

## Lessons and Carols Worship Service

**Sunday, December 13, 9:15 and 10:45 am**

It was the custom in the Church of England to tell the Christmas story on Christmas Eve with the reading of nine lessons from Scripture linked with nine carols or Christmas anthems sung by the choir and the congregation. We have adapted that service for the season of Advent and Christmas and present it two weeks earlier on Sunday morning, December 13, at our morning worship (9:15 and 10:45 AM) so that more of our Bethel members can hear it and participate in it.

From the Bethel Choir, **"Of the Father's Love Begotten"** – although the tune dates back to the 12th Century and the text back to about 410 AD, this magnificent "new" setting by 20th century composer, Sir David Willcocks, tells of Jesus' originating from the love of God.

**"Whence is that Goodly Fragrance"** – a French Carol, the shepherds are awe struck as all their senses come alive. Something is happening – haste, go see!

**"Sans Day Carol"** – a spritely Cornish Carol which links the holly tree with the various colors of its berries' life to the birth and sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

**"Born on Earth, the Divine Christ Child"** – a French Carol celebrating the arrival of the promised One, such beauty, such charm, such grace!

**"Shepherds Pipe Carol"** – a John Rutter favorite, this fun-

### Stewardship Card Reminder

Please remember to mail or drop-off your orange stewardship card with your 2010 estimate of support for Bethel's unified budget. Please use the personalized card that was mailed to you that includes your name, address, and envelope number. Extra cards and envelopes are located at the Reception Desk, the Ask Me Desk in the Emmaus Room, and the hymnal cart in the Pentecost Room. Thank you!

## Advent Wreath Prayer: Week 2

Light the first candle for love and the second candle for peace.

Prayer: Dear God, we pray for the places in our world that do not know your steadfast love. We ask that your Son, the Prince of Peace, bring hope and comfort to them. Help us to love one another and to bring happiness, goodness, and peace to the world. In Jesus' name, amen.

loving and playful carol tells the story from the view of a little shepherd boy.

The Women's Choir will sing **"Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day"** – an English Carol in which Jesus is the dancer who calls us, His true love, to join his dance.

**"Hodie!"** – a 20th Century musical burst of energy proclaiming the birth of Christ.

The Handbell Choir will bring the prelude that day, so come early and enjoy the festivities! As always, this is a grand opportunity to invite friends to come worship with you.

## Circle of Love Update

As the death toll from the H1N1 virus rises to at least 265 in Ukraine, we look to what we can do to help our friends in the Circle of Love program next summer. The chronic effect of radiation poisoning from the Chernobyl accident more than 20 years ago continues to manifest itself in suppressed immune systems, tooth decay and heart disease leaving the children we host, and their families, vulnerable to infections and disease. By hosting a child for 6 weeks we not only provide medical, dental and vision care but we allow their immune systems to regenerate enough that when they return home they are healthier and their immune systems are less vulnerable.

Eight host families are needed for children between the ages of 8 and 12 as well as 2 chaperone hosts. Successful host families have been families that have kids and those without, working and retired, young and not-so-young. All are Bethel members who are willing to open their hearts and their lives for 6 weeks.

## Circle of Love Christmas Sale

Come to our annual Christmas Sale on Sunday morning, December 13, to support Bethel's program that is improving dental care in the Borodyanka community and (*continued p 3*)



## Christmas Improvisation

At one time it was our family custom to decorate the Christmas tree on Christmas eve morning. During this time my two children and Gustavo, our Venezuelan exchange-student-son went shopping for a Christmas tree after dark on December 23. Only one Christmas tree lot in our small town still had trees and it was closed. However, the owner had left a note listing the price of the trees and telling the buyers to leave the money in a locked metal box.

Blessed only with the light that came from a street lamp many yards away, and my car head lights, which we aimed at the trees from the street, we began to select our tree. One by one we held them up in the dim light until the four of us found a tree that was just right.

We put our money in the box, loaded the tree in our trunk and proudly brought the tree into the living room and presented our prize to a skeptical Sally, who believed we had waited much too long to go shopping. With an I-told-you-attitude I began to talk about the wonders of this perfect find. Initially she agreed that it was a terrific specimen, especially given the late hour.

As we began to put the tree in its holder we discovered why no one else had selected it. We didn't have one tree, but two. Some ingenious soul had bound two imperfect trees together and formed one. Pure improvisation.

By the way, the base of the tree was so large that it didn't fit into our Christmas tree stand, forcing us to nail it to a sheet of plywood and use guy wires to make certain that it didn't fall.

As the years have passed our family looks back on that Christmas as one of our best. One of the reasons was

## From The Pastor

that we had Gustavo to add spice to our celebrations.

In addition to the Norwegian customs in our family, we added some of his South American customs to the food and the celebrations.

