

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:

Wednesdays at 6:20 pm

Sundays at 8:20 am

In-person and livestreamed:

Sundays at 10:30 am

with communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and following Wednesdays

OFFICE HOURS

The office is open on Mondays—Fridays from 9:00 am—12:00 pm and Mondays—Thursdays from 1:00—4:00 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: Clarence and Kim Spencer

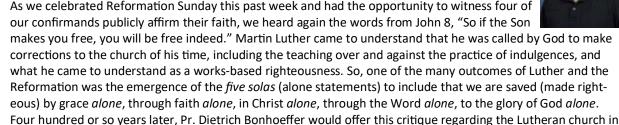
IT Coordinator: Scott Pederson Custodial Services: Rob Larson

From the Senior Pastor

Discipleship and Costly Grace

his time,

As we celebrated Reformation Sunday this past week and had the opportunity to witness four of



"When he spoke of grace, Luther always implied as a corollary that it cost him his own life, the life which was subjected to the absolute obedience of Christ. Only so could he speak of grace. Luther had said that grace alone can save; his followers took up his doctrine and repeated it word for word. But they left out its invariable corollary, the obligation of discipleship." (COD p. 50)

Bonhoeffer came to realize that works-based righteousness had the very same outcome as cheap grace —death and damnation. He would say, "The word of cheap grace has been the ruin of more Christians that any commandment of works." (COD p. 55)

What is cheap grace according to Bonhoeffer? "Cheap grace is the justification of sin without the justification of the sinner ... grace as a doctrine, a principle, a system, grace we bestow on ourselves ... Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate." (COD pp. 43-45)

"Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field ..., the pearl of great price ... it is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner ... above all it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son." (COD p. 45)

What then do we make of discipleship and costly grace? Discipleship is not the offer we make to God, it is the call of God to us through Christ Jesus to follow and live the extraordinary life. The extraordinary life is a life marked by death and resurrection, dying, and rising each day with Christ where we experience the true joy of relationship with God and one another, the forgiveness of our sin and abundance of God's mercy each and every day as we live to serve God and our neighbor.

Sunday worship

Earlier this week, the Board of Worship and Music voted to move to one service on Sunday mornings beginning in January. The service will be at 9:00 am (also livestreamed) followed by the Education Hour at 10:00 am. The Board will continue to evaluate attendance on Sunday mornings, and if they see an increase in attendance, they may consider moving back to two services. We will continue to offer Wednesday evenings services at 6:20 pm.

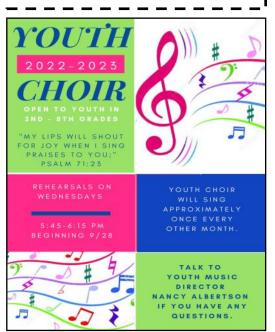
May God bless you in the seeking of the *Pearl of areat price* through your journey of discipleship!

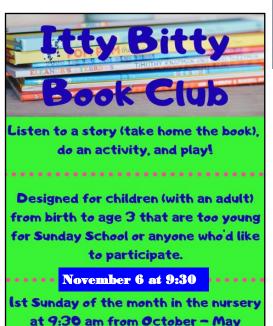
Pastor Mark

From the Children, Youth and Family Pastor



Sunday School kids and Youth Choir will be singing at both services on November 6.





Catechism parent/youth night with Catherine
Anderson on November 9 from 7:00—8:30 pm.

BETHLEHEM

CATECHISM

LUTHERAN CHURCH

6TH-8TH GRADES: APOSTLES' CREED, THE LORD'S PRAYER, AND MORE

9TH GRADE: LIFE APPLICATION OF THE PAST 3 YEARS OF CATECHISM

Wednesday nights from 7:00 - 8:00 PM beginning September 28

Wednesday evening meals will be served at 5:30 on the nights of catechism at a cost of \$10 per meal.

Punch cards will be available for purchase.

