

THE BETHLEHEM STAR



Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church 418 8th Avenue Northeast Brainerd, MN 56401

Phone: 218-829-3330
Fax: 218-829-0792
Email: office@belcnet.net
Website: www.belcnet.net

Facebook: bethlehem.brainerd



WORSHIP TIMES

In-person worship: Wednesdays at 6:20 pm

Sundays at 8:20 am

In-person and livestreamed:

Sundays at 10:30 am

with communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and following Wednesdays

OFFICE HOURS

The office is open on Mondays—Fridays from 9:00 am—12:00 pm and Mondays—Thursdays from 1:00—4:00 pm.

CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Mark Skinner
Children, Youth & Family Pastor: Rev. Sarah Marshall
Office Administrator, Worship Team Director and

Organist: Cori Wrobel
Bell Choir Director: Stacy Erdal
Senior Choir Director: Al Albertson
Youth Choir Director: Nancy Albertson
Financial Administrator: Shelly Johnson
Children, Youth & Family Ministry Coordinator:

Joan Rosenow

Food Services Coordinators: Clarence and Kim Spencer

IT Coordinator: Scott Pederson
Custodial Services: Rob Larson

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From the Senior Pastor

Advent 2022

In a culture that moves so quickly through the *holiday* season, and in many ways eclipses Advent and Christmas, Advent offers a time to wake up and slow down. Paul reminds us in Romans 13, "...now is the time to *wake* from sleep ... and to put on the Lord Jesus Christ." When we think about what it means to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ," we can remember our baptism, as we were joined to the death and resurrection of Christ (Romans 6). There is, however, more to the story than just *that* event in our lives. It is the now the *daily* opportunity to return to our baptism and to *put on* Christ! We do that by practicing *daily repentance* of our sins and being forgiven and restored in God's love and mercy which has been poured out for us in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. We put on Christ as we rejoice in that forgiveness and as we live out the *love of God* to our neighbor as disciples of Christ. Whoever the neighbor might be. Join us each Wednesday night during Advent for worship and the opportunity to hear some deep stories of faith from members of our congregation. Pastor Sarah and I will be leading a dialogue with a different member each Wednesday night. Worship begins at 6:20 pm and dinner at 5:30 pm.

Christmas 2022

Join us for Christmas Eve services at 2:00, 4:00 and 6:00 pm and then on Sunday morning (Christmas Day) at 9:00 am, as we celebrate the incarnation of God in and through Jesus Christ for the sake of God's beloved world.

May God's peace and love abide with you,

Pastor Mark

From the Children, Youth and Family Pastor





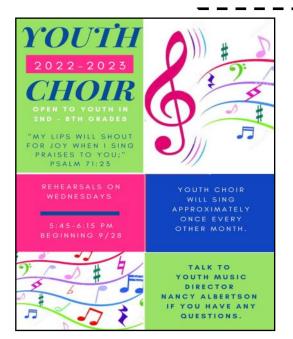
Listen to a story (take home the book), do an activity, and play!

Designed for children (with an adult) from birth to age 3 that are too young for Sunday School or anyone who'd like to participate.

••••• December 4 at 9:30

Ist Sunday of the month in the nursery at 9:30 am from October – May

The Christmas Program will be at 10:30 am on December 18.

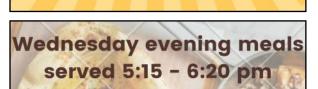




HELP NEEDED

Looking for people to run sound and video equipment for all services (Sundays at 8:20 and 10:30 am and Wednesdays at 6:20 pm). It's quite easy. Training available.

Contact the office for more information.



Please sign up ahead of time. \$10; \$7 for children 7 and under; 3 and under eat free

best meal in town!

Enjoy the

11/16 - turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, corn, green beans, apple crisp

11/30 - ham noodle casserole with roasted veggies, savory onion focaccia, holiday fruit salad

12/7 - oriental chicken thighs and drumsticks with rice, green beans, and brownies

12/14 - Swedish meatballs with mashed potatoes, peas, corn, cranberry sauce, and dessert

12/21 - ham, potatoes, candied carrots, rolls, French silk pie bars

punch cards: 10 meals for \$90; purchase at meal, in office or on website Welcome to our new members!

