

The Messenger

May 2, 2012

Bethlehem
Lutheran Church

Backstage with the Bible

July 23-27, 2012

8:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.



July 23-27, 2012

Summertime fun at Vacation Bible School is right around the corner.
Be sure to mark your calendar now.

Registration Time is Here! Visit www.bethlehemluth.org

beginning May 4 for a link to register for this summer's Vacation Bible School experience. Those who register by May 30 will have a spot on stage for the opening act so be sure to register early. Cost is \$15 per child and can be dropped off at the church office. Registration cards can also be picked up at the church.

We're excited to rock the morning away and dive into learning the books of the Bible, the ten commandments, and how to be saved by grace through faith. As in past years, children who have completed 3 year old preschool through 3rd grade will move through stations including Bible study, crafts, science, games, and refreshments. For students who have completed 4th and 5th grade, again this year they will experience "God's work with our hands" as they travel into the community on morning mission trips. Thursday will be a special day for all as 4th and 5th graders have an all day mission trip. Younger participants will return in the evening for our Celebration Picnic supper from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Many volunteers are needed to make this a great week for the children. Prayerfully consider how your time or talents could be used to make this as much fun as humanly possible! If you're able to begin collecting items for crafts, we'll be looking for old plastic hotel room keys or used gift cards, toilet paper tubes, stickers, streamers, and ribbon.

For further information or if you have any questions, please contact Eva Richards at Chrieded@bethlehemluth.org or Sue Tobin.

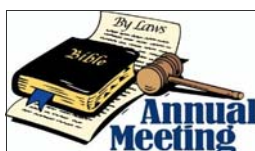
Join Us!

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 20

Fellowship Hall

immediately following the
10:30 a.m. worship service



"Knock, ask, (Where?) Seek until you know."

The Lost Boy

A musical by Allen Pote and Tom S. Long
presented by

The Carol and Cherub Choirs

Sunday, May 13

8:00 and 10:30 a.m. worship services



Fanning the Flames of Discipleship

Monday Night Bible Study 7:15 p.m. - Overflow

The Monday Night Bible Study group has begun a study of the book of Acts of the Apostles. Come find out what happened after the Easter event in the life of the church. How did the church grow? What were its struggles? What were its joys? We'll follow the travels of Paul as a missionary of the gospel.

As an added bonus, each week we will learn about a new congregation being started in the ELCA across the country. We will pray for that congregation and make contact with them as well. Please consider coming on Mondays; this is a great way to connect the story of Acts with our present realities. Led by Pastor Rich.

Living the Questions ~ continues on Sundays

10:42 a.m. - Education Hall



Do you have an inquisitive mind? Do you wonder why this class starts at 10:42 am? Do you like to ask the tough questions in a serious manner about the Bible, faith, and life? Do you like thoughtful conversations rather than simple answers? Then you are a prime candidate for this new study "Living the Questions". Led by Judy Hanson.

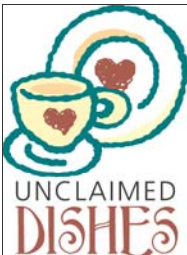
Discover the significance of Christianity in the 21st Century and what a meaningful faith can look like in today's world. Presentations by well known theologians, historians, and preachers such as John Crosson, Tex Sample, Minerva Carcano, Emily Townes, Stanley Hauerwas, John Cobb and others. The title of the final session is:

May 13 - Out Into the World: Challenges Facing Progressive Christianity.



Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers provide one on one confidential care and a listening ear for folks going through a challenging time. It helps bring Christ's love and presence at just the right time, whether for a month, three months or a year. There is no reason to struggle alone. Would you like to learn more? Contact Kelly Collins, Pastor Mark or Pastor Rich at (630) 584-2199.



UNCLAIMED
DISHES

Have you brought dishes to church for a funeral luncheon or other function? Are you wondering where that certain dish is that is missing from your kitchen? Bethlehem has unclaimed dishes that are on the table outside Fellowship Hall (200 level). Please check this table before June 1. We will donate any unclaimed dishes after June 1. Contact Donna Blomquist at (630) 584-2199 if you have any questions.

