



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

PO Box 47, 312 Main Street South, Atwater, MN 56209

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Web Site: www.blcatwater.com

Volume 2010 Issue 1

January 2010

**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

J. Scott Buer, PO Box 351, 104 Washington Avenue, Atwater, MN 56209

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 3rd 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

The Year in Review

As we begin a new year, I can't help but look back on 2009 and marvel how God has blessed this congregation. In an uncertain financial climate, we were able to meet all of our financial commitments due to our many financially faithful members. We grew our faith family by 21 new members, 8 by transfer and 13 by baptism. We continued our out reach to the community through financial gifts and many willing volunteers. All in all, 2009 was a very good year.

Yet the passing year was not without some challenges. As of this writing, we will likely see our average weekly worship attendance drop from 117 to a 110. In the last year we experienced a loss of trust for our safety and security with the October 28 break-in. And we continue to face an uncertain future with the ELCA as we wrestle with what to do about a major change in ministry policy and the authority of scripture in the life of the church. All in all, 2010 should prove to be an interesting and challenging year and I mean that in a good and positive way.

Many times I think we perceive "challenge" as a negative. The reality is, however, that unless we are "challenged" we do not get stronger nor do we move forward. Anyone who follows sporting events or does any type of physical training knows that to be a competitive athlete or to be physically strong and fit, one must be continually challenged. That is no less true for congregations that desire to be active and growing in faith and service. We need challenge in order to exercise our faith, to grow stronger in our trust of God's love and mercy.

How well we do in 2010 in meeting the challenges ahead of us? If the past is any indication of our future, I think we will do okay, if we seek to do what God continues to call us to do: to witness to the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

"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)

The **Annual Meeting** of Bethlehem Lutheran Church will be held on January 17th 2010. It will be after the worship service. Potluck dinner to follow meeting. A-L bring Hotdish, P-Z bring salad, Dessert will be provided.

Wanted items for grab bags for Uffda Day 2010. Please leave items in the Uffda room. Also wanted **wool sweaters** 80—100 % wool. These also can be left in Uffda room or given to Jennifer Slinden.

First Communion meeting will be held on January 5th at 7 pm. Fifth grade students and at least one parent needs to attend.

Dear Friends, I want to thank you for giving so generously through the Heifer International project. Your gift to Heifer is another opportunity to help a family lift themselves out of poverty and begin a journey toward a brighter future.

When you support a family in need, you are actually helping an entire community. With Heifer's unique cornerstone of Passing on the Gift, each recipient family becomes a donor just like you, by passing on the gift of their animal's first offspring and training to another family in their community.

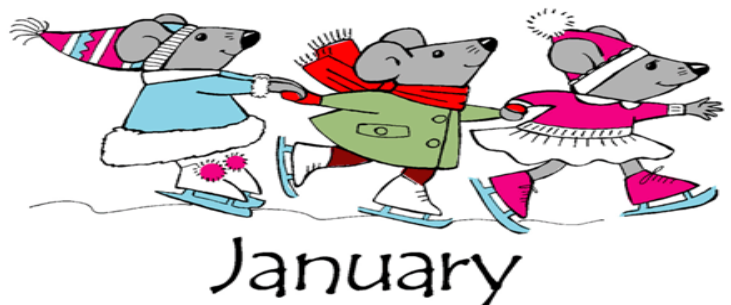
Your gift keeps on giving— providing a sustainable source of food, income and opportunity to more and more families. It's no exaggeration to say that we couldn't do our work without you!

Thank you very much for your support.

Sincerely,

Jo Luck

President and CEO



January Birthdays

1. Richard Dahl
Kendra Pregler
2. Rachael Nelson
4. Bernice Slinden
5. Gerry Buer
Wayne Denton
Josie Hovey
6. Keith Thompson
Mackenzie Schmidt
7. VaLoris Anderson
11. Madison Denton
Amber Carlson
12. Jeff Benson
Isaiah Peterson
15. Kevin Christoffers
18. Erica Nelson
Kara Nonweiler
20. Justin Rierson
Richard Thorp
29. Sharron Shelrud
31. Sara Bierwerth

January Anniversaries

4. Andrew & Melissa Slinden



January Volunteers

Ushers: Jan & Sandy Dorn
John Cunningham Family

Altar Care: Megan Hoekstra
Kathy Johnson

Greeter: January 3 Sandy Dorn
January 10 Sandy Dorn
January 17 Cunningham's
January 24 Cunningham's
January 31 Cunningham's

Acolytes: January 3 Sydney Larson
January 10 Austin Mueller
January 17 Marisa Smith
January 24 Bailey Erickson
January 31 David Kinzler

**Offering Counting Helper for the month
of January:** Jan Dorn

Deacon: Jan Dorn

Readers: January 3 Liz Cunningham
January 10 Tyler Slinden
January 17 Donna Detlefsen
January 24 Kathy Nelson
January 31 Kim Lee

Coffee Servers:
January 3
January 10
January 17 Annual Meeting Potluck
January 24 Ness/ Dorn/ Johnson
January 31



"Who Am I?"

