# 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 worship: Sundays at 8:20 am
Sundays at 10:30am
Wednesdays at 6:20 pm

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

Online worship: Sundays at 10:30 am

## 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**

#### Lent 2022

Welcome to Lent! On March 2<sup>nd</sup> we begin with Ash Wednesday and continue for the next forty days of Lent culminating in Holy Week (the week of April 10-17). Many opportunities for us to

"experience the Reign" of God during Lent include our weekly Sunday services which will be focusing on the ways in which we encounter God's *affection* for us and the world, our *connection*, and considering the *actions* that God is calling us to put into practice as disciples of Jesus Christ experiencing the Reign of God!

On Wednesday nights, we gather for dinner and conversations beginning at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall, followed by worship at 6:20 pm focusing on God's transcendent (boundless) creative promise, mercy, forgiveness, love, and grace revealed in and through Jesus Christ. We welcome a visiting preacher each week from our local sister ELCA congregations (Trinity, First, Lord of Life, and Bethel). We will be utilizing the *That You May Have Life* liturgy that we have used before (going back a couple of years).

#### **Lenten Missional Conversations**

On January 27<sup>th</sup>, during our congregational all-board retreat, members from our boards participated in an evening of discussion, analysis and feedback regarding the mission of our congregation (past, present, and looking forward). Pam Finch, Director of the Board of Service and Evangelism, along with myself, facilitated much of the discussion which proved to be quite helpful. One of the outcomes of that retreat was thinking more deeply about now involving more people from the congregation to be part of the conversation. So, during Lent this year (beginning in March), we will be hosting Lenten Missional Conversations here at Bethlehem. We will host two meetings per week beginning the week of March 6<sup>th</sup> and continuing each week during Lent for a total of ten meetings. Pr. Sarah and I will be facilitating the meetings which will last for about one hour. We will have a scribe on hand to help document our conversations for further use as we plan into the future. We will begin by dwelling in the Word of Scripture together, attending to our spirits gathered in community, and then reflecting deeply about God's mission for the sake of the world. What has God has been up to through Bethlehem this past year? How is God leading us forward into mission in the years to come?

Please, take some time and participate in one of the conversations – we need to hear your voice. To participate, simply go to our website and sign-up or contact the church office.

Blessings in Christ Jesus!

Pastor Mark

# From the Children, Youth and Family Pastor













# Looking ahead...

\*Lenten soup suppers and table conversations on Wednesdays from 5:30—6:15; served by: 3/9: catechism; 3/16: BELC members; 3/23: musicians; 3/30: catechism; 4/6: men's bible study

\*Lenten Missional in-person Conversations: 3/10 at 2:00 pm; 3/10 at 7:00 pm; 3/17 at 7:00 pm; 3/18 at 10:00 am; 3/20 at 11:30 am;3/22 at 7:00 pm; 3/30 at 10:00 am; 4/3 at 11:30 am \*Lenten Missional Zoom Conversations: 3/31 at 7:00 pm; 4/6 at 10:00 am;

\*Sign up for all Lenten Missional Conversations on our website at www.belcnet.net



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 Fred; family and friends of Anne Skoglund;

**Ongoing:** Sandi Plumley; Roger Erickson; James Munsch; Albert Debler; Luke; Pam Sachs; for peace in our world; Katelyn Parsons; Dwight Soderman; Wayne Hansmann; Kris Anderson; Sue Skinner; Julie Runberg; Vince Moe; Janice Skinner; Sheri Olson; all who are grieving; a BELC member; Terri Hanson; Phyllis Roberts; for all affected by COVID; residents and staff of assisted living and nursing home facilities; healthcare workers; all caregivers; everyone dealing with cancer and other diseases

