

E-Weekly

March 20, 2026

Volume 10 Number 13

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



UNBIND HIM,
AND
LET HIM GO

JOHN 11:44

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The dry bones of Israel brought to life

Psalms 130

I wait for you, O LORD;
in your word is my hope.

Romans 8:6-11

Life in the Spirit

John 11:1-45

Baptismal image: the raising of Lazarus

Livestream Link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lb-_dclVt6E



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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www.sharingchrist.org

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Minister. 763-226-5425
blcpastor@boreal.org

Jessica Christenson, Director of
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blcyouth@boreal.org
507-530-2763

Denise Murray, Office Administrator
blc@boreal.org
218-370-1058



**Holden Evening
Prayer**

Continues

**Wednesdays at 6pm
during Lent**

Join us for Bethlehem Builders Club!

An afterschool program for 3rd - 5th graders where we are building a strong foundation of faith!

We will be meeting every Wednesday in March from 3:30-5:30

During this time we will worship together, play games, have snacks, have Bible study & more. All are welcome!



Due to Mid-winter School Break, we will not meet on March 29th.



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

Communion Class at Bethlehem

Students & Parents:

Come and learn about Communion! For 3rd - 5th graders **and anyone who missed this class.**

Continues this Sunday March 22

March 15th, 22nd & 29th @: **11:15am - 12:30pm**



Register online now or contact Jess!

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

PRAYER list

Healing prayers are requested:

Joan Bieber; Gene Erickson; Mary Sanders; Linda Zenk; Bruce & Stacey Johnson; Clayton Koss; Lois Johnson; Sarah Coe; Luke Gulstrand; Lynn Schulte; Christy Buetow; Annalisa Winje; Char Anderson; Rhonda & Butch Schulte; Stacey Schulte; Paulina Backstrom; Shae Lindholm; Hank Ferland; Margaret Dahl; Katrina Crouse; Tom Christiansen; Karen Shannon; Enno Limvere

This week we lift up these members: Myron Bursheim; Ed & Kris Hedstrom; Jane Gellner; Annalisa Winje; Zack, Jennifer, Alexxandra & Nova Anderson. May God walk with these faithful friends in their Lenten journey.



This Week at Bethlehem:

Sun Mar 22 8:40 AM Choir Practice
 10:00AM Worship Service
 & Sunday School
 11:15 AM Communion Class
 Tues Mar 24 8:30 AM Staff meeting
 Wed Mar 25 12:30 PM Text Study
 5:30 PM Community Meal
 6:00 PM Lent Worship
 Thurs Mar 26 8:00 AM Bible Study
 9:00 AM Quilting
 6:30 PM Table Tennis
 Fri Mar 27 - - - - Office is closed
 Sun Mar 29 PALM SUNDAY
 8:40 AM Choir practice
 10:00 AM Worship Service
 & Sunday School



Mark your calendars for upcoming Memorial Services:

- **Ed Bolstad's will be Sat. May 2 at 11:00 am**
- **Barbara Erickson's will be Sat. May 16 at 11:00 am**
- **Susan Gulstrand's will be Fri. July 31 [time TBD]**





Holy Week & Easter WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Complete your Lenten Journey to
the Cross at Bethlehem Lutheran:

Maundy Thursday
April 2nd at 7:00pm

Includes First Communion Celebration and
Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, April 3rd at 7pm

Includes Theatrical Reading Tenebrae Service

Easter Morning Services

Sunday April 5th at 8:00 am & 10:00 am

Easter Brunch between services

Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30 am



The Palm Sunday Path

A Public Witness of our Christian Values

The Palm Sunday Path is the traditional route pilgrims and Christians walk down the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, following the path Jesus is believed to have taken on his triumphal entry into the city on a donkey. This sacred path is reenacted annually on Palm Sunday with songs, prayers, and palm branches, connecting to Jesus's teachings of love, healing, and contrasting earthly power with God's Kingdom.

As Christians, we stand for loving our neighbors. We stand for healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and welcoming the stranger. We stand for telling the truth and honoring the dignity and worth of every child of God.

A broad coalition of clergy, congregations, denominational leaders, and faith-based organizations across our country are coming together on March 29 for a public witness of our Christian values, following The Palm Sunday Path.

You are invited to join Christians across the Northland for worship, hospitality, and mutual aid, not just proclaiming but also living Jesus's call to love and care for our neighbors as we create a meaningful moment to live out our faith in public, along with others across the country.

The Palm Sunday Path - Sunday, March 29, 3-5 pm

First Lutheran Church - 1100 E. Superior St., Duluth



We are gathering across from First Lutheran Church on London Rd. to begin a processional/march at 3:00 pm. Bring your palms, processional crosses, banners and/or signs that reflect our commitment to Jesus' command to feed the hungry, visit the sick and welcome the stranger (Matthew 25:35).

The procession will conclude in front of First Lutheran, on London Rd. We will then join together in a 45-minute worship service that will include several speakers addressing the challenges and joys of meeting Jesus' calling for us in these troubled times. Music for the worship/rally will be led by Sara Thomsen and Singing Resistance.

