

February 2018

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Bethel Messenger

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

Pastor's message

When to Call the Pastor

One of my strongest memories of pastoral care growing up was when my Grandpa Bishop died. We got the unexpected phone call in the middle of the night, and by midmorning, my mother had called our pastor and he was in our living room listening to mom recall stories about her dad. Pastor Jon, had probably only met Grandpa Bishop a couple times when they came to visit us from Kansas, but he was the first person my mother called outside of family. His presence did not change the horrible fact that Grandpa was gone, but it made a world of difference for my family. I pray that God can use my presence to help be that difference for someone else in need.

As the society around us becomes more secular, the thought of calling a pastor tends to slip our mind. In tragic and stressful situations, one more phone call may be the last thing on your mind. But here are the times when it is more the OK (in fact highly encouraged) to call the pastor:

- If you or a family member are going to the hospital... Whether it is a routine visit or an emergency, time can be set up for pre-op prayer, or post-op visitation. Pastors are also willing to be in the waiting room for families who are stressed or simply need company.
- When 9-1-1 is involved... If something has happened that involves emergency units, first make sure you are safe for the moment, and then please call the pastor.
- If there has been a death in the family... whether or not the pastor knows the person it does not matter. Pastors can be there to help with the initial shock as well as lasting grief.
- When there is a new baby... Visiting a new baby in the hospital to say prayers of thanks and blessing might just be a favorite for most pastors.
- When you are having a question around faith, Scripture, or church... While not everything can be easily answered. Talking through questions with the pastor is greatly encouraged.
- When you are in need of confession... If something is troubling you, a time for individual confession and forgiveness can always be arranged. In most situations pastors are sworn to confidentiality (unless someone is in immediate danger)
- When you have a prayer concern... Prayers can be said over the phone, personal prayer and Sunday petitions can also be asked for.
- When you are going to be away or homebound for some time ... If you know that you are not going to make it to church for a while, pastors can plan a home visitation or two, including communion visits.

The list can go on, but hopefully this collection of suggestions will help you feel more comfortable calling.

A couple personal details for calling my cell:

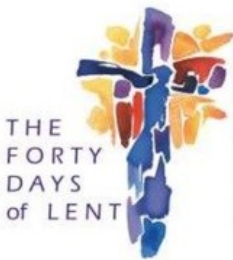
1. If I do not answer the first time, please leave a voice mail right away.
2. My voicemail (unless changed) will be the voice of Carl Kasell from *Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me!*, so do not be alarmed when it doesn't sound like me.
3. Texting is ok too- but please sign off with your name.
4. I have a "Do Not Disturb" set for night, but in real emergencies do not stop calling after the first missed attempt, it will come through and I will respond.

So please, add my number to your cell phone and feel free to set it to speed dial. I pray that you do not have to make this type of phone call any time soon, but if and when something happens, do not think twice about making that call.

Blessings,

-Rev. Aaron Holmgren

At the Annual meeting of Bethel Lutheran Church, held on Sunday, January 28, new members of the Church Council and Committee members were elected to fill the vacancies of those who have completed or vacated their terms.



“Women and Justice” Social Statement Draft is Out and Waiting for Feedback. The ELCA is currently working on a Social Statement concerning Women and Justice, which is set to be voted on at the 2019 National Gathering. Recently, a complete draft of the statement has been made available to be read and considered. We are all invited to participate in this important discussion and give feedback. Here at Bethel we will be organizing more formal group discussions in the coming months but individual thoughts and concerns are also welcome! The draft can be found by visiting <http://elca.org/womenandjustice> and following the proper links. Individual feedback is encouraged and can be given directly here: bit.ly/womenandjusticedraft. Let us prayerfully and intentionally join in this important work as we seek to be the church of the world.

Women's Bible study



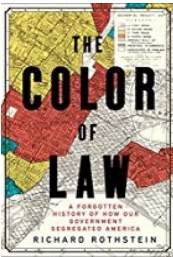
Our Women's Bible study will meet on the third Saturday of each month from 9:30 am-11:00 am. The next Bible study will be on **Saturday, February 17 at Bethel.**

Africa presentation-Sunday, February 18



Cathy Houg will present photos of her trip to Africa! A Pizza buffet from Unhinged Pizza will be included as part of the evening. **Free! Everyone of all ages is invited! Open to the community!** A Thrivent Action Team grant is supporting this presentation. **Call the church to RSVP.**

February Book club



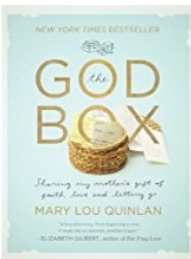
The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America

by Richard Rothstein

Discussion date: Wednesday, February 21 following the Lenten service

"Rothstein has presented what I consider to be the most forceful argument ever published on how federal, state, and local governments gave rise to and reinforced neighborhood segregation." —William Julius Wilson

March Book Club



The God Box: Sharing My Mother's Gift of Faith, Love, and Letting Go by Mary Lou Quinlan

Discussion date: Wednesday, March 21 following the Lenten service

"The God Box is a book that you will want to keep by your own bed with your own new God Box. Mary Lou Quinlan has told the story of her mother in a way that entertains, moves and inspires. The thoughts about life and values will stick with you forever." -Jim Lehrer, author and executive editor and former anchor of The PBS NewsHour

Two copies of the book will be available in Bethel's library soon!

