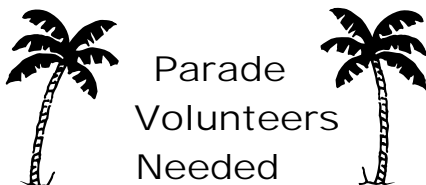


The Tidings

June 2006

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Sun Prairie, Wisconsin



Parade
Volunteers
Needed

Bethlehem will have a float in four community parades this summer. We are looking for 10-12 people, adults and kids over age 8, to be part of each parade. Some will wave and smile from the float and others will walk handing out candy and fliers. Our theme is this summer's VBS program "Son Treasure Island."

Parade dates are:

Saturday June 17
Cottage Grove

Sunday June 25
Marshall

Saturday July 1
Flags of Freedom in Sun Prairie

Tuesday July 4
Fourth of July in DeForest

Please sign up at the *Purpose Place* in the hall at church or call Mike Grulke 834-3093.

Candy Also Needed

(and lots of it for the parades)! Please consider donating hard candy (suckers, hard candy, sweet tarts, tootsie rolls, sour balls, etc...) to hand out in the parade. Place your donations

near the VBS hut in the narthex and label it "for parades."

Volunteers from the Board of Evangelism are busy creating and **building the float**. If you would like to volunteer to help build it, please call Mike Grulke at 834-3093.



Jacob Cheney
Aaron Deimund
Amanda Hissom
Kristin Hurley
Jason Knaus
Aimee LeMay
Ashley McDonough
Erin Much
Jon Redlin

Lord God, heavenly Father, You provide schools and teachers for faithful instruction and dedicated learning. Receive our thanks for the knowledge gained by those who are now graduating. As they continue to learn and grow, grant them Your Holy Spirit that their talents and abilities may be used for Your glory and as a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Great Oaks Challenge Retreat 2006

This week-long ropes course is open to youth in grades 7-12. The dates are August 6-11 – leaving Bethlehem at 2:00 p.m. on August 6 and returning by 3:00 p.m. on August 11. Great Oaks is in northern Illinois near Lacon. Cost is \$185 with a deposit of \$50 by June 4 and the remaining \$135 due by July 30. See Pete Imlah for complete information

Armed Forces Devotions

The *Armed Forces Devotional Book* provides our service men and women with a Christ-centered resource. You can help equip them with "the full armor of God" (Eph. 6:11). Until July 9 we can order copies to be sent to our chaplains for only \$2/copy, free shipping. If you would like to donate, use one of your "designated gift" envelopes and write "Armed Forces Devotions" on it and place in the offering plate.

When we did this two years ago, we were able to send 288 copies to our chaplains for distribution.



Rest for the Weary

*The LORD replied,
"My Presence will go with you,
and I will give you rest."
Exodus 33:14*

As we enter the months of summer many of us look forward to vacations and recreation. How much time do we spend finding rest for our souls? We labor and struggle and bring in an income, to pray daily and study the Word, to meet the spiritual needs of others, and to be good parents, children, or grandparents. Often we feel overwhelmed by all we must accomplish in a day.

When we feel that way, there is a solution – as He did for Moses, God offers to take up our burdens and give us much-needed relief. As we simply cling by faith to His promise, He gives us rest. Jesus says it this way, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28) Real relief comes from recognizing that our LORD goes ahead of us – ahead of us to die for our sins, rise again in new life, and prepare a place for us in heaven.

Often we get so caught up in trying to find our own solutions to problems, we simply don't tell Him about them. It's as if we assume He knows, so we need not talk about it. But we forget that God doesn't barge into our lives. As long as we hold on to finding our own solutions to what overwhelms us, He'll let us lose our way in our own efforts.

If we take advantage of His invitation to come to Him, everything changes. As we ask God for help, He lifts all our

burdens, and where once we struggled, we experience His Spirit pulsing through our lives. When we place a trouble in God's hands, then take His advice, seemingly insolvable problems slip away or are lightened by our sharing them with the Savior. It's not magic, but a sweet release.

