



# Star on the Hill

The Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lanesboro, Minnesota

June 2025

## Contact us at:

200 Kenilworth Ave S.

P.O. Box 314

Lanesboro, MN 55949

507-467-3344

[bethlehem@acegroup.cc](mailto:bethlehem@acegroup.cc)

website:

[www.staronthehill.com](http://www.staronthehill.com)

Facebook: Bethlehem  
Lutheran Church, Lanesboro

## 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

## Financial Summary

Year to Date thru April 2025

Income: \$63,552

Expenses: \$55,229



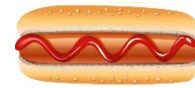
Volunteers needed to mow  
the church lawn during the  
month of June.

Andrew Pruett and his family  
will be on vacation during the  
month of June. They have  
been our primary lawn  
mowers. They deserve a  
vacation, and so it's our turn to  
mow the lawn. Thank you for  
your willingness to help!!



## Prayer for Fathers on Father's Day

Heavenly Father,  
you entrusted your Son  
Jesus, the child of Mary,  
to the care of Joseph, his  
foster father. Bless all  
fathers and grandfathers as  
they care for their families.  
Give them strength and  
wisdom, tenderness and  
patience, give them ability  
to love in a way that reflects  
your love. Support them in  
the work they have to do,  
protecting those who look to  
them, as we look to you for  
love and salvation. Help us  
to love them in a way that  
would bring honor to You  
and them. Bless and heal all  
those wounded by the  
imperfections of their  
fathers and grant an eternal  
rest to our fathers you have  
called from this life to  
yourself, through Jesus  
Christ Lord.  
Amen



Rhu-dog  
Stand  
June 7<sup>th</sup>

Bethlehem Church will sell  
hotdogs with rhubarb ketchup  
during the Rhubarb Festival  
Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> in Sylvan  
Park. Volunteers are still  
needed, please sign-up in  
the fellowship hall.  
Thank You!!



June 14  
July 12  
August 9  
September 13

## At 6:30 in the Park

Bethlehem Lutheran will be  
hosting **Campfire, S'mores,  
and Song** in the park. We will  
roast a few marshmallows and  
sing some of those songs you  
learned at Bible camp.  
We may even teach you a few  
new ones. Come with your  
lawn chair and be prepared to  
praise God in God's  
Cathedral. If there is rain, we  
will meet in the church, without  
the campfire.

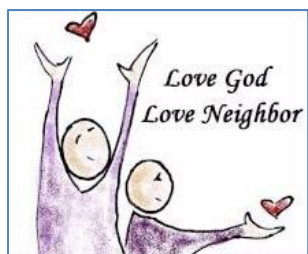


Tradition at Bethlehem is to  
have the congregation choose  
the music on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays  
of the month.

June 29<sup>th</sup> is the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
so bring your Hymn's.



Here are some thoughts from Rev. Cameron Trimble, from her almost-daily devotional called “Piloting Faith” (January 6, 2025). I thought it addressed some of the angst you may be feeling about the future. No matter what the future holds, God is already there waiting for us. No matter the ups and downs of our journey, Jesus has promised to be with us every step of the way. And when we are feeling like we just can’t, the Holy Spirit gives us the gifts we need so that we can. Whatever, wherever, whenever our call, it always includes loving God, Neighbor, and Self in any and every way we can. Together we can bring about a better world, church, family, etc. Happy Reading,  
Pastor Lisa



“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

In 2024, the United Nations introduced a *Pact for the Future*—a vision for a more just, sustainable, and peaceful world. It’s a reminder that what we do today shapes the lives of those who come after us. It reminds me of the words of Henry David Thoreau: “*The future is not something to be predicted, but a canvas to be painted with the colors of our present actions.*” The UN declaration is encouraging, but it left me wondering—what would my own *Pact for the Future* look like? And what about yours? Leadership isn’t just about feeling good about the future. It’s about making intentional choices that shape the world we dream of—choices grounded in faith, love, and justice. Theologian Reinhold Niebuhr reminds us, “*Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone. Therefore, we are saved by love.*” If we wish to be good ancestors, we owe it to ourselves and future generations to act in loving ways towards one another and the planet.

