

Followers' Footnotes SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2010



Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church
Rev. Andrew D. Nelson, Pastor
Rev. Gregory J. Prauner, Associate Pastor
155 Linwood Avenue, Ridgewood, NJ 07450-
2698

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www.bethlehemchurch.com

The mission of
Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church
is to:

*Trust God
and care for His people
by sharing the Good News of
Jesus Christ
in our world, community, work,
church, and home.*



OUR REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE - Beginning September 19th

Praise Worship at 8:45 a.m.
Sunday School / Bible Study-10:00 a.m.
Traditional Worship at 11:00 a.m.

SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

One service at 9:30 a.m. continues
through Sunday, September 12th!

SEPTEMBER EVENTS AT BETHLEHEM!

SHARING GOD'S WORD

Japanese in US Culture - alternate Wednesdays at 9:00 am in the Parlor (Sept - June)
SAGES Bible Study - meets Mondays at 10:00 a.m. in the parlor (Sept - June)
Men's Breakfast Ministry - 3rd Saturday-alternate months, 7:30 am in the parlor (Sept-June)
Confirmation - every Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. in the parlor (Sept - May)
Christ Care Groups - As scheduled

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE - 9:30 A.M.

Continues through Sunday, September 12th!

BEGINNING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH:

8:45 a.m. - Praise Worship

11:00 a.m. - Traditional Worship

SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 12TH - RALLY DAY!

9:30 a.m. Worship

SUNDAY SCHOOL SIGN-UP!

Followed by - **OUR CHURCH PICNIC**

Immediately following worship on the church lawn

SR. YOUTH THEOLOGY & ICE-CREAM

September 12, 19 & 26th (7:00 p.m.)

October 3, 10, 17th (7:00 p.m.)



JR. YOUTH ACTIVITY - September 10 & 24

and October 1 & 15 - 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

APPLE PICKING - Sunday September 26th

at Masker Orchards, Warwick, NY - 2:00 pm

Meet at the orchard on "Sauce Lane". Bring a chair, something to share to eat. Enjoy the view!

Enjoy a great time!



OCTOBER EVENTS AT BETHLEHEM!

SHARING GOD'S WORD

Japanese in US Culture - alternate Wednesdays at 9:00 am in the Parlor (Sept - June)
SAGES Bible Study - meets Mondays at 10:00 a.m. in the parlor (Sept - June)
Men's Breakfast Ministry - 3rd Saturday-alternate months, 7:30 am in the parlor (Sept-June)
Confirmation - every Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. in the parlor (Sept - May)
Christ Care Groups - As scheduled

UPWARD BAKE SALE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10TH AT 10:00 A.M.



HALLELUJAH NIGHT
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29TH AT 5:30 P.M.



**ALL ARE INVITED FOR GAMES, FOOD AND
TRUNK OR TREAT!**

REFORMATION SUNDAY - OCTOBER 31ST
ONE SERVICE AT 9:30 A.M.
Led by our Confirmation Classes
"This is Your Life Martin Luther"

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING
Sunday, October 31 - 10:45 a.m.

PASTOR NELSON'S MESSAGE

“FOCUSING THROUGH GOD’S VISION”

“Vision is looking at the world through the lens of God’s eye.” I recently read this in Worship Alive Plus for August 15th. God’s eye sees a world of people desperately in need of saving. He gave Jesus to do the work of paying the penalty for my disobedience and yours (John 3:16-17). God’s vision is you and me and our neighbors around His throne. Our challenge is to focus our ministry through God’s eyes.

We worked on our vision for Bethlehem for about six months. Now we have put together congregational goals for the next year that were approved at our June congregational meeting, and now we have realigned and clarified our staff positions.

In this newsletter, position descriptions for some of our key staff positions are included. Please take the time to review them. The work done involved numerous meetings with individual staff members to clearly align individual responsibilities with the vision of our congregation.

In addition, we want you to know clearly who is responsible for various areas of ministry. Please contact individual staff with your ideas or questions in their specific area of responsibility. Each staff person is responsible to me, to the church council and to the congregation. In the light of these job descriptions and congregational goals, each staff person will develop individual ministry goals for the coming year that will be attainable and measurable.

This is all a part of our entering into The Transforming Churches Network (TCN) that we began by approving prescriptions for Bethlehem in June 2009. It is laying the groundwork for truly “looking at the world right here through the lens of God’s eye.” It is planning to most effectively reach the world right here with The Good News of Jesus Christ and calling upon all of us to do just that.

P.S. There are a few job descriptions which will be included in our next newsletter. Also, the Assimilation director will be an unpaid staff position. Finally, please contact me with any questions or comments. We want to see things through God’s eye!

In Christ - Pastor Andy Nelson

**POSITION DESCRIPTION – ASSOCIATE PASTOR
MINISTER OF OUTREACH, YOUTH AND YOUNG
FAMILIES
(Pastor Prauner)**

Overall:

The Associate Pastor will, in conjunction with the Senior Pastor, carry out all of the pastoral functions charged to him in his ordination, including but not limited to preaching, leading worship, caring for the sick, officiating at weddings, funerals and baptisms, teaching God's Word, counseling, etc. The Associate Pastor will be responsible to the Church Council and the Senior Pastor. The Associate Pastor will write and carry out specific, timely and measurable goals based on the three areas of Bethlehem's Congregational Vision, and in line with Congregational goals. The Associate Pastor will coordinate goals, plans and activities with the Senior Pastor and Church Staff.

