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Add Harvest Festival for 2025-2026

al theme at Bethlehem for 2024.205 is  
“Out the Spirit.” Join Pastor Mark on Sun-  
tember 29<sup>th</sup> in worship and during adult  
we look at the Holy Spirit as revealed in  
and what that means for us today. Luke is  
evangelist who regarded the story of Jesus  
somehow incomplete without an account  
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nesses and servants of the word” (Luke  
lives for the sake of God’s beloved world. I  
of us to embrace the Spirit of God as we  
to live as disciples (followers) of Jesus. At  
hem, we believe that disciple-

ship is lived out through these seven practices listed below. This discipleship brochure is organized *by practice* for easy reference. Take some time and pray about where God is leading you to engage and live in and through the Spirit of God!

1. A disciple worships regularly.
2. A disciple practices lifelong learning from the holy scriptures and the confessions of the church, along with a growing awareness of God’s presence in the world.
3. A disciple lives and grows in community within the church and the greater kingdom of God.
4. A disciple faithfully stewards God’s creation including proportional first-fruits financial giving to the

Sarah Marshall

Rev. Sarah Marshall  
Pastor of Children,  
Youth and Family  
Ministry

Scott Parsons

Scott Parsons  
Congregational  
President

Mark Skinner

Rev. Dr. Mark Skinner  
Senior Pastor

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



# COMMUNITY PARTNER OPPORTUNITIES

## Warming Shelter



The Warming Shelter in Brainerd will open on September 22, 2024. We will be partnering with the shelter for three or four weeks throughout the year. We will be responsible for one week at a time. During that week, we will need to provide volunteers from 6:45—8:00 am to make coffee, check guests out, make beds, do some cleaning, and/or other tasks. During those shifts, a paid staff member will be with the volunteers. Bethlehem will be responsible for providing volunteers the weeks of October 20-26 and December 1 –7 as well as other weeks in 2025. Watch the bulletin for more information. Bill Weir will speak on the shelter during Adult Forum on November 24.

**When:** October 20—26, 2024, December 1—7, 2024 and a few weeks in 2025  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Serving

## God's Work. Our Hands. Quarterly Events



Throughout the year, we actively engage with our local community partners to serve as part of the ELCA's "God's Work. Our Hands." program. In the past, we've collaborated with wonderful organizations such as the Northland Arboretum, the Relationship Safety Alliance, Salem West, and more. Whether it's painting, cleaning, gardening, or organizing, these service opportunities allow us to make a meaningful impact in God's Kingdom right here in our own community. Keep an eye on the bulletin for upcoming sign-up opportunities and join us in this rewarding work!

**When:** watch the bulletin for specific details  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Serving

## Community Partners



Bethlehem has over thirty community partners! Being one of our community partners means we participate in serving, share our space, contribute monetary donations or items, or a combination of these three. A list of some of our community partners can be found on the next page.

# NUTS AND BOLTS

## Who are we?

**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.

## Our Officers and Boards

- President:** Scott Parsons
- Vice President:** open at time of publication
- Treasurer:** Curt Nielsen
- Board of Congregational Care and Community:** Wendy Gindorff, director
- Board of Education and Spiritual Formation:** Nancy Bogenschutz, director
- Board of Service and Evangelism:** Pam Finch, director
- Board of Stewardship and Properties:** Janis Peterson, director
- Board of Worship and Music:** Pam Oslos, director

All boards meet on Board Night, which is the second Tuesday of the month, from 6:00—7:30 PM.

## Service times

- Sunday after Labor Day—Sunday before Memorial Day:** Sunday services at 9:00AM with Education Hour at 10:00 AM; Wednesday services at 6:20 PM
- Memorial Day—Labor Day:** Sunday services at 9:00 AM
- Offsite Worship Opportunities:**
  - \*first and third Wednesdays at Woodland Good-Samaritan at 1:30 PM
  - \*first and third Thursdays at Edgewood Brainerd at 9:00 AM
  - \*first and third Thursdays at Edgewood Baxter at 10:15 AM

## Contact information

- Phone: 218-829-3330
- Email: [office@belcnet.net](mailto:office@belcnet.net)
- Website: [www.belcnet.net](http://www.belcnet.net)
- Facebook: [bethlehem.brainerd](https://www.facebook.com/bethlehem.brainerd)



## LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

### Men's Bible Study



Join us Tuesday mornings at 7:30 AM for fellowship and Bible Study.

