# 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



#### **WORSHIP TIMES**

In-person and livestreamed worship:

9:00 am on Sundays

with communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays

## **OFFICE HOURS**

The office is open on

Mondays—Thursdays from 9:00 am—12:00

pm and 1:00—4:00 pm

and on Fridays from 9:00 am—12:00 pm.

#### **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

IT Coordinator: Scott Pederson

Custodial Services: Rob Larson and Steve Verdon

## From the Senior Pastor

## 70s+ Lunch Bunch update

Many thanks for everyone that provided feedback during the information sessions regarding our upcoming year of 70s+ Lunch Bunch. Based on feedback from the group, this coming year (Sept. 2022-May 2023), we are going to plan on having a good lunch once a month at Bethlehem (prepared by our cooks or ordering out) along with special speakers through the year, allowing some time for playing some games (cards, bingo, etc. once in a while) and generally being community together as we have the opportunity for conversation, catching up with one another and enjoying our lives together.

#### The Missional Church Meets Secular Culture Series

Join Pastor Mark Skinner and Pastor Bob Rusert from Trinity for this three-part series as we explore some of the latest research regarding human secularization and the challenges of being church in North America today. We will engage scripture, Lutheran theology, along with readings from various leading scholars/researchers including Charles Taylor and Hartmut Rosa. We will meet on Thursday nights <u>at Trinity</u> beginning on July 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00 pm and concluding on July 28th. Sign up on the Bethlehem website or contact the church office.

Blessings to you all in Christ!

**Pastor Mark** 



## From the Children, Youth and Family Pastor



Please keep our high school mission trip participants in your prayers as they head out on their Synod Journey Adventure (that replaces this year's National Youth Gathering that was cancelled) on July 21. They will then head to Michigan for some mission work before returning on July 29.



We're partnering with Trinity for VBS this summer. Registration forms are on the Narthex table. Volunteers are needed.



Trinity Lutheran Church

Vacation Bible School

For Kids age 4 through Grade 5 July 18<sup>th</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup> 9:00 a.m. - noon

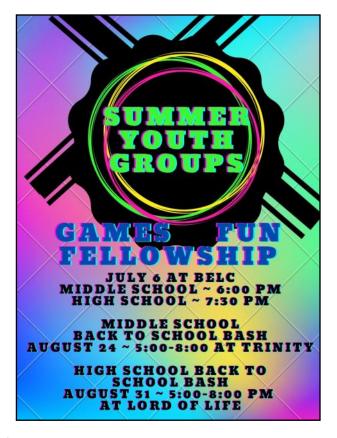
Registration fee: \$20 per child



\$5 discount per child if registered by July 1.

~also~ Each family with registration returned and fees paid by July 1 will receive a CD with the VBS music.

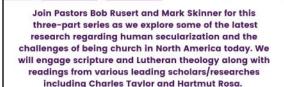
Trinity uses photos of Vacation Bible School children for communications such as newsletters, video presentations, and web pages.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church and
Trinity Lutheran Church present

# THE MISSIONAL CHURCH MEETS SECULAR CULTURE SERIES

Thursdays, July 14.21, and 28 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm at Trinity



Sign up at www.belcnet.net or call a church office (Trinity 218-829-5147 or Bethlehem 218-829-3330).



Meet once a month on the first Saturday from 9:00 - 11:30 am to work on small projects around the building. To sign up, go to our website www.belcnet.net or contact the office at 829-3330. For more information, contact Al Gardner.





## June, July, and August Funeral Service Groups

Coordinators: **Cheryl and Jeff Nichols** Karen and Steve Roseno Jon and Margaret Steblay **Bruce and Cyndy Thompson Greg and Sue Wiger** Assistants: Carly and Patrick Almond Cindy and Bob Hendrickson Harold Munsch Bill and Cheryl Bailey Kristi and Ron Hollway David and Faye Nelson Vicky Bonde **Dustin Johnson** Marie and Tom Numedahl Gary and Sharon Braun Kent Johnson III Antie Olson Eric and Sasha Burgstaler Dave and Tanya Johnston Rebecca Ostrowski Jerry and Krystal DeChaine Todd and Tonya Person Katelyn Jones Barb DePaoli Logan Jones Zaryn Schwab Linda Ekstrum Ken and Marcie Kemboi Carl and Solveig Seamon Stacy Erdal Marlene Kossila Dave and Sheila Skogen Adelle and Roger Erickson Norma and Ted Kotyk Ben Stall Dylan and Emily Ferrari Beth and Rob Larson Carla and Scott Stall Tori Fleischhacker Eric and Sara Larson Denise and Duane Stange Jackie and Terry Forsberg Lori and Syd Larson Deb Steuck Mike and Wendy Gindorff Dylan Lee Gene and Lynn Teufert Cassandra Girling Jen and Joe Lindholm Kay Theien Becky and Stephan Gorny Terry and Wanda Lundeby Michelle Tollefson **Bev Gotti** Jessica and Nate Maceikovic Dawn and Steve Verdon Kelly and Marty Gubrud Becky and Dave Meyer Eric Wisneski Terri Hanson Allison Moyer-Taylor Kris Wyman