LOCAL OUTREACH MINISTRY

Desired Outcome: Christ will be revealed in our communities through service events and evangelism efforts involving the entire congregation.

Responsibilities:

1. Coordinate and lead Christ centered outreach in Ridgewood and the surrounding area.
2. Gather a "task force" to initiate and coordinate outreach "net fishing" events with the goal of reaching those who do not yet know Jesus as Lord and Savior.
3. Identify and coordinate community service events by interacting with town leaders and encouraging Bethlehem members to share local needs that Bethlehem members and friends can address.
4. Establish a community "presence" by including immediate church neighbors in church events, and through regular prayerful contact with people in the community in coffee houses, delis, etc. so that we move from praying "for" the community to praying "with" people in the community.
5. Coordinate regularly with staff and church leaders involved in "prayer walking", Early Learning Center, etc.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Desired Outcome: Junior and Senior High Youth will encounter Jesus Christ in their daily life, and will grow in motivation to share Christ and apply God's Word in their daily lives in school, with friends and as they make life choices.

Responsibilities:

1. Develop and train capable and trust-worthy youth leaders who exhibit a mature faith, a Christian love for young people, and an ability to interact with Junior and Senior High. This will include Sunday teachers for Senior Youth.
2. Young people will have opportunity to be active in mission, to develop leadership qualities, and to be involved in congregational ministry.
3. Lead local mission/service events to equip, challenge and grow the faith of youth.
4. In general, to oversee Bethlehem's Youth Ministry.

MINISTRY TO YOUNG FAMILIES

Desired Outcome: Bethlehem congregation and the families of Bethlehem Early Learning Center will grow together as part of the same Christ centered, caring Christian community.

Responsibilities:

1. Work in conjunction with the Director of the Bethlehem Early Learning Center to write goals to foster congregational involvement in ELC activities.
2. In conjunction with the BELC Director, and Assimilation Director, develop a plan that will connect church families with ELC parents.
3. Together with "a task force" of the School Board, develop and carry out a plan to identify prospects in the ELC and promote "bridges" to Bethlehem congregation.
4. Initiate and involve school families to be a part of Bethlehem's community outreach in the name of Christ.

POSITION ON DESCRIPTION MINISTER OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Karen Koromhas)

The Minister of Prayer and Christian Education will write and carry out clear, timely, and measurable goals based on the three areas of Bethlehem's Congregational vision. The Minister of Prayer and Christian Education will be responsible to the Senior Pastor and the Church Council. The Minister of Prayer and Christian Education will coordinate plans and activities with the Senior Pastor and Church Staff.

PRAYER MINISTRY

Desired Outcome: Prayer will be a central and visible focus in all we do as God's people at Bethlehem. Prayer will be emphasized in the lives of Bethlehem families and central to all planning.

Responsibilities:

6. Design, implement, and lead the people of Bethlehem in a comprehensive Prayer Ministry involving as many members as possible and including, but not limited to, prayer walking, prayer vigils, prayer chains, etc.
7. Focus prayer ministry on leading people to Jesus Christ.
8. Promote and encourage prayer in the homes of our members.
9. Make the congregation aware of prayer needs.
10. Keep records of those involved in prayer ministry and communicate plans and needs clearly to the congregation. To celebrate victories with the congregation.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Desired Outcome: Christian Growth will become the life of every Christian, young and old. Bethlehem people will mature in Christ as they apply God's Word in every aspect of their lives – at home, school and work.

Responsibilities:

5. Develop, implement, and lead a comprehensive ministry of adult Christian Education to include Sunday mornings and weekdays.
6. To provide devotional resources for families.
7. To continue to lead Bible Studies at Nursing Homes and to communicate God's victories in the lives of those touched by His Spirit.
8. To organize and lead youth Confirmation.
9. To organize/lead children's messages at all worship services on non-communion Sundays.
10. To plan, lead, and implement Vacation Bible School.
11. With the Pastor, to plan, implement, and train small group leaders for Outreach and nurture.
12. Act as Advisory Staff person for Bethlehem Sunday School.

OTHER

The Minister of Education will continue one-on-one visits, hospitals visits, etc. in coordination with the pastors and the parish nurse.

The Minister of Education will schedule and train acolytes and assign readers for 8:45 worship services.

The Minister of Education will regularly communicate joys, victories and needs with the congregation so that the congregation has opportunity to rejoice in God's work!

POSITION DESCRIPTION: PARISH NURSE (Patty Criscenzo)

Overall:

The Parish Nurse reports to the Senior Pastor. This position is designed to have a wholistic* focus on the members of the congregation and the community by caring for their emotional, physical and spiritual needs. The Parish Nurse will develop and implement a Care Ministry to meet the needs of the congregation and outreach to the community.

***Wholistic**-meaning whole person health of body, mind and spirit.

Desired Outcome: The hands of Jesus will be seen in the congregation and community through the care received by staff members and volunteers, all working together as the Body of Christ.

