



# Star on the Hill

The Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lanesboro, Minnesota

August 2026

## 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 Heidi Wallace

402-870-1972

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

## Watch our worship on Facebook Sunday mornings at 10:00 am

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lanesboro

## Financial Summary

Year to Date thru June 2026

**Income: \$90,361**

**Expenses: \$88,882**



## Buffalo Bill Days

July 31<sup>st</sup> - Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>

Come Join the Fun in the Park.



August 23<sup>rd</sup> 10:00 Am

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Presents **Cowboy Worship** at Sylvan Park Featuring the Arnold Bradley Band and the Bethlehem Lutheran Praise Band.



This will be followed by a potluck meal. All are welcome. For More information contact Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 507-467-3344, email [bethlehem@acegroup.cc](mailto:bethlehem@acegroup.cc) website [www.staronthehill.com](http://www.staronthehill.com) or on our Facebook page.

\*In case of rain will be held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.



Young artists from the STRINGWOOD CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL in Lanesboro will perform string quartets for the Prelude and Offertory at Bethlehem during the 10:00 am Service, Sunday, August 16th.

For more young artist concert information, visit <http://www.stringwood.com/youngartists-concerts>. All events are Free.



August 30, 2026 is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday. That means you get to be in charge of picking the music for our church service.

If there is a song we haven't sung for a while, now is your opportunity. If it is in our hymnals in the pews, we can do it.

Maybe we can even stump the musician – doubt it, but we can certainly try!



From Independence Day to Labor Day there are no federal holidays, leaving August void. In stores, they fill the void – and the shelves – with everything fall, even though the autumnal equinox will not occur until September 22.

So, what are we to do with the month of August? Do we move celebrations that rightfully belong in other months into it? Do we adopt celebrations? Do we make up celebrations?

There are 31 days and even more ways to celebrate:

We might celebrate them collectively. August is, according to [nationaldaycalendar.com](http://nationaldaycalendar.com), National Wellness Month, National Dog Month, National Back to School Month, International Peace Month, Happiness Happens Month, and many more. In recognition of August being National Sandwich Month, I invite all of you to set up a lunch or supper with me any day to go to a local restaurant for a sandwich on me. (Just no peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for me!) See the clipboard in either sanctuary to check for availability. Let's celebrate getting to know each other better.

Using that same calendar, we might find a single day that resonates with us. Some of these even include obvious ways of celebrating. August 7 is National Water Balloon Day. Fill balloons and either avoid or enjoy the splash. August 9 is National Book Lovers Day. Cozy up with a favorite book or a new find. August 25 is National Secondhand Wardrobe Day. Go thrifting or host a clothing swap with friends. At BLC and FLC, be sure to pick up a frozen treat on August 2, National Ice Cream Sandwich Day.

We might make up our own celebrations, like having a Cowboy Service at Sylvan Park on August 23 at 10 a.m. It is a day to celebrate worshiping together and making such a joyful noise that we hopefully attract neighbors who want to join us for praise and potluck.

Whatever, whenever, however we celebrate in this month, let us remember that the only reason we need for celebration is that God has given us that day. That's it. Any day, every day, we can awaken and remember:

**This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Psalm 118:24 (NRSVUE)

Anything we choose to do on that day can be and should be in celebration that God has gifted us another 24 hours in which to live fully and abundantly.

So, may August be 31 days of celebration of anything and everything. Everything God has created and contributed to our fullness. Be glad. Be joyful. Be you!

