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 1st and 3rd 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

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From the Senior Pastor



First Communion Workshop

Pastor Sarah will be leading a first communion workshop for parents and youth on Saturday, February 3rd from 9 am until noon. First communicants will celebrate their first communion on Sunday, February 4th at the 9:00 am service or on Wednesday, February 7th at 6:20 pm. If you would like to join us, please contact the church office.

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 from 9:00 am—3:00 pm at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Brainerd

Registration portal opens soon via NE MN Synod, ELCA

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

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.









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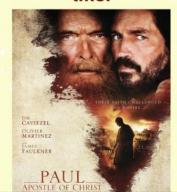








Wednesdays, January 3 and 10 from 7:00 - 8:00 pm Bring a snack to share if you'd like.





*Vote on 2024 budget

*Update on strategic imperatives

*Vacant lot gift

*Pr. Mark's summer 2024 sabbactical

Contact President Scott Parsons for more information.

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December and January Funeral Service Groups

Larry and Natalie Embertson				
Jenny Johnson				

Coordinators: Bill and Judy Kallroos

Art and Colleen Jentsch Keith and Kirsten Olson

Assistants:

Janey Adair
Jean Anhalt
Carla and Clark Backstrom
Abbi and Kevin Bartolic
Shelly Birchem
Morgan Burgstaler
Marty and Teresa Christiansen
Deb and Rick Cole
Deloris Ebinger
Jennifer Grunewald
Carolyn Hale
Lee Ann Hollingsworth
DJ and Sandy Janssen
Aaron and Laura Johnson

John and Judy Jourdan

Kathryn Jourdan
Sam Jourdan
Mary Ketterling
Kris Kolstad
Brenda and Jayme Laughton
Cathy and Dan Lee
Karly and Mike Lillo
Jean Listul
Cyndy Merrill
Janelle Mienert
Troy Miller and Joan Rosenow
Patricia Nelson

Curt and Sandy Nielsen

Doreen Olson
Pete and Sheri
Bob and Kay Pederson
Jennifer Peterson
Ben Reimers
Mike Rosenow
Sue Skinner
Char Slough
Patrick and Teri Slough
Alice and Dave Smith
Corliss Smith
Nancy and Rick Sweet
Craig and Tricia Warner



CREATION CARE

Between 1970 and 2014, the global wildlife population shrank by 60 percent, while global CO2 concentrations climbed above 400 parts per million, and are still climbing. Yet nature itself presents our best hope of reversing these trends: through 1) forest restoration, which supports natural carbon sequestration, protects people and wildlife from catastrophic wildfires and nurtures watersheds that sustain people, wildlife and waterways; 2) healthy grasslands and prairies that prevent erosion, absorb carbon, filter water and support crucial species, such as monarch butterflies. The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) has worked for years to show how conserving and restoring these native ecosystems can safeguard critical drinking-water supplies, remove carbon from the atmosphere and help communities withstand the effects of climate change. Success won't come solely through politics, science, or technology, but will require a far larger public constituency with a greater emotional and spiritual understanding of the interdependence of all species. When we help to save the Earth, we also help to save ourselves.

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

Looking ahead...

- *2/3 at 9:00 am—First Communion class with First Communion on 2/4 or 2/7
- *2/4—2/11—BELC serves at the Bridge on 7th (warming shelter) from 6:30—8:30 am and 6:30—10:00 pm daily
- *2/14 at 11:00 am—Ash Wednesday service at Trinity Lutheran
- *2/14 at 6:20 pm—Ash Wednesday service at Bethlehem Lutheran
- *2/15 from 4:30—7:00 pm—card making
- *2/17 from 9:00 am—3:00 pm—NE MN Synod Lay Leader Network Annual Gathering at ????
- *2/22 from 6:30—8:00 pm—Overview of the Bible: Old Testament
- *2/29 from 6:30—8:00 pm—Overview of the Bible: New Testament



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: Kelsey and Eric Hoff on the death of their son Harrison; the family of Dave Klein; the family of Ivan Armstrong

<u>Ongoing</u>: Bev Gotti; Dave Emery; Joan Aulich; Esther Peterson; Harry Bement; Baby Harper; Gene Jacobs; Cheryl Hagger; Elli Kory; Bernice Johnson; Dave Skogen; the Spencer family; Pat Kelly; Jim Thomson; Joyce Wagner; Todd K.; 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

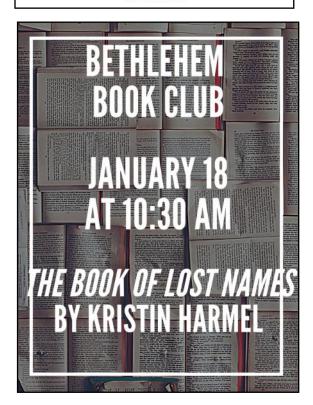
If you check into the hospital, please call the Church Office at 829-3330 or let the Chaplain know you are from Bethlehem Lutheran Church so we can pray for you.