**When:** Tuesday mornings at 7:30 AM

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Lifelong Learning, Being Community

### Lay Leader Network Yearly Intensive Series



The Yearly Intensive Series is designed to provide adult participants the opportunity to grow in their knowledge of biblical and Lutheran theological skills while enhancing their ability to lead missionally within their context. Participants will have the opportunity to grow deeper in their faith, spirituality, and being in community with one another, through the four Saturday sessions along with readings and exercises/discussions between sessions. In-person sessions will take place at BELC on September 14 and April 5 from 9:00 am—3:30 pm. Zoom sessions will take place on November 16 and February 1. There will be an annual gathering on February 22; location BELC. Cost is \$230 (which includes meals) plus cost of books; contact BELC office for a code to have our Endowment Board pay half the fee. Sign up on the Synod website at nemnsynod.org .

**When:** In-person 9/14/24 and 4/5/25; Zoom 11/16/24 and 2/1/25; optional in-person annual gathering 2/22/25

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Lifelong Learning, Being Community

### Revelation Bible Study Series

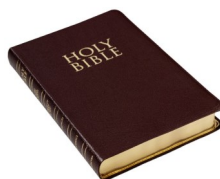


Join Pr. Mark as we study one of the most widely interpreted books of the entire canon of scripture including a hard critique of the more popular sensationalistic interpretations of the book alongside the more historic and traditional approaches. Together we will study the historical setting of Revelation and seek to better understand how the earliest church would have come to understand the central message of the book along with ramifications for us and the world today.

**When:** Wednesdays, 11/13/24—12/11/24 (no class on 11/27/24) from 7:00—8:30 PM

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Lifelong Learning, Being Community

### Overview of the Bible



Join Pr. Mark for an overview of the bible with a focus on the Old and New Testament, major themes, developments, and helpful keys for study. We'll look at the Old Testament on 2/12 and the New Testament on 2/19.

**When:** Wednesdays, 2/12/25 and 2/19/25 from 7:00—8:00 PM

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Lifelong Learning, Being Community

## YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

### Summer Stretch



Summer Stretch is open to students who have completed sixth—ninth grades. Typically they meet on Thursdays in June and July and will go to a Twins game. Contact Pr. Sarah for more information.

**When:** Thursdays in June and July

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Lifelong Learning, Being Community

### All Church Mission Trip



This mission trip is for any congregational member that would like to volunteer their time to serve others. At the time of publication, the All Church Mission Trip will be held June 15-20, 2025 in Madison, Wisconsin. Cost is \$125 per person. An initial meeting will be held on Sunday, October 6 at 10:00 AM after service.

**When:** tentatively June 15-20, 2025

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Serving

### 2025 High School Mission Trip



No details are available at the time of publication. Watch the bulletin. Contact Pr. Sarah for more information.

**When:** mid-late July 2025; cost TBD; location TBD

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Lifelong Learning, Being Community

### Coffee and Treats



If you would like to earn money for a mission trip, sign up to serve coffee and treats on a Sunday after the 9:00 AM service. Contact the office if you are interested in this to receive more information, directions, and to select dates.

**When:** Sundays at 10:00 AM

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community

## YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

### Lenten Suppers



During Lent, we will come together for a meal, conversation, and worship beginning downstairs in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 PM with supper and concluding with worship from 6:20-7:00. Meals will be served by a different group each night.

**When:** Wednesday evenings during Lent from 5:30—7:00 PM beginning 3/12/25 and going through 4/9/25

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Lifelong Learning

### Middle School Late Night



Local ELCA middle schoolers will meet on Fridays nights throughout the school year for nights of fun and fellowship. Cost is \$10 per night. On 12/6/24, meet at First Lutheran. On 1/10/25, meet at Bethlehem. On 2/21/25, meet at Trinity Lutheran. On 3/28/25, meet at Lord of Life Lutheran. Contact Pr. Sarah for more information.

