

# The Tidings

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin May 2008

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## Confirmed in Christ

2008

May 4,

**Elyse Noell Lawson**

Psalm 46:5

**Samuel Ezra Nieting**

Matthew 17:20

**Clayton John Reindl** Mark

16:15-16

**Larissa Lynn Schlitz**

Isaiah 40:31

**Hannah Katherine Schommer**

James 1:17

**Dale Emerson Sheets**

Psalm 46:1

**Zak John Waldschmidt**

John 15:7

their love for You may be increased. We pray in Your holy name. Amen



## **VBS Decorating Day #3**

Saturday May 17  
8:00 am - Noon

The scenes are up and need those special finishing touches. Due to the intricate work we are asking for Confirmed Youth and above only to help on this day.

Grab your paint clothes and join us. Lots of hands will be needed to help get us ready for our backyard adventure.

## **God's Big Backyard**

### **VBS '08 Kick-off**

Wednesday, May 14 at 6:30 p.m.  
in the Confirmation Room

It's time to jump over the fence and get ready for our trip into God's Big Backyard!

All VBS Team Members and Volunteers are encouraged to attend the kick-off. Hear the theme song, meet team members and find out all about what this year has to offer. Join us this year as we find the joy in SERVICE. Everyone welcome!!

## **What is Draft Day Anyway?**

Hopefully you've noticed the bulletin board in the narthex and the signs around church announcing Draft Day.

On **May 18** we are holding the annual "Draft" in the Fellowship Hall after the 10:45 service. This is a day for everyone who belongs to Bethlehem to make a commitment to the Lord and the church to give of your time, talent, and treasures from your first fruits. On this day

- We encourage you to "GET OFF THE BENCH" by offering your God given talents to serve the Lord here at Bethlehem and beyond. .
- You'll get a chance to "TRY OUT FOR THE TEAM". There will be a myriad of short term and periodic volunteer opportunities for those of you who are new to the church or haven't volunteered

## **Prayer for the Newly Confirmed:**

Lord Jesus, bless those who are newly confirmed. Bind their hearts to Your Word that their vows may be fulfilled. Daily, may they grow closer to You. Preserve them in Your truth, so that nothing this world offers ever tempts them to stray from Your side. Give them a desire to feed on Your Word, that their faith will be continually strengthened and

before and don't know if you want to make a long term commitment to a board.

- You'll also be able to "SIGN A BIG LEAGUE CONTRACT" and make a renewed financial commitment to the church from your first fruits. Your response will be confidential.

AND.....There will be FOOD!!!! We will also have a tailgate party with lots of food and fellowship.

## Partnership in the Gospel

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." Philippians 1:3-5a

The apostle Paul had visited the people of God in the city of Philippi on three occasions. This letter expresses Paul's joy in receiving the gifts sent from this beloved congregation. While Paul was in Rome he received the final of three gifts. He is grateful and puts these people in his own personal prayers. He prays that the Good News of Jesus that was preached may continue in this congregation. He thanks God for the fellowship and ministry that was begun there and with the Spirit's help, will continue. Paul thanks God as he remembers them. He remembers his first work in Philippi, even the beating and the imprisonment he and his mission partner Silas suffered, and God's wonderful deliverance.

What Paul is truly grateful for as he remembers these people is their faith and their faithfulness to the Gospel. He is truly grateful to God for the opportunity to be in partnership in sharing Jesus with this congregation.

I could not help but think of these words of the apostle as I thought back over the 6+ years that the Lord has allowed me to be in partnership in the Gospel with Peter Imlah. Having never worked in a multi-staff ministry before I really didn't know what to



expect. The personalities, styles and

methods of people can often be so different that it would seem difficult to work together. Pete and I are 10 years (!) apart in age and we did have disagreements on occasion as well as mutual frustrations. There is one thing, however, that always made the difference - the way I viewed Pete as a "partner" in the Gospel.

Together we are the "professional Christians" at Bethlehem called to serve Jesus with our varied gifts and abilities. Despite the differences on different levels regarding style and method I had learned to know and love Pete as a partner in sharing our beloved Savior with a dying world.

The word Paul used in Philippians 1:5 above is often translated "partner-ship" in the English versions of our Bibles. It is more than a partner-ship - it is a "fellowship" - something that is shared mutually by individuals or groups in regards to faith and confession of the gospel. I am grateful to God "from that first day" until "now" that He has blessed our work together for a common goal - to make disciples of all nations by preaching, teaching, baptizing and fellowship. I thank God for this fellowship that I and Peter shared in our Jesus, and I will miss him as a ministry partner. May our work, no matter where we serve, be to the glory of God and the extension of His Kingdom. May our Lord bless Peter and his family as they begin a new venture of faith!

