

CHURCH STAFF

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FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE

Randi Olson

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Kathye Hamm



Pastors Page ~ The Year of Matthew

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. (Matthew 11: 28-30)

Several years ago someone conducted a survey to determine the most popular passages in the Bible. The top vote getters were chapters 5, 6 and 7 in the Gospel of Matthew. Known as "The Sermon on the Mount," these passages contain some of Jesus' most poignant teachings including the Beatitudes, the golden rule, the admonition to love enemies, and teaching on the Lord's Prayer. Over the next several weeks, when you come to worship, you can expect to hear the Gospel reading from these well known passages. In fact, over the next year (save some Sundays in Lent and Easter), you can count on hearing all the Gospel readings coming from Matthew.

What makes the year of Matthew different, say, than Mark or Luke? Does Matthew have a distinctive

message? What is the dominant image or portrait of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel?

The Sermon on the Mount certainly provides a clue. Jesus does a lot of teaching in Matthew. He is portrayed as no ordinary teacher but a teacher of "higher righteousness." In other words, that which Jesus teaches exceeds the righteousness taught by the religious leaders in his day. Put another way, Jesus wasn't so intent on mastering the "letter of the law." Jesus aimed at the Spirit of the law – loving God and loving others as we love ourselves.

What Jesus describes and calls forth in this teaching is a way of life. It can never be reduced to a list of rules. Jesus is no dispassionate teacher. Matthew wants us to know, trust and believe that Jesus is none other than God with us. He is, first of all, God's gift of love and we discover Jesus' presence and enjoy relationship with Jesus in the community of the church. That's why, in Matthew's Gospel, Je-

sus is fond of saying that where two or three are gathered in his name that he is there in the midst of them.

Furthermore, Matthew wants to trust that just as God is present in Jesus and Jesus is present in the church, so the church must be present in the world. Jesus commissions us to be salt for the earth and light for the world and to discover his presence in the needy neighbor. At the conclusion of the Gospel, Jesus commands us to go into the world and to make disciples of all, baptizing and teaching.

What we discover is no ordinary teacher but the very Son of God, summoning us to the righteousness of love - relationship with God, with each other and with the neighbor. Welcome to the year of Matthew. Join me this year in learning and praying our way through this amazing Gospel to help us discover again the God who dwells among us and is truly for us.

Peace,

Pastor Bryon +

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Members at Large:

Debbie Clark

Jaron Latona

Bob Thiessen

Shawn Wakefield



**EVERY STEP OF
THE WAY.....HE
WALKS WITH ME!**

Wholistic Health For the Soul

“By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” Luke 1:78-79

My Mom and Dad sang duets for many occasions in our community, and especially for church services. One of the songs I vividly remember to which they harmonized was “In the Garden”. The chorus went something like;

**And He walks with me
and He talks with me,
and He tells me I am
His own. And the joys
we share as we tarry
there, none other, has
ever known.”**

For many reasons I loved hearing them sing that song, my Mom in her strong alto voice and Dad in his baritone counter-melody. But more than their blending of voices, I always thought how fortunate I was to have parents who were Christian and who were not afraid to share their love of God through song. And they were also individuals who enjoyed sitting on the porch early in the morning to share devotions together, later to get up and go for a walk, either together or separately as time permitted. I would always

know that they were on a walk with God.

Walking in the early morning or evening brings a solace to one’s soul. In addition to being very important for our physical health, it is necessary for our spiritual growth. We can shed our sedentary lifestyle for a short time and feel good about it later, knowing our hearts and lungs have gotten a bit of help in staying flushed with good blood and oxygen.

A study published in October 2010 in an issue of Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise states that in the U.S., an average adult takes 5,117 steps a day. Western Australians take 9,695, and the Swiss, 9,650. with the Japanese taking 7,168 steps per day. This boils down to the fact that a Japanese walks about a mile (2,000) steps) more a day than an American. Mayo Clinic doctors encourage the average American to reach 10,000 steps a day, but any small increase is important. Usually 20 minutes of brisk walking per day increases your heart rate and strength. Pedometers can be purchased in most sport stores, and it is rather fun to clip one on your belt and just see how many steps you log up on a

given day. Even walking with a walker or cane inside your home is good if you can tolerate increasing the distance or number of steps each day a little.

