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COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Crow Wing County Licensed
Family Child Care Association

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: Kevin Goedker

Treasurer: Curt Nielsen

Board of Congregational Care and Community: Pete Olson, director; meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 5:15 PM

Board of Education and Spiritual Formation: Colleen Goedker, director; meets on the 1st Monday of the month at 7:00 PM

Board of Service and Evangelism: Pam Finch and Pam Stock, directors; meets on the 1st Monday of the month at 6:00 PM

Board of Stewardship and Properties: Joe Lindholm, director; meeting times vary from month to month

Board of Worship and Music: Laura Roberts, director; meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 5:00 PM

Service times

Sunday after Labor—Sunday before Memorial Day: Sunday services at 8:20 and 10:30 AM with Adult Forum and Sunday School at 9:30 AM; Wednesdays at 6:20 PM

Memorial Day—Labor Day: Sunday service at 9:00 AM

Offsite Worship Opportunities:

*1st and 3rd Wednesdays at Woodland at 1:30 PM

*1st and 3rd Thursdays at Edgewood Brainerd at 9:00 AM

*1st and 3rd Thursdays at Edgewood Baxter at 10:15 AM

Contact information

Phone: 218-829-3330

Email: office@belcnet.net

Website: www.belcnet.net

Youth website: www.bethlehembrainerd.com

NUTS AND BOLTS

Long-term Strategic Imperatives

Long-Term Strategic Imperatives: In April of 2018, the congregation adopted the following long-term (five year) strategic imperatives for the congregation. These imperatives flowed from two consecutive years of work including; yearly Epiphany mission conversations with members of the congregation and community, focused study groups within the congregation, and several leadership meetings. Below is a listing of these imperatives along with the responsible board.

Congregational Care and Community

- *Continue enriching ongoing lay leader development.
- *Grow small groups and ministry teams. 75% of all congregation members will be involved in a small group or ministry team by year-end 2020.

Education and Spiritual Formation

- *Form and/or partner with a separate organization (non/not for profit), to provide licensed day-care and/or pre-school, that will be operational by year-end 2020.
- *Continue to enhance and grow youth/children's ministry participation by 10% by year-end 2020. We will seek to maintain a key component of total family involvement in this ministry.

Service and Evangelism

- *Enhance our partnership with the NE MN Synod of the ELCA to include the School of Lay Ministry (Missional Lay Leadership).
- *Enhance and deepen our current community partnerships. We will broaden our current nineteen partnerships to twenty-five by year-end 2020.
- *Boldly proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God through word and service.

Stewardship and Property

- *Continue to advance financial stewardship throughout the congregation. This will include: teaching on first-fruits giving and tithing, timely communication regarding the greater work of the congregation including success stories and current challenges and presenting opportunities for giving and serving in other capacities that engage God's mission for the sake of the world.
- *Deepen the understanding of stewardship through our daily callings in the life of God's world.

Worship and Music

- *Increase weekly worship attendance by 10% by year-end 2020.
- *50% of our members will be worshipping regularly each week by 2022.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Stephen Ministry

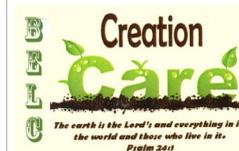


Stephen Ministry is a one-to-one lay caring ministry using the Stephen Series system. Trained Stephen Ministers meet with members struggling through a difficult time in life—experiencing grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or some other life crisis—to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care. This confidential pairing is done through Pr. Mark. 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 Deb Luhrs.

When: as needed

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith, Being Community

Creation Care Team



A "Creation Care" team has been formed at Bethlehem for the purpose of building 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 for more information.

When: watch bulletins and newsletters for upcoming events

Discipleship Emphasis: Being Community, Serving

Operation Sandwich



This community-based program provides lunches during times in which school is not in session. Currently Bethlehem's kitchen is the base for summer sandwich prep. 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 opportunities

Discipleship Emphasis: Being Community, Serving

New Pathways



Due to unfortunate circumstances, New Pathways is not currently operating in the Brainerd area. Community leaders are gathering to brainstorm ways to continue New Pathways' operations. Until then, serving this need is on hold. Watch for more information to come.

When: nothing scheduled at this time

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith, Being Community, Serving

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Women in Mission



Women in Mission is a group of women that join together to serve God's world. Past endeavors include hosting baby showers for homeless teens, raising money for Food for the Poor, and assembling kits for Days for Girls. Watch for more information to come.