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

January: Stephanie Moody; Allison Moyer-Taylor and family; Erica Munsch; Harold Munsch and family; Gloria and Harvey Munsch; Jan Munsch; Mirinda Munsch and family; Richard Munsch and family; David and Faye Nelson; Don and Marci Nelson; Ethel Nelson; Lynn and Mitch Nelson; Mollie Nelson and family; Patricia Nelson; Nancy Neptune; Jeff Nichols and Cheryl Severson-Nichols; Marcy Nickel; Curt and Sandy Nielson; Jackie Nornes; Marie and Tom Numedahl; Jill and Kevin O'Grady and family; Carole Olsen; AJ and Annette Olson and family; Andrew Olson and family; Antje Olson; Doreen Olson; Keith and Kirsten Olson; Luke Olson and family; Pete and Sheri Olson; Steven Olson; Pam and Steve Oslos; Kayli Overland; Barb Owens; Britta Parsons; Nathan Parsons; Mary and Scott Parsons; Rick Patton and Kathy Dufour



This month you'll be meeting on Sunday after service and Christmas program rehearsal. To sign up, go to our website www.belcnet.net or contact the office at 829-3330. For more information, contact Al Gardner.



Every month we will be offering blessings during worship services for various groups of People. January 14 and 17 for Parents

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

CARD MAKING FUN ON JANUARY 18



Get creative on Thursday,
January 18. 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



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	1: 1
First Sunday of Christmas 31	Happy New Year! 1	2	
g:oo am— In-person and livestreamed service of lessons and carols	Office closed	1:30 pm — Staff meeting 2:30 pm — RSA Circle of Change	5ee 9:0 1:3 God 5:3 7:0
Baptism of Our Lord 7	8	office closes at 4:00 pm today 9	
g:oo am – In-person and livestreamed worship service with communion 10:00 am – Adult Forum: Semi-annual meeting; Board of Education and Spiritual Formation presentation 10:00 am – Sunday School 10:00 am – Itty Bitty Book Bunch	4:00 pm – BELC at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen	7:30 am – Men's bible study 1:30 pm – Staff meeting 2:30 pm – RSA Circle of Change 5:30 pm – CLB meeting 6:00 pm – Board Night 7:00 pm – NEMN Synod Lay Leader Network Series Zoom	5:3 end 7:0
2 nd Sunday of Epiphany 14	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 15	16	
g:oo am— In-person and livestreamed BOW service 10:00 am — Adult Forum: Board of Congregational Care and Community and Board of Worship and Music presentations	Office closed MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	7:30 am — Men's bible study 10:00 am — Ruth Circle 10:00 am — Creation Care Team 1:30 pm — Staff meeting 2:30 pm — RSA Circle of Change	5:3 5:3 7:0 Nig
3 rd Sunday of Epiphany 21	22	23	
g:oo am — In-person and livestreamed worship service with communion 10:00 am — Adult Forum: Board of Service and Evangelism and Board of Stewardship and Properties presentations 10:00 am — Sunday School 2:30 pm — Brainerd Leos		7:30 am — Men's bible study 10:00 am — Stephen Ministry meeting 1:30 pm — Staff meeting 2:30 pm — RSA Circle of Change	See 5:3
4 th Sunday of Epiphany 28	29	30	
9:00 am — In-person and livestreamed worship service 10:00 am — Adult Forum: Jesse Jones from Lighthouse Beginnings 10:00 am — Sunday School		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	See 5:3 che

