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



WORSHIP TIMES

Sundays at 8:20 and 10:30 am and Wednesdays at 6:20 pm with Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and Wednesdays

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday

8:30 am- 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Friday 8:30 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

Custodial Services: Ruth Unger



March 2020 1



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.

-Psalm 130:5-6



418 8th Ave NE

Tune in to your cable provider's local access channel (try channel 8 or 181 in Brainerd) every Sunday at 2 pm to watch Bethlehem's worship service.

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.

From the Senior Pastor

	Lent 2020		
LENT 2020 AT BETHLEHEM	Join us as we celebrate our annual of "Confessing the Faith in a Secula during Lent 2020. Each week we wi mornings for worship at 8:20 am ar also for a special Lenten service on beginning with dinner and conversi	r Age" ill gather on Sunday nd 10:30 am and then Wednesday nights	
ASH WEDNESDAY ON 2/26 CHILI DINNER AT 5:30 ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE AT 6:20 LENTEN PREACHING SERIES ON	beginning with dinner and conversation at 5:30 pm followed by worship at 6:20 pm. Please note, there will be a <u>different sermon</u> on Wednesday evening, so you are all encouraged to worship at both time services as you are able. Our weekly themes include:		
SUNDAY MORNINGS WITH <mark>DIFFERENT</mark> ERMONS THAN WEDNESDAY EVENINGS		"Engaging the myth of -11"	
DULT FORUM "CONFESSING THE FAITH LENTEN SERIES" ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:30 BEGINNING 3/1	The week of March 8-14 authenticity: John 3:1-17"	"Engaging the myth of	
CROSS+GENERATIONAL DINNERS ON WEDNESDAYS AT 5:30 BEGINNING 3/4	The week of March 15-21 time: John 4:5-42"	"Engaging the myth of	
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES AT 6:20 UTILIZING THE "THAT YOU MAY	The week of March 22-28 opportunity: John 9:1-41"	"Engaging the myth of	
HAVE LIFE" LITURGY BEGINNING 3/4	The week of March 29- April 4 of glory: John 11:1-45"	"Engaging the myth	

2020 Men's Retreat and Lay Leader Network presentation:

We had a wonderful gathering on Friday and Saturday (Feb. 21 and 22, 2020). This was the very first large group presentation for the Lay Leader Network in the NE MN Synod, and it was very well attended from around our synod. The Rev. Dr. Andy Root lead a marvelous presentation and discussion thinking about, "Faith Formation in a Secular Age." Plans will be underway shortly to build on this for next year. Way to go, Bethlehem, for hosting this event and for your continual support of this very vital network in our Synod!

Blessings to you in Christ Jesus!

Pastor Mark

SE



1 ~ Kevin Brick, Tonya Person

2 ~ Wayne Dosh

3 ~ Karl Hadrits

4 ~ Bruce Erickson, Charlotte Girling

6 ~ Zach Vanderschaaf

8 ~ Erica Pulak

9 ~ Odin Sjoberg

10 ~ Caleb Christensen

11 ~ Linda Albertson, Andrew Olson, Brian Skogen, Logan Stall

12 ~ Christian Eidenshink, Ethan Iverson

13 ~ Sue Hadrits, Solvejg Seamon

14 ~ Robin Billman, Steve Rosenow

15 ~ Nancy Albertson, Reece Doucette, Al Gardner, Carole Olsen

16 ~ Tracie Churc<mark>h</mark>ill, Katie Embertson, Holly Rand, Melanie Serra Please remember these people in prayer on their birthdays.

18 ~ Leonard Borlaug, Scott Johnson Jr., Geri Skogen, Amy Smith, Sara Teufert
19 ~ Alexus Smith, Clark Tollefson
20 ~ Claire Erdal
21 ~ Clark Backstrom, Hollie LeDoux, Harvey Munsch
23 ~ Elaina Christiansen, Jayce Johnson, Marci Nelson, Connie Ogilvie
25 ~ Mary Anderson, Will Grunewald, Maddie Tollefson

26 ~ Stephanie Moody, Curt Nielsen

27 ~ Greta Lang, Blaine Thompson

28 ~ Darla Mae Gonnerman, Blake Kruse, Deb Luhrs, Isaiah Macejkovic, Kim Spencer, Deb Steuck

30 ~ Yvonne Kalahar

31 ~ Lisa Roberts

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.

