



Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

418 8th Avenue Northeast
Brainerd, MN 56401

Phone: 218-829-3330

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Email: office@belcnet.net

Website: www.belcnet.net

Facebook: [bethlehem.brainerd](https://www.facebook.com/bethlehem.brainerd)



At the time of publication, these times are correct. With the fluidity of the pandemic, hours could change.

WORSHIP TIMES

Drive in worship: Sundays at 9:00 am

Online worship: Sundays at 10:30 am

Drive in worship: Wednesdays at 6:20 pm

with Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and following Wednesdays

OFFICE HOURS

The office is open for curbside drop-off/pick-up from 8:30—9:30 am Monday—Friday.

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



Worship

This past week the Board of Worship and Music met and approved Sunday, September 20th to start in-person worship at the 10:30 am service. We need to keep in mind that this date is contingent upon virus trends throughout our area. People will need to RSVP for the service by using the online registration link on our website or by calling the church office before Friday, Sept. 18th at noon and receiving a confirmation. We will be allowing reservations for a maximum of two weeks into the future. We will be limiting the number of people attending to 40 (not including pastors, tech. team, ushers, and music leaders) utilizing good social distancing of at least six feet between households/other individuals. Here a few things to remember: (1) If you are sick or feeling any symptoms of illness like a cough, fever, sore-throat, loss of taste or smell, etc., please stay home. (2) Everyone over the age of two will be required to wear a mask (if you have a medical condition that precludes your from wearing a mask, please choose another worship option i.e. drive-in worship at 8:45 am or Wed. night at 6:20 pm). (3) People will enter through the main doors only and exit out of the main doors following the service. (4) As you enter the building, you will be asked to verify your contact information with the usher. (5) Please maintain social distancing the entire time you are in the building and as you exit into the parking lot area.

We will continue to offer drive-in worship services into the foreseeable future. Sunday morning time will change to **8:45 am beginning on September 20th**; we will continue with drive-in services on Wednesday evenings at 6:20 pm. Please note that we decided to move our service time to 8:45 am to accommodate education time beginning at 9:45 am in the future, and therefore allowing transition time before the 10:30 am service. We will continue to live-stream the 10:30 am service each Sunday through Facebook, and the service will be available to view through our website during the following week.

I am incredibly grateful for our Board of Worship and Music along with our SMART team and the good work they do for our congregation. As you probably realize, there is a lot of information to keep up with from protocols and procedures, to tracking virus trends. All our best planning is subject to what the virus is doing and what we think it will be doing – which is never easy ... so please be patient. Your safety and our staff's safety are always at the forefront of our discussions.

Small Group Night

We will be offering small group night in a different way this fall. We will be using Zoom to present the large group time, and then people can form their own small groups of two, three, or up to six people, for the small group discussion time. The small group discussion time can happen any time that month following the large group Zoom presentation that is convenient for your small group to meet. You form your own group and choose a location or other way to meet together using all the good social distancing/ COVID 19 protocol to ensure the safety of your group. The large group presentations will begin on **Tuesday, October 13 from 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm**. The large group Zoom presentations will occur on the second Tuesday of each month from October through January of 2021. To sign up for small group night, simply visit our website and sign-up online (registration opens on August 12th).

Blessings to you in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Mark

From the Children, Youth and Family Pastor



Fall plan

Before decisions are made regarding youth activities, we are waiting to see what the Brainerd School District will be doing. Parents will be notified when fall plans are in place. Please understand that we can plan as much as we want, but we are at the mercy of the virus. Plans could—and probably will—change on a dime. We are in this together and we will get through it!

Operation Sandwich update

To date, 12,270 meals have been handed out to families within our lunch packs. We continue to be in partnership with Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen for supplemental food packs and about 175 of those go out each week. Meals continue to be handed out at Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen on Wednesday for the supplemental food packs and Thursday for the lunch kits.



Looking ahead to September...

