

The Tidings



Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin

May 2009



Confirmed in Christ May 3, 2009

Benjamin Patrick Bauman – Philippians 4:13

Allen Jack Berman – John 3:16

Danielle Marie Blek – John 14:27

Jordan Daniel Bortmess – Luke 11:28

Matthew Aaron Frisque – Psalm 27:1

Lucas Mitchell Hoerz – Joshua 1:9

Rachel Christine Hofmann – John 15:5

Miranda Ruth McConnell – Psalm 46:1

Mary Margaret McCourt – Romans 1:16

Kayla Jean Redlin – Psalm 55:22

Jacob Earl Schalk – John 14:6

Cody James Stinson – Psalm 23:1

Troy James Thompson – Psalm 37:5

Pie Auction and Sale May 10!



It's time for pie! Bring a pie! Buy a pie! Give Mom a pie for Mother's Day! Fellowship is sponsoring its annual Pie Auction and sale between services on May 10th! Pies will be sold in individual pieces, as a whole and numerous pies will be auctioned.

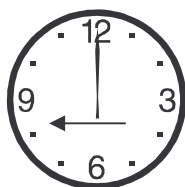
Last year we raised over \$800 to attend the Beth Moore conference! This year all proceeds will offset costs for the Chicago Mission Trip in June. Our goal is \$1000. Can you help?

Fellowship is asking that each family donate one pie to support this event. And, of course, buy a pie on May 10th! Donated pies can be brought to the Fellowship Hall on the 10th.

Kingdom Quest Picnic – May 31

Ahoy mates! Join us for an end of the year celebration for Kingdom Quest on Sunday May 31 11:00am at the Bailey's. Come on an island adventure as we search for the "True Treasure" we learned about all year. We will begin with a wrap-up of the year, thank the fabulous staff and then have some fun. A pirate picnic will be shared by all followed by lots of games for the kids – including a treasure hunt.

All Kingdom Quest students, staff and their families are invited. Main dish will be provided – please bring a dish to pass: A – F Appetizer or munchie; G – M Salad; N – Z Dessert. Sign up in the narthex or Fellowship Hall.



New Worship Schedule

Summer worship schedule begins on Thursday, May 21 with traditional worship/communion at 7:00 p.m. and every Thursday through September 3.

Sunday service from May 24 – September 6 is at 9:00 a.m. only. The first and third Sundays will be **traditional** and the second and fourth Sundays will be **contemporary**.

Devote Yourselves to Prayer

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”
Colossians 4:2

One of the things I really enjoy is spending time in prayer with my Lord. Do you spend time with your Lord in prayer on a daily basis? I would suspect that most of us have such busy lives that we neglect our prayer life. One of the things I have been asked to focus on here at Bethlehem is prayer ministry. Prayer can only be a “ministry” when we individually devote ourselves to conversation with God.

Paul writes to Christians so that they would not neglect all forms of prayer and devotion to God. This includes worship, public and private. “Watching” means never neglecting or growing careless in prayer. Jesus while praying in the Garden of Gethsemane told the three sleepy disciples (Peter, James and John) to “watch and pray.”



(Matt. 26:41) Are you finding time in prayer to be a difficult task? I would like to suggest a few deliberate steps you can take now to have time with God in prayer:

- 1.) *Plan a time...*just like using a palm pilot or other means of scheduling, why not write in specific time for prayer for a start? Write a specific date and time and location to begin. Let nothing interfere!
- 2.) *Plan a focus...*use the time to connect with God-through worship and prayer. What other ways will YOU focus in prayer? Anything to confess?
- 3.) *Be specific...*one of the reasons I put together the Personal Growth Notebook was not only to get people to read Scripture on a daily basis, but also to spend time in prayer for specific things. The

Notebook lists specific things to pray about every day. What will be on your list?
(Notebook is still available!)

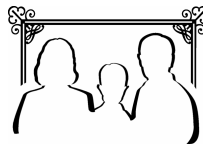
- 4.) *Rest in Jesus...*put yourself into Jesus’ invitation to YOU: “Come to Me, (your name), for you are weary and burdened. (Your name), if you take My yoke on you and learn from Me, I’ll give you rest.”
- 5.) *Be thankful...*as Paul writes in Col. 4:2 to be “thankful,” we have an opportunity to thank Jesus for all He has done for us. He has freed us from fear so we may live joyful, happy lives.

