



# Star on the Hill

The Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lanesboro, Minnesota

August 2024

## Contact us at:

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Lanesboro, MN 55949

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## Pastor Lisa Shank

608-797-6954

[lisadshank@gmail.com](mailto:lisadshank@gmail.com)

## Watch our worship on Facebook

Sunday mornings at 10:00 am

Bethlehem Lutheran Church,  
Lanesboro

## Buffalo Bill Days worship August 4



Highway 30, the praise band from the United Lutheran Parish, will lead worship in Sylvan Park on Sunday, August 4, 10:00 am. \*\*\*Bring your own chair.

A free-will offering will be received for the Fillmore County food shelf. In case of Rain, will be held in the Community Center.

\*\*\*\*Reminder, there will not be a Service at Bethlehem on this Sunday.



## Artaria Performs at Bethlehem & Sons of Norway

Artaria, Minnesota's foremost teaching and performing string quartet, will perform two concerts at Bethlehem as part of their Stringwood Chamber Music Festival. Enjoy Artaria and other guest performers on Tuesday, August 6 & 13, 7:00 pm at Bethlehem and August 8<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm at the Sons of Norway hall.

[www.stringwood.com/festival-concerts](http://www.stringwood.com/festival-concerts)

We are also excited to have Artaria provide special music during worship on Sunday, August 11.

## CHURCH ON THE FARM

SUNDAY, August 25, 2024  
10 a.m.

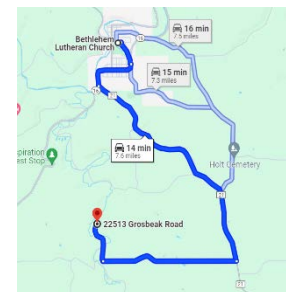


Rev.  
Edward and  
Katie Ruen

cordially invite you to worship on their farm. The barn was constructed from some of the original structure of Elstad Lutheran Church. Those timbers have seen many blessings and miracles over the years.

Come one, come all, invite your neighbors, friends, family and anyone else to come as well. We will have a worship service followed by a potluck. Come to worship God in God's Rural Cathedral. Other area churches are also invited, so we are going to have a LOT of fun! \*\*\*Reminder, there will not be a service at Bethlehem on this day.

22513 Grosbeak Road  
Lanesboro, MN 55949



We will be looking for Volunteers to help set up for Sunday Worship service on Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup> from 9-12.

If you are willing to help, please reach out by text to Peter Ruen at 347-528-7581 or contact the church office.

**STRINGWOOD**  
CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL  
LIVE CONCERTS

"SPECTACULAR, INTERESTING, DIFFERENT FROM A USUAL EXPERIENCE"

**Artaria**

**AUG.06 - 7PM**  
Artaria with Brandon Varnos, guest cellist  
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN

**AUG.08 - 7PM**  
Frank Almond/John Jensen Recital  
SONS OF NORWAY HALL

**AUG.13 - 7PM**  
Artaria with Renee Skerik, guest violist  
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN

Frank Almond  
violinist

John Jensen  
pianist

TICKETS

[stringwood.com](http://stringwood.com)



I moved to the Twin Cities out of college for my first job. I found a place to live and I looked diligently for a place to worship. Because I was LCMS, I looked for an LCMS church. I visited quite a few before I found one that felt like home. It was hard. I went in by myself. I sat by myself. There were times that I felt eyes boring into my back as I must have inadvertently sat in someone's pew. But I was determined to find a church home before my mom died. That was one of her dying wishes for me. My transfer from my congregation in Winona was official on August 1, and she died on August 12.

I was determined to find a church, but that is not "normal" anymore. Unfortunately, statistics show that church participation in mainline protestant denominations is declining across the board. And denominational loyalty is not what it used to be either. Just because one grows up Lutheran doesn't mean that you won't eventually be Methodist, or Presbyterian, or any other denomination. Growing up in church doesn't guarantee you'll end up in ANY church. Then there are the very loud voices of Evangelical far right "Christians" who are so very judgmental and condemning.

## A Note from the Desk of Pastor Lisa



Our quiet voices of love and welcome and service and compassion are lost in all the noise. Stories of clergy or church leader abuse taint all of us, no matter the denomination. No wonder people are leery of church!

The absolute best advertisement for any church is her members! What first brought you to this congregation? What keeps you? Has your relationship with Jesus deepened in this place? Do you find meaning and purpose for your life in worship? All of us need to find that place that feels like "Cheers" – you know, where everyone knows your name. We all have a need for life-giving relationships to counter the hardships life so often hands us. That is what we can share! That is what we need to share! If we are silent and say nothing about our faith and what it means to us, those around us will not know. Then the loud and vocal minority will continue to drive people away from all churches.

Does your neighbor go to church? Have you asked them to come with you? How about your brother-in-law, or aunt, or cousin or . . . ? Have you invited them to come with you? How about that coffee Klutch you are with every week. If you don't invite them, who will?

