# 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 suddenly. <u>WORSHIP TIMES</u> Drive in worship: Sundays at 8:45 am Online worship: Sundays at 10:30 am In-person beginning 2/14: Sundays at 10:30 am Drive in worship: Wednesdays at 6:20 pm In-person beginning 2/24: Wednesdays at 6:20 pm

with Communion on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays and following Wednesdays <u>OFFICE HOURS</u> The office is open for curbside drop-off/pick-up from 8:30 am—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

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# From the Senior Pastor

#### **Entering the Season of Lent**

Grace and peace be with you through our Lord Jesus Christ,

As we enter the Lenten season, I am reminded that Lent is a season! The writer of Ecclesiastes puts it this way, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every

matter under heaven." (Eccl. 3:1 NRSV) Indeed, we continue to begin and end many seasons in our lives: the season of the pandemic that may bring about anxiety, fear, and a gamut of other emotions and reactions; the season of illness and disease and the grief and sense of loss that transpires; the season of new life through marriage, birth, and other joyous events. And now, we prepare to enter the season of Lent in a very different way than we have or perhaps will ever have entered before. Here are a few things to keep in mind as I encourage us to enter deeply into some of these practices and opportunities:

First, take advantage of worship during Lent. The Ash Wednesday (February 17) service will be available online all day and at our drive-in service at 6:20 pm. If viewing the service online, you may pick up a worship kit from February 8—16 on weekdays between 8:30 am and 12:00 pm. Join us on Wednesday nights at 6:20 pm beginning on February 24. Sign up ahead of time through the church office or our website. Also, plan on joining us on Sunday mornings for a different message at our drive-in services at 8:45 am or in-person services at 10:30 beginning February 14th or online utilizing our live-streaming option.

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- Second, if you would like to speak with a pastor from Bethlehem, feel free to call us by phone M-F from 8:30 am until 12:00 pm, or email us anytime, and we will be more than happy to visit with you.
- Third, if you are not able to attend either in-person or drive-in worship and would like to receive Holy Communion, please contact the church office and we will arrange a way for that to happen.
- Fourth, take advantage of reading and studying the scriptures. We will begin our study of the book of Hebrews on Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 using Zoom. If you would like to participate, sign up on our website or contact the church office.

May God bless your journey through Lent,

Pastor Mark

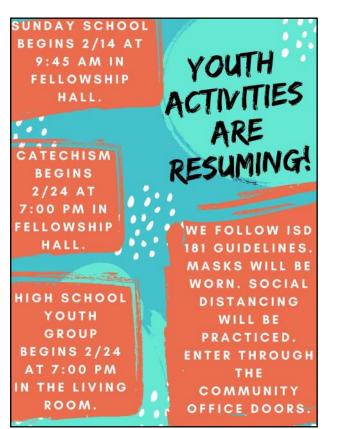


Join us for a drive-in Ash Wednesday service on February 17 at 6:20 pm.

We will also have an Ash Wednesday service available on our website at www.belcnet.net and on our Facebook page at bethlehem.brainerd available at any time during the day. You can pick up a worship kit that will include ashes, communion, and a bulletin. Kits will be available from February 8-17.

For more information, please contact the office at office@belcnet.net or 829-3330.

