

feb2012

THE TIDINGS

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Inside this Issue

WELCA Update	2
Meet our Senior Pastor Candidate	2
From the Pastor	3
Stewardship & Finance Update	4
Winter Book Club	4
V.S.P. Winter Break	5
Church Council Highlights	6
Well of Wellness	7
Youth & Family Connect	8-9



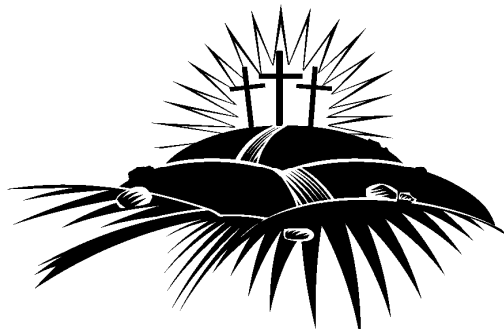
February 22, 2012

12:10p.m. Worship Service

6:30p.m. Worship Service

Lent 2012 - Christ On Trial

Gripping dramas that will bring us into the courtroom where Christ is on trial will be the focus of our midweek Lenten services this year. Ash Wednesday is February 22. On the last Wednesday before Holy Week, on March 28, there will be a service at Pioneer Care Center that will include all Fergus Falls ELCA congregations. Bishop Lawrence Wohlrabe will be the guest preacher at that service.



The Schedule for the Wednesdays in Lent Feb. 29, March 7, 14 & 21

12:10 p.m. Brief Worship, lunch to follow.

5:30 p.m. Simple Soup Supper

6:30 p.m. Worship Service

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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The “Tidings” is published monthly for members and friends of Bethlehem.
Deadline for articles is the 15th of each month.

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Parish Nurse -



Bethlehem Women of the ELCA

Bethlehem Women of the ELCA

2012 is off to a great start!! We have a new president - Yvonne Burt volunteered to serve and we are delighted. Now if someone is interested in the Vice President's position things would be even better!!!

There will be a change in the days we are meeting for Love Days. We will be meeting Tuesday and Wednesdays. Let's see if these days work out better and we can get more women to help with projects. We look forward to seeing you there.

We will again be serving Lenten Soup Meals. On March 14 Jessie Heyen will be in charge of the serving and on March 21 Barb Welle will be in charge. Please say yes if you are called to help with these meals.

Upcoming Events:

Feb. 21 & 22 Love Days from 9am-2pm
Mar. 6 WELCA Board Meeting 6pm
Mar. 14 Serve Lenten Meals
Mar. 21 Serve Lenten Meals

Meet our Senior Pastor Candidate Pastor Tom Peterson

Pastor Tom Peterson, presently service Eagle Lake Lutheran Church, Battle Lake, Minnesota, has been called to be the new senior pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls.

Tom is originally from South St. Paul, Minnesota, a graduate of the University of Minnesota and Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. He has served in Underwood, North Dakota, and Valley City, North Dakota, before coming to Eagle Lake in 2007.

Tom's wife, Cindy, is a music teacher at Battle Lake High School. They have three children; a son, an optometrist, in Colorado Springs, Colorado, a daughter, a medical student, at the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks, and a daughter in special effects media production, in Los Angeles, California.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

PRAYER SHAWLS

Knitters and Crocheter's we need your help! We are in need of more prayer shawls, shawls should be 2 1/2 ft wide by 5 ft long. There is yarn available at the church if needed. Thank you!



The Senior Pastor Shares some Thoughts

Dreams

“If you don’t have a dream, how you gonna have a dream come true?” Maybe you remember that line from a classic Broadway musical.

We just had our annual meeting. Annual meetings have a kind of dream quality about them. We look in two directions at the same time. We make reports but we also make plans. It’s like climbing a hill. When you reach the top you can look back and see where you’ve been and you can look ahead to where you’re going.

