

PASTOR'S PAGE

“Summertime, when the livin’ is easy.”

From the Musical, Porgy and Bess

Summer feels like it has officially begun with the heat after Memorial Day! We are settling into a pattern of quieter times, school is out, people are ready to head to the lake for the weekends, every day is a slower pace. We take time to sit outside, to relax, to talk to friends and neighbors. We eat differently, not so much heavy food, we look for excuses to have ice cream and fresh berries!

Summer is a more laid back time, we travel, we take a break from our regular routines and take care of projects around the house, like painting or mowing or tree removal, things that we have talked about over the winter. There are always things to be done, but it seems in summer, we slow down and appreciate the wonders around us, we watch the skies for storms or meteor showers, we keep an eye on the lakes and the fish we long to catch. We hike new trails, we bike new places, we enjoy the summer and all that it provides for us.

Summer is not that easy at church, though. We continue to fall behind our budget. We continue to think about how we can shore up the resources we have. We have some plans for making things come together, but they are slow in the process. We take time to think about what our priorities are in this place.

One of our priorities are the people of this congregation. You are a valuable resource! We are beginning a new program called Shepherding. There is more about this later in the newsletter, but we hope to build relationships among ourselves, in order to build a stronger congregation. So don't be surprised if you get a text or phone call from one of our shepherds in the coming couple of months. All of you have been assigned a shepherd, a contact person from the church, that you can share your concerns with, share your stories, ask questions, etc.

We hope that this begins the process of making us a stronger, more connected congregation – even when we are traveling or enjoying a slower summer pace. Enjoy the easier pace, but remember that we are always open on Sunday mornings for worship!

Summer Blessings,

Pastor Lori

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The Southwestern Minnesota Synod will be meeting in Assembly at Gustavus on June 5-6. We are thankful for Deb Warner and Pastor Lori for representing us at this event. They will be attending virtually. There will be a Bible Study on faith, taking inherited beliefs and getting to the core values of love, justice and authenticity. There also will be conversation around Coaching and helping congregations grow in understanding grief & loss, stewardship, spiritual disciplines, mission development and congregational vitality. Pastor Lori will also be recognized for 40 years in pastoral ministry. Please hold the Assembly in your prayers the first weekend of June.

FRIENDSHIP DAYS

June 12-14 will be Friendship Days in Hills. We will not have worship at Bethlehem on the 14th. We encourage you to go to the Community service in the park. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy outdoor worship that day. The parade will be on Saturday and we will be represented in the parade by the youth bus and advertising for Vacation Bible School. Talk to Megan DeJong for more information about the parade! The Education Committee is providing treats at the Sunday Service, so stop by and make a donation for a sweet treat at the service.

WOMEN'S GATHERING

The women of the congregation are invited to join in a potluck lunch on June 18, at 12:30pm. We will share in lunch and talk about a favorite book we have read or movie we have seen. Any type of book is welcome, any type of movie is great! We all read different things and this is a fun way to find new authors/ideas of things to read or movies to watch. Everyone is welcome. Last month we had 9 who gathered at Chud's and 6 who headed to Knoblach's green house afterward. This is mostly about fellowship and fun, plan to join us if you are available!

SHEPHERDING

Everyone who is listed in the directory has been assigned a shepherd. There are seven groups, divided alphabetically. You should expect a phone call, text or email from your shepherd in the near future. You may get a birthday card, or just an acknowledgement that they are praying for you and your family. They are not doing anything other than inviting you to participate in the life of the congregation and show care for you. We see this as a way to touch base with all of you, care for you and build a stronger, caring congregation. Our deacons and two others are leading the shepherding groups. Please keep this congregation in your prayers as we begin to sprout new roots and build connections together!

COMMUNION SUNDAYS

We continue to look for volunteers to help with Holy Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. We will have two stations of bread, Pastor Lori and a deacon for Communion Sundays. We are looking for people willing to hold trays of wine. Please sign up to help. Anyone of any age can help with this. See the sign up list on the elevator door. We always have grape juice in the center of the trays.