Military: 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

March: Amy and Dan Vleck and family; Tyler Vork; Betty Vosberg; Joyce Wagner; Craig and Tricia Warner; Bruce and Kelli Weaver; Alyssa Weigelt and family; Dennis and Kathleen Weisman; Chris Wiger; Greg and Sue Wiger; Heidi Woerheide; Kris Wyman; Janey Adair; Bret Adams and family; Al and Nancy Albertson; LeRoy and Linda Albertson; Carly and Patrick Almond and family; Greg and Mary Anderson; Hans Anderson; Kris Anderson; Linda Anderson; Neil Anderson; Jean Anhalt; Jackie Avenson; Carla and Clark Backstrom and family; Bill and Cheryl Bailey; Abbi and Kevin Bartolic; Brad Bauer; Monty Becker; Arliss and Harry Bement; Cathie and Nick Benson; Shelly Birchem; Brandy and Sam Blum and family; Amy Boelter; Nancy and Tim Bogenschutz; Andrew Bantjes; Ashley Bontjes; Leonard Borlaug





# CREATION CARE

"THE BIG THAW" Most of Alaskan soils have been permanently frozen for hundreds of thousands of years (permafrost), but Alaska is warming faster than the rest of the U.S. and the permafrost is melting. Since 1950, the average temperature of Alaska has risen more than 5F and more than 3 million Alaskans are now living on unstable ground. Communities built on permafrost (e.g. Fairbanks) are facing huge landscape changes and unstable infrastructure. The Trans-Alaska Pipeline now must use extensive thermal cooling devices to keep the permafrost frozen, to prevent collapse of the pipeline's supports. Major highways are experiencing structural damage from thawing and many rural indigenous communities are facing dislocation from their ancestral homes. Alaskan ecosystems are also being stressed as the melting permafrost results in flooded forests, siltation of rivers, and changes in caribou migration routes. Deciduous trees and shrubs are replacing the moss-spruce ecosystems that covered permafrost areas, and these temperate species are moving north toward the Arctic. Source: Sierra Magazine, Winter, 2021; Source: http://www.nemnsynod.org/green-tips.html/



\*Sunday sermons different than Wednesday sermons \*Visiting ELCA preacher every Wednesday night \*Wednesday night using That You May Have Life liturgy \*Lent soup/supper and table conversations on Wednesdays from 5:30 - 6:15 pm \*Lenten missional conversations offered twice weekly \*Daily Lenten devotional available

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** Lenten Soup Suppers • 3/9 - catechism students

- 3/16 BELC members
- full musicians
- 3/30 catechism students
- 4/6 men's bible study

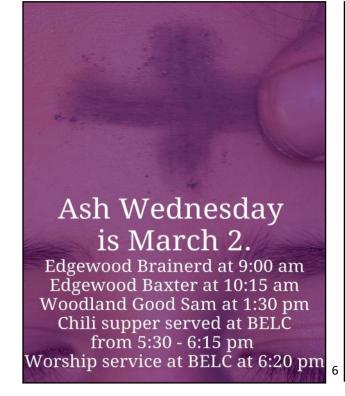
MAKE SOUP AND/OR SANDWICHES.

ARRIVE AT 4:45 PM.

SERVE FROM 5:30 - 6:15 PM.

CALL THE OFFICE AT 218-829-3330

TO SIGN UP.



# Palm Sunday hely We are looking for people willing to pick up members who normally can't get to church on Palm Sunday (April 10). Help them attend a church service and the Palm Sunday brunch. Contact the office at 218-829-3330 or office@belcnet.net if you can

drive someone that Sunday.

You can honor or memorialize someone special by donating an Easter lily in their name. Any donations are welcomed and appreciated. Please make checks payable to BELC with "Easter lilies" in the memo line. Be sure to include a note as to who it is honoring or memorializing. Please turn donations in by 3/27 so we know how many to order.

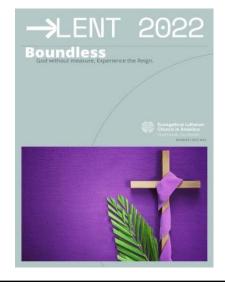




# Thursday, April 14 at 6:00 PM

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 online or with the office. Reservation is not complete until payment is received. If paying by check, write "Seder Meal" in the memo line. Payment can also be made online. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$7 for children 8 and under. Register before space is gone!

