

## JANUARY 2012

### *Important Congregational Meetings*

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**Sunday, January 22: 2012 Ministry Budget Meeting, 9:15 AM, Fireside Room**—We will use this Adult Forum to discuss our proposed 2012 ministry budget. We have found it very helpful to have this open financial forum before the Annual Meeting. This gives members a chance to ask questions of the council about the budget and the congregation in general.

**Sunday, January 29: Annual Meeting, 11:30 AM, Peace Fellowship Hall**—We need you to be connected to our ministry. Please plan to attend and participate. This is your church. Choose to be an active part of it.

At our Annual Congregational Meeting, we will:

- Look back on the ministry that happened in 2011
- Look ahead to the ministry planned for 2012
- Approve the Ministry Budget for 2012
- Appoint a new church council and executive board for 2012
- Approve our delegates to the 2012 Synod Assembly

We will start with a potluck lunch. Please bring a dish according to your Neighborhood Group: Gold and Red groups—main dish (vegetarian and vegan options are welcome); Pink and Blue groups—salads; Green and Orange groups—desserts; Purple group—bread. The Evangelism Committee will provide beverages. Babysitting will be provided.

Annual reports will be available by Sunday, January 15.

## JANUARY 2012

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Pastor Mark Peterson  
mark@bethlehem-lutheran.net

Nancy Tiff, Office Coordinator  
admin@bethlehem-lutheran.net

Deaconess Kristen Baltrum,  
Youth & Household Ministry Director  
kristen@bethlehem-lutheran.net

Jasmine Tesdahl, Pastoral Assistant  
jasmine@bethlehem-lutheran.net

John Goodman, Music Director  
jpg1943@aol.com

Julie Leake, Webmaster  
julie@bethlehem-lutheran.net

Carolyn Buck-Gengler, *Star* Editor  
news@bethlehem-lutheran.net

*Star* Editorial Staff: Jamie Adams, Carolyn Buck-Gengler,  
Julie Leake, Nancy Tiff

Office: 303.776.3290 ■ Fax: 303.776.1494

1000 W 15th Avenue, Longmont, CO 80501

www.bethlehem-lutheran.net

### *Deadlines*

**Bulletin announcements:** The Wednesday before you want the announcement to appear in the bulletin. Send announcements to admin@bethlehem-lutheran.net.

**Star announcements/articles: January 15**  
Email *Star* articles to news@bethlehem-lutheran.net.

**Alternate way to submit both bulletin and Star items:** go to www.bethlehem-lutheran.net and click on the *Submit Announcements* link. If your text is short, you can enter it into the form, but if you have a document with formatting, it is best to attach it using the attach button.

This is a time to look back at the last year and give thanks for the ministry that happened at Bethlehem. It is also a time to look forward to the New Year and the ministry possibilities that are before us.

There are too many ministries happening at Bethlehem for me to list them in one newsletter article. I will just lift up some of the new ministry events that happened this past year:

- Thursday night Bible study—*The Greatest Story: Jesus*
- Taizé worship on Wednesday nights in Advent
- An expanded year-long mentoring program for the confirmands
- The new outdoor shade structure
- This year's Natural Church Development survey lifted up a new minimum factor: Inspiring Worship
- The congregation granted me time to pursue a Doctor of Ministry degree
- Staff changes: Pastor Kirsten (our third intern), finished her internship, Dawn Reed resigned as our Education Coordinator, and Jasmine Tesdahl began a new position as our Pastoral Assistant
- We implemented a new (and very engaging) confirmation curriculum: *Re:Form*
- Added Wendi Harston to help lead the jazz service
- Began a coupon ministry (Bev Coody's idea)
- Remodeled the narthex and office areas
- The confirmands shared their passions in a formal presentation to the class (very inspiring!)



## As We Start the New Year

Here are some of my visions for the coming year:

- We are gearing up to address our new NCD minimum factor (Inspiring Worship) as identified by the congregation. The NCD Health Team has met with a number of focus groups in the congregation to get

their input on why this was lifted up. I see a Worship Task Force forming in this new year to address those concerns and ideas.

- I'm excited about teaching the latest Bible study in Dr. Lose's "Making Sense of..." series. This next one is on the cross and looks excellent. It will make for an inspiring Lenten series.
- I want to continue the Thursday night Bible study. The next study in the Book of Faith Initiative deals with the Old Testament.
- We have plans to get the new Resource Room up and functioning. It will provide resources to support our Household Ministry.
- I would love to have another theologian come to present at Bethlehem. We were blessed with Dr. Lose's seminar a year ago. It would be wonderful to get Dr. Mark Allan

Powell here whom we got to know through his excellent video series on how Lutherans interpret the Bible. However, we don't have the funds available in the ministry budget to bring him in. This special programming

would require a sponsor.

- It's time to revisit our mission statement. I think we need to develop some guiding principles to help us define how we are to live out our mission statement in our ministry setting.
- We need to keep updating our aging building. Some of the sanctuary carpet is really showing wear and we need to paint the classroom hallway. We were able to get through this past summer on our old air conditioners. We may not be so lucky next summer. Again, the issue is that we can no longer get parts for them. The estimated replacement cost is \$10,000.