# From the Children, Youth and Family Pastor



SUNE	0 2 0 - 2 0 )ay sc	HOOL		0 2 0 - 2 0 TECHI	SM C	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
BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 27, 2020 9:45AM	9 30 AM - HOUSEHKLINS CAM BEEN DREISNS THE BULBER DRIN THE ECODE BUT BE COMMUNY OTHER LINE SAMTURE MILL DE USED AT CHEEN M. 945AM SEMARY SCHOOL MILL BEGIN	EVERYMAE MUL MET IN THE RELEARNER SKELANE HERERENELDS SK REQUED TO HAVE EN ANDET WITH THEN REGREATES MIL ST TREATER AND FINGERALLY RESTACED READ THE REGUERED AN THE BULKMI.	BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 23, 2020 7:00PM	WE ARE GOING TO TRY TO HOLD Catechism Outside for As Long As Possible Inddors Masks	G-BTH GRADERS WILL NEET WITH Pristor Sarah Sth Graders Will Neet With Pastor Mark	High School Youth Group Wednesdays ~ 7:00 - 8:15 PM
OUR PLAN IS AS LONG AS THE BRAINERD SCHOOL DISTRICT IS ETHER HYBRID OR IN PERSON WE WILL MEET IN PERSON WHEN ISDIST GOES	18-ISAN SUMMAY SUMMAY WILL DRI HAUSEHOLDS WILL LEART BHRUDAT DRI SUMTH BOOKT IN ER FELLOWSHIP NULL NOCHT PERSON NUCLEART BHE SUMCTURET	MEETING DATES FOR FALL: SEPTEMBER 22 OCTOBER 4 OCTOBER 11 OCTOBER 25	CORPTLANT AS LONG AS THE BEARING SCHOOL DISTINCT SCHOOL INTERNO CONTRACT, AND AND WEAR OF ANY ASSAULT AND WEAR THE CONTRACT AND ASSAULT AND AND ANY ANY ANY ANY ANY ANY ANY ANY TO THE CONTRACT AND ASSAULT WHEN WE MARK RECORD.	ARE REQUIRED. PLEASE SEND YOUR YOUTH WITH A CAMP CHAIR, THEIR BIBLE AND A MASK IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER.	MEETING DATES FOR FALL: SEPTEMBER 23 SEPTEMBER 30 OCTOBER 7 OCTOBER 21	beginning September 23 *open to all 10th -12th graders *follow ISD 181 schedule *outdoors as much as possible *masks required when
ALL DALINE WE WILL NOT HAVE SUNDAY SCHOOL IN FERSON. PLEASE BRING CAMP CHAIR(S) IF YOU WART THEM, MASSS, AND YOUR BIBLES.	RETRIEBEN LUTHERAN CHURCH SUNTER MARTINGARMENTICH (AT	NOVEMBER 1 NOVEMBER 8 NOVEMBER 15 NOVEMBER 22 DECEMBER 6 DECEMBER 13 DECEMBER 20	GSEPH CATCENSIS SULTARIS NAL CRECK IN SHOULDER HE COOL HE COMMANY GIVES HE THREEGEN HE SUCH HE THREEGEN HE SUCH HE LINEWSPE DOOS.	BETHLEHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH Comact us 210.023.030 Pattersamangelen nut	DCTOBER 28 NOVEMBER 4 NOVEMBER 11 NOVEMBER 18 DECEMBER 2 DECEMBER 9 DECEMBER 16	indoors



# Looking ahead...

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

At the time of publication, in-person services will be offered at 10:30 am on Sundays beginning 2/14 and at 6:20 pm on Wednesdays beginning 2/24. You must preregister on our website. Masks will be worn. Social distancing will be practiced.



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: the family of David Heath;

**Ongoing:** Greg Wiger; Isaiah Gilderman; Becky Meyer; Mike and Sam Hamad; Amanda Unger; John Blood; Cassie Girling and family; Chuck Steinbauer; Luann Brooks; Jim Brousseau; Francisco Amigon; Grant Burau; Mike Anhalt; Joyce Wagner; Jessica Rodenbiker; Barrie Rempel; Lynn Kalahar; Bob Morris; 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 Doust; 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. Have a Prayer Request? You are invited to call Deloris Ebinger at 829-2333 or the Church Office at 829-3330 or email office@belcnet.net to have your request put on the Prayer Chain. Please note that we keep people on the prayer list for 3 weeks. If someone needs extended prayers, please let the office know.

