



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

John 8:31-36 "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

November is Stewardship month here at Bethel, which is a great time to consider the spiritual practice of giving. So often in our hectic lives, we find ourselves accumulating a lot of stuff; often physical things that require maintenance, time, and energy. However, rather than finding peace and rest in our accrual of things, we find ourselves more stressed than ever. We become attached to our things, and we collect, more and more items that can be broken, lost, stolen, or damaged.

That being said, giving away money can feel like you are throwing away a parachute, or missing out on potential purchases in the future. This is when we realize how truly tied we are to our money. However when we hear from Christ that we are free indeed, we can start to think differently. The act of letting go of all this stuff which stresses us out, in order that it may be used by God, is an incredibly freeing experience. The spiritual practice of stewardship turns money and possessions from goals into tools, from life-demanding "ends" into life-affirming "means." Luther wrote about this type of freedom in his work *The Freedom of a Christian* saying;

Therefore, we should be guided in all our works by this one thought alone--that we may serve and benefit others in everything that is done, having nothing else before our eyes except the need and advantages of the neighbor...Here you have the true Christian life, one where faith is active in love (Gal. 5:6). It expresses itself joyfully and loving and results in the freest possible service. Satisfied with our own abundance of faith, we Christians serve the neighbor without any hope of reward.

This November we will be looking at the needs of our neighbors in four areas; Global, National, Local, and Personal. Each Sunday we will look at ways in which Bethel helps fund missions that support our neighbors both here and abroad. From helping our partners in the Umngeni Circuit fund a roof project, to creating welcome baskets for new Lester Prairie neighbors, this month will be a great opportunity to practice and consider your own spiritual practices around stewardship.

Inevitably the question will turn to "how much?" If "how much?" is a question you struggle with, here is what Abbe and I agreed to after we had that discussion. 10% of my salary goes back to the church using *Simply Giving*. After that we are currently using roughly 5% of Abbe's salary towards special ministry projects, other local charities and programs, as well as support for our alma mater. Each year we have increased our overall giving by roughly a percentage point and will continue to do that until we reach a full tithe (10% pre-taxed income).

If percentages are not your thing, here is another way to think about funding Bethel's ministry. Our budget for 2017 was 101,076.77. Assuming an average attendance of 50 people on a Sunday, with 52 weeks in a year, we could fund our entire mission (with a bit extra!) if everyone gave roughly \$39 a week, or just over \$2000 a year. Whether it's a full tithe or a set goal, the practice of stewardship can be a fulfilling and life-affirming part of everyone's spiritual formation.

At the end of November when Bethel Lutheran asks for pledge cards, I ask that you prayerfully consider this practice, embrace the freedom found in Christ, and help fund all the life-affirming ministries that God does and will do through Bethel.

Thank you.

Rev. Aaron Holmgren

Called to Thrive

Grace to you and peace, members of Bethel Lutheran Church. I'm writing to you as we enter November, our typical month for stewardship, with one question – Do you want to see Bethel Lutheran Church thrive or simply survive in 2018?

We are called as the body of Christ to spread the Good News of the gospel. As with the human body, there are many parts that all work together in combination to create something great, but it takes all the parts working together to make that happen.

I ask you to prayerfully consider what talents you can bring to Bethel in 2018 – can you serve on Council, volunteer with Sunday School, help with worship (altar guild, usher, reader, etc.), assist with building repair/maintenance? There is a varied list of opportunities to be a steward of God's church at Bethel. We literally have something for everyone.

In addition to your time and talents, what can you contribute to the financial health of our congregation? On a purely practical level, ask yourself, what you can give to ensure Bethel survives in 2018; but then prayerfully consider and challenge yourself by thinking about and acting upon the role you can play to help Bethel thrive in 2018.

It's very hard for an organization to thrive when a small percentage of its members make up the majority of the people participating in the weekly/monthly activities. It's also difficult for an organization to thrive when a significant portion of its budget is provided by small number of members. Where I work, we would call that a significant business risk. What happens if one of those member families moves away, leaves the congregation for some other reason or loses a portion of their personal income?

It takes money, time and talent to make a church run and I won't shy away from asking you to prayerfully consider the role you play at Bethel now and in its future. Challenge yourself to volunteer for two, three or even more activities, stretch yourself outside your comfort zone. There are lots of people willing to help. Make this your congregation by becoming or staying actively involved in 2018. *Nancy Krull, Council President*

Stewardship

November is Stewardship Month! This year we are focusing on how God's mission/ministry can be experienced Globally, Nationally, Locally, and Personally. Each week will lift up one small way that God works in all of these ways:

Global Sunday: We will **Raise the Roof!** Collecting funds for our partners in the Umngeni Circuit as they hope to finish building a community center, which will provide ministry for years to come.

