

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 Meditation, Prayer and Peace— Second and fourth Sundays a month at 5:30 PM



The Herald

Pastor's Page



Lent begins later this month. It is our annual journey to Easter. Contrary to popular belief and even popular practices, Lent is not a time to be sad, despairing or miserable. The word Lent means “springtime.” It is a time for growth and a time to be renewed in our relationship with God.

Anciently, the season of Lent was a time to prepare persons for their baptism at Easter. The modern church has reclaimed this practice. During Lent, we will walk beside and pray for children and adults preparing for Baptism and reaffirmation of Baptism at the Easter Vigil. In taking on the disciplines of Lent, all of us journey toward the waters of rebirth at Easter and are strengthened in the gifts and promises of God.

One of the great opportunities we have to observe Lent will take place on Saturday, Mark 3. On that day, we will hold a congregational Lenten retreat led by Dr. Craig Satterlee, a Lutheran pastor who teaches preaching at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. He is also the director of the Doctor of Ministry preaching program. As a participant in this program, I have come to know Dr. Satterlee and have had the pleasure of taking his classes. He is a wonderful teacher and preacher who wisely names the good news of Jesus, explores its depths and brings it down to earth.

When God Speaks through Worship will be the focus of the retreat. Specifically, Dr. Satterlee will guide us

through the services of Holy Week. We will explore questions such as these: How do we experience the sights, sounds and gestures of these services? What is God doing through them? What do they mean for our common life and mission? I can guarantee that the day will enrich our journey of Lent and be a lot of fun.

Dr. Satterlee will preach at all the services that weekend. He has also agreed to hold a special adult Sunday school forum on March 4 called “Stump the Theologian,” where he promises to field any and all questions!

Mark your calendars and save the dates.

Peace,
Pastor Bryon

CHURCH STAFF

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Bryon Hansen

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Bryan Whiteside

OFFICE MANAGER

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WORSHIP COORDINATOR

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FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE

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Secretary/Treasurer

Diane Allison

Members at Large:

Debbie Clark

Jaron Latona

Bob Thiessen

Shawn Wakefield



Lenten Retreat: When God Speaks through Wor- ship Preparing for Holy Week

On Saturday March 3, 2012, Bethlehem Lutheran will be hosting a retreat that will help prepare us for Holy Week. We are particularly fortunate to be able to bring Dr. Craig A. Satterlee from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago to spend the day with us here at Bethlehem. Dr. Satterlee is nationally renowned for his teaching on the relationship of preaching and areas of congregational life and mission, including liturgy, spirituality, stewardship, and leadership.

On March 3rd, Dr. Satterlee's focus will be on unpacking the sights, sounds, and gestures of Holy Week so that we might discover what God is doing through those very sensory elements. Through his presentations and the interactive dialogue you will leave the day refreshed, spiritually-lifted, and looking forward to the Great Three Days four weeks later.

The retreat will be held at Bethlehem and will start at 9:00 am and end at 4:00 with a break for lunch at noon. In addition to lunch, child care will also be provided. The retreat is free to all. Bring a friend to share the day with us.

You can learn more about Dr. Satterlee by reading his insightful blog which can be found at: <http://craigasatterlee.blogspot.com/> or by visiting his website at <http://craigasatterlee.com/>. Donations will be accepted.

Please join us in worship

Wednesday, February 22

Bethlehem at Noon

7:00 PM Ecumenical Worship Opportunity

at St. Theresa's on Atwood Rd.

Services of Holy Communion will be held at Bethlehem at noon on Wednesdays throughout Lent. In addition, ecumenical services will be held at various Auburn Congregations.



Anonymous Donor \$25,000 Challenge

An anonymous donor will match up to \$25,000 of all donations from churches and Food Closet Supporters during Jan and Feb 2012; dollar for dollar and 50 cents per canned or other food item.

The Auburn Interfaith Food Closet is taking on this challenge. With your participation, all cash and check donations, pledges and food donations and drives during Jan and Feb will count towards the Food Closet's Challenge results.

Our supporters can help us take advantage of this great opportunity by:

- ✓ Making donations to our Sponsor-A-Family program. We'll get 100% match! (Go to AIFC website for more info: www.auburnfoodcloset.com)
 - ✓ Making cash donations to the Food Closet is another way for us to get 100% match.
 - ✓ Organizing and conducting a food drive through your church, community organization, or maybe a neat neighborhood effort. Don't worry; we'll count all the items so that we can use your results towards the challenge.
 - ✓ Just bring some cans, boxes, or bags of food to the Blue Cupboard in the Fellowship Hall, or directly to the Food Closet during our open hours.
- AIFC's hundreds of families, clients and volunteers look forward to your support as we strive to really reap the benefits of this great challenge.



