

# The Tidings



Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin July/August 2008

## God's Big Backyard

**It's All About Service!  
July 13-17  
5:30-8:00 p.m.**



Get ready for an outdoor adventure that starts in your own backyard and gets bigger each day as kids take the love of Jesus into their neighborhoods and communities.

In God's Big Backyard, kids will participate in the large-group excitement of Backyard Bash, experience God's Word at Backyard Bible Club, meet real-life servants at Community Corner, plus explore and create through fun-filled crafts, snacks, and games. Just step outside, take a look over your fence, and get started helping kids discover how rewarding service can be!

Pick up a Registration and/or Volunteer form in the Narthex.



## VBS Decorating Needs!

This year we are taking a trip into "God's Big Backyard" for Vacation Bible School. We need help in bringing it to life. If you have any of the following items that you can let us **borrow** we would greatly appreciate it. We need kites, picnic baskets, butterfly nets – anything that belongs in a backyard! Please bring the items to church (with your name on it) and place them in the registration hut. Thank you for your help!!

## VBS Volunteers Still Needed

We are still in need of volunteers for the following areas for this year's journey into God's Big Backyard. We need Youth Teachers, Shepherds (to lead the groups from activity to activity) and Nursery workers. Please contact Heather Cook at [marketing@bethlehemlc.org](mailto:marketing@bethlehemlc.org) if you are able to help in any area. We can use you for one night or all week; any time to help is appreciated.

## VBS Craft Item Donations Needed:

Collection box in the narthex by the VBS bulletin board.

2 1/2" – 3" terra cotta flower pots  
12" green chenille wires (a.k.a. pipe cleaners)  
clear plastic water bottles (12 oz. empty)  
gallon size Ziploc bags  
baby food jars  
mini craft sticks (2" or so)  
hotel size bar soap  
packages of Oreo style cookies  
14 oz. tin cans, clean & labels removed  
gummi worms  
plastic canvas  
craft foam – 9x12" sheets – green or brown

## Outing to the Fireside in Ft. Atkinson

The story of a fisherman and a teacher was never told like this! Experience the friend-ship, love, betrayal, passion and forgiveness in the all-new musical "The Rock & the Rabbi." Contemporary music sets the stage as Simon, a simple fisherman, draws audiences of all ages into his story. See how he becomes Peter the "Rock" and begins his journey with Jesus the "Rabbi" from the Sea of Galilee, to the agony of the cross, to the Miracle of the Ages. Combined with explosive percussion and masterful storytelling, "The Rock & the Rabbi" is a truly inspirational musical experience at its best.

Join other Bethlehem members on Friday, August 8 for dinner and the show for \$59.95 per person, **kids age 14 and under are \$43.20.** (includes gratuity). Must sign up and pay by July 13. Make checks payable to Bethlehem, with "Fireside" written in the memo line and place in Rob Bailey's mailslot. Car pooling is available. Questions? Call Susie Bailey at 825-9028.





**“I was a stranger and you invited me in.”** Matt. 25:35b

Dear friends in Christ Jesus:

Jesus describes the Last Day when He returns in glory in Matthew chapter 25. Those who are blessed by God the Father are the ones who fed the hungry, gave drink to the thirsty, invited the stranger in, clothed the naked, looked after the sick, and visited the prisoner.

As Pastor I am always interested in how our members greet the stranger who

comes through the doors of our church. An unbeliever describes her recent visit to a local church recorded in Outreach (July/August, 2008 p. 116) magazine. She is a 20-something female with children ages 4 and 3. She is visiting a small church in Savannah, Georgia on March 23 at 10a.m. (Easter Day) She is asked these questions and her answers are recorded:

**What were your first impressions of the church?**

“A man standing on the steps leading into the church greeted me first. He introduced himself and welcomed me. Everyone was friendly and said hello. Some people even hugged me. The first man I met showed me where my children could go while I attended the service.” Grade? B+

**What was it like inside?**

“My first impression of the inside of the building was that it was old and outdated. The rows were made up of metal fold-out chairs. The sanctuary seemed more like a big room in someone’s house. No bulletin was given. As a visitor, I felt welcomed by the people, but turned off by the appearance of the establishment.” Grade? C-

**Describe the service.**

“There was no band, organ or any instruments whatsoever. The

songs were led from the front and sung by the congregation. The lack of background music made the songs seem flat and not engaging.

