



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 at drive-in services

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

Our yearly theme for 2020-2021

Our yearly theme for 2020-2021 is adapted from the book of Hebrews chapter twelve, verses one and two, “Persevering with the Great Cloud of Witnesses.” The writer of Hebrews begins the chapter with this declaration, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses ...” The writer declares this reality/condition through which everything that follows is interpreted – wow! In the previous chapter, the writer lists all of the saints that have come before us in God: Abel, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Esau, Moses, Gideon, Baruk, Samson, Samuel, and all the prophets ... and many more not even mentioned, that *surround us!* We are called to remember their struggles, their torture, their imprisonments, their steadfastness to faith as we are *surrounded* by them. With that reality/condition in mind, the writer goes on to say, “... let us lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run *with perseverance* the race that is set before us.” If the chapter *stopped* at this point, we would be left to merely our own devices and strengths to run. But the writer continues, “... looking to Jesus who is both the *pioneer* and *perfecter* of our faith.”

As we live day to day in current struggles with COVID-19, along with all the other “weights” and “sins” of everyday life today, what an important word for us! We are never alone. We *are* surrounded by the great cloud of witnesses. We *are* called into a loving relationship with God in Christ Jesus, and now we *persevere* in running the race that is set before us, always looking to Christ Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith!

Small Group Night

Join us for Small Group Night beginning on Tuesday, October 13th at 6:00 pm. We will meet monthly from October through January (4 sessions). This fall we will studying 2 Corinthians together.

We will gather using Zoom for the large group session on **Tuesday nights from 6:00-7:00 pm.** Please read through the chapters ahead of time along with looking over the small group questions. When you register online through our website at www.belcnet.net please provide the email you would like to use for receiving the Zoom invitation from Pastor Mark. You do not have to have the Zoom app. loaded on your device; simply click the portion of the invitation that says, “to join the meeting, click here.” If you are not able to join by using video, you may join by audio only using your phone and calling into one of the numbers listed on the invitation and then keying in the meeting code. The Zoom invitation for the large group session will be emailed out on Sunday night prior to our meeting time on Tuesday.

After the large group session, you will have the opportunity to meet with your small group and discuss the small group questions that will be provided during the large group presentation (and emailed to you as well). You take responsibility for forming your own small group (any group larger than one person and smaller than eight people). As a small group, you decide when, where, and how you would like to meet. Make sure that if you’re meeting in person, please follow all protocols for proper social distancing and related issues to preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Through Christ our pioneer and perfecter in faith,
Pastor Mark



From the Children, Youth and Family Pastor



Catechism and Youth Group look a little different in this time of COVID! The groups are meeting outside or online via Zoom as much as possible.



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.

6-8TH GRADERS WILL MEET WITH PASTOR SARAH
9TH GRADERS WILL MEET WITH PASTOR MARK

OUR PLAN IS AS LONG AS THE BRAINERD SCHOOL DISTRICT IS EITHER HYBRID OR IN PERSON WE WILL MEET IN PERSON. WHEN THE SITUATION CHANGES ALL ONLINE WE WILL FOLLOW SUITE AND MOVE TO THE ZOOM PLATFORM WHEN WE MOVE INDOOR.

SOME 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 DOOR.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

CONTACT US: 262.675.2333 PETER@BETHLEHEMLUTHERAN.NET

MEETING DATES FOR FALL:
SEPTEMBER 23
SEPTEMBER 30
OCTOBER 7
OCTOBER 21
OCTOBER 28
NOVEMBER 4
NOVEMBER 11
NOVEMBER 18
DECEMBER 2
DECEMBER 9
DECEMBER 16

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 BRAINERD SCHOOL DISTRICT IS EITHER HYBRID OR IN PERSON WE WILL MEET IN PERSON. WHEN ISD91 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 OUTSIDE 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: 262.675.2333 PETER@BETHLEHEMLUTHERAN.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.

FOR ALL 4TH GRADERS AND THEIR PARENTS AND ANYONE WHO HAS MISSED THE OPPORTUNITY ANOTHER SESSION WILL BE OFFERED FOR 3RD GRADERS THIS SPRING.