Bethlehem has been in a transition, between permanent pastors, during this last year. Being a healthy congregation we’ve made use of the wisdom, skills and energy of our talented members, leaders, pastors and other professionals who are continuing to serve. Our ministry has remained strong and effective. There’s delightful evidence of life and growth on every hand.

As your interim pastor nearing the end of a term of service I want to direct your attention to the future. Let’s try to catch a dream so that we can have a dream come true. Let’s try to see clearly what we are called to accomplish. I picture us as an outpost of the Gospel of Christ in this world. We are only one of several in this area, but I believe that we stand out from all the rest. That means that we can expect a lot of challenges in the future and that we will also have a lot of great excitement.

Someone has said, “Never give up on what you really want to do. The person with big dreams is always more powerful than the one who only has the facts.”

Facts are important, but we shouldn’t let them get in the way. We ought to dream noble dreams for the future; dreams of increased ministry to those who need material things but who also long for the freedom of the Gospel that we know so well.

Let me share a comment that offers a helpful insight into the task of catching a vision for Bethlehem. It comes from Peter Drucker, long recognized as the father of modern management. He is respected as the “most perceptive observer of the American scene in our times.” His comment is this:

“An organization begins to die the day it begins to be run for the benefit of the insiders and not for the benefit of the outsiders.”

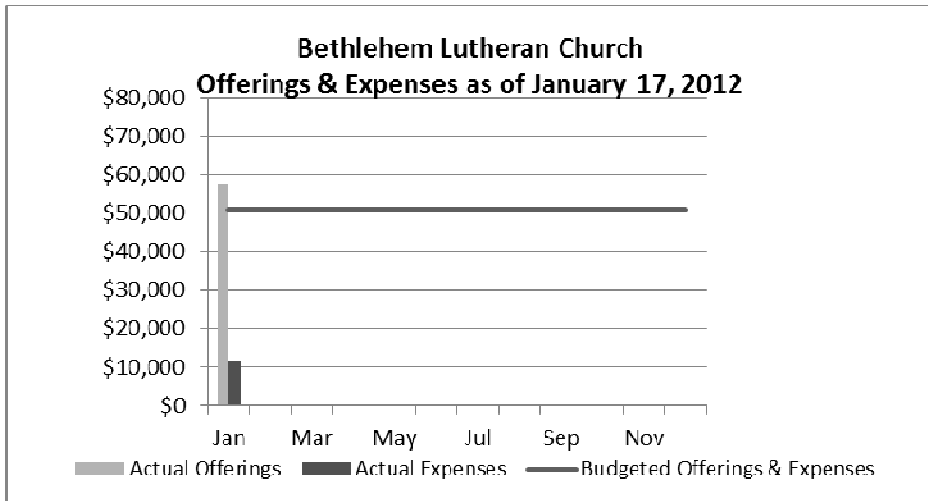
Our dream at Bethlehem has to look ahead but it also has to take a good hard look at the fields all around us that are ready for harvest. There are a lot of “average” Lutheran churches around. Bethlehem’s dream ought to be about aiming high and about continuing in our tradition of doing ministry that is far above “average.”

One of the statements that came from the Focus on the Future sessions we had in 2010 said that Bethlehem should be the church that is “open, warm, casual yet deeply spiritual and where the staff are all ‘real’ people.” During this interim period we have worked on staff coordination, worship quality, development of children’s and adult Christian education, getting members better acquainted with each other, assimilating new members and working with the Synod and Church-wide to bring Christ to the world. There’s still plenty left to do.

“If you don’t have a dream, how you gonna have a dream come true?” We have a dream and it will come true. Our Lord is faithful to his promises. “Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do. Ask in my name and I will do it.” John 14:12,14 Astonishing things lie immediately ahead. Thanks be to God.