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

**February:** Kara Reed, Cody Rehberger, JoAnn and John Rehberger, Ben Reimers, Barrie and Bev Rempel, Janell and Kevin Rhoda, Paul and Sarah Rhoda and family, Laura and Shawn Roberts and family, Phyllis Roberts, Karen and Steve Rosenow, Mike Rosenow, Heather Saffell and family, Gail and Karl Samp, Russ Schultz, Linda Schuster, Carl and Solvejg Seamon, Jon and Melanie Serra, Brett and Elise Severson, Stacy Sjoberg and family, Kayli Skinner, Pr. Mark and

Sue Skinner and family, Brian and Geri Skogen, Dave and Sheila Skogen, Zach Skogen



Drive-in service on Sundays at 8:45 am 2/7: the Meyer family 2/14: Pam Stock and Al Gardner 2/21: Janis and Jim Peterson 2/28: Carla and Scott Stall

In-person service on Sundays at 10:30 am 2/14: Mike and Wendy Gindorff, Jackie Nornes, Sue Skinner 2/21: Jackie Nornes, Ben Reimers, Sue Skinner 2/28: Mike and Wendy Gindorff, Jackie Nornes, Ben Reimers

## Wednesdays at 6:20 pm

2/3: the Lindholm family 2/10: the Lindholm family 2/17: Mike and Wendy Gindorff, Clayton Lang, Pam and Steve Oslos, Ben Reimers 2/24: Pam Stock and Al Gardner

# C R E A T I O N C A R E

Ocean heat content in the upper ocean layers has reached record levels, 0 potentially speeding up how fast the planet will warm in the coming decades, according to new findings in a study published in the journal *Nature Climate* R *Change.* The study reports that reduction in the mixing of ocean layers, due to added heat from global warming, is increasing warm water in the upper 6,500 feet Ν of water, while cutting back on the circulation of cold, deep water. This is projected to increase energy available to hurricanes and other storms, reduce Ε essential nutrients for fish in upper ocean layers and diminish the oceans' ability to store carbon. Since the world's oceans have absorbed the vast majority of R added heat from global warming, WE MUST ACT to influence our policy makers to move rapidly toward clean, renewable energy and regenerative agriculture (which increases the amount of carbon that can be stored in the soil).

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

# **Bethlehem worship services**

**Drive-in services** \*Sundays at 8:45 am \*Wednesdays at 6:20 pm through 2/17 Communion on 1st and 3rd Sundays and the following Wednesdays

## In-person services \*Sundays at 10:30 am beginning 2/14 \*Wednesdays at 6:20 pm beginning 2/24

\*Masks will be worn. \*You must preregister. Registration opens 13 days prior to each service. <u>Preregister</u> on our website at www.belcnet.net or call 829-3330 before Friday at noon. \*Open to 40 people maximum. \*No group singing. \*Prayground and nursery closed.

# **Live-streamed services**

\*Sundays at 10:30 am \*live-streamed weekly on our Facebook page bethlehem.brainerd; later available on our website at 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 <u>www.belcnet.net</u>



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes	
31	1	2		
8:45 am – Drive in worship service 9:45 am – Sunday School online 10:30 am - Live-streamed worship service	6:oo 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 – Drive in wo 7:00 pm – Catechism o 7:00 pm – High Schoo online	
7	8	9		
8:45 am – Drive in worship service with communion 9:45 am – Sunday School online 10:30 am - Live-streamed worship service	6:30 pm – Board of Education and Spiritual Formation meeting online via Zoom		6:20 pm – Drive in wo communion 7:00 pm – Catechism o 7:00 pm – High Schoo online	
Transfiguration Sunday 14	Presidents Day 15	16	Ash Wed	
8:45 am – Drive in worship service with communion 9:45 am – Sunday School online 10:30 am - Live-streamed worship and In-person worship service; you must preregister	Office closed		6:20 pm – Drive in wo communion 7:00 pm – Catechism o 7:00 pm – High Schoo online	
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent 21	22	23		
8:45 am — Drive in worship service with communion 9:45 am — Sunday School online 10:30 am - Live-streamed worship and In-person worship service; you must preregister		6:30 pm – Hebrews Bible Study online	6:20 pm – In-person w with communion; you 7:00 pm – In-person C 7:00 pm – In-person H Group	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent 28	1	2		
8:45 am – Drive in worship service 9:45 am – Sunday School online 10:30 am - Live-streamed worship and In-person worship service; you must preregister	6:oo pm – Board of Service and Evangelism meeting online via Zoom	5:00 pm – Board of Worship and Music meeting online via Zoom 6:30 pm – Hebrews Bible Study online	6:20 pm <mark>– In-person w</mark> you must preregister 7:00 pm – <mark>In-person C</mark> 7:00 pm – <mark>In-person H</mark> Group	



