



August 2026

Volume 45 Number 8

Bethlehem Star

A publication of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Grand Marais, MN

Greetings Favored Ones! Happy Fisherman's Picnic!

This coming Sunday, August 2nd, Bethlehem has been asked to lead worship at Fisherman's Picnic. (Note the new time and location as printed above.) We will have a bus that will take you from Bethlehem to downtown, and back again after the service. The bus service will begin at 9:00 am, and run continuously until the service starts.

Although there will be many changes, including new time and location, many things will be the same:

- ⇒ Pastor Calvin will lead us in worship
- ⇒ Jess will have the Children's message
- ⇒ Karina & the Average Worship Band will lead the music
- ⇒ Communion will be served
- ⇒ And, we will enjoy Fellowship and Coffee An' following the service!

Thank you to our friends at Java Moose, Crosby Bakery & World's Best Donuts for supplying treats for this event!



Pastor's Post

by Pastor Calvin Konop

There is a statistic I once read that said the average Lutheran invites someone to church once every 11 years. So this month, I'm going to give a few tips on how to invite someone you know to church with you.

Talk about Bethlehem with others. Share something you heard in church (from the sermon, a hymn, maybe something you heard in a bible study or at coffee an'). Talking about your church let's other folks know that you go to church. It leaves the door open for an inquisition from them, or an invitation from you.

Share what you like about BLC with your friends who don't attend a church. Share what you got out of church that Sunday or Wednesday. Share about the fun group which you're involved. Share about a time you volunteered at church. Share about the friendships you have. Church can sometimes have a negative connotation, because of some of the things we see on TV and in movies. Sharing what we enjoy helps to paint a different picture.

Ask someone if they want to attend church with you. It can be daunting to attend church alone. Carpool with them or meet them at the door. Sit with them. Introduce them to someone. Answer any questions they might have during the service. All of these things make it less intimidating, and much easier to attend a service.

Invite someone to a special event. Whether it's a meal (Lutefisk or Irish dinner) or a special service (RIC celebration or jazz service), a vigil or a musical event (Borealis or a special group), inviting someone into the space helps to make them familiar with the space. Many folks joke that they might "burst into flames" if they set foot in a church. Getting them in the door proves otherwise.

Accept no for an answer. Church isn't for everyone at every time of their life. Sometimes people need space to process or observe. Some people need more time or info to feel safe. No is a fine answer, and

it doesn't change anything about your relationships with that person.

Ask more than once. Schedules are tricky. People are busy. And people change their minds. A no once doesn't mean a no forever. In advertising, they say that you need to tell people about something 7 times in 7 different ways for them to buy in. A repeated invitation every now and then is a fine thing to do. And who knows? Maybe they'll take you up on your invitation one of those times?

Finally, pray for them. Attending church isn't salvation. But it is a loving community that offers important spiritual practices. Praying for your friends and asking God to be at work in their lives is a loving thing to do.

This isn't an exhaustive list of advice, but I hope it offers you some food for thought. Think about who you might want to invite to church, then go and make the invitation!



August Devotion

By the seventh day God had finished the work God had been doing; so on the seventh day God rested from all of the work.

Genesis 2:2

Rest is important. Even God rests.

When God finished the work of creation, God set apart a day for rest.

In the United States, rest isn't something that is often looked upon fondly. Many people feel guilt using sick or vacation time from their jobs. Many people feel lazy if they don't finish or do a house project (even if it's because they are too exhausted).

As countercultural as it is, rest is necessary. Giving ourselves permission to rest is an important first step, and it's easy permission to give because God commanded us to rest. Then, we set apart time for rest.

After all, if God needed to rest...then we definitely do!

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Youth Owl Night Lock-In

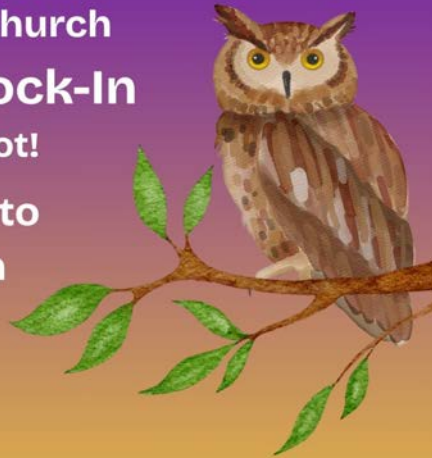
It's going to be a hoot!

August 22nd @ 8pm to
August 23rd @ 11am

For all incoming
6th-12th grade students.
All are welcome!



