

BETHLEHEM STAR

A PUBLICATION OF BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH, GRAND MARAIS, MN

June 2023

Volume 42 Number 6

Pentecost is Our Story

If you're a fan of the television show 'The Big Bang Theory,' you're perhaps familiar with the CERN Supercollider, which is an immense donut shaped tube 17 miles in circumference buried deep underground beneath the border of France and Switzerland. The supercollider takes sub-atomic particles and uses an almost unthinkable amount of energy to accelerate them to nearly the speed of light; smashing them into one another in order to observe how the universe existed at the moment of its creation.

On the Day of Pentecost the disciples were gathered in a room when suddenly the house was filled with the sound of a violent wind and tongues of fire rested upon them. Through the power of the Spirit, they were transformed from being confused, afraid, tentative, and uncertain ... to being focused, daring, and determined. Filled with the Spirit of God, they went out into the world as witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus.

When I think of that rush of wind and those tongues of flame, I'm reminded of the CERN supercollider where particles are smashed into one another in order to create something new. The Holy Spirit is the dynamic power of God that sets our lives in motion; hurling us into the unknown and creating something new through the ministry we share.

Something to remember as we head into the Season of Pentecost is that the Holy Spirit is already present within us. Each and every one of us has been given this gift of the Spirit, and each and every one of us has been given the command to go out and share it with others. And because God already dwells within us, we're called to envision the many ways God's love and forgiveness are present in our community.

The God who creates the very DNA that makes us who we are invites us to be the ones who envision what an abundant life with God can look like. The God who chose to step into this world and make death irrelevant now empowers us to take our dreams and make them a reality for this lost and often disheartened world. When we dare to dream ... when we dare to prophesy ... when we dare to be visionaries ... we impact the world around us in ways that are almost impossible to measure.

Pentecost is our story, and if we're going to bend the arc of history toward justice and righteousness, we need to get busy reclaiming it. We need to boldly and unabashedly proclaim that this world is continually being transformed through the power of God's love. We need to reclaim the belief that we are God's hands at work in the lives of others.

We are the living and the breathing Body of Christ in the midst of a world where food insecurity, homelessness, mass shootings, and lack of health care are sometimes just a matter of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Like those particles smashing into one another in the CERN Supercollider, God pulls us out of our daily lives and propels us headlong into the broken places of this world so that new things can be created out of our brokenness.

The Holy Spirit is filling our lungs, touching our lips, and breathing fire into our very souls so that even in the midst of our own doubts and fears we can live and breathe and speak and prophesy as people eager to share our faith in both our words and our actions. Through the power of the Spirit, each and every one of us has been infused with the love, courage, and faith to do great things. So let's live as Pentecost people ... focused, daring, determined, and empowered to serve our risen Lord.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Tom Murray, Lutsen Evangelical Lutheran Church

Meet and Greet

May 18 & 19

Our First Potluck since the beginning of Covid!

Our first opportunity to meet Pastor Calvin & Ashley Konop!

A Great time for Food, Fun & Fellowship!

Thank you to everyone that helped and made these meals a success.



SENIORS LUNCH WITH THE QUILTERS:



May 10th: Quilters honored our Seniors with a lunch and their choice of a quilt. Ethel Johnson, Milly Gestel, Jody Daugherty, Emmalli Myers, Eric Anderson J Shannon, MaKenzie Fairbanks, Katie Peck, Joan Bieber, Kathy Bolstad, Ruth Tice, Rowan Lindholm. Not pictured: Teresa Chmelik, Shelby Anderson, Joy Oberg



Bethlehem celebrates our 2023 Graduating Seniors! Emmalli Myers, MaKenzie Fairbanks, J Shannon, Katie Peck, Rowan Lindholm. (Not pictured: Savanna Shepard, Anna Helmerson and Faith Johnson.)