The church had communion and the pastor then went up to the front to deliver his message. His wording was quite confusing. I didn’t really understand what he was trying to say, and he seemed to be repeating himself. The Bible was referenced many times during communion and the message.

My children went to the children’s program, and afterward I asked if they had learned anything new about God. The only thing they could tell me was that God made all animals. I wasn’t too happy about that. They may only be 4 and 3, but the whole point of church is to learn about God.

Grade? D

**Did you connect with anyone at the church?**

“As the service ended, the congregation all stopped to talk to everyone else. There was no reference in the sermon to visitors being present, but most people did stop by to say goodbye. One member offered to call and give me information about upcoming events.” Grade? C+

**Would you visit again?**

“I am unsure. I enjoyed the people and their attitudes toward visitors. I am not sure that I like the setup of the church, however. It seems as if the members have just found a place to congregate and not thought too much about the necessity of the space. I wish the music was more upbeat, the message was understandable and the children’s program offered more of a message.” Grade? C

**Overall Grade? C-**

What impressions do strangers have when they walk through the doors at Bethlehem Lutheran Church? Hopefully we continue to watch for the “stranger” in our midst and show compassion and understanding. The stranger still needs to hear about sin and grace. The stranger still needs to hear

about Jesus bearing our sins with His body on the cross so we might have forgiveness and eternal life. The stranger still needs to hear that being a disciple of Jesus means living out our faith from day to day. If ANY ONE of us were to stand before God just as we are we would all receive a failing grade! Were it not for the grace of God in Jesus Christ we would have no hope. We were once strangers and aliens (Eph. 2:12) to God until Jesus came and made us friends with God.

During these summer months I pray that we are keenly aware of the stranger in our midst and welcome them as Jesus would do. May your eyes always be open to the stranger - remember, you were once a stranger too!

In Christ’s love,  
Pastor Mueller

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

**Money and the Great Commission**

Jesus’ parting command was: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the



Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey

everything I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20).

Jesus was very direct and explicit with His mandate. There is no question as to where or with whom we are to share the Gospel. The love that God gives to us is to be shared by us with all people everywhere. He has given us our marching orders, and, in His strength, we can give ourselves fully to His work.

Because God has chosen to use us as His tools to bring salvation to all people, we must use our lives and gifts to spread the Good News. Paul wrote, “We are therefore

*Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us" (2 Corinthians 5:20).* One of the tools that God gives us to use in our mission of reaching out to others with the Gospel is our money. According to an old stewardship phrase, "Stewardship without mission is unnecessary and mission without stewardship is impossible." Stewardship and mission are inseparable. The funding of the Great Commission needs to come from believers. The money which God entrusts to us has many purposes, and the funding of mission work is of first importance. Through the giving of our money, we demonstrate our obedience to Jesus' command to reach out to all people. Paul wrote that, through our giving, we "*test the sincerity of [our] love by comparing it with the earnestness of others*" (2 Corinthians 8:8).

For nonbelievers and those who lack spiritual maturity, the giving of money is done begrudgingly out of a sense of obligation. By the grace of God, our attitude toward giving is a "want to" rather than a "got to" give. We view giving as a privilege and an opportunity to spread the Gospel through our money. Our giving expresses our gratitude for who God is and all that He has done for through His Son. Through faith, we hold onto our money loosely and then are privileged to experience the joy of giving as we give God our first and best. As Christians we understand that God has a claim on all that we have, so we willingly and cheerfully give our money to help all people hear of God's love. Money is an important tool for God's mission. Through our faithful giving, we are able to leverage our witnessing to all people.

## **In The Spirit Of Giving... Budget Facts**

Jim McCourt and me talk a little bit about the financial health of our church over Father's Day weekend.

