BETHLEHEMSTAR

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JULY 2023

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The Konop's Haye Arrived!



Pastor Calvin will start work at Bethlehem on Monday July 10th. His first service with us will be on Wednesday July 12th, and first Sunday service will be on July 16th.

We hope that all of our families and friends will come to one of these services to welcome Pastor Calvin and Ashley to our congregation. Families are encouraged to join in the Wednesday soup supper and contemporary service.



July 27th was a very happy day around Bethlehem.

Around 8:00 AM the TruNorth crew arrived to repair the solar panels, and around 2:00 PM the Konop's arrived at the "Toftey House." Thanks to an impromptu squad of members that arrived to help unload the moving truck.

Pictured at left: Ashley, Nigel, Linus, and Pastor Calvin Konop. Pictured above is the "Impromptu Muscle Squad" that helped unload the furniture and boxes for the Konop's: Susan Bragstad, Alyssa Muus, Teresa Chmelik, John Muus, Butch Schulte, Bruce Johnson, Ashley Konop with Linus, Pastor Calvin with Nigel (kissing Ashley), In back: Kyle Oberg and Mike Chmelik. Pastor Enno Limvere took the group photo and also moved some boxes.

Thank you to all! Welcome "home" Konop's!



LUTHERAN SUMMER MUSIC ACADEMY

What a great way for youth to spend the summer: making music and worshipping God together in the beautiful setting of Valparaiso University! Lutheran Summer Music Academy is the premier faith-based music camp for high school students in the United States. Based in Valparaiso, IN, it is a super-intensive, month-long camp, where students are able to participate in top-level ensembles such as band, orchestra and

choir. Students also receive instruction on two instruments and perform in recitals throughout the month. Participating in daily morning and evening worship in the beautiful Chapel of the Resurrection is an integral part of the camp experience.



Martine Redshaw of Trinity Lutheran in Hovland is attending LSM for her third summer. This year she is joined by her good friend, Naomi Tracy-Hegg, whose family attends Bethlehem. Joining them for the two-week session is another Northland youth, Paavo Rova, son of Jonathan and Nancy Rova of Duluth and Grand Marais.

During the coming month, Martine will focus on violin and piano as well as participate in the choir and orchestra. Naomi will receive instruction on organ and piano and will participate in choir. Paavo will also study organ as well as string bass and will participate in the orchestra.

Martine and Naomi are both recipients of scholarships from Trinity's Muus Family Scholarship Fund. Naomi also received a significant campership from Bethlehem. The girls are grateful for the support from so many folks in both congregations. There will be regular updates throughout the month of July which will include links to musical performances.



CHEART TO HEART C

Just when the last of winter's snow has finally left, we hear a familiar buzzzz in the air. Mosquitoes! Millions of them. And then there is the sure sign of summer . . . smoke from forest fires filling our air. Yes, indeed. Following a particular cold, windy and long winter, summer is here.

If we lament on the weather, which we all do, it seems strange that we may consider ourselves in Northeastern Minnesota lucky. We recently have had to acknowledge some fierce wind damage from unusually high winds, but nonetheless, we live free from the fear of hurricanes, flash flooding, and tornados.

In considering ourselves "lucky," we may also consider

our emotional storms. Some may be small bumps in the road, while others certainly test our strength, physically, emotionally and spiritually. We are more than "lucky" when it comes to having God on our side during those storms. In retrospect, there may even be a silver lining in such a storm. Sometimes the result could be worth the discomfort of that storm.

Let's remember to hold the members of our church close in prayer.

NOT ALL STORMS COME TO DISRUPT YOUR LIFE.

SOME COME TO CLEAR THE PATH.

JULY DEVOTION,

MATTHEW 10:40-42



"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

WELCOME TO THE MONTH OF JULY!

Many of us are going full-throttle with summer activities like camping, fishing, hiking, biking, games, gardening, holiday activities and get togethers with family and friends. With Cook County being a tourist destination, many of us are also on call 24/7 working in tourism industry. How can we carry out Jesus' command to spread the gospel in the busyness of our days? The verses in Matthew give us a good idea.