By The Reverend Carol Mork

A recent Facebook post caught my attention. In the middle of a large red square I read "...it is a serious thing/just to be alive/on this fresh morning/in the broken world." A bit of googling revealed it to be a segment of a poem by Mary Oliver. "In this broken world" caught my attention. It is, I suppose, a broken world, or at least an unraveling, threadbare world, so it seems. But Oliver's reminder that it is a serious thing to be alive on this morning in this place called to mind many images.

Just last month we worshiped in the ancient Iona Abbey on the Scottish island of Iona. The massive stone structure, constructed in 563 C.E., resounded with the many voices of many languages all praying in their own languages, each recognizing the Lord's Prayer. It was a serious thing; it was an amazing thing. Just as in the Pentecost reading from Acts: "and they were all bewildered because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each." And it was a serious thing just to be alive on that fresh morning in that place.

These June days remind us again of the myriad changes within in our emerging-from-winter world. 50, 60, 70-foot black spruce sprawl on the forest floors, felled by the hurricane strength storms of recent months. Yellow daffodils and red tulips emerge from their now uncovered cozy beds. Two hummingbirds tangle with each other to sip sugar water out of the hanging red-trimmed feeder perched outside the living room window. Bare birch branches curtain the once-visible Lake as the pale lime leaves unfurl into bright lacy green thicker and thicker each day. It is a serious thing just to be alive on this fresh morning in this place.

Changes everywhere – in our natural world, in our personal world, in our community world. Two garage

sales, a "SOLD" sign out front, a moving van arrives, a move into a new town, a continuum of care facility. Home as one has known it for over sixty years is radically reduced to a 750 square foot apartment. A spouse dies; a cancer diagnosis; a rock randomly crashes into the windshield. A retirement, a promotion, a new job in a new town. A new pastor called and soon to arrive.

One change or another – we each face them one day or another. It is a serious thing just to be alive on this fresh morning in this place. Easter white gives way to Pentecost red gives way to Trinity green. Change is the constant "in this broken (or at least unraveling and threadbare) world." And yet, and yet, "It is a serious thing just to be alive on this fresh morning."

As we move into this month of June sit a bit with the Pentecost reading from Act 2. Sit with the disciples and visitors "devout Jews from every nation," and let the Spirit speak to you. Oliver's poem invites the reader to pay attention – "do you have time to linger for just a little while out of your busy and very important day for the goldfinches?" Let the Spirit speak to you. Perhaps, as e. e. cummings announced, you can also proclaim "I thank You God for most this amazing day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything which is natural which is infinite which is yes."

You also know, "it is a serious thing just to be alive on this fresh morning in the broken world."

Reverend Carol Mork is a retired Lutheran pastor who has lived ten miles east of Grand Marais and a mile and a half up from the Lake for 13 years. She and Hillary enjoy bird-watching, walks in the woods, reading, travel and tending to their two aging shelties. Carol has provide pulpit supply several times at Bethlehem.

Holy Cow, Kids!

Our kids have collected another **\$200** for the ELCA Holy Cow fund to feed hungry children across the world. *Keep bringing your change to church and get it to the kids as they go up for the Children's Sermon.*





LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

The Church in Society committee has chosen to support **Lutheran World Relief** as our June Mission of the Month. Founded by U.S. Lutherans in 1945 in response to global needs post WWII, LWR has been working in countries all over the world ever since. LWR works to end poverty, suffering, and injustice by helping communities develop productive, stable economies, and by responding to natural disasters and humanitarian crisis. We invite you to look up lwr.org to read about some of the LWR ministries happening around the globe.

In Peace, Sue Anderson on behalf of the Church in Society Committee

Lutheran World Relief saves and improves lives in the poorest parts of the world.

We will persist until your love reaches every neighbor.

Rural Economies and Agricultural Livelihoods: We partner with communities to create jobs and develop productive, inclusive and resilient economies rooted in agriculture.

Environment: We promote sustainable farming practices so farmers and agribusinesses can improve productivity while conserving their natural resources.

Humanitarian Assistance: We respond to natural disasters and complex crises, helping people recover, rebuild and reduce their vulnerabilities to future shocks.