In Luke, we read that God comes to us while we are walking as well as sitting in prayer. He shares His love with us every step we take, while going through darkness and illness, guiding our feet in peace all the way.

Last Monday evening we heard Dr. Hamilton suggest that before we can receive comfort and healing psychologically, we need to accept God’s Spirit of Love in our “core”. Maybe walking in the quiet sunrise or sunset would help us find that space.....our deep soul, where we can pour out our thoughts and feelings and know that God is with us, listening....reassuring us that we are truly God’s and God will take care of us.

The invitation to walk with the **Happy Souls** group is always open....Tuesdays at 5:30 PM, meeting in the church parking lot.

Blessing to you all as we keep our hearts open and healthy.

Randi, *Faith Community Nurse.*

12 Things You Don't Know About Mrs. Kathy Hamm

Number 3: I lived in Thailand! My Dad was in the army and was attached to Air America during the Vietnam War. He was on an extended tour, so we were able to join him in Udorn, Thailand. We lived “on the economy” in a rented large house surrounded by a fence topped with barbed wire, as we were the “rich” Americans. We had a maid and a guard. Across the street was a shack on stilts – the people lived above and the pigs below. I was in first grade and went to school on the Air Force base. My Mom had to fly to Bangkok to do her grocery shopping. My Dad flew to the war every day, but got to come home to us most nights. We traveled around the country on the weekends – one time looking across the Mekong river into Vietnam. For Christmas, we had a paper fireplace with a chimney so Santa could visit. My mom became seriously ill and had to be flown back to the states on a medical flight, so our time there was cut short – less than a year.

**KIDS
CORNER**

Kids Night Out!

Saturday, February 12 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Kids, wouldn't you love an evening out with no parents?

Who: All kids preschool – 5th grade

BRING A FRIEND!

Where: Bethlehem Lutheran Church

What: Pizza, movies and games with Mrs Kathy Hamm

How Much: \$5 to cover the cost of dinner

R.S.V.P. to Mrs Kathy Hamm by Sunday, February 5

Questions or want to sign up?

Talk to or e-mail Kathy at

kids@bethlehelutheranauburn.org

or call the church at 530-885-4515



God's Global Barnyard

Thanks to your generous donations, we have collected \$448.25. That's enough for a fish farm, sheep, duck and 38 chicks! Watch the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall to see our progress. A cow costs \$500, I'm pretty sure we can “buy” a cow by May!

See Kathy Hamm if you have questions or need a “barn bank”

Kid's Annual Faith Retreat



Mission Outerspace:

Shine Like the Stars!

When: March 11 – 13, 2011

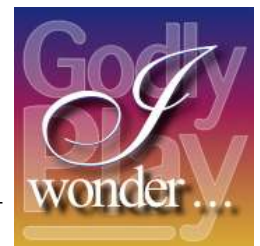
Where: Sly Park in Pollock Pines

Cost: \$115 due no later than February 13

I've taken kids many years to this excellent event – please talk to me if you are interested in sending your 3rd – 5th grader!

Godly Play for Adults

**Quarterly Adult's
Only Godly Play
Sessions**



It's time for adults to experience the wonder of Godly

Play! Join us from 10:00 – 11:00 am on Saturday, February 12 in the Godly Play Room.

Questions? Talk to or e-mail Kathy at kids@bethlehelutheranauburn.org or call the church at 530-885-4515



Stephen Ministry Update

The Stephenites send their greetings, fellow members and friends of Bethlehem, and warmly wish you a happy and healthful new year! Some tidbits to get caught up...

- We are beginning the year strong, with a new training class - the Fab Five. We welcome them with thanksgiving and assurance that they will be blessed by the training before in turn helping

others. The new trainees include: Suzi Buse, Jan Rumbut, Virginia Sizemore, Jeff Riswold, and Dave Scherman. Offer a word of encouragement if you see one of them -- they have a lot of classroom time ahead.

