

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



# BETHEL BANNER

*"... making disciples for Jesus Christ in our church, neighborhood and world..."*

**DECEMBER 2008**

## FINANCIAL LITERACY CLASS A SUCCESS!!!

We cannot express how thankful we are for all 40 of the volunteers who gave of their time and talents helping support the Financial Literacy Class that ran for 8 sessions from September through early November. Your servant hearts all made it possible to free the students up for evenings to learn how to manage the financial gifts God has entrusted to them. You prepared food, set up and cleared tables, washed dishes, took special care of the children of the adult students by telling them Bible stories, playing games, showing movies and loving them as if they were your own children. They were all precious in your sight! And three of you participated in the financial class with the students as mentors providing insights into finances and building relationships with our Liberian friends. Our volunteers matched the participants one to one.

The participants are very excited that Bethel will be offering this class again next February! Keep an eye out for your chance to volunteer in this important ministry.

Reverend David Seabaugh,  
Deacon Lusenie Fofana,  
Outreach Ministry Leader, Jeff Bartels



Financial Literacy Participants with certificates of class completion!

### MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDIES



- Monday Evening 6:30 pm
- Tuesday Morning 10 am

Pastor Seabaugh leads a life-changing journey through the Gospel of John. Come and be amazed at the inspiration, depth and application that can be found soaring through the 4th Gospel. Or listen online at [www.bethelstpaul.com](http://www.bethelstpaul.com)

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FROM PASTOR SEABAUGH

— **Christmas Recession****An Eerie Silence...**

Usually, about this time of the year, I'm searching for someone to hear my complaints about all the Christmas hoopla in the stores and all the vain materialism that has come to characterize the season. But this year is different. The plastic glowing Santas still sit unlit on the store shelves. The glittering garland still decorates a price tag. The choir of battery-powered ponies still sing to a congregation of shoppers who will return home without them. What's so different? For the first time in a long time, the Christmas our culture has known and loved has been stolen by recession.

**Fewer Reindeer?**

Economists are fearful that Christmas sales will slump dramatically this year. It seems Santa may need fewer reindeer to pull his new lighter sleigh. I don't think I'll miss the stories of people propping up their Christmas trees to make more room underneath. But just like Santa's newly unemployed reindeer, many people will find the Christmas season missing something: a job. These times are tough, especially during the holidays. It can become easy to turn on God or even deny Him altogether when things aren't going well. This is the perfect time for God's people to remind the world that it's Christmas time.

**A Free Gift**

What a perfect time to fill Christmas with gifts again. These aren't trendy expensive gadgets or cheap plastic toys that will last a month. These Christmas gifts are all free. Free! The whole reason we give gifts in the first place is because Jesus came as the first gift on the first Christmas just over 2000 years ago. God sent His Son to give us hope in a hopeless situation. Our sin deserves nothing but condemnation from God, but He gave us a gift in Jesus. He gave us a gift in Jesus' death and resurrection, bearing our condemnation and giving us the gift of forgiveness. Then God gives us the gift of faith to believe in the gift of Jesus and once those gifts get started, they just keep piling up! With gifts of hope, peace, love, joy, assurance, and more under your tree, you'll need to prop it up so high that you'll have to get a shorter tree!

**Gift Giving**

The most important gift you can give this Christmas costs nothing. In a world of pain, both inward and outward, we have a gift to give that brings hope. So how do you give this free gift? It's easy. Talk. Every time someone brings up Christmas, resist the urge to be secular and talk about Jesus. Trust me, between now and December 25<sup>th</sup>, someone is going to talk to you about Christmas! And if they want to talk about Christmas, then talk about Christmas. Talk about your free gift and how it can be their free gift too. If you're talking with a Christian, great! Then you won't be the only one talking! Regardless, we have some gift giving to do this season. Let's make sure as many trees as possible are loaded with free gifts this year! Recession or not, IT'S CHRISTMASTIME!

