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Denise Nelson

**FAITH COMMUNITY
NURSE**

Randi Olson

**DIRECTOR OF
CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY**

Kathy Hamm

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Pastors Page ~ Looking to 2011

This month we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord. For early Christians this festival likely exceeded Christmas in importance. While two Gospel writers include the story of Jesus' birth, all four Gospels include an account of Jesus' Baptism.

The Gospel of Matthew gives us a clue as to why the Baptism of Jesus is such a pivotal event. Once Jesus emerges from the waters of the Jordan River, we are told that the heavens are opened and the Spirit descends upon him and a voice from heaven cries out: "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." With this declaration Jesus is publicly acknowledged as God's chosen one. Jesus' Baptism signals the beginning of a new age.

As we enter into a new year it might be

wise to allow this story to fill our imaginations as we engage in ministry as the people of Bethlehem. With his baptism at the Jordan, Jesus goes public. God's work in Jesus is no private affair but meant for the healing and renewal of the world. It begs the questions. How public is our witness at Bethlehem? In what ways are we making Christ known to our neighbors and in the world? How might we continue to welcome the stranger and provide for the neighbor in need?

And just as Jesus was empowered by the Spirit for ministry, so are we. Can we continue to unearth the gifts God has given us? Worship is our strong center. Might we grow in our sense that God's presence in the Sunday word and meal link us to mission and ministry? How might we increasingly

use the gifts of prayer as venues for seeking God's direction?

As we gather to celebrate the Baptism of Jesus on January 9, we will have opportunity to remember and renew our own baptisms. I look forward to that Sunday as kind of renewal for us as we venture into a new year of ministry. May the word from heaven spoken at the Baptism of Jesus echo among us that we might hear similar assurance: "We are God's beloved ones with whom God is well pleased.

Peace, *Pastor Bryon +*





"Music warms the soul, stirs the memory, and communicates God's love."

Wholistic Health For the Soul

Psalm 89:1 "I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations."

The Advent season brought so many blessings and now we can look back and recall the wonderful stories we learned from relatives and friends throughout the holidays.

In visiting several of our Bethlehem family who were not able to attend church services during Advent, it was heart warming to hear over and over the praises and words of appreciation given to the Bethlehem carolers who graced their doors. The elders' smiles, the twinkle in their eyes, and tears of joy gave away the true feeling of love they felt as they recalled the Christmas story as it was sung to them. Memories tend to fade with ageing, but the Christmas story is one that comes back to us

each Advent season, clear as a bell, no matter what our age or infirmity.

Caroling was once a huge part of the preparation for Christmas...it was a "given" when planning the Advent calendar in the church. However, the ministry of music has become overloaded for leaders as well as singers, and caroling has faded over the years. But this year, at Bethlehem, the gift of caroling was ignited by members who love to sing and who were moved to find the time to dig out their overcoats, warm hats, scarves, and gloves, brave the rainy weather, and sing their hearts out! Thank you!

Music warms the soul, stirs the memory, and communicates God's love. It is known as the universal language. It is used in therapy for all ages, in many different illnesses, physical, emotional, mental, and of

course, in this case, spiritual. Wouldn't it be wonderful if our Bethlehem family could minister to the community by singing to those unable to attend services more than at Advent? Perhaps that is what is meant in Psalm 89 when it is stated that singing of God's love will be proclaimed to all generations. Are we getting the hint? Maybe a traveling choir? Maybe a quartet? Maybe a children's group? What a ministry that would be!

Scripture is always giving us a challenge...The Holy Spirit moves in mysterious ways when we open our eyes, ears and hearts to its Words.

Please join us in dreaming of new and wonderful ways to spread God's healing love. This is just one dream....there are many others in your minds and hearts, I am sure. God Bless. *Randi Olson, FCN*



Free Supplies

I have some **FREE** supplies available in my office: Diabetic testing kit and strips, weekly medication boxes, and a three-pronged walking cane. See me for any of these items.

Randi Olson, FCN (Faith Community Nurse)

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

KIDS CORNER

Number 4: I was “on” the Ellen Degeneres Show! Several years ago I received a call from the show saying that they were going through all of the people who had requested tickets and giving them an opportunity to see the show. I went with 3 of my friends and had a blast. I got to dance on the floor before the show – earning a t-shirt. We got to see Michael Chiklis (from The Shield) and Rick Springfield (he threw his guitar pick into the audience and it hit me!) My friend won a Jacuzzi, all I got was Season 3 of The Shield on DVD...