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 the Prayer Shawl. 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. If you are interested or have questions speak to Pastor Aaron or Abbe.

Paper Drive-March 23-29



Items to be collected: newspaper, magazines, catalogs, phone books, office paper, processed food boxes, cardboard, junk mail, TP/Pt rolls, anything paper!

Please, NO string, ropes, or plastic bags around the paper! Pizza boxes with food will not be accepted. Please, flatten your cardboard.

Recycling may be brought to the truck in the parking lot anytime from March 23 through March 29. If you have questions please, call the office or Mary Lou Teubert at 952-467-2542.

Choir practice



The **Adult Choir** will practice at 6:00 pm on Wednesdays during Lent. All are welcome to join the choir!

Also, we are looking for people with musical knowledge to form a **Chimes Choir**. **We would like to play for Easter this year;** possibly on other occasions or it could become a regular event! Contact Jan Smith or the church office if you are interested!



GLLM Winter Retreat and Summer Camp

Good News, Good Brews

Green Lake Bible Camp, **February 9-11**, \$145 (Must be 21 to attend)

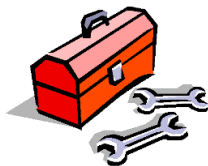
Join Pastor Reggie Klindworth and Dave Eliason as they share the Good News and walk you through the craft brewing process. **No matter the experience level, come join us for a great opportunity for crafting, conversation, and community.** Experience the brewing process from start to finish—you'll even go home with some of your own home brew!

Green Lake Lutheran Ministries Summer 2018

GLLM Summer Camp brochures and additional information is located in the narthex. Registration is open for Summer Camp for all ages. The **"Early Bird" discount** (\$30 off each registered program) applies to **registrations received before Feb. 16, 2018**. Contact Pastor Aaron with questions regarding camperships.



Bethel's Tool box



We have a tool box in the elevator room and we would *still* like to add these tools to the tool box:

- **20' tape measure**
- **Vice grip**
- **Medium to large wire cutter**
- **Flashlight**

If someone would like to donate any of these tools, please, give them to Tamie to check them off the list.

Thank you, Bethel Council

***Thank you to the volunteers who help maintain our church building and to those who have donated tools!**

"Where do your talents lie?"

To volunteer at Bethel go to www.lpbethel.org, click on Worship, and then Worship Volunteer Sign Up.

Or, if you prefer, sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board by the offices.

Please, help us fill up the 2018 directory with more Altar Guild & Usher volunteers!

Volunteers serving in February

Altar Guild: Nancy Krull

Ushers: Ron Foust & Pete Hallberg

Lector: Nancy Krull

Greeter: Katie Petersen & Dave Anderson

Thank you volunteers!

***Everybody
Can Be Great
Because Anybody
Can Serve...
You Only Need
A Heart Full
Of Grace.***

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Financial Corner

Bethel has **Simply Giving** (electronic giving) for making regular offerings. Contributions are debited automatically from your checking or savings account. **Our Simply Giving program offers convenience for you and much needed donation consistency for our congregation.**

Please, contact Lloyd Wortz, Financial Secretary, at 612-501-8770 or landcwortz@hotmail.com if you have any questions. An authorization form is available on the church office door. Return your completed form to the Financial Secretary mailbox.

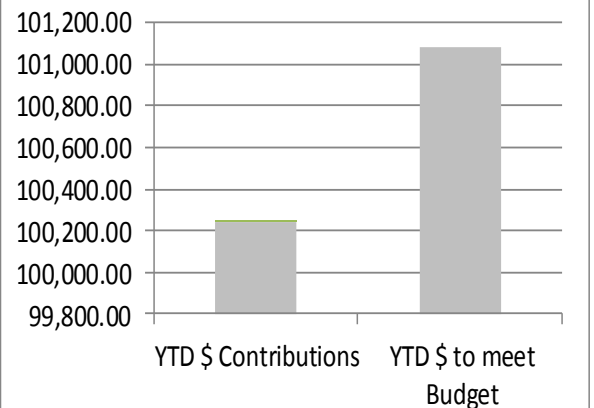


For the Month of December 2017

Attendance	416
\$ Contributions	12,184.75
\$ to meet Budget	8,423.06
\$ Difference	3,761.69

For the Year 2017

YTD \$ Contributions	100,237.74
YTD \$ to meet Budget	101,076.76
YTD \$ Difference	-839.02





BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Council Meeting Minutes –January 10, 2018 6:30 p.m.