- Look for Stephen Ministers on the first weekend of services each month at the coffee fellowship, beginning Feb. 6 -- that will be us slingin' the coffee, shufflin' the muffins, and

schleppin' the lemonade, all the while attentive to anyone who wants to learn more about the program.

- A few Stephen Ministers are currently available -- male and female -- for caregiving. If you are thinking about this, please see Pastor Hansen or Referrals Coordinator Jo Reid for more information. We are ready to serve.

Kite Day & Picnic March 27

As I wrote this article for the Bethlehem Herald I remember the first time I participated in Kite Day. I had not been a member for very long and I remember driving home, thinking, WOW, this church has so much to offer both parishioners and people from the community. My family and I were welcomed into the Bethlehem family that afternoon, and I've felt a deep connection with Bethlehem and kites since then. That was in 2007 and here we are, four years later and I still feel the same anticipation about kite flying and picnicking. I hope for clear blue, windy skies, the possibility to meet new friends and visit with old companions. I want the chance to hear laughter and watch with awe, as I stare

into a sea of kites overhead. I crave a grilled hotdog and I want to see the look of wonder on faces as they gaze into the sky at "totally cool" kites.

Please join us at Gold Country Fairgrounds on Sunday, March 27, 2011 at noon for our 6th Annual Kite Day and Picnic.

I've confirmed the jumpy house, which is always a great hit with the kids. I've got the old, trusty Webber barbecue out of mothballs and ready to fire up. Last year we didn't have "free" hot dogs nor did I secure publicity I've had in the past. I've been working to make needed improvements to Kite Day/Picnic by planning more activities and of course I've been praying for guidance, but to have a successful event I need your support.



There are plenty of volunteer opportunities for all ages. Contact me at 530-268-1068 or email me at tia-janed@earthlink.net for additional details or to volunteer.

This is great opportunity to get out of the house. Perhaps you can enjoy really beautiful and interesting kites even if don't fly one or just catch up with friends, old and new. There are truly some artistic kites flying about in Auburn, and did you know that March 26th - May 1st, 2011

**Lets Go
Fly A
Kite**

I have been doing a lot of reflecting lately about youth ministry in our culture. Research shows that ministry to teens outside of the context of the nuclear family is usually ineffective (there are exceptions). For the most part, if parents do not see faith an integral part of their lives, kids usually will not either. As I reflect upon this research, I find myself in conflict with the New Testament understanding of family. For the Apostle Paul and the early Church, the family was the Church!!! When

someone was baptized, they were baptized into a new family. I do not believe that Paul thought of this as a metaphor, but I think that he, and the early Christians, truly believed that they were a Family.

What if Bethlehem were to live into the reality that we are truly a Family. What would ministry look like? It would probably change everything that we do. Just like any other family system we would not dream of living life separated into compartmentalized sets,

but rather as an integrated family who live life together. We understand in our own families how much grandchildren and grandparents need one another, but do we understand this as a congregation? So our challenge as a congregation is to begin asking questions about how do we this together? How do the ministries that we belong to live into this reality? How do you and I live into this reality? Let us dream together!



**LET US DREAM
TOGETHER!**

Kibungo Sister-Congregation Update

. In response to notifying our sister-congregation in Kibungo that they will receive an additional \$1,200 from our Christmas offerings I received the below reply. (Note: the new Bishop for the Rwanda Lutheran Church was just elected in December.).....Don Schultz

Dear Don, It is pleasure to hear from you. Thank you so much for New Year greetings. In-

deed we thank all our brothers and sisters at Bethlehem Lutheran Church for their generosity. In truth I don't have words to express my feelings and pleasure for the Love you continue to show for Kibungo parish. I thank you so much, God bless you all. Very soon Pr. Gerard will prepare periodical report for

you. This time surely you will have photos for the property. The money you have just sent to us from your Christmas offerings will be used to construct church foundation in weeks to come. Yesterday our New Bishop, Rev Mugabo Evariste, together with the his Dean, Rev. Selestine, and the General secretary of our

church, Pr. John jointly visited Kibungo parish to see themselves progress in the parish. They visited the property too. They were so happy to see that the construction is going to start soon. It was a blessings day to us! I will write detailed report very soon. Peace, **Gerardson Gerard Muvunyi**

From Our Worship Coordinator

As I get to know more of you I realized what a diverse group of people that worship here at Bethlehem. Many of you participate in the various activities here and have formed strong bonds with each other.

