

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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We Are on the Web

www.bethlemlutheranauburn.org

Worship Services

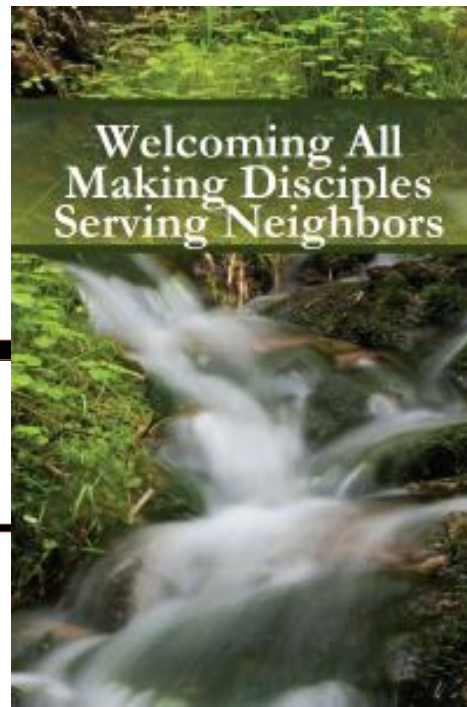
Saturday Evening 5:00 PM

Sunday Morning 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Evening Service of Meditation, Prayer
and Peace— Second and fourth Sun-
days a month at 5:30 PM



At
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
7:00 PM
Wednesday, November 27



November 2013

The Herald

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Welcoming All Making Disciples Serving Neighbors

Pastor's Page

A special occasion in our wor-
ship life came at the end of the month,
October 27 when we observed **Refor-
mation Sunday**. It is properly ob-
served on the Eve of All Hallows, Oc-
tober 31st, the eve before All Saints'
Day. That's when we give thanks for
the host of all the baptized, redeemed
of God, and especially those who have
gone before us in the sign of faith. The
Lutheran calendar, however, permits
Reformation to be an observance on
the preceding Sunday. The original
seminal event was in 1517 when Martin
Luther posted 95 thesis (statements) of
church abuses exposed and rejected by
the Gospel of Jesus. The Gospel, as we
know, is the good news that it is by
grace through faith that we are justified
and set free.

Those are big words, "justified,"
"grace," "set free." Maybe too big to get
our arms around easily. It can be tough
because . . . well, we may not be all that
free to begin with, or certainly not as
free as we wish we could be. Even the
privileged, informed people of Jesus'
day (it's part of Reformation Sunday's
Gospel reading) had trouble with this.
What do mean, "We will be made free,"
they asked. "We . . . have never been slaves
to anyone!" They just didn't get it that
God in Jesus was reaching through all
the facades of rights and wrongs, goods
and bads, to start over – to give each of
us place and position in the heart and
universe of God. The stuff they liked
and trusted about themselves hog-tied
them to think and act otherwise. They
weren't free.

They weren't free to just let God

be God, no matter what. No matter
what race. No matter what color. No
matter what religion, what national
origin, what age, what gender . . .
("protected classes" in U.S. anti-
discrimination law is a good place to
start building a list). They weren't free
to let God be Healer and giver of life;
the One who restores to relationship,
to community, to wholeness. No,
when they like us are "un-free" (Jesus
actually said "slaves"), we like them end
up in brokenness, hurt, dismal strife,
dashed hopes . . . it's an endless list.
It's a gloomy, dismal list.

So, "justified" is the Healing, Re-
storing part of God's impact on us.
"Grace" is the starting all over on us, no
matter what. And "set free" is the busi-
ness of our taking it to heart to live, act
and love freely . . . no matter what, as
those to whom it has been given a holy,
unbelievably generous re-start. That's
really good news!

As a kind of send-off, then, our
call to be re-formed, renewed and re-
freshed in this *grace* launches us into
November. The very first day is **All
Saints Day**, that jubilantly awesome
occasion to celebrate our place among
all the redeemed, with special thanks-
giving to those who have gone before
us. At month's end we crown it all
(pun intended) with **Christ the King
Sunday**. He is, indeed, the king of
love, grace, hope and peace!