## CREATION CARE

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We all have to eat. Farmer/author/poet Wendell Berry writes that "eating is an agricultural act," which makes our reliance on agricultural methods that disregard soil and ecosystem health a danger to us and all the living things on whose well-being we depend. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) reports that as complex grasslands continue to be converted to single crops, the loss of biodiversity has accelerated: from 1970 to 2016 there was a nearly 70% average decline in populations of birds, beneficial insects, amphibians, mammals, fish and reptiles. The intensive use of agro-chemicals, such as synthetic nitrogen, herbicides, pesticides and fungicides, make their way into the food we eat and the water we drink. Children are the most vulnerable, because pound for pound, they drink 2.5 times more water, eat 3 - 4 times more food, breathe 2 times more air, and therefore absorb a higher concentration of pesticides than adults. Support efforts to fix our broken food system.

Source: http://www.nemnsynod.org/green-tips.html5

Looking ahead...

July 6: 6:00 pm Middle School Youth Group; 7:30 pm High School Youth Group

July 14, 21, and 28 at 6:30 pm AT TRINITY: The Missional Church Meets Secular Culture Series

July 16 at 9:00 am: Worker Bees

July 18—22 from 9:00 am—12:00 pm AT TRINITY: Vacation Bible School

July 21—29: High School Mission Trip
July 27 at 5:30 pm—Directors' Retreat

August 3 at 5:30 pm—picnic, outdoor worship, and goat petting



If you have a prayer request for the Prayer Chain, please contact the church office at 829-3330 or office@belcnet.net. 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 John Mathews; the family of Ed Sargent; the family of Stefan True;

Ongoing: BELC members who need healing; Mary Anderson; Donna Hansmann; Jackie Stromback; Dusty Pickar; Nathaniel Ray; the Ray family; Robert Anderson; Randy and Margie Thiel; Bonnie; Nick Lundgren; for peace in our world; Sheri Olson; all who are grieving; a BELC member; Phyllis Roberts; for all affected by COVID; residents and staff of assisted living/nursing home facilities; healthcare workers; all caregivers; everyone dealing with cancer / other diseases

Military: Danny Smith; Nick Schwab in Navy

**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

July: Bill and Judy Kallroos; Al and Joanne Kampf; Ken and Marcie Kemboi; Mary Ketterling; Chuck and Gwen Kienholz; Parker Kienholz; Jenny King; Jayme Klecker and family; Brenda Klinger and family; Josh and Jenny Klukas; Ellie Knold; Butch and Jean Koering; Kris Kolstad and family; Laura and Nick Kory and family; Marlene Kossila; Lisa Kotchikian and family; Norma and Ted Kotyk; Jean Krueger; Cory Kruse and family; Doug and Vicki Kruse; Camille and Clayton Lang and family; Vicki Bonde; Peggy Larson; Liz and Rob Larson; Eric and Sara Larson and family; Lori and Syd Larson; Brenda and Jayme Laughton and family; Don and Jan Lawrence; Sandra Leach; Bonnie LeDoux; Corky and Lana LeDoux; Hollie LeDoux and family; Cathy and Dan Lee and family; Dylan Lee; Laurie Levig; Sheri Libera; Karly and Mike Lillo and family

# PICNIC, OUTDOOR WORSHIP, AND GOAT PETTING ON AUGUST 3

Hotdogs/hamburgers, buns, condiments, and paper plates will be provided. Please bring a dish to share, your beverage, chairs, and utensils.



