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—6:20 pm Sundays, September 11, 18, and 25—8:20 am In-person and livestreamed worship: September 4—9:00 am September 11, 18, and 25—10:30 am with communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and following Wednesdays (not Sept. 7)

OFFICE HOURS

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



Greetings to you in Christ Jesus,

As we enter September, our annual theme for the 2022-2023 program year at Bethlehem is, "make disciples." As we hear through the great commission of Christ recorded in Matthew 28,

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you." (NRSV) Notice the language in not *option clause* language, but *command* language. That is probably the best reason the church continues to call this the "great" commission. Making disciples is arguably the most important calling of the church. With that calling we are always bound not only by God's command, but by God's promise which we hear proceeding this command, "... and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (KJV)

As you receive your discipleship brochure this month in the mail, please take a few moments, and read through the many opportunities to grow deeper in your faith and discipleship, specifically in the areas of "learning the faith" and "being community" in the 2022-2023 year. As you read, you will discover a brief description of each opportunity, information about the event/meeting, and the discipleship emphasis.

This brochure is laid out by age category (including a family category) and by date or *when* the opportunity will be happening. There is also a table of contents page that you may find helpful. Please take a moment to pray, and think about which events you and every member of your family would like to take part in this coming year, and make a pledge to "go deep."

Here are a few highlights for the year ahead:

All new *Wednesday night worship* format led by our Bethlehem Overdrive Worship (BOW) Team starting on Wednesday, September 14th at 6:20 pm.

Wednesday night meals begin on Wednesday, September 28th from 5:15-6:20 pm. Kim and Clarence Spencer will be doing the cooking for us. Punch cards are available to purchase in advance if you don't want to carry cash around (or have your kids carrying cash). Meals will be \$10 (\$7 for children seven and under; three and under eat free). Cards can be purchased in any amount with a punch card of 10 meals for \$90 (notice the savings!) and can be used for any meals at Bethlehem throughout the year. Cards remain with us, so no need to remember the card either! Cards can be purchased in the office or on our website www.belcnet.net Please note that a 3% credit car fee will apply if purchased off the website.
Catechism begins on Wednesday, September 28th from 7:00-8:00 pm – grades 6th through 9th.
Confirmation Orientation meeting with parents and confirmands (10th graders) on Wednesday, September

7th following outdoor worship at 7:00 pm

Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 25th from 9:25 am-10:20 am. Children are broken into three group: ages 3 and 4, kindergarten and first grade, and 2nd through 5th grades who participate with their parents in Family Faith Journey with Pr. Sarah and Pr. Mark.

Jonah Group begins Thursday, October 6th from 6:00-8:30 pm. Contact Pr. Mark for more information.
Nicodemus Group begins Thursday, October 13th from noon until 3:00 pm. Typically participants span from recent retirement to about ten years' post retirement.

65+ Lunch Bunch begins Tuesday, September 27th at 11:30 am.

May God bless us in our endeavor to follow Christ as we learn, serve, and grow in being community together!

Pastor Mark

September 2022

From the Children, Youth and Family Pastor



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:

Chervl 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

Farms are the foundation of our food system, but, according to John Ikerd, University of \mathbf{O} Missouri agricultural economics professor, our modern industrial, chemically-driven agriculture production systems "degrade and deplete the natural resources they R ultimately must depend on to sustain productivity." Recognizing this problem, some farmers in Minnesota and the Midwest are working with Minnesota-based groups like Ν the Land Stewardship Project to engage in regenerative practices that include no-till, cover cropping, increasing perennial crops, reducing chemical use, and developing Ε environmentally beneficial livestock systems. This change requires time and money in order to make the transition, so urge our leaders to support the Minnesota Legislature's R "100% Soil-Healthy Farming Bill," which proposes 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...

October 1 ~ 8:00 am-3:00 pm-Mission Trips rummage sale fundraiser October 2 ~ 9:30 am—Itty Bitty Book Bunch October 4 ~ 6:00 pm—last Bible Challenge dinner October 9 ~ 9:30 am—Visitation Team training October 11 at 6:00 pm and October 12 at 9:00 am—Worship Assistant training October 18 at 6:00 pm—Prayer Group dinner October 25 at 11:30 am — 65+ Lunch Bunch October 27 at 9:00 am and 6:30 pm—Homebound Communion Team training October 30 at 8:20 am — Confirmation



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:

Ongoing: Donna Hansmann; Jackie Burkey; Todd K.; Linda Wilcox; Ron; BELC member; Joan Rosenow; Randy and Margie Thiel; Bonnie; Nick Lundgren; for peace in our world; Sheri Olson; 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

