

BETHEL MESSENGER



Bethel Lutheran Church Newsletter

February 2022

From the pastor's desk

Luke 21:29-31 Then [Jesus] told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

Siblings in Christ,

Looking back at the February 2020 newsletter, I was struck by how much my article spoke about normalcy and "ordinary" time and was an invitation to find God in the everyday parts of our lives. Little did we know what was soon on the horizon. I hesitate to look too far ahead, but this February, I am optimistic for the near future. With the Omicron wave steadily receding, vaccines for children under five nearing approval, and the general lengthening of sunlight in a day, finding signs of new life and hope is hard to ignore.

In this text, from the Gospel of Luke, Jesus is teaching the disciples about the "coming of the Son of Man"-essentially what we consider the end of time. Jesus' invitation to watch for the coming of sprouts before his more explicit call to be "on guard" and "be alert" so that our hearts are not heavy and that day does not come upon us unexpectedly. After the two years we have been through, I hear this text with new ears and see these invitations as a reason to always watch with hope, no matter how bleak the surroundings may seem. This is a gift of hope and empowerment to embrace change and seek the Kingdom.

Looking forward as we see signs of new life, we have every reason to know that summer is already near. Not in the sense of the end of all time (though that may be the case) but that God's grace makes all things new, and as we continue through this time and this place, we have that same expectation of readiness. A readiness to serve, to practice the faith so that our lights remain bright (trimmed and burning), and a readiness that prepares us for whatever new things are in store.

I hope you are feeling ready to engage in what may come in the new adventures and steadfast traditions that wait just on the horizon.

We consider the lilies, watch for fig sprouts, we rejoice in the harvest.

Blessings on the road ahead,
-Pr. Aaron



Mission and Ministries

The greatest among you will be your servant. Matthew 23:11

Driving Away Hunger is designed to reduce transportation and mobility issues associated with food access in our communities.

The Mobile Outreach winter distribution is pre-order only. The bus will be delivering pre-packed orders to designated stops in each city listed on the flyer [on Bethel's bulletin board.]

The bus will have some "emergency food for those new to the program/process as well as information about the Glencoe and Hutchinson sites for complete grocery options. Ordering options are available online at www.mcleodemergencyfoodshel.org/mobile-outreach. Grocery orders for the upcoming month will also be available on the bus.

Sunday, February 27 is WELCA Thankoffering Sunday. Bethel Women of the ELCA will participate in the morning worship and a special offering will be taken to benefit the Churchwide WELCA organization. Thank you in advance for your generous gifts.



A **Lenten Supper** will be served at church on Ash Wednesday, March 2, beginning at 5:00 pm. The menu includes homemade chili and hotdogs! Join us before worship for some nourishment and warm fellowship while supporting both WELCA and the youth of our congregation with your freewill offering. **Ash Wednesday worship begins at 6:30 pm.**

Lenten Mission Project: "Donating to Make a Difference"

benefiting the Marie Sandvik Center in Minneapolis. At this time, the center has indicated a need for the following items: lotion, deodorant, shampoo and conditioner (small sizes for backpacks), baby diapers in sizes 4, 5, 6, and small packs of diaper wipes. Donations of these items will be accepted at Bethel during the Lenten season-Ash Wednesday, March 2 through Palm Sunday, April 10. Monetary donations, marked with MSC, will be used to purchase additional items or given directly to MSC for other needs. Visit their website at mariesandvikcenter.org to read more about this important ministry to those living on the streets or see what other kinds of items are needed. Thank you for working together to care for others in need!



**Mobile Outreach
Bethel Lutheran
Church location
schedule: Thursday
1:30 pm-4:00 pm**

February 10

March 10

April 14



Donate by mail, on-site or online between February 28-April 10, 2022. *All donations collected during the campaign are multiplied by the Food Fund.*

Locations & hours: 719 13th ST E Glencoe 55336 and 498 Hwy 7 E Hutchinson 55350; Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 8:00 am-1:00 pm and Thursday 3:00 pm-8:00 pm.

Donations needed most: whole grains, nuts and nut butters, canned meats, cooking and baking items, meal side dish items, personal care items, household care items, cash for purchasing perishables such as eggs, cheese, and fresh produce. Thank you!

www.mcleodemergencyfoodshelf.org

Anti-racist activity - February 2022

Talks at the Desk

This month, for our anti-racist activity, I invite you to participate in the larger ELCA's project "Talks at the Desk." Being Black History Month, the ELCA's African Descent Ministries is putting together a video series with new episodes each Wednesday holding conversations around diverse expressions of church. Each video comes with discussion prompts and questions to help deepen the conversation.

Here is a link to the ELCA page describing the project: <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Ethnic-Specific-and-Multicultural-Ministries/African-Descent>

Here is the link to the first full length Wednesday video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZwEElhDo3dw>

And here is the link to the first discussion guide: https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Talks_at_the_Desk-Black_Girls_are_Magic-discussion_guide.pdf?ga=2.259130122.1205200583.1644088882-1573616440.1568126501

If you are interested in bringing these discussions into the congregation through an adult forum after worship or simply chatting with me someday after watching the video, please reach out, and keep the conversation going.

