



July 2026

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Bethlehem Star

A publication of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Grand Marais, MN



This July will be a fun full month for Children, Youth and Families here at Bethlehem! Superhero Training VBS, will be happening from July 13-17. Every day that week from 9am to 12pm BLC will be bustling with kids learning about how they can be superheroes everyday! Everyday we will be learning about a different superpower skill from a Biblical example.

On Monday we will be learning about the story of **David & Goliath** while learning about the strength we get from God. On Tuesday we will be learning about Mercy from **Jonah**. On Wednesday we will be learning about Wisdom from **Esther**. On Thursday we will be learning about Grace from **Zacchaeus**. Finally on Friday we will be learning all about love from **Lydia**! With all of these tools, **students can be superheroes every single day!**

Thank you to everyone who has saved boxes, big and small! It is much appreciated and they will all be put to good use! I am looking to borrow a couple of things for VBS. If you have a kiddie pool, big buckets or tubs, please connect with me! These items will be used on our **Water Day on Friday of VBS!**

I am so looking forward to all of the excitement and energy that the month of July will bring here to Bethlehem. If you could all pray for the students and volunteers for VBS, that would be such a blessing. As always, please reach out if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Peace, Jess Christenson, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries.

blcyouth@boreal.org 507-530-2763

Training Begins Soon!

FOR: Students going into
Kindergarten–5th grade

WHEN: July 13–17, 2026

TIME: 9AM to Noon (Including lunch)

WHAT: Worship, Bible Study,
games, snacks, crafts,
and lots more!

COST: \$25/student



RECONCILING IN CHRIST CELEBRATION

JUNE 7TH



Above: Youth Campfire on June 13th.

Middle: Martha Rosbacka and Pastor Calvin on her last Sunday at Bethlehem. (Her new address: 8100 Highwood Drive, Friendship Village, #Y321, Bloomington, MN 55438)

Left: Children's Time with Galen, Myron & Jess. "Noisy Change" cashed in for Holy Cow Fund check = \$ 1000.





Often, we look back at history and we laugh at some of the things that folks did or didn't do. There was a time when Swedes and Norwegians wouldn't marry each other. Or when Catholics and Lutherans couldn't be friends. When I was a pastor in Dubuque, the church where I was called purchased the land from German Catholics, because they didn't want the Irish Catholics to have it (they might be Lutherans...but at least their German!).

We think about it and we grin and chuckle and talk about just how silly it was.

But it was the reality.

What divides us today? Politics.

There are folks who make a living on social media by going to public events and interviewing people, asking them different questions. One of the questions that was asked to single people is, "Who would you not date?" Often the answer was "Someone from the opposite political party."

This is new to American history.

Where do we go from here?

First, I think we take a page out of the Good Book and do what Jesus did. Jesus *always* saw the *humanity* in people. Wherever he went, he saw people as people. He saw their needs and tried to meet them, he spent time with them and listened to them, and he loved them. All of them. First and foremost, we ought to see the people we disagree with as real people with feelings.

I don't have all of the answers, and I don't have the 10-step program to fix the political divide in our nation. But I think this first step, seeing others how Jesus saw them, is the first step in bridging the gap. The rest might need a whole lot of prayer, a whole lot of patience, and whole lot of grace, and a whole lot of Jesus.

**Peace in Christ,
Pastor Calvin Konop**



**"But our citizenship is in heaven,
and it is from there that we are expecting
a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ."**

-Philippians 3:20

This July marks 250 years of the United States of America being a sovereign nation. We'll grill foods, light sparklers, watch fireworks, and gather with family and friends to celebrate - all of our usual celebrations.

This Independence Day reminds us of how fortunate we are to live in a country based on democracy. The USA affords freedoms to citizens that folks in other countries only dream of. We have prospered financially, we have a powerful military, and we've developed modern medicine to save lives. We are fortunate to be citizens of the USA.