Please keep the following Bethlehem households in your thoughts and prayer this month of September: Don and Marci Nelson; Ethel Nelson; Lynn and Mitch Nelson; Mollie Nelson; Patricia Nelson; Jeff and Cheryl Nichols; Marcy Nickel; Curt and Sandy Nielsen; Jackie Nornes; Marie and Tom Numedahl; Kevin and Jill O'Grady and family; Angela Oder; Connie Ogilvie; Carole Olsen; AJ and Annette Olson and family; Andrew Olson; Antje Olson; Doreen Olson; Keith and Kirsten Olson; Luke Olson; Peter and Sheri Olson; Tommy Olson; Steve Olson; Pam and Steve Oslos; Barb Owens; Meriel and Steve Park; Britta Parsons; Nate Parsons; Mary and Scott Parsons; Josh Patrick; Rick Patton and Kathy Dufour; Debbie and Kyle Payne; Bob and Kay Pederson; Jenny and Scott Pederson and family; Todd and Tonya Person and family; Jennifer Peterson; Janis and Jim Peterson and family; Mary Peterson; Norris Peterson; Bruce Praska and family; Charles Praska; Henry Praska; Randy and Tammy Praught and family;

PICNIC AND OUTDOOR WORSHIP ON SEPTEMBER 7

Hotdogs/hamburgers, buns, condiments, and paper plates will be provided. Please bring a dish to share, your beverage, chairs, and utensils.



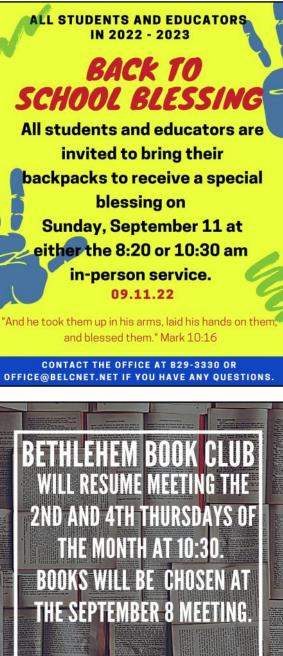
FOOD SERVED AT 5:30 PM OUTDOOR WORSHIP AT 6:20 PM BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH 418 8TH AVENUE NE IN BRAINERD



God's work. Our hands.

Brainerd Lakes Area ELCA churches are invited to participate in "God's work. Our hands." Sunday on September 11 from 12:30 to 3:30 pm. This year's sites include Camp Knutson, Confidence Learning Center, Northland Arboretum, Relationship Safety Alliance (FKA Mid MN Women's Center), Salem West, and The Shop. Sign up at www.tinyurl.com/blagwoh22 Registration closes on September 5.





CONTACT MARGARET STEBLAY FOR MORE INFORMATION.

To view our online services at 9:00 am on Se month, go to <u>https://www.youtube.con</u> The service will also be posted on our web the s	n/channel/UCKGd23TW4V1mlqC	<u>SktOho3g</u>	-1
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	
13 th Sunday after Pentecost 4	Labor Day 5	6	
9:00 am – In-person and livestreamed worship service with communion	Office closed	7:30 am - Men's bible1:study5:5:00 pm - Board of6:Worship and Music7:meeting7:	
14 th Sunday after Pentecost; back to school blessing at both services 11	12	13	
8:20 am – In-person worship service 9:30 am – Adult Forum: Concordia College honors Casey Stengel with Call to Service award 10:30 am – In-person and livestreamed worship service 11:30 am – <i>God's work. Our Hands.</i> Sunday blessing in BELC parking lot	4:00 pm – BELC at Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen	7:30 am – Men's bible study 5:30 pm – Board of Congregational Care and Community meeting	5:30 6:20 Wor 7:00
15 th Sunday after Pentecost 18	Newsletter deadline 19	20	
8:20 am – In-person worship service with communion 9:30 am – Adult Forum: Pr. Mark 10:30 am – In-person and livestreamed worship service with communion	10:00 am – Ruth Circle	7:30 am – Men's bible study 5:30 pm – Directors' Retreat	1:00 1:30 5:30 5:30 6:20 Wor 7:00
16 th Sunday after Pentecost 25	26	27	
8:20 am – In-person worship service with 3-year-old blessing 9:30 am – Sunday School 9:30 am – Adult Forum: TBD 10:30 am – In-person and livestreamed worship service 11:30 am – High School mission trip meeting	6:oo pm – Creation Care Team meeting	7:30 am – Men's bible study 10:00 am – Stephen Ministry meeting 11:30 am – 70s+ Lunch Bunch	5:15 5:30 5:45 6:20 Wo 7:00 7:00



