

Bethlehem Star

October 2023 Volume 42 Number 10

A PUBLICATION OF BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH, GRAND MARAIS, MN

“Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine...be glory...forever and ever. Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21

We follow an immeasurable, all powerful, ever-present, all-knowing God. We follow a God that promises to be with us, to listen to us, and to act on our behalf.

I was thinking about these verses in relation to our current world. I often hear about how churches *used to be* filled with young people; how Wednesdays *used to be* considered “holy days” for the church; how people *used to be* eager to have their kids baptized, or to send their kids to confirmation. There is, perhaps, a sense of disillusionment within the church.

But our God is moving, not stagnant. Our God is at work, not idle. And because of that...

I believe that we can continue to reach families and young people in our community.

Rooted in this faith in God, **I proposed to our Council the idea to create a full-time Youth Director position at our church.** I believe that investing in this position will give us the focus that our church needs to continue to reach our young people.

Back in the day (do I sound old?) I worked in full-time youth ministry. But it started as part-time. The church had to take a step of faith to make my position full-time. Full-time meant a sustainable salary, and the hours needed to focus on the ministry. Through that step of faith the church saw growth. First, they saw **numerical growth**, from 115 middle schoolers to our peak at 153, and from 4 high schoolers to 40 high schoolers in just 2 years.

Second, they saw **programmatic growth**. Annual summer trips, annual retreats happening twice a year, special events every month, and more. Their volunteer

base nearly quadrupled, and the programs expanded into family and adult ministry.

Thirdly, they saw **spiritual growth**. Students were leading the way in the church for Evangelism, inviting their friends (and their families) to church. Students were signing up for opportunities to learn more about Jesus. Students were starting to volunteer in more places throughout the church, outside of youth group. Students were starting to have faith conversations with their parents at home.

In a post-pandemic world, it can be hard to dream about our potential. It can be hard to see how God is at work in our church and in our world. But we believe in a God that is at work even when we can't see it.

This fall we're going to ask the congregation to take a step of faith. A step of faith in the church's budget, and in your own. We'll ask you to approve the proposal for a full-time youth position at the **special congregational meeting on Sunday, November 5th at 11:15am in person or on zoom.** We'll also ask you to help us to increase our budget through your giving to meet our goal.

There is a lot of info that I can't cover in this (already too long) newsletter article. More information will come with our fall stewardship drive. We will also have some temple talks at church on Sundays to give more information about the position - so please worship with us in person or online.

For now, please be praying for our church, our youth, and our youth ministry.

Peace in Christ.

Pastor Calvin Konop (*he/him*)

God's work. Our hands.

Many thanks to all who participated in "God's work. Our hands."

Sunday on September 10th! Six volunteers helped with organization and cleaning projects at First & Second Thrift Store and eight volunteers gathered at ISD 166 to help spread wood chips on the trails near the school. It was fun to participate in community outreach and spend time together.

Do you have service project ideas for next year's "God's work. Our hands." Sunday? Please pass them along to a Church in Society committee member. We welcome your ideas!



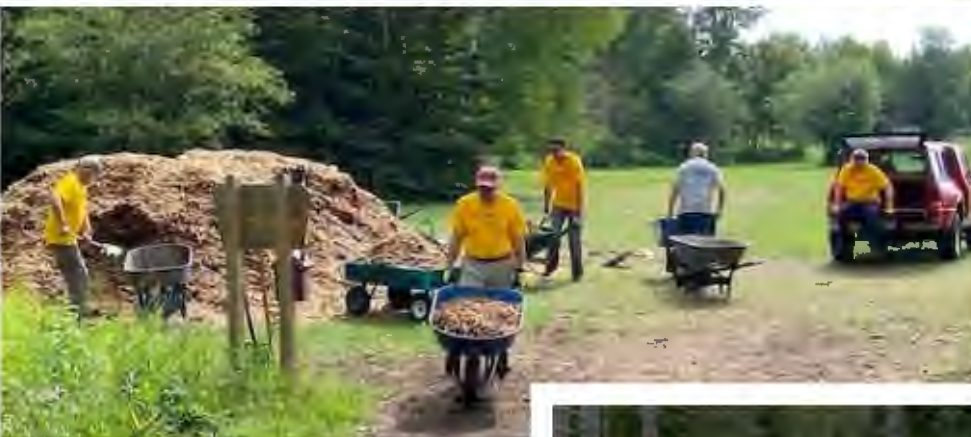
In peace, Sue Anderson, Joni Kristenson, Libby Larson & Jessica Markusen. Church in Society Team



"Thank you to the team from Bethlehem Lutheran Church for their efforts on Sunday afternoon spreading wood chips in the school forest! Your help is greatly appreciated!!" - Cook County Schools



"We appreciate the time you spent at the store!" - Lois Johnson & staff



October Devotions

By Pastor Calvin Konop

¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”
Ephesians 3:18-21

A good friend of mine, Josh Christenson, is a pastor in the Baptist church. Years ago he planted a church called *Imagine Church*, and they use this Ephesians 3:20 as their mission statement.