Blessings, Pastor Seabaugh

FROM THE OFFICE—LYNNE

Office hours Monday through Friday from 9 am to 4 pm  
 Bulletin items to the office by Wednesday mornings  
 Banner information to the office by the 15th of the month

**Directory Additions**

New Members from Sunday 11/23/08

Tricia Bluhm & Jake  
 450 Hatch Ave  
 St Paul MN 55117  
 651-489-6366

Joe Estrada  
 1073 1/2 Ashland  
 St. Paul MN 55104  
 651-528-2002

Laurie Pate & David  
 2033 Nokomis Ave  
 St Paul MN 55119  
 651-578-0236

Janet Sonie  
 1524 Woodbridge St #101  
 St Paul MN 55117  
 651-497-8657

Benjamin Woto, Julia & Julian  
 980 Jessamine Ave E  
 St Paul MN 55106  
 651-797-2666



Welcome  
 Our New  
 Members

**Official Acts**

Funeral—November 18, 2008  
 Andrew Hilpert

**Transfers From Bethel**

Shane Madsen & Sarah Hornbrook  
 to Woodbury Lutheran

**Directory Changes**

Tim Goebel  
 1807 Gervais Ave #1  
 Maplewood MN 55109

Liz Moldrem  
 phone # 651-246-6238

**Directory Correction**

Dick Goebel—zip code is 55109

STEWARDSHIP FOR OCTOBER 2008

October Budget Receipts	\$ 20,234.70 *
October Budget Requirements	\$ 24,680.00
Budget Requirements Year to Date	\$ 104,890.00
Budget Receipts Year to Date	\$ 73,753.93
Budget Receipts Last Year to Date	\$ 78,290.70

\*Includes:

Improvement Fund	\$ 441.10
Missions	\$ 669.95
African Worship	\$ 178.90

Other Receipts (not in Budget Receipts):

Dorothy Day	\$ 42.80
Benevolence Fund (Needy Fund)	\$ 1,034.01
Keystone Food Shelf (Green tape)	\$ 64.50
Sunday School	\$ 26.00
Memorials	\$ 835.00
Facility Fund	\$ 5,000.00

**Worship Attendance**

October Average 2008	153
October Average 2007	172

**Sunday School Attendance**

October Average 2008	44
October Average 2007	43



## A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

“When you care enough to send the very best” is the motto the Hallmark Greeting Card Company has used for a long time. The inference is that when you really want to impress someone you will send a Hallmark greeting card. This year Hallmark will probably once again sell millions of Christmas cards that people will send to their relatives, friends and acquaintances.



“When God cared enough to send His very best,” He was not content to merely send a message to us. He came in person in His Son, Jesus the Christ, whose human birthday we celebrate this month. We hear again the words the angel spoke to the frightened shepherds: “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11 NIV). What a marvelous gift our Savior is! His coming to be with us was because of the grace--that is, the undeserved love--of God.

John 3:16 tells us in such simple yet beautiful words that God loved the world so much that He gave His only-begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life. Loving and giving are two of the outstanding characteristics of God. We have been loved so much and given so much. Our response to God’s love and gifts is seen in our loving and giving to others. All that we are and all that we have are gifts from God, the true Owner and Giver of all things.

Our nation is currently undergoing economic turmoil not seen since the Great Depression. Companies are going bankrupt, people are loosing their jobs and homes are undergoing foreclosure. Times are tough. Many families will not have the financial means to maintain their status of living let alone celebrate Christmas as in years past. Christmas is a vivid reminder for us to show our love by giving, not only to our church, but also to others, and to do it with great joy. The “Needy Fund” always needs replenishment, gifts of food stuffs are always appreciated and don’t forget the every increasing number of people being feed through the Dorothy Day Ministry. Contact the church office for details on how you can show your love by giving to those in need.

Christmas is a time for giving but, even more importantly, it is a time for loving. The best Christmas gift was God’s Son, our Savior because it was a “love gift.” The best Christmas gifts that we can give to others are those that are prompted by love. God loves and so He gives. We should also love and also give.

Let us all enjoy a very blessed Christmas and keep our attention focused on the real reason for the season, that is, the celebration of the birthday of Jesus who came into our world to bless us with the forgiveness of sins, joy, peace with God and the sure hope of a life that never ends. May God grant that we all have a spiritually rich Christmas by receiving His gifts with thanksgiving and giving our gifts to Him and to others from a loving heart.

In the service of our Lord,

*Financial Stewardship Team*

# Christ in the Carols

**Midweek Advent Services and a Meal**  
11 am (lunch at noon) & 7 pm (supper at 6 pm)

Wednesday, December 3

*Christ in the Carols:*

*What Child is This?*

Wednesday, December 10

*Christ in the Carols:*

*Hark the Heavenly Angels Sing*

Wednesday, December 17

*Christ in the Carols:*

*Silent Night*



*Christ  
IS Coming!*

**Sunday Morning Worship 9:30 am**  
**African Morning Worship 11:30 am**

1st Sunday in Advent

November 30

*“Tremble”*

2nd Sunday in Advent

December 7

*“Letting The Son Shine Through”*

Now the Feast with Handbells

Food for the Poor:

Rev Gerald Kovac, guest preacher

3rd Sunday in Advent

December 14

*“Covenant”*

Handbell Choir

4th Sunday in Advent

December 21

All Church Christmas Program

Combined service with African worship at 9:30 am



## Christmas Eve Worship

Candlelight Service

6:30 pm

## Christmas Day Worship

10 am

Caroling after Worship

The Liberians  
are hosting a  
Praise & Worship time  
to ring in the New Year!