March Ministry Team of the Month: Seder Meal



Thursday, April 9 6:20 PM

Our Seder Meal is remembering the Passover meal of Jesus with his disciples. This year's meal will include matzah ball soup, knish, green beans and matzah, roasted chicken, and Jewish cookies. Space is limited to 140 people. Register and pay with the office, online, or between services in the Narthex from March 22 -April 5. Suggested donation is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children 8 and under. Sign up before space is gone!

Board of Worship and Music long-term strategic imperatives approved in 4/18: *Increase weekly worship attendance by 10% by year-end 2020. *50% of our members will be worshiping regularly each week by 2022.

Help is needed before the meal to plate food and after the meal to clean up. If you are available one or both of those times, please sign up on the yellow opportunities sheet.



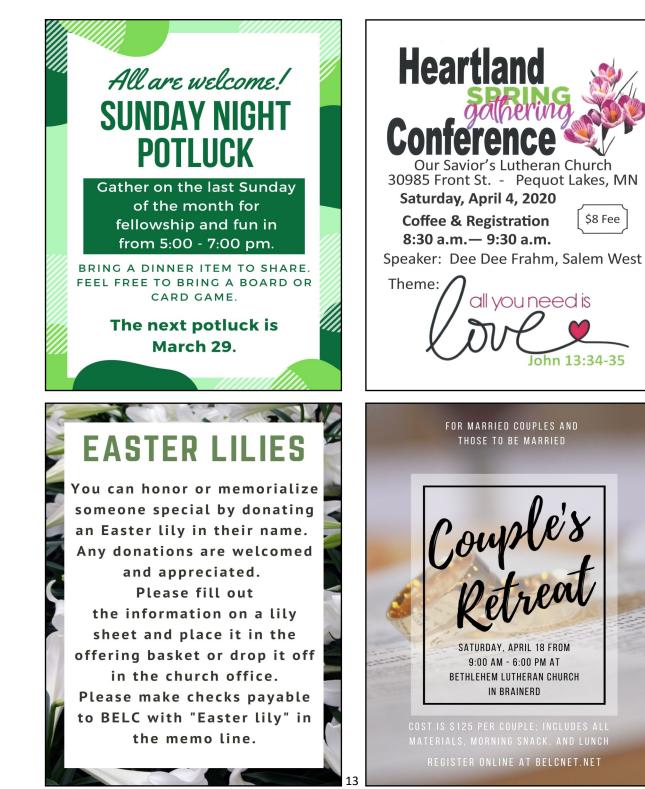


MISSION TRIP

EAT AT PIZZA RANCH (EITHER DINE-IN OR Delivery) on Monday, March 9, Between 5:00 and 8:00 pm. Our Youth Will be Working for 100% of tips Plus 10% of Sales that evening to earn money For their Mission trip to Nashville.









We are collecting for these organizations through the month of March. Please place food items in the grocery cart in the Narthex and monetary donations in the office or offering plate.

The CLC Food Pantry prefers monetary donations to best serve their population.

Operation Sandwich needs peanut butter, jelly, and individually wrapped snacks.

The Salvation Army prefers monetary donations to best serve their population.



Our local food shelf needs boxed food meals, canned foods, and non-perishable foods that have not expired.

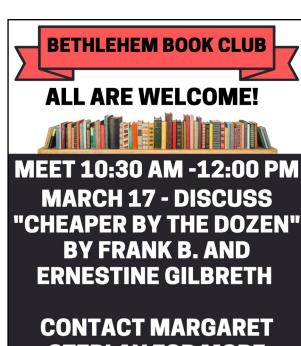
Giving

Hope

Today

HEY, PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN COLLEGE

Our card ministry team would like to send cards to college students in April to let them know our congregation is thinking about and praying for them as finals approach. Please contact the office at office@belcnet.net or fill out the yellow opportunities sheet with the student's name and current address. Contact Cathy Lee with any questions.