SAVE THE DATE

Kids Night Out!

Saturday, February 12 5:30 – 9:00 pm

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

Have we got a deal for you!

Who: All kids preschool – 5th grade

BRING A FRIEND!

Where: Bethlehem Lutheran Church

What: Pizza, movies and games with Mrs Kathy Hamm

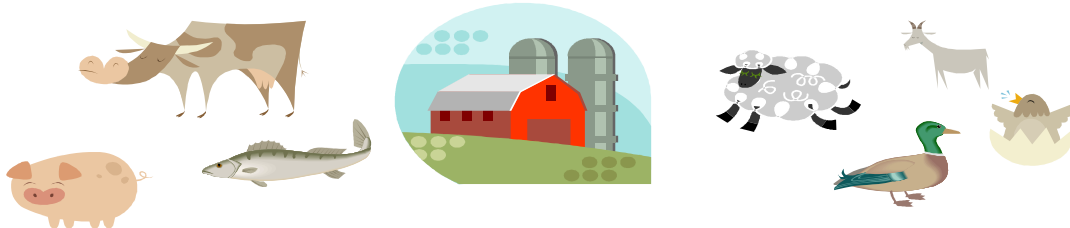
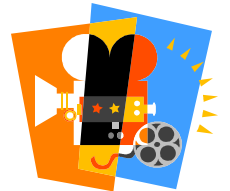
How Much: \$5 to cover the cost of dinner

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@bethlehemlutheranauburn.org

or call the church at 530-885-4515



God's Global Barnyard

Thanks to your generous donations, we have collected \$413.99. That's enough for a fish farm, sheep, duck and 18 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”

Annual Meeting

Please mark your calendars for our Church Annual Meeting that will be January 31st at noon. We will begin with a Potato Bar hosted by our youth as a fundraiser followed by the Annual Meeting.

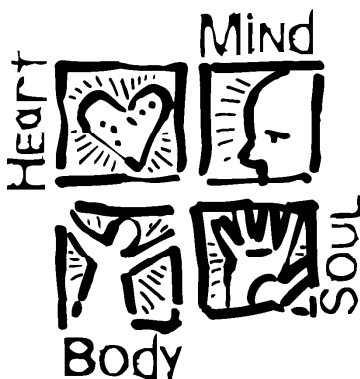
Morning Prayer

“O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise.”

Each Wednesday, 10:00 AM

Beginning January 5

Lectionary and Lunch follows at 10:30



Care Ministry Seminar & Dinner

UNDERSTANDING EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL ILLNESS

All are invited to our Care Ministry Seminar and dinner on January 17th at 5:00 PM. If you

can't make the dinner feel free to join us for the presentation beginning at 5:45 PM. Dr. Jordan Hamilton will be coming to chat with us about ways to understand and treat emotional and men-

tal illness. Time for questions and answers will be provided. He is a very spiritual person, and desires all people to be accepted for who they are and what they are going through in their life story.

“Our guest speaker is a very spiritual person and desires all people to be accepted for who they are and what they are going through in their life story.”

News from the Worship

Happy New Year!

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for serving our church in the past year. I especially want to thank those who served during the Christmas services. Your willingness to serve makes the worship services go smoothly.

I continually try to

make improvements to scheduling. This past year I tried something new with assigned serving. So far, it is working much better than the volunteer sign up sheets and calling for help. Thank you for giving it a try with me. One thing that I would like to do is find out ways in which you would like to serve. I am

sure that I am missing some of you who would love to be an usher, greeter, reader, or bread baker, just to name a few of the ways to serve. If you would like to do something, please feel free to email me at worship@bethlehemlutheranau burn.org or call the church office at 530-885-4515 to let me know. *Denise*



Honoring our Neighbors Faith

Looking for a spiritual adventure? Join your fellow faith sojourners starting Sunday, January 30th after the 8:30 service for the first session of a six part series. Each week we'll explore a different religion: Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Sikhism. We'll explore these different beliefs with videos, guidebooks, and conversation, seeking ways to encourage mutual respect and tolerance among all God's people, while building bridges for our own deeper understanding of our neighbors from different faiths.

Christmas is over and a new calendar year has begun. In fact, January marks five years of ministry for me at Bethlehem. It is crazy how much I have learned and how many things have changed over these years. Since I have begun working here we have confirmed over 20 eighth graders, graduated over 30 seniors, and have had 3 different pastors.