It's a new year and you may be thinking about time, birthdays and how old you'll be this year. Below are some people from the Bible and the ages they reached.

First, fill in the name of each person. If you need help, look up the verses in the Bible. Next, find the age of each person by matching the number under the blanks to the sum of the digits in the ages listed. For example, if the number under the line is 11, it could be 290 (2+9+0=11) or 47 (4+7=11).

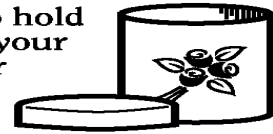
Names: Abraham Joseph Adam Moses Isaac Noah Jesus Sarah
Ages: 33 110 120 127 175 180 930 950

- I was God's first man. I lived to be _____ years old.
Who am I? _____ (Genesis 5:5) (12)
- I built an ark when God flooded the earth. I lived to be _____ years old.
Who am I? _____ (Genesis 9:29) (14)
- God said that my offspring would be as many as the stars in the heavens. I lived to be _____ years old. Who am I? _____ (Genesis 25:7)
(13)
- I was close to 90-years-old when God said that I would have a son. I lived to be _____ years old. Who am I? _____ (Genesis 23:1)
(10)
- My parents were Abraham and Sarah. I lived to be _____ years old. Who am I? _____ (Genesis 35:28) (9)
- My brothers left me in a pit in the wilderness. I lived to be _____ years old. Who am I? _____ (Genesis 50:26) (2)
- When I was 3-months-old, I was placed in a basket in the reeds along the bank of the Nile River. I lived to be _____ years old. Who am I? _____ (Deuteronomy 34:7) (3)
- I began my life in a barn with animals. I lived to be _____ years old. Who am I? _____ (Luke 2:7) (6)

Answers: 1. 930, Adam; 2. 950, Noah; 3. 175, Abraham; 4. 127, Sarah; 5. 180, Isaac; 6. 110, Joseph; 7. 120, Moses; 8. 33, Jesus

Make a New Year's Time Capsule

Make a container to hold your treasures and your wishes and goals for the New Year.



You will need:

- small storage tin (You may have a cookie-, popcorn- or candy-tin leftover from the holidays. If you don't have a tin, a shoebox will work.)
- goals for the coming year
- permanent markers
- paper
- glue
- tape
- scissors
- paint
- paintbrush
- little treasures (photos of friends or family, small toys, coins, etc.)

How to make it:

- Wash and dry the tin.
- Decorate the tin with the markers or paint. (If the tin already has a design, you can use that one. Or you can decorate pieces of paper and then glue them to the tin's lid and sides.)
- Mark your name and the date on the lid.
- On a piece of paper make a list of goals – things you would like to accomplish during the year. (For example, be a better student, be more helpful around the house, make new friends, etc.)
- On another piece of paper write some of the important things that happened last year. (For example, got a new puppy, went on a fun vacation, learned to ride a bike, etc.)
- Place the list of goals in the tin along with any little treasures you want to include.
- Tape the lid onto the tin.
- Store it in a safe place (for example, your closet, under the bed, etc.).
- Open the tin on the next New Year's Day. Did you accomplish all your goals? Did you remember what was in the tin?



Sunday	Mon.	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Year's Day	2
2 nd Sunday after Christmas (White) 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship w/communion	4	5 7 pm 1 st Com- munion class for 5 th graders	6 Quilting 9am 5:45pm Confirma- tion All annual re- ports due by noon today.	7 7:30 am Men's Bible Study @ Peaceful Thyme	8	9 Christmas tree to be taken down.
Baptism of Our Lord 1 st Sunday after Epiphany (Green) 8:45am Sunday School 10:00 Worship	11	12	13 Quilting 9am 5:45pm Confirma- tion 7 pm Committee Mtg.	14 7:30 am Men's Bible Study @ Peaceful Thyme	15	16
2 nd Sunday after Epiphany (Green) 8:45am Sunday School 10:00 Worship	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	19	20 Quilting 9am 5:45pm Confirma- tion	21 7:30 am Men's Bible Study @ Peaceful Thyme	22	23
24 3 rd Sunday after Epiphany (Green) 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Contemporary Worship w/comm.. 5 th graders First Communion	25	26	27 Quilting 9am 5:45pm Confirma- tion	28 7:30 am Men's Bible Study @ Peaceful Thyme	29	30
4th Sunday after the Epiphany (Green) 8:45am Sunday School 10:00 Worship	31					

Addresses for college students:

