

# Come Home to Bethlehem



Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> is **Bethlehem's Homecoming!**

We'll be inviting folks from far and wide to "come home" to Bethlehem on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. We'll also be inviting the community to come and check out what is happening at Bethlehem on that day.

This will be a family friendly event with worship followed by lunch (walking tacos) and a bunch of fun activities. We'll have lawn games, an inflatable, face painting, a community art project, Bibles and giveaways for families, and more!

The idea behind Bethlehem's Homecoming is to gather together to celebrate God's work in our church today, and through the lives of our past members who have moved away. We want to give people an excuse to not only come to the North Shore during a beautiful time of year, but also to worship with us.

Invite your friends and family to Bethlehem's Homecoming, and we'll celebrate together on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>!

**Peace in Christ.** Pastor Calvin



Volume 44 Number 9

September 2025

# Bethlehem Star

A PUBLICATION OF BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH, GRAND MARAIS, MN

You are invited to

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

## HOMECOMING

Food, Music, Games, Art & Community

5 OCTOBER, 2025  
AT 10:00AM

**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
417 1<sup>st</sup> Ave W Grand Marais  
MN 55604



# Baptized into Christ's Family



On Sunday August 3rd, we welcomed the Anderson Family into our fold through Holy Baptism. Zackary, Alexandra Victoria and Nova Lynn Anderson were baptized during worship. Pictured above right is the family: Jennifer, Nova, Alexx and Zack. Pictured on the left are the sponsors and family members. Welcome!



Myron Garness was baptized on Sunday August 17<sup>th</sup>. Pictured here with brother Galen and parents Spencer and Sarah. We welcome this new little child of God to Bethlehem.



## Cleaning Day!

Thanks to Joy Oberg, Cindy Muus and Pastor Calvin for cleaning up the east half of the supply room. (The west side was cleaned and organized by Jess and Debbie Bieber early this summer.)

## Youth Room Remodel

The ceiling, flooring and wall are gone and the team continues to work to get the youth room ready for classes in October!

Thanks volunteers! Mike Chmelik, Eric Christenson, Jon Gunderson, Butch Schulte, Dave Prinsen, and Chris Lindholm.



# Devotions

By Pastor Calvin Konop

*“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, for indeed our God is a consuming fire.” Hebrews 12:29*

I had just graduated from High School, and it was the summer before my freshman year of college. I told my folks I was going to church for a young adults gathering, but when I got there I didn't feel like going in. I stayed in the parking lot with my friends and started to goof off. One shenanigan led to another, and soon I was filling a cardboard box with white gas.

When I lit the match, something didn't feel right. But I inched toward the box nonetheless. When the fumes caught, flames shot out of every crack like a flamethrower. The flames stretched out for about 5-feet. My body was within those 5 feet of flames, and I was consumed.

Second-degree burns on both of my legs and the hand that held the match. Not much can stand in the way of flames. And the flames destroy anything that they touch.

God, too, is a consuming fire. A fire that eats up and destroys everything in its path. But the things that God destroys are sin and death, and leave things bare to grow new life. In the same way that a forest fire clears out all of the dead brush on the forest floor, God clears out the dead and sinful things from within us. Then the Holy Spirit plants and waters seeds for new growth.

The process of the bad things being burned out from within us can be painful, but when it's done God cares for us and brings about new life - resurrection life.



## *...on the North Shore and Beyond.”*

The mission statement of our church is this: *Belonging the Christ, Sharing Christ on the North Shore and Beyond.* In this mission statement we recognize two things: 1) we all belong to Jesus, and 2) we want everyone to know Jesus.

Our Livestream ministry is one of the vital ways that we Share Christ with others. Our members are able to join us for worship when they are in the hospital, sick at home, in bad weather, when schedules change, when they can no longer leave their home, or even when they're on vacation. Not only that, but our livestream reaches people beyond the North Shore.

**We need some folks who are willing to step forward and help continue to make our livestream possible.**  The livestream is not as intimidating as it sounds, and we have people that know how to run it that are willing and able to help people learn, and support them as they are doing the livestream. This has been built into our budget as a paid position.

**If you would consider learning more about the livestream, come and talk to me.** Talking and learning more does not mean you've signed up, only that you're curious.

