



## Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

418 8th Avenue Northeast  
Brainerd, MN 56401

Phone: 218-829-3330

Fax: 218-829-0792

Email: [office@belcnet.net](mailto:office@belcnet.net)

Website: [www.belcnet.net](http://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 suddenly.**

### WORSHIP TIMES

**Drive in worship: Sundays at 8:45 am**

**Online worship: Sundays at 10:30 am**

**In-person worship : Sundays at 10:30 am and**

**Wednesdays at 6:20 pm**

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

### OFFICE HOURS

**The office is open for curbside drop-off/pick-up from 8:30 am—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



### Summer worship opportunities

Beginning Memorial Day weekend (May 30<sup>th</sup>) we will offer two worship services per week: a Sunday morning drive-in/outdoor service in the upper parking lot at 8:45 am and a 10:00 am (in-person) service, along with live-streaming at 10:00 am. Many thanks to our Board of Worship and Music for coordinating our worship opportunities along with our Tech Team that makes the live-streaming possible each week. We could not do this without your faithful efforts!

### In-person bible study opportunity

Join Pastor Mark for an in-person bible study of Paul's letter to the Romans during the months of June and July. We will gather for this six-week study of the letter on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-7:00 pm at Bethlehem. To sign up, visit our website at <https://belcnet.net> or contact the church office at 218-829-3330. We will begin on Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. Bring your bibles and hearts ready to receive the Word!

### Coffee with Pr. Mark

Join me on Wednesday mornings from 9:00-10:00 am at Caribou Coffee across from Bethlehem during the months of May and June. I would love to visit with you and catch up on our shared life for a few moments each week!

### Walk with Pr. Mark

Join me on Friday mornings at 9:00 am (during the month of June) at the Trails head parking lot near the Arboretum for a 40-minute walk on the Paul Bunyan trail. We'll share a brief devotion and have the opportunity to exercise our spirits and bodies together this summer!

May the peace of the risen Christ be with you!

Pastor Mark

## From the Children, Youth and Family Pastor



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.

### Summer Stretch 2021

Who: Those who have finished grades 6-9

When: June 3 (9:00-3:00), July 1 (9:00-11:00), & July 15 (9:00-3:00), plus more dates hopefully coming

This year due to covid still being a factor, here are the initial dates. I am hoping to fill in a few more dates as organizations open up to volunteers a bit more. Drop off and pick up with be at the locations of our service sites rather than at Bethlehem. Please register if you think your youth will have any interest. This year's cost is only \$5.50 for your t-shirt. Youth will be allowed to opt in or out of whatever dates we have service projects. To sign up, go to: <http://bit.ly/BLASummer2021>

Contact Pr. Sarah if you have any questions.

## Looking ahead...

With the fluidity of the pandemic, we are following CDC and MN Department of Health guidelines. Your safety and well-being is our number one concern.

At the time of publication, drive-in services will be offered on Sundays at 8:45 am and in-person services will be offered at 10:30 am on Sundays and at 6:20 pm on Wednesdays. Masks will be worn. Social distancing will be practiced.



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:** Cheryl Severson-Nichols and family on the death of her uncle Stanley Johnsrud; Greg Anderson and family on the death of his brother-in-law Greg Nygard; Deloris Ebinger and family on the death of her brother-in-law Norman Ebinger; the family of Janet Praska; Amber Hennessey and family on the death of her father Grant Bureau

**Ongoing:** Clary Tollefson; Brady Feist; for peace in our world; Janice Skinner; Danny McCarthy; Mike Anhalt; Garnet Rehberger; Ardelle Boelter; Joyce Wagner; Jessica Rodenbiker; Barrie Rempel; for all affected by COVID; Michael Zickuhr; victims of domestic violence; all residents and staff of assisted living and nursing home facilities; Nancy Walsh; the unemployed; healthcare workers; Yvonne Doust; for protection from Corona Virus; all dealing with addiction; all affected by mental health issues; all caregivers; everyone dealing with cancer