**When:** 12/6/24, 1/10/25, 2/21/25, and 3/28/25 from 5:00—11:00 PM

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Lifelong Learning, Being Community

### Graduate Recognition

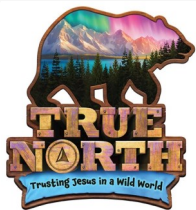


Parents/Grandparents/Guardians of high school graduates will gather on Monday, 5/5/25 at 6:00 PM to make blankets for their graduates. Graduates will be recognized during the service on Sunday, 5/18/25. Contact Pr. Sarah for more information.

**When:** Monday, 5/5/25 for parents/grandparents/guardians; recognition on 5/18/25 at 9:00 AM

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Lifelong Learning

### Vacation Bible School



We partner with Trinity Lutheran for VBS. It will be held at Trinity the week of July 21, 2025 from 9:00 AM –12:00 PM. Join in the ultimate Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. As kids trek the tundra, they'll explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. True North shows them that He is a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North! Contact Pr. Sarah for more information.

**When:** 7/21/25—7/25/25 from 9:00 AM—12:00 PM

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Lifelong Learning, Being Community

## LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

### Bible Study Series of the Gospel According to Luke

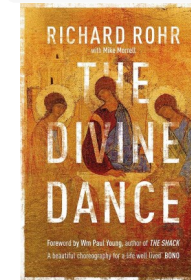


Join Pr. Mark for this three-session series of the gospel according to Luke. Luke is the only evangelist who regarded the story of Jesus as somehow incomplete without an account of its continuation in the life of the community and mission of Jesus' followers as we read in the Acts of the Apostles. We will discover together the strong emphasis that Luke places on the Holy Spirit as it is being "poured out" (Acts 2.17) through the "... eyewitnesses and servants of the word" (Luke 1.2) in our lives for the sake of God's beloved world.

**When:** Wednesdays, 12/4/24—12/18/24 from 11:45 AM—1:00 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Lifelong Learning, Being Community

### The Divine Dance Book Study



Join us as we read *The Divine Dance: The Trinity and Your Transformation* by Richard Rohr. During this four-part series we will engage a deeper understanding of the Holy Trinity and unmask many of the popular traps of contemporary theology and culture as it pertains to God. We will also examine some of the long-standing baggage that the church has clung too that may no longer be helpful or necessary when it comes to understanding or experiencing God's presence in the world today.

**When:** Wednesdays, 3/12/25—4/2/25 from 7:00—8:00 PM

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Lifelong Learning, Being Community

### Bible Study Series of 1st Corinthians



First Corinthians has been one of the most widely studied books within the entire cannon of scripture. Martin Luther developed much of his theology of the cross from Paul's writing to the early church at Corinth. There is probably no better description of the resurrection of the dead than found in first Corinthians. Join Pastor Mark as we explore this classic letter of scripture during Lent 2025.

**When:** Wednesdays, 3/12/25—4/9/25 from 11:45 AM—1:00 PM

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Lifelong Learning, Being Community

### Baptism Seminar



This seminar is for anyone contemplating being baptized or for the baptism of their children. This seminar is intended to be informational, stressing biblical and theological roots for baptism, along with providing an opportunity for small group interaction.

**When:** scheduled as needed; contact the office

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Lifelong Learning, Being Community

# LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

## Eat. Pray. Share

### Eat. Pray. Share.



This is a series of once-a-month small group gatherings from October through April that embrace the gift of being community together in Christ. That togetherness is lived out in our eating together, conversations, sharing our hopes and sorrows, and lifting each other up in prayer. In some groups, a member of the group hosts the session in their home, everyone brings a food item to share, and the host facilitates using the monthly devotional (which includes a suggested prayer, scripture passage and discussion questions) that is provided by Pastor Mark for the meeting. Other groups might meet in a restaurant or at Bethlehem using a similar format. There could be groups of families with children. Find or create a group (suggested 3-8 people in a group) that works best for you. We will begin and conclude the series with a large group kickoff/conclusion on October 22<sup>nd</sup> /April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 pm at Bethlehem which will include a meal together. If you have questions, please contact Wendy Gindorff or the office.

