

Bethlehem Blaze

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He went out . . . to blaze abroad the matter. Mark 1:45

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Custodian

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We Burned the Mortgage!

by *Bill Slover, Finance/Endowment Ministry*

Thanks to the generous contributions designated for this purpose from many of you in the congregation, we have been able to pay off our mortgage loan. Treasurer Kent Alder recently made arrangements with National Bank of Indianapolis and sent a check for a final payment of \$8,632.51.

Being a relative newbie in the congregation, I consulted Barb Alder and the church archives to learn about the history surrounding the loan. The loan was originated in 2004 in the amount of \$125,000 borrowed for a term of ten years. The loan was done in conjunction with a capital and outreach campaign, which provided:

- a new heating and cooling system that allowed for custom temperature control;
- a professional, efficient kitchen with ample storage and work areas;
- new and refreshed rooms for Sunday School or other meetings;
- remodeled, improved bathrooms;
- new floor and tables in the fellowship hall;
- a sink in the nursery;
- enhanced sanctuary lighting;
- a functional room off the kitchen for small group use; and
- painting and probably other smaller improvements not listed here.

The campaign also provided gifts to four benevolence recipients:

- New Joy Lutheran Church – a mission ELCA congregation in Westfield IN;
- 1st Trinity Lutheran Church – an urban ELCA congregation being revitalized;
- Community Baptist – an inner city church serving their neighborhood's needs; and
- Lutheran Campus Ministries – serving college campuses in Indianapolis.

The total funding needed was mostly raised by donations plus a bequest from Pat Orme, a deceased member, who left Bethlehem a sum in her will. The total amount raised was over \$400,000. We had to borrow the remainder, which is the amount we obtained from National Bank of Indianapolis.

As a result of the payoff, the loan has been retired just over three years before its scheduled maturity on May 1, 2014. This will save the church interest expense of approximately \$700 over the next few years if current interest rates prevail. The savings could be larger if rates rise because interest would have accrued based on the prime rate. The payoff also wipes out approximately \$3,600-\$3,800 of annual principal payments from the general operating budget for the next few years.

Thanks again to all who contributed to this effort!



Among Us

Ill, Injured, Recovering: Barb Alder's friend, Kelsey Van Wyk . . . Eadie Barrie's friend, Sal Boccella . . . Marty Benson's mother, Arlene Benson . . . Beverly Emmons' daughter-in-law, Michelle Emmons . . . Beverly Emmons' friend, Tony Lynn . . . Jim Hetherington . . . the Hetheringtons' grandson, Rick Hetherington . . . the Kendall's friend, Chris Franson . . . the Mooers' friend, Karen Momper . . . Dee Simpson's mother, Mildred Alsbrook & cousin, Patricia Offenbacher . . . Lillie Roper . . . Nancy Stephan's grandson's friend, Justin McKinney . . . Don Stoughton . . . Nancy Turula . . . Kelly Wood's mother, Patty Wood. . . . We pray with these sisters and brothers in Christ for their comfort and healing.

Condolences: To Roger Gregory on the recent death of his brother, Paul Mark Gregory, Jr, in St Paul MN. . . . To Jack Munson on the recent death of his wife, Jacky. . . . We share with Roger, Jack, and their families the sure and certain hope of the resurrection.

Grandparenthood: Brynn Roberts was born recently to Amy & Sean Roberts of Los Angeles CA. Dave & Jan Gerkenmeyer are the proud grandparents.

Swimmers: Two Bethlehem youth recently competed in the recent citywide high school swimming meet. Laura Bem (a sophomore at Cathedral HS) won the 100 meter butterfly, 200m individual medley, and was on the winning 200m IM and 400m freestyle relay teams. Scout Landin (a sophomore at Arsenal Technical HS) competed in the 100m butterfly, medley relay, 200m freestyle relay, and the 400m freestyle relay. See an associated photo on the "Youth" page in this issue.

In the Media: Bill Locker was interviewed recently on WTHR-TV (Channel 13) regarding the proposed Indiana bill regulating singing of the national anthem. . . . Pastor Felde was quoted in the *Indianapolis Star* regarding his tutoring of IPS 56 students through the ReadUP program.

Thrivent Officer: Julie Smith has been elected to the board of the local Thrivent Financial for Lutherans chapter as Records Director.