Church planting is hard work. A pastor who plants a church finds themselves to be: fundraiser, CEO, CFO, HR, Program Director, spiritual leader, preacher...the list goes on. Some church plants boom with attendance, some close their doors, and some see consistent numbers, and maybe a little bit of growth.

For years *Imagine Church* was one with consistent numbers. Not an incredible boom, but not closing their doors either.

Is *Imagine Church* evidence of a place where God is doing “immeasurably more”?

Yes!

The measure of God’s work is not the same as how we measure our work.

Our work is often measured by numbers. Numbers on a scale. Numbers on a chart. Numbers in our checkbook. Numbers on a test.

But God’s work is measured in presence, relationships, faith, and joy.

And for you, in your unique situation - God is at work within you to accomplish abundantly more than you could ask or imagine. God’s work may not look how you want it to look, but God’s work is exactly what you need. To God be the glory. Amen.

Wednesday Worship is Back – Weekly!



Join us for a contemporary worship service on Wednesday evenings! We’ll have a community meal starting at 5:30, and service will start at 6pm. Worship will be a shorter service, between 30-45 minutes.

Our **Confirmation students** will be joining us for service, and then will do their youth group until 7:30pm. As the year continues, we’re hoping to add more ministries on Wednesday nights like a high school group, activities for upper elementary, and groups for adults. Stay tuned to see what else we’re cooking up on Wednesday nights!

We have four **Wednesday Meal Teams** which will rotate through the months. There will be a basket for free-will donations that will go toward offsetting the cost of the meal.



We do need volunteers to help provide the meals—starting on Wednesday October 11th. To fill a vacancy, contact Kris Hedstrom at hedstrom@boreal.org 218-387-1530, or Carin Gulstrand at 218-370-8947.

Team Make Your Own Sub: Kris Hedstrom

Team Pizza: Carrie Jansen

Team Taco: Carin Gulstrand.

Team Hotdish: Brooke Youngdahl



In God's Care
by
Kris Hedstrom



Fall is here and we are back to regular routines. The choir practices every Sunday at 8:40 AM, and generally sings in church on the first and third Sundays of the month. Everyone who likes to sing is welcome to join. We have a very welcoming choir and it's fun to make melodies together.

Youth & Family Ministry Report

We are resuming **Wednesday Confirmation classes** (grades 6-8) beginning October 11th. The youth and families are invited to participate in the Community Meal at 5:30 pm. Confirmation begins with the Contemporary Worship Service starting at 6:00 pm and they will be dismissed at 7:30 PM. Confirmation orientation is October 4th (5:30pm meal; 6-7pm meeting).

Our **9th grade Confirmation** students and parents will attend the Confirmation Orientation on October 4th (as above). Ninth graders, and students ready to be confirmed, will meet on Sunday Oct. 15 & 22, at 11:15-12:15. Confirmation rehearsal will be Oct. 27th from 6-7pm in the sanctuary. **Confirmation Service** will be Sunday October 29th, and students with families should arrive at church by 9:30am. Monday, October 30th will be the first full day as a new member of our church!

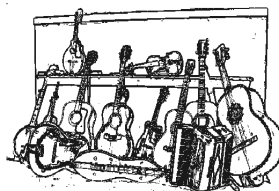
Sunday School will resume October 1st. Young children, age 3 years through 2nd grade, can be excused from church after the Children's message for a time of singing, Bible stories and crafts. They will come back down to the sanctuary for communion and a blessing. Speaking of Children's message, Pastor Calvin's talks have been fun! We do have Busy Bags available at the entrance to the sanctuary for those restless moments.

"Holy Moly" education (grades 3-5) is still under consideration as well as a Senior High fellowship opportunity.

The Church Council voted to approve hiring a full time Youth Minister. This position will be posted soon.

Bluegrass Service is back!