**When:** flexible: large group dinners on 10/22/24 and 4/22/25 at Bethlehem; then coordinate with your group members to meet once a month in November—March TBD by each group  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Lifelong Learning, Being Community

## New Member Orientation



Interested in becoming a member of Bethlehem? Join us for one evening session. New Member Sunday will follow on 11/17/24 and 4/6/25.

**When:** Thursdays, 11/14/24 and 4/3/25 from 6:00—8:00 pm  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Lifelong Learning, Being Community

## Christmas Program



Our youth will be celebrating the birth of Christ during the annual Christmas Program.

**When:** Sunday, 12/15 at the 9:00 AM service  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Lifelong Learning, Being Community

## Couple's Retreat



This event is for couples who are getting married and is typically held in April in partnership with our local ELCA congregations. A tentative date of 4/5/25 has been set.

**When:** tentatively 4/5/25 at Bethlehem Lutheran  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Lifelong Learning, Being Community

# YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

## High School Youth Group



The High School Youth Group is open to youth in ninth—twelfth grades. At the time of publication, the following events are planned: October 6 at Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen at 5:30 pm and November 10 for *God's Work. Our Hands.* at 10:00 AM at Bethlehem and then meet after for pizza. Contact Pr. Sarah for more information.

**When:** October 6 and November 10; watch bulletins for more details  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Lifelong Learning, Being Community

## All Youth Gathering



The All Youth Gathering will be held from Saturday, 11/23/24-11/24/24 at Cragun's for youth in grades six—twelve. Cost \$115. Adult leaders are needed. Contact Pr. Sarah for more information.

**When:** Saturday, 11/23—Sunday, 11/24  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Lifelong Learning

## Confirmation Ministry (FKA Catechism)



Catechism is open to youth in 6th-9th grades. This year ALL **6th-8th grade students** will meet weekly **AT TRINITY LUTHERAN for teaching nights and at other locations for special events.** See the schedule below. 6th—8th grade confirmation ministry meets from **6:45—7:45 PM** on Wednesdays at Trinity from 9/25/24—5/14/25.

ALL **9th grade students** will meet weekly **AT BETHLEHEM for teaching nights and at other locations for special events.** See the schedule below. 9th grade confirmation ministry meets from **7:00—8:00 PM** on Wednesdays at Bethlehem from 9/25/24—5/14/25.

**When:** Wednesdays, 9/25/24—5/14/25; location and time depends on grade level  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Lifelong Learning, Being Community

Confirmation Ministry will be held on the following nights:

September 18 and 25	October 2, 9, 23, and 30	November 6, 13, and 20
December 4, 11, and 18	January 8, 15, 22, and 29	February 5, 12, 19, and 26
March 5, 19, and 26	April 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30	May 7 and 14



# Youth Opportunities

## Back to School Blessing



All educators and students are invited to bring their backpacks to the 9:00 AM service on 9/1 to receive a blessing for the new school year.

**When:** Sunday, 9/1 at 9:00 AM service  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Lifelong Learning, Being Community

## Second Grade Bibles



Second graders receive their bibles on Sunday, 9/22 at the 9:00 AM service. Contact Pr. Sarah for more information.

**When:** Sunday, 9/22 at the 9:00 AM service  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Lifelong Learning

## First Communion



This is open to any third grader (or older) who has not yet received their first communion. If your child is younger and you'd like your child to commune, talk to Pr. Sarah. A First Communion class will be held on Saturday, 2/1/25 from 9:00—11:00 am for parents and children. Receive communion on Sunday, 2/2/25 at the 9:00 AM service or on Wednesday, 2/5/25 at the 6:20 pm service. Please contact the office to RSVP. Contact Pr. Sarah for more information.

**When:** Saturday, 2/1/25 from 9:00—11:00 am  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Lifelong Learning, Being Community

## Youth Bell Choir



Youth Bell Choir is open to youth in second-fifth grades. They meet on Sundays from 11:00-11:30 AM beginning 9/29 on the Sundays when there's Sunday School. Contact Youth Choir Director Nancy Albertson for more information.

