

Bethlehem Star

Advent & Christmas

December 2005

Christ has Come!

Bethlehem Ev. Lutheran Church

1903- 2005

Missouri Synod

Telling the Good News About Jesus!

Pastor Jim Kleinfelter

Rev. Donald E. Bendewald

Pastor Emeritus

Bethlehem Ev. Lutheran Church

4815 Hamilton Avenue

Baltimore, MD 21206-3899

410.488.4445 Fax: 410.488.2599

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Sunday Worship	8AM & 11AM
Sunday School	9:30 AM
Bible Study	9:30 AM Sunday 7:00 PM Wednesday

Bethlehem Christian Day School

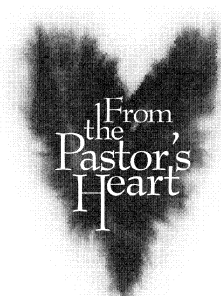
Mrs. Alice J. Moore, Principal

Pre-School thru Grade 8 with Child Care

410-488-8963 Fax: 419.488.2689

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Christ will Return!



When you know what it is you are trying to accomplish, that decides much of on what you should be spending your time.

No surprise there.

Can you imagine starting off on vacation with no destination in mind? The

problem that often trips us up is that we can get so bogged down in the minute details that we forget what we set out to do in the first place.

Orchestra conductor Zuben Mehta once told of a way he could tell the better players from the lesser ones. You would think that when you have dozens of violins all playing at once, how could you possibly tell the good ones from the even better ones? Zuben would look at their eyes during difficult or exposed passages: some would have their eyes fixed on the notes, being careful to play each note correctly; the better ones had their eyes on him, watching to follow his direction. Is your goal getting the individual notes right, or performing the whole piece well?

We're moving into a very busy time of year with the many Christmas preparations. What is it that we are trying to accomplish?

Getting a lot of details a certain way, or celebrating Jesus? Either way, a lot of little details have to be taken care of, but with the latter, there's a point to it all.

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This Advent (as with any season of Advent), there's more than you can do. How are you going to decide what you're going to do and what you're going to skip?

Start with your goal, what you hope to accomplish once all is said and done.

Start with growing closer to Jesus and helping others to grow closer to Him. What activities will help accomplish that goal? Being in worship, receiving God's Word and sacraments, using Advent devotions, reading the Bible, talking about the Lord, sharing His love by action, etc.

Does this mean that we should skip the usual traditional activities? Not necessarily. It is often preferable to use the customs of the season to help experience Jesus.

Parties may be a time to share our Christian faith in some way:

- ◆ we can choose to bake cookies that have some type of Christian message to them (cut-outs of angels? crosses?)
- ◆ greetings with a Christian message can be sent
- ◆ gifts may be given in such a way that it is clear that it celebrates God's greatest gift to us.

That specific details occur fades in importance next to Jesus being lifted up in a number of ways in this season. What we are really all about in life will be reflected in what we choose to do and how we go about it.

"Advent" means "coming," and that includes Jesus coming into our hearts right now to help us grow closer to Him. This season can truly be a time of growth! Choose wisely! "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Cor 10:31).

Pastor Jim

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Please pull out your Church Directory and make the following changes:

Nancy Brown
6523 Langdale Road
Rosedale, MD 21237-1920

Dave & Judy Niederhauser
5627 Daybreak Terrace
Baltimore, MD 21206-3014

Melissa L. Rosenberger
8928 Satyr Hill Road
Parkville, MD 21234-1403

CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday!

December 3	<i>April Runk</i>
December 4	<i>Shaun Forbes</i> <i>Erin Ohms</i> <i>Allakatee Woah-tee</i>
December 5	<i>Da'Shawn Vass</i>
December 6	<i>Pat Edwards</i> <i>Louise Jones</i>
December 8	<i>Danny Lindemann</i>
December 10	<i>Emily Behles</i> <i>Ruth Brown</i> <i>Jeff Jones</i> <i>Rob Powell</i>
December 12	<i>Melissa Currier</i>
December 14	<i>Margaret Allen</i> <i>Christopher Bolick</i> <i>Barbara Hamman</i>
December 15	<i>Lynne Edwards</i>
December 16	<i>Dave Brehm</i>
December 17	<i>August Sellier</i>
December 19	<i>Carlton Thompson</i>
December 20	<i>Dennis Fisher</i> <i>Gene Freeland</i>
December 22	<i>Jay Bridges</i> <i>Bette Lindemann</i>
December 23	<i>Ashley Pfaff</i>