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

**May:** Neil Anderson, Jean Anhalt, Jackie Avenson, Carla and Clark Backstrom and family, Bill and Cheryl Bailey, Brad Bauer, Michele Becker, Monty Becker, Arliss and Harry Bement, Cathie and Nick Benson, Deb Berry, Marshall and Robin Billman, Shelly Bircherm, Brandy and Sam Blum, Amy Boelter, Ardelle Boelter, Nancy and Tim Bogenschutz, Leonard Borlaug, Allison Brandt and family, Gary and Sharon Braun, Paul and Sue Bremer and family, Joyce and Kevin Brick, Gloria and James Brown, Janee Burgoyne, Eric and Sasha Burgstaler, Frank and Margie Burgstaler, Morgan Burgstaler and family, Jackie and Mike Burkey, Adam Carlson, Darnel Carlson, Sharon Chaney, Karen Cheney, Caleb Christensen, Marty and Teresa Christiansen

### 2020-2021 SUNDAY SCHOOL

**IN PERSON RESUMES FEB. 14**

9:30 AM - HOUSEHOLDS CAN BEGIN ENTERING THE BUILDING FROM THE DOOR BY THE COMMUNITY OFFICE. HAND SANITIZER WILL BE USED AT CHECK IN.

9:45AM SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL BEGIN

10:15AM SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL END

HOUSEHOLDS WILL LEAVE THROUGH THE SOUTH DOOR IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.

10:30AM IN PERSON WORSHIP BEGINS IN THE SANCTUARY

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

CONTACT US: 218.829.3330 PASTORSARAH@BELNET.NET

OUR PLAN IS AS LONG AS THE BRAINERD SCHOOL DISTRICT IS EITHER HYBRID OR IN PERSON WE WILL MEET IN PERSON. WHEN ISD181 GOES ALL ONLINE WE WILL NOT HAVE SUNDAY SCHOOL IN PERSON.

PLEASE BRING MASK & YOUR BIBLES.

EVERYONE WILL MEET IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. ALL HOUSEHOLDS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE AN ADULT WITH THEM. HOUSEHOLDS WILL SIT TOGETHER AND PHYSICALLY DISTANCED FROM OTHER GROUPS. MASKS ARE REQUIRED IN THE BUILDING.

**MEETING DATES FOR SPRING:**

FEBRUARY 14  
FEBRUARY 21  
FEBRUARY 28  
MARCH 7  
MARCH 14  
MARCH 21  
MARCH 28  
APRIL 11  
APRIL 18  
APRIL 25  
MAY 2  
MAY 9  
MAY 16

### 2020-2021 CATECHISM

**IN PERSON RESUMES FEB. 24**

WE ARE GOING TO TRY TO HOLD CATECHISM OUTSIDE FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. INDOORS MASKS ARE REQUIRED. PLEASE SEND YOUR YOUTH WITH THEIR BIBLE AND A MASK.

6-8TH GRADERS WILL MEET WITH PASTOR SARAH

9TH GRADERS WILL MEET WITH PASTOR MARK

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

CONTACT US: 218.829.3330 PASTORSARAH@BELNET.NET

OUR PLAN IS AS LONG AS THE BRAINERD SCHOOL DISTRICT IS EITHER HYBRID OR IN PERSON WE WILL MEET IN PERSON. WHEN THE COVID GOES ALL ONLINE WE WILL FOLLOW SUIT AND MOVE TO THE ZOOM PLATFORM. WHEN WE MOVE INSIDE:

6:00PM 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.

**MEETING DATES FOR SPRING:**

FEBRUARY 24  
MARCH 3  
MARCH 10  
MARCH 17  
MARCH 24  
APRIL 7  
APRIL 14  
APRIL 21  
APRIL 28  
MAY 5  
MAY 12



**Drive-in service on Sundays at 8:45 am**

- 5/9: Janis and Jim Peterson
- 5/16: Cathy and Dan Lee
- 5/23: Becky and Dave Meyer
- 5/30: Karen and Steve Rosenow

**In-person service on Sundays at 10:30 am**

- 5/9: Pam Stock, Al Gardner, Ben Reimers, Jackie Nornes
- 5/16: Pam Stock, Al Gardner, Ben Reimers, Pam Oslos
- 5/23: Mike and Wendy Gindorff, Keith and Kirsten Olson
- 5/30: Mike and Wendy Gindorff, Camille and Clayton Lang