*"The Lord is
my strength
and my
song..."
Exodus 15:2*

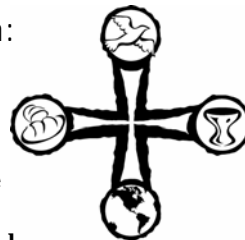
Working hard on our own, we create only stress, worry, and more uncertainty. Only resting in Him brings the answer to every need.

May you find rest in His Presence as He goes before you!

In service to Jesus,
Pastor Mueller

*For I resolved to know nothing
while with you except Jesus Christ
and Him crucified.
1 Corinthians 2:2*

Bethlehem:
A Mission
Outpost?



You may have heard the story about two neighbors who saw their local church going up in smoke. As they stood at a safe distance watching firefighters douse the flames, one of them said to the other, "I didn't know that you had any interest in this church. You've never attended services here. Why all of a sudden the interest now?" The other neighbor replied, "This church has never been on fire before!"

What would be your guess? How many congregations of our Synod have never been "on fire" for intentionally reaching

people in their local communities who are "uncommitted" to Christianity? According to the latest statistics available to us, 47%, or 2884, of our LCMS congregations have baptized or confirmed only one person in 2005 and 35%, or 2148, congregations have not baptized or confirmed one person in the same year. Is it any wonder then that between 1970 and 2000, the population in the United States grew by 72 million and in the same time period, the LCMS membership declined by 350,000?

Ablaze!TM began as a vision of World Mission to involve every member of the LCMS in a concentrated effort to share the Good News of Jesus with 100 million unreached or uncommitted people by the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. Many resolutions of great importance were adopted at our Synod's 2004 convention, including the following:

RES. 1-02

"To promote 'Mission Outpost' Attitude": Resolved, 'That each congregation, ministry, and school within our Synod... understands itself as a mission outpost to all the unchurched and sees that its own community is a mission field today'.

In the United States, over 200 million people are considered effectively unchurched. Seventy-seven percent (77%) of the US population identify themselves as Christians (down from 86% in 1990) and almost 30 million people in the US do not subscribe to any religion. Right here in Dane County fifty percent (50%) of the population do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as their

Lord and Savior. That means that half the people you walk past today will not be going to heaven. What a mission field that awaits us! What Jesus said to His disciples one day is still true today, "Do not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest.' "I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." (John 4: 35)

We at Bethlehem Lutheran Church Sun Prairie, Wisconsin are invited into **Ablaze!** Each of us are invited to join God at work reaching this community and its surrounding communities with the good news of Jesus Christ. Invite a friend, neighbor, classmate, or fellow employee to church, Vacation Bible School, or small group Bible study. You have the answer to joy, peace and eternal life. Share it!!!!

Peter R Imlah
Youth & Family Minister

Kingdom Quest &
Quest 56 Wind Up the
Sunday School Year

June Schedule

Age 3 – Kindergarten

- 6/4 *Jesus Teaches Us to Invite Others (last class before summer break)*
6/11 *Gospel Magician Rob Erdmann*

Grades 1-4

- 6/4 *Paul in Corinth (last class before summer break)*
6/11 *Gospel Magician Rob Erdmann*

Grades 5&6

- 6/4 *God, What About... Knowing If I'm saved (last class before summer break)*
6/11 *Gospel Magician Rob Erdmann*

It's Mission Trip Time!

From June 18 -24 twenty-five individuals will represent Bethlehem Lutheran Church on the 2006 UKANDU Mission Trip to the Inner-City Chicago. The theme of this year is UNO. The theme for this year's trip is found in the prayer of Jesus when He prays: **that we may be one, so that the world may believe in God.** We will be striving to become one so that the world may know Jesus.