I hope everyone had a chance to hear

As a refresher, it focused primarily on the General Fund. The General Fund is where the money from the blue offering envelopes goes each week. It's from the General Fund that all budget expenses are paid. It covers things like salaries, utilities, supplies, and the mortgage. Over the past couple of years, the money collected each week for the General Fund has frequently fallen short of the amount necessary to fully fund the budget. Luckily, there has been a reserve in the General Fund that was used to cover the shortfall. Unfortunately, those reserves are now running quite low. In order to bring in another pastor and a youth leader, we're going to need the help of all members of the congregation to pray and reflect upon their offerings.

The Holy Spirit can do wonderful things through each of us in our church and in our community if we let Him. Each family's offerings should be given FROM the heart to allow the Holy Spirit to work through us to bring the good news of Jesus to those in need.

As always, if you have any questions feel free to contact me.

Pat Schommer,  
Treasurer

*Simply giving* **A simple choice; a generous response**

Simply Giving® is an automated giving program designed to help you conveniently and consistently contribute to your congregation. Through Simply Giving®, your gifts or tuition payments are made through a pre-authorized withdrawal from your bank account or [credit card](#). You determine the frequency of your automatic gift—weekly, semi-monthly or monthly—the option is yours. Your gift or payment is deposited into Bethlehem's bank account on the same day it is withdrawn from your account—at no cost to you or Bethlehem.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans offers Simply Giving® to further

its mission of serving Lutheran congregations and institutions.

## **Simply Giving® benefits you and Bethlehem:**

Simply Giving® is a reliable, safe way to move your stewardship plan into action. It allows you to share your gifts through planned giving and activates your generosity into ongoing stewardship. Because your gift is given consistently, you won't need to play "catch-up" at year-end or worry about forgotten check-books or missed Sunday offerings. Your congregation benefits from steady, more predictable revenues throughout the year, more efficient bookkeeping and greater confidence in meeting its financial commitments.

Please find an enrollment form enclosed. Completed forms should be turned in to Betty Isaacson who will enter you into the program.

## **Help our Wisconsin Congregations that have Flood Damage**

The LCMS-South Wisconsin District is accepting monetary donations and sending those gifts directly to our congregations who are most in need. Please make checks payable to "South Wisconsin District - LCMS" (8100 W. Capitol Dr. Milwaukee, WI 53222-1981) and note "WI Disaster Relief" on your check. Read the stories regarding flood damage at [www.swd.lcms.org](http://www.swd.lcms.org).



**Paul Spira  
to be  
Ordained  
July 13**

Our prayers and best wishes go with Paul, Caryl, Lizzy and Ethan Spira to their new church home at Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 4900 Fairfield Ave. in Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 where Paul will be ordained as an LCMS pastor on July 13, 2008.



## **Woman to Woman - Talk you can trust**

The **Woman to Woman**® radio program was created by Phyllis Wallace and began airing on KFUE-AM radio in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1991. The show was picked up by Lutheran Hour Ministries in 1993 and was expanded to 400 stations.

This award-winning radio program offers hope and help for the great challenges facing women today. By introducing her listeners to guests who have expertise and the experience to back it up, Phyllis fills each show with talk you can trust.

"Woman to Woman" radio promotes women's well-being and spiritual growth through in-depth discussion of women's issues, to give practical lifestyle information. Phyllis Wallace and her guests motivate and instruct listeners on how to make the transition from "hearing" to "doing."

Though *Woman to Woman* is not broadcast anywhere in the Madison area, you can listen to it on your computer any time at: [www.womantowomanradio.com](http://www.womantowomanradio.com)

### **Coming Up on [womantowomanradio.com](http://www.womantowomanradio.com):**

*July 06, 2008*  
**Be the Mom**

Julie Barnhill, author of "One Tough Mother: It's Time to Step Up and Be the Mom" talks about the NON-negotiables of motherhood, facing your giants, saying "no" like you mean it, and how to love 'em like crazy - all within God's blueprint for mothers!

*July 13, 2008*  
**Hollywood Stories and Yours**

Award-winning Producer Ken Wales is lauded for his CBS series "Christy" and recent film "Amazing Grace" on Wilberforce's fight to abolish slave trade. Ken shares on working with Walt Disney and famous stars and God writing His story through you!

