



VISION

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 2011



AMAZING!

John 1:1-2, 14 (NIV)
 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Christmas is one of the most amazing times of the year. Something happens that transforms our world for a short time. Even with all of the commercialism and excess, there is a sense of joy and anticipation that permeates life. People cannot help being caught up in the excitement, even if they don't believe in Christ. There is just something amazing about the season and especially the

Pastor Dave's Corner

story of Jesus. But the truly amazing thing about Christmas is the outcome of that event. "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."

Christmas should cause us to stop and reflect upon the truly amazing reality that God took up residence among us. For most people, after all the presents are opened and the Christmas tree is dismantled and discarded, the season is over. Baby Jesus is carefully wrapped up in tissue paper and packed away for another year. But that is not how the story went. His birth in Bethlehem was only the introduction to an amazing life.

It is amazing that Jesus survived to become a man. I don't know what the infant mortality rate was in Jesus' day but it was probably high. Prior to 1900 the infant mortality rate is estimated at 200-300 per 1000 births. In some places with particularly bad conditions, such as war

or famine, the rates were close to 90%. Matthew records that Herod made an intentional effort to eliminate Jesus as a baby when he had all the male children in Bethlehem 2 years old and younger killed. Joseph was warned by God and escaped with Mary and Jesus to Egypt. There they stayed until Herod's death.

It is amazing to think that Jesus went through the same process of development that we did. Jesus grew up as a boy in Nazareth. He played in the streets and fields. He had friends. He probably had bumps and bruises along the way. He was apprenticed to his father and learned to be a carpenter. I wonder how many times he hit his thumb with the hammer or dropped a heavy board on his toe. He didn't have power tools to contend with but a carpenter's shop can still be a dangerous place.

Like all young Jewish boys he would have been given a basic education in the Torah. I
 (continued on page 12)

Special points of interest:

- Youth Planet Wisdom & Caroling
- Children's Christmas Program
- Christmas Services Times
- Pastor Bruce & Donna Update
- Thank You for All the Shoe Boxes
- Notes from the Leadership Board
- Kwik Tip Gas Cards are Great Gifts

Inside this issue:

Bethel Worship Notes	2
Youth Group News	3
Children's Ministry	4
Christmas Services	5
Mission's Page	6
Senior Adult Ministry	8
From the Leadership Board	10



Bethel Worship Notes



Choir Members Still Needed!



Please let Pastor Glenn know that
you want to participate.

We will be Singing at 8:30 & 9:45
Services on Sunday, Dec. 18th

Rehearsal Schedule for Choir

Thursday, November 10th – 5:30pm-6:30pm – Choir rehearsal
 Thursday, November 17th – 5:30pm-6:30pm – Choir rehearsal
 Thursday, December 1st – 5:30pm-6:30pm – Choir rehearsal
 Thursday, December 8th – 5:30pm-6:30pm – Choir rehearsal
 Thursday, December 15th – 5:30pm-6:30pm – Choir rehearsal
 Saturday, December 17th – 10:00 – 11:30am – Choir rehearsal



Sunday, December 18th – 7:15am-7:45am
– Worship band rehearsal

Sunday, December 18th – 7:45am-8:15am
– Choir rehearsal

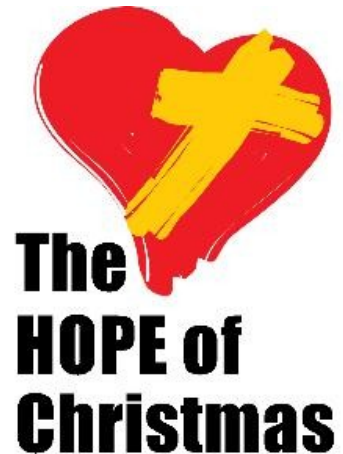
Must attend a minimum of 3 out of the 7 choir rehearsals.