When: Watch for more information

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith, Being Community

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 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 1:00 PM, Edgewood Brainerd on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 9:00 AM, and Edgewood Baxter on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 10:15 AM. We welcome you!

When: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays and Thursdays

Discipleship Emphasis: Being Community, Serving

Weekly Worship Assistants



It takes many servants to put together a worship service. Every service needs greeters, ushers, sound, and a reader; 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 if you'd like to help. There will be trainings on September 24 and April 28 from 6:30—8:00 PM to explain what to do for each position.

When: every Sunday and Wednesday

Discipleship Emphasis: Serving

Seasonal Worship Opportunities



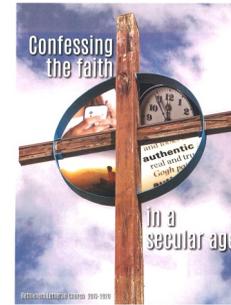
The Board of Worship and Music has opportunities to serve with seasonal events. These include assisting with Advent decorating and Lent preparations, communion bread baking and the care of plants and flowers in the sanctuary. Please contact a Board of Worship and Music member to find out more or watch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

When: seasonally throughout the year

Discipleship Emphasis: Serving

LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Baptismal Calling Celebrations



Come together with the Bethlehem community to celebrate the event that has joined all of us together: our baptismal vocations. A different vocation will be celebrated every month. Join us in Fellowship Hall at 9:30 AM for a light breakfast and fellowship. Attend any service that week for a special blessing. Everyone fits in at least one category, so choose the month that works best for you:

When: September 8—educators and students; October 13—citizens; November 17—veterans and military families; December 8—children of God; January 12—volunteers; February 9—married couples; March 8—suffering and survivors; April 26—outdoor enthusiasts and conservationists; May 10—health care workers, human resources, and community service workers

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Being Community, Learning the Faith

One Year Bible Reading Challenge



As we consider our annual theme, “confessing the faith in a secular age,” how will we know *what* or *how* to confess? How will we *know* God’s story throughout history that is brought to fulfillment in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the sake of God’s world? We will *not* adequately know or be proficiently equipped, unless we take seriously our study of scripture. Over the next year, I am challenging our congregation to engage in a daily reading of scripture. In Paul’s second letter to Timothy, “All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). I would encourage you to lean into the daily discipleship practice of reading scripture either by yourself, or better yet, gather with another (or others) to read/discuss together. Find a “bible study buddy” to check in with once a week to see how things are going and talk about what you are reading. Check out our website or newsletter each month for daily readings beginning with Genesis on September 15th, 2019 and concluding on September 14th of 2020 with Revelation. To further aid you in this endeavor, I would recommend visiting the website www.enterthebible.org which is provided by Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. This is an excellent resource to utilize as you are reading. You will find online videos, maps, historical information, etc, for every book in the Bible ... best of all, it’s free to utilize. To log on, simply create an account and password, then you are all ready to go!

When: 9/15/19—9/14/20

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith, Being Community

LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Baptism Seminar

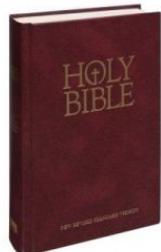


This seminar is for anyone contemplating being baptized or for the baptism of their children. This seminar is intended to be informational, stressing biblical and theological roots for baptism, along with providing an opportunity for small group interaction. Dinner included.

When: Wednesdays, 10/23/19 and 3/25/20 from 5:30—6:45 PM

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Being Community, Learning the Faith



Join us for this two-part multimedia series of the entire Bible including major themes, books, characters, and historical development. This is for anyone that is brand new to reading the Bible or for someone who reads the Bible regularly and wants a good review.

When: Thursdays, 11/7/19 and 12/5/19, from 7:00—9:00 PM

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith, Being Community

New Member Seminar



Interested in becoming a member of Bethlehem? Join us for one evening session. New Member Sunday will follow on 11/17/19 and 4/19/20.

When: Tuesday, 11/5/19 and Thursday, 4/16/20 from 6:00—8:30 PM

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith, Being Community

Christmas Program



Join our youth as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

When: Sunday, 12/15/19 at the 10:30 AM service

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith, Being Community

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

Outside Clean-Up

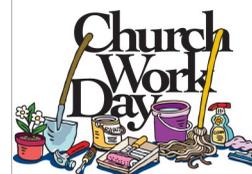


Typically once in spring and again in fall, this team cleans around the outside of the church.