December 24	<i>Bob Ward</i>
December 27	<i>Edna Surasky</i>
December 28	<i>Katherine Beckley</i>
	<i>Darien Cox</i>
	<i>Chris Carroll</i>
	<i>Ted Kautsch</i>
December 29	<i>Joyce Kerrigan</i>
	<i>Samantha Allen</i>
	<i>Hillary Bond</i>
	<i>Ruth Detamore</i>
December 30	<i>Gary Cooper</i>
	<i>Holly Cardamone</i>
	<i>Timothy Thomas</i>

Anniversary Blessings

December 7	Jerry & Sharon McLemore
December 10	Frank & Margaret Greller
December 12	Mike & Lois Behles
December 17	Richard & Mary Lou Parron
December 18	Edwin & Everyl Browne
December 26	Bud & Judy Chrysam
December 29	Ron & Anne Bond

Gracious Father, we thank you for another year of blessings upon our loved ones.

The victims of the hurricanes and earthquake who have lost family, friends, home, jobs, schools and all the things we take for granted!

The families and friends who have lost loved ones in the war in Iraq.

The men and women of our Armed Forces stationed at home and abroad.

The Volunteers and Service personnel who are working in the South giving aid, cleaning up, and trying to make repairs for the victims of the hurricanes.

Our Homebound Members

Billie Auer	The Behles Family
Erma Cunningham	Ruth Detamore
Emmie Fouse	Alice Frick
Anna Friess	Ted Hunter
Grace Kruelle	Ruth Kruelle
Elma Morse	Erma Pfaff
Anna Trageser	Mary Jane Turner

The family and friends of
Charles Quinan
called to his eternal rest on November 12.

PRAYER REQUESTS

May God's Love Surround

Michele Adams	"Allen"
Pastor Don Bendewald	Melinda Bellamy
Rick Berney	Ruth Brown
Bob Carter	Logan "C"
"Daniel"	Ella Day
Ronald Dougherty	Iris Doyle
Steve Kerrigan	Elsa Leimbach
Debbie Lusco	Mick Maher
Debbie Meyers	Staci Moore
Lorraine & Bill McLeish	Bill Scherer
Eddie Schwarz	Stewart Family
Jimmy Walton	Logan Williams

BUSY BETHLEHEM

Personal Listening System . . .

Early in the Fall a new addition was made to our worship experience!

For those who experience some degree of hearing impairment, a ***Personal Listening System*** has been installed, and is being used by some of our worshipers.

We now have four (4) units, and if the need dictates, more will be purchased.

The listener need only wear a set of "ear buds" that loosely fit in the ear - yet do not go into the ear channel! The receiver is small, pocket-sized,

and allows the listener to turn the unit on & off, and adjust the volume for their comfort.

If you are interested in trying out the new system, please speak to John Rach. He will gladly show you how to wear the ear buds, and how to adjust the receiver for your personal benefit.

These, in addition to our Large Print worship bulletin, are offered to enhance everyone's worship of the Lord. If you can think of any additional measures we can take to assist your worship, please let us know by speaking to Judy Chrysam, our Worship Chairman, or by calling our Church Office and speaking to Bev.

Market Day

Just in time for the holidays! You can place your order for Turkey, Prime Rib, or Spiral Cut Ham in time for entertaining family and loved ones. There are lots of side dishes too – from Broccoli Casserole to Sweet Potatoes Praline, Smashed Potatoes and Gravy!

Internet orders can be placed by noon on Friday, December 2. Pick up will be on Thursday afternoon, December 8, from 5 - 6 pm.

Your support of this program will help our PTL purchase new furniture for our classrooms!

B C D S Advent Worship

You are invited to take time on Wednesday evenings to prepare your hearts for the coming of the Messiah.

Our School children are working hard to lead our worship on the following Wednesday evenings.

Middle School 7 pm November 30

Kindergarten
& grades 3,4 & 5 7 pm December 7

Pre School
& grades 1 & 2 7 pm December 14

B C D S Offers Hot Lunch

Thanks to the members of our P T L and our volunteers, the children of our Day School get to enjoy a good hot lunch monthly.