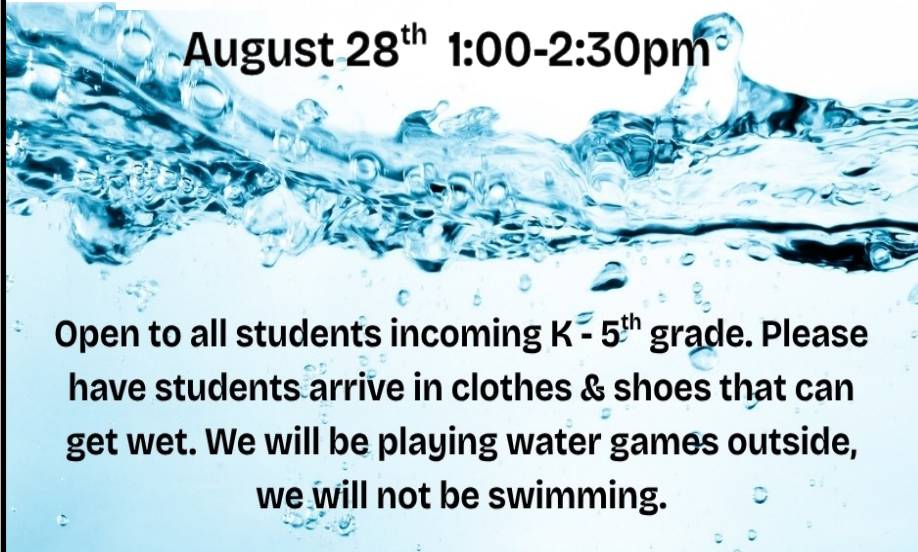
Register Now!
Contact Jess with any questions,
comments or concerns!
blcyouth@boreal.org 507-530-2763



Join us for Water Game Day at Bethlehem Lutheran Church!

August 28th 1:00-2:30pm

Open to all students incoming K - 5th grade. Please
have students arrive in clothes & shoes that can
get wet. We will be playing water games outside,
we will not be swimming.



The local **Celebrate Recovery (CR)** group meets at the Evangelical Free Church every Thursday at 5:30 pm. The evenings include a meal, large group (opening prayer, reading of 12-steps with biblical comparisons or 8-principals based on the Beatitudes, teaching or testimony, and closing with Serenity prayer); and small group (time of uninterrupted, confidential sharing.) This program will be losing its CR Coordinator in September and is seeking people to lend a hand. Please contact Catherine Wilson, catfirk@gmail.com or at 218-310-3177.



Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered, 12 step recovery program for anyone struggling with hurt, hang-ups, and habits of any kind. **Celebrate Recovery** is a safe place to find community and freedom from the issues that are controlling our life.



HUMANITARIAN APPEAL
Your donation can make the difference for those affected by the conflict

Our good friend and humanitarian Dave Nonnemacher from New Beginnings, has contacted Annie DeBevec and asked for additional support for Ukraine. First & Second Thrift Store is collecting winter clothing items (men, women & children) **NOW**—because it takes so very long to transport items from northern MN to Ukraine. In addition to the normal winter clothing items, they are asking for **working generators & chainsaws**. Do you have one of these items laying around in your toolshed? Could you give it a once over to make sure it's in working order, and deliver it to the store at your earliest convenience? ❤️





Jess Christenson, Director

blcyouth@boreal.org ☘ 507-530-2763

July was a fun full month here at Bethlehem for Children, Youth and Families!

Vacation Bible School was a huge success! We had 29 students, 5 youth volunteers, 10 adult volunteers and a whole lot of fun! Thank you all for your donations and your thoughts and prayers. Despite the smoke and the challenges that the weather presented, we had a very fun, very safe week! I think all of the students had a blast as well learning all about how they are superheroes! Just because VBS is done with for this year, you can always use the tools of faith to be a superhero yourself! With strength, mercy, wisdom, grace and love we can all make the world a better place!

We did reschedule **Water Day** because we could not be outside because of the smoke. Even if you weren't able to make it to VBS, come join in for some water game fun on August 28th from 1:00 -2:30 here at Bethlehem. This event will be open to all students incoming K – 5th grade. We will not be swimming, but running around playing different games with hoses, water balloons and more! Please have students arrive in clothes and shoes that they can get wet.

We will be having another **OWL Night Lock-in** on August 22nd – August 23rd. All incoming 6th grade to 12th grade students are welcome to attend and bring friends! We will play games, watch a movie, do some crafting, have some great snacks and spend some time in worship together.

I am looking forward to our community worship at Fisherman's Picnic this next weekend! What a great time to come together as a community and

celebrate God's abundance and love for all of us! I'd love to see you there!

As always, I am here for you and the young people in your lives! Please reach out if you have any questions, comments or concerns!

Peace,
Jess Christenson



The August Mission of the Month will be support for our Cook County public school children. Bethlehem will be a collection site for donating school supplies for students. We will be working in partnership with the HUB again this year.

This year students will be able to pick up supplies they need at the HUB before school actually starts in September. Leftover donated supplies will be distributed to schools when school begins. Monetary donations will be divided among the different schools in proportion to their enrollment numbers. Money will be used to meet specific student's needs identified by school staff.

There are collection boxes and supply lists in the narthex. Please pick up a list and go shopping to help families get children ready for the school year when their budgets are tight.

Please note, "School Support" on your special offering if you would like to support this Mission of the Month.

