



# Bethlehem Star

February 2017

*Then your light shall break forth like the dawn!*

Throughout the Church season known as Epiphany we continue to focus on the light of God. We think about how God in Jesus Christ is the light of the world no darkness can overcome. We know that the light not only shines on our path to future glory with God (heaven); but that the light of God is also a “lamp unto our feet and light for our path,” Ps. 119:105, meaning how we live in God’s world today. Therefore the typical Epiphany themes of perceiving the light of Christ also leads into how we may be that light. At the beginning of this month on Sunday, February 5 in our Old Testament lesson, Isaiah has a Word to deliver to us about how we become light. It is so powerful and beautiful I provide it here:

Isaiah 58:6-12 <sup>6</sup> Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? <sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? <sup>8</sup>Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. <sup>9</sup>Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, <sup>10</sup>if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. <sup>11</sup>The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. <sup>12</sup>Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

At the end of February as we depart the season of Epiphany we will hear the Gospel lesson appointed for Transfiguration Sunday. The story in Matthew 17 will describe the day Peter, James and John saw Jesus on the mountain shining in glory, and then from a bright cloud that over shadowed them they heard God’s voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” Matthew 17:5b.

I often reflect on that command: “listen to him!” It strikes me that listening to Jesus is listening to God. Listening is vital to our faith. Truly hearing what Jesus has to tell us is to hear the Word of God. Therefore listening to Jesus is not the same as just reading the red lettered parts of our Bibles, which would be a limitation of what God has to say to us. Listening to God also includes listening intently to these amazing passages of Isaiah and other prophets filled with justice, compassion, and equity – they should be red lettered too.

When we listen to the fullness of the voice of God there will be a light shining on our path now and in the future. The Lord will guide you continually. Listening to God we will learn how “your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom shall be as noonday.” And listening to God we will be blessed to be called “the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.”

Listen to him! And let your little light shine!

*Pastor Mark*

## ALL CHURCHES Song Festival

Sunday, February 26 at 4:00 p.m. Each church choir will have an anthem or two to share, there will also be songs for the whole audience of congregations to sing together. United in praise and joy in

God we will be a beacon of God's love and light! Join us.



## Matthew - Gospel of the Year

In March 2017 we will take another attempt to follow a five week tour through the Gospel of Matthew. Commentators have perceived an ordering of the Jesus story according to Matthew in a

five book sequence. On the **five Tuesdays of March and one in April at 7:00 p.m.** we will follow that pattern and make our way through Matthew.

As this the Gospel readings for this year primarily are from Matthew, this study will help hold the worship texts in larger context.

## Congregational and Community Dinner, February 24

On Friday, Feb. 24 at 6:00 p.m. we will host our third annual Potato Sausage dinner.

Craig and Dianne Peterson are again leading the team as we prepare a great benefit meal.

Co-sponsored with Thrivent Financial this meal will raise money for Mission Endowment Fund and the replacing of the Bethlehem kitchen floor.

## New Member Class

Pastor Mark will be holding 2 sessions to talk about faith and Bethlehem Lutheran Church history and membership on February 12, & 19. We will receive new members on February 26.

If you know of friends and acquaintances who are looking for or needing a faith community please refer them to these classes.

## Bible Studies at Bethlehem:

**Circle Bible Study Leaders:** Pastor Mark will meet again with the Bible study leaders of the Circles to go over the monthly Bible study in the Gather magazine.

Our next meeting will be **February 23 at 1:00 p.m.** as Circles prepare for February meetings.

**Movie Night:** February 17 at 6:00 p.m. **Risen** (PG-13) starring Joseph Fiennes as the Roman Tribune. This is an epic Biblical story of the Resurrection as told through the eyes of a non-believer. We will host a baked potato supper right before the movie. Join us!! Bethlehem has purchased a license that allows us to show publicly most movies. This annual purchase means that we will be able to offer movies for all age groups, retreats, and activities without infringing on the rights of the producers of the movies.



## Mission of the Month

The mission this month is to put our support behind the great work happening at the Cook County Senior Center. Director, Bev Green recently spoke with the Cook County Ministerium about

the many programs they provide to senior citizens in Cook county. We were so inspired. Please use the envelopes in the pews or send your gift in to the office.