Sunday School News

As our Sunday School year comes to a close, here are a few important notes:

- May 6 is the last Kids in Worship for the 9:15 hour.
- May 13 there will be no opening due to the Musical. Students should proceed directly to their classrooms.
- May 20 is the last day of Sunday School.

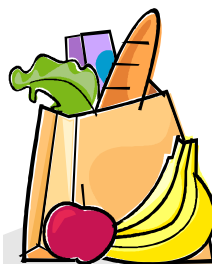


We are excited to offer on-line registration! Paper registration for next year will begin on May 6. Look for the registration table following each service. Avoid the lines and register on-line today at www.bethlehempluth.org. As always we are looking for volunteers to teach or aide next year. Please prayerfully consider how you can help continue our wonderful Sunday School tradition. Contact Kelly Olson if you have any questions.

News from Aboard the Ark

As our children's choirs prepare to perform their annual musical on May 13--be sure to visit the book display in The Ark that is highlighting the very story that they will tell in their songs. The story of Jesus getting "lost" in the temple is a favorite of children because it shows that he was not only a child like them but also a little mischievous!! We have beautifully illustrated books that you can enjoy as a family to read and reread this fun and meaningful story.

Get ready for the return of the "Pop-Up Ark"! Again this summer, the children of Bethlehem are invited to spend part of their Sunday mornings hunting down the ever-moving Pop-Up Ark! It will never be in the same place twice but finding it is always worth the hunt. Not only will The Ark feature different books and DVDs each week but there are FREE Prizes as well. Every week will bring new surprises and fun. Starting the first Sunday of June and continuing through the last Sunday of August, explore Bethlehem's halls, nooks, crannies, stairwells, and empty spaces and then tell your friends where YOU found the Pop-Up Ark!!



Thanks to those who donated and delivered **47 bags of food** to the Food Pantry!

May Shopping List

5 jars baby food
1 box baby food cereal

Growing in the Grace of Giving

Consistent

Like many, I have always enjoyed the beginning of the baseball (or, for those of us with girls, softball) season. A new season brings with it so many good things: warmer weather, fresh cut grass, sunglasses, grilling out, neighbors waving, colorful uniforms and packed youth ball fields across the country. The beginning of a new season also brings a new sense of hope...the hope that perhaps this is the year that your favorite team (or player) gets it right.

The game of baseball takes a lot of work in order to improve significantly. It takes many hours of seemingly mundane practice, repetitive drills, and one-on-one time with coaches. It takes consistent dedication to the craft of the game, and yet a typical baseball season is characterized by its share of defeats, failures and mistakes.

Romans 5:3-4 states, "More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope."

Most baseball fans enjoy the "long ball," a.k.a. the home run, but fans also appreciate that the really good teams win regularly with good pitching, solid defense and consistent hitting. So it is with our spiritual life. Sure, it would certainly be glorious if we could each hit a spiritual "home run," stand on a mountaintop, proclaim Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and be assured that all is well from that point forward. But our spiritual journey does not typically work that way. We're going to strike out. We're going to have days where we go 0-for-4, and there will be times when it seems that no matter what we throw at the world, we get hit hard.

It's all about consistency in the way we approach our life with each other, and our relationship with God. Single base hits and sacrifice bunts are not glamorous, but they manufacture runs and produce wins. James 1:12 reads, "Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him." And Romans 12:12 says, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."

In baseball, 3 out of 10 is a very good batting average. In our spiritual life, we can take comfort in the fact that people before us have failed and failed again, but still reached God's Hall of Fame.

New Ventures Team Member
Jeff Siblik

Last month, both the New Ventures and Council Corner articles talked about discipleship: what makes us willing disciples of Christ and where the Holy Spirit is calling us to be. These questions don't take a break for the summer and neither do we. Maybe summer is an ideal time for you to become more leisurely involved in the activities that abound for our congregation.

The strategic planning team will continue to guide us in discerning our congregation's future. We can all help to provide a clear plan and vision by staying involved throughout the summer with activities the team provides and prayer.

The summer will find us continuing to provide food, prayer, physical support and mentoring to all in need. Summer is not a break from poverty, depression, physical inability or isolation. We (you and I) continue to be the community of Christ and to provide that community to others.

June will find the confirmation students involved with LSSI in a confirmation/work trip. In July, many of our high school youth will travel to New Orleans for the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering and service project.