I'm looking forward to this New Year of ministry. We are so blessed. Please join me as we try to be a blessing.

Pastor Peterson

# WORSHIP

## *Worship in January*

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### **January 1**

We welcome in the New Year with worship. There is no better way to make that new beginning. Join us for this New Year celebration!

*Setting 3*—traditional.

### **January 8**

January 6 is the Epiphany, when the magi arrived to meet the Christ child. This Sunday marks the beginning of the season of Epiphany, the season of light and revelation. The Wise Men will arrive at our crèche scene, making it complete. During Epiphany we will be highlighting parts of our Lutheran liturgy to bring light and better understanding of our worship.

*Bluegrass liturgy*; highlighting the Invocation.

### **January 15**

Leah Twito will be baptized at the 10:15 AM service.

*Setting 6* with the Gospel Singers; highlighting the Confession.

### **January 22**

*Now the Feast* liturgy with Revelation choir at 10:15 AM; highlighting the Kyrie.

### **January 29**

Healing Service at both services.

*Setting 10*—hymn setting; highlighting the Hymn of Praise.

## *Handbell Choir News*

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There are currently four members in the Handbell Choir so we are practicing quartets. That involves more bells for each ringer and “playing from the table.” We practice twice a month on Monday evenings, 7:00–8:30 PM. We are always looking for new members. With more ringers we will be able to play different music.



We occasionally have the opportunity to play for other churches and in handbell festivals. Last spring, the handbell choir shared our music with Nederland Community Church and Hygiene United Methodist Church. In addition, an expanded bell choir made a CD of “The Star-Spangled Banner” to audition for various sporting groups. Please call Sandy Burrell (303-652-3287) if you are interested in playing bells.

# HOUSEHOLD

**WinterFest was awesome!** MANY thanks to all who helped out to make this year’s gathering such great fun! Volunteers included Mona Dirkes, Madison Dirkes, Morgan Dirkes, Barb Payne, Caleb Payne, Amanda Dawson, Stephen Dawson, Gene Tesdahl, Aspen Tesdahl, JR Baltrum, Rob Baltrum, Greg

Schumann, Diane Penny, Brandi Curtis, and John Christianson.

**2012 New Year’s Resolution Suggestion: Don’t come to church in 2012.**

*Seriously???* YES! Church isn’t something you “come” to—it’s something you ARE. Make this

distinction in your language when people ask you what you are doing over the weekend by saying "On Sunday I am going to worship." Teach it to your children by telling them "It's

time to go to worship" on Sunday mornings. And when you are hanging out with your friends, or helping them out, or praying for them, know that in those ways you are BEING the church! Tell this to the people you are with by saying "It's good to be church with you," or "Who knew church was so much fun?" So this year, COME to worship; BE the church.



## *Middle School*

**January 8, 4:00–6:00 PM: Mentor Activity!** For the first planned once-a-month activity in 2012, we will meet at the church building for a "Creation Exploration." Don't worry, this activity will NOT involve hiking through snow (though for some of you I know that would be fun). Without giving away too much, it will be a study of the creation accounts in scripture that involves a little creativity on behalf of all involved. Please RSVP to either Deaconess Kristen or your mentor by January 5!

**January 11, 5:30–7:00 PM: Rocky Mountain Synod Middle School Youth Gathering Prep Meeting.** Calling all RMSMSYG participants! We will be meeting before Confirmation Class to create our group covenant and congregational banner for the Gathering! There will be pizza since we are meeting over the dinner hour. This is a very important meeting; please plan on attending. Let Deaconess Kristen know by noon January 11 that you will be attending the meeting.

**January 13–15: Rocky Mountain Synod Middle School Youth Gathering.** Seven young people (Trevor, JR, Maddy, Cori, Medeia, Shay, and Sydney Jo) and three adults (Chris and Carrie Watson, Deaconess Kristen) are going down to the Crowne Plaza in Colorado Springs—along with 800 of their newest Lutheran best friends—for our synod's annual Middle School Youth Gathering. Please keep

them all in your prayers as they have caring conversations, devotions, worship, Bible study, participate in service opportunities, and practice the ongoing rituals and traditions of this amazing event!

## *Middle and Senior High Youth*

**January 22, 4:00–6:00 PM: Bowling!** Yeah, you heard right! It's time to take it to the alley and enjoy each other's company bowling at Centennial Lanes (110 E 9th Ave). Meet the good youth of Bethlehem Lutheran and a couple of brave adult leaders for an afternoon of fun. Bring \$5 to cover the cost of shoes and one game, and maybe even a snack or two. Prizes will be awarded for High Score, Low Score, Coolest Socks, Best Form, and Best Wipe-Out.

## *Camp*

Sky Ranch and Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camps want YOU to register for Summer Camp 2012! Please pick up a brochure from Deaconess Kristen's office with the complete schedule overview and program descriptions. Bethlehem Lutheran will be registering a group of Confirmation Students for the June 24–29 Confirmation Intensive. *All incoming sixth graders through outgoing eighth graders are welcome to attend this awesome week exploring the early church!* See Deaconess Kristen for registration information specific to this week.

Thank you to all the children and adults who worked hard to make the Christmas Program and WinterFest a success this year! We had a wonderful turnout of families and congregation support, and much fun was had by all!

