



March 2026

Volume 45 Number 3

# Bethlehem Star

A publication of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Grand Marais, MN

## Happy Lent, People of Bethlehem!

Lent is my favorite season of the church calendar for many reasons, but one of those reasons is the emphasis we have on prayer. Charles Spurgeon once said, “Prayer is the slender nerve that moveth the muscles of omnipotence.” We have a direct line to God, and it is simply talking to God.

The last weekend of February the middle schoolers had an all-nighter lock in. 33 middle schoolers hung out with Jess and a few volunteers for the entire night (if you see Jess, please thank her for her hard work on this and see if she has yet caught up on sleep). Part of their all-nighter was a worship service, and learning more about prayer. Then, on Sunday morning, 6 of those students bravely went up front and led us in our prayers for the people. It’s on our livestream for February 22<sup>nd</sup>, and I would highly encourage you to go and watch it.

If these 6 middle schoolers can step out of their comfort zone and lead the prayers for 100 people at church, then surely we can step out of our comfort zone and pray to God while we are at home alone.

Prayer can be a lot of things: it can be formal, like the Lord’s Prayer; it can be pre-written, like the prayers of the people; it can be informal, simply talking to God. Whatever kind of prayer it is, God hears them all and is at work in them and through them.

This Lent, consider setting aside a few minutes every day to pray.

**God hears  
your prayers.**

**God is at  
work through  
your prayers.**

**Peace in Christ.**

*Pastor Calvin  
Konop*



## Successful Youth Lock-In





**BLCW Valentine's Cookie Pack** Sue Anderson, Millie Gestel, Theresa Chmelik, Kris Hedstrom, Cindy Muus and Philis Anderson. At right: Millie, Cindy and Kathy Johnson.



### Fellowship during Wednesday Meal:

Ashley Konop, Gwen Lenz, Cindy Muus, Joan Ege, Sue Hennessy & Jane Gellner.

Confirmation Students made Valentine's Cards for the Care Center Residents.



### Community Ecumenical Vigil:

Lifting of prayers of lament for all who were killed, harmed or grieved following violence in our State.

# Lock-In Pics



Bethlehem members who will be pursuing their post-high school education are invited to apply for the following scholarships:

1. **MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND SCHOLARSHIP.** A portion of the investment earnings generated by Bethlehem's Mission Endowment Fund is used to provide this scholarship opportunity. Students are invited to apply if they will be attending any accredited post-secondary educational institution. This could include a two- or four-year college, vocational school, on-line program, or other post-secondary option. The gift is a one-time **\$1000** scholarship.
2. **CONCORDIA COLLEGE CONGREGATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP.** An anonymous Concordia College alumni donated funds to Bethlehem to create this scholarship program. Any Bethlehem member who attends Concordia College in Moorhead, MN at least half-time is invited to apply. This scholarship is **\$5000/year** and is renewable for four years. The committee will then meet in late March or early April to review the applications; the church council will vote to hopefully approve the committee's recommendations at its meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup>, and the scholarships can be presented to students at the CCHS Senior Awards Ceremony in May.

Further information and application forms for both scholarships are available on the church's website ([www.sharingchrist.org/forms](http://www.sharingchrist.org/forms)) and are on the Youth Bulletin Board (across from the bathrooms). **Applications must be received by Bethlehem no later than Friday, March 27, 2026.**



## Jess Christenson, Director

[blcyouth@boreal.org](mailto:blcyouth@boreal.org) ☎ 507-530-2763

We've had such a fun February here at Bethlehem and we have lots of exciting things to look forward to in March and beyond!

On February 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> we held our very first OWL Night Lock In here at Bethlehem. We had 33 6<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> graders registered! What a big deal for this community! There were lots of our confirmation students and several of them invited friends along. What a huge testament to this community that our young people want to invite their friends into this space. Thank you all for helping make this community what it is!

We had a fun night with no sleep, lots of snacks, games, laughter and moments where we learned more about prayer and talking with God. Students worshipped together and participated in a Prayer Stations activity. Through twelve different stations students found new ways to pray and connect with God. Students then led the prayers of the people in worship on Sunday morning, it was so incredible! I also have to shout out team Unicorn that won the Championship trophy for the night with their teamwork and tenacity! Thank you again to all of the volunteers who made this evening possible! Jess Markusen, Eric Christenson, Gwen Lenz, Melanie Olsen, Jed & Kristi and Carter Smith all gave up time, sleep and dedicated time to make sure that our youth are well cared for and are in our space together. Thank you!

