

# BETHLEHEM STAR

On Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup> we celebrated Holy Trinity Sunday. In my sermon I talked about leaning into the mystery - because when we try to experience God in new ways (through cultures, languages, experiences, new traditions, etc.) we find new life, new meaning, and we learn new things about God. We read out of the First Nations Version of the New Testament as a way to practice “leaning into the mystery.”

Summers at Bethlehem are a great time to explore the mysteries of God in new ways. During the summers we try new Creeds and New Versions of the Lord’s Prayer. We’ll also be using Setting 12 of our new *All Creation Sings* hymnal for a good chunk of the summer. New and different can be difficult - and new and different can lead us into new experiences with God.

I want to encourage you to lean into the mystery on your own this summer. Try Lectio Divina when reading scripture, or find a quiet time to meditate using the Centering Prayer, or go on a hike to a new place and soak in the beauty of God’s creation. Try something new and see what God teaches you through it. - *Pastor Calvin Konop*

## Lectio Divina

Choose a text of scripture. Read the text slowly, as a gift to be received – let the text come to you. Read it multiple times using the following structure:

**Listen.** Find something (a word or phrase) that sticks out to you. Sit in silence repeating it for a while.

**Ponder.** Read the text again, and ask how the word or phrase that stood out might speak to your life.

**Pray.** As you read through for the last time ask what Jesus is calling from you. What is your response to the word or phrase that stood out to you?

## Centering Prayer

Centering prayer is a Christian contemplative prayer practice that involves resting in silence with God and letting go of thoughts and emotions. It's intended to deepen one's relationship with God and move from active prayer to a receptive prayer of resting in God.

**Find a word** (e.g. Jesus, Peace, Love) that resonates with you. Turn on some soft instrumental music and **sit in silence, being aware of God’s presence**, and letting distractions go as they come. Use your word, aloud or silently, to **draw you back to God’s presence.**



**2024 BETHLEHEM  
GRADUATES RECEIVE THEIR  
QUILTS ON MAY 19<sup>TH</sup>.**

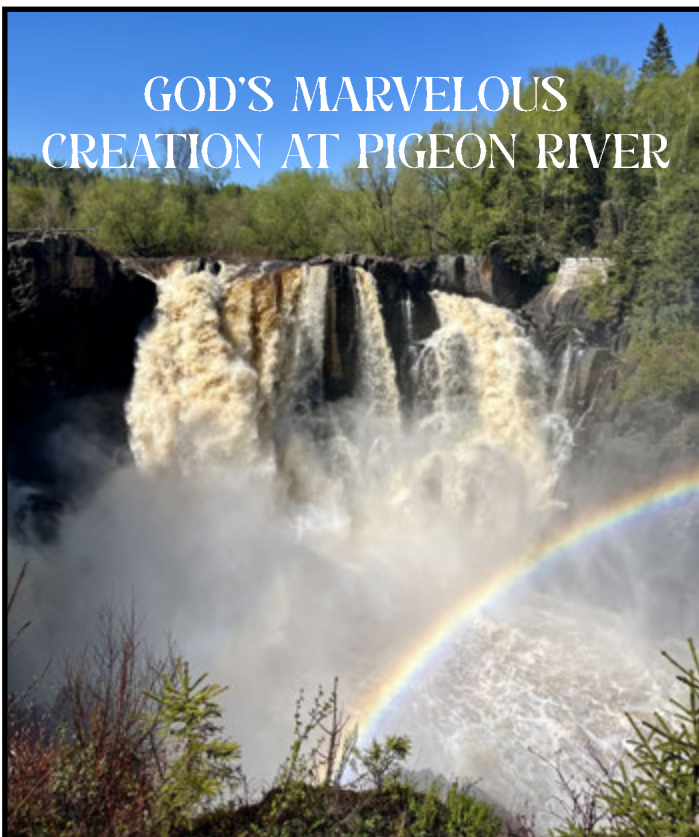
Congratulations to Kamryn Johnson, Trinity Rude, Amery Oberg, Taylor Everson, Andrew Hallberg and Ryan Shannon. (Missing from picture: Wren Ferry, Martine Redshaw, Weston Heeren, Paavo Rova & Olya Wright are other graduating seniors associated with Bethlehem.



