

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
Facebook: bethlehem.brainerd



WORSHIP TIMES

In-person worship: Sundays at 8:20 am Sundays at 10:30am Wednesdays at 6:20 pm

with communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and following Wednesdays.

Online worship: Sundays at 10:30 am

OFFICE HOURS

The office is open on

Mondays—Thursdays from 9:00 am—12:00

pm and 1:00—4:00 pm

and on Fridays from 9:00 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

IT Coordinator: Scott Pederson

Custodial Services: Rob Larson and Steve Verdon



From the Senior Pastor

April 2022: Dying and Rising with Christ

As we prepare to enter into Holy Week, I am keenly aware of Paul's letter to the Philippians, where he writes in chapter two, "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself ... and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name..." Paul reminds us that to follow Christ means both *dying* and *rising* — to have the "mind" of Christ.

We, along with many congregations across the United States and beyond, wrestle with the aftermath of a pandemic, high inflation, and increased secularity in North America (and beyond) which has resulted in losses of church membership, worship attendance, and financial giving to name few things. Congregations, not unlike ours, are changing. As we entered 2022, with a decreased annual budget, we quickly began to realize that our income was not keeping pace with our expenses, and so this invites the opportunity for transformation. This month our Congregational Leadership Board (CLB) will be meeting to assess our situation and begin the conversations about how we do ministry within the congregation we have now in time – not the pre-pandemic congregation or the congregation we wish we had, but the congregation we have now and the community that we live in now. These are never easy conversations, yet they have the possibility of being rich and transformative. Why? Because we are in Christ! To follow Christ will mean dying and rising again. As we struggle and pray for God's provisionary guidance and grace, we will need to dig deeply into our values, affirming God's missional impulse at work, and then reformulating our resources (from staffing, programming, budget, etc.) to meet the ministry needs of the congregation now and leaning forward into God's promised and preferred future for us. This will require sacrifice, prayer, wisdom, and imagination as we deeply move into discernment together and further discipleship.

I am grateful for all of you in our congregation, and I look forward to many rich and meaningful conversations with you along with your prayers, journeying faithfully as the community in Christ called Bethlehem.

Peace in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Mark

From the Children, Youth and Family Pastor











Looking ahead...

- *Tuesday, May 10 at 5:30 pm—New Member Seminar
- *Wednesday, May 11—last day of catechism
- *Sunday, May 15—last day of Sunday School
- *Sunday, May 15—New Member Sunday
- *Sunday, May 22—Graduate Recognition
- *Wednesday, May 25—last weekly Wednesday night service
- *Sunday, May 29—services change to 9:00 am only



If you have a prayer request for the Prayer Chain, please contact the church office at 829-3330 or office@belcnet.net. 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: the family of Christian Hegg; the family of Esther Leno; the family of Leonard Borlaug;

Ongoing: Uncle Jim; Joe; Lynn Kalahar; Barrie Rempel; Mannie Garcia; a BELC member; Brandy Jansen; Cindy; Bonnie; Nick Lundgren; Judy; Marv; Emma; Dave; Roger Erickson; Luke; for peace in our world; Vince Moe; Sheri Olson; all who are grieving; a BELC member; Phyllis Roberts; for all affected by COVID; residents and staff of assisted living/nursing home facilities; healthcare workers; all caregivers; everyone dealing with cancer /other diseases

Military: Danny Smith; Nick Schwab in Navy

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.

