



**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

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Volume 2010 Issue 4

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**Bethlehem's  
Mission Statement**

Our Mission is to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ in faith, unity, maturity, and knowledge.

**Men's Bible  
Study**

The men of this community meet regularly each Thursday morning for fellowship, Bible study and prayer at 7:30 am at Peaceful Thymes.

Articles for the newsletter or bulletins can be sent to:

**blc312@gmail.com**

Thanks, Jennifer Slinden, Secretary

**Worship Service  
Broadcast Time**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church's Sunday morning service is broadcast on local Channel 8 on Mondays at 8 p.m.

**Remember Our Homebound**

**Brian Robert Detlefsen**, OID #223829, MCF Oak Park Heights, 5329 Osgood Ave North, Stillwater MN 55082-1117

**Harriett Johnson**, Bethesda Pleasant View-Room D3, 901 Willmar Ave. SE, Willmar MN 56201

**Bernice Slinden**, Bethesda Heritage – Room 227, 1012 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Willmar, MN 56201

**Martin Buer**, Pleasant View Room E-9, 901 Willmar Ave SE, Willmar MN 56201

**Nettie Buer**, Pleasant View Room A6, 901 Willmar Ave SE, Willmar MN 56201

**Hazel Nielson**, Copper Leaf Senior Living Memory Care Unit Room 124, 1550 1st St N, Willmar, MN 56201

**Julene & Evelyn Johnson**, Copper Leaf Senior Living, 1550 1st St N, Willmar MN 56201

**Areline Slinden**, 122 West 4th St Apt 217, Litchfield MN 55355

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**Grace Matters**

*A radio ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

Listen on

Sundays, 11:30 a.m. on KDUZ, 1260 AM

Sundays, 10:30 p.m. on WCCO, 830 AM

## From the Pastor:

*“But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.” Luke 24:1-5*

The message of the resurrection of Jesus is the proclamation and the reason the Church exists and the reason we celebrate Easter. To be sure the resurrection of Jesus is a great mystery that we are not able to explain or even understand in part other than with our God all things are possible, even the resurrection of the dead. Yet statistics show us something strange and damaging is happening in America today to the witness of the Church’s membership. What follows is a quote from a recent Barna Group poll on the state of Easter in America:

*“As American society becomes more religiously diverse, the nation’s population has had to grapple with how to define its holidays and celebrations. A recent study by the Barna Group explored Americans’ definition of the Easter holiday, asking a nationwide, representative sample of American adults how they would describe what Easter means to them, personally.*

*The results indicated that most Americans consider Easter to be a religious holiday, but fewer identify the resurrection of Jesus as the underlying meaning. The study also explored the degree to which Americans are likely to invite an unchurched friend or family member to attend worship service on Easter weekend.*

*In response to a free-response query, most Americans described Easter as a religious celebration. Two out of every three Americans (67%) mention some type of theistic religious element. Common responses included describing it as a Christian holiday, a celebration of God or Jesus, a celebration of Passover, a holy day, or a special time for church or worship attendance.*

*However, while a majority of Americans indicated some type of spiritual connection with Easter, the research also showed that a minority of adults directly linked Easter to the Christian faith’s belief in the resurrection of Christ. In all, 42% of Americans said that the meaning of Easter was the resurrection of Jesus or that it signifies Christ death and return to life. One out of every 50 adults (2%) said that they would describe Easter as the most important holiday of their faith.*

*Even within the religious definitions offered by Americans there is a certain degree of confusion: 2% of Americans said that Easter is about the “birth of Christ”; another 2% indicated it was about the “rebirth of Jesus”; and 1% said it is a celebration of “the second coming of Jesus.” Not included in the theistic category was another 3% who described Easter as a celebration of spring or a pagan holiday.”*

While statistics aren’t everything, they do indicate a direction of thinking and practice. From all accounts, neither is going in the right direction. I would encourage all who read this column to re-read the passion story beginning with Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem in Luke 19:28 to Jesus’ resurrection in Luke 24: 1-12. Do this so that if someone asks about Easter or the Resurrection of Jesus you will be able to give a credible witness.

*“Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but to encouraging one another.” (NRSV Hebrews 10:24-25a)*

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Council Minutes  
February 10, 2010

Present: Julie Woltjer, Keith Detlefsen, Phil Slinden, Larry Slinden, Ryan Lee, Marge Rier-son, Darren Amdahl, John Larson, Janine Berg, Lori Carnes, Jerome Ness  
Absent: Terry Miller

The meeting was called to order by Darren Amdahl. The agenda was approved. Pastor Fischer led the council in devotions.