Also, we know that some of you cannot make it to worship with us. We are offering you a chance to receive communion with us on Communion Sundays. If you would like to receive a pre-filled wine/wafer cup for communion, please let the office or a deacon know and we will get them to you, or you can pick up the cups from the office. If you live outside the area, we suggest you make sure you have your own bread/wine/grape juice available at the time of communion and join us as we celebrate. If you would like pre-filled cups, we will send them to you for a donation. Questions, please talk to a Deacon.

OUTREACH BOARD

Thank you to Ethan Rozeboom and Dan Ellingson who have stepped up to represent us in our community. Ethan is playing a role in Friendship Days and Dan is our connection to Beaver Days. We continue to look for people who want to connect more in our community. If you have a heart for this, or would like to know more about this, please talk to Pastor Lori or a member of the Church Council. You wouldn't have to meet like the other boards, but maybe give us updates a couple times a year.

BUILDING UPDATES:

Just a reminder if you host an event in the basement, please check out the list of things to do before you leave the basement, particularly in the kitchen. Some of them are common sense, like wiping off the counters, but some are reminders so that things will be clean for the next use. Thanks!

GENERATIONS MEAL

Bethlehem has agreed to host a half price meal once a month at Generations this year. Our day in June is the 24th, the meal features Pork roast, pork gravy, candied yams, green beans, wheat bread, vanilla pudding with topping and milk. The meal is open to anyone. Please call for reservations at least one day ahead. Call Pam at 507-283-9846 to enjoy a meal. The cost to us is about \$100 each time we host this meal. If you would like to help defray this cost, please make a donation through the offering, designated for the meal site. Thank you!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

It takes many hands to keep our worship services, church activities, and grounds running smoothly. We know summer is a busy time, and we are looking for ushers for July, August, and September. If you prefer not to commit to a full month, that is perfectly fine—just sign up for the week or weeks that work for you on the bulletin board sign-up sheet. We also need one or more people to mow in July. If a full-month commitment does not work for you, please sign up for the weeks you are available. We are always looking for lay readers and communion helpers, and we welcome anyone interested in learning to run PowerPoint.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

+ Doug Chapman has good news to report! He underwent a PET scan with clear results! He has two more treatments to go. Please continue to keep him in your prayers.

+ Peggy Goetsch is slowly feeling better. She is often very tired and tires easily. Please keep her in your prayers.

+ Holly Metzler has an infection in her leg after surgery and could use our prayers for healing.

+ Marilyn Jellema, one of our quilters, has been diagnosed and had surgery for a brain tumor. Please hold her in your prayers as she goes through chemo and radiation.

+ Thanks to all who donated things for Nursing Home week at Tuff. The cake was beautiful and tasty (so we hear!), and the gift bags were a fun thing for all the residents. Many thanks to the church office for putting together the bags!

+ Thanks to the Education Committee for providing lunch after worship on May 3. Lots of good food and fellowship was enjoyed by all who attended!

+ Thank You to all the women who come and quilt on Wednesday mornings at Bethlehem. They bring their energy, the laughter and fellowship, as well as making a few quilts along the way! We displayed quilts in May to help sell them and they will continue to make quilts throughout the summer months. If you know of a deserving organization that might need quilts, please let Jan Solberg or Peggy Goetsch know.

+ Congratulations to Stephanie Bass, she was recognized as HBC teacher of the year!

+ Congratulations to all the 2026 graduates of Hills Beaver Creek high school and universities that were attended!

+ Congratulations to the recipients of the Edyth Briggs Scholarship: Jayden Kueter, Hadley Spath and Rebecca Spykerboer. Hadley also received the Bethlehem Lutheran Scholarship.

+ Local Causes that could use your donations: Project Love, Tuff Home, Food Shelf and HBC care closet—all have special collection boxes in the narthex. Take a moment and see what they

might need and bring in a donation. It doesn't only have to be at holiday time!

+ Just a Word: If you are hospitalized, it is helpful if you let the church office know, or have a family member contact us. We want to care for you, but we cannot do that if we do not know what is happening. Thanks for communicating!