Thanks for your support,

Church in Society Team





Bethlehem Lutheran Church in partnership with The HUB

2026 School Supply Drive

White glue sticks
Pink Erasers, large
Crayons, 24-pack
Classic color fat markers
3" x 3" Sticky notes
Facial Tissue
Ticonderoga #2 pencils,
12-pack
4-pack Multicolored
highlighters
(pink, yellow, green & blue)
2-pocket folders
(red, blue, green & yellow)

Older Students need:

1" 3-ring binders
#2 pencils, box of 100
Red pens
Colored pencils
Pink erasers for pencils
Index cards

**Monetary donations will be
distributed to the four public
schools in our county.**

August 2026 Mission of the Month



SUPER
HERO
TRAINING
WEEK:
VBS 2026











Notes from the President . . .

Kristin Lindholm

I have been thinking a lot about Super Heroes these days. This year's Vacation Bible School theme was "Super Hero Training - God uses ordinary people in super ways!" Wow.

It is amazing for our children to learn about grace, mercy, love, wisdom and strength - especially when we experience hardships. Ironically, it was during the week of VBS that the wildfires began to impact Grand Marais and surrounding communities. While the fires caused people to flee homes, businesses to close doors, vacationers to change plans, etc., the people of our community gathered together to help in countless ways.

These are the actions of ordinary people who understand the power of helping others. Loving our neighbors is one of the greatest ways to be a Super Hero. Thank God for love. See you in church!

Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

-Colossians 3:13



Volunteer with your heart. Gain a life-long Community

By Gwen Lenz

Warning: This is about STEWARDSHIP, after all, it is (almost) FALL

We've heard a lot recently about "community", how we are a caring community. We come together to help each other in times of stress and trouble; sickness or death; and of course, in happy times as well. The many tragedies of late has brought us together- a lifelong Community!

Stewardship is also about Community. We gain a sense of community when we volunteer with others, doing the same activities as other members, enjoying the joys and laughter. Supporting each other financially, as well!

Pastor Calvin has asked the Church Council "how can we encourage more participation (volunteers) during our Worship services"? Members are needed to usher, read the day's lessons, sing in the choir, set-up Communion (and clean-up afterwards), teach our younger members the Bible (rotationally with others), lead a Bible Study, or make treats for 'Coffee An' (on a rotational basis). As you read this, *is there something YOU could find to do this Sunday or the next?*

VOLUNTEER WITH YOUR HEART- GAIN WHAT YOU CAN...SERVICE TO OTHERS IS THE 'RENT' WE PAY FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF LIVING IN OUR COMMUNITY. THANKS BE TO GOD!





August 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

July 26	27	28 8:30am Staff meeting	29 12:30pm Text Study	30 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Quilting 11:00 am Carol Berglund Memorial Service 4:30 PM Swing Band Practice in Sanctuary	31 11:00 am Susan Gulstrand Memorial Service	August 1 
2 Fisherman's Picnic 9:30am Worship at Harbor Park 	3	4 8:30am Staff meeting	5 8:00am Church in Society Meeting 12:30pm Text Study	6 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Quilting 4:30 PM Swing Band Practice in Sanctuary	7 Clarity Hearing Appts	8
9 10:00am Worship	10 6:30pm Executive Committee meeting	11 8:30am Staff meeting	12 12:30pm Text Study	13 8:00am Monthly Council Reports due to office 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Quilting 9:30am BLCW Circle	14 12:00pm Monthly Reports distributed to Council members	15
16 8:40am Choir practice 10:00am Worship 2:00pm Worship at Care Center	17 8:00am Deadline for changes to Council agenda and reports 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	18 8:30am Staff meeting	19 12:30pm Text Study	20 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Quilting	21 Clarity Hearing Appts	22 8:00 PM OWL Night Youth Lock-In 
23 8:40am AWB practice 10:00am Contemporary Worship	24 Newsletter articles due	25 8:30am Staff meeting	26 12:30pm Text Study	27 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Quilting	28 1:00 pm VBS Water Day (make up day) 	29
30 10:00am Worship	31 Jess' vacation meeting in library	Sept. 1 Jess' vacation 8:30am Staff meeting	2 Jess' vacation 8:00am Church in Society Meeting 12:30pm Text Study 5:30 PM Spirit of the Wilderness	3 Jess' vacation 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Quilting	4 Jess' vacation Clarity Hearing Appts	5

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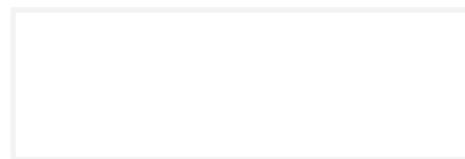
Permit #3

Grand Marais, MN
55604

Belonging to Christ,

Sharing Christ on the

North Shore and beyond.

A scenic photograph of a harbor. On the left, a sailboat with red sails is on the water. In the center, a small lighthouse sits on a rocky island. To the right, a long pier extends into the water, ending in a white lighthouse. The background shows forested hills under a cloudy sky.

Join Bethlehem Lutheran Church for Worship at Fisherman's Picnic!

Harbor Park @ 9:30^{AM} August 2, 2026

Shuttle Service provided from and back to Bethlehem starting at 9am
Coffee & Treats from Java Moose, Crosby Bakery & World's Best Donuts provided