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

April: Gary and Sharon Braun; Paul and Sue Bremer and family; Kevin and Joyce Brick; James and Gloria Brown; Janee Burgoyne; Eric and Sasha Burgstaler and family; Frank and Margie Burgstaler; Morgan Burgstaler and family; Bill and Jackie Burkey; Darnel Carlson; Sharon Chaney; Karen Cheney; Marty and Teresa Christiansen; Gabe and Tracie Churchill; Carolyn and Jim Cole; Deb and Rick Cole; Amanda Crandall; Forrest Crocker and Julie Vanderschaaf; Ella Dahl; Jim Daly; Albert and Maxine Debler; Jerry and Krystal DeChaine and family; Barb DePaoli; Tricia and Wayne Dosh and family; Bethany Doucette and family; Bob Dryden; Jessica Dufour; Deloris Ebinger; Mike and Sonja Eidenshink and family; Linda Ekstrum; Larry and Natalie Embertson and family; Bev and Dave Emery; Jeff Emery; Mike Emery

April and May Funeral Service Groups

Coordinators:

Bev and Dave Emery Kathy and Lee Hauble Pam and Steve Oslos

Jackie Nornes

Marlys Ray

Assistants:

Al and Nancy Albertson Jackie Avenson Laura Korv Gloria and James Brown Lisa Kotchikian Karen Chenev Hollie LeDoux Bob Dryden Jessi and Kyle Louis

Terry and Tracie McFarlin Dean and Sara McKusick

Al Gardner and Pam Stock Karl and Sue Hadrits Stephanie Moody

Darwin and Mary Hanson

Kathy Dufour and Rick Patton

Mike and Sonja Eidenshink

Dianne Heath

Charlie and Sue Johnson Deanna Jones

Emilee Jones

Lvnn and Yvonne Kalahar

Debbie and Vince Moe

Gloria and Harvey Munsch

James and Jan Munsch Jill and Kevin O'Grady

Carole Olsen

Keith and Kirsten Olson

Meriel and Steve Park Debbie and Kyle Payne

Norris Peterson

JoAnn and John Rehberger

Barrie and Bev Rempel

Heather Saffell

Brett and Elise Severson

Carol Smith Linda Soderman

Jody and Zachariah Sparkman

Vanessa Thompson

Julie Vanderschaaf and Forrest

Crocker **Betty Vosberg**

Dennis and Kathleen Weisman

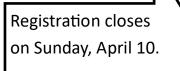
CREATION CARF

Dr. Jane Goodall, the internationally known scientist who broke new ground in 1960 when she lived among Chimpanzees in East Africa in what is now known as Gombe Stream National Park, has written a new book: "The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times." She recounts that by the 1980s, chimpanzee numbers had dropped everywhere across their range in six African countries, and their forests were being destroyed. They were caught in snares to be sold for bushmeat (commercial hunting of animals for food) and exposed to human diseases. Mothers were shot so their infants could be taken and sold as pets or to zoos, or trained for the circus, or used for medical research. By 1990 the great equatorial forest belt that stretched across Africa had become a tiny oasis of forest surrounded by bare hills that had been cleared for growing human populations struggling to grow food and make charcoal. In subsequently creating her Jane Goodall Institute, which sought to address what she considered the two most pressing problems, climate change and biodiversity loss (extinction of plants and nonhuman species), she asks us to recognize the consequences of our actions and to think of the well-being of the whole, not just of ourselves.

Source: http://www.nemnsynod.org/green-tips.html5









Thursday, April 14 at 6:00 PM

Our Seder Meal is remembering the Passover meal of Jesus with his disciples. This year's meal will include matzah ball soup, knish, green beans and matzah. roasted chicken, and Jewish cookies. Space is limited to 140 people. Register online or with the office. Reservation is not complete until payment is received. If paying by check, write "Seder Meal" in the memo line Payment can also be made online. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$7 for children 8 and under. Register before space is gone!



Lenten Soup Suppers

Served by

- 3/9 catechism students
- 3/16 BELC members
- 3/23 musicians
- 3/30 catechism students
- 4/6 men's bible study

MAKE SOUP AND/OR SANDWICHES.

ARRIVE AT 4:45 PM.

SERVE FROM 5:30 - 6:15 PM.

CALL THE OFFICE AT 218-829-3330

TO SIGN UP.