Responsibilities: The Parish Nurse has 4 main roles within the congregation: Health Educator, Personal Health Counselor, Liaison with the Community and a Facilitator of Volunteers.

1. To initiate and assess the wellness of the congregation and the community on an ongoing basis.
2. To serve as a health educator by offering information on various health issues.
3. To serve as a personal health counselor to congregants, staff and community members by conducting regular office hours and making visits on request or by referral.
4. To serve as a liaison between the congregation and community by providing health resources.
5. Coordinate the formation of/or referral to support groups in various areas of health.
6. To provide community outreach regarding health issues.

7. To recruit and train volunteers in meeting the needs of the congregation through the Care Ministry.
8. To be a support/staff liaison to Human Care, Prayer Chain, Prayer Shawl and Victory Service Luncheon Ministries.
9. Concern for the physical and emotional health of staff, willing to give guidance and direction when the need arises, using the skill of Christian encouragement.
10. Maximize the health of the congregation as a Christian community.
11. To encourage worship in the lives of all members as well as those in the community, in whatever way they are able to participate.

**“A VERY PRELIMINARY”
JOB DESCRIPTION – ASSIMILATION DIRECTOR**

The Assimilation Director will coordinate the assimilation of guests and members into the Body of Christ at Bethlehem. The Assimilation Director will be responsible to the Senior Pastor and the Church Council, and coordinate plans and activities with the church staff.

ASSIMILATION MINISTRY

Desired Outcome: Visitors, guests, ELC parents will be connected with members so that they establish relationships and grow in the Body of Christ in Bethlehem.

Responsibilities:

1. Oversee visitor welcome on Sunday mornings to include Greeters, a hospitality table and possibly a gift bag for first-time visitors.
2. To follow up on first time visitors/guests within 36 hours.
3. To encourage visitors/guests to provide name/address, etc. and to collect and record names on attendance sheets.
4. To make sure that all guests are put on the church mailing list.
5. To foster an attitude of welcome to all on Sunday.
6. Along with the BELC Director and Associate Pastor develop plans to connect families of the Learning Center with Bethlehem members.
7. To bring together an assimilation team to develop strategies to connect people to people.
8. Together with the pastors and church staff to assist in the planning and developing of a comprehensive small group ministry (Christ Care, Ablaze, Triads) to foster spiritual growth, outreach and personal connections within the Body Of Christ at Bethlehem and in our communities.
9. To instill an attitude of outreach within each group.

Congregational Goals approved June 12, 2010: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Related to Vision, Timely

Vision I: Missional Focus

Goal	Strategy	Outcomes/Metrics	Responsibility	Deadline
Staff Position Descriptions	Realign staff responsibilities with vision	Written PD for all staff	Pastor Nelson	9/1/10
Staff develops outward focused goals	Plans activities, events, service groups etc.	Prioritized list	Each staff	9/30/10
Coordinate volunteers	Staff shares log of which volunteers are doing what; eliminate duplication & overtaxing vols	Develop log for all staff to track volunteer activity	Pastor Prauner	9/30/10
Report missional metrics to TCN	Log monthly attendance, new leaders, adult baptisms/confes, groups, faith sharing, etc.	Regular reporting tracks progress	Council	10/31/10
Assimilation staff position	Identify equip and deploy a volunteer staff person; develop PD	New staff person is on a level with paid staff; responsible to Nelson	Pastor Nelson	12/31/10
Small Group Strategy	Strategy with goals for congregation developed	Specific attainable plan	staff	3/31/11
Develop a Prayer Ministry		Specific attainable plan	Karen Koromhas	7/28/10

Vision II: Young Families

Goal	Strategy	Outcomes/Metrics	Responsibility	Deadline
Congregational involvement in Early Learning Center activities	Set goals for each planned activity	Written goals	Pastor Prauner, Beth	9/1/10
	Develop metrics for cong. involvement	Metrics with categories applicable to all events	Pastor Prauner, Beth	9/1/10
	List of what church people can do in each actvy	List aids recruitment	Pastor Prauner, Beth	9/1/10
Church families connect with other ELC parents	Form networking/support group; plan schedule of activities	Plan to launch group	Pastor Prauner & 2 ELC staff voluntrs	9/20/10
Follow-up on prospects in ELC	List of who in school is coming to church	Promote assimilation	Task force of the School Board	11/30/10
	Contact list of new people, esp. unchurched	Promote bridges to church		
Involve school families in church outreach	Develop a plan	Intentional invitations to school families	Pastors, Beth	10/31/10

Vision III: Caring & Giving through Word

Goal	Strategy	Outcomes/Metrics	Responsibility	Deadline
Community Service Events	Respond to surveys from visioning process; set numbers & types of events	Submit to staff list of ideas; frequency of events	council	None set
	Plan & execute events	Schedule events with responsible people	staff	None set
	Respond to spontaneous ideas from congregation members as they arise	Above schedule is flexible enough to accommodate	Pastors, staff	
Workshops on specific health and recovery issues for community	Brainstorm with Patty to gain her perspective on Vision III	Tentative plan for a first event	Pastors, Patty	6/15/10
Family Word & Devo. Resources	Research, Plan & Provide resources			Year II
Nurture Groups	Determine needs & varieties of groups			Year II