**Wednesdays at 6:20 pm**

- 5/12: Greg and Sue Wiger
- 5/19: Brenda and Jayme Laughton
- 5/26: the Lindholm family

## Bethlehem worship services

### Drive-in services

**\*Sundays at 8:45 am with communion on 1st and 3rd Sundays**

### In-person services

**\*Sundays at 10:30 am**  
**\*Wednesdays at 6:20 pm**  
**\*Communion on 1st and 3rd Sundays and following Wednesdays**  
**\*Masks will be worn.**  
**\*Space is limited.**  
**\*Limited group singing.**  
**\*Prayground and nursery closed.**

### Live-streamed services

**\*Sundays at 10:30 am**  
**\*live-streamed weekly on our Facebook page [bethlehem.brainerd](https://www.facebook.com/bethlehem.brainerd); later available on our website at [www.belcnet.net](http://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](http://www.belcnet.net)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	
8:45 am – Drive in worship service with communion 9:45 am – Sunday School 10:30 am - Live-streamed worship and In-person worship service with communion 5:00 pm – City Wide Youth Group at Lum Park	6:00 pm – Board of Service and Evangelism meeting online via Zoom 6:30 pm – Community Partner Focus online: Bridges of Hope and Homeless & Wounded Warriors - MN	5:00 pm – Board of Worship and Music meeting online via Zoom 6:30 pm – 1 <sup>st</sup> Thessalonians study online
<b>Mother's Day 9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
8:45 am – Drive in worship service 9:45 am – Sunday School 10:30 am - Live-streamed worship and In-person worship service	4:00 pm - BELC at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen	6:30 pm – 1 <sup>st</sup> Thessalonians study online
<b>Graduate Recognition 16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
8:45 am – Drive in worship service with communion 9:45 am – Sunday School 10:30 am - Live-streamed worship and In-person worship service with communion and graduate recognition		6:30 pm – 1 <sup>st</sup> Thessalonians study online
<b>Day of Pentecost 23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
8:45 am – Drive in worship service with communion 10:30 am - Live-streamed worship and In-person worship service with communion	6:00 pm – Creation Care Team meeting in BELC parking lot	6:30 pm – 1 <sup>st</sup> Thessalonians study online
<b>Holy Trinity Sunday 30</b>	<b>Memorial Day 31</b>	
8:45 am – Drive in worship service 10:00 am (note time change) - Live-streamed worship and In-person worship service	Office closed	5:00 pm – Board of Worship and Music meeting online via Zoom

## CREATION CARE

O  
R  
N  
E  
R

There are an estimated 2-3 million abandoned oil/gas wells in the U.S., with 200,000 in Pennsylvania, 64,000 in Wyoming, 27,000 in the gulf of Mexico and up to 29 million globally. These wells were abandoned when drillers went bankrupt or stopped drilling because of low oil prices, common occurrences in 2020. Although well plugging and remediation are required by law in most states and on federal lands, there are few dollars available to complete the monumental task because lease requirements for insurance bonding are insufficient and poorly regulated. This regulatory nightmare is a significant source of methane to the atmosphere, accounting for about 8% of the total methane released in the U.S. per day. This amount of greenhouse gas is equivalent to all the emissions from burning oil products in one day. These unsealed wells also contaminate groundwater with drilling / fracking fluids and brine solutions. Well sealing involves filling with clay or cement, reclaiming the surface to vegetation, and removing all equipment and waste materials. A complete plugging and remediation can cost up to \$80,000 per well. A bill is currently stalled in the U.S. Senate which would provide \$2 billion over 5 years for well plugging. Source: Reuters: June 16, 2020: Mother Jones: December 5, 2020.

Source: <http://www.nemnsynod.org/green-tips.html/> March 2021



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.

