

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



CHRISTMAS EVE

6:00 PM ~ Family Service

7:30 PM ~ Festive Eucharist with

Choir & Organ

11:00 PM ~ Candlelight Eucharist with

Praise Band

CHRISTMAS DAY

10 AM ~ Blended Christmas Day Holy

Communion

You are invited to share your favorite gift!

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Open to Everyone!

2:00 PM

The Herald Pastor's Page



CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR

Bryon Hansen

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Bryan Whiteside

OFFICE MANAGER

Joy Johnson

WORSHIP COORDINATOR

Denise Nelson

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE

Randi Olson

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Kathye Hamm

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

President

James Anderberg

Vice President

Sid Frame

Secretary/Treasurer

Diane Allison

Members at Large:

Debbie Clark

Jaron Latona

Bob Thiessen

Shawn Wakefield

God is always doing a new thing – lifting up the lowly and downcast, healing the brokenhearted, setting the oppressed free, humbling the proud, forgiving sin, reconciling enemies, raising up servants, fashioning new disciples, and calling God's people to take risks of compassion, mercy and justice.

When I consider the cycles and rhythms of the Christian year, nowhere is this theme of God doing a new thing more apparent than in the season of Advent. In the short space of four weeks, we are invited to imagine all the ways in which the Kingdom of God is breaking into our world. It is always a new thing.

In Advent, we ask God to stir us up so that we may pay attention to all the ways Christ has come and continues to come among us. We focus on Christ's coming again as a reason to be faithful in the present. We hear the cry of John the Baptist and so we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus by asking God to change our minds and hearts toward new vi-

sions and new ways of living. Finally, when we find ourselves inching closer to Christmas, we see the image of Christ in the child of Bethlehem. Celebrating this birth isn't so much to dwell in something that happened long ago, but to be open to Christ being born in us again.

Using the vernacular of the computer world, Advent for me, is a time to reboot. It is a time to embrace waiting as a discipline of prayer and a time to wonder what God is doing in my life and in the lives of those with whom I share community. It is a time for retreat. It is a time to pray. It is a time to set aside the noise and dare to be silent and still before God.

Best of all, Advent is a time for us together. What does that look like for the people of Bethlehem? We will, first of all, celebrate the Rite of Welcome at our services of worship ear-

ly in the season. This is a time to greet those new in our midst. As participants in the "Journey of Faith," they are entering into much more than a program. They are entering into the very fabric of our faith community and its mission. In this rite we surround them with prayer as they enter into the new thing God has begun in their lives.

We will also be launching our strategic planning process, facilitated by Pastor Rick Rouse. Soon a visioning team will begin their task of taking the time to see what God is doing among us and discerning where God is calling us into the future. Advent is a good time for that.

Yes, God is doing a new thing among us. Take the time in Advent to perceive it, welcome it, and ask God to fashion your heart and mind around these new things. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Peace,
Pastor Bryon

A Note from Bryan Whiteside



Last night I had the privilege to see N.T Wright speak at my seminary in Sacramento. He is a prolific author, scholar, and recently resigned as the Bishop of Durham in order to continue writing. He spoke about the Kingdom of God and began his message by suggesting that most Christians believe that the two most important things Jesus did was come to earth and die on the cross. If these were the only two things recorded in the Gospels many Christians would be okay with that. In other words, Christmas and Easter would be sufficient for most Christians.

However, if pushed to answer the question of what Jesus did those thirty something years between the incarnation and the resurrection, most Christians would answer “he loved people.” Although that is true, it is not complete. What Jesus was doing was ushering in the Kingdom of God to be participated in by all who follow Him. What is the Kingdom of God? Take a look at Jesus’ life, teachings, miracles, etc. This essentially means that God really cares about creation, life, and the world. As we participate in God’s work we are set free and this freedom is salvation.

