

# THE BETHLEHEM STAR



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

Phone: 218-829-3330
Email: office@belcnet.net
Website: www.belcnet.net
Facebook: bethlehem.brainerd



#### **WORSHIP TIMES**

In-person worship:
In-person and livestreamed:
Sundays at 9:00 am
and Wednesdays at 6:20 pm
with communion on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays
and following Wednesdays

#### OFFICE HOURS

The office is open on
Mondays—Fridays
from 8:30 am—12:00 pm
and Mondays—Thursdays
from 1:00—4:30 pm (closes at 4:00 on
Wednesdays).

#### **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 Bell Choir Director: Nancy Albertson
Financial Administrator: Shelly Johnson
Education and Spiritual Formation Coordinator:
Joan Rosenow

Food Services Coordinators: Clarence and Kim Spencer

IT Coordinator: Scott Pederson

Custodial Services: Rob Larson and Laura Kory



## From the Senior Pastor

Lent 2024: Embracing God's Kingdom in a Broken World

As we prepare to celebrate Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14), there are several opportunities that I would encourage you to take part in:



\*Weekly Lenten worship services on Sunday morning and on Wednesdays. On Wednesdays, there will be a midday service at Trinity Lutheran Church at 11:00 am followed by a light soup lunch. We will hold evening services at Bethlehem beginning at 6:20 pm with dinner beginning at 5:30 pm (soup and sandwiches served by various groups). During evening worship, we will have faith dialogues with several members of our congregation and the invitation to listen and learn about God's continual work and provision in our lives.

\*Join us on Wednesday nights (Feb. 21 and 28) as I lead an Overview of the Bible from beginning to end. This can serve as a good review for people that already are reading the Bible regularly or for people that might want to get started. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall (East) from 7:00-8:00 pm.

\*Join us on Wednesday nights (March 6, 13, and 20) as we have a Bible study on the Gospel according to Mark. I will be leading this as well, and we will meet from 7:00-8:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

**NE MN Lay Leader Network presents:** 

# **Light Into Darkness**

Nurturing authentic leadership in a culture of anxiety, isolation, and division

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:5

Keynote Speaker: Joy Hensel, Synod Minister for Mental Health and Wellness, NE MN Synod, ELCA

Other speakers: Rev. Amy Odgren, Bishop, NE MN Synod, Rev. Dr. Mark Skinner and Rev. Dr. David Mesner

Saturday, February 17, 2024 9:00 am—3:00 pm at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Brainerd

Registration through the Synod website or our linking to website at <a href="https://belcnet.net">https://belcnet.net</a>. Cost is \$15 which includes lunch and materials.

God's peace as we celebrate the season of Lent!

**Pastor Mark** 

## From the Children, Youth and Family Pastor

Wonder what the kids are up to? Check out the Youth Bulletin board for pictures and updates. The Youth Bulletin Board is in the lower level across from the Living Room.



## **CATECHISM**

6TH-8TH GRADES: NEW TESTAMENT
MEET AT TRINITY

9TH GRADE: LIFE APPLICATION OF THE PAST 3 YEARS OF CATECHISM MEET AT BETHLEHEM



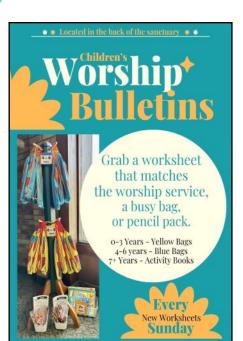
Sunday School kids will sing at the 9:00 am service on February 25.

## High School Youth Group

Wednesdays ~ 7:00 - 8:15 PM at Bethlehem Lutheran open to all 10th -12th graders \*follow ISD 181 schedule

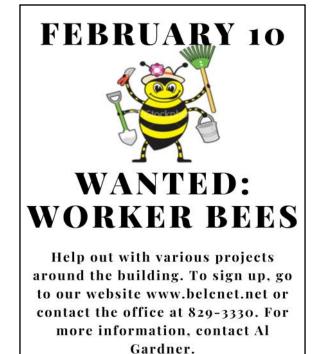














## February and March Funeral Service Groups

Nancy and Tim Bogenschutz
Deb Luhrs
Mary and Scott Parsons

Doris Aasen
Hans Anderson
Linda Anderson
Arliss and Harry Bement
Darnel Carlson
Bethany Doucette
Larry and Natalie Embertson
Bruce and Deb Erickson
Bonnie and Matthew Garding
Jadyn and Kevin Gohman