Summer Matching Gift Challenge

Every \$1 you give becomes \$2!

Rush your gift by June 30!

lwr.org

June Member Activity

Often, when natural disasters strike or when war drives families from their homes, our hearts ache with compassion, but we don't know how to help. Making **Lutheran World Relief Kits** is a simple, fun and tangible way to offer comfort to those suffering and express love to our neighbors in need.

LWR Kits are specifically designed to help people coping with poverty, disaster, conflict and more. Whether a kit helps someone to maintain good hygiene, care well for a newborn baby, keep education going during a crisis or learn a new vocation, LWR Kits provide dignity and hope in the direst situations.

Offering comfort and care to those who need it most

MEMBER CHALLENGE: Make a kit or two and bring your kits to church. We will get them shipped to LWR. Make LWR kits: <https://lwr.org/kits>

Four ways to help:



#1 School Kits

Equip a child with the supplies they need to keep learning even in a crisis.

#2 Baby Care Kits

Help a baby get off to a good start in life with basic baby care supplies.



#3 Personal Care Kits

Provide much-needed self-care and critical germ fighting tools.

#4 Donate to the Kit Shipping Fund

Help ensure LWR has the funds needed to deliver your kits throughout the world



in God's Care By Kris Hedstrom

Confirmation and Sunday School classes have ended for the Summer. We plan to offer **Vacation Bible School the 2nd week of August.**

Teacher Appreciation Sunday is June 11th. We will acknowledge all our helpers in Christian Education this past year. We will also say farewell to two families that are moving away—The Jacobsen's are off to Alaska and the Stieler's to Finland (Minnesota).

Summer Church Camp Scholarships are available. Fill out the form and let us know how much financial help you need to send your children to camp. Most families have received \$250.00 per child for camp this year.

As we anticipate having leadership from a new pastor, we will keep you posted about plans for the Fall of 2023.



By Mindy Jacobsen

Confirmation came to an end on Sunday, May 7th with a lot of fun games that the Oberg's organized. All of the students had a lot of fun and I am working on having an end of year celebration at the beginning of June. We had a great group of students this year and had an average of 7 students that attended regularly. After much discussion it was decided to hold off on confirming the 8th graders until Reformation Sunday in the fall, this will allow a new pastor to work with them on their Faith Statements and begin to connect with them.

Unfortunately, this is my last report due to my family moving to Alaska in June, it has been so much fun working with the youth this year and trying to keep the youth program running during this transition time. I had so many ideas that I wanted to implement but am so excited to see the future of Bethlehem! This isn't

goodbye, as we will still be visiting every summer so I'll be online and looking forward to visiting next summer! Since there is not a Lutheran church in Haines, Chance has been given permission to complete his Faith Statement using the previous requirements so that he can be confirmed on June 11.

Vacation Bible School is planned to take place in August instead of the beginning of June like we previously set



It's a new era at Bethlehem as Sue Hennessy has "retired" as our video technician, director, electronics and all-around technical expert at Bethlehem. **Thank you to SUE HENNESSY for her service.** We recognize and are **grateful** to Sue for the **magnificent** way she brought us through the pandemic years. Beginning with recording of the services in separate groupings and editing them into a broadcast that looked like it was a fluid on-site service. There has been an **amazing amount of work** which Sue has provided, through a learning curve and into this **quality live stream production** that we have today. Sue has done this every Sunday for years.



Now is the time to pass the baton! Mark Abrahamson has agreed to step in (Thank you, Mark!), but it is **TIME TO GET A TEAM OF PEOPLE TO DO THIS JOB.** (It's a paying gig!) Mark will need back up and others to do this job up to a few times a month. We use an Apple system and iPod and upload directly to our YouTube channel. Please talk to Mike Chmelik, Duane Ege, Roger Barton or Mark Abrahamson for more information. Applications available in the office or from our website:

[https://
www.sharingchrist.org/
forms](https://www.sharingchrist.org/forms)



HE SAID YES

We have an agreement with Pastor Calvin Konop to call him as the next pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. The vote was unanimous, 92 voted "YES." (The anticipated timeline for the Konop's to move and get settled is expected to be approximately mid-July.)