*July 20, 2008*  
**STD's: One Woman's Return From Shame**

When Jen was diagnosed with a sexually transmitted disease, she

quickly discovered how "free and casual" sex could become "medical and forever." Hear how God led Jen from isolation to trusting Him with her dark secret and the rest of her story.

*July 27, 2008*

### **Learning to Breathe Again**

Losing someone you love is devastating. Recording artist and author, Tammy Trent, learned that first hand when she lost her husband suddenly in a diving accident-just one day before 9-11. Find out how Tammy learned to breathe again.

### **Jcplayzone**

This summer, when the kids are inside getting a break from the heat, you can entertain them with Lutheran Hour Ministries' interactive kids' Web site, [www.jcplayzone.com](http://www.jcplayzone.com). JCPlayZone offers games, recipes, crafts, coloring pages, and free e-cards. Introduce JCPlayZone to your Vacation Bible School, summer camp programs, Sunday school classes, and even adult Bible classes.



Activities and games are updated periodically so that kids will keep coming back. Games include a word search, matching game, crossword puzzle, among others. Besides providing a safe, Christian environment for kids to play online, some games, coloring pages, and e-cards help share Bible stories. JCPlayZone also has Christian music, Daily Devotions, and audio versions of Bible stories to help teach kids Christian values.

Many parents who have checked out JCPlayZone and its companion Web site, [JCParentZone](http://www.jcparentzone.com), are excited to share the links with their friends and are happy to have a safe, Christian Web site for their kids to play on. One mother said, "JCPlayZone is a wonderful Web site for families. I'm glad to see a Christ-centered website that I can feel safe letting my children use."

A father wrote, "Being parents of two very active young boys, it is a blessing to find a site that will guide us as parents to help communicate the Word to our children. When we are looking for that inspiration from the Lord, we can go to JCPlayZone and JCParentZone."

### **Call the 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.

### **Substance Abuse and the Man in the Middle**

It may start out as fun, but we can become addicted to booze and drugs, destroying our lives, family, work and friendships. Jesus Christ, the Man in the Middle, understands and accepts us. He died to help, and he continues to help through counselors at **Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin**. Call 800-291-4513 for a local appointment.

### **LCFS Speakers Available**

Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin has a profession staff that is available for presentations to couples, families, church boards, school faculties and businesses. Call 800-291-4513 or email [lcfswi.org](mailto:lcfswi.org) to learn more about the variety of topics. The staff will also tailor a topic of your choice or need.

### **Knit/Crochet Bandages for Leprosy Patients**

Pick up a sheet of instructions from the Ladies' Guild table across from the mail slots.



Finished bandages may be placed in the basket on the table. Super easy - a great project for beginners and a snap for veterans. Just the right size to fit in your purse for the odd "waiting" moment or lunch break.

## Make a Blanket for Project Linus

Project Linus is a non-profit organization, dedicated to "Providing Security through Blankets," for ill or traumatized children and teens.

Blankets should be **home-made of all-new washable materials** (no recycled materials or **wool**) in child or teen-friendly colors or prints (animals are especially popular). 45x60" is the most needed blanket size, but many sizes are useful. They should be at least 30x36" for infants, 45x45" and 45x60" for older kids, up to a maximum of about 45x72."

Blankets may be knitted, crocheted, fleece or quilted. For fringed fleece blankets, it is best to start with a 1 1/2 yd length of 60" wide fleece.

Place finished blankets in the blue box under the Women's Guild table in the hallway.

## Lutheran World Relief Kit Recipes

Every year Bethlehem members demonstrate their care for disaster victims around the world by compiling and donating **kits, bar soap and blankets** for LCMS World Relief. You will find the kit "recipes" below. Completed kits can be brought to church and left on or beneath the Ladies' Guild table in the hall. Many items can be purchased at garage sales if they are in very good condition. Deadline for collection is October 5.



