



May 2026

Volume 45 Number 5

Bethlehem Star

A publication of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Grand Marais, MN

The season of Easter lasts for 50 days.

For those 50 days, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. We do a Thanksgiving for Baptism on Sundays instead of our usual confession and forgiveness, leaning into the celebration of the new life that we find in Jesus.

When Jesus resurrected from the dead, he appeared to many of his followers and stayed with them for 40 days. Then Jesus ascended into the heavens, giving them The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) before vanishing into the clouds. 10 days after that, Jesus, as he promised, sent the Holy Spirit to be with the disciples. This is Pentecost (Acts 2).


On Pentecost, the disciples were hiding behind locked doors and curtain drawn windows for fear of those who might be their enemies. Jesus was gone into the heavens, and they were terrified again. But the Holy Spirit showed up as the sound of a rushing wind, and as tongues of flames that came down from the ceiling and rested on their heads. The Spirit drove them out from their fear ridden hiding place into the streets, where they boldly proclaimed to everyone in many languages the story of Jesus.

On Pentecost we celebrate the coming of that same Holy Spirit into our lives. The Spirit that rushes like a wind into our church building, and pushes us out from behind our church walls and into the community - into the world. The Holy Spirit that gives us confidence to share about Jesus while we love and serve our neighbors.

Go out and share the Good News. Go out and love and serve your neighbors.

Go in peace and serve the Lord! Thanks be to God!

- Pastor Calvin Konop



**Graduation
SUNDAY**

May 10, 2026

*A Service of Blessings, Quilts
& Fellowship with our
High School Seniors*



APRIL HIGHLIGHTS



First Communion Class: Jess Christenson, Freya Hedstrom, Finnley Jacobson, Carter Smith, Lars Jansen, Aren Hedstrom, Karsten Stieler and Pastor Calvin Konop



Bethlehem Choir at Easter



Quilt donated to Arrowhead AED fundraiser



Intricately hand-pieced quilt blocks



Always smiles and laughter while quilting!



Easter Egg Hunt—huge fun and treasures to boot!





Devotions

By Pastor Calvin Konop

There is a new translation of the Bible that is being worked on and coming out in segments. So far they have completed the New Testament, and the Psalms and Proverbs. This translation is called the *First Nations Version*, focusing on native and indigenous interpretation.

For our May devotion, I am simply going to print the 23rd Psalm from this translation. I want to invite you to read it 3 times through, and each time spend a minute or two reflecting on things that popped out at you. Peace be with you during this simple, but powerful practice.

Psalm 23 - First Nations Version

Grandfather is my shepherd.

My lodge will always have plenty.

*He gives me rest in fields of tender sweetgrass
and guides me near quiet and peaceful waters.*

Through these good medicines,

he brings strength to my body and healing to my soul.

*He shows me the good way to walk with firm steps on
the road of life, to bring honor to his name.*

*Even if my path takes me through the canyon
of darkness and gloom,*

*I will fear no evil, for you are close by my side,
keeping my eyes straight, my path safe.*

*Your walking stick and chief's staff bring
comfort and peace.*

You prepare a great feast for me as my enemies watch.

You honor me with a headdress of many feathers.

My cup is filled to overflowing with life-giving water.

Your goodness and love,

which remain strong and true,

will chase after me on the path of life all of my days.

Grandfather's longhouse will always be my home.

Notes from Kristin Lindholm, Congregational President

"I am the good shepherd;
I know my sheep and my sheep know me
just as the Father knows me and
I know the Father
and I lay down my life for the sheep."

John 10: 14-15

Prior to moving to Grand Marais, my family had the honor of raising sheep. While Chris and my oldest daughter, Shae, did the bulk of the farming, we all played a role in shepherding the flock. The sheep needed water, food and shelter on a daily basis. It required a serious devotion, a strict routine, and a whole lot of patience. Sheep desperately need their shepherd. Amazingly, God feels the same way about us. We are his sheep, after all, and require a great deal of care. When we wander, he never strays. When we need guidance, he answers prayers. When we are lost, he finds us. In this season of Easter, I am thankful for our shepherd - Jesus.



Stewardship News



BY GWEN LENZ

Here it is April, and the world is a different place. God has blessed us, but also challenges us.

A Prayer for Generosity:

Dear God, Help us to LEARN to share and be more generous EVERYWHERE! Amen.

With 'pop-up' food distributions and established food shelves, as we all are thinking of others in our community and others of our world. May we be challenged to use our resources to help as we are able. God is a Generous God!!



MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE

The Bethlehem Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund was created to enhance the mission outreach of the congregation. Contributions are placed in an investment account and, per the Fund by-laws, some of the interest and investment earnings that are generated each year are distributed to various organizations at the local, national, and international levels. A portion is also used to fund various initiatives at Bethlehem. This year we have \$12,217 available to distribute. The Mission Endowment Committee met in April and voted to make the following initial distributions:

- 1) \$1,000 scholarships to CCHS 2026 graduates Sofi Boen, Ruby Gulstrand, and Parker Backstrom.
- 2) \$2,000 to Bethlehem for summer camperships and/or youth programming.