Thanks to all of you who gave so willingly to the Blood Drive. Perhaps we can make this an annual event for the Auburn community. Also, to those who attended the Walking Stix seminar, take time to practice and if you have questions, Elaine is more than willing to come again for a follow-up.



A Women's Lenten Journey to the Cross

A Study of the Women Who Encountered Christ

Join us for eight fascinating weeks as we look more closely at the women who followed Jesus in His life and death. By focusing on the life and death of Jesus and the lives of the women who were eyewitnesses of this miraculous ministry, we will learn how Jesus changed the future for all women.

Enjoy getting to know other women at Bethlehem through this Lenten season while also getting to know the women of the New Testament.

The study runs through Lent on Tuesdays, February 21st to April 10 ~ 6:30-8:00 PM at Anderbergs' home

Hosted by Patricia Slaven-Irvin and Ruth Dugan

The resource is *Preparing My Heart for Easter: A Woman's Journey to the Cross* by Ann Marie Stewart. Please RSVP to Patricia Slaven-Irvin by February 5th, so books can be ordered. \$10 will be due on the first night of class. E-mail her at developtal-ent@gmail.com or call her at 916-663-1563.

VALENTINE LUNCHEON

February 13, 2012 at 12:30 PM

Sponsored by Bethlehem Lutheran Church Women

All Are Welcome!

RSVP by February 12th to

Marge Johnson, Kathryn Stoltenburg, June Hampton

Cost \$ 3.50



Wholistic Health For the Soul



RELATIONSHIPS OF THE SPIRIT

GALATIANS 5:25, "IF WE LIVE BY THE SPIRIT, LET US ALSO BE GUIDED BY THE SPIRIT."

In my old family trunk there is a worn velvet autograph book that belonged to my Mom. Many of the greetings were the familiar, "Roses are red, violets are blue, honey is sweet and so are you." In my youth, I remember lying outside on the green grass with my girlfriends, after picking Mom's daisies. As we, one by one pulled off the blossoms' petals we would say, "He loves me, he loves me not, he loves me, he loves me not...." hop-

ing to end on a promise of a boyfriend in the near future. Friendships were so important.

Today Facebook, Twitter, and other computerized applications

take the place of written autograph books or face to face contact for many people. Most people strive for healthy, trusting friends, companions and spouses as in the past. Long term relationships are usually the goal of a deep connection with another person. A conviction or spiritual connection holds two people together in a very special way. The longer the friendship lasts the more changes take place, from infatuation and puppy love to commitment and trust. Even in parent/child relationships, each is learning a new role as the years go by.

Hopefully with time passing, family relationships are not taken for granted or given to

patterns of complacency and predictability. In this last month's Mayo Clinic Health Newsletter, seven suggestions are given to enhance our relationships. In this Valentine's Day month, maybe it is worth taking a look at our spousal or parent/child relationships. Let's try one or more of these suggestions: 1) Listen attentively and consider your partner's view rather than debate or try to make your own point, 2) Show appreciation by expressing thanks for something your partner does well, 3) Get away from distractions by going for a walk together which will open the door for better communication, 4) Not only say, "I love you" but tell your partner the reasons you feel what you are feeling. 5) Do something your partner likes that you usually would not do...with an open mind and without mocking or teasing

about your partners' interest, 6) Become curious, ask your partner what he/she thinks, feels, wants and let her/him know you enjoy hearing it, 7) Explore a new activity together...learning something different, reading a book together, or cooking new recipes can be fun.

My best and biggest wish for all of us is that we pray together, inviting God's Spirit to guide our words and actions to God's glory. God's love is the most important valentine!

Happy Valentine's Day!

Randi, FCN

Kid's Corner

Spotlight on You!



Each month I will be featuring a couple of our kids. This month meet:



Name: **Madison Brown**

Age/Grade: **10 yrs/ 5th grade**

When I grow up, I want to be a **drama teacher**.

If I could be any animal for a day, I would be a **dolphin**, because **I love dolphins swim and I love to swim**.

My favorite book of all time is **The Computer Nut**.

Some things I like about Bethlehem are **sings with God and worshipping**.

Name: **Finnley Bayer**

Age/Grade: **8 yrs/ 3rd grade**

When I grow up, I want to be a **cop**.

