

# BETHLEHEM STAR

Last year in September the Council started to talk about creating a position for a Director of Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) Ministries at Bethlehem. Through conversations and careful planning, we approached the congregation with our idea, and overwhelming we heard you all say, 'Yes!'

In January of this year we posted the job description and started the search process. We had applicants, interviewed candidates, and eventually our interview committee found Sarah Rhodes, our new Director of CYF Ministries!

Already we have seen a successful VBS with 16+ students joining us, and a bonfire for the middle schoolers welcoming Sarah to Bethlehem. Sarah has plans in the fall for Confirmation, High School, lower and upper elementary ministries, as well as retreats, future summer trips, and so much more. This is an exciting time at Bethlehem!

We asked the congregation to increase our church budget through regular giving to help meet the need of this ministry - to which you all also said, 'Yes!' So first and foremost, thank you for your generosity to invest in the lives of our young people. And secondly, please prayerfully consider how God may be calling you into generosity this fall and into the new year.

Your Congregational Council and I are excited to see where God is leading us in our CYF ministry, and we earnestly put our faith in God to 'accomplish abundantly more than all we can ask for imagine.' (Ephesians 3: 20-21)

Peace in Christ.

Pastor Calvin Konop

*Our committee for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary has met weekly over the summer. The Big Event is set for Sunday September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Our worship committee has planned a special service. We will have a short program and catered dinner immediately after Sunday morning worship. Part of the program will be a slide show highlighting previous events. We need you to share your photos from the past. These must be scanned and sent to Denise's email- [blc@boreal.org](mailto:blc@boreal.org). We need volunteers to set up the tables on Saturday and then help with dishes. Maybe the Muus family will lead us in song as we work in the kitchen. This actually happened the time the dishwasher broke after the Harvest Dinner!*

*Another volunteer opportunity has arisen. We offered the custodian position to a wonderful applicant and she decided to decline. We will need some help cleaning the bathrooms and tidying up after various events. Let's network energetically to find a replacement.*

*The CYF committee has met monthly. Check out Sarah Rhodes column for events and opportunities to help out. As one young mother said to me "Back to School, Back to Church"—It will be fun to see more of our young families at Wednesday meals and worship.*

*In God's Care, Kris Hedstrom,  
Congregational President*

# Olympic Themed Vacation Bible School: An all star event!



Look at the excitement of the kids as Pastor tells of "Armor of God"!



Son's Rays sang at the dedication of stained-glass for Dode Stoskopf



"Bible & Brews" - a hit during the summer. Last get-together is Wed September 4 at Voyager Brewing.



# September Devotions



## Mission Of the Month Lutheran Disaster Response

*And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new."*

Revelation 21:5a

The changing of the seasons is always a special time for me. It's a reminder of life and nature continuing to move forward, and a reminder to me of God's power. Every year the seasons look a little bit different - some fall seasons are more colorful than others depending on moisture and temperature levels. Some winters are snowier or colder or milder than others.

In Revelation, the author John has a vision of the heavenly places where Jesus is sitting on a throne. Jesus says, "See, I am making all things new." This is in reference to Jesus coming back a second time and destroying the old heaven and old earth, and recreating a new heaven and earth for everyone.

As school kicks off, as yard work and housework changes, as wardrobes change, may it be a reminder that God is always at work, making all things new. Bringing new life into the world, bringing spiritual refreshment in new ways, and making God known to us through the Spirit in new ways.

