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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
brooklynlutheran.com

**WEST LUTHERAN
HIGH SCHOOL**

Dinner Auction was a large success again. Funds were raised for a new projection / screen system in the gym, which among its applications will be a most welcomed potential for power point enrichment of worship. Other areas benefiting from the Auction include fine arts, tuition, and funds for Western Accents to make a spring break concert tour to Arizona. The band is planning a similar trip in 2011.

Parent/Teacher Conferences were well-attended – an indication of the interest parents have who send their children to West for the well-rounded education.

Fall sports are completed with numerous players receiving all-conference honors in football, volleyball, boys' and girls' soccer, and tennis. Of great benefit to our students, whenever possible arrangements are made for students to compete on a nearby team in sports we cannot offer. For instance, this winter one girl is doing gymnastics with the Rockford HS squad and a boy is playing hockey with the Providence Academy team(Plymouth).

Current enrollment is 164. We are pleased with an early enrollment for next fall of 23 prospective Freshmen. The Fall Play ("King Arthur's Calamity") drew about 1,000 elementary students for two school day performances.

Our corner development project turned out great! It ran \$11,000 over budget at \$247,000, mostly because of a decision

to go with a better corner LED sign. Well worth it! We thank all those who may have contributed toward the work!

On Sunday, November 15th, the Regents at their regularly scheduled meeting adopted plans to initiate a "weighted grading system" to benefit the grade point average of those taking advanced courses while at high school. They also adopted a policy to fine tune the opportunity for junior high students to fill out rosters on West teams lacking sufficient numbers. With the blessing of their grade school, boys and girls pre-enrolled at West will be allowed to compete on a high school level while still in eighth or even seventh grade.



The beginning weeks of school have flown by at school. It hardly seems possible that we are getting ready for winter. Our 4th Harvest Party went very well. Thank you again to everyone who came to help out. Each class has been full or very close to full since the beginning, and despite concerns over jobs and the economy, parents continue to send their children and find ways to pay tuition. Please continue to keep school our families in your prayers. The following months bring many projects and special days. After Thanksgiving, we will be holding our first semester **Parent/Teacher**

Mission Statement



*We exist to use the Gospel of
Christ to win the lost and to
nurture believers, all to the
glory of God.*

conferences on Dec. 4. I am planning to assemble **Gingerbread Houses on Friday, Dec. 11** after school. We will be decorating these houses on **Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 15 and 16.** This is a great project but it can always use helpers. The **Children's Christmas Program** will be in conjunction with the Advent Service on **Dec. 16.** During the month of January we would like to collect **Valentines for Soldiers** again. (This is to ensure that the cards, letters, and gifts will reach them by Valentine's Day) If you have a friend or relative serving our country that would appreciate a note from the children, please let me know their APO/FPO address. Also, thank you to everyone that keeps us supplied with recyclable art materials (egg cartons, paper towel tubes, etc.) If you see something you think might be useful for an art project, please feel free to bring it in. Watch for more news in upcoming bulletins! God's Blessings!

- Miss Koch

BROOKLYN BRIDGE BUCKS

Scrip is now known as Brooklyn Bridge Bucks. Every Sunday after church, you can purchase prepaid certificates or cards to pay for services and products from the merchants that you already use. A percentage of the purchase price goes directly to our school. These funds will be going towards new playground equipment for the school. See Cindy Boyd or Dawn Heebl if you have any questions, or check out www.scrip.com.

Brooklyn Ev. Lutheran Church



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Brooklyn Park, Minnesota 55429

Reverend Curtis J. Holub
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by Pastor Holub

**Create
in me a clean
heart, O God,
And renew a right
spirit within me.
Cast me not away
from Your presence
And take not Your
Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the
joy of Your salvation
And uphold me with
Your free Spirit. Amen.**
(Psalm 51:10-12 in language of
Christian Worship liturgy)

**GOD'S ANSWER
TO OUR PRAYER**

As I write this the week before Thanksgiving, President Obama is "paying" a visit to China beseeching them not to "pull the plug" on their massive borrowing of money to our government for its ongoing spending binge. Unemployment is up; the stock market is up, down, and around; the retail stores are not sure what to expect in sales for the Christmas holiday season. They know it won't be good, but how bad? And the whole world looks on, holding its breath because of the implications for them in the greatest economy on earth teetering.

Soon we will have, if not already, the traditional White House declaration calling for our country to observe another national day of Thanksgiving – but let's not be specific to Whom or for what we are to be thankful – a turkey dinner, a host of football games, peace, good weather, far more than reasonable health care for most Americans, and the non-spiritual list could go on. In the

Quarterly Newsletter—Winter,

midst of our celebrating America's abundance, a news report claims 20% of American children now live in homes that run out of food.