Grace and peace,

*Pastor Heidi*



**\*Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**\*Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup>**

**\*Sunday August 30<sup>th</sup>**



**\*Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

(Pentecost 10-Green)

*First Reading: (NLT)*

**Isaiah 55:1-5**

*Second Reading: (NLT)*

**Romans 9:1-5**

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Doors: Vern Groen

Ushers: Vern Groen

Mike & Krissy Kelly

Reader: Tim Kiehne

\*Altar Care/HC: Tim & Julie  
Kiehne

Refreshments: Tim & Julie  
Kiehne, Chris Olson, Mike &  
Krissy Kelly

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**Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>**

(Pentecost 11-Green)

*First Reading: (NLT)*

**1 Kings 19:9-18**

***Psalm 85: 8-13 (NLT)***

*Second Reading: (NLT)*

**Romans 10:5-15**

**August 9<sup>th</sup> continued**

Doors:

Ushers: Gary & Judy

Kingsbury, John & Denise

Dahle

Reader: **\*\*Needed**

Altar Care: Jody & Lynsey

Ruen

Refreshments: John & Denise

Dahle

**\*Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup>**

(Pentecost 12-Green)

*First Reading: (NLT)*

**Isaiah 56:1,6-8**

*Second Reading: (NLT)*

**Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32**

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Doors: Tim Ruen

Ushers: Tim & Jody Ruen,  
Charles Ruen, Luther & Corky  
Olson

Reader: **\*\*Needed**

\*Altar Care/HC: Tim & Jody  
Ruen

Refreshments: Tim & Jody  
Ruen, Donnie Ruen &  
Charles Ruen

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**Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>**

(Pentecost 13-Green)

**10:00 AM Cowboy Church**

**Service at Sylvan Park.**

**Potluck to follow**

**Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>**

(Pentecost 14-Green)

*First Reading: (NLT)*

**Jeremiah 15:15-21**

***Psalm:26:1-8 (NLT)***

*Second Reading: (NLT)*

**Romans 12:9-21**

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Doors: Wayne Lukkason

Ushers: Laurie & Erik  
Overland

Reader: **\*\*Needed**

\*Altar Care: **\*\*Needed**

Refreshments: Wayne &  
Margaret Lukkason, Laurie &  
Erik Overland

## **September Service Group**

Nate & Sharon Boyum, Tom  
Brudvig & Pam Engebretson,  
Jeff & Carrie Hanson,  
Chris & Anna Hanson,  
Corey & Michelle Hanson,  
Winston & Christine Howerton,  
Mike & Kelly Lawstuen,  
Jim Melander,  
Marlin & Ardella Miner,  
Luther & Corky Olson,  
Trent & Tracy Olson,  
Duane Peterson,  
Jon & Sarah Pieper,  
Ben & Darla Taylor,  
James & Stephanie Waldow,  
Jon & Barb Willford,  
Mike & Laura Willford.

**Corky & Luther Olson are  
the September group  
coordinators.**

**Senior Dining Servers  
at Kenilworth Apartments**

**August 7<sup>th</sup>** : Phyllis  
Penheiter, Denise Dahle

**August 14<sup>th</sup>** : Judy Kingsbury  
& Gwen Harmon

**August 21<sup>st</sup>** : Kathryn Wade  
& Gwen Harmon

**August 28<sup>th</sup>** : Deane Benson  
& Jennifer Wood



### **Our Confirmands**

Lux Holst, Theodore Pruett,  
Oliver Hanson

Knox Holst, Bristol Clarke

Arya Meyer, Rylan Meyer,  
Arianna Himli

### **Those Living with Cancer**

Kent Lawston

Diane Haugen,  
Carroll Gilbertson,  
Mavis Musselman,  
Cora Slominsky  
(niece of Matt & Stacy Schultz)  
Alex Hall  
Nancy Hall

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

Jerry Johnson at Mn Veterans  
Home, Preston MN

Sandy Dybing at Birchwood  
Cottages, North Mankato

Lois Gilbertson,  
Marlin & Ardella Miner  
at Chosen Valley Assisted  
Living, Chatfield

Don Lukkason at Chosen  
Valley Care Center, Chatfield

Vern Riddle at Gunderson  
Harmony Care Center

Fred Nagle at Stewartville  
Care Center

Linda Peterson at  
Spring Valley Care Center

### **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

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

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



To the Family of  
Lois Peterson Who passed  
away July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

A Celebration of Life will be  
held on Sept 6<sup>th</sup> at the Sons  
of Norway Hall.

