

Bethlehem Star

September 2023 Volume 42 Number 9

A PUBLICATION OF BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH, GRAND MARAIS, MN

Bethlehem has been bustling!

We have had visitors, associate members, and neighbors' worship with us over the past couple of months. A lot of folks are coming to "check out the new pastor," but when they do they find a loving, welcoming, and embracing community. When Ashley and I first arrived we felt so welcomed by the congregation, and I see now that you extend that same kind of welcome to everyone who comes to your church!

We had a jazz service, a swing band service, contemporary services on the end Wednesdays of the month - there are so many talented and dedicated musicians in our church. Thank you to everyone who helps to make these services happen!

We had Vacation Bible School with 9 kids, 7 student volunteers, 3 adult helpers, 1 kitchen coordinator, and 1 pastor. We had 3 days of songs and dance, crafts, games, snacks, Bible Stories, and a whole lot of fun!

We've started our church service at the Care Center again on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 2pm (and yes, you're invited to join us!).

Now we're looking toward our fall ministries - Bible Studies, special worship events, Children and Youth Ministries, holidays, and our continued Sunday worship. I'm hopeful and excited to see what the Holy Spirit has in store!

I have a few asks of you, as your pastor:

1. As 1 Thessalonians reminds us, "pray without ceasing" for our church and our ministries.
2. If you don't already, consider volunteering somewhere new.
3. Stop by my office or give me a call. I want to get to know you!

Blessings of peace and joy to each of you!

Pastor Calvin Konop

It's Official...He's Ours!

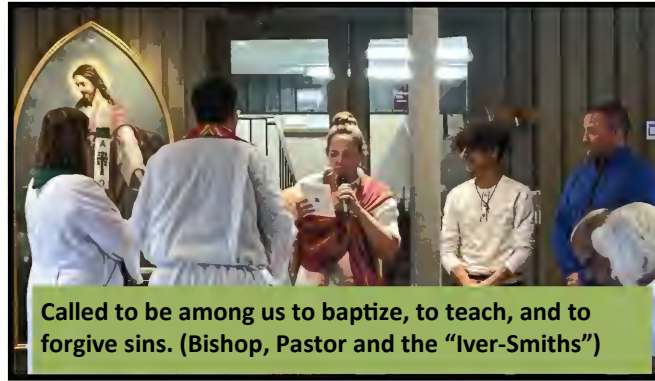


Pastor Calvin Konop Installed as Pastor of Bethlehem

On a beautiful day, August 27th, Pastor Calvin was installed as our pastor by Bishop Amy Odgren. Following the service we celebrated in true Bethlehem style, with a fabulous potluck picnic on the patio.



Blessing during Installation, Pastor Calvin Konop with Bishop Amy Odgren



Called to be among us to baptize, to teach, and to forgive sins. (Bishop, Pastor and the "Iver-Smiths")



Called to proclaim the Good News (Sue Anderson & Susan Bragstad, Altar Guild)



Called to be among us to preside at the Lord's Supper (with Craig Peterson)



Picnic was followed by a program thanking everyone for their work and patience through the process.



Sue Anderson, Runa (back to us) & Lynnea Morse, Cooper Ternes, Jess Markusen & Ellen Seltz.



Local Clergy and Pulpit-Supply leaders joined in to welcome Pastor Calvin. (Pastor Bill Beckstrand, Jonathan Rova, Pastor Tom Murray, Pastor Rolf Morck, Pastor Calvin Konop, Bishop Amy Odgren and Pastor John Bragstad.)



Kristin Lindholm, Cathy Hawkinson and Bishop Amy Odgren



What a blessing it is to have Pastor Calvin and Ashley Konop in our flock.



September Devotion



Martin Luther's Prayer for Help in a Time of Need

Dear God, in the midst of anguish and need, I am in great trouble. My neighbors have their trials which the devil increases. This is not the time to ask whether I am godly or worthy. Help me now in this time of need, as you said you would. Amen.

One thing I often hear in times of pastoral counsel is that people don't think they can approach God in prayer. They feel nervous that God will be mad that they haven't prayed in a while, or that they only pray when they need something, or that they're sure there are other prayer requests that are more important than their own.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 7 to *ask, seek, and knock*. Jesus encourages us to talk to God regardless of piety. And when the disciples ask how they should pray, Jesus doesn't give them a list of behaviors that they need to follow before they can pray - he simply teaches them to pray using what we know as "*The Lord's Prayer*."