Jennifer and Tom Grimm

Anne Gustafson

Lynn Heinrich

Karl Jackman

Jeff and Shari Grunenwald

Coordinators:

**Kathy Dufour and Rick Patton** 

#### Assistants:

Jesse Jorges
Jenny King
Cory Kruse
Doug and Vicki Kruse
Camille and Clayton Lang
Laurie Levig
Nick Lundgren
Anita and Larry Martinson
Deb and Jeff McCarthy
Michael Miller
Emily and Tyler Monda
Marcy Nickel
Steven Olson

#### **Marlys Ray**

Barb Owens
Janis and Jim Peterson
Randy and Tammy Praught
Cody Rehberger
Karl and Gail Samp
Russ Schultz
Sue and Todd Sorenson
Elsie and Mike Stanek
Jackie Stromback
Anna and Jake Thesing
Kathy Thomson
Pat True
Amy and Dan Vleck
Bruce and Kelli Weaver



## CREATION CARE

Since the 1960s, global plastic production has skyrocketed about twentyfold with only 9% of it recycled, alarming governments and their citizens around the world. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), plastic is the most complicated material to recycle because each number (1-7) usually designates a different chemical makeup that requires different temperatures to recycle it for further use. A 2020 report from NPR and PBS Frontline found that since 1974, the plastic industry has spent millions on campaigns to convince the public that recycling would keep the environment clean. While glass and aluminum can be recycled endlessly, plastic degrades each time it is processed and made into polyester fabrics, building materials and more. Check out the Plastic Free Toolkit at greenamerica.org/plastic-free-toolkit for dozens of tips on how to reduce the amount of plastic you add to your life.

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

# Looking ahead...

- \*3/5 from 1:00—5:00 pm: God's Work. Our Hands. quarterly event at Salem West
- \*3/6, 3/13, and 3/20 from 7:00—8:00 pm: Bible study of the Gospel of Mark by Pr. Mark
- \*3/24 from 10:00—11:00 am: Palm Sunday breakfast
- \*3/28 at 6:00 pm: Seder Meal; RSVP by 3/24
- \*3/29 at 6:00 pm: Good Friday worship service
- \*3/31 at 8:30 and 10:30 am: Easter Sunday services



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:

<u>Sympathy:</u> the family of Madison Finnegan; Bonnie Almond and family on the death of her brother Ronnie

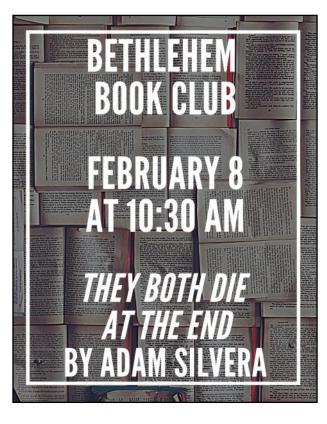
Ongoing: Pat Krueger; Steve Oslos; Matthew; Oliver Salow; Ron Holloway; Melanie Serra; Todd K.; Kirsten Olson; those dealing with mental health issues; Roger Gonnerman; Cheryl Johnson; Phyllis Stall; Macy; Joan Aulich; Esther Peterson; Cheryl Hagger; Jim Thomson; Joyce Wagner; Dawn True; Linda Wilcox; Barb Neprud; Barbara Howard; Kacey Benson; for peace in our world; all caregivers; all dealing with cancer /other diseases