OFFICIAL ACTS



BAPTISMS

ERIN GRACE MATTHEWS

August 8, 2010

MADISON LEE OTTENS

August 8, 2010

MADLINE ELLEN O'CONNELL

August 29, 2010



FUNERAL

Valerie Elaine Kayal

July 7, 2010

PASTOR GREG'S MESSAGE

WE BELIEVE! Bethlehem sent 18 Youth, 1 Young Adult Volunteer and 4 Adult Leaders to the 11th **National Youth Gathering** July 16-21 in New Orleans. The Gathering is the Synod's single largest event and brings together young people between the ages of 14 and 20 to spend time in worship, learning and service. What an experience to gather together with 25,000 young people, chaperones, volunteers, guests, and staff to worship and praise our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your continued support of the youth of our congregation! Before heading off to college, starting another year of college, or a first year of high school; the Gathering serves as a highlight in the lives of the youth of Bethlehem.

Where else can you worship with 25,000 people from all walks of life and every corner of the United States? Where else do you experience people just like you, your same age, and going through the same joys and struggles? It was shared amongst our youth that it is not always certain who the Christians in their schools are nor is it certain what is acceptable on a level of interaction as a Christian in school.

With 9 High Schools represented in the Senior Youth Group it is so incredibly important for Bethlehem to provide not only support as a congregation, but also from the youth to the youth. The National Youth Gathering does just that, it allows the youth to support, encourage, and spur one another on in their faith. Filling a professional stadium with people your age, singing the same praises, worshiping the same true God and Father, lifting up in praise His Son, trusting in and having faith in something bigger than yourself, and then seeing others with the same faith is a mountain top experience. Thank you again for the opportunity to be built up in Christ!



THE 64TH REGULAR CONVENTION OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD met July 10-17 in Houston, Texas. The LCMS meets in convention every three years and did so this year under the theme “ONE People-Forgiven.” Among the 3,000 participants representing over 6,000 congregations in the United States were some 1,200 clergy and lay voting delegates.

What does all this have to do with our little slice of Lutheranism at Bethlehem? Being part of a Synod creates opportunities of resources and projects on a larger scale. For example we are part of a district which encompasses the state of New Jersey. Being part of this larger structure affords us opportunities of service with Jim Buckman, application for CHEF grants which has helped start new programs at Bethlehem, and continuing Christian education for laity.

On a national level we are able to participate in the National Youth Gathering, provide aid resources to Haiti, support missionaries overseas, and connect to a world renown education system from Early Childhood to Graduate and Theological studies.

While you may not always see the inner workings of the Synodical body on a Sunday morning, they are present in different shapes and forms. It was a blessing to attend and participate in the convention along with Diane Stelling and Larry Schumann.

Through prayers and discussion a new President was elected, boards were streamlined to be more effective and growing the church of God here so that His kingdom will be grown for eternity continues to be priority.

Get a better look at the week by going to www.lcms.org

Pastor Greg Prauner

PARISH NURSE NOTES



Now that we are getting back into the swing of things, lots of things are going on this fall!



- ✓ **A WALKING GROUP** will meet on Thursday mornings from 9:30-10:30am at Bethlehem Lutheran Church starting September 30th. We will meet by the main office and walk to Vets Field and walk a few laps as the group is able. Call me at x-205 or sign up on the **Health Bulletin Board** by the main office.
- ✓ Thank you to those who supported the **LUTHERAN SOCIAL MINISTRIES PACK COLLECTION!** 35 filled backpacks were collected for Elementary School Students! Thank you so much for your generosity and your time in filling them.
- ✓ A **BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING** will be held on **Sunday, October 31st** after the 9:30 a.m. Reformation Day Service. Feel free to ask me to take your blood pressure at any time!
- ✓ **MEALS ARE NEEDED** for our freezer! If you are able to prepare a meal to be placed in the deep freezer, please let me know! We then bring them to those who need them after surgery, at other times of need and crisis. Please place all meals marked with the contents in the parlor freezer in disposable containers!
- ✓ **RALLY DAY COLLECTION** - we will be collecting non-perishable food and personal care items, such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc. on **Sunday, September 12th** for the Center for Food Action in Mahwah.



Resolving Conflict

Ken Sande, author of *The Peacemaker—A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict*, believes the best way to resolve an issue is keeping a proper focus. "As important as practical skills are, the focus always has to be on motive," he says. "If our desire is to honor Christ, everything else will follow."

Keeping that in mind, here are some practical tips that can help you resolve personal conflict:

Define the problem and stick to the issue. Conflict deteriorates when the issue that started the conflict gets lost in angry words or past issues.