These are just a few basic steps to help you begin spending time with God in prayer. It is my prayer for you that our Lord will bless you as you devote yourselves to prayer on a daily basis. THANKS TO ALL INVOLVED IN THE PRAYER CHAINS!! You are making a difference!

In His service,
Pastor Mueller

“For I resolved to know nothing while with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.” (1 Cor. 2:2)

New Pictorial Directory



Bethlehem has contracted with Olan Mills to take pictures for our new church directory on Tuesday & Wednesday, May 12 -13 and on Friday and Saturday, June 5-6. Weekday times are from 3-9:30 p.m. and Saturday is from 10-4 p.m. Each person/ family that participates will receive a free 8x10 photo plus a copy of the directory. You can pick out your preferred pose immediately after being photo-graphed and will have the opportunity to purchase

additional photos, however, we have been assured there will be no high pressure sales.

Please arrive 10 minutes early to sign in and figure on an hour or less for the whole process. Bring your calendar and sign up in the Narthex.

For more information, contact Gary Reed at 838-9321 or gdreed2787@charter.net.



Volunteers needed to make ‘camoquilts’ for troops on Armed Forces Day, May 16

Soldiers serving in the Middle East will sleep a little more comfortably in the coming months, thanks to our LWML/Ladies’ Guild.

The women – and as many area volunteers as they can recruit (**teens, men & women are all welcome**) will gather May 16 at the church, 300 Broadway Drive, to sew camouflage quilts for U.S. troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Doors open at 8:30 a.m., and the work will continue until approximately 2:00 p.m. The workshop begins with an overview of the project and instructions on each task such as pinning, sewing (bring machine if possible), trimming, ironing and card making.

Please pre-register (free). Call Betty in the church office 837-7446 or e-mail to office@bethlehemlc.org.

About the organization

The Camo Quilt Project, based in Plymouth, Wis., began as one woman’s effort to provide comfort-table, combat-appropriate bedding to her son-in-law, who was being deployed

overseas. The organization has since produced more than 1,000 quilts for our troops, thanks to dozens of volunteers.

The effort received considerable thrust when the Lutheran Women's Missionary League of Southern Wisconsin adopted the endeavor as a care project.

For the complete story, visit the organization's Web site: <http://camoquiltproject.blogspot.com/>

About the quilts

The camouflage quilt is 45" x 72", folds in thirds and rolls up like a sleeping bag. It is lightweight and has cotton batting to breathe better in the extreme heat.

These quilts are slept on and under protecting troops from both cold winter nights and hot days in the sun. They are even used for pillows.

Any person serving in the military and deployed to the Middle East is eligible to receive one of these quilts, which are packaged with a card signed by the volunteers who made it.

There is no charge for the quilts. Requesters are merely asked to cover the shipping.

Many hands, skills needed.



Spring cleanup day is Saturday May 16 with a rain date of May 30, from 8:00 a.m.-noon.

Activities include preparing the grounds for spring by trimming shrubs and removing dead vegetation from the beds, turning on the outside water and breaking out the hoses, moving the parking bumpers into place, changing external lights as needed, cleaning the windows and of course eating donuts.

This event is coordinated by the Properties Board but we welcome additional hands.

Compassion International

A Letter to a Sponsor

Hello Sponsor! I hope you and your family are blessed by God! I firstly thank you for all you did for me. Thanks for sponsoring me. Thanks to you I was able to learn and meet Jesus, and I found out about his great love towards us, and now I share about him with all my friends. I also learned to sing, and now I am in the praise ministry. I received check-ups and you helped me to stay healthy. I ask you to keep me in your prayers to God to bless me in my studies. I do want to go to college and to be a teacher in English. A thousand thanks for watching so much over me. You sent me many letters, gifts, and pictures. I keep these all with much love. I know thanks to your prayers I never departed from the good way, and I will continue this way throughout my life. Now I am serving God and I feel so proud of it. I also feel proud that I was part of Compassion. I would love many children to receive this blessing some day, so I hope you and many others can share Jesus through Compassion. My heart and prayers are always with you. Take good care. God bless and keep you and your family. With love...