When: spring and fall

Discipleship Emphasis: Being Community, Serving

Inside Maintenance



Once or twice a year, this team does some cleaning inside the church. You may clean windows, paint a small room, clean the pews, or just do general work as needed. This could be a one or two day commitment depending on the task.

When: watch bulletins and newsletter for needs

Discipleship Emphasis: Serving

Skilled Labor



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

Snow Shoveling



Come early on a Sunday morning and make certain the sidewalk is shoveled, or be on-call to shovel for a funeral or other church event. You might sign up for a few weeks, or sign up to be on-call as needed

When: when the snow flies

Discipleship Emphasis: Serving

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

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

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 1.5 hours.

When: every Monday morning

Discipleship Emphasis: Serving

Financial Teams—offering collectors



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

When: after every service

Discipleship Emphasis: Serving

Financial Teams—audit team



This team audits the financial records of the church under the direction of the treasurer. Total time commitment is about 1/2 day once per year.

When: once a year

Discipleship Emphasis: Serving

LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

CHRISTmas Journey II



Join us as we carol together with our catechism groups and parents. We will wrap up the evening with cookies and hot drinks.

When: Wednesday, December 18 from 7:00—8:00 PM

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith, Being Community

Couple's Retreat



On Saturday, April 18, we will host our annual couple's retreat for couples preparing for marriage, along with married couples that want to enrich their relationship as well. This event is a joint endeavor with area ELCA congregations and includes presentation and discussion on: the theology of marriage, communication and conflict resolution, understanding personality styles and family backgrounds, along with financial helps for budgeting and debt consolidation.

The cost for the retreat is \$125 which covers food for the day, materials, and presenter fees. For couples preparing for marriage, this retreat can be counted toward preparation time required for the Minnesota county premarital education discount. Register online through our website under the "couples retreat" tab.

When: Saturday, 4/18/20, from 9:00 AM—6:00 PM

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith, Being Community

Men's Bible Study Breakfast



Join us Wednesday mornings at 7:30 AM for breakfast, fellowship, and Bible Study.

When: Wednesday mornings at 7:30 AM beginning 9/4/19

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith, Being Community

LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Faith Formation in a Secular Age by Andrew Root



Join us at Bethlehem as we welcome the Rev. Dr. Andrew Root, professor of Youth and Family Ministry, co-sponsored by the NE MN Synod's Lay Leader Network and NE MN Synod's Men's Ministry.

Andrew Root joined Luther Seminary in 2005. He is often mentioned as one of the leading scholars in youth ministry and practical theology in the world. His first book *Revisiting Relational Ministry* (IVP, 2007) presented a new trajectory for youth ministry, offering the field one of the first robust theological projects. Since then, Root has published sixteen books, many of which have been found on lists for book of year. His 2011 book, *The Theological Turn in Youth Ministry*, was awarded Book of Merit by *Christianity Today*.

Root has also offered important texts on pastoral ministry more generally, asserting that "the theological substance of youth ministry is no different than ministry generally; my concern is to discuss how real people (whether young or old) experience the living presence of God." His books *The Promise of Despair*, *The Relational Pastor*, and *Christopraxis* have all offered new visions for pastoral practice and practical theology. Root's unique theological project is to see all of theology through the lens of ministry, particularly exploring God's own act and being as fundamentally ministry.

From 2015 to 2018, Root was the principal leader for a 1.2 million dollar John Templeton Foundation grant called "Science for Youth Ministry."

Root's latest project is a three volume series with Baker Academic called "Ministry in a Secular Age." Volume one was released as *Faith Formation in a Secular Age* in October 2017. Volume two, titled *The Pastor in a Secular Age*, was released in late spring 2019, with volume three to follow. In this series, Root uses Charles Taylor's thought to explore the challenges of ministry, offering a theological and ministerial response. Root is known as a leading thinker on the thought of Charles Taylor, secularity, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, modernity, science and ministry, pastoral theology, practical theology, and youth ministry.

Andrew Root is a sought-after speaker at conferences, colleges, and churches. He is known for an engaging style that laces together stories, theological depth, and humor. He has lectured and presented all over the world, including South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, and throughout Europe.

