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



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

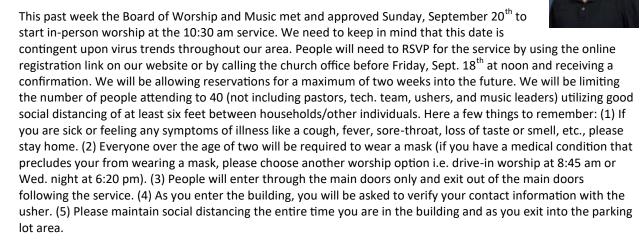
Custodial Services: John and Ruth Unger



August 2020

From the Senior Pastor

Worship



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).

2

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:

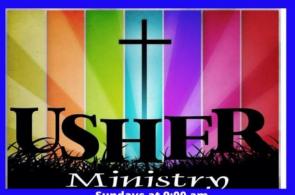
Ongoing: Stanley Johnsrud; Mike Stanek and family on future deployment; Sue Skinner; thanksgiving from Bailey and Nick Lundgren; Nancy Walsh; Shari and Hunter Hanson; Barb Howard; Sig Boldt; Kevin Goedker; Dave Emery; for peace in our world; residents and staff of Bethany Nursing Home; Bob Morris; all 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



Sundays at 9:00 am

8/9: the Lindholm family, Keith and Kirsten Olson

8/16: Janis and Jim Peterson, Karen and Steve

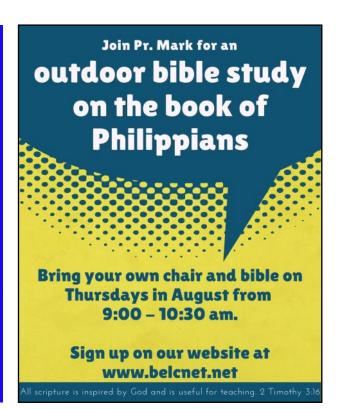
8/23: Janis and Jim Peterson, Carla and Scott Stall 8/30: the Hennessey and Meyer families

Wednesdays at 6:20 pm

8/12: Mike and Wendy Gindorff

8/19: Wendy Gindorff and Jackie Nornes

8/26: Greg and Sue Wiger



CREATION CARE

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 northeastern 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 egosystems.

COVID-19 is just one of a number of diseases (zoonotic diseases)

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!).



To view our online services at 10:30 am on Sundays, go to our Facebook page at Bethlehem.brainerd; the service will also be posted on our website at www.belcnet.net



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



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.

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



8/19: Joyce Brick, Bev Gott, Judy

Jourdan, Dale Spaulding

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	8/20: Marty Christiansen, Tyler Gubrud, Marlene Kossila, Emily Rhoda, Henry Thesing 8/21: Jean Anhalt, Kristina Nelson, Haze Nelson
8/4: Mya Ferrari, Ken Kemboi	8/22: Sharon Braun, Paige Bremer
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	8/23: 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
8/14: 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	8/28: 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
•	

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.

Streich

Macejkovic, Becky Meyer, Marjorie

Thank you!

<u>Thank you</u> 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

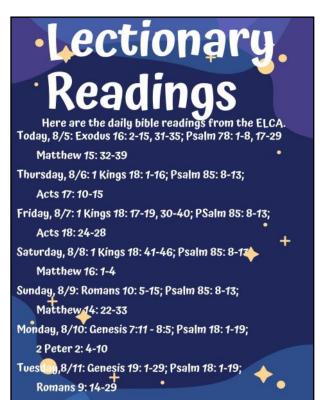


TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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!





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









WE ACCEPT:

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



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

101

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



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.

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



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 northeast 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.



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.