**Join the celebration of
Worship!**

CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR

Bryon Hansen

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Casey Tinnin

OFFICE MANAGER

Joy Johnson

WORSHIP COORDINATOR

Denise Nelson

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE

Randi Olson

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Kathye Hamm

CHURCH COUNCIL

President

Karen Stein

Vice President

Amos Olson

Secretary/Treasurer

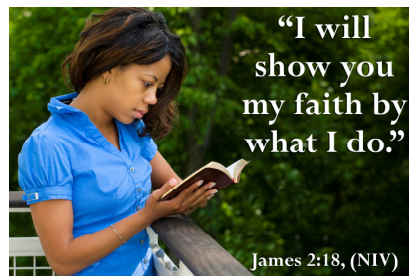
Don Schultze

Members at Large:

Laura Hesse

Scott Smith

Christie Sonmez



Blessing of Vocations

For the last 4 years, we have had a Blessing of the Backpacks and have sent our students, teachers, aides and administrators out to the world with a token to help them to remember that God is with them – even when they are at school. It occurred to us, that it is unfair that we have been blessing only a small segment of our congregation. God is with all of us in our daily vocations – not just in schools! So over the next year, about every other month, we will be blessing many different types of vocations: sales, care givers, government workers, retired, etc... We will be asking you to bring a symbol of your work to church on a Saturday evening or Sunday morning and you will be blessed and sent with a token to help you to remember that God is with you – even when you are at work!

Saturday, November 2 and **Sunday, November 3**, we will be blessing those who work in **SALES**. This may be retail, food service, wholesale, manufacturing: if you sell something – we want to bless you! Bring an item with you that you use at work, or is a symbol of your work, and we will bless it. You will be given a token to take with you. If you have any questions, please talk to me. Coming in December... Care Givers!

Notes from the Congregational President

I understand that there are congregation members who are having a difficult time accepting the ELCA's position on homosexuality, and with our church council's decision to hire a youth director. We must work for Christ's love and reconciliation in our congregation. I wanted to follow up with you regarding the process taken with hiring Casey as our Youth Director. The hiring team reviewed approximately 40 resumes, and conducted approximately 15-20 phone interviews throughout the year, with more phone interviews scheduled with applicants who did not show up. We had 3 telephone interviews with Casey prior to meeting him for the in-person interview. He provided a background check and excellent references. He was an excellent candidate and he is an excellent Youth Director. This is the same process that was used with hiring the previous two youth directors at BLC. It's my opinion that the council acted appropriately in hiring Casey, following historical practices and the constitution in hiring staff to a position approved by the congregation. To my knowledge the only time we approach the congregation prior to hiring a named individual to the staff is for a called Pastoral position. Your church council has been concerned about addressing this candidate without discrimination.

I am considering the suggestion of having the Synod office provide guidance in addressing the general issue of the church's position on sexuality, including the ordination of homosexuals. My preference was to wait until after the first of the year, in hopes that our pastors intervention will help us to move through the Advent season into Christmas in a peaceful, loving manner. I do feel that it is the responsibility of every member to work toward an understanding of and reconciliation with the ELCA's position on sexuality. And I hope that in the end our congregation will be able to embrace Casey as the amazing person he is, with Christ's love, as we are called to do. In Christ's Love, **Karen Stein, President**

BETHLEHEM STEPHEN MINISTRY UPDATE

Stephen Ministers are available now for caregiving situation. What might those be? Just about any of life's situations where having someone to listen confidentially and support you unconditionally would be welcome.

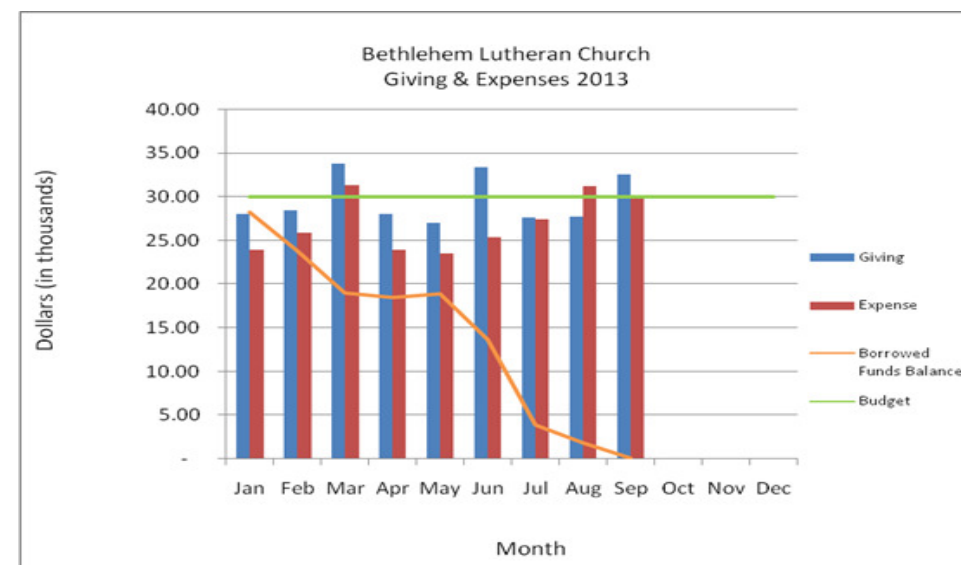
If you are thinking about this support arm for helping with a life situation, or would simply like to learn more about what a Stephen Minister does, please speak with the Pastor, or any of these Stephen Leaders: Jo Reid, Susan Christensen, or Joe Irvin. We are ready to serve.

