

March 2024

Volume 43 Number 3

Bethlehem Star

Happy Lent, everyone! I want to encourage you all to lean into the Lenten worship this year on Sundays, Wednesdays, and during Holy Week. Lent represents the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness fasting, praying, and ultimately being tempted by the devil. It's a time of fasting and prayer for us as we examine the effects of sin in our lives, and confess and repent of those sins.

On Wednesday evenings we are doing a Taize worship, which was founded by a Christian community in France, and emphasizes repetition and silence. The idea is to let the words of the worship wash over us during each repetition, and to focus on the message of what we're singing together. Our theme this Lent is **"Open My Life, Lord."** If you haven't made it to one yet, please join us!







Midweek Lenten Services:



- ♦ March 6th - **Open My Ears, Lord** - Dinner at 5:30 pm, Service at 6pm
- ♦ March 13th - **Open My Heart, Lord** - Dinner at 5:30 pm, Service at 6pm
- ♦ March 20th - **Open My Life, Lord** - Dinner at 5:30 pm, Service at 6pm

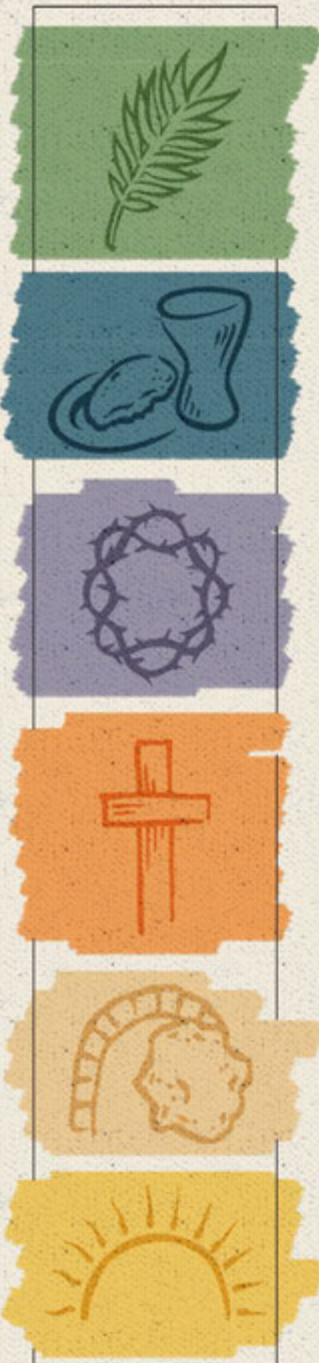
At every midweek service we'll send home a devotional for you to do individually or with others. There are prayers, scripture readings, and a worship song included in each devotion. I hope you're able to take advantage of this resource to continue to bring your faith into your homes.

Holy Week Services:

- ♦ **Palm Sunday** - Sunday, March 24th at 10:00 am 
- ♦ **Maundy Thursday** - Thursday, March 28th at 6:00 pm (no meal) 
 - ♦ **First Communion** will be on Maundy Thursday at the service 
- ♦ **Good Friday** - Friday, March 29th at 6:00 pm (no meal) 
- ♦ **Easter Sunday** - Sunday, March 31st - Services at 8:00 am and 10:00 am 
- ♦ **Easter Sunday Breakfast** will be served from 9:00 am-10:00 am 

I hope this Lent and Holy Week are meaningful times for you and your family of worship, compassion, and love.

Peace in Christ, Pastor Calvin



Thank You



Thank you to all our Lenten Soup Makers this season including: The Men of Bethlehem Bible Study; Quilters; Simonen-Iverson-Smith family; Esther Circle; Ashley Konop; and Carin Gulstrand & Jill Boen. Pictured above is Janet Simonen showing us just how much fun it is.



Spring greetings from Sally & Leif Arntsen. Kathleen Johnson from our Membership Committee stopped by to say hello to Sally & Leif recently. They are doing well in Duluth and passed on their "Hello" greetings to their friends at Bethlehem.



Valentine's Cookie Pack was held on February 13th followed by a soup lunch. Participants include: Kris Hedstrom, Joyce Heiskari, Sue Anderson, Pastor Calvin (the tall one in back), Patti Beyer, Milly Gestel, Philis Anderson, Teresa Chmelik, Martha Rosbacka, and Joan Bieber.



The BLCWomen recently held our annual **Valentine's Day Cookie Pack**, where we gather after making cookies and other treats to "uplift" our members and community friends during the long days of winter. It was different this year, not as many cookies. Last year there were TOO many, this year not so much.