- Sunday School will resume on January 8.
- Middle School Sunday School "Bring Your Adult" day will be January 29 this month. Bring a special adult and be ready to have some fun!
- Senior High Sunday School will begin a new video series, *NOOMA*, that includes short films on issues about religion and spirituality, and how it fits into this crazy thing we call life. Come hang out and have some caring conversation!

## *Sunday Adult Forum*

### ***Biography Series***

#### **Sunday mornings in January and February, 9:15–10:10 AM**

The "Biography" series is an excellent video program. They have a new series on biblical characters and themes that we will air during Epiphany, the season of revelation. Biblical experts and historians weigh in on these important biographies. Each video is 50 minutes in length. We will break it up over two weeks to give time for discussion.

**Mary of Nazareth—January 8 & 15.** In this penetrating program, biblical experts probe for clues to uncover the hidden secrets of Mary's story.

**January 22:** The Ministry budget forum will be held during the normal Adult Forum time in the Fireside Room, in preparation for the Annual meeting on January 29.

**Jesus: His Life—January 29 & February 5.** From the mysteries of his birth and little known middle years, this video presents a

clear and deeply researched account of this simple carpenter from Galilee whose brief life forever altered the course of the world.

**Paul—February 12 & 19.** An in-depth look at this missionary and theologian who interpreted the message of Jesus and spread it to the Gentiles.

### ***The Greatest Story: Jesus***

#### **Thursday night Bible study, 6:00–7:30 PM, January 5–February 23**

In December, we completed the first eight sessions of *The Greatest Story: Jesus*. This Bible overview looks at the person and ministry of Jesus. We will begin the second half of the study in January. We start with a light supper at 6:00 PM, followed by the Bible study, 6:30–7:30 PM.

### ***Making Sense of the Cross*** **by Dr. David Lose**

#### **Coming Sunday mornings in Lent, beginning February 26**

With this new Bible study, Dr. Lose completes his "Making Sense" series. (We have already done *Making Sense of Scripture* and *Making Sense of the Christian Faith*.) *Making Sense of the Cross* once again invites readers to listen in on a conversation, this time about the cross. Throughout the conversation, readers are encouraged to think about and experience the cross and its meaning for their lives.



# EVANGELISM

## College Care Boxes

We are collecting goodies for college care boxes during January. The care boxes will be sent off at the end of the month to reach the students in time for Valentine's Day. This is a valuable ministry because the students really appreciate a care package from their home church. We have received wonderful thank-you notes from the students over the years. A box will be set up in the narthex to collect all supplies. Suggestions of items needed include

individual packages of cookies, hot chocolate, oatmeal, powdered drink mix, tea, trail mix, tissues, and stationery.

Parents of college students, please give Kathy Loberg the name and current address of your son or daughter so that we do not leave anyone out. If your student has any allergies, please inform her of this as well. You may put the information in her church mailbox, call her (970-532-4188), or send an e-mail (keloberg@q.com).

# SOCIAL ACTION

## Atwood Shelter



The Atwood Shelter serves families who need temporary housing. They are currently in need of toilet paper, laundry soap, and PineSol. Please bring the supplies to church and place in the Atwood Shelter

box in the narthex. For questions, please call Sandy Burrell (303-652-3287). Thank you!

## Bunco Group Helps Mother House

On the first Thursday of each month, a group of women from our church meets to play Bunco and share caring conversations. In December, in lieu of exchanging gifts with each other, the group chose to bring items to help the women and babies at Mother House in Boulder. Ann McConnell, the director of Mother House, provided a list of needs and the

Bunco ladies brought towels, preemie baby outfits, diapers, dinnerware, cleaning supplies, kitchen towels, pillows, a baby monitor, and gift cards to the December meeting. Jane Lahman took the items to Mother House and the women were thrilled to receive them! Thank you to all the Bethlehem Bunco ladies for their generosity.

## Agape Fund Update

This past month we helped a church member avoid eviction. They had gotten behind in their rent payments and we were able to help them get caught up and stay in their apartment. That is the purpose of this Agape fund. Given the mortgage and rent help we have provided recently, the fund is more than depleted. Please help us build this benevolence fund back up so that we can continue to help those in need.

## Thrivent Habitat Update

With the support of many volunteers the Lino's home was completed before the end of 2011,

a requirement of Thrivent to release all funds promised. Based on our performance last year, Thrivent has again approved funding for another St. Vrain Habitat for Humanity home. This funding will be used for the third home in the triplex at 1445 Baker Street.



## HABITAT Project

As in prior years, I will be actively seeking support from Lutheran Churches in the area—including Bethlehem—for

financial pledges and to provide work groups to build the home.

Robert Cotton  
Thrivent Builds Specialist

### *New Orleans 2012: Rebuilding Homes?*

There was a reunion meeting to see the DVD David Twait prepared for us with the photos taken of our April 2011 trip. We had a great re-visit of our experiences. There were a number present who expressed a strong desire to go back in 2012. A suggestion was made to consider a trip in October instead of in the spring, which always seems to be full of so many activities such as taxes, spring break, and religious festivities. Following conversations with the organizations we work with in New Orleans and Pastor Mark, we are proposing a New Orleans mission trip October 14–20, 2012. Please let Bob Cotton know if you are interested in going on this trip.

