

THE BETHLEHEM STAR



Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church 418 8th Avenue Northeast Brainerd, MN 56401

> Phone: 218-829-3330 Fax: 218-829-0792 Email: office@belcnet.net Website: www.belcnet.net



WORSHIP TIMES

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

with Communion on the 1st and 3rd 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.

2

Stewardship/Financial Giving

On March 18th, 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 tithe/offering to Bethlehem Lutheran at 418 8th 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. Click on the "give online" button.

May the light of Christ abound in your life! Pastor Mark

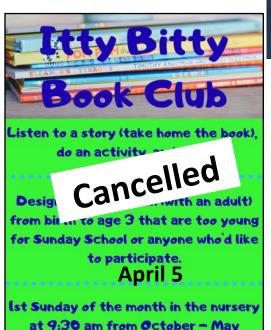
WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN CHRIST, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, AT WORK IN THE WORLD THIS PAST WEEK?

- ~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.

April 2020

From the Children, Youth and Family Pastor



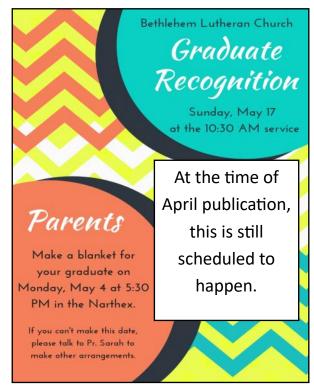








Youth led worship for this year has been cancelled.





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 Burkey; Adam Carlson; Darnel Carlson; Sharon Chaney; Karen and Roy Cheney; Caleb Christensen; Marty and Teresa Christiansen; Gabe and Tracie Churchill;



bethlehem.brain

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedn	
			6:20 pm – Firesio Devotional with ONLINE only; go Facebook page bethlehem.brain	
PALM SUNDAY 5 10:30 – ONLINE only worship service; go to our Facebook page bethlehem.brainerd; the service will also be posted on our website www.belcnet.net	6 6:00 pm – Board of Service and Evangelism meeting ONLINE via Zoom	7	6:20 pm — Firesic Devotional with ONLINE only; go Facebook page bethlehem.brain	
EASTER SUNDAY 12 10:30 – ONLINE only worship service; go to our Facebook page bethlehem.brainerd; the service will also be posted on our website www.belcnet.net	13	14 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 – Firesic Devotional with ONLINE only; go Facebook page bethlehem.brain	
10:30 – ONLINE only worship service; go to our Facebook page bethlehem.brainerd; the service will also be posted on our website www.belcnet.net	20	21	6:20 pm – Firesic Devotional with ONLINE only; go Facebook page bethlehem.brain	
10:30 – ONLINE only worship service; go to our Facebook page bethlehem.brainerd; the service will also be posted on	27	28	6:20 pm – Firesio Devotional with ONLINE only; go Facebook page	

our website www.belcnet.net



Thursday

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

Friday

Saturday

Life Events



Mariann Enfield

Birth: 4/5/36

Funeral: 3/5/20

Brooklyn June Taylor

Birth: 1/23/20

Baptism: 3/29/20



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

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.

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



Please remember these people in prayer on their birthdays.

4/1 ~ Josh Hendrickson; Sam King; Karly Lillo; Doris Stengel

4/3 ~ Jilene Hodgman; Bob Johnson; Al Kampf; Ted Kotyk; Marc Marshall; Joseph Rhoda

4/4~ Neil Anderson; Riley Backstrom; Kathy Hauble; Cassandra Lambert-Weyaus; Tricia Warner; Greg Wiger

4/5 ~ Corky LeDoux; Pr. Sarah Marshall;

4/6 ~ Nancy Bogenschutz; Sawyer Hennessey; Charlie Johnson; Jacob Lindholm; Janet Praska

4/7 ~ LeRoy Albertson; Shirley Lundeby

4/8 ~ Roland Kory; Marissa Spencer

4/9 ~ Troy Miller

4/12 ~ Dan Lee; Scott Parsons

4/13 ~ Tara Grimm; Abigail Rand; Cheryl Severson-Nichols; Elsie Stanek

4/14 ~ Gary Glover

: 4/15 ~ Deloris Ebinger

4/16 ~ Bob Dryden; Phil Johnson; Terry Lundeby; Kelli Weaver

4/17 ~ Kirsten Olson

4/19 ~ Noah Blum; Zac Myhre

4/20 ~ Harold Munsch; Steve Olson

4/21 ~ Kelly Gubrud

4/22 ~ Joyce Jorgenson; Heidi Woerheide

4/23 ~ Andrew Bontjes

4/25 ~ Parker Kienholz

4/27 ~ Gabe Churchill; Lana LeDoux; Karl

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

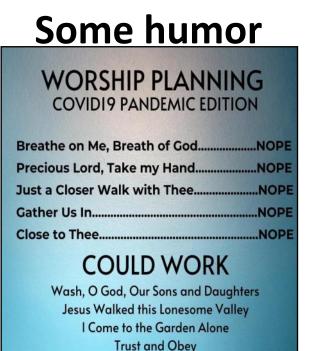
It is through the donations of every individual and family in the congregation that we are able to carry on our work throughout the year.

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 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 418 8th Ave NE Brainerd, MN 56401

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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

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

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.

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 with the
student's name and current
address. Contact Cathy Lee

with any questions.

12