2012 Altar Flowers

The sign-up chart for 2012 altar flowers is posted on the hallway bulletin board, and there are many empty spaces. Providing altar flowers is a great way to celebrate a special occasion, to honor or remember someone, or to give flowers to the glory of God. Please note the reason for giving flowers on the chart. The cost for 2012 will be \$15 per arrangement.

Directory Updates

Randy Richter
321 Ginkgo Tr
Chapel Hill NC 27516

Nancy Stephan
stephannancy74@yahoo.com

To the Bethlehem Congregation:

My family is very grateful for your prayers for my brother, Bob Scherer, over the past nine months. In December he received a "clear" reading on his CAT scan that indicated no current presence of the colon cancer he had battled since March 2011. I know that your collective prayers and God's hand had a significant influence on that happy news for our family. Also, thanks to so many of you who asked about him regularly. Your support and kindness means so much to people who are facing medical issues themselves and with loved ones.

Peace!
Barb Alder

IndyCAN *by Jim Swinford*

The leadership of Bethlehem is considering some level of community issues participation, focusing on the Indianapolis Congregational Action Network (IndyCAN). Several ELCA pastors already support IndyCAN.

Most members are aware of our longstanding partnership with the Meridian-Kessler Neighborhood Association, which has its office in our basement. While the MKNA mission is specific to this neighborhood and includes summer youth programs, social and sports activities and “soft” marketing for residential desirability, the direction of IndyCAN is nonpartisan social justice issues that find consensus among the religious community.

The concept has received backing from the national ELCA, and the I-K Synod has a Community Organizing Team actively involved with a national network, People Improving Communities through Organizing (PICO). A direct look at IndyCAN is possible on the Internet by going to <http://www.facebook.com/IndyCAN.PICO>. According to PICO, the issues that local groups have embraced include:

- School improvement
- New public schools
- Housing opportunities
- Stopping foreclosures
- Health Care access / cover all families
- Economic Security
- Lifelines to Healing (pervasive violence & crime)
- Youth Development
- Immigration Reform
- Neighborhood revitalization

- Civic participation
- Rural America

Following up on the Conference Assembly presentation, Pastor Felde and I previewed the concept with the Congregation Council, working from the premise that Christian congregations should advocate for disadvantaged people in public decision-making.

All agreed on the following:

- No partisan or campaign involvement.
- Any involvement of the congregation would proceed using some type of “listening post” process before aligning on any issues or positions.
- Relationship to IndyCAN would be listener/observer until we can understand how this organization works. (Until recently, support and activity for IndyCAN has been clergy-centered rather than congregational involvement. IndyCAN now asks congregations for an annual \$1,500 contribution).
- If there is little or no member interest, we don’t pursue this idea now.

Council agreed that in the next few months, Pastor and I should learn more about the IndyCAN and I-K Synod activities, and bring information and a recommendation to our congregation annual meeting in May. Until then, members with interest and questions regarding congregational community advocacy are welcome to contact Pastor or me.



Thank you for all who sent cards, thoughts, and prayers to Joe while he was ill. He is, fortunately, better and is in school half days this semester, and the word is that it will take 6 months for him to recover fully, but he should be able to recover. We were never able to get a conclusive diagnosis on what he had and we therefore have a whole new viewpoint on the struggles families face when a loved one has an undiagnosable illness. Thank you all for your support.

-Laura Cummings

The Christmas basket of gifts from the Sunday School children and the beautiful carols sung by the group from Bethlehem Church really brightened the Christmas season for Jim Hetherington at Allisonville Meadows in rehab for a broken right hip. Thank you.

-Sue Hetherington

Thank you, members of Bethlehem, for your generous gift this Christmas time. Your kindness and support in so many ways make it a continuing joy to be your servant.

-Pastor Marcus Felde



Stewardship

You Might Be a Philanthropist If . . .

by Ken McCune, Stewardship Ministry

When you hear the term *philanthropist*, who do you think of? Andrew Carnegie? Bill and Melinda Gates? Bill Clinton? On a more local level, possibly Eugene and Marilyn Glick, Herb and the late Mel Simon, Wayne Zink, and Randy Deer. These people certainly have donated significant portions of their wealth and talent to help others who are less fortunate. Now let's drill down one more level. What about here at Bethlehem? Do you share a pew with any philanthropists during worship services? Or are you one yourself? Just what is a philanthropist?

