

Bethlehem Star



May 2023 Volume 42 Number 4

A PUBLICATION OF BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH, GRAND MARAIS, MN



The Call Committee has exciting news! After much prayerful consideration, discussion and discernment, we extended an invitation to a candidate to be our pastor. After prayerful consideration and discernment on his part, he responded yes. He feels he is being called to move to Grand Marais and be our next pastor.

I don't feel I can adequately describe the excitement our call committee felt upon hearing this news. We feel this is a wonderful opportunity for our congregation to continue to grow and develop, and to continue do God's work with our hands.

The Church Council will be advising us in the next steps of the call process.

The Call Committee thanks you for your prayers and for the opportunity to serve you in this process. Congregational input has been vital in creating an opportunity for our ministry on the North Shore and Beyond to continue.

And, you have heard our pastor needs a place to live. Word of mouth is often the best way to find housing. If you know of any potential homes that may work for our pastor, please let a council member know.

Thank You, Nathan Kristenson, Call Committee Chair



All are invited to join us as we meet the "Pastoral Candidate of Choice" on Friday evening, May 19th at 6:00 PM.

Potluck meal: Bring a dish or bowl to share.

Please Come!



Meet to
Vote
Sunday
May 21st
at 11:15_{am}

Men's Bible Study Annual Dinner



A Celebration of Fellowship, April 26, 2023: Pictured here: Nathan Kristenson, Dan Diazun (Thunder Bay) , Chet Linskog, Ed Hedstrom, Kevin Pollock (Thunder Bay) , Charlie Darley (local, new to group), & host Mike Chmelik.

"Go quickly, and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead."

-Matthew 28:7

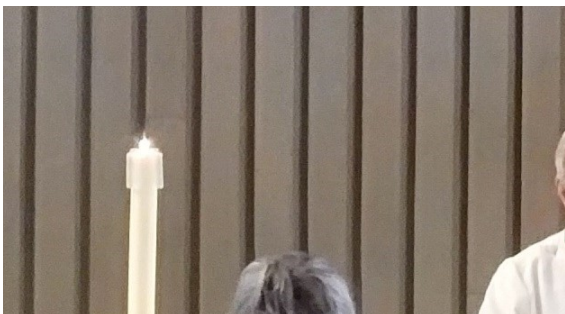
EASTER AT BETHLEHEM:
Rejoiced with instruments and song.

Pastor John Bragstad led the service.

Confirmation Youth serviced brunch.

Great Fellowship with all.

Christ is risen indeed!



northeastern minnesota synod
september 2023
www.nemnsynod.org

See Stacey's report on page 5



Devotion for June By Rev. Rolf Morck

The Lord
IS MY Shepherd
Psalms 23

Psalm 23

A Psalm for Life

Order Yours Today!



As one of my Bible teachers put it, “Psalm 23 is the essential text for the daily life of faith.” Why? Because it works. Many a saint has had these words read, spoken, or prayed as they breathed their last. Many of the grief stricken have been soothed by these words as they lay to rest those they love.

Even Jesus used this Psalm as the basis for his proclamation that Jesus was the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep. Even Jesus believes this Psalm 23 is essential for living. I think we can take that as a pretty good recommendation.

My sense is that among ourselves and most of the people we encounter each day, there is this kind of spiritual “angst”. “Angst” is a German word, most famously used by the theologian Soren Kierkegaard, meaning, “anxiety.” A kind of restlessness of our souls that is reaching out for some reassurance or comfort.

Especially, as we emerge from the angst of the extraordinary circumstances of the past couple of years. We have survived, but it hasn’t been easy. Now what? Will a new virus find us? We have lost so much. What do we do now?



Call now!

Psalm 23 is waiting for you.

So, if a little reassurance is what you’re looking for, then Psalm 23 delivers.

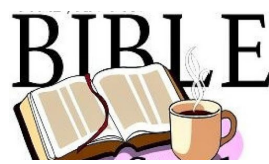
Feeling down? Life a little uncertain? Your friends are acting a little strange? Tired of divisions? Parents getting on your nerves. Wondering when the other shoe is about to drop? Anxious, but don’t know why?