### *Your coupons are working!*

Bev Coody started a coupon ministry a few months ago. Members have been bringing in coupons and Bev uses them to get free stuff. It is amazing how she is able to work

this out. She has stocked a cabinet at church with these items, many of them toiletries. Recently Gene Tesdahl took down many items to the Network Coffee House, a ministry to the homeless in Denver. They were so pleased to get them. Pastor Peterson was also able to fill a whole grocery bag of items for a family in need. They were so appreciative to get these personal items as they did not have the budget to buy them.

Until she is able to arrange a more permanent location for the coupon collection, you may put them either in her mailbox or in the large Campbell's soup can near the greeting cards in the hallway. Keep those coupons coming!

## We Need YOU!



CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING

**Sunday, January 29**

Annual Meeting, 11:30 AM

**We need your INPUT**

as we discuss our ministry for the coming year.

**We need your COMMITMENT**

to our shared ministry.

**We need you to BE CONNECTED**

to that ministry.

Please plan to attend and participate in the annual meeting. This is your church.

Choose to be an active part of it.

## *Blessed to be a Blessing: A Stewardship Forum*

*by Gene Tesdahl, Co-Chair for Stewardship*

Thank you so much for your continued support of time, talents, and treasures. I am so excited to a member of BLC. I cannot believe it has already been five years. While I cherish my Lutheran upbringing I never knew that "church" could be a community such as Jasmine, Aspen, and I have found here at Bethlehem. Thank you all.

Remember to submit pledge cards for 2012 if you have yet to do so. This helps your lay-led, staff-administered congregation budget carefully. It is only with your help that we will maintain our various ministries and spread the good news in the new year. Also, continue to give generously in all categories of volunteering including making coffee on Sundays, counting the Sunday offerings, getting involved with one of our music ensembles, joining Church Council, getting more connected to Youth and Household Ministry, or serve in one of our social action outreaches such as the OUR Center or Habitat for Humanity.

In 2012 Neil Stewart and I welcome Dick Grieve and Dave Bluhm to Stewardship Ministry. We are very thankful for their service and are pleased with the many gifts they bring to

this effort. We are also blessed to have been a blessing in stewardship this year. Neil moves to worship ministry and I will step down from council though I remain active with High School Sunday School and Youth Group. Along with financial support, Stewardship will continue to stress generous giving of time and talents in 2012.



I conclude this month by highlighting a couple of the experiences I have been blessed with at Bethlehem. Nearly two years ago, Deaconess Kristen Baltrum, several of our high school youth, and I participated in an urban poverty immersion experience through Urban Servant Corps in Denver. During this weekend one of the things we did was share coffee and caring conversation at Network Ministries in the Capital Hill neighborhood of Denver. This outreach run by St. James Presbyterian provides food, warmth, and a coffee house community

for Denver's poor, homeless, and transient. The toiletries drive started by Katie Coody has kept me going back. This December our visit shared over 3,000 items which Michael, Steve, and Wayne were happy to distribute.

Another thing I have done from time to time

is to donate coats, sometimes even literally right off my back. I am always struck by how this makes me feel, and how it makes the new owner feel. This time I had an armload of five coats. As I walked them to the empty coat tree that reads "Free Coats," eager patrons emptied my arms before I could even hang a single one. I can only imagine how useful these have been this past month. Although Youth and Household Ministry is discontinuing this ministry in order to meet other needs in our community, we thank all who helped in so many ways. Let us all remember that we are blessed to be a blessing at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

## *Christmas Decorations*

Thanks to all those who to put up the Advent and Christmas decorations (angels, wreaths, trees) including the Fantons, the Bluhms, Howie Wayne, Pastor Mark, the Wuertzes, the McLeods, Tom Dettloff, the Bishoffs, the Schnabels, Shirley Kasperbauer, and Mark Abromski.

Also thanks to all those who helped in the selling of the poinsettias: Shirley Wayne, Patty Fagler, Pam Bishoff, Vern Berry and Sharon Wirth.

**Can you help take down the tree and decorations on Saturday, January 7, starting at 9:00 AM?**

## FINANCE

### *Financial Update*

At the December Council meeting, we received the following financial results (representing the end of November) for our ministry budget:

General Fund Income—budgeted: **\$456,544**  
General Fund Income—actual: **\$445,125**  
General Fund Operating Expenses—budgeted: **\$455,631**  
General Fund Operating Expenses—actual: **\$425,802**

So...what does that mean?

- We are still not meeting our General Fund income budget

- However, the ministries have done a good job curtailing their spending while keeping the ministries strong
- As a result, as of the end of November, we have a budget surplus of **\$19,322** (\$445,125 - \$425,802)
- Therefore, the council directed the Social Action Ministry to meet the rest of our benevolence pledges (\$6,500):
  1. OUR Center—\$1,200
  2. ELCA Hunger Program—\$1,100
  3. World Mission Support—\$1,000
  4. Good Samaritan Counseling—\$1,000
  5. Local Mission Support—\$2,200

Thank you for your stewardship!