Where does the word *philanthropy* come from? According to *Wikipedia*, the word *philanthropos* was coined by the Greek playwright Aeschylus, author of *Prometheus Bound*. It combines two words: *philos*, "loving" in the sense of loving, caring for, nourishing, and *anthropos*, human beings in the sense of "humanity" or "humanness." For the Greeks, *philanthropia*- loving what it is to be human- was thought to be the key to and essence of civilization. Contemporary scholar Lester Salamon defines philanthropy as "the private giving of time or valuables... for public purposes." I would like to combine these and take them one step further. To me, philanthropy is the voluntary sharing of time and treasure to care for and nourish others without the expectation of anything in return.

So I ask: Are there philanthropists among us at Bethlehem? I think there are quite a few. The next time you attend Worship, look around the pews. If you see anyone that
has a love for humankind,
loves to care for and nourish others,
gives freely of their time and possessions,
does not expect anything in return.

They just might be a philanthropist. And you just might, too.

Contribution from Toastmasters

Dear Pastor Felde,

The Broad Ripple Toastmasters, as a token of our appreciation for the hospitality you have shown us, would like to contribute this check [\$100.00] to your church. It is our understanding that you support several food pantries so we hope this contribution will help.

*Sincerely,
Merrill Nix, Treasurer*

[Note: The Broad Ripple Toastmasters meet each Tuesday morning in the Bethlehem lounge.]



To Bethlehem Member-Friends,

Many thanks for your generous monetary Christmas gift this year. It is a pleasure to be working here in support of the many ministries and events in the daily life of Bethlehem.

-Karen Rider



Fellowship

Fellowship for Spring

Something Old, Something New

by Karen McCune, Fellowship Ministry

Spring means Lent and Easter. This year we keep the celebration of Shrove Tuesday and our traditional Lenten Dinners – but with a new twist. The **Pancake Supper** has moved to Sunday this year, and is a fundraiser for our youth to raise funds for their New Orleans trip (see separate article). We also keep the **Lenten Soup and Salad Dinners** before our Lenten worship, but as you read in a separate article – we are dividing differently this year for the hosting. **Dining Out** continues on 2nd Thursdays of the month – we invite anyone to join us for an evening without cooking but with great conversation. Signups are on the wall. *Hosts and hostesses are needed for 2012*, and it is so easy. The month before, you reserve for 16-20 people, then send a note to the *Blaze* editors and the Church Office and hang a signup on the bulletin board at church. The Monday before simply confirm the number with the restaurant. We have enjoyed family style at House of Cheung, the hospitality of Marquette Manor, comfort food at Sahn's, BBQ at GT South's – return visits are fun as well as trying something new. Finally, **Sunday Brunches** are back – mark your calendars for pitch-ins on Feb 12 and Mar 18.

Snapshot of Spring Activities at BLC

Dining Out

Thursday, Feb 9 at 6:30 pm, **Dining-Out at Three Wisemen** (separate article)

Thursday, March 8 at 6:30pm, **Dining-Out**, TBD

Thursday, April 12 at 6:30pm, **Dining-Out**, TBD

Thursday, May 12 at 6:30pm, **Dining-Out**, TBD

Brunches

Sunday, Feb 12 at 9:30am, **Pitch-in Brunch**, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, March 18 at 9:30am, **Pitch-in Brunch**, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, April 8 at 9:30am, **Easter Brunch** (Continental, NOT a pitch-in), Fellowship Hall

Sunday, May 13, **Muffins for Moms and Recognition Sunday**, Fellowship Hall

Lenten Soup & Salad Dinners

Wednesday, Feb 22 at 6pm, **Ash Wednesday Soup & Salad Dinner**, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, Feb 29 at 6pm, **Lenten Soup & Salad Dinner**, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, March 7 at 6pm, **Lenten Soup & Salad Dinner**, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, March 14 at 6pm, **Lenten Soup & Salad Dinner**, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, March 21 at 6pm, **Lenten Soup & Salad Dinner**, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, March 28 at 6pm, **Lenten Soup & Salad Dinner**, Fellowship Hall

Other

Sunday, Feb 19 at 5pm. **SHROVE SUNDAY PANCAKE SUPPER**, (separate article)

Sunday, March 29 at **New Member Reception**, Sanctuary

Saturday, April 7 (after Vigil), **Easter Reception**, Lounge

Sunday, April 22 at 9:30, **Earth Sunday Celebration** and Plant Exchange, TBD

Sunday, May 6, **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** (one Worship Service)

Dining Out

February 9 at Three Wise Men in Broad Ripple

Join us for a casual evening of dining at Three Wise Men, located in Broad Ripple Plaza. There is plenty of parking. We will be in a private dining room (with chairs not picnic tables) and will order off the regular menus with individual tabs. Three Wise Men is a local brewery and is part of the Scotty's Brewhouse group of restaurants. The food is sandwiches, pizzas, pepperoni (or plain) breadsticks and great table tossed chop salads. RSVP to McCune's at 253-7864 or signup at church.



