.

March 7	Sherry Krehl Virginia Luedtke
March 14	John Metzler Beth Metzler
March 21	Judy Sisler Ray Steinbis
March 28	Dick Stokke Valerie Talsma

Com-

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

March 7	Wayne & Nancy Coffman
March 14	Pat Erickson and Tammie Farley
March 21	Anna Fischer and Kathleen Hunt
March 28	Loren & Margaret Hayes

Greeters for Sundays in March at 11:00 a.m.

March 7	Barb & Amanda Luchsinger
March 14	John & Beth Metzler
March 21	Gordon & Virginia Rasmussen
March 28	Michael Beaver and Angela Root

Lectors at 11:00 a.m.

March 7	Kathleen Hunt
March 14	John Metzler
March 21	Gordon Rasmussen
March 28	Angela Root



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)

OMG (Our Motley 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.

Just an FYI for OMG, on March 8 and March 15, there will be no gatherings. Diane and Mary will in Guatemala for a mission trip with Lutheran Campus Ministry.

MVP (Most Valuable Players): There is an interest in a puppet ministry at Bethlehem. If you are interested in being a part of it please contact Mary Lasits (815) 758-3203 or mlasits@yahoo.com.

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 the, Esther, Ruth, and David this semester.

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!!

Love INC Needs

Love INC's last newsletter has specified the following client needs:

- They are currently in need of 17 beds (frames and good conditioned/lightly used mattresses). These beds cover 4 different homes with one of them being a single mother with 7 children. Various sizes are needed for the various bed needs.
- They are also looking for individuals who may be able to contribute to the purchase of a ramp for an elderly man with medical difficulties. There is \$150 more needed for that purchase to assist that individual.
- Three computers are needed for some homes to assist with education. It would be useful if these computer donations were not older than five years.
- A monthly donation amount of \$30 could help assist Love INC to continue their help to the community. All gifts are tax deductible. Your gift allows them, among other things, to mobilize individuals to volunteer to help meet the needs of others.

Love INC is located at 151 W. Lincoln Hwy. and their phone number is (815) 217-0082.

Wills, Estates and Gift Planning Seminar

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THIS INFORMATIVE SEMINAR!

The ELCA Foundation along with Bethlehem Lutheran Church's Mission Endowment Fund, Mission Gift Fund, Stewardship Committee and Church Council are sponsoring a "Wills, Estates and Gift Planning Seminar" on Sunday, May 2, at noon. The seminar begins with a potluck lunch – bring a dish to pass – and is led by the Rev. Dr. Len Hoffman, Associate Director of the ELCA Foundation.

The "Wills, Estates and Gift Planning Seminar" will help you learn about the stewardship of your estate. Some of the questions Dr. Hoffman will answer in the seminar are:

- Why does a single person need a will?
- Do both husband and wife need a will?
- If both parents die, what happens to the kids?
- What are estate and state inheritance taxes?
- What is Probate and can it be avoided?
If I die without a will, what happens?

Dr. Hoffman will also be our preacher and adult class leader on May 2. If you have never been to a "Wills, Estates and Gift Planning Seminar" before, please make every effort to join us. If it has been 5 years or more since your last "Wills, Estates and Gift Planning Seminar," plan to join us for updated information.

At the "Wills, Estates and Gift Planning Seminar" you will get information you need to see that your WILL is done through the exercise of your WILL POWER.

Plan now to attend on Sunday, May 2, 2010. Worship at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m., adult class at 10:10 a.m., potluck lunch and seminar at 12:00 noon. Bring a dish to pass and your questions!

Spring Tour Concerts at Concordia

Concordia University Chicago invites you to hear the premier instrumental and choral ensembles of the university in concerts culminating their annual Spring Tours. Music from the past and present in a variety of forms and styles has been programmed for wide audience appeal. The **Wind Symphony**, conducted by Richard R. Fischer, will perform on *Friday, March 19, at 8:00 p.m.* The **Kapelle**, conducted by Charles P. Brown, will perform on *Saturday, March 20, at 7:30 p.m.* Both concerts will take place in the Chapel of Our Lord, 7400 Augusta Street, River Forest. Admission to these concerts is free. For more information call (708)209-3060.