If so, try a dose or two of Psalm 23. Take whole or just a verse or two at a time. Read. Listen. Breathe. Pray. Repeat. Guaranteed to reduce your stress level and open your eyes to the reality of God’s presence with you right now, right here. It will heal you. In fact, this is so good, this

Psalm 23 has never failed to take broken human hearts and teach our hearts to trust in God’s promise to never let us down.

And best of all it’s free. It just requires the tiniest sliver of your time, which pays you back 1000 times more than you’ll ever put into it. Any takers?

Still unsure? This Psalm is so good, it puts the words right in your mouth. It oozes trust from every sentence. The Lord is my Shepherd. I shall not want. You prepare a table before me. My cup overflows. Trust me. It works. You too can trust God in your time of need or any time for that matter.



Bible Study Resumes

Do you remember Psalm 1 – the beautiful psalm that talks about you being a tree firmly planted by streams of water? Verse 2 goes like this:

“but their delight is in the law of the Lord and on his law they meditate day and night.”

The word meditate has been explained to me as meaning “chewing the cud”. The idea is to ruminate or chew food over and over – in the Psalms, the food being the word of God! King David likens himself to a ruminating cow! He takes a Scripture and ruminates over it to understand what God is saying to him.

I was in a Bible study that took a 6-month hiatus. We liked to ruminate – chew the cud – over the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday service.

As we read & discussed the scriptures for the Sunday service, we found it deepened our contemplation of the passages before hearing them on Sunday. There were such good insights shared & generally just wonderful fellowship.

A couple of us have really missed it, so this week we are resuming our Bible study. We meet on **Wednesdays from 12:30-1:30**, our first one this Wednesday May 3rd!

We have been small in numbers, but **ALL are welcome**. If this is a time that would work for you, come “chew the cud” with us!!



Mission Of the Month



Lutheran Volunteer Corps

UNITING PEOPLE TO WORK FOR PEACE WITH JUSTICE

"Lutheran Volunteer Corps, LVC, places recent college graduates ("Volunteers") in full-time service positions at social-justice organizations across the United States in Baltimore, Minneapolis, Omaha, St. Paul, Washington, D.C., and Wilmington, DE – for one or two years. Service-year Volunteers are encouraged to explore LVC's core principles: **living simply and sustainably in intentional community while serving the cause of peace with justice.** LVC places emphasis on the **INJUSTICE OF RACISM, OPPRESSION, AND PRIVILEGE** in its leadership development curriculum; and Volunteers develop broad leadership skills while being placed with *food justice, legal aid, environment, housing, immigration, education, health care, and other missions.*"

Lutheran Volunteer Corps has a hikeathon fundraiser next month, and we're encouraging members of the church to take a hike in honor of LVC and to share photos! A flyer is below.

If you would like to contribute a financial gift to Lutheran Volunteer Corps, please note "May Mission of the Month" or "LVC" on your special offering.

In peace, Libby Larson, on behalf of the Church in Society Committee

Apply here



2nd annual
take a hike for social justice!
FAITH COMMUNITIES
 SPONSORED BY LVC & LED BY SUPPORTERS IN CITIES ACROSS THE U.S.
 SCAN HERE 

LUTHERAN VOLUNTEER CORPS
INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY | SIMPLE & SUSTAINABLE LIVING | SOCIAL JUSTICE

SAVE THE DATE: MAY 19-21, 2023
 Get ready to register yourself . your team
 to raise funds for social justice fellowships
www.lutheranvolunteer corps.org * 202.387.3222

HIKE FOR JUSTICE IN MAY

↓

FAITH COMMUNITIES: choose your support

- Show up at a planned hike in LVC cities
- Host your own hike for your congregation
- Donate online to support hikers or cities
- REGISTER** <https://myevent.com/lvchike>

SUPPORT FELLOWSHIPS ALL YEAR

↓

FAITH COMMUNITIES: choose your support

- Pack-the-pantry for fellows 4X a year
- Host a dinner, bbq, or welcome party
- Invite fellows to a social justice program
- DONATE** www.lutheranvolunteer corps.org