**Peace in Christ.**

Pastor Calvin Konop

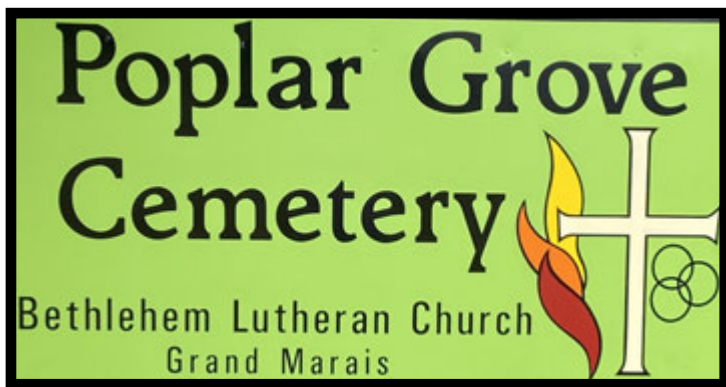
The Mission of the Month for September is Lutheran Disaster Response. This organization shares God's hope, healing, and renewal with people whose lives have been greatly disrupted by disasters of all kinds. In the United States the need is great as so many have been affected by flooding, hurricanes, tornados, and wildfires. Internationally, Lutheran Disaster Response continues to give humanitarian aid in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and South Sudan where war has caused so much destruction and suffering. LDR also continues to give aid in places like the Horn of Africa where drought has caused widespread famine.

We can show our love and compassion for all God's children with a big response for this Mission of the Month.

### Membership Challenge

Learn more about how your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response share hope and healing with communities impacted by disaster in the United States and around the world Do some interactive research: <https://resources.elca.org/lutheran-disaster-response>.

*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. - 1 Peter 4:10*



## Poplar Grove Cemetery

For many years our treasured Bruce Johnson has been the superintendent of the Poplar Grove Cemetery. Bruce has worked faithfully to work with families as they prepare for their own, future burial, and has accompanied families for the interments and burials of their loved ones. It's time, now, to let Bruce step down from this position and to hand it off to the next servant of the church. *Thank you, Bruce, for all of your years of service!*

In the interim, I (Pastor Calvin) have stepped into the Interim Superintendent Role at the Cemetery, and have recruited a group of people to be on the Board of the Cemetery: Kyle Oberg, Shawn Swearingen, Mark Youngdahl, Bruce Johnson (staying on to help and advise), and myself. Some of these board members, like me, are serving in an interim capacity. As the superintendent, I am responsible for first contact with families, selling plots to families, and organizing our board to keep up the cemetery and mark the plots for the funeral home before burial.

**Thanks to Kyle Oberg**, we have moved our records to an updated digital system that is easy to use, and has a searchable database. Kyle has been transferring the data to the

new system, is updating records, and has even used his knowledge of GPS to better track burial plots. Thank you, Kyle!

*This is a vital ministry of our church*, and one of the many ways that we can preach Christ's resurrection, the resurrection in which we all will share, to the community and the world. If you feel called to help in any capacity, or want to know more about the Cemetery board, or the Superintendent position, please contact me. 218-387-2227, [blcpastor@boreal.org](mailto:blcpastor@boreal.org).



Trinity Lutheran Church, Hovland, is sponsoring a Women's Retreat at Wilderness Canoe Base in early October. It will be a one-night retreat, starting in the morning and ending the following day after an earlyish dinner. Study time will be held by Mary Ellen Ashcroft. Cost will be around or under \$100. They are still in the process of finalizing details, so if you are interested please call or email Trinity. 218-475-2439, [trinity@boreal.org](mailto:trinity@boreal.org).



## Light and Hope



What started as an Epiphany project became a light that is now shining across the country and into Ukraine. Project organizers like to think of it as a faith link. The link started with Lutsen Evangelical Lutheran Church, which raised funds for 30 Ray of Life solar light kits that members assembled on Jan. 7 as an Epiphany project. The lights were delivered to Ukraine, where the electrical infrastructure has been severely damaged during the war with Russia.

Read the article in "Living Lutheran" digital magazine: <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2024/09/light-and-hope/>



**Sarah Rhodes**  
 Director of CYF Ministries  
[blcyouth@boreal.org](mailto:blcyouth@boreal.org)  
 952-818-5490

Happy September! I want to generate more enthusiasm and community for the kids/youth of our congregation. I created a youth section of the bulletin board near the sanctuary so that events for young people will be easier to see and get excited about. More information is listed here by age group.