*Annual reports will be available  
by Sunday, January 15.*

# PROPERTY

## Outdoor Worship/Fellowship Space

Ryan Bloemker has been overseeing this project (and doing a great job!). Recently Ryan installed the support beams for the shade structure. Members can now get a better idea of the size of the structure. In the spring, he will attach the removable shade covering. Again, we plan to use this new space for our summer outdoor worship services. It will also provide more space for outdoor fellowship. We hope to dedicate the structure in the spring as we remember the Roptes whose memorial funds are financing this wonderful addition to our ministry.



## New Office Carpet

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation we were able to re-carpet all of the church offices. That work was done over the Thanksgiving holidays and what a difference it makes! Some of the carpet in the workroom was really dirty and worn. The office hallway was also repainted. Thanks to Glenn Summers for overseeing this project. Thanks also to Larry Twito, Bob Cotton and all the Sunday helpers for helping the staff move the office furniture out and back in. We now have several boxes of extra carpet squares that can be used to replace stained or worn carpet in the future.

# COUNCIL

## Outgoing Council Members

We give thanks for the council members who have served for the past two years. It is big commitment. Here are those members who are retiring from council:

Social Action: Debbie Olson and Colleen Beyer  
Worship: Gene Schnabel  
Youth and Household Ministry: Justin Dirkes  
Education: Emily Kunselman  
Stewardship: Gene Tesdahl and Neil Stewart  
Evangelism: Wanda Schnabel  
Property: Rob Baltrum  
Executive Council: President Fred Fanton, Vice President Chuck Still, Treasurer Jan Geiser, Secretary Sally Fanton

Well done, good and faithful servants!

## 2012 Council Members

The nominating committee (Gene Tesdahl,

Janice Still, Dean Wilder, Eva and Glenn Summers) has been hard at work recruiting new council members. Here are the members who are "getting connected" to our ministry at Bethlehem. (Returning council members are listed in parentheses.)

- Social Action: Melissa Smith (1 year) and Dean Wilder (2 years)
- Worship: Neil Stewart (Pam Bishoff)
- Youth and Household Ministry: Dalton Akers (Beth Mills)
- Education: open (Tonja Twito)
- Stewardship: David Bluhm (1 year) and Dick Grieve (2 years)
- Evangelism: Pat Wilder (Shirley Kasperbauer)
- Property: Glenn Summers (Gordon Potts)
- Executive Committee: President Chuck Still, Vice President—open, Treasurer—open, Secretary Jane Lahman

We are blessed to be a blessing!

## *Birthdays*

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Removed for privacy purposes

## *Prayers...*

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**Healing for** Lydia Mott, Bev Coody, Troy Coody, Roberta Fjeld, Irene Hansen, Ilene Ryan, Kate Adams, Claudia Byrne, Gisela Garrett, Lucille Morris, Paul Hopp, Mildred Hart, Agnes Ronneberg, Bud Tornow, Marv Peterson, Chris Downing, Doris Cotton, Dottie and George Choun, Joyce Gallagher, Jordan Trujillo Dirkes, Racheal Goodman, Mendy Goodman.

**Sympathy for** Helen Ramirez and the Ramirez and Leum families on the death of Helen's mother, Esther Leum; for Dick Kyлло and the Kyлло family on the death of Reita Kyлло; for Vern Berry on the death of his sister Elaine; for Gisella Garrett on the death of her son Ron.

## *Update on Kirtsten & Tom Hofmann*

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Kirsten has one more semester of seminary. She has submitted her paperwork to the ELCA for the placement draft. That will happen February 21-22. This is when all 65 ELCA synods gather to select the seminarians they hope to place. Kirsten and Tom are pretty open to go wherever the Spirit leads. Tom is working as a behavioral therapist with autistic kids. It is challenging work but he is very good at it. They are enjoying Berkeley but do miss Bethlehem. Kirsten said this is their "personal Advent" as they await what is coming in their lives and their callings.

## *Simply Giving Member?*

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If you are a Simply Giving member and have changed the amount of your giving, or would like more information the program, please contact the church office.

## *Thank You!*

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Thank you for the quilt for our son Bradley when he was in Children's Hospital. It is so

## *Anniversaries*

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January 5 Sandy & John Frazer (10 yrs)  
January 5 Robin & Frank Lee (22 yrs)  
January 7 Marcy & Dennis Smith (45 yrs)  
January 14 Tonja & Larry Twito (6 yrs)  
January 16 Dorothy & Virgil Drohman (57 yrs)  
January 22 Sharon & Howard Wirth (46 yrs)

## *Members* continued

soft and beautiful. We truly appreciate this generous and caring gift.

- Thank you, Adam, Jill, and Bradley Luere

To our Bethlehem Lutheran Church Family:

Our family cannot begin to thank you enough for all of the support you have given our family throughout this past year.

This has been a very challenging year for us, but thanks to our 3 F's—Friends, Family and Faith—we are in a much better place! Many of you sent cards and letters of encouragement and they really lifted our spirits when we were down. It was one of many signs that God is

with us no matter how bad things may get. We know that God continues to walk with us on our journey and we are optimistic about the future.

Your thoughts and prayers of support and encouragement continue to inspire, nourish and strengthen us emotionally, mentally, and spiritually.

