



## Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

418 8th Avenue Northeast  
Brainerd, MN 56401

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Email: [office@belcnet.net](mailto:office@belcnet.net)

Website: [www.belcnet.net](http://www.belcnet.net)



### WORSHIP TIMES

**Sundays at 8:20 and 10:30 am and  
Wednesdays at 6:20 pm**

with Communion on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays and  
Wednesdays

### OFFICE HOURS

**Monday - Thursday**

8:30 am- 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm

**Friday**

8:30 am - 12:00 pm

### CHURCH STAFF

**Senior Pastor:**

Rev. Dr. Mark Skinner

**Children, Youth & Family Pastor:**

Rev. Sarah Marshall

**Office Administrator, Worship Team Director  
and Organist:** Cori Wrobel

**Bell Choir Director:** Stacy Erdal

**Senior Choir Director:** Al Albertson

**Youth Choir Director:** Nancy Albertson

**Financial Administrator:** Shelly Johnson

**Children, Youth & Family Ministry Coordinator:**  
Joan Rosenow

**Food Services Coordinators:** Pat True and Sara Larson

**Custodial Services:** John and Ruth Unger



## From the Senior Pastor



Christ is the Light of the World! Christ is the Resurrection and the Life! These past weeks, I have challenged us to look for ways in which we see God at work in our world. Indeed, during great hardship and suffering, Christ is truly present with us – all the time! Whether that be working through grocery store stockers, truck drivers, health care workers, teachers, volunteers, and the like ... the light of Christ burns brightly for us. Many thanks to our congregational president, Kevin Goedker, and our directors, along with our great staff, for their leadership and good work especially during this time. Pastor Sarah, Cori, and I continue to work from home with the exception of leading worship and other ministry needs that require leaving the house. We will be checking voicemail daily along with emails throughout the day. Please know that we are also checking the building along with mail/package delivery each day. I have enjoyed visiting with many of you on the phone or by email these past weeks, and I look forward to more visits with you and the day when we will be able to join together in God's house together for worship and praise – it will be glorious! For now, maintain your active prayer life, and please also read these important updates regarding worship opportunities and stewardship/financial giving.

### Worship Opportunities

Many thanks to Cori along with our tech team: Jon Luhrs, Scott Pederson, and Kevin Goedker for making sure that our weekly Sunday 10:30 am worship service and our Wednesday Fireside Evening Devotions (6:20 pm) are happening! We are live-streaming both of these events on our Facebook page at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Brainerd. If you are not able to view this on Facebook, visit our website to view the recorded Sunday 10:30 am worship service. During Holy Week, please join us for worship using live-stream on Maundy Thursday at 6:30 pm and for Good Friday at 6:30 pm. Easter Service will be live-streamed at 10:30 am.

### Stewardship/Financial Giving

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, we unplugged freezers and other machines throughout the building, along with shutting down the education wing of the building. As of last week, groups are no longer meeting in the building so we have lowered thermostats and other provisions to reduce our utility costs. Salaries and benefit packages, utilities and other bills still need to be paid (as of now, church staff and other 501(C3) agencies are **not** eligible for unemployment benefits). **We need your help. If you are able to continue to give your offering/tithes to the work of the church, or front-end your yearly giving, please do so. You may mail your tithes/offering to Bethlehem Lutheran at 418 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE Brainerd, MN 56401. One of our staff will be checking on the building each day to include collecting and sending the mail. You may also give online through our website using Vanco services. Our website is [www.belcnet.net](http://www.belcnet.net). Click on the "give online" button.**

May the light of Christ abound in your life!

Pastor Mark

## WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN CHRIST, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, AT WORK IN THE WORLD THIS PAST WEEK?

~Healthcare workers risking their personal safety, and that of their families, to care for us.

~3 friends and I making 100+ healthcare face masks for care centers and hospitals

~The 4 year old boy in Minnetonka who set up a supply table to help his neighbors. He put water, tp, mac and cheese, beans, applesauce, orange juice, tuna, fruit, etc out so his neighbors could eat and not be hungry.

~All the donations coming in to Operation Sandwich! Over 250 bags of groceries have been given out to hungry families.

~It's fun to see how people are checking in on and caring for their neighbors.

~Five Rocks Distilling Co. working with Jack Pine Brewery to create hand sanitizer and give it away for free.

**From the Children, Youth and Family Pastor**



FOR ALL 3RD GRADERS AND THEIR PARENTS AND ANYONE WHO HAS MISSED THE OPPORTUNITY

## FIRST COMMUNION WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, APRIL 4, FROM 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

LEARN | GROW | UNDERSTAND | FEEL

RECEIVE YOUR COMMUNION

**Postponed—  
date TBD**

## Itty Bitty Book Club

Listen to a story (take home the book), do an activity

**Cancelled**

Design a story (with an adult) from birth to age 3 that are too young for Sunday School or anyone who'd like to participate.