### Sunday School

- Sunday School begins on **September 15th** for ages 3 to 9.
- We ask that families fill out a registration form for their Sunday School age kids so that we have all of the information that we need. Find them on the bulletin board by the Youth Forms sign.
- We'll need parents and other congregation members to help. We ask that you volunteer once a month for 30 minutes. We will set up a rotation to make it a lighter commitment: please sign up by letting Sarah know or use the form on the BLC Kids page.

### Upper Elementary

- Anticipate something for 3rd- 5th graders after MEA break.

### Middle School

- Our Confirmation Open House is an event for both parents and students. It will be on **Wednesday, September 11th** from 5:30 to 7, with dinner for the first half hour. Be sure to complete the registration form that was mailed and emailed to you (yes, even if you did that last year). There are more by the Youth Forms sign.
- More information is on the Confirmation page on the website

### High School

- I have planned monthly high school events and linked the calendar to the website.
- The September event is a **Vocation Night on September 23rd** from 7-8pm where we will discuss what it means to be called in a certain direction (and how annoying it is that people constantly ask what you're doing after graduation).
- Stay tuned for more information.

I'm looking forward to a fun kickoff to Confirmation and the 2024-25 school year in general :)

Sarah Rhodes, CYF Director, 952-818-5490  
[blcyouth@boreal.org](mailto:blcyouth@boreal.org)



### Attn: Families with College-aged kids

Please provide the addresses of your special college kids and Bethlehem will send them a few cards throughout the year. Please call Denise in the office, 218-387-2227 or email your request to: [blc@boreal.org](mailto:blc@boreal.org)



**BALLET  
MAGNIFICAT!**

**Ballet Magnificat! presents *Prodigal's Journey*,** a ballet performance at the Two Harbors High School Auditorium. September 16, 2024. Performance 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Semi formal attire is encouraged. It's a wonderful opportunity to support the arts community for the glory of God. Thanks to a donation from Lovin' Lake County, tickets are just \$5.50/each.



**WOMEN OF  
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN  
CHURCH:**

**YOU'RE INVITED TO  
THE BETHLEHEM  
LUTHERAN WOMEN'S  
GATHERING KICKOFF**

- WHEN:** September 12, 2024  
(and thereafter the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Thursday of each month)
- TIME:** 9:30 AM
- WHERE:** Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Library
- RSVP:** No need - just show up!

Come when you can, leave when you must. We hope you'll join us to share your ideas for the 2024-2025 upcoming gatherings (formerly Circle).

Let's "kick things up a notch" this year. Let's decide together on our study guide (Gather Magazine, 12 Women of the Bible DVD series or ???) Bring YOUR thoughts and ideas.

Let's talk about hosting speakers and events. Let's talk about how we serve the Church. Let's continue gathering to share God's Word.

It's a wonderful and engaging group of women. Hope you can join us - There will be treats!!



**Powerful Tools  
FOR Caregivers**

It is said that all of us will be caregivers at some point in our lives—some of us, many times over. *Powerful Tools for Caregivers* is a free six-week class that gives participants the skills to take care of themselves while caring for someone else – either in their home or from a distance. You are welcome to sign up for this powerful course, whether you are currently caregiving and need some respite and tools to take care of you in the process or anticipate being a caregiver in the future. Fall sessions will be led by trained facilitators Kathy Reeves, Retired RN, and Julie Wilson, MSW, LGSW and will meet in person in the lower-level classroom of the Sawtooth Mountain Clinic on Wednesdays from 5-6:30pm, September 11 – October 16. 218-387-3788 <https://carepartnersofcookcounty.org/caregiver-support/>

**Reflections by Kay Olson**

I've spent a considerable amount of time this month at a Duluth hospital. I'm not good at just sitting for long periods of time. Before Bob's surgery there was a lot of unknown - what is this, what will be the outcome? After the surgery we were hit in the face with a diagnosis we had been praying wouldn't happen. Add complications with a blood clot the next day. Getting him home still with uncertainty about what options were really out there. A full day of appointments and tests were scheduled. After the first 2 appointments and hearing the plans Bob made the decision to not pursue any further treatment. Everyone reacts differently to a terminal diagnosis but the Lord numbers our days and will watch over us. The decision has brought a great peace to this house. Bob is feeling much better and says the Lord is in control and he trusts in the outcome.