**QUILT SUNDAY WAS NOT JUST FOR HIGH SCHOOL "SENIORS".** Here's a great picture of Ed Bolstad and Chet Lindskog.



**BLESSING OF ALL QUILTS**



**GOD'S MARVELOUS  
CREATION AT PIGEON RIVER**



**Always end your day  
with a positive thought  
and a grateful heart.**

**From your Membership Team**



# DEVOTIONS

BY PASTOR CALVIN KONOP

*Do not remember the former things  
or consider the things of old.*

*I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?*

*I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.*

- Isaiah 43:18-19

When I first got my license I wanted to drive everywhere. I loved the independence, the sense of responsibility, and the freedom. Pretty early on I was driving the same route from my friend's house, where I frequented, back to my parents house. I got to my parents neighborhood and realized that I had no recollection of driving across a bridge that I always had to drive across to get to and from my friend's house.

*Have you ever done that? Been driving and realized that you were on "mental autopilot"?*

In the scripture from Isaiah God tells the Israelites that God is doing a new thing. God isn't going to take them down the same familiar roads, which they've traveled time and again. God is going to make a way in the wilderness, form rivers in the desert, and do a new thing in their lives.

Routines are familiar and important, but they lose their potency when we become so familiar with them that we forget their importance. Like the words in the liturgy on Sunday, or the familiar dinner prayer. This is why God does new things – to shake things up, to wake us up, and to lead us to new places.

*May God do a new thing in your life today.*



## CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL HAPPENINGS

At our May meeting we had a guest speaker from **Together Here Ministries** – Pastor Matthew Cobb. Our Council President, Kris Hedstrom, reached out to the Synod office to ask for help thinking through our relationships with Grand Portage and the Anishinaabe neighbors we have there and here.

Pastor Cobb talked about land acknowledgement statements, moral imagination, and talked about what it means to honor our treaties. He invited us into thinking about our history as a church, and how it might shape who we are today. He also encouraged us to continue to learn about the history of Grand Marais and the Anishinaabe.

The Council formed a sub-committee, of sorts, to look into a potential book study we can do to learn more about the history as a launching point to thinking about our future as a church, and to our relationships with Grand Portage and beyond. Please continue to hold your Council in prayer, and consider joining the book study when it is announced! A special thanks to Pastor Matthew Cobb for joining us.

## CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRIES



School is almost out and summer is upon us, so summer dates will be released soon. Keep an eye out for fun events for middle and high school students, as well as dates for our Vacation Bible School.

We are continuing on in our search for a Director of Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) Ministries, and are in the process of accepting applications and interviewing. Please continue to keep our interview committee and candidates in your prayers. We will keep the congregation informed as we continue in the process.



## IN GOD'S CARE, BY KRIS HEDSTROM

May's highlight for me was on May 19<sup>th</sup> when we celebrated our Senior High graduates with our Quilt Blessing. This year's graduates included Taylor Everson, Andrew Hallberg, Kamryn Johnson, Amery Oberg, Trinity Rude, Ryan Shannon, Weston Heeren, Martine Redshaw and Wren Ferry. We concluded Coffee 'An with a Bingo fund raiser.

The confirmation students chose to support the Arrowhead Animal Rescue group in Grand Marais. The bingo prizes were home made desserts. Ty Mielke's baklava was very popular. He gave out samples ahead of the game and it was all gone before we started. Over \$400.00 was raised.

Our first Picnic on the Patio is set for June 19<sup>th</sup>. The church will provide hotdogs and the side dishes are potluck. We will acknowledge all of our Christian Education supporters: the Average Worship Band, the Wednesday meal teams, the instructors.

On June 30<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM we will host a Hand Bell Concert. We have a beautiful handbell set and this might inspire us to start practicing again.

We are contemplating offering Vacation Bible School (VBS) the first week of August-right after Fisherman's Picnic so pencil that in on your calendars.

This is an informal get together, where new things will be discussed each week, so if you can't make it every week DON'T worry about it!



**Where:** Voyageur Brewery

**When:** Wednesday nights starting June 5th-September 4th

**Time:** 7:00 pm

**What to bring:** Questions about The Bible, curiosities about The Bible, clarity about different books of The Bible or passages, a great and non-judgmental attitude.

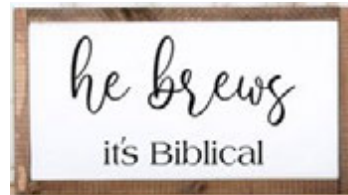
*Not a beer drinker?* That is A-OK! Voyageur offers non-alcoholic beverages and delicious food.

As we know, we are in Grand Marais' busy season, we will not be at the same table each week, so check inside AND outside seating areas.

I cannot wait to see you there and dig into some of this messy Bible stuff!

