

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## PERSEVERING

WITH THE GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES

HEBREWS 12:1

*2020.2021 Annual theme Bethlehem Lutheran, Brainerd*

November 29, 2020



## Immediate Needs

Want to help our community partners?  
Here are some of their needs:

Mid Minnesota Women's Center  
\*wrapping paper, tape, bows

Salvation Army  
They still have 300 angel tags. Call Carol at 829-1120 to get a tag listing specific gifts to purchase.

Please drop off donations at the organizations.

See below for information on BELC Tree of Sharing items that are needed. Items will change weekly.



## BELC CHRISTMAS TREE OF SHARING

This year we will be partnering with LSS Youth Services, Mid MN Women's Center, and Salvation Army.

LSS Youth Services—Items will change weekly  
nonperishable food items, shampoo and conditioner, toasters, blenders, men's and women's underwear and socks, deodorant

Mid MN Women's Center—Items will change weekly  
bakeware, board games, pajamas/slippers/socks for adults and children, Legos, play dough, grocery store gift certificates, crockpots

Salvation Army—Call Carol at the Salvation Army at 829-1120 to find out their specific needs.

Items may be dropped off at BELC on weekdays between 8:30 am and 12:00 pm or after drive-in services on Sundays or Wednesdays. Please drop items off by 12/28.

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

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P. (Pastor) C. (Congregation)

We continue to work on issues during the livestreamed service. Thank you for your patience.

## Prelude

### GATHERING

#### Confession and Forgiveness

P. Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever. **C. Amen.**

P. Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires. **C. Amen.**

*Pause for reflection and self-examination*

P. Loving and forgiving God

**C. we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

P. in the mercy of almighty God....and of the Holy Spirit. **C. Amen.**

#### Gathering Hymn *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* verses 1, 3, 4.....ELW Hymn #242

**Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.  
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,  
he opens wide the heav'nly door and lives now inside us forever.**

**In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,  
as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder,  
the weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.**

**Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, through dark the winter and cheerless,  
the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless.  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story;  
may God fill ev'ry day we share and bring us at last into glory.**

*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn.* Text and music: Marty Haugen. © Text and music: GIA Publications, Inc. 1983 All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #736-069-A. All rights reserved.

## Greeting

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C. And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## WORD

**Reading** .....1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

P. The word of the Lord.      C. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19** *Read Responsively*

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
**shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.**
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
**stir up your strength and come to help us.**
- 3 Restore us, O God;  
**Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**
- 4 O LORD God of hosts,  
**how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
**you have given them bowls of tears to drink.**
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
**and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts;  
**let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**
- 17 Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
**the one you have made so strong for yourself.**
- 18 And so will we never turn away from you;  
**give us life, that we may call upon your name.**
- 19 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;  
**let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

**Musical Offering** *A Time for Advent* by Stewart Harris .....Stacy Erdal

P. The holy gospel according to ... C. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel** .....Mark 13: 24-37

P. The gospel of the Lord. C. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon** .....Rev. Dr. Mark Skinner

**Hymn of the Day** *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* verses 1 and 2 .....ELW Hymn #244

**Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;  
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.  
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.  
The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near;  
go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.**

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers.* Text: Laurentius Laurenti; tr. Sarah B. Findlater. Music: Swedish folk tune. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #736-069-A. All rights reserved.

**Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayers of Intercession**

A. Lord in your mercy, C. **hear our prayer.**

**Sharing of the Peace and Announcements**

# The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

## SENDING

### Blessing

P. The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, now and forever. **C. Amen.**

### Sending *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* verses 3 and 4 .....ELW Hymn #244

**The saints, who here in patience their cross and suff'rings bore,  
shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold;  
in triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.**

**Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;  
arise, O Sun so longer for, o'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!**

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers.* Text: Laurentius Laurenti; tr. Sarah B. Findlater. Music: Swedish folk tune. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #736-069-A. All rights reserved.

### Doxology .....ELW Hymn #884

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* Text: Thomas Ken. Music: Louis Bourgeois. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #736-069-A. All rights reserved.

### Dismissal

P. Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

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Special thanks to Jerry, Jon and Todd for running sound, Turner for livestreaming on Facebook, Scott for uploading the video to our website, and our ushers. Please continue to mail in your weekly offerings, go to our website at [www.belcnet.net](http://www.belcnet.net) and give online, or sign up for direct deposit. **Thank you** to all who have already done so. Please continue to give generously as you are able.

## LAKES AREA MUSIC FESTIVAL: LOVE LETTERS

Saturday, December 5 at 7:30 p.m.

The Lakes Area Music Festival kicks off its 2020/21 Winter Series with "Love Letters", a vocal recital of intimate sentiments performed in an intimate space. Performed by artistic directors John Taylor Ward (voice) and Scott Lykins (piano), highlights include the US premier of Gerald Barry's *Beethoven*, a witty and heart-rending setting of Ludwig van Beethoven's own love letters, Samuel Coleridge Taylor's sumptuous and seldom-heard *Songs of Sun and Shade*, as well as works by H. T. Burleigh, Kate Soper, Beethoven, Franz Schubert, and Erich Korngold.

