

We Are on the Web

www.bethlehelutheranauburn.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



Grief Group
Tuesday Nights 7:00 PM – 8:30PM
Starting February 5th

The Herald
Pastor's Page ~ Lent



It seems that the world of technology introduces us to all kinds of changes. I have slowly complied and consented to entering into the 21st century. I have graduated from the standard cell phone to the popular I-Phone. I'm still trying to figure out how to use this new gadget but much to my surprise, I find myself enjoying it. In a similar vein, Britt and I received the final print edition of *Newsweek* magazine in December. They have gone all-digital. As someone who prefers to hold the printed page in my hands, I considered this a huge loss and lamented the change. Reluctantly, I downloaded the first digital version and, much to my surprise and in spite of my grouching, I discovered more features and greater coverage than the printed edition could ever contain.

Change happens. Sometimes we embrace change. Sometimes we are reluctant and at times we are down resistant. Yet, much of the time, and much to our surprise, the change we fear becomes a source of fulfillment and life. I like to think of this as a kind of mantra for the Christian life.

Soon we will begin the season of Lent, our annual journey of preparation for Easter. Essentially, Lent is about change. We begin the journey with ashes marked on our foreheads and the sober reminder that we are dust and to dust we shall return. That's a dose of reality that humbles most any soul. But, the journey doesn't end there. The ashes, shaped in the form of Jesus' cross, invite us to place our trust, again, in the things of God. It is a call to change.

We're recovering the ancient sense of Lent as a time to prepare persons for baptism or

engage in baptismal renewal. Together, we'll journey toward the font and a renewal of baptism and that journey is always one that is filled with surprises. Change is like that and it is a big part of what it means to claim baptism as our primary identity. We must be so open to allow Jesus to define our lives and, yes, change them.

One way to do this is to take on a kind of spiritual practice. This Lent, I invite you to do so. Perhaps you'll renew within you the gift of prayer or sit with scripture. Maybe you will want to take advantage of the Lenten activities taking place in the parish. You might want to consider giving time and money to the poor. Whatever it might be, approach such a practice not as mere duty or obligation, but as an opportunity to grow in your relationship with God and in love of neighbor.

See Lent as a kind of "homecoming." Along with your sisters and brothers in Christ, come back home to the God who is gracious and merciful, full of kindness and abounding in love.

Yes, change happens and in the purview of God, is always life-giving.

Peace,
Pastor Bryon

Ash Wednesday
February 13, 2013
NOON at Bethlehem
Holy Communion with imposition of ashes

7:00 pm at St. Theresa Roman Catholic Church

A joint service of St. Luke Episcopal, Pioneer United Methodist, Auburn Presbyterian, First Congregational (UCC), Bethlehem Lutheran and St. Teresa's

CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR
Bryon Hansen

OFFICE MANAGER
Joy Johnson

WORSHIP COORDINATOR
Denise Nelson

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE
Randi Olson

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
Kathye Hamm

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

President

Karen Stein

Vice President

Inge Hendersen

Secretary/Treasurer

Don Schultze

Members at Large:

Dirk deValk

Laura Hesse

Scott Smith

Christie Sonmez

Wholistic Health For the Soul



Christ commands us to nourish our souls, and in doing so, we are also nourishing our bodies, staying healthy, and keeping a clean heart. Nourishment can be taken seriously, or thought of as recreation; a time to socialize and indulge in foods that are comforting but not necessarily nourishing. The football playoffs and Oscar awards are a fine example of times to have friends and family in to celebrate together.. fun and food! We might want to look seriously at what we serve our friends and families...and ourselves. Is the food going to help or hinder us in feeling better the next day?

In the most recent Nutrition Action Health letter some examples of yummy snacks are given, such as Artery Crust (Marie Callenders Chicken Pot Pie), Transgressions (Land o Lakes Margarine), Tortilla Terror (Chipotle Chicken Burrito), Triple Bypass (Olive Garden's chicken Parmigianino), and Burial Grand's (Pillsbury Southern Style frozen biscuits). Of course, the calories are also listed, but I won't cause anyone to feel guilty by printing them. Burt, also listed are far better alternatives....healthier choices we might find easier to prepare and serve!