July will find us having fun "Backstage with the Bible," our Vacation Bible School for the entire community. Plans are being made, volunteers are being recruited (but don't wait to be asked, take the initiative and sign on), supplies are being acquired.

In August you have the opportunity to be a part of Camp Noah - a life changing experience. (I was part of the team last year and it is an experience I will always remember with thanksgiving.) Camp Noah provides children living in a place affected by disaster a Vacation Bible School experience that helps them process their emotions.

If you want something a little more physical, the Bethlehem and Grace Lutheran softball team will play in the Geneva Park District's Church Softball League. You are welcome to join them on Sunday afternoons beginning May 13.

Every Saturday and Sunday you have the opportunity to continue to worship with other disciples at Bethlehem. The list goes on. Please take these next few months to take advantage of the summer offerings. Where are you called to be? Hope to see you there!

Judy Hanson,
Church Council

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Adventure Club



2012-2013 Adventure Club Registration to open May 21

Online registration makes signing up easy!

Next year's Adventure Club program registration will begin on May 21. There will be plenty of surprises and new activities during the 2012-13 program year, and your child won't want to miss it! The first sessions will begin on September 12 and will run through April 2013.

Adventure Club is a FREE program that helps young children understand Bible stories, prayer and building community. The program reaches children in kindergarten through 5th grade and takes place at the church on Wednesday afternoons/evenings from September through April. All students from 3rd – 5th grade attend from 4:30 – 5:15 p.m., while K – 2nd grade attend from 5:15 – 6:00 p.m.

This year, we are encouraging all registrations to be completed online. Beginning on May 21, you can go to <http://www.bethlehempluth.org/> and click on the "Adventure Club Registration" link to register your child. A new window will pop up, taking you to an outside website. Please provide the information requested on the confidential form, and click "submit." If you have any questions, or don't have access to complete the online registration, please contact Patty Snyder at the church office (630) 584-2199.

Pew Organizers Needed

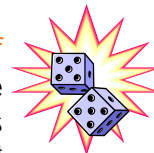


If you have flexible hours and are willing to help organize our pews, (sharpen pencils, replenish envelopes, remove old bulletins and papers, and straighten the hymnals and bibles) please contact Donna Blomquist at (630) 584-2199 or donna@bethlehempluth.org.

THANK YOU TO THE BREADSMITH for their ongoing donation to Hesed House. We are able to use their good healthy bread to make 100 sandwiches every time we serve there. Please patronize this wonderful little shop and tell them you are from Bethlehem. They are struggling since the closing of St. Patrick's School on the east side of St. Charles. They are located at 121 N. 2nd Street (Route 31) just North of Route 64.

WELCA Spring Picnic and Bunco Night Tuesday, May 22 ~ 6:30 p.m.

Attention All You Wonderful Ladies of Bethlehem! All women are invited to attend the Women's Spring Picnic and Bunco Night. Join us for great food, fun, and Bunco! Never played but heard about it? Come and learn how to play Bunco, have some dinner and LOL! Bring your mom, bring a friend, bring your daughter, everything will be provided! We will have a free will offering to benefit 'Evelyn's Baskets'. Please sign up in the bulletin if you plan to attend. The picnic is sponsored by WELCA, but membership is not required.



Super Chalk + Bubble picnic

THURSDAY, JUNE 7 - 10:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M.

Kids love bubbles and chalk and so do we! Come create a masterpiece in chalk in a large 5 x 5 ft square. Pictures will be judged and prizes awarded for a variety of categories. Bubbles will also be made by the thousands at our bubblerama station. We will provide the tools and desert. Just bring a sack lunch for some summer fun!! Sign up in the bulletin or contact Leslie Blount.



beLLeVE with STEVE

**ALS Walk4Life Steps Off at Soldier Field
Saturday, September 22**

Join Steve Heronemus' Walk team, **beLLeVE with STEVE**, and help us strike out ALS! The Les Turner ALS Walk4Life is one of the world's largest ALS gatherings, with thousands of walkers gathering each year. In its 10-year history, the Walk has raised over \$7 million for patient services and education, research, and public awareness for ALS. Researchers are getting closer to finding real treatments for ALS so support is now more crucial than ever. Please go to www.alswalk4life.org/believewithsteve to register to walk with us on Saturday, September 22. If you are unable to join us and would still like to help, donations are also accepted on the website. For more information contact Suzanne Heronemus.