The best part about participating and building for the Kingdom of God is that we know how the story ends. There is a time when God will create all things new and set the world back to how it was intended to be. Meanwhile we live in the in-between space where we participate in building towards that reality. It is exciting that we, to participate in God’s reign here and now, do not have to wait until after we die to see God’s Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven, but we live in that reality as God’s covenantal people.



All Church Advent Celebration

Who: Everyone at BLC!

When: Sunday, November 27 from 9:45 – 10:45

Where: The BLC Fellowship Hall

What: Devotions, treats and a chance to make an Advent Calendar for your family

Why: To join together as a church family and celebrate the beginning of Advent

Questions? Talk to Bryan Whiteside, Kathye Hamm, Monica Latona, Virginia Ward, or Ruth Dugan



Pregnant and Waiting

It is Advent and we are a people, pregnant. Pregnant and waiting. We long for the God/Man to be born, and this waiting is hard. Our whole life is spent, one way or another, in waiting. Information puts us on hold and fills our waiting ear with thin, irritating music. Our order hasn’t come in yet. The elevator must be stuck. Our spouse is late. Will the snow never melt, the rain never stop, the paint ever dry? Will anyone ever understand? Will I ever change? Life is a series of hopes, and waitings, and half-fulfillments. With grace and increasing patience and understanding of this human condition of constantly unsatisfied desire, we wait on our incompleting salvation.

Waiting, because it will always be with us, can be made a work of art, and the season of Advent invites us to underscore and understand with a new patience that very feminine state of being, waiting. Our masculine world wants to blast away waiting from our lives. Instant gratification has become our constitutional right and delay an aberration. We equate waiting with wasting. So we build Concorde airplanes, drink instant coffee, roll out green plastic and call it turf, and reach for the phone before we reach for the pen. The more life asks us to wait, the more we anxiously hurry. The tempo of haste in which we live has less to do with being on time or the efficiency of a busy life—it has more to do with our being unable to wait. But waiting is unpractical time, good for nothing but mysteriously necessary to all that is becoming. As in a pregnancy, nothing of value comes into being without a period of quiet incubation: not a healthy baby, not a loving relationship, not a reconciliation, a new understanding, a work of art, never a transformation. Rather, a shortened period of incubation brings forth what is not whole or strong or even alive. Brewing, baking, simmering, fermenting, ripening, germinating, gestating are the feminine processes of becoming and they are the symbolic states of being which belong in a life of value, necessary to transformation.

Waiting could use a fresh new look. The discipline of delayed gratification—not celebrating Christmas until the twenty-fourth of December—and the hope-filled rituals of our Advent preparations will give new value to the waiting periods in our lives.

Gertrude Mueller-Nelson ~ *To Dance with God*

EVENING SERVICE OF MEDITATION, PRAYER AND PEACE Join us December 11th 5:30 PM for our December of Meditation, Prayer and Peace. Come and experience the contemplative spirit of Taize’ music. Prayers for healing are available as is opportunity to light candles around the cross. A wonderful way to observe Advent!





Women's Ministry

Quilting Plus

Quilting Plus: December 6th, Tuesday, will be our last "Quilting Bee" this year. We will resume, Tuesday, January 3rd in the fellowship hall. Following our "sewing bee" we will have Pot Luck Salad lunch. All former quilters are invited. A sad note, one of our former quilters, Lee Rosati, has died this week.

Good News Girls

All women, we are having a Brunch on Thursday, December 1st at 10 o'clock A.M. in the fellowship hall followed by a short Bible study on Mark, chapters 4,5,and 6. Marge Johnson is study leader. All women are welcome and we would love to have you.

