



Bethlehem Star

April 2024

Volume 43 Number 4

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen indeed. Alleluia!

Happy Easter everyone, and happy Spring! We are now entering into the season of Easter, in which we read stories about Jesus after the resurrection, and some stories about the early church. We will also have a number of texts from the book of 1st John. This is often called “The Book of Love” because it centers around God’s love for us.

In the second chapter the author of the book says that Jesus Christ atones for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. God’s love is an expansive love. A love that raises the dead to new life. A love that washes the feet of the one who would betray him. The love that turns the other cheek. A love that’s dying words are, “God forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

This Easter season consider inviting someone to church on Sunday, April 7th for our first sermon on God’s Expansive Love. Who do you know that needs to hear this news about a God that loves them, wholly and dearly? Bring them to church so they can hear this Good News!

May the Risen Christ bring you joy in believing, peace in difficulty, and love in all things.

-Pastor Calvin Konop

April Devotion

“As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.” Mark 16:5-8

This was our Gospel reading on Easter Sunday, and one of the lines that always sticks out to me is “they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them.” The text goes on to say that the women said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. But as you keep reading, it says that they did work up the confidence to tell Peter and the disciples about Jesus’ resurrection. That the excitement overtook the fear, and they shared about Jesus’ resurrection.

It can be scary to share our faith, too. There is fear of rejection, fear of being labeled, fear that people will change the way they behave, and more. Think, too, about the amazing things that God has done in your life. The miracles you’ve witnessed, the peace you’ve received, the way faith in God has changed the way you experience the world. Exciting stuff, isn’t it?

Let that excitement bubble up in your hearts until it overshadows the fear of sharing. Tell it to the world, that Jesus saved you and has changed your life. You might be surprised at how others are changed because you shared.

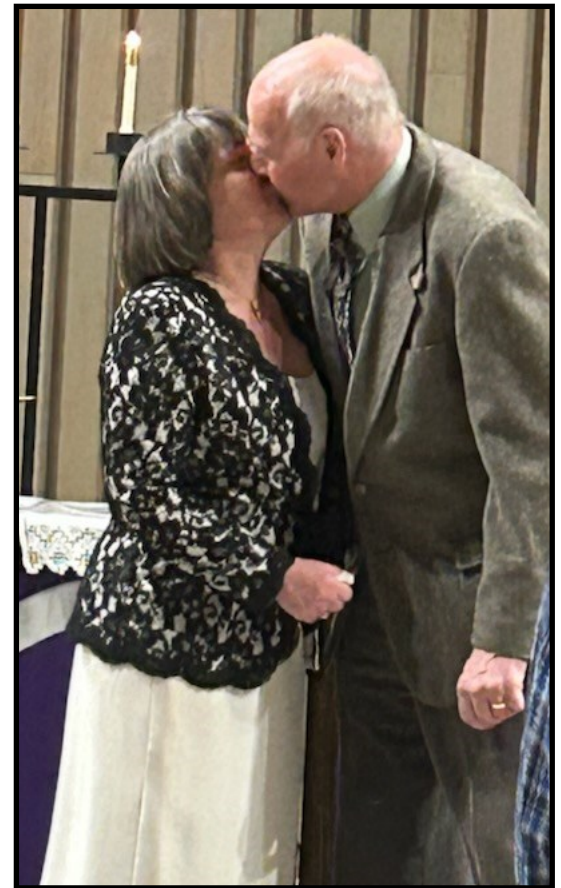
- Pastor Calvin

Congratulations to

Stacey & Bruce Johnson

A wonderful Wedding Worship Service was held on March 15th to unite this happy couple.