Christmas Greetings

*To our Bethel Family,
Blessings to you as you celebrate this wonderful season of
Hope that only can be found in Jesus Christ.*

*From our family to yours,
Merry Christmas!*

Pastor Glenn, Ann, Rachael, Alyssa & Aaron





Youth Group News

Planet Wisdom

Meet at Bethel at 3:15 p.m. Bring \$\$ for dinner or a sack dinner. Also bring \$\$ for breakfast & lunch on Saturday. Will be home by dinnertime on Saturday. We will be staying at Faith Covenant Church. Bing a few bucks to chip in for pizza on Friday night. Remember your sleeping bags, toiletries, Bible, and pen. Call Harrison with any questions: 507-351-6766.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

from Harrison, Coralyn,
Carol, Rob, Troy, Rachel,
Natalie, Eric

Youth Group Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
12/2-3	PLANET WISDOM™	—
12/7	Senior High-iMPLODE! Junior High-Xplode! Caroling	6-8 pm
12/14	Senior High-Xplode! Caroling Junior High-iMPLODE!	6-8 pm
12/21	NO Youth Group	—
12/24	Christmas Eve Service	5 pm
12/25	Christmas Day Service	11 am
12/28	NO Youth Group	—
12/31	<i>New Year's Eve</i>	—





Children's Ministry

Londa Krueger is our Nursery Coordinator. If you would like to help out in the nursery just give her a call at (507) 385-1374.

Nursery Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Infants</u>	<u>Preschool</u>
Dec. 4	8:30	Chad & Brooke Riley	Jenny Schommer & Angie Johnson
	9:45	Janet Johnson & Samri Davis	Sunday School
	11:00	Jake & Angie Johnson	Ben & Amber Honsey & Rachael Anderson
Dec. 11	8:30	Brad & Susan Peterson & Anthony White	Herb & Michelle Scott
	9:45	Ben & Jenna Ryan	Sunday School
	11:00	Suanne & Elizabeth Banfield	LeAnn Wilcox & Ashley Anderson
Dec. 18	8:30	Mike & Kari Hennager & Abby Cherney	Londa Krueger & Megan Cherney
	9:45	Carol Edwards & Coralyn Musser	Sunday School
	11:00	Chad & Brooke Riley	Peters Family
Dec. 25	11:00	Candace Kolander & Monica West & Elizabeth Banfield	Melissa Alexander, Lauren Daily & Faith Milton



Children's Christmas Program

Our Sunday School classes will be putting on a Christmas program on **Sunday, December 11, at 4:00 p.m.** in the Flow. The pre-school classes will be reciting a couple of songs/rhymes. Grades Kind.-6th will be listening, reading and acting out the book called "My birthday, Jesus' Birthday." They will also be

singing a few songs and reading scripture throughout. We also want to invite you to help celebrate Jesus' birthday with some birthday cupcakes and punch following the program. Family and friends are welcome to come watch too as we celebrate this special time of year!

Blessings,
 Amber Rick (Sunday School Coordinator)
 Abby Bailey (Pre-school Program Director)
 Carma Carpenter (Music Director)
***The students who are reading the story and dressing up in the special parts should arrive at the church by 3:45 p.m. to get ready.**



Meets Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:45 p.m.
 For Kids age 4 to 6th grade

December Themes

- 7 - Dodgeball Night
- 14 - Blackout Night - bring flashlight
- 21 - **No Club** - Christmas Break
- 28 - **No Club** - Christmas Break





Thanksgiving Celebration

We had a wonderful time celebrating all that God has done at Bethel at our Thanksgiving Dinner Celebration. Approximately 170 people united together in praise and sharing of thanks to our Lord Jesus. May we continue to have thankful hearts each and every day because we have a great God who is able to do more than we could imagine.

**What a Mighty God
we serve!**



Special Thanks!

We especially would like to thank Harry & Wendy Musser from Applewood for working with us to provide a very delicious turkey dinner for the Thanksgiving Celebration. It was scrumptious!!!

Thank you to Harrison & Coralyn for helping in picking up and delivering the meal to church as well as all the kitchen help that was needed to orchestrate this fantastic event!

Christmas Services

- Dec. 11th @ 4:00pm - Children's Christmas Program
- Dec. 18th @ 8:30 & 9:45 Services – Christmas Choir
- Dec. 24th @ 5:00pm – Christmas Eve Service
- Dec. 25th @ 11:00am – Christmas Day Service

The HOPE of Christmas



**Remember there is
only one Worship Service on Christmas Day
& New Year's Day**

JOIN US AT 11:00A.M.

