



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](https://www.facebook.com/bethlehem.brainerd)



At the time of publication, these times are correct. With the fluidity of the pandemic, hours could change.

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; you must preregister

Drive in worship: Wednesdays at 6:20 pm

With Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and following Wednesdays

OFFICE HOURS

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



Texting Scam

This past week we became aware of cybercriminals using texting to solicit members of our congregation to purchase gift cards and then provide the gift card PIN (personal identification number) to them through the text. We immediately notified local law enforcement and sent a congregation-wide email alert out along with alerting on our Facebook site. We sadly learned that several congregations in the area were also targeted in the same manner. **So, bottom line ... your pastors/staff/church leadership will never solicit money/gift cards/etc. through a text or email.** If you ever receive a text or email from what appears to be from a pastor/staff member/or other person from the congregation that seems questionable, contact the church office by phone at 218-829-3330 M-F from 8:30 to noon to verify.

Thanksgiving Eve Services

Please join us for worship on **Wednesday, November 25th at 6:20 pm** for our congregational Thanksgiving Eve Service. We will gather in the parking lot for drive-in style worship and utilize our FM transmitter and concert speaker system to broadcast to your vehicle. Also, on Tuesday (November 24th), we will release a video through our website featuring our local ecumenical partner congregations joining for an online worship experience.

Blessings,

Pastor Mark

From the Children, Youth and Family Pastor



2020-2021
CATECHISM

BEGINNING
SEPTEMBER
23, 2020
7:00PM

WE ARE GOING TO TRY TO HOLD CATECHISM OUTSIDE FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. INDOORS MASKS ARE REQUIRED. PLEASE SEND YOUR YOUTH WITH A CAMP CHAIR, THEIR BIBLE AND A MASK IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER.

6-10TH GRADERS WILL MEET WITH PASTOR SARAH

10TH GRADERS WILL MEET WITH PASTOR MARK

YOUR PLAN TO SCROLL AS THE BRAINERO SCHOOL DISTRICT IS EITHER HYBRID OR IN PERSON. WHEN THE LOCKST GOES ALL ONLINE WE WILL FOLLOW SUIT AND MOVE TO THE ZOOM PLATFORM. WHEN WE MOVE INDOOR:

8:30PM 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.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

CONTACT US
262.635.2273
PASTOR@BETHLEHEMLCHURCH.NET

MEETING DATES FOR FALL:
SEPTEMBER 23
SEPTEMBER 30
OCTOBER 7
OCTOBER 21
OCTOBER 28
NOVEMBER 11
NOVEMBER 18
DECEMBER 2
DECEMBER 9
DECEMBER 16



Catechism and High School Youth Group look a little different in this time of COVID! The groups now meet online via Zoom.



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.

2020-2021
SUNDAY SCHOOL

BEGINNING
SEPTEMBER
27, 2020
9:45AM

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

PLEASE BRING CAMP CHAIR(S) IF YOU WANT THEM, MASKS, AND YOUR BIBLES.

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
262.635.2273
PASTOR@BETHLEHEMLCHURCH.NET

MEETING DATES FOR FALL:
SEPTEMBER 27
OCTOBER 4
OCTOBER 11
OCTOBER 25
NOVEMBER 1
NOVEMBER 8
NOVEMBER 15
NOVEMBER 22
DECEMBER 6
DECEMBER 13
DECEMBER 20



Sunday School has started. Each household gets their own table and masks are worn. Join us at 9:45 am this Sunday.

It was a confirmation unlike any other! Congratulations!



Looking ahead...

With the fluidity of the pandemic, we would like to see you soon. We are following CDC and MN Department of Health guidelines. Your safety and well-being is our number one concern.

In-person worship is available on Sundays at 10:30 am. You must preregister on our website at www.belcnet.net or by calling 829-3330 by noon on Fridays. Registration will be open 13 days ahead of time. Up to 40 people may preregister per service. There will be no group singing. Face masks will be worn. The nursery and playground will be closed. We will continue to live-stream this service.



