



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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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 may be sent to:

blc312@gmail.com

Thank you.

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 3rd Street, Willmar, MN 56201

Martin Buer, Pleasant View Room E9, 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

Inside this issue:

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

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's Desk

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)

When we look at our world today, we see a world that is characterized more by differences than by those things that we have in common. By that I mean, we have become very proficient at pigeon holing one another: conservatives, liberals, Republicans, Democrats, Independents, married, unmarried, divorced, living together, young, old, middle aged, male, female, and those who are confused about where they fit in the world.

When we put labels on one another, whether by enumerating our differences or by some other criteria, we divide up the body of Christ and we end up doing great harm to ourselves and to others. Our witness to God's good news, in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is damaged. If not damaged it becomes diluted by the many divisions. God's good news is seen as suspect, that somehow the good news isn't all that good or that it is meant for some and not for everyone. And quite honestly when that happens, we are no longer in business of reconciliation or being the church; we are merely in the business of choosing up sides and being divided even further.

I receive a weekly e-newsletter from the Barna Research Group. The Barna group is a private, non-partisan, for profit org. that conducts primary research on a wide range of issues producing resources pertaining to cultural change, leadership and spiritual development in order to facilitate the healthy spiritual growth of leaders, children, families

and Christian ministries. It looks at cultural trends that relate to values, beliefs, attitudes and behaviors.

A cover article caught my attention. Its title is: *"Millions of Unchurched Adults are Christians Hurt by Churches..."* The Barna date indicated that 28% of the adult population has not attended any church activities, including services, in the past six months. That translates into nearly 65 million adults and when you add in the children of these families under 18 years old the number mushrooms to more than a 100 million.

One of the driving forces behind such exclusionary behaviors is the painful experiences people have endured within the local church context. One of Brana's studies showed that among unchurched adults nearly 4 out of ten non-church going Americans (37%) said they avoid churches because of negative past experiences either in churches or with church people. While we may want to deny our own complicity, we know all too well that such things happen and it's not always someone else's fault.

The positive message of the study however was that change can and does happen when attempts to reconcile are made, where forgiveness is intentional asked for and where forgiveness is intentional given.

It is the intentionality of our ministry reconciliation that can lead us into the new creation that God is creating through the good news of Jesus Christ. It is not who we are that makes any difference in this world, rather it is whose we are - children of the same heavenly - redeemed sinners by the blood of Jesus - servants, following the one who leads us into a new and abundant life together as one body. This is the good news of Easter. Let us work to live into God's good news each day.

"So 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 encouraging one another," Hebrews 10:24-25

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
March 10, 2010

Present: Janine Berg, Julie Woltjer, Marge Rierson, Phil Slinden, Keith Detlefsen, John Larson, Darren Amdahl, Jerry Ness, Pastor Fischer, Ryan Lee, Terry Miller
Absent: Dr. Larry Slinden, Lori Carnes

The meeting was called to order by Darren. A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion approved.

Pastor led the council in devotions.

Pastor's report. The Microsoft Office 2007 Professional update is on the office computer and is working well. Stewardship committee needs to secure coffee servers for Sunday coffee hours. Delegates are needed for the Lakeland Conference meeting on Sunday, March 14 at United Lutheran in Lake Lillian.

Secretary's report. Approved as presented.

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 report.

Parish Ed. They talked about Vacation Bible School. There is a coordinator from Immanuel. Classes start the first Sunday of June. Materials have been obtained.

Worship committee. Members met and discussed the bulletin structure. Music is set through Easter. A men's group will sing on Palm Sunday.

Trustees. Some water problem but it was taken care of for now. Members looked at the Interior Decorating Committee recommendations. The vent cover for the north bathroom will be worked on in late spring or summer. The Kitchen vent needs to be rebuilt.

Stewardship. Committee will organize after church on Sunday, March 14.

Endowment. No meeting.

Youth Committee. No meeting. The youth are invited to a mission trip to Cincinnati being organized by Immanuel.

Old Business. A safe was purchased on March 5.

New Business. Thrivent has changed how to apply for dollars. Darren received information on how to apply for these monies from Dave Johnson.

The Stewardship committee will meet and organize coffee servers for Sunday coffee hours.

A motion was made to accept Leon and Karen Bredeson; Brandon Barker, Dannille Frericks, and their son Conner as new members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Motion seconded and approved.

A new wireless handset is needed for the church office. A motion was made to allow Pastor Fischer to purchase this item. Motion seconded and approved.

There was some discussion of future worship planning for funeral/memorial services.

There will be no advertisement of Easter services for Bethlehem in the West Central Tribune.

Ryan and Kim Lee may be able to serve as delegates to the Lakeland Conference meeting.

There was a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded and approved. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Marge Rierson
Council Secretary

May is Mental Health Month

Are you feeling stressed out? Maybe it's the bills that keep piling up. Maybe it's raising young children, caring for aging parents, or endless deadlines at work. Whatever your situation, life can be incredibly stressful. And too much stress can really damage your health, your mood, your focus, and your relationships with people around you. There are proven, practical tools that can help you cope better, giving you more joy and more hope: Connect with others, Stay positive, Get physically active, Help Others, Get enough rest, Create joy and satisfaction, Eat well, Take care of your spirit, Deal better with hard times, Get professional help if you need it.