## Ministry Opportunity

The Church in Society Committee would love to have more members!

Our main job is to choose the **Mission of the Month** and come up with ways to promote it. We also help organize various projects throughout the year such as:

- Mitten Tree in the winter
- School Supply collection in the fall
- God's Work Our Hands projects.

We only meet once a month so the time commitment is not huge. We need fresh ideas and welcome input. If you want to join us or just have an idea for a Mission of the Month to support or a possible God's Work Our Hands project, please contact Sue Anderson, Libby Larson, or Pastor Calvin.



## Baptism Class

On Sunday, September 8th we'll have a baptism class after service in the Library. If you have someone in your family that wants to be baptized that hasn't, of any age, join us for our baptism class! The class is approximately 45 minutes, and in it we'll talk about the Lutheran understanding of baptism, get to know each other, and get all of the needed info from families for baptism. We hope to see you there!

## CUSTODIAN NEEDED

Part-time position

8-10 hours/week

Flexible Hours

Competitive Wages

Immediate Opening

### Requirements:

Previous experience preferred

Able to lift 50 lbs.

Conscientious cleaner

Effective time manager

Team player

Apply in person or via e-mail:

### Bethlehem Lutheran Church

417 - 1st Ave. W.; PO Box 638

Grand Marais, MN 55604

218.387.2227

blcpastor@boreal.org

NORTH SHORE HEALTH PRESENTS

## FALL PREVENTION DAY

FALL RISK SCREENINGS  
COMMUNITY RESOURCES  
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

SEPTEMBER 26, 2024 12PM - 3PM

COOK COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER  
QUESTIONS? CALL KRIS 218-387-3276

FALL PREVENTION DAY

September 26, 2024 12PM - 3PM at the Community Center

## BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYER

Lord, grant us peace as we send our children back to school.

Help us trust in your care and guidance for them each day.

- Amen

to

Here's a fun riddle for you to give thought to . . .

**Where do you go to learn how to make ice cream?**

From your Membership Committee

(Answer at bottom of calendar)



**Evangelical  
Lutheran**  
Church in America

September 2024

Dear faithful ones of Bethlehem Lutheran Church,

Warm greetings to you as you celebrate the milestone of your 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! God has blessed Grand Marais and the surrounding area with your vibrant community of faith who has shown devotion to reaching out and sharing God's love with one another and with your neighbors. You have held a significant role in your community for some time now.

Over the years, you have overcome significant challenges and obstacles, like a worldwide pandemic and all its mandates – but you've been resilient - providing multiple avenues to keep people connected to their beloved congregation. You've worked to be a vibrant witness of Christ's love in reaching out in mission and ministry.

Although anniversary celebrations are a time to look back and give thanks for the bold and courageous leadership of the members who began this ministry, honoring the pastoral leadership you've experienced, and giving thanks for those who have sustained this church up to this point, this significant anniversary is also a time to commit yourselves to Bethlehem Lutheran's future.

I pray that in the thanksgiving given to God for this anniversary, you will also pray that God leads you into even more chapters where you can share the light of Christ with a hurting world. Thank you for your shining witness over the past 125 years. May the Light keep on burning brightly!

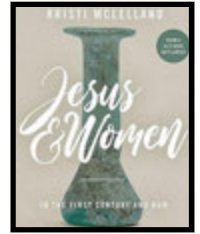
Celebrating with you,

**The Rev. Amy J. Odgren**  
**+Bishop of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

Dear Women of Bethlehem,

- ♦ *Are you interested in deepening your faith?*
- ♦ *Do you think about Jesus' encounters with women in the bible?*

Join me, Ashley Konop, for an 8-week study where we will read and discuss **Jesus and Women** by Kristi McLelland.