In addition to Pizza and Hot Dogs, that are offered every month, the children and staff will be able to select the following entrees:

December 1 Hamburger or Cheeseburger

January 19 Lasagna

March 2 Fish Sticks

What a great change from Peanut Butter & Jelly, or Bologna and Cheese!

Girl Scout

Cookie Packing

About 100 youth and adults will be in our Fellowship Hall, Friday, December 19, at 7 pm, to pack cookies to be donated to several charitable organizations in the Baltimore area.

B C D S Breakfast at Bethlehem

On Saturday, December 10, you are invited to bring the young ones to Bethlehem at 9 am for a delicious pancake breakfast, a holiday craft, and a chance to meet Santa himself!

This is a super way to begin the Holiday season, and a special treat for the kids.

Elementary Choir

The elementary children meet once a week, after school, with their director, Mrs. Lyons, to sing the praises of our Lord. Their ages range from 1st graders to 5th graders.

They will be sharing their talents with us at our 11 am worship on Sunday, December 11.

Voters' Assembly - Elections **Sunday December 11 1:00 pm**

December is election month for our Church Council. The slate of candidates has not been completed as of this printing.

Our November Voters' Assembly included the following Council Recommendations:

1. That the proposed budget for 2006 be accepted.
2. That the distribution of envelopes in church and a plate collection at special services be allowed for visiting groups, at the discretion of the church council.
3. That the green monster (the large storage unit on Arizona Avenue) be decorated with appropriate Bible-related scenes at the discretion of the church council.
4. That one service be celebrated on Christmas Day at 10:30 AM in 2005.

All recommendations were passed.

If you would like to become a voting member of the Bethlehem family, please speak to our President, Lee Jones, or our Vice-President, Dave Pfaff, before the next meeting is called to order on Sunday, December 11, at 1 pm.

Advent Lessons & Carols

Our annual Lessons and Carols worship will be celebrated on Sunday, December 18 at our 8am and our 11 am worship. We hope you will join us as we prepare our hearts for our Lord's sure return!

Christmas Caroling

Following our 11 am worship on Sunday, December 18, a light luncheon will be served to all who will be boarding the bus for our annual Christmas Caroling. Our Girl Scout and Brownie Troops will join us, and our homebound members look forward to *seeing* and *hearing* the melodious greetings of Christmas!

Christmas Pot Luck and Christmas Party

Our Friendship Circle is busy planning the festivities for this year's gathering on Sunday, December 18 at 5:00 pm!

You can always count on some great food, a special reading - usually provided by our dear Erma Pfaff, a special story for our children, Christmas Carols, and a visit from Santa!

Prepare your favorite covered dish, pile the children in the car, and come to Bethlehem for a special evening of fellowship and Christmas Spirit.

Christmas Family Chapel

Wednesday, December 21

9:00 am

Everyone Is Welcomed!

B C D S Closes for Christmas Holiday

Our school children will be dismissed Wednesday, December 21, at 11:30 am to begin their Christmas Holiday. There will be no after school child care.

Classes will resume on Tuesday, January 3, at 8:30 am.

*A Blessed Christmas
and
Joyous New Year to All*

Christmas Eve Worship

O Come Let Us Adore Him!

7:00 pm

Family Worship

10:45 pm

Festival Worship

with Holy Communion

Christmas Morning Worship

Our Lord has blessed us with a special gift this year by allowing Christmas to fall on a Sunday.

We will have **one** worship on Christmas Morn beginning at **10:30 am** with the celebration of Holy Communion.

May our Lord be glorified by the number of people He finds in our pews on the day we celebrate His birth!

New Year's Eve Worship

Worship will begin at 8 pm and will include the celebration of Holy Communion.



Bethlehem Community Christmas Dinner

Our Annual Community Christmas Dinner will be

held at noon on Sunday, January 1, 2006!

A full dinner, with all the trimmings, will greet our neighbors and friends in the Cedonia Community. We are accepting donations for the dinner, \$10 will feed a family of four (4), and we appreciate your generosity!

B C D S Resumes Classes

Bethlehem Christian Day School will open it's doors wide on Tuesday, January 3, at 8:30 am to greet all the students returning from their Christmas Holiday.

