

January 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

"There is nothing new under the sun." -Uplifting words from the ever optimistic teacher in Ecclesiastes. The larger quote reads like this:

"What has been is what will be,  
and what has been done is what will be done;  
there is nothing new under the sun.  
Is there a thing of which it is said,  
"See, this is new"?  
It has already been,  
in the ages before us."

In this past year there have been many moments where these seemingly pessimistic words have given me an odd sense of comfort. We live in a time where we are pulled in many directions. Some promise progress, others wish for the good old days, and with every event and with every decision alarmists will raise the warning cry driving us all to places of fear and distrust. However, as the teacher from Ecclesiastes makes clear, none of these things are truly new. Yes, they may be wrapped with a slightly different ribbon, but the problems remain inherently simple and straightforward; greed, jealousy, hubris, and love of power. None of these things are new. But where the hope lies, is that which also remains the same; God's love, mercy, grace, and truth. If we read God's story, we find time and time again, moments where oppression and injustice is shattered through God's intervention. As consistent as sin is in our lives, God's forgiveness and reconciliation remains evermore. At the end of another year, we look into an uncertain future. It may be easy to look at the new problems we face as a society and a world and lose all sense of hope. But here is where the teacher's pessimistic realism may be our trumpeting cry. Nothing new is new enough in the eyes of the Almighty to change the will of God. Whatever comes our way, in the year ahead, as new or as different as it may appear, the root and the solution will be as it has been in ages past. Love will defeat hatred, truth will ring out facilities, and grudges will give way to grace.

As Christians, looking back on the Resurrection as the final sign to us that even in death God's constant love and hope reigns supreme, we rest assured that nothing can be done to change God's plan for us. Knowing that God's love wins, as we move into a new year, we can ask ourselves honestly, will we act as agents of this consistent change that God brings about, carrying the everlasting hope to a weary world, or will we follow the next "new" shiny thing that leads to distraction or destructions. Neither option is new nor will either option ever truly change. And while we contemplate our place and our decisions knowing ultimately that we will at times fail just as we have ages before, I am grateful that God gave us the promise of salvation before this choice, it tends to make the decision far easier.

Glory to God in the Highest, For God has done and will forever do great things for God's good creation!

Blessings in the "New" Year,

Rev. Aaron Holmgren

## Mark your calendars for Sunday, January, 28!

The annual meeting of Bethel Lutheran Church will be held following the worship service on Sunday, January 28, 2018. We will elect various leadership positions for 2018 and set our budget. **Please plan to attend this very important meeting of the church.**

## 2018 Nominations

The Nominating committee is seeking nominations to replace a council member on the **Trustee Board for a 1 year term; two delegates, one male and one female, to go to the 2018 SW MN Synod Assembly, June 8 & 9; and one Audit committee member for a 3 year term. Also, Nominating committee members will be needed for next year.** Those interested may contact one of the following Nominating Committee Members: Eric Angvall, Andria Carlson, Ron Foust, Arla Huser, or Steve Klobe.

**A special thanks to outgoing council members:** Nancy Krull, Andria Carlson, Rhianna Iverson, Mary Lou Teubert and **outgoing committee members:** Sonny Teubert, Sally Krull, Carol Wortz, the Nominating committee members, and our 2017 Synod delegates: Carol & Lloyd Wortz.



## 2018 Directory updates

**Please, update the office with any changes** for the 2018 Church Directory by calling the office at 320-395-2125 or email [bethellutheranlp@gmail.com](mailto:bethellutheranlp@gmail.com). Thank you!



## 2018 Equipping Congregations Day



Mark your calendars! **Equipping Congregations Day is Saturday, February 10, 2018**, from 8:30 am-3:30 pm at Vinje Lutheran and Bethel Lutheran in Willmar, MN. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will be the keynote speaker for the day, speaking on the theme of *Everyday Reformers*. Our Southwestern Minnesota Synod Bishop, Rev. Jon V. Anderson, will share stories of everyday reformers in our SW MN Synod. He will reflect light toward some of the bright spots across our synod.

A list of workshop choices for the day are listed on the bulletin board, or, check out the full workshop list with descriptions on the website: [www.swmnelca.org/events](http://www.swmnelca.org/events). Sign up on the bulletin board to show your interest in this event! **All are welcome!**

## Choir practice

Choir practice will resume on Wednesday, January 10 from 6:00-6:30 pm, before the council meeting. All are welcome to join the choir!