CONTACT MARGARET STEBLAY FOR MORE INFORMATION.

STAMP. CUT. CRAFT. CREATE. SHARE. FELLOWSHIP.

CARD MAKING FUN ON MARCH 26



Get creative on Thursday, March 26 from 4:30 - 7:30 pm. Cards are sent to members that are shut in and members in need of some uplifting words; cards are also available in the display to

the right of the mailboxes. Please contact Cathy Lee for more information or sign up on the yellow opportunities sheet.



Looking ahead to April...

April 1—9th grade and Nicodemus Group field trip to the Twin Cities

April 4—WELCA Heartland gathering at Our Savior's Lutheran in Pequot Lakes beginning at 8:30 am April 4—First Communion class at 9:00 am

April 5—Palm Sunday services at 8:20 and 10:30 am; Sunday School children and Youth Choir at both services April 9—Seder Meal at 6:30 pm

April 10—Good Friday Experience at 5:15 pm; traditional Good Friday service at 6:30 pm

April 12—Easter services at 7:00, 9:00, and 10:30 am with breakfast served at 8:00 am

April 16—New Member seminar at 6:00 pm

April 18—Couples' Retreat from 9:00 am—6:00 pm

April 19—New Member Sunday; semi-annual congregational meeting at 9:30 am

April 25—9th grade retreat from 9:00 am—2:00 pm

April 26—Youth led service at 8:20 and 10:30 am; Baptismal Calling of outdoor enthusiasts and conservationists; Wild Game Feed at 11:30 am

April 28—Worship Assistant training at 6:30 pm for ALL worship assistants, both new and experienced

The **80s+ Lunch Bunch** will meet at the Sawmill Inn on Tuesday, March 31 at 11:45 am.



Young at Heart will not be meeting in March.



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:

Sympathy: Dave Meyer and family on the death of his mother Mary; the family of Jeff Hulsether

Ongoing: Pam Stock; Bret Adams; Stefan True; Samantha Imgrund; Vicki Gold; Brady Feist; Pallas' granddaughter; Emily Otto; Thomas Monda; Margie Burgstaler; Michelle Knoben; Brynn Moen; Barrie Rempel; a youth member; Michael Zickuhr; Paul Erdal; Aldene Gosse; Bobbie Sayles; Clark and Clary Tollefson; Roy Cheney; those who are abused; all dealing with addiction; couples trying to have babies; everyone dealing with mental health issues; all caregivers; Cheryl Johnson; everyone dealing with cancer

Service: Zac Myhre deployed to South Korea

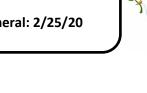
Please note that we keep people on the prayer list for 3 weeks. If someone needs extended prayers, please let the office know.

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

Doris Aasen and family; Bret Adam and family; Al and Nancy Albertson; LeRoy and Linda Albertson; Carly and Patrick Almond and family; Greg and Mary Anderson; Hans Anderson and family; Linda Anderson; Jean Anhalt; Jackie Avenson; Carla and Clark Backstrom and family; Bill and Cheryl Bailey; Brad Bauer; Michele Becker and family; Monty Becker and family; Arliss and Harry Bement and family; Cathie and Nick Benson;

Life Events

Jeff Hulsether Birth: 9/5/55 Funeral: 2/25/20



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.



CREATION CARE

1,571 Superfund sites (contaminated locations 0 that exist nationally due to hazardous wastes being dumped, left out in the open or otherwise R improperly managed) have been looked into by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), of which 60% have been found to be in areas Ν vulnerable to flooding, storms, wildfires, or other worsening disasters of climate change. The GAO Ε review follows a 2017 review by the Associated Press that found that 2 million people in the US live within a mile of 327 Superfund sites in areas R prone to flooding or vulnerable to sea level rise caused by climate change. While the Environmental Protection Agency is dismissing these findings as "fearmongering", scientists have identified 945 Superfund sites as being at greater risk of floods, storms, surge from major hurricanes, wildfires or sea-level rise of 3 feet or more.

Please let the church office know if you will be **stopping your mail** service for an extended period of time (heading south for the winter, etc.) so we do not send you any publications. **We get charged \$0.57 for every item** we mail out during that time. Thank you.