The office is open from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm and 1:00 – 4:00 pm on Mondays – Thursdays. On Fridays, it is open from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Thursday	Friday Saturday	
8	9	10
9:00 am – Executive Team meeting 10:30 am – Bethlehem Book Club	4:30 pm – Skinner/Overland wedding rehearsal	3:30 pm – Skinner/ Overland wedding
15	16	17
9:00 am – Edgewood Brainerd worship 9:00 am – Quilting Group 10:00 am – LSS PTSD Group 10:15 am – Edgewood Baxter worship 1:30 pm – Mary Circle		
22	23	24
10:30 am — Bethlehem Book Club 5:30 pm — Board of Stewardship and Properties meeting		
29	30	1
5:00-8:00 pm – drop off donations for rummage sale	9:00 am-3:00 pm — drop off donations for rummage sale	8:oo am-3:oo pm – Mission Trip Fundraiser Rummage Sale
	8 9:00 am - Executive Team meeting 10:30 am - Bethlehem Book Club 15 9:00 am - Edgewood Brainerd worship 9:00 am - Quilting Group 10:00 am - LSS PTSD Group 10:15 am - Edgewood Baxter worship 1:30 pm - Mary Circle 22 10:30 am - Bethlehem Book Club 5:30 pm - Board of Stewardship and Properties meeting 29 5:00-8:00 pm - drop off donations for	899:00 am - Executive Team meeting 10:30 am - Bethlehem Book Club4:30 pm - Skinner/Overland wedding rehearsal15169:00 am - Edgewood Brainerd worship 9:00 am - Quilting Group 10:15 am - Edgewood Baxter worship 1:30 pm - Mary Circle22222310:30 am - Bethlehem Book Club 5:30 pm - Board of Stewardship and Properties meeting305:00-8:00 pm - drop off donations for rummage sale90

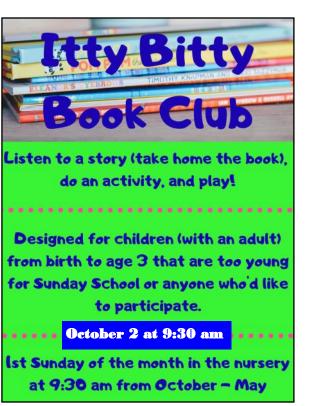




OCTOBER 1 **BELC Mission Trips Fundraiser**

drop off donations Thursday, 9/29 from 5 - 8 pm or Friday, 9/30 from 9 am - 3 pm purchase treasures Saturday, 10/1 from 8 am - 3 pm NO ELECTRONICS, CAR SEATS, CRIBS, VHS TAPES





We are looking to hire a cook for a variety of church events during the day such as 70s+ Lunch Bunch, special events, and possibly funerals. For more information, please contact the office at 218-829-3330 or office@belcnet.net Thank you to Pat and Sara for all their years of service and delicious meals!



QUILTING GROUP

Our guilters are at it again!

They meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 9:00 am -12:00 pm.



Feel free to join them. Contact **Yvonne Kalahar for** more information.



This new group will be limited to about fifteen people of varying ages in their twenties through forties that have some emerging traits and gifts that God has been already at work cultivating for greater callings in their family life, God's church and world. If you think you might be ready for this type of experience, contact Pr. Mark.

Here are some of the highlights and projected outcomes: Meet once a month on the first Thursday evening for about 2 1/2 hours in October through April (not in January) for a meal and shared time of learning reflecting, and growing in the faith of the triune God

- Learning together will involve biblical studies, other books and articles, indepth conversations, journaling, and personal reflection
- You will be encouraged to grow spiritually through simple daily faith rituals that will hopefully be beneficial and meaningful to you.

Nicodemus Grou

This group will meet once a month on the second Thursday from October - May from noon until 3:00 pm. You will share a meal together then continue with good thought-provoking conversation regrading God's continual guidance and provision in our lives and throughout God's world.

Participants in this group typically span from recent retirement to about te years' post-retirement age. You will have the opportunity to cover a wide-span of materials (scripture, books, exercises) to include personal devotion and eflection, timeline and life-marker refelctions, growing in God's grace and mercy as we delve into the last third of life.

If you are interested in joining, contact the church office at 218-829-3330 or office@belcnet.net or go to our website www.belcnet.net to sign up online.

Thank you!

January—July update Income \$239,326 Expenses \$243,069 Shortfall -\$3,734

Thank you for your continued generosity!

GET YOUR LOOSE CHANGE READY! NOISY OFFERING

IN AUGUST, YOU DONATED \$294.29 TO OUR **NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL** GARFIELD ELEMENTARY. IN SEPTEMBER, MONEY WILL BE COLLECTED FOR HOLY COMMUNION SUPPLIES FOR OUR CARE **FACILITIES AND** HOMEBOUND MEMBERS.

