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## THE BETHLEHEM STAR



Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church 418 8th Avenue Northeast Brainerd, MN 56401

Phone: 218-829-3330
Email: office@belcnet.net
Website: www.belcnet.net
Facebook: bethlehem.brainerd



#### **WORSHIP TIMES**

In-person worship:
In-person and livestreamed:
Sundays at 9:00 am
and Wednesdays through 5/15 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 on Mondays—Fridays from 8:30 am—12:00 pm and Mondays—Thursdays from 1:00—4:30 pm (closes at 4:00 on Wednesdays).

#### **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 Bell Choir Director: Nancy Albertson
Financial Administrator: Shelly Johnson
Education and Spiritual Formation Coordinator:

Joan Rosenow

Food Services Coordinators: Clarence and Kim Spencer

IT Coordinator: Scott Pederson
Custodial Services: Rob Larson

## From the Senior Pastor

#### Sabbatical

I am looking forward to beginning a time of sabbatical from May 19<sup>th</sup> through
August 17<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to the congregation for voting to approve this sabbatical at our annual meeting in January, and for our wonderful staff and board of Congregational Care and Community for arranging pulpit supply and pastoral care support during this time.

#### **Servant of Christ Award**

During the April 2024 Synod Assembly, Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota presented Bethlehem with the Servant of Christ award for, "... expressing the love of Christ through service and making our community a better place to live." The award recognized the various community partnerships that Bethlehem has embraced including Habitat for Humanity, Relationship Safety Alliance (RSA), Bridges of Hope, LSS Veterans Services PTSD support groups, and many more. I had the privilege of receiving that award on behalf of the congregation alongside Pam Finch our Director of Service and Evangelism and Pastor Sarah.

God's peace and blessings!

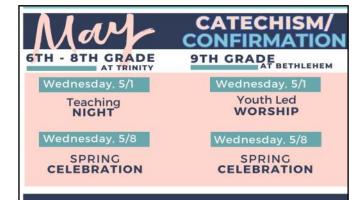
**Pastor Mark** 



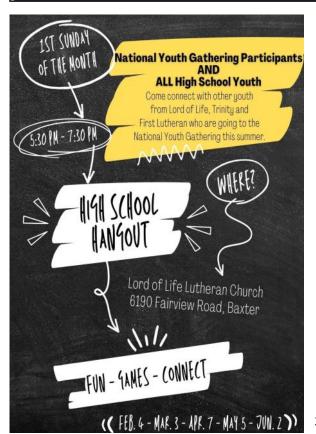
## From the Children, Youth and Family Pastor

Wonder what the kids are up to? Check out the Youth Bulletin board for pictures and updates. The Youth Bulletin Board is in the lower level across from the Living Room.











#### **Elementary Event**

For youth who have completed grades 2-4 in the 2023-2024 school year Event Timing: June 30, 2024 - 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Event Address: Trinity Lutheran, 1420 South Sixth St

Cost: \$5

Join us for an afternoon playing water games, learning about baptism, fun, fellowship, and meeting new friends



#### With One Voice Children's Choir





For youth having finished 1st grade through 6th grade Cost \$20 - scholarships available.

Choir Camp: June 3 & 4 from 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Sing in congregations as available: June 9, June 16, June 23, July 21, and July 28.

Join with other area ELCA Lutheran youth to sing together throughout the summer.



#### Summer Stretch

For youth having finished 5th - 8th grades - Cost \$ 100 scholarships are available as needed.

9:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m. - all days except July 24 for the Twins June 6, June 13, June 20, June 27, July 11, & July 24



#### Youth Leadership Camp - LYO

June 9-12, 2024 - for youth who have completed grades 9-11

Registration opens April 1. Join with youth from all across the NEMN synod to grow in leadership and faith. Attendance at camp allows youth to participate on the NEMN synod Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) board. If you are interested talk to Pastor Sarah for more information.



## **Summer Youth Group** Middle School Youth Group

& High School Youth Group Middle School: 5:30-7:00PM High School: 7:00-8:30PM

June 4, June 30, July 9, July 25, August 13, August 27

#### Vacation Bible School - SCUBA

July 29-August 2, 2024 - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - Cost: \$25 Family cap at \$100 - scholarships are available For kids aged 3 & potty trained through finished 4th grade Crew Leaders are completed 5th grade and older and we are looking for lots of volunteers. See Alica or Pastor Sarah.











