

BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel Lutheran Church Newsletter

March 2022

From the pastor's desk

The Lord passed before [Moses], and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,
- Exodus 34:6

So we have entered Lent once more, and with each new season of the church year, there is an opportunity to reflect on our faith journeys and take inventory of the many gifts which God has given us. This year, the third Lenten season since the start of a global pandemic, I am grateful that we have opportunities to safely gather in the sanctuary and fellowship, without much fear of creating a considerable burden on the health system or being a danger to our neighbors. That said, I am grateful for the patience and grace which this community has demonstrated at large as we have navigated this time of stress, sickness, and potential disagreement. While some decisions made in compliance with recommendations from the CDC or MDH were (and perhaps still are) burdensome or big asks, you have persevered with understanding and care.

This Lent will still feel different as the absence of beloved siblings weighs heavy on this community, and the fog of the pandemic is still there, but it will be exciting to move through this season once more with all of you. While Advent is still my favorite, Lent has grown on me. Perhaps the two years of disjointed, different Lenten seasons have made me appreciate this time of year and its themes a little more. We are humbled and our human expectations are unrealistic and unreliable, so in Lent, we turn to the Lord and devote ourselves anew to God's never-ending work of grace.

I have sometimes associated Lent with a more subdued or almost macabre atmosphere. This year I am excited to focus on the unwavering characteristics of our loving God. Each Wednesday night, we will consider a trait of God revealed to us in our story of salvation. As we contemplate our place within this story, we can learn to better equip ourselves with the gifts that God has given. The characteristics of God that we will be diving into pulled in large part from this verse in Exodus, one of the most quoted texts in all of Scripture. Love, compassion, mercy, forgiveness, and faithfulness are all demonstrated to us in the work of God, and so we dedicate our time to this work of learning and worship.

We will once again share meals, laugh around tables together, learn amongst neighbors, and sing vespers in our community. Will I or others still have a mask on from time to time? Probably. Will some still choose to worship through the live streams? Most definitely. Will God's grace and glory be diminished or cease during this Lenten time of change, learning, and continued worship? Never.

Thanks be to God for God's steadfast love and faithfulness, for that alone is always enough.

Your Sibling In Christ,
-Pr. Aaron Holmgren



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.



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

March 10

April 14

The Mid MN Concert Band performed a lively and entertaining concert at Bethel on Sunday, Feb. 20. Brunch served beforehand was delicious, and proceeds will help support WELCA!

Thank you to those who attended the brunch and concert! We are thankful to the Mid MN Concert Band for their talents!



Donate by mail, on-site or online until 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 Thurs. 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.mcleodemergencyfoodshel.org

Lenten Supper will be served at church on March 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6, beginning at 5:00 pm. Join us before worship for some nourishment and warm fellowship while supporting both WELCA and the youth of our congregation with your freewill offering.

Lenten 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!

Anti-racist activity-March 2022



The anti-racist activity may seem a little off subject this month, yet I hope this resource bears fruit worthy of our repentance.

Two of my colleagues from the ELCA have a podcast called *Nerds at Church* in which they put the texts from the Revised Common Lectionary into conversation with all things nerdy (think Star Trek, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, etc.). In their episode for Ash Wednesday, they had Aubrey Thonvold as a guest. Thonvold is the Executive Director of ReconcilingWorks, a Lutheran affiliated project that supports LGBTQIA+ people and faith and their families.

In their discussion around becoming a welcoming/reconciling congregation, they discussed the difficulties of such a practice. This conversation focused on LGBTQIA+ communities could be had about any minority or marginalized community, especially when the podcast discusses building “muscle memory” around acts of welcoming and having hard conversations (~18:00).

This podcast is a great place to start a conversation around works of reconciliation and repentance-two major themes of Lent, as well as major tools for anti-racist work.

If you like the podcast, I encourage your to subscribe, share, review, and listen along to each weekly discussion. The podcasts have brought new perspectives and insights to me, and you may like them too.

The podcast episode “Ash Wednesday Year C” can be found here: <https://anchor.fm/nerdsatchurch/episodes/Ash-Wednesday-Year-C-e1erf52/a-a7fhsu7> Or any place you listen to your podcasts.

Save the date!



Ukrainian Egg decorating classes, *Sunday, March 20, 10:30 am-12:30 pm and 1:00 pm-3:00 pm.* All are welcome to come! Kids under 12 will need to be accompanied by an adult. Questions? Contact Roxanne Simonds.



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!