BLCW has a history of service to our Church and the community, inviting the community, at large, to luncheons, potlucks, Harvest dinners, and Julefest (Holiday Tea and Bake Sale). We have relied on that history to direct our future happenings. We will continue to have Bible Studies, Altar Guild, Coffee An', hosting Memorial and Funeral gatherings, mission work through Quilters or Church In Society events and potlucks. Together we can make things happen.

Submitted by Gwen Lenz. For more information please call her at 218-387-9860.

Welcome New Members!



Chris O'Brien and Jane Alexander are our newest members and will officially join at the next Affirmation of Baptism Sunday. Please welcome Chris & Jane.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church is very excited to welcome new members into our fold. Visitors who are interested in finding out more about our church, activities, events, and how to plug-into groups and volunteer activities are encouraged to contact Pastor Calvin at 218-387-2227 or blepastor@boreal.org. People may meet with Pastor individually or during an offered intro to Bethlehem class. We will schedule the next invitation to membership class and Affirmation of Baptism very soon. Please contact Pastor or Denise in the office when you are ready.



Devotions

By Pastor Calvin Konop

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him.

Mark 1:12-13

Lent is 40 days long, representing the 40 days of Jesus in the wilderness fasting and praying. It is our chance to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, to fast from something in our lives, to pray, and to confess our sins. But the story of Jesus in the wilderness goes far beyond Jesus simply fasting and praying.

First of all, Jesus goes into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. The God we serve is not one that doesn't understand the temptations of life. Jesus lived the life of a human, and can relate to us on how it feels to be tempted.

Second, Jesus goes into the wilderness and is with the wild beasts as a means of continuing to fulfill God's promises to animals and to creation. Jesus lives in the wild - a dangerous place to be, and brings with him restoration. God made this promise to the animals and to creation back when Noah and his family came off of the ark, and now Jesus continues to fulfill that promise in his 40 days.

If Jesus goes to such great lengths for the wild animals and for the wilderness, imagine the lengths God will continue to go for you! This Lent, may God show up in your life and show you how much you are loved.

DFORTY
Days
OF LENT

Medical Traveler Cards



You may know that our church has a ministry to those who need to travel to seek medical attention. We offer what we call "Medical Travel Cards" - a \$50 visa card to pay for gas. So many people in our church and community need to drive back and forth to Duluth to access the healthcare that they need.

This ministry was started by the Men's Bible Study in 2020, just before the pandemic. As the ministry continued, others began to donate to the cause. Eventually the Men's Bible Study handed the ministry off to the church, as it is a ministry that has been completely funded by church member donations (and does not have a line in our yearly budget).

To ensure that we are being good stewards of the gifts that people have given, and to ensure that we are able to give cards to all who are in need, Pastor Calvin and Denise created a policy for the Medical Travel Cards. Everyone is able to receive a card once every 3 months to help pay for gas to and from Duluth. We'll keep records of everyone who has been given a card and when, so that we can have good order in our generosity. Of course, if there are extenuating circumstances, Pastor Calvin and staff members will be given discretion. The policy is not intended to restrict or make things harder for folks - only to be responsible in our generosity.

If you would like to make a donation to this vital ministry, contact Denise Murray in the office, or send your donation to Bethlehem Lutheran Church with "Medical Travel Cards" in the memo.

Thank you for your continued generosity to this and all of the ministries of Bethlehem!

Peace in Christ.—Pastor Calvin



Just so you know, and can pass this information along to friends and neighbors, Sawtooth Mountain Clinic also has a travel card program for medical appointments. People should be aware there are multiple options in the community.

THE NEW BUZZ AT BETHLEHEM

Greetings to you from Kris Hedstrom, president of Bethlehem Church Council for 2024. The other members of our Executive Committee includes Sue Anderson-Vice President, Theresa Oberg-Financial Secretary and Mark Youngdahl-Treasurer.

We welcomed 2 new members to our Council, Shawn Swearingen and Sue Hennessey. We thank Hilja Iver-Smith and Kathleen Johnson for their service and insight over the previous years of their terms.

Looking forward in March—we have closed applications for the CYF director and will start the interview process for this position. This is high time for families to look at summer camp opportunities for their students. We will send out a letter to prospective campers informing them of current popular camps and scholarship funds that are available to all campers. For our college students, there is an application form for college scholarships. The Mission Endowment committee approves these requests so let them know of your plans for Fall of 2024.

This year marks the 125th Anniversary of Bethlehem Lutheran church. We look forward to planning a special commemoration of that Event. We have a small committee of volunteers, but more participation is welcome.