The Apostle Paul reminds us in our reading from Philippians that while we are citizens of the USA, our primary citizenship is in heaven. We are first citizens in God's kingdom, and second citizens of our nation. As we know, our nation is not perfect. There are many who are hurt by systems and policies our country has in place, we recognize the evils in our history (like slavery, stealing land from indigenous groups, wars that left tens of thousands of dead).

As citizens of heaven, we do all we can to make God's kingdom come on earth, as it is in heaven. This happens by loving God, loving our neighbor, and serving the least among us. It happens by following in the way of Jesus, and extending the grace and love to others that we have found in Jesus.

This July, as we celebrate the wonderful things about our country and lament the ways we've failed, let's turn to Jesus who gave us all citizenship in heaven. And let's work together and earnestly pray for God's kingdom to come.



Our Mission of the Month for July will be used to support the **NE MN Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund**.

Our financial giving will help the Red Cross assist people affected by disasters, such as: home fires, forest fires, wind storms, flooding and more.

Your gift enables the Red Cross to prepare for, respond to and help people recover from disasters big and small, whenever and wherever they occur in our NE region.

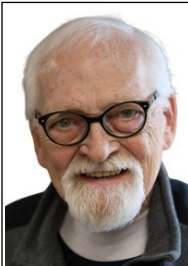
Recently, the Disaster Relief Fund provided assistance to our Lake County neighbors during and after the Stewart Trail Fire.

Thank you for supporting this mission,

Church in Society Committee

MEMBER CHALLENGE:

There will be a Memorial Blood Center Bloodmobile bus at Mike's Circle K station on July 23 and 24. People can go to mbc.org to schedule an appointment.



Greetings to All at Bethlehem,

After nearly 3 years living with us, it was time for a change, and dad is now living at the Chosen Valley Care Center in Chatfield, MN. It is a lovely place and seems to be a very nice fit for him -- and best of all, he is still only 25 minutes away! He is attending worship there and keeping up with BLC through the video broadcasts, as well as participating in other activities as he is able.

He continues to do quite well, although slowing down some, and the extra care is comforting for us as we continue to navigate work and other things.

He loves to receive mail, texts & phone calls but he doesn't keep up with his email as much.

His new address: Pastor Bob/Robert Stoskopf
1102 Liberty St. SE,
Chatfield, MN 55923

With gratitude ~ Jana Southwick

DISASTER RELIEF

**All day, every day,
wherever someone needs us.**

We respond to an emergency every 8 minutes.

No one else does this: not the government, not other charities. From small house fires to multi-state natural disasters, the American Red Cross goes wherever we're needed, so people can have clean water, safe shelter and hot meals when they need them most.

- We respond to an average of about **65,000** disasters every year
- **95%** of our disaster relief workers are volunteers
- The vast majority of disasters we respond to are home fires

We're there when people need us most

Our purpose is to meet the immediate disaster-caused needs of individuals, families, and communities. Explore how we respond to disasters big and small, across the country.



Home Fire Relief



Hurricane Relief



Wildfire Relief



Flood Relief



Earthquake Relief



Tornado Relief



Still Smiling after 3 years!

*On July 10th Pastor Calvin
begins his 4th year at BLC.*

*We are looking forward to many
more years!*



"I'm Baaaack!"

I would like to bring you all up to speed on my unexpected medical journey of recent days:

Tom and I had a great vacation walking the Camino de Santiago in May, and the last week I began to have some bowel issues. In hindsight, I realize that I hadn't been feeling well for some time.

Upon returning home, I went to the doctor and was treated for constipation. Medical interventions didn't work, and then I needed to focus on my mom's memorial service. (No time to deal with me!) Following her service, while people were still gathered in the fellowship hall, I went to the Emergency Department at North Shore Health. From there we drove to Essentia Duluth to have emergency surgery for colon blockage.

The surgeons were unable to remove the blockage but repaired a perforation, and I now have a colostomy. We stayed at Essentia for 10 days, where I would rate my care as "Top Notch"! Everyone was so caring, competent and excellent at their jobs - an A+ rating from me!