Their "10 Super Foods" include sweet potatoes, mangos, unsweetened Greek yogurt, broccoli, wild salmon, crisp breads, garbanzo beans, watermelon, butternut squash, and leafy greens. This array of foods not only give loads of vitamins, but lots of protein, fiber, potassium, calcium, antioxidants, lycopene, and folate and iron. What more could we want? Good taste! And all of these foods can be spiced up or down according to your taste. Of course, nuts, such as walnuts and almonds can be thrown in too.

The biggest help to keeping one's body and mind healthy is eating in small amounts...moderation. So eat well and don't forget to walk or exercise a little every day!

HEADS UP - WATCH FOR THE ARTICLES ON FEBRUARY 25TH...A FAMILY SEMINAR, AS WELL AS A 6 WEEK GRIEF/LOSS SUPPORT GROUP HERE AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN.

I just want to remind you that Holy Week is coming up and I will need volunteers to serve during those services. Please think of how you might serve and let me know.

I also want to thank each one of you who continue to serve. Your faithfulness in serving is how our worship services continue to bless us. Thank you.

Peace, Denise Nelson

Worship Coordinator



Daily Lectionary for January 2013

F Psalm 71:1-6 2 Chronicles 35:20-27 Acts 19:1-10	Sa Psalm 71:1-6 2 Chronicles 36:11-21 John 1:43-51	Sunday <u>Feb 3</u> Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30	M Psalm 56 1 Kings 17:8-16 1 Corinthians 2:6-16	Tu Psalm 56 2 Kings 5:1-14 1 Corinthians 14:13-25	W Psalm 56 Jeremiah 1:11-19 Luke 19:41-44	Th Psalm 138 Numbers 20:22-29 Acts 9:19b-25	F Psalm 138	Numbers 27:12-23 Acts 9:26-31	Sa Psalm 138 Judges 3:7-11 Luke 4:42-44	Sunday <u>Feb 10</u> Exodus 34:29-35 Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2 Luke 9:28-36 [37-43]	M Psalm 35:11-28 Exodus 35:1-29 Acts 10:9-23a	Tu Psalm 35:11-28 Ezekiel 1:1—2:1 Acts 10:23b-33	W <u>Ash Wednesday</u> Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12 Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	Th Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Exodus 5:10-23	Acts 7:30-34 F Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Exodus 6:1-13 Acts 7:35-42 Sa Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 John 12:27-36	Sunday <u>Feb 17</u> Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13 M Psalm 17 1 Chronicles 21:1-17 1 John 2:1-6 Tu Psalm 17 Zechariah 3:1-10 2 Peter 2:4-21 W Psalm 17 Job 1:1-22 Luke 21:34—22:6 Th Psalm 27 Genesis 13:1-7, 14-18 Philippians 3:2-12	F Psalm 27 Genesis 14:17-24 Philippians 3:17-20 Sa Psalm 27 Psalm 118:26-29 Matthew 23:37-39	Sunday <u>Feb 24</u> Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Psalm 27 Philippians 3:17—4:1 Luke 13:31-35 M Psalm 105:1-15 [16-41] 42 Exodus 33:1-6 Romans 4:1-12 Tu Psalm 105:1-15 [16-41] 42 Numbers 14:10b-24 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 W Psalm 105:1-15 [16-41] 42 2 Chronicles 20:1-22 Luke 13:22-31 Th Psalm 63:1-8 Daniel 3:19-30 Revelation 2:8-11
--	---	--	--	--	--	--	--------------------	----------------------------------	--	--	--	---	---	--	---	--	---	---

February Birthday's



Mark Gregersen

Landon Marx
Helen Crim
Caroline Fake
Cindy Altus
Gena Dillon
Jason Ciola
Beth Moe
Larry Klug
Dorie Dralle
Ray Kirk
Tia Desplancke

Matt Tribur
Gaylord Wilson
Dietrich Tieseler
Chelle Anderson
JoAnn Anderson
Georgia Classon
Brian Johnson
Kathy Tieseler
Mark Williams
K.C. Dillon
Nancy Thiessen
Jean Moeschler
Carter Grover
Ralph Roper
Milly Gould
John Allison

