



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](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 1st and 3rd 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

Lent 2021

Join us for Ash Wednesday services on February 17th at our drive-in service beginning at 6:20 pm or online anytime during that day using our Facebook site at [bethlehem.brainerd](https://www.facebook.com/bethlehem.brainerd) or visit our website at www.belcnet.net. For those who would like to join us online, feel free to stop by the church office and pick up your worship kit which will include a container of ashes, communion pack and bulletin. Worship kits can be picked up curbside at Bethlehem beginning Wednesday, February 10th from 8:30 until noon.

Looking for a Bible study/fellowship opportunity?

Join me (Pastor Mark) on Tuesday nights during Lent as we study the book of Hebrews. We will meet beginning on Tuesday, February 23rd and continue through Tuesday, March 23rd from 6:30 pm until 7:30 pm (online) using Zoom. To register, visit our website and follow the registration link or contact the church office at 829-3330 or office@belcnet.net.

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

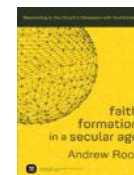
Plus a special additional session with Dr. Root for current LLN Yearly Intensive Students from 1 to 2 p.m.

Please register via Eventbrite (link will be available on the Synod website on January 12) 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. He 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), *The 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>



January 2021

From the Children, Youth and Family Pastor



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 DISTRICT GOES ALL ONLINE WE WILL FOLLOW SUIT AND MOVE TO THE ZOOM PLATFORM WHEN WE MEET INDOOR.

6-8TH 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:
208.625.3330
PASTOR@BETHLEHEMLCHURCH.NET

MEETING DATES FOR FALL:
SEPTEMBER 23
SEPTEMBER 30
OCTOBER 7
OCTOBER 20
OCTOBER 28
NOVEMBER 4
NOVEMBER 11
DECEMBER 2
DECEMBER 9
DECEMBER 16



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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

BEGINNING
SEPTEMBER 27, 2020
9-9:45AM

OUR PLAN IS AS LONG AS THE BRAINERD SCHOOL DISTRICT IS EITHER HYBRID OR IN PERSON WE WILL MEET IN PERSON. WHEN ISOTER 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 AT CHECK IN.

9-10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL BEGIN

10-10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL END

HOUSEHOLDS WILL LEAVE THROUGH THE SOUTH DOOR IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

10:30AM IN PERSON WORSHIP BEGINS IN THE SANCTUARY

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PASTOR@BETHLEHEMLCHURCH.NET

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: Norma Kotyk and family on the death of her brother and sister; Cori Wrobel and Nancy Sweet and family of Mark Skogen; the family of Tom Hanneman; Nancy Albertson and family on the death of her mother;

Ongoing: the Pelarski family; Pat and Jerry Loeffelbein; Amanda Unger; Greg Meisch; Mollie and Lou; Joyce Wagner; Amber Hennessey; Bob Manary; 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.

Please keep the following Bethlehem households in your thoughts and prayer this month of January: Antje Olson, Pam and Steve Oslos, Becky Ostrowski and family, Barb Owens, Meriel and Steve Park, Mary and Scott Parsons, Debbie and Kyle Payne, Bob and Kay Pederson, Jenny and Scott Pederson and family, Todd and Tonya Person and family, Janis and Jim Peterson and family, Jennifer Peterson, Mary Peterson, Norris Peterson, Bruce Praska and family, Charles Praska and family, Henry Praska, Janet Praska, Randy and Tammy Praught and family, Darbie and Jeff Pulak, Betty Rademacher, the Rand family, Brian and Marlys Ray, Robin Reabe



Sundays at 8:45 am
1/10: Janis and Jim Peterson
1/17: Al Gardner and Pam Stock
1/24: Mary and Scott Parsons

Wednesdays at 6:20 pm
1/13: Greg and Sue Wiger
1/20: the Lindholm family
1/27: Pam Stock and Al Gardner

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](https://www.facebook.com/Bethlehem.brainerd); the service will also be posted on our website at www.belcnet.net



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
3 8:45 am – Drive in worship service with communion 9:45 am – Sunday School online 10:30 am - Live-streamed worship service	4 6:00 pm – Board of Service and Evangelism meeting online via Zoom	5 5:00 pm – Board of Worship and Music meeting online via Zoom	6:20 pm – Drive in worship service with communion 7:00 pm – Catechism online 7:00 pm – High School online
10 8:45 am – Drive in worship service with communion 9:30 am – Drive in semi-annual meeting 9:45 am – Sunday School online 10:30 am - Live-streamed worship service	11	12 6:00 pm – Small Group Night online via Zoom 	6:20 pm – Drive in worship service with communion 7:00 pm – Catechism online 7:00 pm – High School online
17	Martin Luther King Jr. Day 18	Newsletter deadline 19	
8:45 am – Drive in worship service with communion 9:45 am – Sunday School online 10:30 am - Live-streamed worship service	Office closed		6:20 pm – Drive in worship service with communion 7:00 pm – Catechism online 7:00 pm – High School online
24 8:45 am – Drive in worship service with communion 9:45 am – Sunday School online 10:30 am - Live-streamed worship service	25	26	6:20 pm – Drive in worship service with communion 7:00 pm – Catechism online 7:00 pm – High School online
31 8:45 am – Drive in worship service with communion 9:45 am – Sunday School online 10:30 am - Live-streamed worship service	1 6:00 pm – Board of Service and Evangelism meeting online via Zoom	2 5:00 pm – Board of Worship and Music meeting online via Zoom	6:20 pm – Drive in worship service with communion 7:00 pm – Catechism online 7:00 pm – High School online