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: the family of Larry Olson; the family of Aldene Gosse; the family of Bob Johnson; the Hannaman family; the family of Ken Snook; the family of Paula MacArthur; Lynn and Mitch Nelson on the death of Max

Ongoing: Tammy Praught's mom; Jessica Rodenbiker; Mark Skogen; ; Al Coronon; Chuck Steinbauer; Jim Brosseau; Aletta Simonitch; Rob Bement; for all affected by COVID; Michael Zickuhr; victims of domestic violence; all residents and staff of assisted living and nursing home facilities; Mike Stanek and family on future deployment; Nancy Walsh; Shari Hanson; Kevin Goedker; for peace in our world; Bob Morris; the unemployed; healthcare workers; Yvonne Doust; for protection from Corona Virus; Aldene Gosse; Bobbie Sayles; all dealing with addiction; all affected by mental health issues; all caregivers; everyone dealing with cancer

Service: Zac Myhre deployed to South Korea; Danny Smith deployed to Kuwait

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: Deb and Jeff McCarthy; Terry and Tracie McFarlin and family; Dean and Sara McKusick and family; Ashlee McNamara and family; Cynthia Merrill and family; Becky and Dave Meyer and family; Bruce and Janelle Mienert and family; Barbara Miller; Michael Miller; Troy Miller and Joan Rosenow and family; Deb and Vince Moe; Emily and Tyler Monda and family; Stephanie Moody; Alison Moyer-Taylor and family; Gloria and Harvey Munsch



Sundays at 8:45 am

11/15: the Meyer family, Jackie Nornes
11/22: Pam Stock, Al Gardner, Ben Reimers
11/29: Meyer family, Greg Anderson

Sundays at 10:30 am

11/15: Mary and Scott Parsons, Carla and Scott Stall
11/22: Mike and Wendy Gindorff, Sue Skinner, Joe Lindholm
11/29: Clayton Lang, Pam Stock, Al Gardner, Sue Skinner

Wednesdays at 6:20 pm

11/18: Pam Stock and Al Gardner
11/25: Hennessey and Lindholm families

Bethlehem worship services

Drive-in services





*Sundays at 8:45 am
*Wednesdays at 6:20 pm
*Communion on 1st and 3rd Sundays and the following Wednesdays

Sundays at 10:30 am

*live-streamed weekly on our Facebook page [bethlehem.brainerd](https://www.facebook.com/bethlehem.brainerd)
*Masks will be worn.
*You must preregister.
Preregistration opens 13 days prior to each service.
Preregister on our website at www.belcnet.net or call 829-3330 before Friday at noon.
*Open to 40 people maximum.
*No group singing.
*Prayground and nursery closed.



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 1 8:45 am – Drive in worship service with communion 9:45 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – in-person and live-streamed worship service 	2 4:00 pm – decorate the parking lot 6:00 pm – Board of Service and Evangelism meeting online via Zoom	ELECTION DAY 3 4:30 pm – Bell Choir rehearsal 5:00 pm – Board of Worship and Music meeting online via Zoom 	4 9:00 am – communion Edgewood Baxton 5:30 pm – Worship 6:20 pm – Drive in with communion 7:00 pm – Catechesis 7:00 pm – High School
8 8:45 am – Drive in worship service 9:45 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – in-person and live-streamed worship service	9	10 4:30 pm – Bell Choir rehearsal 6:00 pm – Small Group Night online via Zoom 	VETERANS DAY 11 5:30 pm – Worship 6:20 pm – Drive in 7:00 pm – Catechesis 7:00 pm – High School
15 8:45 am – Drive in worship service with communion 9:45 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – in-person and live-streamed worship service	16	17 10:00 am – Mary Circle	18 5:30 pm – Worship 6:20 pm – Drive in with communion 7:00 pm – Catechesis 7:00 pm – High School
CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY 22 8:45 am – Drive in worship service with communion 9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – in-person and live-streamed worship service only	23 5:00 pm – Creation Care Team meeting online	24	25 6:20 pm – Thanksgiving worship service
1st Sunday of Advent 29 8:45 am – Drive in worship service 9:45 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – in-person and live-streamed worship service 	30 7:00 pm – Board of Education and Spiritual Formation meeting online via Zoom	1 5:00 pm – Board of Worship and Music meeting online via Zoom	2 9:00 am – communion Edgewood Baxton 5:30 pm – Worship 6:20 pm – Drive in 7:00 pm – Catechesis 7:00 pm – High School

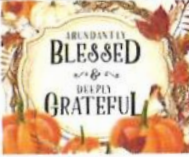
CREATION CARE

O Meteorologist Paul Douglas states that the western U.S. has warmed 2 degrees since 1972 with fires burning bigger, longer and hotter, and that NOAA reports a doubling of billion-dollar weather and climate disasters just since 2000. With warming ocean waters causing hurricanes to intensify faster, the number of Category 4 and 5 hurricanes affecting the U.S has doubled since 1990. Environmental conservationists are looking to see what works in nature that people can adapt and use for climate resilience and carbon draw-down. HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO: **1) Avoid chemical fertilizers** that contribute to algae blooms and kill the plants and animals that keep water healthy; **2) Look after your car and pets** - leaking chemicals and fecal matter get washed into storm drains and waterways. **Put pet waste in trash cans;** **3) Use a rain barrel** to mitigate stormwater runoff and then release the water into your yard as needed; **4) Protect trees by urging developers and local officials** to conserve and protect habitats during construction; **5) Ask elected officials to pass climate legislation.**