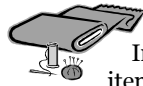
### Health Kits

Include the following items in each health kit:

- : One hand towel, dark color
- : One washcloth, dark color
- : One bath-size bar (4-5 oz.) of soap in its original wrapping
- : One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- : One comb, wide tooth preferred, remove packaging
- : One **metal** nail file or nail clippers with file attached, remove packaging
- : Six Band-Aids® 1/2" - 3/4";

secure with a rubber band

**Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.** All items should be new and in good condition. Wrap smaller items in the washcloth; wrap washcloth and remaining items in the towel and tie securely with ribbons or yarn. Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

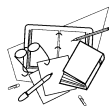


### Sewing kits

Include the following items in each kit:

- " "3 yards of 44- 45" cotton or a cotton blend fabric; 4 yards if 36"
- " 10-15 needles (sharps) for hand sewing
- " One 300 yd. spool of thread
- " One card buttons (6 or more 1/2 - 5/8")

Wrap sewing notions inside fabric and tie with string, yarn, or strip of fabric.



### School Kits

Include the following items in each school kit:

- ✎ Pads or spiral notebooks of ruled paper approximately 8 x 10 1/2" totaling 150-200 sheets (if using 70-count notebooks, please include three); do not include loose-leaf paper
- ✂ One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- ✎ One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- ✎ One pencil sharpener
- ✎ Six new, unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure with rubber band
- ✎ One eraser 2 1/2" long
- ✎ 12 sheets of construction paper in assorted colors (if necessary, fold in half to fit into the school kit bag)
- ✎ One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- ✎ One cloth bag approximately 12" by 14" with cloth handles (**Ladies' Guild makes these**)

Pack items in a plastic grocery bag to bring to church.



### Layettes

In refugee camps, hospitals, and villages around the world, gifts of layettes convey a warm welcome to newborns and their mothers and incentives to get prenatal care. Include the following items:

- ♥ Two T-shirts or onesies

- ♥ Two gowns or sleepers
- ♥ One sweater /sweatshirt
- ♥ Two receiving blankets
- ♥ Four cloth diapers
- ♥ Two diaper pins
- ♥ Two washcloths
- ♥ One bath-size bar of soap

**Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.** Gently used, clean items can be substituted for new ones. Wrap items in one of the receiving blankets and secure with diaper pins. Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

### TIPS

Sizes up to 24 months may be used. Consider varying the sizes of the clothing items so the layette will continue to be useful as the baby grows.

Sweaters may be knitted, crocheted or made from heavy double knits or fleece. Select a pattern that suits your skill level. Preferred styles have buttons or ties down the front.

A bolt of flannel can furnish a number of receiving blankets, diapers and gowns. A square cut the width of fabric (usually 36" or 45") easily makes a blanket. Diapers can be made by using a pinking shears to cut pieces 25" X 27"

Use care when making blankets and diapers with flannel. It may be necessary to zigzag edges or sew a hem to prevent raveling.

## Ongoing, Easy Fundraisers:

### Used Inkjet Cartridges

If you use an inkjet printer at home or work, bring your empty cartridges to church. Place them in the container your new one came in (or a plastic bag) across from the coat room. We realize \$2+ per cartridge which goes to our youth groups. Most cartridges are acceptable as long as they have a **visible copper strip printhead**. Thanks for participating!

### Used, Inactive Cell Phones

Donate your inactive cell phones and we'll turn them into cash. You'll be helping our youth groups raise money for trips and activities. Gather idle or inactive cell phones sitting around your home or office and put them in the box on the counter across from the coat room. (Just the phones, no accessories.)

We receive between \$1-20 per phone depending on the model.



### Stamps for Missions

Please save used postage stamps from your everyday mail for mission projects. **Commemorative** stamps, high value stamps and all foreign stamps are desired. These should all have at least 1/8" of envelope border around them. Put them in the box on the counter across from the coat room.

### Parish Planning Council

June 10, 2008

Present: Bob Hickey, Tom Heumann, Jim McCourt, Randy Lange, Brenda Detert, Todd Nieting, Tom Barnet, Pat Schommer, Betty Isaacson

The meeting was brought to order at 5:30 p.m. by Asst. Executive Director Bob Hickey.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as distributed.

Treasurer Pat Schommer reported that the situation with the general fund is critical. Giving is regularly \$1000 less per week than what is needed. Jim McCourt and Pat Schommer will present an overview of financial details after services this week with a letter to follow at a later date.