FOOD SERVED AT 5:30 PM
OUTDOOR WORSHIP AT 6:20 PM
GOAT PETTING FOLLOWING WORSHIP
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

# God's goats for Creation Care Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

Brainerd, MN.

#### The goats are coming!

Made possible through a N.E. Synod EcoFaith network micro-grant, Bethlehem's Creation Care team is undertaking a project to clean up about one acre of undeveloped church property overrun with the invasive vegetation-buckthorn.

The church would like to clean up the area so it can be used as a prayer and educational area to promote stewardship of our environment and more

After property cleanup and site preparation with natural plantings, it is envisioned the property would provide a nature sanctuary for learning and education, opening other options such as a pollinator gardens, holding Sunday and bible school learning events, and creating nature paths benefitting the local area including schools.



A side benefit would be building a congregational awareness on the need to care for our creation.

#### Existing Property





#### Implementation and timeline of project:

By mid-summer 2022, the goats will be on the church property site for 2 to 3 weeks to accomplish the buckthorn brush removal. It is noted that the larger buckthorn trees would have to be removed by hand later and the team thought the congregation could be involved through "God's Work. Our Hands." projects. Also, our Sunday school classes and adults could help in the site preparation, plantings, and planning process.

Your thoughts and ideas are welcome.



# God's work. Our hands.

Brainerd Lakes Area ELCA churches are invited to participate in "God's work. Our hands." Sunday on September 11 from 12:30 to 3:30 pm. This year's sites will include local community partners. Sign up at

www.tinyurl.com/blagwoh22 by August 8 for t-shirt. Registration closes on August 28.







Due to
compromised
structural integrity and
falling pieces, the
cross will be coming
this month. Be sure to
take pictures soon!

To view our online services at 9:00 am on Sundays, go to <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKGd23TW4V1mlqCsktOh03g">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKGd23TW4V1mlqCsktOh03g</a>
The service will also be posted on our website at <a href="https://www.belcnet.net">www.belcnet.net</a>
upon completion of the service.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday		
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 3	Happy 4 <sup>th</sup> of July! 4	5		
9:00 am – In-person and livestreamed worship service with communion	Office closed Happy		6:00 p	
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 10	11	12		
9:00 am – In-person and livestreamed worship service	4:00 pm – BELC at Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen 6:00 pm – Board of Service and Evangelism meeting online	5:30 pm – Board of 8: Congregational Care and Community meeting 1:		
6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 17	18	19		
9:00 am – In-person and livestreamed worship service with communion	VBS at Ti			
	10:00 am — Ruth Circle 6:00 pm — Creation Care Team meeting		1:00 pr 1:30 pr 5:30 pr	
7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 24	25	26		
		dventure (High School Mission	Trip) Ple	
g:oo am – In-person and livestreamed worship service		7:30 am – Men's Bible Study	5:30 pr	
8 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 31	1	2		
g:oo am – In-person and livestreamed worship service	6:00 pm – Board of Service and Evangelism meeting online	5:00 pm – Board of Worship and Music meeting 5:30 goar		



Wednesday

6

The office is open from 9:00 am -12:00 pm and 1:00 - 4:00 pm on Mondays - Thursdays. On Fridays, it is open from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.

8

Saturday

9

Friday

7

U	/	U	9
n -Middle School Youth Group n – High School Youth Group	9:00 am – Summer Stretch: Northland Arboretum and movie 9:00 am – Edgewood Brainerd worship service 10:15 am – Edgewood Baxter worship service 1:00 pm – Operation Sandwich distribution 2:00 pm – Funeral for John Mathews	11:00 am — Funeral for George Sargeant	16
n - Summer Stretch to Twins  MEET AT TRINITY  n – Woodland worship service	10:00 am – Board of Education and Spiritual Formation meeting 1:00 pm – Operation Sandwich Distribution 6:30 pm – The Missional Church Meets Secular Culture Series at TRINITY		9:00 am – Worker Bees
20	21	22	23
inity Lutheran 9:00 am – 12:00 pn	n each day		
n – Martha Circle n – Woodland worship service n – Worship Team get-together	Synod Journey Adventure (H 9:00 am – Edgewood Brainerd 10:15 am – Edgewood Baxter 1:00 pm – Operation Sandwich Distribution 1:30 pm – Mary Circle 6:30 pm – The Missional Church Meets Secular Culture Series at TRINITY	11:00 am – Funeral for Stefan True	
27	28	29	30
ase keep them in your prayers.			
n – Directors' Retreat	1:00 pm – Operation Sandwich Distribution 6:30 pm – <i>The Missional Church Meets</i> Secular Culture Series at TRINITY		
3	4	5	6
n – Woodland worship service	9:00 am – Edgewood Brainerd		

Thursday



# **Immediate** Needs

Want to help our community partners?

