THE BETHLEHEM STAR



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

Phone: 218-829-3330
Email: office@belcnet.net
Website: www.belcnet.net
Facebook: bethlehem.brainerd



WORSHIP TIMES

In-person worship:
In-person and livestreamed:
Sundays at 9:00 am
and Wednesdays at 6:20 pm
with communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays
and following Wednesdays

OFFICE HOURS

The office is open on
Mondays—Fridays
from 8:30 am—12:00 pm
and Mondays—Thursdays
from 1:00—4:30 pm (closes at 4:00 on
Wednesdays).

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 Bell Choir Director: Nancy Albertson
Financial Administrator: Shelly Johnson
Education and Spiritual Formation Coordinator:

Joan Rosenow

Food Services Coordinators: Clarence and Kim Spencer

IT Coordinator: Scott Pederson
Custodial Services: Rob Larson

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From the Senior Pastor

As we enter the season of Easter, the poignant question emerges, "What is your religion?" Often in our culture today you will hear people say, "I am spiritual but not religious..."



Leslie Newbigin, in his classic work, *The Open Secret*, writes, ""… religion is intended to denote all those commitments that, in the intention of their adherents, have an overriding authority over all other commitments and provide a framework within which all experience is grasped, and all ideas are judged." (p.160) In other words, in this sense that Newbigin describes, everyone has a religion … perhaps, the only question is, what is it? Is it the religion of capitalism, or sports, or youth-seeking, or denial, or something else? Easter is an especially important time to ask that question considering the reality of the crucified and now risen Lord. Does your religion point you toward this reality or does it take you away? This may be a season to soberly contemplate that question regarding your worship life, your prayer life, or the ways you choose to spend your time and money. Pray and ask God to reveal that to you and to lead you into a deeper walk with the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ!

2

God's peace be with you,

Pastor Mark

April 2024

From the Children, Youth and Family Pastor

Wonder what the kids are up to? Check out the Youth Bulletin board for pictures and updates. The Youth Bulletin Board is in the lower level across from the Living Room.























April and May Funeral Service Groups

Bonnie and Steve Almond Jackie Nornes

Al and Nancy Albertson
Jackie Avenson
Gloria and James Brown
Forrest and Julie Crocker
Bob Dryden
Mike and Sonja Eidenshink
Al Gardner
Karl and Sue Hadrits
Darwin and Mary Hanson
Kathy and Lee Hauble
Dianne Heath
Charlie and Sue Johnson
Emilee Jones

Coordinators:

Bev and Dave Emery Pam and Steve Oslos

Assistants:

Yvonne Kalahar
Laura and Nick Kory
Lisa Kotchikian
Hollie LeDoux
Jessi and Kyle Louis
Terry and Tracie McFarlin
Dean and Sara McKusick
Debbie and Vince Moe
Stephanie Moody
Gloria and Harvey Munsch
Jan Munsch
Jill and Kevin O'Grady

Debbie and Kyle Payne Norris Peterson JoAnn and John Rehberger Beverley and Barrie Rempel Heather Saffell

Brett and Elise Severson
Carol Smith
Linda Soderman
Jody and Zachariah Sparkman

Pam Stock Vanessa Thompson Betty Vosberg Alyssa Weigelt



O Fifty years ago, a groundbreaking investigation by Consumer Reports found that the nation's drinking water was often contaminated with bacteria,

viruses, asbestos, and lead. Later that year, the federal Safe Drinking Water

Act was passed, which authorized the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set legal limits on contaminants in drinking water. While there are now 90,000 synthetic chemicals in our environment, the EPA regulates only 90 of them, such as E. coli and lead. The U.S. Geological

Survey finds that almost half of the nation's tap water could contain at least one of these harmful unregulated compounds, such as PFAS ("forever" chemicals), which reveals how far regulation

unregulated compounds, such as PFAS ("forever" chemicals), which reveals how far regulation lags behind industry's ability to develop and unleash new and potentially harmful chemicals into

the environment. Whether your water comes from a public utility or a private well, the EPA recommends testing using a certified lab (go to epa.gov/dwlabcert). Any alarming results should be reported to your local utility, and if they are not responsive, contact your local officials to put the pressure on.