With the fluidity of the pandemic, we would like to see you soon.

We are following the governmental orders along with the recommendations from Bishop Tom Aitken of the NE MN Synod. Your safety and well-being is our number one concern. Depending on what the virus does in the upcoming weeks, we are hoping to resume some in-person worship opportunities in September. Watch future publications for more information.



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:

Ongoing: Stanley Johnsrud; Mike Stanek and family on future deployment; Sue Skinner; thanksgiving from Bailey and Nick Lundgren; Nancy Walsh; Shari and Hunter Hanson; Barb Howard; Sig Boldt; Kevin Goedker; Dave Emery; for peace in our world; residents and staff of Bethany Nursing Home; Bob Morris; all residents and staff of assisted living and nursing home facilities; the unemployed; healthcare workers; Yvonne Doust; Jenny Pederson; for protection from Corona Virus; Aldene Gosse; Bobbie Sayles; Roy Cheney; those who are abused; all dealing with addiction; couples trying to have babies; all affected by mental health issues; all caregivers; everyone dealing with cancer

Service: Zac Myhre deployed to South Korea

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 August:

Cheryl Johnson; Dave and Shelly Johnson; Dustin Johnson and family; Gudrun Johnson; Jennie and Phil Johnson and family; Jenny and Bob Johnson; Margaret Johnson; Steven Johnson; Ken Johnson III; Dave and Tanya Johnston; Brenda Jonak; Deanna and Phil Jones; Katelyn Jones and family; Logan and Emilee Jones and family; Joyce Jorgenson; Jesse Jorges and family; Judy and John Jourdan; Kathryn and Sam Jourdan and family; Lois Juntunen; Lynn and Yvonne Kalahar; Bill and Judy Kallroos; Al and Joanne Kampf; Ken and Marcie Kemboi; Mary Ketterling; Chuck and Gwen Kienholz; Parker Kienholz; Jenny King and family; Jayme Klecker and family; Brenda Klinger



USHER Ministry
Sundays at 9:00 am

8/9: the Lindholm family, Keith and Kirsten Olson
8/16: Janis and Jim Peterson, Karen and Steve Rosenow
8/23: Janis and Jim Peterson, Carla and Scott Stall
8/30: the Hennessey and Meyer families

Wednesdays at 6:20 pm
8/12: Mike and Wendy Gindorff
8/19: Wendy Gindorff and Jackie Nornes
8/26: Greg and Sue Wiger

Join Pr. Mark for an
outdoor bible study on the book of Philippians

Bring your own chair and bible on Thursdays in August from 9:00 – 10:30 am.

Sign up on our website at www.belcnet.net

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching. 2 Timothy 3:16

To view our online services at 10:30 am on Sundays, go to our Facebook page at [Bethlehem.brainerd](https://www.facebook.com/Bethlehem.brainerd); the service will also be posted on our website at www.belcnet.net

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
2 9:00 am – Drive in worship service with communion 10:30 – ONLINE only worship service	3 6:00 pm – Board of Service and Evangelism meeting ONLINE via Zoom	4 5:00 pm – Board of Worship and Music meeting ONLINE via Zoom	6:20 pm – Drive in worship service with communion
9 9:00 am – Drive in worship service 10:30 – ONLINE only worship service	10	11 6:30 pm – SMART Team meeting	6:20 pm – Drive in worship service
16 9:00 am – Drive in worship service with communion 10:30 – ONLINE only worship service	17	18 5:30 pm – Board of Stewardship and Properties meeting in BELC parking lot	6:20 pm – Drive in worship service with communion
23 9:00 am – Drive in worship service 10:30 – ONLINE only worship service	24 5:00 pm – Creation Care Team meeting in BELC parking lot; Board of Education and Spiritual Formation meeting	25	6:20 pm – Drive in worship service
30 9:00 am – Drive in worship service with communion 10:30 – ONLINE only worship service	31 6:00 pm – Board of Service and Evangelism meeting ONLINE via Zoom	1 5:00 pm – Board of Worship and Music meeting ONLINE via Zoom	6:20 pm – Drive in worship service with communion