National Sunday: We will focus on our ministry partners **Lutheran Disaster Response** and their work around hurricanes and wild fires.

Local Sunday: We will be collecting food for the **McLeod Emergency Food Shelf** as well as sharing a **Thanksgiving Worship Service** at Bethel with our UCC neighbors, in Lester Prairie, at **7:00 pm on Sunday, November 19.**

Personal Sunday: We will be creating **Welcome baskets** to help us all become personal evangelists as we welcome new people into our community. We will also be launching a **Prayer Shawl Ministry** as a way we can personally focus on God while supplying physical comfort for another person in need.

Women of the ELCA Information

- * **The Bethel Women of the ELCA will meet on Wednesday, November 1 at 7:15 pm at church to conduct business.** Any woman who is part of Bethel is welcome and encouraged to attend to share thoughts and ideas, ask questions, or just listen in on the planning process.
- * **The Secret Pal Reveal will be help on Saturday morning, December 2.** All those who have participated in the Secret Pal program this past year are invited to bring a small gift (not to exceed \$15 value) for her Secret Pal. We will end the morning by doing something fun together, with details still to be determined.

Raise the Roof



The Crow River Conference is working together to put a roof on the Bishopstowe Circuit Center, a building [near Pietermaritzburg, South Africa], which has been designed to meet many of the needs of our partners in the Umgeni (pronounced Oom-gay'-nee) Circuit (the term South Africans use instead of conference.) The walls have been erected on the center and donations have been pledged to support the plumbing and electrical work, finishing and inside fixtures. However, the roof has not been pledged and their project has halted. If every member of the Crow River Conference gave \$2, this great need could be met. \$20,000 is the goal needed to raise the roof. To learn more about the Raise the Roof project, check out the posted information in the narthex. **Sunday, November 5 there will be an opportunity to support this effort. Ice cream sundaes will be available for \$5.00 after worship. All proceeds will go toward the Raise the Roof fundraiser.**

Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response is the disaster response ministry of the ELCA. **Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world.**

Some key areas of work include:

- Providing emotional and spiritual care for people who have been affected by a disaster and for leaders who respond to a disaster.
- Coordinating volunteers through our local affiliates.
- Assisting refugees in a holistic way by meeting the various needs of the community.
- Promoting disaster risk-reduction by helping communities build their assets thereby reducing the effects of likely disasters.
- Providing long-term recovery efforts by addressing the unmet needs months or even years after disaster strikes.

Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support. Your gifts ensure that our church will be able to provide help and hope for those left homeless or otherwise affected by disasters for years to come.

Ways to Give:

- Online giving (<https://community.elca.org/lutherandisasterresponse>) is simple and secure.
- Become a Monthly Partner (<https://community.elca.org/monthlypartners>) and give automatic, monthly gifts in support of Lutheran Disaster Response.
- Mail your donation. Make checks payable to Lutheran Disaster Response (if designated to a specific disaster, please indicate in the memo line).

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 ELCA Gift Processing Center
 P.O. Box 1809
 Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

- Give by phone. Call 800-638-3522 to make a donation with a credit card. Operators are ready to assist you Monday through Friday, 8:00 am-5:00 pm Central Time.

Learn more on Sunday, November 12, after worship!

Christmas Shoeboxes

Our Women of the ELCA Unit is collecting donations of Christmas Shoeboxes for the Marie Sandvik Center in Minneapolis. Attached is the Christmas Shoebox Gift List that tells what should be included in each Shoebox for different age groups. **Each family is encouraged to collect items for at least one Shoebox. Please, return the Shoebox to church no later than Sunday, November 26.** (We have received a \$250.00 grant from Thrivent which will be used to purchase some of the larger items that are listed, not including the shoebox items.) Questions can be directed to Judy Angvall or Jill Duncan.

Christmas Shoebox Gift List

*Please, **no** food or candy, clothing, violent or occult toys or books. Standard size shoe boxes only.