Looking forward in March, we will begin our test pilot of our Wednesday afterschool program called the

Bethlehem Builders Club, for our 3-5<sup>th</sup> graders. On Wednesdays from 3:30-5:30 students will come together to worship, learn, play and grown together in faith. At the Bethlehem Builders Club, we are building a strong foundation of faith! Registration is live, please contact me with any questions, comments or concerns.

We will also have our Communion Learners/First Communion class for students in 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade March 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>, leading up to students receiving their First Communion on Maundy Thursday. If you have student or know of a student who has taken communion, but not attended a class or if you have a student who hasn't received communion yet, please register for this class. We will meet after worship in the library for three Sundays to learn more about Jesus and this meal we all share together.

Finally, even with all of the snow, I am dreaming about Summer! We have officially got the dates for VBS, July 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> 2026! Mark your calendars and keep your eyes peeled for more information coming soon!

Thank you all for being a part of this amazing community. Thank you all for creating a space for children, youth and families to play, grow and build a strong foundation of faith for the future! As always, please reach out if you have any questions, comments or concerns!

Peace, Jess Christenson

### Join us for Bethlehem Builders Club!

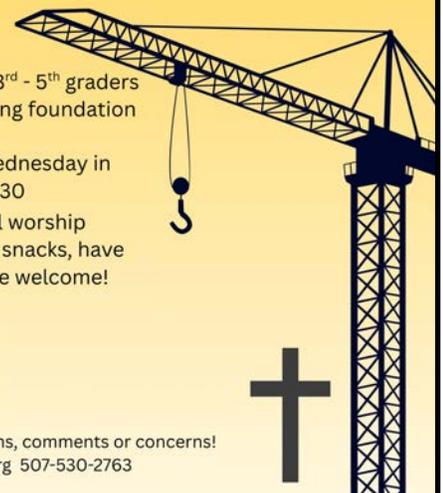
An afterschool program for 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> graders where we are building a strong foundation of faith!

We will be meeting every Wednesday in March from 3:30-5:30

During this time we will worship together, play games, have snacks, have Bible study & more. All are welcome!



Contact Jess with any questions, comments or concerns!  
[blcyouth@boreal.org](mailto:blcyouth@boreal.org) 507-530-2763





# Devotions

By Pastor Calvin Konop

*Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished.*

-Matthew 4:1-2

Have you ever been *hangry*? This happens when you are so hungry that you get angry - hence, "hangry."

Some nights when I don't have a plan for dinner, and everything in the house needs prep, I get a little hangry. One night I found myself complaining about a lot of things and feeling really irritated, and I realized that it was because I was so hungry. Yes, the cares of the world that I was fixated on were real problems, but they seemed even bigger on an empty stomach.

After I fixed something to eat, Ashley turned to me and asked, "How are you doing now?" Mid bite, I smiled and garbled out, "Much better."

Jesus went into the wilderness to fast for 40 days, and to rely on God for prayer. When he was finished fasting he was famished, and I'm sure the last thing he wanted was to be tempted by the Devil. But there he found himself, face to face with the devil who tempted him three times.

During Lent we fast, too. Sometimes we give up something for Lent, and as a church we fast from communion during our Wednesday evening services. We then turn to God in prayer and worship for our nourishment. This fasting reminds us of our reliance on God for everything, removing the distractions one by one.

Next time you're feeling a little hangry, remember how Jesus fasted for 40 days, and offer a prayer of gratitude to God for the things God has given you.

## Adult Education Opportunities

**Men's Bible Study** - Every Thursday from 8-9:15am in the Church Library or on zoom. This

group is open to anyone, not just members. Join us as we study the Book of Acts.

**BLCW Women's Circle** - The BLCW meets once a month on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Join us for fellowship, Bible Study, and helping to plan ministry events at Bethlehem. Contact Joy Oberg or Cindy Muus with questions.

**Post -Easter Bible Study** - Pastor Calvin will be leading a Bible Study on the Book of Galatians after Easter. Two study groups will be offered on Tuesday mornings from 8:30-9:30am, and on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm. The study is free to attend, and will go through Galatians 1 chapter at a time. No pre-work or pre-reading needed. Sign up in the Narthex.