Church Council Installation

Our newly elected Church Council will be installed on Sunday, January 8, at our 8 am worship.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

This is an area of ministry we decided we need to develop, and a small group has been formed to do that.

This group studied the subject, our needs and solicited outside views.

Seven (7) areas around which to start small groups were identified:

1. **School support** (prayer for, help with reading, tutoring, etc)
2. Some type of **exercise/faith enrichment**. Could be seasonal (skip summer)
3. **Gardening** - work on areas around church; twice per month in summer, less in winter
4. **Prayer walkers** - walk through neighborhood praying for it
5. **Care giver support**.
6. **Mom's night out**, possibly supper club
7. **Book club**

The group has decided to start with a Christian exercise group possibly starting in February, then a care-giver support group.

Watch for more information in January! Keep this effort in your prayers.

F Y I

KETRA – A Beneficial Tax Law

If you know fellow Lutheran Christians with a generous heart for supporting the ministries of the church, this information should be shared with them as soon as possible.

In September, President Bush signed into law the Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act (**KETRA**). Although Hurricane Katrina and a desire to help charities that are assisting with relief efforts are

behind this act, its provisions can benefit all charities for donations made between August 28, 2005, and December 31, 2005., and receive a full tax deduction. In fact, up to 100 percent of a donor's adjusted gross income may be tax deductible!

Any cash gift for any charitable purpose may qualify, including gifts to *all* LCMS ministries or public charities.

For individuals over the age of 59 ½, there may also be an opportunity to donate funds from an IRA or other qualified retirement plan and receive a full federal tax deduction.

Please encourage your fellow Lutherans to contact their tax advisers on the details, particularly when planning to take a large withdrawal from a retirement account.

More detailed information and documentation about KETRA is available to you, your congregation, and your members through the LCMS Foundation Web site at www.lcmsfoundation.org . Just click on "Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act." Documents available include:

- ✓ The Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005
- ✓ The "Guide to 2005 End of Year Gifts" (click on "Frequently Asked Questions")

This new law is in effect only for the 2005 tax year, so it is important to inform people as soon as possible. For more information, please call The LCMS Foundation at 1-800-325-7912.

ENTERTAINMENT

WORD SQUARE

The words of the Christmas story have been hidden in the Word Square. If a word appears more than once in the story, it is hidden only once in the square. Look up, down, sideways, backwards, and diagonally to find the word. Many letter are used more than once.

AND THERE WERE IN THE SAME COUNTRY SHEPHERDS ABIDING IN THE FIELD KEEPING WATCH OVER THEIR FLOCK BY NIGHT. AND LO, THE ANGEL OF THE LORD CAME UPON THEM, AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD SHONE ROUND ABOUT THEM: AND THEY WERE SORE AFRAID. AND THE ANGEL SAID UNTO THEM, FEAR NOT: FOR, BEHOLD, I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY, WHICH SHALL BE TO ALL PEOPLE. FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOUR, WHICH IS CHRIST THE LORD.

C	E	T	A	M	S	A	J	A	Y	B	R	E	A	D	A	S
O	E	G	G	O	G	Y	F	S	K	I	N	E	A	Y	O	A
S	A	N	N	N	N	A	G	L	O	R	Y	U	Q	E	T	D
E	R	J	A	I	I	D	N	U	O	R	E	M	E	H	T	L
P	W	O	G	C	D	T	I	D	T	C	K	M	I	T	H	O
H	A	H	O	S	I	I	R	E	N	A	K	S	O	P	E	H
B	T	N	O	A	T	L	B	M	U	N	P	F	E	A	R	E
A	C	M	D	Y	K	O	N	A	D	G	T	O	G	F	E	B
B	H	G	B	R	E	R	O	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S
C	I	T	Y	T	E	D	V	H	A	L	G	R	E	A	T	A
W	H	O	O	N	P	S	E	O	E	V	C	H	R	I	S	T
H	W	U	U	U	I	A	R	N	E	F	I	E	L	D	H	U
I	E	P	T	O	N	I	W	E	R	E	J	O	Y	R	A	O
C	R	O	R	C	G	D	A	V	I	D	S	U	U	D	L	B
H	E	N	F	O	R	R	T	H	A	T	H	E	I	R	L	A