The Committee will meet again in the Fall to decide what to do with the \$7,217 that remains available for distribution this year.

The Mission Endowment Committee also oversees the Concordia College Congregational Scholarship. This scholarship is funded 100% by an anonymous Concordia alumnus to support Bethlehem members attending Concordia College in the amount of \$5,000 per year. The committee voted to award a \$5,000 scholarship to Rowan Lindholm for the 2026-2027 academic year.

Donations, honorariums, and memorials to the Mission Endowment Fund are always encouraged and welcomed. Please contact any committee member (Eric Anderson, Annie DeBevec, Kathleen Johnson, John Muus, Janet Simonen) if you have questions. Thank you.

QUILTERS DONATE FOR AED

Bethlehem's Quilters donated a beautiful "Grandmothers Flower Garden" quilt to the Arrowhead AED team. (See pictures on page 2.) This quilt top was given to the Quilters to be finished. Kris Smith, co-organizer of Arrowhead AED, asked the quilters for a donation. This seemed like a great combination of efforts.

An automated external defibrillator (AED) is a portable device that can be used to treat a person whose heart has suddenly stopped working, i.e., sudden cardiac arrest. AEDs are available in many public places, but mostly inside buildings. An AED unit can shock the heart in a cardiac event by placing pads on an individual's chest, and help restore a normal heart rhythm.



Arrowhead AED is a local nonprofit organization that is currently raising money to purchase **outdoor AED units** for placement in various locations throughout Cook County and they will be accessible 24/7. To learn more about Arrowhead AED, contact arrowheadaed@gmail.com or call Kris Smith at 218-370-1476.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church owns an AED machine, located on the west side of the Narthex counter. Please familiarize yourself with the machine. They are easy to use, as step-by-step directions are given verbally through the machine. Thanks to Laura Popkes and Paul Dahl for their help in getting AEDs installed in BLC.

Hello All! Happy May!

I am so grateful for the signs of Spring all around us! This is an exciting time in the life of a CYF Director. We are wrapping up a great year of programming with Sunday School and Confirmation; while also ramping up for all of the fun we are going to have this summer at VBS and several youth specific events this summer. I am also dreaming and planning for this fall and our next program year! A busy time! There is much to look forward to together and I am so grateful for all the ways that this community supports our children and youth. Thank you for all the ways that you show our students that they matter!

On a personal note, I can't believe that I have been apart of this community for a year! It both feels like shorter and longer than that. Thank you all for the ways in which you have welcomed both Eric and I to this church community and the larger community as a whole. When you tell people that you are moving to Grand Marais from Minneapolis friends were often worried that we would be secluded or lonely. Not once during this past year I have felt alone, or like there wouldn't be folks to help if I needed it. That is all because of your generosity and kindness. Thank you for showing up and welcoming us in so warmly. I feel so blessed and lucky to be in this role, in this community.

More information about summer programming will be coming soon and I can't wait to spend time together out in God's great creation together this summer! As always, I am here for you and any children and youth in your life! Please reach out if you have any questions, comments or concerns!

Peace,
Jess Christenson



Jess Christenson, Director

bjeyouth@boreal.org ☎ 507-530-2763

Join us for Super Hero Training Vacation Bible School this summer! July 13-17 2026, 9am -12 everyday. Open for all incoming K - 5th graders. Older students and adults can volunteer to help lead.

Each day we will learn about how God uses ordinary people in super ways! We will look to figures from our Bibles to learn all about Grace, Mercy, Love, Wisdom & Strength. By looking to these super heroes, we will learn how we can be superheroes every day!

Register now online on our website! Scholarships available, please reach out to Jess with any questions, comments or concerns!



Jess is looking for a Button maker.

Do you have one to donate?





Mission of the Month

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

The May Mission of the Month will support **Lutheran World Relief**, supporting their mission to end global poverty.

"Founded in 1945 by Lutherans in the U.S., Lutheran World Relief is an international aid and development organization that partners with communities to help them develop productive and stable economies, improve resilience in the face of a changing climate, and respond to natural disasters and humanitarian crises."

Lutheran World Relief defines their work through three core efforts:

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.

In a time of rising conflict and increasing climate disasters, Bethlehem's support will be directed where needed most. We welcome you to join us in supporting our neighbors across the globe! Learn more by visiting lwr.org.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF



Plant Trees & Shrubs with Berries...

Free Seedling Trees & Shrubs: May 9, '26

Starts at 9 am in alleyway
Listen to WTIP for updates

at Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Please bring buckets and a way to label your trees. They will need to be kept cool and moist, and planted very soon- with protection from deer.