## 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.

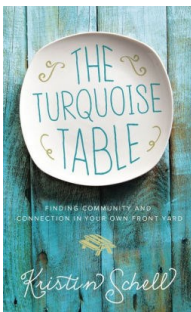


## Thrivent presentation



On **Saturday, January 6 beginning at 10:00 am**, our W/ELCA unit will be sponsoring a Thrivent presentation entitled "**Financial Strategies for Women.**" Our own Jean Hallberg will be the presenter. There will also be a brief "**Women of Faith**" testimonial from Cheryl Smith on her journey with Neurofibromatosis. A delicious brunch (free will donation) will be served. Child care will be provided-please pre-register by January 3 so we have enough volunteers to welcome your child. Women of all ages from our congregation and from the community are invited to attend and be a part of this special morning. Please contact the church office to R.S.V.P.

## January Book club



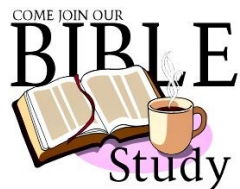
**The Turquoise Table** by Kristin Schell

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. Check Bethel's library for a copy of this book.

**Discussion date: Wed., Jan., 17 @ 7:15 pm at Bethel. All are welcome to join!**

## 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. **We hope to see you on Saturday the 20th of January!**



## Save the date! Sunday, February 18-Africa presentation

Cathy Houg will present photos of her trip to Africa! 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.



## Sunday school news



**Sunday school will resume on January 7.** We will continue to use the "Holy Moly" curriculum for another 12 lessons which will include stories of the New Testament: Jesus' miracles, Pentecost, and Paul and Silas. Class helpers are always welcome! Please, sign up on the white board in the narthex (hanging near the mailboxes) if you are interested in helping out!

## GLLM Winter Retreat and Summer Camp schedule

### Winter Middle School Retreat

**January 26, 6:30 pm-January 28, 12:00 pm.** Come to camp for this fun time of celebrating camp in the winter. We won't be swimming in the lake or basking in the sun, but we will have tubing, broomball, hot cocoa, campfires, warm food, games, singing and worship! Bring your friends and your winter gear. Come let God's love warm up our winter at camp! Register for retreats online at [www.gllm.org](http://www.gllm.org). Click register for camp, at the top, sign in, and select Family Camps and Retreats. Register details are also on p. 5 of the brochure.

### Green Lake Lutheran Ministries Summer 2018

GLLM brochures are located on the narthex table. 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.*



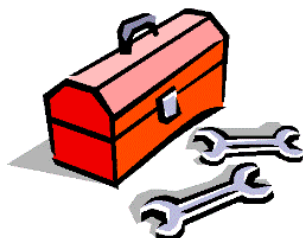
## Bethel's Tool box

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

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



**“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,  
serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”  
1 Peter 4:10**

## Volunteers serving in January

Altar Guild: Diane Horsman

Ushers: Can **YOU** help this month?

Lector: Jill Duncan

Greeter: Brian & Jill Duncan



## “Where do your talents lie?”

To volunteer at Bethel go to [www.lpbethel.org](http://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. Help us fill the directory with volunteers for 2018!



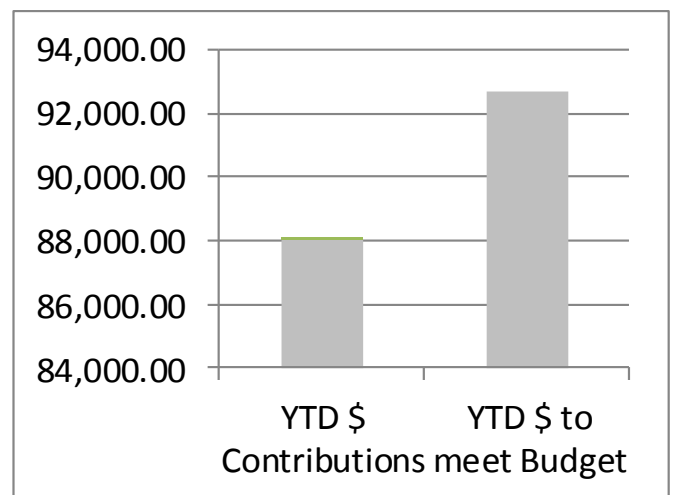
## Financial Corner

### Enjoy the convenience of electronic giving...

As Bethel prepares for a new year, it is important to know what support we can depend on from our congregation members. **By knowing what you are willing to commit financially, we are able to better plan for the future.** Please consider setting up a recurring giving plan. Automating your financial commitments means your contributions will be received on a steady, uninterrupted basis. If you have questions about our *Simply Giving* (electronic) plan please contact Lloyd Wertz, Financial Secretary, 612-501-8770 or [landcwertz@hotmail.com](mailto:landcwertz@hotmail.com).



