



# Bethlehem Star

August 2017

## A Journey across Diversity.

This summer I drove from here to Bellingham, WA, through the Olympic Peninsula, down to Eugene, OR and back again. We were camping along the way, getting out of the car often to just look and stare at the magnificence of the great land. I have to admit it was overwhelming at times. I was frequently at a loss of words (I can just hear it now, "Oh no pastor, not you, a loss for words?") Yes, I was stunned into reverent silence, and often. At times the best I could come up with was "Wow!" In fact I said "wow" so many times Janet started laughing at my lack of vocabulary. At one point at a small town gas station in Oregon (where it is illegal to pump your own gas) I got talking with the station attendant who took care of our car. I commented on the beauty of the snowcapped mountains around us. He responded, "Yeah, it's pretty awesome!" When I told him that, "wow!" was getting too repetitive in our car, he smiled and said, "You could try 'Golly gee,' next time." So I did.

Many of you have shared how your own excursions across this land have been journeys of amazement and wonder. I was struck by the wide diversity in terrain. You can imagine it. From the wide open plains of North Dakota which then fell away in the breath taking vista of the painted canyon of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, to the open rolling range of Montana, the beauty of the Missouri and the Yellowstone Rivers, and the multiple mountain ranges and ear popping passes to cross. It was amazing. The physical wonders of plains, canyons, volcanic flows, just kept coming as the miles rolled by. "Wow!" I mean "golly gee!" There was too much seen to describe here. Let it suffice to say I was proud, humbled, and renewed to move through these majestic American landscapes, and I thought about the heritage we must pass down.

We traveled during peak tourist season as well. The campgrounds and attractions were crowded to say the least. I enjoyed counting the state license plates in the campgrounds with us. They of course ranged from Alaska to Florida. All the American accents were represented from each geography, as distinct and diverse as can be. And I savored the thought, we were all Americans off to see this amazing land. But that was only a small part of the diversity we saw at the National Parks. At Yellowstone for instance the languages of the world could be heard on the boardwalks to the geysers. There was also the colorful apparel of a group of monks from Tibet; and huge busses with Chinese lettering waiting in the parking lot. And there we stood shoulder to shoulder in rapt attention, all of us tourists, equally awed by the wonders of creation. It was a special trip for us, and I wondered if some people there that day had these natural sights on their "bucket list"; I thought about our cost savings by camping, and I knew that the tourists from different lands were paying a very high price to see these wonders.

What does this all mean? I ask that of myself quite often. I reflected on how the shape and quality of our geography tends to shape us. We take on the cultures that have grown to thrive in the environments our ancestors chose. Some people are of the plains, some of the forests, and some of the mountains. And yet, we are brothers and sisters of a common humanity and we ultimately share one home. This of course is our Biblical revelation supported by our experiences. Moreover I think, how wonderful it is to see one another affirming and preserving the beauty of this sphere. We indeed have a stunning heritage to preserve for generations to come. Thanks be to God, from whom these blessings flow!

See you in Church, *Pastor Mark*

## Worship Notes for Summer

So many thanks for the great worship service provided by the Fifth Annual Jazz Liturgy by Mike DeBevec with the Sky Blue Jazz Ensemble and the Bethlehem choir directed by Paul Muus. We had a great day indeed. The next Sunday with the North Shore Community Swing Band lifted us with tunes from gospel traditions and some of

that ol' time religion. It would be true in multiple ways to say that was a "moving" service. We are absolutely blessed in our congregation with great musicians who have such large and generous spirits. Thank you so very much! The Detroit Folk Service will continue as the main order of our Sunday services through October 22.

We will use Reformation Sunday, October 29 as our festival to switch to the pipe organ and the grand hymns of the Reformation. Wait for it... Wednesday Services will resume on September 6 at 6:00 p.m.!

## Youth and Family News

### Youth and Family News

As we enjoy these warm summer days, we are looking forward to fall, and have started planning for the 2017-18 youth and family programs. Did you know that we have classes for youth of all ages? From our newborn program, Splash, to Sunday School, our Wednesday Holy Moly and Connect programs to Confirmation classes and our Senior High program. There is something for every age group. If you would like more information on any of our youth programs, please feel free to get in touch with me at [carasporn@gmail.com](mailto:carasporn@gmail.com)

We are currently looking for volunteers to work with our youth. This is a great opportunity to help our youth deepen their faith and live a life centered in Christ. Please contact me if you are interested in being more involved. Speaking from my volunteer experiences with our youth, it is a fun and rewarding experience.