Assisting Ministers

Month of February

Cantors: Kent Steele, Andy Swenson

Communion Preparers: Karen McCune, Marianne Meyer

Offering Counters: John Jordan, Nancy Slover

February 5

8:30 Welcomers: Mooers Family
Acolyte:
Lector: Kaaren Rodman
Children's Sermon: Pastor Felde
Ushers: Bill Brown, Jeff Mooers
11:00 Welcomers: Eric & Sarah Felde
Acolyte:
Lectors: Chris Olry
Children's Sermon: Pastor Felde
Ushers: Mary Stergar, Monroe Little
Altar Flowers: Betty Unkel
Altar Flowers Delivered: Will You Help?

February 12

8:30 Welcomer: Kaaren Rodman
Acolyte:
Lectors: Vadas Family
Children's Sermon: Eadie Barrie
Ushers: Brian & Wanda Swenson
11:00 Welcomers: Wott Family
Acolyte:
Lector:
Children's Sermon: Pastor Felde
Ushers: Biederstedt Family
Altar Flowers: Pat & Rick France
Altar Flowers Delivered: Norma & Carl Crabiell

February 19

8:30 Welcomers: Art & Cissie Hennig
Acolyte:
Lectors: David & Sheryl Vanderstel
Children's Sermon: Janice Vadas
Ushers: John Jordan, Ken McCune
11:00 Welcomers: George & Georgiena McCord
Acolyte:
Lectors: Beth & Erik Tyskland
Children's Sermon: Erik Tyskland
Ushers: Eric Wott, Tim Wott, William Slover
Altar Flowers: Karen & Ken McCune
Altar Flowers Delivered: Jim & Sharon Swinford

February 22 – Ash Wednesday

Ushers: Rick Roberts, Doug Stephan

February 26

8:30 Welcomers: Champley Family
Acolyte:
Lector: John Champley
Children's Sermon: Juanita Keck
Ushers: John Champley, Ken Moeller
11:00 Welcomer: Kent Alder
Acolyte:
Lector: Anna White
Children's Sermon: Becky Kendall
Ushers: Susan Lewis, Judy Simpson
Altar Flowers: Doris & Bill Young
Altar Flowers Delivered: Julie Smith

To the Bethlehem Congregation:

Thank you for creating hope for children and families in need by sharing your Christmas blessings with The Foundation for Lutheran Child and Family Services, Indiana, Inc. With your help, we can continue to provide programs of compassionate care and counsel—fostering hope for brighter futures for those who need it most in our community.

Because of your gift [\$725.00], we will continue to bring the message of God's love and infinite understanding to hundreds of children and families in its care. We can:

Host weekly chapel services giving youth the chance to hear God's word,

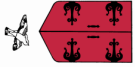
Provide an emergency shelter for those with an immediate need,

Educate and job-train through a new program YouthBuild, Indy,

Assist over 1,000 individuals in November alone through the Sharing Place Food Pantry and Clothing Bank.

May this Holiday season fill your home with joy, your heart with love and your life with laughter.

