

# Bethlehem Star

## A Message from Pastor Gary

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*So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith. [Galatians 6: 9-10]*

In mid-December we learned that Time magazine announced their “person of the year for 2011.” Time has named a “person of the year” every year since 1927. This year the honor went to “The Protester.” “The Protester” became the symbol of 2011 because of the many protests that have been staged around the world, from distant shores to our own cities.

In his letter to the Galatians, Paul exhorts the congregation to “not grow weary in doing what is right.” If I were to name a person of the year for 2011, I would name all the people in congregations like Bethlehem who continue to support the church and to work for the well-being of our neighbors.

In many ways the ones who continue to work, pray, and give to their congregations are also “protesters.” The work of congregations is always “counter-cultural.” When the world says, “grab for the gusto,” the Gospel says, “give to those in need.” When the world says, “might makes right,” the Gospel says, “blessed are the peacemakers.” When the world says, “all is dark and lost,” the Gospel says, “the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”

Congregations, like Bethlehem, are counter-cultural, we are so “yesterday.” Perhaps we are behind the times because we stand for something other than conspicuous consumption. We recognize that standing up for what is right, speaking for those crushed by poverty and hunger, fighting diseases such as AIDS, malaria, leprosy, tuberculosis, and others, is not easy. “So let us not grow weary in doing what is right...”



*(continued on next page)*

## ***Pastor's letter (continued)***

You might protest that the working on behalf of others is too much for a congregation like Bethlehem. That would be true if we were alone! But we are not alone. Connected to our partners in the Northern Illinois Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we are part of a powerful and dynamic organization that is truly making a difference for people locally, regionally and globally. "So let us not grow weary..."

My vote for the person of the year for 2011, and for 2012 and beyond, is you! You, with your regular and faithful gifts in support of the congregation, are standing for what is right. Thank you. Your contributions make a difference for Bethlehem, for DeKalb County, for the Northern Illinois Synod, for the ELCA, and for the world.

Keep the faith because we are making a difference!

Amani,  
Pr. Gary

### **Children's Epiphany/Christmas Program**

**January 8 11:00 a.m.**

*Children and Helpers should report at 10:00 a.m. (Sunday School time)  
for carol practice and costuming.*

*Program: "Hoshma and the Last Straw"*

All parts have now been casted but we still need helpers and props such as leather "wineskins," decorative bird cage (small), cloth flour sacks/towels, and a wooden bucket, child-size benches (for 20 children). Items can be left in the Sunday School office, please mark with your name and contact info.

Also needed: crafty people that could help make the camel costume a little more comfortable with padding for the wire frame and to construct a lightweight pack saddle. Always needed: adults to help with costuming and wrangling of actors. Contact Valerie at (815) 825-2473 if you can help!

### ***Sunday School for January 2012***

The children will be studying Moses and Israel's wandering in the Wilderness. Adults are needed to facilitate the Storytelling and Kitchen experiment rotations on January 22 and 29. Activity ideas are included in the curriculum. If you can help, please contact Valerie Talsma (815) 825-2473 or Ann Brooks (815) 754-7574.

The Young Adult class will explore church denominations with which we are in table and pulpit fellowship before moving on to the Reformation. Many thanks to Karla and Adam Neal for bringing back music to the Sunday School. Valerie



## Membership Updates, Concerns and Thanks

On January 12, Toini Koski will be celebrating her 100th birthday! Cake and coffee will be served between worship services on Sunday, January 15. No gifts, please, but cards would be appreciated.

**Congratulations** to Anthony & Amy Denny on the baptism of their son Loren Matthew Denny on December 24.

### They Made a Difference!!

Thanks to the many persons that transformed Bethlehem's sanctuary and halls into a beautiful place. Many hands make light work and we did indeed have many hands.

Deepest sympathy to Lou Meinert & family on the recent death of Shirley Meinert.

Second Sunday of each month is "Soap Sunday." Please bring a bar of soap for the Lutheran World Relief box.