No children's or adult's Sunday school classes for
Dec. 25th & Jan. 1st.



MISSIONARIES OF THE MONTH: MONIR AND SALAM MICHAEL

Monir and Salam Michael have been missionaries with Converge Worldwide (BGC) since 2005. They live in the U.S., but have a unique ministry throughout the world to Arab Muslims. They believe that most Muslims are truth seekers, and that Islam does not satisfy their inner yearning to meet the true Living Creator. Their ministry is named "Call of Love."

Monir is originally from Egypt and grew up in a Christian family. He has recorded 25 albums of Arabic hymns and praise songs. His music is broadcast by Christian radio and TV stations in the Middle East, Africa and Europe. Monir also travels extensively, sharing his music, speaking at Arabic festivals and recording an Arabic satellite TV program.

Salam grew up in a Christian family in Lebanon, and has been involved with radio ministry for many years. She writes and produces an English radio program, "Dare to Ask," which answers questions that Muslims have about Christianity and airs testimonies of Muslims who have come to Christ. She also has an Arabic-speaking program, featuring Monir's music, and targeting nominal Muslims via short wave and satellite radio.

In October, Call of Love ministry took a bold new step with the filming of two TV pilots for a new show called "Dare to Love." It is a 30-minute program, hosted by Salam and another woman, which answers questions they've heard from Christians about Muslims and about how to reach them with the Gospel in a way they'll understand and accept. Salam also recently published a curriculum called "Dare to Explore," which can be used by churches and small groups to learn how to reach Muslims for Christ.

Some prayer requests from the Michaels:

1. Pray for their daughter Carol in her senior year of high school and college preparations.
2. Pray for protection for the family from spiritual warfare and when traveling, and for good health.
3. Praise God for volunteers and part-time workers at Call of Love. Pray for guidance in finding a new office space. Room is needed for the entire staff as well as for a TV studio and recording area.
4. Pray for Dare to Explore studies happening at churches this fall.
5. Monir and Salam will be attending the Intercultural Missions conference of Converge Worldwide in December. Pray that it will be a time of rejuvenation and spiritual refreshment.
6. Pray for more financial support for the ministry. The Michaels are at 93% of their financial needs.
7. Pray for Muslims in our community, that we would have opportunities to show them God's love.



T H A N K Y O U

for your participation in Operation Christmas Child! We collected 120 shoeboxes this year! This means that 120 children (and their families) in desperate situations will see God's love in a tangible way through your gifts.

PLEASE PRAY for these children, that they will come to know Jesus.



Pastor Bruce & Donna Update

Some of you have asked us to stay in touch and to let you know what's happening.

Last Sunday, Nov. 20, I spoke for the first time at Calvary Baptist Church in Madison, MN. Madison is about 3 hours west of Mankato. The church is a sister church in our MIBC and Converge family and worship attendance is about 100. I will be serving as an interim pastor at Calvary, generally spending Friday through Monday of each week on site in Madison. We feel very welcome there. Donna said the other day that it feels like we have known some of these folks for a long time. We are very thankful to God for this ministry opportunity and look forward to being part of what He is doing in Madison.

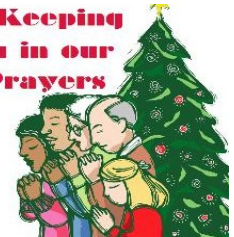
As you are led, please pray with us about the sale of our home in Mankato, some temporary housing in Madison for the months to come, and for some additional work for me in the field of medial chaplaincy. Pray that God will use us for His glory and His purposes. We continue praying for you who are at Bethel and for your ministry to one another and to the many who yet need to become part of God's Forever Family.

We are navigating the challenges of scheduling and travel between Mankato, Madison and sometimes north to the cities of Fargo, Fergus Falls and Duluth where our kids and grandkids are. We will be able to both serve in Madison and spend a bit of time with family during the holidays. Again, we

appreciate your prayers and fellowship in the gospel. Have a wonderful season of gratitude, celebration and worship.

