



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 3

March 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.

**Worship Service
Broadcast Time**

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

Inside this issue:

From the Pastor	2
Anniversaries - Birthdays	5
Calendar	4
Helping Hands 2010	7 & 8
Council Minutes	6
Opportunity & Around the Community	9
2010 Women Leadership Teams	3

**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

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 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

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

Lenten & Easter Worship Schedule

March 3rd "No Longer Home Alone" @ Immanuel

March 10th "You are My Beloved" @ Bethlehem

March 17th "Is Anybody Listening?" @ Immanuel

March 24th "Growing In God's Freedom"
@ Bethlehem

March 28th "Palm/Passion Sunday" @ Bethlehem
Brunch to follow service

April 1 Maundy Thursday @ Bethlehem
Last of the Soup and Sandwich Suppers

April 2 Good Friday @ Immanuel

@ Bethlehem:

April 4 Easter – Sunrise 6:30 a.m.
- Festival w/Communion 9:00 a.m.

There will be coffee following the first Easter service.

Worship

The act of worship is the most publicly visible witness of a Christian. When we set time aside to publicly worship with other Christians, we speak boldly about the importance of God in our life. We say to others, "Yes, there are other things that I could be doing today, but I need to keep God at the center of my life. Everything else comes second. Today is God's day."

I've heard a number of the older members of Bethlehem say that, it was never a matter of if they were going to church on Sunday morning, they were going. They would get up early in the morning, do chores, eat breakfast, get dressed in their Sunday best and gather for worship. I don't think that is too bad of a habit to cultivate, to make Sunday worship a habit.

The converse, however, has also become a habit for many. Sunday has become just another day to do stuff for the sake of the kids, for the sake of a hobby, for the sake of work, for the sake of leisure, and if I've forgotten one or two please insert them into the list. And when something becomes a habit, habits are difficult to break. And when it comes to such a publicly visible habit as worship, one begins to insert all kinds of other types of emotions into the equation like: shame, remorse, guilt, etc.

Under such circumstances, change of this established habit is even more difficult to break. Because... well we don't want others to think poorly of us or to think that we are somehow defective or immoral.

I know some may think that I'm exaggerating but I run into people all the time, when I invite them to worship, they often say, "Thank you, but I'm not the type of person that would fit in." or "I've been away for so long, I'd just feel guilty coming back" or (insert your own experience.)

After such an exchange I'm usually left a little puzzled and a lot sad. I've come to believe that the Church must always offer an unconditional welcome to all those who enter God's space. Irrespective of past mistakes, sporadic attendance, or whatever, the Church is a place for all sinners who wish to hear the good news of Jesus Christ, amend their ways in order to live a renewed Spirit filled life. Thus the problem may not be with the cooperate Church and the message forgiveness and grace. The problem may be with our attitudes concerning the behavior of others. We the individual members of the Church may need to be more aware of our own failings, to be more like it says in the Lord's Prayer, "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive others", to extend the same grace and mercy to others that God extends to us. Such attitudes are the themes of the Lenten season so that we may shed our own bad habits and experience again for the first time, the good news of God's unconditional welcome to all sinners.

So if you are reading this and consider yourself one of those we haven't seen in worship for awhile, even a long while, there is ample room for you here with the rest of us sinners. Join us and together we can celebrate our new life in Jesus Christ and begin a new habit together.

"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)



2010 WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM

Leadership Teams

Lead Contact Persons: Ardy Thorp 320-857-2432 Helen Slinden 320-974-8571

BIBLE STUDY

Rhonda Christoffers
503 North 7th Street
Atwater MN 56209
320-974-3115

SERVICE

Helen Slinden
26055 515th Ave
Atwater MN 56209
320-974-8571

OUTREACH AND HOSPITALITY

Kathy Johnson
Box 204 211 2nd Avenue South
Atwater MN 56209
320-974-8525

Kim Lee
501 North 7th Street
Atwater MN 56209
320-974-3437

Darlene Jacobs
Box 732 401 4th St. North
Atwater, MN 56209
320-974-3047

QUILTING

Helen Slinden
26055 515th Ave
Atwater MN 56209
320-974-8571

FINANCIAL

Darlene Buer
1609 Wyoming Ave W
Atwater MN 56209
320-974-8149

COMMUNICATION

Ardy Thorp
27126 545 Ave
Grove City MN 56243
320-857-2432

UFFDA DAY

Jennifer Slinden
2050 Kandi-Meeker Rd. SE
Atwater, MN 56209
974-3081

Julie Woltjer
Box 332 205 East Road
Atwater, MN 56209
320-979-8332 (cell)