<b>For the Month of November 2017</b>	
Attendance	275
\$ Contributions	9,795.25
\$ to meet Budget	8,423.06
\$ Difference	1,372.19
<b>For the Year 2017</b>	
YTD \$ Contributions	88,052.99
YTD \$ to meet Budget	92,653.66
YTD \$ Difference	-4,600.67





## BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Council Meeting Minutes – December 13, 2017 Following Advent Service – 7:45pm

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

#### Council Business

##### Pastor's Report:

- Pastor has made 4 communion visits and 1 hospital visit. He also led a service at St. Mary's in Winsted and attended a Task Force Luncheon, and the Crow River Conference monthly meeting. He and Pastor Al from Prairie Community Church planned and conducted the joint Thanksgiving service.
- The Crow River Conference Meeting will be held at Bethel on February 25 at 3:00pm.
- The next Crow River Monthly Meeting will be held March 13 and will focus on the topic of diversity.
- The conference goal for the Raise the Roof project was \$20,000. Currently a total of \$16,520 has been raised. However, it is expected that the goal will actually be reached when all donations are collected.
- Pastor received support for his request to purchase *Interpretation, New testament Series Set: a Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching* with funds from his continuing education budget.
- Pastor declared 2018 housing allowance at \$16,143.00.

#### Approval of New Members

A motion was made by Lloyd and seconded by Rhianna to approve Bob and Linda Haller, Katie Petersen and her children Luke and Max as members of the Bethel Lutheran Church. The motion carried.

#### Drainage project report/update - Tabled

#### New Business

1. Preliminary Budget Proposal – The finance committee gave an update of their work on the budget for 2018.
2. Dick Kiekhaefer presented Endowment Fund resolution information.
3. Narthex Ceiling Deflection Crack – A quote of \$6,249.12 has been proposed to repair the crack in the narthex ceiling.
4. Land west of the church – The actual street repair on Lincoln Avenue will be in 2019-2020. A couple of open forum will be held in December and January.
5. The Proposed agenda for the Annual Meeting was examined. A motion was made by Lloyd and seconded by Bobbi that the ceiling repair in the narthex and a discussion about the land west of the church will be added to the annual meeting agenda. Motion carried.
6. A motion was made by Matt and seconded by Lloyd that Tamie be compensated for extra time spent between November 9 and December 10 learning the new computer system. The motion passed. This will be paid out of council expenses.

#### Old Business

1. Nominating Committee Update – A motion was made by Lloyd and seconded by Mary Lou to present the nominating committee's proposed ballot at the annual meeting. The motion carried.
2. Annual Reports Due to Tamie as soon as possible.
3. Stewardship campaign Report – The stewardship campaign in November went well.
4. Consent agenda approval of November business (resignation, secretary minutes, treasurer report, financial secretary report) - Lloyd made a motion, seconded by Mary Lou to approve all November business reports due to the lack of a quorum at that meeting. Motion carried.

**Secretary Minutes of the November Meeting-** Motion made by Ron, seconded by Lloyd to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

**Treasurer Report** – Motion by Matt, seconded by Jan to approve the report. Motion carried.

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

#### Other Board Reports

1. Finance - Budget
2. Education – Practices are being held for the Sunday School Christmas Program. New Sunday School programs are being explored even though they have been very pleased with the current program.
3. Trustees – Wayne Iverson requested to resign from the Trustee Board immediately. A motion was made by Rhianna, seconded by Lloyd to accept Wayne's resignation. Motion carried.

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

**The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.**



**Bethel Lutheran Church, ELCA**

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**We're on the web!**

[www.lpbethel.org](http://www.lpbethel.org)

[www.facebook.com/lpbethel](https://www.facebook.com/lpbethel)

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

- 1/3 Shirley Weisenburger
- 1/4 Harold Severson
- 1/8 Kaylee Otto
- 1/10 Arla Huser  
Lloyd Wortz
- 1/15 Tom Gillespie
- 1/18 Clinton Halverson
- 1/19 Sonny Teubert  
Cheryl Smith
- 1/20 Jean Hallberg  
Tim Dye  
Logan Meyer
- 1/22 Aaron Holmgren
- 1/23 Cathy Houg  
Alexa Latzig
- 1/30 Emillie Fedie
- 1/31 Lloyd Weisenburger



**JANUARY, 2018**



**HAPPY**

**NEW**

**YEAR!**

**HAPPY BAPTISM DAY!**

- 1/1 Tom Gillespie
- 1/2 Judi Luehrs
- 1/6 Ron Foust
- 1/12 Dean Smith
- 1/17 Sam Raguse
- 1/21 Lloyd Wortz
- 1/22 Connor Radtke
- 1/24 Lachlynn Sawatzke
- 1/26 Riley Carlson
- 1/30 Emillie Fedie  
Alaina Fedie
- 1/31 Jean Hallberg