**When:** Sundays from 11:00—11:30 AM beginning 9/29/24  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Lifelong Learning, Being Community

# Adult Forum Opportunities

## Adult Forum Topics\*

September 22: Harvest Festival  
September 29: Pr. Mark Skinner: 2024-2025 theme *Pouring Out the Spirit*  
October 6: Marc Marshall: being a foster parent  
October 13: Pr. Darrell Petersen: stories as a pastor and an author  
October 20: EM break = no adult forum today  
October 27: Confirmation celebration  
November 3: Sue Skinner: 25 years of Stephen Ministry  
November 10: packing meals for Outreach Program  
November 17: New Member reception  
November 24: Thanksgiving baskets; Bill Weir from Bridge on 7th warming shelter  
December 1: Thanksgiving weekend = no adult forum  
December 8: Stewardship brunch  
December 15: Kids' and Parents' Christmas party  
December 22: no adult forum  
December 29: no adult forum  
January 5: semi-annual congregational meeting  
January 12: TBD  
January 19: TBD  
January 26: TBD  
February 2: TBD  
February 9: TBD  
February 16: TBD  
February 23: TBD  
March 2: TBD  
March 9: TBD  
March 16: TBD  
March 23: TBD  
March 30: TBD  
April 6: New Member reception  
April 13: Palm Sunday breakfast  
April 20: Easter Sunday  
April 27: semi-annual congregational meeting  
May 4: TBD  
May 11: TBD  
May 18: graduate reception



**When:** Sunday mornings from 10:00—11:00 AM  
**Presentation Style:** Introductory  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Lifelong Learning, Being Community  
\*subject to change

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Thanksgiving Service



Please join us for our community Thanksgiving service with other congregations. Bring a pie to share in fellowship following service.

**When:** 11/22 at 6:15 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Worship

11:00 am Services in Advent and Lent



Advent services will be held on Wednesdays at 11:00 am at Trinity. Lent services will be held on Wednesdays at 11:00 am at Bethlehem. Meal to follow both.

**When:** Wednesdays at 11:00 am in Advent and Lent  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Worship

Quiet Christmas Service of Healing



Christmas can be very difficult for many reasons. Join us for a reflective service in which we celebrate Christ’s birth.

**When:** Sunday, 12/22 at 4:00 pm  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Worship

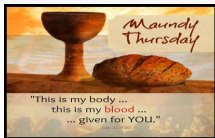
Christmas Eve Services



Please join us on Christmas Eve as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**When:** Christmas Eve services on 12/24 at 2:00, 4:00, and 6:00 PM  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Worship

Maundy Thursday—Meal and Service



We will gather at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall for dinner and then transition to the sanctuary for worship, where we will remember the Lord’s Passion as we are called to serve. We will offer the laying on of hands for forgiveness and healing and footwashing.

**When:** Thursday, 4/17/25 at 6:00 pm  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Serving, Worship

Good Friday Service



Remember Christ’s passion lived out through sacrifice and death on a cross.

**When:** Friday, 4/18/25 at 6:00 pm  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Worship

Easter Services



Join us as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**When:** Sunday, 4/20/25 at 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Worship

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

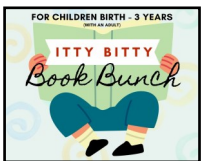
Baptism Seminar



This seminar is for anyone contemplating being baptized or for the baptism of their children. This seminar is intended to be informational, stressing biblical and theological roots for baptism, along with providing an opportunity for small group interaction.

**When:** scheduled as needed; contact the office  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Lifelong Learning

Itty Bitty Book Club



The Itty Bitty Book Club will usually meet on the first Sunday of the month from October—May from 10:00—11:00 AM. Read a book that you get to take home, do an activity and play. This is designed for kids from birth to age three along with an adult.

**When:** first Sundays of most months  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Lifelong Learning, Being Community

Three Year Old Blessing



All three year olds are invited to the 9:00 AM service on 9/22 to receive a blessing as they begin Sunday School. Please let the office know if your child will be attending.