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

Looking ahead...

- *5/1 at 6:20 pm—Youth-led worship service
- *5/12 at 10:00 am—Last day of Sunday School
- *5/15 at 5:30 pm—end of year picnic with worship at 6:20 pm
- *5/19 at 9:00 am—Graduate recognition



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: Bev Gotti and family on the death of her sister

Ongoing: Tina Collins; Bob Wrobel; Roger Gonnerman; Bob Leach; Harry Bement; Joyce Gindorff; Clarence Spencer; Del Dahl; Jeanne Armstrong; Norris Peterson; Greg and Greg Anderson; Scott Hess; Ron Nielsen; Steve Oslos; Pam Stock; Dale Williams; Charlotte Warner; Kirsten Olson; Todd K.; those dealing with mental health issues; Cheryl Johnson; Joan Aulich; Esther Peterson; Cheryl Hagger; Jim Thomson; Joyce Wagner; Dawn True; Linda Wilcox; Barb Neprud; Kacey Benson; peace in our world; caregivers; all dealing with cancer /other diseases

Military: Nick Schwab in Navy; Danny Smith in Air Force

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: Derek Sweet; Carlie Sweet; Nancy and Rick Sweet; Gene and Lynn Teufert; Kay Theien; Anna and Jake Thesing and family; Margie Thiel; Bruce and Cyndy Thompson; Emily Thompson; Vanessa Thompson; Kathy Thomson; Michelle Tollefson and family; Alyssa Towle and family; Pat True; Tammy True and family; John and Ruth Unger and family; Dawn and Steve Verdon; Amy and Dan Vleck and family; Tyler Vork; Betty Vosberg; Joyce Wagner; Craig and Tricia Warner; Bruce and Kelli Weaver; Alyssa Weigelt and family; Chris Wiger; Greg and Sue Wiger and family; Eric and Tori Wisneski; Heidi Woerheide; Kris Wyman; Doris Aasen; Janey Adair; Al and Nancy Albertson; LeRoy and Linda Albertson; Carly and Patrick Almond and family; Bonnie and Steve Almond; Austin and Morgan Althaus; Greg and Mary Anderson

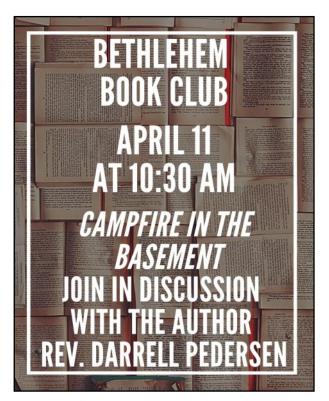
Field Trip



On April 10, head to the Cities to tour Temple Israel, St. Mary's Greek Orthodox, and LSS Center for Changing Lives. Bring a lunch. Leave Trinity at 6:30 am. You'll need to drive yourself or carpool. Contact Pr. Sarah for more information.

New Members

Are you interested in joining Bethlehem? Attend New Member Orientation on Thursday, April 11 from 6:00 - 7:3<mark>0 pm.</mark> New Member Sunday will be April 14. Please sign up on the opportunity sheet or contact the office at 218-829-3330 or office@belcnet.net.



Baptismal Blessings Every month we will be offering blessings during worship services for various groups of people. APril 14 and 17 for Public health workers 5:15 pm - BOW rehearsal