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



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
Communion at Brainerd Smart Team rehearsal in worship service on Zoom School Youth Group	9:00 am – communion at Edgewood Brainerd 10:00 am – LSS PTSD groups 4:30 pm – Bell Choir rehearsal 5:30 pm – Board of Stewardship and Properties meeting online via Zoom 6:45 pm – Smart Team meeting online via Zoom		
HANS DAY 11	12	13	14
Smart Team rehearsal in worship service on Zoom School Youth Group	10:00 am – LSS PTSD groups 4:30 pm – Bell Choir rehearsal 5:15 pm – Board of Congregational Care and Community meeting online		
18	19	20	21
Smart Team meeting in worship service on Zoom School Youth Group	10:00 am – LSS PTSD groups 6:30 pm – Smart Team meeting online via Zoom		9:00 am – Lay Leader Network Series
25	THANKSGIVING 26	27	28
Thanksgiving Eve drive in with communion	Office closed 	Office closed	
2	3	4	5
Communion at Brainerd Smart Team rehearsal in worship service on Zoom School Youth Group	9:00 am – communion at Edgewood Brainerd 10:00 am – LSS PTSD groups 6:30 pm – Smart Team meeting online via Zoom		



Please remember these people in prayer on their birthdays.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 ~ Kevin Bartolic | 14 ~ BriAnna Kruse, Ryan Peterson |
| 2 ~ Adelle Erickson, Josh Klukas, Cody Vleck | 15 ~ Ashlee McNamara |
| 3 ~ Arliss Bement, Chauntel Berry, Jeff McCarthy, Kara Reed, Elise Severson | 16 ~ Jackie Nornes |
| 4 ~ Pam Oslos | 17 ~ Grace Kraklau |
| 5 ~ Bret Adams, Sarah Rhoda | 19 ~ Paul Bremer, Blake Marshall, Sydney Stock |
| 6 ~ Noah DeChaine, Krista Warner | 20 ~ Devin Hollingsworth |
| 7 ~ Krystal DeChaine, Chuck Kienholz | 21 ~ Aldene Gosse |
| 8 ~ Brynn Samp, Brent Thompson | 24 ~ Colleen Jentsch, Russ Schultz |
| 9 ~ Jessica Dufour, Allison Jones | 25 ~ Gwen Kienholz |
| 10 ~ Betty Vossberg | 26 ~ Brock Kruize |
| 11 ~ Michele Becker, John Kruize | 28 ~ Julia Rand |
| 12 ~ Aaron Johnson, Cathy Lee | 29 ~ Larry Embertson, Aaron Lundgren, Meriel Park |
| 13 ~ Thomas Swanson | 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.

Thank you!

THANK YOU

To everyone who does so much at Bethlehem!

Board of Directors

Board Members

Ministry Teams

Musicians

Worship Assistants

All members

All friends

THANK YOU!!!!



Bethlehem Lutheran Church is collecting monetary donations for

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

donate to a family in need

Monetary donations will be accepted through the month of November. Money in excess of what is needed for the baskets will be divided among other hunger-related causes supported by Bethlehem.

The average cost for a basket for a family of four is \$60.

Baskets will be distributed on Sunday, November 22. If you can deliver a basket around 9:30 am, please contact the office at 829-3330 or office@belcnet.net.

I will praise your name, O God, in song;
I will proclaim your greatness with thanksgiving.
Psalm 69: 30

November is around the corner and our mission continues with the changing seasons. With the creative changes to our programs and retreats, we are staying busy during this time. Individual and family cabin rentals, community outreach and congregational programming are in full swing this fall! Thank you for your continued partnership. Your recent gift of \$336.75 makes a huge difference and allows us to continue providing faith-centered programs to children, youth, families and adults. Please keep our staff in your prayers as we continue our work each day. Your continued support makes a difference! Thank you for your generosity.

~ David Holtz, Executive Director



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!



Brainerd Public Utilities

Trouble With Winter Utility Bills

BPU will work with you if you fall behind or are unable to make a payment in full.

We will help you set up a payment arrangement which allows a maximum of three (3) installment payments over a ninety (90) day period to pay past due amounts once you receive a disconnect notice.