When: Saturday, February 22 from 12:00—4:00 PM

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith, Being Community

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Giving Trees



Many well-deserving organizations have benefitted through Bethlehem's two Giving Trees: 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

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

All Church Mission Trip



All are welcome on this mission trip: individuals, couples, and families. This year, we will be heading to the Quad Cities. During our trip, we will have service learning opportunities, worship, fellowship, and a bunch of fun. The cost is \$75 per person if traveling as an individual, couple, or per family member and \$200 if traveling as an unaccompanied middle or high school youth. Youth must have completed at least 7th grade if not travelling with parents or family. If you are interested in participating, please see Pastor Sarah for registration forms.

When: 6/14/20—6/19/20

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith, Being Community, Serving

Vacation Bible Serve



Evenings begin with dinner at 5:15 PM followed by a cross+generational VBS experience from 6:00-8:00 PM. Activities will include: a bible story, a service project, music, fun, and fellowship. People of all ages are encouraged to attend.

When: Monday—Thursday, 6/22/20—6/25/20

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith, Being Community

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 for more information.

When: 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 9:00 AM—12:00 PM

Discipleship Emphasis: Being Community, Serving

Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen



Bethlehem members serve the 2nd Monday of every month and any 5th Tuesday. You are welcome to join us from 4:30—6:30 PM at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen located at 923 Oak Street.

When: the 2nd Monday of every month; any 5th 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. We typically meet monthly on the 4th Thursday from 4:30—7:30 pm from September—April; watch bulletins for exceptions in November and December. Supplies are provided, but feel free to bring more materials and ideas! Contact Cathy Lee for more information.

When: typically the 4th Thursday of the month from September—April from 4:30—7:30 PM

Discipleship Emphasis: Being Community, Serving



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. Help is need to both fill and deliver the boxes.

When: Sunday, 11/24/19

Discipleship Emphasis: Being Community, Serving

Communion Bread Making Ministry Team



Join together one morning (usually a Saturday) approximately once per quarter to bake communion bread. Watch the bulletin for specific dates.

When: 9/7/19 at 9:00 AM; watch bulletins and newsletters for future dates

Discipleship Emphasis: Being Community, Serving

LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Nicodemus Group



The Nicodemus Group will meet once a month (second Tuesday of the month) from noon until 3:00 PM. We will begin by sharing a meal together and then continue with good, thought-provoking conversation regarding God's continual guidance and provision in our lives, and throughout God's world. The participants in this group typically will span from recent retirement to about ten years post-retirement age. We will have the opportunity to cover a wide-span of material to include: personal devotion and reflection, time-line and life-marker reflections, growing in God's grace and mercy as we enter into the last third of life, a brief survey of major world religions and associated history and the impetus for deepening our own faith story manifest through God's Kingdom, along with work in theological reflection as it pertains to our current life callings.

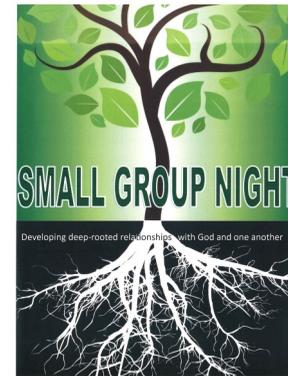
If you are interested in participating, please contact Pastor Mark.

When: Nicodemus group meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 12:00 PM—3:00 PM starting 9/10/19

Presentation Style: In-Depth

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith, Being Community

Small Group Night



These evening sessions are open to adults in the congregation and their friends. We will share a meal at 6:00 PM, experience a large group teaching session with Pr. Mark at 6:30 PM, and break into our small groups at 7:15 PM. Small groups include: nurturing your inner child (both sessions), couple's enrichment (both sessions), movie groups (both sessions), creation care (both sessions), ballroom dancing (fall session), and music and the brain (fall session). Childcare is available; you must preregister on our website at www.belcnet.net.