5:15 pm – BOW rehearsal 5:30 pm – dinner served

5:15 pm - Youth Bell Choir rehearsal

Wednesdays in January

7:00 pm - 6-8th catechism at Trinity at BELC

6:20 pm - BOW service

7:00 pm – 9th grade catechism

7:00 pm – High School \ Group

7:00 pm - Sr. Choir rehe

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arsal

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
office closes at 4:00 pm today 3	4	5	6
schedule below left o am — Joint staff meeting with Trinity o pm — Worship service at Woodland od-Samaritan o pm — Wednesday night meal: lasagna o pm — Paul: Apostle of Christ video part 1	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 4:00 pm – take Christmas decorations down 6:00 pm – Girl Scouts		
office closes at 4:00 pm today 10	11	12	13
schedule below left opm – Wednesday night meal: chicken hiladas opm – <i>Paul: Apostle of Christ</i> video part 2	9:00 am – Executive Team meeting 10:00 am – LSS PTSD Groups 5:30 pm – Girl Scouts		g:oo am – Worker Bees
office closes at 4:00 pm today 17	18	19	20
schedule below left opm – Worship service at Woodland od-Samaritan opm – Wednesday night meal: pork chops opm – Catechism: Individual Mentor ht	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 10:30 am – Bethlehem Book Club 1:30 pm – Mary Circle 4:30 pm – card making 6:00 pm – Girl Scouts		
office closes at 4:00 pm today 24	25	26	27
schedule below left ppm – Wednesday night meal: TBD	10:00 am — LSS PTSD Groups 1:30 pm — Worship service at Bethany apartments 5:30 pm — Girl Scouts	5:30 pm – Staff Epiphany party	
office closes at 4:00 pm today 31	1	2	3
schedule below left ppm – Wednesday night meal: ham and ese sandwiches	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		9:00 am – NE MN Synod Lay Leader Network Series via Zoom 9:00 am - First Communion class

To view our online services on Sundays at 9:00 am, go to

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKGd23TW4V1mlgCsktOho3g

The service will also be posted on our website at www.belcnet.net

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

and from 1:00 – 4:30 pm on

65+ Lunch Bunch
Tuesday, January 30
at 11:30 am for soup

RSVP to the office at 218-829-3330 or sign up on the opportunity sheet by January 28. The speakers will be from

Brainerd Police Department and adult advocates speaking on new cons and scams.





Looking for people to run sound and video equipment for 9:00 am Sunday services. There are step-by-step directions. Training is available.

Contact the office for more information.



ARE YOU A THRIVENT MEMBER?

IF SO, YOU HAVE 2 ACTION

GRANTS (WORTH \$250 EACH) THAT

CAN BE USED EACH YEAR FOR

CHURCH EVENTS. WE WOULD LIKE

TO UPDATE OUR LIST OF PEOPLE

THAT WOULD BE WILLING TO APPLY

FOR THE GRANTS. THE

APPLICATION IS EASY, AND HELP IS

AVAILABLE. IF YOU ARE A

THRIVENT MEMBER, PLEASE CHECK

THE BOX ON THE YELLOW

OPPORTUNITY SHEET. THANK YOU

FOR YOUR HELP!







POINSETTIAS were given in memory of

*Brud Thesing and Mike Pohlkamp from
Anna and Jake Thesing

*Teufert/Schindlers loved ones from
Gene and Lynn Teufert

*Darold Owens from the Owens family

*Mark Skogen and Dorothy and Vern Skogen from
Cori Wrobel

*Jerry Slough from the Slough family

*Bob Johnson from Al and JoAnne Kampf

*family and friends we've lost from

Pam Stock and Al Gardner

*Nancy Smith from Alice and Dave Smith

*Lexi Laughton from Cheryl and Jeff Macejkovic

*Gladys Rudningen from John and JoAnne Rehberger

*Sophie Wieland from the Lillo family

*Thomas and Lynda Spencer and Fred Spencer from

Clarence and Kimberly Spencer

*Lynn Kalahar and family members from Yvonne Kalahar

*Bob and JoAnn Lundeby and Don Jourdan from

John and Judy Jourdan

orris and Rennie and Nora Rens

*Bob and Rena Morris and Bennie and Nora Benson from Nick and Cathie Benson

*Don Peterson and Wally and Doris Olson from Keith and Kirsten Olson

were given in honor of

*Bob and Char Wrobel from Cori Wrobel

Thank you!

On behalf of the Heartland Conference, thank you for your gift of \$62.50 to further support the work and ministry of our Conference.