## April and May Funeral Service Groups

#### **Bonnie and Steve Almond** Jackie Nornes

Al and Nancy Albertson Jackie Avenson Gloria and James Brown Forrest and Julie Crocker Bob Dryden Mike and Sonja Eidenshink Al Gardner Karl and Sue Hadrits Darwin and Mary Hanson Kathy and Lee Hauble Dianne Heath Charlie and Sue Johnson **Emilee Jones** 

#### Coordinators:

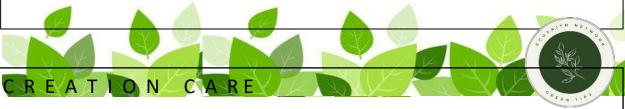
# **Bev and Dave Emery**

#### Assistants:

Yvonne Kalahar Laura and Nick Kory Lisa Kotchikian Hollie LeDoux Jessi and Kyle Louis Terry and Tracie McFarlin Dean and Sara McKusick Debbie and Vince Moe Stephanie Moody Gloria and Harvey Munsch Jan Munsch Jill and Kevin O'Grady

**Pam and Steve Oslos** 

Debbie and Kyle Payne Norris Peterson JoAnn and John Rehberger Beverley and Barrie Rempel Heather Saffell **Brett and Elise Severson** Carol Smith Linda Soderman Jody and Zachariah Sparkman Pam Stock Vanessa Thompson **Betty Vosberg** Alyssa Weigelt



Farms are the foundation of our food system, but, according to John Ikerd, University of Missouri agricultural economics professor, our modern industrial, chemically-driven agriculture production systems "degrade and deplete the natural resources they ultimately must depend on to sustain productivity." In addition, 60% of the food that adults eat, and 70% of the food that children eat are ultra-processed foods that have little nutritional value and are even harmful, leading to increasing rates of obesity and Type II diabetes. Recognizing this problem, some farmers in Minnesota and the Midwest are working with Minnesota-based groups like the Land Stewardship Project (LSP) to engage in regenerative practices that include no-till, cover cropping, increasing perennial crops, reducing chemical use, and developing environmentally beneficial livestock systems. This change requires time and money in order to make the transition, so thank our Minnesota Legislature for enacting the "100% Soil-Healthy Farming Bill," which aims to have 30% of the state's farmland managed using "soil-smart" systems by 2030, including grass-based livestock production.

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

# Looking ahead...

- \*6/2 at 10:00 am—All Church Mission Trip meeting
- \*6/4, 6/18 and 6/30 Summer Youth Groups at Lord of Life Lutheran Church; 5:30 7:00 pm for middle school; 7:00—8:30 pm for high school
- \*6/6, 6/13, 6/20, and 6/27 at 9:00 am—Summer Stretch
- \*6/12—picnic at Trinity
- \*6/16-6/21-All Church Mission Trip
- \*6/30 at 2:00 pm—Elementary Event at Trinity Lutheran Church



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 Ron Nielsen; the family of Kirsten Olson; the family of Linda Wilcox

Ongoing: those suffering MS and other auto immune diseases; Oliver Salow; Reva Snell; Monique Ray; Reygan Weiland; Dale Williams; Joyce Sands; Eric Steuck; Brad Zinken; Tina Collins; Bob Wrobel; Roger Gonnerman; Bob Leach; Harry Bement; Joyce Gindorff; Mary Anderson; Clarence Spencer; Jeanne Armstrong; Norris Peterson; Greg Anderson; Scott Hess; Dale Williams; Charlotte Warner; Todd K.; those dealing with mental health issues; Cheryl Johnson; Joan Aulich; Esther Peterson; Cheryl Hagger; Jim Thomson; Joyce Wagner; Dawn True; Barb Neprud; Kacey Benson; peace in our world; caregivers; all dealing with cancer /other diseases