Memorial Day Activities in Atwater

May 31st, 2010

The Samstad-Jensen American Legion Post #375 of Atwater will commemorate Memorial Day on Monday, May 31st, 2010. We urge the public to join us to pause and reflect on those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our Country and the cause of freedom for all people.

The schedule of activities for Monday, May 31st breakfast at 8:00 a.m. at Thompson's Bakery for all Veterans and their families. Each person is asked to pay for their own meal. Veteran's wishing to participate in the honor guard are asked to dress either in their services branch uniform or their Legion uniform. The Post Honor Guard will then proceed to the following cemeteries for a military salute over a departed Veteran's grave:

Oakside Harrison - 9:00 a.m.

St. John - 9:15 a.m.

Bethlehem Lutheran East - 9:30 a.m.

Rosendale UMC Cemetery - 10:00 a.m.

Union - 10:30 a.m.

At 11:00 a.m. there will be a program for the public at the Atwater Community Center. Navy Commander Alan Moll will be our featured speaker. All Legion members, Legion Auxiliary and their families are invited to stay at the Community Center for a potluck dinner following the program. If you are staying for the potluck please bring a dish to pass.

Vacation Bible School Items needed

Registration Due by May 16th

Egg Cartons Dozen Size

Stuffed Animals: monkeys, elephants, giraffes, zebras, etc...

Volunteers Needed: Music Rotation, Games/Activity Rotation, Food Preparation, Classroom Guides for 1st Grade, 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade and 4th Grade

SW Minnesota Synod WELCA Convention

The SW Synod convention will be held Friday and Saturday, June 11-12, 2010 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in New Ulm MN. The theme is "Come and See....Go and Tell". Friday's session begins with registration at 12:30. Speakers will be Cam martin from the Churchwide Executive Board and John Nunnes, President and CEO of Lutheran World Relief. Saturday's session begins with registration at 8:15 and speakers will be Bishop Jon Anderson and Dawn Cochiarella who is with the Susan G. Komen for the Cure. There will be workshops as well as business meetings. Saturday will end with a communion worship service at 2:30 with music by Polka Band. Registrations are due May 17th for delegates and May 24th for Visitors. Cost is \$50 for both days or \$40 for one day. Bethlehem can send one delegate so please see Ardy Thorp if you would like to represent WOB.



May Birthdays

1. Paula Forcier
4. Frans Rosenquist
5. John Rouser
Paul Schmidt
11. Brent Christenson
16. Skyller Schmidt
17. Sydney Larson
Karla Kinzler
18. Matthew Lee
19. Josh Dorn
Lyle Rungee
23. Harriett Johnson
24. Jennifer Cunningham
26. Dr. Larry Slinden
28. Orion Hanson
29. Janelle Gaddy
Shonta Thorp
30. Paul Nelson
31. Sandi Hentges

May Anniversaries

9. Cheryl & Bruce Lamecker
Jason & Melissa Denton
12. Linda & Chris Knuttila
14. John & Laura Cunningham
15. Donald & Ann Peterson
16. Joanne & Neil Inselmann
23. Tony & VaLoris Anderson
26. Jan & Sandy Dorn
27. Jerry & Geri Ness
28. Oliver & Liz Cunningham

May Volunteers

Ushers: Dick & Marge Rierson
Terry Miller

Altar Care: Darlene Buer
Donna Detlefsen

Deacon: Terry Miller

Lectors: May 2 Donna Detlefsen
May 9 John Cunningham
May 16 Julie Woltjer
May 23 Jason Denton
May 30 David Johnson

Acolytes: May 2 Sydney Larson
May 9 Austin Mueller
May 16 Marisa Smith
May 23 Bailey Erickson
May 30 David Kinzler

Greeters: May 2 Marge Rierson
May 9 Marge Rierson
May 16 Helen Slinden
May 23 Marge Rierson
May 30 Marge Rierson

Coffee Servers: May 2 Lori & VaLoris
May 9 Graduates Coffee
May 16 Amdahl's
May 23 Cunningham's
May 30

Offering Counter Helper:
Marge Rierson for the month of May

Sunnyview Assisted Living Home is looking for craft items for their crafting group. Ribbon, stamping supplies, scrapbooking paper, tea cups, buttons, glitter, pipe cleaners, felt and anything else you can think of. Drop items off at 316 Sunrise Lane, Atwater.