Bethlehem's Strategic Planning Initiative

Update

We're off and running, and now in the middle of the assessment phase of our process:

Surveys must be completed by the end of the day SUNDAY, May 6!

To take the survey, log onto <http://tagsurvey.org/tci/grid/>, click on "Bethlehem Lutheran Church," then enter our church password: blc0412. It will take approximately 20-30 minutes and is open to everyone high-school age or older. One per person please (not one per household), and you do NOT have to be a member to participate.

Focus Groups

Focus Groups will be held Wednesday, May 16 and Thursday, May 17. Seven groups, each 6-8 people, have been invited to meet with John Holm our TAG consultant, on those days to help John further explore areas of the survey results with qualitative feedback.

Strategic Planning Core Team

Most importantly, please lift up our leaders and this process in prayer, that we gain an accurate assessment and that we faithfully discern God's plan for Bethlehem as his disciples and servants.

The Strategic Planning Core Team is led by Suzanne Warner, and includes Cindy Alworth, Dick Baker, Chris Burrichter, Bob Gehm, Phil Hildebrandt, Jeff Jass, Karen Kangas, Kris Sparks and Pastor Mark. Your input on the TCI Survey will provide these members with invaluable guidance and perspective as they begin devising a strategic plan that will guide Bethlehem into the coming years. Our team remains committed to an open planning process – our role is to coordinate, not serve as final decision makers.

The Final Assessment

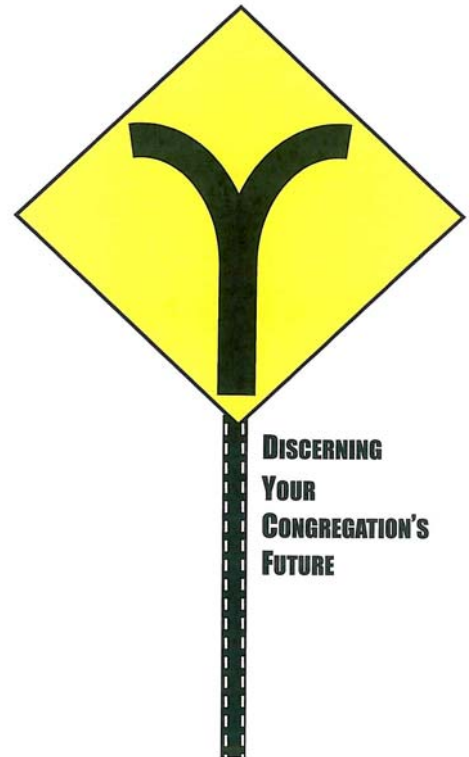
The final assessment will be delivered by TAG on Thursday, May 31 to a joint meeting of the Strategic Planning Team and our Congregation Council, after which the assessment will be made available to the congregation.

Who do I contact with my questions?

We welcome questions or comments!

Any questions may be sent to planningteam@bethlehempluth.org

Chris Burrichter
Bob Gehm
Phil Hildebrandt
Kris Sparks
Suzanne Warner



Youth Ministry

Invite Nurture Go

Bethlehem
Lutheran Church

High School Ministry



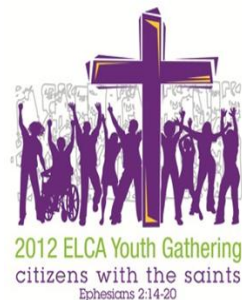
REcharge: High School students meet every Wednesday night at the Holmer House for peer-led worshipful, large group gathering and small group settings. Our final meeting for the year is Wednesday, May 16 as we lift up students going off to college in the fall. *Stay tuned for fellowship opportunities to be made available over the summer months.*

Baccalaureate Worship Service: Sunday, June 3 at 10:30 a.m. If you would like your student recognized at this time, please provide Aaron with a picture or two, the name of the school they will be attending in the fall, and their concentration in studies as soon as possible. There will be a reception with desserts following worship that Sunday.