Dear Friends,  
"Thank you so much for all the prayers & cards during my recent surgery. Thanks also to Pastor Gary for his visit while I was in the hospital." Blessings to all, Darlene Holland

### Love Inc needs:

*Bed frames & mattresses*

*Dressers*

*Couches, Lamps*

*Kitchen Items*

*Bikes*

*Gas Cards*

*Aldi Cards*

*Diapers*

*Copy Paper for office use*

Dear Pastor & BELC,

"On behalf of the staff at *The Growing Place*, I would like to thank Bethlehem Lutheran Church for the use of your fellowship hall for our Christmas Potluck Dinner.

We feel it is important for our staff to meet during the holidays for a fun evening of conversation and good food. Thank you for providing us space to meet. We appreciate your willingness to accommodate us."

Best Wishes for the Christmas Season,  
Susan Petersen, The Growing Place

From a Food Pantry Client:

*"Thank you for your kindness throughout the year, the pantry, and on your thoughtfulness during my mom's death. Have a blessed New Year."*

*Antoinette*

"Christmas greetings to the staff and members of Bethlehem Church as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. Wishing you also continued joy and peace in the New Year. Enclosed is a small donation to the *Bethlehem Star* for mailing expenses. I appreciate receiving it and reading of Bethlehem's activities. Also Bethlehem will be receiving a small donation from me to be used where it is most needed. I received my Christian education and was confirmed in the Finnish Lutheran Church many years ago! May God continue to bless Bethlehem Church in its mission to spread the good news of the gospel."

In Christian love, Anja Hietikko Weiherman

## Food Pantry Updates

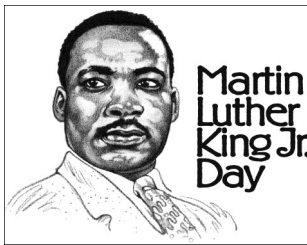
### Food Pantry continues to help . . .

The Food Pantry has broken another record with almost 2,325 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, Edie Hartman, Chris Valdivia, Nadine Valent, and many others too numerous to mention for all their help in volunteering for the Food Pantry. They have helped feed many hungry people and families through times of need.

JANUARY 16, 2012



**A H U G E** thank you to all who donated \$\$\$ to provide over 100 turkey dinners for the needy families of our Food Pantry. Many clients expressed that they wouldn't have had a Thanksgiving dinner celebration without your help. You do make a difference in the lives of many, many people!



Another **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

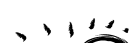


*Due to possible bad weather . . .*

**OUR "MOVIE THEATER" WILL BE CLOSED FOR VACATION IN JANUARY!**

**MOVIES WILL RESUME IN FEBRUARY.**

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



## Christmas Poinsettias for Christmas Eve

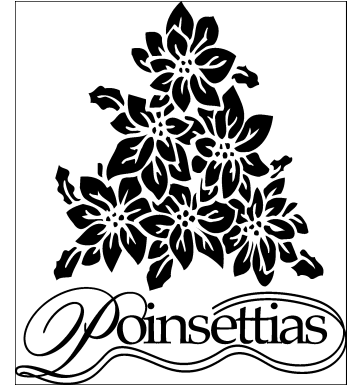
### CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS ON THE ALTAR CHRISTMAS EVE