Plus, we are getting ready to start a new training class-exciting times! We'll begin in November, and will conduct the training jointly with Sierra Grace Fellowship. Classes will take place one night a week (Thursday, if looks like), with an occasional Saturday mixed in. Even as 50 yours of class time seems like a big commitment, it is a rewarding journey-just ask any of those who have been through it!

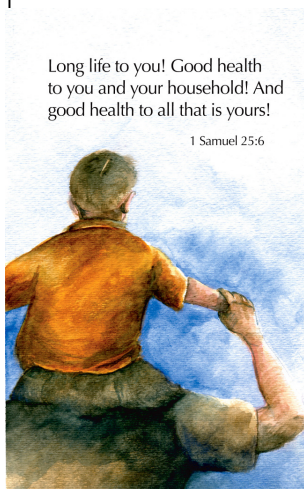
If you would like more information, please speak with Susan Christensen right away. She can be reached by phone at 916-798-9426



The graph for Giving & Expenses reflects that support exceeded expenses by \$2,786 as September had five weekends. The debt has been reduced to \$124 !!



Please contact me if you have any questions, Don Schultze (916-276-4880)



AFFORDABLE CARE ACT FORUM Please join us for an Health Care Reform here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Monday, November 4th from 5:00 to 6:30 PM. Appetizers will be served. The program will cover; Eligibility, Coverage, Enrollment Assistance and you will also have the opportunity to talk with certified Enrollment Counselors.

Wholistic Health For the Soul



Exodus 23:16 "You shall observe the festival of harvest, of the first fruits of your labor, of what you sow in the field. You shall observe the festival of ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in from the field the fruit of your labor."

Thanksgiving is such a wonderful time of the year to observe all the goodness of our God. Gardeners are especially excited to not only look back on all the wonderful fruits and vegetables their gardens have produced throughout the growing season, but begin to pull out the remnants of the very last plants and their fruits to ready the ground for the next crop. With a little bit of natural fertilizer and water, some good seeds, and a whole bunch of tender loving care, new plants will sprout and nutritious food will be enjoyed again. This cycle goes on again, and again, and again.

So it is with the goodness of God. He gives us food, not only the body building food, but also food for our Spirits, over and over and over again. It is never ending!!! There is a teacher from Wisconsin who takes his third grade class in a city on the east coast where he is teaching, out into an apple orchard to glean apples that were left after harvest to rot on the ground. With the many pounds of apples the children glean, the local soup kitchen is able to serve fresh red apples, as well as apple crisp, apple sauce, apple pie, apple relish, baked apples, and more to the homeless, and also send them off with a bag of apples under their arm. One simple gesture is worth many full tummies. The spirit of giving is alive and well in the heart of that teacher as well as all of his students.

In this month's American Institute for Cancer Research periodical, four fall foods that fight cancer are listed. They include apples, cranberries, parsnips/rutabagas, and winter squash. The cancers found to be reduced by eating these tasty items are colon, lung, breast, esophageal, mouth, pharynx, and larynx. The main advantage of eating these foods is to decrease the inflammation in one's system through high fiber, antioxidants, vitamin A and C, minerals and folate intake. They also help in keeping blood pressure in normal limits, which in turn fends off other diseases.

So this Thanksgiving and throughout the winter, chop up an apple into your turkey stuffing, toss dried cranberries into your oatmeal, mash a rutabaga or parsnip in with your mashed sweet potatoes, and puree' butternut squash into a nutritious soup. The God-given "fruits" of the season will nourish your tummy as well as satisfy your soul.