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, KRISTIN LINDHOLM



For the past six weeks I have been home recovering from a total hip replacement. This time, while painful at first, has been a gift. It has forced me to rest. I'm not great at resting, yet it is an essential part of healing. I'm guessing that most of us aren't great at resting. This chaotic time we are living in leaves little space for us to pause and breathe. There is so much work to be done, but if we don't take deliberate time to rest, we burn out. We are ineffective. We become agitated. *In order to love each other, we must love ourselves, and that means we need to take care of our mind, body and spirit.* This month, I encourage you to take time to rest - don't wait for a total hip replacement to take care of yourself. As Jess reminds us each week during the children's time....

*Dear God,*

*Help us to love you,*

*love others, and love ourselves.*

*Amen.*





# Mission Of the Month



## POWDERHORN NEIGHBORHOOD

Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Rental Assistance Program is our Mission of the Month for March.

### EVERYONE DESERVES A PLACE TO CALL HOME

We need your help to fight rising costs impacting families in Minneapolis.



Your giving will assist families in preventing eviction from their homes, will provide opportunities for families to stay together in their homes and will assist with utilities that will keep families warm, with light and with water.

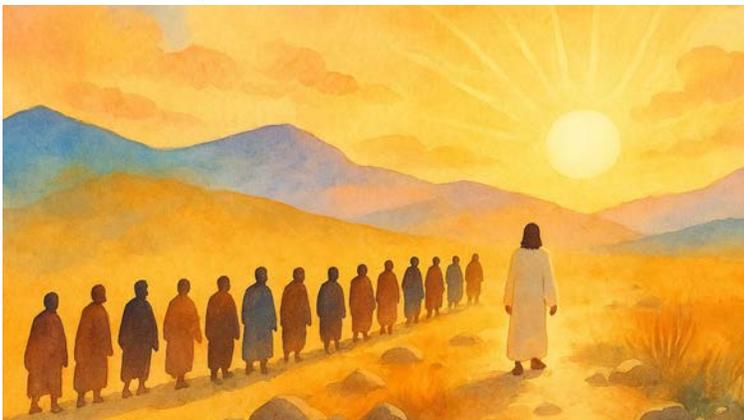
The need for this support is still great.

We are grateful to offering our support during this disruption in their lives.

Learn more about their outreach at [ppna.org](http://ppna.org)

Kindly, Church In Society Team

Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association; 3451 Cedar Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55407. 612.722.4817 [info@ppna.org](mailto:info@ppna.org)



# Thank you VOLUNTEERS!

We are truly grateful for all of the volunteers involved at Bethlehem! You make an impact at church and in our community. We acknowledge our volunteers working at the thrift stores: Patti Beyer, Ann Swallow Gillis, Annie DeBevec, Kathleen Johnson, Lois Johnson, Craig Peterson and Dianne Peterson. We have been gifted \$22,776 through Oddz & Endz and 1st & 2nd Thrift Store 2025 pay-outs. Thanks everyone!

## LENTEN Schedule

### Week 2 – March 4<sup>th</sup>

What is the cost of following Jesus?

Mark 12:1-12

### Week 3 – March 11<sup>th</sup>

What does it mean to love like Jesus?

Matthew 24:1-14

### Week 4 – March 18<sup>th</sup>

How to serve like Jesus?

John 13:1-17, 31-35

### Week 5 – March 25<sup>th</sup>

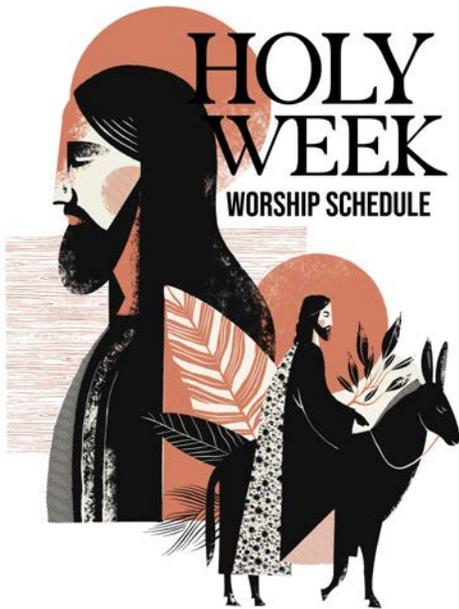
What does it mean to live what we believe, like Jesus? Luke 23:39-43

### Palm Sunday – March 29<sup>th</sup>

What is Jesus' call to the church and to the world?