*I'm looking forward to seeing you there,*

Ashley Konop



*Let God's Word brew in your heart*



## BIBLE & BREWS!

*Looking for a time of weekly fellowship? Do you want to bring your thoughts, questions, or musings about the Bible to a safe space?*

Join Ashley Konop at **Voyageur Brewery every Wednesday night this summer at 7:00 pm.**

This is a time for an hour to hour-and-half discussion about The Bible, or if no questions or thoughts arise, a time for fellowship.

## TRUE HOSPITALITY

It can be easy to hope that our hospitality will be rewarded. Yet this is not what Jesus had in mind when he commanded us to love our neighbors. Just as grace is freely given to us, we are called to give grace to others – regardless of how they respond.

True hospitality is not about us; it's about our neighbor, it's about the other. It's about giving of ourselves and trusting God to handle the results.

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*This message is excerpted from "When you offer hospitality, what do you expect in return?" by Sarah Carson from the blog of the Women of the ELCA.*



# Mission Of the Month North Point

The Church in Society Committee is excited to share that Bethlehem's June Mission of the Month is **North Point**. To support this mission, please note "North Point" on your offering. Thank you to Brad Shannon for submitting the following content for the newsletter:

Dear Bethlehem Family,

Thank you for choosing to support **North Point** with your mission of the month in June! Your generosity will make a difference in the lives of teens in our community! We love teens and believe they are a vital part of our community. But hopelessness is becoming a defining story for this generation breaking down both them and our community. Therefore, we're on a mission to bring hope to teens in Grand Marais.



Our vision for how to accomplish this isn't new or revolutionary. **We believe hope shows up when people who care show up.** I love what David Brooks says in *The Second Mountain*,

*"Relationship is the driver of change. Think about who made you who you are. It was probably a parent, a teacher, or a mentor. It wasn't some organization that was seeking a specific and measurable outcome that can be reduced to metrics. It wasn't a person looking to create a system of change that can scale. It was just a person doing something intrinsically good-making you feel known, cared for, trusted, unconditionally loved-without presuming to know how that relationship would alter the trajectory of your life."*

Through the spaces we create, the relationships we form, and the grace-based programs we provide, teens experience support and belonging. They find the safety to be themselves and talk about what's really going on in their lives. They form and strengthen healthy relationships with peers and caring adults. Through the relationships they form and the support they experience they are able to build resiliency, recognize that even in difficult

times God is present in big and small ways. They begin to look to the future with hope and sometimes teens even come to know a loving God because true hope is not simply a generic hope like a fantasy or a wish, but what the apostle Peter called a living hope.

It's amazing just how much of life boils down to hope and I would add gratitude. **Gratitude is hope realized, and hope is that for which we wait and long for.** Each of them connected to the other, and so essential to human flourishing! We are a hopeful people and because ultimately our hope is not in a situation or circumstance. Those will all end, change or wear out. Rather our hope is in a person named Jesus. He is where we place our hope, a hope that does not disappoint us.

## MEMBER CHALLENGE

In talking to Denise, she asked if I might have an idea for a spiritual challenge for us this month. Rather than a challenge, I thought I'd simply ask a question:

### *What are you really hoping for?*

Not just a circumstance like a new job or in my case a historic come back by the Timberwolves from 3-0. In the deepest longings of your heart in light of the living hope we share in, *what do you long for?* As for me I'm betting the farm on God. As one guy said it, *"If God doesn't come to fix his world nobody else is going to do it for him."* I hope for a world where no father will abuse his child, or mother will watch their child go to bed hungry, where no family is torn apart by mistrust or brutality or infidelity, where kids will not be taught or encouraged to use drugs, and kids would not learn hopelessness from their cribs. I hope for a world where kids are loved and nurtured and taught and protected and guided towards wholeness.

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

Peace, Brad

218-888-7511, [info@npyouth.org](mailto:info@npyouth.org), [www.npyouth.org](http://www.npyouth.org)

*Check out their summer schedule of activities.*



## POWER OF PRAYER

Update From Paulina

Hello Congregation.

I just want to say thank you so much for your continued prayers

for me. I just wanted to give you a quick update since I have not done one in a while.

I opted to stop doing chemotherapy treatments back in March because the weekly trips to Mayo Clinic in Rochester, being away from my family for several days each time and the unpleasant side effects of the medications were taking their toll on me physically, mentally, and financially.

Since then, I have been trying to take a more natural approach to self-healing. The good news was that most of the tumors in my chest had shrunk significantly from December to March. I have follow-up appointments in June and July to monitor an area of concern in my abdomen and a few in my chest. Overall, I feel pretty good.

I know for a fact that your prayers have helped. I even got one doctor to admit that the amount of decrease in the tumors was not typical for that type of chemo and was very surprising to him. I thank God for that!

