



Bethlehem Star

September 2017

Born in a Church Library.

We had a pleasant surprise in August as Cara Sporn, new youth and family ministry coordinator, and I set up for a Youth and Family Ministry Committee meeting in the church library. I saw a caterpillar crawling across the carpet. Mistaking it from a distance as a noxious kind, army worm, tent caterpillar, etc, I was ready to dispose of it. But as I got close, its yellow, white and black stripes identified it quickly as a monarch butterfly caterpillar. Very quickly my feelings of revulsion turned to wonder. How did it get in the library? And soon after asking that question a second one crawled away from the wall. I picked up both and looked around. On the table was a small brown earthen ware vase with some drooping flowers. There was the clue. The blossoms were from a Swamp Milkweed, a native food source for the monarch caterpillars. We had a fun time thinking about how this all came to be. Someone brought in a pretty flower arrangement that would have had Monarch eggs on the leaves. Thank you to whoever brought them in. In church they hatched, the little caterpillars ate the leaves on the stem of the flowers we had admired, they grew large and then it was off to find more food. I took them to Diane Booth at the MN Extension office. And she graciously welcomed them. We placed them in a new home, the milkweed garden which she and Cook county students planted over 20 years ago. On those milkweeds we saw many other monarch caterpillars as well as adult butterflies, bumble bees and honey bees, a wonderful haven for pollinators. And so I said goodbye to the two who were born in a church. The next day Al Fuller said that the men at Thursday Bible study had seen small caterpillars on that flower the week before and had thought they would leave them alone. I told him the story of finding them, how they didn't share their food, but would bump each other away from the food source. So we thought a good Biblical name for the two monarchs born in a church would be James and John, Sons of Zebedee, because the Biblical characters always seemed to argue.

Entomologists, lepidopterists in particular, will tell us that Monarch butterflies migrate from Mexico to southern Canada and back to Mexico every year. But these scientists will hastily add that no single adult makes the whole round trip. Rather this amazing migration will require four generations of butterflies. That simply astounds me. These days people are amazed at the amount of memory that gets packed into the tiniest chips which go into so-called 'smartphones.' That's nothing compared to what God has been doing forever. How is it possible that a foolproof 'GPS' system can be put into a tiny butterfly brain? More than that it is inheritable so that the fourth generation gets to where God intended it to go! Intel, Apple, and all the rest simply can't compare. And add onto that the fact that by laying eggs on milkweed the caterpillars ingest toxins that protect them from predators! That is amazing, and frankly I'd much rather focus my praise and admiration on the events and instances of mind boggling wonder I see in God's creation every single day. It is far more rewarding, healthful, relaxing, and fulfilling. And I recommend the same for you.

As we move into a new month with the beginning of hectic schedules, I will prescribe for you all a very needed health practice: put down those devices, step outside, take a deep breath of the pure air God provides, relax and be open to the wonders that will be revealed, notice the sights, the sounds, and the smells. God has provided a sensory balm to sooth and renew your spirits.

See you in church,
Pastor Mark

Worship Notes for Summer

Wow! What a wonderful gathering of musicians on Fisherman's Picnic Sunday. Our theme for the day was set by Isaiah 55, "Come to the Waters." There was a baptism of Marlen Isla Underwood. And we chose hymns focusing on water and rivers. And a bold fun creative group blossomed and shared their gifts! So many thanks to Karina Roth,

Hilja Iverson, Thomas Stamps, John Bragstad, Jonathon Hedstrom, Kent Anderson, Mike Roth; and thanks to Paul Muus and choir for a stirring "*Ain't Got Time to Die.*" As we mentioned last month 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.

A note from Stewardship

Excel in the Grace of Giving! *"But just as you excel in everything ... in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us ... see that you also excel in this grace of giving."* 2 Corinthians 8:7. Later this Fall season we will be hearing more about the grace of giving. That will be the theme of our stewardship drive for 2018! For now we want you to know how your congregation is doing. July was a strong month of giving. As of July 31 our income year to date at \$142,128.26 is **\$10,542.78 ahead** of giving last year at this time. Also our expenses year to date at \$145,814.27 are **\$4,255.70 less** than last year's. That is the good news. We are however still behind by \$3,686.01. 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.

God's Work Our Hands Sunday - September 17, 2017

This year we will be doing chores through the Care Partners, Senior Chore Program. Wear your gold ELCA T-shirts to church that day. If you want to join us, we will have new T-shirts available. This is part of the national ELCA service project day. It is a day to make a difference and make a witness. With members of over 9,000 congregations going out on the weekends of September we will make a national impact both in the lives of people in need and for the life of the church. Join us.