This is the vision I want to carry forward—a vision not just of personal success but of collective thriving driven by love. So here’s my *Pact for the Future*, a set of commitments I want to make to those who will come after us:

1. **I commit to protecting, preserving, and partnering with the planet.** I hope to leave the earth more beautiful, diverse, and sustainable than it is today.

2. **I commit to advocating for peace and equality, recognizing that all people are equally loved and valued children of God.** Everyone belongs.
3. **I commit to speaking up for democracy, justice, and the rule of law.** Power must serve the whole of the people, not just a privileged few.
4. **I commit to embracing and celebrating diversity.** Wisdom, compassion, and kindness emerge when we honor the voices, needs and stories of all living beings on the earth.
5. **I commit to caring for the poor and excluded.** I will use my resources and privilege to bring access, comfort and dignity to those who are left out and left behind.

But this isn’t just my list—it’s an invitation. What would your *Pact for the Future* say? What are the promises you are willing to make—not just for yourself, but for your grandchildren, your community, and those you may never meet?

The world we long for won’t build itself. It begins with ordinary people, in ordinary moments, making extraordinary commitments to love, protect, and serve. It starts with courage—courage to believe that hope is more than a wish; it’s a practice. And it’s a practice that builds a more just and generous world for all.

We are in this together,  
Cameron



**\*Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>**

**\*Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup>**

**\*Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>**



**\*Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>**

*First Reading: (NLT)*  
*Acts 16:16-34*

*Second Reading: (NLT)*  
*Revelation 22:12-14,*  
*16-17, 20-21*

Doors: Corky & Luther Olson

Ushers: Peter Ruen,  
Luther & Corky Olson

Reader: Peter Ruen

Altar Care & H/C:

Luther & Corky Olson

Refreshments:

Luther & Corky Olson

Peter Ruen (Help Serve)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday June 8<sup>th</sup>**

*First Reading: (NLT)*  
*Acts 2:1-21*

*Psalm: 104:24-34, 35b (NLT)*

*Second Reading: (NLT)*  
*Romans 8:14-17*

Doors: Pat & Chris Troendle

Ushers: Pat, Chris & Devin  
Troendle, Steve Erickson

Reader: Troendles

Altar Care: Jennifer Rogers

Refreshments: Bob & Phyllis  
Penheiter

**\*Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup>**

*First Reading: (NLT)*  
*Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31*

*Second Reading: (NLT)*  
*Romans 5:1-5*

Doors: Rick & Sharon  
Peterson

Ushers: Melissa & Kaylee  
Gilbertson, Rick & Sharon

Peterson

Reader: Melissa Gilbertson

Altar Care/HC:

Sharon & Rick Peterson

Refreshments: Melissa &  
Kaylee Gilbertson, Rick &  
Sharon Peterson

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>**

*First Reading: (NLT)*  
*Isaiah 65:1-9*

*Psalm 22:19-28 (NLT)*

*Second Reading: (NLT)*  
*Galatians 3:23-29*

Doors: Rogers Family

Ushers: Rogers Family, Jo  
Anna Pruett, Marilyn O'Rourke

Reader: Jennifer Rogers

Altar Care: Jennifer Rogers

Refreshments: Rogers,  
Pruetts

**\*Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>**

*First Reading: (NLT)*  
*1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21*

*Second Reading: (NLT)*  
*Galatians 5:1, 13-25*

Doors: Pruett

Ushers: Pruett Family, Marilyn  
O'Rourke

Reader: Andrew Pruett

Altar Care/HC: Pruett Family

Refreshments: Pruett Family

**Senior Dining Servers  
at Kenilworth Apartments**

June 6 : Phyllis Penheiter  
Denise Dahle

June 13 : Gwen Harmon  
Jennifer Wood

June 20 : Deane Benson

June 27 : Sue Holst  
Norine Ask

*You truly do bring light to  
those in need !!*

**July Service Group Please  
reach out to your Group  
Coordinators to sign up  
for a Sunday of Service.**

Members of the July service group are John & Denise Dahle, Eric & Shayla Gehrke, Vern & Diann Groen, Mike & Kristen Kelly, Tim & Julie Kiehne, Gary & Judy Kingsbury, Don Lukkason, Wayne & Margaret Lukkason, Chris Olson, Michael & Toni Olson, Erik & Laurie Overland, Janet Peterson, Charles Ruen, Don Ruen, Tim & Jody Ruen, Cory & Victoria Strom, Scott & Karla Strom.  
**Group leaders are Tim & Julie Kiehne, Tim & Jody Ruen.**