The other reason that Christmas was special was because of our need to improvise. When you think of it, improvisation is a part of the Christmas story. When things didn't go exactly right for Mary and Joseph on that first Christmas, they were forced to go to plan B. Thus Jesus was born in a manger, among animals, not in a hospital or a motel. The best stories are not about things that turn out perfectly, but those where people find that things don't go according to plan. Most good stories include some form of improvisation.

That is certainly true of Christmas stories. Christmas tells us that love rolls with the punches. Love adjusts.

As we read the stories of scripture we discover that grace always comes as a surprise. We mess up, expect condemnation, and instead God offers forgiveness. We expect punishment and we are surprised by joy. What appears to be the end turns out to be a glorious new beginning.

Our friend Herb Brokering, who recently died, included this idea in many of his hymns. He wrote, "*Thine the kingdom thine the prize, thine the wonderful surprise.*" (With One Voice-801) Again, (With One Voice-734) "*Bless our bread, open our eyes: Jesus, be our great surprise.*"

Christmas says: Jesus is our great surprise. Who expects that God would become human? Who would expect that that God the omnipotent would become a weak, helpless baby?

I hope that God's great surprise will break into your Christmas and that you will stand for a few moments in awe and wonder at what your loving God has done for you. As you listen to the wonderful music and you hear the awesome Christmas story I pray that you will be surprised by the wonderful story of God's grace. If you allow it to touch you, you will discover that again, God's light shines in the midst of the world's darkness.

~ Pastor Bill White



## EDUCATION Getting Ready For Sunday School

**Story:** Zechariah

**Biblical Text:** Luke 1:68-79

**Bible Point:** We can all be messengers for God.

**Key Bible Verse:** *For he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.* Luke 1:68b (NRSV)

**Prayer:** Dear God, Thank you for the good news of Jesus and John! Help us to be like Zechariah and share your love and good news with others. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Bethel Lutheran Church

### Pastoral Staff

**William R. White**, Senior Pastor  
**Curtis P. Everson**, Visitation & Worship  
**Duane E. Hanson**, Bethel Horizons  
**Laura M. Sutherland**, Care Ministry  
**Pedro M. Suárez**, Latino Ministries  
**John O. Swanson**, Confirmation/Visitation

### Program Staff

**Mary C. Conlin**, Director XYZ / Volunteers  
**Stacy A. Gahlman-Schroeder**, Senior Pastor's Assistant  
**Anita M. Grue, AIM**, Coordinator of Youth Ministries  
**Gary E. Lewis**, Director of Music/Organist  
**Timothy T. Miller**, Director of Communications  
**Alice T. Mowbray**, Business Administrator and  
Director of Development  
**Cindi J. Schwab & Ray A. Weihofen**, Asst Bus Admin  
**Jacqui P. Shanda**, Director of Parish Education

## Contact Us

**Address:** 312 Wisconsin Avenue, Madison WI 53703  
**Office Hours:** Mon-Fri, 8:30 am to 5 pm, Sat, 9 am to 1 pm  
**Phone:** 608-257-3577 **Fax:** 608-257-4044  
**Email:** bethel@bethel-madison.org  
**Web:** www.bethel-madison.org

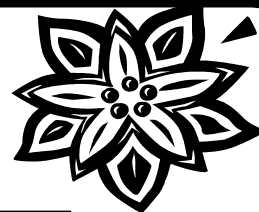
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## Cover Story *continued*

sponsors respite for their children. You will find Ukrainian hand-crafts, handmade cookies and candies and the 2009 Circle of Love ornament. Past host families will also be available to chat informally about their experiences.

For more information on how you can help the Circle of Love program please contact Jacqui Shanda, Program Coordinator or Susan Straus, Host Family Coordinator at 257-3577.

## Poinsettia Christmas Garden



Please submit **separate checks** for Poinsettias and the Food Pantry. The deadline for gifts to be recognized in the Christmas Eve bulletin is Tuesday, December 8, 2009. Please print clearly:

(circle one) In Memory / Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of plants \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12.00 = Total \$\_\_\_\_\_ Cash/ or Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

(Plants designated for Bethel members who are homebound may be picked up on Christmas Day after the 10:00 am worship service. Others remain to decorate the sanctuary until 3:00 pm on December 27.)

\_\_\_ Please take my plant(s) to a Bethel Shut in. \_\_\_ I will pick up my plant(s) on Christmas Day to take to a special Shut-in.

\_\_\_ I will pick up my plant(s) at 3:00 pm on Sunday December 27.

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Amt \$\_\_\_\_\_ Cash/ or Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_

Bethel Lutheran Church

Due December 8, 2009

December 2 2009 Bethelite † 3



**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 312 Wisconsin Ave., Madison, WI 53703-4106

*Dated Material*

Address Service Requested

**Requested in home  
 by December 5th**

NONPROFIT ORG  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 MADISON, WI  
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Worship Schedule  
 Second Sunday of Advent  
 December 6, 2009  
 Saturday 5:00 † Pastor Bill White  
 Sunday 7:55, 9:15 † Pastor Bill White  
 Sunday 10:45 † Pastor Laura Sutherland  
 Sunday 12:30 pm † Spanish  
 Padre Pedro Suarez

**Malachi 3:1-4/Baruch 5:1-9 Luke 1:68-79**  
**Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6**

Today's statewide telecast is given in memory of  
 Roger Loff and his mother Angie Loff  
 by family and friends.