If I could be any animal for a day, I would be a **shark**, because **they are strong**.

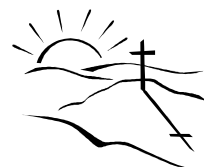
My favorite book of all time is **Bionicle**.

Some things I like about Bethlehem are **the Bethlehem has food**.

FAITH FORMATION FOR KIDS

"Arise!"

September 11, 2011—May 27, 2012 ~ 9:45—10:45 am



Arise! and join us for **Godly Play** every Sunday! This innovative learning draws on the traditions of ancient storytelling. The teachers model how to use the language of the Christian tradition through presentations of parables, sacred stories, liturgy and silence. 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. For ages 3 years to 5th grade. Nursery care is available for those too young to participate in Godly Play.



Kids On Wednesday (K.O.W.) joins Confirmation and Journey of Faith on Wednesday nights at **The Well**. We will all gather together for dinner from 5:30 – 6:00 pm. Kids will then participate in blocks of fun, hands-on learning. Topics will include Art, Healthy Living, Cooking and Games. For ages 3 years to 5th grade. Nursery care is available for those too young to participate in K.O.W.



Did You Save the Date? June 2, 2012:

Bethlehem Lutheran has several fundraisers planned to facilitate construction of our sister parish, commencing with another fantastic "Rummage Sale" on **June 2, 2012**. So, please **save the date**. Last year many of you volunteered with your time and needed donations, making the rummage sale a success. Because of you, \$2,500 was raised with an additional \$1,000 contributed by **Thrivent for Lutherans—**

Auburn Chapter. We hope you are up to the challenge of another rummage sale. Several days prior to the rummage sale we will sort, set-up and be fully prepared, allowing for a less hectic environment the day before the rummage sale.

Are You Saving Your New and Nearly New Items?

Many of you will probably start thinking about spring cleaning and perhaps you might want to "thin the herd" in your cupboards and drawers. Please consider when cleaning and sorting to start saving your new and nearly new items for the **June 2, 2012** rummage sale. Items that are new and nearly new and are in good condition are most welcome and appreciated. A schedule for donation drop off days and specific volunteer needs will be featured in the March and April editions of The Bethlehem Herald. Contact Don Schultze (916)663-4142 (dps313@sbcglobal.net) if you have items that require storage. For more detailed information about the rummage sale and other activities planned for 2012 contact Tia Desplancke (530)268-1068 (tiajaned@earthlink.net).

Sometimes Valentine's Day Isn't Happy

For some people, Valentine's Day is a painful reminder of a broken relationship, the death of a loved one, a recent relocation, a chronic illness, or another life challenge. If you are going through a difficult time, our Stephen Ministers can bring Jesus' love (God's "ultimate Valentine") back into your life. Stephen Ministers 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 struggle.

To find out more about Stephen Ministry and how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with *[insert names of Stephen Leaders]*. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

Your BLC Stephen Ministry team:

Suzie Buse, Susan Christensen, Sandy Frame, Linda Greenlee, Joe Irvin, Patricia Slaven-Irvin Brian Johnson, Joy Johnson, Marge Johnson, Ann Leitzte, Jo Reid, Dave Rinn, Cheri Rinn, Jeff Riswold, Dave Scherman, Jan Rumbut, Virginia Sizemore





Gerard Mahirane updated Bethlehem that the Kibungo parish had wonderful Christmas and New Year services. During Christmas 3 children were baptized, another member was received who was Roman Catholic, and the Assistant to the Bishop was guest of honor. About 60 parishioners attended the services. They were forced outside because the large number parishioners attending could not fit in the room used for worship. Pictures show parishioners, children baptized, Pastor. Gerard, and Dean Rev. Seburikoko (Assistant to Bishop Evalister of Lutheran Church of Rwanda).



It is truly great to see the Kibungo parish grow. For several years the parish has met in a room within a parishioner's house which has limited their congregation's growth. Bethlehem Lutheran is dedicated to raising funds to help the parish complete its sanctuary. An ongoing project is to sell banana fiber products provided by their parish. Any sales of the remaining inventory will be profit for the Kibungo parish. Remaining products are on display and for sale in the church office. These hand made products make wonderful gifts.



RWANDA STORE

We now have a little store set up in the church office with handmade items from our Sister church in Rwanda for sale. Some of the items include Banana Fiber Art, Banana Fiber Cards, and jewelry.

Please stop by the church office during office hours to shop.