Leadership Lab 2012: Monday, July 30 - Saturday, August 4 at Augustana College in Rock Island. Registration is online at www.leadershiplab.net. Cost is \$350 if done before June 30. All Lab participants are responsible for their own registration and can fill out the discipleship education form to receive a \$50 gift from the congregation to help offset costs. Also, fundraising dollars may be used. Transportation is left up to participants, but can be coordinated if necessary. For more information, check out the website or talk with previous participants.

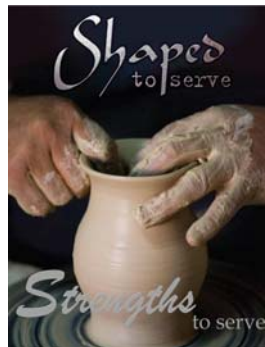


Youth Gathering



Deadlines: Please be aware of all payment deadlines and upcoming meetings as highlighted in the email reminders. We will be in New Orleans soon! *Please hold our twenty-four youth participants and five adult leaders in your prayers as they prepare for the journey!*

Confirmation Ministry



Confirmation: The year is winding down, with only three weeks remaining. Our last regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, May 16. *Those students going into 9th grade in the fall will be confirmed in a special worship service on Saturday, October 27.*

Orientation Meeting for all students entering 6th, 7th, and 8th grades in the fall will be on Wednesday, May 30 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Parents are encouraged to attend with their student as we highlight requirements and the upcoming school year. Early registration will also be taken at this point and throughout the summer, both online and in paper form this year.

Summer Confirmation Mission Trip:

This year, we will be partnering with Lutheran Social Services of Illinois in Joliet to help out in a number of service projects in the Joliet community as we continue to explore how we are "shaped to serve." There are two sessions this year, one running for June 18-20, and the other from June 20-22. Cost for either session is \$75. Adult mentors are needed to help and make this trip possible (we are very flexible about when adults can volunteer during that week as we will be spending a night at Bethlehem and a night in Joliet). *Fundraising dollars can be used to help pay for this trip.*



Upcoming Fundraiser



Spring Flower Sale: Starts Tuesday, May 8 and runs until plants are sold. Sign-up is available in Aaron's office. We need help from any willing adults to help unpack and set-up at 7:00 a.m. on that first day. Parents can also tend to sales during the week, and especially on those first few days. *Students are encouraged to help out after school and on Sundays.*

Youth Ministry News, May 2012 - Contact us to get on our monthly youth email list

Contact Info: Aaron Shoppa, Director of Youth Ministries - Email: aaron@bethleheluth.org - Phone: 630-584-2199 (ext. 228)

BLC Youth in Action - Easter 2012

High School Laser-Tag Lock-in

This past month, high school students from Bethlehem joined students from St. John-Neumann Catholic Church for a lock-in.

We ate some food, played lots of laser tag, enjoyed several different games, and stayed up all night. At 3:00 a.m. we took a break from all the fun to join together in a prayer service. Now that's how you have some ecumenical fun!!!



Easter Breakfast 2012

Thank you to everyone for supporting our youth ministry by cooking, donating fruit, reaching into your wallet, or simply encouraging our youth by eating some delicious food!!!



We are on Facebook

Check out "BLC Youth - Group" and join our group for reminders on upcoming events and to hear what our students are doing outside of church.

Also, check out "BLC Youth - Music" to stay up to date on upcoming handbell and youth choir performances.



Care and Connection Ministries

Another year of Wednesday Night Live fellowship dinners is coming to an end. A year of delicious meals and warm fellowship in the middle of a hectic week when children, teens and adults pause to experience a special time of community centered on our shared faith. We feed one another with conversation, laughter, support, prayer and service.



We extend a special note of thanks and gratitude to Heidi Wetzel for her leadership. Heidi has planned, shopped, budgeted and cooked our meals all year, providing us with delicious, nutritious and often adventurous, exotic offerings. She has spoiled us with "made from scratch" delights, with a warm and bright smile. In addition, Heidi has led a faithful and amazing core crew each week: **Shannon Bell, Lisa Siblik, Julie Schelstreet, Shelby Mertes**. Many others grazed in and out of the kitchen on a regular basis to lend a helping hand. **Jenny and Annie Schelstreet** were our wonderful hostesses and "cashiers". Thanks for giving your time.