**When:** Sunday, 9/22 at the 9:00 AM service  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Lifelong Learning, Being Community

Sunday School



Sunday School is open to children from age three through grade five. We have three classes: ages three and prekindergarten, kindergarten and first grade, and second—fifth grades. Parents are asked to attend weekly with second-fifth grades. Sunday School runs 9/22/24 through 5/11/25 and meets from 10:00—11:00 AM. See schedule below.

**When:** Sunday mornings from 10:00—11:00 AM  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Lifelong Learning

Sunday School will be held on the following mornings:

September 22 and 29	October 6, 13, and 27	November 3, 10, 17, and 24
December 8 and 15	January 12, 19, and 26	February 2, 9, and 23
March 2, 23, and 30	April 6, 13, and 27	May 4 and 11



## SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

### Operation Sandwich



This community-based program provides lunches during times in which school is not in session. The program is supported through generous donations. Donations are needed especially over Christmas break. Watch the bulletin for giving and volunteering opportunities.

**When:** watch bulletins and newsletter for giving and serving opportunities  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Serving

### Produce Market



Each summer growing season presents an opportunity to share homegrown fruits and vegetables and other produce with our congregation for a freewill donation. Bring items in throughout the summer and place them in the Narthex. Proceeds go to Operation Sandwich.

**When:** summer growing season  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Serving

### God's Work. Our Hands. Quarterly Events



Throughout the year, we actively engage with our local community partners to serve as part of the ELCA's "God's Work. Our Hands." program. In the past, we've collaborated with wonderful organizations such as the Northland Arboretum, the Relationship Safety Alliance, Salem West, and more. Whether it's painting, cleaning, gardening, or organizing, these service opportunities allow us to make a meaningful impact in God's Kingdom right here in our own community. Keep an eye on the bulletin for upcoming sign-up opportunities and join us in this rewarding work!

**When:** watch the bulletin for specific details  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Serving

## BEING COMMUNITY

### Brunch



There will be brunches on Stewardship Sunday, December 8, and on Palm Sunday, April 13.

**When:** 12/8/24 and 4/13/25 from 10:00—11:00 AM  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community

### Lenten Suppers



During Lent, we will once again be joining together for a meal, conversation, and worship beginning downstairs in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 PM with supper and concluding with worship from 6:20-7:00. Meals will be served by a different group each night.

**When:** Wednesday evenings during Lent from 5:30—7:00 PM beginning 3/12/25 and going through 4/9/25  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Lifelong Learning

### Wednesday Night Meals



Meals will be served most Wednesday nights from 5:30—6:15 pm beginning 9/11. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for school-age youth.

**When:** Wednesday nights from 5:30—6:15 pm beginning 9/11  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community

### Bethlehem Lunch Bunch



Join our coordinators Pam Oslos and Alice Smith as we gather for lunch together once a month for food, community, and sharing time together. Activities may include various speakers and time to play games such as cards or Bingo. Watch the bulletin for locations and times. The first gathering will be on October 29.

**When:** the last Tuesday of the month from October—April (not in December) at 11:30 AM  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community

### Wild Game Feed



Enjoy a meal prepared by Bethlehem's hunters and fishers.

**When:** tentatively to be held in spring of 2025  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community

## BEING COMMUNITY

### Music Opportunities



There are many opportunities for those who would like to participate in the music ministry. You can join a music group, join the choir for special events, sing solos, or play instrumental solos and/or accompaniment. Contact the office for more information.

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Serving, Worship, Being Community

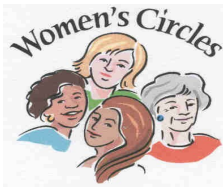
### Music Groups



Bethlehem has music groups for all ages and abilities. To learn about Youth Bell Choir, contact Nancy Albertson. If you have questions about Senior Choir, contact Al Albertson. If you are interested in Worship Team, contact Cori Wrobel. To find out more about Bethlehem Handbells, contact Stacy Erdal. You can also contact the office about any group. Music groups meet from Labor Day through Memorial Day with a few exceptions.