**April 5**

1st Sunday of the month in the nursery at 9:30 am from October - May

## Wild Game Feed

Sunday, April 26

**Cancelled**

proceeds to benefit the youth mission trip.

**Silent auction**

Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field, and hunt game for me. Genesis 27:3

Youth led worship for this year has been cancelled.

## GOOD FRIDAY EXPERIENCE

Good Friday Experience

**Cancelled—see the youth website for ideas to do with your family**

Communities sheet.

When Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last." Matthew 27:50

**Cancelled**

APRIL 25

## 9TH GRADE RETREAT

9:00 - 2:00

CONFIRMATION REQUIREMENT

DISCUSS QUESTIONS OF FAITH AND REFLECT ON CATECHISM EXPERIENCE

REJOICE ALWAYS, PRAY WITHOUT CEASING, GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES; FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS FOR YOU, 2 THESSALONIANS 5:17-18

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

## Graduate Recognition

Sunday, May 17 at the 10:30 AM service

**Parents**

Make a blanket for your graduate on Monday, May 4 at 5:30 PM in the Narthex.

If you can't make this date, please talk to Pr. Sarah to make other arrangements.

**At the time of April publication, this is still scheduled to happen.**

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

## CWCA

**ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME CROP HUNGER WALK**

THIS IS MAY 6TH'S CATECHISM ACTIVITY.

**Postponed until fall 2020**

REGISTRATION - 5:30 PM - SUPPER AND WORSHIP - 6:00 PM - WALK THROUGH NE BRAINERD

FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD MATTHEW 26: 35



# Looking ahead to May...

With the fluidity of the pandemic, we are hopeful these events will happen but cannot ensure they will.


- \*May 4 at 5:30 pm—parents make blankets for their high school graduates
- \*May 13 at 5:30 pm—End of Catechism potluck at BELC
- \*May 17 at 10:30 am—Recognition of high school graduates
- \*May 20 time TBD—High School Youth Group progressive dinner
- \*May 20 at 7:00 pm—Bell Choir concert
- \*May 21 at 5:30 pm—Congregational Leadership Board meeting
- \*May 24 at 9:00 am—Sunday services switch to only one service

The 80s+ Lunch Bunch will not be meeting in April.



Young at Heart will not be meeting in April.



 If you have a prayer request for the Prayer Chain, you can either put it in the offering plate on Sunday or Wednesday or call Deloris Ebinger at 829-2333. Prayers will be kept on the chain for 3 weeks. If you'd like it to be kept on for longer, please let the office know. If you would like to be a member of the Prayer Chain, please call the church office at 829-3330.

Please keep these people in your prayers:

**Sympathy:** Greg Anderson and family on the death of his brother-in-law; the family of Mariann Enfield



**Ongoing:** all who are affected by COVID-19; Yvonne Doust; Jenny Pederson; Alvina Kennedy; Craig Warner's grandma; Nick Benson; Bob Morris; Jay; Rose Mogensen; Michelle Tollefson and family; Maggie Larson and family; the Thompson quadruplets; Bret Adams; Pam Stock; Michael Zickuhr; Paul Erdal; Aldene Gosse; Bobbie Sayles; Clark and Clary Tollefson; Roy Cheney; those who are abused; all dealing with addiction; couples trying to have babies; everyone dealing with mental health issues; all caregivers; Cheryl Johnson; everyone dealing with cancer

**Service:** Zac Myhre deployed to South Korea

Please note that we keep people on the prayer list for 3 weeks. If someone needs extended prayers, please let the office know.

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

Deb Berry and family; Marty and Robin Billman; Shelly Birchem; Brandy and Sam Blum; Amy Boelter; Ardelle Boelter; Nancy and Tim Bogenschutz; Leonard Borlaug; Allison Brandt; Gary and Sharon Braun; Paul and Sue Bremer; Joyce and Kevin Brick; Gloria and James Brown; Janee Burgoyne; Eric and Sasha Burgstaler; Frank and Margie Burgstaler; Morgan Burgstaler and family; Jackie and Mike Burke; Adam Carlson; Darnel Carlson; Sharon Chaney; Karen and Roy Cheney; Caleb Christensen; Marty and Teresa Christiansen; Gabe and Tracie Churchill;