Military: Nick Schwab in Navy; Danny Smith in Air Force

**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

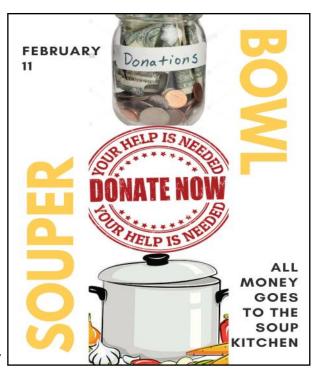
February: Kyle and Debbie Payne; Bob and Kay Pederson; Jenny and Scott Pederson and family; Todd and Tonya Person and family; Dave and Joyce Peterson; Jennifer Peterson; Janis and Jim Peterson and family; Mary Peterson and family; Norris Peterson; Bruce and Ariel Praska and family; Charles Praska and family; Henry Praska; Randy and Tammy Praught and family; Darbie and Jeff Pulak; Brian and Marlys Ray; Kara Reed; Abby Rehberger; Cody Rehberger; Jo-Ann and John Rehberger; Ben Reimers; Barrie and Beverley Rempel; Janell and Kevin Rhoda; Paul and Sarah Rhoda and family; Lisa Roberts; Phyllis Roberts; Michael Rosenow; Karen and Steve Rosenow; Heather Saffell and family; Gail and Karl Samp; Melody and Todd Schuldt; Russ Schultz; Zaryn Schwab and family; Carl and Solvejg Seamon; Jon and Melanie Serra





Every month we will be offering blessings during worship services for various groups of People.

February 11 for Stephen Ministers



5:15 pm – BOW rehearsal Wednesdays, February 21 and 28

5:30 pm – dinner served 6:20 pm – Lent service

5:15 pm – Youth Bell Choir rehearsal 7:00 pm – 6-8th catechism at Trinity

7:00 pm – High School Youth Group 7:00 pm – Sr. Choir rehearsal

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		
Fourth Sunday of Epiphany	28		29	30		
o:oo am — In-person and livestreamed worship service o:oo am — Adult Forum: Jesse Jones from Lighthouse Beginnings o:oo am — Sunday School	14			7:30 am – Men's bible study 11:30 am – 65+ Lunch Bunch 1:30 pm – Staff meeting 2:30 pm – RSA Circle of Change 4:00 pm – BELC at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen	5: ch	
Fifth Sunday of Epiphany	4		5	<u>6</u>		
9:00 am — In-person and livestreamed worship service with communion 10:00 am — Adult Forum: Heidi Gould from Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity 10:00 am — Sunday School 10:00 am — Itty Bitty Book Bunch 5:30 pm — High School Hang Out <u>AT LORD OF LIFE</u>	-			7:30 am – Men's bible study 10:30 am – RSA Circle of Change 1:30 pm – Staff meeting 5:00 pm – Girl Scouts 6:00 pm – Jonah Group	5: 6: 7:	
Transfiguration of Our Lord	11		12	office closes at 4:00 pm today 13		
9:00 am— In-person and livestreamed BOW service with communion 10:00 am — Adult Forum: Jackie Burkey: Gardening Myths 10:00 am — Sunday School		4:00 pm — BELC at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen		7:30 am – Men's bible study 10:30 am – RSA Circle of Change 1:30 pm – Staff meeting 5:30 pm – CLB meeting 6:00 pm – Board Night	1: 5: ch 5: 6:	
First Sunday of Lent 1	18	Presidents' Day	19	20		
9:00 am — In-person and livestreamed worship service with communion 10:00 am — Adult Forum: Ask the Pastor 2:15 pm — BELC at Sunday Hospitality <u>AT FIRST LUTHERA</u> 2:30 pm — Brainerd Leos		Office closed		7:30 am — Men's bible study 10:00 am — Ruth Circle 10:30 am — RSA Circle of Change 1:30 pm — Staff meeting 5:00 pm — Girl Scouts	5: 5: 5: 5:	
Second Sunday of Lent	25		26	27		
9:00 am — In-person and livestreamed worship service 10:00 am — Adult Forum: make cards for our members 10:00 am — Sunday School 11:00 am — Sunday lunch potluck				7:30 am – Men's bible study 10:00 am – Creation Care Team mtg 10:30 am – RSA Circle of Change 11:30 am – 65+ Lunch Bunch 1:30 pm – Staff meeting	5: sa 7:	

5:15 pm - BOW rehearsal

5:15 pm - Youth Bell Choir rehearsal

5:30 pm – dinner served 6:20 pm – BOW service Wednesdays, 1/31 and 2/7

7:00 pm – 6-8<sup>th</sup> catechism at Trinity catechism at B



7:00 pm - High School Youth Group

EL 7:00 pm - Sr. Choir rehearsal

The office is open from 8:30 am – 12:00 pm on Mondays – Fridays and from 1:00 – 4:30 pm on Mondays – Thursdays.