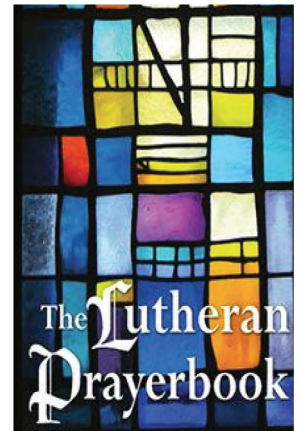
In Luther's prayer written above, he has a sense of urgency for his prayers. He recognizes the anxiety that many have about being godly or worthy enough to be heard, but presses on, holding tight to what Jesus said in the scriptures: to ask, seek, and knock.

Today, know that you can be confident going to God in prayer. And you can be confident that God will hear your prayers, and will be at work on your behalf.

~ Pastor Calvin

"We are not saved by our own merits and good deeds, but by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone." - Martin Luther

The Lutheran Prayerbook is a small book (devotional size) with a collection of prayers and inspiration for every Lutheran with the intent of encouragement of daily prayer. Please help yourself to a copy, which can be found in the lower-level entryway and on the Narthex counter.



A Note about the Offering Plate from Pastor Calvin



This September we are going to try passing the offering plate again, after the passing of the peace and before communion, where it is traditionally placed in a service. The Worship Committee decided this after some conversation. We are going to try doing this only for the month of September, and then we'll go back to not passing it for the next 3 weeks to see how it feels.

Why are we going to try this?

Here are some things we've heard that brought us to this decision:

1. Some parents have shared that they use the offering plate as an opportunity to teach their kids about stewardship.
2. We have heard some people in the congregation share that they find the passing of the plate to be a worshipful time.
3. Pragmatically, it adds a much-needed contemplative, sit down time during worship.
4. We've heard some anecdotes about visitors not knowing about the offering and missing it, and we want the spiritual practice of financial giving to be easy and accessible to all folks, including visitors.

During September and the 3-weeks that follow, I want to encourage you to spend some time in thought and prayer about the passing of the plate. If you have thoughts, comments, or questions about passing the plate, please direct them to me or the members of our worship committee.



Medical Traveler Cards

Recently we received a generous donation, through memorials honoring Elaine Rabold, to our medical traveler cards. When talking about this donation at our Men's Bible Study, it was brought up that some folks may not know, or may have forgotten about the traveler cards.

If you don't know, our medical traveler cards are \$50 VISA gift cards to folks experiencing medical issues that require them to travel for treatment. Anyone can receive one of these gift cards, all you'd need to do is reach out to myself or Denise on their behalf (or on your own behalf, if you are in need).

This is a tremendous ministry that Bethlehem offers to the community. If you know of anyone in need, please take advantage of this opportunity to support them.



In God's Care by Kris Hedstrom

We were pleased to offer Camp Scholarships and had a number of families request funds to help send their children to camp this summer. Naomi Tracy-Hegg attended the Val Paraiso Music Academy in Indiana. Ruby and Gus Gulstrand; Sofi, Emma and Landon Boen; and Blake Williams attended Cathedral of the Pines camp in Lutsen, MN. Katie Shannon attended Covenant Pines camp in McGregor, MN. Campers were given \$250 to 500.00 scholarships per camp attended. Sofi attend two camps in preparation for working as a camp counselor at Cathedral of the Pines.

Vacation Bible School was offered August 8-10, 2023. Our theme was *God's Good Creation*. The class was open to students who are going into First

through 5th grades. We had 9 grade school students attend, and 7 middle school/confirmation helpers. Roger Barton trained Lute and Birk Jansen to put the opening action songs on the Big Screen. They did an awesome job. Pastor Calvin led the Bible stories and Games. Kris Hedstrom directed the crafts. Laurie Spry helped with registration. Carrie Jansen provided the snacks.

Pastor Calvin hosted a Meet and Greet for middle and high school students with parents on August 30, 2023 for a time of getting to know each other (Pastor Calvin and the students), games and snacks. It was an opportunity to learn about what's happening this year without having to feel compelled to make commitments.

The Confirmation Calendar is set for 2023-2024 and has one big change: Confirmation is back to Wednesday nights! A leaders meeting will be set in early September (to be announced). Confirmation Orientation will be on October 4th, Dinner at 5:30 pm and the meeting will begin at 6 PM. Confirmation will begin on October 11, 2023 at 6 PM with the theme, *First Night Shenanigans!*

Holy Moly and Sunday School (held during Sunday Worship) are still in the planning stages. We anticipate Rally Sunday will be held in early October.