Newborn–1 year old: pacifier, baby nail clipper, comb, hairbrush, hat, baby mittens, small fleece blankets, small baby toys, socks, baby soap

2-3 year olds: fluoride free toothpaste, child's toothbrush, brush/comb, socks, small stuffed animal/toy, Bible story books

4-7 year olds: toothpaste, youth size toothbrush, socks, brush/comb, coloring books, crayons, Bible or Bible story books

8-12 year olds: toothpaste, toothbrush, socks, brush/comb, markers, crayons, coloring/activity book, Bible or Bible story books

Teen Boys: toothpaste, toothbrush, socks, brush/comb, lotion, cologne, deodorant, dental floss, card game, pens, notepad, Bible

Teen Girls: toothpaste, toothbrush, socks, brush/comb, lotion, perfume, deodorant, dental floss, card game, pens, notepad, Bible

Women: toothpaste, toothbrush, socks, brush/comb, lotion, perfume, deodorant, dental floss, small gift, pens, notepad, Bible, thread & needles, travel size Kleenex

Men: toothpaste, toothbrush, socks, brush/comb, lotion, cologne, deodorant, dental floss, razor, shaving cream, travel size Kleenex, card game, pens, notepad, Bible

Additional Needs for Christmas: large toy items for White Bag Christmas party for Kid's Club attendees, board games, basketballs, footballs, fleece blankets, trucks, modest dolls, play dough, Pet Shops, drawing/art supplies, Bibles. Please avoid super heroes, Disney characters, and evil looking toys.

November Food Collection

We will be collecting donations of food for the McLeod Emergency Food Shelf **Sunday, November 5 through the evening Thanksgiving Celebration service, on Sunday November 19. Shopping bags, with a list of most needed items, will be stapled to each bag.** Again, this year the **challenge is to match or surpass the \$250.00 received from a Thrivent Action Grant.**



McLeod County Giving Tree Project

We will be participating in the McLeod County Giving Tree project in November. We will receive gift requests from families that need help providing Christmas gifts for their children. This effort helps to fulfill the wishes of the children in our county who may not otherwise have the opportunity to experience the feeling of receiving Christmas gifts. Watch for the *Giving Tree*, with the gift request tags in the narthex. **Please, bring your unwrapped gifts to church by December 10.** We also have a Thrivent Action Grant for this project.



Serving in November

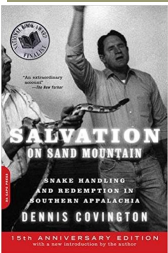
- ALTAR GUILD:** Tamie Foust, Jenna Pariseau, Heather Heuer
- USHERS:** Brian & Jill Duncan (**ushers are needed for December**)
- LECTOR:** Ron Foust
- GREETER:** Mary Lou Teubert



Easy online Volunteer sign-up for 2017-2018

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

November Book Club selection



Salvation on Sand Mountain: Snake Handling and Redemption in Southern Appalachia by Dennis Covington

A true story how a journalist sent to report on a murder trial gets caught up in the spiritual lives of a secluded religious sect.

Discussion date: Wednesday, November 15 @ 7:15 pm; 36 Fir St. N., LP

Check Bethel's library for copies of the book!

Christmas card making class

All are invited to make Christmas cards on **Thursday, November 9 from 6:30-9:00 pm**. Contact Katie Overbye if you have questions or you are interested in joining the class.



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:

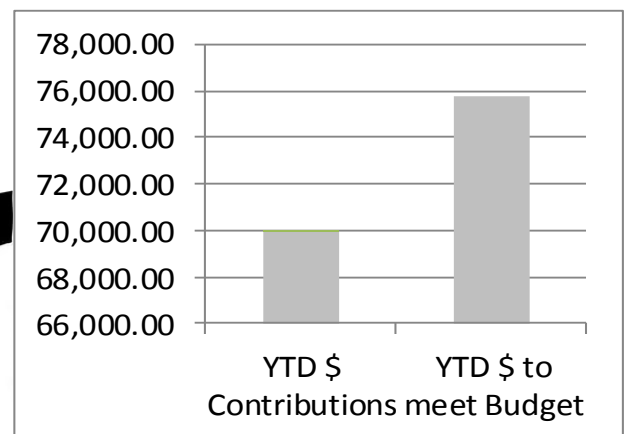
- 20' tape measure
- Needle nose plier
- Assortment of screw drivers
- Allen wrenches
- Vice grip
- Medium to large wire cutter
- Duct tape
- Flashlight



If someone would like to donate any of these tools, give them to Tamie to check them off the list. *Thank you, Bethel Council*

Financial corner...

For the Month of September 2017	
Attendance	237
\$ Contributions	7,037.42
\$ to meet Budget	8,423.06
\$ Difference	-1,385.64
For the Year 2017	
YTD \$ Contributions	69,967.74
YTD \$ to meet Budget	75,807.54
YTD \$ Difference	-5,839.80



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Council Meeting Minutes - October 11, 2017

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

Opening Prayer— Pastor Aaron opened with a meditation by William Barkley.

Council Business

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor has made 5 visits, he led one worship at St. Mary's Care Center, and he has started confirmation again this fall.
- He attended the Fall Theological Conference of the SWMN ELCA Synod. The theme of the conference was Equipping Disciples to Communicate in God's Ongoing Reformation and focused on communicating and relevant preaching.
- He reminded council members going off the council to plan to give Temple Talks to clarify their council roles as an educational opportunity for congregational members that may not know about how the council functions.