One of the groups that I would like to especially thank this month is the Funeral Task Force. This group provides the food at the funeral receptions. This past few months there have been several memorials and funerals,

and most of them have had receptions following them. So, thank you again to all those who donated food and/or time for them. This is a comfort to those who mourn and shows them how much their church

community cares for them. Thanks to Tia Desplancke, who has taken this task force over and has done a great job.

Peace, Denise

Kibungo Rummage Sale



We are collecting Rummage for the Sale, we even pick it up.

We now have a firm date of **Saturday, May 7th** for the rummage sale. We will be collecting items in mid-April so that we have several weeks for pricing and organizing the items for the sale. Dates for the collection will be announced in March. Arrangement can be made if you have storage issues by contacting Don Schultz (916) 663-4142 or Tia Desplancke (530) 268-1068. Scheduled pick up is available, if you will not be able to bring in items, but prior arrangements are a must.

A number of people have asked what type of items can be donated to

the sale. We are seeking items that are in good condition. Examples are: any type of usable clothing, linens, bedding, towels, garden equipment, tools, automotive items, electronics, furniture, mirrors, lamps, pictures, picture frames, candleholders, decorative items, cosmetics, blow dryers, curling irons, flat irons, fabric, yarn, knitting needles, crochet hooks, sewing supplies, dishes (including whole sets), mugs, glassware, bowls, platters, china, crystal and porcelain items. Jewelry is always a popular item that draws in potential buyers, especially current and retro fashion. Other

popular items are books, CDs, DVDs, and videos.

Remember to save your heavy duty boxes from Costco or Sam's Club that have sides about 6 inches high because these boxes are excellent for displaying and transporting items. Should you want to volunteer for the sale please contact Don Schultz (dps313@sbcglobal.net) or Tia Desplancke (tiajaned@earthlink.net). We **need** plenty of volunteers to make this a successful event. WE HAVE POSITIONS FOR EVERYONE!

Also, if you have a **pickup truck** available to transport rummage sale items, please contact Don Schultz or Tia Desplancke.

Women's Ministry News

GOOD NEWS GIRLS

We will meet Thursday, February 24th at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Our study is entitled, "Race & Culture" focusing on the verse Acts 10:34-35. Donna Larson will be the study leader. All women are welcome. Please join us for study, conversation and coffee.

QUILTING PLUS

Quilting Plus will meet on February 1st and 15th at 9:00 am in the morning. We will discuss over coffee break this month the possibility and feasibility of making bags for school kits. No experience necessary, everyone is welcome.

Well, the "Dignity for Homeless" exhibit is up. The artist Judy Lew Loose visited us for a reception on Sunday, January 23 and shared about how she came to do her homeless series.

A canned goods drop off station has been set up by the exhibit. Feel free to deposit non-perishable food there through March 7th. The food will be donated to the Auburn Interfaith Food

Closet.

Thank you to helped; Richard & Jo Reid, Marge Johnson, Monika Latona, Randi Olson, Ruth Dugan, June Hampton, Jan Reid & Kathy Ryan. Next exhibit will be here

for Lent starting March 8th.



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday April 2, 2011

8:30 am to 12:30 pm

Invite your friends and enjoy a time of renewal at **Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

Cost \$5.00 for continental breakfast

Contact Patricia Slaven-Irvin with questions.