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.

sday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5	6
rship service online I Youth Group	10:00 am – LSS PTSD groups 6:30 pm – Smart Team meeting online via Zoom		
10	11	12	13
rship service with online	10:00 am — LSS PTSD groups 5:15 pm — Board of Congregational Care and Community meeting online		
l Youth Group	6:30 pm – Board of Stewardship and Properties meeting online via Zoom		
nesday 17	18	19	20
rship service with online I Youth Group	10:00 am – LSS PTSD groups 5:30 pm – Congregational Leadership Board meeting online via Zoom 6:30 pm – Smart Team meeting online via Zoom		9:oo am – Lay Leader Network Series
24	25	26	27
rorship service n must preregister atechism igh School Youth	10:00 am – LSS PTSD groups		9:00 am — Faith-Filled Leadership in a Secular with Andy Root online
3	4	5	6
rorship service; atechism igh School Youth	10:00 am — LSS PTSD groups 6:30 pm — Smart Team meeting online via Zoom		



1 ~ Anna Heinrich, Monique Ray172 ~ Anthony Cole184 ~ Kayli Skinner195 ~ Jim Daly, Sarah Wiger207 ~ Logan Backstrom808 ~ Karen Cheney, Bill Kallroos,<br/>Christopher Munsch, James Smith219 ~ Allan Dosh, Kaycee Goedker, Evan<br/>Gorny2111 ~ Luanne Hallgren2412 ~ Noah Gindorff2513 ~ Doris Aasen, Bernice Finch, Harley-<br/>ann Praska26

14 ~ Albert Debler, Maxine Debler, Kay Pederson

- 15 ~ Terri Hanson, Kathleen Weisman
- 16 ~ Roger Erickson

Please remember these people in prayer on their birthdays.

17 ~ Gloria Munsch, Brian Ray 18 ~ Bill Burkey, Lauren Johnson, Lisa Kotchikian 19 ~ Randy Praught, Kevin Rhoda 20 ~ Monty Becker, Sam Blum, Gloria **Brown, Scott Pederson** 21 ~ Dianne Heath, Michael Munsch 22 ~ Anthony Jonak, Lyla Jourdan, Lindsie McKusick, Brett Severson 24 ~ Jadyn Gohman, Eli Jones, Kinzlie Logelin, Taya Person, James Rhoda 25 ~ Jacob Thesing 26 ~ Ariana Louis 27 ~ Margie Burgstaler, Marcie Kemboi, Hailey Nelson, Janis Peterson, Chris Wiger

29 ~ Finnley Pederson

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!**

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Thank you for your kind donations for the holidays. We sincerely appreciate the gifts and especially appreciate your support. Many thanks from the staff and board at Mid-Minnesota Women's Center

Woodworking Fund \$200 from friends and family in memory of Bob Johnson

Worship Team Fund

\$25 from friends and family in memory of Mark Skogen

Youth Choir Fund

\$100 from friends and family in memory of Alvina Kennedy

Kitchen Fund

\$250 from friends and family in memory of Nancie Paulson

General Fund

\$200 from friends and family in memory of BELC members who passed away in 2020

Live Streaming Fund

\$100 from friends and family in memory of Norma Kotyk's brother and sister

Organ Fund

\$1276 from friends and family in memory of Mark Skogen

Sunday School Fund

\$30 from friends and family in memory of Alvina Kennedy

Bell Choir Fund

\$25 from friends and family in memory of Curt Nielsen's brother

Senior Choir Fund

\$25 from friends and family in memory of Curt Nielsen's brother

\$165 from friends and family in memory of Alvina Kennedy



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!