FIRST COMMUNION WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, FROM 9:00-11:00 AM

LEARN | GROW | UNDERSTAND
RECEIVE YOUR FIRST COMMUNION ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, AT THE 8:45 AM SERVICE OR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 AT THE 6:20 PM SERVICE.


"FOR THE BREAD OF GOD IS THAT WHICH COMES DOWN FROM HEAVEN AND GIVES LIFE TO THE WORLD." JOHN 6:33

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.

Please note there will not be an in-person service available on October 25. That service will be reserved for confirmands and their families.



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: Karen Cheney and Deb Cole and their families on the death of Roy Cheney; Antje Olson on the death of her husband; Gudrun Johnson and family on the death of her son Fred

Ongoing: Stacy Sjoberg; Odin Sjoberg; Deloris Ebinger; Michael Zickuhr; Nancy Albertson; Thomas Monda; Roger Nornes; Kayla Warner; Greyson; Chuck Steinbauer; youth in Pine River accident; 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 Dust; 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

Please keep the following Bethlehem households in your thoughts and prayer this month of **October:** Jen and Joe Lindholm and family; Jeanette Listul; Jessi and Kyle Louis and family; Deb and Jon Luhrs; Shirley Lundebly; Terry and Wanda Lundebly; Rachel Lundgren and family; Cheryl and Jeff Macejkovic; Jessica and Nate Macejkovic and family; Marc and Pr. Sarah Marshall and family; Anita and Larry Martinson; John Mathews; Norma Matson; Jeff Maxwell



Sundays at 8:45 am

10/11: Becky and Dave Meyer, Karen and Steve Rosenow

10/18: Janis and Jim Peterson, Ben Reimers
10/25: Becky and Dave Meyer, Janis and Jim Peterson

Sundays at 10:30 am

10/11: Sue Skinner, Camille and Clayton Lang, Ben Reimers

10/18: Mike and Wendy Gindorff, Carla and Scott Stall

10/25: Sue Skinner, Mike and Wendy Gindorff, Greg Anderson

Wednesdays at 6:20 pm

10/14: Greg and Sue Wiger

10/21: Pam Stock and Al Gardner

10/28: Jackie Nornes

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.

CREATION CARE

The results of a newly released survey by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) show a strong interest in **growing native plants that benefit wildlife**. In 2019, **36.8 million Americans purchased native plants, and 23.1 million transformed parts of their yards into natural landscapes**. NWF's Garden for Wildlife program saw an **increase of six times its usual traffic on its website, with 247,000 registered certified wildlife habitats, up more than 10,000 sites since last year**. THE FALL SEASON is a great time to find solace in wildlife gardening, where you can plant with a purpose. **Visit: nwf.org/outdoors for more information on how you can create eco-friendly green space to relax and rejuvenate outdoors**. Another source of information: **Native Plant Society of Minnesota**, whose website dispenses information about plants specific to your ecoregion, how to garden with those plants and where to purchase them. More help: your **county extension office**, which has lists of trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals native to the local area, as well as Master Gardener volunteers who can do **site visits and provide help with other gardening questions**.