Megan Daun, PO Box 3451, Concordia College, 901 8th St. S., Moorhead MN 56562

Mary Larson, Sterns Hall, 410 3rd Ave South, Room 924, St Cloud MN 56301-4495

Joel Slinden, Augustana College, PO Box 1801, 2001 S. Summit Ave, Sioux Falls SD 57197

Liberty Slinden, 500 Meredith Hall, 201 North Martin Jischke Drive, West Lafayette IN 47906-4230

Bryce Thorp, 1423 7th St S. Apt 207G, Waite Park MN 56387

Kathy Lamecker, 395 2nd Ave S Apt 2, St Cloud MN 56301

If you have any other addresses for college students please turn in to church office. Thanks

Kendra Kinzler has been overseas on deployment since mid Sept. and will not be back in the U.S. until sometime in May.

ABFAN KINZLER, KENDRA, R.
AIR DEPT. /V-O
USS BONHOMME RICHARD LHD-6
FPO, AP 96617

Bethlehem Women,

Thank you so very much for your donation to our program. Your generous gift is sincerely appreciated.

Connie Feig,
 Program Director

The **Annual Meeting** of Bethlehem Lutheran Church will be held on January 17th 2010. It will be after the worship service. Potluck dinner to follow meeting. A-L bring Hot dish, P-Z bring salad, Dessert will be provided

The Women of Bethlehem will be working on making Health Kits for LWR. These kits will be brought to the convention in June. We will have a work night to put them together sometime in the spring. You may bring the following items needed for these kits and place them in a box marked Health Kits that will be placed in the narthex of the church:

Hand Towels, Dark color recommended

Washcloths, Dark color recommended

Bath size bar of soap, 4-5 oz, any brand, in original wrapping

Adult size toothbrush in original packaging

Sturdy comb, remove packaging

Metal nail file or nail clippers with file attached, not packaged

Band aids 1/2 or 3/4 inch size.

Thanks for your help and generosity in donating these items.

Dear Women of Bethlehem, On behalf of the Rice Hospice Program in Willmar, Thank you for your generous and thoughtful donation of \$200. Your gift will help to ensure that the programs and services of Rice Hospice are available for the people who need them. Your thoughtfulness and support are deeply appreciated.

Sincerely, Mary Beth Potter, RN, BAN, CHPN

Hospice Program Director

Michael Schramm, CEO

Rice Memorial Hospital

Need groups/ couples etc.. To sign up to serve coffee after worship.

Around the Community

On behalf of the West Central Tribune and the Warm The Children program, we would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for your generous donation.

During this holiday season it is important for each of us to take a look inside and extend a hand to help those in need.

We know that, with your help we have made a difference for many needy children. In the last 15 years of the program we have served 4,906 children. And you are the one who has helped make this possible.

Thank you, Sharon, Donna, & Cindy

Dear Women of Bethlehem, Thank you for giving to the Grove City CARE Program! We really appreciate your donation!

Sincerely, Rhonda Johnson Program Director

Quilting will begin on Wednesday, January 6, 2010 at 9:00 am. We will have a potluck at noon. Please come and join the fun and fellowship



Brian Roiland and Lori Fischer will be married in Oahu, Hawaii, March 30, 2010. There will be an open house Bridal Shower at the United Lutheran Church in Lake Lillian, January 23, 2010 from 11 am to 2 pm.

Everyone welcome.

Thank you to our Thrivent Financial Congregational coordinators who volunteer in our church. Grant Fischer, David Johnson, & VaLoris Anderson.

The Living At Home Block Nurse Program offers the following activities for the senior citizens of Atwater each month: First and Third Mondays of each month is bingo at the Community Center small meeting room starting at 1:00 pm. A variety of bingo games are played with prizes for each person who wins. Treats and coffee are also available. Second Monday of each month a movie is shown at Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 1:30 pm. Popcorn, coffee and treats are also available during or after the movie. Movie goers sit in comfortable chairs and watch the movie on a big screen.

You are welcome to join us for one or all of these events each month. There is no charge to attend these events. See you there!

Dear Friends, Thank you so very much for the beautiful plant you sent me. I truly enjoy it. Harriett Johnson

The Living At Home Block Nurse Program is looking for drivers to deliver meals to the senior citizens of Atwater. We currently have an opening for delivery on Tuesdays. Delivery starts about 11:00 am and takes about a half hour. If you can help or would like more information, please call the LAHBNP office at 974-8737.

First Communion meeting will be held on January 5th at 7 pm. Fifth grade students and one parent need to attend.

**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

312 Main Street South
PO Box 47
Atwater MN 56209

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Address Service Requested

Reminder that **all reports** for the Annual report are due by January 6th. All non financial reports were due by December 21st. E-Mail or drop in the office.
blc312@gmail.com

Jennifer Slinden, Secretary



January