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
office closes at 4:00 pm today 31	1	2	3
e schedule <mark>below</mark> left o pm – Wednesday night meal: ham and ese sandwiches o – 9 <sup>th</sup> grade catechism at BELC	9:00 am —Worship service at Edgewood Brainerd 9:00 am — Quilting Group 10:00 am — LSS PTSD Groups 10:15 am — Worship service at Edgewood Baxter 12:00 pm — Nicodemus Group 6:00 pm — Girl Scouts	8:30 am - LSS	9:00 am – NE MN Synod Lay Leader Network Series via Zoom 9:00 am - First Communion class
office closes at 4:00 pm today 7	8	9	10
schedule below left  pm – Worship service at Woodland d-Samaritan  pm – Wednesday night meal: oriental ken  pm – 9 <sup>th</sup> grade huddle with Pr. Mark  pm – 9 <sup>th</sup> grade catechism at BELC	9:00 am — Executive Team meeting 10:00 am — LSS PTSD Groups 10:30 am — Bethlehem Book Club 5:30 pm — Girl Scouts		9:00 am – Worker Bees
Ash Wednesday; office closes at 4:00 pm today 14	15	16	17
oo am – Ash Wednesday service <u>AT</u> NITY opm – Wednesday night meal: chili rcuterie board opm – Senior Choir rehearsal opm – Ash Wednesday service	9:00 am – Worship service at Edgewood Brainerd 9:00 am – Quilting Group 9:30 am - LSS 10:00 am – LSS PTSD Groups 10:15 am – Worship service at Edgewood Baxter 1:30 pm – Mary Circle 4:30 pm – card making 6:00 pm – Girl Scouts		9:00 am – NE MN Synod Lay Leader Network Series February Seminar – open to all
office closes at 4:00 pm today 21	22	23	24
schedule above left o am – Lent service A <u>T TRINITY</u> o pm – Worship service at Woodland od-Samaritan o pm – Wednesday night meal: soup and dwiches served by catechism students o pm – Overview of the Bible: Old Test.	10:00 am – LSS PTSD Groups 1:30 pm – Worship service at Bethany apartments 5:30 pm – Girl Scouts	10:00 am — Stephen Ministry meeting	
office closes at 4:00 pm today 28	29	1	2
schedule above left o am – Lent service <u>AT TRINITY</u> o pm – Wednesday night meal: soup and dwiches served by catechism students	10:00 am – LSS PTSD Groups 6:00 pm – Girl Scouts		
pm – Overview of the Bible: New Test.	To view our online services on Sundays at 9:00 am, go to		

To view our online services on Sundays at 9:00 am, go to https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKGd23TW4V1mlqCsktOh03g

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

Joint ELCA
Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday Service
February 14th at 11:00AM
\*Light lunch to follow

Wednesdays, February 21st - March 20th
11:00AM Services
\*Light lunch to follow

Good Friday Service
March 29th at 11:00AM

Trinity Lutheran Church
1420 South 6th Street

STAMP, CUT, CRAFT, CREATE, SHARE, FELLOWSHIP.

## CARD MAKING FUN ON FEBRUARY 15



Get creative on Thursday,
February 15. Show up
anytime between 4:30 7:00 pm. Cards are sent
to members that are
shut in and members in
need of some uplifting
words. Please contact
Cathy Lee or the office
for more information.
Please sign up on our
website



website
www.belcnet.net or by
calling the office to let
Cathy know who to
expect.