In His Service, Sven Schumacher, Chief Executive Officer



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>5 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany 7:30a Holy Communion (spoken) 8:30a Holy Communion 9:45a Education, Adult Choir 9:45a Theology of Lutheran Liturgy 10:45a Children's Choir 11:00a Holy Communion</p>		<p>6 6:30a Tuesdays with Story 7:10a Toastmasters</p>	<p>1 10:00a Women's Bible Study 7:00p Adult Choir</p>	<p>2 Presentation of Our Lord 9:30a Quilters</p>	3	4 9:00a NA
<p>12 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany 7:30a Holy Communion (spoken) 8:30a Holy Communion 9:30a Pitch-In Brunch 9:45a Education, Adult Choir 9:45a Theology of Lutheran Liturgy 10:45a Children's Choir 11:00a Holy Communion 5:00p Senior High Youth</p>	6 9:30a <i>Blaze</i> Staple & Label Team	<p>7 6:30a Tuesdays with Story 7:10a Toastmasters</p>	<p>8 7:00p Adult Choir</p>	<p>9 8:00a Ministerium 6:30p Neighborhood Watch</p>	10	11 9:00a NA
<p>19 Transfiguration of Our Lord Last Sunday after Epiphany 7:30a Holy Communion (spoken) 8:30a Holy Communion 9:45a Education, Adult Choir 9:45a Theology of Lutheran Liturgy 10:45a Children's Choir 11:00a Holy Communion 12:00n <i>Blaze</i> Deadline 4:00p Shrove Sunday Pancake Dinner 6:30p Bonhoeffer Study</p>	13 20 Presidents' Day	<p>14 6:30a Tuesdays with Story 7:10a Toastmasters</p>	<p>15 10:00a Women's Bible Study 6:30p Congregation Council 7:00p Adult Choir</p>	<p>16 9:30a Quilters</p>	17	18 9:00a NA
<p>26 First Sunday in Lent Recycle Sunday Middle School Toboggan Weekend 7:30a Holy Communion (spoken) 8:30a Holy Communion 9:45a Education, Adult Choir 10:45a Children's Choir 11:00a Holy Communion 5:00p Parents, Teens, & Money Matters</p>	27 9:30a <i>Blaze</i> Staple & Label Team	<p>21 6:30a Tuesdays with Story 7:10a Toastmasters</p>	<p>22 Ash Wednesday 10:00a LaLerche 6:00p Soup & Salad 7:00p Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes 8:00p Adult Choir</p>	<p>23</p>	24	25 Middle School Toboggan Weekend at Lake Luther 9:00a NA
		<p>28 6:30a Tuesdays with Story 7:10a Toastmasters</p>	<p>29 6:00p Soup & Salad 7:00p Evening Prayer 7:00p Kid-Friendly Time 7:30p Adult Choir</p>			



Service

Mid-North Food Pantry

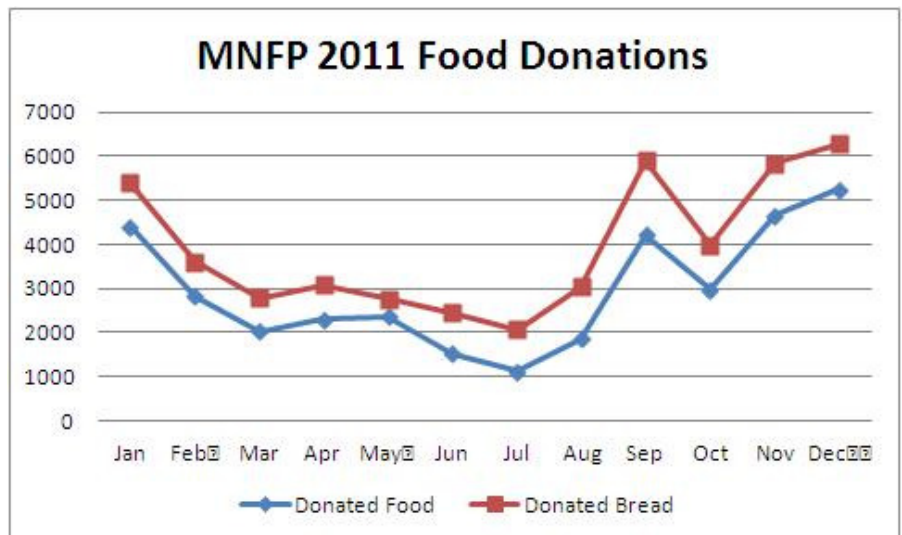
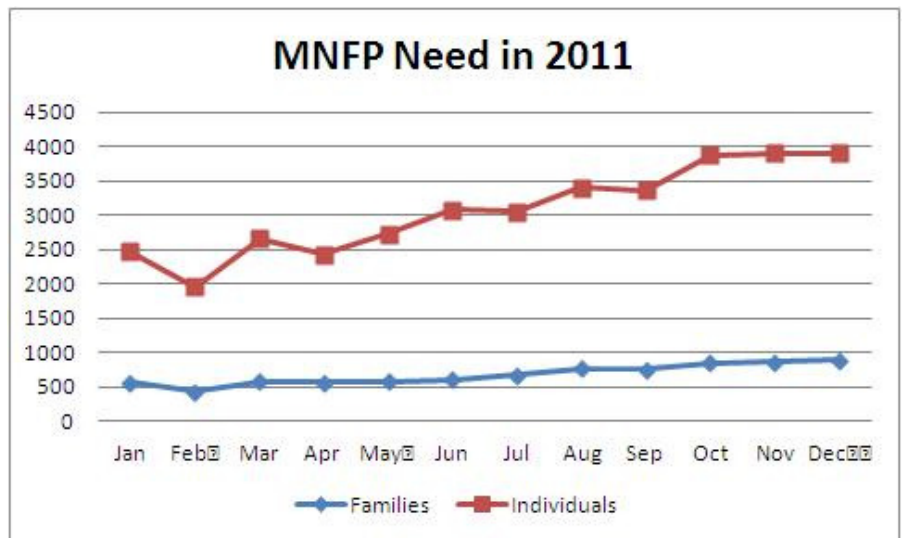
A Neighborhood Hunger Update