In addition, a customer needs to keep current bills paid during this arrangement period. Failure to keep a payment arrangement can result in immediate disconnection.

The following agencies may also be able to help you pay your utility bill:

- Lutheran Social Service—829-5000
- Crow Wing County Social Services—824-1250
- Salvation Army—829-1120

Financial Assistance

The uncertainty around the COVID-19 pandemic creates financial instability for many Minnesotans. Minnesota has financial assistance programs, resources, and information for those seeking to manage payments and provide for themselves and their families during this uncertainty.

The following resources are available if you, your family, or someone you know needs economic assistance. Find more information about income assistance from the Department of Human Resources:

- Bridge to Benefits.** This web-based screening tool can help you identify if you're eligible for public works programs, including SNAP, WIC, School Meal Program, Mn Health Care Programs, Energy Assistance, & Child Care Assistance.
- ApplyMN.** This web application can connect you with state and county services to help meet your and your family's basic needs. Use it to apply for cash assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, child care assistance, and Emergency Assistance. Call 651-431-4000 for questions.
- Emergency Assistance.** Your household may be eligible for assistance to cover emergency needs, such as help paying rent or utility bills. Contact your county or tribal human services agency to learn about availability, eligibility, and how to apply.
- Community Action Agencies.** This site gathers local, state, federal, and private resources that can help individuals and families with low incomes.
- COVID-19 Financial Assistance for Veterans.** A variety of grants and resources are available for veterans and their spouses, who are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information online, <https://mn.gov/covid19for-minnesotans/get-help/financial.jsp>

Call Greater State One at 1-800-253-1166 for water and electric locations before digging. All requests for locations must be made by calling the above number at least 48 hours before digging begins.

Facebook | Brainerd Public Utilities | Twitter | Emergency 24 hour service 360-800-8-2-2000 (330) 800-1192 (Email) bpu@bpu.org

COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program

What is the COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program?

The COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program provides housing assistance payments to help prevent eviction, prevent homelessness, and maintain housing stability for eligible renters and homeowners. Local administrators will review applications from individuals and families requesting assistance, verify eligibility, and process payments for eligible expenses on behalf of households.

Am I eligible to apply?

To qualify for housing assistance, Minnesota households must meet all of the following criteria:

- Income at or below 300% of federal poverty guidelines, with a preference for those at or below 200% of federal poverty guidelines.
- Have an eligible expense that was incurred after March 1, 2020 that is past due. Housing assistance funds can only be used for eligible expenses incurred between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020.
- Be unable to make one or more payments owed because of the public health emergency due to unemployment, illness, or another COVID-19 related issue.

What expenses are covered?

The program covers past due housing expenses such as:

- Rent payments | Mortgage payments | Contract for deed payments | Manufactured home park lot rents and payments | Utility payments | Homeowners Association fees

How do I apply?

- Call 211
Toll-free: 1-888-543-7719
Local: 651-291-0201
- Visit 211unitedway.org
- Text "MNRENT" or "MNHOME" to 898-211

The 211 helpline has dedicated multilingual staff available to answer questions about the COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

POINSETTIAS AND LIGHTS

You can honor or memorialize someone special by donating a poinsettia or money to purchase Christmas lights for the parking lot in their name.

Any donations are welcomed and appreciated. Please make checks payable to BELC with "poinsettias/lights" in the memo line. Contact the office with your name and the name of who you are honoring or memorializing at 829-3330 or office@belcnet.net.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW
YOUR SUBSCRIPTION OF

LivingLutheran

IF YOU CURRENTLY HAVE A SUBSCRIPTION TO LIVING LUTHERAN OR WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN RECEIVING IT, PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW BY NOVEMBER 15. COST IS \$12 PER YEAR.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE AT 829-3330 OR EMAIL AT OFFICE@BELCNET.NET.

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Immediate Needs

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

Mid Minnesota Women's Center
*school supplies, especially dry erase markers
*hats, mittens, and gloves for adults and children

Salvation Army
It's Red Kettle time at Salvation Army! As you shop this season, please bring your change and drop it in outdoor kettles or their new countertop kettles. They are looking for businesses willing to have a counter kettle for collecting donations throughout the holiday season.

The Salvation Army is providing Christmas help for those in financial need. Call them this Tuesday or Wednesday for more information.

Please drop off donations at the organizations.

**The Board of Worship
and Music is looking
for people to help
with Christmas Eve
drive-in services at
5:00 and 6:30 pm. If
you'd like to help,
please contact the
office at 829-3330 or
office@belcnet.net for
more information.**

HELP NEEDED

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.