9:30 pm to midnight

Come and Join their celebration!





## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

**Thank you** to everyone who participated in Operation Christmas Child. Due to your generosity, 26 shoe boxes were delivered from Bethel. Please remember to pray that the Gospel will be shared with the children who receive these gifts and for their salvation and physical needs.

## SOS (SERVE OUR SAVIOR) CIRCLE

SOS Circle is looking for Christmas Cards – recycle your cards by dropping them off in the office.



The SOS circle will be putting together Christmas cookie plates for Bethel's shut-in members to be delivered by Earl & Phyllis Bracewell, Bethel's Visitation Ministry. One or two people are needed to help deliver the cookies. If you would like to help, contact Earl & Phyllis at 651-489-5894.

## LWML CONVENTION JUNE 2009



**LOOK!** Look at your Christmas Card list and extend a personal invitation to your LWML sisters (and brothers) in Christ to join you at the **LWML convention next June 25-28, 2009 in Portland, Oregon.** The Host LWML Districts (Oregon, Utah-Idaho, and Washington-Alaska) will roll out the purple carpet to welcome you!

Dr. Mary Hilgendorf, Director of the Women's Leadership Institute and Professor of Education at Concordia University Wisconsin, will serve as the Bible study leader and share with us her insight into God's Word.

Check out the winter issue of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* for information and registration forms for the convention. Look for updates at [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) and sign up for LWML e-news.



Lost a Coat?  
Each week another coat is added!  
Lost anything else?

**Lost and found** is located on the coat rack across from the office.

A **flower chart** for 2009 has been placed on the lounge bulletin board for you to sign up for altar flowers. If you would like the office to order flowers for you, please email [blc@bethelstpaul.com](mailto:blc@bethelstpaul.com) or call 651-488-6681 a week before the Sunday you have signed up for.





## PANCAKE BRUNCH, BOOK FAIR, & BAKE SALE

Central Lutheran School will hold its 39th annual Pancake Brunch on Sunday, Dec 7, from 9:00 am - 1:30 pm. The menu includes all the pancakes you can eat, plus sausages, coffee, milk, and orange juice. Drawings for door prizes will be held every half hour. There will also be a Book Fair with a great selection of books for children of all ages and a bake sale with a variety of tasty treats. Central Lutheran



School is located at 775 N. Lexington Parkway in St. Paul. Central Lutheran School offers a Christ-centered, quality education, pre-school through eighth grade, and before and after school child-care. Adult tickets are \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door. Children's tickets (ages 3 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade) are \$2 in advance and \$3 at the door. You may purchase tickets from any CLS student or you may send your ticket order with payment to CLS and we will have your tickets available for pickup. For more information call the school at 651-645-8649.



## CENTRAL LUTHERAN SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

Bethel Lutheran Honor Roll Students at Central Lutheran School.

(Honor roll starts in fourth grade.)

A Honor Roll: Anna Lange - 5th, Dominika Walsh - 6th

B Honor Roll: Roxanne Thies - 6th, Derek Murray - 8th, Natalia Walsh - 8th

## CENTRAL LUTHERAN SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Central Lutheran School's Christmas Pageant will be held at Jehovah Lutheran Church on December 18, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. The story of Jesus' Birth will be retold in song, Scripture, and pageantry in a worship setting. Please join us in our celebration on the season. After the completion of the pageant, refreshments will be served in the basement.



4321 N. Ballard Road, Appleton, WI 54919-0001  
www.thrivent.com • e-mail: mail@thrivent.com  
800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836)

## GIVING PLUS PROGRAM FOR CENTRAL LUTHERAN SCHOOL

**ATTENTION THRIVENT MEMBERS!** The end of the year is coming and if you have not used your GivingPlus Thrivent member money – consider a donation to Central Lutheran School. To have your donation supplemented by Thrivent Financial, make your check out to Central Lutheran School, complete the GivingPlus Member gift form (available in the church office), and give to Lynne in the office. Your donation and the supplemental Thrivent money will be sent to Central Lutheran School which will offset Bethel's commitment to Central. A win win for all of us!