"Rooted in Jesus' words regarding welcome, the *Rule of Saint Benedict* states, "All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ." In this Benedictine practice, the community that welcomes is blessed by the guest and the guest in turn is blessed, receiving care and hospitality."

We are invited to be instruments of righteousness. We are part of Christ's body, living and showing our faith to all those we encounter. Part of living out our faith, is caring for the stranger and anyone in need.

How might we hear the words of Matthew today and be challenged to offer hospitality to those in search of welcome and new life?

Have a great JULY!!

Excerpts from *Sundays and Seasons 2023, Year A*, copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress.

NEW SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Bethlehem Lutheran Church is pleased to announce the creation of the "Concordia College Congregational Scholarship Program."

Thanks to a generous donation by an anonymous Concordia College Alumni and supporter, any Bethlehem member who attends Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota is eligible. Students must attend the school at least half-time can apply for a \$1000 scholarship, renewable for a total of four years. The college will match the scholarship up to \$500/year for a full-time student. The program will continue as long as funds are available.

Application Deadline: NOW! Applications may be found on our website: https://www.sharingchrist.org/forms



Selection Committee: The Bethlehem Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Committee shall review all applications and award the scholarship recipients.

Award Distribution: The awards will be sent directly to Concordia College.

We are pleased to provide this opportunity for our youth who are interested in furthering their education at one of our fine ELCA colleges in this manner.

-Janet Simonen on behalf of the Misson Endowment Committee..

A Prayer for America

Creator God in Heaven,

We, the people, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, desperately need You.

On that we would leave our ways of seeking to be blessed and instead seek to bless others.

We beg for Your guidance and wisdom for our leaders.

We ask You to protect our land from enemies, both within and without. And we praise you for the freedom we have through the blood of Your Son.

May Your plan be the desire of our nation. Amen.



GOD'S

We are so grateful for the work Committee Of the Call recommended Pastor Calvin Konop as our new pastor at Bethlehem. He will be a pastor for all of us, but he brings years of work focused on Youth and Family.

Pastor Calvin will preside at our July 12th (Wednesday) Contemporary Service. We have a Soup and Sandwich supper starting at 5:30 pm. The service starts at 6:30 pm. We have fun, inspiring music using the Big Screen. This is a great time to meet Pastor Calvin in a relaxed worship setting.

His first Traditional Service is Sunday July 16th at 10 AM. We ask all families, especially those with grade school or Confirmation age children, to attend one of the events. It will help Pastor Calvin get to know us.

We are planning on a VBS event in August. The exact dates and format depend on Pastor Calvin's advice and volunteer participation.

In God's Care, Kris Hedstrom

We are called to live out God's call to be stewards of the earth for the sake of the whole creation

POLLINATOR SYNOD

NORTHEASTERN

At the 2023 Synod Assembly, the voting members approved resolution for the NE Minnesota Sunod to become a Pollinator Sunod.

The resolution recognizes the importance of pollinators in our ecosystem and acknowledges that populations of pollinator species have been decreasing and are being threatened by climate change, diminishing habitat, and the use of pesticides and other chemicals. The resolution also encourages congregations and individuals to promote pollinator friendly habitats on their grounds, at their homes and in their neighborhoods.

Thanks to Pastor Mark Ditmanson, Bethlehem has added many pollinators in gardens for many years. As well as starting a "Monarch Way Station" We encourage you to plant pollinators in your gardens, fields and meadows.



EARTH'S CLIMATE CRISIS

The ELCA Church Council adopted a new social message titled "Earth's Climate Crisis" on April 20, 2023.

The ELCA writes, "Drawing from existing social teaching, social messages provide theological rationale and social analysis to foster discernment and engagement on a relatively narrow social issue. This project was authorized in light of the grim contemporary situation affecting our global home and the need for fresh action on the part of this church. It draws its framing themes from several social statements, particularly Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice."