Randi Olson, BLC faith community nurse

From our Director of Youth

Dear BLC Friends,

I would first like to thank all of you who attended our concert and silent auction fundraiser! We had an amazing turn out, and so much fun hosting it! Your participation and generosity continue to bless and humble us in the youth ministry program.

In the month of November I will be taking the youth group to a Christian concert at the Sleep Train Arena. Tickets are \$10.00, for a three-hour concert! For any that might listen to Christian music and would be interested in going we will leave here around 3pm on Saturday November 2nd and my guess is that we will not get home until around 11pm. Please let me know ahead of time if you plan on joining us.

Please keep your eyes and ears open as we head towards Advent. The youth will be creating an Advent devotional this year as a fundraiser for our mission trip this summer. The mission trip will be an excursion from Mexico to Canada. Along the way we will partner with people in their local communities who are doing the work of Jesus, and transforming peoples lives. My hope is that young people will be empowered by the work they are doing and seeing and will come home ready to make transformations in our community.

Together we push forward trusting that God leads us,
Casey



Artists who participated in Sanctuary Gallery this year recently held a luncheon to kick off the new season. Each took and prepared a recipe which Leonardo DiVinci ate, or was prepared in his time. (His favorite was minestrone soup!) Sample dishes were: minestrone Toscano, cassata (Easter cake) and Catherine's sorbetto (as in Catherine DiMedici) among several others. It was great fellowship and food! Next year, who knows: munching with Monet???



Daily Lectionary for November 2013

F Psalm 32:1-7
 Job 22:21—23:17
 2 Peter 1:1-11
Sa Psalm 32:1-7
 Isaiah 1:1-9
 John 8:39-47
Sunday November 3
 Isaiah 1:10-18
 Psalm 32:1-7
 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
 Luke 19:1-10
M Psalm 50
 Nehemiah 13:1-3, 23-31
 1 Corinthians 5:9-13
Tu Psalm 50
 Zechariah 7:1-14
 Jude 5-21
W Psalm 50
 Amos 5:12-24
 Luke 19:11-27
Th Psalm 17:1-9
 Deuteronomy 25:5-10
 Acts 22:22—23:11
F Psalm 17:1-9
 Genesis 38:1-26
 Acts 24:10-23

Sa Psalm 17:1-9
 Exodus 3:13-20
 Luke 20:1-8
Sunday November 10
 Job 19:23-27a
 Psalm 17:1-9
 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
 Luke 20:27-38
M Psalm 123
 Job 20:1-11
 2 Peter 1:16-21
Tu Psalm 123
 Job 21:1, 17-34
 2 John 1-13
W Psalm 123
 Job 25:1—26:14
 John 5:19-29
Th Psalm 98
 1 Samuel 28:3-19
 Romans 1:18-25
F Psalm 98
 Isaiah 12
 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12
Sa Psalm 98
 Ezekiel 10:1-19

Luke 17:20-37
Sunday November 17
 Malachi 4:1-2a
 Psalm 98
 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
 Luke 21:5-19
M Psalm 141
 Ezekiel 11:14-25
 Ephesians 4:25—5:2
Tu Psalm 141
 Ezekiel 39:21—40:4
 1 Corinthians 10:23—11:1
W Psalm 141
 Ezekiel 43:1-12
 Matthew 23:37—24:14
Th Psalm 46
 2 Chronicles 18:12-22
 Hebrews 9:23-28
F Psalm 46
 Zechariah 11:1-17
 1 Peter 1:3-9
Sa Psalm 46
 Jeremiah 22:18-30
 Luke 18:15-17

Sunday November 24
 Jeremiah 23:1-6
 Psalm 46
 Colossians 1:11-20
 Luke 23:33-43
M Psalm 24
 Jeremiah 46:18-28
 Revelation 21:5-27
Tu Psalm 24
 Isaiah 33:17-22
 Revelation 22:8-21
W Psalm 24
 Isaiah 60:8-16
 Luke 1:1-4
Th Psalm 122
 Daniel 9:15-19
 James 4:1-10
F Psalm 122
 Genesis 6:1-10
 Hebrews 11:1-7
 Sa Psalm 122
 Genesis 6:11-22
 Matthew 24:1-22



In our busy world, it is hard to find the motivation to participate regularly in faith formation opportunities at church – especially as a family. So, to help you find the motivation to join us Wednesday Nights at “The Well,” we’re starting **FAMILIES 4 FAITH!** If your family comes to dinner, class and worship on Wednesdays 4 weeks in a row, you will earn prizes! The more times you come 4 weeks in a row, the “bigger” the prizes. What if someone is sick, or you have a family vacation? You have the opportunity to make up any 2 Wednesdays by completing an activity from Vibrant Faith @ Home, or by coming to worship as a family.