Got a couple of opportunities for you this month.

On **August 11**, Artaria will be in worship to provide special music. (They are part of the Stringwood Chamber Music Festival held every year.)

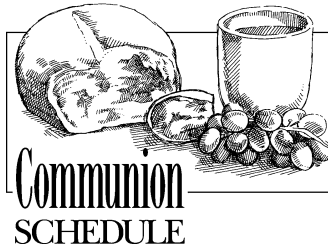
What better way to invite someone? "Say, we've got this musical group coming on the 11<sup>th</sup>, would you like to come?" On **August 25**, we will be doing "Church on the Farm" at the Edward and Katie Ruen barn. Easy time to say, "Come and see."

I know it's a challenge! We Lutherans haven't been called the "Frozen Chosen" for no reason. We all have forgotten how to share the good news. We all are sometimes afraid to talk church (or politics) for fear of offense. Now is the time that needs to change! If church and faith and hope are important to you, they need to be shared. Our families, our community and our world need the positive vision for the future that Jesus gives us.

This is the offering prayer we recently used – let us pray again:  
*Loving God, Your church is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is. It will be friendly, if I am. Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them. It will do great work, if I work. It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver. It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I invite and bring them. It will be a church where people grow in faith and serve you, if I am open to such growth and service. Therefore, with your help Lord, we shall dedicate ourselves to the task of being all the things you want your church to be. Amen.*

See you and your friends/neighbors in church!  
 Pastor Lisa

# Worship & Evangelism



**Sunday, August 18**



**Sunday, August 4**

Church in the park with HWY 30  
See front page of newsletter for details.

**Sunday, August 11**

Ushers: Renee & Gene Bergstrom, Sarah & John Peterson family

Reader: Renee Bergstrom

Refreshments: Renee & Gene Bergstrom, Sarah & John Peterson family

**Sunday, August 18**

Ushers: Jennifer Wood & Norinne Ask

Reader: Ed Taylor

Altar Care & H/C: Jennifer Wood

Refreshments: Jennifer Wood & Norine Ask

**Sunday, August 25**

Worship on the Farm  
See front page of newsletter for details.

## Senior Dining Servers at Kenilworth Apartments

**August 2:** Norine Ask  
Sue Holst

**August 9:** Denise Dahle  
Jennifer Wood

**August 16:** Phyllis Penheiter  
Deane Benson

**August 23:** Gwen Harmon  
Kathryn Wade

**August 30:** \*\*\*Still in Need

September Service  
Group will meet after  
service on August 11<sup>th</sup>.

Members of the January service group are: Carolyn Bell, Julia Borgen, Roger Bothun, Edward & Cheryl Brekke, Bill & Sherri Briggman, Lucas & Erin Doering, Amanda Amdahl, Lester & Dianne Dunn, Curt & Jean Hall, Blaine Harmon, Bryn & Kynlee Harmon, Kennedy Hungerholt, Gwen Harmon, Lance Harmon, Elizabeth Swan, Carsyn & Luella, Diane Haugen, Jeff, Kathy & Braydon Hebl, Mark Hermanson, Brian & Barb Jeffers, Jay & Caryl Jermier, Jeff & Julie Norby, Gary & Kathryn Wade, Mike & Pauline Wangen, Tanner, Callie, Lily & Liam Wangen.

Group coordinator is,  
Julia Borgen



## Confirmation Class 2024

We are starting our "Confirmation Boot Camp" for those students being confirmed this November. You should have received the schedule via email. Our first meetings will be August 21 and 28 beginning with supper at 6 p.m. On the 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, members of Bethlehem will be available as mentors. You will receive mentor/student worksheets in advance. Please complete these prior to our meetings. Looking forward to seeing you all.

*Goodstock* at Good  
Earth Village August  
24-25

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 24**

1:30 p.m. Check-In for GoodStock  
Color Trail Run  
2:00 p.m. GoodStock Color Trail  
Run Starts  
3:00 p.m. Market & Food Vendors  
/ Family Fun Zone  
3:00 p.m. Music – Root River Jam  
4:30 p.m. Wagon rides around  
Good Earth Village  
5:00 p.m. Music – Moors and  
McCumber  
7:00 p.m. Music – FABBAulous



## SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

9:30 a.m. Coffee and  
refreshments in Log Lodge  
10:00 a.m. Outdoor worship  
service at Three Crosses

REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR  
LAWN CHAIRS AND BLANKETS.  
PLEASE, NO PETS.

