

BETHEL NEWS for the week of December 24, 2017



Merry
Christmas

This week @ Bethel

Today! Christmas Eve
10:15a coffee & fellowship
5p Candlelight Service

Monday Christmas Day (office closed)

Wednesday 10a-5p office open

Thursday 10a-5p office open

Saturday 6-9p WMM

Sunday New Year's Eve
9:00a worship
10:15a coffee & fellowship

Events are subject to change. For up-to-date calendar events, see our online calendar: <http://www.lpbethel.org>

Endowment Fund Grants

Endowment funds are available for a wide variety of grant requests. Application forms are located on the narthex table for anyone interested in applying for a grant. **The Endowment Committee members are:** Dick Kiekhaefer, Nancy Krull, Sally Krull, Tim Smith, and LuAnn Weisenburger. Completed applications can be put in the Endowment Committee mailbox. **Applications are due December 31.**

Secret Pal Sign-up

If you're looking for some **spiritual support**, some **surprises**, and some **sneakiness**-this is for you! **Any woman of any age is welcome.** We encourage you to remember your assigned Secret Pal from time to time during the year with a card, a note, or a small remembrance. It's not meant to be expensive or time consuming. Saying a little prayer for her and letting her know you are thinking of her is all it takes, (although, getting a little gift in your church mailbox is a lot of fun, too.) **Sign up on the bulletin board today** so that 2018 assignments can be made. **Questions?** Ask Judy Angvall or Jill Duncan.



Women of Faith

This event will take place at Bethel on **Saturday, January 6, 2018 from 10:00 am-12:00 pm.** A light brunch will be served (free will donation) with a brief **"Women of Faith"** testimonial from Cheryl Smith on her journey with Neurofibromatosis. At 10:30, following brunch, Jean Hallberg, Financial Representative, will be speaking on **"Financial Strategies for Women."** Women of all ages are welcome to attend. Please call the church to R.S.V.P. Childcare is available, please pre-register by the 3rd of January so we have enough volunteers to welcome your child.

Official Launch of Prayer Shawl Ministry

Through a Thrivent Action Grant, Bethel has stocked up on yarn to help launch a new ministry. **Prayer Shawls can be crafted by anyone in the community as a physical sign of comfort or blessing for those facing major life changes.** Shawl makers are invited to start each pattern with a prayer for whomever will eventually be receiving it. Throughout the entire process of making a shawl, blessings and prayers can be said for every stitch. When Pastor Aaron goes on hospital or home visits, he will deliver these prayer shawls as a sign of strength, comfort, solace, community, and God's constant presence in their lives. Yarn skeins can be signed out in groups of three for those interested in participating.

Bethel Book Club

The Turquoise Table by Kristin Schell

Are you consumed with a busy life but unsure how to slow down? Do you desire connection within your community and think, "Absolutely, but I don't have time for that" or "I can't create that"? What if there was another way through it all, a way to find those moments of peace and to create time for honest, comfortable connection? Desperate for a way to slow down and connect, Kristin Schell put an ordinary picnic table in her front yard, painted it turquoise, and began inviting friends and neighbors to join her. Life changed in her community and it can change in yours, too. There are two copies available in Bethel's library. **Discussion date: Wednesday, January 17, 7:15 pm at Bethel.**

Welcome to Bethel!

Worshipping together as the Children of God.

Christ has claimed all of us as children of God, we encourage children of ALL ages to participate in worship, each to their ability.

To our youngest worshippers: we believe children are not the future of the church: they are the church present! We welcome your wiggles, giggles, cries and curious bodies and voices. Parents: encourage your child to sing, clap, wiggle, drop coins in the offering, and receive communion. A [non-staffed] toy room is available just outside the sanctuary.

To our “young at heart”: we welcome your enthusiasm and voices, too! If hearing assistance is needed, see an usher for a device.

For all: we strive for worship that is intergenerational and welcoming to the whole body of Christ. Communion is served every Sunday. We invite all persons who seek God’s grace through the bread and wine to share this meal, regardless of age or denominational affiliation. You are welcome at Christ’s table! Grape juice and gluten-free options are available, too.

Bathrooms are located just outside the sanctuary. Fellowship Hour happens immediately after worship. Join us for coffee, treats and conversation! During the school year, children are invited into the basement for Sunday School. Communication cards are located on the back of the pews, we’d love to hear from you or leave your name and email in our guestbook!

Serving in December

Altar Guild: Jill Duncan

Lector: Nancy Krull

Usher: Steve Klobe

Greeter: Ron Foust

Thank
You

Committee Chairpersons

Altar Guild: Judy Angvall

jlangvall@yahoo.com; 320-395-2198

Lector: Cathy Houg

cathy.houg@gmail.com; 320-395-2759

Usher: Tim Smith

benson_lester@yahoo.com; 320-395-2755

Greeter: Ron Foust

rfoust@lesterbuildings.com; 612-201-2351

Lawn Mowing: Matt Krull

mkrull27@gmail.com; 320-224-8084

Easy online 2018 volunteer sign-up:

Go to www.lpbethel.org, click on **Worship**, and then **Worship Volunteer Sign Up**.

2018 Volunteer Sign up sheets

Volunteer opportunities are available for the coming year! Please, consider how you can **serve God by sharing your talents in 2018!** Sign up sheets are located on the bulletin board next to the offices. **No experience is necessary-there is always someone willing to help out and show you how!** Sign up alone, with someone else, or as a family! The group chairpersons are listed above and they are willing to answer any of your questions.

announcements due by Wednesdays @ noon~ newsletter items due by the 25th of the month

www.lpbethel.org ~ www.facebook.com/lpbethel ~ bethellutheranlp@gmail.com