Wednesday Nights have been blessed with many individuals who faithfully pitch in to manage leftovers, scrub pans, wipe tables, stack chairs and make sure that our kitchen is clean and ready to go for Thursday morning. **Marcia Nelson** has played a huge role with these tasks, along with Heidi and Julie.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to our dishwashers! Our generation of teen dishwashers will soon be hanging up their dishtowels and heading off to college. Much appreciation goes to these great students: **Evan Zeddies, Martha Nelson and Madeline Pavlik**. We will miss you!

There is always room for one more at the table, one more in the kitchen. Join in the fun for our LAST WNL dinner of the year on May 9 at 6:00 p.m. (\$5 adults/\$3 kids under 8). *Comment from the Cook- "I am blessed to be part of such a wonderful and supportive group!"* Contact Heidi Wetzel for more information at aveme@yahoo.com or Kelly Collins at Kelly@bethlehempluth.org



Heartfelt thanks to Bethlehem for prayers and care during Lois's illness and passing. Her funeral service was really special for us, and the luncheon was wonderful. My family and I all felt so at home with the delicious food and care given to us. Everything means so much to me during this very difficult time.

Fred Schrauth

Serving Opportunities!

Serving opportunities are available in several "behind the scenes" areas of ministry. Do you have interest and skills in organization, managing tasks working solo? Would you like to serve in a supportive role in key ministry areas? Can you serve 1 hour a week, or one hour a month?

For more information contact Kelly Collins at (630) 584-2199 or kelly@bethlehempluth.org.

Much appreciation and gratitude is expressed for the faithful service of the following disciples on our Congregational Care Team. Each is transitioning into new areas of serving.



Sarah Gable has coordinated our CareNotes ministry for the past year. She has been very diligent about taking care of orders, inventory, and displays for these special and encouraging notes. CareNotes can be found in the narthex, library and in the south main hallway. They offer support during challenging times, such as illness, death, stress and life transitions. She has also been active with our Funeral Luncheon ministry. Sarah has transferred to another faith community in Naperville, where she has become active in Bible study and fellowship. Abundant blessings be with you, Sarah!

Margie D'Alessandro has been involved in many aspects of our Care Ministry over several years; Reach Team, Stephen Ministry, Funeral Luncheons, and leading our Soul Food Soup Troop. Margie has been very generous in sharing her compassionate heart and her organizational skills and talents. She has blessed many of us at Bethlehem over the years. Can't wait to hear how God will use Margie next!

Marlys Anderson has led our Congregational Care Ministry Team for the past two years with dedication and passion. This team encompasses a number of ministries that touch dozens of people at any given time. Marlys' ability to keep in touch with our ministry coordinators was very helpful. Though her team leadership term is completed, we are grateful that Marlys will continue to co-lead our Funeral Luncheon ministry. She brings sincere compassion and hospitality to all she touches.

Friday Night Spring Mixer

Approximately 33 Bethlehem disciples gathered for a "Spring Mixer" on Friday evening, April 27. It was a light-hearted and casual evening in which everyone could connect and re-connect with others in the empty nester-retirement stage of life. With awesome appetizers, wine, lively conversation, and even a little "mixer" activity, it was a really fun evening. An early wrap up allowed some of us to get home for the 9:00 news (or bedtime?), and others to get down to Hesed House to serve the evening shift with our neighbors who are homeless.



One enthusiastic participant exclaimed that this was like Wednesday Night Live - for adults!

Many thanks to the awesome planning team for this event: Fran Nohling, Linda Bell, Lynne Hepler, Marlys Anderson, and Jo Masoncup. A special thanks to Fran for hosting this in the Crossings Clubhouse. It was a perfect place for us to gather. A special thanks to Les Hepler for his special support with set up and clean up. Watch for this group to gather again soon.