5:45 pm - Youth Bell Choir rehearsal

Wednesdays, April 3, 10, 17, 24, and May 1

5:30 pm - dinner served

6:20 pm - BOW worship service

7:00 pm - 9th grade 7:00 pm - 6-8th catechism at Trinity catechism at BELC

7:00 pm - Sr. (7:00 pm - High Group

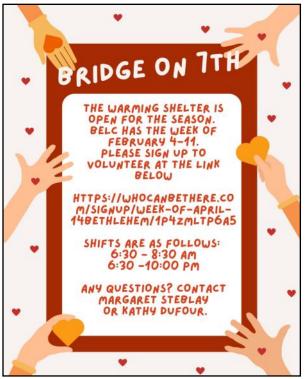
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	
Resurrection of Our Lord 31	1	2	
8:30 am — In-person and livestreamed worship service with communion 9:30 am — Easter brunch 10:30 am — In-person worship service with communion	Office closed	7:30 am – Men's bible study 9:30 am – Let's Go Fishing meeting 10:00 am – Creation Care Team meeting 1:30 pm – Staff meeting 2:30 pm – RSA Circle of Change 6:00 pm – Jonah Group	5: 5: 58
Second Sunday of Easter 7	8	office closes at 4:00 pm today 9	
9:00 am — In-person and livestreamed worship service with communion 10:00 am — Adult Forum: Semi-annual congregational meeting 10:00 am — Itty Bitty Book Club 10:00 am — Sunday School 2:30 pm — Brainerd Leos 5:30 pm — High School Hang Out at Lord of Life Church	4:00 pm — BELC at Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen	7:30 am – Men's bible study 1:30 pm – Staff meeting 2:30 pm – RSA Circle of Change 5:00 pm – CLB meeting 6:00 pm – Board Night	5: 6: M
Third Sunday of Easter 14	15	16	
9:00 am— In-person and livestreamed BOW service 10:00 am — Adult Forum: New Member Reception 10:00 am — Sunday School		7:30 am — Men's bible study 10:00 am — Ruth Circle 1:30 pm — Staff meeting 2:30 pm — RSA Circle of Change	5: 5:
Fourth Sunday of Easter 21	22	23	
g:oo am – In-person and livestreamed worship service with communion 10:oo am – Adult Forum: Outreach Program 10:oo am – Sunday School 2:15 pm – Sunday Hospitality at First Lutheran 2:30 pm – Brainerd Leos		7:30 am – Men's bible study 1:30 pm – Staff meeting 2:30 pm – RSA Circle of Change	Se 5: ch
Fifth Sunday of Easter 28	29	30	
9:00 am— In-person and livestreamed service 10:00 am — Adult Forum: Relationship Safety Alliance 10:00 am — Sunday School 11:00 am — Sunday lunch potluck		7:30 am – Men's bible study 11:30 am – 65+ Lunch Bunch 1:30 pm – Staff meeting 2:30 pm – RSA Circle of Change 4:00 pm – BELC at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen	5: ch

hoir rehearsal School Youth



The office is open from 8:30 am -12:00 pm on Mondays - Fridays and from 1:00 - 4:30 pm on Mondays - Thursdays.

Wednesday	Wednesday Thursday Friday		Saturday	
office closes at 4:00 pm today 3	4	5	6	
e schedule <mark>above</mark> 30 pm – Worship service at Woodland 30 pm – Wednesday meal: pulled pork ndwiches	9:00 am —Worship at Edgewood Brainerd 9:00 am — Quilting Group 10:00 am — LSS PTSD Groups 10:15 am — Worship at Edgewood Baxter 12:00 pm — Nicodemus Group 6:00 pm — Girl Scouts	19	9:00 am — Worker Bees 12:00 pm — Finch shower	
office closes at 4:00 pm today 10	11	12	13	
e schedule above 30 am - g th grade field trip to the Cities; eet at Trinity Lutheran Church 30 pm – Wednesday meal: meatloaf 00 pm – g th grade Family Huddle with Pr. ark	9:00 am – Executive Team meeting 9:00 am and 3:00 pm – LSS staff meeting 10:00 am – Joint ELCA meeting at Lord of Life Church; office closed at this time 10:00 am – LSS PTSD Groups 10:30 am – Bethlehem Book Club 6:00 pm – Girl Scouts 6:00 pm – New Member Orientation		g:oo am – NE MN Synod Lay Leader Network Series g:oo am – Pre- marriage Retreat	
office closes at 4:00 pm today 17	18	19	20	
e schedule <mark>above</mark> 30 pm – Worship service at Woodland 30 pm – Wednesday meal: lasagna	9:00 am –Worship at Edgewood Brainerd 9:00 am – Quilting Group 10:00 am – LSS PTSD Groups 10:15 am – Worship at Edgewood Baxter 1:30 pm – Mary Circle 4:30 pm – card making 6:00 pm – Girl Scouts		Eagle Scout District Dinner	
office closes at 4:00 pm today 24	25	26	27	
e schedule <mark>above</mark> 30 pm – Wednesday meal: cream cheese icken with pasta	10:00 am — LSS PTSD Groups with light luncheon at noon 1:30 pm — Worship at Bethany apartments 6:00 pm — Girl Scouts	10:00 am – Stephen Ministry meeting	g:oo am – NE MN Synod Assembly via Zoom	
office closes at 4:00 pm today 1	2	3	4	
e schedule <mark>above</mark> 30 pm – Worship service at Woodland 30 pm – Wednesday night meal: ham and eese sliders	9:00 am – Worship at Edgewood Brainerd 9:00 am – Quilting Group 10:00 am – LSS PTSD Groups 10:15 am – Worship at Edgewood Baxter 12:00 pm – Nicodemus Group 6:00 pm – Girl Scouts		9:00 am – Worker Bees	