Thank you, Bethlehem, for the care and support you offer to each other each and every day. May God richly bless each of you. - Pastor Calvin

Dear Bethlehem Lutheran Community,

Thank you for the generous scholarship support of my education. I can't wait to put it to use studying biology, liturgical organ, and Italian here at Yale.

Thank you also for the quilt and all the love it represents. This community has shaped me; I owe so much to Pastor Calvin's hopeful sermons and the congregation's Coffee An' advice; to early mornings and late nights spent at the organ console; to support in sending me to Lutheran Summer Music, where I saw the best of what sacred music can be; to a childhood of running rampant in the church's subterranean tunnels (shoot, I think that was supposed to be a secret); to seeing this community support my family as I passed that childhood on to my brothers. No matter how far I wander, Bethlehem will always be a home.

God's peace, Naomi Tracy-Hegg



# Youth Room Remodeling

By Jess Christenson, CYF Director

If you have been down at the end of the hallway in the lower level you might have noticed some construction work going on. Mike Chmelik and a group of hardworking volunteers have been demolishing the youth room to help us rebuild for a couple of reasons.

This project initially started with water leaking down through the ceiling from the kitchen. After we had to cut holes in the ceiling to fix this, it was decided that we would put in a drop ceiling to help access and correct these issues if and when they happen again.

While we were discussing this a conversation about the space was started. Last year in Confirmation, there was not enough room around the tables for every student. By tearing down the curved wall, we were really able to open up the room! There will be room for an additional table so that all of our students will fit around the tables for Confirmation this year! This is a huge win and will help the flow of conversation during our time together.

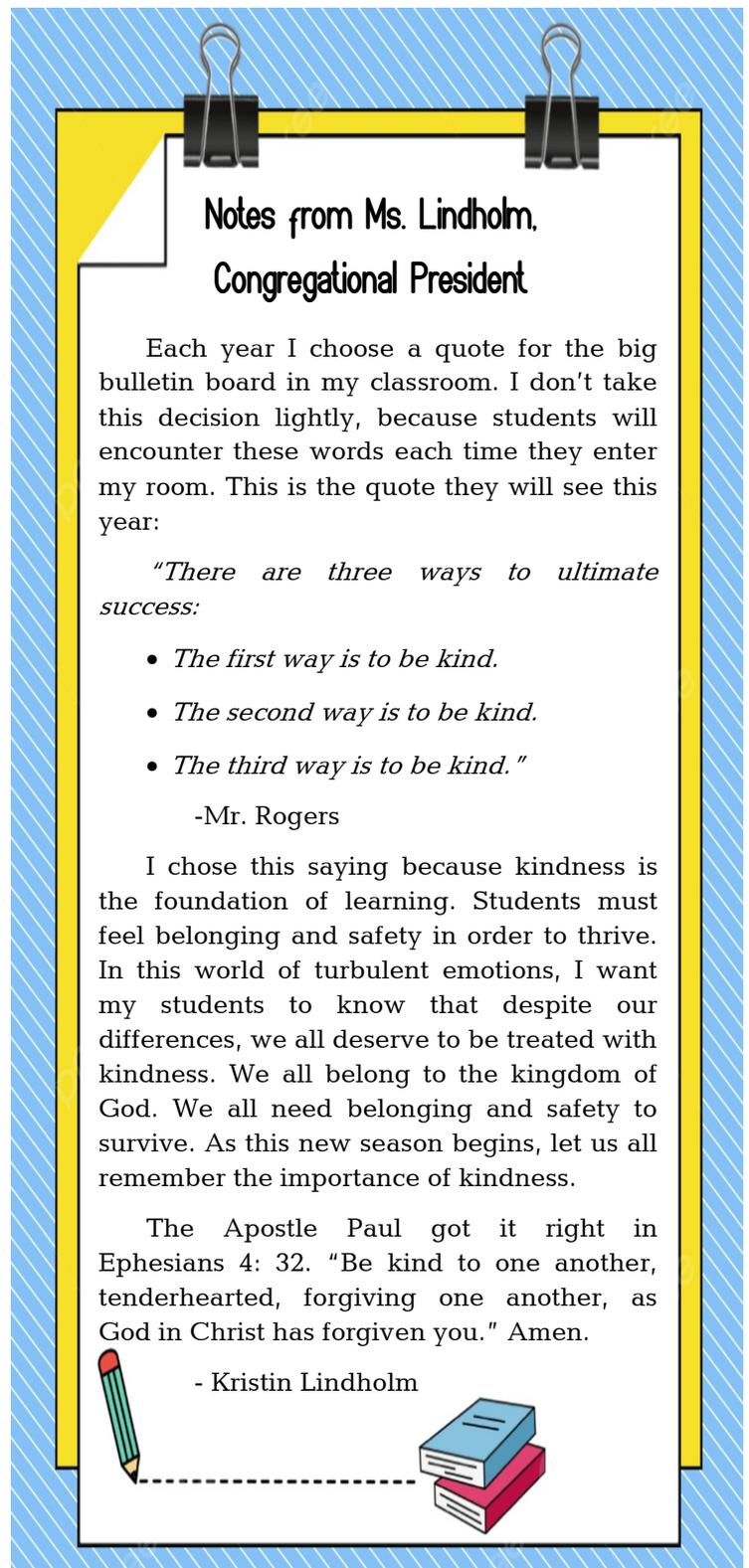
Thank you so much to Mike and all of the volunteers who have spent time making this space as functional as possible for our youth. Thank you to everyone in this congregation, you all show so much care for our youth. It is so amazing to see so much support in so many different ways for the young people in our community! Next time you are in the building, take a peak downstairs and see how this work is coming along!