Sharing your time, talent and treasure allows the Lord to work in magnificent ways. Making the written commitment to do so, allows Bethlehem to plan for specific projects, outreach, and events. Please pray for the Lord's guidance and don't miss out on your opportunity to be a player on the winning team - GOD's TEAM.

You'll receive additional information in the coming weeks and in letters placed in your mailboxes.

Thanking God in remembrance and joy,

Pastor Mueller

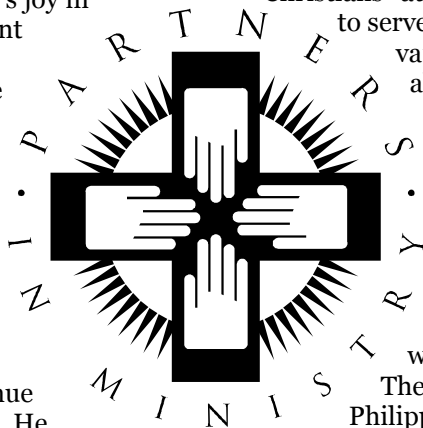
*"For I resolved to know nothing while with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." (1 Cor. 2:2)*

## A Fond Farewell

"Take care and see you soon." I shared these words today as two very dear friends came by to say goodbye. As these words came out of my mouth I wish I could have taken them back. Then I received their response which brought tears to my eyes. "No you won't. We will be gone till after you leave." Some-times words just don't do justice to what we really want to say.

Friends in Christ, thank you for your support, encouragement and love that my family and I have received from you. You have blessed us in some many ways and I am truly honored to have been called by God to minister to you and to have been ministered to by you. It's been quite a ride these past 6 plus years and we have seen God do many great and mighty things. You have allowed God to stretch you and teach you many new and exciting things. It hasn't always been comfortable or easy. But God has never promised us that we would be comfortable or that it would be easy. Remember the words Peter wrote in 1 Peter 5:

<sup>6</sup>Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, <sup>7</sup>casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup>Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of



suffering are being experienced by your brother-hood throughout the world. <sup>10</sup>And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>14</sup>To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

I too want to encourage you to keep your eyes focused upon the Lord. The Best Is Yet to Come for Bethlehem Lutheran Church and the devil doesn't like it. Much of the ministry God has called me into, these past 20 years; I have faced the devil head on. He doesn't like out of the box thinking, nor does he like lives being changed through the power of the Holy Spirit. God wants to do many more great and powerful things through each and every one of you. Trust in the Lord my friends, stand firm in your faith, and pray! Pray for the wisdom, strength, boldness and the passion to be who God wants you to be. Choose Life!!!

We will see each other again, whether here or in heaven. This is my hope and desire. I love you as a brother/sister in the Lord. My heart is heavy as God calls me to a new church but they need me now. God desires to use the gifts and abilities that He has blessed me with to equip, encourage and empower other sheep of His fold. This isn't by my choosing but of His. I need to be faithful, obedient and available to Him as each of you needs to be also. What a great privilege and opportunity each of us have been blessed with.

I will always remember you in my prayers and please know that God is in complete control and loves each of you so very much. He desires a personal relationship with you and for you to bring all your hopes, dreams and hurts to Him. He will see you through. And He will. I can promise you that.

**Your Brother in Christ,**

**Pete**

My new email address:  
pimlah@acd.net

## **SoulFire High School Youth Ministry**

### **May**

- 4 No Meeting - Confirmation Day
- 11 No Meeting - Mother's Day
- 18 SPYN End of School Bash - Sun  
Prairie Youth Center 6-7:30pm
- 25 No Meeting - Memorial Day  
Weekend

## **CrossTraining Middle School Youth Ministry**

### **May**

- 3 Confirmation Rehearsal and  
Banquet 10:00am
- 4 Confirmation 10:45am
- 7 Cook-Out and Kickball Game  
6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders (Mentors  
Invited)
- 18 SPYN End of School Bash - Sun  
Prairie Youth Center 4:00-  
5:30pm

## **Prayer Warriors Needed**

This summer Bethlehem will once again participate in the UKANDU Inner-City Chicago Mission Trip June 15-21. The total number of youth and adults attending from Bethlehem is 34!!! Praise God!!!! This year several churches will be joining together from Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, and Missouri to take advantage of sharing the Gospel through vacation Bible school, sports camps, home and school repair, painting, soup kitchens, Lutheran school construction and remodeling, clothing and food drives, and witnessing teams. God has opened many doors for his work to be done in this place and we don't want to miss out.

The Lord has led us to be the extensions of a Hispanic congregation and an African-American church along with an organization that is helping the downtown Lutheran Schools stay alive. The physical and spiritual

needs are so great to the people these ministries encounter. Time is short and the time is now.