Get creative on Thursday, April 18. Show up anytime between 4:30 -7:00 pm. Cards are sent to members that are shut in and members in need of some uplifting words. Please contact Cathy Lee or the office for more information. Please sign up on our website www.belcnet.net or by calling the office to let Cathy know who to expect.

Your help is needed on April 21 for Sunday Hospitality at First Lutheran Church.

First Lutheran Church coordinates with Bridges of Hope Warming Shelter to provide warm shelter and food on Sunday afternoons for people who have no place to go. They are looking for help.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED ON APRIL 21!!!

There are two shifts: hosting from 2:15 - 4:30 pm and serving food from 4:30 - 6:45 pm. You can sign up for both shifts if you'd like.

As a host, you may play games, do activities, watch football games or movies, etc. As a food server, you may help prep the provided food, set up, serve food, and clean up. There will always be someone from First Lutheran there with you.

Contact the BELC office at 218-829-3330 or office@belcnet.net to sign up or for more information.



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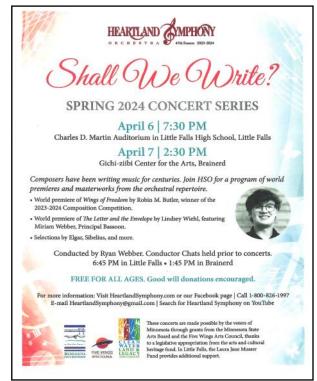




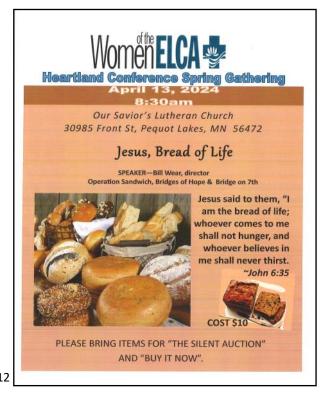












Thank you!

EASTER LILIES GIVEN IN MEMORY OF *TEUFERT LOVED ONES FROM GENE AND LYNN TEUFERT NANCY SMITH FROM DAVE AND ALICE SMITH *GERALD SLOUGH FROM CHAR SLOUGH *OUR PARENTS FROM CARL AND SOLVEJG SEAMON *OUR PARENTS NORM, BOB AND GENE AND SIBLINGS KATHY JEAN AND MIKE FROM PAM STOCK AND AL GARDNER *BOB JOHNSON FROM JENNY JOHNSON *DON AND DOLORES OLSON FROM KRISTI AND RON HOLLOWAY *DAROLD OWENS FROM THE OWENS FAMILY *OUR PARENTS FROM NICK AND CATHLE BENSON *MY DAD MIKE FROM SASHA BURGSTALER *GRANDMA ORELLA FROM DEVIN, AMANDA, AND JOHN LYNN KALAHAR FROM YVONNE KALAHAR *VERNON AND DOROTHY SKOGEN AND MARK SKOGEN FROM NANCY AND RICK SWEET *OUR PARENTS WAYNE AND BUNNY BAILEY, MARION AND RUDY HELM FROM BILL AND CHERYL BAILEY *GRANDPA RAY, GRANDMA ANN, GRANDPA HARRY, AND GRANDMA ESTHER FROM BECKY AND ZOREY WING *GRANDPA BART, GRANDMA AND GRANDPA FRITSCHE, GRANDMA AND GRANDPA LENDWAY FROM DAVE AND TANYA JOHNSTON *MARK SKOGEN FROM CORL WROBEL EASTER LILIES GIVEN IN HONOR OF PETE AND SHERI OLSON *CHURCH MUSICIANS FROM MARY FARMER

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HOW CAN YOU GIVE TO BETHLEHEM?