CREATION CARE

COVID-19 is just one of a number of diseases (zoonotic diseases) that are caused by viruses that have jumped from animal hosts to the human population in recent decades. According to the United Nations Environment Department (UNEP) and International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), such diseases are "highly predictable" given the human activities that drive pandemics: deforestation for agriculture and development that results in mosquito-borne disease; the expansion of suburbs into north-eastern US forests that increases tick-borne diseases by driving out predators and increasing deer and white-footed mice; raising tens of millions of farm animals in "factory farms" that provide opportunities for microbes to turn deadly; catastrophic loss in biodiversity, reckless destruction of wildlands for economic development, and warming temperatures. Every year 2 million people die from neglected zoonotic diseases, and in the past two decades alone, zoonotic diseases have caused economic losses of more than \$100 billion, not including the cost of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is expected to cost \$9 trillion over the next few years. SUPPORT EFFORTS to integrate human health, animal health, and environmental policy that protects ecosystems.

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 and mailed (bonus—we save on postage!).





Curbside drop-off/pick-up is available from 8:30 – 9:30 am on Mondays – Fridays. Call 829-3330 when you arrive and someone will meet you at the front door.

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 Service in worship and Communion	6 9:00 am – Outdoor bible study with Pr. Mark	7	8
12 Service in worship	13 9:00 am – Outdoor bible study with Pr. Mark 5:30 pm – Board of Congregational Care and Community meeting ONLINE via Zoom	14	15
19 Service in worship and Communion	20 9:00 am – Outdoor bible study with Pr. Mark Congregational Leadership Board meeting	21	22
26 Service in worship	27 9:00 am – Outdoor bible study with Pr. Mark	28	29
2 Service in worship and Communion	3	4	5



Please remember these people in prayer on their birthdays.

- 8/1: Vicki LaPlant
- 8/2: Jason Hennessey, Sam Schoenecker, Kathleen Thorson, Emma True
- 8/3: Kara McCarthy
- 8/4: Mya Ferrari, Ken Kemboi
- 8/6: David Hallgren, Jon Luhrs
- 8/7: Vince Moe
- 8/8: Jeff Maxwell
- 8/9: Jackson McKusick, Jon Steblay
- 8/11: Payton Lillo
- 8/13: Jen Lindholm, Elizabeth Olson
- 8/14: Zach Skogen, Margaret Steblay
- 8/15: Sasha Burgstaler, Kourtney Holloway, Kathryn Jourdan, De Etta Theien
- 8/17: Ashley Anderson, Tate Magnan, Bruce Praska, Barrie Rempel
- 8/18: Mara Mienert, Bev Rempel
- 8/19: Joyce Brick, Bev Gott, Judy Jourdan, Dale Spaulding
- 8/20: Marty Christiansen, Tyler Gubrud, Marlene Kossila, Emily Rhoda, Henry Thesing
- 8/21: Jean Anhalt, Kristina Nelson, Hazel Nelson
- 8/22: Sharon Braun, Paige Bremer
- 8/23: Jeff Macejkovic, Tim Schoenecker
- 8/24: Larry Olson, Phyllis Roberts
- 8/25: Ray Frisch
- 8/26: Marshall Billman, Aubree Marshall, Marissa Thorson
- 8/27: Deb Cole, Kacey Finch, Jeff Pulak
- 8/28: Judy Hulsether, Malcolm Innes, Zach Kraklau
- 8/29: Cory Kruse, Barb Owens, Maren Thurlow-Praska
- 8/30: Melissa Levig, Dan Vleck
- 8/31: Rebecca Dornan, Jonah Macejkovic, Becky Meyer, Marjorie Streich

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 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.



