



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: John and Ruth Unger



From the Senior Pastor



Grace and peace be with you,

I am so proud of the good work that our Bethlehem leaders and staff continue to do throughout this COVID-19 pandemic: from our technical team that makes the weekly live-stream worship possible, to our faithful custodians that keep our building clean and sanitized, to our board leaders and so many others. I know that we are yearning to return to gathering together in our building for worship and for celebrating holy communion, and we will, hopefully soon, but I think we need to understand that it is probably going to look different for a while. For now, hopefully you can join us on Facebook for the live stream of our Sunday morning service at 10:30 am or our Wednesday evening fireside devotional at 6:20 pm. You may also visit our website anytime and view the morning service. I have included a message from our NE MN Synod Bishop Tom Aitken below. I am thankful for his faithful service to our church and our partner congregations throughout our Synod.

Please look for a letter later this month from the Board of Worship and Music regarding worship practices.

Dear beloved members of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod,

Grace and peace to you in Christ our brother and Lord.

Martin Luther's writings have been "gold" for me lately:

"Since God has given me in Christ all the riches of righteousness and salvation so that from now on I need nothing except faith, why should I not therefore freely, with all my heart do all things pleasing to God who has overwhelmed me with irresistible riches? I will therefore give myself as a Christ to my neighbor and do nothing in this life except what is necessary, profitable, and salutary for my neighbor." (From "The Freedom of the Christian" 1520)

I am strongly recommending that no worship or other in-person gatherings take place in our church buildings throughout the month of May, at the very least. I urge us instead, to focus on what Luther learned from Scripture and preached during widespread sickness in his day: live out your faith by serving your neighbor. Our neighbor is everyone. Serving as Christ to our neighbor right now is slowing the pandemic we all live in these days. Make no mistake, the COVID-19 pandemic will be with us yet for a long time, beyond the summer months, into the fall, and beyond. It is vital that we be mature Christians here, and pay attention to the world as it is and keep on slowing the virus spread, in spite of our deep desire to gather with others "like we used to." Martin Luther, once again: "Behold, from faith flows love that serves one's neighbor and takes no account of gratitude or ingratitude, praise or blame, gain or loss. We do not distinguish friends from enemies because God's love makes us free." (Freedom of the Christian)

Yours in Christ and in faith, hope, and love,

+Bishop Aitken

Northeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

From the Children, Youth and Family Pastor



YOU'RE GRADUATING!

Congratulations Class of 2020!

GRADUATES, PLEASE EMAIL THE OFFICE A PICTURE OF YOU (FOR USE IN THE MAY 17 WORSHIP SERVICE) AND YOUR POST GRADUATION PLANS. SEND THEM TO OFFICE@BELCNET.NET BY MAY 7.

FOR YOUTH WHO HAVE COMPLETED 6TH - 8TH GRADES

SUMMER STRETCH

THURSDAYS IN JUNE AND JULY FROM 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

While "normal" Summer Stretch has been cancelled, stay tuned for the Thursday challenge beginning June 4. Sign up with Pr. Sarah ahead of time. There is no cost.

FOR THE SON OF MAN CAME NOT TO BE SERVED BUT TO SERVE. MARK 10: 45

Cancelled

HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP

ALL CHURCH MISSION TRIP

Cancelled

Looking ahead to June...

With the fluidity of the pandemic, we would like to see you soon. We are following the governmental orders along with the recommendations from Bishop Tom Aitken of the NE MN Synod. Your safety and well-being is our number one concern.

<p>The 80s+ Lunch Bunch will not be meeting in May.</p>		<p>Young at Heart will not be meeting in May.</p>
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	<p>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.</p>
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Please keep these people in your prayers:

Sympathy: Lynn and Megan Henrich's family on the deaths of Lynn's mother, father, and brother; Melodee Hagel and family on the death of her husband Bob; Doug Furan and family on the death of his wife Lona

Ongoing: all who are affected by COVID-19; Joanna Johns; Bob Morris; all residents and staff of assisted living and nursing home facilities; Joel Carlson; JoLanne Hanson; Brynn; the unemployed; Terry Schroder; healthcare workers; Yvonne Doust; Jenny Pederson; Pam Stock; 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 May:

Carolyn and Jim Cole; Deb and Rick Cole; Amanda Crandall; Forrest and Julie Crocker; Ella Dahl; Jim Daly; Albert and Maxine Debler; Jerry and Krystal DeChaine and family; Paige DeFrang; Jill Delaney-Wilson; Barb DePaoli; Tricia and Wayne Dosh and family; Bethany Doucette and family; Bob Dryden; Kathy Dufour and Rick Patton; Deloris Ebinger; Mike and Sonja Eidenshink and family; Linda Ekstrum; Larry and Natalie Embertson and family; Mary Ann Emerson; Bev and Dave Emery;

Life Events



Lona Furan

Birth: 6/15/47

Death: 4/13/20

Funeral: TBD

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

While Minnesota lacks fossil fuels, we have plenty of wind and sun to replace coal and oil trains and related pollution. The state has cut emissions from the power sector by a third since 2005, and by 12% overall in the decade through 2015, according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Public opinion, most states, and an increasing number of businesses are embracing the need to address climate change by greening the economy, finding significant costs savings as well as “explosive growth” in clean energy and energy efficient businesses. Since 2009, the cost of solar energy has dropped by 80% and wind by about 65%, while coal, the dirtiest fossil fuel, has declined from about two-thirds to 40% of the state’s electricity generation.