You too can make a difference in the life of a child - sponsor a child through Compassion International (www.compassion.com).

Bible Studies

A study on the **Book of Acts** is led by Pastor Brandt off the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings at 9:25.

The Personal Growth Notebook makes daily Bible reading easy and you can start at any time. Come on Sunday morning at 9:25 to discuss a topic from the week's readings in Pastor Mueller's Bible Class off the Fellowship Hall.

Tuesday mornings at 6:00 a.m. **Bible Study at Beans & Cream** Coffeehouse off American Parkway.

Prayer Chain



If you have a prayer request for members of Bethlehem, their families or friends call Judy Meyers at 608 837-4992 (home) or Nancy Anderson at 825-3333 (home) or 244-6181 (work) to activate the prayer chain.

Summer Stewardship

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing..."

Hebrews 10:25

"Summertime and the livin' is easy" the old song goes. Warm weather, vacations, no school, golf, tennis, fishing, hiking, swimming, relaxing, less hectic schedules...all seem to define summer time.

Thankfully our Lord never takes a vacation from blessing us with His abundant love, gracious gifts, and providential care. The Psalmist writes about our Heavenly Father, "He who watches over Israel will neither slumber or sleep. The Lord watches over you—the Lord is your shade at your right hand." (Psalm 121:4-5). The Lord's care

is ongoing. He never tires of caring for us.

Summer presents God's people with numerous opportunities to be good stewards of His manifold gifts. We care for the wonderful world He has given us when we are outdoors. We treasure the important relationships we enjoy as we spend time with loved ones. Also, we use wisely the material blessings He gives us.

There is great temptation during the summer months to neglect the most precious of all our Lord's gifts, His holy Word and Sacraments offered in worship. As many other responsibilities are taken more lightly in the relaxed atmosphere of summer living, so, too, are we tempted to take lightly the spiritual aspect of our lives. Vacation plans and recreational activities often replace worship. And we diminish in the stewardship of our Christian faith by letting worldly things take precedence over God in our lives.

In response to our Lord for His grace and mercy, may we place Him first in all our summer plans and activities, allowing adequate time for worship, Bible reading, meditation, and prayer. May we be good stewards of God's rich blessings. May we all continue to support the mission and ministries of Bethlehem Lutheran Church with our regular tithes and offerings given from thankful hearts, even when we are away from home.

VBS July 12 – 16

Get ready – get set – go! Get ready for the excitement of Studio GO! Game Show, this year's theme for Vacation Bible School. Kids and adults alike will experience real team-work, real service and real FUN!

Each day at Studio GO! Game Show, we will meet someone from the Bible who decided to team up with God and GO for it! We will see how God works in the lives of

everyone who trusts Him, and will be challenged each day to ...

GO Lead!
GO Risk!
GO Tell!
GO Obey!
GO Serve!

Our intergenerational VBS program will be held nightly from 5:30 – 8:00 beginning Sunday, July 12 through Thursday, July 16.



An informational meeting will be held on Sunday, May 17 in the Kingdom Quest room at noon following late service for all those interested in helping with VBS.

Check out the new Mens' NetWork

Look around...our church is under fire – spiritually, culturally, and socially. The church needs men to take up leadership within their families and within the church. Lutheran Hour Ministries new **Men's NetWork** provides opportunities for men to experience a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and learn to know Him not only as their Savior but also as their leader. This Web-based resource offers video Bible studies, how-to sheets for recreation and service projects, a men's blog called "Man Stuff," a calendar of local and regional events, and the ever-popular "Thought of the Day." Pastor Klaus provides his unique commentary on recent news in "The Baloney Shop."

Central to the **Men's NetWork** Web site are its video Bible studies.

These aren't your typical Bible studies, and they are much more than facts and history. Each study challenges participants to look at Scripture and its meaning from a man's perspective. Each study can be viewed online at no cost at www.lhmmen.com. Leaders can also order studies on DVD for

\$15 each. Promotional supplies and downloadable/printable discussion guides are available for each study.