Operation Sandwich \*monetary donations, peanut butter (jars no larger than 40 ounces), jelly (jars no larger than 19 ounces), granola bars, fruit snacks

Relationship Safety Alliance (formerly Mid Minnesota Women's Center) \*sponsors for their Gala on July 28

Check out our Christmas in July Tree of Sharing to support BELC youth, Luther Crest or The Shop. Items due August 1.

Contact these organizations for more information. Please keep them in your prayers.

Operation Sandwich will distribute lunch kits at

Bethlehem on Thursdays from 1:00 - 1:30 pm. Families must sign up by 10:00 am on Wednesdays at www.bridgesofhopemn.org for the kits. Donations of peanut butter, jelly, granola bars, fruit snacks, and other individually wrapped snacks are needed. DONATIONS NEEDED! They continue to Serve record numbers. In just 3 weeks, Jeive leculu mumera. m Juan Junches, they've served almost 12,000 lunches 40% of what they served in all of 2021.



## Summer '22 **Lunch Kits**

#### Includes:

Lunch supplies for your family for 5 days: peanut butter, jelly, bread, fresh produce, and other items. At no cost to you.

**Lunch Kit Request** required by Wed @ 10AM: www.bridgesofhopemn.org



## BRAINERD/BAXTER

Thursdays, 6/9 -9/1

#### **Brainerd**

Bethlehem Lutheran 1:00 - 1:30

#### Baxter

Grand Oaks Dr Trail Parking Lot 5:30 - 6:00

#### Nisswa

Elementary 12:30-1:00



eOperationSandwich ebridgesofhopemn

They need jars of peanut butter no larger than 40 ounces and jars of jelly no larger than 19 ounces.



## **Lunch Kits**

**Northern Route** 

Thursdays, 6/2 -9/1

Pine River

Chamber of Commerce 11:30 - 12:00

#### Includes:

Lunch supplies for your family for 5 days: peanut butter, jelly, bread, fresh produce, and other items. At no cost to you.

**Lunch Kit Request** required by Wed @ 10AM: www.bridgesofhopemn.org





@OperationSandwich ebridgesofhopemn

**Jenkins** Veterans Park 12:30-1:00

### **Pequot Lakes**

Our Savior's Lutheran 11:30-12:00

#### Nisswa

Elementary 12:30-1:00

Questions? Call 218-825-7682

NEEDED: empty paper
towel or toilet paper tubes
The NE Synod's EcoFaith Team
will be holding a hands-on
pollinator learning activity with
200 high schoolers at Jay Cooke
State Park on July 23 and needs
tubes for planting seeds. Please
bring them to the BELC office by
noon on July 22.







# HELP NEEDED

Looking for people to run video equipment for the 9:00 am service. Training available.

Contact the office for more information.



Please keep these people in your prayers on their birthdays.

- 2~ Lucy Marshall
- 3 ~ Naomi Bremer, Jacob Heinrich, Mitchell Nelson
- 4 ~ Mike Rosenow
- 5 ~ Rayden Miller, Emily Parenteau, Lynn Teufert
- 6 ~ Emma Grunenwald, Don Nelson, Ryan Zelenka
- 7 ~ Marcus Lindholm, Larry Martinson, Jim Peterson
- 10 ~ Liam O'Grady
- 11 ~ Sue Bremer, Dave Johnston, Erica Munsch
- 12 ~ Will Laughton, Debbie Moe, Paul Rhoda, Jackie Spaulding
- 13 ~ Patricia Fuller, Hollie McFarlin, David Nelson
- 15 ~ Nancy Sweet

- 16 ~ Jeff Grunenwald, Amber Hennessey, Haley Slough
- 17 ~ Pat True
- 19 ~ Eric Aasen, Camilla Lindholm, Faith Rhoda
- 20 ~ Brian Forsberg, Michael Miller, Mollie Nelson
- 21 ~ Cheryl Macejkovic, Dawn Verdon
- 23 ~ Bill Bailey, Darbie Pulak, Kay Theien
- 24 ~ Christian Kotchikian, Luke O'Grady
- 25 ~ Luke Olson, Steve Oslo, Jessica Macejkovic
- 26 ~ Trond Sjoberg
- 27 ~ DJ Janssen
- 28 ~ Abby Holloway, Brenda Jonak
- 29 ~ Lannell Farmer, Jack Gubrud
- 31 ~ Jim Finch, Alex McFarlin, Norris Peter-

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!

