

Good news



Pastor's Message—Pastor Ale Tulu

Golf and Christian Life

“Enter through the narrow gate, for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction and there are many who take. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.” Matthew 7:13-14

Do you have a hobby or an activity that you enjoy? A hobby can enhance your mental, physical, emotional well-being and keep your spirit cheerful and make your life more enjoyable. It also gives you an opportunity to meet new people with whom you enjoy something in common. Especially if you are dealing with stressful schedule, a hobby will give you the opportunity to get away from your stressful work environment and relax and have fun.

There is a hobby that I picked up shortly after I became a pastor. I guess, I don't need to tell you, because many of you know by now that I am talking about GOLF. There was a time I couldn't understand why people spent their precious time chasing a white little ball up and down in the meadows with a stick for hours. Now I don't get enough of it. Every opportunity I get, I love to go and spend it on the golf course.

Do you know that the game golf started in Scotland over five hundred years ago? St. Andrews golf course is considered to be the birthplace of golf. According to the tradition, this game was started by the Presbyterians and when they came up with this sport, their intentions were to create a game that reflected what Christian life and journey should be. The goal of the game is to use few strokes and role the ball into the hole. The best way to play and win the game is to avoid going into roughs, trees, bushes, sand traps, water and other hazards and by hitting the ball straight into the fairway, and then to the putting green and eventually to the hole. But as those of us who play this game know, staying on the fairway is not often easy. It is a very difficult task. In the same way, the journey of Christian life is not easy. It is very hard; but when we avoid the path of hazards and travel on the right path, it will eventually lead us to a happy and victorious life. This is a great example to what Jesus said in Matthew 7:13-14 when he talked about the two paths, one which leads us to defeat and death and the other which leads us to victory and life. This is why golf is a beautiful allegory to the Christian journey and faith.

Well, next time you go out to play this American favorite pastime sport or happen to hear people talk about golf, tell the story of how golf started and how it reflects Christian life and journey. It will give you an opportunity to share your own journey of faith.

Pastor Ale



Church Events

- Tuesdays & Fridays at 9:30 am—Coffee with the Staff
- Thursdays at 7:00 am—Men's Breakfast at the Fry' Pan
- Sundays at 9:30 am—Worship Service followed by 10:30 am Fellowship
- June 5 at 7:00 pm—VBS Planning Meeting at Bethel
- June 6 6:30-8:30 pm—Youth/ Ditch Cleaning
- June 10—Youth/Valley Fair
- June 14 at 7:00 pm—Church Council Meeting
- June 16 at 6:30 pm—LYO Meeting
- June 20 at 6:30 pm—Book Club
- June 22 at 6:00 pm—10th Grade Confirmation Students & Mentors Event
- July 18 at 7:00 pm—Book Club
- July 21 at 6:30 pm—LYO Meeting
- July 24-28—Senior High Mystery Mission Trip

Contact Information

301 6th St N
Breckenridge, MN

218-643-4892

Office email:
officebrecklutheran@gmail.com
Pastor's email:
pastorbrecklutheran@gmail.com

Office Hours:
9:00-3:00 Mon-Thur



Member of the Month—Kennedy Niska

What kind of social gathering do you like best?

I enjoy receptions that follow a significant event like a major concert, wedding, or graduation. These settings are perfect for celebrating something big and reconnecting with people I don't see often enough.

What is your favorite worship song/hymn?

"Here I Am Lord" always connects with me personally. Both the text and melody are moving and impactful.

If you could live anywhere on this planet and take everything and everyone that you love with you, where would you choose to live?

If I could live anywhere, I would likely choose a lovely overlook along the North Shore of Lake Superior. It is, in my opinion, the most beautiful part of the state. It is also close to my hometown and definitely an extension of "home".

"The man of pseudo faith will fight for his verbal creed but refuse flatly to allow himself to get into a predicament where his future must depend upon that creed being true. He always provides himself with secondary ways of escape so he will have a way out if the roof caves in. What we need very badly these days is a company of Christians who are prepared to trust God as completely now as they know they must do at the last day." A. W. Tozer

Excerpts taken from the book "Money, Possessions and Eternity," by Randy Alcorn, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2021.

Stewardship and Our Treasures—Orrin Ausen

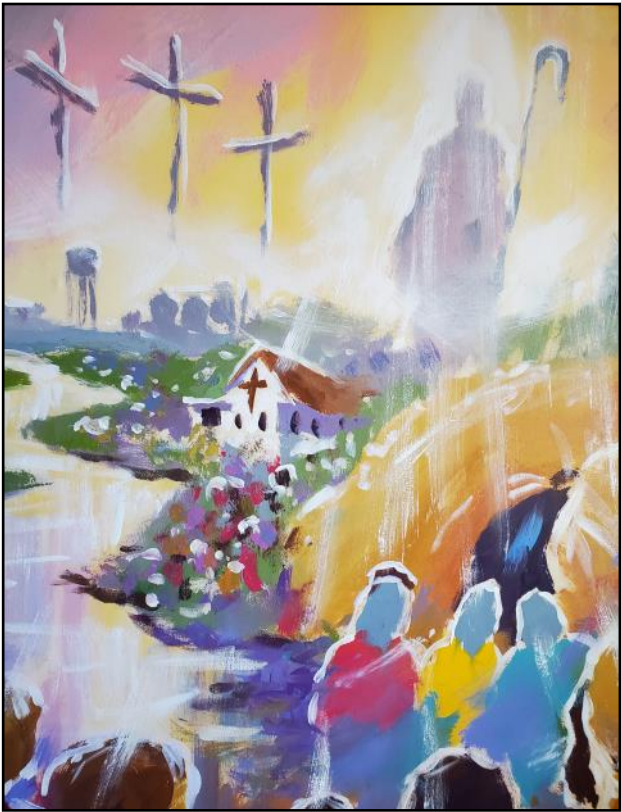
Satan is the Lord of Materialism. "Mammon" is but an alias of the Prince of Darkness, who has a vested interest in whether or not we understand and obey Christ's commands concerning money and possessions. The Enemy will not give up ground without a fight. Because of the spiritual warfare that surrounds this great subject of money and possessions, our use of money and possessions is a decisive statement of our eternal values. What we do with our money loudly affirms which kingdom we belong to. Whenever we give of our resources to further God's kingdom, we cast a ballot for Christ and against Satan, for heaven and against hell. Whenever we use our resources selfishly and indifferently, we further Satan's goals.

The key to a right use of money and possessions is a right perspective, an eternal perspective. Each of our lives is positioned like a bow, drawn across the strings of a cosmic violin, producing vibrations that resound for all eternity. The slightest action of the bow produces a sound, a sound that is never lost. What I do today has tremendous bearing on eternity. Indeed, it is the stuff of which eternity is made. The everyday choices I make about money and possessions are of eternal consequence.

Far too many evangelical Christians have succumbed to the heresy that this present life may be lived disobediently without serious effects on their eternal state. Never have so many Christians believed the lie that their money and possessions are theirs to do with as they please. Never have so many thought that as long as they affirm with their lips a certain doctrinal statement, they may live their lives indifferent to human need and divine command, and all will turn out well in the end.

The best way to check our heart's attitude about material possessions is to allow all the principles of God's Word to penetrate our innermost being. "The word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

A continuation of this article will appear in the August newsletter examining Money: Why Is It So Important to God?



Breckenridge Lutheran's half of Paul Oman's Painting

On May 15th, a joint Worship Service was held at Bethel Lutheran Church in Wahpeton to listen and see Pastor Paul Oman create a painting that was split into two so that both Breckenridge Lutheran and Bethel can share the artwork—much like we share the Red River.

We would like to thank Gary Fox & Don Young for constructing the mural frame and Jackie & Mike Mertes for hanging the completed Breck Lutheran half

The offering of \$326 will be applied to the Youth Group's Mystery Mission Trip in July. The Noisy Offering of \$167.32 will go towards our joint VBS with Bethel in August.

Mission Report

World hunger was the focus of the Mission Committee for the month of May and thus far, \$85 has been raised for Feed My Starving Children. If you are interested in making a donation, you may do so by going to brecklutheran.org and clicking on the Monthly Giving icon. You may also write a check out to FMSC and dropping it off at the office or offering plate on Sunday.

The monthly mission focus for June is Teenage Homelessness services through Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota. In a recent Wilder Research survey conducted in our state, it was found that on any given night, more than 6,000 unaccompanied youth are experiencing homelessness. Of these youth, 35% are 17 years of age and younger. More than a third of MN youth experiencing homelessness in the survey were parents; among those, 26% had a child with them. Homeless youth often experienced trauma and abuse, including physical/sexual abuse, neglect, out-of-home placement or had a parent incarcerated. Please consider making a donation to LSS of MN-Teen Homelessness. Donations will be directed to the Moorhead office. Thank you.

Breckenridge Lutheran Quilters

The Quilters have had a busy year. To date, they have distributed the following quilts:

Graduation Quilts	11
Fire Victims, etc.	10
Valley Lake	10
Someplace Safe	10
Baptismal	3
Churches United	9
Lutheran World Relief	16

From Rebekah Circle to LWR:

School Kit/Backpacks	23
Health Kits	12

Thank you to all the quilters. We meet the third Tuesday of the Month at 9:00 am. Come join us for fellowship, a great lunch and helping make quilts for those in need.



If you have had a recent change to your address, phone number or email address, please be sure to let the church office know!





Memorials and Gifts

In memory of:	Given by:
Bell Choir	
Tom Dietz	Teddi & Pat Leinen
BLW	
Linda Dietz	Dennis & Rene Hasbargen
Tom Dietz	Kitty Hansen
Elevator Fund	
Tom Dietz	Connie & Pete Jensen, Evie & Gary Fox, Darlene Bontjes, Cleo Reitan
Linda Dietz	David & Carol Wood
Shirley Hunkins	Dennis & Rene Hasbargen
Betty LeNoue	Dennis & Rene Hasbargen, Clark & JoAn Dybdahl
Furnace/HVAC	
Tom Dietz	Dennis & Rene Hasbargen, Dave & Carol Woods, Alice Ellsworth
Linda Dietz	Alice Ellsworth, Christine Hansen
Betty LeNoue	Alice Ellsworth, Christine Hansen
General Fund	
Tom Dietz	Mary Ann Conrad, Joel & Mel Herder, Sandra Olson, Glen & Dorothy Rakow, Mike & Diane Belseth, Dell Krueger, Barb Couillard, Barbara Yaggie, Kathryn Dietz, Corrine Romereim, Jane Rick, Vernae Hasbargen, Linda Thulen, Kay Nelson, Phyllis Folstad, Sonja Christensen, Carolyn Christensen, Susan Bloomfield, Barbara Mohs, Janice Michels, Carol Poppel, Debra Knudtson, Kay Fawcett, Marlys Haiby, Harriet Bakken, Simone Sandberg, Jane Ellingson, Geraldine Yaggie
Linda Dietz	Glen & Dorothy Rakow, Clark & JoAn Dybdahl, Mike & Diane Belseth, Mary Ann Conrad, Joel & Mel Herder, Kevin & Linda Melkert, Steve & Kay Klein, Don & Geri Young, Marilyn Johnson
Brian Langseth	Rose Ella Matejcek
Betty LeNoue	Kevin & Linda Melkert, Steve & Kay Klein, Don & Geri Young, Marilyn Johnson
Quilting	
Tom Dietz	Marv & Joyce Aarons, Virginia Lankow
Linda Dietz	Del Krueger
Betty LeNoue	Del Krueger
Water to Thrive	
Linda Dietz	Muriel Hedrick

Volunteer Spotlight

We would like to thank Scott Wendorff for volunteering his time and expertise with the Audio/Visual Equipment and radio/TV programs.

The key to our success rests in people like you, who embody the spirit of greatness by saying, "Yes I can, and so can you!"

Thanks for your inspiring dedication!



Financial Summary (as of May 31, 2022)

May Financial Summary	
General Account Income in May 2022	\$20,389
General Account Expenditures in May 2022	\$27,899
Cash income for the month	(\$1,510)
General Account Cash Balance as of May 25, 2022	\$43,096

Weekly Giving—May 2022	
May 1	\$6,608
May 8	\$2,398
May 15	\$5,209
May 22	\$2,164
Total	\$16,379

Total 2022 Budget (adjusted)	Year to Date Income	Year to Date Expenses	Year to Date Net Loss	Monthly Budget
\$118,462	\$98,645	\$105,484	(\$6,838)	\$24,679

Summer Events

Bethel Lutheran Church
RUMMAGE SALE

Donation drop off:
Tue. May 31 & Wed. June 1
12p-7p

Thank you for your donations!



Sale Days:
Thur. June 2 & Fri. June 3
8a-5p

607 6th St N, Wahpeton, ND

All proceeds will go towards the Youth Mystery Mission Trip

ADOPT A HIGHWAY CLEANUP

Date: Monday, June 6 (Alternate Day if raining: Wednesday, June 8)
Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Meeting Place: Tentatively, we'll meet at the gas station in Foxhome and go from there.

For more info to or RSVP please call/text/email: Jill Blaufuss (218-779-9021, heringji@yahoo.com)

Notes:
 If time gets too late for anyone with young kids, they are welcome to take off earlier.
 If anyone needs a ride, let Jill know.
 Safety vests and garbage bags will be supplied
 BYO garden gloves


Valleyfair

When: June 10th
 Depart from the Church at 6 am and return around 10 pm

Who: High School and Jr High students are welcome and can bring a friend.
 Children under 12 are welcome with an adult.

Cost: \$35.00 per person (LYO funds can be used to cover costs for students)

Contact Lexi Hought at lexihought@gmail.com or 701-430-1821 to sign up by June 5th. We will be looking for some adults to join as chaperones.



FUN on the FARM

Vacation Bible School

August 1-4, 2022
 Bethel Lutheran Church

MYSTERY MISSION TRIP

Bethel and Breckenridge Lutheran Youth and their friends are invited to join Lisa Bassingthwaite July 24-28. All kids deserve the chance to experience the life-changing power of a mission trip. On our trip you will have countless opportunities to laugh, lead and make lasting friendships. Our trip will include fun, sightseeing, mission, and adventure.

If you would like more information please contact Lisa at wschool@bethelwahpeton.com.

President's Message—Jill Ockhardt Blaufuss

“Life is a test. It is only a test.”

One of my favorite self-growth books is one my mom gave me in my early 20s called, “Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff ... And It’s All Small Stuff,” by Richard Carlson.

After years of reading and re-reading it during different stages of my life, the lessons in each two-page chapter are starting to stick in my brain to reference automatically. One of the chapters is titled, “Life Is a Test. It Is Only a Test.” You might remember those annoying tests of emergency broadcast system on TV where they announce that last part, “... this is only a test,” and play a loud ringing noise for a full minute. Listening to that was a test for sure — of patience and endurance.



What Carlson asks, though, is what if you looked at both daily life challenges and big issues as a series of tests, as opportunities to grow or to simply roll with the punches? Whatever is being thrown at you — enormous obstacles, a bunch of responsibilities you didn’t see coming, a new family problem — you always have a chance to succeed, in the sense of rising above that which is challenging you.

Carlson warns too that if instead of a test, you see each new issue as a serious battle that must be won to survive, you’re in for a rocky journey. Take on this call-to-arms type approach with all of life big and small issues, and the only time you’re likely to be happy then is when everything is working out just right. Which, of course, doesn’t always happen.

Instead of amping up to struggle and fight with an issue, take a breath and see if there is something you can learn from it. Ask yourself, “Why is this issue in my life? What would it mean and what would be involved in order to rise above it? Could I possibly look at the issue any differently?”

I find it easier to apply this mindset to my 4-year-old Margot’s tantrums. She’s going to get love and care no matter how badly she’s losing her marbles because I find it easy to not take it personally. With matters including other adults, or older kids, it gets harder to apply this “test” mindset.

Try to imagine looking back on all these “tests” in life, both big and little. Did you see them at the time as opportunities to grow? Did you keep your integrity? I think if we did a little more of that, we could make ourselves a little prouder, and be a little more accepting of ourselves, even if the outcomes aren’t always what we hope for.

Planning Council Minutes—May 10, 2022

Present: Pastor Ale Tulu, Jill Ockhardt Blaufuss, Teresa Pearson, Ashley Johnson, Lois Fenske, Joel Herder, Kennedy Niska and Deb Berndt

Absent: Connie Jensen and Orrin Ausen

- A. The meeting was called to order by President Jill.
- B. Pastor Ale opened the meeting with devotions reminding us that God is patient, it takes time and the proper conditions for us to come to full bloom. Our Beautiful creations are a gift from God, and we need to take time to smell the flowers.
- C. Consent Agenda:
 1. Minutes:
 - a. March Council Meeting minutes were handed out at the meeting.
 2. Financial Reports: Financial reports for April 2022 were handed out. They included a Profit and Loss Statement for the month and a Balance Sheet dated April 30, 2022, were handed out to all members present.
 - a. Motion: A motion was made by Joel to approve the minutes and the financials as presented.
 - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Kennedy.
 - c. Action: The motion was passed with no opposition.
- D. Additions to the agenda: Add points 6 & 7 to the New Business to discuss a thank you gift for Scott Wendorff, Worship Committee report.
 - a. Motion: A motion was made by Teresa to add the items listed above to the agenda under New Business.
 - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Ashley.
 - c. Action: The motion was passed with no opposition.
- E. Old Business: None

Planning Council Minutes—continued

F. New Business:

1. Pastor's Report –
 - Pastor Ale and the other Pastors met to set up a schedule for Nursing Home church services during the summer.
 - Met with the 10th grade Confirmands and their mentors to go over questions.
 - Frying Pan breakfast and devotions with men has had about 10 people in attendance.
 - Thursday will have a Conference meeting in Fergus Falls.
 - Recognition of Seniors graduation students is scheduled for Sunday, May 22, 2022.
 - Funeral for Linda Dietz will be held on May 16, 2022
 - Funeral for Betty LeNoue will be held May 17, 2022, at the church.
 - Synod Assembly to be held in June is going to be a ZOOM meeting. Registration has closed.
2. President's Report
 - i. The Pledge Drive campaign was not met with much success. We will try again in the fall.
 - ii. Ethiopian Night –Pastor Ale and Sunny will serve some of their traditional foods. We will find a date in the Fall. We are hoping to use this as a fundraiser to help pay for the elevator. Jill found out that we could use the Wahpeton Community Center for \$150.00. Other suggestions are having music and entertainment specific to their culture.
 - iii. Parish Education – There is an organizational meeting for VBS with Bethel on June 5th at 7:00 pm. Ashley re-marked that day is Breckenridge's graduation. Lois will ask Lisa if the date can be changed.
3. Benefit Update – There was none since Connie was gone.
4. LYO Report – Joel reported that the LYO is going Bowling May 15th in Fargo. There is a family swimming night set for August 10th which will be open to families and kids too. The Valley Fair Trip is set for June 10th and is open to all kids going into 7th through 12th. Parents may come with younger children also. Matt Anderson will drive the bus for free, we pay for gas and the LYO pays for his ticket and his children's. The kids can only make purchases with debit and credit cards, so Teresa suggested that they purchase a ticket with a meal included. They are also scheduling ditch cleaning and possibly a float in one of the parades.
5. Building Committee – Teresa reported that the sewer line had backed up on the prior Friday night and she had called a plumber to roto-root out the line because tree roots had caused it to get plugged. They then flushed the line for a couple of hours. Then after all the rain a few days later the sewer had backed up in several of the drains in the basement. She and husband sucked up water for 3 hours. It was noted that with the additional rainfall expected in the next few days that people should plug any basement drains and take off the toilets and plug them also. Joel also suggested that we get an estimate for a check valve. Other suggestions were to have a call list of people that will take turns coming in and helping with the clean up or just helping deal with the problems. The Church also does not have a shop vac or many of the tools needed. We are also waiting for quotes for heat tape from Mueller Electric.
 - a. Motion: Joel made a motion that we hire a plumber to come in and plug the drains and the toilets before the rain falls again to proactively prepare for potential problems
 - b. Second: Ashley seconded the motion.
 - c. Action: The motion passed with no opposition.
6. Thank you, gift, for Scott Wendorff. – Teresa remarked that Scott puts in a lot of hours besides on Sundays making sure that the sound System is working the best that it can.
 - a. Motion: A motion was made by Teresa to give Scott and check for \$599.00 as a thank you for all his hard work with the sound system and recognize him on Senior Recognition Sunday, May 15, 2022.
 - b. Second: Motion was seconded by Joel.
 - c. Action: Seeing no further discussion, the motion carried
7. Worship and Music – Kennedy asked to use the Worship Instrument funds and some of the Choir funds to purchase a keyboard. He feels this will be easy to transport from upstairs to downstairs. He has also been working on the summer music schedule. He said that there would be a potluck worship meeting next week. He is planning on sending out emails regarding Praise Band.

G. Church Pulse

1. A survey was set out at the last Wednesday night service and 13 responded they liked worship upstairs and 7 downstairs. Jill asked Lois if she could also send the survey out online.

H. Pastor Ale led us in the Lord's Prayer to close out the meeting.

I. Adjournment –

- a. Motion – A motion was made by Teresa to adjourn the meeting.
- b. Second – Motion was seconded by Joel.
- c. Action – Motion carried.

July 2022

July 2022							August 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
31													

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jun 26	27	28	29	30	Jul 1 9:30am Coffee with Staff	2
3 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship	4 Office Closed	5 9:30am Coffee with Staff 5:30pm Staff Meeting	6	7 7:00am Men's Breakfast-Fryn' Pan	8 9:30am Coffee with Staff	9
10 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship	11	12 9:30am Coffee with Staff 7:00pm Council Meeting	13	14 7:00am Men's Breakfast-Fryn' Pan 9:00am Conference Meeting	15 9:30am Coffee with Staff	16
17 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship	18 7:00pm Book Club	19 9:30am Coffee with Staff	20	21 7:00am Men's Breakfast-Fryn' Pan 6:30pm LYO Meeting (Luther Room)	22 9:30am Coffee with Staff	23
24 Sr. High Mission Trip 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship	25 Sr. High Mission Trip	26 Sr. High Mission Trip 9:30am Coffee with Staff	27 Sr. High Mission Trip	28 7:00am Men's Breakfast-Fryn' Pan	29 9:30am Coffee with Staff	30
31 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship	Aug 1	2	3	4	5	6

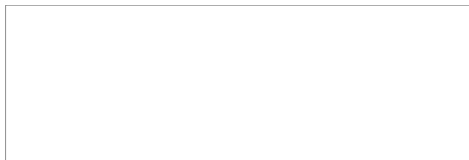
June 2022

June 2022							July 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4						1	2
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 29	30	31	Jun 1	2 7:00am Men's Breakfast-Fryn' Pan	3 9:30am Coffee with Staff	4
5 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship 7:00pm VBS Planning @ Bethel	6 6:30pm LYO-Ditch Cleaning	7 9:30am Coffee with Staff 5:30pm Staff Meeting	8	9 7:00am Men's Breakfast-Fryn' Pan 9:00am Conference Meeting	10 LYO-Valley Fair 9:30am Coffee with Staff	11
12 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship	13	14 9:30am Coffee with Staff 7:00pm Council Meeting	15	16 7:00am Men's Breakfast-Fryn' Pan 6:30pm LYO Meeting (Luther Room)	17 9:30am Coffee with Staff	18
19 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship	20 7:00pm Book Club	21 9:30am Coffee with Staff	22 1:00pm 10th Grade Confirmation Students & Mentors Event (2608 180th Ave, Kent, MN (Steph Beyer's))	23 7:00am Men's Breakfast-Fryn' Pan	24 9:30am Coffee with Staff	25
26 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Fellowship	27	28 9:30am Coffee with Staff	29	30 7:00am Men's Breakfast-Fryn' Pan	Jul 1	2



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Breckenridge Lutheran Church

Located at 301 6th St N | Breckenridge, MN

Our Mission

Learning to be disciples and to make disciples,
Reaching out to witness and support our community,
Welcoming all to worship and serve Jesus Christ!

Worship Schedule

Worship Service—Sundays at 9:30 am | Fellowship at 10:30 am
Holy Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sunday



NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BRECKENRIDGE MN
PERMIT NO. 42