UPCOMING EVENTS AT BETHLEHEM:

October 1st @ 3pm: Blessings of our Pets - Outdoor mini-service with some songs.

October 30th: Confirmation Service

Rally Sunday: TBA



Mission of the Month

Center for Changing Lives

In August, our Mission of the Month supported local Cook County students in need of school supplies to begin the school year. Thank you to those of you who dropped off school supplies and gave financial contributions! As we transition into September, we continue to think of the needs of young people and how we, as a church community, can offer our love and support. Our September Mission of the Month is the **Center for Changing Lives in Duluth.**

The Center for Changing Lives is an affiliate program of Lutheran Social Services (LSS). Having opened its doors in 2017, the Center for Changing Lives provides youth with resources to lead productive, healthy and independent lives. Each year, LSS and the Center for Changing Lives provide services to 800+ youth experiencing homelessness in the Duluth area. LSS notes that "Most are not homeless by choice. Circumstances put them at risk of dropping out of school, unemployment, chemical dependency, sex trafficking and an adult life of homelessness."

The Center for Changing Lives is a safe, central site where young people who are at-risk of experiencing homelessness can find holistic guidance and support. The Center is 27,000 square feet and contains offices, meeting spaces and housing for youth. The building is ideally located near a bus line, pharmacy, grocery store and employment opportunities. A range of wellness services, life-skills training, educational support, youth groups, and job skill development/mentoring are offered.

If you would like to offer financial support to the Center for Changing Lives, please note "Mission of the Month" or "Center for Changing Lives" on your special September offering.

In peace, Jessica Markusen on behalf of the Church in Society Committee



Heart To Heart

From the Membership Committee



Reach Out!

It's so much fun to get a personal message from someone, a kind gesture that is seen as a blessing by the recipient. And as much as we appreciate receiving it, why do we find it so difficult to reciprocate?



I know what you're thinking . . . You don't have the time, the cost of postage is always rising, you can't find a card, and just what did you do with that email address, phone #, etc. Sadly, we all recognize these excuses.

Just stop and think about the smile you would put on someone's face when they hear from you. It really does only take a few minutes and any kind of communication would be welcomed. (Perhaps post cards aren't just for tourists?)

Since we've already acknowledged your busyness, I confess to the same. In fact, I am headed out my door, very shortly, to comb the beaches of Grand Marais. "For agates," you ask? Nope! "For sea glass treasures?" Nope. Today my mission is to keep a keen eye out for a message-in-a-bottle! Contact from others comes to us in many ways. It's when you least expect it that you feel the magic!



*P.S.
Don't forget
your
communication
with God.
(That postage
is a real deal!)*



CELEBRATING

10 YEARS

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday



September 10, 2023

"God's work. Our hands."

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

Project #1: Cleaning and organizing at the new 1st and 2nd Thrift Store. We will have two 2-hour shifts from noon to 4:00 on that day.

Project #2: Put on your work gloves, bring your shovels and wheelbarrows, and come to help spread wood chips at ISD 166's back woods pathways.

Sign up for one of these projects in the narthex or call the office to let us know how you want to participate. (218-387-2227)

Free t-shirts to all participants.

Coming Soon

TO YOUR CHURCH LIBRARY

With a busy summer winding down, I've finally gotten to start the church library project!


With Council approval, a rug was ordered to make a little children's corner in the library. It's my hope that it will be used as a quiet reading area for children, perhaps as an alternative to the nursery, if a parent so desires.

Children's books will be in a little crate. We are a bit short in numbers for books for our youngest parishioners! I love how so many children's books express BIG ideas in their simplicity. Donations that are in good shape and appropriate for little ones would be greatly appreciated. Or I could give suggestions if you'd like!

SO, KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR THE NEW READING CORNER.

- Shelby Anderson





BRINGING HOPE

We welcome Cook County Teens to participate in our grace-based programs. We are committed to creating a safe space & environment for teens in 8th - 12th grades

Truths
In partnership with **TREEHOUSE**

We Want Every Teen to Believe:

- I am lovable, capable, & worthwhile.
- I am loved without strings & never alone.
- I have a future.

School Year Hours
September – April

We are closed when ISD166 has scheduled days off or closed due to weather. There is no Programming when there are local ISD166 events.