Matthew 21:1-11

### Holy Week: March 29 - April 5



**Palm Sunday: March 29**  
 10:00 am Worship  
 (No Wednesday Worship or Meal)

**Maundy Thursday:**  
**April 2** 7:00 pm Worship including Celebration of First Communion.

**Good Friday: April 3**  
 7:00 pm Tenebrae Service

**Easter Sunday: April 5**  
 8:00 am Early Worship  
 9:00 am Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt for kids  
 10:00 am Worship with Sunday School



**New AED Installed at Bethlehem**

**Location = West end of Narthex Counter**

An automated external defibrillator (AED) is a portable

electronic device that automatically diagnoses the heart rhythm and determines if a shock is needed. AEDs are designed to be used by laypersons and requires minimal or even no training. Public access defibrillators when used were associated with 40% median survival. When operated by non-dispatched lay first responders they have the highest likelihood of leading to survival.

With simple audio and visual commands, AEDs are designed to be simple to use for the layperson, and the use of AEDs is taught in many first aid, certified first responder, and basic life support level cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) classes. (Locally classes are offered through Cook County Higher Education, <https://mycche.org/218-387-3411>)

Please, for the sake of your loved ones, and fellow church members, take a look at the AED device. Become familiar with it. You might save a life someday.

Thank you to Laura Popkes and Paul Dahl for helping us to research and replace this device.



**Thrivent Choice Dollars: Bringing Generosity to Life**

Through Thrivent Choice®, clients with membership can contribute to organizations and causes they care about—and influence how Thrivent distributes

some of its charitable grand funding through Choice Dollars®.

You can make a personal donation to an enrolled organization (i.e., Bethlehem Lutheran Church). To direct your Choice Dollars® by logging in to your portal, or call your Thrivent representative, or call: 1-800-THRIVENT. Deadline to donate your 2025 funds is March 31, 2026

We appreciate your generous giving.



**Giving Statements**

Did you receive your 2025 giving statement in the mail? If you have not received it, please contact Denise in the office.

**Membership Directories**

Since I printed the Church Directories last year, I have been given a few updates to addresses, emails or phone numbers. Now, I have been asked to add members physical addresses to the next directory. If this is acceptable to you, please send an email to me, [blc@boreal.org](mailto:blc@boreal.org). Thank you,

Denise Murray, Office Manager



A lot can happen in seven days.

# First Communion Class at Bethlehem

Come and learn about Communion! For 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> graders and at least one trusted adult.

March 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> @11am after Worship.



Register online now or contact Jess!



Contact Jess with any questions, comments or concerns!  
[blcyouth@boreal.org](mailto:blcyouth@boreal.org) 507-530-2763

## Communion Changes:

We are now offering Apple Juice as a wine alternative during communion. As always we have a gluten-free wafer option to the wheat wafers.



## More Lock-In Pics



# Looking to go to camp this summer?

Camps are a great way to meet new people, grow closer to God and spend time outdoors.

Here at Bethlehem, we want every student to be able to experience camp! Bethlehem offers a \$250 scholarship to any Christian camp, they would like to go to!

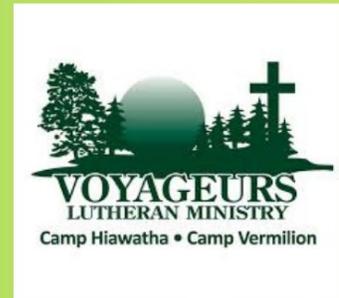
Please contact Jess with any questions, comments or concerns!

507-530-2763 - blcyouth@boreal.org

Here are some camps that we love, if you are looking for an amazing camp experience!



## Wilderness Canoe Base



## Bethlehem Lutheran Church

## Camper Scholarship Application



Camper Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade entering \_\_\_\_\_

Church Camp attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

It is Bethlehem's intent to make Church Camp affordable so every child gets to go to camp.

How much money are you requesting? \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like to receive your campership?

\_\_\_ Please reimburse me. (Please attach payment receipt)

\_\_\_ Please mail the scholarship directly to camp



Camp Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_



A delightful gathering on Valentine's Day - Laughter, stories, competitions & treats for all.



Care Center



Saturday, February 14th  
Valentine's Day @ 2:00 pm



Cards from the Confirmation youth brought joy to peoples hearts.