"MAKE ME TO KNOW YOUR WAYS, O LORD; TEACH ME YOUR PATHS." PSALM 25:4

HELP NEEDED

Looking for people to run sound and video equipment for all services (Sundays at 8:20 and 10:30 am and Wednesdays at 6:20 pm). It's quite easy. Training available.

Contact the office for more information.



Congratulations to this year's confirmands.

Pictured from left to right are Pr. Mark, Emma Garding, Hunter Hennessey, Anna Heinrich, Hailey Nelson, and Pr. Sarah

Wednesday evening meals served 5:15 - 6:20 pm

Please sign up ahead of time. Call the office. \$10; \$7 for children 7 and under; 3 and under eat free prepared by Kim and Clarence Spencer

November Menu

11/2 - hearty beer cheese soup and chili with fixings, crackers, cornbread, fruit salad

11/9 - pulled pork sandwiches, baked beans, veggie tray, cookies

11/16 - turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, corn, green beans, apple crisp

11/30 - ham noodle casserole with roasted veggies, savory onion focaccia, holiday fruit salad

punch cards: 10 meals for \$90; purchase at meal, in office or on website Meal Deal Punch Cards 10 meals \$ 90 (normally \$ 100)

can be used for: Wednesday night dinners Prayer Group dinners 65+ Lunch Bunch brunches

can be shared by family members



Purchase in the office or at the meal for \$90 or online for \$93.

September, October, and November Funeral Service Groups

LeRoy and Linda Albertson
Joyce and Kevin Brick
Jerome and Margie Streich

Brandy and Sam Blum
Amy Boelter
Paul and Sue Bremer
Jackie and Mike Burkey
Gabe and Tracie Churchill
Tricia and Wayne Dosh
Lannell and Mary Farmer
Mike Finch
Pam Finch
David and Luanne Hallgren
Bernice Johnson

Coordinators:

Cathie and Nick Benson Carolyn and Jim Cole

Assistants:

Cheryl Johnson
Dave and Shelly Johnson
Jennie and Phil Johnson
Brenda Jonak
Al and Joanne Kampf
Chuck and Gwen Kienholz
Jean Krueger
Corky and Lana LeDoux
Jessica and Nate Macejkovic
Marc and Sarah Marshall

Don and Marci Nelson
Mollie Nelson
Jill and Kevin O'Grady
Jenny and Scott Pederson
Darbie and Jeff Pulak
Paul and Sarah Rhoda
Dale and Jackie Spaulding
Kim Spencer
Phyllis Stall
John and Ruth Unger
Joyce Wagner



CREATION CARE

DECLINING BIODIVERSITY ~ We continue to hear and read about declining animal, insect and plant species, such as a recent study which found an average 69% reduction, since 1970, in populations of over 31,000 vertebrate wildlife species around the world. At least 25% of all known vertebrate species on earth are at risk of extinction, and 300 species in the U.S. risk extinction. Population losses are greatest in Latin America (tropical forest) and the Caribbean with a 94% reduction in population numbers, followed by Africa with a 66% decline, and 18-20% losses in the U.S., Europe and Asia. Freshwater fish species suffer the highest declines at 83%, followed by bird species at 50% decline in populations. Habitat destruction, through human activities, is the prime cause of dwindling wildlife populations and species extinctions. Expansion of agricultural activities accounts for 80% of global deforestation and loss of wildlife habitat. Such enormous losses of biodiversity and wildlife population numbers are huge stresses on ecosystems, because ecosystems depend on high species diversity for long-term stability.

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

Looking ahead...

- *December 1, 15, and 22 at 4:30 pm ~ Advent decorating
- *December 4 at 9:30 am ~ Consecration Sunday breakfast
- *December 18 at 10:30 am ~ Christmas Program
- *December 18 at 4:00 pm ~ Quiet Christmas Service of Healing
- *December 24 at 2:00, 4:00, and 6:00 pm ~ Christmas Eve services
- *December 25 at 9:00 am ~ Christmas Day service



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: Barb Owens and family on the death of her brother; Jim Cole and family on the death of his brother; the family of Mukhtar Thakur; Mark Groettum on the death of his brother; the family of James Munsch;