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			6:20 pm – Fireside Devotional with ONLINE only; go to Facebook page bethlehem.brainerd
<b>PALM SUNDAY 5</b> 10:30 – ONLINE only worship service; go to our Facebook page bethlehem.brainerd; the service will also be posted on our website <a href="http://www.belcnet.net">www.belcnet.net</a> 	<b>6</b> 6:00 pm – Board of Service and Evangelism meeting ONLINE via Zoom	<b>7</b>	6:20 pm – Fireside Devotional with ONLINE only; go to Facebook page bethlehem.brainerd
<b>EASTER SUNDAY 12</b> 10:30 – ONLINE only worship service; go to our Facebook page bethlehem.brainerd; the service will also be posted on our website <a href="http://www.belcnet.net">www.belcnet.net</a> 	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 12:00 pm – Nicodemus Group ONLINE only via Zoom; Pr. Mark will send out an invite 6:00 pm – Small Group ONLINE only via Zoom; Pr. Mark will send out an invite	6:20 pm – Fireside Devotional with ONLINE only; go to Facebook page bethlehem.brainerd
<b>19</b> 10:30 – ONLINE only worship service; go to our Facebook page bethlehem.brainerd; the service will also be posted on our website <a href="http://www.belcnet.net">www.belcnet.net</a>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>EARTH DAY</b> 6:20 pm – Fireside Devotional with ONLINE only; go to Facebook page bethlehem.brainerd
<b>26</b> 10:30 – ONLINE only worship service; go to our Facebook page bethlehem.brainerd; the service will also be posted on our website <a href="http://www.belcnet.net">www.belcnet.net</a>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	6:20 pm – Fireside Devotional with ONLINE only; go to Facebook page bethlehem.brainerd






# Life Events



**Mariann Enfield**  
**Birth: 4/5/36**  
**Funeral: 3/5/20**

**Brooklyn June Taylor**  
**Birth: 1/23/20**  
**Baptism: 3/29/20**



Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Evening Pr. Mark to our nerd	2 5:30 pm – Board of Stewardship and Properties meeting	3	4
8 Evening Pr. Mark to our nerd	9 <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> 6:30 pm – Maundy Thursday service ONLINE only; go to our Facebook page bethlehem.brainerd; 	10 <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> 6:30 pm – Good Friday service ONLINE only; go to our Facebook page bethlehem.brainerd; 	11
15 Evening Pr. Mark to our nerd	16 10:00 am – LSS Veteran's Core Groups	17	18 Couple's Retreat – details coming; at the time of publication, it will probably be held online
22 Evening Pr. Mark to our nerd	23 10:00 am – LSS Veteran's Core Groups 	24	25
29 Evening Pr. Mark to our nerd	30 10:00 am – LSS Veteran's Core Groups		

Our Creation Care team encourages email as much as possible over paper newsletters. Contact the office today to have your newsletter emailed instead of printed.



**CREATION CARE**

**O** The first comprehensive global look at the state of the climate, as reported by the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), finds that 2019 was the second hottest year on record, capping off a five-year period that ranks as the warmest in recorded history. The amount of carbon dioxide (a long-lived heat-trapping greenhouse gas) in the atmosphere has probably not been seen on this planet for 3 million years, and is implicated in extreme climate events: a searing European heat wave, bush fires in Australia charring millions of acres, hurricanes rapidly intensifying from weak to monstrous storms, Alaska experiencing record warmth, lack of sea ice in the Bering and Chukchi Seas, and the melting of large swaths of Greenland's ice sheet. Intentionally set fires in the Amazon have further destroyed natural systems that normally store huge quantities of carbon dioxide and methane.

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## April Worship Assistants

At the time of publication, all in-person worship services have been cancelled for the month of April so no worship assistants are needed. If that changes, we will let you know.

We will be live-streaming Sunday services at 10:30 am and Pr. Mark's Fireside Evening Devotions on Wednesdays at 6:20 pm. Both of these can be found on our Facebook page at bethlehem.brainerd. Sunday services will also be posted on our website at [www.belcnet.net](http://www.belcnet.net)



Please remember these people in prayer on their birthdays.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 4/1 ~ Josh Hendrickson; Sam King; Karly Lillo; Doris Stengel  | 4/14 ~ Gary Glover   |
| 4/3 ~ Jilene Hodgman; Bob Johnson; Al Kampf; Ted Kotyk; Marc Marshall; Joseph Rhoda                     | 4/15 ~ Deloris Ebinger                                       |
| 4/4 ~ Neil Anderson; Riley Backstrom; Kathy Hauble; Cassandra Lambert-Weyaus; Tricia Warner; Greg Wiger | 4/16 ~ Bob Dryden; Phil Johnson; Terry Lundeby; Kelli Weaver |
| 4/5 ~ Corky LeDoux; Pr. Sarah Marshall;   | 4/17 ~ Kirsten Olson   |
| 4/6 ~ Nancy Bogenschutz; Sawyer Hennessey; Charlie Johnson; Jacob Lindholm; Janet Praska                | 4/19 ~ Noah Blum; Zac Myhre                                  |
| 4/7 ~ LeRoy Albertson; Shirley Lundeby  | 4/20 ~ Harold Munsch; Steve Olson                            |
| 4/8 ~ Roland Kory; Marissa Spencer  | 4/21 ~ Kelly Gubrud  |
| 4/9 ~ Troy Miller   | 4/22 ~ Joyce Jorgenson; Heidi Woerheide                      |
| 4/12 ~ Dan Lee; Scott Parsons   | 4/23 ~ Andrew Bontjes  |
| 4/13 ~ Tara Grimm; Abigail Rand; Cheryl Severson-Nichols; Elsie Stanek                                  | 4/25 ~ Parker Kienholz                                       |
|   | 4/27 ~ Gabe Churchill; Lana LeDoux; Karl Samp                |
|   | 4/28 ~ Chloe Munsch; Hannah Munsch                           |
|   | 4/29 ~ Maren Hadrits; Marcy Nickel                           |
|   | 4/30 ~ Tanner McFarlin; Cody Rehberger; Andrew Schindler     |