When: 2nd Tuesday of the month from September—December and/or January—April from 6:00—8:30 PM

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith, Being Community

ADULT FORUM OPPORTUNITIES

Adult Forum Topics

- September 8—Baptismal Calling: educators and families with students
- September 15—Yearly theme with Pr. Mark part 1
- September 22—Year theme with Pr. Mark part 2; Ministry Team Leader training
- September 29—Food for the Poor presentation
- October 6—Days for Girls presentation
- October 13—Baptismal Calling: citizens
- October 20—Semi-annual congregational meeting and Mid-MN Women's Center presentation
- October 27—Confirmation reception
- November 3—LSS Neighbor to Neighbor presentation
- November 10—transitional/assisted living and long-term care presentation
- November 17—Baptismal Calling: military families; New Member reception
- November 24— Thanksgiving Basket distribution; planning a Christian funeral: theology of death and resurrection
- December 1—planning a funeral with a funeral home presentation
- December 8—Baptismal Calling: children of God; Consecration Sunday
- December 15—legacy planning through Mission Investment Funds presentation
- December 22—Make it Okay presentation
- January 5—Semi-annual congregational meeting: approve 2020 budget; Epiphany Mission Conversation: Board of Stewardship and Properties
- January 12—Baptismal Calling: volunteers: Community Partners Fair
- January 19—Epiphany Mission Conversation: Board of Service and Evangelism
- January 26—Teen Challenge presentation
- February 2— Epiphany Mission Conversation: Board of Congregational Care and Community
- February 9—Baptismal Calling: married couples
- February 16— Epiphany Mission Conversation: Board of Worship and Music
- February 23—Epiphany Mission Conversation: Board of Education and Spiritual Formation
- March 1—Confessing the Faith
- March 8— Baptismal Calling: suffering and survivors
- March 15—Confessing the Faith
- March 22 -Confessing the Faith
- March 31— Confessing the Faith
- April 5 —Confessing the Faith
- April 12—Easter breakfast served from 8:00—9:00 am
- April 19—Semi-annual congregational meeting: elections; new member reception
- April 28— Baptismal calling: outdoor enthusiasts and conservationists; Wild Fame Feed
- May 3—Creation Care Team
- May 10—Baptismal Calling: healthcare workers, human resources, and community service workers
- May 17—TBD

When: Sunday mornings between services from 9:30 AM—10:20 AM

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith, Being Community



BEING COMMUNITY

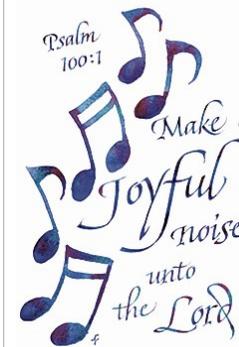
Music Opportunities



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. Please contact Al Albertson for more information.

Discipleship Emphasis: Being Community

Music Groups



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

Youth Choir (3rd—8th grades): Wednesdays at 5:45 PM in the Living Room

Senior Choir: Wednesdays at 7:00 PM in the choir loft

Worship Team: Wednesdays at 5:30 PM in the sanctuary

Bell Choir: Wednesdays at 5:00 PM in the bells room

Pick Up Choir: Summer dates TBD in the choir loft

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith, Being Community

The 80s+ Lunch Bunch



If you 80+ (or just about 80), join Pr. Mark as we gather for lunch together at different locations once a month for food, community, and sharing time together.

When: the last Tuesday of the month from September—May at 11:45 AM

Discipleship Emphasis: Being Community

Young at Heart Group



Come join seniors for a fellowship luncheon once a month at a local restaurant. See Roger Gonnerman for more information.

When: 2nd Friday of the month at 12:00 PM

Discipleship Emphasis: Being Community

BEING COMMUNITY

Eat Pray Share Serve



This is a series of three once-a-month group sessions for the purpose of sharing our faith with fellow congregational members through prepared discussion points and an opportunity to serve. One of the group sessions may be dedicated to community service.

In some groups, a member of the group hosts the session in their home, everyone brings a food item to share, and then the host leads the discussion using the prepared discussion points. Other groups meet in restaurants while still others are based on community service in nursing homes. There's even a group of families with young children. With such variety, everyone should be able to find something that suits them. If you feel a pull to a different area, feel free to start another group! We challenge each existing group to find 2 new members.

If you have questions, please contact Linda Schuster.