**Youth Choir (2nd—6th grades):** Sundays at 11:00 AM in Living Room  
**Senior Choir:** Wednesdays at 7:00 PM in the choir loft;  
**Worship Team:** Wednesdays at 5:00 PM in the sanctuary;  
**Bell Choir:** select Mondays or Tuesdays at 5:00 PM—watch bulletin  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Lifelong Learning, Being Community, Worship

### Women of Bethlehem Circles



As a community of women, created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, society, and world.

**Circles meet at the following times and places:**

**Ruth Circle:** meets the third Tuesdays at 10:00 AM at church  
**Mary Circle:** meets the third Thursdays at 1:30 PM at church  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Lifelong Learning, Being Community

### Bethlehem Book Club



Meet regularly to discuss books and life. Watch the bulletin for upcoming meetings.

**When:** watch the bulletin for more information.  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Lifelong Learning

## SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

### Assisting Ministers



Assisting ministers serve during the worship service in helping the pastor lead the liturgy. This role may include: helping to lead intercessory prayers, offering, assisting with communion distribution, helping to lead singing the kyrie or hymn of praise, and other duties as needed during the worship service. If you are interested in serving as an assisting minister or would like more information, please contact Pastor Mark. Our next training session is TBD.

**When:** Sundays at 9:00 AM and Wednesdays at 6:20 PM  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Serving, Worship

### Weekly Worship Assistants



It takes many servants to put together a worship service. Every service needs greeters, ushers, a reader and a sound technician; some also need video recording, communion preparation and communion servers. On special occasions, acolytes or banner bearers are needed. Contact a member of the Board of Worship and Music or the office if you'd like to help.

**When:** every Sunday and Wednesday  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Serving, Worship

### Seasonal Worship Opportunities



The Board of Worship and Music has opportunities to serve with seasonal events. These include assisting with Advent decorating and Lent preparations, baking communion bread, and caring for plants and flowers in the sanctuary. Please contact a Board of Worship and Music member or the office to find out more, or watch for these events in the church bulletin as they approach during the calendar year.

**When:** seasonally throughout the year  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Serving, Worship

### Offsite Worship Opportunities



If you are unable to attend worship on a Sunday or Wednesday, we invite you to one of our offsite worship opportunities. Residents would love to have you worship with them! Typically we are at Woodland on the first and third Wednesdays at 1:30 PM, Edgewood Brainerd on the first and third Thursdays at 9:00 AM, and Edgewood Baxter on the first and third Thursdays at 10:15 AM. We welcome you!

**When:** first and third Wednesdays and Thursdays  
**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Worship

## SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

### Planters and Weeders



This team is responsible for an area around the church to do planting/weed removal/trash removal as needed. There are master gardeners to provide assistance!

**When:** from April until the snow flies

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Serving

### Worker Bees



This team typically meets on the first Saturday morning of the month to do some small projects around the building. You may clean windows, paint a small room, clean the pews, or just do general work as needed.

**When:** typically the first Saturday of the month from 9:00—11:30 am

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Serving

### Stephen Ministry

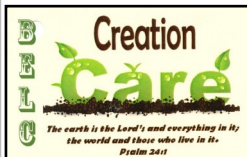


Stephen Ministry is a one-to-one lay caring ministry using the Stephen Series system. Trained Stephen Ministers meet with members struggling through a difficult time in life—experiencing grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or some other life crisis—to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care. If you could use the care of a Stephen Minister or if you would be interested in being trained as a Stephen Minister, talk to Pr. Mark or Sue Skinner.

**When:** as needed

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Serving

### Creation Care Team



Our “Creation Care” team at Bethlehem help to build an awareness of God’s Creation by providing opportunities and guides for our congregation in caring for God’s creation. BELC is part of the NE MN Synod’s Eco Faith Network. Contact Russ Schultz or the office for more information.

**When:** watch bulletins and newsletters for upcoming events

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Serving

## SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

### Quilting Group



The Quilting Group meets monthly to make quilts for the benefit of others in special circumstances. Please bring a snack to share with coffee. Contact Yvonne Kalahar or the office for more information.