**THANK YOU,
THANK YOU,
THANK YOU**

Thank you for your most generous support of our craft and bake sale. Once again you more than generously supported us in our philanthropic efforts. You gave us approximately \$1400 which we will in turn give to our favorite Lutheran charities. We always give away all that we make at our craft and bake sales. If you would like to help us make our decisions, come Thursday January 26th at 10:30 in the fellowship hall. Thank you once again.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY AT BETHLEHEM Over the centuries, Prayer Shawls have come to symbolize shelter, peace, and spiritual sustenance. Now thousands of knitters and those that crochet are creating handmade shawls. The Prayer Shawls are Blessed at church before they are given out. This is so meaningful to the grateful recipients. We are very proud to be a part of this great need. I thank all that contribute to our Prayer Shawl Ministry. Many have gone to our church family. Others have gone to Hospice. If you would like to be a part of this Ministry, please call or see me in church for the yarn and simple pattern. 530-308-2836... YES! I need your help.



Thank you. Jean Kinnison

Christmas Flowers

It is that time of year again. Beginning Sunday November 27, the flower donation box will be on the table in the fellowship hall. It is clearly marked. All donations will go towards flowers for the Christmas Eve services



Wholistic Health For the Soul

I Chronicles 28:9 "...for the Lord looks into all hearts, and understand every plan and thought. If you look to Him, He will let you find Him. But if you turn away from Him, He will turn away from you forever."

There are many days when the wish to help others in need seems to be stronger than the day before. There is an energy that sits waiting to be used. It seems that it is sent by the Holy Spirit, because just as soon as the energy is recognized, a need seems to pop up. It may be through a conversation or song, or meeting someone unexpectedly who has a story to tell. Recently this happened, and it was an expression on a person's face that triggered the energy to be there; a call to do something for that person.

Perhaps it is what we all know as empathy. It feels like you already know what the person is experiencing or feeling because you have felt it in the past or are feeling it at the same time. The energy

connects both of you in a powerful way. In the September issue of Mayo Clinic's Health Letter, a writer suggests that we feel this empathy because of specialized brain cells called "mirror neurons". Supposedly, our brain cells light up when we not only perform an action, but when we see someone else perform the same action. In doing so, we take on the other person's point of view and interpret the person's intentions. The same regions of the brain are activated whether you are the one smiling or you encounter another person smiling.

Working with people who are in need of cheer, or a visit, or communion can give one the feeling of knowing how loneliness must feel. It triggers a time in one's own life when loneliness was experienced. If we do something about that person's need, (and the mirror neurons are at work), evidence of cheerfulness, socialization, or spiritual calmness is the reward for both parties.

That return of energy is because there is reciprocity of feelings. Feelings cannot be scientifically measured, but they certainly can be felt in one's heart.

During this holiday season, may our intuitions be heightened to the point of feeling empathetic. And when empathy sets in, may we be ready to answer the call. May we spread God's energy of joy and love to all. Merry Christmas!

Randi, FCN



**Spreads
God's love
energy of
joy and
love to all!**

Kid's Corner



Spotlight on You!

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



Name: **Nicholas Anderson**

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 **monkey**, because **I like monkeys.**

My favorite book of all time is **Spider Man.**

Some things I like about Bethlehem are **the people, the things and the church.**

Name: **Gabriella Seoud**

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

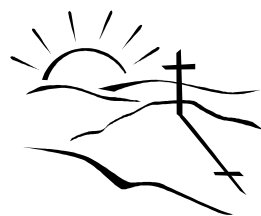
When I grow up, I want to be **a music teacher.**

If I could be any animal for a day, I would be a **puppy**, because **you always get to be petted and loved by your owner.**

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

Some things I like about Bethlehem are **we get to have the children's message during church and Kids on Wednesday**

FAITH FORMATION FOR KIDS



"Arise!"

September 11, 2011—May 27, 2012

9:45—10:45 am

There will be no Godly Play on December 25, 2011 and January 1, 2012

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.



"The Well"

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.