When: flexible fall session: once a month in October, November, and December TBD by each group

Flexible spring session: once a month in February, March, and April TBD by each group

Presentation Style: Exploratory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith, Being Community, Serving

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 3rd Monday at 10:00 AM in the Living Room at church; contact Marge Streich at 828-7094

Mary Circle: meets the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 PM in various homes; contact Deloris Ebinger at 829-2333 or Cyndy Thompson at 330-3900

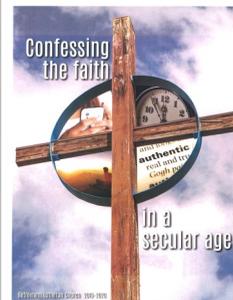
Martha Circle: meets the 3rd Wednesday at 1:00 PM in the Fireside Room at church; contact Jean Anhalt at 829-4445

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith, Being Community



ADULT FORUM OPPORTUNITIES

Confessing the Faith in a Secular Age



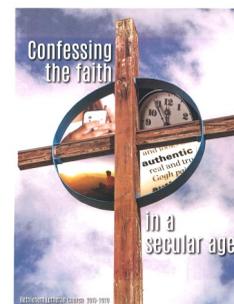
Join us for Adult Forum on September 15th and 22nd as Pastor Mark shares some insights about confessing our faith in a secular age. Andrew Root in his recent book, *Faith Formation in a Secular Age* (citing Charles Taylor) writes, "Taylor points us to the possibility that our issue isn't necessarily people leaving the church but instead people no longer having ways to imagine the possibility of divine action or transcendence." How do we live as a church in 21st century North America, in a culture that is increasingly more and more secular? What will the church need to be ready for? How might the church be best equipped to confess the faith in and throughout this culture with the transforming power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Join Pastor Mark in this exciting and thoughtful time of engaging culture, scripture, and other confessions of the church as we examine these questions together.

When: Sundays from 9:30 AM—10:20 AM on 9/15/19 and 9/22/19

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith, Being Community

Baptismal Calling Celebrations



Come together with the Bethlehem community to celebrate the event that has joined all of us together: our baptismal vocations. A different vocation will be celebrated every month. Join us in Fellowship Hall at 9:30 AM for a light breakfast and fellowship. Attend any service that week for a special blessing. Everyone fits in at least one category, so choose the month that works best for you:

When: September 8—educators and students; October 13—citizens; November 17—military families; December 8—children of God; January 12—volunteers; February 9—married couples; March 8—suffering and survivors; April 26—outdoor enthusiasts and conservationists; May 10—health care workers, human resources, and community service workers

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Being Community, Learning the Faith

Funeral Planning

Join Pastor Mark in this two-part series on planning a Christian funeral.

Session #1 (November 24): The theology of death and resurrection/Working with the funeral home (costs, what questions to ask, what to consider)

Session #2 (December 1): Making your plan for the funeral service

When: Sundays from 9:30 AM—10:20 AM on 11/24/19 and 12/1/19

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith, Being Community



ADULT FORUM OPPORTUNITIES

Epiphany Mission Conversations



Join us as Bethlehem boards have the opportunity to engage in presentation and conversation with the congregation regarding our long-term strategic imperatives along with other topics of interest.

When: Sundays from 9:30 AM—10:20 AM

January 5: Board of Stewardship and Properties

January 19: Board of Service and Evangelism

February 2: Board of Congregational Care and Community

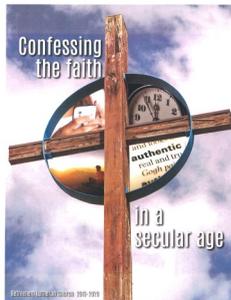
February 16: Board of Worship and Music

February 23: Board of Education and Spiritual Formation

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith, Being Community

Lent Series: Confessing the Faith



Join Pastor Mark in this five-session series as we explore the challenge of confessing our faith in a highly secular society. We will be exploring, in the first two sessions, the research and analysis of Charles Taylor's book, *A Secular Age* along with insights from other authors including Putnam and Campbell's work, *Amazing Grace: How Religion Unites and Divides Us*, in describing how we arrived with the present situation in North American culture today. In sessions three through five, we will discuss possible strategies for engaging our culture today in meaningful ways that faithfully remain true to the transforming power of the gospel.

When: Sundays from 9:30 AM—10:20 AM from 3/1/20—4/5/20

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith, Being Community

Community Partner Presentations

Attend Adult Forum throughout the year to learn more about our community partners.