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4	5	6	7	8
	1:30 pm – Woodland worship service 5:30 pm – Worship Team rehearsal 6:20 pm – In-person worship service 7:00 pm – Catechism 7:00 pm – High School Youth Group	9:00 am – Edgewood Brainerd 10:00 am – LSS PTSD groups 10:15 am – Edgewood Baxter 6:30 pm – Smart Team meeting online via Zoom		
11	12	13	14	15
	9:00 am – Coffee with Pr. Mark at Caribou Coffee 5:30 pm – Worship Team rehearsal 6:20 pm – In-person worship service 7:00 pm – Catechism 7:00 pm – High School Youth Group	10:00 am – Stephen Ministry 10:00 am – LSS PTSD groups 5:15 pm – Board of Congregational Care and Community meeting online		
18	19	20	21	22
	<b>Newsletter deadline</b>			
	9:00 am – Coffee with Pr. Mark at Caribou Coffee 1:30 pm – Woodland worship service 6:20 pm – In-person worship service 7:00 pm – Catechism 7:00 pm – High School Youth Group	9:00 am – Edgewood Brainerd 10:00 am – LSS PTSD groups 10:15 am – Edgewood Baxter 5:30 pm – Congregational Leadership Board meeting		
25	26	27	28	29
	9:00 am – Coffee with Pr. Mark at Caribou Coffee 6:20 pm – In-person worship service	10:00 am – LSS PTSD groups 5:30 pm – Board of Stewardship and Properties meeting 6:30 pm – Smart Team meeting		
1	2	3	4	5
	9:00 am – Coffee with Pr. Mark at Caribou Coffee 1:30 pm – Woodland worship service	9:00 am – Edgewood Brainerd 10:00 am – LSS PTSD groups 10:15 am – Edgewood Baxter	9:00 am – Walk with Pr. Mark at the Arboretum trailhead	

Please keep these people in your prayers on their birthdays.



- 1 ~ Doris Stengel, Jean Swanson, Michelle Tollefson
- 2 ~ Jim Cole
- 3 ~ Shane Johnson, Lenex Miller
- 4 ~ Ayla Backstrom, Tom Dornan, Dave Meyer
- 5 ~ John Mathews, Tammy True
- 6 ~ MaKenna Klukas
- 8 ~ Tiffany Kruse, Ethel Nelson, Randy Rinke
- 9 ~ Abby Gindorff, Bob Pederson
- 10 ~ Morgan Burgstaler, Carolyn Frisch, Clayton Lang
- 11 ~ Lewis Almond, Camille Lang, Jeff Nichols, Abby Rehberger
- 12 ~ Shelly Johnson
- 13 ~ Shelly Birchem, Darwin Hanson, Maddy O'Grady
- 14 ~ Jenny Pederson, Sloan Saffell
- 15 ~ Kyle Rinke
- 16 ~ Darnel Carlson, Cyndy Merrill
- 17 ~ Jacob Kraklau, Dennis Weisman
- 18 ~ Elsie Johns
- 19 ~ Sharon Chaney, Erica Embertson, Logan Peterson
- 20 ~ Anne Gustafson, Connor Johnson, Laura Roberts, Karen Rosenow, Teri Slough, Megan Spigarelli, Phyllis Stall, Bruce Thompson
- 21 ~ Logan Jones
- 22 ~ Abigail Browne, Emilee Jones
- 23 ~ Heather Berry, Delaney Jackman, Arthur Jentsch, Sarah Sorenson
- 25 ~ Michael Lillo
- 26 ~ Peggy Larson, Sean McCarthy, Elli Salo
- 27 ~ Jenna Hollingsworth
- 29 ~ Theodore Hoff, Lynn Kalahar, Addison Lillo, Myia Nelson
- 30 ~ Natalie Embertson
- 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 so much for your prayers and sympathy. ~the family of Bob Morris (Cathie Benson's father)

Thank you for your gift of \$361. Your ongoing support enables us to keep making a difference in lives...by connecting clients with community resources to regain self-sufficiency and thrive. Success stories reflect our mission coming to life—connecting neighbors with individualized resources from across our Brainerd Lakes community. We look forward to our continued partnership.  
~ Jana Shogren, Executive Director



Thank you to everyone who has donated to the fund to purchase the new hymnals *All Creation Sings*. Thus far, we have 23 hymnals. If you would like to purchase a hymnal in honor or memory of someone, let the office know. Hymnals cost \$13 each. Contact the office for more information.



