



## Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

418 8th Avenue Northeast  
Brainerd, MN 56401

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Email: [office@belcnet.net](mailto:office@belcnet.net)

Website: [www.belcnet.net](http://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 8:45 am**

**Online worship: Sundays at 10:30 am**

**Drive in worship: Wednesdays at 6:20 pm**

with Communion on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays and following Wednesdays

### OFFICE HOURS

**The office is open for curbside drop-off/pick-up from 8:30—12:00 pm 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:** Amanda, John and Ruth Unger



## From the Senior Pastor



Grace to you and peace,

This Advent season we have the opportunity to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of our Lord. Traditionally, the church has understood the time of Advent (from two Latin words that mean “to come”) for preparing to celebrate the incarnation of Jesus and looking toward the coming of Christ again “in glory” at the culmination of all time, as we confess in the Nicene and Apostles’ creeds. As we enter Christmas time and the celebration of the incarnation, take the opportunity to join us for worship on Christmas Eve through our live-stream service at 3:00 pm, or our drive-in services at 5:00 and 6:30 pm. This year as we gather outside, not unlike the magi, shepherds and angels long ago as they gathered around the baby Jesus, take in the splendor of the church gathered together with lighted trees in our parking lot (thanks to our Board of Worship and Music) and perhaps most especially, the opportunity to hear from the Gospel of John, “... in him was light and the light was the light of the world!”

May the blessings and joy of Christ be with you,

Pastor Mark



# From the Children, Youth and Family Pastor



Catechism and High School Youth Group look a little different in this time of COVID! The groups now meet online via Zoom.



Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12

**High School Youth Group**  
 Wednesdays ~ 7:00 - 8:15 PM  
 beginning September 23  
 \*open to all 10th -12th graders  
 \*follow ISD 181 schedule  
 \*outdoors as much as possible  
 \*masks required when indoors

Talk to Amber Hennessey if you have questions.

2020-2021  
**CATECHISM**

**BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 23, 2020 7:00PM**

WE ARE GOING TO TRY TO HOLD CATECHISM OUTSIDE FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. INDOORS MASKS ARE REQUIRED. PLEASE SEND YOUR YOUTH WITH A CAMP CHAIR, THEIR BIBLE AND A MASK IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER.

6-8TH GRADERS WILL MEET WITH PASTOR SARAH  
 9TH GRADERS WILL MEET WITH PASTOR MARK

OUR PLAN IS AS LONG AS THE BRAINERD SCHOOL DISTRICT IS EITHER HYBRID OR IN PERSON WE WILL MEET IN PERSON. WHEN THE SCHEDULE GOES ALL ONLINE WE WILL FOLLOW SUE AND MOVE TO THE ZOOM PLATFORM. WHEN WE MEET INDOOR:

8:00PM CATECHISM STUDENTS WILL CHECK IN THROUGH THE DOOR BY THE COMMUNITY OFFICE  
 7:00PM CATECHISM WILL BEGIN  
 8:00PM CATECHISM WILL END AND LEARNERS WILL EXIT THROUGH THE SOUTH FELLOWSHIP DOORS.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 CONTACT US: 218.875.2333 PASTOR@BETHLEHEMNET

**MEETING DATES FOR FALL:**  
 SEPTEMBER 23  
 SEPTEMBER 30  
 OCTOBER 7  
 OCTOBER 21  
 OCTOBER 28  
 NOVEMBER 4  
 NOVEMBER 11  
 NOVEMBER 18  
 DECEMBER 2  
 DECEMBER 9  
 DECEMBER 16

2020-2021  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 27, 2020 9:45AM**

OUR PLAN IS AS LONG AS THE BRAINERD SCHOOL DISTRICT IS EITHER HYBRID OR IN PERSON WE WILL MEET IN PERSON. WHEN SCHEDULE GOES ALL ONLINE WE WILL NOT HAVE SUNDAY SCHOOL IN PERSON. PLEASE BRING CAMP CHAIR(S) IF YOU WANT THEM, MASKS, AND YOUR BIBLES.

