

E-Weekly

July 10, 2026

Volume 10 Number 20

PUBLICATION OF BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
GRAND MARAIS, MINNESOTA
PRODUCED BY DENISE MURRAY



a **SOWER**
went out to
SOW

MATTHEW 13:3

July 12, 2026 Livestream link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnDfIWYsY3k>



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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www.sharingchrist.org

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blcpastor@boreal.org

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blcyouth@boreal.org
507-530-2763

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blc@boreal.org
218-370-1058

Nursing
Home
Worship
Service



*Sunday July 19
at 2:00 pm*



Martha Rosbacka
8106 Highwood Drive
Highland Village #Y321
Bloomington, MN 55438
(It's wrong in the newsletter!)



COMING THIS WEEK:
JULY 13—17 9:00AM TO NOON
BIBLE STORIES WITH SUPER HEROES;
WORSHIP; FELLOWSHIP; GAMES;
ARTS & CRAFTS; SNACKS; & LUNCH



**Pastor is on
Vacation**

July 20 - 26



Please call The office if you need anything
during his R&R (218-387-2227. blc@boreal.org)

PRAYER list

Healing prayers are requested:

Linda Zenk, Denise Murray, Stacey Johnson, Lynn Schulte, Clayton & Nancy Koss, Lois Johnson, Butch & Rhonda Schulte, Luke Gulstrand, Sarah Coe, Phyllis Olson, Paulina Backstrom, Shae Lindholm, Char Anderson, Stacey Schulte, Hank Ferland, Margaret Dahl, Katrina Crouse, Karen Shannon, Tom Christiansen

This week we lift up these members: Milly Gestel; Steve & Nancy Sande; Shane Steele & Emma Spoon; Pete & Carline Gresczyk; and Tim & Emily Haussner, Jack, Claire, Molly, Charlotte & Noah. May God walk with these faithful friends in their Resurrection journey.

This Week at Bethlehem:

Sun July 12 10:00 AM **Worship Service**

11:15 AM Council meeting

Mon July 13 9:00 AM VBS

Tues July 14 9:00 AM VBS

1:00 PM Staff Meeting

Wed July 15 9:00 AM VBS

12:30 PM Text Study

Thur July 16 8:00 AM Men's Bible
Study

11:45 AM Quilters Lunch at
My Sisters Place

Fri July 17 9:00 AM VBS

- - - - - Clarity Hearing

Sun July 19 10:00 AM **Worship Service**

2:00 PM Care Center

Worship Service

- - - - - Overnight group

arrives from Middleton, WI

Mark your calendars for
upcoming Memorial Services:

Susan Gulstrand's

Fri. July 31 at 11:00 am

IN LOVING

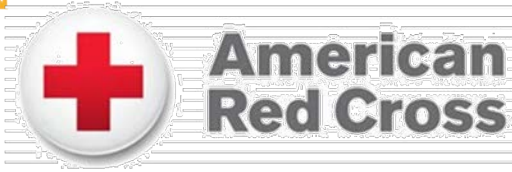
Memory



OUR DEEPEST
Sympathy

- ♦ *To the family of Carol Berglund who passed away on Thursday. (A memorial service is being planned for end of July)*
- ♦ *To our community friend, Gwen Mattice, who lost her husband John this week.*

Mission Of the Month



Our Mission of the Month for July will be used to support the **NE MN Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund.**

Our financial giving will help the Red Cross assist people affected by disasters, such as: home fires, forest fires, wind storms, flooding and more.

Your gift enables the Red Cross to prepare for, respond to and help people recover from disasters big and small, whenever and wherever they occur in our NE region.

Recently, the Disaster Relief Fund provided assistance to our Lake County neighbors during and after the Stewart Trail Fire.

Thank you for supporting this mission,

Church in Society Committee

Member Challenge:



There will be a Memorial Blood Center Bloodmobile bus at Mike's Circle K station on July 23 and 24.

People can go to mbc.org to schedule an appointment.

“For what shall we pray?”