**Pastor's Report.** Pastor is trying to implement the ideas brought up at the council workshop. Some water has run off the roof into the basement of the church. There is a need to replace a broken window in the parsonage basement. The Kindermusik class has asked permission to use the church. There has been some overnight parking in the church parking lot. A sign is possibly needed.

**Secretary's report.** Approved as read.

**Treasurer's report.** Approved as presented and placed on file subject to audit.

**Financial Secretary's report.** Approved as presented and placed on file subject to audit.

**Deacons.** No meeting

**Parish Ed.** No meeting

**Worship Committee.** No meeting

**Trustees.** The snowpile in the parking lot was removed by Darren and Don Amdahl. Darren will try to rake some of the snow off the roof of the church.

**Stewardship Committee.** The committee will encourage fellowship events such as coffee after services, potlucks, etc.

**Endowment Committee.** No meeting

**Youth Committee.** No meeting

**Old Business:** A new safe still needs to be purchased.

**New Business:** Jennifer would like to download e-statements so she can facilitate reports easier at the end of the month. Also, by so doing she would cut down on paper in the office. A motion was made to allow her to do this. Motion seconded and approved.

A motion was also made to allow Jennifer to be the representative of Bethlehem Lutheran Church with Social Security. Motion seconded and approved.

The gutters on the church may possibly need heat tapes and heat tapes may also be needed on the roof. The trustees will look into this in the spring.

Darren will look into getting a No Overnight Parking sign for the parking lot.

Jennifer has requested an update for Microsoft Office Suites be purchased. Cost is estimated at about \$329.95. A motion was made to purchase the Microsoft Office Suites update. Motion seconded and approved.

Pastor will take care of the repair of the broken window in the parsonage basement.

Thank-you to Darren and Don Amdahl for removing the snow pile from the parking lot again.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded and approved.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marge Rier-son  
Council Secretary



**VBS SAFARI...  
COMING SOON!**

**DATES: Sunday, June 6  
thru Thursday, June 10**  
**TIME: 5:20 - 8:00 p.m.**  
**each evening**

*An evening meal will be served  
Monday - Thursday;  
snack only on Sunday.*

**LOCATION: Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

**CLOSING PROGRAM: Thursday, June 10, 7:45 p.m.**

All kids who have completed PreK - 4th Grade are welcome!

**INVITE YOUR FRIENDS, TOO!**

Fee for Vacation Bible School is \$7.00/child  
(maximum of \$28/family).

*(Checks can be written to Bethlehem Lutheran Church)*

Please fill out the registration form below and return it to either church:

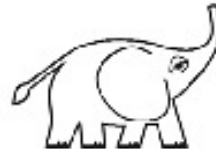
Immanuel Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 55, Atwater, MN 56209

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 47, Atwater, MN 56209

**OR**

If you have any questions, or to register by phone, call Bethlehem at 974-8519.

So that we can plan for food and materials, we would like registrations in  
by Sunday, May 16; however, late registrations will not be turned away.



**PARENTS: PLEASE ACCOMPANY YOUR CHILD TO THE VBS WELCOME TABLE ON OPENING NIGHT.**

*Please fill out one form per child.*

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

In Case of Emergency - Contact Name/Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Food Allergy Concern: \_\_\_\_\_ T-Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

*Youth T-Shirt Sizes: XS (2-4), S (6-8), M (10-12), L (14-16), XL (18-20)*

# May Day Festival

Entertainment by JUST IN TIME

(Ron and Judy Hedtke) at 2:00 pm

followed by coffee and fellowship

Saturday, May 1st

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Atwater Community  
Center

*All community members*

# WELCOME!!

## April Birthdays

1. Kendra Kinzler
2. Nickoli Cunningham
4. George Larson, Jr.
5. Patrick Forcier
7. Don Slinden, Sr.
8. Linda Knuttila
9. Ken Slinden
11. Kevin Thorp  
Ethan Behrends
12. Judy Denton
13. Gabriel Galvan
14. Annie Lamecker  
Louise Ahl  
Dallis Ringler
15. Rodney Christenson
16. Doris Christenson  
Sandy Evans  
Donald Peterson
17. Alicia Bierwerth  
Ryan Lee
18. Oliver Cunningham
19. Melissa Denton
22. Megan Hoekstra  
Shauna Gaddy
23. Leland Nelson
24. Tina Ringler-Phillips
25. Luke Peterson
27. Wayne Madsen  
John Rierson
28. Janine Berg
29. Alicia Buer  
Jennifer Inselmann
30. Madalyn Lee