Will, and if so when, will America's status as a high standard of living country run out?! Might God already be calling us to repentance for forgetting about Him as we have focused on enjoying all the material blessings He has given?

Well we should pray: *Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us!* By all rights You should *cast us away from Your presence and take Your Holy Spirit from us.* But that isn't the nature of our God Who wants to bless and not to curse. Oh, at times – and perhaps this time on a grand scale - He may go to what seems like great lengths of allowing us to squirm, even suffer....with all kinds of concerns, not just material.

But He does allow those things to get

our attention. How much must He take away from us – short of His Holy Spirit – before our focus lands squarely on our salvation in the Bethlehem manger? To this question each could pray:

Do whatever it takes, Lord, to restore unto me the joy of Your salvation. Don't just uphold me, but strengthen me in faith through Your Holy Spirit, Whom You have graciously not taken from me, even if by all rights He should have long ago abandoned my filthy heart as His temple.

Dear friends – Celebrate all your blessings this Thanksgiving Season! And as we turn our attention toward Christmas in the weeks ahead, may our Lord among all the tinsel, lights, and gift wrap restore to you the joy of the invaluable salvation He has for you in the marvelous gift of His Son born into this world!

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE



Thanksgiving:	Wednesday, November 25-7:00 pm Thursday, November 26—9:00 am
Advent:	Wednesday, Preschool and choir Service, December 16—6:30 pm
Christmas:	Church Decorating, Sunday, December 6 following Service Children's Service, Sunday, December 20—10:00 am Thursday, Christmas Eve—10:00 pm Friday, Christmas Day— 9:00 am
New Year's:	Thursday, New Year's Eve—7:00 pm

SHEPHERD SATURDAZE

Starting in December we will be getting the Sunday School children and youth of the congregation together for a day of projects, music, and fun. Our first day will be Saturday, Dec. 5th from 1:30—3:30. Some of the things we plan to do are making fleece blankets, decorating Christmas cookies, singing carols, and watching a video of the Christmas story. If all goes well, we would like to have a day like this every month. If you have ideas for projects in the future or you would like to help, please speak to Katie Koch or Jean Holub.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

With summer behind us our grass cutting crews will have the winter off. Our fall cleanup went well as we prepared our building and grounds for the winter. We should have adequate heat and everything should be up and running efficiently throughout the winter months.

A special thanks to all the volunteers for your countless hours of dedication to keep our Church beautiful and functioning. All your help during the summer and fall have really paid off, with each task, I must say the volunteers came prepared and ready for the job at hand.

Guy Schimenz

“JOB JAR” -

Willing hands are needed to undertake the following during remaining nicer fall days:

- *Wash windows
- *Blow together and pick up leaves on lawn, using mower equipment.
(Pick up litter first!)
- *Put storms on the chapel windows.
- *Cut out underbrush among trees along property line with the machine shop (east line)

LADIES GUILD

The Ladies Guild is a study/fellowship/service organization. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month. We had a potluck for our Mission Sunday. Pastor Piepenbrink of the Hmong Mission was our speaker for that day. On October 31, we had a “Fun With Fleece Day.” We made fleece lap blankets for our shut ins. Some brought their own fleece and made blankets for themselves or gifts. We had a wonderful time. Our Ladies Guild would like to have a couple more of those fun days during the year. We are looking for someone with a special interest, a craft, a book or an idea that would be interesting for a group of ladies. If you have such an idea please let one of our executive committee members know.

We served lunch for Evelyn Halvarson’s funeral. Evelyn was a long time member of Brooklyn Lutheran and of our Ladies Guild. She was 100 years old. Elections were held on the November meeting. Julie Death will continue being president, Janice Budach, vice-president, Mavis Kuensting, Treasurer and Jean Holub was newly elected to become Secretary. If you would like to buy a poinsettia for our Christmas decorating, please sign up on the sheet by the bulletin board. Christmas decorating will be on Sunday, December 6 following the Service. Lunch will be provided.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

23 different children have participated in our Sunday School so far this fall! That is the good news. The bad news is that only a small nucleus has been regular in attendance. Three of our own member children have not attended at all, although extenuating circumstances are behind each case. Only eight of the participants are member children, making

for a whopping 15 non-member children who desperately need to be connected to their Savior!