Worship at Bethel Telecast Information

**Madison** WKOW-TV 27 **Green Bay\*** 8:30 am WACY-TV 32  
**Eau Claire\*** **Milwaukee-Cable 15\***  
 9:00 am WQOW-TV 18 9:30 am WPXE-PAX 55  
**La Crosse \*** **Mausau\***  
 9:00 am WXOW-TV 19 9:00 am WFXS-TV 55  
 \*Telecast delayed one week.

**Bethel Calendar † December 6-12, 2009**

**Dec 6 Second Sunday of Advent**

6:45a Coffee Fellowship - *Fireside Gallery*  
 7:30a Nature Shop Sale - *Borgwardt Hall Corridor*  
 7:55a **Worship Service - Sanctuary**  
 8:30a Childcare available until 2:00 pm - *Nursery*  
 Genesis Café - *Borgwardt Hall*  
 8:45a Library open until 11:45 am  
 9:15a **Worship Service - Sanctuary**  
 Sunday School - *see posted room assignments*  
 Confirmation Homerooms - *Rooms 200, 201, 214, GR, MS*  
 Band rehearsal for 10:45 Worship Service - *Choir Room*  
 10:15a Cherub Choir - *Room 202*  
 Junior Youth Choir - *Pentecost Room*  
 10:30a God's Standard or Gold Standard - *Good Shepherd Chapel*  
 ESL Classes - *Room 216B*  
 10:45a **Worship Service - Sanctuary**  
 Junior Youth Handbells - *Room 219B*  
 Confirmation Homerooms - *Rooms 201 and 218*  
 11:00a Sunday School until noon - *Rooms 204, 210, and 212*  
 11:45a Latino Children's Choir - *Room 202*  
 12:30p **LA SANTA MISA / Worship Service - Sanctuary**  
 1:30p Refrigerio - *Borgwardt Hall*  
 6:00p Caroling in the Woods Christmas Supper - *Bethel Horizons*

**Dec 7 Monday**

8:30a Friendship Pad Volunteers - *Room 104*  
 Noon Friendly Visitors - *Library*  
 5:00p Decorate Christmas Trees - *Building*  
 6:30p Latino Senior High Youth - *Youth Room*  
 7:00p Bethel Series Intensive NT - *Good Shepherd Chapel*

**Dec 8 Tuesday**

8:30am Statement Stuffers - *Room 216*  
 9:00a Library open until noon  
 10:30a Homeless Spiritual Support Group - *Good Shepherd Chapel*  
 12:30p Homeless Book Group - *Good Shepherd Chapel*  
 3:30p Southdale After School - *Pentecost Room & Fireside Gallery*  
 5:00p Grupo Latino Practica de Musica - *Sanctuary*  
 5:15p Women's Choir - *Choir Room*  
 6:30p Creative Worship Singers - *Choir Room*  
 Advanced Computer Class - *Pentecost Room*  
 6:45p Separated & Divorce Group - *Good Shepherd Chapel, Libr, 101*  
 7:00p Renew Circle - *Room 100*  
 Conversational Norwegian Class - *Library Media Room*  
 7:45p Band rehearsal for 10:45 Worship Service - *Sanctuary*

**Dec 9 Wednesday**

9:30a **Midweek Chapel - Good Shepherd Chapel**  
 5:00p Decorate Christmas Trees - *Building*  
 5:30p Bethel Ringers - *Room 202*  
 6:30p Hot Topics - *Youth Room*  
 8:00p Senior Youth Ensemble - *Choir Room*

**Dec 10 Thursday**

7:00a Current Christian Concerns - *Library Media Room*  
 3:30p Southdale After School - *Pentecost Room & Fireside Gallery*  
 6:30p Stephen Minister Continuing Education - *Room 200, 201*  
 Beginners Computer Class - *Pentecost Room*  
 6:30p Bethel Choir - *Sanctuary and Balcony*  
 7:00p Bethel Choir - *Choir Room*

**Dec 11 Friday**

7:00a Men's Book Study - *Borgwardt Hall*  
 8:00a Choral Music - *Sanctuary, Emmaus Rooms A, B, C*  
 9:30a XYZ - *multiple rooms*  
 5:00p Couples Club Set-up - *Borgwardt Hall, Kitchen*  
 6:00p Couples Club Set-up - *Borgwardt Hall, Pentecost Room*

**Dec 12 Saturday**

8:00a Bible Study - *Library*  
 9:00a Latino Yoga Class - *Emmaus Room*  
 Theology in Discipleship with Pr. Pedro - *Room 216*  
 9:30a Bethel Choir Rehearsal - *Sanctuary and Balcony*  
 5:00p **Worship Service - Pentecost Room**