ONE YEAR IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL FELLOWSHIPS
 dc*baltimore*minneapolis*in person or virtual*stipends paid

LUTHERAN VOLUNTEER CORPS
INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY | SIMPLE & SUSTAINABLE LIVING | SOCIAL JUSTICE

IT'S NOT JUST FOR NEW GRADS!
SOCIAL JUSTICE
 retired / job changers / seminary / sabbatical
FELLOWSHIPS



dc*baltimore*minneapolis*virtual*stipend

IS JUSTICE IMPORTANT TO YOU?
*hike for justice in May * start your fellowship in August*
explore national issues
take action on community concerns

SCAN HERE 

Interviews start in March * Fellowships start in August

www.lutheranvolunteer corps.org * recruitment@lutheranvolunteer corps.org



“THE SON MAKES YOU FREE!”

Support! That was the theme for the 2023 Synod convention held at Cragun’s Resort. (See John 8:36)

Thank you, Bethlehem Lutheran, for the opportunity for us (Bruce Johnson & myself) to represent our congregation at the **36th Annual Synod Assembly** the last weekend in April.

It was a fun weekend filled with hearing about the work of our neighboring churches and the opportunities we have as a church to help us grow in faith and show our love to our neighbor.

Along with regular church business (voting on budgets and resolutions) we honored our leaders such as Deacon Brenda Tibbets who will be retiring this fall. And we welcomed Susan Williams to the position of Synod Minister for Leadership Support. We also had the opportunity to have devotions, bid on quilts to support world hunger, hear presentations from synod committees and task forces, recognize awards (Congrats Knife River on the Holy Cow award - \$74.99 pcm!), worship, and have many conversations over good food with lay and rostered members from the various congregations in our synod.

Some of you may remember the days when Bethlehem Lutheran supported a summer recreation minister who lived in the Grand Marais Rec Park for the summer. After the last worship service on Sunday, the man sitting next to us asked if we were from Grand Marais. We replied yes, and he introduced himself. He was Chuck Barnes, our summer minister from many years ago (under the guidance of Pastor Osthus)! It was great to see him again (he is serving in Aurora, Minnesota) and he sends his greetings to all of us at Bethlehem Lutheran!

Thanks be to God for his faithfulness!
Stacey Hawkins

FAMILY CELEBRATIONS

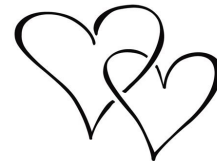
Something new we would like to see in our June newsletter is for our members to **share ALL of your family celebratory news** with us. We truly believe all accomplishments should be rejoiced in. Graduations, Athletics, Births, Marriages. . . you fill in the blank.



Please send a short description of what you are celebrating, along with a picture, if you wish.

If you would like help with your submission, please call Kathleen at 218.387.9056 or Denise at 218.387.2227, or email her at blc@boreal.org.

We so look forward to receiving your news and sharing it with our membership in our June Newsletter. Watch for it there!



HEART TO HEART

Memorial Day is coming up on Monday, May 29th. This day gives credence to us in remembering our soldiers who have served our country; so many, in so many different ways.

This day is also a time to remember our family, friends and those who have crossed our paths, and gone on before us.

A simple way to pay our respects is to spruce up the graves of those you wish to honor by raking, trimming around headstones, maybe leaving flowers. If you are aware of a grave site that looks forgotten, it could be that that family is no longer here to take care of the plot. Perhaps it’s an opportunity for you to recognize that family with kindness. A small gesture can mean so much, even if it’s only you who may be aware of it.

*When there comes a day
We’re no longer together
I’ll be in your heart
I’ll stay there forever*

Adapted from a poem by A.A. Milne



We have finished Sunday School (lessons shared with our youngest members during morning Worship) and will resume in September.

We had great fun singing Bible Songs that remind us of Bible Stories. Our enthusiasm didn't raise the roof, but the extreme wind last Sunday sounded like it. We enjoyed participation this past year from: Aren, Lars, Orin, Anders, Sylvan, Karsten, Henrik, Jonathon,



Elijah, Eddie, Kyson, Finnley, Freja, Alma, Hattie and Matteo.