- **Pursue purity of heart.** Before approaching others regarding their shortcomings, prayerfully face up to your own. Confess any way you might have contributed to the problem. "First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye." (Matthew 7:5)
- **Plan a time for the discussion.** Plan a time to talk when you are both rested and are more likely to respond in love to the other person's concerns. When you are tired, stressed, and distracted with other responsibilities, discussions rarely will go well.
- **Affirm the relationship.** Affirm the relationship before defining the problem. For example, "Our relationship is important to me, but... (then state the concern)." Avoid blaming the other person. Instead, say, "When you do 'A', I feel 'B'."
- **Listen carefully.** Once you share your feelings, listen to the other person's perspective. Make sure your body language communicates that you are open to his/her side of the discussion. Be sure that what you heard is really what was said by asking, "I heard you say that . . . (repeat what you thought you heard). Is that correct?"
- **Forgive.** Forgive others as Christ has forgiven you. Forgive with these promises in mind:
 - I won't bring this up and use it against you in the future.
 - I'm not going to dwell on it in my own heart and mind.
 - I'm not going to talk to other people about it.
 - I'm not going to let it stand between us or hinder our relationship.
- **Propose a solution.** Remember the relationship is more important than the issue. When working toward a solution, seek those that keep everyone's best interests in mind. "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 2:4-5)

SOURCE: FocusontheFamily.com/reprinted with permission from Better Health

Have a blessed Autumn!

Serving Him,
Patty Criscenzo, RN, BSN, FCN
Parish Nurse - X-205

Bethlehem Early Learning Center

September & October 2010



Wild West was our camp Sonlight theme this past summer and we had great fun riding pretend horses and exploring the west. Camp ran for five weeks with over 100 children from our school and community. Janelle Rolfes, our camp director, did a super job tying in Jesus' love through exciting object lessons. In addition, 9 of our church youth were camp counselors and they were terrific with the children. It was a great opportunity for them too.

We are busy getting ready to welcome our 180 students that are currently enrolled for the 2010-2011 school year. Please continue to pray for our school families and staff.

Save the date: **Friday, October, 29th** for Hallelujah Night. This is a great evangelism opportunity for our church to reach out to the school and community and a ton of fun.



Mrs. Beth Hasbrouck, Director



NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Articles for our next November NEWSLETTER are due in the church office on Sunday October 10th. Please e-mail your article to: blcsecretary@earthlink.net

VBS WRAP-UP

What were you doing the first week in August – August 2-6 particularly? On those dates, we hosted a Vacation Bible School program entitled “**Hero Headquarters**”. Our VBS was attended by 110 youth from ages 3 – 10, and was staffed by 30 wonderful volunteers who spent a full week sharing Jesus with those in attendance. Our theme was “God is our Hero” and our verse for the week was 1Timothy 4:12 - “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, life, love, faith and purity”. 45 heroes received “Hero Hats” for memorizing the verse. Our mission offering for the week went to the Ridgewood PBA Local 20. Our offerings totaled \$930.17! We also collected 329 cans of food for the Food Action Center in Mahwah.

A HUGE thanks is owed to those who helped out. **THANK YOU** to our opening and closing leader, Alicia Keehn, who also taught the 7-9 year old class, along with Bob Borrell, Jamie Benjamin and Matt Benjamin (who also ran the DVD player). The 6 year olds were taught by Karen Mabli, Rebecca Koehler (who also served as photographer) and Confirmand James Mabli (who also served as opening/closing leader). The 5 year olds were shepherded by Lanvi O’Malley (a BELC parent), Kylie Logan (who was Water Woman each day in our skits), Jensen Moritz (who also ran the power point each day), Elise Anderson, and Confirmand Brita Andersen. The 4 year olds were led by Gail Russo, and 6th graders MacKenzie Saturn, Tess Doherty, and Emma Walsh. The 3 year old class was shepherded by Beverly Shepherd and Esther Kim (a BELC parent), along with Brendan Cherrey (who played Pizza Man each day), Confirmand Nathan Schlecht, and Mauve Montague. Each day, Marilyn deTorres and Sue Wilhoit, purchased and prepared snacks for each class, and Carolyn Ironside led up our arts and crafts with Lauren Criscenzo, Confirmand Rachel Cherrey and Sara Koehler. Games, including our “Water Wednesday” event were coordinated by Julie Schlecht. All the AV each day was coordinated by Ben Koehler, who also put together the DVD which we showed in church. He did a wonderful job – thanks Ben! Finally, our opening and closing skits would have been a disaster without the splendid performance of Pastor Andy Nelson in the role of Maintenance Mac. He even took a hit of “burning lava” to share Jesus with the kids!

The transformation of the sanctuary into “Hero Headquarters” could not have happened without the help of Patrick Shepherd (who designed and constructed our entrance arches) and Geoff Keehn, who did all the set up for the audio visual needs we had. **THANK YOU ALL AND SEE YOU NEXT YEAR FOR VBS!**

Bethlehem Sunday School 2010-2011

Elementary Sunday School (pre-K through 6th grade) will kick off on **Sunday, September 19th at 10:00 am** with an **Opening Time in the Gym**. We ask that **all parents attend** this Sunday to meet the teachers, see the classrooms, and make sure we have up-to-date information about your child(ren) and how to contact you.

After the 19th, we will begin each week in the Gym at 10:00 am; after opening we'll break into our individual grades and go to the classrooms for our Bible study time. Children can be picked up in their classrooms at 10:55. Of course, parents are always welcome to attend the opening and/or class time.