Thank you again! We are truly blessed!

Ralph, Janelle, Ryan, and Colin Wappel

**Office Helpers:** Betty Bluhm, Nancy and Bob McLeod, Mary Schlagel, Doris Slinger, Ann Russell, LaVerna Pickett

**Star Helpers:** Patty Fagler, Alpha Wuertz, Peggy and Marv Peterson, Sally and Fred Fanton, Lucille Wollman, Sally Myers, Mary Fjeld, Ann Thompson

## NEWS/EVENTS

### *Faith Advocacy Day 2012*

Save the date: February 20, 2012  
History of Colorado Museum, Denver  
Information and Registration: [www.lam-co.org](http://www.lam-co.org)  
Look for more information in the February *Star*

### *Scandinavia trip!*

Your local Thrivent Community has planned another exciting trip abroad for your 2012 vacation consideration. Imagine Stockholm, Bergen, Oslo, waterfalls, twelfth-century Stave churches, and fjords! Join us for thirteen glorious days touring Sweden and Norway, travelling by motor coach, train, and boat. The tour price includes airfare, five-star accommodations, ground transportation, guided tours, most meals, taxes, and gratuities. Join your fellow Lutherans from the Boulder area, July 6-18, 2012. Sponsored by Thrivent Flatirons Community. Call 303-673-0444 or register online at [www.gtd.org](http://www.gtd.org) (group #120703). Brochures are available in the narthex.

Living the Faith 2012

Mt. Calvary + Bethlehem + First

## Men's Retreat

"Building trusting relationships  
for sharing faith and values"

Retreat Leader  
**Craig Knippenberg**

Counselor, Teacher, Lecturer

**January 27-28, 2012**

Lakeshore Lodge - Estes Park

To learn more visit:  
[www.bouldermensretreat.firstluth.org](http://www.bouldermensretreat.firstluth.org)  
or talk to your congregation's retreat coordinator

You've probably heard by now that Sarah Anderson, our 2009/10 intern pastor, has accepted a call to Epiphany Lutheran in Denver. Assigned in March to the Rocky Mountain Synod, Sarah was told it might take some time to be placed. Seven months after her May graduation and a year and a half after completing her internship at Bethlehem, Sarah will be ordained on January 7, complete the move to Denver, and become Epiphany's sole pastor. She recently answered some questions for this month's P.S. column about her path to ministry in the ELCA.

**Star:** What is your background as a Lutheran?

**Sarah:** I'm 100% Scandinavian; isn't that synonymous with being a Lutheran?! Well perhaps not, but I come from a long line of Lutherans. Faith is important to my parents, and at three weeks old I was baptized in the congregation (in Alexandria, Minnesota) where I will celebrate my ordination. (Pastor Mark will be in attendance and provide the sermon.) I grew up going to Sunday School, attending confirmation, playing in the handbell choir, and sightreading hymns during my piano lessons. Some people refer to this as being a "cradle Lutheran," and I suppose that is true. However, we all have choices, and after college I chose to explore other denominations and their beliefs. Ultimately, I came to realize the messages I started learning as a child about God's unfailing love and forgiveness is the best gospel message that can be told to anyone.

**Star:** What was it like awaiting the call process?

**Sarah:** For me, waiting and sustained patience are a challenge. During these past months, I relied on several scriptural passages about God's faithfulness, in particular Psalm 96 which reminds us that even during the waiting periods of our lives, it is important to remember to praise God, not because God needs our praise, but in order that we might "tell of his salvation" (v.2).

**Star:** What experiences contributed to your path as a seminarian and now a pastor?

**Sarah:** My parents, godparents, and congregation took seriously the baptismal promises they made. In so many words, it was their commitment to Household Ministry that laid the foundation for which I am sincerely grateful. I never thought I would attend seminary, let alone be a pastor. But I can see how important it is to have many hands, prayers, and encouragement in my faith journey. Both the women's and men's group of my home congregation made it possible to attend Bible camp, and that is where I first thought about being a pastor. Going to camp and then working at camp was a pivotal experience that has gotten me to where I am right now.

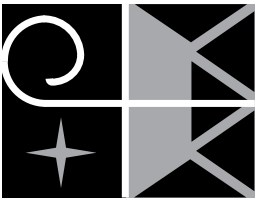
**Star:** Who have been your mentors and inspirations?

**Sarah:** There is not enough space to name the mentors in my life, but I will mention three: my mom, Dr. Karoline Lewis, and Pastor Mark. My mom continues to show me the meaning of strength and the importance of placing faith above anything else. Karoline is a professor of Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary and has