Since we are one, we need your prayer support and covering as we prepare for our journey of faith during the week of June 18. Please consider being one of our prayer warriors. Pray for our safety, ministry, and unity. Please also pray for those who we will be touching with the love and compassion of Jesus Christ. Here is a sample of the types of activities we will be doing on our mission trip:

- ☞ Vacation Bible School
- ☞ Topping off wood chips at three different school playgrounds
- ☞ Rebuilding a handicapped ramp and painting a school hallway
- ☞ Installing a new playground and building one or two storage sheds
- ☞ Painting a homeless shelter, interact with clients and build storage shelves
- ☞ Paint a 90 year old couple's apartment
- ☞ Paint 4 bathrooms and hallway of a school
- ☞ Replace blackboards with whiteboards



Youth

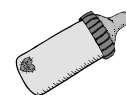
Silke Behne
James Bushman
Aaron Deimund
Dan Felsing
TJ Helgren
Richie Hensen
Jennifer Kish
Emily McCourt
Aaron McDonough
Matt Mielcarek
Haley Oosterhof
Hailey Schiltz
Erin Thompson

Adults

Lori Anacker
Rock Behne
Lin Bender
Jeanne Deimund
Hilde Felsing
Kris Hebel
Pete Imlah
Jim McCourt
Ardie Nelson
Keith Nelson
Sandy Philip
Bob Scholfield

Thank you for your support and please keep us all in your prayers.

Peter R Imlah
Youth & Family Minister



A Gift of Life

Help raise money for CareNet Pregnancy Center of Dane County by participating in the annual Baby Bottle Campaign. CareNet is a crisis pregnancy center, providing alternatives to abortion. They provide pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, counseling, abstinence education, post-abortion counseling and operate a maternity home called "Elizabeth House."

Pick up a baby bottle in the narthex and fill it with currency, coins, or a check (made out to CareNet) and return it to church by Father's Day. See Pete Imlah with any questions.



Craft
Donation
Request
for VBS

Some great projects are planned for Adult Crafts this year. We will be making Christmas wreaths and magnetic boards. Lots of materials are needed to make these projects. If you would like to help keep costs down by donating any of the items listed below, we would be most appreciative. There is a box underneath the mailboxes for your donation.

For Christmas wreaths:
mini Christmas ornament balls
bells
cinnamon sticks
berries
wire ribbon
any wreath decorating items

For magnetic boards:
11" x 17" frames
plain magnets (round or square)
buttons
dice
dominoes
flat, colorful stones
other items that could be used to make magnets

Thanks for your help!



Mental
Health

Did you know that mental illnesses rank first among illnesses that cause disability in the U.S.? We invite you to contact LCFS at 1-800-291-4513 or www.lcfswi.org to arrange for a speaker on mental health issues, or to obtain more information on LCFS Christian counseling services in your area.

(Bethlehem is one of their counseling sites.)

If you'd like to donate to help a person or family with mental health needs please call 1-800-291-4513 and let us know (or use the LCFS offering envelope in your box).

Lutheran Counseling and Family Services of Wisconsin - now in our 110th year.

Get Ready to Relay!



The American Cancer Society's (ACS) Relay for Life is a celebration of life in honor of and in memory of those whose lives have been touched by cancer. It involves teams of people who take turns walking or running around a track all night long. Money is raised through team commitment fees and individual donations secured from team members' family and friends. Thrivent Financial's "Care in Communities" will provide an additional \$200.

The funds help support ACS research, education, advocacy and patient service efforts. Bethlehem will participate in Sun Prairie's Relay July 21-22 at the Sun Prairie High School track.

The event begins with the Survivor's Lap at 6:00 p.m. If you are a survivor or you know a survivor that would be interested in attending this ceremony, please call Dena Schlitz, Bethlehem's Team Captain (846-7751) or Laurie Dary, Sun Prairie's Event Chairperson (837-6634). Bethlehem's team will have a 7:00 p.m. potluck at their campsite and everyone is invited to eat, walk, fellowship and cheer on the team.

A huge "Thank You" goes to the Fellowship Committee for organizing the Pie Auction on June 4. Proceeds benefit the ACS and will help Bethlehem's Team reach their fundraising goal.

We still have openings for a few more team members. We'd also like to recruit walkers to help the team fill out the walking schedule that will cover the 14 hour relay. Mark your calendar now and see you at the track.

2006 Team members: Pam Cheney, Laurie Dary, Martha Harnois, Denise Matson, Keith and Ardie Nelson, Sandy Philip, Jim and Alva Lea Pingel, Dena Schlitz, and Marlene Scholfield.