January—May update Income \$166,207 Expenses \$180,195 Shortfall -\$13,988

Thank you for your continued generosity!





Giving electronically eliminates check writing, can save postage, and allows you to give to Bethlehem even on those Sundays when you can't come to worship. You pick the amount and the frequency. If you donate through First Western, there are no additional fees so 100% of your donation comes to Bethlehem. Sign up today! If you would like to give electronically, please contact the office at office@belcnet.net or 218-829-3330.

This NE MN Synod's Quilt Auction theme was Wrapping Our Arms Around Hunger and for the first time in tow years, the Synod Assembly was wrapped in guilts hanging from the balcony at Cragun's. It was a familiar scene with a new audience. Bidding was done online. People who attended the assembly could bid, but so could those attending virtually as well as people outside of our synod. Two of the guilts now have homes in California. Your color and pattern choices, hours of stitching, wonderfully crafted handmade items and the prayers that

accompanied all of your gifts raised \$10,050.06. Our Synod is truly blessed to have such talented artisans that share their gifts to help others.

~The Synod Quilt and Market Place Team



2022 Synod Assembly **Ouilt Auction and** Marketplace

Thank you for your gift of \$100 to Lutheran Disaster Response. Your Spirit-filled generosity is helping families and communities reeling from disasters. You are creating new beginnings. Thank you for sharing the hope of new life and the fullness of Christ's joy. ~Rev. Robin Brown, Director, Congregational Generositv





QUILT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 2022

The Camp Knutson Annual Quilt Auction fundraising event is led and supported by volunteers to benefit campers with identified needs.

campknutson.org/quilts

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 2022

You're invited to join our annual quilt auction to raise funds for Camp Knutson. Bid on beautiful handmade quilts for your home or to give as gifts while supporting our campers!

Guests can bid on items virtually or in person. Mobile bidding will be used for the Silent Auction; Live Auction bidding will be in person.

Online Bidding: Opens Wednesday, August 10, at noon. Silent Auction closes at 11:30 a.m. on August 13. We recommend setting maximum bids. Preview Live Auction quilts online.

In Person Bidding: View Silent Auction items from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. on August 13. Live Auction begins at noon.

#### REGISTER OR GIVE | CAMPKNUTSON.ORG/QUILTS

Registration with a credit card is required to bid. If you have questions or need assistance, contact us at camp.knutson@lssmn.org or 218.543.4232.

Please be aware of road construction in Crosslake. Updates will be posted





# June Worship Assistants

9:00 am

**Greeters:** 3: Gloria and Harvey Munsch

10: Larry and Natalie Embertson

17: Jean Anhalt

24: Beth and Rob Larson 31: Jeff and Chery Nichols

**Ushers:** 3: the Thesing family

10: the Lindholm family 17:Gloria and Harvey Munsch 24:Becky and Dave Meyer 31:Kathy Dufour and Rick Patton

**Readers:** 3: Rebecca Timmins

10: Jean Anhalt

17: Cheryl Severson-Nichols

24: still needed 31: Bev Rempel

**Communion** 3: Shelly Birchem, Lynn Teufert 17: John and Judy Jourdan

**Preparation:** 

**Communion** 3: Jeff and Cheryl Nichols, Jeff Macejkovic

17: Jeff and Cheryl Nichols, 1 more still needed

**Servers:** 

Sound: 3: Todd Person

10: Todd Person 17: Todd Person 24: Jerry DeChaine 31:Scott Pederson

Video: 3: Tonya Person

10: Tonya Person 17: Tonya Person 24: Jerry DeChaine 31: Scott Pederson

Flowers: 3: still needed

10: still needed

17: in celebration of Pat True's birthday

24: still needed 31: still needed

Treats: 3: Jessica and Nate Macejkovic

10: still needed 17: still needed 24: still needed

31: Karen and Steve Rosenow

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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.