Karen Fischer
Box 546 302 E. Rd. S.
Atwater, MN 56209
947-8236

VaLoris Anderson
22302 Kandi-Meeker Road
Atwater, MN 56209
974-3103



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 5:45pm Soup & Sandwich supper @ Immanuel 7 pm Lenten service	4 7:30 am Men's Bible Study @ Peaceful Thyme	5 Kindermusix 9:30- 10:30 am	6 Memorial Service for David Gunner Visitation 10 am Service 11 am.
3 rd Sunday in Lent 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship w/communion	8	9	10 5:45pm Soup & Sandwich supper @ Bethlehem 7 pm Lenten service 8 pm Council	11 7:30 am Men's Bible Study @ Peaceful Thyme	12 Kindermusix 9:30- 10:30 am	13
4 th Sunday in Lent Daylight Saving Time Begins 8:45am Sunday School 10:00 Worship	15 8 AM Legion meeting @ Thompson Bakery	16 9 o'clocker's 8-noon	17 St. Patrick's Day 5:45pm Soup & Sandwich supper @ Immanuel 7 pm Lenten service Newsletter Deadline	18 7:30 am Men's Bible Study @ Peaceful Thyme	19 Kindermusix 9:30- 10:30 am	20 Spring Begins
5 th Sunday in Lent 8:45am Sunday School 10:00 Worship	22	23	24 5:45pm Soup & Sandwich supper @ Bethlehem 7 pm Lenten service	25 7:30 am Men's Bible Study @ Peaceful Thyme	26	27
Sunday of the Passion Palm Sunday (Red/Purple) 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Contemporary Worship w/communion	29	30	31			

February Volunteers

March Birthdays

1. James Copeland
2. Claire Slinden
4. Jim Rolf
Paige Danielson
5. Nathan Christoffers
7. Bryce Thorp
Emily Daun
8. Lorie Gunner
Linda Johnson
9. Josh Kinzler
10. Wesley Lere
11. Trey Schmidt
13. Kyla Bierwerth
14. Missy Buer
Brad Peterson
15. Dick Rierson
Ryan Amdahl
16. Christina Hanson
17. Bruce Elton
Lorna Hanson
18. Kathy Johnson
Chloe Hanson
19. Teresa Krenz
22. Kathleen Nelson
23. Anna Slinden
Philip Slinden
24. Logan Anderson
26. Michaela Webb
27. Carol Johnson
29. Aristotle Phillips
Anthony Schmidt
31. Samantha Cunningham

March Anniversaries

1. Todd & Susan Anderson
6. Jeff & Karla Kinzler
11. Ryan & Kim Lee
13. Jim & Phyllis Rolf
Megan & Edward Hoekstra
24. Judy & Wayne Denton

Ushers: Tex & Carol Ringler
Ryan Lee

Altar Care: Geri Ness
Linise Copeland

Acolytes: March 3 Breanna Behrends
March 7 Nathan Christoffers
March 10 Sydney Larson
March 14 Austin Mueller
March 17 Marisa Smith
March 21 Bailey Erickson
March 24 David Kinzler
March 28 Michael Larson

Deacon: Jerry Ness

Readers: March 7 Janine Berg
March 14 Karen Fischer
March 21 Lauren Kinzler
March 28 Jordyn Copeland

Coffee Servers:

March 7
March 14
March 21 Jennifer Slinden
March 28 Palm Sunday Brunch

To the women and men of Bethlehem,
Thank you for helping in the kitchen at
Scott's memorial service. Also Thank You
for the lovely card. We will miss him.
Joan Larson and Family

**Bethlehem Church Council Minutes
January 13, 2010**

Present: Larry Slinden, Phil Slinden, Lori Carnes, David Johnson, Janine Berg, Kathy Wallace, Pastor Grant Fischer, Jerry Ness, John Larson, Darren Amdahl

Absent: Roger Kaiser, Jan Dorn, Terry Miller

Meeting called to order by President Darren.

Opening devotions by Pastor Grant.

Motion made to approve the agenda, motion seconded and carried.

Pastor's report : Lenten services will be shared with Immanuel church. The theme this year will be "6 Spiritual Needs in America" Pastor Grant repaired the door between the offices.

Secretary's report: approved as read and filed.

Treasure's report: approved as read and filed for audit.

Financial Secretary's report: approved as read and filed for audit.

Deacon's report: did not meet.

Parish education: did not meet.

Worship committee: did not meet.

Trustee's: snow pile was removed & bill was received for the service. Darren Amdahl paid it as part of his donation to the church. New exhaust fan for the bathroom of Shalom Hall was installed.

Stewardship: did not meet.

Endowment: did not meet.