OUR NEW STATE BEE: RUSTY-**PATCHED** BUMBLE BEE



IT IS NOW LISTED AS AN ENDANGERED SPECIES THE US AND CANADA

References:

https://www.ecofaithnetwork.org/ https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Caring-for-Creation

https://bwsr.state.mn.us/I2I https://bluethumb.org/ Pollinators of Native Plants by Heather Holm





WE RISE HIGHER

At the end of the school year, we bless our graduates with

quilts and prayers. We also give them a gift of a book entitled *We Rise Higher: Poems and Prayers for Graduates* by Joe Davis, poet, artist and educator based in Minneapolis.

We Rise Higher: Poems and Prayers for Graduates is a book that supports youth as they celebrate, commemorate, and reflect on graduating from high school moving on to the next phase of life. This collection includes poems of praise and affirmation, poems of joy and celebration, poems for heavy emotions, and poems for growth and new beginnings. Each poem features interactive content that invites creative responses and reflections by the graduate.

Our Bethlehem graduates have built their faith foundation in prayers and practices, learned in confirmation and activities. They know that this community of faith is supporting them. It is our hope that these young people will remember that their community at Bethlehem continues to support them through prayers. May they know that God is always moving within us. Whenever they forget, may they be reminded of how the beauty and power of God lives within each of us as they see God's beauty and power reflected and lived in our lives.

Prayer: Life A prayer-poem to remind us Who's listening

I believe

whether we know it or not we are always talking with God—

Laughing, weeping, raging, ranting, eating, sleeping, daydreaming, dancing,

Everything above, below,
or in between
whispers and screams, mutters and
moans, grunts and groans,
more than wagging tongues, ebbing lungs,
and tickled throats,

Our body's language sings
letters and notes,
books printed on skin and bone,
sent back home,
delivered through space and time,

And each moment there is One who listens
intently,
bends gently,
and responds in kind.
- Joe Davis

Gratitude

A song of thanks to God and others

This on thing I have for you, it's not automatic or a magic pill, it's gradual.

I know the sadness grabs us all, but we don't have to fall.

We ain't got it all together, but together we got it all:

Holler hallelu!
We call it gratitude!
In all I say and all I do—
the more I think of thanks
the more I think of you. I think of you.
The more I think of thanks the more I
think of you!

My gratitude is radical, sends my sadness on sabbatical, when battling my shadows it's the greatest tool I know!

I was crying but I'm laughing now.
It can alter any mood or attitude,
when I'm out of tune it's my autotune,
It taught me how to move my altitude
like a ladder to a hot air balloon!

I don't always know what to do,
I don't always have a choice,
but you choose me,
And I receive to give joy and rejoice:

Holler hallelu!
We call it gratitude!
In all I say and all I do—
the more I think of thanks
the more I think of you, I think of you.
The more I think of thanks the more I
think of you!

Always be grateful for all things because almost all change is small change in small ways.

All praise to Yahweh for all of my days, give proper props to God in all that I say. . . .

It's okay to not be okay, we all go through pain bu whether sun rays or some rain on thing is the same:

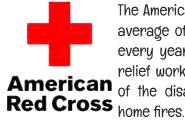
Holler hallelu!
We call it gratitude!
In all I say and all I do—
the more I think of thanks
the more I think of you, I think of you.
The more I think of thanks the more I
think of you!

- Joe Davis



Our July Mission of the Month is the Northern Minnesota division of the American Red Cross.

Red Cross volunteers and staff work to deliver vital services - from providing relief and support to those in crisis, to helping people be prepared to respond in emergency situations. Did you know that the Red Cross responds to an emergency every 8 minutes? Be it small house fires or multi-state natural disasters, the American Red Cross goes wherever there is need, providing people with clean water, safe shelter, and hot meals.



The American Red Cross responds to an average of more than 60,000 disasters every year. 95% of Red Cross disaster relief workers are volunteers and most of the disasters they respond to are

Red Cross health volunteers travel to disaster sites to help people cope. Health workers can provide first aid treatment for injuries, monitor the well-being of people staying in Red Cross shelters, and replace prescription medications or eyeglasses.