Pray for: Dave Scherman, Gladys Waters, Josh Daniel, Dale Buse, Elaine Reese, Caroline Davis and Shannon. **Those who mourn:** Amos Olson Family, Shelby Nelson Family, Walter Riley Family. **Continue to pray for:** Sue Ostrem, Maxine Gillespie, Wayne Larson, Steve Leimer, Jolene Kirk, Lillian Mierkey, Louise Lane, Dora Sather, Inez Larson, Caroline Fake, Agnes Bensley, Dori Dralle, and Curtis Lee. **Faithful Departed:** Walter Riley, Hannah Olson, Shelly Nelson. **We pray for these ministries-**Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson, Bishop Mark Holmerud, Sierra Pacific Synod, BLC's Church Council, Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, Stephen's Ministry, Pastor Gerard Mahirane, and our sister parish in Kibungo (Rwanda), and the congregations in Tijuana.

Dear Friends and Family,

First, Adam, Karen and I are profoundly humbled by the response of our church, friends and neighbors to our loss of Hannah. We also want to recognize the support received from our employers and the schools that Hannah attended over the years. When we say humbled, we truly mean it. People we never expected to help us in our pain, such as some of our Vintage Oaks neighbors, individuals from the schools and community at large that we had never met or only casually knew, and yet they were there for us. Words cannot embody what the meals, hugs, cards, flowers and the general outpouring of human kindness meant to us other than to say that in this darkest of time, these outward acts of support helped us stand, and were the beginning of our healing. "Thank you" doesn't begin to plumb the well of gratitude we hold for everyone, but we offer these simple heartfelt words to everyone.

We are not pretending that we are not still deeply in grief or fully functioning as a family. We are however asking everyone to let us try to resume the duties associated with living. This means we want to do our own shopping and making our own meals and trying to make a go of things. As someone who has been through this awful experience shared with us, "finding out what the new normal is", that is life without Hannah, is the next step of our journey of grief, and we are now prepared to take that step.

Be assured that our experience of being open to our community, having experienced its healing powers, makes us confident that if we need help and ask for it, we shall have that support just by asking. And we will ask if we feel the need, and we want everyone who still wants to help us to trust that we will.

We are open to any questions people might have about Hannah, our goal being to help others. When a teenager takes their own life, the question everyone has is "why"? As Hannah's family, this is the biggest question we have wrestled with these past two weeks as well. The honest answer is no one will ever really know, because the answer died with Hannah. She never shared the "why" with anyone.

What we know is that Hannah entered into depression a little over two years ago. She made a suicide gesture/attempt in the 7th grade. Since, she has been in the constant care of an excellent counselor. Hannah improved sometimes, though she was very skilled at saying things and changing her behavior to mask the unresolved depression. In late October of 2012 she made suicidal statements, counseling intensified, she made additional suicidal statements in early December and was placed on anti-depressants. The day Hannah took her life, she was joking around with her brother and me, talking about the classes she would be taking as school resumed, and generally about her future plans. Within the half-hour, she was gone, having taken her life in her bedroom while her brother and I were in the house doing chores.

The details of her descent to her heartbreaking decision will be unclear forever, but we hope there is a message for positive outcomes so that others can be helped. There were some contributing environmental factors to Hannah's unhappiness. And, it is only these things that all of us are left with to focus on as we move day by day from grief to contributing action in an effort to change things that might make life easier for some teens.

We believe that the teens themselves can change their world and we as adults need to be their models and mentors to this end. So we ask, be kind to yourself and to others.

Being kind to yourself means to think about the self image messages that you are sending yourself. Each individual is a miracle of highest worth and potential. Think of yourself accordingly. Being kind to yourself means to really think about what you are consuming by way of music, video games, movies, internet and social media sites. This means that we ask that you help us tone down the vulgarity and violence being consumed in music, video games and movies. At a minimum, even if you don't think that violent vulgar content is hurting you, realize that it is like feeding your brain and self-esteem junk food. Small amounts of consumption might be magically OK, avoiding them completely and substituting healthy content would be a better goal and a kinder to yourself choice.