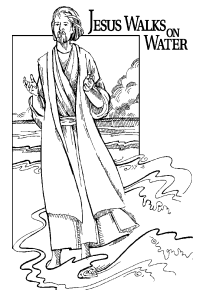
We need each of you to be a partner with us on this mission trip! Would you consider being one of my prayer partners to help pray for God's blessings on this effort? Please pray that each person (150 in total) would experience God's protection, strength, wisdom and patience. Pray that doors would be open for us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, that ears would be open to that Good News and for Boldness for each of us to be an extension of Jesus Christ to His children. If you are willing to Stand in the Gap for us please let Debbie Reed know by email (gdreed@midplains.net) or in person. Thanks for your partnership.

## **New Tuesday Morning Study Begins May 13**

**I want to invite you to go for a walk.**

The Bible records many instances when God asked people to walk with Him. There was the hard walk Abraham took with his son Isaac on the road to Moriah. The liberating walk Moses and the Israelites took through the Red Sea, followed by the frustrating, forty-year walk through the desert. And don't forget Joshua's triumphant walk around Jericho. Or the disciple's illuminating walk to Emmaus. The list goes on.

Perhaps the most unforgettable walk of all was Peter's walk when he stepped out of a boat one stormy night and walked on the water. When Peter went treading on the waves, I think he was experiencing walking at its finest.



Peter's walk stands as an invitation to everyone who, like him, wants to step out in faith and

experience more of the power and presence of God. Water-walking is a picture of doing with God's help what we could never do on our own.

I believe there are some aspects of your life in which God is calling you to walk with and toward Him. During the study, you will learn the skills essential to water-walking: discerning God's call, transcending fear, risking faith, managing failure, and trusting God. When you are through, my hope is that you, like Peter, will accept God's invitation to go for a walk on the water.

**Join us on Tuesdays - 6:00 am at Beans 'N Cream 5550 Eastpark Blvd. Madison - off of American Parkway.**

## **Special Speaker on Visiting People with Alzheimer's**

Susan Rutter will speak about visiting with people with Alzheimer's at the June Care Team meeting on Wednesday, June 4. She will speak for about 30 minutes and then have a question and answer period.

**Members of the congregation are welcome to come at 6:30 p.m.** (Care Team's business meeting starts at 6:00 p.m.)

If you plan to attend, please sign up on the sheet in the hallway so there will be enough handouts. Questions? Call Gerry Olson - 241-0885

## **Wanted: Caring People**



Bethlehem Lutheran Church will start another Stephen Minister training class in

September consisting of 50 hours of training led by trained Stephen Leaders. It will include a variety of topics such as listening, Christian assertiveness, maintaining boundaries in care giving, confidentiality, grief, depression, and referring to mental health professionals. The training is distinctively Christian and focuses on God as the one who cures as we care.

When the Stephen Ministers have completed their training, they will be commissioned and ready to begin their ministry. Working under twice monthly peer super-vision, they will be available to meet weekly with people in crisis who need caring support. Stephen Ministers care for those in moderate difficulties. They help the care receiver resolve the difficulty and achieve growth. Stephen Ministers are supported by their peer super-vision group, the Stephen Leaders, and Pastor.

Stephen Ministers commit to at least two years for training, service, and regular peer supervision. Many Stephen Ministers enjoy their ministry so much that they choose to serve beyond the two years.

While being a Stephen Minister requires a commitment of time and effort, it also brings joy and fulfillment. In addition, you will use the skills you learn not only in your caring ministry, but also in your everyday relationships with family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. As with everything we do for God, once we've taken the step to serve him, he blesses us more than we give.

The core qualities of a Stephen Minister are:

- Being a Christian
- Having the ability to keep confidences
- Being able to relate to others non-judgmentally
- Being committed to giving the time necessary for training and service
- Being willing and able to participate faithfully in supervision
- Being a good listener

Think and pray about this opportunity. If you have any questions about this ministry or are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, please contact one of us. We will set up Stephen Minister interviews in May and early June.

We are excited to see what God is going to do in the lives of those who undertake this ministry and in the lives of those who will receive care.

Yours in Christ's love,

Ardie Nelson, Kathy Divine  
Bethlehem's Stephen  
Leaders

## **MOST Ministries Mission Trip**



MOST (Mission Opportunities Short Term) has a team going to serve in Honduras from August 1-9. This was originally a trip that the Michigan LWML had committed to, but due to their convention there has been little interest in this team. It is now being opened up to anyone. The project will be eye-glasses and some Bible study. Please prayerfully consider this team. For more information or to receive a registration packet, contact Debby Suchyta – Team Administrator, MOST Ministries at (734) 994-7909 ext. 11 or [www.mostministries.org](http://www.mostministries.org)

## **Lutheran Women in Mission**

Our Women's Guild/LWML will lay out quilt tops and cut squares at the next meeting on Monday, May 5 at 7:00 p.m. All women and confirmed girls are invited to attend.