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 between 8:30 am -12:00 pm weekdays or after a worship service by April 4. See our website www.belcnet.net for more information.



The second Annual NE MN Synod, ELCA -Lay Leader Network Gathering combines once again this year with Lutheran Men in Mission to host a special Zoom event :

Faith-Filled Leadership in a Secular Age

Featuring Dr. Andrew Root

Saturday, February 27, 2021

9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Plus a special additional session with Dr. Root

For current LLN Yearly Intensive Students from 1 to 2 p.m.

# Lenten Hebrews Study with Pr. Mark online via Zoom

uesdays February 23 - March 23 6:30 - 7:30 pm Sign up on our website at www.belcnet.net or contact the office at office@belcnet.net

Please register via Eventbrite using the following link:

#### https://nemnsynod 02-27-2021.eventbrite.com

or via email to Bob Nelson, LMiM (robertnelson97@gmail.com) and/or Sue Lyback, LLN Coordinator (susilyback@gmail.com).

The Lutheran Men in Mission and the Lay Leader Network are subsidizing the costs because of the need for a Zoom meeting, thus no registration fee is required. Donations to help us defray the cost, however, are warmly welcome; checks may be made out to the NE MN Synod, ELCA and mailed directly to the Synod office at 1105 East Superior St (Upper Suite), Duluth, MN 55802. Please indicate either "Dr. Root -Lay Leader Network" or "Dr. Root -Lutheran Men in Mission" in the memo line. Thank you!!!

ABOUT THE PRESENTER: Andrew Root (Ph.D., Princeton Theological Seminary) is the Carrie Olson Baalson professor of youth and family ministry at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, Dr. Andrew Root is

the Carrie Olson Baalson Professor of Youth and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary, USA. le writes and researches in areas of theology, ministry, culture and younger generations.



Dr. Root's most recent books are The End of Youth Ministry (Baker, 2020), Th Pastor in a Secular Age: Ministry to People Who No Longer Need God (Baker. 2019), Faith Formation in a Secular Age (Baker, 2017), and Exploding Stars, Dead Dinosaurs, and Zombies: Youth Ministry in the Age of Science (Fortress

Press, 2018). He is also a former Young Life staff worker, and he has served in churches and social service agencies as a youth outreach associate and as a gang prevention counselor. For more information about Dr. Root, his work and publications, visit: https:// andrewroot.org



**Senior Dining Frozen Meal Expansion** Pop-UP for Meal Pickup

Wednesday, February 10 ~ 11:00 am-1:00 pm

Salvation Army Worship & Service Center 208 S Fifth Street Brainerd, MN 56401

**Catholic Charities Senior Dining is offering seniors in** central Minnesota access to additional food support. Healthy frozen meals are packaged in oven and microwave safe containers and handed out via a no-contact drive-through. Participants must be 60 years of age and older to be eligible. Meal quantities are available from 10 to 30 per month. There is no cost, but donations are accepted.

These meals are being funded in part by Central MN Council on Aging & Minnesota Board on Aging.





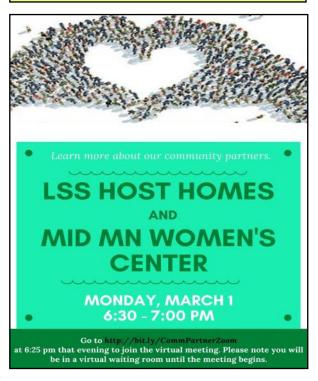
Immediate Needs

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

Mid Minnesota Women's Center \*needs clothing donations, especially women's leggings

Salvation Army \*needs food donations \*needs volunteers on Fridays

Please contact these organizations for more information.



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**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED** 



#### 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.