This concert will be available streaming online on Saturday, December 5, so you can enjoy it at home. No fee or registration is required. Visit [lakesareamusic.org/love-letters](http://lakesareamusic.org/love-letters)



**Sundays at 8:45 am**

**11/29: Meyer family, Greg Anderson**  
**12/6: Clayton Lang, Meyer family**  
**12/13: Greg Anderson, Jackie Nornes**  
**12/20: Janis and Jim Peterson**

**Wednesdays at 6:20 pm**

**12/2: Pam Stock and Al Gardener**  
**12/9: Joe Lindholm**  
**12/16: Pam Stock and Al Gardner**  
**12/23: Joe Lindholm**

## POINSETTIAS AND LIGHTS

You can honor or memorialize someone special by donating a poinsettia or money to purchase Christmas lights for the parking lot in their name.

Any donations are welcomed and appreciated. Please make checks payable to BELC with "poinsettias/lights" in the memo line. Contact the office with your name and the name of who you are honoring or memorializing at 829-3330 or [office@belcnet.net](mailto:office@belcnet.net).



### Trouble With Winter Utility Bills

BPU will work with you if you fall behind or are unable to make a payment in full.

We will help you set up a payment arrangement which allows a maximum of three (3) installment payments over a ninety (90) day period to pay past due amounts once you receive a disconnect notice.

In addition, a customer needs to keep current bills paid during this arrangement period. Failure to keep a payment arrangement can result in immediate disconnection.

The following agencies may also be able to help you pay your utility bill:

Lutheran Social Service—829-5000  
Crow Wing County Social Services—824-1250  
Salvation Army—829-1120

### Financial Assistance

The uncertainty around the COVID-19 pandemic creates financial instability for many Minnesotans. Minnesota has financial assistance programs, resources, and information for those seeking to manage payments and provide for themselves and their families during this uncertainty.

The following resources are available if you, your family, or someone you know needs economic assistance. Find more information about income assistance from the [Department of Human Resources](#):

- Bridge to Benefits.** This web-based screening tool can help you identify if you're eligible for public works programs, including SNAP, WIC, School Meal Program, Mn Health Care Programs, Energy Assistance, & Child Care Assistance.
- ApplyMN.** This web application can connect you with state and county services to help meet your and your family's basic needs. Use it to apply for cash assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, child care assistance, and Emergency Assistance. Call 651-431-4000 for questions.
- Emergency Assistance.** Your household may be eligible for assistance to cover emergency needs, such as help paying rent or utility bills. Contact your [county or tribal human services agency](#) to learn about availability, eligibility, and how to apply.
- Community Action Agencies.** This site gathers local, state, federal, and private resources that can help individuals and families with low incomes.
- COVID-19 Financial Assistance for Veterans.** A variety of grants and resources are available for veterans and their spouses, who are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information online, <https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/get-help/financial.jsp>

Call Gopher State One at 1-800-252-1166 for water and electric locations before digging. All requests for locations must be made by calling the above number at least 48 hours before digging begins.

Facebook: Brainerd Public Utilities | Twitter: | Emergency 24 hour service 365 days a year: (218) 829-1121 | Email: [bpu@brainerd.org](mailto:bpu@brainerd.org)

# UPCOMING EVENTS AT BETHLEHEM

## SUNDAY, November 29—1st Sunday of Advent

8:45 am—drive-in worship with communion

10:30 am —live-streamed service on our Facebook page bethlehem.brainerd

## MONDAY, November 30

7:00 pm—Board of Education and Spiritual Formation meeting online via Zoom

## TUESDAY, December 1

5:00 pm—Board of Worship and Music meeting online via Zoom

## WEDNESDAY, December 2

6:20 pm—Drive-in worship service

7:00 pm—Catechism online via Zoom

7:00 pm—High School Youth Group online via Zoom

## THURSDAY, December 3

10:00 am—LSS PTSD groups

6:30 pm—Smart Team meeting online via Zoom

## SUNDAY, December 6—2nd Sunday of Advent; Consecration Sunday

8:45 am—drive-in worship with communion

9:30 am—Sunday School via Zoom

10:30 am —live-streamed service on our Facebook page bethlehem.brainerd

Please keep these people in your prayers:

**New:** Lorraine; Carl Hadrits' sister Melissa; Brenda and Kevin Schmidt and family

**Sympathy:** Sydney Stock and family on the death of her father; Kevin Brick and family on the death of his mother; the family of Larry Olson; the family of Aldene Gosse; the family of Bob Johnson; the Hannaman family; the family of Ken Snook;

**Ongoing:** Linda Albertson; Marie; the family of Thea; Lynn Kalahar; Bob Morris; Tammy Praught's mom; Jessica Rodenbiker; Mark Skogen; Al Coronon; Chuck Steinbauer; Jim Brosseau; Aletta Simonitch; Rob Bement; for all affected by COVID; Michael Zickuhr; victims of domestic violence; all residents and staff of assisted living and nursing home facilities; Mike Stanek and family on future deployment; Nancy Walsh; for peace in our world; the unemployed; healthcare workers; Yvonne Doust; for protection from Corona Virus; Bobbie Sayles; all dealing with addiction; all affected by mental health issues; all caregivers; everyone dealing with cancer

**Service:** Zac Myhre deployed to South Korea; Danny Smith deployed to Kuwait

**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.

**Have a Prayer Request?** You are invited to call Deloris Ebinger at 829-2333 or the Church Office at 829-3330 or email [office@belcnet.net](mailto:office@belcnet.net) to have your request put on the Prayer Chain. Please note that we keep people on the prayer list for 3 weeks. If someone needs extended prayers, please let the office know.



Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

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