*(continued on page 17)*



GALATIANS 5:13, NIV



**January 2012**  
**Sunday Worship Assistants Calendar**

*We thank all those who offer their gifts in leading worship this month.*

**Key: E = 8:00 AM; L = 10:15 AM**

	January 1 Christmas 1	January 8 Baptism of our Lord	January 15 Epiphany 2	January 22 Epiphany 3	January 29 Epiphany 4
<b>Liturgy</b>	ELW 3	Bluegrass	ELW 6	Now the Feast and Celebration	ELW 3
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	E: Diane Penny L:	E: Kay Lynn Baker L: Cindy Tayler	E: Bev Berry L: Todd Bischoff	E: Joel Buck-Gengler L: Shaylee Pierick, John Goodman	E: Diane Penny L: Sharon Kirby Cole
<b>Greeters</b>	E: Leila Thompson, Irene Marconnet L: Audrey & George Dillian	E: Nancy & Will Tritthardt L: Janice Still, Patti Drieth	E: Shelley Kunselman, Marion Bjeldanes L: Barb Payne, Trudi Boaz	E: Shirley & Howie Wayne L: Karol Poetsch, DeEtte Eickenberg	E: Lucille & Harold Wollman L: Janice & Paul Hopp
<b>Ushers</b>	E: Neil Stewart, Frances Rhodes L: Don & Candy Tiff, Cindy Koenck	E: Ilene Ryan, Howard Wirth L: Darlene Borgmann, DeEtte Eickenberg, Mary Fjeld	E: Eva & Glenn Summers L: Dick Grieve, Neil Stewart, Larry Twito	E: Neil Stewart, Roger Jurgens L: Laura & Tim Steakley, Gerry Cole	E: Mark Abromski, Duane Larsen L: Roger Lahman, Carl Sum, Jim Torrez
<b>Lay Reader</b>	E: L:	E: L:	E: L:	E: L:	E: L:
<b>Communion Asst.</b>	E: Frances Rhoades, Mary Fjeld L:	E: Fred Fanton, Sharon Wirth L: Nancy Koob	E: Jeanne & Randy Robinson L: Fred Fanton, Patty Fagler	E: Bev & Verne Berry L: Wanda Schnabel	E: Alpha & Don Wuertz L: Jenny Kelley, Tonja Twito
<b>Offering Counters</b>	Ann Thompson Nancy McLeod	Phyllis Wright Brian Burrell	Bob Gardinier Nancy McLeod	Thelma Abromski Doris Haave	Audrey Dillian, Mary Fjeld, Nancy Koob

# CALENDAR

JANUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> - ELW 3 Worship <b>9:15 AM</b> - No Learning Hour <b>10:15 AM</b> - ELW 3 Worship <b>3:30 PM</b> - Girl Scouts <b>6:00 PM</b> - Narcotics Anonymous	<b>2</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> - Manna Bible Study <b>Noon</b> - TOPS <b>4:00 PM</b> - Stephen Ministry	<b>3</b> <b>7:00 AM</b> - Daily Discipleship Bible Study	<b>4</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> - Worship @ The Peaks Care Center <b>7:00 PM</b> - BLC Choir Rehearsal - Confirmation <b>8:30 PM</b> - Sr. High Girls Stitch Niche	<b>5</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> - Quilters <b>10:00 AM</b> - BLC Staff Meeting <b>6:00 PM</b> - Bethlehem Bible Study <b>6:30 PM</b> - Healing Touch Clinic <b>7:00 PM</b> - Boy Scouts	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> - Promise Keepers <b>9:00 AM</b> - Christmas decorations take down <b>10:00 AM</b> - Bluegrass Rehearsal
<b>8</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> - Bluegrass Worship <b>9:15 AM</b> - Learning Hour <b>10:15 AM</b> - Bluegrass Worship <b>1:00 PM</b> - AAA Webinar Training for YM <b>4:00 PM</b> - Youth Mentor Activity <b>6:00 PM</b> - Narcotics Anonymous	<b>9</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> - Manna Bible Study <b>Noon</b> - TOPS	<b>10</b> <b>7:00 AM</b> - Daily Discipleship Bible Study <b>9:30 AM</b> - Naomi Circle <b>6:00 PM</b> - Medication Administration Class <b>7:00 PM</b> - BLC Council Meeting	<b>11</b> <b>5:30 PM</b> - Rocky Mtn. Synod Middle School Youth Gathering Prep Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> - BLC Choir Rehearsal - Confirmation	<b>12</b> <b>6:30 AM</b> - Book Club <b>9:00 AM</b> - Quilters <b>10:00 AM</b> - BLC Staff Meeting <b>6:00 PM</b> - Bethlehem Bible Study <b>7:00 PM</b> - Boy Scouts	<b>13</b> <b>4:00 PM</b> - Rocky Mtn. Synod Middle School Youth Gathering <b>6:00 PM</b> - Nicaragua Board Meeting	<b>14</b> Rocky Mtn. Synod Middle School Youth Gathering <b>8:00 AM</b> - Promise Keepers <b>8:30 AM</b> - Delta Kappa Gamma
<b>15</b> Rocky Mtn. Synod Middle School Youth Gathering <b>8:00 AM</b> - ELW 6 Worship <b>9:00 AM</b> - Learning Hour <b>10:15 AM</b> - ELW 6 Worship <b>1:00 PM</b> - AAA Webinar Training for YM <b>2:00 PM</b> - Worship at the Vistas <b>3:30 PM</b> - Girl Scouts <b>6:00 PM</b> - Narcotics Anonymous	<b>16</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> - Manna Bible Study <b>Noon</b> - TOPS <b>1:00 PM</b> - BLC Library <b>4:00 PM</b> - Stephen Ministry	<b>17</b> <b>7:00 AM</b> - Daily Discipleship Bible Study <b>10:00 AM</b> - Prayer Shawl Group <b>7:00 PM</b> - Evangelism Committee Meeting	<b>18</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> - BLC Choir Rehearsal - Confirmation <b>8:30 PM</b> - Sr. High Girls Stitch Niche	<b>19</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> - Quilters <b>10:00 AM</b> - BLC Staff Meeting <b>4:30 PM</b> - Sky Ranch Board Meeting <b>6:00 PM</b> - Bethlehem Bible Study <b>6:30 PM</b> - Healing Touch Clinic <b>7:00 PM</b> - Boy Scouts - Longmont Stamp Club	<b>20</b> <b>1:30 PM</b> - Deborah Circle <b>2:00 PM</b> - WELCA Bible Study	<b>21</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> - Promise Keepers
<b>22</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> - Now the Feast Worship <b>9:00 AM</b> - Learning Hour <b>10:15 AM</b> - Now the Feast Worship <b>11:30 PM</b> - Inquirer's Class & luncheon <b>4:00 PM</b> - Youth Bowling at Centennial Lanes <b>6:00 PM</b> - Narcotics Anonymous	<b>23</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> - Manna Bible Study <b>Noon</b> - TOPS	<b>24</b> <b>7:00 AM</b> - Daily Discipleship Bible Study <b>7:00 PM</b> - Youth Meeting Leadership Team Meeting	<b>25</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> - Worship @ The Peaks Care Center <b>7:00 PM</b> - BLC Choir Rehearsal - Confirmation	<b>26</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> - Quilters <b>10:00 AM</b> - BLC Staff Meeting <b>6:00 PM</b> - Bethlehem Bible Study <b>7:00 PM</b> - Boy Scouts	<b>27</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> - Northern CO Porcelain Artists <b>5:00 PM</b> - Men's retreat	<b>28</b> Men's retreat <b>8:00 AM</b> - Promise Keepers
<b>29</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> - ELW 3 Worship <b>9:15 AM</b> - Learning Hour <b>10:15 AM</b> - ELW 3 Worship w/ reception of new members <b>11:30 AM</b> - Annual Congregational Meeting <b>6:00 PM</b> - Narcotics Anonymous	<b>30</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> - Manna Bible Study <b>Noon</b> - TOPS	<b>31</b> <b>7:00 AM</b> - Daily Discipleship Bible Study				