*Blessing to you all,*

*Paulina Backstrom*

## WEED WACKING HELP



Bethlehem is looking for someone to weed whip around the property this summer. It will probably take an hour every week. Person would need to bring their own equipment. We will pay for your time and supplies.

Contact the office at 218-387-2227.



FROM  
KARINA  
ROTH

For the summer, we will only rehearse on the Sundays that we sing, which will generally be the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 8:40 am. This is the tentative plan for the summer:

- 6/2: Choir rehearsal at 8:40 am. "Let My Spirit Always Sing" ACS 1020.
- 6/16: Choir rehearsal 8:40 am. "Wade in the Water" by Aaron David Miller
- 7/7: Choir rehearsal 8:40 am. "Freedom is Coming"
- 7/21: Choir rehearsal 8:40 am. "By the Waters of Babylon"
- 8/4: Choir rehearsal 8:40 am. Swing Band Service. "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"
- 8/18: Choir rehearsal 8:40 am. TBD

*Happy Summer!*

*Karina*

## CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICES:

Join the Average Worship Band for contemporary music on the 4th Sunday of each month.

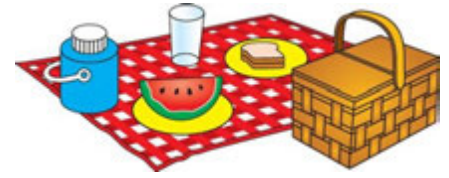
If you like to sing and/or can play an instrument, we always welcome more people to join the fun.



For more information, contact Stacey Johnson or Mark Abrahamson after worship.

Worship  
With Us

JUNE



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>26</p> <p>10:00am Christian Contemporary Worship Service with the "Average Worship Band"</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:30am Maple Hill Memorial Day Service, Rev. Bill Beckstrand, Presiding</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>2</p> <p>8:40am Choir Practice 10:00am Worship with Live stream &amp; Choir sings</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>3:30pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:00am Church In Society meeting 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 7:00 pm Bible &amp; Brews</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>Clarity Hearing Appts. 10:00am Set-up for Daugherty Memorial</p>	<p>8</p> <p>11:00am Jim Daugherty Memorial Service</p> 
<p>9</p> <p>10:00am Worship Service - Live streamed</p> 	<p>10</p> <p>6:30pm Executive Committee Mtg</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 7:00 pm Bible &amp; Brews</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>Monthly Council Reports due to Office 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting</p>	<p>14 Flag Day</p> <p>Monthly Reports to Council for review</p> 	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Father's Day 8:40am Choir practice 10:00am Worship - Live streamed with Choir 11:15am Church Picnic - Teacher &amp; Worship Volunteer Appreciation 2:00pm Care Center Worship Service</p> 	<p>17</p> <p>8:00am Monthly Reports: Additions &amp; Corrections Due 6:30pm Church Council Meeting</p> 	<p>18</p> <p>6:30pm Worship Planning Committee</p> 	<p>19</p> <p>Juneteenth 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 7:00 pm Bible &amp; Brews</p>  	<p>20</p> <p>8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>Clarity Hearing Appts.</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>Newsletter articles due</p> 
<p>23</p> <p>10:00am Christian Contemporary Worship Service with the "Average Worship Band"</p> 	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 7:00 pm Bible &amp; Brews</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting</p> 	<p>28</p> 	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Set up for Saethre Memorial Service 10:00am Worship Service - Live streamed 3:00pm Strikepoint Handbell Concert</p> 	<p>1</p> <p>1:00pm Delores Saethre's Memorial Service</p> 	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:00am Church In Society meeting 12:30pm Mid-Day Mid-Week Bible Study 7:00 pm Bible &amp; Brews</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Holiday - Office is Closed 8:00am Bible Study 9:00am Quilting</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Clarity Hearing Appts. Holiday Extension - Office closed</p>	<p>6</p>

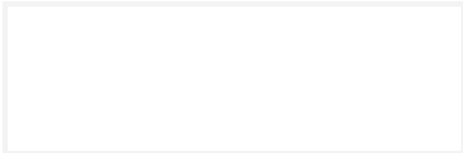
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# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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55604

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



**STRIKEPOINT**  
in concert

*Hear this acclaimed  
handbell ensemble from  
Duluth*

**Sunday, June 30  
3:00 p.m.**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
417 First Ave. W. • Grand Marais

**Admission free**  
*(Suggested donation: \$18)*



MISSION OF THE MONTH: NORTH POINT



BIBLE & BREWS: WEEKLY STARTS JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup>