



# THE BETHLEHEM STAR



## Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

418 8th Avenue Northeast  
Brainerd, MN 56401

Phone: 218-829-3330

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Email: [office@belcnet.net](mailto:office@belcnet.net)

Website: [www.belcnet.net](http://www.belcnet.net)

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



September 2020

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

### WORSHIP TIMES

Drive in worship: Sunday, 9/6 at 9:00 am

Sunday, 9/13 and beyond at 8:45 am

Online worship: Sundays at 10:30 am

In-person worship: Sundays at 10:30 am  
beginning 9/20; you must preregister

Drive in worship: Wednesdays 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 for curbside  
drop-off/pick-up from 8:30—12:00 pm  
Monday—Friday beginning 9/8.

### 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: John and Ruth Unger



## From the Senior Pastor



### Lay Leader Network opportunity for 2020-2021 NE MN Synod, ELCA

#### Announcing our Yearly Intensive Series 2020-2021

Dear Bethlehem members, I am pleased to announce this wonderful opportunity for our members at Bethlehem once again this year. Thanks to our Endowment Board at Bethlehem! They will be providing funding to allow for the first six Bethlehem members who register, 50% off the general registration cost of \$220. See more details below under cost and registration on how to register. Let me know if you have any questions about LLN or the process.

**WHAT:** The LLN Yearly Intensive Series is a four-session educational program for adult learners, lay leaders and potential lay leaders of all ages. It seeks to balance head and heart in a life-long learning program and to build up the Body of Christ in both congregational settings and the community beyond and around us, ESPECIALLY HERE, ESPECIALLY NOW, EVEN through COVID and other challenges surround us. The series invites learners to experience heart transformation through dynamic engagement with God's Word and Missional expression through contextual engagement.

#### Brainerd site:

Bethlehem Lutheran Church 10/3/2020, 11/21/2020, 2/20/2021, and 4/24/2021. Each session runs 9 am to 4 pm (subject to adaptations for use of Zoom)

**Cost:** \$220 fee to attend (does not include books, materials or student travel expense); (Bethlehem Lutheran members please enter "halfsponsor" for the promo code when registering to receive the 50% discount provided by our Endowment Board at Bethlehem).

**Registration:** Will be via Eventbrite accessible at <https://nemnltn-20-21.eventbrite.com>

### Small Group Night

We will be offering small group night in a different way this fall. We will be using Zoom to present the large group time, and then people can form their own small groups of two, three, four or up to six people, for the small group discussion time. The small group discussion time can happen any time that month following the large group Zoom presentation that is convenient for your small group to meet – you form your own group and choose a location or other way to meet together using all the good social distancing/ COVID 19 protocol to ensure the safety of your group. The large group presentations will begin on **Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm**. The large group Zoom presentations will occur on the second Tuesday of each month from October through January of 2021. To sign up for small group night, simply visit our website and sign-up online (registration opens September 8<sup>th</sup>).

Peace, Pastor Mark

From the Children, Youth and Family Pastor




Looking ahead to ...

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.

At the time of publication, we will return to in-person worship at the 10:30 am service on September 20. You must preregister on our website at [www.belcnet.net](http://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 must be worn. The nursery and playground will be closed. We will continue to live-stream this service.

Drive-in services will change to 8:45 am on September 13; Wednesday services will stay the same at 6:20 pm.



If you have a prayer request for the Prayer Chain, you can either put it in the offering plate on Sunday or Wednesday or 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.

Parents of youth age 0 to high school seniors—We are currently surveying families with children to find out their plans for fall. Surveys must be completed by **September 10**. Please go to this link: <https://bethlehembrainerd.breezechms.com/form/Of0146>

ALL STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS IN 2020-2021

## BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING

All students and educators are invited to receive a special blessing on Sunday, September 27 at either the 8:45 am drive-in or 10:30 am in-person (you must be preregistered) service. Masks will be given to all participants.

**09.27.20**

"And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them." Mark 10:16

CONTACT THE OFFICE AT 829-3330 OR [OFFICE@BELCNET.NET](mailto:OFFICE@BELCNET.NET) IF YOU HAVE ANY 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 ISIDOT GOES ALL ONLINE WE WILL NOT HAVE SUNDAY SCHOOL IN PERSON.