A Sunday morning December 20 segment of the regular Service will allow the children to share their joy in the Savior’s birth through readings, recitations, and songs from the Christmas story. This will take place under the Theme: “Oh, Come! Let Us Adore Him!” The first of “Shepherd Saturdaze” is planned for December 5th. It is hoped these will provide welcomed fun and fellowship for our Sunday School participants. The December date will also be the big push in getting ready for the Sunday before Christmas program. In addition, three anthems by our adult choir and a solo will make that date a Service to remember.

CHOIR

Choir - Do you enjoy singing Christmas music? The choir has just begun rehearsing their Christmas music so it's not too late to join us.

During the Christmas season the BELC Adult Choir will be singing with the Brooklyn Bridge Preschool children on Wednesday, December 16 and with the Sunday School children on Sunday, December 20. We hope to see everyone at these festive services. The adult choir is also hoping to reach out to the community by singing at Maranatha. The date for that performance is Wednesday, December 9.

DEVOTE YOURSELF TO PRAYER

Prayer Chain

As of November 5th we have had 49 new prayer requests this year. Please contact Bonnie Johnson, 763-27-0448 with any prayer requests. We are here for you. Prayer works wonders. With Thanksgiving and Christmas coming we should especially re-

member to give thanks and pray. It is easy to forget with all the preparations and events that happen at this special time of the year. Our lives get very busy. Remember to give thanks and pray those thanks to God. All we have is a gift from God and we should thank Him for everything. Psalm 100 is a psalm for giving thanks (also prayer). "1. Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth (Pray) 2. Worship the Lord with gladness (Pray); come before him with joyful songs. 3. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us and we are his, we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. 4. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. (Pray) 5. For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations. Prayer is good for the soul.

50 YEARS OF BLESSINGS

We had a year with special services to celebrate our 50 years as a congregation. We thank the Anniversary Committee for their work in planning these special Services. The special services we had and the guests that visited made this a memorable year. The Lord has truly blessed us.

On November 15, **SAINTS TRIUMPHANT SUNDAY** we had our **last special Service** in remembrance of the 64 who were buried from this church and have passed before us into the glory of heaven. A reception was held following the Service. The theme was: Isaiah 51:11 – *The Ransomed.....Will Enter Zion With Singing.* The **Reformation Brass** enriched our worship, and **Rev. Arnold Lemke's**, our guest preacher, message was on matters of life and death.

A rose was given to each family that had a loved one being remembered.

We would here especially remember

Doug Johnson, who started out as chair of the anniversary committee, and was himself called home to heaven on August 31, 2008, becoming the 61st from our church to be called into the Church Triumphant.

THRIVENT MATCHING FUNDS

Thrivent announced that this is the last year for the matching funds program. A new program is coming out of which they are still working on the details. This past year we were given \$1020 to match. We had various fundraisers to match that amount. We raised \$1035 and the following groups will be receiving that money:

- The ball team had a Chili Cook-off—\$94
- Ladies Guild served 4 Lenten fellowships—\$67
- Choir served 2 Lenten fellowships—\$42
- Easter Breakfast was for landscaping—\$80
- Summer fellowships for our phone system —\$752

Each one of these amounts will be matched dollar for dollar. Thank you all who helped with the work and those who donated. An enjoy-

able time was had at all of our fellowships. If anyone would like to become a Thrivent Congregational Coordinator with the new program, there is a spot for you.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT, DAVE GLODOWSKI

As the year draws to a close, we look forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior. We also look back at the blessings we as a congregation have had this year, celebrating our 50th. Anniversary. We have used this year, with the help of Parish Assistance, to begin planning what is next for BELC. We now have a Vision Document, which is our roadmap for the next 5 years and beyond. Each one of us needs to find something in this document that excites us enough to say "I want to help!" The Lord has His plan for Brooklyn Lutheran, now we all need to do our part. Please fill out the volunteer form from your mailbox and place it in the receptacle box in the back of church.

Together we thrive, more than survive!

Christmas Reminders

- May the Christmas presents remind you of God’s greatest gift —His only begotten Son.
- May The Christmas candles remind you of Him Who is the light of the world.
- May the Christmas tree remind you of another tree on which He died for you.
- May the Christmas cheer remind you of Him Who said, “Be of good cheer.”
- May the Christmas feast remind you of Him Who is the Bread of Life.
- May the Christmas snow remind you of the cleansing power of Christ.
- May the Christmas bells remind you of the glorious proclamation of His birth
- May the Christmas carols remind you of His glad tidings which we are to proclaim to all mankind.
- May the Christmas season remind you in every way of Jesus Christ your King.