Ongoing: John True; Rob Anderson; Meta Mandich and family; Maxine Debler; Dick and Mary Ann Hilleren; Melissa Grommesh; Ruth Ann Veith; Shanel; Mavis Galligher; Mike Bray and family; Mary Anderson; Steve Verdon; Conner Erickson; Noah Gindorff; Jessica Rodenbiker; Kacey Benson; Donna Hansmann; Todd K.; Linda Wilcox; Ron; BELC member; Joan Rosenow; Randy and Margie Thiel; Bonnie; Nick Lundgren; for peace in our world; all who are grieving; a BELC member; Phyllis Roberts; for all affected by COVID; residents and staff of assisted living/nursing home facilities; healthcare workers; all caregivers; everyone dealing with cancer /other diseases

Military: Danny Smith; 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.

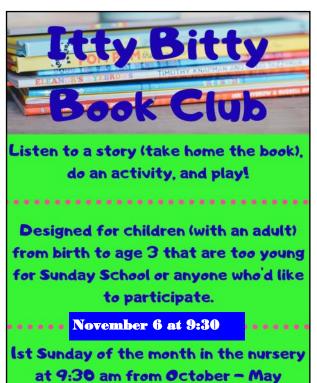
Please keep the following Bethlehem households in your thoughts and prayer this month of

November: Marissa Spencer; April and Jeff Spigarelli and family; Ben Stall; Logan Stall; Phyllis Stall; Carla and Scott Stall and family; Elise and Mike Stanek and family; Denise and Duane Stange; Margaret and Jon Steblay; Casey and Doris Stengel; Deb Steuck; Pam Stock and family; Jerome and Margie Streich; Jackie Stromback; Jean and Tom Swanson; Nancy and Rick Sweet and family; Karen Tengwall; Gene and Lynn Teufert; De Etta Theien; Kay Theien; Anna and Jake Thesing and family; Bruce and Cyndy Thompson; Vanessa Thompson; Kathy Thomson; Michelle Tollefson and family; Alyssa Towle; Pat True; Tamara True and family; John and Ruth Unger and family; Dawn and Steve Verdon; 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 and family;





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.





Wednesdays, November 2, 9, 16, and 30

5:15 pm - Meal served for \$10 6:20 pm - BOW service

7:00 pm - High School Youth Group

7:00 pm - Sr. Choir rehearsal 5:30 pm - BOW Team rehearsal 5:45 pm - Youth Choir rehearsal 7:00 pm - Catechism



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	
Reformation Sunday 30	31	1	
8:20 am — In-person worship service with communion and confirmation 9:25 am — Sunday School 9:30 am — Itty Bitty Book Bunch 9:30 am — Adult Forum: confirmation reception 10:30 am — In-person and livestreamed worship service with communion		7:30 am – Men's bible study 5:00 pm – Board of Worship and Music meeting 5:30 pm – Endowment Board meeting via Zoom	
All Saints Sunday 6	7	Election day 8	
Sunday School kids sing at both services today 8:20 am — In-person worship service with communion 9:25 am — Sunday School 9:30 am — Itty Bitty Book Bunch 9:30 am — Adult Forum: 10:30 am — In-person and livestreamed worship service with communion	6:00 pm – Board of Service and Evangelism meeting online	7:30 am – Men's bible study 4:30 pm – Card making 5:30 pm – Board of Congregational Care and Community meeting	
23 rd Sunday after Pentecost 13	14	15	
8:20 am – In-person worship service 9:25 am – Sunday School 9:30 am – Adult Forum: 10:30 am –BOW In-person and livestreamed worship service	4:00 pm – BELC at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen 4:30 pm – Bell Choir rehearsal	7:30 am – Men's bible study 1:00 pm – Assisting Minister training 5:00 pm – Board of Stewardship and Properties meeting 6:00 pm – New member orientation	1: 1: 5: fix
Christ the King Sunday; Thanksgiving baskets 20	21	22	
8:20 am — In-person worship service with communion 9:25 am — Sunday School 9:30 am — Adult Forum: new member reception 10:30 am — In-person and livestreamed worship service with communion 3:00 pm — Brainerd Leos and Roars	10:00 am – Ruth Circle 4:30 pm – Bell Choir rehearsal 5:00 pm – Creation Care Team meeting	7:30 am – Men's bible study 10:00 am – Stephen Ministry meeting	6: TF fo Tr
1 st Sunday of Advent 27	28	29	
8:20 am — In-person worship service 9:30 am — Adult Forum: 10:30 am — In-person and livestreamed worship service		7:30 am – Men's bible study 11:30 am – 65+ Lunch Bunch 4:00 pm – BELC at the Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen	5:: 6:: Ev