Bonnie and Steve Almond
Rebekah and Wayne
Arndt
Mariah and Lydia
Mark Groettum
Nancy Neptune
Emily Thompson

Meal Deal Punch Cards 10 meals \$ 90 (normally \$ 100)

can be used for: Wednesday night dinners Prayer Group dinners 65+ Lunch Bunch brunches

can be shared by family members



Purchase in the office or at the meal for \$90 or online for \$93.

December—January Funeral Service Groups

Jean Anhalt **Art and Colleen Jentsch** Bill and Judy Kallroos

Janey Adair Kris Anderson Carla and Clark Backstrom Abbi and Kevin Bartolic Shelly Birchem Morgan Burgstaler Marty and Teresa Christian-

Deb and Rick Cole **Deloris Ebinger** Jennifer Grunewald

Carolyn Hale Lee Ann Hollingsworth DJ and Sandy Janssen

Coordinators:

Larry and Natalie Embertson Jenny Johnson **Keith and Kirsten Olson**

Assistants: Aaron and Laura Johnson John and Judy Jourdan Kathryn and Sam Jourdan Mary Ketterling Kris Kolstad Brenda and Jayme Laughton

Cathy and Dan Lee Karly and Mike Lillo Jeanette Listul Cvnthia Merrill Janelle Mienert

Barbara Miller

Troy Miller and Joan Rosenow Nancy and Rick Sweet Patricia Nelson

Curt and Sandy Nielsen Doreen Olson Pete and Sheri Olson Bob and Kay Pederson Jennifer Peterson Ben Reimers Mike Rosenow Sue Skinner Char Slough Patrick and Teri Slough Alice and Dave Smith

Corliss Smith

Craig and Tricia Warner



CREATION CARE

The new climate bill offers a rebate of up to \$1,600 to install insulation and seal up drafts, making your home more energy-efficient. Sealing air leaks can make your home more comfortable, and can save up to 10% on annual energy bills, and includes weather stripping on doors, caulking around windows, and adding insulation in the attic. Installing new windows and doors qualifies for tax credits of up to \$1,200 per year, which not only helps improve the looks of your home, but can help increase energy efficiency if your home's entrances have lost their tight seal. Replace windows and doors if there is air leakage, visible damage or rot in the frame, or if there is condensation between panes, or if they no longer open or close easily.

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Source: http://www.nemnsynod.org/green-tips.html5

Looking ahead...

There will only be one service at 9:00 am on Sundays every week beginning January 1.

January 8 at 10:00 am—Semi-annual congregational meeting

January 15 at 10:00 am—Epiphany Mission Conversation: Board of Stewardship and Properties

January 22 at 10:00 am—Epiphany Mission Conversation: Board of Congregational Care and Community

January 28 at 9:00 am—First Communion Class January 29 at 9:00 am—First Communion Sunday

January 29 at 10:00 am—Epiphany Mission Conversation: Board of Worship and Music



If you have a prayer request for the Prayer Chain, please contact the church office at 829-3330 or office@belcnet.net. Prayers will be kept on the chain for 3 weeks. If you'd like it to be kept on for longer, please let the office know. If you would like to be a member of the Prayer Chain, please call the church office at 829-3330.

Please keep these people in your prayers:

Sympathy: Clarence Spencer and family on the death of his brother Tom; Barb Owens and family on the death of her brother; Jim Cole and family on the death of his brother

Ongoing: Pr. Mark's dad; Brenda Jonak's granddaughter; Marjorie Huls; Teresa Rosenow; John and Ruth Unger; Wayne and Donna Hansmann; Mary Anderson; Conner Erickson; Jessica Rodenbiker; Kacey Benson; Todd K.; Linda Wilcox; Ron; BELC member; Joan Rosenow; Randy and Margie Thiel; Bonnie; for peace in our world; all who are grieving; a BELC member; Phyllis Roberts; for all affected by COVID; residents and staff of assisted living/nursing home facilities; healthcare workers; all caregivers; everyone dealing with cancer /other diseases

Military: Nick Schwab in Navy

If you check into the hospital, please call the Church Office at 829-3330 or let the Chaplain know you are from Bethlehem Lutheran Church so we can pray for you.