by Karen McCune, Service Ministry

To everyone who helped Mid-North through weekly food donations, contributions to Souper Bowl of Caring, Helping Hams, and Chicken Round-up and especially those of you who volunteer your time at the pantry – thank you! Whether it is called Food Insecurity or Hunger, many people in our city – Including many neighbors near our church building— are in need of assistance in feeding themselves and their families. This year it is Indianapolis’ turn to host the NFL Super Bowl – and the NFL has chosen to address hunger needs on a national level. As great as that is, ironically, it actually will mean that Gleaners, Indianapolis’ oldest and largest food bank, will close due to the event.

2011 brought a record number of requests to Mid-North, with an average of 850 families per month during the 4th quarter – that is over 3,000 people per month. The challenges are great as the economy continues to struggle and as benefits run out for many people. In addition to our core congregations, Mid-North now partners with two food banks (Gleaners and MidWest), GracePoint Christian, First Friends Quaker, St Vincent de Paul, and the Interfaith Hunger Initiative of Indianapolis – a local cross-faith organization dedicated to alleviating hunger both locally and abroad. We are proud that in 2011 Mid-North became a Gleaners Pantry Partner – allowing us to reduce our purchase price for food to 4 cents per pound. Imagine the kind of help you can provide when you pay 4 cents/pound for food – that’s 4 cents for a can of soup, fruit or vegetables – and even meat. (of course *when* it’s available, supply is still a challenge for our food banks).

Here are snapshots for 2011, I pray that 2012 will bring downward trends in the city’s need and upward trends in donations and supplies.



Souper Bowl of Caring

by Karen McCune, Service Ministry

Souper Bowl of Caring is an annual event of food and monetary collections to aid hunger initiatives that takes place on Super Bowl Sunday. It is a grass roots event, where all funds are directly donated to the charities of choice. As in the past the proceeds will be split between our two food pantries, Sharing Place and Mid-North. This is a simple event at Bethlehem, with a special free will offering at the end of each worship service – collected in pots and pans (and we *do* wash them before we use them again).

A Million for Jillian

by Nancy Stephan

Can you help? What do you do with those metal tabs from soda cans, pet food containers, or soup cans, any kind of metal pull tab? If you discard them, they can be used by the Ronald McDonald House at Riley Children's Hospital. Please see the following letter From Pastors Wade and Heather Apel:

The Ronald McDonald House at Riley Children's Hospital has been such a blessing to us during the many months we spent at our daughter Jillian's bedside (as these RMD Houses are for so many families at children's hospitals around the country). They collect the pop tabs from soda cans, which they can turn into money to fund the RMD House. The cost for families to stay or use the facilities at RMD Houses is very low or what they can afford, thanks to generous donations from individuals and businesses, and these pop tabs.

We came up with the crazy goal of "one million for Jillian." That means we hope that our friends and family (and anyone else who hears about this goal) will help us bring in 1,000,000 pop tabs in Jillian's honor by her 2nd birthday (June 10, 2012).

Tell your neighbors, co-workers, family, and friends to start saving pop tabs! We have been collecting them for a few months now and have thousands already.

We will keep a running total as they come in, so if you give us a large amount at one time, it would be nice if you had a count for us that we could just add to the total.

Thanks in advance for your support of us reaching our crazy goal (or getting as close as we can).