### Our Confirmands

**9th grade:** Preston Clarke, Kaylee Gilbertson, Trinity Hareldson, Isabelle Peterson, McKenna Peterson, Henry Semmen, Prailey Willford

**7-8th grade:** Lux Holst, Theodore Pruett, Oliver Hanson

### Those Living with Cancer

Diane Haugen, Tom Papenfuss, Carroll Gilbertson, Mavis Musselman, Nicole Dodge Cora Slominsky (niece of Matt & Stacy Schultz) Alex Hall

### Those Recovering From Illness or Surgery

Caleb Hareldson  
Chuck Smith

### Those Living in Care Centers

Jerry Johnson at River Bend Assisted Living, Rochester  
Sandy Dybing at Birchwood Cottages, North Mankato  
Lois Gilbertson, Marlin & Ardella Miner at Chosen Valley Assisted Living, Chatfield

### Hospice Care at Home

Katie Ruen  
Edward Ruen (Husband and caretaker)  
4015 N Stowell Ave  
Shorewood WI, 53211

### 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**



Bodhi Stellan Swygman will be welcomed into the family of God through the sacrament of Holy Baptism on June 8th. Bodhi is the Son of Jason & Kendra Swygman. His godparents are Ben Norby, Lux Holst, Lexi & Jared Burt.

### "The OTHER Serenity Prayer"

God, grant me the **serenity** to stop beating myself up for not doing things perfectly, the **courage** to forgive myself because I am working on doing better, and the **wisdom** to know that you already love me just the way I am. Amen.

~ Eleanor Brown



**September 21  
10 a.m.  
Church by the River**

We've had Church on the Farm for many years. This year we will have Church by the River. Gene and Renee Bergstrom have graciously invited us to hold our annual outdoor service at their home beside the Root River. We will have a worship service at 10 a.m. with a potluck to follow. Bring your own chair, hat, sunglasses, etc. If you have a lawn game, bring that too. Watch for more details as the time comes closer.



## WELCA activities this month

No WELCA Quilting until  
September

NO WELCA Bible study  
until September



Anyone interested in taking part in the **knitting ministry** may contact Sue Holst at 507 676-3239 or Jacque Crutcher at 507 259-2453.



**WELCA Quilting** will not meet June-thru August and will resume in September. Anyone interested in joining the quilting ministry may contact Elve Albrecht at 507 467-2910 or Phyllis Penheiter at 507-272-8643.



### Pastoral Letter from Bishop Eaton on the Election of Pope Leo XIV May 8, 2025

Dear church,  
We of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America join with people around the world in praying for the ministry of Pope Leo XIV. We rejoice with the people of the Roman Catholic Church, especially those in our communities, as they joyfully receive their new shepherd.

Today we witnessed the historic election of the first Augustinian and the first U.S.-born pope — only the second to come from the Americas. Thus we share with him both context and theological roots (Martin Luther was also an Augustinian). We pray that this will provide us, as Catholics and as Lutherans, with an opportunity to strengthen our visible unity in Christ through dialogue and cooperation for the life of the world.

In his first appearance on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, the new pope extended the blessing of Pope Francis, saying: "God loves us, all of us, evil will not prevail. We are all in the hands of God. Without fear, united, hand in hand with God and among ourselves, we will go forward. We are disciples of Christ, Christ goes before us, and the world needs His light. Humanity needs Him like a bridge to reach God and His love. You help us to build bridges with dialogue and encounter so we can all be one people always in peace."

We pray that the Holy Spirit will sustain Pope Leo XIV for the ministry to which he has been called, and will strengthen us all in our vocations as bridge-builders and as witnesses to God's love for all people and creation.

In Christ,  
Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America



## **MINUTES**

**Wednesday, May 14, 2025**

### **Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Lanesboro, MN Congregation Council Meeting**

Members present: Nate Boyum, Tom Holst, Pastor Lisa Shank, Tom Brudvig, Brett Clarke, Andrew Pruett, JoAnna Pruett

Absent: Mark Ruen, Carrie Hanson

Others present: Dean Benson

Established Quorum

Call to Order by Tom Brudvig 6:08 pm

Opening Prayer/Devotion – Pastor Lisa read about loving even when difficult. Discussion followed.