~Pr. Stephen Blenkush, Treasurer

As we wrap up 2023, we want you to know your generosity to Bridges of Hope makes a difference for our neighbors in need every day. Your gift of \$420.41 makes it possible for us to continue to serve people. ~ Jana Shogren, Executive Director Bridges of Hope



We greatly appreciate the generous support from our donors, ministry partners and volunteers throughout the year. Thank you for all the ways you support Luther Crest and for your gift of \$336.75. You are making a difference! Because of you, we will continue to offer amazing experiences for children, youth, families and adults. The Luther Crest experience impacts the lives of our campers forever. We are looking forward to a busy faith-filled retreat season, filled with the hope and joy found in the promise of Christ who is alive in

our hearts each day. We look forward to connecting with you in the very near future.

~ Pr. Maddie Elliott, Executive Director Luther Crest Bible Camp



Please keep these people in your prayers on their birthdays.

- 1~ Melodee Hagel, Faye Nelson
- 3 ~ Dylan Lee
- 4 ~ Jackie Burkey, Debra Erickson, Jill O'Grady
- 5 ~ Jayme Laughton
- 6 ~ Pam Stock
- 7 ~ Nate Parsons
- 8 ~ Catherine Schindler
- 9 ~ Shaylyn Johnson, Tracie McFarlin, Rick McVenes
- 10 ~ Gary Braun
- 11 ~ Anita Martinson, Riley Slough
- 14 ~ Patricia Nelson
- 15 ~ Easton Burgstaler, Cassandra Girling, Aiden Louis, Alissa Louis, Gail Samp
- 17 ~ Stacy Erdal, Karl Jackman, Kaelyn

- 18 ~ Dylan Ferrari, Brayden Tollefson
- 20 ~ Ashley Bontjes
- 22 ~ Al Albertson, Bonnie LeDoux, Ervin Stanek
- 23 ~ Brent Levig, Rebecca Ostrowski, Brooklyn Taylor, Willow Thesing
- 24 ~ Katelyn Praught
- 25 ~ Cathie Benson, Mary Parsons, Rick Patton, Tyler Vork
- 26 ~ Kaylianna Pulak
- 27 ~ Norma Kotyk, Kyle Louis
- 28 ~ Emily DeChaine, Cadence Jones, Brenda Laughton
- 29 ~ Ryan Grimm, Jean Krueger
- 30 ~ Clara Ferrari
- 31 ~ Cheryl Johnson, Thomas Monda

NOISY
OFFERING

IN DECEMBER, YOU
DONATED \$231.65 FOR
LSS PTSD GROUPS.
IN JANUARY, MONEY
WILL BE COLLECTED
FOR LIGHTHOUSE
BEGINNINGS (LEARN
ABOUT THEM AT ADULT
FORUM ON 1/28).



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.

January Worship Assistants

Greeters:	7: Bev Gotti 14: Cathia and Nick Bancan	21: still needed
	14: Cathie and Nick Benson	28: still needed
Ushers:	7: Janis and Jim Peterson 14: Becky and Dave Meyer	21: Camilla and Jen Lindholm28: still needed
Readers:	7: Bev Gotti 14: still needed	21: Pam Finch 28: Stacy Erdal
Communion Preparation:	7: Shelly Birchem, Sasha Burgstaler	21: Jen and Joe Lindholm
Communion Servers:	7: Pam Finch, Bev Gotti, Sue Skinner	21: Pam Finch, Carl and Solvejg Seamon
Sound:	7: Jerry DeChaine 14: Scott Pederson	21: Jerry DeChaine 28: Scott Pederson
Video:	7: Krystal DeChaine 14: still needed	21: Krystal DeChaine 28: still needed
Assisting Minister:	7: still needed 14: Jackie Nornes	21: still needed 28: still needed
Treats in Narthex:	7: still needed 14: still needed	21: still needed 28: Stacy Erdal
Flowers:	7:still needed 14:still needed	21: still needed 28: still needed
Ushers on Wednesday night at 6:20:	3: Jenny Johnson, Wendy Gindorff 10: Jenny Johnson, Wendy Gindorff 17: Nancy Sweet, 1 still needed	24: Wendy Gindorff, Nancy Sweet 31: Wendy Gindorff, 1 still needed
Communion on Wednesday night at 6:20:	10: Jackie Nornes, Janis Peterson	24: Jackie Nornes, Janis Peterson
Sound on Wednesday night at 6:20:	3: Scott Pederson 10: Scott Pederson 17: Scott Pederson 15	24: Scott Pederson 31: Scott Pederson

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.