



Bethesda Lutheran Church  
"Welcome One Another"

# The Visitor

April 2011

Find this newsletter also on the web at [bethesdanewhaven.org](http://bethesdanewhaven.org)

305 Saint Ronan Street, New Haven, Connecticut 06511 • (203) 787-2346

## Holy Week and Easter



THE THREE DAYS

**Maundy Thursday: April 21**

12:00 noon and 7:30 p.m.

Holy Communion in the Church

**Good Friday: April 22**

7:30 p.m. in the Church

**Easter Vigil: Sat., April 23**

Gather in the Rose Garden

At 8:00 p.m.

Easter light and word  
affirmation of baptism and meal.



## ALLELUIA!

**EASTER SUNDAY**

**April 24**

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.: Easter Breakfast

(free-will offering - suggested donation, \$5.00)

**Please note: There is only one service on Easter Day**

10:00 a.m.: Festive Communion Service in the Church

Our own chamber orchestra will add majesty and joy to

the resurrection celebration, playing solo music and

colorful accompaniments for the exuberant Easter hymns

## Annual Intergenerational Event

*Palm Sunday*

**Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**

Immediately following the

9:45 a.m. Service

in the Campanius Room

**Palm Sunday crafts** for all to  
enjoy

**A potluck lunch will follow.**



## Orders for Easter Flowers Now Being Accepted

Orders for Easter flowers,

which will decorate the nave

with a beautiful array of color

for the Easter Season, are

being accepted until April 10.

You are also invited to help

defray the cost of palms for

Palm Sunday.

Look for the order forms

enclosed in this issue of the

*Visitor* or on our website at

[bethesdanewhaven.org](http://bethesdanewhaven.org).

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## "Tons of Food" Campaign 2011



### TONS OF FOOD

Bethesda will once again join local congregations in a friendly competition, "Tons of Food 2011," to provide for the needs of hungry people in New Haven. On three Sundays – March 27, April 3, and April 10 – members at participating churches will bring nonperishable foodstuffs and cash (\$1 = 2 pounds) to their worship services, weigh them, and report the results. This year we're up against three congregations – Trinity Episcopal on the Green, Metropolitan Community Church, and Church of St. Paul & St. James – but Bethesda will prevail when our neighbors in need are the winners! Bethesda's goal is a whopping one ton and participation from every member! That's a lotta food, but with teamwork we'll be more than up to the challenge! The food and funds we collect will support the pantry at Christian Community Action in New Haven. For more information, contact Dianne Witte.

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### Jazz Vespers

#### St. Peter's Trip

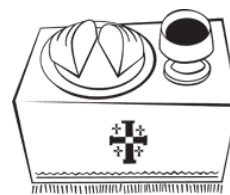
All at Bethesda are invited to join Lars and Pastor Tim for a trip of inspiration to St. Peter's in Manhattan, to experience their famous Jazz Vespers on April 10

(5pm). We car-pool to Union Station, take Metro North to Grand Central, walk to St. Peter's Church, get quick dinner after the service. Let Lars or Pastor Tim know if you are interested. We will take ideas from what we hear for our own jazz liturgy!

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### Have you noticed?

Pastor Keyl has started a Blog! Visit our website at [www.bethesdanewhaven.org](http://www.bethesdanewhaven.org) and click on the link!



### Altar Guild

The first meeting of the Altar Guild was held on Sunday, March 20th and it was a success with 13 people in attendance. The food was good, ideas were good and we have a plan for action. We decided that a few things need polishing and a few need organizing and cataloging. So, we'd like to encourage as many church members to join us on April 16th at 9:30 to have a little breakfast and to work until noon on these "few" things before the festival of Easter. Thank you to those that came on Sunday and anyone interested is welcome as we serve the Lord in beautifying his house.

--- Barbara Stark

### Wednesday Morning Bible Study:



Our series on *Healthy Habits* continues on April 13 and 27.