*General Fund*  
\$35 in memory of Janet Praska from family and friends

A quick note to thank you for the very generous \$500 donation for our staff. It came at a perfect time! Your church thinking of us and praying for us means a lot. We will use this donation to do a special grill out for our staff come nicer weather.  
~ Good Samaritan Society Woodland Staff

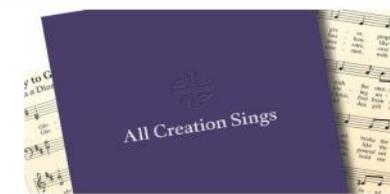


## Food Drive, May 1-31



**Supplies Needed** **Drop Locations**

Peanut Butter	BELC - Brainerd
Jelly	LCC - Nisswa
Granola Bars	OSLC - Pequot
Fruit Snacks	And more!



## Donate a new hymnal supplement

*All Creation Sings* is a new hymnal supplement to the ELW (like *With One Voice* was to the LBW) that contains two new liturgy settings, more prayers, and about 200 new hymns. We are looking for people interested in purchasing a hymnal or two in memory or in honor (for service, birthday, baptism, graduation, etc) of someone. There is a discounted price through mid-June. If you'd like to donate a hymnal/s for \$13 each, please drop off/send payment and let us know if it is in memory or honor of someone special.

## 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](http://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!



If you will be attending an ELCA college in fall of 2021, you are eligible to apply for a

## Bethlehem Scholarship

Scholarships are renewable up to four years and must be submitted annually.

Applications must be turned in to the office by June 1.

Applications are available on our website at [www.belcnet.net](http://www.belcnet.net)

## 1st Thessalonians study with Pr. Mark

Tuesdays  
May 4 - 25  
6:30 - 7:30 pm  
Sign up on our website at [www.belcnet.net](http://www.belcnet.net) or contact the office at [office@belcnet.net](mailto:office@belcnet.net)

**God's work.  
Our hands.**

Bethlehem will be participating in "God's work. Our hands." Sunday on September 12. A ministry team is being formed for the planning and organizing of this event. If you would be interested in serving on this ministry team, please sign up at our website [www.belcnet.net](http://www.belcnet.net) or call the office at 829-3330.

Birchwood House  
Women's Center  
Salem West  
BELC rain garden  
Habitat for Humanity

**BELC COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

## Immediate Needs

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

- Mid Minnesota Women's Center  
\*outdoor games for supervised visits at the Alex and Brandon Child Safety Center
- Northland Arboretum  
\*paint brushes, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, paper towels, bottles of water, paint/stain, lumber, postage stamps
- Salvation Army  
\*Please consider planning giving through estate planning bequests.

Please contact these organizations for more information.

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

*Pentecost Prayer*

Breathe in me O Holy Spirit  
that my thoughts may all be holy;  
Act in me O Holy Spirit  
that my works, too, may be holy;  
Draw my heart O Holy Spirit  
that I love but what is holy;  
Strengthen me O Holy Spirit  
to defend that is holy;  
Guard me then O Holy Spirit  
that I always may be holy.

- St. Augustine of Hippo (AD 354-430)

**In-person bible study  
of Paul's letter to  
the Romans with  
Pr. Mark**

Tuesdays in  
June and July  
6:00 - 7:00 pm  
at BELC

Sign up on our  
website at  
[www.belcnet.net](http://www.belcnet.net)  
or contact the  
office at  
[office@belcnet.net](mailto:office@belcnet.net)

SATURDAY 5/8 @ 3 PM

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION

FARMERS TO FAMILIES FOOD BOX

Hosted by Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
418 8th Ave NE, Brainerd, MN

\*\*Please enter from the North on E St \*\*  
ALL ARE WELCOME! COME & BE BLESSED!

PLEASE DO NOT COME BEFORE 3PM  
CALL BRIDGES OF HOPE WITH  
QUESTIONS 218-825-7682

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](http://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.