9:30 AM - HOUSEHOLDS CAN BEGIN ENTERING THE BUILDING FROM THE DOOR BY THE COMMUNITY OFFICE. HAND SANITIZER WILL BE USED BY CHECK IN.  
 9:45AM SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL BEGIN  
 10:45AM SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL END  
 HOUSEHOLDS WILL LEAVE THROUGH THE SOUTH DOOR IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.  
 10:00AM IN PERSON WORSHIP BEGINS IN THE SANCTUARY.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 CONTACT US: 218.875.2333 PASTOR@BETHLEHEMNET

**MEETING DATES FOR FALL:**  
 SEPTEMBER 27  
 OCTOBER 4  
 OCTOBER 11  
 OCTOBER 25  
 NOVEMBER 1  
 NOVEMBER 8  
 NOVEMBER 15  
 NOVEMBER 22  
 DECEMBER 6  
 DECEMBER 13  
 DECEMBER 20

Sunday School is meeting online via Zoom at 9:45 am on Sundays. Contact Pr. Sarah for a link.

# Looking ahead...

With the fluidity of the pandemic, we would like to see you soon. We are following CDC and MN Department of Health guidelines. Your safety and well-being is our number one concern.

For your safety, the Board of Worship and Music cancelled all in-person worship services effective immediately.

If you have a prayer request for the Prayer Chain, you can 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:** Sydney Stock and family on the death of her father; Kevin Brick and family on the death of his mother; the family of Larry Olson; the family of Aldene Gosse; the family of Bob Johnson; the Hannaman family;

**Ongoing:** Alvina Kennedy; Jon Serra on the death of his father; Anita Martinson; Linda Anderson; Nick Benson on the death of his brother-in-law; Carol; Pete Olson on the death of his uncle; Grant Burau; Lorraine; Carl Hadrits' sister Melissa; Brenda and Kevin Schmidt and family; Linda Albertson; Marie; the family of Thea; Lynn Kalahar; Bob Morris; Mark Skogen; Chuck Steinbauer; Jim Brosseau; for all affected by COVID; Michael Zickuhr; victims of domestic violence; all residents and staff of assisted living and nursing home facilities; Mike Stanek and family on future deployment; Nancy Walsh; for peace in our world; the unemployed; healthcare workers; Yvonne Dust; for protection from Corona Virus; Bobbie Sayles; all dealing with addiction; all affected by mental health issues; all caregivers; everyone dealing with cancer

**Service:** Zac Myhre deployed to South Korea; Danny Smith deployed to Kuwait

**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 December:** Harold Munsch; Richard Munsch and family; David and Faye Nelson; Ethel Nelson; Lynn and Mitch Nelson; Mollie Nelson and family; Patricia Nelson; Jeff Nichols and Cheryl Severson-Nichols; Marcy Nickel; Curt and Sandy Nielsen; Jackie Nornes; Marie and Tom Numedahl; Jill and Kevin O'Grady and family; Carole Olson; Andrew Olson; Annette and AJ Olson; Doreen Olson; Keith and Kirsten Olson; Luke Olson; Pete and Sheri Olson; Steve Olson



**Sundays at 8:45 am**

12/6: Clayton Lang, Meyer family  
 12/13: Greg Anderson, Jackie Nornes  
 12/20: Janis and Jim Peterson  
 12/27: Keith and Kirsten Olson

**Wednesdays at 6:20 pm**

12/9: Joe Lindholm  
 12/16: Pam Stock and Al Gardner  
 12/23: Joe Lindholm

**Bethlehem worship services**

**Drive-in services**

\*Sundays at 8:45 am  
 \*Wednesdays at 6:20 pm  
 \*Communion on 1st and 3rd Sundays and the following Wednesdays

**Sundays at 10:30 am**

\*live-streamed weekly on our Facebook page  
 bethlehem.brainerd  
 \*available on our website following the service  
 www.belcnet.net