Pastor Stan

Stewardship & Finance Update



Monthly Attendance Comparison

	2010	2011	2012
Jan	664	912	338
Feb	998	999	
Mar	997	1662	
Apr	1803	2150	
May	1356	1514	
Jun	804	961	
Jul	605	991	
Aug	913	655	
Sep	960	1091	
Oct	1589	1593	
Nov	1058	993	
Dec	1799	1922	

Offerings as of January 17, 2012

Month of	Budget	% Diff	YTD	Budget	% Diff	
Jan	\$ 57,399.27	\$ 97,076.09	-41%	\$ 51,927.81	\$ 46,825.83	11%

Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

Bethlehem Lutheran Church wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

Online Giving lets you go to www.bethlehemff.org at any time to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history.

If you already give electronically you may change the amount of your offering at any time by contacting Ginny Ronning at the church office, 736-5614, or go to our website. .



Bethlehem's February book-of-the-month *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie. I skipped from juvenile fiction right to adult fiction at about age 14. Back then, as now, I just want a well written book with an interesting plot and good character development; the thicker the better. Since I discovered the first Harry Potter book, I have enjoyed reading occasional young adult (YA) fiction. If you haven't read any YA books in the last dozen years, I highly recommend you check out the YA section in the public library. You may be surprised by the quality of the writing you find there.

I heard about *The Absolute True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie when he was interviewed on public radio shortly after the release of his book. This National Book Award Winner book is one of the best books I've ever read. The semiautobiographical novel is told in the first person by Arnold Spirit, a fifteen year old boy living on the Spokane Indian reservation. Heads up; it contains some mildly crude content typical of the average fifteen year old male but this language is infrequent and non gratuitous.

The title relates to Arnold's decision to leave the reservation school and attend the neighboring all-white public school. Subjects in the book include family, culture, friendship, alcoholism, basketball, poverty, death, and hope. Arnold's story is told with humor though it doesn't downplay his pain from poverty and the alcoholism around him. I highly recommend this book to students and staff at the NDSCS library where I work. I hope you enjoy it, too. We will discuss this book February 29 at both 2:00pm and 7:30pm.

~ Deb Zachmann, Bethlehem Library Committee

Winter Office Hours

Mon-Fri 8:30a.m.-12:00p.m. & 1:00-4:30p.m

Parish Education Office Hours are Tue 10am-12pm, Wed & Thu 12-2pm

V.S.P. Winter Break - no regular V.S.P. in February, however, the board will meet Friday, Feb. 17 at the Broen Home at 9:00am.

We have some good ideas for 2012 meetings and would also appreciate YOUR suggestions and/or involvement as a board member.

Circle Thursday, March 8 for our next V.S.P. Fellowship beginning at 11:00am. See you and a friend there!

PARISH NURSE Job Opportunity Bethlehem Church has an opening for two Parish Nurses. A current job description is available in the church office. Hours are flexible and it is a paid position. For more information or to apply for this position contact the church office at 736-5614 or blc@prtcl.com.

Phone Number Information Update

As many people have decided to have only cell phones we no longer have accurate information. Please provide the office with a phone number where you can be reached or information can be left. Thank you for helping us update our database.



Join our Bethlehem Prayer Chain

We have both phone and email chains available. If you would like to be a part of this rewarding ministry please contact the church office at 736-5614 or blc@prtcl.com.

Check us out on the web!
www.bethlehemff.org

MEMORIALS

January 2012

In memory of Emma Bradow	Bethlehem Foundation	10.00
	Morning Watch	10.00
In memory of Colleen Schauff	Stephen Ministry	25.00
	Morning Watch	20.00

Radio Broadcast

Bethlehem worship services can be heard on 1250 KBRF every Sunday morning at 8:30a.m.