Bruce and Donna

Keeping
You in our
Prayers



Thank You

We'd like to thank our friends at Bethel for all the thoughts, prayers, cards, and flowers after my mother's passing.

- Mike & Kari Hennager

Outreach

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is an organization that supports families of the deployed military people. As an outreach to these families, they are looking for volunteers to help with childcare on **Sat. Dec. 10th from 10:00a.m.–4:00p.m.** Please contact Mike Jensen at 507-340-1387 or the church office if you can help anytime on this day. Childcare will be held here at Bethel.





Praise & Prayer

UNITED IN PRAYER

There is a prayer group that meets on Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. and also on Saturdays at noon to pray for our attendees, their families & friends, and those in our community. If you would like to be part of this group, contact Suanne Banfield at (507) 388-4432 or banfield@hickorytech.net or come and meet us at church on Wednesday or Saturday.

- ◆ Praise for **those who serve our country** and the **veterans** that have sacrificed so much!
- ◆ Pray for **Harold Baker** who was in the hospital
- ◆ Pray for **Jim Moore** and his battle with cancer
- ◆ Pray for **Kim Peterson** who is recovering from blood clots in her lungs
- ◆ Pray for **Margaret Dawson's brother, Evert**, who had knee surgery
- ◆ Pray for **Mike & Kari Hennager and family** in the loss of Mike's mother
- ◆ Pray for **friends of Monica West** who were severely injured in Iraq: **Mylan Franklin & Darrel Charles**
- ◆ Pray for our **Missionaries** of the month: **Monir & Salam Michael**
- ◆ Pray for **God's leading and blessing** in our days of growth & change
- ◆ Pray that **Bethel** will be a church that is culturally relevant & a transforming power in our community
- ◆ Pray that we will see **people coming to faith** in Jesus at Bethel on a regular basis
- ◆ Pray that **we all reach out** to others & plant seeds of hope in Jesus
- ◆ Pray for our sister churches in **Votlivka & Tenovka, Ukraine & Cadunan, Philippines**



Remember Those in the Military

Family & Friends Serving Overseas

- ◆ **Amanda Larsen** - granddaughter of Mike & Alice Jensen
- ◆ **Ryan Marti** - brother of Kris Edwards
- ◆ Pray for **our troops** around the world

Senior Adults Ministry

Men's Coffee & Bible Study - Mondays at 9:00 a.m.

Senior Adult Game Day - Saturday, December 10 at 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Senior Adult Lunch - Wednesday, *December 14 at 12:00 p.m. *Note the date change!!





National Alliance on Mental Illness

NAMI-Mankato offers the Connection Support Group every Thursday at 6:30-8:00 p.m. This is for anyone who lives with a mental illness.

Support Groups

There is also a support group for family members. It meets the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month at 6:30 p.m. Both groups meet here at Bethel.



Do you know someone who is hurting due to marital separation and/or divorce? It is very likely that they would be greatly blessed by some sound Biblical teaching and some caring support and encouragement from others who have also suffered loss. Please let them know. They can check out our website

and/or give the office a call if they want more information about DivorceCare.

We will start meeting again in the new year. Please check our website for dates. We usually meet on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. You can start at any time. To register

contact the church office or go to our website www.bethelmankato.com



Kwik Trip Gas Cards & Milk Moola Program

Gas Cards

Help pay the church mortgage by purchasing Kwik Trip cards. When you purchase cards through Bethel, all your money goes for your gas and goods. Kwik Trip in turn gives 10% to the church. Fill our a Kwik Trip envelope (in literature racks) to order cards & place the card along with your check made out to

Bethel or cash in the offering or drop off in the church office. Cards will be ordered bi-monthly & requests with payment must be into the office by **December 15th or January 2nd**.

These make great Christmas gifts!!
Increments are: \$5, \$10, \$20, \$25, \$50, \$75, \$100, \$200, \$500.

Milk Moola

Bethel has enrolled in the Milk Moola program. Bring your Kwik Trip milk carton caps & tops of milk bags & put them in the marked container in the kitchen. All proceeds go to the building fund. More info on which Kwik Trip products that qualify check out www.milkmoola.com



From the Leadership Board

November 22, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Bethel,

This letter is to address a few of the questions I have received this past month, and let you know what we are working on.