Many thanks to the senior saints and volunteer team that enjoyed the Maundy Thursday luncheon. Preparations began two days before with a small yet mighty team tasked with creating wonderful, homemade desserts including banana pudding and chocolate bread pudding. The full volunteer team arrived on Thursday morning to set tables, dish salads, prepare chicken cacciatore, and eagerly await the arrival of our senior saints. Everyone was looking great with the new BLC aprons! The beautiful centerpieces and bright sunlight set the tone for a delightful luncheon, ending in our favorite tradition, the Senior Saints Sing-Along led by Nancy Sen. Senior Saints, it's a blessing to serve you... and volunteers, including those that helped with transportation, it was a pleasure to serve alongside of you!
 Kate & Patrick Dockins



BBO Update

Welcome Adrienne McCauley

We've hired an organizer! This is the great news from the Fox River Valley Broad Based Organizing Initiative. After over a year of creating relationships with local churches and community groups, we are pleased to welcome Adrienne. She has hit the ground running, and has introduced herself to several Bethlehem disciples and an array of local community leaders. She will be working closely with Amy Lawless Ayala from the DuPage United Broad Based Organization, to build an organization that will work with other faith and civic groups on issues important to our congregation and community.

Bread for the World

Workshop ~ Sunday, May 6 10:30 a.m. - Education Hall

Learn about Bread for the World, and discover what food and hunger issues are currently being discussed in Congress. We'll conclude by composing an "Offering of Letters" to our congressman to support those with food and hunger needs. Questions? Contact Ted Maxeiner.



"BETHLEHEM'S GOT TALENT" SHOW FRIDAY, AUGUST 3

Do you sing - dance - play an instrument - tell jokes - do magic tricks - or have some other talents waiting to come out? We are looking for anyone aged 10 to 110 to show us what they've got! Watch for details to follow and sign-ups in the bulletin. Coming to Bethlehem's Fellowship Hall the beginning of August!



Sandbox Stories of Bethlehem Preschool

Bethlehem Preschool is feeling a little sad that the half-day preschool program has come to an end. To some families, it means taking a break for the summer and returning in the fall, moving on to kindergarten or waiting a year or two for their siblings to be old enough to enroll with us. We have been so blessed to have those families with us. We hope that they will visit often, and look forward to getting to know new families this fall.



If you are looking for something fun and affordable to do this summer for your children, please consider our **Summer Camps**. In addition to our usual one-week long camps, we are also offering several "mini" camps! Dates, times and camp themes are available online on Bethlehem's website: www.bethlehempluth.org.

Our child care program will remain open all through the summer. Many wonderful activities have already been planned. Call us if you need child care for the summer. We also offer part-time care.

Bethlehem Preschool wants to thank all the teachers, staff, the Preschool Ministry Team, Pastor Mark, and Pastor Rich for making our preschool so special for the children and their families. The quality experiences we were able to provide can only happen because we have people who truly care for the children and are supportive of the ministry. Thank you, thank you.

May all of you have a safe and fun summer!



Bible Stories with Pastor Mark



June 75+ Birthdays



Carl Albright	1st	Donald Schmidt	21st
June Henningson	9th	Pauline Cooper	22nd
Bob Warrick	12th	Luella Comstock	23rd
Ruth Peterson	14th	Shirley Covalsky	23rd
Richard Leckbee	15th	Robert Henningson	25th
Ike Speakman	15th	Marge Locke	25th
Kenneth Ellis	16th	Lorraine Baker	26th
Evelyn Seils	17th	Glenn Peterson	27th

Sympathy to . . .

- . . . Fred Schrauth following the death of his wife Lois
- . . . Dick Leckbee following the death of his niece Donna VanCamp
- . . . Jean Swenby following the death of her brother Mark Thompson
- . . . LaVerne Makar following the death of her brother in law Lorren Makar
- . . . Thom Sayasane following the death of his mother Sithong Sayasane
- . . . The family of Helen Anderson following her death



Pastoral Acts

Funerals~

Lois Schrauth
Helen Anderson

Baptisms~

Adelaide Grace Lutes
Taylor June Bell
Bryan Michael Bell
Julia Noelle Fugiel
Cameron Edward Fugiel



PRESCHOOL MINISTRY TEAM

The week of May 7-11th will be a special time to reflect and honor our wonderful teachers and staff at Bethlehem. We are truly blessed with the most dedicated bunch! We are excited to honor and give them a thankful feast for all they do. We are also thankful for all the continued ways that they nurture, care, and foster our children of Bethlehem. Your creativity and commitments shine in our classrooms, hallways, and even on our playgrounds. You make our preschool program top notch!



Tuesday, May 1 (May Day) will also bring joy to the special residents at Pine view Care Center Our children have created tissue paper flowers to deliver to the residents. They will sing their little hearts out in hope to brighten the day for and show respect to those special residents that carry the wisdom of life.