Seedlings include:

Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>
Wild Plum	<i>Prunus americana</i>
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>
Gray Dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>
Bur Oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa Michx.</i>
White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>

Free 5' Tall Apple Trees:

May 2, '26 Start 9am if preregistered,
10:30 others. Listen to WTIP for updates.
at 406 2nd Avenue East, Grand Marais

Please bring buckets. They will need to be kept cool and moist, and planted very soon- with protection from deer.

Varieties: **Mosaic** bred in Italy, **Kudos** recent from U MN. **Crimsons Crisp** from U-Washington, **Golden Russet** an heirloom with skin of honey, **Jonagold** favorite of many nursery owners.



Sun



Mon



Tue



Wed



Thu



Fri



Sat



May

26 Denise's vacation Synod Assembly 8:40am Choir 10:00am Worship & SS	27 Denise's vacation 3:30pm GS 5:30pm SOTW	28 Denise's vacation 8:30am Galatians 9:30 am Staff meeting	29 Denise's vacation 12:30pm Text Study 5:30pm Meal 6:00pm Worship 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Galatians	30 Denise's vaca 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Quilting 11:15am Seniors lunch w/Quilters	1 Denise's vacation	2 Denise's vaca. 9:00am Choir practice 11:00am Ed Bolstad's Me- morial Service
3 Denise's vacation 8:40am Choir practice 10:00am Wor- ship & Sunday School 1:00pm Daisy Troop	4 Denise's vacation 11:45am AP Testing 3:30pm Girl Scouts	5 Denise's vacation 7:45am AP Testing 8:30am Gala- tians Study 9:30am Staff meeting	6 Denise's vaca. 7:45am AP Tests 8:00am Church in Society Meeting 12:30pm Text Study 5:30pm Meal 6:00pm Worship 6:30pm Confirma- tion 6:30pm Galatians	7 Denise's vaca- tion 7:45am AP Tests 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Quilting	8 Denise's vacation Clarity Hearing Appts	9 Denise's vacation Free Tree Seedling Give Away in BLC Alley
10 Denise's vacation 10:00am Worship & Sunday School Quilt Sunday for Seniors Mother's Day	11 Denise's vacation 3:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Executive Committee meeting	12 Denise's vacation 7:45am AP Testing 8:30am Galatians Study 9:30am Staff meeting	13 Denise's vacation 12:30pm Text Study 6:30pm Galatians Study	14 Denise's vaca. 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Quilting 9:30am BLCW Esther Circle 12:00pm AP Testing	15 Denise's vacation 7:45am AP Tests	16 Denise's vaca- tion 11:00 am Barbara Erickson's Memorial Service
17 Denise's vacation 10:00am Worship 2:00pm Care Center Worship Service	18 Denise's vacation 7:45am AP Testing 3:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	19 Denise's vacation 7:45am AP Testing 8:30am Gala- tians Study 9:30am Staff meeting 5:30pm Girl Scouts	20 Denise's vaca- tion 7:45am AP Testing 12:30pm Text Study 6:30pm Galatians Study	21 Denise's vacation 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Quilting	22 Denise's vacation 7:45am AP Tests Clarity Hearing Appts Newsletter articles	23 
24 Pentecost 8:40am Choir practice 10:00am Worship 12:00pm Ruby's party	25 Memorial Day Holiday 5:30pm SOTW meeting	26 8:30am Staff meeting	27 12:30pm Text Study	28 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Quilting	29	30 
31 Trinity 8:40am Choir practice 10:00am Worship	1 	2 8:30am Staff meeting	3 8:00am CIS mtg 12:30pm Text Study	4 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am Quilting	5 Clarity Hearing Appts	6 I am Memorial Service for Joan Bieber

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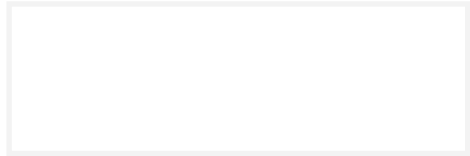


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Belonging to Christ,

Sharing Christ on the

North Shore and beyond.



You're invited to Vacation Bible School at Bethlehem Lutheran Church!



July 13 - 17
9:00am - 12:00pm

Join us for games, snacks, crafts, worship, Bible study & more! A week full of fun in community!

Incoming K -5th graders

\$15 per student if registered before 6/30.
\$25 per student if registered after 6/30.
Scholarships available!

Older youth & adults can sign up to volunteer to join in on the fun!

Please contact CYF Director Jess Christenson with any questions, concerns, volunteer availability or scholarship requests.
blcyouth@boreal.org - 507-530-2763

Register Now!



"I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith." - 2nd Timothy 4:7



A memorial service for Joan Bieber is being planned for June 6th at 11:00 am. Details to follow.