Sponsorships

- 2/5 In memory of Bob Olson
- 2/12 Open
- 2/19 Open
- 2/26 Open
- 3/4 Open
- 3/11 Open
- 3/18 Open
- 3/25 In memory of Orlyn Pederson

Altar Flowers

- 2/5 Open
- 2/12 Rud & Timmy Wasson
- 2/19 Open
- 2/26 Mary Jo Igelstad
- 3/4 Larry & Patty Bonebrake
- 3/11 In memory of Matthew Nelson
- 3/18 Open
- 3/25 Open

Pastoral Acts

Funerals

- 1/17 Colleen Schauff



Friendly Visits

Bethlehem members make friendly visits to those who can't get out. Winter (especially) can feel long and lonely. If you would like a visit, or if you have a gift for visiting and enjoy spending time with someone who could benefit from a visit from you, please call the church office so you are included in this vital ministry at Bethlehem.

Your Church Council met on Tuesday, January 9, 2012

The meeting was called to order, and was started with inspiring devotions. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were approved. Pastor Stan and Pastor Kate gave their reports. Pastor Kate thanked all of the outgoing council members for their service.

Nathan Johnson gave an update concerning the screen and projector project. It is up and running, and has already been used during church services! We have heard many positive comments about the system. There will be training for the volunteers who will be running it. If you are interested in helping with this, please contact the church.

The council received a letter concerning the safety of the Christmas tree. It is a difficult tree to put up and there has been some deterioration of the tree itself. It was discussed that the church hire professionals to put up and take down the tree and/or buy a new tree. The council approved a committee consisting of Dick Pemberton, Cyndy Nystrom, Jeanne Schetnan, and Nathan Johnson to look into the different options and costs. If you have any comments or suggestions concerning the Christmas tree, please talk to one of these committee members.

The final 2012 budget was reviewed and approved. There was also a motion to include \$1000 in the 2012 budget to go towards the 2015 youth gathering. This motion was approved. We will have 5 youth and 2 adults attending the national youth gathering this year, and we hope to double those numbers for the 2015 gathering.

Council also approved the recommendation from the Call Committee to call Pastor Tom Peterson. And another motion was made and approved to call a Special Congregational meeting for January 29, 2012 to call said pastor immediately following the close of the Annual meeting.

In closing, I would like to thank the congregation and church council for allowing me to serve as the president over the last year. I learned that it takes many people and committees to run the church, and I hope to continue to serve in one way or another. I would like to encourage all of you to serve. There are many ways to do so. I could list so many people that helped me this year, but I might forget someone! So instead, thanks to all of you for your help and support!

Bobbi Nycklemoe



Are You Experiencing a "Winter" in Your Life?

In addition to the cold weather outside, many people experience "winters" in their personal lives. A recent loss through death, divorce, or relocation may leave them feeling lonely, A hospitalization, cancer diagnosis, or ongoing medical problems may leave them feeling isolated. The loss of a job, the fear of layoffs, or a financial setback can devastate one's self-esteem. Family and personal struggles may leave them with nowhere to turn for support. If you are going through a difficult time, our Stephen Ministers can bring God's warm love back into your life. They provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They will meet with you privately on a weekly basis to listen, support, and encourage you, to pray with and for you, and to walk with you for the duration of your crisis.

To find out more about Stephen Ministry and how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen minister, talk with our Stephen Leaders: Pastor Kate and Darlene Sigurdson. Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!

Church Council

Term ending January 2013

Kristi Angus
Jill Debrito
Al Koeckeritz
Mike Metzger
Laura Pearson

Term ending January 2014

Dennis Johnson
Cindy Nystrom
Penny Rogelstad
Jeanne Schetnan
Marc Sikkink

Term ending January 2015

Abby Drouillard
Randy Hansen
Cindy Keller
Keith Olson
Ed Zahler

Executive Committee

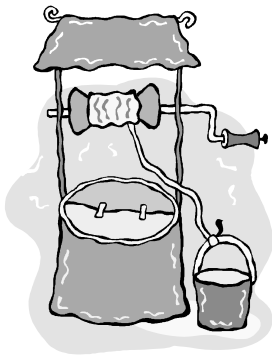
Alex Schwarzhoff - Chair
- Vice Chair
Jill Debrito - Secretary
Al Koeckeritz - Treasurer

**Sunday Morning Van Rides
are available for our
10:45a.m. worship service.**

**If you would like a ride
please contact the church office
at 736-5614.**

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED to serve on
the V.S.P. Board.**

If you would enjoy serving on our V.S.P. Board, we'd love having you as part of our team! Just call the church office at 736-5614 to make us aware of your willingness to help in this way. Thank you.