Bethlehem Leadership Vision Team

Well, it's that time again. This past month a committee has been formed to begin the process of preparing a long term strategic plan. Over the next nine months Mo Stevens, Loren Clark, Virginia Ward, Jaron Latona, Joy Johnson, Janos Csontas and Sarah Anderberg have volunteered to serve on a Leadership Vision Team to help guide the congregation through this process. Through the Herald we will bring you updates and information on coming events.

You might be asking, "didn't we just go through this process a couple of years ago"? And yes, you would be right. Bethlehem completed the preparation of a long term strategic plan in 2006. So, why are we starting the process again?

There are many ways to answer the question. First and foremost is that Bethlehem is, and has been, an evolving community of faith believers. When we completed the plan in 2006, Pastor Lundberg was nearing retirement. During the initial implementation of the plan, Interim Pastor Hodgson was with us and the call process had begun for a new pastor. Our collective attention as a congregation was focused on the call process and much of what we had discerned during the preparation of long range plan was forgotten. When Pastor Bryon joined us four years ago, there was no dedicated team to work on the implementation of our vision and little memory of what we had accomplished and why.

As a team, we believe that it is important to have a new long-term vision of Bethlehem that is prepared and implemented by our laity with the assistance and dedication of our professional staff. We are also fortunate to have the assistance of Pastor Rick Rouse from Phoenix Arizona whose ministry is to assist congregations through this process. We also believe that it is important that we initiate this process during a time of stability and spiritual growth. Lastly, and most importantly we believe that God is calling us to focus on our role to be a missional congregation and to respond to the changes that have occurred in our culture, our churches, our economy, and the world in which we live.

We also need to celebrate the successes we have had as a consequence of our earlier efforts. We are the living embodiment of the theme, "Sharing Christ's Love". We are active members of the Gathering Inn Community, we have committed significant resources to the spiritual growth of the children of Bethlehem and our community and we have focused on the health of our congregation. All of these things, and more, were a part of the last long range plan. Well, there is much more for us in our calling as disciples and it's time to find out again what God has in store for us.

Some key questions to consider over the next few months.

Where do you see God at work in and around Bethlehem?

What do you see as some of the assets/strengths of Bethlehem?

What are some of the perceived needs in the larger community?

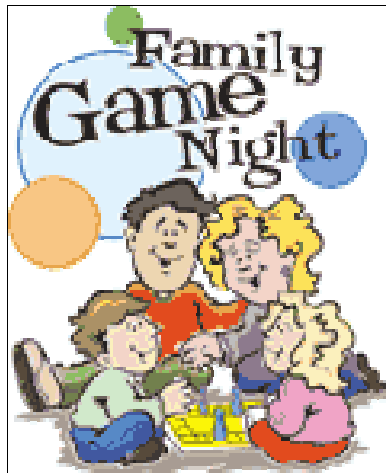
What opportunities is God providing Bethlehem for mission to and within the neighborhood?

In terms of next steps, the Team will finalize an overall work program and begin to focus on the process of discernment; the most important element of this whole effort. Beginning in March, we will begin to have a series of conversations with you the congregation through a series of cottage meetings and meetings with the various groups and committees.

In closing, pray for the Vision Team as we begin this process, and pray for Bethlehem as we discover anew who we are as a missional congregation in Auburn California.

"Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind". Romans 12:2

Peace, Loren Clark



NEW ORLEANS INSPIRED MARDI GRA DINNER

Saturday February 18, at 6:00 p.m. we will be hosting Mardi Gras dinner and game night in the Fellowship Hall. Come and enjoy some red beans and rice, jambalaya, and beignets. Bring some cash to play our games to win some amazing prizes! Tickets are \$10.00 a piece. Stop by the church office for your tickets. We are also looking for donation items as prizes.

ART NOTES

A new exhibit goes up, the first week in February with the theme "Beauty of Winter." (Lenten themes will also be accepted.) Please plan to take a look at the new exhibit. Also, late February, our "Stations of the Cross" will be back up to inspire people on their Lenten Journey. Be sure to take advantage of it. Remember, everyone is encouraged to submit art for our gallery. Contact Kathy Ryan for details.



IMPORTANCE OF EXERCISE & STRENGTH TRAINING FOR SENIORS

By Elaine C. Ashton, Fitness Instructor for Seniors

All of us realize that our behavior, both good and bad, impacts many people around us. Consider the fact that one's health and fitness, both good and bad has an even stronger impact on family and friends. For various reasons and perhaps because laws don't regulate health and fitness, many of us think nothing can be done to mitigate the effects of aging.