# Lent 2024

Sundays
\*services at 9:00 am

Wednesdays

\*soup and sandwiches served by various groups from 5:30 - 6:15 pm

\*services at 6:20 pm featuring That You May Have Life liturgy and faith dialogues with members

\*Pr. Mark leading Overview of the Bible from 7:00 - 8:00 pm 2/21 ~ Old Testament 2/28 ~ New Testament 3/6, 3/13, and 3/20 ~ Gospel of Mark

# Ask the Pastor

Do you ever leave a service with a "I wonder why.....?"

Do you ever hear something on the news and think, "I wonder what Pastor Mark's take on this would be?"

Now is the chance to get your answers! Our first Ask the Pastor event will be on Sunday, February 18th at 10:00 am. Please submit your questions to the office at pastormark@belcnet.net or on the opportunities sheet by February 15. Pastor Mark will choose some of those questions and answer them on the 18th during Adult Forum.

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#### CELE CLEUPING ECO CACINOS FA ECACINOS CELECTOR CALLANTICON CLECTOR CALLANTICON CAL

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COORDINATES WITH BRIDGES OF HOPE WARMING SHELTER TO PROVIDE A WARM SHELTER AND FOOD ON SUNDAY AFTERNOONS FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO PLACE TO GO. YOUR HELP IS NEEDED ON FEBRUARY 18!!!

THERE ARE TWO SHIFTS: HOSTING FROM 2:15 - L:30 PM AND SERVING FOOD FROM L:30 - 6:1,5 PM. YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR BOTH SHIFTS IF YO'UD LIKE.

AS A HOST, YOU MAY PLAY CAMES, DO ACTIVITIES, WATCH FOOTBALL CAMES OR MOVIES, ETC. AS A FOOD SERVER, YOU MAY HELP PREP PROVIDED FOOD, SET UP, SERVE FOOD, AND CLEAN UP, THERE WILL ALWAYS BE SOMEONE FROM FIRST LUTHERAN THERE WITH YOU.

CONTACT THE BELC OFFICE AT 218-829-3330 OR OFFICE BELCNET.NET TO SIGN UP OR FOR MORE INFORMATION.







# God's work. Our hands.

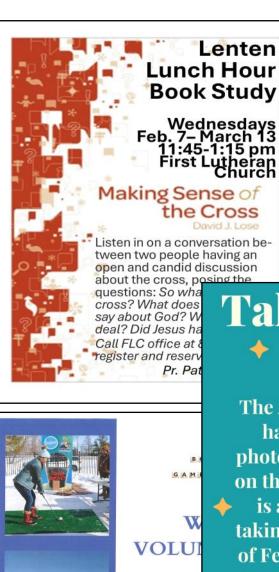
You are invited to participate in Bethlehem's "God's work. Our hands." quarterly event at Salem West on March 5 from 1:00 - 5:00 pm.

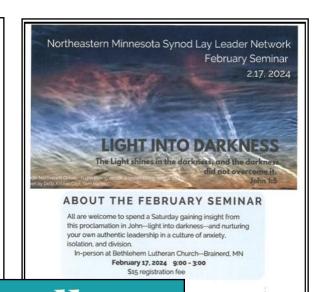
Volunteers will do various tasks that may include sorting donations and doing laundry. 6-10 volunteers are needed. Sign up at <a href="https://www.belcnet.net">www.belcnet.net</a>













The Archive Committee
has gathered extra
photos and memorabilia
on the Narthex table that
is available for your
taking during the month
of February. Spark your
memories and enjoy a
chuckle! Take all you
want!











# Thank you!

#### Do you want to double your contribution to BELC?

There are several business in the Lakes Area that are providing a matching program for employees that support local charities. We encourage you to check with your human resource manager to find out if your company is one of these that provides this employee benefit. Some of these same companies have matching volunteer hours for their employees. When you volunteer hours for a charity, they will provide a monetary donation to the charity of your designation. If you would like to help BELC in its goal of helping the community to thrive, please check to see if your company is in a matching program. We would love to double your contribution for BELC.

~ Board of Stewardship and Properties

We appreciate your support as we strive to provide the very best care to our women and children as they rebuild their lives. ~ The Board and Staff of Relationship Safety Alliance







Thank you for your \$94.54 donation to Bridges of

Hope's Operation Sandwich program. Your generous

gift helps feed kids when free and reduced meals

are not accessible at school. Your gift allowed us to

distribute over 55,000 lunches to 694 families this

summer! We also distributed more than 600 snack

packs during school break so far this school year.