WELL OF WELLNESS

During Lent, the members of Bethlehem will have a chance to work together toward a single goal. We will be raising money to finance a well in a Third World country through ELCA Good Gifts. This ties in with the mission focus of the Lutheran Youth Gathering happening this summer in New Orleans. They, too, will be raising money for wells. The money our congregation raises will go with our youth who are attending the Gathering.

Each well costs \$2,500.00. Our congregational goal is to raise enough to finance one well. We will collect donations all through Lent.

Look for ways to help out. There will be several avenues through which you can donate time, talent and money.

This is how the wells are described in the ELCA Good Gifts catalogue:

Water is a basic necessity of life. Helping a community construct and maintain a water well opens a world of opportunity. With each working well, as many as 500 families gain access to clean, safe drinking water. People no longer thirst. They are healthier and stronger. Sanitation improves. And best of all, women and children who used to spend several hours each day fetching water can reallocate their time to school, work and family.

So, the well will be a healthy addition to a community in need. This project will also add to the wellness of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. We can pull together as a congregation, encourage each other to get involved and work toward a common goal. Our well will truly be a Well of Wellness.

Thank you for embracing this project.

Your Evangelism Committee,

Kathy Wagnild, Amy Fronning, Nathan Johnson, Sally Nelson, and Gene Manning

Greetings from Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota!

One of my favorite quotes goes something like, **“Loving someone is the ability to sing their song when they can’t remember the words.”** I can’t remember where I read it or who said it, or even the exact words. But the sentiment touched my heart and made a permanent home there.

That’s how a lot of memories are. Precious and a little fuzzy around the edges. The greatest concern among people we work with is the loss of memory, the deterioration of mental function due to aging. The good news is that, unless you have a specific disease that causes loss of nerve cells, most of your brain neurons will remain healthy right up until the end if you take care of them.

While you’re focusing on your heart health this month, think of your brain health too. Yes, those same antioxidants, Omega-3s and B vitamins that benefit your body are necessary for brain health...but let’s take it a step further.

To keep your brain healthy and active, you must get out of your comfort zone once in awhile and try something new. Participate in ballroom dancing, water aerobics or just moving about the house to music. Do a crossword, write a letter, solve a mystery. Instead of complaining, do research and propose a solution. Stay engaged in your community.

Healthy@HOME, along with many other LSS programs, “expresses the love of Christ for all people through service that inspires hope, changes lives and builds community.” For more information, please call 736-5431 (ext 240) or email me at Kristin.Howell@lssmn.org.

“A healthy attitude is contagious, but don’t wait to catch it from others. Be a carrier.” ~ Stoppard

Senior High Happenings

9:12 Youth Group

Wednesday Nights 7:30 pm-9 pm
Join us for games, cookies, and Bible study. It is tons of fun!

Dinner and Discussion

No dinner and discussion in Feb.
See you March 11

Senior High Dinner & A Movie

Feb. 25

5:30 pm– 8:30 pm

Join us for dinner (we will make it) and a movie. We always seem to have a good time!



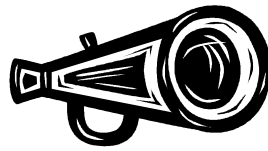
REMINDER - If there is a **NO TRAVEL ADVISORY** for Fergus Falls there will be **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL AND THE BUS WILL NOT GO OUT.**

This does not mean Church services are cancelled.