## April Anniversaries

3. John & Carol Slinden
7. Richard & Lorna Thorp
15. Paul & Betty Nelson
17. Andrew & Becky Carlson
18. Jon & Shelli Erickson
20. Don & Helen Slinden
26. Lorie & Gary Carnes

## April Volunteers

**Ushers:** Roger & Tammy Kaiser  
David & Kathy Johnson

**Altar Care:** Karen Thompson  
Becky Carlson

**Deacon:** Larry Slinden

**Readers:** April 4 Julie Woltjer  
April 11 Jon Erickson  
April 18 Marge Rierson  
April 25 Linda Johnson

**Acolytes:** April 1 Jaden Amdahl  
April 2 Tori Hayunga  
April 4 Emily Kaiser ( Sunrise)  
April 4  
April 11 Brody Larson  
April 18 Breanna Behrends  
April 25 Nathan Christoffers

**Coffee Servers:** April 4  
April 11 Stewardship  
April 18 Sunday School  
April 25 Iila Nelson

## “Lost and Found” in concert.

Benefit concert for Lutheran Campus Ministry

April 14, 2010. at 6:30 pm.

Ritsche Auditorium in Stewart Hall on the St.  
Cloud State University Campus.

George Baum and Michael Bridges who perform the band, Lost & Found, have been singing together since high school. They are well loved and respected! They are awesome ministers of the Gospel. A minimum \$5.00 donation per person is requested and the proceeds will go to benefit the Lutheran Campus Ministry sites in our synod and other LCM sites in Minnesota.

Sunday	Monday	Tue.	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Maundy Thursday (Scarlet) 5:45pm Soup & Sandwich supper @ Bethlehem	Good Friday (Black) 7 pm Service @ Immanuel	
				7 pm Lenten service		
The Resurrection of Our Lord Easter Sunday (White) 6:30 am Sunrise Service 9:00 am Service w/Communion			5:45pm Confirmation 7 pm Committee Mtgs. 8 pm Council Mtg.	7:30 am Men's Bible Study @ Peaceful Thyme		Scarf Party 1 pm
				7 pm Lenten service		
2nd Sunday of Easter (White) 8:45am Sunday School 10:00 Worship			5:45pm Confirmation 7 pm Committee Mtg. 8 pm Council	7:30 am Men's Bible Study @ Peaceful Thyme		Bridal Shower for Katie Schmit & Kyle Rosa 10-12 Synod Assembly @ Redwood Falls
				7 pm Lenten service		
3rd Sunday of Easter (White) 8:45am Sunday School 10:00 Worship Synod Assembly @ Redwood Falls	Legion Mtg. 8 am. @ Thompsons Bakery		5:45pm Confirmation Newsletter Deadline	Earth Day 7:30 am Men's Bible Study @ Peaceful Thyme		WELCA Spring Gathering 8:30-12:30pm @ Bethlehem
				7 pm Lenten service		
4th Sunday of Easter (White) 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Contemporary Worship w/communion			5:45pm Confirmation	7:30 am Men's Bible Study @ Peaceful Thyme		

LAHBNP is offering two Arthritis Foundation Programs during April and May.

1. Self Help Program is a six week program for anyone with arthritis or joint pain. This program will be lecture learning with topics such as: pain management, exercise, medication and working with your health care provider. The program will be once a week with one hour sessions on Thursdays starting April 8 and concluding May 13. The time is 9:00 to 10:00 at the Atwater Community Center. A text book will be available to use or to purchase.

2. The Exercise program is for anyone with arthritis or joint pain. This program will be twice a week (Mondays and Thursdays) with a one hour exercise session starting at 10:30 at the Atwater Community Center. Classes will start April 5 and conclude May 27. All exercises have been developed by and approved by the Arthritis Foundation.

Both classes will be led by Karen Fischer a leader trained by the Arthritis Foundation. Please register by April 3 by calling 974-8737.

### **The Arthritis Foundation's Exercise Program**

**An Exercise Program for anyone with arthritis or joint pain.**

**There is no known cure for most forms of arthritis. But, there are definite things you can do to lessen your pain and disability. This program has been proven to reduce arthritis pain and fatigue!**

April 5, 8, 12, 15 19, 22, 26, 29, May 3, 6, 10, 13 17, 20, 24, 27 10:30 to 11:30 AM  
Atwater Community Center Atwater, MN

**Cost: FREE**

**To register contact Karen or Connie at Living At Home Nurse Program at 320-974-8737.**

### **The Arthritis Foundation's Self-Help Program**

**A six-week workshop for ANYONE with arthritis or joint pain.**

There is no known cure for most forms of arthritis. But, there are definite things you can do to lessen your pain and disability. This course has been proven to reduce arthritis pain and fatigue!

