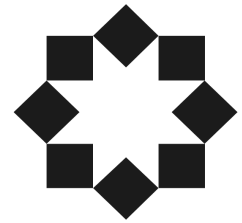


Following The Star of Bethlehem



Weekly newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Also known as the Vagabond Lutherans

Good News for this week...

Jan. 15 - 21, 2012

Epiphany

John 1:43-51 (The Message)

Come, See for Yourself

⁴³⁻⁴⁴The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. When he got there, he ran across Philip and said, "Come, follow me." (Philip's hometown was Bethsaida, the same as Andrew and Peter.)

⁴⁵⁻⁴⁶Philip went and found Nathanael and told him, "We've found the One Moses wrote of in the Law, the One preached by the prophets. It's Jesus, Joseph's son, the one from Nazareth!" Nathanael said, "Nazareth? You've got to be kidding."

But Philip said, "Come, see for yourself."

⁴⁷When Jesus saw him coming he said, "There's a real Israelite, not a false bone in his body."

⁴⁸Nathanael said, "Where did you get that idea? You don't know me."

Jesus answered, "One day, long before Philip called you here, I saw you under the fig tree."

⁴⁹Nathanael exclaimed, "Rabbi! You are the Son of God, the King of Israel!"

⁵⁰⁻⁵¹Jesus said, "You've become a believer simply because I say I saw you one day sitting under the fig tree? You haven't seen anything yet! Before this is over you're going to see heaven open and God's angels descending to the Son of Man and ascending again."

In this lesson Jesus is gathering followers, and turning them into disciples.

What comes to your mind when you hear Jesus say, "You have not seen anything yet!"

People together

TODAY JAN 15: Worship at 11:00 am and Adult Forum at 9:30 at Augustana Lutheran, 2710 NE 14th Ave

ALSO TODAY JAN 15: Citywide MLK celebration and Worship at 6:00 pm at Augustana.

NEXT WEEK SUN. JAN 22: Worship at 11:00 am at Augustana Lutheran.

SATURDAY, FEB. 4: Special Congregational meeting 10:00 am—in the lodge at BLC.

SAT. & SUN. NOV. 26 & 27:
Children's Clothes Closet Sat. 12-2 PM and Sun. 12-1 PM. Volunteer ministers needed to set up Fri. at 5 PM, serve customers Sat., and clean up Sun. Contact Deb, Also, your donations of clean children's clothing in good condition are accepted. All clothes are free to families who need them.

Nesting Schedule:

January 1 through February 26: Augustana Lutheran Church

2710 NE 14th Ave, Portland

Sunday School & Adult Forum at 9:30

Classical Worship at 11:00 am

Planning the non-business part of the Congregational Meeting

Bethlehem Council members will host brunch for the Special Congregational meeting on February 4th. There will be coffee and tea, bagels, sweet breads and fruit (and maybe some deviled eggs, too!)

Please come be a part of this important moment in our congregation's life.

What's Next for Bethlehem?

The answer is... we do not know yet. We've worked really hard to get where we are today. And after the congregational meeting, we will know what will happen to the part of our congregation that we all said was the least important part of our life together... the building.

After the Special Congregational meeting on February 4th, we will slowly begin looking at the other parts of our congregation's life—how will we worship and fellowship together? What will our Congregation become? Who of us will find a Church home that fits their needs in another congregation, and who of us will continue on together as Bethlehem?

It is a difficult and yet exciting time to be a part of Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Report on the January 6th Epiphany Potluck

The Bethlehem potluck in January was fun! The food was delicious, adults had time to visit, children had time to play and no official business was discussed at any point. It was a good time of fellowship and simple enjoyment of each other's company. The overall feeling at the end of the evening was... We should do this again! So watch for announcements of the next potluck and fellowship gathering. Maybe even during Lent!

Clothes Closet to be open in January and February

Clothes Closet director Deb Schulz reports that the Bethlehem Clothes Closet will be open for business in January, and again in February. After that, the group will decide month by month—and also be praying for guidance as to where to continue this ministry. Volunteers will be needed as usual. And if you have clean, gently used children's clothing to donate, contact Deb at 503-516-4367.

OFFICIAL NOTICE:

On Saturday, February 4, 10:00 a.m. there will be a SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING to vote on the disposition of this congregation's building. This special meeting will be immediately followed by Part 2 of the ANNUAL MEETING so please plan to stay until noon!

Loving Relationships:

Birthdays:

Jan. 7 Judy Winchell

Jan. 10 Tate Young

Jan. 15 Josephine Rustvold

Jan. 24 Donna Dukleth

Wedding Anniversaries:

Anniversaries of Baptism:

Jan. 10 Myron Dalh

Jan. 11 Emmett Quigley

Jan. 27 Apryl Becker

a Reconciling in Christ congregation

Bethlehem Lutheran Church



...gathered by God...

...sent by God...

On a Journey in the Mt. Tabor & PLUM
Cluster Churches in Portland, Oregon

503-234-6569

ChurchOffice@BethlehemPortland.org

www.bethlehemportland.org

Find us on Facebook & Twitter.

Pastoral care in January and February:

Augustana Lutheran Church: 503-288-6174

Pastor Mark Knutson 503-757-3697

mark@augustana.org