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
4 8:45 am – Drive in worship service with communion and blessing of the animals 9:45 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – <u>in-person</u> and live-streamed worship service 	5 6:00 pm – Board of Service and Evangelism meeting online via Zoom	6 5:00 pm – Bell Choir rehearsal 5:00 pm – Board of Worship and Music meeting online via Zoom	7 10:00 am – communion Edgewood Baxter 5:30 pm – Worship 6:20 pm – Drive in with communion the animals 7:00 pm – Catech 7:00 pm – High S
New Member Sunday 11	12	13	
8:45 am – Drive in worship service 9:45 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – <u>in-person</u> and live-streamed worship service 		6:00 pm – Small Group Night online via Zoom 	5:30 pm – Worship 6:20 pm – Drive in
First Communion 18	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 19	20	
8:45 am – Drive in worship service with communion 10:30 am – <u>in-person</u> and live-streamed worship service 	5:00 pm – Creation Care Team meeting online		5:30 pm – Worship 6:20 pm – Drive in with communion 7:00 pm – Catech 7:00 pm – High S
Confirmation/Reformation 25	26	27	
8:45 am – Drive in worship service with communion 9:30 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – live-streamed worship service only 	7:00 pm – Board of Education and Spiritual Formation meeting		5:30 pm – Worship 6:20 pm – Drive in 7:00 pm – Catech 7:00 pm – High S
All Saints Sunday 1	2	3	
8:45 am – Drive in worship service 9:45 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – <u>in-person</u> and live-streamed worship service 	6:00 pm – Board of Service and Evangelism meeting online via Zoom	5:00 pm – Board of Worship and Music meeting online via Zoom	10:00 am – communion Edgewood Baxter 5:30 pm – Worship 6:20 pm – Drive in with communion 7:00 pm – Catech 7:00 pm – High S



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
7	8	9	10
Communion at er ip Team rehearsal n worship service a and blessing of nism chool Youth Group	10:00 am – LSS PTSD groups 5:15 pm – Board of Congregational Care and Community meeting online via Zoom 6:30 pm – Smart Team meeting online via zoom		
14	15	16	17
ip Team rehearsal n worship service	10:00 am – LSS PTSD groups		9:00 am – First Communion class for 4 th graders and older
21	22	23	24
ip Team meeting n worship service nism chool Youth Group	10:00 am – LSS PTSD groups 5:30 pm – Board of Stewardship and Properties meeting in BELC parking lot		
28	29	30	Halloween 31
ip Team rehearsal n worship service nism chool Youth Group	10:00 am – LSS PTSD groups		
4	5	6	7
Communion at er ip Team rehearsal n worship service nism chool Youth Group	9:00 am – communion at Edgewood Brainerd 10:00 am – LSS PTSD groups		



Please remember these people in prayer on their birthdays.

- 1 ~ Hunter Hennessey, Alyssa Towle, Steve Verdon
- 3 ~ Cylie Backstrom, Lily Erdal, Mike Finch
- 4 ~ Dustin Johnson, Janell Rhoda, Dave Skogen
- 5 ~ Bernice J. Johnson, Jenna Lee, Norma Matson
- 6 ~ Tricia Dosh, Sandy Janssen
- 7 ~ Dave Heath
- 8 ~ Britta Parsons, Casey Stengel
- 9 ~ Jessica Laughton, Shawn Roberts
- 10 ~ Porter Hays, Pete Olson
- 11 ~ Mary Farmer
- 12 ~ Jennie Klukas, Tammy Praught, Derek Pulak
- 13 ~ Dave Emery, Rich Munsch, Ben Stall
- 14 ~ Rick Cole, Emily Ferrari, Jessi Louis
- 15 ~ Neven Blum
- 16 ~ Cora Hodgman, Kris McDonald, Cooper Weigelt
- 17 ~ Terry McFarlin, Tarin Skinner
- 18 ~ Laura Bement, Rebecca Weigelt
- 19 ~ Jackie Avenson, Amanda Berry, Tasha Berry, Tanya Johnston, Todd Person, Emily Wyman
- 20 ~ John Rehberger
- 23 ~ Rick Sweet
- 24 ~ Patrick Almond, Greg Anderson, Mirinda Munsch
- 25 ~ Derek Sweet
- 26 ~ Cooper Hennessey, Tucker Hennessey, Rob Larson, Jean Listul, Nicholas Lundgren, Antje Olson, Pr. Mark Skinner, Tim Thorson
- 27 ~ Meghan Anderson, Michael Crocker, Phil Jones
- 28 ~ Steven Park
- 29 ~ Laura Kory
- 31 ~ Nilanna Dosh

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 Jerry DeChaine, Jon Luhrs, Scott Pederson, and Todd and Turner Person. They are the behind-the-scenes guys who make our services happen. By sound, the and upload-onto our and they make streamed much better! Though you may only notice their work when something goes wrong, the pastors and musicians notice it weekly. We couldn't do what we do without you. **THANK YOU!!!!**



running recording services, ing them website Facebook, our live and services so

"Lord,
thank You
FOR THE BLESSING OF TODAY.
Thank You that I can face every situation with a calm heart because
YOU ARE ON MY SIDE.
AMEN."