Lent devotionals are available. Printed devotionals will be available every Sunday for the upcoming week. The entire devotional is available for download on our website at www.belcnet.net .



#### Wednesdays, March 9, 16, 23, and 30

5:30 pm - Lent soup/supper with table conversations

5:45 pm - Youth Choir rehearsal 6:20 pm – Lent worship service 5:30 pm - Worship Team rehearsal

7:00 pm - 6th-9th Grade Youth

7:00 pm - Senior Choir rehearsal

7:00 pm – High School Youth Group

Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	
Transfiguration of Our Lord	27	28	1	
8:20 am – In-person worship service with communion 9:25 am – Sunday School 10:30 am - Live-streamed worship and In-person worship service with communion			7:30 am – Men's bible study 5:00 pm – Bell Choir rehearsal 6:00 pm – Board of Worship and Music meeting	9:0 10: 1:3 5:3 6:2 7:2
1st Sunday in Lent	6	7	8	
8:20 am — In-person worship service with communion 9:25 am — Sunday School 10:30 am - Live-streamed worship and In-person worship service with communion			7:30 am – Men's bible study 5:00 pm – Bell Choir rehearsal 5:30 pm – Board of Congregational Care and Community meeting 6:00 pm – Bible Challenge dinner	5:3 cat
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent; Daylight Savings 13		14	15	
8:20 am – In-person worship service 10:30 am - Live-streamed worship and In-person worship service 3:00 pm – Heartland Conference Annual Assembly hybrid		4:00 pm – BELC at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen 6:00 pm – Creation Care Team meeting	7:30 am – Men's bible study 5:00 pm – Bell Choir rehearsal 7:00 pm – Lay Leader Network Series discussion session	1:0 1:3 5:3 me
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent; Happy Spring!	20	21	22	
8:20 am – In-person worship service with communion 10:30 am – Live-streamed worship and In-person worship service with communion 11:30 am – Lenten Missional Conversation 2:00 pm – Brainerd Leos		10:00 am – Ruth Circle	7:30 am — Men's bible study 10:00 am — Stephen Ministry meeting 5:00 pm — Bell Choir rehearsal 7:00 pm — Lenten Missional Conversation	Sec 5:3 mu
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent	27	28	29	
8:20 am — In-person worship service with communion 9:25 am — Sunday School 10:30 am — Live-streamed worship and In-person worship service with communion			7:30 am – Men's bible study 11:30 am – 70s+ Lunch Bunch 4:00 pm – BELC at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen 5:00 pm – Bell Choir rehearsal	5:3 cat



#### To view our online services at 10:30 am on Sundays, go to https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKGd23TW4V1mlqCs ktOho3q

The service will also be posted on our website at www.belcnet.net upon completion of the service.

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.

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Ash Wednesday 2		3 4	5
m – Edgewood Brainerd service am – Edgewood Baxter service m – Woodland worship service m – Chili dinner m – Ash Wednesday service h – Senior Choir rehearsal	9:00 am – Quilting Group 10:00 am – LSS PTSD Groups 6:00 pm – Jonah Group		9:00 am - Cardia Deo 9:00 am – Worker Bees
9	1	0 11	12
hedule above left	10:00 am – LSS PTSD Groups		
m – Lent soup/supper served by nism students	2:00 pm — Lenten Missional Conversation		
	4:30 pm – card making 7:00 pm – Lenten Missional Conversation		
16		7 18	19
thedule above left  m – Martha Circle  m – Woodland worship service  m – Lent soup/supper served by BELC  pers – HELP IS NEEDED!  thedule above left  m – Lent soup/supper served by  ians	9:00 am – Edgewood Brainerd 9:00 am – Quilting Group 10:00 am – LSS PTSD Groups 10:15 am – Edgewood Baxter 5:30 pm – Board of Stewardship and Properties meeting 7:00 pm – Lenten Missional Conversation	10:00 am – Lenten Missional Conversation	Newsletter deadline
30	3	1 1	2
hedule above left am – Lenten Mission Conversation m – Lent soup/supper served by nism students	10:00 am — LSS PTSD Groups 7:00 pm — Lenten Missional Conversation via Zoom		9:00 am – Worker Bees



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.