Council Members attending the meeting included Pastor Aaron, Vice President Ron Foust, Secretary Jan Smith, Treasurer Andria Carlson, Financial Secretary Lloyd Wortz, Trustee Mary Lou Teubert, Finance Committee members Matt Krull and Bobbi Kadrie, and Education Board Rhianna Iverson and Stacy Meyer

Opening Prayer: Pastor Aaron opened the meeting with a selection from *More Contemporary Prayers* by Caryl Micklem

Council Business

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor has made 1 home visit and 2 communion visits. He has also attended one first call luncheon and the Crow River Conference meeting.
- There is a possibility of collaborative Lenten Services on the theme of the cross if a total of five area pastors can commit to sharing the pulpit in other churches during the five weeks of services following Ash Wednesday. If this does not work out, Bethel will have its own series of services based on the theme of the cross.
- Pastor informed the council of the new ELCA social statement "Women and Justice" which is still in the study-response stage in preparation for discussion at the 2019 ELCA Convention. He will talk about this with the congregation at an upcoming adult forum.
- Pastor Aaron explained that 1 of his continuing education topics is a pastor's choice and 1 continuing education topic the council should choose.
- A reminder of the upcoming Equipping Congregations Day in Willmar on February 10 was given and was accompanied by an encouraging explanation of the learning opportunities available that day.

New Business

1. Final Budget Proposal – A motion was made by Ron and seconded by Mary Lou to approve the proposed budget for 2018. Motion carried.
2. Endowment Fund Grant Recommendations: Representing the Endowment Committee, Sally explained the proposals the committee will present to the congregation at the annual meeting. A motion was made by Andria and seconded by Bobbi to approve the recommendations. Motion carried.

Old Business

- Nominating Committee Update – A motion was made by Ron and seconded by Rhianna to approve the nominations recommended on the ballot for 2018 to be presented and voted on at the annual meeting on January 28, 2018. The motion carried.

Secretary Minutes of the December Meeting- Motion made by Ron, seconded by Mary Lou to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report – Motion by Stacy, seconded by Mary Lou to approve the report. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary Report – Motion by Andria, seconded by Rhianna to approve the report. Motion carried.

Communications

- Installation of the New Council will be February 11th during worship.
- Outgoing council members - Nancy, Andria, Rhianna, Wayne, and Mary Lou – received words of gratitude and appreciation for sharing their time, talents, and enthusiasm for the mission of the Bethel congregation while serving diligently on the Bethel Church Council. Thank You!

Board Reports

1. Finance -The finance committee has been working on the 2018 budget and completing its end of the year report. They have also met with the insurance company and are looking at recommendations.
2. Education – One program has been completed and they are looking ahead to twelve weeks of New Testament lessons.
3. Trustees –Snow plowing plans are being made and the committee has been following up on some recommendations made by the insurance inspection. More EXIT signs are needed as well as four grounded outlets. The piano and organ were moved to leave full access to the exit door behind the organ.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and other prayer requests.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday, February 12, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10a-5p office	2 Groundhog Day	3 6-9p WMM
4 9a worship 10:15a coffee & fellowship, Sun. school, First Communion class	5 10a-5p office	6	7 10a-5p office <u>Noon bulletin deadline</u> 6:30p choir	8 10a-5p office	9	10 8:30a-3:30p Equipping Congregations Day 6-9p WMM
11 9a worship (Council Installation) 10:15a coffee & fellowship; Sun. school	12 10a-5p office 6:30p council	13	14 Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day 10a-5p office <u>Noon bulletin deadline</u> 5:30-7p supper 6p choir 7p Ash Wednesday service	15 10a-5p office	16	17 9:30a-11a Women's Bible study 6-9p WMM
18 9a worship 10:15a coffee & fellowship, Sun. school 4p Africa presentation	19 President's Day office closed	20	21 10a-5p office <u>Noon bulletin deadline</u> 6p choir 7p Lenten service 7:45p book club	22 10a-5p office	23	24 6-9p WMM
25 9a worship 10:15a coffee & fellowship, Sun. school 2:30p Crow River Conference mtg. & worship @ Bethel <u>Newsletter deadline</u>	26 10a-5p office	27	28 10a-5p office <u>Noon bulletin deadline</u> 5:30-7p supper 6p choir 7p Lenten service	1 10a-5p office	2	3 6-9p WMM

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We're on the web!

www.lpbethel.org

www.facebook.com/lpbethel

Happy Birthday!

2/2 Dave Huser
2/4 Peter Heuer
2/5 Vaydah Rathkamp
2/7 Carol Wortz
2/9 Judy Angvall
2/10 Jeff Breidenbach
2/14 Wayne Iverson
2/15 Brian Duncan
2/16 Derek Dobrava
2/18 Ramona Dobrava
2/21 Mitch Overbye
2/23 Bernie Hanson
2/26 Dan Romer

**Happy Baptism Day!**

2/13 Sonny Teubert
2/16 Lucas Dye
2/17 Peter Heuer
2/18 Shirley Weisenburger
2/20 Harold Severson
2/22 Iris Rognli
Sarah Bolf
2/23 Bernie Hanson
Tanner Iverson
2/26 Ramona Dobrava