The best way to provide immediate relief to your neighbors facing emergency situations is through a monetary donation. The Red Cross notes that their assistance programs rely heavily on the generous financial support of citizens in the Minnesota and Dakotas region. Even if you only have a few dollars to spare, your donation to American Red Cross disaster relief will make a significant difference in the lives of those facing disasters.

Please note "Red Cross" on your special offering if you would like to support this Mission of the Month. For more information: https://www.redcross.org/local/mn-nd -sd/about-us/locations/northern-minnesota.html

In peace, Joni Kristenson & Jessica Markusen, on behalf of the Church in Society Committee

"Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." - Matthew 10:40

JULY MEMBER CHALLENGE

This month we have several opportunities for members to get involved with the Northern MN Red Cross.

~Come and quilt with us. All quilts completed in July will be donated to the Red Cross in Duluth. You can help in a variety of ways:

~Participate in a Quilting Session. The quilters meet on Thursday mornings from 9:00 am to approx. noon. No experience or long-term commitment necessary. Stations include: layering & pinning the quilt top, batting & backing; Tying quilts using yarn; or sewing around the edges. Coffee and treats are served at 10 am.

~Transport the completed bags of quilts to the Red Cross office in Duluth at the end of July. (Located across from Target)

~Make your own quilt top or completed quilt and add it to the Quilters stash.

DONATE

BLOOD

~Donate blood. The next local Blood Drive, "Saving Lives for Payton," will be held at Mike's Holiday Station in Grand Marais. Tuesday July 25^{th} , 10am to 6pm; Wednesday July 26th, 8am to 3pm. If

unable to donate, call and see how else you can help,. 218-370-1225 Contact Courtney to sign up: Mikesholiday3516@gmail.com. Weekly changes to Minnesota Twins tickets! Learn more at mbc.org/twins.

Sunday September 10, 2023 God's Work Our Hands

This annual day of service is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. The Church in Society committee could use your help coming up with this year's service project. How might we love and serve our neighbors? If you have a service project idea to pass along, please send a note to

Jess at jess.markusen@gmail.com

BOATS OF LONGING ...

SONGS AND STORIES OF MIGRATION AND FAITH

Trinity Lutheran Church of Howland –

4957 E. Highway 61, Hovland, MN

SUMMER SERIES 2023





Tuesday, July 18 - Journey Songs of Pilgrimage and Faith

A good old-fashioned HYMN SING accompanied by stories and theological reflection related to the theme of boats and journeys of longing. Presentation by Pastor William Beckstrand.

7pm followed by pie and ice cream.

Tuesday, August 22 • A Home in Hovland: Friends and Neighbors in

Shared Places of Community and Faith—a look at encounters of migration in the human experience, and the immigrants and families who journeyed here to make Hovland their home.

Presentation by Phil Anderson, Hovland resident and Professor Emeritus of Church History, North Park Theological Seminary, Chicago.

7pm followed by pie and ice cream.

<u>Saturday</u>, <u>September 30</u> • The "raising" of a model ship built by Mark Hansen, along with his presentation on its construction, and the tradition of "votive ships" in the history of the church.

WDSE (PBS North) of Duluth will be filming this as the second half of an upcoming episode of their program <u>The Slice</u>, capturing "the unique character, events, and experiences found in northern Minnesota and Wisconsin."

6pm - Fishcake dinner

7pm — Program led by Mark Hansen, boat builder and founder of North House Folk School.





For more information contact Pastor William Beckstrand at 218-475-2439, trinity@boreal.org

Free-will offering proceeds are being used to support the immigration, to the United States, of a family separated by political unrest and economic turbulence in their homeland, Haiti, This sponsorship of family reunification follows the guidelines of the U.S. Sponsorship 1-134a program.