*For more information about these events, including room assignments, please visit the website: [www.bethlehem-lutheran.net](http://www.bethlehem-lutheran.net) and select the Calendar & Events link*

provided invaluable insights into how the Bible continues to come alive in our lives, as well as serving as a sounding board for my many questions. Pastor Mark's leadership, vision, patience, and years of experience continue to be something I draw upon. Among many things, he embodies "blessed to be a blessing" and he cares deeply for all congregation members, all the while having fun. I only hope I will be as good a pastor as he is.

**Star:** What things did you add to your pastoral "toolbox" during your internship at Bethlehem? And since Bethlehem?

**Sarah:** Perhaps the more accurate question is, what things *weren't* added to my pastoral toolbox while at Bethlehem? Seminary is a great place to read, discuss, and be challenged, but at times the practical application is lacking. At Bethlehem I was invited into people's homes to hear stories of their joys and sorrows, which is always an honor. I was able to preach and try different styles of preaching,

I led Bible studies and Adult Forums, I taught confirmation, I felt fully integrated into all aspects of congregational life. Since Bethlehem, I spent the last year at school sharing with classmates my experiences as well as hearing their own.

**Star:** What goals and plans do you have for the congregation at Epiphany and your first position?

**Sarah:** I believe it's important for a congregational leader to have a vision for a congregation, but it is more important for that leader to hear about the history of the congregation before sharing their [thoughts]. After all, there is a greater collective and shared history that will far surpass the length of any pastor's stay. Jesus provides a strong model for entering into new communities—you share a meal with one another, you talk about your hopes and dreams, you support one another, and you have fun doing it.

Thank you, Sarah, for sharing with *Star* readers your passionate spirituality as you enter this next phase of your life as a called servant. May God continue to comfort and sustain you in your life and work.

*Thank You!* 

**The 27th Living Nativity on December 18, 2011 was a great success** with approximately 150 cars driving through the lighted trail of luminaries to view the nativity scene in the Bethlehem Stable. The warm temperatures also allowed for at least 40 walkers to come closer to the manger.

Thanks to all that helped in the setup, role playing, food service, and cleanup. Over 70 of you participated and the event could never have taken place without you.

Special thanks to:

- Dave Bruce for once again providing the sheep
- Nancy Tiff for making delicious chili
- Colleen Beyer for organizing the kitchen
- Cindy Schlagel for dressing our characters
- Dave Loberg for transporting the hay
- Mark Abromski for setting up the angels and banner
- Roger Jurgens and Gene Schnabel for tending the sheep



Living Nativity



Mark Peterson, Senior Pastor  
Deaconess Kristen Baltrum, Youth/Household Ministry Director  
Jasmine Tesdahl, Pastoral Assistant

John Goodman, Music Director  
Nancy Tiff, Office Coordinator

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