*Poinsettias on the altar were given to the glory of God in memory of :*

Ekstrom, Ted by Irene Ekstrom  
 Hietikko, Richard "Viek" by Anne Hietikko  
 Hughes, Jess & Janie by Leland & Linda Hoffman  
 Loved ones by Bob Ewing family  
 Loved ones by Carl & Margie Hargrave  
 Loved ones by Eldon & Helen Miller  
 Loved ones by Frank & Rose Mary Garcia  
 Loved ones by Gary & Pat Erickson  
 Loved ones by Kent & Gail Zak  
 Loved ones by Lauri and Toini Koski  
 Loved ones by the Luedtke family  
 Loved ones, by Ed & Edna Schramm  
 Miller, Emil & Martha by Bill & Marcia Nelson, Lauren & Lynne Miller  
 Miller, Emil & Martha by Wayne Pinkston  
 Miller, Henery & Hannah by Wayne Pinkston  
 Miller, Ludwig by Wayne Pinkston  
 Nordstrom, Carl by Doris Nordstrom  
 Our parents by Bill & Sue Gulke  
 Our Parents by Doris Nordstrom  
 Our Parents by Ed & Judy Sisler  
 Pinkston, Mrs. Elise by Wayne Pinkston  
 Riippi, Edwin "Skinny" by Doris Riippi  
 Saari, Don by Alice Saari  
 Siebens, George, husband, by Carolyn Siebens  
 Whitney, Cliff & Helen by John Whitney  
 Whitney, June by John Whitney  
 Wiemer, Susan Yarde by Tad & Marilyn Yarde

And in honor of . . .

All the children of Bethlehem Church by Gordon & Gin Rasmussen



### **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)  
 The next meeting will be held  
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 7**  
 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!

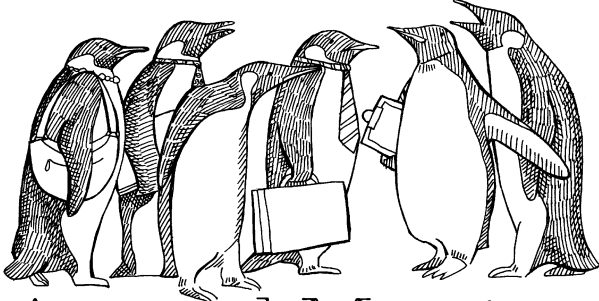
Weekly Men's  
Breakfast

This group meets Friday mornings just before 8:00 a.m. at the Lincoln Inn in downtown DeKalb.

Come as often  
as you can!



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR ANNUAL MEETING**



Annual Meeting

**PART II JANUARY 29 10:00 A.M.**



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

## Ushers for Sundays in January at 8:45 service

January 1 <i>9:30 a.m. only</i>	Donna Bloyd Heather Breuer Jessica Breuer LaVern Burhop	January 15	Gary & Ann Brooks Noah & Abbey Brooks
January 8	Don Davidson Lorna Knuuttila Don & Sherry Krehl	January 22	Steve & Carol Cook Emily & Amanda Cook
		January 29	Butch Burreight Elmie Carey Ted & Sandy Woodin



## Greeters for Sundays in January at 8:45 service

January 1	Elmie Carey and Irene Kuusisto
January 8	Wayne & Nancy Coffman
January 15	Don Davidson & Lorna Knuuttila
January 22	Frank & Rose Mary Garcia
January 29	Bill & Susan Gulke

## Lectors 8:45

January 1	Pat Erickson
January 8	Heather Breuer
January 15	Adam Neal
January 22	Don Davidson
January 29	Paul Gilbert

## Communion Asst. 8:45

January 1	Dick & Laurel Stokke
January 8	Adam & Karla Neal
January 15	Estuardo & Diane Dardon
January 22	Myron Bond Wayne Coffman
January 29	Heather Breuer Jessica Breuer



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

January 1	only one service at 9:30 a.m.
January 8	Children's Epiphany Program
January 15	Gordon & Virginia Rasmussen
January 22	Paul & Julie Rowland, Emily Rowland
January 29	Dick & Laurel Stokke

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

January 1	only one service at 9:30 a.m.
January 8	Children's Epiphany Program
January 15	John & Beth Metzler
January 22	Don & Sherry Krehl
January 29	Kathleen Hunt Maria McMillion



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

January 1	9:30 service only
January 8	Children's Program
January 15	John Metzler
January 22	Paul Rowland
January 29	Laurel Stokke

### Communion Assistants 11:00 a.m.

January 15	Beth Metzler
January 22	Sherry Krehl
January 29	Dick Stokke

## For Your Information . . .

### Travel to Tanzania with Pr. Gary!

Have you ever wondered about the Naberera Parish in Tanzania? Pr. Gary will be traveling there in July 2012. Spaces are still available for this life changing, faith enhancing trip. See Pr. Gary for more details and the opportunity of a lifetime to meet the people you pray for every Sunday!