9/29—Food for the Poor

10/20—Mid Minnesota Women's Center

11/3—LSS Neighbor to Neighbor program

12/22—Make it Okay

1/12—Community Partners Fair

1/26—Teen Challenge

When: Sundays from 9:30 AM—10:20 AM

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith, Being Community



BEING COMMUNITY

Men's Ministry Retreat



Join men throughout our NE MN Synod and local community for our seventeenth annual retreat at Bethlehem. We will gather for dinner and worship on Friday night and conclude at 4:00 PM on Saturday with closing worship. Our keynote speaker this year is Professor Andrew Root from Luther Seminary in Saint Paul. His topic will be taken from his recent book, *Faith Formation in a Secular Age*.

When: Friday evening, 2/21/20—Saturday afternoon, 2/22/20

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Being Community

Cross+Generational Dinners and Conversations



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 dinner and finishing with worship from 6:30-7:00.

When: Wednesday evenings during Lent from 5:30—7:00 PM beginning 3/4/20 and going through 4/1/20

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Being Community

EcoFaith Network Annual Summit



Mark the date for the NE MN Synod's annual EcoFaith Summit to be held at Bethlehem. More details about content and registration is forthcoming.

When: Saturday, 3/28/20

Discipleship Emphasis: Being Community

Wild Game Feed



Enjoy a meal prepared by Bethlehem's hunters and fishers. Proceeds go to various benevolent organizations.

When: Sunday, 4/26/20, after 2nd service

Discipleship Emphasis: Being Community

CROP Hunger Walk



CROP (Christian Rural Overseas Program) Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by religious group, businesses, schools, and others to raise funds to end hunger in the U.S. and around the world.

When: Wednesday, 5/6/20, beginning at 5:30 PM at Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Discipleship Emphasis: Being Community, Serving

BEING COMMUNITY

Sunday Night Potluck



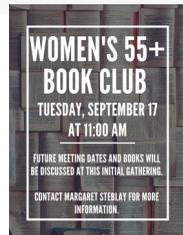
On the last Sunday of the month, everyone is invited to a potluck dinner. Bring a dish to share. There will be time for fellowship so bring your favorite board or card game as well.

When: the last Sunday of the month from 5:00—7:00 PM from August—April

Presentation Style: Introductory

Discipleship Emphasis: Being Community

Women's 55+ Book Club



Women age 55 and over are invited to an initial meeting on Tuesday, 9/17 at 11:00 AM to plan the details of the club. Future books to read as well as future meeting dates and times will be discussed that day.

When: initial meeting 9/17 at 11:00 AM; watch bulletin for future dates

Discipleship Emphasis: Being Community

New Year's Eve Party



Celebrate the New Year with your friends from Bethlehem! Kids of all age are welcome. The Bethlehem Ball drops at 9:00 PM for our younger kids and drops again at 12:00 AM. Bring a dish to share, favorite board and card games, and a snack to share as well.

When: 12/31/19 from 6:00 PM—12:30 AM

Discipleship Emphasis: Being Community

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Thanksgiving Service



Please join us for our annual ecumenical Thanksgiving service with several other local congregations. Bring a pie to share in fellowship following service.

When: Tuesday, 11/26/19 at BELC at 7:00 PM

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith, Being Community

Christmas Eve Services

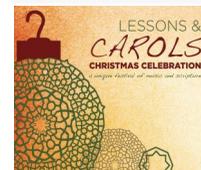


Please join us on Christmas Eve as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

When: Christmas Eve services on 12/24/19 at 2:00, 4:00, and 6:00 PM

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith, Being Community

Christmas Lessons and Carol Service

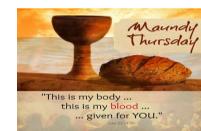


Please join us on the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's Day at 9:00 AM for a Lessons and Carols service. Sing your favorite Christmas carols and learn about Christ's birth.

When: Sunday, 12/29/19 at 9:00 AM

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith, Being Community

Seder Meal



We will gather at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall for the celebration of the Lord's Supper. We will fully enter into this event utilizing a simplified Christian liturgy of the traditional Jewish Seder meal, which includes a delicious meal during the celebration.

When: Thursday, 4/9/20 at 6:30 PM

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith, Being Community, Serving

Good Friday

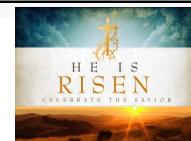


Remember his sacrifice.

When: Friday, 4/10/20 at 6:30 PM

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith, Being Community, Serving

Easter Services



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

When: Sunday, 4/12/20 at 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, and 10:30 AM

Discipleship Emphasis: Learning the Faith, Being Community, Serving