Please keep the following Bethlehem households in your thoughts and prayer this month of

December: Heidi Woerheide; Kris Wyman; Doris Aasen; Janey Adair; Bret Adams and familv: Al and Nancy Albertson; LeRoy and Linda Albertson; Carly and Patrick Almond; Ashley Anderson; Greg and Mary Anderson; Hans Anderson; Kris Anderson; Linda Anderson; Neil Anderson; Jean Anhalt; Jaclyn Avenson and family; Carla and Clark Backstrom and family; Bill and Cheryl Bailey; Abbi and Kevin Bartolic; Brad Bauer; Arliss and Harry Bement; Cathie and Nick Benson; Deb Berry; Shelly Birchem; Brandy and Sam Blum; Amy Boelter; Nancy and Tim Bogenschutz; Andrew Bontjes; Ashley Bontjes; Gary and Sharon Braun; Paul and Sue Bremer and family; Joyce and Kevin Brick; Gloria and James Brown; Janee Burgonye; Eric and Sasha Burgstaler; Frank and Margie Burgstaler; Morgan Burgstaler and family; Bill and Jackie Burkey; Darnel Carlson; Sharon Chaney; Karen Cheney; Caleb Christensen; Marty and Teresa Christiansen

POINSETTIAS

You can honor or memorialize someone special by donating a poinsettia in their name. Any donations are welcomed and appreciated. Please make checks payable to BELC with "poinsettias" in the memo line. Fill out a form on the Narthext table or contact the office with your name and the name of who you are honoring or memorializing at 829-3330 or office@belcnet.net.

BELC CHRISTMAS TREE OF SHARING

This year's tree has tags to purchase items for ISD 181

Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Mid Minnesota Women's Center and The Shop.

Items may be placed under the tree through December 27.



...AND GOD'S GRACE WAS SO POWERFULLY AT WORK IN THEM ALL, THAT THERE WERE NO NEEDY PERSONS AMONG THEM.AUS 433834

BELC ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

lst Sunday of Advent:
November 27 at 8:20 and 10:30 AM

2nd Sunday of Advent: December 4 at 8:20 and 10:30 AM

3rd Sunday of Advent: December 11 at 8:20 and 10:30 AM

4th Sunday of Advent: December 18 at 8:20 AM Christmas Program at 10:30 AM

Wednesdays at 6:20 PM using the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy: November 30, December 7, 14, 21

Sermons on Sunday mornings and faith dialogues on Wednesdays evenings will all be different so be sure to attend all services.

BETH HEM BOOK CLUB JESSONS IN CHEMISTRY GONTACT MARGARIT STBLAY FOR MORE INFORMATION

Wednesdays, December 7, 14, and 21

7:00 pm - High School

5:15 pm – Meal served for \$10 6:20 pm – Advent service

5:30 pm – BOW Team rehearsal 7:00 pm – Sr. Choir rehearsal Youth Group

5:45 pm - Youth Choir rehearsal 7:00 pm - Catechism

5:45 pm – Youth Choir renearsal 7:00 pm - Catechish	n		*
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	
1 st Sunday of Advent 27	28	29	
8:20 am — In-person worship service 10:30 am — In-person and livestreamed worship service with communion		7:30 am — Men's bible study 10:00 am — Stephen Ministry meeting 11:30 am — 65+ Lunch Bunch 4:00 pm — BELC at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen	See sch 5:15 pm cassero
2 nd Sunday of Advent; Consecration Sunday 4	5	6	
8:20 am — In-person worship service with communion 9:25 am — Sunday School 9:30 am — Itty Bitty Book Bunch 9:30 am — Adult Forum: Consecration Sunday breakfast 10:30 am — In-person and livestreamed worship service with communion 3:00 pm — Brainerd Leos and Roars	4:45 pm – Bell Choir rehearsal 6:00 pm – Board of Service and Evangelism meeting online	7:30 am – Men's bible study 5:00 pm – Board of Worship and Music meeting	See sch 1:30 pm 5:15 pm
3 rd Sunday of Advent 11	12	13	
8:20 am – In-person worship service 9:25 am – Sunday School 9:30 am – Adult Forum: 10:30 am –BOW In-person and livestreamed worship service 1:00 pm - Bridge of Harmony recital	4:00 pm – BELC at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen 4:45 pm – Bell Choir rehearsal	7:30 am — Men's bible study 5:30 pm — Board of Congregational Care and Community meeting	See sch 5:15 pm
4 th Sunday of Advent 18	19	20	
8:20 am – In-person worship service with communion 9:25 am – Sunday School 9:30 am – Adult Forum: 10:30 am – In-person and livestreamed Christmas program with communion* 3:00 pm – Brainerd Leos and Roars 4:00 pm – Quiet Christmas Service of Healing	10:00 am – Ruth Circle 4:45 pm – Bell Choir rehearsal	7:30 am – Men's bible study 10:00 am – Stephen Ministry meeting	See sch 1:00 pm 1:30 pm 5:15 pm
Christmas Day 25	26	27	
g:oo am - In-person and livestreamed worship service with communion	Office closed	7:30 am – Men's bible study 11:30 am – 65+ Lunch Bunch	