After the worship services we will share a simple meal of soup and bread, have opportunities to provide Mutual Aid to Northland Legal Aid, Union Gospel Mission and Trans Northland and experience the fellowship of a common vision from the hope rooted in the Gospel.

The event will be outdoors weather permitting. If not, we will gather in First Lutheran Church

If you would like a cool shirt for the event and want to support immigrant defense funds in MN, our colleagues in Fargo-Moorhead have created these t-shirts and sweatshirts! It's a great message for a good cause. Order from: **Bonfire** <https://www.bonfire.com/>



Dear friends in our NE MN ELCA Synod,

A broad coalition of clergy, congregations, denominational leaders, and faith-based organizations across our country have been making plans for Christians to come together in many cities on March 29 for a public witness of our Christian values, following The Palm Sunday Path. A number of clergy and members of our NE MN ELCA Synod have been involved in planning this event for the Northland. The attached document (as both a Word and pdf document) provides information about the event that can be copied for your church to distribute; the abbreviated invitation below might be helpful as a bulletin insert.

Our goal is to lift up the power of Jesus' command to feed the hungry, visit the sick and welcome the stranger over and against current powers of domination and repression prevalent in our country.

In the Spirit of The Palm Sunday Path,

Reverend Mark Papke-Larson
Member, The Palm Sunday Path
planning team
Member, First Lutheran Church,
Duluth
218-556-2834
mark.papke.larson@gmail.com

“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, South Sudan, Ukraine, and Venezuela...
- For families of those killed in airstrikes at rehab center in Afghanistan...
- For University of Kent students, staff, and families facing a meningitis outbreak...
- For extreme heat across areas of the United States...
- For all impacted by natural disasters, especially those facing historic wildfires in Nebraska...
- For the energy crisis and blackouts in Cuba...
- For communities grieving violence, especially Old Dominion University in Virginia and Temple Israel in Michigan...
- For TSA workers and airport travelers...
- For all immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers...
- For all affected by rising fuel and food costs and access...

Events and observances:

- March Observances: Women’s History Month, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, National Social Work Month
- Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society (Mar 10)
- Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, died 604 (Mar 12)
- International Day Against Police Brutality (Mar 15)
- St. Patrick’s Day (Mar 17)
- Joseph, guardian of Jesus (Mar 19)
- Eid al Fitr (Islam, Mar 20)
- Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr, died 1556 (Mar 21)
- Jonathan Edwards, teacher, died 1758 (Mar 22)
- Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, died 1980 (Mar 24)
- Annunciation of Our Lord (Mar 25)

Prayers from ELCA resources:

A prayer for remembrance of the faithful departed
Eternal God, your love is stronger than death, and your passion more fierce than the grave. We rejoice in the lives of those whom you have drawn into your eternal embrace. Keep us in joyful communion with them until we join the saints of every people and nation gathered before your throne in ceaseless praise, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A prayer for the chronically ill and those who support them
Loving God, your heart overflows with compassion for your whole creation. Pour out your spirits on all people living with illness for which there is no cure, as well as their families and loved ones. Help them to know that you claim them as your own and deliver them from fear and pain; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen.



Congratulations!

In 2025, Bethlehem Lutheran Church received \$2425 through the Thrivent Choice® program – and that’s worth celebrating!

Your work strengthens communities, and we’re grateful for the impact you make every day. With the **March 31, 2026 deadline approaching, now is a great time to remind your supporters to direct any remaining **2025 Choice Dollars®** before they expire.**

Thrivent clients with membership: Direct 2025 Choice Dollars® by March 31 at thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

Here’s how it works:

Give with confidence

Thrivent Choice offers an easy-to-use online giving platform where you can make personal donations. Even better—Thrivent covers all processing fees, so every penny of your gift goes directly to the organization. (Thrivent will pay up to \$300,000 in online processing fees per calendar year for personal donations made through Thrivent’s online giving platform.)

Direct Choice Dollars®

If you’re an eligible Thrivent client with membership, you can also recommend where Thrivent sends a portion of its charitable outreach funds. That means you can choose to direct Choice Dollars to **Bethlehem Lutheran Church Grand Marais, MN** along with thousands of other nonprofits and churches.

We’re grateful to partner with you through Thrivent Choice and look forward to supporting your continued impact.

Don’t forget: 2025 Choice Dollars® expire March 31, 2026

Attention High School Seniors or first-time post secondary students



Bethlehem's Mission Endowment Committee is pleased to announce scholarships for members:

- 1) Mission Endowment Scholarship \$1000 one-time award.*
- 2) Concordia College Congregational Scholarship, \$5000/year, renewable for 4 years**

* for full-time students

Both forms are found in file folder on the Youth Bulletin Board, and at:

<https://www.sharingchrist.org/forms>

Application Deadline is Friday March 27!!



EMMAUS FUND

EMMAUS FUND Gala

The Emmaus Fund supports leadership development, youth and young adult engagement, and congregational outreach by providing micro-grants for new ministry programs and opportunities.

NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD ASSEMBLY
Breezy Point Resort – Nisswa, MN

Feeling crafty or creative? Can you or your congregation craft & donate a Silent Auction themed basket for the **Emmaus Fund Gala** on **April 25th** at Synod Assembly?