Being kind to others means raising the awareness that some kids handle the darkest material vulgarity and violence just fine, but others might not. Being nice to others means thinking twice before making that "mean" statement you might want to make to or about someone. You really do not know how that person will emotionally handle what you say. And finally, be aware of what you say and allow to go unchecked in social media venues. Because social media is buffered from face-to-face contact, things are said, relationships broken, and nasty rumors spread, wide and far at the speed of light, and this can be a constant and insidious source of painful stress for our teens.

We don't know if anything would have saved Hannah. We do know this is how she wanted the world to be. We ask that you help spread the word and be an instrument to the ends we have described. In this, together, we can honor Hannah and make this her legacy.

Gratefully, Amos, Karen and Adam



PARENTING TIPS!

Check out this amazing FREE website



www.vibrantfaithathome.or

LOVE NOTES

By Christy Huffman

Using God's Word, our words, and pictures to share love with our family.

Season

Winter - around Valentine's Day

Needed

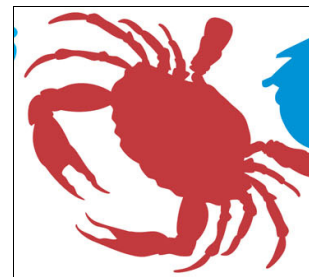
Bible, Red, pink, and/or white construction paper or cardstock, markers, crayons or colored pencils, scissors, heart stickers (optional)

Activity Plan

- Using the paper or cardstock, cut seven hearts of different sizes per family member. (Parents may need to cut these for small children.)
- On one side of the hearts write TO: [family member's name] LOVE: [your name]. Optional: Place heart stickers on this side.
- On the other side of the hearts write (or draw) one of the following:
 - A verse about loving God or God's love for us. (Parents may need to help younger or non-reading children find these verses. For children who can't write, have them draw pictures of what the verse means to them. Parents can also re-word a verse, if needed, so a child can understand it.)

John 3:16	Deuteronomy 6:5	Psalm 18:1	Psalm 33:22	Psalm 36:7
Psalm 86:15	Psalm 89:1	Psalm 100:5	Psalm 106:1	John 13:34
Proverbs 10:12	Matthew 19:19	Luke 10:27	Romans 8:38-39	1 Corinthians 13:4
John 15:9	John 15:12	1 Corinthians 16:14	2 Thessalonians 3:5	1 Peter 3:8
1 Corinthians 13:13	1 John 4:8	1 John 4:19	Jude 1:2	

 - One thing you love about a family member
 - One thing you love about God and/or God's creation.
- Place one heart in each family member's backpack, purse, diaper bag, briefcase, lunch bag for a week.



A Gathering Inn Fund Raiser ~ Crab Feed

Saturday, February 23, 2013

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, 6365 Douglas Blvd.

\$40 all you can eat crab, salad, pasta, bread and dessert

Tickets online at thegatheringinn.com

RAISING HEALTHY KIDS IN TODAY'S CHALLENGING WORLD

Monday, February 25th, at 6:00



Do you feel like the only way you can have a relationship with your teen is to become their Face book friend? In your efforts to communicate with your teen, do you sometimes feel like you have a bad connection? Are you concerned about moodiness, apparel choices or withdrawal on the part of your teen? As parents, we want to provide every good thing to our kids—love, security, protection, tenderness, intimacy, support, and more. If we are honest, however, we will admit that by the time they hit the teens, hurts, conflicts and misunderstandings sometimes pile up like a road block that makes it seem impossible to regain the easy give and take we had with our kids when they were younger. They may act as though they don't want to connect with you, but they still need you as much as they ever did!

Join Olive Branch Counselors Debra Velasquez and Robin Blair for an evening of illuminating discussion to help you break down the barriers and get to the heart of what matters to your teen! Debra and Robin will help you learn how to connect with your teen in ways that work—and how to protect them from the sometimes overwhelming challenges they face in today's world. You'll learn about:

- · Parenting POWER! It's in the connection!
- · The heart of the matter...
- · Bully-proof your kids
- · Dialogue—breaking through misunderstandings
- · And much more!