There will be special events throughout the church year when our schedule will change. Our first event this year is **Reformation Sunday on October 31st**. This Sunday there will be **one worship service at 9:30 am** with the Sunday School children participating in the service, and **no regular Sunday School class**. **Children should be at church by 9:00 am** this Sunday to practice.

We have the following staff returning this year:

Karen Mabli and Kathy Murray, Pre-school
Karen Holm and Lisa Pushaw, K – 1st grade
Linda Kaser and Debbie Dragonetti, 2nd grade
Dan Cunneen, 3rd and 4th grade
Mike Skorski, 5th and 6th grade / Superintendent
Margie Downs, Superintendent
Diane Mitchell, Music

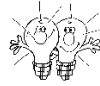
And, as always, we could use additional help including:

- Teachers and Substitute Teachers (you don't need to be a biblical scholar)
- Classroom helpers (just ask your child's teacher if they have a need)
- Setting up the Gym (to give our current helpers a break)
- Helpers for special services (to help keep us semi-organized)
- Help with the Christmas Service (especially with the costumes and organization)
- Suggesting or organizing a mission project to which the kids can make a contribution

Please let us know if you can help in any of these ways. And don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or suggestions. We are looking forward to another year of sharing God's Word and His love with your children. Thanks in advance for your support and prayers.

Marge Downs
(201) 445-2684
mdowns9928@aol.com

Mike Skorski
(201) 612-8690
mike@skorski.org



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

IN THE SPOTLIGHT..... KATHY MURRAY

KATHY has been happily married to Mark for 20 years and they have two teenage daughters, Christie (age 18) and Lauren (age 16). **KATHY'S** favorite activity is doing anything with her girls - it used to be frequent trips to the playground and now it's to the mall!!!! She loves amusement parks, baking (especially if it contains chocolate!), number & word puzzles, and keeping up with the news. On most Saturdays you'll find **KATHY** outside cutting the lawn and maintaining the gardens. She also looks forward to meeting friends for coffee whenever they can schedule it! **KATHY** is a lifelong banker. (As a kid she handled the money when she played Monopoly with her friends!) She is currently a credit underwriter for a local bank. **KATHY** actually met Mark (who is also a banker) when they worked for the same bank!

KATHY has been a member of Bethlehem for 15 years. She loves that we have 2 distinct worship services. She loves traditional style services and also the uplifting feeling she gets from the Praise Band's music and the more relaxed attitude of the contemporary service. **KATHY** appreciates the real sense of caring for one another here at Bethlehem and the many visits, meals, fundraisers, and our army of "prayer warriors" - to name a few. **KATHY** has been involved with Church Council, Sunday School teacher, Finance Committee, Financial Secretary, Women's Ministry, Bake Sale contributor, early service Scripture reader and she played in the Bell Choir. **KATHY'S** favorite Bible verse is: Matthew 28:20 - *"and be sure of this - that I am with you always, even to the end of the world."* Part of what **KATHY** loves about teaching Sunday School is preparing the lesson. She feels counseled, inspired or challenged when she reviews the familiar Bible stories. She tries to imagine what would she have done? Would she put her faith into action, especially if it meant nearly certain death? She knows that their God is her God, and just as He took care of them, He'll take care of her. He watches over all of us, even when we think we can do it without Him. The issues, emotions and uncertainties of being a parent have given **KATHY** a much greater appreciation of God's patient loving care in dealing with herself!

Most of us probably did not know that **KATHY** has always wanted to pilot her own helicopter! We are blessed here at Bethlehem to have **KATHY** as our friend and Christian sister.

CONVENTION NEWS

The 64th Regular Synodical Convention with the theme "One People Forgiven" met in Houston July 10-17 for the purpose of electing new Synodical Officers as well as voting on matters concerning the administration of the Synod and its ministries. The newly elected President and Vice-Presidents of the LCMS are: Rev. Matthew Harrison, President (former Director of LCMS World Relief and Human Care); Rev. Herbert Mueller, First VP; Rev. John Wolhrabe, 2nd VP; Rev. Paul Maier, 3rd VP; Rev. Daniel Preus, 4th VP; and Rev. Scott Murray, 5th VP. The outgoing President, Rev. Gerald Kieschnick, served in the position for the past 9 years, along with Rev. William Diekelman, First VP; Rev. Paul Maier, 2nd VP; Rev. John Wolrabe, 3rd VP; Rev. Dean Nadasdy, 4th VP; and Rev. David Buegler, 5th VP. Installation of new officers will occur Sept. 11, 2010 in St. Louis, MO.

Delegates heard discussion and took action on 91 resolutions during the course of the week. One major outcome of these resolutions was a complete revamping and streamlining of the Synod's structure, boards, and commissions at the International Center in St. Louis. The Synod's ministry functions will now be organized under a Board for National Missions and a Board for International Missions instead of multiple separate program Boards.

BLC member Diane Stelling, lay voting delegate and member of the Human Care Floor Committee, presented a resolution to the Convention delegates requesting that the Synod continue the work initiated by the Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Task Force to develop materials and training for ministering to those affected by abuse. This resolution passed with one of the highest "Yes" votes of the Convention, 99.42% [Y=1,028; N=6]. Among many moving spiritual events during the course of the convention, one highlight was the set of "Red Chair" videos interspersed throughout the week. In these powerful and very moving short videos, members of the Council of Presidents of the LCMS share personal stories of forgiveness.