You are invited to attend our bi-weekly gatherings with light food and fellowship, biblical readings, and lively discussions. Everyone is welcome. We start at 8:00 and end at 9:00 am, meeting in the Parish House living room.

## **From the Pastor: A Vigil to Remember**

Alexander was nine years old, and eager to be baptized. We met in my office with his mother Dalia, and his sponsor, Linda. He ate up Bible stories and conversation about the joy of faith in Christ. In a kind of crescendo to the Easter Vigil, during the Sundays in Lent I prayed for Alexander with him in front of God and everybody. He was ready.

I placed a kiddie pool in the narthex, and put a plain sheet over the duckies and fishies decorating the base of the pool. Alexander's father came early and dragged a hose from the custodians closet to fill the pool (his father prepared his bath!).

After proclaiming the return of the light with a new Paschal (Easter) candle, after keeping Vigil with root stories from the Hebrew Scriptures, Alexander, white-robed, was immersed by me, the white-robed pastor, in the cover of darkness.

He emerged like quite a new Alexander, claimed by God as beloved child, marked for a new life in Christ, oiled and sealed by the gift of the Spirit. After drying off, he, his parents, his sponsors, his pastor, and the whole worshipping assembly were beaming. It's like the light had a unique glow that night.

The lights of the church nave went up, we shouted our Alleluias, and rejoiced at the palpable experience of Easter's power at the Vigil.

It's not every year that there is a baptism at the Easter Vigil, though there could be. It is every year that we get to give thanks for the waters of new life which is modeled after Jesus' own passage from darkness to light.

This year I am looking forward to the celebration of the Three Days—Maundy Thursday—Good Friday—Easter Vigil, one continuous liturgy that culminates in the return of Alleluias, the joy of Christ's resurrection, the palpable experience of Easter's power.

It will be my first time as Bethesda's pastor, and I'm sure it will be a Vigil to remember. Won't you come?

Pastor Tim Keyl

*Blessed be God who chose  
you in Christ.*

*You are God's work of art,  
created in Christ Jesus.*

*You are now God's children,  
my dearest friends  
What you shall be in glory  
has not yet been revealed.*

*Happy are those who have  
washed their robes clean,  
Washed in the blood of the  
Lamb!*

*You have put on Christ.  
In him you have been  
baptized.  
Alleluia, alleluia.*

Pastor Tim Keyl



Pastor Keyl in the Jordan River



## March Council Corner

Several committees reported activities underway, and the Council accepted the summaries of their ministries with gratitude. Notably, the Worship and Music Committee reported that new white paraments will arrive in time for Easter; the Music Series Committee's Prometheus Quintet concert March 20 had an attendance of over 90 and an offering of \$1400 for Habitat for Humanity; the Communications Committee has produced Bethesda's first electronic newsletter; the Stewardship Committee will promote the use of electronic funds transfer for pledge payments; the Evangelism Committee reported that a dozen people are interested in joining the upcoming inquirers class; the Altar Guild has made plans to spruce up the sacristy for Easter; and the Executive Committee discussed making the small parish house apartment available to pastoral candidate Lorraine Peterson in exchange for her service as building caretaker until she receives a call or until a permanent tenant is found.

Treasurer Ian Bjorkman explained the reports prepared for each meeting and pointed out our congregation's top expenses. He noted that giving is currently 5% ahead of budget but reminded us that we have challenged ourselves to a budget that is 10% greater than the congregation pledging provided.

Pastor Keyl sought guidance on whether to have two services on the Sunday morning of Easter. After discussion, which included consideration of the minimal attendance at the early Sunday service throughout the year and the offering of the Saturday night Vigil service, the Council voted to have one service at 10 a.m. Easter Sunday.

The Council continued planning for a congregational leadership retreat on May 7.

Dianne Witte, Council President

### Offering Update - Keep up with your pledge!

The 2011 Budget passed at the Annual meeting is a "Challenge Budget." Given the economic conditions, your pledge is vital to the health of Bethesda. If you pledged, be sure to fulfill your offering on time. If you haven't yet pledged, we welcome your commitment at any time, simply contact Clare in the office.