Grief Group

Tuesday Nights 7:00 PM – 8:30PM

Starting February 5th



Losing a dear friend or a loved one to death can be a deeply painful experience. Sometimes it seems like the pain will never subside. Grief is not the process of “getting over” the loss of a loved one—it is the process by which we mourn the loss and re-organize ourselves, our relationships, and our life pursuits in light of the loss. Pretending to be OK when you don't feel OK after a loss will probably lead to more emotional pain in the long-run. God created us to provide comfort to one-another. That's what we do in grief groups. We remember, we honor the loved ones who are gone, we get honest about it, we allow ourselves to feel whatever we feel, and we provide each other comfort and understanding. If you are hurting and confused because of the death of a loved one, or feeling the loss of a job, divorce or any other loss you need to know that you are not alone. Please join Olive Branch Therapists Debra Velasquez and Joy Lindbloom for a grief group on Tuesday nights, starting February 5th from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. In the fireside room in the Fellowship Hall. This group is open to people 7th grade and older and will be a six week class.

Reach Beyond Our Walls to Provide a Roof

Time and time again the Spirit seems to be leading (or pushing) us outside of the church walls to minister to others. This time it entails raising money for a community ministry—money that will be matched by Thrivent. But we need to act now to take advantage of this opportunity!

This month we begin a fundraising drive to purchase a cottage for the Acres of Hope program for at-risk women with children. This will provide a home for the family until they are back on their feet. How exciting!

To accomplish this, we will hold small house-meetings where you can learn more about this amazing ministry, and what you can do to make this cottage a reality. Stay tuned for email and bulletin updates. And if you want to be involved, please contact Joe or Patricia Irvin—916-505-8636.

Let's Raise a Roof!



Rwanda Mission Update

Dear Don and Tia, and all our friends at BLC,

Please receive warm greetings from Kibungo parish and Lutheran Church of Rwanda. I want to send you much appreciation for the December 2012 funds allocated for Kibungo parish as well as to acknowledge your goodness and Love to our parish. We pray almighty God our Father to increase your love and generosity all the time. Our parish in Kibungo is growing so fast from time we began to worship in our piece of land.... The good news also is that we have a Evangelist who assists Pr Gerard for parish service. His name is Evangelist Viateri Nizeyeimana. He is married , and have 2 children and he is doing great job. We have our parish elders also doing great things; Their names; (male) Mr. Alex Kayihura and (famel) Madam Mutesi Gerida. This team is working with Pr. Gerard as well as other members of congregation and all are doing well. Please continue to pray for them. Yes, as you mentioned, I have been posting pictures on Facebook page to show our parish progress and I noticed many of you have visited to see the photo, thanks! More news is that Bishop Mugabo again plans to pay a visit at Kibungo parish next Sunday. All these are blessings to us. Hoping to send you more photos about this event. Continue to pray for this ministry. With Regards,

GERARD GERARDSON MUVUNYI
Coordinator for Planning, Capacity Building & Development
Lutheran Church Of Rwanda (LCR)
PO.BOX 7264
KIGALI-RWANDA



Women's Ministry News



If you read the Annual Report you will have noticed that we are inviting more women of the church to join us in ministry. That can be done in several ways:

Join us for Bible Study on the 4th Thursday of each month at 10:00 at the church. If a morning group is not a time that you are available and would like to be in a study with women, we would like to accommodate you with starting a new session. Another way to join us in service to oth-

ers is with our quilt making or in a visitation ministry to the homebound . Is it hard for you to go visit in person? Maybe you would like to send cards to remind these folks that they are missed. Another way is by assisting in serving on the Funeral Task Force (another article in this edition). There are many opportunities to join in fellowship with others and you are invited to let us know what your interests are. Our Quilting Plus is held the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month from 9:00 - Noon. Coffee time is about 10:00 so join us for coffee if you aren't interested in quilting. Any questions? Call Kathryn Stoltenburg or Donna Larson.