Daily Lectionary for February

Tu Psalm 37:1-17
Ruth 2:1-16
James 5:1-6
W Psalm 37:1-17
Ruth 3:1-13; 4:13-22
Luke 6:17-26
Th Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
Deuteronomy 4:1-14
1 John 5:1-5
F Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
Isaiah 29:1-12
James 3:13-18
Sa Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
Isaiah 29:13-16
Mark 7:1-8
5th Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]
Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]
Matthew 5:13-20
M Psalm 119:105-112
2 Kings 22:3-20
Romans 11:2-10
Tu Psalm 119:105-112

2 Kings 23:1-8, 21-25
2 Corinthians 4:1-12
W Psalm 119:105-112
Proverbs 6:6-23
John 8:12-30
Th Psalm 119:1-8
Genesis 26:1-5
James 1:12-16
F Psalm 119:1-8
Leviticus 26:34-46
1 John 2:7-17
Sa Psalm 119:1-8
Deuteronomy 30:1-9a
Matthew 15:1-9
6th Sunday after Epiphany
Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37
M Psalm 119:9-16
Exodus 20:1-21
James 1:2-8
Tu Psalm 119:9-16
Deuteronomy 23:21; 24:4, 10-15

James 2:1-13

W Psalm 119:9-16
Proverbs 2:1-15
Matthew 19:1-12
Th Psalm 119:33-40
Exodus 22:21-27
1 Corinthians 10:23—11:1
F Psalm 119:33-40
Leviticus 6:1-7
Galatians 5:2-6
Sa Psalm 119:33-40
Leviticus 24:10-23
Matthew 7:1-12
7th Sunday after Epiphany
Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18
Psalm 119:33-40
1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23
Matthew 5:38-48
M Psalm 119:57-64
Proverbs 25:11-22
Romans 12:9-21
Tu Psalm 119:57-64
Genesis 31:1-3, 17-50
Hebrews 12:14-16

W Psalm 119:57-64
Proverbs 3:27-35
Luke 18:18-30
Th Psalm 131
Proverbs 12:22-28
Philippians 2:19-24
F Psalm 131
Isaiah 26:1-6
Philippians 2:25-30
Sa Psalm 131
Isaiah 31:1-9
Luke 11:14-23

8th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:8-16a
Psalm 131
1 Corinthians 4:1-5
Matthew 6:24-34
M Psalm 104
Deuteronomy 32:1-14
Hebrews 10:32-39

February Birthday's

Mark Gregersen
Caroline Fake
Helen Crim
Cindy Altus
Gena Dillon
Jason Ciola
Beth Moe
Arlowayne Brenno
Larry Klug
Katy Classon
Irvin Sather
Dori Dralle
Ray Kirk
Tia Desplancke
Matt Tribur

Gaylord Wilson
Dietrich Tiesler
Michelle Anderson
Carrah Johnson
JoAnn Anderson
Georgia Classon
Brian Johnson
Kathy Tieseler
Mark Williams
K.C. Dillon
Jean Moeschler
Ralp[h] Roper
Milly Gould
John Allison

FAIR TRADE **COFFEE**

Our church sells Fair trade coffee, tea, cocoa and chocolate to help support the farmers that grow them in Tanzania. We have been selling this the first Sunday of every month after both services. If you would like to volunteer to participate in this monthly selling of coffee contact the church office. We are in need of a volunteer to do this to keep this going on Sunday morning. Meanwhile, if you would like to purchase this coffee you can stop by the church office during office hours during the week.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Sharing Christ's Love

We Are on the Web

www.bethlehemplutheranauburn.org

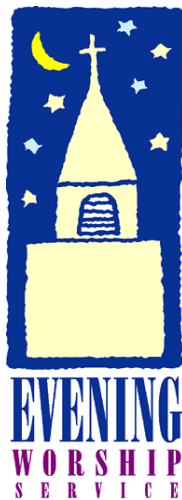
Worship Services

Saturday Evening 5:00 PM

Sunday Morning 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Evening Service of Prayer, Meditation
and Peace— Last Sunday of the month
at 5:30 PM

Evening Service of Meditation, Peace and Prayer



February 27, 2011 + 5:30 PM

The last Sunday of each month.

Join us for a fully inclusive, enriching experience

Combining ancient traditions with modern styles: the circular rhythm of Taizé' chants

and moments of quiet reflection