Sunday	Monday	Tues	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri.	Saturday
May 2010						1
2 5 th Sunday of Easter (White) 8:45 am Sunday School (last day) 10:00 am Worship w/communion	3	4	5 5:45pm Confirmation	6 National Day of Prayer 7:30 am Men's Bible Study @ Peaceful Thyme	7	8
9 6 th Sunday of Easter (White) Mother's Day 10:00 Worship	10	11	12 5:45pm Confirmation 7 pm Committee Mtg. 8 pm Council	13 7:30 am Men's Bible Study @ Peaceful Thyme	14	15 Armed Forces Day
16 7 th Sunday of Easter (White) 10:00 Worship	17 Legion Meeting 8 am @ Thompson's Bakery	18	19	20 7:30 am Men's Bible Study @ Peaceful Thyme	21	22 Gronseth & Smith Wed- ding 4pm
23 The Day of Pentecost (Red) 10:00 am Worship w/communion 30 The Holy Trinity 1st Sunday after Pente- cost (White) 10:00 am Worship	24 ----- 31 Memorial Day 11 am program @ Community Center	25	26 Baccalaureate 8 pm ACGC High School	27 7:30 am Men's Bible Study @ Peaceful Thyme	28 ACGC Gradu- ation	29

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.

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 drivers) 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.

Each year the Legion Post attempts to collect unserviceable American Flag for disposal and each year after the Flag day service I hear of people who simple either forget or fail to get the flags to a Legion member or to me. Please helps us collect all of the current unserviceable flags this year. Thank you. Grant

Granite Falls Lutheran Church Women Annual Spring Salad/Sandwich Luncheon.

Tuesday May 4th 2010 from 10:30– 1:00 pm.
Menu Includes Turkey & Ham Sandwiches, Variety of Salads, Bars & Beverages. Also available for sale will be crafts, quilts, baked goods, cards & napkins & plants. Tickets Adults \$8 Children under 4 \$2.50

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has launched Thrivent ChoiceSM—a new charitable grant program and benefit of membership in the organization. Thrivent Financial members 16 and older can help choose where Thrivent Financial distributes a portion of its charitable funds each year.

Members can participate in the first Voting Event now!

It's quick. It's easy. And it can make a big difference. Help choose where Thrivent Financial distributes \$1 million in outreach funds among 10 Lutheran and non-Lutheran charities. Vote for one of these 10 organizations:

- ELCA World Hunger • WELS Humanitarian Aid Committee • LCMS World Mission • American Heart Association
- LCMS World Relief and Human Care • Feed My Starving Children • Lutheran Disaster Response • Habitat for Humanity • Lutheran Malaria Initiative • Thrivent Financial Should Select* • WELS Committee on Relief

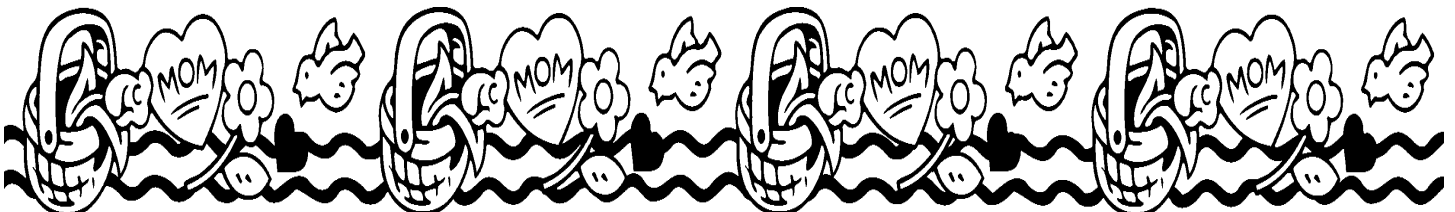
Each organization receives a portion of the \$1 million, based on the percentage of votes it receives.

Vote now

Learn more about these organizations and cast your vote at Thrivent.com/choicevote. Or, complete the reply card in the spring issue of *Thrivent*® magazine. Voting is open April 19–May 21.

\$1 million bonus!

If more than 350,000 members vote, just 15% of membership, Thrivent Financial will distribute a bonus \$1 million to these national organizations. Voting Events are one part of the Thrivent Choice program. The second component, Choice DollarsSM, will launch this summer. If you choose the Thrivent Financial Should Select option, Thrivent Financial will use these funds to help the organizations aid individuals and communities in need. Participating in Voting Events is subject to the Terms and Conditions of the Thrivent ChoiceSM program and if you participate in any Voting Events, this means you agree to the Terms and Conditions. Visit Thrivent.com/choicevote for details.



The Last Day Of SUNDAY SCHOOL will be Sunday
May 2nd, 2010.

ACGC

GRADUATION



CELEBRATIONS

Lauren Kinzler
Graduation Open House
May 23, 2010 2-5 pm
111 North 9th St
Atwater
Parents: Jeff & Karla Kinzler

Samantha Cunningham
Graduation Open House
Following Commencement
Friday May 28th
3609 Co Rd 4 SE Atwater
Parents: John & Laura Cunningham

Jordyn Copeland
Graduation Open House
May 29th noon-3pm
At Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Atwater
Parents: James & Linise Copeland

Anna Slinden
Graduation Open House
May 29th 4-8 pm
2050 Kandi-Meeker Rd
Atwater
Parents: Philip & Jennifer Slinden