	2010	2011	Ahead/Behind	%
As of 3/27	\$35,353	\$37,367	\$2,014	6%
Yr End	\$158,237	\$176,000*	17,763	11%

\*Budgeted based on projections from pledges and past giving habits.



Bethesda voted this year on a budget that assumes members will give ten percent more than we pledged last fall. Where to find that extra ten percent? I want to be generous, but don't always know where to find the money. On one hand, this is a matter of trusting God to provide. But it's also a question of developing a mindset that recognizes opportunities and resources that aren't always immediately visible.

One way is to look for unexpected resources—'found money.' The humorist Calvin Trillin writes about what he calls "Alice's Law of Compensatory Cashflow [named for his wife], which holds that any money not spent on a luxury one considered even briefly is the equivalent of windfall income and should be spent accordingly. If you decide, for instance, that buying a \$500 color television set would be an act of lunacy, you have an extra \$500 that you 'saved' on the television set available to spend on something else."

Many of us treat tax refunds as found money which we can use for vacations or other luxuries. While God certainly wants us to enjoy life, some of this money could be given for others. This year, I'm planning to give a tithe of my tax refund to Bethesda. Won't you think about doing that, too?

Chris Wigren



## “A New Jerusalem”

New England Synod’s Companion Synod Mission  
Trip to  
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and  
the Holy Land (ELCJHL)  
Tour Leader: Pastor Tim Keyl  
Bethesda Lutheran Church  
New Haven, Connecticut

**Tour Dates: Nov. 1-15, 2011**

**Approximate cost: \$3,500**

(subject to airfare and accommodations;  
**includes airfare, double occupancy, breakfast and dinner,  
ground transportation, fees, and gratuities)**

*The Global Mission Team and Bishop Margaret Payne invite you to be transformed by the “living stones” of the Holy Land, to pray and learn as pilgrims, and to be companions for our brothers and sisters who seek peace with justice. Pastor Keyl spent the first part of his sabbatical in 2006 at the Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem. Pastor Keyl has returned to the Holy Land in 2007, 2008, and 2009, and currently serves as coordinator for the synod’s relationship with the ELCJHL.*

**Space is limited! Please indicate your interest to Pastor Keyl, and secure your space by making a deposit of \$500 (checks only, please) payable to New England Synod, memo: “2011 Holy Land Trip” by April 25, 2010. Mail checks to New England Synod, PO Box 13, Worcester, MA 01614-0013, indicating “2011 Holy Land Trip” on the memo and providing your contact information.**

**For more information or contact Pastor Keyl at 203-787-2346 or [pastorkeyl@snet.net](mailto:pastorkeyl@snet.net). See web postings at [www.nesynod.org](http://www.nesynod.org)**

The submission deadline for the next issue of  
*The Visitor* is  
Sunday, April 17

Please e-mail your submissions to Nora Lee at  
[bethesda.visitor@gmail.com](mailto:bethesda.visitor@gmail.com) *Thank you!*

Nora Lee, Editor, Clare Couture, Production Manager ([bethesda@snet.net](mailto:bethesda@snet.net))  
Visit our Web page: [www.bethesdanewhaven.org](http://www.bethesdanewhaven.org)

## Music News for Holy Week and Easter!



Music is central to our worship life at Bethesda and will continue to be so

during Holy Week! The choir and soloists will add their expressive contributions to the dramatic stories, chanting the Passion on Palm Sunday, sharing powerful and solemn songs on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and leading us all through the Vigil and Easter Morning services. Our own chamber orchestra will add majesty and joy to the resurrection celebration, playing solo music and colorful accompaniments for the exuberant Easter hymns! Those interested in joining the choir for the "Halleluja" chorus during the offering on Easter are encouraged to attend at least one Sunday morning or Wednesday evening rehearsal, or the rehearsal at 6:45pm before the Easter Vigil, to make sure you find the communal sound and spirit with the rest of the choir! You might also enjoy learning some of the soaring descants written for our Easter service!

