

Vibrantly open to the Spirit, Bethel Lutheran Church serves God and its neighbors by joyfully living and sharing the Good News!

BETHEL NEWS for the week of December 31, 2017



This week @ Bethel

Today!	New Year's Eve 10:15a coffee & fellowship
Monday	New Year's Day (office closed)
Wednesday	10a-5p office open 5:30p worship & music mtg.
Thursday	10a-5p office open
Saturday	10a Women of Faith & Financial Strategies for Women 6-9p WMM
Sunday	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 TODAY.**

Save the date!

Our Annual Meeting is set for Sunday, January 28, 2018, following worship. Please, plan to attend this important meeting.

Women of Faith & Financial Strategies for Women

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.

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 ever 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. If you have questions or you are interested in signing out yarn speak to Pastor Aaron or Abbe.

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 you 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. Check Bethel's library for a copy of the book. **Discussion date: Wed., Jan. 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 January

Altar Guild: Diane Horsman

Lector: Jill Duncan

Usher: Volunteers needed

Greeter: Brian & Jill Duncan

*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