Your household is invited to create one or more personal care kits this Lent. Collect exactly the following items: *ONE light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"); dark color recommended *TWO or three bath-size bars of soap equalling 8-9 ounces; any brand IN ORIGINAL PACKAGING *ONE adult-size toothbrush IN ORIGINAL PACKAGING *ONE sturdy comb; remove packaging *ONE metal nail clippers; remove packaging Fold towel in half. Place the rest of the items in the towel, fold and roll so nothing falls out, and secure with yarn, ribbon, string, or rubber bands. IMPORTANT: New items only. No religious symbols. No patriotic or military symbols. Drop completed kit off at the office by April 17. See our website www.belcnet.net for more information.

Lent devotionals are available. Printed devotionals will be available every Sunday for the upcoming week. The entire devotional is available for download on our website at www.belcnet.net .



EASTER LILIES

You can honor or memorialize someone special by donating an Easter lily in their name.
Any donations are welcomed and appreciated. Please make checks payable to BELC with "Easter lilies" in the memo line. Be sure to include a note as to who it is honoring or memorializing. Please turn donations in ASAP.

Wednesdays, April 20 and 27

5:30 pm - Worship Team rehearsal

7:00 pm – Senior Choir rehearsal

5:45 pm – Youth Choir rehearsal 6:20 pm – Wednesday worship 7:00 pm – 6th – 9th catechism 7:00 pm – High School Youth Group



6:00 pm - Prayer Group dinner

Sunday Monday Tuesday								
5 th Sunday of Lent 3	4	5						
8:20 am — In-person worship service with communion 9:25 am — Sunday School 10:30 am - Live-streamed worship and in-person worship service with communion 11:30 am — Lenten Missional Conversation	6:00 pm – Board of Service and Evangelism meeting via Zoom	7:30 am – Men's bible study 5:00 pm – Bell Choir rehearsal 6:00 pm – Board of Worship and Music meeting	1:30 serv 5:30 by n 5:45 6:20 7:00 Grou 7:00					
Palm Sunday 10	11	12						
8:20 am – In-person worship service with communion 9:25 am – Sunday School 9:30 am – Palm Sunday brunch 10:30 am - Live-streamed worship and In-person worship service with communion	4:00 pm – BELC at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen	7:30 am – Men's bible study 5:00 pm – Bell Choir rehearsal 5:30 pm – Board of Congregational Care and Community meeting	6:30					
Easter Sunday 17	Easter Monday 18	Newsletter deadline 19						
7:00 am — In-person worship service with communion 9:00 am — In-person worship service with communion 10:30 am - Live-streamed worship and in-person worship service	Office closed	7:30 am – Men's bible study 5:00 pm – Bell Choir rehearsal						
1st Sunday of Easter 24	25	26						
8:20 am — In-person worship service 9:25 am — Sunday School 9:30 am — Semi-annual congregational meeting 10:30 am — Live-streamed worship and in- person worship service	6:00 pm – Creation Care Team meeting	7:30 am — Men's bible study 10:00 am — Stephen Ministry meeting 11:30 am — 70s+ Lunch Bunch 5:00 pm — Bell Choir rehearsal 5:30 pm — Endowment Board meeting	See					
			1					



Wednesday

To view our online services at 10:30 am on Sundays, go to https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKGd23TW4V1mlqCsk tOho3q

The service will also be posted on our website at www.belcnet.net upon completion of the service.

Thursday

The office is open from 9:00 am
- 12:00 pm and 1:00 - 4:00 pm
on Mondays - Thursdays. On
Fridays, it is open from 9:00 am
- 12:00 pm.