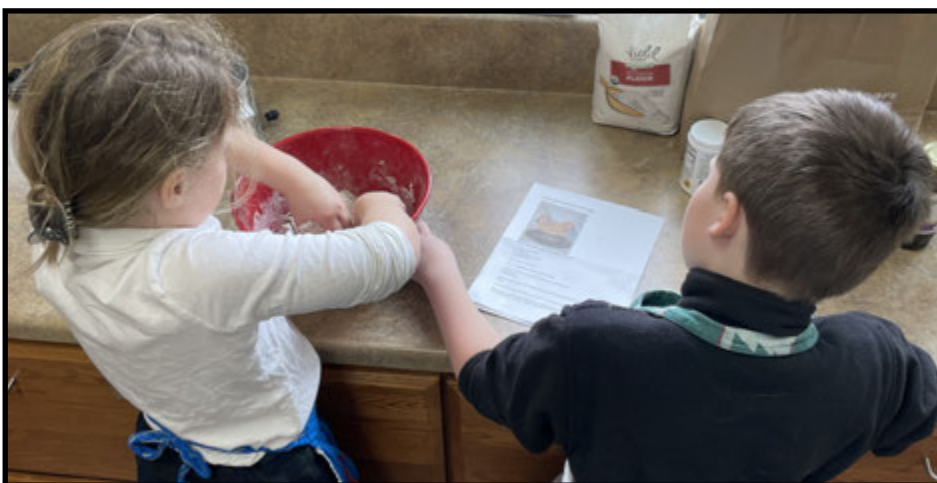
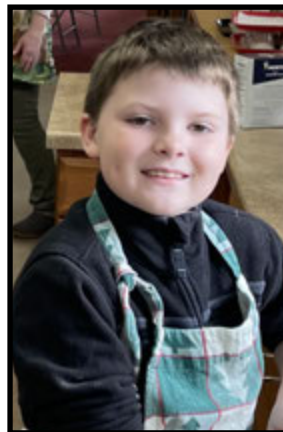
We are joy-filled & delighted for you!



*Sealing the Deal!
Mrs. & Mr. Johnson*

first communion class
makes unleavened bread
for maundy thursday

Elijah Olsen (right), Sigrid Jorgenson &
Elijah (below); Brennan Sandstrom,
Landon Boen, Anna Sandstrom & Jill
Boen (far right).





Mission Of the Month

EcoFaith Network

In honor of Earth Day and to celebrate the renewal that comes with spring, the Church in Society committee has chosen the **EcoFaith Network** as our April Mission of the Month. The mission of the EcoFaith Network is *to live out God's call to be stewards of the earth for the sake of the whole creation.*

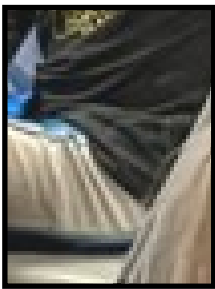
The EcoFaith Network is a growing network of ELCA Lutheran congregations and their members finding and sharing ways to live out God's call to be stewards of the earth for the sake of all creation.

To contribute to this mission of the month please note "EcoFaith Network" on your special offering.

Member Challenge

We encourage you to visit their website, <https://www.ecofaithnetwork.org/> and the NE MN Synod's EcoFaith network: <https://nemnsynod.org/ecofaith-network/>.

Read the **Green Blade Rising** newsletter published there to see information on seminars and to read about projects underway at various congregations. <https://nemnsynod.org/green-blades-rising-newsletter/>



Stay tuned for information about a **hands-on project** coming this month. We are planning to **build bee boxes** to be placed in our church gardens and for members to put in their home gardens. We will also be looking for people to help with the planting and care of our church pollinator gardens when the time comes later this spring.

There are lots of local and regional opportunities to get involved including the Cook County Earth Day Fair on April 20.



“Cross-Currents in the Flood: Building Arcs Together for a Livable Planet” The EcoFaith Network’s Summit will be held in Duluth on April 6th. It is being presented by the NE MN Synod, the St. Paul Area Synod, and the NW WI Synod, all of whom are now partner synods of the EcoFaith Network. This summit in April will feature Dr. Larry Rasmussen, author of *“The Planet You Inherit”*, as its main presenter.