Join us Sunday October 15th for one of our favorite services of the year. We welcome back our Bluegrass Musicians and look forward to singing our favorite bluegrass hymns.



"Be Thou My Vision"
"Down by the River to Pray"

Borealis Orchestra & Chorale

By Karina Roth

Greetings everyone. Borealis is upon us!

Rehearsals will begin Sunday October 15th. We are rehearsing in the afternoon this year. **Orchestra at 2:30 pm, and Chorale at 4:00 pm.** (Record the Vikings game and you can watch it in the evening.)

Performances this year will be on **Friday and Saturday, December 8th and 9th.**

All are welcome to join us! Previous choral experience is not necessary.

Disclaimer: I am anticipating 14 pieces this year, and we have as usual, only 8 rehearsals. Keep in mind that this is a lot of music to cover in a short time frame. If you are able to learn music quickly, this is very doable.



Looking forward to seeing you in a few weeks!
Karina (karina_roth@hotmail.com)



Mission Of the Month C. C. Food Shelf

The Cook County Food Shelf is NOT a government funded program. We receive food and funds due to the generosity of community members and groups who care about the well being of our residents. There are no income guidelines, you have only to ask for our assistance.

Our mission statement is simply "The Cook County Food Shelf exists to provide an emergency 3-day supply of food once a month for families who would otherwise go hungry because of financial hardship".

Our open hours are every Monday 3:00pm until 5:00 pm and the first Wednesday of the month from 4:30 pm until 6:30 pm. We could always use more volunteers to pack bags and boxes of food during our open hours, or to assist clients. We try to be fair with every person who uses the food shelf regardless of their status or job description.

Food Suggestions:

- ⇒ stews, chilis, hearty soups, chow mien or chop suey
- ⇒ soup in cans, dry packets, or shelf stable cartons
- ⇒ cream soups like mushroom, chicken and celery to use as a gravy; gravy mixes.
- ⇒ rice, rice mixes, pastas, pasta mixes, mac & cheese

- ⇒ peanut butter, jams or jellies
- ⇒ cereals (non-sweet is good for most appetites)
- ⇒ canned fruits or canned vegetables: canned tomatoes, tomato sauces, canned potatoes, sweet potatoes, canned beans of any type.
- ⇒ juice in cans, bottles, or dry canisters
- ⇒ crackers and cookies (yes, desserts!)
- ⇒ tuna, spam, canned chicken or other meats

Anything you and your family likes to eat, most of the users of our food shelf would also like. Our clients are creative, out of necessity. Personal items like toothbrushes, combs, shampoos, etc. would also be appreciated. Please no dry beans or peas (we have many of them already).

Thank you for thinking of our organization! Food donations can be placed in the narthex shopping cart throughout the month of October. If you would like to give a financial contribution, please note "Food Shelf" on your October Mission of the Month special offering.

Submitted by Gwen Lenz



October Member Challenge:

Designate some time as a family to plan and shop for items to contribute to our local food shelf. Be intentional and creative in your selections and let every family member take part. Bring your donations with you to church on Sunday and drop them off in the shopping cart.



Heart To Heart

Membership: noun

: the state or status of being a member

: the body of members

Stand back and take a look at what comprises our membership. We pleasantly realize what an interesting mix we are. Families, Working Class, Retirees, Ethnicity, Newborn to Centurion and the list goes on.

It's important we keep an accurate consensus in our church database, of who we are. To do that, we need your help.

Please submit any of the following information that you would like included.

Name(s) in your Household. (Birthdates are especially helpful for school-aged youth)

Address(es): Mailing & Physical, Winter address, if different from summer & dates you typically move back and fourth.

Telephone #'s: (Is your land line still valid?) Mobile/Texting #'s etc.

Email address

Special dates: birth, baptism, confirmation, wedding, status, etc

To submit this information, drop it off at the church office; mail to PO BOX 638, Grand Marais, MN 55604, or email blc@boreal.org, or by calling Denise at 218.387.2227, or Kathleen at 218.387.9056.

Thanks from your Membership Committee



EcoFaith

From a single planter to a meadow, congregations across our synod are joining in a movement to care for creation by creating pollinator friendly habitat. A few congregations have established gardens. Many have started in the last year or so. Many more hope to start next spring. We presently have 30+ congregations from those "thinking about starting" to full blooming pollinator gardens of native plants.