Blessings on the Holy Learning,
Pr. Aaron



Save the date!



The **Mid Minnesota Concert Band** will be at Bethel on Sunday, February 20, for a 12:30 pm concert. You won't want to miss their lively, entertaining music! Bethel Women of the ELCA will serve brunch beforehand from 10:30 am to noon. Menu includes an egg bake and a French toast bake, muffins, assorted fruit, and beverages. A freewill offering will be taken for each event. Plan now to attend and invite a friend or two to join you!



Family Game Night is back! Join us on Sunday, March 20 at 5:00 pm for a light supper and lots of games! Bring the whole family, a snack and game to share. There might even be a prize giveaway!



Join us for a **Bethel Camping weekend** June 24-26, 2022, at Baylor Park! The cost for the weekend is \$68.00. Reservations are required soon! Contact Jill Duncan at 320-420-6284 if you would like to join in the fun!



Put it on your calendar NOW! **Bethel Women's Retreat at GLLM Medayto Lodge** the weekend of September 16-18, 2022. Plan to join in the fellowship and fun!

Bethel Book Club

February-Winter Garden by Kristin Hannah

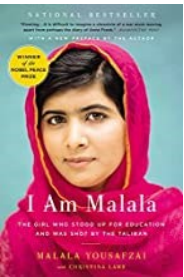
Discussion: Wednesday, Feb. 16, 6:30 pm at church



Mesmerizing from the first page to the last, Kristin Hannah's *Winter Garden* is one woman's sweeping, heart-breaking story of love, loss, and redemption. At once an epic love story set in World War II Russia and an intimate portrait of contemporary mothers and daughters poised at the crossroads of their lives, it explores the heartbreak of war, the cost of survival and the ultimate triumph of the human spirit. It is a novel that will haunt the reader long after the last page is turned.

March-I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and was Shot by the Taliban by Christina Lamb and Malala Yousafzai

Discussion: Wednesday, Mar. 16, at church following the Lenten service.



"I come from a country that was created at midnight. When I almost died it was just after midday."

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education.

On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive.

Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she became a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize.

I AM MALALA is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls' education, of a father who, himself a school owner, championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons.

I AM MALALA will make you believe in the power of one person's voice to inspire change in the world.



February Baptism Days



- 9 Colton H.
- 13 Sonny T.
- 17 Peter H.
- 18 Shirley W.
- 18 Emily K.
- 22 Iris R.
- 22 Sarah G.
- 23 Bernie H.
- 26 Mona D.

February Birthdays

- 2 Dave Hu.
- 4 Peter H.
- 5 Vaydah R.
- 7 Carol W.
- 9 Judy A.
- 10 Jeff B.
- 14 Joanna H.
- 15 Brian D.
- 16 Derek D.
- 18 Mona D.
- 21 Mitch O.
- 23 Bernie H.
- 26 Dan R.



February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 4:15p Bible study (Zoom) 6:30p WELCA	3	4	5 6p Remanente Escogido USA
6 9a worship 10a Sunday school 10:15a confirmation	7 8:30a-9a <i>Dwelling in the Word (Zoom)</i> 6:30p council meeting	8	9 4:15p Bible study (Zoom)	10 1:30-4p MEFS Mobile Outreach	11	12 6p Remanente Escogido USA
13 9a worship 10a Sunday school 11a baptism	14 8:30a-9a <i>Dwelling in the Word (Zoom)</i> <i>St. Valentine's Day</i>	15	16 4:15p Bible study (Zoom) 5:30p worship & music meeting 6:30p book club	17	18	19 6p Remanente Escogido USA
20 9a praise worship, 10a Sunday school, 10:30a-noon Brunch, 10:15a confirmation, 12:30p Mid-MN Concert Band	21 8:30a-9a <i>Dwelling in the Word (Zoom)</i> <i>President's Day</i>	22	23 4:15p Bible study (Zoom)	24	25 <i>Newsletter deadline</i>	26 Crafting Day 6p Remanente Escogido USA
27 9a worship (WELCA Thankoffering) 10a Sunday school	28 8:30a-9a <i>Dwelling in the Word (Zoom)</i> 6:30p WELCA meeting	1	2 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 4:15p Bible study (Zoom) 5p Lenten supper 6:30p worship	3	4	5 6p Remanente Escogido USA

- **Worship 9:00 am**, (*Masks are required for unvaccinated people and strongly recommended for vaccinated people, masks are required to attend Sunday school.*)
- **Online worship:** <https://www.facebook.com/lpbethel/live> or <https://www.lpbethel.org/worship/watch-Sunday-livestream/>
- **Worship CDs** are available. (Contact the church office if you would like one sent to you.)
- **Bulletin submissions are due by noon on Wednesdays.** **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE is the 25th of the month.**
- For the **most up-to-date calendar version** go to www.lpbethel.org, *Contact Us, Member Directory*, then enter the password. (Contact the church office if you need the password.)
- **Seeking volunteers!** Sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office or go to www.lpbethel.org, click on *Worship*, and then click *Worship Volunteer Sign-up!* Sign up for a month or be a substitute! *Experienced volunteers will be glad to help!*

The National Lutheran Choir Winter Concert: Touch the Earth Lightly



Join the National Lutheran Choir on Sunday, February 20 for a program of music and hymns celebrating creation and the call to be stewards of the earth. The concert will feature guest conductors, Tom Trenney and NLC's tenor section leader, Shaun Halland alongside artistic director, David Cherwien at the organ.