Bingo Party

17 Residents & friends gathered with 18 Bethlehem members & friends to play Bingo

# MARCH 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>8:40am Choir practice</p> <p>10:00am Worship &amp; Sunday School</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:30am Staff meeting</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:00am Church in Society Meeting</p> <p>12:30pm Text Study</p> <p>3:30pm Bethlehem Builders Club</p> <p>5:30pm Meal</p> <p>6:00pm Lenten Worship</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:00am Men's Bible Study</p> <p>9:00am Quilting</p> <p>6:30pm Table Tennis</p> <p>(Denise is out of the office)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Clarity Hearing Appts</p> <p>(Denise is out of the office)</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8:40am Choir practice</p> <p>10:00am Worship &amp; Sunday School</p>	<p>9</p> <p>3:30pm Girl Scouts</p> <p>6:30pm Executive Committee meeting</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:00am Monthly Council Reports due to office</p> <p>8:30am Staff meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>12:00pm Monthly Reports distributed to Council members</p> <p>12:30pm Text Study</p> <p>3:30pm Bethlehem Builders Club</p> <p>5:30pm Meal</p> <p>6:00pm Lenten Worship</p>	<p>12 (Denise is out of the office)</p> <p>9:00am Quilting</p> <p>9:30am BLCW Circle &amp; Bible Study</p> <p>6:30pm Table Tennis</p>	<p>13</p> <p>12:00pm Monthly Reports distributed to Council members</p> <p>(Denise is out of the office)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>St Paddy's Irish fund-raiser Meal, 4:30 &amp; 6pm seatings</p> 
<p>15</p> <p>8:40am Choir practice</p> <p>10:00am Worship &amp; Sunday School</p> <p>11:15am Communion Learner's class</p> <p>1:00pm Daisy Troop</p> <p>2:00pm Care Center Worship Service</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:00am Deadline for changes to Council agenda and reports</p> <p>3:30pm Girl Scouts</p> <p>6:30pm Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:30am Staff meeting</p> <p>6:30pm Worship Planning Meeting</p>	<p>18</p> <p>12:30pm Text Study</p> <p>3:30pm Bethlehem Builders Club</p> <p>5:30pm Meal</p> <p>6:00pm Lenten Worship</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:00am Men's Bible Study</p> <p>9:00am Quilting</p> <p>6:30pm Table Tennis</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Clarity Hearing Appts</p> 	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:40am Choir practice</p> <p>10:00am Contemporary Worship &amp; Sunday School</p> <p>11:15am Communion Learner's class</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Newsletter articles due</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:30am Staff meeting</p> <p>5:30pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>25</p> <p>12:30pm Text Study</p> <p>3:30pm Bethlehem Builders Club</p> <p>5:30pm Meal</p> <p>6:00pm Lenten Worship</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8:00am Men's Bible Study</p> <p>9:00am Quilting</p> <p>6:30pm Table Tennis</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Scholarship applications due today!</p> <p>(Denise is out of the office)</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:40am Choir practice</p> <p>10:00am Worship &amp; Sunday School</p> <p>11:15am Communion Learner's class</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>8:30am Staff meeting</p>	<p>1</p> <p>8:00am Church in Society</p> <p>12:30pm Text Study</p> <p>NO MEAL OR WORSHIP</p>	<p>2</p> <p>MAUNDY THURSDAY</p> <p>8:00am Men's Bible Study</p> <p>9:00am Quilting</p> <p>7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service &amp; First Commun-</p>	<p>3</p> <p>GOOD FRIDAY</p> <p>7:00pm Good Friday Service</p>	<p>4</p>

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# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

417 First Avenue West  
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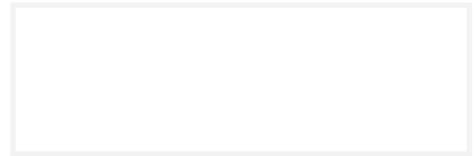


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Grand Marais, MN  
55604

*Belonging to Christ,*

*Sharing Christ on the*

*North Shore and beyond.*



## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME STARTS SUNDAY MARCH 8



Spring forward in faith!  
CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS and  
*join us on time for worship.*

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A  
A FEAST OF  
**Céad míle fáilte**  
A HUNDRED THOUSAND WELCOMES

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO HELPING OUR IMMIGRANT SIBLINGS

<b>Saturday, March 14</b>	Corned Beef and Cabbage Vegan Irish Stew Potatoes Irish Soda Bread Irish Cream Chocolate Cake
<b>Seating times: 4:30 &amp; 6:00 PM</b>	

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Grand Marais, MN  
417 1<sup>st</sup> Ave W - Across from the YMCA

Tickets - \$20 Adult - \$10 Child  
Purchase tickets at church office or by phone

218-387-2227	blceboreal.org
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