It is a totally false concept. No matter what your age or your perceived abilities. Exercise and Strength Training can accomplish what might be considered almost miraculous.

Call me if you're interested in reclaiming and improving your health. I'd love to form an exercise class and prove this to you.

Elaine Ashton, 888-1245 (Elaine led the walking stix seminar in January)

Daily Lectionary for February 2012

<p>W Psalm 35:1-10 Jeremiah 29:1-14 Mark 5:1-20</p> <p>Th Psalm 147:1-11, 20c Proverbs 12:10-21 Galatians 5:2-15</p> <p>F Psalm 147:1-11, 20c Job 36:1-23 1 Corinthians 9:1-16</p> <p>Sa Psalm 147:1-11, 20c Isaiah 46:1-13 Matthew 12:9-14</p> <p>Sunday February 5 Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39</p> <p>M Psalm 102:12-28 2 Kings 4:8-17, 32-37 Acts 14:1-7</p> <p>Tu Psalm 102:12-28 2 Kings 8:1-6 Acts 15:36-41</p> <p>W Psalm 102:12-28 Job 6:1-13 Mark 3:7-12</p>	<p>Th Psalm 30 Leviticus 13:1-17 Hebrews 12:7-13</p> <p>F Psalm 30 Leviticus 14:1-20 Acts 19:11-20</p> <p>Sa Psalm 30 Leviticus 14:21-32 Matthew 26:6-13</p> <p>Sunday February 12 2 Kings 5:1-14 Psalm 30 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 Mark 1:40-45</p> <p>M Psalm 6 2 Chronicles 26:1-21 Acts 3:1-10</p> <p>Tu Psalm 6 2 Kings 7:3-10 1 Corinthians 10:14—11:1</p> <p>W Psalm 6 Job 30:16-31 John 4:46-54</p> <p>Th Psalm 41 2 Chronicles 7:12-22 3 John 2-8</p>	<p>F Psalm 41 Isaiah 38:1-8 Hebrews 12:7-13</p> <p>Sa Psalm 41 Isaiah 39:1-8 Luke 4:38-41</p> <p>Sunday February 19 Isaiah 43:18-25 Psalm 41 2 Corinthians 1:18-22 Mark 2:1-12</p> <p>M Psalm 38 Isaiah 30:18-26 Acts 14:8-18</p> <p>Tu Psalm 38 Micah 4:1-7 2 Corinthians 1:1-11</p> <p>W Psalm 38 Lamentations 5:1-22 John 5:19-29</p> <p>Th Psalm 103:1-13, 22 Ezekiel 16:1-14 Romans 3:1-8</p> <p>F Psalm 103:1-13, 22 Ezekiel 16:44-52</p>	<p>2 Peter 1:1-11</p> <p>Sa Psalm 103:1-13, 22 Ezekiel 16:53-63 John 7:53—8:11</p> <p>Sunday February 26 Hosea 2:14-20 Psalm 103:1-13, 22 2 Corinthians 3:1-6 Mark 2:13-22</p> <p>M Psalm 45:6-17 Hosea 3:1-5 2 Corinthians 1:23—2:11</p> <p>T Psalm 45:6-17 Hosea 14:1-9 2 Corinthians 11:1-15</p> <p>W Psalm 45:6-17 Isaiah 62:1-5 John 3:22-36</p>
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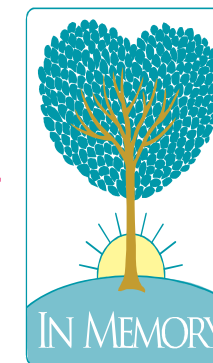
February Birthday's



2/1 Mark Gregersen
2/4 Helen Crim
Caroline Fake
2/6 Cindy Altus
Gena Dillon

2/10 Jason Ciola
2/11 Beth Moe
2/11 Arlowayne Brenno
Larry Klug
2/12 Katy Classon
2/15 Dorie Dralle
Ray Kirk
2/17 Tia Desplancke
2/18 Matt Tribur
2/19 Gaylord Wilson
Dietrich Tiesler

Michelle Anderson
Carrah Johnson
2/21 JoAnn Anderson
Georgia Classon
2/22 Brian Johnson
2/24 Kathy Tiesler
Mark Williams
K.C. Dillon
2/27 Jean Moeschler
Carter Grover
2/28 Ralph Roper
Milly Gould
John Allison



*Commended to God's
everlasting care.....
Kevin Darlings Father
Bryan & Jan
Whiteside's Mother and
Grandmother*