Bethlehem has participated in this program for a few years under the care and tutelage of Pastor Mark, and now the NE MN ELCA Synod EcoFaith team is looking for a **new representative from Bethlehem.**

If you would like to get more information or take a **bold** step, **please contact Pastor Calvin** (blcpastor@boreal.org) or Tom Uecker, Chairperson Pollinator Project Steering Committee. tomuecker1946@gmail.com

Here is some information from the University of Minnesota Extension Department. Each video is about 1 hour in length.

Pollinator gardens:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ekv5Q0N7y1I>

Bee lawns:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bd7rZXAjknw>

Prairies:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Qhkyr94pAc>

Join our brand-new Pollinator Project Facebook Group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/636061001764314/>

Kid's Library corner



We have a new rug in the library! Next we will provide a list of books that we would like to add for the kid's corner and continue to create a space for our youngest members. More to come...

"Surface Displacements: A Song Cycle Preview"

Free Concert at Bethlehem

Join us for a community FREE concert on Sat. Oct. 21st at 7:00 pm. Composed by Wendy Durrwachter. Performed by soprano Jennifer Lien and pianist Wendy Durrwachter. Based on a poem by Sheila Packa—all women artists who live in Duluth. This free concert is made possible through a grant from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council and thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

Grief Recovery

Sawtooth Mountain Clinic and Care Partners of Cook County are pleased to offer a 10-week Grief Recovery Group that will meet in Grand Marais starting Wednesday, October 11 from 6-7:30pm.

Facilitators are Melissa Beseres, MSW, LICSW and Anna Ross. To see if this group might be a good fit for you, please contact the Sawtooth Mountain Clinic at 218-387-2330



October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Choir sings during worship 8:40am Choir Practice 10:00am Worship with Live stream & Choir sings 3:00pm Pet Blessings & Camp Songs	2 3:30pm Girl Scouts	3	4 8:00am Church In Society meeting 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 5:30pm Confirmation Orientation, Gr.6-9 w/ Parents	5 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting 3:00pm Football Team Dinner in Kitchen/ Fellowship Hall 7:00pm Executive Committee	6 Clarity Hearing Appts.	7
8 8:40am Choir Practice 10:00am Worship Service - Live streamed	9 Indigenous Peoples' Day	10	11 5:30pm Pizza Supper 6:00pm Confirmation: First Night Shenanigans 6:00pm Contemporary Worship Service	12 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting 9:30am Esther Circle 7:00pm Council meeting	13	14
15 Choir sings during worship Confirmation Registration Due: All Youth Gathering 8:40am Choir Practice 10:00am Worship - Live streamed with Choir 2:00pm Care Center Worship Service	16 3:30pm Girl Scouts	17 3:00pm Football Team Dinner in Kitchen/ Fellowship Hall 6:30pm Worship Planning Committee	18 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 5:30pm Taco dinner before worship 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Contemporary Worship Service	19 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting	20 Clarity Hearing Appts.	21 7:00pm Concert in Sanctuary 
22 Newsletter articles due for next edition 8:40am Choir Practice 10:00am Christian Contemporary Worship Service with the "Average Worship Band"	23	24	25 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 5:30pm Hotdish meal before worship 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Contemporary Worship Service	26 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting	27 3:00pm Football Team Dinner in Kitchen/ Fellowship Hall	28
29 Confirmation Day Reformation Sunday 8:40am Choir Practice 10:00am Worship Service - Live streamed 	30 3:00pm Football Team Dinner in Kitchen/ Fellowship Hall 3:30pm Girl Scouts	31 Reformation Day	1 All Saints Day 8:00am Church In Society meeting 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 5:30pm Sub sandwich meal 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Contemporary Worship Service	2 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting 7:00pm Executive Committee	3 Clarity Hearing Appts. Confirmation Movie Night or Game Night	4



Starting October 11th
5:30 meal 6:00 service



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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www.sharingchrist.org

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Grand Marais, MN
55604

Belonging to Christ,

Sharing Christ on the

North Shore and beyond.



**All-
Church
Meeting**
NOVEMBER
5TH - 11:15^{AM} SEE
FRONT
PAGE



**BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN
CHURCH, ELCA**
(218) 387-2227 · WWW.SHARINGCHRIST.ORG

New Church Sign installed October 2nd. Thanks to Bruce Johnson for coordinating this new sign. It looks great!



**Weekly
Wednesday
Worship**
Starting October 11th
5:30 pm Community Meal
6:00 pm Contemporary
Worship Service and
Confirmation
(Confirmation dismissed at 7:30pm)