Christmas Season

The Christmas Holidays Can Be Painful

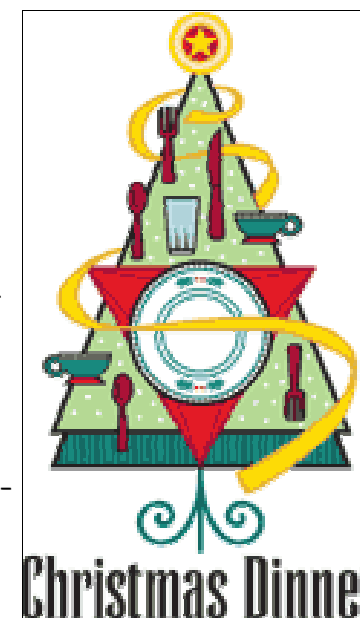
The joy of Christmas can turn into a time of painful loneliness and emptiness for those who have suffered a loss or who are going through a difficult time. But help is available. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide confidential, one-to-one, Christian care. They will listen, care, encourage, pray with and for you, and support you through the holidays and as long as your need persists. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders: Joe Irvin, Jo Reid, Susan Christensen, Joy Johnson, or Pastor Bryon. **Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!**

Are You Experiencing the Christmas Blues?

The joy of Christmas can turn into a time of painful loneliness and emptiness for those who have suffered a loss or who are going through a difficult time. But help is available. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide confidential, one-to-one, Christian care. They will listen, care, encourage, pray with and for you, and support you through the holidays and as long as your need persists. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders Pastor Bryon, Joy Johnson, Joe Irvin, Susan Christensen, Jand Jo Reid. **Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!**

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Bethlehem Lutheran is hosting the 22nd Annual Community Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day. The Adopt-A-Turkey roll program will be available for those that wish to make a donation to support this event. We will also need volunteers to help prep food, set-up, serve, deliver, and clean-up. If you would like to be part of this community celebration contact Dave (530) 885-4835, Susan (916) 363-6227, the church office (530) 885-4515, or talk to Dave after church services in the Fellowship Hall.



Christmas Dinner

Rwanda Art Work Now Available at Bethlehem Lutheran

The first annual **"Banana Fiber Art"** sale was held in conjunction with our Bethlehem Lutheran Church Women's Bake and Craft Sale and was very successful. It seemed that Bethlehem art lovers were impressed by the beautiful artwork sent to Bethlehem by our artistic sisters in Kibungo, Rwanda. Nearly half of the art work was sold and almost covers the expenses (artwork and mailing cost). If the artwork continues to sell, and we hope so, there will be a clear profit for Kibungo women's ministry and sanctuary construction.



These pictures are available to anyone who is interested for a \$25 donation. Contact Don Schultze at (916) 663-4142 if you are interested in purchasing additional Banana Fiber Art, they are a beautiful addition to any art collection.

Remaining inventory will also be available between services on December 11th.

Respectfully contributed by Don Schultze and Tia Desplancke



Pennies for Kibungo Parish



Bethlehem's kids would like to challenge you to collect pennies (or nickels or dimes or quarters) to help Kibungo parish build a church!



Starting on November 6th, jars decorated by the K.O.W. class will be available after church and on Wednesday nights. Bring your pennies and fill the jars and help our sisters and brothers in Rwanda to have a new place to worship

From the Worship Coordinator

The Holidays are quickly approaching! I will be making phone calls and trying to get all the spots filled for the Christmastime services. If you could think about what service you will be attending on Christmas Eve that would be helpful. We will be having three services on Christmas Eve at 6:00, 7:30 and 11:00. We will need the usual help with ushers, greeters, readers, and more.

If you have not had a chance to come to the service of Meditation, Prayer and Peace, this is a good time to give it a try. This service is meant to bring peace to your week. The songs and prayers are very beautiful. The services are on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month at 5:30. Please join us.

We could use a few more people to bake communion bread for the Sunday services. The recipe is easy and takes about a half hour to make. If you like to bake this is a wonderful way to serve. Right now I have 8 bakers, so they each bake about every two months. If you are interested, let me know and I will give you the recipe and get you scheduled in the coming months.

We still would like to have more Assisting Ministers for the 8:30 service. If you would like to assist Pastor in this way, please let me know, and we will schedule a training session.