# **ONE-YEAR BIBLE** READING CHALLENGE

THE NEXT DINNER IS TUESDAY, MARCH 8 AT 6:00 PM. PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE OPPORTUNITIES SHEET OR ON OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.BELCNET.NET TO HELP US PLAN FOR FOOD.

STAMP, CUT, CRAFT, CREATE, SHARE, FELLOWSHIP

# **CARD MAKING FUN ON MARCH 10**



Get creative on Thursday, March 10. Show up anytime between 4:30 - 8:00 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 or the office for more information. Please sign up on our



website www.belcnet.net or by calling the office to let Cathy know who to expect.

"Man of Sorrow", a woodcut by Charles Beck, is a gift to Bethlehem from Clary Tollefson's memorials. A book on the life of Charles Beck will remain on the Narthex coffee table throughout Lent. May this piece of art enhance Lenten reflections.





We are collecting for these organizations through the month of March. Please drop off food items or monetary donations.

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



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

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





The Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen can use nonperishable food items or monetary donations.



# **Lenten Missional Conversations**

Almost full

Almost full

OIN PASTOR MARK & PASTOR SARAH FOR A CONVERSATION BOUT WHAT GOD HAS BEEN UP TO AND WHAT GOD WANTS US TO DO IN THE FUTURE AT BETHLEHEM. SPACE IS LIMITED TO 10 SPOTS PER CONVERSATION TO SIGN UP: GO TO BELCNET.NET OR CALL THE OFFICE

## In Person:

- March 10 at 2:00 pm
- March 10 at 7:00 pm
- March 17 at 7:00 pm
- March 18 at 10:00 am
- March 20 at 11:30 am
- March 22 at 7:00 pm
- March 30 at 10:00 am
- April 3 at 11:30 am

## Online:

- March 31 at 7:00 pm
- April 6 at 10:00 am





Please keep these people in your prayers on their birthdays.

- 1 ~ Kevin Brick, Tonya Person
- 2 ~ Wayne Dosh
- 3 ~ Karl Hadrits
- 4 ~ Bruce Erickson, Charlotte Girling
- 6 ~ Kevin Gohman, Kathy Thomson, 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 ~ Susan Hadrits, Solveig Seamon
- 14 ~ Steve Rosenow
- 15 ~ Nancy Albertson, Reece Doucette, Al **Gardner**, Carole Olsen
- 16 ~ Katie Breen, Tracie Churchill, Holly Rand, Melanie Serra

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

# Thank you!

Thank you for your \$210 donation. Your generous gift supports Operation Sandwich and helps us feed kids when free and reduced meals are not accessible at school. You gift helped us distribute over 30,000 lunches this past summer which was a 63% increase over the previous summer. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to meet this huge growth in need. We also provided snack packs for school breaks this year. We know that it is difficult to keep up with the grocery bill when hungry kiddos are home from school! On behalf of Bridges of Hope and Operations Sandwich staff and volunteers, thank you again! ~Jana Shogren, Executive Director





**Immediate** 

Needs

Want to help our community partners?

Mid Minnesota Women's Center

\*needs a table sponsor at

Women Making Waves events in

Salvation Army

monetary donations to purchase

food for the food shop

Contact these organizations for more information. Please keep

them in your prayers.