Save the Dates!

- October 21st - Middle School and High School Retreat. More details to follow.
- November 17th and 18th Middle School Gathering at Cragun's Resort on Gull Lake. We will be joining other ELCA youth programs for an overnight gathering at Cragun's and spending one night at a nearby waterpark hotel.

Blessings,

Cara Sporn

Youth and Family Coordinator



## Mission of the Month

- The mission this month for August continues the E.L.C.A. Always Being Made New Campaign for Global Church priority. We are called to be His “witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8 Jesus gave us a big job. If we are ever doubtful about our ability, we just pray for the Spirit and we are able. Your contributions aid global ministries

touching countless lives in diverse helpful ways. Please use the envelopes in the pews and write ELCA Campaign in the memo line of your check.



## Equipping Households of Faith

**Equipping Households of Faith; How Lutherans Interpret the Bible; Earth-bound: Created and Called to Care for Creation; By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther’s Small Catechism:** These are titles of four courses and offerings coming this fall and winter.

Pastor Mark will be taking study time in August to work on these and other topics for our mutual growth in faith. Watch the September newsletter, Facebook and e-mail notices for the classes and their times.

Mark your calendars:  
BLCW Luncheon  
Thursday August 10  
Stay tuned for more details!

## A note from Stewardship

Where are we now? Our offerings/ income in June \$18,362.72. Our expenses at \$21, 574.00 resulted in a shortfall of \$3,211.28 in June. Our year to date shortfall at the end of June is now \$11,665.84. Although we don’t like to see a shortfall at any time of the year, we know that we are managing the cash flow better than the previous year when we experienced -\$14,530.00. So we strongly encourage all to remember your offerings even during times of traveling and

vacations. Together we keep this church active and thriving. Your donations of time, talent and treasure make a difference. Thank you very much. We also want to remind you again of the possibility of using automatic withdrawal as a giving style. Simply Giving, through Thrivent Financial allows you to choose your account from which your offerings will be automatically withdrawn and sent to church. Forms are available through the church office or from Theresa Oberg.

Through Simply Giving you can let go of any worry about forgetting your offering, or missing a Sunday when you are away. You are in charge and you can make sure that your offering in support of God’s work gets to your church.









## Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 150-200 words.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies, and reports.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

A great way to add useful content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming

events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research articles or find “filler” articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft Publisher offers a simple way to convert your newsletter



*Caption describing picture or graphic.*

to a Web publication. So, when you’re finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.

## Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 100-150 words.

The subject matter that appears in newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is grow-

ing.

Some newsletters include a column that is updated every issue, for instance, an advice column, a book review, a letter from the president, or an editorial. You can also profile new employees or top customers or vendors.

*“To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”*

## Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 75-125 words.

Selecting pictures or graphics is an important part of adding content to your newsletter.

Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or



*Caption describing picture or graphic.*

enhances the message you’re trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of context.

Microsoft Publisher includes thousands of clip art images from which you can choose and import into your newsletter. There are

also several tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

Once you have chosen an image, place it close to the article. Be sure to place the caption of the image near the image.

## Bethlehem Lutheran Church

417 W. 1st Ave.  
Box 638  
Grand Marais, MN 55604  
Phone: 218 387-2227

E-mail: [blc@boreal.org](mailto:blc@boreal.org)

Non Profit Org.  
US Postage Paid  
Permit #3  
Grand Marais, MN  
55604

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



### **Property Committee Issues its Gratitude:**

**LED Tube lights installed:** Ben Hallberg took on this project and has replaced all our fluorescent tubes. Larry Spaulding has been disconnecting the old ballasts.

**Youth Room gets a makeover:** We are looking at new colors and design for the space.

Doors will be changed slightly to increase safety and storage. Thanks to Cara for taking on the painting of the youth room, thanks to Paul Sporn for new counter tops. In the process we have some old chairs from the 1970s? make a donation and take one home. We have a loveseat, make a donation and take it to your cabin. Help us out as the room gets ready for the new season.

**Exterior painting:** Many thanks to Mike Youngquist for painting the panels above the sanctuary windows.

**Grounds and gardens:** Continuing thanks to Kathy Johnson for weeding and watering our plantings and gardens. Thanks to Gene Erickson for the mowing and weed trimming.

**Shed Remodeling:** We need a handy man or woman who can improve the church shed. It looks so good with the new coat of stain, (thanks to Lyle A. again) now to increase its usefulness an additional door needs to be added. Are you up to the task? Ask Pastor Mark for the details.