Tom Heumann represented the Board of Properties and noted that all the ice dam water damage has been repaired. At present they are receiving bids on HVAC maintenance contracts, which they may or may not use.

The Board of Lay Ministry is still working on job descriptions for the pastors and will get them to the call committee. Summer worship schedule change was discussed but will not be implemented until next year. More communion servers are needed each week. No member directories will be posted online. The board will organize the annual audit of the financial books. Individual prayer journals will be ready for use in the fall and will be promoted this summer.

The Board of Evangelism has a lot of volunteers for their new board and has completed advertizing for the Relay for Life Concert.

The Fellowship Committee will not have a chairperson, but each member has designated duties. They will meet when necessary.

For the Board of Christian Education, Todd Nieting noted that there were about 100 people at the Sunday school picnic at Bailey's. September 7, 2008 will be Rally Day. The High School Youth Group will have monthly functions during the summer. 34 attended the mission trip to Chicago. Heather Cook and Hilde Felsing are in charge of Vacation Bible School. The board is working on the job description for the Youth & Family Minister to replace Pete Imlah.

Tom Barnet announced that the Board of Stewardship is hoping to have at least 10 members. The Draft Day went fairly well and the results have been entered in the database. Pledge cards and messages regarding the financial situation are going out. A formal Stewardship program will start in October.

Bob Hickey noted for the Nominating Committee that people are asked to talk to the person they're nominating, before they nominate them to see if they are interested in serving.

The church website needs to be under a board's jurisdiction.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Betty Isaacson

### Voter's Meeting

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
June 15, 2008, 9:32am

Bob Hickey, Asst. Exec. Director, presided over meeting in Exec. Director Tim Mielcarek's absence.

Pastor Mueller opened meeting with prayer.

Jim McCourt presented 26 names of new members and 16 names of members to be removed; Tom Gregar made a motion to accept these lists as read, was seconded and motion passed without dissent.

Motion was made by Jim McCourt to accept minutes from last voter's meeting as written (were not read), motion was seconded passed without dissent.

Pat Schommer presented the treasurer's report to be filed for audit. Pat's comments included that current cash reserve is about \$11,000, this is

the lowest amount in recent memory; Pete Imlah's departure will help cash flow, but will be short-lived if more staff is added, Pat and Jim McCourt will give brief presentation at each service to emphasize importance of this matter.

List of nominated members for boards have been in published in bulletin in past weeks; motion was made by John Schlitz to accept nomination list as written, motion passed without dissent. Note: Pastor Mueller stated that members of boards will be installed at services on Sundays, July 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup>; all current & new board members, please try to attend one of these dates. Board meetings that usually meet on first Tuesday of the month will meet on second Tuesday of July, due to installation dates listed above. The July meeting for Parish Planning Council (PPC) has also been changed to July 15<sup>th</sup>.

Lay Ministry chair, Jim McCourt, presented the updated job descriptions of Lead Associate Pastor and Care Associate Pastor that have been given to the Pastoral call committee. Change in summer service hours has been discussed, there will not be any changes for this summer; but will start the process for a change in summer 2009.

Tom Heumann, representing Church Properties, reported a successful spring cleanup. The roof and sanctuary damage from winter ice dams has been repaired. A thank you was offered to all committee members for their past service, there will be 4 new members on this committee.

Christian Education chair, Tom Nieting, reported that all programs are continuing even though the departure of Pete Imlah left a big hole; 34 leaving for Chicago mission trip today, Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be in July. The Board of Christian Education recommends that the position Director of Youth and Family Ministry be filled. Discussion ensued and by Point of Order this was moved to new business.

Brenda Detert reported for Fellowship committee that there will be project leaders, but no chairperson for this committee; there will be a reporting representative attending PPC meetings.