This year, Summit Worship will debut the hymn **“A New Song”**, composed by Paul Jacobson (our associate member), based on Psalm 98. The hymn raises the question, “How can we sing a new song to the Holy One?” amid the flood of climate upheaval, and calls us to respond with the arcs of hope we build together.



Children, Youth, & Family News

Confirmation will resume on Wednesday April 10th, as will our normal Wednesday meals and services. The end of the year party for Confirmation will be on Wednesday, May 15th.

We are in the process of hiring a new **Director of Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) Ministries!** Stay tuned to hear who has been hired and when they will be starting. Please keep this process in your prayers and be ready to welcome a new staff member to Bethlehem soon!

President's Notes



As we anticipate the Spring season it is important to register early for Church Camps. We have a display in the Narthex highlighting popular camps from previous years. We have 3 great options within 20 miles of Grand Marais. Turn in your scholarship form to Denise. We can reimburse the parents or send our contribution directly to the camp of your choice.

Spring also brings us 3 baptisms and 6 high school graduations. We honor these events with much cherished quilts for each individual. Our quilting team needs to train in some additional sewers. This is a perfect commitment for a retiree who does not want to be on a "Board" or "organize" anything. The sewing is done Thursday mornings and you could have a flexible schedule. Contact Kris Hedstrom at **218-370-0184** if you are interested. *I would be so sad to see this ministry lapse.*

In God's care, Kris Hedstrom



Free Food!!

Did that grab your attention? Do you like to eat with others? Meet a friend for a cup of coffee or a Coke? I know I do! Well that is what our Coffee 'An time is about after Sunday services at

Bethlehem. Covid and Irene Peterson "retiring" from the volunteer coordinator post, has left our time together coming up a little flat. So, why don't we work to build it back up again?!

Coffee 'An can be fellowship at its finest. Fellowship is defined as "*friendly association, especially with people who share one's interest.*" Google says so. So, come meet with friends, introduce yourself and meet new members, greet our young people and listen to stories from our elders or ask them why things are done the way they are. (Am I an elder if I have been attending Bethlehem for 52 years?!!! *How is that possible??*)

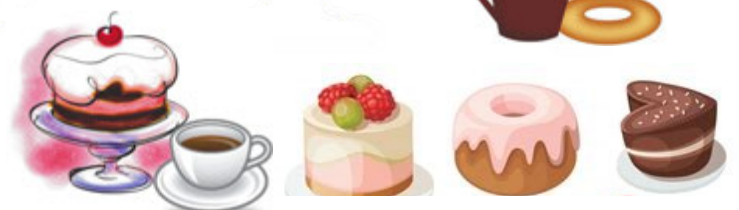
So, how can you help or what do you need to do? I am glad you asked! First, come up for a quick cup of coffee/tea/lemonade/water and a snack. Stay for 5 minutes or have a seat and stay for as long as you want.

Second, I will be calling to ask if you could bring a snack to share. Baked or store-bought. Fruit, veggies, cookies, bars, cake, ice cream, cheese & crackers, leftovers, smoked fish and crackers, popcorn or anything you want. Heat it up in the oven during service and let the smell draw folks upstairs. If you are able to stay and help with clean up, that is great, but not required.

We are just looking for individuals, couples, groups who are willing to take a Sunday or two in the year. We would like a few more folks to learn how to run the dish washing machine also. The best way to learn what's in the kitchen is to jump in and give it a try.