Designated Fund

\$100 in memory of Ed Sargent from family and friends

Thank you for your gift of \$50 to Lutheran Disaster Response. As a church, we believe that God's grace is freely given to us. This bring us peace and hope. It makes a difference in our lives. Through your gift, you are sharing this amazing grace with others. You are helping people near and far feel the transformational power of God's love. ~Rev. Daniel Rift, Director, Mission Funding, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response

Staff and volunteers have been busy with weekly preparation of Operation Sandwich. On behalf of Bridges of Hope, we continue to feel incredibly blessed by our community and we thank you for your support! Your generous donation of \$870 supports Operation Sandwich and helps to feed children in in our community when free and reduced meals are not accessible at school. Lunch kits are available for weekly pick-up at multiple locations. Each kit contains enough food to make healthy lunches for a week, adjusted according to

household size. On behalf of Bridges of Hope and of the many families who utilize this service in the community, we thank you! Sincerely, 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 electroni- 🏾 🌌 🗧 Electronic Giving cally, please contact the office at 13 office@belcnet.net or 218-829-



1 ~ Allison Moyer-Taylor, Sheri Olson

2 ~ Deb McCarthy, Scott Stall

3 ~ Eric Burgstaler, Bethany Doucette, Michael Finch, Nate Macejkovic, Eric Wisneski

4 ~ Kathy Dufour

- 5 ~ Ellie Forsberg, Amanda Hanson
- 6 ~ Amy Vleck

8 ~ Delanie Dosh, Pam Finch, Ron Holloway, Tyler Lundgren

10 ~ Wendy Gindorff, Sara Larson, Linda Soderman

11 ~ Barry Adams, Sue Johnson, Joe Lindholm

12 ~ Josh Mienert, Ruth Unger

13 ~ Amy Hendrickson, Cindy Hendrickson, Elizabeth Spigarelli

14 ~ Auggie Lang

15 ~ James Brown, Bev Emery

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.

Please keep these people in your prayers on their birthdays.

: 16 ~ Janee Burgoyne, Bob Hendrickson,

Thor Johnson, Liz Larson, Ava Marshall 17 ~ Wanda Lundeby 18 ~ Ellie Knold : 19 ~ Adam Carlson 21 ~ Eli Christiansen, Alex Garding 22 ~ Teresa Christiansen, Jason Grimm, Jamie Stall 23 ~ Nayden Blum 24 ~ Tim Bogenschutz, Linda Ekstrum, Laurie Levig, Patrick Slough 25 ~ Emily Hollingsworth, Amanda Unger, David Zelenka 27 ~ Cheryl Bailey, Lee Ann Hollingsworth 28 ~ Eric Eidenshink 29 ~ Luke Meyer, Noah Meyer 30 ~ Geremy Anderson, Conner Burgstaler

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September Worship Assistants

	<u> </u>		
Greeters:	8:20 am 9/4 at 9:00 am: Carolyn and Jim Cole 9/11: Jean Anhalt 9/18: Larry and Natalie Embertson 9/25: Bev Gotti	10:00 am Pam and Steve Oslos Gloria and Harvey Munsch Beth Larson	
Ushers:	9/4 at 9:00 am: Becky and Dave Meyer 9/11: Kathy Dufour 9/18: Janis and Jim Peterson 9/25: Janis and Jim Peterson	Jen and Joe Lindholm Becky and Dave Meyer the Lindholm family	
Readers:	9/4 at 9:00 am: Bev Rempel 9/11: STILL NEEDED 9/18: Cheryl Severson-Nichols 9/25: Bev Gotti	Rebecca Timmins Solvejg Seamon Jackie Nornes	
Communion Preparation:	9/4 at 9:00 am: Shelly Birchem, Jackie Nornes 9/18: Jeff and Cheryl Nichols Karen and Steve Rosenow		
Communion Servers:	9/4 at 9:00 am: Jackie Nornes, Karen and Steve Rosenow 9/18: 3 STILL NEEDED Carl and Solvejg Seamon, 1 STILL NEEDED		
Sound:	9/4 at 9:00 am: Jerry DeChaine 911: Jerry DeChaine 9/18: Jerry DeChaine 9/25: Jerry DeChaine	Todd Person Todd Person Scott Pederson	
Video:	9/4 at 9:00 am: Krystal DeChaine 9/11: none 9/18: none 9/25: none	none Tonya Person none Tonya Person	
Flowers:	9/4: STILL NEEDED 9/11: in celebration of Sara Larson's birthday from Pat True 9/18: STILL NEEDED 9/25: STILL NEEDED		
Treats:	9/4 at 9:00 am: Pam Stock and Al Garc 9/11: in honor of Casey Stengel 9/18: Stacy Erdal 9/25: the Lindholm family	Iner	
Wednesday ushers	9/7: Mike and Wendy Gindorff 9/14: Mike and Wendy Gindorff 9/21: Mike and Wendy Gindorff 9/28 Mike and Wendy Gindorff	Wednesday 9/21: Jackie Nornes communion	
Wednesday sound	9/7: Jerry DeChaine 9/21: STILL NEEDED 15	9/14: Scott Pederson 9/28: STILL NEEDED	

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.