Care Net's Baby Bottle Campaign

Care Net Pregnancy Center's **2009 Baby Bottle Campaign** begins on Mother's Day, May 10 in churches across this region. You are invited to take home an empty baby bottle and fill it with currency, coins, or a check and then return it to church on or before Father's Day, June 21.

This is an to have hands-on involvement in a project that saves the lives of unborn children and makes an eternal difference in the lives of women.

This fundraiser helps CARE NET PREGNANCY CENTER provide help, hope and healing to women and men affected by an unplanned pregnancy or sexual health concern. Every penny stays local. 95% of all gifts will fund the ministries of CARE NET, helping Care Net to provide these *free* and *confidential* services in our community:

- ✎ The Elizabeth House – family living in a residential maternity program
- ✎ Medical and Counseling Clinic - pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, STI testing and treatment for women, childbirth and parenting classes, support for men
- ✎ LifeWise - abstinence and STI education, Sexual Integrity counseling program
- ✎ Whole Heart - post abortion support

In addition, 5% of the proceeds will be donated to *Mother and Child Resource Center*, a ministry providing baby clothing and baby items to pregnant mothers and families in need.

Learn About “Making the Hospice Choice”

Learn what hospice is and who is eligible at HospiceCare’s next question-and-answer seminar, “Making the Hospice Choice.” This free seminar will be held on Tuesday, May 12, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., at the Don & Marilyn Anderson HospiceCare Center, 5395 E. Cheryl Parkway, Madison. Pre-registration is requested; please call Carrie Glantz, HospiceCare public affairs, at (608) 327-7202.

Parish Planning Council

April 14, 2009

Present: Pastor Brandt, Dennis Dary, Tom Heumann, Debbie Reed, Brenda Detert, Bob Hickey, Pat Schommer, Keith McCredie, Donna Gannon

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Executive Director Dennis Dary and Pastor Brandt opened with prayer.

The minutes were approved as distributed.

Treasurer Pat Schommer noted that offerings are keeping up with expenses and that the extra Lenten services helped.

The Board of Lay Ministry will discuss the frequency of offering communion at their May meeting. Delinquent contacts are being made with positive results.

Pastor Brandt will start a new Adult Information Class in June. The ReFocus process is near to completion. Confirmation exams are scheduled.

The Board of Evangelism announced that the sign up for the new pictorial directory is going well. They will soon go to online sign up. April 26 will be Compassion Sunday with Jay & Kathy Divine making a presentation at the end of each service.

The Fellowship Committee is still selling tickets for the dinner theatre. The pie auction on May 10 will benefit the Mission Trip.

The Board of Christian Education announced that the 7th & 8th Grade

youth group will be called CrossFire and has a website with their schedules. VBS preparations are underway. The board would like a youth worker hired as soon as it feasible.

The Board of Stewardship shared news of increased worship attendance for Lent. October 11 will be Stewardship Sunday when pledge cards will be returned. Draft Day has been moved to the fall. The Board of Properties is getting ready for summer. May 16 is the Spring Cleanup - rain date May 30.

Tom Heumann is the member of the Properties Board in charge of our insurance. The company, Guide One, has asked us to implement a program to prevent sexual abuse in Sunday school and youth groups. Background checks are available from the Justice Dept. for \$2 or more in depth for \$9 or from the FBI for \$100. Policies will be set up soon. Tom requested an affirmative vote to set up the plan with the insurance company. A motion was made to authorize Tom Heumann to set up policies and procedures with the boards and to implement them regarding criminal background checks to prevent sexual misconduct and child abuse for those working with children at Bethlehem by September 1, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

Nominating Committee – Pastor Brandt is requesting that the boards stand as they are now for one more year since the constitution is changing and terms will change to three years.

New constitution approval is targeted for Sept/Oct 2009.

Bob Hickey closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Isaacson



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

300 Broadway Drive
Sun Prairie, WI 53590
608-837-7446

www.bethlehemlc.org

office@bethlehemlc.org

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Worship:

Sundays: 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School/Bible Classes 9:25 am

Rev. Charles Brandt, Lead Pastor
Rev. Stephen M. Mueller, Associate Pastor