Saturday

Friday

6	6 7		8	9
m – Woodland worship e m – Lent soup/supper served en's bible study m – Youth Choir rehearsal em – Lent worship service m – 6 th – 9 th grade Youth em – High School Youth Group m – Senior Choir rehearsal	9:00 am – Edgewood Brainerd 9:00 am – Quilting Group 10:00 am – LSS PTSD Groups 10:15 am – Edgewood Baxter 5:00 pm – Congregational Leadership Board meeting 6:00 pm – Jonah Group		m – Funeral e Steinkopf	9:00 am – Bread Making 9:00 am – Lay Leader Network Series
13	Maundy Thursday 14	Good	f Friday 15	16
m – Senior Choir rehearsal	10:00 am – LSS PTSD Groups 10:30 am – Bethlehem Book Club 6:00 pm – Seder Meal	6:00 pm Friday s		
20	21		22	23
:hedule above left om – Martha Circle om – Woodland worship e	9:00 am – Edgewood Brainerd 9:00 am – Quilting Group 10:00 am – LSS PTSD Groups 10:15 am – Edgewood Baxter 1:30 pm – Mary Circle 4:30 pm – card making 5:30 pm – Board of Stewardship and Properties meeting			
27	28		29	30
:hedule above left	10:00 am – LSS PTSD Groups 10:30 am – Bethlehem Book Club		S	ynod Assembly



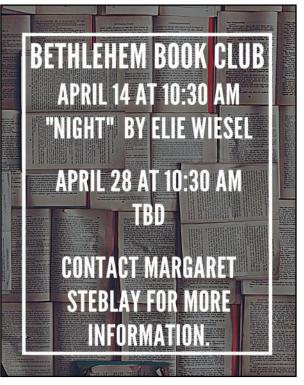
Meet once a month on the first Saturday from 9:00 - 11:30 am to work on small projects around the building. To sign up, go to our website www.belcnet.net or contact the office at 829-3330. For more information, contact Al Gardner.



YOU COULD MAKE TREATS IF YOU'D LIKE, BUT IT WOULDN'T BE NECESSARY.

IF NO ONE SIGNS UP FOR A DATE, THERE WILL BE NO COFFEE/TREATS THAT DAY.
SIGN UP ON THE OPPORTUNITY SHEET OR CALL THE OFFICE.



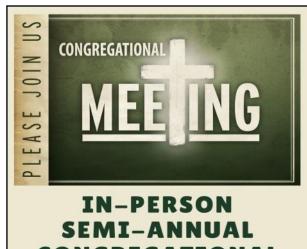


STAMP, CUT, CRAFT, CREATE, SHARE, FELLOWSHIP

CARD MAKING FUN ON APRIL 21







CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

APRIL 24 AT 9:30 AM Approve new board members Contact President Russ Schultz for more information.





APRIL 24.



Please keep these people in your prayers on their birthdays.

- 1 ~ Josh Hendrickson, Sam King, Karly Lillo
- 3 ~ Jilene Hodman, Ted Kotyk, Marc Marshall, Joseph Rhoda
- 4 ~ Neil Anderson, Riley Backstrom, Kathy Hauble, Tricia Warner, Greg Wiger
- 5 ~ Corky LeDoux, Pr. Sarah Marshall
- 6 ~ Nancy Bogenschutz, Sawyer Hennessey, Charlie Johnson, Jacob Lindholm
- 7 ~ LeRoy Albertson
- 8 ~ Roland Kory, Marissa Spencer
- 9 ~ Troy Miller
- 12 ~ Dan Lee, Scott Parsons
- 13 ~ Tara Grimm, Al Kampf, Cheryl Severson-Nichols, Elsie Stanek
- 15 ~ Deloris Ebinger

- 16 ~ Bob Dryden, Phil Johnson, Terry Lundeby, Kelli Weaver
- 17 ~ Kirsten Olson
- 19 ~ Noah Blum, Zac Myhre
- 20 ~ Harold Munsch, Steve Olson
- 21 ~ Kelly Gubrud
- 22 ~ Joyce Jorgenson, Sophie Schwab, Heidi Woerheide
- 23 ~ Andrew Bontjes
- 25—Parker Kienholz
- 27 ~ Gabe Churchill, Lana LeDoux, Karl Samp // //
- 28 ~ Chloe Munsch, Hannah Munsch
- 29 ~ Maren Hadrits, Marcy Nickel
- 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!

