

## ANNOUNCEMENTS — MAY 1, 2011

**WELCOME VISITORS!** Thank you for joining us in worship today; we are glad you are here. We invite you to fill out a Visitor's Card, located in the pew racks. Simply fill out the requested information, tear off the bottom portion to keep, and place the card in the offering plate. The information you provide enables us to welcome you to Bethel and send you useful information about our church.

**ADULT FORUM** The Adult Education forum will resume the study of Acts by mid May. On May 1st and May 7th the class will discuss topics from the ELCA *Faith Lens* series, a weekly Bible study developed originally for young adults. Each week the study links a current news story in the world with scripture texts from the Common Lectionary. The purpose is to explore and better understand every moment of life in the context of our faith and God's Word. This Sunday, May 1st the class will discuss the earthquake and tsunami which struck off the coast of Japan with discussion of this event examined through three scriptures, Acts 10:34-43, Colossians 3:1-4, and Matthew 28: 1-10. Join our class in discussion and prayer.

**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A WAY TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED AT BETHEL?** Involvement in your church is a key ingredient for strong faith, and for helping the church feel more like a home. Time and Talent sheets are one way to let the church know about your interests so we can match people and needs or opportunities. Knowing about your interests also helps church leaders in planning. So, if you haven't filled one out this year yet, please take the time to share your talents with us. Thank you!

**BETHEL ADS** During the State of the Congregation meeting last Sunday March 27, several members asked about ads in the local papers. For those in Manassas (Manassas Observer) and Bristow-Gainesville Haymarket areas (Bull Run Observer), Bethel had ads in both papers in Dec with the Christmas services schedule, early March for Lenten schedule with Soup suppers and on April 8 & 15 will be the Easter service schedules.

We have tried to focus our limited resources on key events. Both papers are delivered free to all households in the community. We would like to do an appropriate article in the papers as well. Questions, comments or funds for future ads, call Jim Anderson 703-368-1440.

**CRAFTS FOR CHRIST** – Regular meeting dates are the first and third Sundays of the month at 12:15 p.m. We will meet **TODAY (5/1)** and again on 5/15. All are welcome to work on charity craft projects. If you are interested in helping or know someone who would find comfort from a prayer shawl, please contact Sharon Freas at [sfreas@earthlink.net](mailto:sfreas@earthlink.net) or Vicki Wilson ([vickifriday@gmail.com](mailto:vickifriday@gmail.com)).

**Director of Youth & Family Ministries Position is now posted.** For many years, we at Bethel have expressed our need and desire for a Director of Youth & Family Ministries. After much hard work, the task force has created a job description, and has posted the position on our website ([www.BethelManassas.org](http://www.BethelManassas.org)), through a few local synods, seminaries and other places. Please be in prayer about the selection process, and take a look at the job description. Inquiries or resumes may be sent to the search team at [bethel.dyfm@gmail.com](mailto:bethel.dyfm@gmail.com) or through Tammy Warner, chair.

### THIS WEEK

**SECOND ANNUAL AFTER EASTER LILY PLANTING FESTIVAL** Easter lilies that have not been taken home after the service today will be planted in the church yard/garden. If you would like to help in this glorious activity please meet here on Wednesday, May 4 at 10:00 a.m. Remember to bring a shovel.

**SOFTBALL NEWS** – Bethel's softball team is now 3-1 for the season, beating 1<sup>st</sup> AME, in the season's opening doubleheader 13-10 and 18-9, on Friday April 15 and then splitting a doubleheader with Victory's Crossing 1, 7-12, 15-3 on Monday, April 25. **Our next game is Friday, 5/6, at 8:40pm at Valley View Ballpark, field #2.** Come and cheer on your team. Want to play? Call the coach, Fay Henry, at 703-368-4125.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**NEW MEMBER CLASSES – May 15 and 22.** During the Sunday School hour (9:30 a.m. to 10:40 a.m.), prospective new members and those who are transferring into Bethel will meet for coffee and a “short course” about Bethel, the Lutheran teachings we hold dear, and opportunities to grow in faith and serve in our community. New members will be received during worship on Sunday, June 5. Please complete the New Member Information Form (green) along with the Transfer Form (peach) located in the narthex and return them to the church office or bring them along to the classes in May. Members of ELCA congregations may transfer their memberships at any time, but attending the new member classes will help with connecting with the ministries, people, and practices of Bethel. A nursery is available for children under 4. Children 4 and older can attend a Sunday School class with other children their age while the new member classes are being held. Please contact the church office if you have any questions and RSVP by May 9<sup>th</sup> if you are interested in attending these classes – [bethellutheran@comcast.net](mailto:bethellutheran@comcast.net) or 703-368-3943.

**WOMEN OF THE ELCA EVENT** “Rejoice in the Lord always ...keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard in me, and the God of peace will be with you.” Phil. 4:4–9  
Jesus Christ is risen! Are you embracing his call in your life? Attend the Eighth Triennial Gathering to revitalize your faith life. The event is being held July 14-17, 2011 in Spokane, Washington. **BE INSPIRED** by speaker and peacemaker Leymah Gbowee, whose interfaith efforts brought peace to war-torn Liberia. **RENEW** your spirit through enriching Bible studies and workshops, soul-stirring music, uplifting worship services and more. **CONNECT** with your Lutheran sisters in this life-changing women’s event. Register today at [www.womenoftheelca.org/triennial](http://www.womenoftheelca.org/triennial) or call 1-800-638-3522 ext. 2730.