These videos are available for viewing online:

http://www.lcms.org/pages/convention_internal.asp?NavID=17296

For more information regarding the convention, contact attendees Diane Stelling, Larry Schumann, Pastor Greg Prauner, or visit the Convention web site: <http://www.lcms.org/pages/convention.asp?NavID=13524>

CHEF GRANT AWARDED FOR HEART MINISTRY

The NJ District Christian Heritage Endowment Fund (CHEF) has once again awarded a grant to BLC member Diane Stelling for the **Help End Abuse with Respect and Trust Ministry**. The \$6,000 grant will allow Diane to continue worldwide outreach via the website "Spiritual Help for Abuse Victims" (<http://www.abusehelpspiritual.com/>) and workshop and seminar presentations nationally.

The Minnesota North District is inviting Diane to present a regional abuse workshop this fall and one in the spring. In addition, Diane will present the abuse prevention workshop *Spiritually Healthy Relationships* at both the Minnesota North Mental Health Conference and the Lutheran Education Association (LEA) Convocation in the spring.

As a direct result of this ministry effort the Synod appointed a Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Task Force that met four times during the last year and completed its work in January. Diane served as a member of that task force. The task force examined all of the secular and faith-based materials currently available that address the issues of domestic violence and child abuse; created a website that contains resources appropriate for these issues; developed an outline of theological issues to be addressed regarding domestic violence and child abuse, including forgiveness, repentance, and reconciliation; and created an outline for a training module. At the 2010 Convention in July, delegates voted overwhelmingly (99.42%) to continue the work started by this Task Force (see Convention News article in this issue). The delegates and Synod in convention indicated by their vote that it is extremely important for the Synod to address this epidemic social issue.

All forms of abuse show a total disregard for the sanctity of human life and spirit. This is evidenced in our fallen society not only via domestic violence and child abuse, but also by increasing abuses in the form of school and cyber bullying, internet pornography, and mistreatment of the elderly. Abuse is occurring in every neighborhood, school, workplace, and congregation and these difficult economic times serve to only increase the pressures that can lead to further abuse.

As Christians, we can bring the hope and healing comfort of the Gospel to those who are hurting, both victims and perpetrators. Please pray first and foremost for those who are struggling with the effects of abuse in their lives; pray also for our Synod and its new leaders, for those within the Synod who will be tasked with developing materials to assist in this area, and for this **HEART** ministry. For more information, contact Diane Stelling.

LIFE NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

“Abortion kills children, harms women, degrades humanity, and assaults the Lord of Life. The Christian cannot view abortion as ‘just another issue.’ **It overrides all issues.** The value and dignity given human life by God’s creating and redeeming hands compels the Christian to take advantage of every opportunity to remind their fellow Christians of this and to take action in the public square to restore our nation once again to a nation that respects the right to life.” *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, executive director of Lutherans For Life*

“If you’re a believer in Christ, you can enjoy the wisdom and serenity that come with age, knowing that shaky hands and bad knees are only temporary. Soon we will all enjoy glorified bodies. Isaiah says in chapter 35(paraphrased), ‘Strengthen the feeble hands; steady the knees that give way. Say to those with fearful hearts, **Your God will come to save you!**’” *Pastor Mark Jeske, speaker on “Time of Grace”*

“We trust that God is in charge of this world as He has been since He created it (Genesis 1:1). He has given each of us a ministry to speak the truth in love to our families and friends, in our churches and even to our politicians! Let’s be faithful to the calling He has given us. **God can use us to do great things!**” *Diane E. Schroeder, president of Lutherans For Life*

“Christians can certainly disagree on many issues, but we don’t have the freedom to support or defend political or legislative actions that are contrary to biblical principles. We can’t maintain strong family values and justify homosexual marriage. We can’t defend preborn life and use tax dollars to pay for abortions. We are given the responsibility and freedom to speak up on these issues. You can use this opportunity to ensure that your Christian values are known. **Now is the time to let your voice be heard.** Your values matter.” *Paul Snamiska, of Christian Life Resources*

“We fight the good fight of faith knowing that God loves human life. We know this because God became man, and for us fights the Valiant One, whom God Himself elected. The Second Person of the Holy Trinity took on our flesh, fought the devil in the wilderness, overcame temptation, died our death, redeemed us from sin, and rose again from the grave. In Him, everything is finished, everything is accomplished, everything is paid for. In Him, the fight is already over, the victory already won. **So rejoice, dear Christians! Satan does not prevail.** One little word has felled him!” *Rev. Christopher S. Esget, Pastor, Immanuel Evangelical-Lutheran Church, Alexandria, Virginia*

Above quotes taken from Lutherans For Life,
www.lutheransforlife.org, info@lutheransforlife.org, 888-364-LIFE

**RIDGEWOOD FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION SAYS
THANK YOU TO BETHLEHEM CHURCH!**

Dear Zack, Sue & the Entire Water Station Team:

The Ridgewood 4th of July Celebration, Inc., thanks you for volunteering at our 100th Anniversary Parade. Your participation really helped to make the day special for many, many people. This year more than ever showed us the importance of the water station. We are extremely grateful that Bethlehem Lutheran Church volunteers came forward to help with this vital job along the parade route. We know that volunteering at the Parade takes time away from personal and family holiday celebrations, but it is only because of you, and others like you who share your time and effort that we can continue to celebrate the 4th as wonderfully as we do every year in Ridgewood.