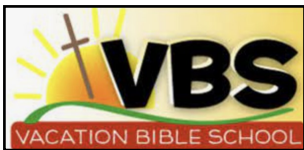


Confirmation classes will continue into May. Thank you to everyone who helped make confirmation happen this year! We have had a great year! Our 8th graders will work on their Faith Statement before being confirmed on Reformation Sunday in October.



Senior Graduation Sunday is May 14th. Our graduating seniors are: **J SHANNON.**

ROWAN LINDHOLM, KATIE PECK, SAVANNA SHEPARD, MAKENZIE FAIRBANKS AND ANNA HELMERSON. They will receive their quilts, gifts from the church and our blessings.



Vacation Bible School has been moved (from June 12-16) to a week in early August. It may provide an opportunity for the new pastor to meet our school age children. Anyone interested in helping, please contact Mindy Jacobsen, 651-247-7021, or Kris Hedstrom, 218-387-1530.



Teacher Appreciation Sunday and/or Sunday School picnic has not yet been scheduled, but we are looking at a date in early June.

In God's Care, Kris Hedstrom & Mindy Jacobsen

the elca NETWORK

children, youth & family ministry

<https://www.elcaymnet.org/> The ELCA Youth Ministry Network exists to **strengthen** and **empower** adult children, youth and family ministry leaders in service to Christ.

Free Trees at Bethlehem in May

The Church Council has been informed of a community outreach opportunity. Carolyn Dry has ordered 2200 bare root saplings as a gift to the Cook County community. However, she is unable to be in Cook County when the bare root saplings arrive sometime in mid-May. She has asked Bethlehem to help with this.



In last fall's questionnaire, Bethlehem members emphasized how important it is for Bethlehem to take part in these sort of community events. The church council supports using Bethlehem's grounds as the drop-off and pick-up site for these saplings.

Lyle and Laurie Spry have volunteered to help with this project. We are looking for a small group of individuals who can volunteer to take on this project. Please let the church office know if you would like to be part of this event. blc@boreal.org or 218-387-2227. **Distribution date: TBD**



This month we ask that you pray for the following members and friends: Barbara Erickson, Lynn Schulte, Char Anderson, Eleanor Waha, Vera Finn, Paulina Backstrom, Rhonda Schulte, Bruce Johnson, Pastor Bob Stoskopf, Hank Ferland, Les Donek, Carly Hawkinson-Shom, Elsa Sorensen, Bob Spry and Emi Heikkinen (infant daughter of Taylor Ryden).