## GOOD TO KNOW

**BETHEL'S LAWN NEEDS YOUR HELP** It's that time of year again and Bethel's yard is calling out for attention. If you can spare some time and would like to help with the mowing and trimming, the grass and weeds at Bethel would be most appreciative. Those who have been cutting the grass for the past several years are beginning to show some rust around the edges and would like to solicit your help. If so inclined please call the church office. The grass thanks you, and "we'll leave the light on for you".

**BETHEL NEEDS A NEW RIDING LAWN MOWER** The two riding mowers Bethel currently has are both on their last leg. The cost to keep these mowers running is becoming far too great. If you (or anyone you know), for whatever reason, no longer have a need for your riding mower, Bethel would be happy to take it off your hands. If you are interested in such a deal, please contact Gary Cochard @ 571-236-1288 or at [gcochard2@comcast.net](mailto:gcochard2@comcast.net). **We thank you in advance.**

**SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE:** Until recently, Linda Kern hosted Bethel's coffee hour on Sunday mornings providing a welcome and much needed service. Cathy Weschler has stepped in to continue this ministry at Bethel but Cathy needs support. Please contact Cathy if you are able to help out. A sign-up sheet will be located by the coffee area.



**PANDAMANIA** is coming your way!!!! We are beginning to prepare for this year's Vacation Bible School, which will begin on July 17<sup>th</sup>, and end on July 21<sup>st</sup>. Time for VBS is from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. and a dinner (optional) will be served at 5:15 p.m. Please mark your calendars now so that you won't miss this exciting time.

The web site is now up and running to pre-register your children. Please visit: [www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/bethelvbs2011](http://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/bethelvbs2011) to register. If you would like to volunteer, please go to the web site to learn how to sign-up.

VBS Supply Donations: Please save your large metal coffee cans and lids and bring them to the church office. We will need them for VBS this summer.



**GENTLY USED BOOKS AND DVDS WANTED - SALE HAS BEEN EXTENDED!** We are collecting books and DVDs (*G-PG-13 only please*) for a benefit this summer's Sawdust and Sandals. Please place your gently used and DVDs in the box in the narthex. Donations will be accepted until May 1<sup>st</sup> the sale will end on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Thanks!



sale to  
books  
and

**“DIVINE” CHOCOLATE IS BACK along with FAIR TRADED COFFEE – LWR (Far Team Project)** - We have small dark chocolate bars (\$1.75) and various flavors big bars (\$3.25). Both the chocolate and coffee are fair traded. The cocoa or coffee is bought directly from the farmers or cooperatives at market prices (fair trade) without a middleman. The Far Team just makes them available to you 9-10am Sundays. Coffee is either organic or regular and available in various roasts. Purchase during coffee hour at \$6.50 to \$8.50 for 12-16 oz bags of ground coffee. Come "buy" and try us out.

**NEWS FROM MAR-LU-RIDGE** Summer Camp registration is ongoing – but some of our most popular camps are filling up! Please visit our website to view the brochure and make your choices today. Scholarship money is available from MLR if there is a financial need in the family. Our camps serve youth ages 6-17 through residential and day camps, as well as an Adult Camp and our new Family Camp. We are accredited by the American Camp Association and have a history of 52 plus years of ministry – come check out one of our Open Houses: May 15 or June 12. [www.mar-lu-ridge.org](http://www.mar-lu-ridge.org).

**FILL THE CONTAINER DRIVE** The Metro DC Synod’s Namibian Task Force would like to invite you to reach out a helping hand to Namibian children in need!

We would like to inform you of our upcoming Fill the Container Drive. We will be shipping a 20’ x 8’ container of donated goods to the children in the youth hostels located within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia (ELCRN) synod. These hostels provide food, housing, basic healthcare, and supervision for 1,650 children between the ages of 5 and 15, in locations near public schools. The children, often from very rural areas and/or orphaned due to HIV/AIDS are already vulnerable. Without these hostels, they risk losing access to an education as well.

The hostel program is currently struggling financially and is facing a 46% budget cut by the end of this year. At this time the majority of its funds are being used to provide food to the children. The goal of the Fill the Container drive is to help provide for some of the children’s other needs. The Namibian Task Force will be collecting gently used clothing and shoes, children’s books, school supplies, health kits, blankets, and toys.

We will be collecting donated items from Bethel members throughout June and any appropriate items left from the yard sale will also be included in our donation to the drive. Bethel Lutheran Church and its members will be playing a very key role in this synod wide project. We will be hosting the volunteers who are in charge of the sorting and packing of the donated goods. From June 23-July 10 we will be receiving donation from other churches within our synod and storing them in the gym. If you are interested in helping with this drive please contact Mara Schleicher at [msue80@hotmail.com](mailto:msue80@hotmail.com) or 571-264-7887.

**MANASSAS CHORALE CONCERT ON MAY 14, 2011** The concert will take place at the Hylton Performing Arts Center on the George Mason University Manassas campus beginning at 7:30 pm. The concert will feature patriotic music including a tribute to the U.S. Armed Forces.

Tickets are \$15 each and can be purchased by calling the Hylton Center at 1-888-945-2468; online at [hyltoncenter.org](http://hyltoncenter.org); or in person at the Hylton Center Box Office Wednesday through Saturday from 12:00 noon to 6:00 pm. Tickets are also available at the Whimsical Galerie in Old Town Manassas.

The Chorale will continue its concert with a cause and will be collecting toiletries, pens/pencils, note cards, writing tablets, tissues, and large print puzzle books in support of the Manassas Senior Center.

You can visit our web site at [www.manassaschorale.org](http://www.manassaschorale.org) for additional information on the Chorale.