Pastor Mueller began his report by presenting an overview of the Personal Growth Notebook that he and Lay Ministry have been working on. The binder contains a commitment, prayer guide, Bible reading schedule, personal

prayer list and diary; meeting for discussion will occur in small groups. Pastor noted the importance to dedicate oneself to God first and encourages as many members as possible to take part. Notebooks and more information will be coming by fall. Candidate Paul Spira will be at Bethlehem on June 19 & 22 to preach, this will be a Godspeed and farewell service as Candidate Spira will be ordained in Fort Wayne, IN in July. Pastor Mueller will attend a weeklong conference in St. Louis, beginning Oct 12 to learn & integrate new leadership skills. There will be 6 new people trained to be Stephen Ministers this fall.

Pastoral Call Committee update was presented by Bob Hickey; job descriptions are completed, information about Sun Prairie and Bethlehem Lutheran Church will be compiled; the congregational self study must be completed and submitted to Synod before list of candidates is compiled and presented back to Bethlehem (may take 30-45 days). Next meeting of committee will be June 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Anyone in the congregation may offer the name of someone they think should be on the list of pastoral candidates, names may be given to Bob Hickey, these names will be given to Synod for consideration (**Important Note:** please **DO NOT** discuss the pastoral position with any pastors until Synod has presented Bethlehem with a call list).

Presentation of bylaw change to voters as published in bulletin; discussion took place concerning that consultation with the South Wisconsin District had been removed, Lay Ministry will amend the current verbiage to again include this consultation and updated wording will be published and voted on at next regular voter's meeting. Jim McCourt made a motion that the Pastoral call committee moves forward as stated in the proposed bylaw change, motion was seconded and passed without dissent.

#### New Business:

Todd Nieting made a motion to proceed with the process to fill the position of Director of Youth and Family Ministry. John Schlitz made a motion to amend this motion to include that Board of Christian Education shall come back to the voters no later than the end of the second week of August with a recommendation, which will require a special voter's meeting being scheduled. Discussion occurred that included pros/cons, concerns and needs related to this position. Amendment to motion was seconded and passed without dissent. Amended motion to proceed with the process to fill the position of Director of Youth and Family Ministry and the Board of Christian Education shall come back to the voters no later than the end of the second week of August with a recommendation, was seconded and passed with 26 ayes and 9 nays.

Motion was made by Jim McCourt to adjoin meeting, was seconded and passed without dissent.

Jim McCourt closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40am

Minutes submitted by Laurie Dary  
44 members in attendance per sign in sheet

### Volunteer Opportunities

#### Oakwood Village East

5565 Tancho Drive  
Madison, WI 53718

Contact Kim Viney, 230-4238 or  
[kim.viney@oakwoodvillage.net](mailto:kim.viney@oakwoodvillage.net) to

volunteer for any of the following or for more information.

#### Village Mercantile –

Volunteers are needed for the Village Mercantile gift shop and grocery store in the Community Center at Oakwood Village East Retirement Community.

Volunteers are needed Monday-Friday 9:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or 12:30-3:15 p.m., or on Saturday, 12:45-3:15 p.m. New Village Mercantile volunteers receive training and a 20% discount on regular-priced gift shop merchandise on the day(s) they volunteer in the Mercantile.

#### Colonial Club Senior Activity Center

Contact Lynn at 837-4611 x120  
Or [lpawelski@colonialclub.org](mailto:lpawelski@colonialclub.org)

#### Home-Based Assistance

Yard clean-up, mowing, one-time projects, errands, checkbook reconciliation, and more! Whether you are looking for “done-in-a-day,” seasonal, or ongoing projects we'd love to connect you with an area senior who needs an extra hand in order to remain independent.

#### Home Delivered Meal Drivers

Would you like to deliver a hot noon meal and a smile to seniors in Sun Prairie, Marshall, Cottage Grove or Deerfield? Our home delivered meal program is growing and we have added a route. Weekly drivers and substitutes are needed. Mileage reimbursement is available.

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## Bethlehem Lutheran Church

300 Broadway Dr  
Sun Prairie WI 53590  
608-837-7446  
[www.bethlehemlc.org](http://www.bethlehemlc.org)  
[office@bethlehemlc.org](mailto:office@bethlehemlc.org)

#### Worship

Thursdays 7:00 p.m.  
Sundays 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.

Rev. Stephen M. Mueller,  
Pastor