Our 100th Anniversary Celebration honored all the volunteers that have worked over the years to Support the Tradition of celebrating the 4th in Ridgewood. Volunteers began the event to provide a "safe and sane" celebration for area residents - today volunteers like you help to continue this wonderful tradition. Again, thank you. We appreciate your efforts in helping us to "Support the Tradition" for the 100th time and hope you'll join us again next year as we begin the 2nd century of Celebrating the 4th of July in Ridgewood,

Best Regards - Ann Marie Snyder, Parade Chair

Those volunteering from Bethlehem Church were:

Pastor Nelson, Pastor Greg, Sue & Zack Wilhoit, Patty, Lauren and Matt Criscenzo, Lorraine, Dan, Sean & Christopher Cunneen, Wayne deTorres, Barbara Reichelt, Linda Scarpa, Mike & Paul Skorski, Donna Lubinsky, Larry Schumann

**DAVE SCHMIDT, OUR FORMER DCE, WAS ORDAINED ON JUNE 27.
HE SENT A NOTE TO THE BOARD OF ELDERS A FEW WEEKS AGO:**

I wanted to write and express my sincere thanks for all your help with tuition costs. I have been amazed at how God has provided for all my needs, and you were a big part of that. I plan to stay at Christ Phoenix where I will preach and teach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. I would love to come to NJ again some time to personally thank you for your help.

Dave Schmidt

BOARD OF ELDERS

THE BOARD OF ELDERS primary concern is the spiritual life and well being of the congregation. The Elders assist the Pastor and staff and encourage members to deepen their commitment to Jesus Christ through active participation in the word and sacrament ministries. If you have any issues or concerns regarding our congregation please contact your Elder or the Board of Elders Chairman.

ELDER ASSIGNMENTS 2010

<u>ELDER NAME</u>	<u>ASSIGNED FLOCK</u>
Rob Gregory	A thru B
Larry Cinquegrana	C thru D
Matt Criscenzo	E thru Gq
Charlie Krause	Gr thru H
Hank Bitten	I thru Ld
George Kennedy	Le thru Md
Bill Montick	Me thru N
Larry Schumann	O thru Ri
Zack Wilhoit	Rj thru Si
Ray deTorres	Sj thru V
Tom Cook	W thru Z
Phil Ebeling	all musicians
Terry Shine(Chairman)	Elders/Pastors

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS FOR 2010

PRESIDENT – Mike Skorski

VICE PRESIDENT – Larry Schumann

RECORDING SECRETARY – Georgia Shine

TREASURER - Lawrence Cinquegrana

ASSISTANT TREASURER: Matt Criscenzo

FINANCIAL SECRETARY - Kathy Murray

HEAD TELLER – John Krause

CONTROLLER – Dave Rinderknecht

SUNDAY SCHOOL CO-SUPERINTENDENTS - Margaret Downs, Mike Skorski

CHAIRPERSON, STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE - Dan Cunneen

CHAIRPERSON, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE – Karen Mabli

COORDINATOR, OUTREACH COMMITTEE – Pastor Gregory Prauner

BOARD OF ELDERS

Terry Shine, Chairperson	Robert Gregory
Hank Bitten	George Kennedy
Lawrence Cinquegrana	Charles Krause
Tom Cook	William Montick
Matthew Criscenzo	Lawrence Schumann
Ray deTorres	Zachary Wilhoit
Phil Ebeling	

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John Zulauf, Chairperson

Bob Borell, Sexton/Facilities Manager

Marilyn deTorres	Susan Zulauf
Mike Eng	Jerry Roland
Geoff Keehn	Kris Hasbrouck

BOARD OF DEACONS

Karin Baumuller	Cheryl Gurick
Lynn Bednarz	Nina Hall
Elaine Bitten	Nadine Lisecki
Gail Cohen	Mark Murray
Monika Codner	Cari Rasmussen
Tom Cook	William Rusterholz*
Ray deTorres	Gerry Ruud
Marilyn deTorres	Linda Schumann
Debbie Dragonetti	Doug Stelling*
Leon Greff	Russell Vizzi
Cathy Gaglione	Jessica Wilhoit
Ron Gaglione	Sue Wilhoit
	Susan Zulauf*

AV

Eric Nelson	Larry Schumann	Steve Gonzenbach
Jeremiah Koehler	Benjamin Koehler	Laura & Ryan Higgins
Russ Vizzi	Kris Hasbrouck	

POWER POINT

Kyle Criscenzo	Ian Evans
Gabriel Keehn	Katie Panagiotou
Miyumi Skorski	Paul Skorski

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Hank Bitten, Chairperson

Nadine Lisecki, Adelaide Wolfanger, Carla Cherrey, Leon & Carol Greff