Pastor Wade Apel ministers at Bethel Lutheran Church in Noblesville and Pastor Heather Apel is an Assistant to the I-K Bishop. Jillian was born with an omphalorcle which has been surgically corrected and has spent a significant amount of her young life at Riley.

If you save for this cause, please put the tabs in a bag and bring it to church. A box will be marked for POP TABS in the office under the small table.

February Birthdays

- 1 Wanda Swenson
- 2 Karen Gallagher
- 2 Melissa Pritchard
- 3 Jim Hetherington
- 4 Bill Brown
- 4 Ellie Dittman
- 5 Cynthia Kroger
- 5 Rosa Lee Stephan
- 5 Travis Wilson
- 6 Nathan Hayes
- 6 Austin Mann
- 6 Michael Pritchard
- 6 Gunnar Queck
- 9 Kari Berron
- 9 Maria Norris
- 10 Art Hennig
- 11 Isabella Swenson
- 12 Ron Gyure
- 12 Tim Paul
- 13 Anna White
- 14 Libby Price
- 17 Carly Salkovsky
- 18 Matt Clodfelter
- 18 Darla Leffert
- 19 Erin Schickel
- 19 Seth Schickel
- 20 Lars Horne
- 21 Adele Stoughton
- 23 Phillip Landin
- 23 Scout Landin
- 24 Josh Leffert
- 25 William Locker
- 25 Jesse McDaniel
- 26 Ian Edgar
- 26 Bob O'Brien
- 26 Delaney Winter
- 28 Sarah Evans
- 28 Sam Hensley
- 28 Bob Wood

February Wedding Anniversaries

- 8 John & Amy Horter
- 26 Charlie & Becky Kendall

Lenten Suppers: New Plan

by Pastor Felde and Ken McCune

Every Lenten season we enjoy a soup-and-salad supper before the service of Evening Prayer. This year, we will once again be sitting down together to a simple meal, as part of our Lenten observance; however, we are going to try a new plan for scheduling the responsibility for those suppers. Under the former plan, we assigned different ministries (and Church Council) to take responsibility for each Wednesday. But some people found themselves recruited week after week, while others never were involved in helping.

This year, we have found six “captains” for the six Wednesday suppers. Each of them has been given a list of people to invite to help with preparing and hosting this simple meal. There is a good chance that you will be recruited by one of them, in the weeks ahead, as we get closer to Lent. The lists do not overlap, so you should be asked to help host only once, and the rest of the time you can just come and enjoy.

The captains for the different weeks are: Christine Felde, Ken & Karen McCune, Eadie Barrie, Bev and John Todd, Carl and Norma Crabel, and Ray Horn & Wendy Myres. Please be ready to agree and help—and if you don’t get asked but want to, please let us know and we can find a slot for your soup or salad or bread or drinks, or cleanup help.

Suppers begin at 6:00, and worship is at 7:00. Ash Wednesday is a full Communion service, and the other services are Evening Prayer—using Marty Haugen’s Holden Village setting.

Bethlehem Council Minutes,

January 9, 2012 (excerpted)

by Rick Roberts, Council Scribe

Finances: Treasurer Kent Alder reported that through December 31, 2011, net income was a positive \$6,005.56. Bill Slover offered a new approach to preparations for the annual meeting May 6.

Old Business: Average Sunday attendance for 2011 was 153, compared with 151 in 2010, 164 in 2009, and 164 in 2008.

Pastor’s Issues: Thanks to Micheal Smith & Jeff Mooers, who have helped us improve and maintain our computers. We have had a lot less trouble than in the past, thanks to our upgrades in equipment and programs. . . . The name badge program is going very well. . . . The I-K Synod thanks us for expressing our commitment to the wider church through our Letter of Intent for 2012.

Liaison Issues: Support: A cleaning service will be contracted to clean restrooms. Repair of the sign board on Central Avenue side of church will take place in the spring. Gregg Locker will address the disintegrating plaster in the narthex. The elevator issue is ongoing and Bob Keck has offered to help us with it. Technology: Jeff Mooers has made progress in installing a no-cost wireless access point for the church.