In Earth's distress, we sing the promise of renewal... NOW THE GREEN BLADE RISES The Easter Gospel for the Whole Creation The 2020 EcoFaith Summit Raising a Grassroots Movement among the People of God How do we proclaim the Resurrection for a wounded creation? What is motivating young activists to address climate change? What green blades for earth's healing are rising in our midst? Saturday, March 28, 2020 Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Brainerd 9:30am - 3:30pm 9:00am Registration & Coffee

What will happen at the Summit?

Worship that sings Easter for the whole creation + Young activists share what motivates them + Breakout sessions for worship and grassroots action in your congregation and community + How to have conversations about important yet sensitive environmental issues + Networking for musicians, students, creation care teams + church gardeners + youth leaders + preachers + public advocates and more

EcoFaith Network of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA Registration Cost: \$20 per person \$10 up to age 25

Registration opens Feb. 1 - register soon, space is limited! nemnsynodecofaithsummit2020.eventbrite.com

Thank you!

Bell Choir Fund

\$50 in memory of Nancie Paulson from family and friends

Card Ministry Fund

\$30 anonymous donation

General Fund

\$50 in memory of JoAnn Lundeby from family and friends

Maintenance Fund

\$100 in memory of Jim Albie's birthday from family and friends

In February, \$156.63 was raised for Bridges of Hope through the collection of loose change. The main focus of Bridges of Hope is to connect people with the resources that can help them resolve their current situation or challenge, including childcare services, family support services, mentoring services, resource connection services, and self-healing communities. As a community partner, Bridges of Hope has been using our building approximately twice per month to hold ACES presentations to educate our community. For more information, visit www.bridgesofhopemn.org



Music Ministry Fund

\$20 in memory of Chuck Dahl from family and friends

Worship Team Fund

\$50 in memory of Nancie Paulson from family and friends

Youth Choir Fund

\$50 in memory of Nancie Paulson from family and friends

\$100 anonymous donation

Youth Ministry Fund

\$285 in memory of Nancie Paulson from family and friends

Thank you for your generous gift of \$200 to ELCA ministries through ELCA Good Gifts. Your Good Gift is a very good gift, indeed. With resources like seedlings and seminary courses, vaccinations and vegetable gardens, Bibles and blankets, you're equipping God's people—around the world and around the corner with what they need to live abundant lives. ~ Rachel Wind, Executive for Development

> Evangelical Lutheran Church in America God's work. Our hands.

Thank you to all boards and directors for leading the Epiphany Mission Conversations. Your leadership is appreciated as we work to make the world better.

February and March Service Groups

Coordinators: Anita and Larry Martinson—829-9212 Sara Larson—839-2229; sarajanelarson@gmail.com Pat True—829-2017 Nancy and Tim Bogenschutz—838-4153; bogenschutznancy@hotmail.com

Assistants:

Arliss Bement
Jackie Stromback
Amy and Dan Vleck
Linda Anderson
Barb Owens
Randy and Tammy Praught
Sharon Chaney
Greg and Mary Anderson
Bernice and Jim Finch
Lynn Heinrich

John Kruize Deb and Jeff McCarthy Janis and Jim Peterson Laura and Shawn Roberts Russ Schultz Sue and Todd Sorenson Doris Aasen Doug and Vicky Kruse Darnel Carlson

ONE GENERATION SHALL LAUD YOUR WORKS TO ANOTHER. AND SHALL DECLARE YOUR MIGHTY ACTS. PSALM 145:4 UNDER STATEMENT MEALS 3/4 - 4/1 CDOSS+CENED ATIONIAL

CROSS+GENERATIONAL DINNERS AND CONVERSATIONS

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT 🔵 5:30 - 7:00

Meals Conversations Worship March 4- April 1

6th - 9th graders - sign up to work the night that works best for you. Bring a pot of soup and a plate of sandwiches.