Thank you for your gift to the Brainerd Area Warming Shelter! Your gift of \$100 will help us bring our neighbors in out of the cold this winter. Thanks to YOU and our generous community, the shelter doors are open, and we have already provided more than 40 stays as of mid-December. Our guests are incredibly grateful for a safe, warm place to sleep. We feel blessed to be able to provide the comfort of a warm, safe place to sleep and we could not do it without you! ~ Jana Shogren, Executive Director





\$60 in memory of Mary Parsons' sister from friends and family

Building Fund

\$760 in memory of Shirley Lundeby from friends and family

Thank you for the beautiful guilts! We appreciate them—and your support very much. Many thanks from the staff and board at Mid-Minnesota Women's Center!



January-February financial update:

Income: \$65,287.92

Expenses: \$70,800.51

Shortfall: -\$5,512.59

We need your help! Plus the water heater went out at a cost of approximately \$3700 to replace.







alzheimer's 95 association Alzheimer's Association

& LAMAA Brainerd Area





Worship Assistants

8:20 am 10:30 am 3: Pam Stock Kay Theien **Greeters:** Gloria and Harvey Munsch 10: Janis and Jim Peterson Good Friday, 4/15 at 6:00 pm Beth Larson 17: 7:00 am Kathy Dufour, Rick Patton; 9:00 am Sydney Stock; 10:30 am the Lindholm family Karen and Steve Rosenow 24: Bev Gotti **Ushers:** 3: Larry and Natalie Embertson the Lindholm family 10: Janis and Jim Peterson Becky and Dave Meyer Good Friday, 4/15 at 6:00 pm Russ Schultz, 1 still needed 17: 7:00 am Janis and Jim Peterson: 9:00 am Al Gardner, Pam Stock: 10:30 am Lindholms 24: Becky and Dave Meyer Gloria and Harvey Munsch 3: Yvonne Kalahar Kim Spencer Readers: 10: Jackie Nornes Jean Anhalt Good Friday, 4/15 at 6:00 pm Kathleen Weisman 10:30 am Anna Thesing 17: 7:00 am Deb Steuck 9:00 am Deb Steuck 24: Bey Gotti Kathleen Weisman 3: Shelly Birchem and Jackie Nornes the Lindholm family Communion 10: Cheryl and Jeff Nichols Bob and Kay Pederson **Preparation:** 17: 7:00 am Shelly B., Sasha B., 9:00 am Mollie Nelson and girls; 10:30 am Lindholms 3: Janis and Jim Peterson Jackie Nornes, Anna Thesing Communion 10: Jeff and Cheryl Nichols Jackie Nornes, Wendy Gindorff Servers: 17: 7:00 am Deb Steuck, 1 still needed; 9:00 am Pam Stock, Al Gardner 10:30 am Anna Thesing, 1 still needed 3: Jerry DeChaine Todd Person Sound: 10: Jerry DeChaine **Todd Person** 17: 7:00 am Scott Pederson; 9:00 am still needed 10:30 am Todd Person Scott Pederson 24: Jerry DeChaine Video: 3: none Tonya Person 10: none Tonya Person Good Friday, 4/15 at 6:00 pm Scott Pederson 17: 7:00 am none 9:00 am none 10:30 am Tonya Person 24: none still needed 17: 7:00 am none; 9:00 am 2 still needed 10:30 am 2 still needed **Banners:** 10:30 am still needed Crucifer: 17: 7:00 am none: 9:00 am Myia Nelson: Candle Bearer: 17: 7:00 am Riley Slough; 9:00 am Hailey Nelson; 10:30 am still needed Wednesday evening at 6:20: ushers: 4/6, 4/20, and 4/27: Greg and Sue Wiger Communion prep and server: 4/20 still needed

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Dear God,
Thank you that you make all things new. Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past month, the good along with the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us every single day.

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.

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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.