This is from a weekly post inviting individuals, groups, and congregations to lift up our world in prayer. This resource is prepared by a variety of leaders in the ELCA.

Prayer prompts:

For peace and reconciliation among the nations, especially in Iran, Lebanon, Gaza, Mali, South Sudan, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Mexico, Ukraine, and Venezuela...

For all immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and travelers...

For health and safety for all experiencing extreme heat and weather events, especially storms and tornadoes in central China and areas facing typhoon threats...

For continued relief and rescue work following earthquakes in Venezuela...

For those wounded by explosions in Damascus, Syria...

For an end to human trafficking...

For those killed and injured over the holiday weekend and communities impacted by gun violence...

Events and observances:

July observances: Disability Pride Month, National BIPOC Mental Health Month.

Benedict of Nurisa, Abbot of Monte Cassino (July 11)

Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala (July 12)

Bartolomé de Las Casas, missionary to the Indies (July 17)

Mary Magdalene, apostle (July 22)

James, apostle (July 25)

Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (July 26)

Prayers from ELCA resources:



A prayer for those who suffer abuse and violence (ELW p.53)
Mighty Jesus, living Word, soothe the bodies, souls, and minds of the victims of human trafficking. Bring them peace, hope, comfort, and strength. Bring abusers to justice and

prevent them from causing further harm. Stir up the heart of your church gathered here and around the world, that we value justice and healing over silence and shame. Show us the way to your righteousness, led by the voices of those who suffer. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

A prayer after gun violence (ACS p.49)

God, our healer and our refuge, we pray for all who suffer from gun violence. With your mercy, bind up their wounds, restore their bodies, and heal their hearts. Comfort the mourners and embrace the lonely. With your might, empower us to change this broken world. Make us advocates for a stable society, alive with hope in you. We ask this through the one once wounded for our transgressions and now standing with us in our sorrows, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



God Pause

LUTHER
SEMINARY

Matthew 13:1-9 - The Parable of the Sower

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!"

Matthew 13:18-23 - The Parable of the Sower Explained

¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Devotion

In this parable chapter of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus uses stories and daily realities to tell how God's culture and values work. In the first nine verses he speaks of a prodigal sower who uses the common way of that time for seeding the soil. It is very unlike the sowing of seeds today, as farmers in sophisticated tractors with calibrated seeders scientifically insert the seed at proper depth. First century seeders wasted much seed. They broadcast it everywhere, which was precisely what Jesus was doing with his words. He spoke to a few who heard, some who were entertained, others who passed by, some who said "No" and others who said, "We hate you." He just planted—and he wants his disciples to do likewise. We are all planters and we need to plant. Let us freely plant with our words and actions. Be prodigal with the news of God's grace.

Prayer

Lord, it's no small task to plant your seed in what we say and do in every aspect of our lives, yet you urge us to do so. Holy Spirit, inspire us and guide us as we go, sowing your seeds of grace. Amen.

Harvey Nelson '71 M.Div. Retired Pastor, Newport News, Virginia

Sunday, July 12, 2026
Lectionary 15, Year A

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 55:10-13

*The growth of the
word to accomplish
God's purpose*

Psalm 65:9-13

*Your paths overflow
with plenty*

Romans 8:1-11

*Live according to the
Spirit*

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

*The parable of the
sower and the seed*

*(At right is a devotion
for this gospel.
Enjoy)*

Looking to go to camp this summer?

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

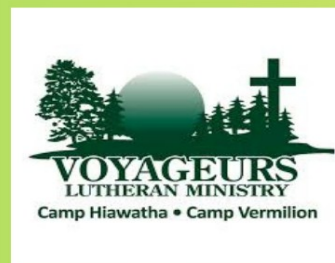
Here at Bethlehem, we want every student to be able to experience camp! Bethlehem offers a \$250 scholarship to any Christian camp, they would like to go to!

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**



Application forms may be found at: <https://www.sharingchrist.org/forms>



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: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Phone: _____