**When:** first and third Thursdays of the month from 9:00 AM—12:00 PM

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Serving

### Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen

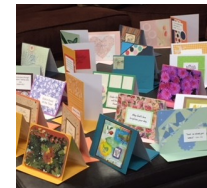


Bethlehem members serve the second Monday of every month and any fifth Tuesday. You are welcome to join us from 4:00—6:30 PM at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen located at 923 Oak Street.

**When:** the second Monday of every month; any fifth Tuesdays

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Serving

### Card Making Ministry Team



Join together for fellowship and creativity while making cards for our members who are homebound. Supplies are provided, but feel free to bring more materials and ideas! Contact Cathy Lee or the office for more information.

**When:** typically on the third Thursday but watch bulletin for specific details

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Serving

### Communion Bread Ministry Team



Join together one morning approximately once per quarter to bake communion bread.

**When:** watch bulletins and newsletters for future dates

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Serving

### Homebound Communion Team



These teams are trained and commissioned to bring communion to our homebound members once a month. We will host a training event on February 13 at 10:00 AM. On each first-Sunday of the month, team members will depart following worship and bring communion to our homebound members as an extension of the gathered congregation.

**When:** every first Sunday of the month

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Serving



## SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

### Thanksgiving Baskets



Bethlehem partners with Bridges of Hope to fill boxes of food for a Thanksgiving meal for community members on the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving. Boxes are delivered after worship. Monetary donations are needed, and help is needed to fill and deliver the boxes.

**When:** Sunday, 11/24

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Serving

### Food Share Month



March is Food Share Month. Collecting food to supply local food shelves is an opportunity to help our community partners address food shortage in our community.

**When:** watch bulletins and newsletters for upcoming events

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Serving

### Trees of Sharing

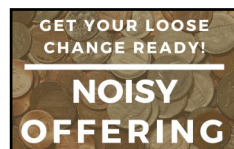


Many well-deserving organizations have benefitted through Bethlehem's two Trees of Sharing: one in December and one in July. These opportunities give all members a way to help support several of our community partners. Watch the bulletin in July and December.

**When:** watch bulletins and newsletters for upcoming events

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Serving

### Noisy Offering



Bring your loose change to Sunday worship. Children will collect noisy offering before the children's sermon. Each month, money will be collected for one of our community partners or for an internal church ministry.

**When:** collected during Sunday worship services

**Discipleship Emphasis:** worship, stewardship

### All Church Mission Trip



This mission trip is for any congregational member that would like to volunteer their time to serve others. At the time of publication, the All Church Mission Trip will be held June 15-20, 2025 in Madison, Wisconsin. Cost is \$125 per person. An initial meeting will be held on Sunday, October 6 at 10:00 AM after service.

**When:** tentatively June 15-20, 2025

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Being Community, Serving

## SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

### Narthex Team



This team is responsible for the Narthex area of the church and schedules activities/tables/general appearance to include: displaying exhibits throughout the year including confirmation, graduation, and kindergarten photos; Advent and Christmas displays; various other exhibits of artists for a period of time; and various themed displays such as a Veterans Day exhibit.

**When:** ongoing

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Serving

### Financial Teams—Weekly Counters



This team counts the offerings from the past week each Monday morning for about an hour.

**When:** every Monday morning

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Serving

### Financial Teams—Offering Collectors



After a worship service, two people take the offering from the altar area and put it into the safe. This five-minute commitment is for one month.

**When:** after every service

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Serving, Stewardship

### Financial Teams—Audit Team

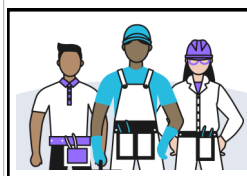


This team audits the financial records of the church under the direction of the treasurer. Total time commitment is about half a day once per year.

**When:** once a year

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Serving

### Skilled Labor Team



If you are a carpenter, electrician, plumber, wood worker, etc. and would be able to donate a few hours, you are needed and wanted! Work would be as needed and at your availability.

**When:** watch bulletins and newsletters for needs

**Discipleship Emphasis:** Serving