To view our online services on Sunday at10:30 am, to https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKGd23TW4V1m lqCsktOho3q

The service will also be posted on our website at www.belcnet.net upon completion of the service.

The office is open from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm on Mondays - Fridays and from 1:00 - 4:00 pm on Mondays - Thursdays.

Wednesday	Thursday		Friday	Saturday
30		1	2	
edule above left — meal for \$10: ham noodle le	9:00 am – Edgewood Brainerd worship service 9:00 am – Quilting Group 10:00 am – LSS PTSD Groups 10:15 am – Edgewood Baxter worship service 10:30 am – Bethlehem Book Club 4:30 pm – Advent decorating 5:45 pm – Sr. Choir Christmas party	1	2	g:oo am – Worker Bees
	6:00 pm – Girl Scouts			
7		8	9	10
edule above left — Woodland worship service — meal for \$10: oriental chicken	10:00 am – LSS PTDS Groups 12:00 pm – Nicodemus Group 5:30 pm – Board of Education and Spiritual Formation meeting 6:00 pm – Girl Scouts			
14		15	16	17
edule above left — meal for \$10: Swedish meatballs	9:00 am – Board of Stewardship and Properties meeting 9:00 am – Edgewood Brainerd worship service 9:00 am – Quilting Group 10:00 am – LSS PTSD Groups 10:15 am – Edgewood Baxter worship service 1:30 pm – Mary Circle 4:30 pm – Advent decorating 6:00 pm – Girl Scouts			
21		22	23	Christmas Eve 24
edule above left — Martha Circle — Woodland worship service — meal for \$10: ham and potatoes	10:00 am – LSS PTSD Groups 4:30 pm – Christmas decorating 6:00 pm – Girl Scouts	4		2:00 pm, 4:00 pm, and 6:00 pm – Christmas Eve candlelight services with communion
28		29	30	New Year's Eve 31
	10:00 am – LSS PTSD Groups 6:00 pm – Girl Scouts	7		





Meet once a month on the first Saturday from 9:00 - 11:30 am to work on small projects around the building. To sign up, go to our website www.belcnet.net or contact the office at 829-3330. For more information, contact Al Gardner.

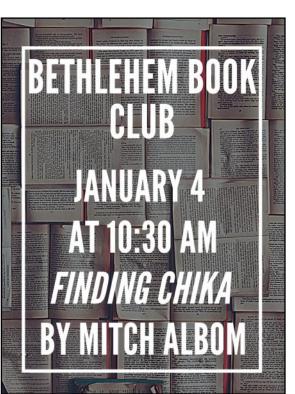




















Thank you!

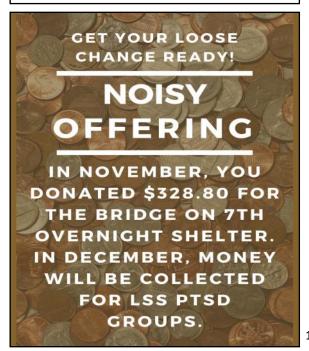
January—October update
Total Revenue \$351,875*

Total Expenses \$347,510

Net Income +\$4,365*

*Without Shared Ministry income from Trinity Lutheran, our income and net income would be \$329,172 and -\$18,338.

Thank you for your continued generosity!



Designated Fund

\$25 in memory of Jim Cole's brother from friends and family

\$25 in memory of Barb Owens' brother from friends and family

Choir Frind

\$25 in memory of Barb Owens' brother from friends and family

Youth Choir Fund

\$20 in memory of Barb Owens' brother from friends and family





Please keep these people in your prayers on their birthdays.