New Business

- * Reports from each church committee for the annual report should be turned in to Tamie by December 1st unless the report must include financial information through the month of December.
- * A motion was made by Lloyd and seconded by Ron to have the Annual Meeting January 28, 2018 following the worship service, with a congregational pot luck dinner to follow the meeting. Motion carried.
- * A motion was made by Lloyd and seconded by Andria to purchase holiday gifts for Bethel employees. Motion carried.
- * Ron made a motion to send Tamie and any other interested person from Bethel for training in QuickBooks so a manual could be created with directions to steps in using the QuickBooks program tailored to meet Bethel's needs. Andria seconded the motion that carried.

Old Business

- * Water Drainage Project – The council has gathered bids for various projects to address the water drainage problem on the church property. This includes items such as the parking lot surface, water leakage in the church, blocked rain gutters and drainage concerns, as well as possible landscaping solutions. With this preliminary work done, it was decided that a committee was needed to drive the project forward with a project manager in place to lead the committee to hopefully bring a plan to fruition in a timely manner. A request for an individual to volunteer to lead the project will be made during the worship service on October 15th.
- * Council nominations for 2018 – Ron will notify the nominating committee members of the need to begin the process and temple talks will be given by individuals in council positions needing to be filled.
- * The Bethel Lutheran Church Banner was purchased for the school gym as planned. The total cost was \$400.00

Secretary Minutes of the September Meeting- Motion made by Ron, seconded by Stacy to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

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

Financial Secretary Report – Motion by Matt, seconded by Stacy to approve the report. Motion carried.

Other Board Reports

- * Finance – The budget for 2018 is in the planning stage. They committee met with an insurance representative as renewal is due in November.
- * Sunday School is going great with many volunteers.
- * Trustees – The speakers have been fixed in the toy room and by the coffee maker. The elevator room was well organized on Blue Jean Sunday and the tool box has been cleaned and organized. A "essential needs" list of tools for the toolbox has been made and those will be filled.

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



November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10a Bible Study 11a-5p office *Noon bulletin deadline 6:30p choir 7:15p W/ELCA	2	3	4 6-9p Worldwide Mission Movement
5 <i>All Saints Sunday</i> 9a worship 10:15a coffee & fellowship; Raise the Roof Sundaes; Food drive begins	6 11a-5p office	7	8 10a Bible Study 11a-5p office *Noon bulletin deadline 6:30p council	9 11a-5p office 6:30-9p card making class	10 <i>Martin Luther's birthday, 1483 Veteran's Day (observed)</i>	11 6-9p WMM
12 9a worship 10:15a coffee & fellowship; watch Lutheran Disaster Response video	13 11a-5p office	14	15 10a Bible Study 11a-5p office *Noon bulletin deadline 6:30p choir 7:15p book club	16 11a-5p office	17	18 6-9p WMM
19 9:00a worship 10:15a coffee & fellowship 7p Thanksgiving Worship Service; Food drive ends	20 11a-5p office	21	22 10a Bible Study 11a-5p office *Noon bulletin deadline 6:30p choir	23 office closed <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	24	25 6-9p WMM *Newsletter deadline
26 <i>Christ the King</i> 9a worship 10:15a coffee & fellowship	27 11a-5p office	28	29 10a Bible Study 11a-5p office *Noon bulletin deadline 5:30p worship & music mtg. 6:30p choir	30 11a-5p office	1	2 Secret Pal Reveal 6-9p WMM

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

Bethel Lutheran Church, ELCA

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pastor@lpbethel.org

We're on the web!

www.lpbethel.org

www.facebook.com/lpbethel

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

11/1 Steve Larson
Nicole Jaeger
Dean Smith
11/2 Lachlynn Sawatzke
11/3 Gary Schott
Maren Buss
11/8 Jared Kadrie
11/9 Sam Raguse
11/12 Laura Grunloh
11/14 Jeremy Radtke
11/19 Lucas Dye
11/21 Hunter Schroeder
11/22 Judi Luehrs
11/24 Nancy Krull
Sarah Walstrom

NOVEMBER

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5**

**HAPPY BAPTISM DAY!**

11/2 Jan Smith
11/8 Dick Kiekhaefer
11/18 Kristie Collins
11/19 Kathy Ekdahl
11/20 Ron Larson
Colton Iverson
11/22 Cheryl Smith
11/23 Zander Goodin
11/26 Connor Meyer
11/27 Adeline Jenkins
11/30 Nicole Jaeger