Thank you so very much for your generous contribution to this year's Camp Knutson Quilt Auction. Your cross-stitch animal crib quilt helped us raise over \$61,000. We are beyond thrilled considering the challenges 2020 presented. Your continued support of Camp "K" is a blessing to all of us. ~ Beth, Cindy, and Penny (Tri-chairs of Camp Knutson's quilt auction)



Cross Fund
\$200 in memory of Clark Tollefson from family and friends

THANK YOU to Nancy Bogenschutz, Yvonne Kalahar, and Margaret Steblay for making all the masks that were handed out at the Back to School blessing. The masks are appreciated by all! We are blessed to have such generous, talented members!



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!



BELC COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Have you seen the new page on our website highlighting all of our community partners?

Go to our website www.belcnet.net and click on "About" and then click "Community Partners".

The page highlights some of community partners' immediate needs and then gives a brief description and link to each of their websites.

Check it out!

BELC COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Immediate Needs

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

- Confidence Learning Center
*gift cards from any local store in any amount for their wish list
- Habitat for Humanity
*needs volunteers at ReStore
- Mid Minnesota Women's Center
*silverware for families setting up new households
*volunteers on Oct. 6-8 from 9:30 am - 6:00 pm to check lights for Winter Wonderland
*donations for silent auction by Oct. 9

Welcome to our new members!

Abbi Browne and Kevin Bartolic

Jaydn and Kevin Gohman

Mark and Traci Gujer and Ben

Jon Serra

Elise Severson

Kathy Thomson

Join Pr. Mark for large group time on the 2nd Tuesdays in October—January from 6:00—7:00 pm online via Zoom to study 2nd Corinthians.

Set up your own small group. It might be you and a friend. It may be you and another couple. Or it could be you and a few neighbors. Keep groups smaller than eight, and be sure you follow proper COVID-19 protocol. Meet outside as much as possible.

Register online at www.belcnet.net or call the office at 829-3330.

SMALL GROUP NIGHT

Developing deep-rooted relationships with God and one another

REMEMBERING LOVED ONES

All Saints Day

November 1

WE WILL REMEMBER LOVED ONES WHO HAVE DIED THIS PAST YEAR AT SERVICES ON ALL SAINTS DAY ON NOVEMBER 1.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR LOVED ONE'S NAME READ DURING THE SERVICE, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE BY OCTOBER 25.

OFFICE@BELCNET.NET OR 829-3330

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES TO PRERECORD SPEAKING PARTS FOR A CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE. YOU WOULD VIDEO RECORD YOURSELF READING AND SEND IT TO PR. SARAH BY THE BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER.

Contact Pr. Sarah by October 15 if you would like to participate.
pastorsarah@belcnet.net

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

DEAR LORD,
 TEACH ME TO TRUST IN YOU SO THAT WHEN THE UNEXPECTED STORMS OF LIFE COME, I WILL EXPECT PEACE IN THE MIDST OF THOSE STORMS, KNOWING THAT YOU ARE NEAR. YOU HEAR MY CRIES, AND YOU ARE WITH ME AND FOR ME.



We commemorated Francis of Assisi with a blessing of the animals on October 4.

NEED A NEW COPY OF

Christ in Our Home or Portals of Prayer?

Christ in Our Home

October, November, December 2020

PORTALS of PRAYER

FOR PERSONAL AND FAMILY DEVOTIONS

OCTOBER—DECEMBER 2020

Stop by the office between 8:30 am and 12:00 pm on weekdays to pick one up.



The "soft-opening" of in-person worship services was held on 9/13. There are many changes, including masks being worn, social distancing, pews are taped off, there is no group singing, and the nursery and playground are closed.

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.