### Changes related to the 2012 congregational spending plan:

- 1) Beginning with the February 2012 *Bethlehem Star* Newsletter, you can pick up your copy at church, read it online at: [www.bethlehemdekalb.org](http://www.bethlehemdekalb.org), or ask for it to be sent to your house via first class mail ( we are asking those who adopt this measure to cover the cost of the mailing - \$12.00 per year).
- 2) Beginning Tuesday, January 3, 2012, office hours will be Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. and Friday and Saturday, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. (The church office is closed Monday, January 2.)
- 3) Church members are asked to pray and consider increasing their regular giving by 5% to 10%. The significant reduction in the congregation's spending plan is not enough to achieve a balanced budget. Please be generous in 2012 to enable Bethlehem to continue its significant impact in our community, region and world. (For information about e-giving please see Pr. Gary or any member of the Church Council.)

### Thank You!

Forty six people signed in to Annual Meeting, Part 1 on December 11. Thank you for such a great turnout. Remember Annual Meeting, Part 2, is Sunday, January 29, 2012 at 10:00 am.

### Adult Study for January: The Hours

The *Liturgia Horarum* along with the celebration of Holy Communion constituted the public worship life of the church. The Hours have largely fallen to disuse among most Christians. This study takes a look at this ancient practice and invites learners to remember The Hours in their own prayers.

January 8: Matins

January 22: Compline

January 15: Vespers

January 29: Annual Meeting, Part 2

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## 12 Warning Signs of Health

- 1) Persistent presence of supportive friends.
- 2) Chronic positive expectations—a tendency to frame events in a positive light.
- 3) Regular signs of joy in living
- 4) Sense of spiritual renewal in the Lord.
- 5) Increased sensitivity to others.
- 6) A tendency to adapt to changing conditions.
- 7) Increased appetite for physical activity.
- 8) Tendency to identify and communicate feelings.
- 9) Repeated episodes of gratitude and generosity.
- 10) Compulsion to care for other people.
- 11) Persistent sense of humor. Known to laugh out loud.
- 12) A life centered in the forgiveness of Christ!

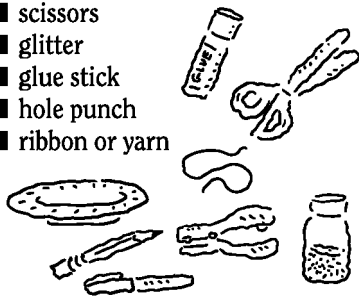
# Kid's Fun Page

## Fancy Flakes

Make a snowflake as unique and as special as you are in God's eyes.

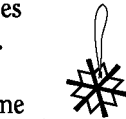
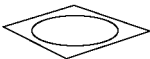
### What you need:

- paper (plain white or glittery wrapping paper)
- round plate or saucer (about the size you want your snowflake)
- pencil, crayon or marker
- scissors
- glitter
- glue stick
- hole punch
- ribbon or yarn



### What you need to do:

























1. Draw a circle on a piece of paper by tracing around the plate or saucer.
2. Cut out the circle.
3. Fold the paper in half three times. (If the paper is thick, fold it just twice.)
4. Use your scissors to carefully cut out shapes from the folded paper.
5. Unfold your paper.
6. On one side, write some things that are special about you.
7. Decorate the other side using the glue stick and glitter.
8. When the glitter is dry, punch a hole in the snowflake.
9. Put ribbon or yarn through the hole, and tie it to make a hanger.



## Just for KIDS Unique Creations

It is the New Year and in many places it is cold enough to snow. God created snowflakes that are so unique that no two are alike! It is the same way with people – we are all one-of-a-kind. If God cares so much about how each snowflake is made, imagine how much God cares about you!