Thank you to all those who served in November.

Peace, Denise Nelson

Worship Coordinator



Join Us at
Advent Worship



Midweek Worship in Advent

In addition to Sunday morning, we will have an opportunity to worship on Wednesday evenings. Come to sing

Holden Evening Prayer

7:00 PM

Wednesday nights during Advent

November 30th, December 7th and 14th

Coffee Reception Immediately follows.

A wonderful way to watch and pray during the season of longing and anticipation.

Please Join us in Worship

CHRISTMAS EVE

6:00 PM ~ Family Service

7:30 PM ~ Festive Eucharist with Choir

& Organ

11:00 PM ~ Candlelight Eucharist with Praise Band

CHRISTMAS DAY

10 AM ~ Blended Christmas Day Holy Communion

(You are invited to share your favorite gift!)

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

2:00 PM



Daily Lectionary for December

Th Psalm 85:1-2, 13

Hosea 6:1-6

1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

F Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Acts 11:19-26

Sa Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Ezekiel 36:24-28

Mark 11:27-33

2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8

M Psalm 27

Isaiah 26:7-15

Acts 2:37-42

Tu Psalm 27

Isaiah 4:2-6

Acts 11:1-18

W Psalm 27

Malachi 2:10—3:1

Luke 1:5-17

Th Psalm 126

Habakkuk 2:1-5

Philippians 3:7-11

F Psalm 126

Habakkuk 3:2-6

Philippians 3:12-16

Sa Psalm 126

Habakkuk 3:13-19

Matthew 21:28-32

3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalm 126 o

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

M Psalm 125

1 Kings 18:1-18

Ephesians 6:10-17

Tu Psalm 125

2 Kings 2:9-22

Acts 3:17—4:4

W Psalm 125

Malachi 3:16—4:6

Mark 9:9-13

Th Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

2 Samuel 6:1-11

Hebrews 1:1-4

F Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

2 Samuel 6:12-19

Hebrews 1:5-14

Sa Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Judges 13:2-24

John 7:40-52

4th Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Luke 1:46b-55 or

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

M Luke 1:46b-55

1 Samuel 1:1-18

Hebrews 9:1-14

Tu Luke 1:46b-55

1 Samuel 1:19-28

Hebrews 8:1-13

W Luke 1:46b-55

1 Samuel 2:1-10

Mark 11:1-11

Days around Christmas

Dec 22 Psalm 96

Zephaniah 3:8-13

Romans 10:5-13

Dec 23 Psalm 96

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Romans 13:11-14

Dec 24 *Nativity of Our Lord*

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

Dec 25 *Nativity of Our Lord*

Isaiah 62:6-12

Psalm 97

Titus 3:4-7

Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

Dec 26 Psalm 148

Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15

Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60

Dec 27 Psalm 148

Exodus 33:18-23

1 John 1:1-9

Dec 28 Psalm 148

Jeremiah 31:15-17

Matthew 2:13-18

Dec 29 Psalm 148

Isaiah 49:5-15

Matthew 12:46-50

Dec 30 Psalm 148

Proverbs 9:1-12

2 Peter 3:8-13

Dec 31 Psalm 148

1 Kings 3:5-14

John 8:12-19

December Birthday's



Joyce Brintnall

Tom Larson

Dora Sather

Frank Hampton

Sue Gonnella

Don Schultze

Conrad Brower

Diane Williams

Rod Stoltenburg

Hannah Lane

Jon Tribur

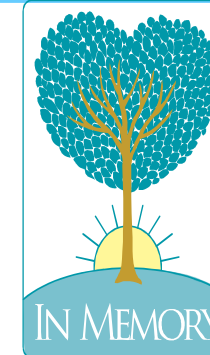
Linn Tjornhom

Ann Leitze

Jane Vandenhoff

Joanne Kutzman

Diane Allison.



Commended to God's everlasting care.....

Lea Rosati, November 2011

"May light perpetual shine upon her."