--- Lars Gjerde

## BYG

**April Lock-In:** This awesome event will be sponsored by Christ the King, Nashua at an athletic center in Milford, NH on **April 29-30**, where about 100 youth come to stay up all night and do activities: tennis courts, rock-climbing wall, volleyball, swimming pool, basketball or hang out and watch movies, talk with others etc. The band *Captive Free* will be headlining the event! It sounds like a blast, so join your fellow youth and sign up.

\$35 per Youth - registration is due by April 15<sup>th</sup>. You can see Meg or Mike Carnaroli ([m\\_carnaroli@yahoo.com](mailto:m_carnaroli@yahoo.com)) or Pastor Keyl for more information. Hope to see you there!

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## Children, Youth and Family Calendar of Events

**April 10-** All at Bethesda are invited to join Lars and Pastor Tim for a trip of inspiration to St. Peter's in Manhattan, to experience their famous **Jazz Vespers on April 10 (5pm)**. We car-pool from Bethesda at 1:30 pm to Union Station, take Metro North to Grand Central, walk to St. Peter's Church, get quick dinner after the service. Let Lars or Pastor Tim know if you are interested. We will take ideas from what we hear for our jazz liturgy on June 12.

**April 17-** Intergenerational Sunday!!! Craft-making, fellowship & lunch after worship.

**April 23 (Saturday)- TENTATIVE.** Getting ready for Easter (dying eggs, decorating the tables for the Easter breakfast, etc.).

**April 24-** EASTER!!! Children in Gail's group will receive communion with their families during Easter worship. The members of Gail's class are Clara, Eleanor, Matthew, Jack, Christopher, and Alex (As indicated by Pastor, each family will decide if their child will participate. Please talk to Pastor if you have questions.)

**May 1<sup>st</sup>-** Congregational pot luck in honor of new members and the children receiving Communion. Look in the bulletin and on the website for details.

**May 22-** Congregational Picnic & games for young people (sack race, egg toss, and others...) 11:00 AM



The yummy "Good Meal" prepared by the youth with proceeds going to Japan disaster relief.

## Some photos of our actively involved children & youth!



Mike Carnaroli, Bethany Keyl, Meg Carnaroli, and Andrés González hang out in the youth room during the February Super Saturday. The next Super Saturday is April 2.



Sunday School children sing during worship on March 27.



Priscilla speaks to the children about sharing as coin boxes are collected for *God's Global Barnyard*



Clockwise from front: Emma Davies, Matthew Labanara, Ruth Cortright, Sara Davies, David Judd.

***Bethesda's Prayer List:***

***For Healing and strength:*** Almira Muschamp, mother of Sue Berube; Oscar Roos; Bob Lehet; Ruth Beaumont; James DeVore, brother of Carole DeVore; Nancy Bailey, cousin of Lisa Randall and Leslie Dunn; Gabriella Moulard, daughter-in-law of Carol Moulard, Verna Carlson; Adele Larson, mother of Doreen Larson Oboyski; Ed Abeling; Ray Anderson; Linda Salisbury; Betty Neal; Betty Henrickson; George Lindbeck; Robert Evenson; Aina Smith; Len DeNardis; Sylvia Dunn; Ruth Mood; Jeanette Tykson; Ruth Jacobson; Rita Wissink.

***For those serving in the military:*** including members and friends of Bethesda ***and the chaplains of our churches who serve them.***

***For our partners in the Gospel:*** the congregations and schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In Jordan & The Holy Land (ELCJHL); Luther House; our mission partners, Resurrection Lutheran Church in New Haven, and the Pangani Children's Centre, Nairobi, Kenya, in its ministry to those living with the impact of AIDS and hunger in Africa.

***For Bethesda:*** that God continues to guide us into the future with ministries of witness and service while building up our community in all of its diversity.

***For those preparing for ministry:*** Tracy Swan Tuite, Lorraine Peterson, Abby Ferjak, and Ben Groth.