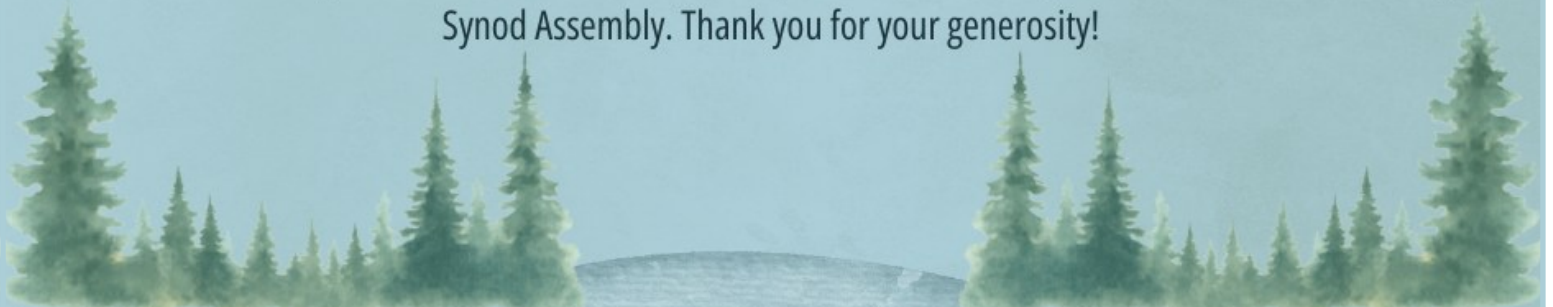
EMMAUS FUND

EMMAUS FUND Gala

All baskets must be submitted
by **April 15th**.



Please contact **Julia Gwash** at julia.gwash@elca.org if you plan to donate a basket. All proceeds benefit the NEMN Synod Emmaus Fund. You can drop donations at the Synod Office in Duluth or bring to Synod Assembly. Thank you for your generosity!



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!

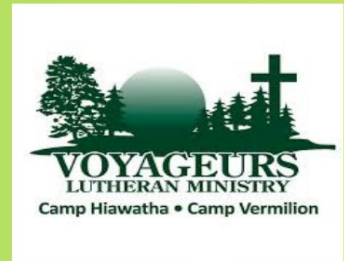
Please contact Jess with any questions, comments or concerns!

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: _____



Dear friend,

The news from the Middle East is heavy and unrelenting, marked by escalating conflict and devastating humanitarian consequences. The costs, as Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry has stated, *“will be borne by those least able to avoid it — children, families and those without the means to flee. Its deadly toll has been, and will continue to be, paid with the lives of our neighbors, including our siblings in Christ in the Middle East.”*

These are not just headlines — they are the stories of families like yours, who deserve safety, security and the chance to rebuild their lives. More than 1 million people are displaced in Lebanon alone, and many are sleeping in the streets because they have nowhere else to go.

Introducing: The new ELCA.org

The ELCA’s new website
is now live.



Enjoy these features:

- **Enhanced search:** Get curated answers based on your individual needs.
- **One place to look:** Find and connect with the ministries that help you act out your faith.
- **Made for everyone:** Rest assured that the new ELCA.org follows accessibility best practices.



MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

Lutheran Disaster Response is working with our companions on the ground, including the Middle East Council of Churches, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and the Lutheran World Federation, to provide critical assistance for those affected by the conflict, including:

- **Emergency food and water:** Ensuring basic needs are met for those displaced and vulnerable.
- **Shelter and essential supplies:** Offering a safe haven and providing blankets, hygiene kits, and other necessities.
- **Trauma-informed care:** Helping individuals and families cope with the emotional and psychological impact of conflict.
- **Long-term recovery efforts:** Supporting communities when the time comes to rebuild and recover, promoting sustainable solutions for a brighter future.

Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to this and other disasters, whenever and wherever they strike. Gifts designated for “Middle East Crisis” will be restricted to and used in full (100%) for those affected by disasters in the region.

<https://give.elca.org/page/86576/donate/1>



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FREE BABYSITTING TRAINING

Head of the Lakes United Way is proud to offer free babysitter training to youth 11 years of age and older.



Training will be provided by FirstAidMN and will follow the American Red Cross curriculum.

TRAINING CLASSES:

HERE IN GRAND MARAIS

April 25, 2026

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Grand Marais Community Center

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- This is a one-day training; class starts at 8 AM and concludes at 4 PM.
- Space is limited to 24 participants
- Lunch and snacks will be provided.
- Parent/caregiver must provide transportation and accompany child to building for drop-off and pick-up. Parent/caregiver does not need to stay during the training.

Register here:



hlunitedway.org/babysitting
or scan qr code

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

- How to care for infants and children.
- What to do in an emergency and how to stay safe.
- Choosing activities that are age appropriate.
- Recognizing, understanding and handling certain behaviors.
- Starting your babysitting business.
- Receive certification of babysitting training and Pediatric CPR after completion of class.

For more information contact:

Jaci Christiansen

jchristiansen@hlunitedway.org

218-726-4889

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