Update on Carly Shom from Caring Bridge: Carly completed 3 weeks of treatment at the Hope4Cancer Center in Cancun. They gave the center high marks in there overall professional and positive outlook for success, and all personnel were very caring and kind. A return trip to Cancun is tentatively set for August. - With Love and Gratitude, Dave & Cathy Hawkinson (Carly's parents)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>30</p> <p>8:40am Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Worship Service - Live streamed 11:15am Holy Moly Class 11:15am Confirmation Class</p> 	<p>1</p> <p>3:30pm Girl Scouts - 1st graders</p> 	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:45am AP Testing 8:00am Church In Society meeting</p> <p>New Bible Study</p>  <p>12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 6:30pm Average Worship Band Practice</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Denise's Vacation 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting 5:00pm Swing Band Practice 7:00pm Executive Committee</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>Clarity Hearing Appts. Denise's Vacation</p> 	<p>6</p>
<p>7 Rev. Rolf Morck, Presiding</p> <p>Worship in-person at 10:00 AM with Live stream / Choir sings</p> <p>8:40am Choir Rehearsal 11:15am Confirmation Class - LAST DAY 11:15am Holy Moly class - LAST DAY</p> 	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>12:00pm Quilters Lunch with High School Seniors</p>  <p>12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Contemporary Worship Service with Pastor Tom Murray, Presiding</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:45am AP Testing 8:00am Bible Study 9:30am Esther Circle</p> <p>Quilters Lunch</p>  <p>11:30am Quilters Annual Luncheon 7:00pm Council meeting</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Women's Circles</p>  <p>1:00pm Rebecca & Ruth Circles</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Distribute Tree Seedlings (?) Date to be determined</p> 
<p>14</p> <p>Happy Mothers Day</p>  <p>Mother's Day Quilt Sunday for High School Seniors Rev. Anne Swallow Gillis, Presiding 8:40am Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>15</p> <p>3:30pm Girl Scouts 1st grade</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:00pm Worship Planning Committee</p> 	<p>17</p> <p>12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study</p> 	<p>18</p> <p>ASCENSION</p>  <p>8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting 5:00pm Executive Committee Special Mtg 6:00pm Church Council Special Meeting 7:00pm Joint meal for Candidate, Call Committee & Council</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Clarity Hearing Appts. 6:00pm Meet & Greet with Pastoral Candidate (Potluck)</p> <p>meet & greet</p>  <p>Potluck</p> 	<p>20</p> <p>Distribute Tree Seedlings (?) Date to be determined</p>  
<p>21 Rev. Anne Swallow Gillis, Presiding</p> <p>Worship in-person at 10:00 AM with Live stream / Choir sings 8:40am Choir Rehearsal 11:15am SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & VOTE</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>Newsletter articles due for next edition</p> <p>Don't Miss the DEADLINE!</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study</p> 	<p>25</p> <p>8:00am Bible Study</p>  <p>9:00am Quilting</p> <p>QUILTING group</p> 	<p>26</p> 	<p>27</p> <p>MAY</p>
<p>28</p> <p>PENTECOST SUNDAY</p> <p>Jonathan Rova, Presiding Pentecost</p> <p>10:00am Christian Contemporary Worship Service with the "Average Worship Band"</p> <p>PRAISE OF HIS GLORY.</p> 	<p>29</p> <p>Memorial Day</p>  <p>Memorial Day Office is Closed 9:30am Maple Hill Memorial Day Service, Rev. Bill Beckstrand, Presiding 11:00am Court House Ceremony</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study</p> <p>JOIN A STUDY GROUP</p> 	<p>1</p> <p>8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting 7:00pm Executive Committee</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>Clarity Hearing Appts.</p>	<p>3</p>

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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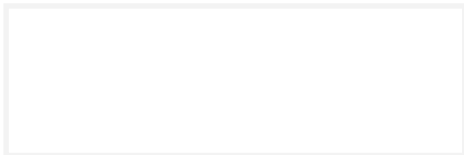
Belonging to Christ,

Sharing Christ on the

North Shore and beyond.



We appreciate
your Online
Giving



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

KATIE MUMM and PARKER SLANGA



Katie Mumm and Parker Slanga are new members at Bethlehem, having officially joined our church on April 23rd.

Katie is from Thief River Falls, MN, and came to this area initially to work at Bearskin Lodge for 3 years. You may be aware of Katie's presence at our church as she served as the Youth Director a couple of years ago, that adventure cut short by Covid.

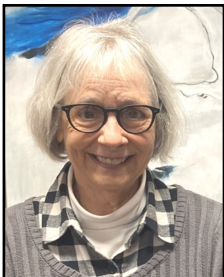
Parker grew up in Grand Marais. Following graduation from Cook County High School, he attended school at LSC in Duluth to become an electrician and worked for North Shore Electric.

Together they own and operate The Fisherman's Daughter, at Dockside Market in Grand Marais.

Parker and Katie claim they are thrilled to finally be members of Bethlehem, and are most excited for the sense of faith-based community.

Also exciting is the news that Katie and Parker will be married here, in their new church home, on September 23, 2023.

WELCOME! PATTI BEYER



Patti Beyer is a lovely lady that moved from Illinois to Grand Marais 7 months ago but she has visited here many times!

She also joined Bethlehem on April 23rd and says she is so happy to join our welcoming and loving church and finds Bethlehem a joyful place to worship and serve others.

Bethlehem's "Dumpster Divers"? Actually, Bethlehem has its very own "Dumpster Tippers!" With the strong winds this spring our dumpster has blown over a few times. Thanks to all