Family News



Congratulations to the graduating class of 2023 from Cook County High School! Our member graduates include: Rowan Lindholm, Katie Peck, J Shannon,

MaKenzie Fairbanks, Emmalli Myers, Anna Helmersen, Savanna Shepard and Madeline Ziller. God be with you on your journey.

Denise and Pastor Tom Murray are pleased to announce the graduation of their son, Alex, from Wankato University with a Masters Degree in Geographical Information Sciences. Alex is now working in his field for Wright County in Buffalo, MN.

Congratulations to the DeBevec's on another milestone met 50 years of wedded bliss! May God continue to shine on your marriage, Annie & Mike



Ascension and Change

Did you happen to catch the sermon the Pastor Anne Swallow Gillis preached to Bethlehem during Ascension Sunday on May 21st? (The gospel text was Luke 24:44-53.) I was so moved by her message and how it connected the Ascension of our Lord Jesus with our upcoming times of welcoming a new pastor, a new leader of this flock. (This sermon was prior to the vote to call a new pastor.)

Pastor Anne has served as an interim minister at several different congregations and provided us with some questions to think about while going through the process of selecting a new minister, and what the roles of the church and the pastor are. Here is a brief synopsis of her message, and I hope my notes will encourage you to look up this service on our YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UqOYaGYvyus>

"Inner transformation starts with people in church."

Question: What kind of people do we need to be for the Ascension of our Lord text to make sense? We have to be open to being changed. The issue is: "am I willing to let go of some of my preferences? Am I willing to let go of control in my life?" How 'bout letting go of my ego-inflating resentments or my ego-crushing criticisms? "Am I willing to let God change my attitude and my preferences?"

We need to realize that the rational, scientific 20th century brain doesn't help us deal with a lot of the ascension story by the biblical writers. We need to be more open to poetic language. Language that can lead us into this unimaginable cosmic reality that is difficult to envision or embrace. This has to do with what Ephesians was talking about, "seeing with the eyes of the heart" with deeper intuitive, riskier, heart-knowing that comes from this on-going presence that we know when we belong to Christ.

Our common intension of the church is to *belong to Christ, share Christ on the North Shore and beyond*. This is the "glue" that holds us together in Christ, a very diverse group of



people. But we need to be careful not to be like the disciples who stared into the cloud as Jesus' feet were disappearing. It's very tempting to gaze longingly at the "glue" that once held our church together. The glue being: long-time traditions, a favorite flavor of doing things, a beloved pastor. The vote is **not** for someone new to be the "new glue."

The Pastor is NOT the new glue! The Pastor's purpose is not to do our mission statement. The Pastor's role is to *welcome and guide each of us* as we

strive to belong to Christ. So, our own perspectives and life choices start to begin to shift.

The role of the congregation that *belongs to Christ* is to **be open to the new** – ready to trust a new leader – to speak the truth in love, and not withhold your feedback because you’re trying to be polite.”

Pastor Anne invited us to prayerfully consider that the candidate presented to us will help us to *belong* more deeply to Christ.

“That’s the question: Can the candidate help us fulfill our mission? Will this particular leader guide us in *sharing Christ’s* message in innovative and courageous ways in this time.

The story of the Ascension is one way that the biblical writers say that **“Jesus has gone cosmic”** and **He is now everywhere**. We are called to continue Jesus’ mission, fueled by the Spirit of the Risen Christ. For there is a vote to be cast and new ministry work to be done.”



God Moments by Laurie Spry

Little did I know when offering to help with the tree distribution that it would become a time of outreach, internal reflection and a lot of fun! We were blessed with happy and knowledgeable volunteers who were ready to dig in, and inspired folks who had little idea of what to do, to take trees and plant away. We shared our stories as a team, laughed and enjoyed a very balmy morning and afternoon.

What was unexpected were the many “God Moments”.