Check us out
on the web!

www.bethlehemff.org

YOUTH & FAMILY CONNECT



Confirmation Announcements

Feb. 1– Confirmation (5:45 pm-7:30 pm) with dinner

Feb. 8- Confirmation (5:45 pm-7:30 pm) with dinner

Feb. 15– Service Project Night (No Meal)

Wednesdays during Lent will look like this:

Lenten Soup Suppers: 5:30 pm

Family Confirmation: 6 pm

Lenten Worship: 6:30 pm

February 22: Ash Wednesday (No Confirmation)

February 29: Family Confirmation

March 7: Family Confirmation

March 14: Family Confirmation

March 21: Family Confirmation

March 28: No Confirmation

April 4: Holy Week (No Confirmation)



Camp Sunday Feb. 5th

There will be someone here from Luther Crest. They will be sharing a temple talk, children sermon, and talking with the kids at Sunday School. Come and learn about Summer Camp at Luther Crest.

Dates to keep in mind

June 25-28: Day Camp at Bethlehem with Luther Crest

July 8-15: Bethlehem Week at Luther Crest but you can go anytime that works for you!

It's Not to Late to Get Signed Up!

7th-9th Grader Winter Retreat

"I-Pod, I- Phone, I- Follow



...You must be Holy because I,
the Lord God am Holy.

Luther Crest

Feb. 17-18

Cost: \$60

Join us for fun winter outdoor games and activities, arts and crafts, crazy counselors, worship, and bible diving.

Sign-up by **Feb. 4th** with a **\$30 non-refundable deposit.**

Upcoming Dates to Remember

February 5

3yr olds-5/kind. sing for 10:45a worship

February 12

3-4th grade drama for 10:45a worship

February 19

No Sunday School

February 26

New Life Choir sing for 10:45a worship

March 4

1-5th grade sing for 10:45a worship

March 11

3yr olds-5/kind. sing for 10:45a worship

March 18

SPARK Family

4:5 Youth Group

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

1st & 3rd Wednesday

3:30 pm-5 pm

Join us for games, snack, and lesson!

The church van will pick them up **after school** at the high school and bring them to church. They need to be picked up at **5pm** from church.

Feb. 1: Promise to Noah

Feb. 15: Call of Abraham

March 7: Jacob Struggles

March 21: In the Wilderness



GYFTS

Growing Young Families
Together Socially

Wacky Bowling

Feb. 26

3:30pm-5:00pm

Meet at Northern Aire
Bowling Lanes

Kids!! Bring your parents along to enjoy a fun afternoon of bowling.

Wear a wacky outfit-the wackier the better!



Middle School Youth Night

(6th-8th graders)

3rd Sunday of the month

6 pm-7:15 pm

Fellowship Hall

February 19- Crazy Relays

March 18- Fun Games

Come and check it out!

Friends are welcome!

Youth Tubing @ Andes

6th-12th Grade

Feb. 20th

11 am-4 pm

Cost: \$20

(bring food or money for food)

Join us for a day of tubing, fellowship, and fun. We will meet at church at 10:45 am and be back at 4pm.

Sign up by Feb. 15th

Contact Jenny:

Work: 736-5614 ext. 22

Cell: 770-5754

E-mail: jennyjohnson@prtcl.com

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
102 West Junius Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537



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Change Service Requested

THE TIDINGS

February 2012

Pastors: Pastor Stanley O. Satre
Pastor Kate Bruns

Winter Schedule

Traditional Worship Service 8:30
Contemporary Worship Service 10:45
Holy Communion – 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays
Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30 – 4:30
Telephone 218-736-5614 E-mail – blc@prtel.com
Website – www.bethlehemff.org



Bethlehem
Proudly Sells
Fair Trade
Coffee, Tea
and Chocolate



Bethlehem Lutheran Church now offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give anytime from your smart phone. Simply scan the image you see here using your phone's Quick Response (QR) code reader!