**Go-Gather-Glorify!**  
**with Lutheran Women in Mission: Fun, Friendships & Fitness**

In addition to learning about the impact of missions and opportunities to serve the Lord you will meet new friends, shop, and visit displays at the LWML convention. If you enjoy walking, lace up your shoes for a morning hike around the Olympia Resort in Oconomowoc. You'll also support mission projects when you participate in the Mission Walk, Or, if you prefer, show off the "fitness" of your voice by participating in the convention choir. Plan to attend the convention Friday and Saturday, June 27-28. For a list of convention events and a registration form, visit [www.swd-lwml.org](http://www.swd-lwml.org).

## LWML Convention In-Gathering – You can Help

Our delegates will be happy to take your donations to the LWML convention in June. The items will go to South Wisconsin District's Urban and Cross-Cultural Ministries. They have need of:

- School supplies
- Bibles
- Catechisms,
- Children's Christian Videos
- Christian Coloring Books
- Personal Hygiene Toiletries

Items may be placed in the white box beneath the LWML table in the hallway.

## 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.



Finished

## 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.

## Care Net Pregnancy Center's Baby Bottle Campaign

Care Net is a pregnancy counseling center, providing alternatives to abortion. Care Net's free and confidential services include compassionate counseling. The Elizabeth House maternity home, and a licensed medical facility providing medical services such as pregnancy testing, ultrasounds and STI testing and treatment. They also offer practical, ongoing support, immediate help and post abortion help.

On Mother's Day we will have empty baby bottles available for you to take home with you. When you fill a bottle with currency, coins, or a check, you are helping Care Net provide much needed services, which are all free of charge. In addition, 5% of the proceeds will be donated to *Mother and Child Resource Center*, a ministry which provides baby clothing and baby items to pregnant mothers and families in need.

Please return your bottle to church on or before Father's Day, June 15.



## 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.

## Relay for Life Team

Bethlehem is looking for more people to join our Relay for Life team to benefit the American Cancer Society. Relay is from 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 18 – 9:00 a.m. Saturday, July 19. This is a great way to fellowship with other church members and be part of an awesome community event. Also a great excuse to stay up all night! Team members raise donations, help with concert fundraiser, and attend event. For more information contact team co-captain Dennis Dary, 837-6634, [ddary@tds.net](mailto:ddary@tds.net) or co-captain Dena Schlitz, 846-7751, [johnsons@wisc.edu](mailto:johnsons@wisc.edu). Donations can be accepted by any Relay team member or online at [www.events.cancer.org/rflsunprairie](http://www.events.cancer.org/rflsunprairie)

Our current team members also include: Earl Schalk, Teresa Bauman, Jim & Donna Frisque, Martha Harnois, Pam Cheney and Laurie Dary.


## What Is Relay for Life?

Relay for Life is a community gathering where everyone can participate in the fight against cancer. Teams of people camp out at the high school track and take turns walking or running around the track. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event - because cancer never sleeps.

Relay for Life brings together millions of people to raise money to help prevent cancer, save lives, and diminish suffering from the disease. While you're raising much-needed funds, you'll also be raising awareness of cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, and patient support. Relay brings people together from all walks of life with the common

goal of eliminating cancer. No matter who you are, there's a place for you at Relay.

Comprehensive cancer information is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, through 1-800-227-2345 or [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

**Relay for Life**  
 **Concert**  
June 22, 2008  
Stay tuned for more information

### Job Opportunities

High Point Christian School, 7702 Old Sauk Rd in Madison has the following openings for the 2008-09 school year:

Kindergarten Teacher  
Kindergarten Teaching Assistant

Fourth Grade Teacher  
7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Math, Science & Bible Teacher

Classroom duties begin August 18, 2008 – June 5, 2009. If interested visit the school website at

[www.highpointchristianschool.org](http://www.highpointchristianschool.org)

. Click on the faculty tab, then employment to download a job description and application form.

### 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.

#### Strawberry Fest is Just Around the Corner

Like Strawberries? Are you a crafter? Do the kids in your life like to play carnival games? There are volunteer opportunities for everyone at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Strawberry Fest on Saturday, June 21.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
**300 Broadway Drive**  
**Sun Prairie, WI 53590**  
**608-837-7446**

#### Worship:

**Sundays 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.**  
**Sunday School 9:25 a.m.**

**Rev. Stephen M. Mueller, Pastor**  
**Mr. Peter R. Imlah,**  
**Youth & Family Minister**  
**[www.bethlehemlc.org](http://www.bethlehemlc.org)**