- 1 ~ Sandy Nielsen, Ali Samp
- 3 ~ Kristi Holloway
- 4 ~ Matthew Rhoda
- 5 ~ Brandy Blum, Finnley Sullivan
- 6—Charlie Johnson
- 7 ~ Chelsea Klinger
- 8 ~ Brad Bauer
- 9 ~ Jan Munsch
- 10 ~ Megan Heinrich, David Innes, Bernice
 Johnson
- 12 ~ Jackie Stromback
- 13 ~ Steve Almond, Jeff Emery, Sue Wiger
- 14 ~ Forrest Crocker, Nicholas Munsch, Carla Stall
- 16 ~ Megan Praught
- 18 ~ Carolyn Cole, Lynn Nelson, Marie Numedahl, Mike Stanek

- 19 ~ Jennifer Grimm
- 20 ~ Dave Johnson, Chris Lundgren, Doreen Olson, Matthew Olson, Cyndy Thompson
- 21 ~ Forrest Crocker Jr.
- 22 ~ Carly Almond, Marcus DeChaine,
- 23 ~ Aubriella Logelin, Reva Snell, Carlie Sweet, Gene Teufert
- 24 ~ Everett Stanek, Kristen Woods
- 25 ~ Mary Ann Frisch
- 26 ~ Linda Anderson, Ryder Vanderschaaf
- 27 ~ Ben Reimers
- 28 ~ Carla Backstrom, Johonna Stanek
- 29 ~ Joanne Kampf
- 30 ~ Henry Praska, Marlys Ray
- 31 ~ Myla Gilderman

We continue to update our contact information. If your birthday is missing or incorrect, please let the office know at 829-3330 or office@belcnet.net.

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December Worship Assistants

	Doomooi	V V O I O I U U P	/13313141113	
Greeters:	8:20 am 4: Cathy and Dan Lee 11: Bev Gotti 18: Al Gardner and Pam S 25 at 9:00 am: STILL NEE		10:30 am Kay Theien Beth Larson Pam and Steve Oslos	
Ushers:	4: Becky and Dave Meyer 11: Janis and Jim Peterso 18: Janis and Jim Peterso 25 at 9:00 am: STILL NEER	n n	Kathy Dufour and Rick Patton Jen and Joe Lindholm Bob and Kay Pederson	
Readers:	4: Cathy Lee 11: Bev Gotti 18: Pam Finch 25 at 9:00 am: Rebecca T	ïmmins	Wendy Gindorff Jen Lindholm Kathleen Weisman	
Communion Preparation:	4: Sasha Burgstaler, Shell 18: John and Judy Jourda 25 at 9:00 am: Cheryl and	n	Jen and Joe Lindholm STILL NEEDED	
Communion Servers:	4: Sue Skinner, Deb Steud 18: Al Gardner, Pam Stoo 25 at 9:00 am: 3 STILL NE	:k	Jen and Joe Lindholm 2 STILL NEEDED	
Sound:	4: Scott Pederson 11: Jerry DeChaine 18: Jerry DeChaine 25 at 9:00 am: STILL NEE	DED	Todd Person Todd Person Todd Person	
Video:	4: none 11: none 18: none 25 at 9:00 am: STILL NEE	DED	Tonya Person Tonya Person Tonya Person	
Flowers:	4: in celebration of Dale a 11: STILL NEEDED 18: STILL NEEDED 25: in memory of Mark SI			
Treats:	4: Consecration breakfas 11: Pam Stock 18: STILL NEEDED 25: STILL NEEDED	t		
Wednesday ushers	7: Greg and Sue Wiger 14: Greg and Sue Wiger 21: Greg and Sue Wiger			
Wednesday sound	7: Scott Pederson 14: Scott Pederson 21: Scott Pederson	15		

Bethlehem Lutheran Church 418 8th Ave NE Brainerd, MN 56401

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



If you would rather receive this newsletter by email or would like to stop receiving it, please let us know.

Please let the church office know if you will be stopping your mail service for an extended period of time so we do not send you any publications. Thank you.



Get updates, share pictures and RSVP for events on our Facebook page... www.facebook.com/bethlehem.brainerd

Our Mission Statement

We are called into compassionate community by the Holy Spirit through the confession of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to publicly confess the faith of the Triune God in, under, and with our daily callings in the community of God's world.

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