PLEASE BRING CAMP CHAIRS 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 FOLLOWING ORDER:

10:30AM IN PERSON WORKSHOP BEGINS IN THE SANCTUARY

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

CONTACT US: 829-3330 [PASTOR@BETHLEHEMLUTHERAN.NET](mailto:PASTOR@BETHLEHEMLUTHERAN.NET)

**MEETING DATES FOR FALL:**

SEPTEMBER 27  
OCTOBER 4  
OCTOBER 11  
OCTOBER 18  
NOVEMBER 1  
NOVEMBER 8  
NOVEMBER 15  
NOVEMBER 22  
DECEMBER 6  
DECEMBER 13  
DECEMBER 20

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 EITHER THE 8:45 OR 10:30 AM SERVICE.

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

Please keep these people in your prayers:

**Sympathy:** Natalie Embertson's family on the death of her aunt Carol; Anita Martinson's family on the death of her brother Bruce;

**Ongoing:** educators and students; Uncle Charles; Greg Anderson; Alissa Jensen; Jackie Nornes; Donny Cossette; Nancy Albertson; all residents and staff of assisted living and nursing home facilities; Teresa Mandery and her father Charlie; Ruth Unger; 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; Jenny Pederson; for protection from Corona Virus; Aldene Gosse; Bobbie Sayles; Roy Cheney; those who are abused; all dealing with addiction; couples trying to have babies; all affected by mental health issues; all caregivers; everyone dealing with cancer

**Service:** Zac Myhre deployed to South Korea

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 August:**

Jennie and Josh Klukas and family; Ellie Knold; Butch and Jean Koering; Kris Kolstad; Laura and Nick Kory and family; Marlene Kossila; Keith Koster; Lisa Kotchikian; Norma and Ted Kotyk; Jean Krueger; John Kruize and family; Kelly Kruize and family; Cory Kruse and family; Doug and Vicki Kruse; Tiffany Kruse; Camille and Clayton Lang and family; Vicki LaPlant; Beth and Rob Larson; Eric and Sara Larson; Lori and Syd Larson; Peggy Larson; Brenda and Jayme Laughton and family; Don and Jan Lawrence; Sandy Leach; Bonnie LeDoux; Corky and Lana LeDoux; Hollie LeDoux and family; Cathy and Dan Lee and family; Laurie Levig; Sheri Libera; Karly and Mike Lillo





### Sundays

9:00 on 9/6: the Meyer family and Karen and Steve Rosenow

8:45 on 9/13: Janis and Jim Peterson and the Hennessey family

8:45 on 9/20: the Meyer family and Mary and Scott Parsons

8:45 on 9/27: Keith and Kirsten Olson and Janis and Jim Peterson

### Wednesdays at 6:20 pm

9/2 and 9/9: the Gindorff family

9/16: Greg and Sue Wiger

9/23: the Lindholm family

9/30: Greg and Sue Wiger

## Bethlehem worship services

### Drive-in services

\*Sunday, 9/6 at 9:00 am

\*Sundays, 9/13, 9/20, and 9/27 at 8:45 am

\*All Wednesdays at 6:20 pm

\*Communion on 1st and 3rd Sundays and the following Wednesdays

### Sundays at 10:30 am

\*live-stream weekly on our Facebook page [bethlehem.brainerd](https://www.facebook.com/bethlehem.brainerd)

\*In-person beginning 9/20

Masks must be worn.

You must preregister.

Preregistration opens 13 days prior to each service.

Preregister on our website at [www.belcnet.net](https://www.belcnet.net) or call 829-3330

before Friday at noon.


Open to 40 people maximum.

No group singing.

Prayerground 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](https://www.belcnet.net)



| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday  |
|--|--|---|--|
| 30   | 31   | 1   |  |
| 9:00 am – Drive in worship service<br>10:30 am – ONLINE only worship service   | 6:00 pm – Board of Service and Evangelism meeting<br>ONLINE via Zoom             | 5:00 pm – Board of Worship and Music meeting ONLINE via Zoom                          | 10:00 am – com<br>Edgewood Bax<br>6:20 pm – Drive<br>service   |
| 6  | LABOR DAY 7  | 8   |  |
| 9:00 am – Drive in worship service with communion<br>10:30 am – ONLINE only worship service  | Office closed  |    | 5:00 pm – Bell C<br>6:20 pm – Drive<br>service with co   |
| God's Work. Our Hands. 13  | 14   | 15  |  |
| 8:45 am – Drive in worship service<br>10:30 am – ONLINE only worship service<br>11:30 – God's Work. Our Hands. blessing in BELC parking lot then proceed to work sites   | 7:00 pm – Board of Education and Spiritual Formation meeting in BELC parking lot | 5:30 pm – Board of Stewardship and Properties meeting in BELC parking lot             | 5:00 pm – Bell C<br>5:30 pm – Wors<br>meeting<br>6:20 pm – Drive<br>service  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Bibles 20  | 21   | First day of autumn 22  | Catechis   |
| 8:45 am – Drive in worship service with communion<br>10:30 am – in-person worship; open to first 40 people who preregister on website/call office; masks must be worn; this will also be live-streamed   | 5:00 pm – Creation Care Team meeting in BELC parking lot                         |  | 6:20 pm – Drive<br>service with co<br>7:00 pm – catec<br>bring bible/mas<br>7:00 pm – High<br>Group outside;<br>mask/chair |
| Back to School Blessing 27   | 28   | 29  |  |
| 8:45 am – Drive in worship service<br>9:45 am – Sunday School; bring mask/chair/1 adult per household<br>10:30 am – in-person worship; open to first 40 people who preregister on website/call office; masks must be worn; this will also be live-streamed | Digital Theological Conference   |   | 6:20 pm – Drive<br>service<br>7:00 pm – catec<br>bring bible/mas<br>7:00 pm – High<br>Group outside;<br>mask/chair         |

## CREATION CARE

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For the past 10 years, scientists funded by the US Agency for International Development's Predict program (USAID/PREDICT) have pinpointed and warned about the more than 900 viruses most likely to cross over from animals' bodies into humans. Since 1940, hundreds of microbial pathogens, such as HIV, Ebola, Zika, MERS, West Nile, and a number of novel coronaviruses (such as COVID-19) have emerged either for the first time or in new territory, with 60% of them originating in animal hosts. More than two-thirds spread from wildlife, where the pathogens live harmlessly, while some come from pets and livestock. Habitat destruction from cutting down forests to expand towns, cities and industrial activities not only threatens vast numbers of wildlife with extinction, it also forces wild species into closer, intimate contact with humans, allowing benign microbes to be transformed into deadly pathogens. The U.S. government ended the PREDICT program last October, but we can urge our policy makers to work to not only reinstate it, but also to protect wildlife habitats that keep animal microbes from jumping between species.





Curbside drop-off/pick-up is available from 8:30 – 12:00 pm on Mondays – Fridays beginning September 8. Call 829-3330 when you arrive and someone will meet you at the front door.

| Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday | Saturday                                    |
|--|---|--------|---|
| 2<br>Communion at<br>center<br>in worship  | 3<br>9:00 am – communion at Edgewood<br>Brainerd  | 4      | 5<br>Spencer/Bosaaen wedding<br>offsite     |
| 9<br>Choir rehearsal<br>in worship<br>Communion  | 10<br>5:15 pm – Board of Congregational<br>Care and Community meeting<br>ONLINE via Zoom<br>6:30 pm – SMART Team meeting<br>ONLINE via Zoom | 11     | 12  |
| 16<br>Choir rehearsal<br>Ship Team<br>in worship   | 17  | 18     | 19  |
| 23<br>Communion begins<br>in worship<br>Communion<br>Chism outside;<br>sk/chair<br>School Youth<br>bring | 24  | 25     | 26<br>Young/Gohman wedding<br>offsite       |
| 30<br>in worship<br>Chism outside;<br>sk/chair<br>School Youth<br>bring                                  | 1   | 2      | 3<br>9:00 am – Lay Leader Network<br>Series |



Please remember these people in prayer on their birthdays.

9/1 ~ Allison Taylor, Sheri Olson

9/2 ~ Deb McCarthy, Scott Stall

9/3 ~ Eric Burgstaler, Bethany  
Doucette, Mike Finch, Nate Macejkovic,  
Angela Oder

9/4 ~ Kathy Dufour

9/5 ~ Ellie Forsberg, Amanda Hanson,  
Linda Schuster

9/6 ~ Deborah Berry, Amy Vleck

9/8 ~ Delanie Dosh, Pam Finch, Ron  
Holloway, Tyler Lundgren, Josh Patrick,  
Cori Wrobel

9/10 ~ Wendy Gindorff, Sara Larson,  
Linda Soderman

9/11 ~ Barry Adams, Sue Johnson, Joe  
Lindholm

9/12 ~ Josh Mienert, Ruth Unger

9/13 ~ Kevin Goedker, Amy Hendrick-  
son, Cindy Hendrickson, Elizabeth  
Spigarelli

9/14 ~ Auggie Lang

9/15 ~ James Brown, Bev Emery

9/16 ~ Janee Burgoyne, Bob Hendrick-  
son, Thor Johnson, Lois Juntunen, Beth  
Larson, Ava Marshall, Trevor Shaw

9/17 ~ Nikki Anderson, Wanda Lundebly

9/18 ~ Ellie Knold

9/19 ~ Adam Carlson

9/21 ~ Eli Christiansen, Samantha Hor-  
ton

9/22 ~ Teresa Christiansen, Jason  
Grimm, Jamie Stall

9/23 ~ Nayden Blum

9/24 ~ Tim Bogenschutz, Linda Ekstrum,  
Laurie Levig, Patrick Slough

9/25 ~ Kelsey Hoff, Emily Hollingsworth,  
Amanda Unger, David Zelenka

9/27 ~ Cheryl Bailey, Lee Ann Hol-  
lingsworth

9/28 ~ Eric Eidenshink

9/29 ~ Luke Meyer, Noah Meyer, Allyson  
Rust

9/30 ~ Jeremy Anderson

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, Kevin Goedker, Jon Luhrs, Scott Pederson, and Todd 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!!!!**



Thank you for your donation of \$78.17 to the CLC Food Pantry. Community connections and involvement are an integral piece to the future of our college. Your philanthropy and spirit of giving is critical in assuring Central Lakes College provides the best possible educational opportunities to help our students and community meet their full potential. In gratitude, Jana Shogren, Executive Director, CLC Foundation



Thank you for your donation of \$398.45 to Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen. Your generous gift of money helps pay for 60-80 meals per day. With gratitude, Glen Gustafson, Treasurer, Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen



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](http://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!



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

Go to our website [www.belcnet.net](http://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!



## 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  
\*paper products: toilet paper, paper towels, kleenex  
\*disposable masks  
\*food and gas cards

[Click here to sign up.](#)



Our congregation will soon engage in service work right here in our community. We are one of over 9,100 congregations participating in "God's work. Our hands." Sunday, on Sept. 13. Across the country, thousands of members will engage in service work to make a positive change in our communities, build and deepen relationships and share God's love. Join us as we do God's work with our hands! Contact us for more information:

Bethlehem will be serving two organizations this year:  
Mid MN Women's Center - outdoor projects (staining, sorting, etc)  
Northland Arboretum - fall gardening; bring gloves, trowels, kneepads, etc  
Meet in BELC parking lot at 11:30 am for a drive-in blessing;  
then proceed to work sites and work from 12:00 - 3:00 pm  
Sign up on our website at [www.belcnet.net](http://www.belcnet.net) or call 829-3330.



Celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi with a

## BLESSING OF ANIMALS



Bethlehem will celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi on October 4 with a blessing of animals at the drive-in services that week (8:45 am on October 4 and 6:20 pm on October 7). Bring your pets. They must be on leashes, in pet carriers, or must remain in the vehicle/trailer.



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](http://www.belcnet.net) or call the office at 829-3330.

# SMALL GROUP NIGHT

Developing deep-rooted relationships with God and one another



ARE YOU  
INTERESTED IN BECOMING A  
MEMBER OF BETHLEHEM?

OUR NEXT  
NEW MEMBER  
SUNDAY WILL BE  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11.

CONTACT PR. MARK AT  
[PASTORMARK@BELCNET.NET](mailto:PASTORMARK@BELCNET.NET)  
OR THE OFFICE 829-3330 OR  
[OFFICE@BELCNET.NET](mailto:OFFICE@BELCNET.NET).



Please use this bookmark to assist you in your challenge! Bookmarks will be available every other month.

Visit [www.enterthebible.org](http://www.enterthebible.org) for more resources.

**Sept. 1** Heb. 7-10  
**Sept. 2** Heb. 11-13  
**Sept. 3** James  
**Sept. 4** 1 Peter  
**Sept. 5** 2 Peter  
**Sept. 6** 1 John  
**Sept. 7** 2&3 Jn  
**Sept. 8** Jude  
**Sept. 9** Rev. 1-3  
**Sept. 10** Rev. 4-8  
**Sept. 11** Rev. 9-12  
**Sept. 12** Rev. 13-16  
**Sept. 13** Rev. 17-19  
**Sept. 14** Rev. 20-22

You did it!

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

God of all nations, whose care spans not just the globe but the entire cosmos, we thank you for keeping us all in the tenderness of your love. May we spread your equitable care far and wide.

~Bread for the Day



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](http://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.