Visit Us
17 1st Ave. West | PO Box 71
Grand Marais, MN 55604
info@npyouth.org | 218-888-7511
www.npyouth.org

Drop-In
Mon-Thu | 3:30-5:30 pm
Wednesday's | 11:15 am-12:15 pm
Friday's | <select>

Open Hours available for teens to hang out. Wed. lunch/advisory (permission slip required). Open select Friday nights.

Youth Group
Monday's 5:30 -7:00 pm
Community Youth Group. A chance to learn more about our God-given purpose, faith-based program. It's also a time for teens to unwind and have fun! Meal Provided.

Connect
A time for teens to give voice to the struggles they're facing and talk about what's going on. A safe space teens can share & receive support from peers and adult leaders.

Special Events
A place to host local school or sporting events, special events, or other opportunities for teens.


Experiences
Whether we offer a local or outdoor adventure, outing, retreats, camp, or more; it will be an opportunity for positive shared experiences.

Mentoring
An opportunity to get connected with a safe, caring adult. They serve as a consistent presence and a positive voice.

CHOIR CORNER

Contributed by Karina

Roth, Musical Director

 karina_roth@hotmail.com

Summer is rapidly winding down, and I have been starting to plan choral music for the fall. Choir practice will begin on September 17th and will be every Sunday at 8:40 am. Here is the September schedule:

Sept. 3: I am out of town. Scott Mehlhaff will be playing the organ. No choir rehearsal, but we do need some singers to lead the liturgy music.

Sept. 10: I am out of town. Stacey Hawkins is playing. No choir rehearsal. We will shift back to the traditional liturgy for the fall season, Setting 1 in the ELW hymn book.

Sept. 17: Rehearsal at 8:40 am. Choir will sing out of the hymnal ELW 236 Magnificat. (Another canon. Suggested by Naomi Tracy-Hegg, they did this at music camp at Valparaiso.) Check out this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwVY7FtpBcM>

Sept. 24: Rehearsal 8:40 am.

Oct. 1: Rehearsal at 8:40 am. I am planning "Blessed, How Blessed" by David Cherwien for the offering time.

We invite anyone interested in singing to join us Sunday mornings at 8:40 am.

Vacation BIBLE SCHOOL:

"GO!'" GOO! CREATION"

GREAT TIMES TOGETHER.

FUN ACTIVITIES.

GREAT HELPERS!

♥ THANKS EVERYONE!!



BLC'S CLASSIFIED ADS

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Presented by your Stewardship Committee

Offering Counters: Could you commit to one Sunday a month (or every other month)? Since you will already be in church, enjoy Coffee An' following the service, and then come down to the 'Business Office'. It usually doesn't take very long but we do want two people involved. There are instructions in a notebook on what to do and how to do them.

Reader of the Scripture Lessons and the Psalm (read responsively). A print-out in large print is available for pickup or can be emailed to you in advance Sunday.

Hosting Coffee An': Usually a council member makes the coffee first thing Sunday mornings. You are asked to bring something handmade or store bought or left overs from something else. Anything is 'fair-game'. Bring before worship begins, set it on trays/plates, be sure napkins and a basket are available on the counter, forks if necessary. **OR** would you be willing to help clean up afterwards? Put food away, empty coffee pots, etc.. **YOU don't need to do it all!** Extras will be put in freezer, with dates and purpose of the leftovers.

Close the Church after Worship service, stay a little later after Coffee An'. #1) Check sanctuary for open windows and lights. #2) turn all lights off (where no one is occupying the room) check both restrooms for lights. Be sure doors are locked, people who may remain can still get out by pushing the door 'bar'.

There is a "Sign-up" sheet on the Welcome table (blue clipboard), Please sign up when you can help!

***Walk to End Alzheimer's:** September 23rd will be as one community team, walking together through town decorated in purple. No team needed. See Gwen Lenz for details on how to participate. 218.387.9860

Beware of scams! Pastor Calvin will never email, text or social media message asking for money, gift cards, or anything like that. It is a common scam. Alert us if this happens to you.

Picture Directory: We are getting ready to print copies of the internal Bethlehem Directory. You still have time to submit a family photo and contact information. Hard deadline is Sept. 15. Email information and pictures to: bhc@boreal.org.