Trinity Summer Series 2023 • An Initial Discussion

Migration and the pilgrim journey have always been a universally shared human experience, both physical and spiritual. Whether comprised of voluntary or involuntary uprooting from one's homeland and transplanting to another, the importance of places and sacred spaces take on crucial meanings of personal and communal identity. Who am 1? Where is home? What has brought me to this place on my unfolding journey of life and faith? How do memory and longing guide and sustain me? Why do we need each other in this adventure?

The people and families that arrived in Hovland, beginning in 1888, settled on the ancestral homelands of their Native American neighbors in Cook County. With Chicago Bay at its heart, in scattered communities they forged new lives fishing Lake Superior, logging the deep woods, and farming the rocky soil.

For more than a quarter-century, Trinity has hosted a summer series for its neighbors and visitors in Cook County, focusing on a variety of themes of mutual interest and edification. This year, the theme is the centrality of ships as they relate to life and faith, be it in the physical journeys and wanderings of people or symbolically in the rich biblical and spiritual imagery of water and the vessels that transport pilgrims along life's way.

Through songs and stories, the series is inspired by the votive ship that Mark Hansen has been accurately and painstakingly constructing over the past year, to be hung in Trinity's sanctuary as an ongoing memorial to its early individuals and families and the generations that have followed. This tradition is an old one in the seafaring parish churches of Scandinavia and northern Europe.

—Phil Anderson

ii Anderson

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR HEALING

Gwen Lenz Darold Rosbacka Jim Daugherty, Barbara Erickson. Char Anderson. Vera Finn. Lynn Schulte, Bruce Johnson. Eleanor Waha. Rhonda Schulte. Paulina Backstrom. Les Donek, Carly Hawkinson-Shom; Emi Heikkinen. Lisa Bloomquist, Terry Backlund, Jesse Derscheid. Mike Smith

ANSWER TO PRAYERS

William Strand, our former Vicar Intern, has accepted his first call, a two-point parish in South Carolina.. He will be ordained in his home church, Messiah Lutheran in Madison, Alabama, on July 10th at 6:00_{PM}. (William will send us the live stream link.)

Please keep William in your prayers as he begins a new role in shepherding these two congregations.

BETHLEHEM AND COMMUNITY NEWS



Happy 99th Birthday to Eleanor

Waha! Our dear sister Eleanor turn 99 years old on July 24th. If you have been around over the last decades, chances are good that you have received a card

from Eleanor for a special occasion in your life. We would like to have everyone send a birthday card to her this year. She is well settled in West Duluth, mixing with other residents. Please send your cards to: Eleanor Waha, C/o Jerry Waha, 516 So 64th Ave W., Duluth 55807



Volunteer Opportunities at the Care Center

Watering outdoor plants; reading to residents; play a game at 2 pm on a Saturday or Sunday; Sit with residents out on the patio, etc. Come share your talents. (Think of it as "Paying it Forward") Call Lisa Bloomquist for more information 218–387–3518

Student Summer Lunch Program

In a partnership with the Community
Center, the HUB in Grand Marais is offering free lunches
for students in Cook County that need meals. Due to a lack
of available staff, Cook County Schools was not able to
host an open meal program at school this summer.

This program will end on Friday September 1st. All students must sign-up prior to attending. Meals will be served daily at Noon in the dining room at The Hub (10 N Broadway) Monday-Friday. Forms can either be filled out online, printed and returned to The Hub, or emailed to seniors@boreal.org. Menu can be viewed on our website: https://www.grandmaraishub.com/

First & Second Thrift Store

The long awaited store opening will be sometime this month in the Birchbark building, and they have



started to accept donations from 10am to 4pm every day, except Sundays through the end of June.

Thank you for holding your donations. They expect to be deluged, and that will make us very happy. If possible, please bring your donations to the south side door on the alley between Birchbark and Joyne's.