Military: Nick Schwab in Navy; Danny Smith in Air Force

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: Linda Anderson, Neil Anderson, Jean Anhalt; Mike Anhalt; Jackie Avenson and family; Carla and Clark Backstrom and family; Bill and Cheryl Bailey; Abbi and Kevin Bartolic and family; Michele Becker and family; Monty Becker; Arliss and Harry Bement; Cathie and Nick Benson; Shelly Birchem; Brandy and Sam Blum and family; Amy Boelter; Nancy and Tim Bogenschultz; Vicky Bonde; Ashley Bontjes; Andrew Bontjes; Gary and Sharon Braun; Paul and Sue Bremer and family; Joyce and Kevin Brick; Gloria and James Brown; Janee Burgoyne; Eric and Sasha Burgstaler and family; Frank and Margie Burgstaler; Morgan Burgstaler and family; Jackie and Mike Burkey; Darnel Carlson; Sharon Chaney; Marty and Teresa Christiansen; Gabe and Tracie Churchill; Carolyn and Jim Cole; Amanda Crandall; Forrest and Julie Crocker





Welcome to our new members who joined on April 14:

Mike Anhalt

Jan and John Erickson

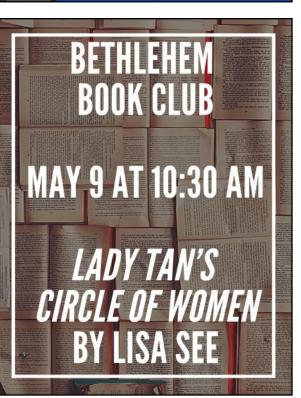
Erica and Lane Lindner and Scarlett

Gene Polson

Erik and Erika Sandbeck







Wednesdays, May 1 and 8

5:45 pm - Youth Bell Choir rehearsal

5:15 pm - BOW rehearsal

5:30 pm – dinner served

6:20 pm - BOW worship

7:00 pm - Hig service Group

7:00 pm - Sr.

	-			
Sunday	5 3	Monday	Tuesday	
Fifth Sunday of Easter 2	28	29	30	
9:00 am — In-person and livestreamed worship service 10:00 am — Adult Forum: Relationship Safety Alliance 10:00 am — Sunday School 11:00 am — Sunday lunch potluck			7:30 am — Men's bible study 11:30 am — 65+ Lunch Bunch 1:30 pm — Staff meeting 2:30 pm — RSA Circle of Change 4:00 pm — BELC at Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen	
Sixth Sunday of Easter	5	6	7	
9:00 am — In-person and livestreamed worship service with communion 10:00 am — Adult Forum: Jen Lindholm from Operation Sandwich 10:00 am — Itty Bitty Book Club 10:00 am — Sunday School 2:30 pm — Brainerd Leos 5:30 pm — High School Hang Out <u>at Lord of Life Church</u>	h	6:oo pm – Graduate blanket tying	7:30 am – Men's bible study 9:30 am – Let's Go Fishing meeting 10:00 am – Creation Care Team meeting 1:30 pm – Staff meeting 2:30 pm – RSA Circle of Change	
Seventh Sunday of Easter	12	13	office closes at 4:00 pm today 14	Ť
9:00 am— In-person and livestreamed BOW service 10:00 am — Adult Forum: last day of Sunday School 10:00 am — Sunday School		4:00 pm — BELC at Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen 4:00 pm — RSA Love and Logic class	7:30 am – Men's bible study 1:30 pm – Staff meeting 2:30 pm – RSA Circle of Change 5:00 pm – CLB meeting 6:00 pm – Board Night	
Day of Pentecost	19	20	21	t
9:00 am – In-person and livestreamed worship service with communion 10:00 am – Adult Forum: Graduate reception; retirement reception for Shelly Johnson in Narthex 1:30 pm – piano recital 2:30 pm – Brainerd Leos		4:00 pm — RSA Love and Logic class	7:30 am — Men's bible study 10:00 am — Ruth Circle 1:30 pm — Staff meeting 2:30 pm — RSA Circle of Change	
The Holy Trinity	26	Memorial Day 27	28	1
9:00 am– In-person and livestreamed service with communion		Office closed	7:30 am – Men's bible study 1:30 pm – Staff meeting 2:30 pm – RSA Circle of Change	

To view our online services on Sundays at 9:00 am, go The service will also be posted on our we Choir rehearsal h School Youth



bsite at www.belcnet.net upon completion of the service.

