

The Star

Bethlehem and St. Mark Together in Service

Volume 24, Issue 8

August

2026

BWELCA HiLites

BWELCA will again be gathering items for school kits. These help children – and in some cases, adults – continue learning despite the hardships they face.

UPDATED Items Needed Kits:

- ✓ 70 sheet notebooks (wide or college ruled paper, approx 8X10 ½ inches)
- ✓ Unsharpened pencils
- ✓ ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- ✓ pink erasers

DVIP Needs List – There will be a table set up in the basement.

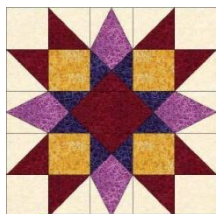
- ❖ Underwear/NEW ONLY – all sizes and all genders (adult and youth)
- ❖ Sunscreen
- ❖ Bug spray
- ❖ Gatorade
- ❖ Youth swimsuits/NEW ONLY – for summer youth field trips
- ❖ Gift cards (\$10-\$15) to any area gas stations or grocery stores, i.e., Kwik Star, Caseys or Hy-Vee

Rally Sunday

Join us on Sunday, August 23 for Joint worship and “Rally Day” to kick off the start of our children’s/youth ministry season. There will be special things that day to celebrate. Help us to make our youth of the congregation special.



Quilt Square Kits Assembles



The basement will be filled with amazing quilt squares that they have been cutting out all year. Anyone interested in helping to assemble the square kits to be sewn together before the

Community Quilters start in January, may join the quilting crew the week of August 24.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

BLC

- 8 Tom Gerdes
- 10 Jerry Kapinski
- 13 Ellen Pithan
- 25 Jone Paarmann
- 31 Xera Tubbs



Anniversaries

- 11 Brent and Jessica Willimack

St. Mark

- 1 Victor Algarin
- 5 Dena Jensen
- 8 Mamie Wiese
- 9 Alivia Buresh, Marshall Shedeck
- 11 Martha Carter
- 13 Trace Jensen
- 16 Penny Vacek
- 27 Ginger Anderson-Larson
- 31 Jean Drendel, Diane Petersen



Anniversaries

- 3 Rob and Pam White
- 23 Jeff and Penny Vacek

Attention 6th, 7th, and 8th graders

For youth entering 6, 7 or 8th grade who have not attended confirmation classes, they will begin in September. If you have a youth that age or know of someone who may be interested, please let Pastor Roberta know. You can call or text her at 406-478-9518 or see her at church. Day and time for classes will be determined once we find out who will be attending.

BLC Council News

In business: discussion on leaks in basement, voted to pay ½ of the cleaning bill, voted to update church’s profile with compensation numbers to meet Synod’s guidelines. Treasure’s Report: Checking Account:

Balance 5/01/26	\$ 9,117.57
Income	7,089.38
Expenses	10,191.30
Balance 5/31/26	\$ 6,015.65

Shepherding Thoughts

Jesus called for them and said, "Let the children come to me and do not stop them for it is such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."

We at Bethlehem and St. Mark take those words from Jesus seriously. We know how important it is to welcome children to worship and to encourage them to continue to grow in their faith. If we don't have young people in the church who will continue to spread the good news of Jesus Christ once we no longer are here. Jesus understood this and so do we.

We have a special Sunday planned to celebrate the children and youth of St. Mark and Bethlehem. On August 23, our combined service will be for the young people of our congregation. We will have fun music, and skits will replace the sermon. Following worship during the fellowship time we will have games and other fun activities for them. We hope everyone will come to show their support of the ones who will someday be the leaders of the church.

If you know children and youth who do not regularly attend worship, please invite them for this special day. They do not need to be a member of either church. We want this to be for everyone. This is a fun way to introduce people to our faith community. If you have not attended worship for a while this would be a great Sunday to come back. Although this is geared toward the younger people, I guarantee everyone will have a great time.

Let's make August 23 a day to celebrate, not only the young people and youth of our congregation, but all the people who make St. Mark and Bethlehem vibrant worshipping communities. Come to Bethlehem for the 9:00 a.m. service and prepare to have fun.

See you in worship!
Pastor Roberta

Worship Assistants Bethlehem

Ushers: Brent Ihns

Lectors:

- 2- Tim Thiede
- 9- Joint at St. Mark
- 16- Connie Kleppe
- 23- Johann Ihns
- 30- Henry Ihns

Acolytes:

- 2- *volunteer*
- 9- Joint at St. Mark
- 16- Johann Ihns
- 23- *volunteer*
- 30- Elsa Sullivan



Communion Assistant:

Tom Gerdes

Bread Maker:

Connie Kleppe

Altar Care:

Shelley Beeck, Haley Sullivan

Worship Assistants St. Mark

Lector:

- 2- Brenda Vacek
- 9- Lori Petersen
- 16- *volunteer*
- 23- Joint at Bethlehem
- 30- *volunteer*

Acolyte:

- volunteer*
- Hayden Petersen
- volunteer*
- volunteer*

Imagine More



That is the theme for the ELCA National Youth Gathering that will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota June 28 – July 2, 2027. This gathering is for youth entering 8-12 grade in the fall of 2026. This may seem like a long way off, but registration opens in October. This is a fantastic event

and I hope we have some youth who would like to attend. Please give this some prayerful thought and call or text Pastor Roberta at 406-478-9518 or see her at church to let her know you are interested. She is also available to answer any questions you may have. A deposit of \$150 is due at registration. The rest of the costs will be paid for through fundraisers and money the church has available for this event. Let's get a group together and go have some faith-filled fun!

Teller: Brent Ihns

Coffee Makers:

- 2- Diana Ihns
- 9- Joint at St. Mark
- 16- Joan Kleppe
- 23- Jone Paarmann
- 30- Kathy Becker



August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Holy Communion LN 9 AM Fellowship 9:45 AM St. Mark 10:30 AM	3	4	5	6 Pastors Office Hrs 11 AM- 2 PM	7	8
9 Joint Worship at St Mark in OJ 9 AM Fellowship 9:45 AM	10	11	12	13 Pastors Office Hrs 11 AM- 2 PM	14	15
16 Council BLC 8 AM St. Mark 11:15 AM Holy Communion BLC 9 AM Fellowship 9:45 AM St. Mark 10:30 AM	17 Newsletter Items Due	18	19	20 Pastors Office Hrs 11 AM- 2 PM	21	22
23 Joint Worship at BLC Rally Sunday 9 AM Fellowship 9:45 AM	24 Put Quilt Square Kits Together	25	26	27 Pastors Office Hrs 11 AM- 2 PM	28	29
30 Worship BLC 9 AM Fellowship 9:45 AM St. Mark 10:30 AM	31	1 BWELCA Bd. 6 PM	2			

2026

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
403 Pleasant Street
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AUGUST 2026

Bethlehem: Lost Nation

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St. Mark: Oxford Junction

Email stmarkoj@gmail.com

Office Phone 826-2761

St Mark Sunday Schedule

Worship 10:30 a.m.

Joint worship at 9:00 a.m.

Bethlehem Sunday Schedule

Worship 9:00 a.m.

Fellowship 9:45 a.m.

Office Hours:

Pastor Roberta

Thursdays 11:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

*She can also be reached by a call or
text to her cell phone.*

Bethlehem Secretary Hours:

Tuesday: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Thursday: 11:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

If you need to enter the church and do not
have a key, always call ahead to be certain
someone is there.