Tuesday, May 15 from 4:30 to close is Bethlehem Preschool night at the East Colonial Café. Enjoy dinner and drop your receipt in the box by the register to help raise money for our scholarship program.

Bethlehem preschool is supported by a loving group of family and church members that make up our ministry team. We meet once a month during the school year to support events with our talents and gifts. It's a time I look forward to gathering with a fantastic group of supportive people. We are always looking to build our team and encourage you to come. If this "knocks on your heart" please contact our Team Leader, Andrea Low .



Music Notes

May 6

8:00 Senior Choir
9:15 Praise Team
10:30 Youth Choir

May 20

9:15 Praise Team
10:30 Senior Choir

May 13 *The Lost Boy* musical

8:00 Cherub & Carol Choirs,
Sounds of Joy HB
9:15 Praise Team
10:30 Cherub & Carol
Choirs, Exaltation HB

May 27 Day of Pentecost

8:00 Senior Choir, Sounds
of Joy HB Ensemble
9:15 Praise Team
10:30 Senior Choir, Sounds
of Joy HB Ensemble



During the summer months we like to feature many of our musicians during worship services. How does this happen? Only with your help!! Do you play an instrument or sing? Are you willing to volunteer to serve

in this way? Do you know of others that you can encourage to do this? There are many folks who have great talents but who are never found. Let's be creative! Please sign the weekend registration slip and encourage others to do so. Also give this information to the Director of Music, Sylvia Weaver at Sylvia@bethlehempluth.org. **YOU** are invited to give this gift of music to God and to all who worship at Bethlehem.

DAY OF PENTECOST

Saturday, May 26, 5:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)

Sunday, May 27, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. (Sanctuary)
9:15 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)



This is the time to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church. The whole Easter mystery is now complete: the Crucifixion, the Resurrection and the gift of the Holy Spirit. This year your special offering will go to help support our Lutheran Schools in Palestine. The ELCA has four schools in Palestine that desperately need our help.



SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, July 31 at 7:00 p.m. LOMC High School Swing Choir will present a concert at Bethlehem. Look in the June Messenger for ways in which YOU can help to host and support this group of high school singers.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Staff

Office (630)584-2199 FAX (630)584-2674

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Bethlehem's Congregation Council

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Next MESSENGER Deadline: Friday, June 1st

The Messenger will be published again on June 6th. The deadline for this issue will be **Friday, June 1st**. You can e-mail your articles to michelle@bethlehempluth.org, fax them to (630) 584-2674 or place them in Michelle Fisher's box in the Duplicating Room. Call Michelle Fisher at the church with any questions.

Stay up-to-date with the weekly calendar on the "Special Events" page of our website!

www.bethlehempluth.org



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Mother's Day Gifts **May 13**

Honor your mother by giving to the ongoing initiative, "Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls" a ministry of the Women of the ELCA. This initiative promotes women's complete and total health: physical, spiritual, and emotional as its programs fund projects and agencies dedicated to education, and advocacy, emboldening women and girls to lead healthier lives.



Pentecost Giving **May 27**

Bethlehem will support our church schools in the Holy Land. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) considers "hope" a Christian imperative and a national survival skill. Through teacher training and development ELCJHL Schools invest in a hopeful future. Leadership development is key to the academic excellence of the schools fostering hope. The goal is to build a culture of peace by integrating peace education, conflict resolution, and interfaith dialogue into curricular and complementary programs in the ELCJHL schools. Our support is essential to the success of these programs.



Father's Day Gifts **June 17**

Habitat for Humanity and Fathers' Day Gifts Will Help to Complete House #12

If you would like to honor or memorialize a special father in your life on Fathers' Day, please consider a donation to our current Habitat for Humanity construction at this time. A \$10.00 gift goes a long way to purchase material, paint or insulation that will be used by volunteers to complete House #12 during the early summer weeks. You may participate in this appeal by using a special donation envelope in the worship areas. Please indicate your name as donor and the name of the father that you would like to honor or memorialize. All names will be listed in the worship bulletin on Fathers' Day, June 17.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit,
our mission is to invite all people to become disciples of Jesus Christ,
nurture each other's faith, and go into the world to live for God.