Lectionary Readings

Want to start reading daily from the bible? Here are the daily readings from the ELCA.

Today, 5/6: Jeremiah 23: 1-8; Psalm 100; Matthew 20: 17-28

Thursday, 5/7: Genesis 12: 1-3; Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16; Acts 6: 8-15

Friday, 5/8: Exodus 3: 1-12; Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16; Acts 7: 1-16

Saturday, 5/9: Jeremiah 26: 20-24; Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16; John 8: 48-59

Sunday, 5/10: Acts 7: 55-60; Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16; John 14: 1-14

Monday, 5/11: Exodus 13: 17-22; Psalm 102: 1-17; Acts 7: 17-40

Tuesday, 5/12: Proverbs 3: 5-12; Psalm 102: 1-17; Acts 7: 44-56

May Worship Assistants

At the time of publication, all in-person worship services have been cancelled for the month of May so no worship assistants are needed. If that changes, we will let you know.

We will be live-streaming Sunday services at 10:30 am and Pr. Mark’s Fireside Evening Devotions on Wednesdays at 6:20 pm. Both of these can be found on our Facebook page at bethlehem.brainerd. Sunday services will also be posted on our website at www.belcnet.net.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<p>On April 30, Bishop Tom Aitken made a strong recommendation to keep buildings closed through the month of May for the safety of all members. He also recommends no communion. Bethlehem is taking these recommendations. Know that you are in our thoughts and prayers and that we miss you!</p>			
3	4	5	
10:30 – ONLINE only worship service; go to our Facebook page bethlehem.brainerd ; the service will also be posted on our website www.belcnet.net	6:00 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 – Fireside Devotional with ONLINE only; go to our Facebook page bethlehem.brainerd
Mother’s Day 10	11	12	
10:30 – ONLINE only worship service; go to our Facebook page bethlehem.brainerd ; the service will also be posted on our website www.belcnet.net			6:20 pm – Fireside Devotional with ONLINE only; go to our Facebook page bethlehem.brainerd
Graduate Recognition 17	18	19	
10:30 – ONLINE only worship service; go to our Facebook page bethlehem.brainerd ; the service will also be posted on our website www.belcnet.net	6:30 pm – Board of Education and Spiritual Formation meeting ONLINE via Zoom	5:30 pm – Board of Stewardship and Properties meeting	6:20 pm – Fireside Devotional with ONLINE only; go to our Facebook page bethlehem.brainerd
24	Memorial Day 25	26	
10:30 – ONLINE only worship service; go to our Facebook page bethlehem.brainerd ; the service will also be posted on our website www.belcnet.net			6:20 pm – Fireside Devotional with ONLINE only; go to our Facebook page bethlehem.brainerd
Pentecost Sunday 31	1	2	
10:30 – ONLINE only worship service; go to our Facebook page bethlehem.brainerd ; the service will also be posted on our website www.belcnet.net			



Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2
6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16
Side Evening with Pr. Mark go to our inerd	5:30 pm – Board of Congregational Care and Community meeting ONLINE via Zoom		
20	21	22	23
Side Evening with Pr. Mark go to our inerd	5:30 pm – Congregational Leadership Board meeting ONLINE via Zoom		
27	28	29	30
Side Evening with Pr. Mark go to our inerd			
3	4	5	6



Please remember these people in prayer on their birthdays.

- May 1—Jean Swanson, Michelle Tollefson
- May 2—Jim Cole
- May 3—Shane Johnson, Lenex Miller
- May 4—Ayla Backstrom
- May 5—John Mathews, Tammy True
- May 6—MaKenna Klukas
- May 8—Tiffany Kruse, Ethel Nelson, Randy Rinke
- May 9—Abby Gindorff, Bob Pederson
- May 10—Morgan Burgstaler, Carolyn Frisch, Clayton Lang
- May 11—Lewis Almond, Camille Lang, Jeff Nichols, Abby Rehberger
- May 12—Shelly Johnson
- May 13—Shelly Birchem, Darwin Hanson, Madelyn O’Grady
- May 14—Jenny Pederson, Sloan Saffell, Mark Skogen
- May 15—Kyle Rinke
- May 16—Darnel Carlson, Cyndi Merrill
- May 17—Jacob Kraklau, Dennis Weisman
- May 18—Elsie Johns
- May 19—Sharon Chaney, Erica Embertson, Logan Peterson
- May 20—Anne Gustafson, Connor Johnson, Laura Roberts, Karen Rosenow, Teri Slough, Megan Spigarelli, Phyllis Stall, Bruce Thompson
- May 21—Logan Jones
- May 23—Heather Berry, Delaney Jackman, Art Jentsch, Sarah Sorensen
- May 25—Michael Lillo
- May 26—Peggy Larson, Sean McCarthy, Elli Salo
- May 27—Jenna Hollingsworth
- May 29—Theodore Hoff, Lynn Kalahar, Addison Lillo, Myia Nelson
- May 30—Natalie Embertson
- May 31—Katelyn Jones, Tom Numedahl, Julie Vanderschaaf

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 to everyone who has been fulfilling their estimates of giving. Please continue to give generously as you are able as we still have bills, healthcare benefits and salaries that must be paid.