To view our online services on Sunday at10:30 am, to https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKGd23TW4V1m lqCsktOh03q

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 on Mondays – Fridays and from 1:00 – 4:00 pm on Mondays – Thursdays.

	-		Thorsdays.		
Wednesday	3 (12)	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	2	3	4	5	
chedule above left pm – Woodland worship service pm – meal for \$10: beer cheese soup thili chism: at Trinity Lutheran Church; act Pr. Sarah for the time you should be		9:00 am – Edgewood Brainerd worship service 9:00 am – Quilting Group 10:00 am – LSS PTSD Groups 10:15 am – Edgewood Baxter worship service 6:00 pm – Girl Scouts 6:00 pm – Jonah Group	6	9:00 am – Worker Bees	
	9	10	Veterans Day 11	12	
chedule above left pm – meal for \$10: pulled pork wiches pm – Catechism: Parent/Youth night Catherine Anderson at LORD OF LIFI	8	10:00 am – LSS PTDS Groups 10:30 am – Bethlehem Book Club 12:00 pm – Nicodemus Group 5:30 pm – Board of Education and Spiritual Formation meeting 6:00 pm – Girl Scouts	Thank you, Veterans! VETERANS DAY	9:00 am – Lay Leader Network Series	
	16	17	18	19	
chedule above left pm — Martha Circle pm — Woodland worship service pm — meal for \$10: turkey with all the gs		9:00 am – Edgewood Brainerd worship service 9:00 am – Quilting Group 10:00 am – LSS PTSD Groups 10:15 am – Edgewood Baxter worship service 1:30 pm – Mary Circle 5:30 pm – Congregational Leadership Board meeting 6:00 pm – Girl Scouts		All Youth Gathering: meet at Cragun's at 5:0 pm	
	23	Thanksgiving Day 24	25	25	
pm – Joint Thanksgiving Eve service a ITY LUTHERAN CHURCH with pie to w; drop off pies during the day at the cy Office	AT	Office closed Jappy Jappy	Office closed	-3	
1	30	1	2	3	
chedule above left om — meal for \$10: ham noodle hotdi: pm — Advent service using Holden ing liturgy	sh	9:00 am – Edgewood Brainerd worship service 9:00 am – Quilting Group 10:00 am – LSS PTSD Groups 10:15 am – Edgewood Baxter worship service 10:30 am – Bethlehem Book Club 6:00 pm – Girl Scouts 6:00 pm – Jonah Group 6:00 pm – Senior Choir Christmas party		g:oo am – Worker Bees	

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

CARD MAKING FUN ON OCTOBER 11

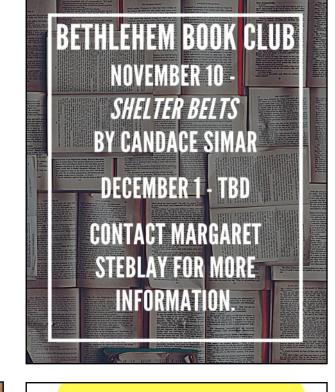


Get creative on Thursday,
October 11. Show up
anytime between 4:30 7:00 pm. Cards are sent to
members that are shut in
and members in need of
some uplifting words;
cards are also available in
the display to the right of
the mailboxes. Please
contact Cathy Lee or the
office for more information.
Please sign up on our
website www.belcnet.net

or by calling the office to let Cathy know who to

expect.