AND SUPPLIES.

Click the QR code to donate.





Text the word "give" to 218-231-4698





Please keep these people in your prayers on their birthdays.

- 1 ~ Josh Hendrickson, Sam King, Karly Lillo
- 3 ~ Jilene Hodgman, Ted Kotyk, Marc Marshall, Joseph Rhoda
- 4 ~ Neil Anderson, Kathy Hauble, Cassandra Lambert-Weyaus, Tricia Warner, Greg Wiger
- 5 ~ Corky LeDoux, Pr. Sarah Marshall
- 6 ~ Nancy Bogenschutz, 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, Scarlett Lindner, Cheryl Severson-Nichols, Elsie Stanek
- 15 ~ Deloris Ebinger
- 16 ~ Bob Dryden, Phil Johnson, Terry Lundeby, Kelli Weaver

- 17 ~ Kirsten Olson
- 18 ~ April Klema
- 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 Church<mark>i</mark>ll, Lana LeDoux, Karl Samp
- 28 ~ Chloe Munsch, Hannah Munsch
- 29 ~ Maren Hadrits, Dakota Kory, Marcy Nickel
- 30 ~ Tanner McFarlin, Jill McVenes, 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.

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April Worship Assistants

Sundays at 9:00 am 7: Carolyn and Jim Cole 14: Karen and Steve Rosenow 28: youth Ushers: 7: Kathy Dufour and Rick Patton 14: Marc and Lucy Marshall 28: youth Readers: 7: Yvonne Kalahar 14: Pam Finch 28: youth Communion Preparation: 21: Jen Lindholm, Karen Rosenow Communion Servers: 21: Jen Lindholm, Carl and Solveig Seamon Servers: 21: Karen Rosenow, Nancy Bogenschutz, Larry Embertson Sound: 7: Jerry DeChaine 14: Scott Pederson 28: Scott Pederson Video: 7: Krystal DeChaine 14: still needed 28: Marcus Lindholm Assisting Minister: 14: Jackie Nornes 21: still needed 21: still needed 28: still needed 28: Stacy Erdal Flowers: 7: still needed 21: still needed 21: still needed 22: still needed 23: still needed 24: still needed 25: Stacy Erdal Flowers: 7: still needed 26: Stacy Erdal Sushers: Mike and Wendy Gindorff; communion prep: Jackie Nornes and Janis Peterson; sound: Scott Pederson; kitchen help: Paula Rose and Bonnie Garding 10: ushers: Brenda and Jayme Laughton; communion prep: Karen and Steve Rosenow; sound: Scott Pederson; kitchen help: Paula Rose; 21: ushers: Brenda and Jayme Laughton; communion prep: Still needed; sound: Scott Pederson; kitchen help: Paula Rose; 21: ushers: Brenda and Jayme Laughton; communion prep: Still needed; sound: Scott Pederson; kitchen help: Paula Rose; 21: ushers: Brenda and Jayme Laughton; communion prep: Still needed; sound: Scott Pederson; kitchen help: Paula Rose; 21: ushers: Brenda and Jayme Laughton; communion prep: Still needed; sound: Scott Pederson;				
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15		sound: Scott Pederson; kitchen help: Paula Rose and Bonnie Garding 10: ushers: Brenda and Jayme Laughton; communion prep: Karen and Steve Rosenow; sound: Scott Pederson; kitchen help: Paula Rose; 17: ushers: Brenda and Jayme Laughton; sound: Scott Pederson; kitchen help: Paula Rose 24: ushers: Brenda and Jayme Laughton; communion prep: still needed; sound:		
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Bethlehem Lutheran Church 418 8th Ave NE Brainerd, MN 56401

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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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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.

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