The office is open from 8:30 am – 12:00 pm on Mondays – Fridays and from 1:00 – 4:30 pm on Mondays – Thursdays.

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
office closes at 4:00 pm today 1	2	3	4
ee schedule <mark>above</mark> 30 pm – Worship service at Woodland 30 pm – Wednesday meal: ham and cheese iders 500 pm – 6-8 <sup>th</sup> catechism at Trinity 500 pm – 9 <sup>th</sup> catechism at BELC	9:00 am –Worship at Edgewood Brainerd 9:00 am – Quilting Group 10:00 am – LSS PTSD Groups 10:15 am – Worship at Edgewood Baxter 12:00 pm – Nicodemus Group 6:00 pm – Girl Scouts	11:00 am — Funeral for Kirsten Olson	9:00 am – Worker Bees
office closes at 4:00 pm today 8	9	10	11
ee schedule above :oo am – Joint staff meeting; office closed uring this time :30 pm – Wednesday meal: enchilada asserole :oo pm – all catechism at Bethlehem	9:00 am – Executive Team meeting 9:00 am and 3:00 pm – LSS staff meeting 10:00 am – LSS PTSD Groups 6:00 pm – Girl Scouts		
office closes at 4:00 pm today 15	Pr. Mark begins sabbatical 16	17	18
:30 pm — Worship service at Woodland :15 pm — BOW rehearsal :30 pm — potluck picnic; bring a dish to share nd chair to sit in :20 pm — outdoor worship :00 pm — Sr. Choir rehearsal :00 pm — High School Youth Group	9:00 am –Worship at Edgewood Brainerd 9:00 am – Quilting Group 10:00 am – LSS PTSD Groups 10:15 am – Worship at Edgewood Baxter 1:30 pm – Mary Circle 4:30 pm – TCCCP event 4:30 pm – card making 6:00 pm – Girl Scouts		8:00 am - God's Work. Our Hands. at Luther Crest
22	23	24	25
:30 pm – Spring Clean-Up :00 pm – High School Youth Group	10:00 am – LSS PTSD Groups 6:00 pm – Girl Scouts		
29	30	31	1
:15 pm — BOW rehearsal :00 pm — High School Youth Group	10:00 am – LSS PTSD Groups 6:00 pm – Girl Scouts		
to https://www.youtube.com/channel/U	CKGd23TW4V1mlqCsktOho3g		

Baptismal Blessings

Every month we will be offering blessings during worship services for various groups of People.

May 12 and 15 transition to summer blessing



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

## CARD MAKING FUN ON MAY 16



Get creative on Thursday,
May 16. Show up anytime
between 4:30 - 7:00 pm.
Cards are sent to
members that are shut
in and members in need
of some uplifting words.
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.

# God's work. Our hands.

You are invited to participate in Bethlehem's "God's work. Our hands." quarterly event at Luther Crest on May 18. More details to come. Sign up at www.belcnet.net or on the opportunities sheet.

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MAY 22 5:30 PM

Help the Board of Stewardship and Properties clean up our grounds for summer. Bring gloves, rakes, leaf blowers, etc. Sign up on the opportunity sheet, online, or call the office. For more information, contact Al Gardner.







Sponsored By: Danish Sisterhood Amber Lodge #186
Proceeds fund Danish Sisterhood Charitable Giving









# Thank you!

Thank you for supporting the Central Lakes College Foundation with your contribution of \$148.48 in support of the CLC Food Pantry Fund. Your contribution plays a critical role in our mission to "promote CLC student success by addressing barriers to pursuing higher education—through scholarships, affordable student housing and other appropriate

assistance." We are grateful for you involvement and thank you for being a part of our mission. ~ Amy Matter-Hines, Foundation Assistant, Central Lakes College Foundation



Foundation

LSS PTSD Groups send their thanks for the luncheon.

Thank you so very much for your hospitality. Thank you for everything. Thank you for your support. Thank you for your generosity of space and time. Thank you so much for being wonderful hosts. Thank you for the dinner. Thanks a lot. Thanks much. Love you all.