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](http://www.belcnet.net)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent 29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	
8:45 am – Drive in worship service with communion 9:45 am – Sunday School online 10:30 am - Live-streamed worship service		5:00 pm – Board of Worship and Music meeting online via Zoom	6:20 pm – Drive in worship with communion 7:00 pm – Catechism online 7:00 pm – High School online
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent; Consecration Sunday 6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	
8:45 am – Drive in worship service with communion 9:45 am – Sunday School online 10:30 am - Live-streamed worship service	6:00 pm – Board of Service and Evangelism meeting online via Zoom	6:00 pm – Small Group Night online via Zoom	6:20 pm – Drive in worship with communion 7:00 pm – Catechism online 7:00 pm – High School online
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent 13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	
8:45 am – Drive in worship service with communion 9:45 am – Sunday School online 10:30 am - Live-streamed worship service			6:20 pm – Drive in worship with communion 7:00 pm – Catechism online 7:00 pm – High School online
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent 20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	
8:45 am – Drive in worship service with communion 9:45 am – Sunday School online 10:30 am - Live-streamed worship service			6:20 pm – Drive in worship with communion
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas 27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	
8:45 am – Drive in worship service with communion 10:30 am - Live-streamed worship service			No service tonight

**CREATION CARE**

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A study published in the journal *Science* found that with **medium-level human-caused climate change** expected by the end of the century, the world's oceans, rivers and lakes will be **too hot for about 40 % of the world's fish species in the spawning or embryonic life stages**. Biologists studied the **temperature tolerance of 694 fish species**, finding grave implications for the nearly **3 billion people whose primary protein source is seafood**. According to the Alfred Wegener Institute and the Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research, **limiting climate warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius by midcentury and beyond** will affect only **10% of the fish species**, while warming that comes in at **5 or more degrees Celsius will endanger 60% of species**. URGE YOUR LAWMAKERS to address the climate change that threatens the ability of fish populations to reproduce and replace themselves.

Source: <http://www.nemnsynod.org/green-tips.html>



Curbside drop-off/pick-up is available from 8:30 – 12:00 pm on Mondays – Fridays. Call 829-3330 when you arrive, and someone will meet you at the front door.

Monday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5
Worship service with online Youth Group	10:00 am – LSS PTSD groups 6:30 pm – Smart Team meeting online via Zoom		
9	10	11	12
Worship service online Youth Group	10:00 am – LSS PTSD groups 5:15 pm – Board of Congregational Care and Community meeting online 6:30 pm – Board of Stewardship and Properties meeting online via Zoom		
16	17	18	19
Worship service with online Youth Group	10:00 am – LSS PTSD groups 6:30 pm – Smart Team meeting online via Zoom		
23	Christmas Eve 24	Christmas 25	26
Worship service	Office closes at 11:00 am 3:00 pm – Christmas Eve service live- streamed on Facebook 5:00 pm – Christmas Eve drive-in service 6:30 pm – Christmas Eve drive-in service	Office closed 	
30	New Year's Eve 31	New Year's Day 1	2
	10:00 am – LSS PTSD groups	Office closed	



Please remember these people in prayer on their birthdays.

- 1 ~ Sandy Nielsen, Ali Samp
- 3 ~ Kristi Holloway
- 4 ~ Matthew Rhoda
- 5 ~ Brandy Blum, Ben Gujer, Finnley Sullivan
- 6 ~ Charlie Johnson
- 7 ~ Alex Goedker, Chelsea Klinger
- 8 ~ Brad Bauer, Doreen Swedberg
- 10 ~ Megan Heinrich, David Innes, Bernice E. Johnson
- 12 ~ Margaret Johnson, Jackie Stromback
- 13 ~ Jeff Emery, Sue Wiger
- 14 ~ Forrest Crocker, Nicholas Munsch, Carla Stall
- 16 ~ Megan Praught
- 17 ~ Tyler Hadrits, Alexis Laughton
- 18 ~ Carolyn Cole, Lynn Nelson, Marie Numedahl, Mike Stanek
- 19 ~ Jennifer Grimm
- 20 ~ Dave Johnson, Chris Lundgren, Doreen Olson, Matthew Olson, Cyndy Thompson
- 21 ~ Forrest Crocker Jr.
- 22 ~ Carly Almond, Marcus DeChaine, Gudrun Johnson, Kirsten Rinke
- 23 ~ Aubriella Logelin, Reva Snell, Carlie Sweet, Gene Teufert
- 24 ~ Everett Stanek, Kristen Woods
- 25 ~ Jesus, Mary Ann Frisch
- 26 ~ Linda Anderson, Ryder Vander-schaaf
- 27 ~ Ben Reimers
- 28 ~ Carla Backstrom, Johonna Stanek
- 29 ~ Joanne Kampf, Maddie Klukas
- 30 ~ Henry Praska, Marlys Ray
- 31 ~ Myla Gilderman

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!