Tickets may be purchased online at [NLCA.com](https://www.nlca.com). Masks and proof of vaccination are required.

1215 Roselawn Ave. W., Roseville, MN 55113

3 convenient ways to give

1. Simply Giving

Use *Simply Giving* for making regular offerings—contributions are debited automatically from your checking or savings account. **Simply Giving offers convenience for you and much need donation consistency for our congregation.** No more checks or envelopes! And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis. Contact the church office for an application or go online at www.lpbethel.org under Give. Return completed applications to: Stacy Meyer, 1012 Bluestem LN, Lester Prairie, MN 55354 or the Fin. Sec. mailbox.

2. Text + Give

Give in seconds with a text message. Text giving is fast, easy and versatile. Give in the moment, make your weekly offering or respond to special appeals—all in a matter of seconds. Easy card registration on your phone. Option to make your gifts recurring. To give, text the dollar amount to **866-298-7547**.

3. Bethel offering envelope

Offering envelopes are available—contact the church office if you would like offering envelopes mailed to you. We ask that you completely fill out the front of the envelope, *including your assigned envelope number*—contact the office if you have forgotten your number, and mail it to Bethel Lutheran Church, PO Box 207, Lester Prairie, MN 55354. Any further questions can be directed to the Financial Secretary, Stacy Meyer at 320-395-2869 or finsec@lpbethel.org.



For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have.

2 Cor 8:12



March 2, 6:30 pm

Lenten worship

Holden Evening Prayer

Mar. 9, 16, 23, 30,

Apr. 6, 6:30 pm

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH – Council Meeting Minutes–Monday, January 10, 2022

Council Members Present: President: Ron Foust; Vice President: Peggy Wick; Secretary: Cathy Houg; Treasurer: Matt Krull; Financial Secretary: Stacy Meyer; Finance Board: Lloyd Wortz; Pastor: Aaron Holmgren.

Call to Order: President Ron Foust called the meeting to order.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Aaron Holmgren opened the meeting with prayer.

Council Business:

1. A **motion** was made by Cathy Houg and seconded by Stacy Meyer to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
2. **Pastor's Report:** Since our last meeting, the Advent season has been completed. A Blue Christmas service was held in addition to a Christmas Eve service. Confirmation began on the first Sunday in Jan.

Old Business:

1. In consultation with the lawyer, the forms have been completed regarding the Boy Scouts of America Bankruptcy.
2. The nominating committee continues to work on finding candidates to fill vacant positions.
3. A **motion** was made by Lloyd Wortz and seconded by Matt Krull to accept the 2022 budget proposal with the changes discussed. Motion carried.

New Business:

1. A **motion** was made by Cathy Houg and seconded by Stacy Meyer to accept the resignation of Danise Klumb, Education Board. Motion carried.
2. The council reviewed the Endowment Committee Grant proposals.
3. The council was reminded that the next meeting will be held on February 7th at 6:30 p.m.

Secretary Minutes:

A **motion** was made by Ron Foust and seconded by Lloyd Wortz to accept the secretary's report. Motion carried.

Treasurer Reports:

A **motion** was made by Cathy Houg and seconded by Stacy Meyer to accept the treasurer's report as written. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary Report:

A **motion** was made by Lloyd Wortz and seconded by Cathy Houg to accept the report as written. Motion carried.

Education Board Report:

No report given.

Finance Board Report:

The end-of-year reports and forms have been completed. A grant has been received from the Denver Foundation.

Trustee Report:

A CO Detector has been replaced in the basement.

Communications:

1. Annual Reports are due to Tamie Foust, church secretary.
2. Bethel Church Council Installation will be on Sunday, February 6, 2022.
3. Thank You to the outgoing Council members: Peggy Wick, Matt Krull, Lloyd Wortz, Katie Anderson, and Mitch Overbye.

The meeting closed with Round Table Prayers and the Lord's Prayer.

The next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, February 7, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Cathy Houg, Council Secretary

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www.lpbethel.org
www.facebook.com/lpbethel

-Mission Statement of Bethel Lutheran Church

*Vibrantly open to the spirit, Bethel Lutheran Church
seeks to serve God and its neighbors
by joyfully living into the good news of Jesus Christ.*

Bethel Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 207
Lester Prairie, MN 55354



PLACE
STAMP
HERE