One in particular stands out, and I want to share with you how so many times, when we open ourselves to his presence, we find we are to step away from ourselves, listen and truly hear, act in kindness, see something or someone in need and gathering that all together to reach out. I saw a woman who seemed in trouble or troubled. As we do in our area, asking her if she needed help, she replied, “I am here to see the area for our church in Maple Grove, Advent Lutheran Church, for a 4-day retreat of mixed age group for service and just found that our lodging has fallen through. Could you help me with that?” So, I invited her inside, took her through our church, and it was though I was seeing it again through new eyes. She was so gracious and absolutely loved our area and how blessed we are in our Church. She has been a member at Mt. Olivet and up to Cathedral of the Pines many times. They come to us on Thursday July 13 and stay through Sunday Service. Advent Lutheran has found that mixing ages can be a lot more fun, and they have two pop up tents as well as sleeping on the floor, which is not a problem for any of them.

Also, one of them is a chef ~ which I asked if their service project for us could be Coffee ‘An!

“Serving Christ on The North Shore and Beyond” is what we do. Thanks be to God



HEART TO HEART

During the scurry of summer we want for you, our membership, time to appreciate the season. Here’s wishing you a warm, relaxing, wonderful summer.



*The movement of a canoe
is like a reed in the wind.
Silence is a part of it and
the sounds of lapping water,
bird songs and the wind
in the trees.
It is part of the medium
through which it floats,
the sky, the water,
the shores.*

Sigurd F. Olson,

The Singing Wilderness (1997)

*Praise God for the
natural beauty we live in*

Bethlehem Star is a monthly publication of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Grand Marais, MN - Denise Murray, Office Manager & Editor.

Submission of articles, editorials and other news of interest is due on the 22nd of the prior month.

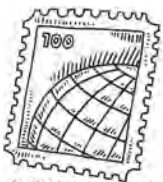
Contact the church office

218.387.2227
blc@boreal.org

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Tree Distribution

The Tree Project on the 20th of May was such a blessing of thanks to Carolyn Dry and her generous donation of wonderful trees/shrubs. Laurie and Lyle Spry were happy to be joined by Denise M., who went above and beyond (as usual) to make this endeavor possible. We were joined by Greg O., Sue A., Phyllis O., Joy O., and all of the folks who came and took trees to plant and watch them grow. We grew in friendship, were educated about what was being given and accomplished it all with the support of our dear church. What a wonderful day at Church.



Stamps for Missions

Bethlehem Lutheran Church has collected stamps for missions for as long as I can remember. Eleanor Waha handled this for many, many years, until her eyesight became a problem. Since then I have been collecting them in my office. My sister Debbie visits a few times a year and I recruit her to help me at church.

Debbie's research has found the Lutheran Women's Missionary League in Northern Illinois still does this ministry.

If you want to contribute to this ministry here is what they look for:

- All foreign stamps, large and small.
- Large commemorative U.S. stamps.
- Small definitive (common) U.S. stamps (including USA nonprofit bulk stamps), except
- **DO NOT save Love, Flag, Bell, OR Christmas stamps.**
- Save unused charity return mail stamps.

We invite you to save postage stamps, especially during the holiday season and donate them for this

mission. Just collect and bring your cancelled postage stamps to the marked jar on the Narthex counter. If at all possible, stamps should be trimmed leaving about 1/4" margin around the stamp. Do not trim stamps to touch perforations or the stamps will be discarded.

We will send them off to mission headquarters. They sort and sell them in batches to collectors and dealers at stamp shows and club auctions. For more information please contact me in the office: 218-387-2227, blc@boreal.org. - Denise Murray.

Labels for Education®

“Where did the Labels for Education program go?”
For *Campbell's* over 43 years, Campbell offered *Labels for Education*® which contributed more than \$110 million in school supplies to tens of thousands of schools across the U.S. During the past few years, the participation in *Labels for Education* declined considerably. Sadly, it was at the point where they had no choice but to make the difficult decision to end the program. **The Labels for Education program has officially ended.** (Please: No more drop-off's of Campbell labels at Bethlehem.)