## *Kitchen Fund*

\$20 in memory of Roy Cheney from family and friends

\$30 in memory of Bob Johnson from family and friends

## *Designated Fund*

\$300 in memory of Roy Cheney from family and friends

\$70 in memory of Bob Johnson from family and friends

## *Choir Fund*

\$20 in memory of Roy Cheney from family and friends

## *General Fund*

\$570 in memory of Bob Johnson from family and friends

## *Baptism Boxes Fund*

\$20 in memory of Bob Johnson from family and friends

## *Youth Fund*

\$20 in memory of Bob Johnson from family and friends



Thank you very much for your contributions to our organization. We appreciate all you do for us. Your support is very important. Thank you from the staff and board at Mid-Minnesota Women's Center.

LOVE SHOULDN'T HURT



**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](http://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!**



**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

**3:00 PM - SERVICE WILL BE LIVE-STREAMED ON FACEBOOK THEN AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING ON OUR WEBSITE**

**5:00 PM - DRIVE-IN SERVICE**

**6:30 PM - DRIVE IN SERVICE**

**A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING AT 9:00 AM CHRISTMAS MORNING.**

**CHRISTMAS EVE USHERS**

**5:00 PM - DRIVE-IN SERVICE**  
 CLAYTON LANG  
 PAM AND STEVE OSLOS MEYER FAMILY  
 JANIS AND JIM PETERSON  
 BEN REIMERS  
 WENDY GINDORFF

**6:30 PM - DRIVE-IN SERVICE**  
 LINDHOLM FAMILY  
 PAM AND SYDNEY STOCK  
 AL GARDNER  
 BEN REIMERS  
 GINDORFF FAMILY

**2020 GARDENING ZOOM WEBINAR**

The Biblically Inspired Garden  
 Master Gardener Jennifer Knutson

Tuesday, December 8 @ 12 Noon

Learn more about incorporating elements of a prayer or meditation garden, including plants with heavenly names, with Crow Wing County Master Gardener Jennifer Knutson. "The Biblically Inspired Garden" will be presented live on Zoom at noon on Tuesday, December 8th. This presentation is hosted in collaboration with the Brainerd Public Library and is free. Advance registration is required, link below.

<https://umn.zoom.us/j/78111111111>

**POINSETTIAS AND LIGHTS**

You can honor or memorialize someone special by donating a poinsettia or money to purchase Christmas lights for the parking lot in their name.

Any donations are welcomed and appreciated. Please make checks payable to BELC with "poinsettias/lights" in the memo line. Contact the office with your name and the name of who you are honoring or memorializing at 829-3330 or [office@belcnet.net](mailto:office@belcnet.net).



## Immediate Needs

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

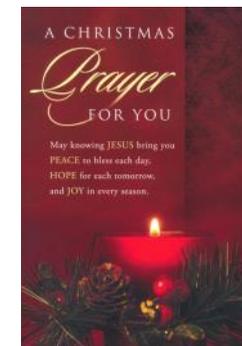
Mid Minnesota Women's Center  
\*wrapping paper, tape, bows  
Please drop these items off at the Center.

Salvation Army  
They are looking for volunteers to help check in gifts received and help with organization of these gifts.  
Please contact them directly to volunteer.

**2021 offering envelopes are available for pick up. Stop by between 8:30 am and 12:00 pm on weekdays or after a drive-in service to pick them up. We'd like to have as many as possible picked up to avoid mailing costs.**

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



## BELC CHRISTMAS TREE OF SHARING

This year we will be partnering with LSS Youth Services, Mid MN Women's Center, and Salvation Army.

LSS Youth Services—Items will change weekly  
nonperishable food items, feminine hygiene products, body and face soap, toothbrushes/toothpaste/floss, men's and women's razors and shaving cream

Mid MN Women's Center—Items will change weekly  
towels and washcloths, hairbrushes/combs, cleaning supplies, dolls, cars/trucks, sleds, colored pencils/crayons and paper/coloring books

Salvation Army—Call Carol at the Salvation Army at 829-1120 to find out their specific needs.

Items may be dropped off at BELC on weekdays between 8:30 am and 12:00 pm or after drive-in services on Sundays or Wednesdays. Please drop items off by 12/28.

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](http://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.