We have our first 4 in a row families! Have you seen their pictures on the bulletin board?

1 FOUR IN A ROW

Cindy and Kylie Bowman Julie and Allison Magee Denise and Charles Nelson
 Art, Linda and Ella Otto Paul, Alexa and Linn Tjornholm



“Arise!”

September 8, 2013—May 8, 2014 ~9:45—10:45 am

Arise! and join us for *play-n-worship* every Sunday! These play-along Bible stories help toddlers and twos know Jesus through purposeful play and joy-filled worship videos. **Arise!** and join us for Godly Play every Sunday! This innovative learning draws on the traditions of ancient storytelling. The Godly Play classroom provides a space to worship God, not just speak about God. Just as adults experience the Sanctuary as sacred space, so do the children experience the Godly Play room as sacred space. **Age 3 years – 5th grade**



Wednesdays at “The Well”

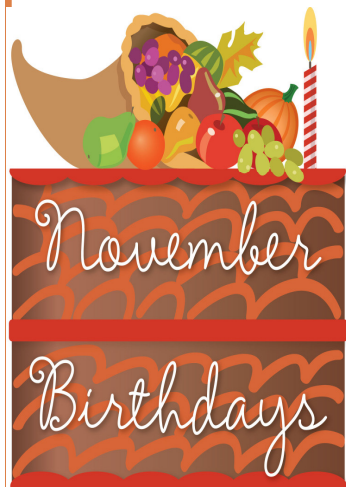
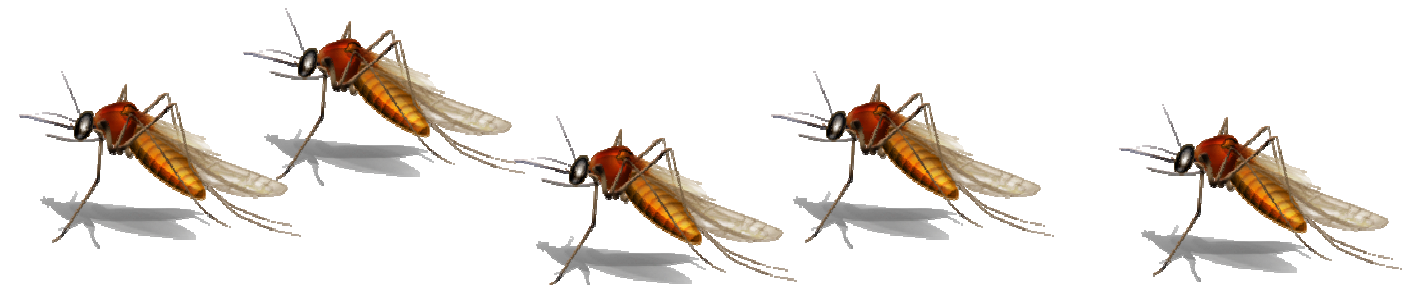
September 4, 2013 – June 4, 2014
5:30pm Dinner 6:00—7:30 pm Class

Wednesday (K.O.W.) Holy Moly we’re bringing the Bible to life with animated Bible story retellings and activities that encourage creativity and imagination. **Age 3 years – 5th grade**

Nursery care is available for those too young to participate in K.O.W.

[For more information talk to Mrs Kathy Hamm](#)

WHAT’S THE BUZZ????



Peggy Dunievit	Karen Stein	Russ Stein
Linda Greenlee	Reinhard Riedel	Terry Mornin
Sharoin Brower	Marie-Claire Desplancke	Juliane Houston
Nancy Bender	Kathy Ryan	Hal Nielsen
Sarah Anderberg	Britt Olson	Jan Riedel
Mo Stevens	Dave Erickson	Tim Twietmeyer
Anne Marie Holt	Jason Lee	
Donetta Barnhart	Collin Houston	
Kylie Bowman	Edith Jensen	
Mary Kay Gregersen		