As I look forward to 2011 I am excited about the things to come. We are expecting to confirm six 8th graders at Pentecost and graduate seven seniors from high school. It is actually weird that this year's graduating seniors were the first batch of confirmation students that I worked with (It makes me feel really old). I am going to miss them

dearly, but I know that God is in charge and will lead them in abundant wisdom and love in this next phase of their lives. Meanwhile, the first group of students that graduated from high school will begin to graduate from college and pursue their own vocations.

One of the most fulfilling pieces of this job is to see what happens to the students of Bethlehem after they graduate from high school and go off to college. I have had the privilege to sit down with our college students of Bethlehem over Christmas break to talk about where God is leading them in their vocation and ministry. These are some of things that I have heard. One student is discerning the prospect of working with AIDS mothers in Af-

rica. Two students are discerning seminary. One is studying business in order to do missionary work in impoverished countries, and others are studying to learn how to help the rest of us be stewards of God's creation.

I write this as a testimony of what God is doing in and through the people of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. We should be proud and celebrate how our congregation is making disciples and sending them into the world! I am glad to be a part of this place and humbled to serve alongside all of you. Thank you for the opportunity for me to be here for the past five years and I am excited to see what God will do in 2011.



**HAVE A
BLESSED
NEW YEAR!**

**"I am excited
to see what
God will do in
2011."**

Worship Update from Mrs. Kathye Hamm

I have good news and "bad" news. First the good news – more children are attending our worship services! There were more than 10 children helping light the Advent wreath on December 19! This leads to the "bad" news – the art response time after the children's message is getting harder and harder to manage.

As we have more and more

children, there is less and less space and more and more chatting during the art response. The intention of this time is for the children to have a quiet time to use art materials to respond to what they hear in the children's message and to provide something for their hands to do as they listen to the sermon on their own level. For some, it has become a time to visit with

friends, and while this is important, worship is not the time for this to happen.

After discussion in staff meeting, we have decided to end the art response time. Our last session will be on December 26. I have prepared a booklet called "Worshiping With Your Child" that will give tips on how to include children in worship and to keep them

engaged during all parts of the service. The booklets will be available in January – ask me if you would like one! The booklet will also be available on the website – just click on "Children" under the Quicklinks on the homepage. (www.bethlehelutheranau burn.org)

If you have any questions please catch me after worship or call me at the church. I am happy to discuss this decision with you.

Mexico Pilgrimage All are invited to a Mexico Pilgrimage February 17-21 (Presidents day weekend) to El Florido, Mexico to experience to participate in God's work and God's people. This trip is specifically for adults. An information meeting will be held January 9th after the 11:00 am service in the Fellowship Hall for all who are interested.



Kibungo Rummage Sale

So far we have eight volunteers to organize the rummage sale that will be held in April to help raise funds for the property purchase of our sister-congregation in Kibungo. We will need many more volunteers. If you are interested please contact Tia at Tia-janed@earthlink.net or 530-268-1068.

Remember to save items that you no longer

need for the rummage sale. Most anything that is in good shape and that you no longer need can be donated to this effort. We already have collected a pickup truck full of items. Contact Don Schultze (916-663-4142) if you need help with storage.

Even save those low sided heavy duty cardboard boxes (about 6 inches high) that you

bring groceries home in from Costco. They make an excellent way to line up items for display. They will also be handy to transport small items from storage to the church prior to the rummage sale.

We look forward to everyone at Bethlehem participating in one form or the other!.....
.....Don Schultze

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

Women's Ministry News

GOOD NEWS GIRLS

we continue our study on "Unity in Diversity". The January study is on Worship. The theme verse is John 4:23-24. Our study leader will be Marge Johnson, and our hostess is Ruth Dugan. We meet on January 27, 10 a. m. in the fellowship hall. All women are welcome.