## RESEARCH HELP REQUEST

While cleaning the supply room Claire Judd's Stamp Collection was uncovered. It's quite a lot of stamps and is well organized. The problem? *What is a church to do with it?* It was gifted to Bethlehem in the Judd estate, intended as a gift to be transformed into a donation to the church. Currently, we are looking for someone to research the approximate value of the collection and find out how to market this.

Do you have an interest in researching and delving into this project? There is no timeline for this, but we'd love to get the collection into the hands of someone who appreciates the value in the stamp collection. Would you be willing to take on this one-time project? Deadline to volunteer for this project is September 30<sup>th</sup>. At that time the collection will be disposed of.





Jessica  
Christenson  
Director of Children,  
Youth & Family  
Ministries  
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My first summer here at Bethlehem and in Grand Marais has flown by in a blink! It has truly been such a fun summer filled with so much joy! I just know that joy will be transferred to this fall! We have so much planned for this program year and I can't wait for things to kick off! Here are a couple of things that are happening this fall that I want to make sure all of our families know about.

On **Sunday August 31**, we will have a **Blessing of the Backpacks** for the new school year. Students and teachers, bring your backpacks and workbags to be blessed as you prepare to kickstart a new year! We will be giving out "Be Kind" backpack tags to help us remember to always follow Jesus' command to love our neighbor as ourselves!

With fall programming kicking off I am excited to share about **Bethlehem Homecoming happening on Sunday October 5<sup>th</sup>**. This will be an amazing event to come and connect with our community! We are hoping to have a bounce house, face painting, a community art project, and free faith resources for you to have at home. We will have a meal together and reminisce of Bethlehem's past while we dream of our future together. We would love to see you there!

As you all transition back into your routines for the school year, I hope that you find time to discuss faith as a family. I will be starting to post on Facebook and on the bulletin board in the basement faith questions and faith challenges that your family can use to prompt discussions. If there is ever anything that I can do to support you, your kids or your community, please let me know. I am always here for you and would love to help in anyway possible!

Peace,  
Jess

## Looking Forward



I don't know about you all, but I am trying to spend as much time outside these last few weeks of summer. While I will miss the green leaves and warmth, I am so excited for our programming year to start!

Our CYF programming will officially start in October this year.

Sunday School is open to students in K – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade during worship each Sunday. Students will join me up front for the Children's Message and then afterwards will head down to the Sunday School room for about 20 minutes of a lesson and activity about the scripture for that day. Then students will rejoin their families in the Sanctuary for communion. **Our first Sunday of Sunday School is October 5<sup>th</sup>.**

Confirmation is open to students in 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Wednesdays through out the program year will begin at 5:30 with a community meal, followed by worship at 6 led by the Average Worship Band. Then from 6:30 – 7:30 students will join me down in the Youth Room for our confirmation lesson. **Our first Wednesday of Confirmation is on October 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.** We will have a student & parent orientation meeting on Sunday September 28<sup>th</sup> at 11am after worship, down in the youth room. At this meeting you will receive our schedule for the year and our Confirmation Handbook with all of the information you will need for this year.