Borealis Concert is being planned now. If you would like to participate in the chorale or orchestra, please contact Karina Roth at: karina.roth@hotmail.com. The tentative concert dates are Fri. Dec. 8 and Sat. Dec 9. Get your date nights planned

New Facebook Page: Bethlehem Lutheran Church has a new Facebook page where postings of events will be found on (soon). **Please like us and follow us:** <https://www.facebook.com/BethlehemLutheranGM>

College Students: Please provide the address of your college students and Bethlehem will send them periodic cards and the monthly newsletter. bhc@boreal.org

Join a Circle September is a good month to jump in a join a circle for bible study and event planning. These are open to all women of Bethlehem and friends. We have 2 active groups: **Esther Circle** meets the second Thursday each month at 9:30 am in the library; the **Rebecca Circle** meets at 1:00 pm on the second Friday each month. (This circle is very flexible on time to meet and are seeking more members.) Contact Martha Rosbacka at 218-387-2594, or Gwen Lenz at 218-387-9860.

Calling Church Historians! (old & new) Next year Bethlehem will celebrate 125 years of being an active Lutheran Church in Grand Marais. We would like a few people to update "our story" since the last celebration (100 years). And help plan for the 125th celebration. Please contact the office for information. 218-387-2227

September 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>27</p> <p>Installation of Pastor Calvin Konop by Bishop Amy Odgren</p> <p>10:00am Traditional Worship Service</p> <p>11:15am Potluck meal on patio</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study</p> <p>6:00pm Meet & Greet: MS & HS youth + parents</p>	<p>31</p> <p>8:00am Bible Study</p> <p>9:00am Quilting</p>	<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p>
<p>3</p> <p>No Choir practice</p> <p>10:00am Worship, Live streamed</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>Labor Day</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>New! Office Hours</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>8:00am Church In Society</p> <p>10:00am Ministerium Meeting</p> <p>12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study</p> <p>6:30pm Average Worship Band Practice</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>8:00am Bible Study</p> <p>9:00am Quilting</p> <p>7:00pm Executive Committee</p> 	<p>8</p> <p>Clarity Hearing Appts</p> <p>1:00pm Rebecca & Ruth Circles</p> 	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <p>No Choir practice</p> <p>10:00am Worship Service - Live streamed</p> <p>12:00pm God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday - TWO Service Projects to help with</p> <p>God's work. Our hands</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Patriot Day</p> 	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study</p> <p>5:30pm Soup Supper</p> <p>6:30pm Contemporary Worship Service</p> 	<p>14</p> <p>8:00am Bible Study</p> <p>9:00am Quilting</p> <p>9:30am Esther Circle</p> <p>7:00pm Council meeting</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>Women's Circles</p> 	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Choir sings during worship</p> <p>8:40am Choir Practice</p> <p>10:00am Worship - Live streamed with Choir</p> 	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30pm Worship Planning Committee</p> 	<p>20</p> <p>12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>8:00am Bible Study</p> <p>9:00am Quilting</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>Clarity Hearing Appts.</p> <p>Newsletter articles due for next edition</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p> 	<p>23</p> <p>First Day of Autumn</p> <p>Wedding of Katie Mumm & Parker Slanga</p> 
<p>24</p> <p>8:40am Choir Practice</p> <p>10:00am Christian Contemporary Worship Service with the "Average Worship Band"</p> 	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study</p> 	<p>28</p> <p>8:00am Bible Study</p> <p>9:00am Quilting</p> 	<p>29</p> <p>5:00pm Harvest Dinner</p> 	<p>30</p>



Pastor Calvin's Office Hours: Mondays through Thursdays, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Email: blcpastor@boreal.org, or call the office 218-387-2227. Emergency contact: 763-226-5425.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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218.387.2227 www.sharingchrist.org blc@boreal.org

Pastor Calvin Konop: blcpastor@boreal.org

Office Hours: 8—4 Mon—Thurs. 8-noon Fridays

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Permit #3

Grand Marais, MN

55604

Belonging to Christ,

Sharing Christ on the

North Shore and beyond.



Evangelical
Lutheran
Church in America



Bethlehem Lutheran Church Annual
Harvest Dinner
Sept. 29th, 5-7 pm

A Feast for the Community. Swedish meatballs with Gravy and mashed potatoes, Fishcakes and Tartar sauce, veggie rolls, relishes and desserts are on the menu!

Call for reservations today!
218-387-2227 or 218-387-9860
417 W 1st Ave., Grand Marais

Harvest Dinner

Reservations are
**strongly
encouraged**

Call the phone numbers
← listed or email
blc@boreal.org