We continue to update our contact information. If your birthday is missing or incorrect, please let the office know at 829-3330 or office@belcnet.net.

# Thank you!

## Endowment Fund

\$185 in memory of Jeff Hulsether from family and friends

## General Fund

\$25 in memory of Mariann Enfield from family and friends

## Maintenance Fund

\$20 in memory of Al Gardner's father from family and friends

On behalf of the Board of Education and Brainerd Public Schools, I would like to thank you for the hats, snow pants, gloves and jackets for students in need. Your generosity, unending support and investment in student learning is sincerely appreciated. Together we provide opportunity, innovation and success for all learners. Thank you.

~ Laine Larson, Superintendent—ISD 181



Thank you to everyone who has been fulfilling their estimates of giving. Please continue to give generously as you are able as we still have bills, healthcare benefits and salaries that must be paid.



In March, \$687.82 was raised for March Food Share Month through the collection of loose change. Donations will be given to the CLC Food Pantry, Salvation Army, Operation Sandwich and other food-related ministries.

## Kitchen Fund

\$40 in memory of Jeff Hulsether from family and friends

\$145 in memory of Mariann Enfield from family  
\$15 in memory of Dave Meyer's mother from family and friends

## Senior Choir Music Fund

\$195 in memory of Dave Meyer's mother from family and friends

## Stained Glass Fund

\$380 in memory of Mariann Enfield from family and friends

## Youth Fund

\$100 in memory of Dave Meyer's mother from family and friends

\$500 in memory of Jeff Hulsether from family and friends



It is through the donations of every individual and family in the congregation that we are able to carry on our work throughout the year.

If you need a convenient way to make recurring contributions or would like to make an additional gift, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving options.

To set up a recurring giving schedule, visit us online at [www.belcnet.net](http://www.belcnet.net) and locate the Online Giving button, or if it's easier, complete a paper authorization form and return it to the church office. Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness!



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

**Postponed indefinitely**

CONTACT PRESIDENT WITH QUESTIONS.

## Some humor

### WORSHIP PLANNING COVID19 PANDEMIC EDITION

- Breathe on Me, Breath of God.....NOPE
- Precious Lord, Take my Hand.....NOPE
- Just a Closer Walk with Thee.....NOPE
- Gather Us In.....NOPE
- Close to Thee.....NOPE

### COULD WORK

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters  
 Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley  
 I Come to the Garden Alone  
 Trust and Obey

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
 418 8th Ave NE  
 Brainerd, MN 56401

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

## HEY, PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN COLLEGE

Our card ministry team would still like to send cards to college students in April to let them know our congregation is thinking about and praying for them. Please contact the office at [office@belcnet.net](mailto:office@belcnet.net) with the student's name and current address. Contact Cathy Lee with any questions.

FOR MARRIED COUPLES AND THOSE TO BE MARRIED

# Couple's Retreat

SATURDAY, APRIL 18 FROM  
 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM AT  
 BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 IN BRAINERD

COST IS \$125 PER COUPLE; INCLUDES ALL MATERIALS, MORNING SNACK, AND LUNCH

REGISTER ONLINE AT [BELCNET.NET](http://BELCNET.NET)

If you would rather receive this newsletter by email or would like to stop receiving it, please let us know.

Please let the church office know if you will be stopping your mail service for an extended period of time so we do not send you any publications. Thank you.

Tune in to your cable provider's local access channel (try channel 8 or 181 in Brainerd) every Sunday at 2 pm to watch Bethlehem's worship service.



Get updates, share pictures and RSVP for events on our Facebook page... [www.facebook.com/bethlehem.brainerd](http://www.facebook.com/bethlehem.brainerd)

### Our Mission Statement

We are called into compassionate community by the Holy Spirit through the confession of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to publicly confess the faith of the Triune God in, under, and with our daily callings in the community of God's world.