I am still looking for some volunteers for this program year. **If you are interested in joining a teaching rotation for Sunday School or you would like to help lead a small group for Confirmation, please let me know!** Working with these students is the best part of my job and I would love for other folks to experience the joy of this community of young folks!

Registration forms for both of these programs can be found on our website, in the Narthex or at the CYF Bulletin Board downstairs at church. As always, please reach out to me if you have any questions, comments or concerns!

Peace, Jess  
[blcyouth@boreal.org](mailto:blcyouth@boreal.org)  
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# Mission Of the Month

## LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

The Mission of the Month for September is Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR). LDR shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, LDR stays to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

We are a church that is a catalyst, convener and bridge builder. Lutheran Disaster Response collaborates with other disaster response organizations and religious entities in the United States and around the world. This enables the greatest stewardship of resources and maximum impact of response. The organization is a welcome partner because they respect the perspectives and strengths of others.

“We recognize that every disaster is local. Because of this, we believe every response needs to be rooted in the community; we work to accompany that community from immediate relief through long-term recovery. In our international work we partner closely with companion churches and other Lutheran and ecumenical relief agencies to make sure local needs are being addressed and met. In the United States, we work through our extensive affiliate network and other partners to address these same concerns.” – taken from LDR’s website.

Lutheran Disaster Response strives to help the church continue to be church in the midst of disaster — following Christ's call to share hope and healing with our neighbor in need. Some key areas of work include:

- Providing emotional and spiritual care for people who have been affected by a disaster and for leaders who respond to a disaster
- Coordinating volunteers through our local affiliates
- Assisting refugees in a holistic way by meeting

the varied needs of the community

- Promoting disaster risk-reduction by helping communities build their assets thereby reducing the effects of likely disasters
- Providing long-term recovery efforts by addressing the unmet needs months or even years after a disaster strikes

Internationally, LDR is found at disasters in: Eastern Europe Crisis Response; Horn of Africa Drought; Middle East Crisis; South Sudan Relief; and Migrants and Refugees (AMMPARO). Domestically, they are found in disasters dealing with Flooding; Hurricanes; Severe Storms; Tornadoes, and Wildfires.

Donations for the Mission of the Month in September will be directed to Lutheran Disaster Response.

## Church in Society

### By Kris Hedstrom



We have the tally for the July Mission of the Month. The Bethlehem Quilters have been impressive! In 7 months they have sent 15 quilts to Red Cross in Duluth. Ten baby quilts and 11 twin size quilts were provided to Grand Portage for distribution by Mary Deschampe. We have celebrated 9 baptisms so far this year. Each person was given a quilt. Ten seniors graduated from high school and chose their own quilt to celebrate this accomplishment.

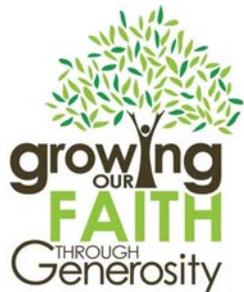
Through the sale of one quilt in July and donations dedicated to the Mission of the Month, \$714.00 was raised for Lutheran World Relief.

The August missions were two-fold. The first was to provide financial support to North Point in the goal of obtaining matching funds towards a grant. Option two was to collect Back to School supplies for the local schools in conjunction with the HUB program.

We thank you all for your Generosity in donations and service.

# STEWARDSHIP

Submitted by Gwen Lenz



Recently, our Stewardship team held another “Generosity activity”. They have been scheduled over the summer months to encourage the practice of generosity in our daily lives.

- Sharing the M&M’s,
- Shouting “This is us!” reading a story
- Drawing on a paper plate to express ‘your gifts’
- Describing how we give back.

Being a Christian is not just about giving money, though it has to be part of that. It is about responding to God’s goodness, God’s abundance and generosity to me, to us!

I want you to think how you have been Blessed:

- It may be good health- keep it that way!
- It may be good friends and family - you get one by being one!
- It may be a particular talent - use it to serve others! (Artistry, swinging a hammer)
- It may be confidence, to lead, teach, encourage, or inspire!
- It may be that you are a good listener or good at forming relationships.

We are ALL blessed with God’s generosity, given to each of us and in return, we are all to be generous managers of what we have been given. They have been ‘entrusted’ to us to use.... Our time, our talents, and even our treasures.

Excel in Generosity! Thanks be to God!