FUNERAL TASK FORCE As you know our church family provides meals for families after a memorial service. We cannot do this without everyone's help. The names of families have been divided into segments of three months,, and you are only asked to help during that three month periods. We usually ask for a donation of food but if you wish you may contribute money instead. Another thing we need is for people to set up to be a leader for these meals. We need one or two people to plan and purchase the food with guidelines that have been set up, (You will be reimbursed for any costs incurred.), people to help set up the Fellowship Hall and people to offer to be the clean up crew. When you are called to serve, let u know if you are able to help out. The families who have suffered the loss of a loved one are so very appreciative for the meal that is prepared. If you have any questions please call Kathryn Stoltenburg.

Men's Ministry News

The Newest Nation in the World

On July 9, 2011, South Sudan was made an independent nation. This past September, Britt Olson (wife of Pastor Bryon) traveled there to develop a closer relationship between the Episcopal Church of Sudan and the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California. Britt serves this Diocese as the Bishop's Assistant. While in Sudan, she was able to work with a number of different ministries and to travel into the remote jungle on the border between Congo, Central African Republic and S. Sudan. Britt will be showing some of her photos, telling stories and answering questions at the February 26 meeting of "Men in Mission." Everyone at Bethlehem is welcome for this presentation. Please join us for a potluck dinner at 6:00. The presentation by Britt begins following the dinner.



Join the **Men's Breakfast** which meets once a month on the Third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 a.m. at Denny's Restaurant on Hwy 49 and Atwood. We will begin reading a book together, *Making Sense of the Christian Faith* by David Lose. Pastor Bryon leads the discussion. All men are welcome!

Keeping a Holy Lent



Fast From-Feast On

- ◆ Fast from judging others; Feast on the Christ dwelling in them.
- ◆ Fast from emphasis on differences; Feast on the unity of life.
- ◆ Fast from apparent darkness; Feast on the reality of light.
- ◆ Fast from thoughts of illness; Feast on the healing power of God.
- ◆ Fast from words that pollute; Feast on phrases that purify.
- ◆ Fast from discontent; Feast on gratitude.
- ◆ Fast from anger; Feast on patience.
- ◆ Fast from pessimism; Feast on optimism.
- ◆ Fast from worry; Feast on divine order.
- ◆ Fast from complaining; Feast on appreciation.
- ◆ Fast from negatives; Feast on affirmatives.
- ◆ Fast from unrelenting pressures; Feast on increasing prayer.
- ◆ Fast from hostility; Feast on non-resistance.
- ◆ Fast from bitterness; Feast on forgiveness.
- ◆ Fast from self-concern; Feast on compassion for others.
- ◆ Fast from personal anxiety; Feast on eternal truth.
- ◆ Fast from discouragements; Feast on hope.
- ◆ Fast from facts that depress; Feast on verities that uplift.
- ◆ Fast from lethargy; Feast on enthusiasm.
- ◆ Fast from thoughts that weaken; Feast on promises that inspire.
- ◆ Fast from shadows of sorrow; Feast on the sunlight of serenity.
- ◆ Fast from idle gossip; Feast on purposeful silence.
- ◆ Fast from problems that overwhelm; Feast on prayer that (strengthens).

Why Ash Wednesday?

Jesus retreated into the wilderness and fasted for 40 days. This was a time for reflection, contemplation and preparation for his ministry. When we walk through the forty days of Lent we join Jesus on his retreat. Lent consists of forty days before Easter (not counting Sundays because they are always joyful celebrations of Easter even in Lent).

In ancient times, people marked times of fasting, prayer and repentance by placing ashes on their foreheads (see 2 Samuel 13:19, Esther 4:1-3, Job 42:6 and Jeremiah 6:26). This custom entered the church from the Jewish tradition and is most appropriate on Ash Wednesday we begin a period of reflection, retreat and spiritual redirection.

The beauty of the church year is that we get to celebrate our life in Christ in a variety of ways and with a variety of moods. Christian worship and living is not one dimensional. On Easter and Christmas and times like this, we soar with loud praise. At other times, we are more quiet or reflective. Look at it this way: We celebrate with Jesus at times like Easter. As true friends of Jesus, we also watch and pray with him on Maundy Thursday, stand by him at the Cross on Good Friday and retreat with him into the wilderness during Lent.