**When:** Weekly starting Thursday October 3rd,  
Ending Thursday November 21st.  
(No meeting on November 7)

**Time:** 7-8pm

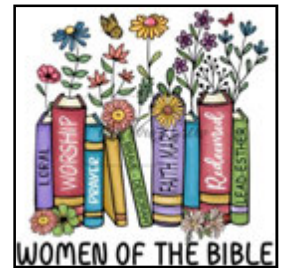
**Where:** The Konop house, right next door to the church!

**Cost:** \$25 per person to cover the cost of the book. (If the cost is a problem, no worries, we've got you covered.)

Light snacks will be provided.

Please sign up using the sign-up sheet outside of the sanctuary by September 19<sup>th</sup> as there are a limited number of spots available! If you have any questions call or text Ashley at 612-554-3140

A note from the author: Biblical culturalist Kristi McLelland transports you back to Jesus's world, stepping into the footsteps of the women who came face to face with the living God. Sessions examine the historical and cultural climate of first-century Middle Eastern society to not only understand Jesus more deeply but to fuel your worship of Him today.





# SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 8:40am Choir Practice 10:00am Worship with Live stream & Choir sings	<b>2</b>  <b>LABOR DAY</b>	<b>3</b> 11:00am Staff Meeting	<b>4</b> 8:00am Church In Society meeting 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 7:00pm Bible & Brews	<b>5</b> 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting	<b>6</b> Clarity Hearing Appts. 	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 10:00am Worship Service - Live streamed	<b>9</b> 11:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Executive Committee Mtg 	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10:00am 125 <sup>th</sup> Anniv Committee meeting 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 5:30 pm Confirmation Parent/Student orientation with meal	<b>12</b> Monthly Council Reports due to Office 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting 2:00pm Women's Gathering	<b>13</b> Monthly Reports to Council for review	<b>14</b> Wedding of Kelsey Saladin & Patrick O'Neill in Duluth 
<b>15 First day of Sunday School!!</b> 8:40am Choir practice 10:00am Worship - Live streamed with Choir 2:00pm Care Center Worship Service	<b>16</b> 8:00am Monthly Reports: Additions & Corrections Due 11:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Church Council Meeting 	<b>17</b> 6:30pm Worship Planning Committee 6:30 pm International Writers Dinner	<b>18</b> 10:30am RIC mtg 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 5:30 pm Meal 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Contemporary Worship	<b>19</b> 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting	<b>20</b> Clarity Hearing Appts. 6:30pm Game Night for Confirmation 	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 125th Anniversary Celebration 8:40am Choir practice 10:00am Worship Service & Sunday School - Live streamed 11:30 am Meal & Program	<b>23</b> 11:00am Staff Meeting Newsletter articles due for next edition 7:00pm High school Vocation Night 	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 5:30 pm Meal 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Contemporary Worship	<b>26</b> 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8:40am Choir practice 10:00am Christian Contemporary Worship Service with the "Average Worship Band" 10:00am Sunday School	<b>30</b> 11:00am Staff Meeting 	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 8:00am Church In Society meeting 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 5:30 pm Meal 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Contemporary Worship	<b>3</b> 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting	<b>4</b> Clarity Hearing Appts.	<b>5</b>



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## Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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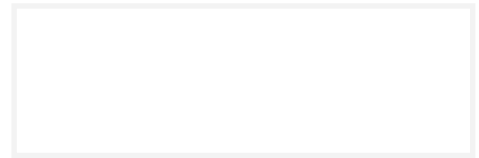
Grand Marais, MN

55604

*Belonging to Christ,*

*Sharing Christ on the*

*North Shore and beyond.*



**We are celebrating!**

**125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bethlehem**

**Sunday September 22, 2024**

Join us for Worship Sunday Morning with a program and meal following in the Fellowship Hall

**Menu:** Swedish Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes, Roasted Carrots, Salad, Cranberry Cake. (Macaroni & Cheese for children by request)

**Tickets:** Available before and after worship on Sundays before the event or call the office to RSVP. (Most importantly, we need a count for the caterer!) 218-387-2227 or [blc@boreal.org](mailto:blc@boreal.org)