DO YOU LOVE LITURGY?
DO YOU WANT TO ASSIST DURING WORSHIP SERVICES?
THEN YOU NEED TO BE AN

ASSISTING MINISTER

Training Session to be held on Tuesday, November 15 at 1:00 pm

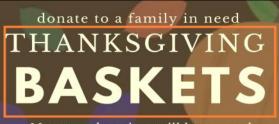
REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE READING PRAYERS AND MOBILITY
TO COLLECT OFFERING. NO SINGING REQUIRED.

Please talk to Pr. Mark if you have questions or sign up on the yellow opportunities sheet to be part of the training.

WANTED: New Members

Are you interested in joining
Bethlehem? Attend the New
Member Orientation on
Tuesday, November 15,
from 6:00 - 7:30 pm.
New Member Sunday will be
November 20. Please sign up
on the yellow opportunity
sheet or contact the office
at 218-829-3330 or
office@belcnet.net.

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Monetary donations will be accepted through the month of November. The average cost for a basket for a family of four is \$100.

This year we are also collecting *canned vegetables *boxed stuffing *gravy packets

I will praise your name, O God, in song; I will proclaim your









GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP STARTING: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11th

5:00 pm -6:30 pm Weekly for 8 weeks

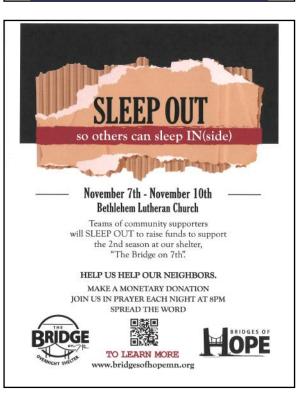
Lord of Life Lutheran Church

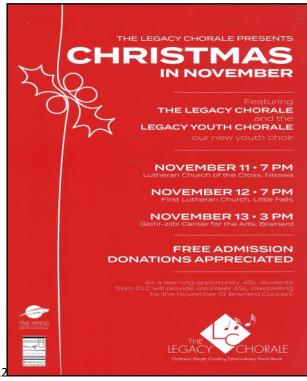
6190 FAIRVIEW ROAD

BAXTER, MN

TO REGISTER PLEASE CALL LORD OF LIFE 218-828-9374

ANY QUESTIONS? PLEASE CALL DEB BERGSTROM AT 701-678-4053





Thank you!

January—September update

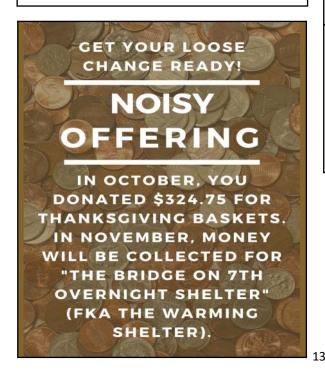
Total Revenue \$310,072

Total Expenses \$312,078

Net Income/Loss -\$2,006

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Thank you for your words of sympathy, your voice of concern, your gesture of caring and the love you offer. ~Jan Munsch and family



Designated Fund

\$100 in memory of James Munsch from friends and family

Thank you for your \$350.31 donation to Bridges of Hope's Operation Sandwich program. Your generous gift helps feed kids when free and reduced meals are not accessible at school. Your gift allowed us to distribute over 40,000 to 434 families this summer! This was a 34% increase from last summer. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to meet this huge growth in need. Thanks to generous donors like you, kids in the Brainerd Lakes Area don't have to experience childhood hunger during the summer or extended school breaks. On behalf of Bridges of Hope and Operation Sandwich staff and volunteers, thank you again. We are grateful! ~Jana Shogren, Executive Director of Bridges of Hope



Thank you for your gift of \$100 to the Brainerd Area Overnight Shelter. This will help us bring our neighbors in out of the cold for a second season this fall and winter. Thanks to YOU and our generous community, we were able to provide more than 940 nights of safe, warm sleep to over 78 unique individuals last winter. We will continue to offer a safe, supervised, and warm place to sleep for our neighbors in need. ~Jana Shogren, Executive Director

Giving electronically eliminates check writing, can save postage, and allows you to give to Bethlehem even on those Sundays when you can't come to worship. You pick the amount and the frequency. If you donate through First Western, there are no additional fees so 100% of your donation comes to Bethlehem. Sign up today! If you would like to give electronically, please contact the office at office@belcnet.net or 218-829-3330.