Church Gardens

We have four raised beds on the south side of the church that are longing to be tended. If you are interested in planting these and tending to them this summer...they are yours!

In the past the confirmation kids with Pastor Mark planted, weeded, watered and harvested these plots. With the leaving of Mindy and pastoral vacancy right now, this is something that should be done soon. If you want this for yourself, or want to plant a pollinator garden, or provide the harvest to the food shelf -it's a project blessed by us. Let Denise know what you'd like to do. Thanks for keeping up the tradition.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Jonathan Rova, Presiding Pentecost 10:00am Christian Contemporary Worship Service with the "Average Worship Band"	29 Memorial Day Office is Closed 9:30am Maple Hill Memorial Day Service, Rev. Bill Beckstrand, Presiding 11:00am Court House Ceremony	30	31 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study	1 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting 7:00pm Executive Committee 	2 Clarity Hearing Appts.	3
4 Jonathan Rova, Presiding Trinity Sunday 8:40am Choir Practice 10:00am Worship with Live stream & Choir sings 	5 3:30pm Girl Scouts, 1st graders	6	7 8:00am Church In Society meeting 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 6:30pm Average Worship Band Practice 	8 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting 7:00pm Council meeting 	9 1:00pm Rebecca & Ruth Circles 	10
11 Confirmation Sunday: Chance Jacobsen Rev. Rolf Morck, Presiding 10:00am Worship Service with Live stream 11:15am Church Picnic 	12	13	14  Flag Day 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 6:30pm Contemporary Worship Service 	15 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting 	16 Clarity Hearing Appts.	17 3:00pm Memorial Service for B.J. Muus 
18 Father's Day Rev. Ann Newgard-Larson, Presiding 8:00am Choir Practice 10:00am Worship with Live stream & Choir sings 	19 Juneteenth Observance Office is closed 	20 6:00pm Worship Planning Committee	21 First Day of Summer 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 	22 Newsletter articles due for next edition 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting 	23	24
25 Rev. Ann Newgard-Larson, Presiding 10:00am Christian Contemporary Worship Service with the "Average Worship Band" 	26 1:30pm Jazz Ensemble Practice 	27	28 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 7:00pm Jazz Band Practice 	29 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting 	30	1

Denise's Summer Office Hours: beginning May 30th:

Monday - Thursday: 7:30 am to 3:00 pm and Fridays: 7:30 am to 11:30 pm



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

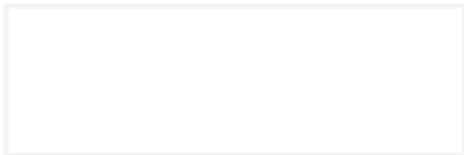
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Belonging to Christ,

Sharing Christ on the

North Shore and beyond.



Coffee and Bethlehem go together like warm bread and butter! Did you know that Bethlehem brews fairly traded, organic coffee? This simple and intentional act is one of the ways our congregation cares for creation. How is brewing fairly traded, organic coffee better for the environment?

- + Shade farming preserves forest cover and protects the habitats of birds and other wildlife.
- + Diversified crop planting promotes biodiversity and improves the health of the soil.
- + Most of these products are certified organic and produced without the use of toxic and persistent pesticides.

Join us for Coffee An' Fellowship following our worship service and enjoy the tasty coffee and treats. Get to know some new people!

TIME TO CELEBRATE!

Dust off your picnic baskets, find your favorite recipes, bring yard games and Let's celebrate! (The men will be grilling.)

CHURCH PICNIC POTLUCK JUNE 11TH FOLLOWING WORSHIP ON THE CHURCH PATIO

Celebrate the end of the school year, say goodbye to the Jacobsen's, come for the fun, stay for the food.

We all really enjoyed the last potluck, so let's do it again.

MORE INFORMATION TO

COME... If you would like to champion this project, contact the office at 218-387-2227