In God's Care,
Kris Hedstrom



Confirmation will continue to break until we reconvene on Wednesday, April 10th. Students and families are encouraged to worship together at our Midweek Lenten Services, and our Sunday services. This is also a great time for students to fill out sermon notes for our sermon note competition. The grade with the highest average of sermon notes will get an ice cream party at the end of the year! Our current averages are:

- 6th grade: 2.14/student
- 7th grade: 3.14/student
- 8th grade: 8/student

We have concluded that Irene Peterson needs to come back to



Church to invigorate our Coffee An' scheduling. Our membership enjoys this time of heartwarming interaction; it's a wonderful time of fellowship; just step back and listen to the laughter from around the tables. These Sunday morning gatherings are an enjoyable time and many of us would really be saddened to see it fall away.

Would You, Could You sign up for just one or two weeks (there are only 52 of them) to bring something baked, or purchased, or sliced fruit, or veggies, or crackers and something to put on them? Left overs are also welcomed! Celebrate a special day,

birthday, anniversary, new member of the family or just because. Coffee will (probably) be made, water always available, Kool-Aid or juice is optional.

Please sign up on the forms on the blue clipboard on the Greeters table in the Narthex. Submitted by Gwen Lenz 218-387-9860



SUMMER'S COMING! IT'S TIME TO SIGN UP FOR CAMP!

Bethlehem Lutheran Church would like to encourage youth's attendance at a Faith-based camp of choice this summer. We again are offering financial assistance on an individual basis. Last year our scholarships averaged \$250/student/camp.

There are several regional camps to consider, including several out our back door! Camp weeks fill up quickly, so families should begin checking out camp websites and register soon.

A letter is being sent to families of youth grades 3 and up very soon. Kris Hedstrom will provide a temple talk on Sunday March 17 with posters, flyers and more information. (Be sure to wear your camp shirts!)



Camp Scholarship forms are available on our website at: www.sharingchrist.org/forms.



Mission Of the Month

Malala Fund

In honor of Women's History Month, the March Mission of the Month will support the education and empowerment of girls across the world through the work of the **Malala Fund**, co-founded and executive chaired by Malala Yousafzai.



According to malala.org, "Today nearly 120 million girls are out of school. Malala Fund works to secure 12 years of free, safe, quality education for all girls so they can learn and lead without fear. We focus on secondary school, typically grades 7–12, when gender discrimination increasingly affects adolescent girls' futures. Completing secondary school opens up opportunities for girls to make their own life choices, allowing them to reach their fullest potential."

Through advocacy, research, assembly, and programs, the Malala Fund champions education in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Ethiopia, India, Lebanon, Nigeria, Pakistan, Tanzania, and Turkey, "working for a world where every girl can learn and lead."

March Member Challenge:

Please visit malala.org to learn more! There are 2 books that you can read as well: *"I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World"* by Malala Yousafzai & Patricia McCormick; and *"Malala's Mission for the World: A Children's Book About Bravery and the Fight for Girls' Education for Kids Ages 6-10"* by Aida Zaciragic & Ana Grigorjev.



Scholarships

BETHLEHEM SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!

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.
2. **CONCORDIA COLLEGE CONGREGATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP.** An anonymous Concordia College alumnus 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 potentially renewable for four years. (A brochure is posted on the Youth Bulletin Board across from the bathrooms.)

Further information and application forms for both scholarships are available on the church's website (www.sharingchrist.org/forms) or by contacting the church office. Applications must be received by Bethlehem no later than **Wednesday, March 6, 2024.**



FOLLOW UP FROM JANUARY'S MISSION OF THE MONTH: RUBY'S PANTRY

To Our Friends at Bethlehem,

Your recent gift of \$350 to our Cook County Ruby's Pantry . It provided 14 full shares of food to hungry families in our community. Working together, we are doing the Lord's work! - Karen H., CC Ruby's Pantry'



Ruby Facts: Each share costs \$25 for the food distribution. The main cost of

the fee is for the transportation of food to Cook County. 90% of the fee is sent to Ruby's and 10% is kept at the local branch. The need to cover share costs for those that cannot afford it is 50-60 shares/month, or \$1300-\$1500/month. This is important work in our community. Volunteering at Ruby's is fun and rewarding. The next Ruby's distribution date will be on March 19, 2024 at ISD#166 High School.



LIBRARY UPDATE BY SHELBY ANDERSON

Progress is being made on the church library slowly and surely, with 217 books entered. The majority of items entered piggyback on Library of Congress records. Virginia Hahn has graciously volunteered to put the spine labels on the books. I only wish I could enter the books as rapidly as she puts on spine labels. I am so thankful for her help.

To see what the catalog of entered books looks like, go to <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/LibraryOma>. You can enter a search term or click on a book cover to get more information. I hope to be able to change the library name from "LibraryOma" (Library Grandma) to Bethlehem Lutheran's Church Library. I didn't realize when I created the account that it would take my administrator's name!