# Children, Youth & Family



## Our Confirmands

**9th grade:** Hunter Kelly, Jentrey Schreiber, Grace Tufte

**8th grade:** Preston Clarke, Kaylee Gilbertson, Trinity Hareldson, Isabelle Peterson, McKenna Peterson, Henry Semmen, Prailey Willford

**7th grade:** Lux Holst, Theodore Pruett

## ***Those recovering from Illness or Surgery***

*Mike Ask, Elizabeth Swan  
Sue Rosa*

## ***Those Living with Cancer***

Diane Haugen, Tom Papenfuss, Carroll Gilbertson, Mavis Musselman

## ***Those Living in Care Centers***

Jerry Johnson at River Bend Assisted Living, Rochester

Sandy Dybing at Birchwood Cottages, North Mankato

Lois Gilbertson at Chosen Valley Assisted Living, Chatfield

Marilyn Erickson at Harmony Nursing Home, Harmony

Evelyn Larson at Chosen Valley Care Center, Chatfield

## ***Hospice Care at Home***

Katie Ruen  
Edward Ruen (*Husband and caretaker*)  
4015 N Stowell Ave  
Shorewood WI, 53211  
*\*\*Mail is Welcome*

## ***Our Members in the Military***

Esme Decker, daughter of Sara Xavier and Eric Decker

Lisa Peterson Abell, daughter of Linda (Hareldson) Peterson

Leon Peterson, son of Linda (Hareldson) Peterson

Tom Moen, son of Lolly Melander

Claire Peterson, daughter of Joe & Jody Peterson

Devin Troendle, son of Pat & Chris Troendle, grandson of Ed Taylor

**\*\*\*\*Please notify the office If there are updates to any of these lists**



Congratulations to Eric and Emily Holst who were Married on July 6<sup>th</sup> in Stillwater MN. Eric is the Son of Tom and Sue Holst.

## Local Blood Drive

August 21<sup>st</sup> from 12 – 6 pm at the Lanesboro Community Center.  
Contact Kathryn Wade at 507-272-6864 to set up an appointment.



## Women's Activities this month

**The sew group will resume September 4<sup>th</sup> with WELCA business meeting to follow.**

Watch for details in the September Star on the Hill.

**There will be No WELCA Bible study in August. This will resume September 25<sup>th</sup>.**

PLEASE NOTE: Men are welcome to attend our WELCA Bible study.

**\*\*Anyone interested in helping with a display in the Narthex to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Bethlehem please contact Jennifer Wood at 507-273-0290. Items of interest as well and/or time will be appreciated.**

## Noisy Offering

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our weekly "noisy offering." \$93.92 was recently given to the Preston food shelf

## WELCA Requests Donations for Kits

Imagine having to choose between a meal or purchasing a notebook.

Lutheran World Relief school kits are sent to places where even the few required school supplies may be more than a family can afford.

Your donation of pencils and paper can help write a positive future!

**School supplies are on sale right now.** Please see the list of specific supplies needed for each school kit. Place supplies in the drawstring bags that are available in the narthex.

Lutheran World Relief is also in need of personal care kits, baby care kits and fabric kits. Please see a List of items to be included in each kit.

## Please compile kits

The WELCA asks for your donations to fill kits for Lutheran World Relief. Items should be brought to church any time until the end of September to be included in this year's shipment to LWR.

Please do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. All items should be new and in good condition. Remove excess packaging.

### Each personal care kit should include:

- ✓ One bath-size towel (approximately 52" x 27") preferably a dark color
- ✓ Two bath-size bars of soap in original wrapper
- ✓ One adult-size toothbrush in original wrapper\*

- ✓ One sturdy comb (remove wrapper)
- ✓ One metal nail clipper - attached file optional (remove wrapper)

\*Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business envelope; no plastic bags or wrap.

Wrap all items in the towel and tie securely with ribbons or yarn. Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

### Each school kit should include:

- ✓ Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper approximately 8 x 10 ½ inch. No loose-leaf paper.
- ✓ One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- ✓ One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- ✓ One pencil sharpener
- ✓ Five new, unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- ✓ One eraser approximately 2 ½ inches long
- ✓ Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no ink gel); secure together with a rubber band
- ✓ One box of 16 or 24 crayons

Place items in a drawstring backpack available in the narthex.

### Each fabric kit should include:

- ✓ Two pieces of cotton or cotton-blend fabric (No knits or 100% polyester).
- ✓ Fabric should be cut into pieces measuring either 2¼

yds of 60" wide fabric or 3 yds of 44" wide or 4 yds of 36" wide.

- ✓ Two spools of neutral-colored general-purpose thread, 250-300 yards each.

Fold thread and one piece of fabric inside second piece of fabric and tie with yarn.

### Each baby care kit should include:

- ✓ Two lightweight cotton t-shirts
- ✓ Two long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- ✓ Two receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, up to 52" square
- ✓ Four cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- ✓ One jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap
- ✓ Two pairs of socks
- ✓ One hand towel, dark color recommended
- ✓ Two or three bath-size bars (equal to 8-9 oz) of gentle soap, in original wrapper
- ✓ Two diaper pins or large safety pins

Gently used, clean items can be substituted for new ones. Wrap items in one of the receiving blankets and secure with diaper pins. Do not put in plastic bags. Sizes should be 3-6 to 24 months.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
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## *Star on the Hill 2024*