CREATION CARE

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Governments and international organizations are grappling with the fact that **the COVID-19 pandemic exemplifies the direct link between human health and ecological health, giving us an opportunity to self-correct in how we treat animals and the planet.** Recognizing that the virus originated in an animal, the Chinese government enacted a temporary nationwide ban on the consumption of terrestrial wildlife, taking a lead globally on policy to prevent future outbreaks, according to award-winning science journalist Rachel Nuwer (New York Times, National Geographic, BBC Future, Scientific American). This requires **addressing the root cause of zoonotic epidemics by protecting habitats and biodiversity.** She urges the U.S. and the international community to **preserve rather than destroy biodiversity, lessening the risk of unleashing the next, perhaps more deadly, pandemic.** Quoting a wildlife disease ecologist at George Mason University, Nuwer writes, "Once a disease jumps into humans, all the responses are reactive, and the focus is on human health. **We never go back to the source of why things happen in the first place.**" Doing exactly that will perhaps protect us from the next pandemic.

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
6	7	8	9
Worship service with online Youth Group	10:00 am – LSS PTSD groups 6:30 pm – Smart Team meeting online via Zoom		
13	14	15	16
Worship service online Youth Group	10:00 am – LSS PTSD groups 5:15 pm – Board of Congregational Care and Community meeting online		
20	21	22	23
Worship service with online Youth Group	10:00 am – LSS PTSD groups 5:30 pm – Board of Stewardship and Properties meeting online via Zoom 6:30 pm – Smart Team meeting online via Zoom		
27	28	29	30
Worship service online Youth Group	10:00 am – LSS PTSD groups		
3	4	5	6
Worship service online Youth Group	10:00 am – LSS PTSD groups 6:30 pm – Smart Team meeting online via Zoom		



Please remember these people in prayer on their birthdays.

1 ~ Madison Becker, Melodee Hagel, Carson Hays, Faye Nelson

3 ~ Dylan Lee

4 ~ Jackie Burkey, Deb Erickson, Jill O'Grady

5 ~ Jayme Laughton

6 ~ Brandon Fuller, Pam Stock

7 ~ Nate Parsons, Sydney Roberts

8 ~ Catherine Schindler

9 ~ Shaylyn Johnson, Tracie McFarlin

10 ~ Gary Braun

11 ~ Anita Martinson, Riley Slough

14 ~ Patricia Nelson, Clary Tollefson

15 ~ Easton Burgstaler, Cassandra Girling, Gail Samp

16 ~ Will Larson, Kimm Thorson

17 ~ Stacy Erdal, Karl Jackman, Jacob Reynolds, Kaelyn Spencer

18 ~ Dylan Ferrari, Brayden Tollefson

20 ~ Ashley Bontjes

21 ~ Ardelle Boelter

22 ~ Al Albertson, Bonnie LeDoux, Ervin Stanek

23 ~ Brent Levig, Rebecca Ostrowski, Brooklyn Taylor

24 ~ Nick Benson, Katelyn Praught, Cooper Ray

25 ~ Cathie Benson, Colleen Goedker, Mary Parsons, Rick Patton, Tyler Vork

26 ~ Kaylianna Pulak

27 ~ Norma Kotyk, Kyle Louis

28 ~ Emily DeChaine, Elizabeth Grimstad, Cadence Jones, Brenda Laughton

29 ~ Ryan Grimm, Jean Krueger

30 ~ Clara Ferrari

31 ~ Cheryl Johnson

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 for your continued partnership. Your recent gift of \$336.75 makes a huge difference and allows us to continue providing faith-centered programs to children, youth, families and adults. Please keep our staff in your prayers as we continue our work each day. Thank you for your generosity.
~David Holtz, Executive Director, Luther Crest Bible Camp

Thank you!

Kitchen Fund

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

Thank you from the staff for all of the Christmas cards and gifts. We are truly blessed!



Thank you for all of your prayers, support, and cards over the past 2 months. Your kindness has given comfort in this difficult time. ~ Cori

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. It will cost around \$5 per box to mail these out, so we'd like to have as many as possible picked up to avoid that extra expense. Please pick them up by January 15.

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!



Thank you for all the donations to our Tree of Sharing. Over \$1700 worth of items was collected for LSS Youth Services and Mid Minnesota Women's Center.


POINSETTIAS AND LIGHTS

were given in memory of
*Dorothy and Vern Skogen by Nancy and Rick Sweet and family
*Roy Cheney by Karen Cheney
*Lucas Ferrari by Dylan and Emily Ferrari and family
*Bob Johnson by Al and JoAnne Kampf
*Leonard Stock and Norman Gardner by Pam Stock and Al Gardner and family
*Bill Ebinger by Deloris Ebinger
*Donald Peterson, Doris Olson, and Wally Olson by Keith and Kirsten Olson



It was a Christmas Eve like no other!





Learn more about our community partners.

LSS YOUTH SERVICES AND LSS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1
6:30 - 7:00 PM

Go to <http://bit.ly/CommPartnerZoom>
at 6:25 pm that evening to join the virtual meeting. Please note you will
be in a virtual waiting room until the meeting begins.



Operation Sandwich
continues to use
our facility. They
packed almost 450
bags of food for
local families for the
Christmas break.

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




Immediate Needs

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

Mid Minnesota Women's Center
*has support groups for anyone needing
depression or other mental health support.

MN Adult & Teen Challenge
*used hockey skates and sticks
Contact Shane Storlie at 833-8777.

Salvation Army
*looking for organizations to host food drives.

Please contact these organizations for more
information.

PLEASE JOIN US

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

DRIVE-IN SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

JANUARY 10 AT 9:30 AM

Approve the 2021 budget

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.