**New Directory Coming:** Lifetouch to return for a 2017 Church Directory. The dates be **Wednesday to Saturday, May 17 – 20, 2017.**

## Memorial Benches for Joyce Kehoe to be built

We have a group of members, Mike, Ed, Joanne, Craig, Greg, Mark, who will be taking a class in crafting these large timber benches. We will end up with three great outdoor benches. Stop by North House Folk School on Monday – Thursday Feb. 20-23 to see your friends hard at work on this project under the instruction of Randy Schnobrich.



**Still NEW: Text Messages from God:** Pastor Mark is available most Mondays at Java Moose for a lunch or coffee break to read and consider the Bible lessons appointed for the next Wednesday and Sunday worship. 12 noon each Monday.

## Fastelavn

Remember the fun we have had with this Scandinavian ‘mardi gras’? On Sunday, February 26 after the church service we will again hold our Fastelavn festival. We are looking for help: Can you do face painting for the children? Can you make the barrel to hold the candy? (like a piñata)?

Can you hold the rope to let the kids try and break the barrel open  
Can you hold the rope to let the kids try and break the barrel open (like a piñata)?

**VBS Planning:** Monday, Feb. 13 at 5:00 p.m. We are starting to build the team for 2017 VBS Join Co-directors Shelby Anderson and Laurie Spry as we create the plan and the program.

## Matthew - Gospel of the Year

In January 2017 we will take a five week tour through the Gospel of Matthew. Commentators have perceived an ordering of the Jesus story according to Matthew in a five book

sequence. On the **five Tuesdays of January at 7:00 p.m.** we will follow that pattern and make our way through Matthew.

As this the Gospel readings for this year primarily are from Matthew, this study will help hold the worship texts in larger context.



## REMIND SUPPORTERS THAT 2016 CHOICE DOLLARS EXPIRE SOON!

Now is the time to promote Thrivent Choice. All 2016 Choice Dollars have been made available for members to direct so there is no reason to wait. Use the free promotional materials available on the [Thrivent Choice page](#) on [Thrivent.com](#) to easily remind your supporters about Thrivent Choice® and the positive impact

that can be made by directing Choice Dollars to your organization. As a reminder, 2016 Choice Dollars expire on March 31.

## BLCW Valentine Cookie Pack

The BLCW is planning for their Valentine Cookie pack. They need volunteers to bring cookies. Bagged in 2 per bag. Please deliver them to Bethlehem by noon on Valentine's Day February 14. You are then welcome to stay for a shared meal of soup and bread.

Deliveries to about 25-30 people will happen that afternoon. Volunteers needed to get them delivered.



## Quilters need help

The Bethlehem Lutheran Quilters meet weekly on Thursdays at 9:00 AM. They create over 200 home-made quilts each year and distribute to a variety of charities in the northland as well as creating

Personalized Quilts for our graduating seniors every year. They need help with the sewing of quilt tops. You can come create at church with them or do it on your own at your homes and drop them

off to be quilted, tied and assembled at church.

## Go Green

**Go Green:** Can Bethlehem do better as an ecological steward? Yes, we can. We have been given a designated donation as an inspiration to think more in the direction of adding either solar thermal or solar photovoltaic power. This year we will call together a Green Team to explore more possibilities on **Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

## New Directory

**New Directory Coming:** Lifetouch to return for a 2017 Church Directory. The dates be **Wednesday to Saturday, May 17 – 20, 2017.**

**Homestead:** We will continue to meet each Monday at 2:00 p.m. in the sun room. All members of Bethlehem living at Homestead are indeed warmly welcome to join us for an excursion deep into the lessons for the next Sunday worship. Join us for a warm discussion and prayer.



## 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.*



**Senior High Cardia Deo** This is the synod wide senior high youth event held at Big Sandy Bible Camp by McGregor, MN March 3-5, 2017 Senior High from all 145 congregation of our synod gather for music, fun, worship, Bible, and more fun. We can still register. The cost will be \$60.00 with a generous scholarship from Youth and Family Ministries.

**More Senior High News:** By September 18, 2017 we will be submitting our complete registration to attend the 2018 National ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston TX. Start planning!

**ALL Youth Grades 6-12 Pool Party and Movie Night!** Saturday, February 11 at 5:00 p.m. Join all your friends at the YMCA for pool fun! Then we will come back to church for pizza; movie; ping-pong; S'mores, and more!