**Directions:** Draw lines to match the two halves of the snowflakes. Write the letters on the numbered blanks to form the words and to complete the verse.

1			7		
	pra	u		wonder	e
2			8		
	yo	fully		ma	ur
3			9		
	be	ise		yo	de
4			10		
	a	nd		wo	ful
5			11		
	fear	is		ar	fully
6			12		
	a	cause		wonder	rks

“I \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_  
 1            2            3            4            5  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_  
 6            7            8            9            10  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ....”  
 11            12

Psalm 139:14, NIV

Answer: “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful....”

## Bhopal Exhibit

Dear Pastor Gary and the congregation of BELC:

“Today I picked up the photos that the children of Bhopal created. Not only was the work removed for me, but it was clearly done so with much care. The work is safely packed away until the next exhibition opportunity, which I hope will be soon.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to bring the work into your space. Special thanks goes to Pastor Gary for his openness to hosting the work, and Joan Truckenbrod for the invitation and help installing. A very special thanks to the many of you who kept the work on the walls these many months as some of the pieces seemed determined to continuously pop off the walls.

I understand that the work caused conversation within your congregation and attracted visitors from the local community. As a result of the extensive (and well written) article in the local newspaper, I received several emails from all over the world inquiring about the work. Since educating people was a goal of the project, I am gratified by such a response.

As I write this, it is already December 3rd in Bhopal. The 27th anniversary of the gas disaster will be commemorated by the survivors groups with a “Rail Rokho” wherein they will link arms and lay on the railroad tracks to disrupt rail traffic. This act of passive resistance is intended to publicize some recent government rulings and the issue in general. It is likely that many of them will be arrested.

I travelled thousands of miles to facilitate this project, then returned home to find ways to exhibit the photos. And in my own backyard sat a church involved internationally, with a particular connection to India, that was just starting an arts program. Some people would call that a fantastic coincidence, and some would call it delightful part of a divine plan. I know which I prefer.

Thank you again, and God bless you all.”

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## A Thank You Message from Mary Lasits

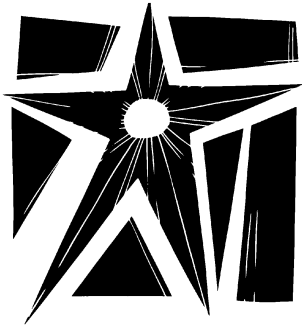
Dear Ladies,

*“I wanted to write a note to say thank you for all your support these past years and for your generous gift, including the refreshment collection. I miss you all very much. While you will never be replaced, I now work with three auxiliary groups and they all remind me of you—the great food, the energy to make a difference. I love this new job but have yet to find a church. I have been spoiled! Some fun part of this job was being at the Southern Ohio Synod WELCA Convention and being invited to do a reading and last week at Trinity Seminary (another ELCA Seminary), my new boss was recognized at a huge worship service commemorating the 10+ years of the call to common mission with the Episcopalians. The CEO here is an Episcopalian priest. I have some pictures to email Gretchen so you can see them.*

*If hope all of you are doing well and I keep you in my prayers. Thanks again for everything!!”*

Love, Mary

Bethlehem Star



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Email: belcdekalb@comcast.net

website: bethlehemdekalb.org

Return service requested



## Birthday List for January

### January 2012

Birthday Greetings to:			
		17	Virginia Luedtke
		18	Tim Marten
			Carolyn Siebens
2	Dawn George	24	Ashton Rose Vanderweele
	Nadia Schoonmaker	26	Dan Siener
	Cory McCaslin	27	Arlene Hampa
	Sarah Trostle		Nick Killham
4	Pearl Belluzzi		Barb Luchsinger
5	Skylar Winifred Martin	30	Kristen Farley
7	Harry Huhta	31	Charlotte Martin
8	Marie Humes		Benjamin Martin
	Emilie Schramer		
10	Doris Riippi		
12	Toini Koski (100 years young!)		
13	Briana Vanderweele		
16	Norma Wiegartz		