New Business: Eadie Barrie explained her duties as a Stephen Minister. Eadie outlined her preparation for this ministry and expressed her willingness to pursue the responsibilities of a Stephen Minister at Bethlehem; council approved the appointment. . . . Jim Swinford presented the mission of IndyCAN, a local organization of congregations working together to organize the faith community in Indianapolis in support of various community initiatives. IndyCAN wants to unify congregations to promote nonpartisan social issues to decision makers in the community. Membership in IndyCAN costs \$1,500 per annum. Council asked Jim to continue to shepherd the process of discerning whether this is something Bethlehem should become involved in. . . . A committee will be established to work on changes to Rally Day.

Dear Bethlehem Family & Friends,



Thank you for your incredible generosity this Christmas season! We are truly thrilled to be part of this amazing congregation! May 2012 be a year full of opportunities and many blessings to you all!

*Sincerely,
Jody Winter*



Youth

Youth & Family News

by Jody Winter

jwinter@indylutheran.org or call/text at 294-3290

Senior High Youth Meeting. Sunday, February 12, 5:00-7:00pm. Come for supper and ready to help with preparations for upcoming fundraisers! We need lots of hands and ideas! Sign up outside the Youth Café—and, by your name, list what you can bring to add to the Make-Your-Own-Sundae Buffet! Everyone needs dessert, right?

Pancake Supper/Mardi Gras Celebration. “Fat Tuesday” will be held on Sunday, February 19, this year! Everyone is invited to join us at 4:00pm for games, crafts and activities. Pancake Supper will be served from 5:00-6:30pm. As this celebration is also a fundraiser to help send our Youth Group to New Orleans in July, we’re suggesting a donation of \$5 per adult, \$2 per child. Please plan to join us!

Like Snow and Cold Weather? Families are encouraged to get together and make plans to attend the Middle School Toboggan Weekend at Lake Luther, February 25-26. For registration information, contact me.

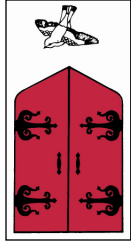
No More Blue Pigs! Parents, Teens, and Money Matters® will be presented on Sunday, February 26, from 5:00-7:00pm. Dinner is provided. This session is for older kids, and vitally important to becoming healthy and successful money managers! Find out how to talk with your kids about influences, choices, and responsible money habits. Join us for this free educational workshop, presented by Thrivent Financial representative Scott Poore. It is designed specifically for parents and their teens in 6th-12th grades. Sign up in the main hallway at church!

Kid-Friendly Wednesdays during Lent. Beginning Wednesday, February 29, and continuing through March 28, children’s programming will be available after the soup/salad supper, during the Lenten Service. Children age 3 through 3rd grade will gather in the Enrichment room for *Let All Creation Sing!—Lenten Lessons from the Animals of the Season*. If your child would like to participate, or if any older children or adults would like to help with these sessions, please sign up in the main hallway or talk to me.

Donations requested for Silent Auction! In an effort to reach 100% of our fundraising goal for the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, we will hold a Spaghetti Feast and Silent Auction on Sunday, March 4. To get started, we need some awesome items to use in our auction! Do you have something you’d like to donate? Please contact me with your ideas for contributions ASAP. Here are some things to help trigger your thoughts: a service you provide, a special dessert you will create, tickets you can acquire and donate, a craft item you will contribute, etc. We’ll also need lots of volunteers during the event to serve as officials, bankers, servers, cooks, etc. Of course, all will also be welcome to come, eat, and bid! Thank you for your generosity!



Laura Bem, Scout Landin, & Bill Locker at the city-wide high school swim meet.



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Community Bulletin Board

Meridian Street Pre-School Cooperative Open House. February 15-16 (9:30-11:15am). MSPC offers an accredited program for children 2-5, Monday-Friday from 9:30-11:45, with options for extended day. Contact: Amy Bultinck, 767-3003.

Economic Update Workshop. Sponsored by Thrivent Financial, February 16, 7:00pm, at the Thrivent office, 3077 E 98th St, Ste 250, in Carmel. Contact Aaron Lanteigne (aaron.lanteigne@thrivent.com, 805-3392) to sign up. Additional workshops are planned for May, August, and November.

Purdue University Bells. Performing handbell ringing in styles from classical to jazz. Part of the Pilgrim Fine Arts Series. February 26, 3:00pm, at Pilgrim Lutheran Church. \$5/person, under 12 free.

Trends Shaping 21st-Century Christianity. A seminar presented by Butler University's Center for Faith & Vocation. February 28, 7:00pm, in Clowes Memorial Hall.. Free and open to the public, but tickets are required (Clowes box office).