



Bethesda Lutheran Church
"Welcome One Another"

The Visitor

Christmas 2011

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

Find this newsletter also on the web at bethesdanewhaven.org

Advent at Bethesda Continues

Throughout the Season of Advent ...

You have filled the hungry with good things



**Advent Evening Prayer
with World Hunger Vignettes**

Wednesday Evenings
6:30 PM in the Chapel
December 14, December 21

Join Pastor Keyl in praying Evening Prayer each week at 6:30 in the Chapel. During Evening Prayer, we will sing a different version of the Magnificat each of the remaining Wednesdays in Advent.

4th Sunday of Advent **Sunday, December 18**



The children of the **Sunday School** will present the **Christmas story** during worship.

A Congregational Meeting immediately follows the worship service. to vote on furthering Bethesda's Capital Campaign. This will be based on the

summary of the Resource Assessment presented by Pastor Renee LiaBraaten of Kairos on December 4th.

Following the meeting ...

Everyone in Church decorates the Chrismon Tree!

Following our decorating, head downstairs for a **Scandinavian Potluck Luncheon** to celebrate our Swedish heritage and the light and warmth of the advent season. See Doreen Larson-Oboyski to sign up to bring your specialty! Following the pot luck you are invited to join a group going **caroling** to some of our homebound members

Inside the Christmas Issue...

- Evangelism Efforts.....Page 2
- Annual Meeting Announcement.....Page 2
- Staff Christmas Greeting.....Page 3



Christmas Eve, 4:00 PM, in
the Sanctuary

A Worship Service including the singing of many Christmas hymns, a meditation with younger worshippers in mind, celebration of Holy Communion.

Christmas Eve, 10:00 PM
In the Sanctuary

A festive Candlelight Communion Service featuring special music.

Christmas Day, 9:30 AM, in
the Chapel

Christmas hymns, listening to the Word of God, celebration of Holy Communion and a Christmas Day meditation are all part of worship on this special day.

*"Oh come, let us
adore Him!"*



New Year's Day, 9:30 AM
in the Chapel

The Name of Jesus
**There is no Learning Hour
on January 1.**



Coffee Cart

The evangelism committee has been hard at work seeking ways to be even more welcoming here at Bethesda. To that end, Katie Gehner has taken the lead in offering satellite coffee to folks during the learning hour. The moms and dads who attend the baby and toddler class in the choir room have been most appreciative of the mobile coffee cart that stops in their room. It is no small task to get coffee while holding an infant or chasing a new walker. Similarly, Katie has dropped off coffee to the Living Room for Adult Forum attendees. Great for a second cup or for those who thought there may not be enough time to grab a cup and get up to the Living Room to get a good seat.

We are very thankful to Katie for taking the lead and fulfilling an idea born in a committee. If you are interested in helping her with this, see Katie or Nora Lee.

The next meeting of the Evangelism Committee will be Thursday, January 12, 2012 at 9:15am in the Living Room. Feel free to attend with ideas or questions.

Bequest

Bethesda will soon receive a bequest from the estate of Nancy Fredericksen. Nancy was not a member of Bethesda but was a active member of the Lydia Circle of the Bethesda Women's Organization that was at one time active. She was an executive secretary to the financial officer who was Paul Weisman at Olin Corporation in New Haven. She died about 3 years ago when she was in her late 80's. Nancy was very proud of her Danish heritage and traveled to Denmark often as well as to other countries. Nancy was a good friend of Stina and Betty Neal and to others in the Lydia Circle.

Submitted by Katie Gehner



Wednesday Morning Bible Study

The next *Book of Faith* series of sessions focuses on the Holy Spirit. Titled "Blowing in the Wind" the individual sessions will lead our studies into topics like, the new birth, the promise of the Spirit, the coming of the Spirit, Sanctification, gifts of the Spirit, and the Spirit speaks. This series continues on 21 December 2011 and will continue bi-weekly through February 15, 2012.

Everyone is invited to join us from 8:00 to 9:00 am as we gather for early morning greetings, a light breakfast, Bible readings, and lively discussions. Let God's Word blossom in every heart to live daily in His service.

+ + + +

REMINDER: Any year-end gifts to Bethesda must be dated no later than December 31, 2011 and must be in the office on or before January 3rd. Thank you!

Bethesda at the Bowl

Thanks to our great hosts Don, Clarissa and Larsson for the tailgate event at the Yale Harvard game. Yale scored first, and Bethesdians enjoyed great fellowship. Thanks Don and family.



Bethesda Music Series

Mark your calendars for the ecumenical Hymn Festival at Bethesda on February 5 at 4pm. This festival, which is part of the Bethesda Music Series, will include singers from other church choirs and will raise funds for Habitat for Humanity.



Bethesda's Annual Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 29th** and the report books will be available for review by January 22. The last possible date for submission of annual reports to be included in the report book is January 9th. Please submit your report via email and in Word format to make the process go smoothly. Extra copies of last year's report are in the church office if you wish to review them.

Prayers for Bethesda Members and Friends

For Healing and strength: Grace Johnson; Jack Kirschner; Joanne Kimball; Anne Keyl, sister-in-law of Pastor Keyl; Len DeNardis; Margaret Stark, mother of Barbara; Charles Dupré; Helen Blade; Nils Svensén; Ruth Mattson; Oscar Roos; Verna Carlson; Ed Abeling; Ray Anderson; Linda Salisbury; Betty Neal; Betty Henrickson; George Lindbeck; Robert Evenson; Aina Smith; Sylvia Dunn; Ruth Mood; Jeanette Tykson; and Rita Wissink.

For those serving in the military: including family of Bethesda members *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: Oscar Lied, Tracy Swan Tuite, Abby Ferjak, and Ben Groth.

For those preparing for baptism: Greta Marie Morbach and her parents Caroline and Henner.

Pastoral emergencies: Please contact the church office (203-787-2346) with any pastoral emergencies. Outside of regular church office hours, you may reach Pastor Keyl at home at 203-823-9234, or on his cell phone at 603-533-7537.

Special Recognition for our Members:

In thanks to God
We recognize and honor
the 2011 Congregational Advocates for
Bethesda Lutheran Church, New Haven, CT
for their dedication and faithful service to help bring additional
support
for ministries at Bethesda

Judith J. Evenson
Katherine E. Gehner

The New Haven Chapter #31017 of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans



From the Staff of Bethesda Lutheran Church

Pastor Timothy Keyl

Oscar Lied
Parish Assistant

Clare Couture,
Admin Asst

Maureen Anderson,
Office Asst

Lars Gjerde,
Music Director

Becky Lerud,
Financial Sec'y

Chloe Groth,
Caretaker

Meg Carnaroli,
Youth Ministry Director