#### **Custodial Update: Dean Benson**

Plowing of Alley/Road – Dean mentioned, church should have been plowed per City Clerk. The plow should be plowing the discolored area from the condo down. The church will have the rest plowed by hired man. Dean will talk to city about them plowing the top part as well since driving over currently.

Pump Room Key – Talked to Roger in Decorah who said it would be best to re-key. Plan to get all locks the same with office being separate. Will get a quote.

Narthex baseboard heaters overheating – currently breaker is off, will talk to Vis Plumbing to fix.

Roof – gutters installed - \$1750 paid, corner patched to stop leak. Peg board along ceiling taken down in kitchen to inspect. May need replaced as brittle.

Plunkett's pest control – no pesticide contract currently, rodent contract only. If decide to move forward with a pesticide contract for Asian beetles and boxelder bugs - \$270/year.

Yard Mowing – No Mow May for pollinators to be put in bulletin and mentioned in church. Will put a sign-up sheet out for mowing in June due to Pruett's being out of town.

Perennial Garden – between church and condo, and on hill due to difficulty mowing.

Steps – will contact a mason to see about fixing.

Approval of Agenda and Reports as presented – Brett moved, and Nate 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion approved.

- a) Secretary's Report
- b) Treasurer's Report
- c) Pastoral Report
- d) Council Committee Reports
  - i. Worship and Music – 5/13 met-discussed church in park, fire rings and smores, 3 Saturdays this summer-6/14, 7/12, 8/9 @1830, Church on the farm/river-Gene and Rennee Bergstrom to host with the church as a backup if poor weather.

- ii. Education – confirmation schedule
- iii. Youth
- iv. Stewardship and Finance
- v. Property
- vi. Endowment
- vii. Personnel
- viii. WELCA update

### **Old Business**

- a) Screen/roof fund/other ideas for gifts to church – How to spend \$? \$1800. Sound system, screen?  
-no decision made
- b) Call Process Update – mock interview successful
- c) Constitution Update – complete and ready for Synod – Nate and Tom B reviewed and Rhonda sent to the Synod.
- d) Copier issue – yes or no? Loffler color printer – 5yr lease 239/mo, 4yr lease 280/mo, 3yr lease 324/mo – all have a 5000-copy limit. Voted to not go with lease and go with buying a replacement printer. Rhonda can use her discretion to buy an appropriate color printer for around \$650 or less.

Approval of Old Business as presented – Tom B. moved, and Nate 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion approved.

### **New Business**

- a) Buffalo Bill days working group – Sunday 2-6 beer and brat tent. Brett and Tom B. can help. Nate, Andrew and JoAnna unable to help. Check with members not present.
- b) Leaking Roof issue – fixed or not?
- c) Furnace room door – new lock?
- d) Closing not on Minutes: “published but not approved” or wait till approved to publish. Secretaries will add.
- e) Hwy clean – renew or not? Renew 2-year contract will be due for renewal 1/2026.
- f) Narthex chairs – re-upholster or not? Can they be cleaned? Will try to clean – Andrew and JoAnna will try their “Green Machine” cleaner
- g) Ceiling repair in kitchen – in Deans report
- h) Sound system training – Who and when – should be soon?
- i) Index cards in pews with pencils? Tom B’s idea so congregation can write notes. Lisa and Rhonda will get notecards, Andrew and JoAnna will provide pens and pencils.
- j) Rhubarb Fest participation – Rhudog – Nate, Tom H and Sue H; tasting venue? Rhubarb fest on June 7. Sara Pieper will make the ketchup, Lisa will get star cookies, Nate will bring a grill, Sue will get hotdogs and buns.
- k) Council Growth, Development and Work Session
- l) Works of Appreciation – Who can we recognize this month for their faithful service to our church community? Recognize Dean as he went above and beyond for funeral per Jennifer Kimble Olson – set up tables etc.

Approval of New Business as presented - Tom B. moved, and Andrew 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion approved.

Adjournment - Brett moved, and Andrew 2<sup>nd</sup>, approved  
Closing Prayer with the Lord’s Prayer

**Submitted by: JoAnna Pruett - “published but not approved”**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 314  
Lanesboro, MN 55949-0314

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
STD MAIL  
US POSTAGE PAID  
LANESBORO, MN  
PERMIT NO. 16

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# *Star on the Hill*



## 2025