To Kate Glor On the  
passing of her  
Brother-In-Law  
Tom Papenfuss

**Please keep them All  
in your Prayers!**



## **WELCA August activities**

No WELCA Quilting in Aug.

The Quilters will meet again in  
the fellowship hall starting on  
September 2nd. A WELCA  
business meeting will follow  
at 11:30. All are welcome.

\*\*\*\*\*

No WELCA Bible study  
For August

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

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



Anyone  
interested  
in joining  
the **quilting ministry** may  
contact Elve Albrecht at  
507 467-2910 or  
Phyllis Penheiter at  
507-272-8643.

## **MINUTES**

**Sunday, July 12, 2026**

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Lanesboro, MN**

### **Congregation Council Meeting**

Members present: Pastor Heidi, Walter Bradley, Tom Brudvig, Jessica Hanson, Chris Troendle, Hollie Clarke, JoAnna Pruett, Carrie Hanson

Absent: Tom Holst, Taylor Hanson

Established Quorum

- 1) Call to Order by Hollie Clarke at 1100.
- 2) Opening Prayer/Devotion – Pastor Heidi
- 3) Additions to agenda & approval of agenda – none
  - a. Secretary’s Report-JoAnna Pruett submitted.
  - b. Treasurer’s Report-submitted, reviewed.
  - c. Pastoral Report-August 23 Community Service-4 weeks of special events following. Acting in A Wrinkle in Time along with Kay Wold.
  - d. Council Committee Reports
    - i. Music & Worship – Park reserved for 8/23. Arnold Bradley Band played for the Cowboy Service. Rhonda Service.
    - ii. Education – Hollie plans to clean out the supplies. Plan to have a Sunday School Kick off the weekend after Labor Day.
    - iii. Youth – on break for the summer.
    - iv. Stewardship and Finance – Chris Troendle gave updates on potential software for the churches finances and payroll. Church Windows, Shepherds Staff, Breeze, Tidly, Church Track, Realm, and Quickbooks. Costs vary with addons to give us all we need. Cost: Up to around \$700/year. Discussion followed.
    - v. Property – no updates.
    - vi. Endowment – Updates from Walter. \$66,000 in Endowment fund. \$20,277 distributed. Total: \$86,277. Recommendation made to move 10% into an aggressive risk fund. A motion was made to go with the recommendation by Hollie Clarke, Jessica Hanson 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - vii. WELCA - no updates.
- 4) Consent Agenda – Motion to approve the reports – Approved as presented by Jessica Hanson, Tom Brudvig 2<sup>nd</sup>.

5) Old Business

- a. Ed's gift certificate update – Hollie Clarke to get to Ed.
- b. Vitality initiative update – Heidi to send out this week.
- c. Rhonda's replacement
  - i. Ad in paper – done
  - ii. Sue Holst's application – plan to review along with others received.
  - iii. Potluck – still need volunteers for cleanup.
  - iv. Gift for Rhonda – laser engraved cutting board plaque. Hollie to pick up a Visa gift card. Motion made for membership to cover the cost – Jessica Hanson, with Walter Bradley 2<sup>nd</sup>.

6) New Business

- a. Cowboy service on August 23: Plan to hold at 1000 at Sylvan Park. Potluck after. Poster's will be created and hung around town to advertise. Andrew Pruett will grill meat in the park.
  - b. Snow Removal – Compare bid received this past winter with new service-Kaden Stettler. JoAnna Pruett will call and get pricing.
- 7) Words of Appreciation – Celebration for Rhonda on 7/19. Money donated to BWCA in honor of Tom Holst's father.
- 8) Adjournment - Motion to adjourn by Walter Bradley with Tom Brudvig 2<sup>nd</sup>, approved.
- 9) Closing Prayer – with the Lord's Prayer

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



### **ELCA 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 may be brought to the church any time **on or before September 13<sup>th</sup>** 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 Spiral 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

New items only. Wrap items in one of the receiving blankets and secure with diaper pins.

Do not put in plastic bags. Sizes should be 6 to 24 month.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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## *Star on the Hill*



2026