## Musical Notes

By Karina Roth, Musical Director

It's September and the BLC choir is resuming practice every week! We welcome all ages and levels of singers, and would love to have you join us! Rehearsal is every Sunday at 8:40 am.

And that means it is also time to start thinking about Borealis Chorale & Orchestra! Rehearsals will be on Sundays beginning on **October 19<sup>th</sup>**, Orchestra at 2:30 pm, and Chorale at 4:00pm. Dress rehearsal walk-through will be **Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**. Performances this year will be on **Friday and Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>**. This year I am thinking about trying to expand the kids contribution a little, if you have kids that might be interested, please contact me at [karina\\_roth@hotmail.com](mailto:karina_roth@hotmail.com).



## Clergy News:

### Pastor Jack Busche



Pastor Jack Busche, our former intern, has accepted a call from St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Wausau, Wisconsin. He will begin his new position on September 7<sup>th</sup>.

Jack is originally from Stratford, WI, and attended Princeton University where he graduated in 2019. He was then a member of the first cohort of the MDivX program at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN - a two year intensive seminary program which included a two year parish internship. He was (*we were*) lucky enough to have his internship at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Grand Marais, MN, from 2020-21. After graduating with his MDiv in June 2021, six days later he married his best friend Sydney at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hovland, MN. In August 2021, he began his first call at Grace Lutheran Church in Gwinn, MI, in the Upper Peninsula.

Jack and Sydney expanded their family with a yellow labrador, Annie, that fall, and welcomed their daughter, Kit, in December 2024. They enjoy hiking and camping as a family, and Pastor Jack still finds time to play Dungeons & Dragons online. They are looking forward to settling into Wausau, closer to both family and many of their friends in the area, and to getting to know everyone at Saint Andrew.

Congratulations, Pastor Jack and family!



## Ukraine News

Through our Mission of the Month, Bethlehem has raised funds and assembled solar light kits for the people of Ukraine. We recently received this note of thanks through our contact, Dave Nonnemacher of New Horizons Foundation from the recipients of our support:

“On August 27, the Medical Center "YaMariupol.Zdorovya" in Odessa turned three months old. It would seem that it is not much, but for us this period can be compared to the first months of a child's life. Every day is like a discovery, every week is a new step forward, every month is a real milestone on the path of development. We grow, gain strength, learn, make our first leaps and feel that the trust of our patients is growing with us.

“As in the life of a small child, our development is impossible without kind hearts nearby. Those who support, who extend a helping hand, who believe in us and inspire us to move forward, including numerous volunteers and parishioners who are always there.

“This support began when we only had bold and very ambitious dreams - to relocate to Odessa and create a new medical center here. A center that has never been in the city before. A place where care, respect, and quality care are received not only by Mariupol residents, but also by everyone who needs it.

“We were helped not only with advice. We received so much necessary for daily work: consumables, wheelchairs, crutches, protective masks, gloves. We were even given a professional printer and solar-powered rechargeable lamps - to be prepared for possible blackouts. All this became our support in the first, most responsible months.

“But above all, we received the most valuable thing. The love and sincere prayers that our friends and benefactors send us. They are the ones that warm us in moments of fatigue, add faith in our own strength and remind us: we are not alone.

“We are infinitely grateful to every volunteer and all caring people who help us. Thanks to you, hundreds of patients receive not just medical care every day, but also vital support and hope. Three months is just the beginning of our great common story. Thank you for creating it with us!”



## Underwear Update

Last month Bethlehem received a plea from Dave Nonnemacher of New Horizons Foundation requesting underwear. Underwear was (is) needed for the people living on the front lines of the war in Ukraine, and is something often overlooked in donations. We quickly worked together with our community and collected a car-full of donated underwear.

Dave called to offer “heartfelt and grateful thanks for the large donations of underwear for Ukraine.” He received over 1100 pairs of underwear for the people in the war-torn ravaged country. The underwear will be shipped to Ukraine and arrive on the frontlines in early September.

Dave is planning his next trip to Ukraine in November. He has requested financial support where possible. 100% of the funds donated go directly to food, fuel, medicine and supplies and help the people in the front line of the war in Ukraine. Donations are being collected through October 15, 2025, and Bethlehem will get these to Dave in time for his November mission trip.

## PRAYER LEAVES

The leaves of trees are like solar power panels for the tree - the flat surface catches the sunlight, and with this energy the leaf is able to break down the carbon dioxide in the air and together with water from the ground and the rain, make a kind of sugar - food for the tree to live.