QUILTING PLUS we resume at 9 a.m. in the fellowship hall on January 4th and 18th. Our quilts go to Lutheran World Relief and the Lutheran school on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona. All women are welcome, if you can tie a knot or

Library Book

A New 14 page book in the Library—Is this a joke? Scholarly Germans on the Centennials of Luther's death would write essays about his influence. And so I do that when Marilyn has only been gone one year. This is called a **Festschrift**. This *long book* is divided into three parts. In the *first part* I wonder if we would be more drawn to the sweet beauty of the Gospels if we didn't have theories about their *Authority*. In the *second*

part I compare Post Modernism to Luther's redefining the role of law. Structure is always secondary— and not something we'd fight over. The *third part* is where I mention Mare more. In her last years she could not fathom the *quantum ideas* I was so excited about. But with her being on the other side now, prayer and the afterlife seem so vibrant to me. So this whole **Festschrift** thing may be a joke, but for me there's something serious here. *Paul Krueger*

Art Notes



An artist's reception will be held at the church Sun. Jan. 23 at 9:45, for Judy Lew Loose. Judy is a Sacramento artist who decided to visit Tent City and do portraits of some homeless there. Her portraits are very emotional and pow-

erful. Refreshments will be served, and Judy will talk about her project and will give away a print of one of her paintings. All members and friends of Bethlehem and the community are urged to attend. Judy has asked that the reception benefit the

Auburn Interfaith Food Closet, so you are asked to bring a nonperishable food item to donate. Judy's exhibit will be up until March 8. Thanks to Audrey Mueller and Richard Reid for helping to coordinate this event.

Daily Lectionary for January

Sat Jan 1

Numbers 6:22-27

Psalm 8

Luke 2:15-21

Sunday Jan 2

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm 147:12-20

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:1-18

Mon Psalm 72

Genesis 28:10-22

Hebrews 11:13-22

Tues Psalm 72

Exodus 3:1-5

Hebrews 11:23-31

Wed Psalm 72

Joshua 1:1-9

Hebrews 11:32—12:2

Thurs Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

Fri Psalm 72

1 Kings 10:1-13

Ephesians 3:14-21

Sat Psalm 72

1 Kings 10:14-25

Ephesians 4:7, 11-16

Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

M Psalm 89:5-37

Genesis 35:1-15

Acts 10:44-48

Tu Psalm 89:5-37

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Acts 8:4-13

W Psalm 89:5-37

Isaiah 51:1-16

Matthew 12:15-21

Th Psalm 40:1-11

Isaiah 22:15-25

Galatians 1:6-12

F Psalm 40:1-11

Genesis 27:30-38

Acts 1:1-5

Sa Psalm 40:1-11

1 Kings 19:19-21

Luke 5:1-11

Second Sun after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

M Psalm 40:6-17

Exodus 12:1-13, 21-28

Acts 8:26-40

Tu Psalm 40:6-17

Isaiah 53:1-12

Hebrews 10:1-4

W Psalm 40:6-17

Isaiah 48:12-21

Matthew 9:14-17

Th Psalm 27:1-6

1 Samuel 1:1-20

Galatians 1:11-24

F Psalm 27:1-6

1 Samuel 9:27—10:8

Galatians 2:1-10

Sa Psalm 27:1-6

1 Samuel 15:34—16:13

Luke 5:27-32

Third Sun after Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

M Psalm 27:7-14

Judges 6:11-24

Ephesians 5:6-14

Tu Psalm 27:7-14

Judges 7:12-22

Philippians 2:12-18

W Psalm 27:7-14

Genesis 49:1-2, 8-13, 21-26

Luke 1:67-79

Th Psalm 15

Deuteronomy 16:18-20

1 Peter 3:8-12

F Psalm 15

Deuteronomy 24:17—25:4

1 Timothy 5:17-24

Sa Psalm 15

Micah 3:1-4

John 13:31-35

Fourth Sun after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

M Psalm 37:1-17

Ruth 1:1-18

Philemon 1-25

January Birthday's

David Rinn

James Anderberg

MaryAnn Collins

Elfrida Branch

Robert Simon

Taylor Brady

Jim Sizemore

Ron Lindstrom

Jeff Dillon

Howard Leal

Abigael Untalan

Lois Hoffmann

Inez Larson

Denise Nelson

Alexander Houston

Trevor Twietmeyer

Ruth Woock

Marge Johnson

Michael Brady

Cassandra Lane

Lorraine Clark

Patricia Slaven-Irvin

Jerry Guerreiro

Laurel McFarland

Susan Wren

Lindsay Leichliter

Mary Duncan

Lou Hummel

Richard Reid

Ben Riswold

Evening Service of Meditation, Peace and Prayer



**EVENING
WORSHIP
SERVICE**

January 30, 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

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E-mail: bethlutheran@yahoo.com

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



**Happy
New Year
from Our
Staff!**