If you want to get a jump on choosing a date or have a day special to you, call me **218.370.0430** and let me know the Sunday you prefer. *Thanks for all you do and wishing you all God's peace. Now let's eat!*

By Kelly Swearingen,
"New Coffee An' Ambassador"





BLC IN APRIL 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Easter Sunday 8:00am Early Worship Service 9:00am Easter Breakfast 10:00am Sunday School during Worship 10:00am Worship Service - Live streamed	1 Easter Monday Holiday - Office is closed National Handmade Day	2 Inter-national Children's Book Day	3 Easter week vacation for Pastor No Confirmation 8:00am Church In Society meeting 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study National Inspire Joy Day	4 Easter week vacation for Pastor 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting National Vitamin C Day	5 Clarity Hearing Appts. Easter week vacation for Pastor National Walking Day	6 National Pajama Day
7 8:40am Choir Practice 10:00am Sunday School during Worship 10:00am Worship with Live stream & Choir sings National Coffee Cake Day	8 6:30pm Executive Committee Mtg National Zoo Lovers Day	9 National Baked Ham & Pineapple Day	10 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 5:30pm Hotdish meal before worship 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Contemporary Worship Service National Siblings Day	11 Monthly Council Reports due to Office 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting 2:00pm Esther Circle National Pet Day	12 Monthly Reports to Council for review 6:30pm Game Night - Middle School National Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day	13 National Scrabble Day
14 8:40am Choir Practice 10:00am Sunday School during Worship 10:00am Worship Service - Live streamed National Gardening Day	15 8:00am Monthly Reports: Additions & Corrections Due 3:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Church Council Meeting National Laundry Day	16 Denise: Vacation day (half day) 6:30pm Worship Planning Committee National Good Deeds Day	17 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 5:30pm Sub sandwich meal 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Contemporary Worship Service Go Fly A Kite Day	18 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting National Exercise Day	19 Clarity Hearing Appts. Denise: Vacation Day National Dog Parent Appreciation Day	20 Volunteer Recognition Day
21 Choir sings during worship 8:40am Choir Practice 10:00am Sunday School during Worship 10:00am Worship - Live streamed with Choir AND two baptisms!! 2:00pm Care Center Worship Service National Tea Day	22 Earth Day Newsletter articles due for next edition Earth Day	23 National Picnic Day	24 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 5:30pm Pizza Supper 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Contemporary Worship Service National Bucket List Day	25 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting National Mani-Pedi Day	26 National Kids & Pets Day	27 Synod Assembly National Tell A Story Day
28 8:40am Choir Practice 10:00am Christian Contemporary Worship Service with the "Average Worship Band" 10:00am Sunday School during Worship Global Pay It Forward Day	29 3:30pm Girl Scouts International Dance Day	30 National Oatmeal Cookie Day	1 8:00am Church In Society meeting 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 5:30pm Taco dinner before worship 6:00pm Confirmation 6:00pm Contemporary Worship Service	2 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting	3 Clarity Hearing Appts.	4

Middle School Game Night: April 12th 6:30-8pm

Game Night is for Middle Schoolers (High Schoolers are welcome to come as student leaders), and is a time to have some fun in a safe and loving environment.

We play all kinds of different games from table top games, to get to know you games, from minute to win it style games to running games. We'll be playing **Vinball**, a game that Pastor Calvin made up and named after himself. Trust him, it's really fun. There is usually a snack, and is really just a chance for our students to get together and have some fun. Non-Bethlehem friends are welcome to join us, so invite your friends to come along. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Calvin.

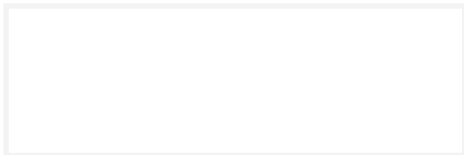


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*Belonging to Christ,
Sharing Christ on the
North Shore and beyond.*



Worry is a conversation you have with yourself about things you cannot change

Prayer is a conversation you have with God about things **God** can change.

Blessings to you from your Membership Team



Busy Bag Ministry

We are so thankful for our wonderful community of angels, including Eddie & Nan Onkka, and Joni Kristenson and her merry band of knitters and crafters who updated our "Busy Bags."

The "Busy Bag Ministry" has a long history at Bethlehem. These colorful and wonderfully made bags include books and activities for young people to use during church. They are located on a wooden tree in the narthex near the doors to the sanctuary. **Thank you** to all who helped with this project and to those that use these busy bags. There is something for everyone!