10



Anne Gustafson

Cory Kruse

Jesse Jorges

Leslie Skone

Mary Peterson

Jeff and Shari Grunenwald

Emily and Tyler Monda

Anna and Jake Thesing

Camille and Clayton Lang

Marty and Robin Billman

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS, NISSWA, to host 2020 LAKES AREA WORLD DAY OF PRAYER "RISE! TAKE YOUR MAT AND WALK" Written by the people of Zimbabwe MARCH 7TH ZIMBABWEAN COFFEE HOUSE 9:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30AM

Each year the World Day of Prayer Service is written by a different country. The 2020 World Day of Prayer Service is written by the people of Zimhabave. Famil Zvidora, who gene up in Zimbabave, will be our special guest. The 2020 World Day of Prayer theme is Rise! Take? Your Mat and Walk, which is a theme with a lot of action verbs!! In <u>Join 52-29a</u> Jesus calls us to participate in his mincle for the lame man at the pool near The Sheep Gate in Jerusalem. In <u>Acta 51-8</u> Peter and John show us an example of that participation when they encounter the lame man by the temple gate while going about their daily routine. The people of Zimbabwe are encouraging us to lade up our mats, whatever they may be for us, and logether in our community show that we are Christians by our load equip of mass, whatever they may be for us, and logether in our community show that we are Christians by our old Day of Prayer, which is an example of Hat participation when they found on the idea that prayer and action are inseparable in the service of God's kingdom. Since then Christians have been coming together across denominational borders to pray with their bordhers and sisters around the world. Through World Day of Prayer our circle of prayer is broadened and our prayer experience is world Day of Prayer bring and prayer with men, women and children in more than 170 countries. World Day of Prayer bing and prayer with men, women and children in more than 170 countries.

This year's service will be held on March 7th at Lutheran Church of the Cross in Nisswa. There will be a ZIMBABWEAN COFFEE HOUSE at 9:30 filled with goodies and an opportunity to learn more about Zimbabwe from our special guest, Farai Zvidwa. The WORSHIP SERVICE is at 10:30. The church is handicap accessible and child care will be provided. One Half of the Lakes Area World Day of Prayer Offering will provide resources for Freedom Ranch, a safe home for girls who have been rescued from human trafficking, that is being built in the Brainerd Lakes Area. The other half will be given to World Day of Prayer to share with those known to be in need in Zimbabwe and around the world.

Everyone is invited-men, women, youth and children! Please join us and invite your friends, family and church communities to join other area Christians and the peoples of Zimbabwe in prayer, song, skis and fellowship. In the case of inclement weather, the alternate date is March 14th.

March Worship Assistants

	8:20 am	10:30 am
Greeters	1: Kevin Goedker 8: Deb Steuck 15: Mariann Enfield 22: Pam Finch	Kay Theien Pam and Steve Oslos Kay Theien Bev Gotti Pam and Steve Oslos
Ushers	 29: Kevin Goedker 1: Paul Rhoda, Shelly Birchem 8: the Mollie Nelson family 15: Gloria and Harvey Munsch 22: the Mollie Nelson family 29: Bev Gotti, Greg Anderson 	Janis and Jim Peterson the Ruth Unger family Pete and Sheri Olson Mary and Scott Parsons STILL NEEDED
Readers	1: Kevin Goedker 8: Deb Steuck 15: STILL NEEDED 22: Stacy Erdal 29: Kevin Goedker	Jackie Nornes Greg Anderson STILL NEEDED Jean Anhalt Kathleen Weisman
Communion preparation	1: Jennie Klukas, Jackie Nornes 15: Mary Farmer	Gene and Lynn Teufert Jen Lindholm
Communion servers	1: Jaret, Larry, and Natalie Embertson 2 STILL NEEDED 15: 2 STILL NEEDED	5 STILL NEEDED 2 STILL NEEDED
Assisting ministers	1: Josh Klukas 8: STILL NEEDED 15: STILL NEEDED 22: STILL NEEDED 29: Josh Klukas	TY S. S
Coffee servers	1: Turner Person 8: STILL NEEDED 15: Sam and Sydney Roberts 22: STILL NEEDED 29: STILL NEEDED	hank You!
Flowers	1: STILL NEEDED 8: STILL NEEDED 15: Sue Skinner 22: STILL NEEDED 29: STILL NEEDED	
	Krystal DeChaine	
Flower Care		