Thank you for your support! - Shelby

8TH ANNUAL
ECOfaith SUMMIT
2024
APRIL 6TH
9AM - 4PM
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
DULUTH, MN

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
LARRY RASMUSSEN
CHRISTIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICIST
AWARD WINNING AUTHOR OF THE PLANET YOU INHERIT

CROSS + CURRENTS IN THE FLOOD
BUILDING ARCS TOGETHER
FOR A LIVABLE PLANET

APRIL 6, 2024
9 AM - 4 PM
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

TO LEARN MORE
OR TO REGISTER:

"The destiny of the 21st century will be shaped by the possibility or collapse of a shareable world." Toni Morrison (as quoted by Larry Rasmussen in *The Planet You Inherit*) *"Coming of age in a climate crisis is like learning to swim in a flood."* Talitha Amedea Aho *Deep Waters: Spiritual Care for Young People in a Climate Crisis*

**EcoFaith Summit 2024 is presented
by the Northeastern Minnesota Synod
EcoFaith Network**

Keynote speaker is renowned Christian environmental ethicist Larry Rasmussen.

Summit Goals:

- Confront** the reality of the climate crisis.
- Listen** for God's call through the cries of the world.
- Conspire** for life across generations.
- Equip** communities for action.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church would like a team of people that are interested in these issues to represent us in the EcoFaith Network and lead the way. Please talk to Pastor Calvin with your interests. 218-387-2227.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 8:40am Choir Practice 10:00am Christian Contemporary Worship Service with the "Average Worship Band" 10:00am Sunday School during Worship	26 3:30pm Girl Scouts	27	28 No Confirmation: Lent 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 5:30pm Lenten Meal 6:00pm Lenten Service	29 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting	1	2
3 8:40am Choir Practice 10:00am Sunday School during Worship 10:00am Worship with Live stream & Choir sings 11:15am First Communion Class	4 3:30pm Girl Scouts	5	6 No Confirmation: Lent 8:00am Church In Society meeting 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 5:30pm Lenten Meal 6:00pm Lenten Service	7 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting	8 Clarity Hearing Appts.	9
10 8:40am Choir Practice 10:00am Sunday School during Worship 10:00am Worship Service - Live streamed 11:15am First Communion Class	11 6:30pm Executive Committee	12	13 No Confirmation: Lent 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 5:30pm Lenten Meal 6:00pm Lenten Service	14 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting 2:00pm Esther Circle 	15 Clarity Hearing Appts. 6:30pm Confirmation: Game Night	16 
17 Choir sings during worship 8:40am Choir Practice 10:00am Sunday School during Worship 10:00am Worship - Live streamed with Choir Temple talk: Summer Camps 11:15am First Communion Class 2:00pm Care Center Worship Service	18 3:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Church Council Meeting 	19 6:30pm Worship Planning Team	20 No Confirmation: Lent 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 5:30pm Lenten Meal 6:00pm Lenten Service	21 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting	22 Newsletter articles due for next edition Clarity Hearing Appts. 	23
24  8:40am Choir Practice 10:00am Christian Contemporary Worship Service with the "Average Worship Band" 10:00am Sunday School during Worship 11:15am First Communion Class	25 	26	27 No Confirmation: Lent NO LENT SERVICE 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study	28 Maundy Thursday First Communion 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting 6:00pm Worship Service 	29 Good Friday 6:00pm Worship Service 	30 
31 <i>Easter Joy</i> Easter Sunday 8:00am Early Worship Service 9:00am Easter Breakfast 10:00am Sunday School during Worship 10:00am Worship Service - Live streamed 	1 	2	3 No Confirmation 8:00am Church In Society meeting 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 	4 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting	5 Clarity Hearing Appts. 	6

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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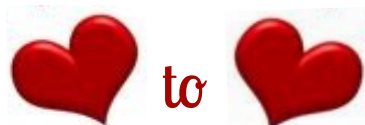
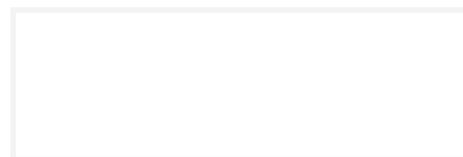
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Grand Marais, MN
55604

Belonging to Christ,

Sharing Christ on the

North Shore and beyond.



Reach Out to Others

Good People Help People, be Good People!

* * * * *

Call someone just because they've crossed your mind.

Send a card. It's always a welcome sight.

Hold the door for someone.

Smile!

**It only takes a few seconds, maybe a couple minutes,
to make yourself and others feel good!**

Blessings
from your Membership Team



Would you like to sponsor an Easter Lily in the Sanctuary for our Easter Services?

Please fill out a form (available in the Narthex or call 218-387-2227 or online at: www.sharingchrist.org/forms)

Deadline to order is Sunday, March 24th