## thrivent.

# We are enrolled in Thrivent Choice<sup>®</sup>!

Thank you for choosing us!



about Thrivent Choice and how organization. Anyone can donate using Thrivent's online giving platform,\* and eligible Thrivent





# **HOW CAN** YOU GIVE TO **BETHLEHEM?**

Click the QR code to donate.





Text the word "give" to 218-231-4698





Please keep these people in your prayers on their birthdays.

- 1 ~ Jean Swanson, Michelle Tollefson
- 2 ~ Jim Cole
- 3 ~ Shane Johnson, Lenex Miller
- 4 ~ Ayla Backstrom, Emmett Girling, Dave Meyer
- 5 ~ Tamara True
- 8 ~ Tiffany Kruse, Ethel Nelson
- 9 ~ Abby Gindorff, Bob Pederson
- 10 ~ Morgan Burgstaler, Clayton Lang
- 11 ~ Lewis Almond, Camille Lang, Jeff Nichols, Abby Rehberger, Paula Rose
- 12 ~ Shelly Johnson
- 13 ~ Shelly Birchem, Darwin Hanson, Madelyn O'Grady
- 14 ~ Jenny Pederson, Sloan Saffell
- 15 ~ Dave Peterson
- 16 ~ Darnel Carlson, Cyndy Merrill

- : 17 ~ Jacob Kraklau
- : 18 ~ Elsie Johns
- 19 ~ Sharon Chaney, Erica Embertson, Logan Peterson, Doris Stengel
- 20 ~ Anne Gustafson, Connor Johnson, Karen Rosenow, Teri Slough, Megan Spigarelli, Phyllis Stall, Bruce Thompson
- 21 ~ Logan Jones
- 22 ~ Abbi Bartolic, Emilee Jones
- 23 ~ Bonnie Garding, Delaney Jackman, Art Jentsch, Sarah Sorenson
- 25 ~ Mike Lillo, Tori Wisneski
- 26 ~ Mary Larson, Sean McCarthy, Elli Salo
- 27 ~ Jenna Hollingsworth
- 29 ~ 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.

# May Worship Assistants

Greeters:	Sundays at 9:00 am 5: Terri Hanson 12: Terri Hanson					
dieeters.	19: still needed	26: still needed				
Ushers:	5: Kathy Dufour and Rick Patton	12: Jen and Camilla Lindholm				
	19: Bonnie and Steve Almond	26: Becky and Dave Meyer				
Doodows:	5: Jackie Nornes	12: Jen Lindholm				
Readers:	19: Kimberly Spencer	26: still needed				
Communion	5: Shelly Birchem, Sasha Burgstaler					
Preparation:	19: <b>2 still needed</b> 26: <b>2</b> still needed	still needed				
Communion	union 5: Jen Lindholm, Steve Almond, 1 still needed					
Servers:	19: Kimberley Spencer, 2 still needed	26: 3 still needed				
Sound:	5: Scott Pederson	12: Scott Pederson				
	19: Jerry DeChaine	26: still needed				
	5.1	42 (11 )				
Video:	5: Joan Rosenow 19:Jerry DeChaine	12: still needed 26: still needed				
Assisting	5: Jackie Nornes	12: still needed				
Minister:	19: Jackie Nornes	26: still needed				
Treats in	5: <b>still needed</b> 19: Board of Congregational Care and Co	12: still needed				
Narthex:	13. Board of cong. egational care and co	2013				
Flowers:	5: in celebration of Jen and Joe Lindholm's 25th anniversary 19: still needed					
	12: in memory of Mark Skogen	26: still needed				
Wednesday	1: ushers: Nancy Sweet and Mike Anhalt; sound: Scott Pederson; assisting minister: still					
night at 6:20:	needed 8: ushers: Nancy Sweet and Mike Anhalt; communion prep: still needed; sound: Scott					
	Pederson; assisting minister: still needed					
	15 outdoor service: ushers: Mike Anhalt and Jackie Nornes; sound: Scott Pederson; assisting					
	minister: still needed					
	15					

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.



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.

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