Look for a special table in the Narthex with a variety of devotionals for Lent. Feel free to pick one or more up for your use during the Lenten Journey. They include *Imitators of Christ* by Mark Zimmerman (daily prayer for Lent); and two pieces by Henri Nouwen,



Wednesdays in Lent

In addition to Sundays, there are opportunities to travel the Lenten journey together on Wednesdays. There are opportunities at Bethlehem mid-morning and evening services rotating among the area Auburn churches.

Beginning Ash Wednesday, February 13 and continuing through Lent...

Morning Prayer – 10:00 a.m.

Lenten Study – 10:30 a.m. “Praying the Psalms”

Holy Communion at Noon

Lunch follows the service

Beginning Ash Wednesday and continuing through Lent ...

Evening Services at 7:00 p.m.

“Plain talk from Jesus on Everyday living”

February 13 Ash Wednesday

at St. Theresa of Avila Catholic Parish ~ 11600 Atwood Rd. Auburn

Pastor Dan Spacek (First Congregational Church), preacher

February 20 at Auburn Presbyterian Church ~ 13025 Bel Air Dr. , Auburn

Pastor Barbara Smith (Pioneer United Methodist), preacher

February 27 at Bethlehem Lutheran ~ 1279 High Street, Auburn

Father Mike Carrol and Dan Appel (St. Theresa & Auburn 7th Day Adventist), preacher

March 6 at 1st Congregational Church ~ 710 Auburn Ravine Rd, Auburn

Father Dan Williamson (St. Luke’s Episcopal), preacher

March 13 at Pioneer United Methodist ~ 1338 Lincoln Way, Auburn

Pastor Bryon Hansen (Bethlehem), preacher

March 20 at St. Luke’s Episcopal ~ Corner of Lewis & Orange

Pastor Ken Winter (Auburn Presbyterian), preacher

Offerings will go to Auburn Interfaith Food Closet,

The Gathering Inn and Placer People of Faith Together.



Council's goals for 2013 are stated in the BLC's Annual Report. With at least three new Council members there will need to be an immediate re-evaluation of these goals. But I think the emphasis and goals are a good starting point. Again they are:

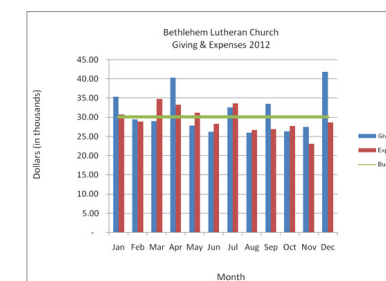
- Starting to implement “A VISION of DISCIPLESHIP” as described in the Vision Document. This strategic plan will guide the congregation in all aspects of our spiritual journey as we move forward as a missional congregation based on the Baptismal Covenant.
- Completing the search for a full-time youth director.
- Continue our commitment to biblical stewardship.
- All ministries and church functions keep their respective expenses within their approved spending plan.
- Promote active participation by congregants, especially the youth, in all church missions and responsible stewardship in all areas.
- Continue to improve communications between Council, staff, and our various internal ministries.

As we start to implement the Vision Plan, we will need to have the congregation fully involved. Another major event in 2013 will be Pastor’s Sabbatical. Council will be working hand in hand with Pastor’s Support group as we approach his time away this fall.

In January 2013 issue of **The Lutheran**, the cover story is about the "The shrinking church" which covers the downward trends among ELCA congregations over the past several years. BLC also had a slight decrease in attendance in 2012; however, all other areas of our congregational life are strong and are not following national trends. Our 2012 generosity improvement was remarkable and made us financially much better off at year's end. We still have a ways to go, but if we stay the course and remain fiscally conservative we should complete our debt reduction and have a positive cash flow in the foreseeable future.

This is my last president’s report for The Herald as I am stepping down. I am in deep gratitude for the support I received from Council and the congregation during this past year. I believe the momentum started in 2012 will allow Council success in achieving the above goals in 2013.

Peace, Don Schultze



ART NOTES

“Connections”, new art exhibit, begins Feb 5.

2013 Coming Exhibits

All About Water—March 31 –May 31

Animal Kingdom—May 31-July 31

At Home & Abroad– July 31 to Sept 30

Ages of Man– September 30 to Nov 30

Traveling Afar– November 30 to Jan 31