Youth committee: did not meet

Old business: report by Jennifer Slinden on break-in, received \$621.77 from the insurance company. Motion was made to buy a new safe, motion was seconded. Discussion was held, motion passed. Larry Slinden, Pastor Grant and Darren Amdahl will shop for a safe. Janine Berg checked on scanning historical documents and having them for a backup. Mike Baker will look at these documents and possibly scan for free for churches. Jennifer Slinden, Larry Slinden and Janine Berg will meet and gather documents.

New business: Council Leadership Day, set for January 24th after Sunday services for the new church council. Lenten services - will share Wednesday services with Immanuel, Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday will be separate at each church. Thrivent: the system is changing from congregational coordinators to congregational advocates. They will need only one person now and the training will be set for sometime in March. Matching funds will be set up differently for church now. Atwater Chamber - will continue membership.

Motion made to adjourn, seconded and carried, President Darren closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Kathy Wallace
Council Secretary

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 Jischkle 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

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

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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
PO Box 47, 312 South Main, Atwater, MN 56209

Phone: (320) 974-8519

E-Mail Address: blc312@frontiernet.net

Secretary e-mail: blc312@gmail.com

Website Address: www.blcatwater.com

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Darren Amdahl, President 974-8005
 25025-515 Ave.
 Atwater, MN 56209 (1/31/2011)

Jerome Ness, 974-8011
 Vice President, Deacon & Trustee
 401 S. Main St.
 Atwater, MN 56209 (1/31/2012)

Marge Rierson, Secretary 974-8735
 PO BOX 87
 Atwater, MN 56209 (1/31/2013)

Dr. Larry Slinden, 974-8998
 Deacon, Parliamentarian
 14585 Breezy Point Road
 Atwater, MN 56209 (1/31/2011)

Keith Detlefsen, 974-3457
 Treasurer, Trustee, Stewardship
 PO BOX 229
 Atwater, MN 56209 (1/31/2013)

Terry Miller 974-3633
 Deacon & Youth
 4560 195th Street SE
 Atwater, MN 56209 (1/31/2011)

Lori Carnes 974-8292
 Deacon
 5590 Kandi-Meeker Rd.
 Atwater, MN 56209 (1/31/2012)

Philip Slinden 974-3081
 Trustee
 2050 Kandi-Meeker Rd.
 Atwater, MN 56209 (1/31/2012)

Ryan Lee, Endowment, Trustee 974-3437
 501 7th Street North
 Atwater, MN 56209 (1/31/2013)

Janine Berg, Parish Ed. 974-8121
 104 Pleasant Ave.
 Atwater, MN 56209 (1/31/2012)

Julie Woltjer, 974-8121
 Financial Secretary, Worship, Stewardship
 PO BOX 332
 Atwater, MN 56209 (1/31/2013)

John Larson, Stewardship 974-3641
 108 Main Street North
 Atwater, MN 56209 (1/31/2011)

PASTOR

Pastor Grant Fischer (H) 974-8236
 PO Box 546, 302 East Road (O) 974-8519
 Atwater, MN 56209 (C) 444-3517

Notes: ** means these people are on the list more than once.
 (0/00/0000) means date going off committee

OFFICE SECRETARY

Jennifer Slinden (H) 974-3081
 2050 Kandi-Meeker Rd (O) 974-8519
 Atwater, MN 56209 (C) 295-6195

CLEANING SERVICE

Kathy Wallace 974-3610
 2231 195th St NE
 Atwater, MN 56209

ORGANIST

Marilyn Koeberl 365-4058
 89712 430th Street
 Bird Island, MN 55310

Shirley Capistrant 857-2207
 24676 548th Ave
 Grove City MN 56243

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Kathy Johnson 974-8525
 PO Box 204, 211 2nd Avenue South
 Atwater, MN 56209

Karla Kinzler 974-3189
 PO Box 48, 111 North 9th Street
 Atwater, MN 56209

Pastor Fischer ** 974-8236
 Julie Woltjer, Council Rep** 974-8121

LECTOR COORDINATORS

Louise Ahl (1/31/2011) 974-3210
 401 Dakota Ave W Apt 1
 Atwater MN 56209

Jennifer Slinden ** (1/31/2011) 974-3081

SUNDAY SCHOOL LEAD TEACHERS

Melissa Slinden 974-8150
 25526 515th Ave
 Atwater MN 56209

Kim Lee 974-3437
 501 7th Street North
 Atwater MN 56209

USHER & GREETER COMMITTEE

Jan Dorn** (1/31/2011) 974-3337

Darren Amdahl ** (1/31/2012) 974-8005

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Donna Detlefsen 974-3457
 804 West Montana Ave.
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Kim Lee ** (1/31/2012) 974-3437

WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM

Ardy Thorp, Secretary 857-2432
 27126 545th Avenue
 Grove City, MN 56243 (1/31/2011)
 Darlene Buer, Treasurer 974-8149
 1609 Wyoming Avenue West
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 Melissa Slinden ** (1/31/2012) 974-8150
 Karla Kinzler ** (1/31/2013) 974-3189
 Melissa Denton (1/31/2013) 974-3043
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 Brenda Knacke 974-8686
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 Megan Hoekstra 857-3085
 54405 243rd Street
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 Janine Berg, Council Rep. ** unlisted

YOUTH COMMITTEE

Terry Miller ** (1/31/2011) 974-3633
 Jon Erickson 974-8203
 3490 County Road 4 NE
 Atwater, MN 56209 (1/31/2011)
 Anna Slinden, Youth Group President 974-3081
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 Shelli Erickson 974-8203
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 Jennifer Amdahl 974-8005
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 Terry Miller, Council Rep. ** 974-3633

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 Joan Larson (1/31/2011) 974-3641
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 Al Roiland (1/31/2013) 974-3077
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CEMETERY COMMITTEE

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 Darren Amdahl ** 974-8005
 Richard Thorp 974-8046
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 John Slinden 857-2418
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 Grove City, MN 56243

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 Jerome Ness** (1/31/2011) 974-8011
 Phyllis Anderson 974-8579
 7428 159th Street NE
 Atwater, MN 56209 (1/31/2011)
 Ryan Lee ** (1/31/2012) 974-3437
 Donna Detlefsen** (1/31/2012) 974-3457
 John Larson, Council Rep. ** 974-3641

CHRISTMAS DECORATING COMMITTEE

Scott & Lisa Bjornson 974-3234
 PO BOX 404
 Atwater, MN 56209 (1/31/2012)
 Dallis & Carol Ringler 974-8588
 PO Box 256
 Atwater MN 56209 (1/31/2011)

INTERIOR DECORATING COMMITTEE

Barb Roiland** (1/31/2011) 974-3077
 Jackie Cunningham 974-3356
 3715 County Road 4 SE
 Atwater, MN 56209 (1/31/2011)

Around the Community

Wanted items for grab Bags. Boxes are also needed. Also wanted wool sweaters for an UF-FDA DAY project. All these items can be dropped off in the Uffda room. Any questions please ask Jennifer Slinden. Thanks. First wrapping of the grab bags will be on Saturday February 20th. Mark your calendars.

World Day of Prayer will be held on March 5th at 1:30 at Harrison Presbyterian Church, all are welcome.

Health Fair: 2010 Block Nurse Program Tuesday March 23rd 10:30-1:30 pm. Eye Exams, Cholesterol check, Blood pressure and many more. Every one Welcome. Light lunch will also be served. At the Community Center.

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday March 14th at 2 am. Remember to Spring ahead!

Easter Lilies will be \$14 this year. If you would like to give one in Honor or in Memory of someone, please leave their name, your name and the money in the offering plate or the office. Deadline is Sunday March 28th 2010.



A **Bridal Shower** will be held for Annie Lamecker Bride elect of Dominic Hopp. Sunday March 21st from 1-3 pm at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Every one is welcome to attend this open house shower.

WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM

The WOB held a meeting on January 31, 2010 in Shalom Hall after the church service. Marge Rierson advised she was stepping down as a lead contact person and Helen Slinden volunteered to be lead contact with Ardy Thorp. Estelle Pickle has asked to be taken off the leadership team and Elizabeth Slinden has asked to be taken off the quilting team. Jennifer Slinden will print a new listing with these changes made.

Quilting will continue through the month of February. The first packaging of health kits for LWR will be the last Wed. in February. We hope to get these items and any school kits received to LWR as soon as possible after that because the need is great for them right now.

The Lakeland Conference Winter Retreat will be held Feb. 15 at Green Lake Bible Camp and registrations are due Feb. 7 to Darlene Buer.

Ardy advised that Bethlehem is the host church for the Lakeland Conference Spring Gathering on Saturday, April 24, beginning at 8:30 with registration and ending at 12:30 with the noon luncheon. Helen Slinden will look into catering the meal. We will receive \$6 from the registrations toward the meal cost. The speaker will be Melanie Lichtenberg from Buffalo and the Kingery Family will provide gathering music.

Karen Fischer is the contact person at Bethlehem for the luncheon and wedding dress style show Tammy Moll is organizing for Sat. May 15. It will be held at the Atwater Community Center. She is asking for 5 hostesses from each church to decorate a table for 8 people. The hostess will provide the table setting, dishes, bread and dessert. If you wish to be a hostess or have further questions, contact Karen Fischer.

Respectfully submitted,
Ardy Thorp, Communications

Memorial Service for David Gunner will be held on Saturday March 6th at 11 am. Our Condolences goes out to his family and friends.

**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

312 Main Street South

PO Box 47

Atwater MN 56209



WELCOME SPRING!