Now we (my personal medical team, husband Tom and daughter Lauren) are learning a whole new set of life skills and adjusting to new normals. I will probably have a few more procedures this year, but time will tell. Thank you all for your continuous prayers of concern and kindness during my medical leave of absence. My working hours will be reduced while I continue to recover.

~ Denise Murray, Office Manager





The council has been exploring ideas on how to bolster up our Sunday morning volunteers. We would like to try using **Sign Up Genius**, an online scheduling program. It is quite easy to use, and might just be what we need to make sure we have enough people to cover all of our needs each Sunday. Ideally, we would like to have everything in place for the end of summer.



Before we launch this idea, however, we need to locate volunteers.

- Ushering
- Greeting
- Reading Scriptures
- Communion Assisting
- Teaching Sunday School
- Serving Coffee An'

If you enjoy helping with services or would like to give it a try and become more involved with the worship services, please contact Denise (in the office: 218-387-2227, blc@boreal.org), Kristin Lindholm (kristinleIGHLindholm@gmail.com), or Melanie Olsen (Merosmit@gmail.com).



The **15th Annual Jazz Service** will be held on **October 11, 2026**. Traditionally, this service has been in July but this year October works better for Director/Composer Mike DeBevec and the Jazz musicians and choir. Mark your calendars for this jazzy service.

Prayer List

Please keep these members and friends in your prayers: Linda Zenk, Stacey Johnson, Lynn Schulte, Clayton & Nancy Koss, Lois Johnson, Butch & Rhonda Schulte, Luke Gulstrand, Sarah Coe, Phyllis Olson, Paulina Backstrom, Shae Lindholm, Char Anderson, Stacey Schulte, Hank Ferland, Margaret Dahl, Katrina Crouse, Karen Shannon, Tom Christiansen., Al Fuller & Denise Murray.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 8:00am Church in Society Meeting 12:30pm Text Study	2 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Quilting	3 Office closed Clarity Hearing Appts	4 
5 8:40am Choir practice 10:00am Worship	6	7 8:30am Staff meeting	8 12:30pm Text Study	9 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Quilting	10 Pastor Calvin's Anniversary at BLC	11
12 10:00am Worship 	13 	14 1:00 pm Staff meet 	15 12:30pm Text Study 	16 8:00am Men's Bible Study 	17 Clarity Hearing Appts	18
19 Pastor Calvin's vacation 8:40am Choir practice 10:00am Worship Overnight Group: SLC Middleton, WI	20 Pastor Calvin's vacation	21 Pastor Calvin's vaca. 6:30pm Worship Planning Meeting	22 Pastor Calvin's vaca. 12:30pm Text Study Newsletter articles due	23 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Quilting	24	25
26 10:00am Contemporary Worship	27 5:30pm SOTW meeting	28 8:30am Staff meeting	29 12:30pm Text Study Overnight Group: Westminster Jr Hi group, Mpls, MN	30 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Quilting	31 11:00am Susan Gulstrand Memorial	1



Esther Circle
Executive Committee
Church Council

5655877

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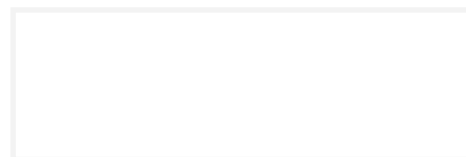
Permit #3

Grand Marais, MN
55604

Belonging to Christ,

Sharing Christ on the

North Shore and beyond.



Fisherman's Picnic Worship

Bethlehem has been asked to lead worship at Harbor Park on Sunday, August 2nd. We will host this worship [in place of](#) worship in our building, so plan to come to Harbor Park for worship that morning (time TBA). Knowing how vital our livestream ministry is, the Fish Pic worship service will be livestreamed in some way, whether on Facebook or YouTube. We will also host Coffee An' at Harbor Park that morning.

The Council is still working out details for a few parts of this service, but we are looking into: how best to livestream, a possible shuttle service from the church to relieve parking congestion, what/how/when to serve Coffee An'.

We'll publish these details as soon as we can! For now, mark your calendars for [worship at Harbor Park on Sunday, August 2nd](#).