Please keep these people in your prayers on their birthdays.

- 1 ~ Kevin Bartolic
- 2 ~ Adelle Erickson, Cody Vleck
- 3 ~ Arliss Bement, Jeff McCarthy, Kara Reed, Elise Severson
- 4 ~ Pam Oslos
- 5 ~ Sarah Rhoda
- 6 ~ Noah DeChaine, Krista Warner
- 7 ~ Krystal DeChaine, Chuck Kienholz
- 8 ~ Brynn Samp, Brent Thompson
- 9 ~ Jessica Dufour, Allison Jones
- 10 ~ Betty Vosberg
- 11 ~ Michele Becker
- 12 ~ Aaron Johnson, Cathy Lee

- 13 ~ Thomas Swanson
- 14 ~ Brianna Kruse, Ryan Peterson
- 15 ~ Ashlee McNamara
- 16 ~ Jackie Nornes
- 17 ~ Grace Kraklau
- 19 ~ Paul Bremer, Blake Marshall, Zaryn Schwab, Sydney Stock
- 20 ~ Devin Hollingsworth
- 24 ~ Colleen Jentsch, Russ Schultz
- 25 ~ Gwen Kienholz
- 29 ~ Larry Embertson, Aaron Lundgren
- 30 ~ Barb DePaoli

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.

November Worship Assistants

	Jyovenioer v	γ Οι διιιρ	JISSWH	iiis		
Greeters:	8:20 am 6: Pat True, Deb Steuck 13: Cathie and Nick Benson 20: Larry and Natalie Emberts 27: Bev Gotti	son	Kay Theien Beth Larso Gloria and	10:30 am Kay Theien Beth Larson Gloria and Harvey Munsch Jen and Joe Lindholm		
Ushers:	6: Janis and Jim Peterson Becky and Dave Meyer 13: Larry and Natalie Embertson Jen and Joe Lindholm 20: Camille and Clayton Lang Bob and Kay Pederson 27: Kathy Dufour and Rick Patton Jen and Joe Lindholm					
Readers:	6: Kim Spencer 13: Nancy Bogenschutz 20: Bev Gotti 27: Stacy Erdal		Rebecca Ti Keith Olso	Jackie Nornes Rebecca Timmins Keith Olson Stacy Erdal		
Communion Preparation:	6: Shelly Birchem, Sasha Burg 20: John and Judy Jourdan	gstaler		Jen and Joe Lindholm Karen and Steve Rosenow		
Communion Servers:	6: Kim Spencer, Bev Gotti, Do 20: Keith and Kirsten Olson, 1		Jen Lindho	Jackie Nornes, Nancy Bogenschutz, Jen Lindholm Karen and Steve Rosenow, Pam Oslos		
Sound:	6: Jerry DeChaine 13: Jerry DeChaine 20: Jerry DeChaine 27: still needed		Todd Perso Todd Perso	Todd Person Todd Person Todd Person still needed		
Video:	6: none 13: none 20: none 27: none		Tonya Per Tonya Per	Tonya Person Tonya Person Tonya Person still needed		
Flowers:	6: in memory of Bob Johnson from Jenny Johnson 13: still needed 20: in celebration of Sydney Stock's birthday 27: in celebration of Addison Faith Avenson's baptism					
Treats:	6: Sue Skinner 13: Jen Lindholm 20: new member reception 27: Stacy Erdal					
Wednesday ushers	2: Karly and Mike Lillo 9: Karly and Mike Lillo 16: Karly and Mike Lillo 30: still needed		Vednesday ommunion	2: Janis Peterson 16: Barb DePaoli		
Wednesday sound	2: Scott Pederson 16: still needed	15	9: still need 30: still ne e			

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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