\$240 in memory of Elaine Thorsteinson (Sue Johnson's Mom) from friends and family

# General Fund

\$240 in memory of Shirley Lundeby from friends and

# Nanther Fund

\$100 in memory of Shirley Lundeby from friends and family

# Plant Fund

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

# Sundays at 8:20 and 10:30 am

Wednesdays at 6:20 pm • greeters communion • readers servers • ushers • video • communion • sound prep Church ELCA Contact the office to sign up today! 218-829-3330







BEETHOVEN CYCLE, by the Lakes Area Music Festival Tuesday, March 1 at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 6 at 2 p.m. Gichi-ziibi Center for the Arts (702 S 5th Street, Brainerd)

The Lakes Area Music Festival continues its Winter Series with performances featuring the nationally acclaimed young cellist Gabriel Martins in a cycle of the complete works for cello and piano by Ludwig van Beethoven. Spread out over three programs, Beethoven's 5 cello sonatas and 3 sets of variations will be presented alongside additional works by Schubert, Schumann, Mendelssohn, and Brahms. These performances will also be the debut concerts performed on a newly rebuilt Steinway Model D grand piano which has just arrived at the Gichi-ziibi Center and will be used for decades to come! For more information about the program, reserve tickets (name your own price), and learn about COVID safety protocols, visit: lakesareamusic.org/event/beethoven-brainerd



#### FREE LUNCH & LEARN SEMINAR Social Services for Seniors

Thursday, March 10 • 12:30 p.m. Deerwood Auditorium

Those attending will learn about social services available in the community to support older adults presented by various CRMC and Crow Wing County professionals. Boxed lunches will be provided, but you MUST register in order to recieve one. Tables will be spaced to allow for social distancing, masks are required

Register by Friday, March 4 by calling KariLee Pietz at 218-545-5361



CRMC

#### Women of the ELCA

Heartland Conference Spring Gathering Saturday, April 9, 2022

Zion Lutheran Church in Milaca 245 Central Ave South Registration 9:00-10:00 \$8.00 includes lunch



Communion, Speaker, Fellowship blessings Bring your Love, Gathering and Penny Offerings

320-983-3368 - office@zionnmilaca.org

# Worship Assistants

Greeters:	8:20 am 6: Bev Gotti 13: Jeff Nichols and Cheryl Severson-Nichols 20: Bev Gotti 27: Larry and Natalie Embertson	10:30 am the Lindholm family Jon and Margaret Steblay Dennis and Kathleen Weisman Nancy Albertson			
Ushers:	6: Larry and Natalie Embertson 13: Dennis and Kathleen Weisman 20: STILL NEEDED 27: Becky and Dave Meyer	the Lindholm family  STILL NEEDED  Becky and Dave Meyer the Lindholm family			
Readers:	6: Bev Gotti 13: Cheryl Severson-Nichols 20: Bev Gotti 27: Claire Erdal	Jackie Nornes Solvejg Seamon Kathleen Weisman Claire Erdal			
Communion Preparation:	6: Shelly Birchem, Jackie Nornes 20: John and Judy Jourdan	Jen and Joe Lindholm Bob and Kay Pederson			
Communion Servers:	6: 2 STILL NEEDED 20: 2 STILL NEEDED	Pam Oslos, <b>1 STILL NEEDED</b> Carl and Solvejg Seamon			
Sound:	6: Jerry DeChaine 13: Tonya Person 20: Jerry DeChaine 27: Jerry DeChaine	Todd Person Turner Person Tonya Person Scott Pederson			
Video:	6: none 13: none 20: none 27: none	the Lindholms Tonya Person Todd Person the Lindholms			
Flowers:	6: STILL NEEDED 13: STILL NEEDED 20: STILL NEEDED 27: STILL NEEDED				
Wednesday evening at 6:20: ushers: Ash Wednesday: greeter: Lynn Teufert; ushers: Jen Lindholm, Jim Peterson; reader: Cheryl Severson-Nichols; communion prep: Lynn Teufert, Ruth Unger; communion servers: Keith and Kirsten Olson; sound: Turner Person; video: Jerry DeChaine					

March 9, 16, and 30 ushers: Brenda and Jayme Laughton; March 23 ushers: Paul and Sue Bremer

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

**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.

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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.