Kitchen Fund

\$20 in memory of Mariann Enfield from family and friends

Senior Choir Music Fund

\$100 in memory of Lona Furan from family and friends

Quilters Fund

\$20 in honor of Nancy Bogenschutz, Deloris Ebinger and Yvonne Kalahar

If you are in need of a free homemade mask that ties and is made with feminine fabric, please call 838-4153.



Operation Sandwich Update

Operation Sandwich is back up and running since the schools closed six weeks ago. We have been handing out weekly meal packs in collaboration with Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen on Thursday evenings. In addition to the public distribution, we also have been working with many of our community partners to get meals to them. The community partners that we have been working weekly include Lutheran Social Services Teen Services, Lutheran Social Services Transitional Living, the collaborative workers from the schools, Crow Wing County, and the Shop.

Moving towards summer, much like everyone else, we are waiting to see how things play out as to what exactly Operation Sandwich will be doing in the summer months. We are waiting to see how Minnesota opens a bit as well as what our school district decides to do. We have had some conversations about doing weekly lunch packs that families would pick up to minimize people having to go out and about and collaborate.

We are hoping we get to a place where we can have lots of volunteers and people dropping off actual items again. In the meantime, if you are wanting to make a monetary donation (which we do greatly appreciate), please either send in a check or donate online at <https://www.bridgesofhopemn.org/donate>



Thank you for all who have already donated. If you, or anyone you know of, need food, please let Pastor Sarah know.



WANTED: MUSICIANS

We are looking for musicians to provide a musical offering during Sunday services. You can sing or play an instrument. Arrive at 10:00 am. Contact the office at 829-3330 or office@belcnet.net to find a Sunday that works for you. **BONUS:** you get to come inside the sanctuary!

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!



START ON THE DATE OF YOUR CHOICE

ONE-YEAR BIBLE READING CHALLENGE

SIGN UP.
GET A DAILY READING GUIDE.
FIND A BIBLE STUDY BUDDY.
READ THE READINGS.
CHECK IN WEEKLY WITH YOUR BUDDY.
GROW CLOSER TO GOD.

ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?

It's not too late to start. If you'd like a calendar to help you read through the bible in a year, email the office at office@belcnet.net.

If you started the bible challenge back in September, here is your May/June bookmark.

Visit www.enterthebible.org for more resources.

May 1: Jer. 23-25
May 2: Jer. 26-29
May 3: Jer. 30-31
May 4: Jer. 32-34
May 5: Jer. 35-37
May 6: Jer. 38-41
May 7: Jer. 42-45
May 8: Jer. 46-48
May 9: Jer. 49-50
May 10: Jer. 51-52
May 11: Lam. 1-2
May 12: Lam. 3-5
May 13: Ezek. 1-4
May 14: Ezek. 5-8
May 15: Ezek. 9-12
May 16: Ezek. 13-15
May 17: Ezek. 16-17
May 18: Ezek. 18-20
May 19: Ezek. 21-22
May 20: Ezek. 23-24
May 21: Ezek. 25-27
May 22: Ezek. 28-30
May 23: Ezek. 31-33
May 24: Ezek. 34-36
May 25: Ezek. 37-39
May 26: Ezek. 40-42
May 27: Ezek. 43-45
May 28: Ezek. 46-48
May 29: Dan. 1-3
May 30: Dan. 4-6
May 31: Dan. 7-9

June 1: Dan. 10-12
June 2: Hos. 1-7
June 3: Hos. 8-14
June 4: Joel
June 5: Amos 1-5
June 6: Amos 6-9
June 7: Obad., Jon.
June 8: Micah
June 9: Nahum
June 10: Hab. & Zeph.
June 11: Haggai
June 12: Zech. 1-7
June 13: Zech. 8-14
June 14: Malachi
June 15: Matt. 1-4
June 16: Matt. 5-6
June 17: Matt. 7-8
June 18: Matt. 9-10
June 19: Matt. 11-12
June 20: Matt. 13-14
June 21: Matt. 15-17
June 22: Matt. 18-19
June 23: Matt. 20-21
June 24: Matt. 22-23
June 25: Matt. 24-25
June 26: Matt. 26
June 27: Matt. 27-28
June 28: Mark 1-3
June 29: Mark 4-5
June 30: Mark 6-7

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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.

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.