Just like the leaves need the sunlight, so we need God. Let the leaf remind you to turn to God for all of your needs.

Pick up a leaf and write a need or prayer on it, or pray holding the leaf in your hands. Hang in on your fridge or put it under a rock on a ledge and ask for God to hear your prayer. As you see the leaves change throughout the season you can remember to pray to God for yourself and others when you see leaves.





# September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p><b>1</b> Office is closed</p>  <p><b>Labor Day</b></p>	<p><b>2</b> 8:30am Staff meeting</p>	<p><b>3</b> 8:00am Church in Society Meeting 12:30pm Text Study</p>	<p><b>4</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Quilting</p>	<p><b>5</b> Clarity Hearing Appts</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>
<p><b>7</b> 8:40am Choir practice 10:00am Worship &amp; Sunday School</p>	<p><b>8</b> 6:30pm Executive Committee meeting</p>	<p><b>9</b> 8:30am Staff meeting</p>	<p><b>10</b> 12:30pm Text Study</p>	<p><b>11</b> 8:00am Monthly Council Reports due to office 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Quilting 9:30am BLCW Circle &amp; Bible Study</p>	<p><b>12</b> 12:00pm Monthly Reports distributed to Council members</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>
<p><b>14</b> 8:40am Choir practice 10:00am Worship &amp; Sunday School 2:00pm Care Center Worship Service</p>	<p><b>15</b> 8:00am Deadline for changes to Council agenda and reports 6:30pm Church Council Meeting</p>	<p><b>16</b> 8:30am Staff meeting 6:30pm Worship Planning Meeting</p>	<p><b>17</b> 12:30pm Text Study</p>	<p><b>18</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Quilting</p>	<p><b>19</b> Clarity Hearing Appts</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>
<p><b>21</b> 8:40am Choir practice 10:00am Worship &amp; Sunday School</p>	<p><b>22</b> <b>Newsletter articles due</b></p>	<p><b>23</b> 8:30am Staff meeting</p>	<p><b>24</b> 12:30pm Text Study 5:30pm Meal 6:00pm The Generosity Project</p>	<p><b>25</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Quilting</p>	<p><b>26</b> Trinity Lutheran Fishcake dinner 5pm Festive Worship 6pm Film 7pm</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>
<p><b>28</b> 8:40am Choir practice 10:00am Contemporary Worship &amp; Sunday School</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b> 8:30am Staff meeting</p>	<p><b>1</b> 8:00am Church in Society 12:30pm Text Study  First Wednesday of Activities starts at 5:30 pm Meal, Worship &amp; Confirmation</p>	<p><b>2</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Quilting</p>	<p><b>3</b> Clarity Hearing Appts</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>

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# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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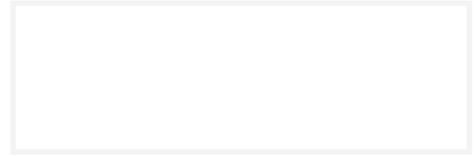


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Grand Marais, MN  
55604

*Belonging to Christ,*

*Sharing Christ on the*

*North Shore and beyond.*



## Youth Game Night

on August 27<sup>th</sup> was fun,  
invigorating and  
challenging. Thanks to the  
gals who took an ice cream  
pail with a frozen t-shirt  
and worked it free...just to  
put it on—cold and wet.  
Just look at Sigi's reaction.

**Burrrrr!**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church will be hosting a **TRUNK-OR-TREAT** event this year on **October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5-7pm**. We will be gathering in the parking lot of the **Community Center by the skatepark**.

If you aren't familiar with this type of event, a Trunk or Treat is where cars will park and open up their trunk and hand out candy! Instead of going door to door kids go trunk to trunk! Some folks decorate their trunk with different themes that match their own costumes.

We are looking for about 10 volunteers to be willing to set up their cars and hand out candy out of their trunk at this event. We are also looking for folks to donate Halloween candy for us to hand out! So, if you are interested in supporting this event, but don't have capacity to set up a trunk . . . live out-of-town . . . or don't normally get many kids to your area for Trick-or-treaters, please drop off donations of Halloween Candy to the church! If you are interested or have any questions, comments or concerns please contact Jessica!

[blcyouth@boreal.org](mailto:blcyouth@boreal.org) or 507-530-2763