On behalf of the Staff and Board of Directors at Bridges of Hope, thank you for helping us serve families in the Lakes Area. Your recent gift of \$156.63 makes it possible for us to continue to serve our community in times of need. Since the beginning of the year, we have served over 400 households through our Resources Connection Services program. Because of donors like you, there is a place to call for help. Thank you for partnering with Bridges of Hope in serving the Lakes Area. ~ Bernadette Foh, (former) Executive Director/CEO



Thank you for the monetary donation to support Operation Sandwich. We greatly appreciate your support of our mission and work in making a difference in the community. We thank you for your continued support.



Outdoor Cross Fund

\$1175 in memory of Clark Tollefson from family and friends

Kitchen Fund

\$75 in memory of Clark Tollefson from family and friends

Endowment Fund

\$50 in memory of Clark Tollefson from family and friends



TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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!



Lectionary Readings

Here are the daily bible readings from the ELCA. Today, 8/5: Exodus 16: 2-15, 31-35; Psalm 78: 1-8, 17-29

Matthew 15: 32-39

Thursday, 8/6: 1 Kings 18: 1-16; Psalm 85: 8-13;

Acts 17: 10-15

Friday, 8/7: 1 Kings 18: 17-19, 30-40; Psalm 85: 8-13;

Acts 18: 24-28

Saturday, 8/8: 1 Kings 18: 41-46; Psalm 85: 8-13

Matthew 16: 1-4

Sunday, 8/9: Romans 10: 5-15; Psalm 85: 8-13;

Matthew 14: 22-33

Monday, 8/10: Genesis 7:11 - 8:5; Psalm 18: 1-19;

2 Peter 2: 4-10

Tuesday, 8/11: Genesis 19: 1-29; Psalm 18: 1-19;

Romans 9: 14-29



Want to help some of our community partners? Here are some of their immediate needs:

Mid Minnesota Women's Center needs
batteries of any size
masks for adults and children
food cards
gas cards

Immediate Needs



Our congregation will soon engage in service work right here in our community. We are one of over 3,100 congregations participating in "God's work. Our hands." Sunday, on Sept. 13. Across the country, thousands of members will engage in service work to make a positive change in our communities, build and deepen relationships and share God's love. Join us as we do God's work with our hands! Contact us for more information:

Bethlehem will be serving three organizations this year:

Mid MN Women's Center - outdoor projects

Northland Arboretum - prepping fall garden beds

Salem WEST - organizing indoors and doing projects outdoors

Meet in BELC parking lot at 11:30 for a drive-in blessing; work onsite 12:00 - 3:00

Sign up on our website at www.belcnet.net or call 829-3330.



REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE



WE ACCEPT:
furniture, doors, cabinets,
appliances, lumber,
plumbing, flooring,
windows, building supplies,
and more...

DONATE TODAY!

Items can be dropped off Mon.-Fri. from 9:30AM to 4:30PM, and Saturday from 9:30AM to 2:30PM. To arrange a pick-up of your donations, call or email Karen at 218-454-7020 or restore@lakesareahabitat.org



Help support Habitat's mission.

Cash donations are always accepted.

Make checks payable to Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity.

Send to PO Box 234 Brainerd, MN 56401

Live-stream services (Sundays at 10:30 am live on Facebook; later available on our website)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
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Brainerd, MN 56401
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



God is always with us, even during a pandemic.



Sharon Chaney shared her musical talents with us on July 12.



Flowers are still welcome to brighten up the altar.

Drive-in services offered Sundays at 9:00 am and Wednesdays at 6:20 pm



Dogs enjoy church services too!



Check out our garden on the north-east corner of our building. Thank you to all our gardeners for keeping our grounds so beautiful!



We have had many beautiful days for outdoor worship!

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.

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.



Get updates, share pictures and RSVP for events on our Facebook page...
www.facebook.com/bethlehem.brainerd