The East Dane County Chapter of Thrivent (EDCCT) is hosting a Habitat for Humanity build in Oregon, WI. The build is every Wednesday and Saturday, 8-5 from May to November. They would like 8-10 volunteers from Bethlehem. The duplex Habitat and EDCCT are building, will cost \$140,000 – breakdown of where the money comes from: 70% National, 20% Local, and 10% (about \$14,000) from EDCCT. Donations are welcomed, however, not required to participate.

Children under 18 are not allowed to build without a parent/guardian. Children are not allowed to use power tools. They can paint, landscape, hammer, pick up, etc...

If you would like to participate, print your name under the days you would like to work on the sign up sheet which is in the Purpose Place.

Lutheran Women in Mission

Our Women's Guild meetings take a break for the summer months, though quilting Saturdays will be June 3, July 8, and August 5 from 9-2. (Bring a sack lunch.) The next regular meeting is Monday, September 11 at 7:00 p.m.

Summer Quilting Days

Saturdays: June 3
July 8
August 5



From 9-2 at church. Bring your equipment of choice, *i.e.* cutting mats, sewing machines, thimbles, pliers, etc. and a sack lunch.

Save your mites!

Based on the Biblical story of the widow's mite, the mite box is intended for contributions above and beyond to church or Synod. Pick up a mite box or label that fits an empty frosting can at the cookbook table. Mites can be given to our treasurer Ginny Prey when your box gets full.

Knit or Crochet Bandages

We have an ongoing project to knit or crochet simple cotton bandages for tropical ulcer patients (size 8 needles or H hook). Pick up directions on the Women's Guild table by the mite boxes.

Bring Kits and Bar Soap for LCMS World Relief

The kits you put together and send to Lutheran World Relief help give hope and a small return to normalcy for those

displaced by wars and natural disasters. We will be collecting completed kits and new, wrapped bar soap at Bethlehem until the middle of October. There will be a drop-off box in the hall by the mailboxes.

Health Kits

Include the following items in each health kit:










- : One hand towel – dark color
- : One washcloth – dark color
- : One new bath-size bar of soap
- : One toothbrush
- : One 5-7 oz. tube of toothpaste
- : One comb, wide tooth preferred
- : One metal nail file, or nail clippers with file attached
- : Six Band-Aids, 1/2" - 3/4" wide

Wrap items in the towel, and tie securely with ribbons or yarn. Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.



School Kits

Include the following items in each school kit:

-  Pads or notebooks of ruled paper approximately 8 1/2" X 11" containing 150-200 sheets of 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
-  6 new pencils with erasers
-  One eraser approx. 2 1/2" long
-  12 sheets of construction paper, assorted colors
-  One box of 8, 16, or 24 crayons
-  One cloth bag approximately 12" by 14" with cloth handles (Ladies' Guild will make these)

Pack items in a paper or plastic grocery bag. The ladies will put them in the cloth bags.



Layettes

In refugee camps, hospitals, and villages around

the world, gifts of layettes convey a warm welcome to newborns and their mothers. They are also used as incentives for prenatal care.

Include the following items in each layette:

- ♥ Two T-shirts or onesies
- ♥ Two gowns or sleepers
- ♥ Two receiving blankets
- ♥ Four cloth diapers
- ♥ One sweater
- ♥ Two washcloths
- ♥ One new bath-size bar of gentle soap
- ♥ Two diaper pins

Wrap items in one of the receiving blankets and secure with diaper pins. Do not enclose the kit or any contents in a plastic bag.

Sweaters may be knitted or crocheted from leftover yarn. They may also be made from heavy double knits. Preferred styles have buttons or ties down the front. Infant sweatshirts may be substituted for the sweater



Sewing kits

Include the following items in each kit:

- " Three yards of 44- 45" cotton or a cotton blend fabric; four yards if 36"
- " One package of needles (sharps) for hand sewing
- " One spool of matching thread
- " One card of buttons

Wrap sewing notions inside fabric and tie with string, yarn, or strip of fabric. Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
300 Broadway Drive
Sun Prairie, WI 53590



www.bethlehemlc.org
office@bethlehemlc.org
608.837.7446, fax 608.825.2268

Worship

Thursday 7:00 p.m. Sunday 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Stephen M. Mueller, Pastor
Mr. Peter Imlah, Youth & Family Minister