 Wednesdays, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25
 5:45 PM

 7:30 AM - Men's Bible Study/Breakfast
 6:20 PM

 5:30 PM - Lenten Dinner and Conversations
 7:00 PM

 5:30 PM - Worship Team rehearsal
 7:00 PM

5:45 PM – Youth Choir rehearsal 6:20 PM – Lenten Worship Service 7:00 PM – Senior Choir rehearsal 7:00 PM – High School Youth Group



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 st Sunday of Lent 1	2	Super Tuesday 3	4	5	6	7
8:20-Worship service with communion 9:25-Sunday School music 9:30-Itty Bitty Book Bunch 9:30-Adult Forum: Confessing the Faith Lenten Series 10:30-Worship service with communion	5:00-Creation Care Team meeting 5:30-Bridges of Hope: ACES 101 6:00-Board of Service and Evangelism meeting 7:00-Board of Education and Spiritual Formation meeting	All day-Presidential Nomination Primary 5:00-Bell Choir rehearsal 5:00-Board of Worship and Music meeting	See schedule above 1:30-Woodland worship service; office closed from 1:00 – 2:15ish	9:00-Edgewood Brainerd worship service 9:00-Quilting Group 10:00-Veteran Core Men's Group LSS 10:15-Edgewood Baxter worship service		12:30-Circle of Change 5:00-Night of Opportunity Youth Gala
Sunday School kids sing both services 8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:20-Worship service 9:25-Sunday School music 9:30-Adult Forum: Confessing the Faith Lenten Series 10:30-Worship service	4:00-BELC at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen 5:00-8:00- Youth Mission Trip fundraiser at Pizza Ranch	12:00-Nicodemus Group 5:00-Bell Choir rehearsal 5:30-Small Group Night: dinner for \$5: baked penne with salad and garlic toast	See schedule above	10:00-Stephen Ministry meeting 10:00-Veteran Core Men's Group LSS 5:15-Board of Congregational Care and Community meeting 6:30-CWCLFCCA meeting		
3 rd Sunday of Lent 15	16	17	18	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 19	20	21
8:20-Worship service with communion 9:25-Sunday School music 9:30-Adult Forum: Confessing the Faith Lenten Series 10:30-Worship service with communion 3:00-Brainerd Leos 7:00-City Wide Youth Group	10:00-Ruth Circle 5:00-Provider's Choice	10:30-Bethlehem Book Club 5:00-Bell Choir rehearsal	See schedule above 1:30-Woodland worship service; office closed from 1:00 – 2:15ish	9:00-Edgewood Brainerd worship service 9:00-Quilting Group 10:00-Veteran Core Men's Group LSS 10:15-Edgewood Baxter worship service 5:30-Board of Stewardship and Properties meeting 7:00-Mary Circle at BELC	5:00-Breath of Life set-up	10:30-Breath of Life 12:30-Circle of Change
4 th Sunday of Lent 22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8:20-Worship service 9:25-Sunday School music 9:30-Adult Forum: Confessing the Faith Lenten Series 10:30-Worship service	11:00-Norwegian Literature Group 5:30-Bridges of Hope: ACES Resiliency	5:00-Bell Choir rehearsal	See schedule above 5:30-Baptismal Seminar (includes dinner)	8:00-Women's Leadership Fund 8:30-LSS 10:00-Veteran Core Men's Group LSS 4:30-Card making		9:00-NE MN Ecofaith Summit
5 th Sunday of Lent 29	30	31	1	2	3	4
8:20-Worship service 9:25-Sunday School music 9:30-Adult Forum: Confessing the Faith Lenten Series 10:30-Worship service 5:00-Sunday Night potluck		11:45-80s+ Lunch Bunch at Sawmill Inn 4:00-BELC at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen 5:00-Bell Choir rehearsal	See schedule above 9 th grade and Nicodemus Group trip to Twin Cities	9:00-Edgewood Brainerd worship service 9:00-Quilting Group 10:00-Veteran Core Men's Group LSS 10:15-Edgewood Baxter worship service		8:30-WELCA Heartland Spring Conference at Our Savior's in Pequot Lakes 9:00-First Communion workshop 12:30-Circle of Change