## 2008 FINE & PERFORMING ARTS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

*"It Came a Flow'ret Bright"*

Friday, Dec 5 & Saturday, Dec 6 at 7:30 pm  
and Sunday, Dec 7 at 3:00 pm

Buetow Music Center Auditorium

Tickets: \$12 adult; \$10 student/seniors  
Contact Ticketworks at 651-209-6689 or  
www.ticketworks.com

## CHRISTMAS VESPERS SERVICE

Monday, Dec 15 at 7:30 p.m.  
Graebner Memorial Chapel  
(reservations **not** required)



## CHRISTMAS CONCERTS AT CONCORDIA

Please join us as we  
celebrate Christ's birth through music.

Saturday, Dec 13 at 7:00 pm &  
Sunday, Dec 14 at 3:00 pm

The Concordia Academy-Roseville Concert Band, Strings, Concert Choir and His People will be performing their annual Christmas Concert. Tickets are available at the door and are \$3 for adults, \$1 for students, and \$10 for immediate family.

Monday, December 15th  
Christmas Festival with Beacon Band, Chorus,  
and Chorale will be held at 7:00 pm  
and is free of charge.

## LUTHERAN LAYMENS LEAGUE ADVENT/CHRISTMAS GALA



You are invited to attend the Annual Zone Advent/Christmas Gala of the LLL, on December 7, 5:45pm. It will be held at Emmaus Lutheran Church, 1074 Idaho Ave W, St Paul. This year we will hear Dr. Dale Trapp of Concordia University giving a presentation on The star of Bethlehem: "What it was and What it Is". There will be a light supper of Swedish Meatballs, Egg Noodles and Salad following the presentation. It is also a potluck so bring something sweet or salty. Everyone welcome. Please call John Juergens (651) 774-0751 by December 4 if you can attend.



## BETHEL'S WISH LIST FOR END-OF-THE-YEAR GIVING

- ◆ Updating the air conditioner for the fellowship hall
- ◆ Replacing windows on both of the homes owned by Bethel
- ◆ Reducing sound system and new microphones debt
- ◆ Reducing CLS Debt Reduction debt

Your contribution can be placed in the Sunday offering.



## LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING MINUTES—OCTOBER 21, 2008

Present: Rob Matthes,  
Pastor Seabaugh, Sharon Bartels,  
Mike Head, Sean Boll,  
Jeff Bartels, Suzie Norris,  
Alan Bartelme, Earl Bracewell,  
Phyllis Bracewell,  
Carolyn Weber, Lynne Rustad,  
Maureen Murray, Tim Schmalz

The meeting was called to order by Rob Matthes. Lynne Rustad led in a devotion and prayer.

**The motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the minutes of the previous meeting and the agenda as amended.**

REPORTS Highlights include:

**Treasurer:** Medical coverage decision was made; the line of credit was needed the past month to pay bills; and insurance on donated van is in process

**Pastor:** Working on transformational vision for Central Lutheran School; Sue Hewitt, LINC Twin Cities' executive Director installed on 11/2; working on a grant for a joint youth ministry with Jehovah & St Stephanus

**Outreach:** Liberian/West African financial classes are being held – volunteers are being coordinated between Outreach, Service and Education; Taste of Ethnic Missions was attended by several Bethel members

**Properties:** The parking lot fence has been taken down and shrubs planted; new portable sound system needs storage area and will need to be locked up

**Worship:** Worship Teams meeting was attended by 43 people on Sept 21; Bethel Band led worship on Sunday, October 12; Sound system for the lounge, nursery, narthex has been installed.

**Office:** Background check application forms were distributed to Sunday School teachers and paid staff; bulletin boards were redone.

**Visitation:** Reported on visits, including several first time visits.

**Financial Stewardship:** Held joint Endowment/Stewardship committee meeting – recommendations include:

\*Recommended ALL memorial-type gifts be received through Financial Stewardship Team or BELCEF Committee. A unified procedure can be developed to streamline communication of gift opportunities to donors and provide systematic way to acknowledge all gifts received.

\* Restricted Endowments - currently total of \$100,719.67  
\* Unrestricted Endowments - Recommended that Wachovia Securities stock be sold as soon as possible and proceeds added to Steward Account, then invested at the best current rate available.

\* Anticipated that both restricted and unrestricted funds will eventually be invested through the LCMS Foundation.

**Service:** Operation Christmas Child boxes are being collected

**Fellowship:** Ladies Fellowship prepared and served a wonderful German Dinner on October 4<sup>th</sup>; family group has begun a new year of events/activities

**Education:** Sunday School going very well; average attendance per Sunday about 30 children. Sunday School Children sang in worship on Oct. 19.