Thanks to your generosity, we can continue to meet

the huge increase in need. Thanks to generous do-

nors like you, kids in the Brainerd Lakes Area don't

have to experience childhood hunger during the

summer or extended school breaks. On behalf of

Bridges of Hope and Operation Sandwich staff and



Please keep these people in your prayers on their birthdays.

- 1 ~ Anna Heinrich, Monique Ray
- 2 ~ Anthony Cole
- 4 ~ Adam Ellingsen, Kayli Overland
- 5 ~ Sarah Wiger
- 7 ~ Logan Backstrom
- 8 ~ Nathan Fuller, Bill Kallroos, Christopher Munsch
- 9 ~ Allan Dosh, Evan Gorny
- 10 ~ Brody Bartolic
- 11 ~ Luanne Hallgren
- 12 ~ Noah Gindorff, Frances Girling
- 13 ~ Doris Aasen, Bernice Finch, Harleyann Praska
- 14 ~ Maxine Debler, Kelly Kruize, Kay Pederson
- 15 ~ Terri Hanson

- 17 ~ Gloria Munsch, Brian Ray
- 18 ~ Mike Burkey, Lauren Johnson, Lisa Kotchikian
- 19 ~ Randy Praught, Kevin Rhoda
- 20 ~ Monty Becker, Sam Blum, Gloria Brown, Scott Pederson
- 21 ~ Dianne Heath, Michael Munsch
- 22 ~ Matthew Garding, Anthony Jonak, Lyla Jourdan, Lindsie McKusick, Brett Severson
- 24 ~ Jadyn Gohman, Eli Jones, Kinzlie Logelin, Taya Person, James Rhoda
- 25 ~ Jake Thesing
- 26 ~ Ana Louis
- 27 ~ Margie Burgstaler, Marcie Kemboi, Hailey Nelson, Janis Peterson, Chris Wiger
- 29 ~ Finn Pederson

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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# February Worship Assistants

	1 bordary 17 croise	P J LOGIOVATIVO			
Greeters:	Sundays at 9: 4: Deb Steuck, Carissa and Mille Micek 11: still needed	00 am 18: still needed 25: still needed			
Ushers:	4: Janis and Jim Peterson 11: Cathy and Dan Lee	18: Jen and Camilla Lindholm 25: Kathy Dufour and Rick Patton			
Readers:	4: Jackie Nornes 11: Kim Spencer	18: Pam Finch 25: Stacy Erdal			
Communion Preparation:	4: Shelly Birchem, Sasha Burgstaler 11: Bob and Kay Pederson	18: Jen and Joe Lindholm			
Communion Servers:	4: Deb Steuck, 2 more needed 11: 3 still needed	18: Pam Finch, 2 more needed			
Sound:	4: Jerry DeChaine 11: Scott Pederson	18: still needed 25: still needed			
Video:	4: Krystal DeChaine 11: still needed	18: Marcus Lindholm 25: Marcus Lindholm			
Assisting Minister:	4: Jackie Nornes 11: still needed	18: still needed 25: still needed			
Treats in Narthex:	4: still needed 11: still needed	18: still needed 25: Stacy Erdal			
Flowers:	4: still needed 11: still needed	18: still needed 25: still needed			
Wednesday night at 6:20:	2/7: ushers: Greg and Sue Wiger; communion prep: still needed; sound: Scott Peterson; assisting minister: Pam Stock; kitchen help: 2 still needed				
	Ash Wednesday, 2/14: greeters: still needed; ushers: Greg and Sue Wiger; reader: Wendy Gindorff; communion prep: Jackie Nornes, 1 more needed; communion servers: Pam Finch, 2 more needed; sound: Scott Pederson; assisting minister: Pam Stock; kitchen help: 2 still needed				
	Scott Pederson; assisting minister: Al Albertson;				
	2/28: ushers: Greg and Sue Wiger; sound: Scott Pederson; assisting minister: Al Albertson faith dialogue: TBD 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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