The Grand Marais Lions Club is soliciting nominations for Citizen of the Year to be awarded on Saturday, August 5, 2023, during Fisherman's Picnic. Nominations are due by 5:00 pm Friday, July 14, 2023. Further information and a nomination form can be obtained by emailing barbb@boreal.org or on the website at https://www.grandmaraislions.com/citizen-of-the-heat.html#

Ecumenical Creation Care

To get through this global climate crisis we will need more than just actions, we also need a new vision of



our relationship with the planet. To help us create and strengthen a restorative and healing relationship, all are invited to participate in prayers, songs, poems, silence, and even dancing each week on Tuesdays over the lunch hour. We will be gathering at Compass Park (across the street from Java Moose) at 12:15 PM each week. We hope that we will have a rotation of leaders: religious, lay people, and those who want to reconnect and fill the space with love. Each gathering should last about 20 minutes with time left for fellowship and the breaking of bread (or whatever people bring to eat).

We will begin on July 11th and continue each week. If you want to be a regular leader or just be a one-time leader, please contact me to schedule your time.

Peace, Pastor Enno Limvere, First Congregational Church

JULY 2023 AT BETHLEHEM

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Rev. Ann Newgard-Larson, Presiding 10:00am Christian Contemporary Worship Service with the "Average Worshzzzzip Band"	26 1:30pm Jazz Ensemble Practice	27	28 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 7:00pm Jazz Band Practice	29 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting	30	1
Rev. John Bragstad, presiding 8:40am Choir Practice 10:00am Worship with Live stream & Choir sings	3	4 Independence Day	5 8:00am Church In Society meeting 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 6:30pm Average Worship Band Practice	8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting 7:00pm Executive Committee	Church Directory pictures due today! Clarity Hearing Appts.	R
Jazz Service Rev. Carol Mork, presiding 10:00am Worship Service 11:15AM New Member Class	Pastor Calvin Konop's Ist day at BLC Meet the New Minister	Committee Reports Due!	12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Contemporary Worship Service with Pastor Calvin Konop, Presiding WELCOME OUR NEW PASTOR	Overnight: Advent Lutheran, Maple Grove 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting 7:00pm Council meeting Church Council	Overnight: Advent Lutheran, Maple Grove 10:00am Rebecca & Ruth Circles	15 Overnight: Advent Lutheran, Maple Grove
16 New Member Sun. 8:00am Choir Practice 10:00am Worship with Live stream & Choir sings WELCOME OUR NEW PASTOR	17	18 6:00pm Worship Planning Committee	19 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study	8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting	21 Clarity Hearing Appts.	Newsletter articles due for next edition ARTICLE DEADLINE
10:00am Christian Contemporary Worship Service with the "Average Worship Band" 5:00pm Overnight: Grace Luther- an, Mankato	24	25	26 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study	8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting 5:00pm Overnight: Grace Lutheran, Mankato	28	29
30 Bluegrass Worship Service 10:00am Worship Service - Live streamed	31	1	2 8:00am Church In Society meeting 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 6:30pm Average Worship Band Practice	3 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting 7:00pm Executive Committee	4 Clarity Hearing Appts.	5

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Belonging to Christ,

Sharing Christ on the

North Shore and beyond.









New Church Directory!

We would like to put together a new Church Directory for Pastor Calvin to help get to know the members of this parish. We can easily print out a directory from the church's database. Now, there are two slight issues with this: #1) We need a current family picture from everyone, and #2) Updates made to the database from January—June 2023 have been lost in "electron heaven." (back-up issues)

Please provide a current family photo along with your address, email addresses, phone (land and cell) numbers, etc. to verify that our database is up-to-date. Additional information is also useful (especially on children): dates of birth, baptism, confirmation, and marriages, etc. (Date & how joined BLC?)

John Muus has graciously become our Church Photographer and is available with his camera on Sundays to get your pictures. Thanks! Pictures due no lather than Friday July 7, 2023



NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

Are you interested in becoming a member of Bethlehem
Lutheran Church? We would love to have you as part of our family! Join Pastor Calvin and Ashley Konop on July 16th as they Affirm their Baptism and become our newest members. We welcome all interested persons to contact Mike Chmelik at 218.387.1790 or the church office at 218.387.2227, blc@boreal.org