We do not believe any more significant cuts will be necessary. We cannot predict the future, but we believe we have now made enough cuts, that we will be able to continue to fund staff, current ministries, and meet all obligations, including the mortgage. The leadership board stands unified behind the decisions that have been made. We trust that God knows our situation and will use all circumstances for His glory.

We stand behind our staff. At the Thanksgiving celebration we heard from Pastor Glenn about the expanding worship ministry. Harrison shared about the young people being reached at Bethel. The youth and worship ministries are not only expanding in numbers of people involved, but in deeper relationships with the Lord. Pastor Dave continues to provide insightful messages from God's word, and is diligently working with staff on a unified vision for ministry at Bethel. At the Thanksgiving celebration several people gave thanks that God had recently led them to Bethel. They spoke of finding their "home". Thank-you so much to those who organized and served at this event.

We currently have no plans for revision of the constitution. A revised constitution was adopted in January, 2008. That constitution created the leadership board to help oversee staff and ministry directors. Some difficulties have become apparent. Some duties which were previously well-defined as belonging to a particular board in the past, have not always been adequately adopted by a ministry team or the leadership board. The leadership board is trying to address some of these essential and sometimes overlooked responsibilities. We are not seeking to change the constitution back to how it was. We believe it is a matter of learning how to effectively work within the changes that have already been made.

At our last meeting the leadership board accepted into membership, Eric and Marci Cope, and Jeanne Steinle; we reviewed the Question and Answer meeting of Oct. 23; we planned for the Thanksgiving celebration; we began work on assembling a ministry directory for Bethel (in hopes that people can more easily identify ministries at Bethel and become involved); we are continuing in conversation with a local daycare about the temporary use of our facility; we also reviewed a recommendation from the Audit Committee to better measure the effectiveness of the leadership board; and as always, we are closely monitoring the budget.

Please continue to let us know of your questions and concerns. The leadership board members are Tim Cherney, Jodi Mansfield, Mike Jose, Steve Rick, Pastor Dave, and myself.

In Christ,
Mark Lindahl, chair
Leadership board

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

1250 Monks Ave.
Mankato, MN 56001
(Across from All Seasons Arena)

Phone: 507-345-4011
E-mail: office@bethelmankato.com
Website: www.bethelmankato.com

Senior Pastor: Dr. David J. Banfield
Pastor of Student Ministries: Harrison Musser
Pastor of Worship Ministries: Rev. Glenn Winch

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Family 8:30 AM

Traditional 9:45 AM

Contemporary 11:00 AM

Sunday School 9:45 AM

Nursery is Available During All Services

We're on the Web!
www.bethelmankato.com



Transformed by the love of Jesus Christ.

BETHEL IS COMMITTED TO:

Connecting people to God and others

Equipping people to serve God and others

Engaging people in service for God and others

Pastor Dave's Corner-Continued

wonder if the local Rabbi saw the "potential" in Jesus. I wonder if Jesus was invited to be the Rabbi's disciple. We know that he had an amazing grasp of the truth of Scripture. When Jesus was 12 his parents took him to Jerusalem for the Passover. 12 was important because it was the age that Jesus would become a son of the Law; a man. As his parents were busy about the events of the holiday, Jesus found his way to the Temple. There he engaged the teachers of the Law, asking questions and dialoging with them. His parents lost him for three days, but eventually found him in the Temple. Luke 2:43-47 records the details.

Of course we are familiar with Jesus' public ministry and the

many amazing things that he did. The most amazing was that he willingly died on the cross and then rose again on the third day. But let's not miss the truth that his death and resurrection were, in part, effective and meaningful because he lived for a while among us. The writer to the Hebrews summarizes Jesus' life with these words. "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin." Hebrews 4:15 (NIV) As we celebrate Christmas let us not forget that it is only the beginning of an amazing story of God's love and grace.

**Wishing you a
Blessed Christmas
Season!**

*From
Pastor Dave & Suanne
& Family*