+ Remember to recycle your bulletins on Sunday mornings. We also recycle bottles and cans, so if you are drinking water or soda, please recycle those items. This applies to the basement as well as the main floor!

FROM THE BOARDS

Trustees – Looking at Stewardship program for the fall.

Deacons – Beginning the work of shepherding

Education – Participation in Friendship Days & Parade, VBS plans beginning.

FINANCIAL STATISTICS

Income:	April 2026: \$9,229.96	YTD: \$37,944.63
Expenses:	April 2026: \$15,386.22	YTD: \$65,286.04
	-6156.26	YTD: -27,341.41



Thank you for all your gifts to Bethlehem. As you can tell, the outgo is larger than the income! Please consider how you might help us meet our bills throughout the summer. If it's a donation of \$20 or \$200, anything is welcome and will help! Watch for a special giving event in July! You can make a difference by giving!

LOOKING AHEAD

Kids Storytime in Hills at 10:30 am on June 3 and 17, July 1 and 15.

Vacation Bible School is July 19-24, with the program on the 25th. We are hoping to do a BBQ in connection with the end of VBS. (Planning still in progress)

We are hoping to do an outdoor service this summer, maybe the end of July or in August. Watch the newsletter for more information. Bring your dog to church with you – if they are friendly to humans and other dogs!

Beaver Days are August 7-9.

SUMMER WORD SEARCH

J A N B A R B E C U E F R V E
G U P I S H E Y T S R P U A A
I R L W U F A M I L Y O P C D
S C R Y M N C U E I U H C A E
P L E X M O H S G S H O R T S
R S L C E R F U N U E T S I U
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V E U R I O L O G Y I P E I E
G N W T S O H Z A S C O S D S
N C E A F L I P F L O P S E D

AUGUST	ICE POP	SHORTS
BARBECUE	JULY	SPRINKLER
BEACH	JUNE	SUMMER
FAMILY	OCEAN	SUNGLASSES
FLIPFLOPS	PICNIC	SUNSCREEN
FUN	POOL	SUNSHINE
HOT	RELAX	SWIMMING
ICE CREAM	SEASIDE	VACATION



BETHELHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER—June 2026 edition



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JUNE 2026

Ushers: Brandon & Jenna Boeve, Brianna Leuthold, Raylan & Boyd

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 2 PM – Bible Study at Tuff	3 9 AM- Quilting	4	5	6
7 9 AM – Tuff Service w/ communion 10 AM – BLC Service w/ communion	8	9 2 PM – Bible Study at Tuff	10 9 AM- Quilting	11	12	13 Hills Friendship Day FFA breakfast 7-9 Parade 10:30
14 9:30 AM - Friendship Day Service at the Park	15	16 2 PM – Bible Study at Tuff	17 9 AM- Quilting	18 12:30 PM – Women’s Gathering – bring a salad/snack and book to share	19	20
21 9 AM – Tuff Service 10 AM – BLC Service w/ communion	22	23	24 9 AM- Quilting	25	26	27
		PASTOR LORI ON VACATION UNTIL JULY 8TH				
28 9 AM – Tuff Service 10 AM – BLC Service Larry Wendland leading service	29	30				
PASTOR LORI ON VACATION UNTIL JULY 8TH						



JUNE 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Skylar Steensma	2	3	4	5	6 Kari & Jim Kueter (1998)
7	8	9	10 Lois Boeve	11 Jesse Gaugler Tara Paulsen Pam & Spencer Sells (1983)	12 Samantha McGaffee	13 Henzley Rozeboom
14 Eldon Soehl (86)	15 Judy Top (77) Shirley & Pucky Sandager (1974)	16 Deb Warner	17	18 Steve Paulsen	19 Charlie Sandager (76) Bonnie & Orv Sundem (1964) Ashley & Tony Wertish (2021)	20
21	22	23	24	25 Harlow Bass Dean Greenfield (88)	26	27 Michele & George Brandenburg (2009)
28 Brenda & Randy Beyer (1997)	29 Glenda Warner (79)	30 Doug Chapman (73)				

****Please notify the office of any errors so the records can be updated. Thank you.**