**Chair:** Meeting with parents whose children receive education funding on Nov. 9 to discuss pros/cons of rummage sale and other fund raising activities.

### OLD BUSINESS

**Education Funding Policy - A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the new education policy as discussed and drafted by the Leadership Team.**

### NEW BUSINESS

Policy for payment of worship musicians was discussed. Lynne will draw up guidelines for next leadership meeting.

Next meeting: Thursday, November 20 at 6:30 pm

SERVING AT BETHEL IN DECEMBER

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:10-12

Coffee Hour

Servers

- December 7: Kassy Bartelme, Barb Moeller
December 14: Holly Fohrenkamm, Deb Schulz
December 21: Sue Norris, Isabella Fofana
December 28: Evie Stener



Coffee Fellowship

Pew Servicing

- Jenny Marko
Lynne Holst

Money Counting Team #3

- Ray Bade
Earle Bandow
Carolyn Weber
Don Weber



OFFERING COUNTERS

Worship Teams

- December 7 - I Timothy
December 14 - Search n' Rescue
December 21 - Share the Joy
December 28 - Praise Him/Proclaim Him

Meals on Wheels

- December 4: Glen and Bernice Ellmann
December 11: Ray and Karen Bade
December 18: Connie Halverson, Maureen Murray
December 25: No delivery on Christmas Day

Dorothy Day-Dec 28-Group III

- Sean Boll, Holly Fohrenkamm
Gary and Terri Glaeser
Corine Goodrich
Traci Matthes
Sue Norris



Drivers

- December 7 - Tim Schmalz
December 14 - Harold Stener
December 21 - Bruce Bairaktaris
December 28 - Ray Bade

Banner Assembling - Dec 23

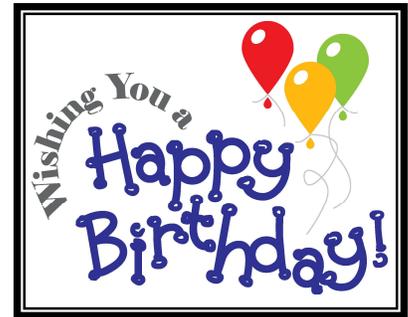
- Betty Paulus, Cathryn Johnston
Lynette Knippenberg, Gert Villnow



Festival Choir will be singing Christmas Eve. Practices will be held on Tuesdays - December 9, 16, & 23 from 7 -8:30 pm. Come and join our choir in celebrating Christmas.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Dennis Handt	12/01	Regine Marshall	12/12
Carolyn Weber	12/02	Winnie Bentz	12/13
Lynda Henke	12/04	Nicollette Hoveland	12/15
Harold Stener	12/04	Cynthia Petersen	12/16
Gregory Flynn	12/05	Anthony Lopez	12/17
Roy Oberhamer	12/05	Dorothy Whalen (Diehl)	12/17
Traci Matthes	12/06	Sandra Bairaktaris	12/18
Gary Glaeser	12/07	Richard Tehle	12/19
Geraldine Klemz	12/07	David Gardner	12/20
Brenda Walsh	12/07	Bonnie Witt	12/21
Nancy Hendrickson	12/08	Lisa Kubiszewski	12/23
Tatianna Moldrem	12/08	Nancy Plumbo	12/23
Nicholas Rozikes	12/08	Keya Lopez	12/25
Jacqueline Faser	12/09	Sonny Zuettel	12/25
Dale Pohl	12/09	Chad Ellsworth	12/28
Derek Murray	12/10	Marian Sherbert	12/29
Alyssa Jagdfeld	12/12		



*For we are God's  
workmanship, created in  
Christ Jesus to do good  
works, which God prepared  
in advance for us to do.  
Ephesians 2:10*

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



*I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
Isaiah 61:10*

Don & Lorraine Lindemann	65 years on 12/04
Dave & Karin Hagen	11 years on 12/07
Jeffrey & Nantana Vilmo	32 years on 12/10
Irvin & Lois Hansen	63 years on 12/15
Sean & Susan Boll	13 years on 12/16
Clinton & Lalita Hoff	12 years on 12/28
Bill & Sharon Newpower	45 years on 12/28
Steve & Barbara Moeller	35 years on 12/29

# Bethel

Lutheran Church LCMS



670 W Wheelock Parkway  
St Paul MN 55117

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## BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS



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Sunday Morning Worship 9:30 am

Sunday Morning Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 am

Sunday African Morning Worship 11:30 am

Midweek Bible Classes Monday evening at 6:30 pm & Tuesday morning at 10:00 am

Tuesday Morning Prayer 9:30 am