Bible Studies Resume in September:

Texts from God: Every Monday at noon at Java Moose. Join Pastor Mark for a text message that is 'for you' and enjoy a cup of your favorite coffee at the same time.

Homestead Bible Hour: The weekly worship texts read, explained, and considered. Join with BLC members who live at Homestead in this weekly soul feast.

Circle Leaders Bible Study: August 31, and September 28, on the last Thursday of each month, we prepare for the Gather Magazine Bible study at 1:00 p.m.



Mission of the Month

The mission of the month for September is **Lutheran Disaster Response**. In this season of dangerous storms and other disasters, Lutheran Disaster Response is a welcome sight. LDR has a long history of providing aid for short-term and long term recovery. Hurricane Harvey and the destruction the coast of Texas is experiencing right now is our current motivation to contribute to this power work of

love possible to us through the dedication of LDR. LDR partners with local Lutheran Social Services agencies to meet the needs of people in their critical times. Please use the envelopes in the pews and write Lutheran Disaster Response in the memo line of your check.



Equipping Households of Faith

This will be the first of the special learning events in this program year. While it will definitely have a focus on families raising children it is a basics course on the practice of sharing faith. Therefore it is open to all and hopefully beneficial to all practicing Christians. We plan to offer this course on Wednesdays in October.

Winter is coming – the church will need snow removal: We are hoping that a member of our church has a plow and is willing to clear the alley and the parking area on the west side of the property. Call the office and let us know.

Wednesday Worship

Now that September has arrived Wednesday Services will resume on **September 6** at 6:00 p.m.! Beginning on **September 13th** we will resume the meal before worship. The meal this year will start at 5:00 p.m. and we will call out to all the groups who provided last year. And we will be open to new groups forming!
a six week sermon series on the Small Catechism of Martin Luther.

Wednesday Sermon Series: *Reformation 500 – the Small Catechism*
Starting on September 20th Pastor Mark will begin a six week sermon series on the Small Catechism of Martin Luther. We will have Small Catechisms for you to use in the worship hour, you may also purchase a special edition of the Small catechism for \$5.00 and carry it with you. Posters in the Narthex/Lobby will describe the weekly themes. Two weeks on the Ten Commandments and one week on each of

Apostle's Creed, Lord's Prayer, Holy Sacraments, and the Christian household.

This series is intended to be a refresher for everyone as we move to the 500th celebration of the Reformation; the series is also a primer for all parents of our confirmation students as they prepare to be the best "apostle, bishop and priest" for their child.



Mission Endowment gives scholarships

"The Bethlehem Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Committee is pleased to announce the recipients of 2017 scholarships. Logan Backstrom, Tarin Hanson, Hannah Toftey, Sarah Toftey and Noah Roth God's blessings on your new endeavors!"



We need you for Wednesday Teams

With the return of all the activity on Wednesdays, we will again serve Wednesday meals. Last year worked well having six rotating "teams" to make a particular meal and it rotated every 6 weeks. We have one of the six team already filled. That would be Team Hotdish. We need volunteers for the following teams:

Team Taco

Team Sloppy Joe we have a team leader for this team, Tina Eich.

Team Pasta

Team Baked Potato and hopefully we can get another team which can be a specialty of your choice Team Mystery meal.

Please call the office or sign up on the sign up board in the narthex to sign up for your team .

Meals will resume in September and rotate every 6 weeks throughout the year. We serve about 40-60 people a week. This is a great ministry and was quite successful last year. Please call to be a part of a team or for more information. 387-2227.



Harvest Dinner

The annual BLCW Harvest Dinner will be Friday September 29 from 5:00-7:00 PM





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

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

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



YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

Mark your calendars - Youth ministry programs are starting on the following dates;

Sunday School, Ages 3 year - 5th Grade - September 10

Wednesday School - 3rd - 5th Grade - October 4th

Confirmation 6th - 8th Grade - September 20

Senior High 9th - 12th Grade - September 20

Attention Students - Bring your backpacks with you to worship on September 10th, for a special back to school blessing!

Radio Waves Music Festival! The Youth and Family Committee is fundraising during the WTIP Radio Waves Music Festival. We will be selling food during the festival on Friday, September 8th and Saturday, September 9th. We have some fun events planned for our youth this year and this should prove to be a profitable, and fun, fundraising opportunity. We are looking for additional volunteers to help serve food. If you are interested in lending a hand, please get in touch with Cara at, carasporn@gmail.com If you are not able to help out during this weekend but would still like to contribute, we are gladly accepting cash donations to help off set the food costs. Thank you for supporting the BLC Youth!!