Congregational Resourcing Event—Registration Form

2010 Congregational Resourcing Event

“*Becoming a Missional Church*”

March 20, 2010 — 8:30 a.m. — 3:15 p.m.

Kishwaukee College, Malta

(sponsored by the Northern Illinois Synod Congregational Life Committee)

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Craig Nesson, Academic Dean & Professor of Contextual Theology, Wartburg Seminary

The Northern Illinois Synod’s Congregational Resourcing Event is one of this synod’s finest yearly events. Church Council members, teachers, musicians, staff, volunteers, and leaders—just about everyone in a congregation, can take advantage of this learning event to strengthen skills, gather resources, network with others, and discover new ways to enhance congregational and individual ministries. Come, experience and bring home new ministry tools.

The Congregational Resourcing Event (CRE) will offer many varied educational workshop elections for you and many groups, agencies and institutions will have displays.

Some of the interesting sessions will include: *The Evangelizing Congregation*, *Becoming a Truly Welcoming Congregation*, *Congregational Conflict*, *Congregational Renewal through the Practice of Jesus’ Spirituality*, *Hunger and Hope in Northern Illinois*, *International Companionship Basics* (with Pastor Gary Erickson), *The Economy’s Impact on Your Congregation*, *God in the Golden Years*, *What is LYO and What Do We Do?* (with Mary Lasits) plus many more current topics.

If you are interested, Pastor Gary has a brochure and complete list of the classes and activities. Registration after March 1 is \$22.00 per person. Lunch may be provided if enough are available. You can also register and view the complete program schedule online at www.nisynod.org/cre

THE KING OF KINGS, classic silent film and the first Hollywood presentation of Christ’s passion, death and resurrection made by Cecil B. DeMille in 1927, will be shown at First Lutheran Church on Sunday, March 28, 2010 (Palm Sunday). Mike Jacklin of the Silent Film Society of Chicago will provide the musical score to the movie on the church’s pipe organ. This is a free ecumenical Lenten gift to the community. A free will offering will be taken to help support disaster relief in Haiti.

Easter Lilies

EASTER LILY ORDER FORM 2010

To order your plant, please complete this form and give to an usher; place in the offering plate, or **leave in the church office no later than Sunday, March 21**. Please make your check payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church and include with your plant order.

_____ plant(s) @ \$11.50 each

Name of Donor



In memory of

In honor of

_____ I will take plant(s) home after Easter services

_____ I will share my plant(s) with a shut-in.

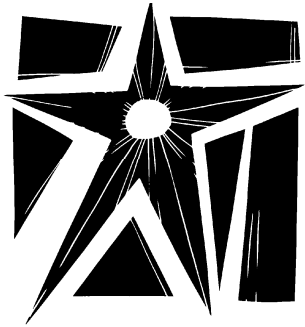
Ordinary Items. Extraordinary Love.

Ordinary Items. Extraordinary love. Cut-ups works hard each Monday morning to provide some of the quilts that are distributed around the world. Lutheran World Relief appreciates these quilts because they give families in many countries a helping hand, a sign of comfort, and hope for the future.

As the intensity of humanitarian needs increases worldwide, the requests from Lutheran World Relief for quilts has also been on the rise. Thanks to our Cut-Ups, some of these needs are being met.

If you are interested in joining the Cut-Ups Quilting Group on Monday mornings (8:30-12:00), please stop in and lend a helping hand. You just may also experience some fun and fellowship, too.

Bethlehem Star



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U.S. Postage
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Permit #121

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 March

March 2010

March Birthday Greetings to:	15	Amanda Luchsinger
	16	Tom Carey
1 Eric Johnson	17	Samantha Johnson
3 Michael Stone	19	Jessica Wilhelm
5 Sandy Woodin	25	Hannah Turk
7 Linda Hoffman	26	Jessica Breuer
Katherine Signorella		Brian Knuuttila
8 Tammie Farley		Dustin Inboden
10 Emil Hampa	28	Marja Vlahakis
12 Jerry Johns	30	Diane McCaslin
		Louis Wright



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