*Thursday April 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13*

*Time: 9:00 to 10:00 AM*

*Place: Atwater Community Center*

**Contact Connie or Karen at  
Living At Home Block Nurse Program  
974-8737**

There is no cost for this course. Participants may borrow the Arthritis Help Book free of charge or purchase the book.

**The Living At Home Block Nurse Office has moved** to 126 N. 4th St. (Atwater Clinic building) effective March 8, 2010. The phone number, 974-8737, remains the same. You are welcome any time the office is open to stop in and see the new office.

**“How can I live and pass on vibrant faith to my children and grandchildren?”**

Vibrant Faith Conference will be held on May 8th at St John Lutheran Church in Springfield Minnesota. For more information see flyer on board by elevator or call Rev. Linda Pedersen at 507-637-3904.

Conference highlights will be: Hear how to live a vibrant faith that is Authentic, Available, and Affirming. Learn how to Equip families to partner home and congregation so that home is church too. Practice using the Four Keys to pass on Faith and values to loved ones. Lift up milestones as ways to celebrate life and nurture spiritual growth. Integrate your faith talk and faith walk into all facets of life. And much more.....

## Around the Community

**Wanted items for grab Bags.** All items can be dropped off in the Uffda room. Any questions please ask Jennifer Slinden. Thanks.

**Thank you,** For the donation of the Quilts, very thoughtful, your gift will touch lives and heal hearts. Thank you from the Shelter House

**To the men and women of Bethlehem,** A Huge Thanks for all you did to make my brothers service so special. The ease of working with you makes this difficult time a bit smoother. Your contribution reminds me of the Bethlehem people I grew up with...Always ready to lend a hand. Thanks again.  
Sincerely, Lorie Gunner

**Home delivered meals** are a great benefit to the elderly of Atwater. The elderly are assured of one nutritious meal Monday to Friday when they can not get out or make their own meal. Many of the volunteers with the program have been delivering meals for 15 years or more and are burning out. The program is currently in need of a driver(s) for each Tuesday of the month. You can volunteer for one to four Tuesdays each month, you can share the position with someone, or you and another person can drive together each Tuesday. If you can help deliver meals to the elderly or would like more information, please call 974-8737. Thank you.

**Attention Women of Bethlehem:** Come to Ali's Boutique Saturday April 10th at 1 pm in the church basement. Learn to tie scarves all new ways. Refreshments will be served. RSVP to Julie Woltjer at 974-8121



There will be an **open house bridal shower** for **Katie Schmit**, bride to be of **Kyle Rosa** on April 17th from 10 a.m. till noon.

**WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM,** Bethlehem is the host church for the Lakeland Conference WELCA Spring Gathering on Saturday, April 24, 2010. The Kingery Family will have special music and the speaker will be Pastor Melanie Lichtenberg from Buffalo. Registration and coffee begins at 8:30 and will end with lunch served at 12:30. Please register with Darlene Buer by April 14<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$7. Let's have a good representation from our church!

**Good News Bearers** is Done for the Spring - Because of some unforeseen scheduling conflicts with both our leaders, the 3rd-6th grade Good News Bearers group will not meet again this spring. Thanks for a GREAT year!



**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

312 Main Street South  
PO Box 47  
Atwater MN 56209

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**Vacation Bible School June 6 through the 10**

Come and Join the Fun with Vacation Bible School and learn about the Baobab Tree and the African Safari through storytelling, music, crafts, science and games.

Parents/volunteers are encouraged to help with the experience by volunteering at one of the teaching rotations (storytelling, music, crafts, science, and games) or food service or decoration or classroom guides. We are trying a new way of teaching Vacation Bible School. Students will not spend much to any time in a classroom. Rather, they will be involved in each of the rotations. This style lends itself a great opportunity to parents/volunteers to take one rotation for one to five days. For example, if you choose the storytelling rotation for the first day, you will teach Sunday night Preschoolers through 4th grade about Trust and how Abraham trusted God in moving to Canaan then you are done. All rotations have a guide and a person in charge to help with ideas or item gathering. All areas will be decorated for you unless you would like to decorate. Please keep on a eye out for African safari items such as: stuffed animals (monkeys, elephants, giraffes, zebras, hyena, lions, etc...)

Registration is in the newsletter and copies will be at church with a fee of \$7 to include a T-Shirt

Please contact Melissa Slinden or Kim M Lee for additional details and/or to volunteer. The Volunteer Sheet will be in church by the mailboxes.

Who: Grades Completed PreK through 4th Grade      Where: Bethlehem Lutheran Church

When: June 6 -10    Time starting at 5:20 pm