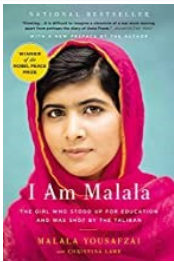
Spring Fever Youth Retreat, *April 29-May 1* | Grades 2-6 | Fee \$140



Are you getting the itch for summer? This is the retreat for you! Come join us in a weekend full of Bible studies, games, arts and crafts, worships, campfires and more. This retreat is great for new campers who want to give camp a try before doing a full week. Sign up today and get ready for some fun! The registration deadline is April 22! More information online at www.gllm.org/summer-camp

Bethel ladies and friends, 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



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, March 16, 7:15 pm

"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.

The Book Club will not meet in April and May. We will start again in the summer!



March Baptism Days



- 1 Sara R.
- 2 Clinton H.
- 3 Judy A.
- 3 Jim M.
- 6 Grace A.
- 7 Derrick D.
- 9 Dave H.
- 10 Arla H.
- 11 Cameron B.
- 15 Lisa K.
- 18 Carol W.
- 20 Cathy H.

March Birthdays

- 6 Heather H.
- 8 Vic G.
- 9 Jenna P.
- 15 Beth S.
- 16 Erin K.
- 17 Pete H.
- 17 Grady M.
- 20 Peg R.
- 21 Carl O.
- 23 Devon G.

happy
birthday!

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Ash Wednesday 4:15p Bible study (Zoom) 5p Lenten supper	3	4	5 6p Remanente Escogido USA
6 9a worship/baptism 10a Sunday school 10:15a confirmation	7 8:30a-9a <i>Dwelling in the Word</i> (Zoom)	8	9 4:15p Bible study (Zoom) 5p Lenten supper w/video 6:30p worship	10 1:30-4p MEFS Mobile Outreach	11	12 6p Remanente Escogido USA
13 9a worship 10a Sunday school	14 8:30a-9a <i>Dwelling in the Word</i> (Zoom) 6:30p council meeting	15	16 4:15p Bible study (Zoom) 5p Lenten supper w/video 5:30p worship & music meeting 6:30p worship	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19 6p Remanente Escogido USA
20 9a praise worship, 10a Sun. school, 10:15a Conf.; 10:30a-12:30p & 1p-3p Ukrainian egg class 5p Game Night	21 8:30a-9a <i>Dwelling in the Word</i> (Zoom)	22	23 4:15p Bible study (Zoom) 5p Lenten supper w/video 6:30p worship	24	25 Newsletter deadline	26 6p Remanente Escogido USA
27 9a worship 10a Sunday school	28 8:30a-9a <i>Dwelling in the Word</i> (Zoom)	29	30 4:15p Bible study (Zoom) 5p Lenten supper w/video 6:30p worship	31	1	2 6p Remanente Escogido USA

- **Worship 9:00 am**, (Masks are recommended, 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.)
- Please let the office know if you would like a hard copy of the 2022 Church Directory.
- **Seeking volunteers of all ages!** 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! **Thank you if you have already signed up!**

The National Lutheran Choir: The Earth Sings Beauty

Join the NLC for **The Earth Sings Beauty** to hear the World Premiere of *Lament of the Earth* by composer Steve Heitzeg and poet Susan Palo Cherwien. The concert will be at St. Andrews Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi, broadcasted by Minnesota Public Radio, and live-streamed at NLCA.com.

Lament of the Earth is a recipient of the Dale Warland Singers commission award and will feature acclaimed mezzo-soprano Clara Osowski and the St. John's Boys' Choir. The content of the work delves into the symbolic relationship between humanity and the natural world, bringing us all closer to the earth on which we live.

The Earth Sings Beauty will also include other favorites such as Erik Esenvalds' *Stars* and Eric Whitacre's *i thank you God for this most amazing day*, transforming this world premiere event into a remarkable celebration of the Earth. In-person concert, Sunday, May 1, 4:00 pm, Adults and Seniors: \$35 | Students: Pay what you can | 18 and under Free

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 w/
Holden Evening Prayer
Mar. 9, 16, 23, 30,
Apr. 6, 6:30 pm

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH – Council Meeting Minutes-Monday, February 7, 2022

Council Members Present: President: Ron Foust; Vice President: Peggy Wick; Secretary: Cathy Houg; Financial Secretary: Stacy Meyer; Finance Board: Nancy Krull and Mitch Overbye; Trustee Board: Brian Duncan; Education Board: Steve Klobe and Pete Hallberg; Pastor Aaron Holmgren

Call to Order: President Ron Foust called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

Council Business:

1. A **motion** was made by Cathy Houg and seconded by Pete Hallberg to approve the agenda. The motion carried.
2. **Pastor's Report:** Pastor Aaron read Acts 6:1-7 as a reflection on being a Church Council member. Online Bible Studies continue. Pastor is preparing for the Lenten season. Wednesday nights during Lent the Holden Evening Prayer service will be used.

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

1. President Ron Foust welcomed new and existing council members. Email and contact information was recorded. Tamie Foust will create a council listing report for members.
2. Job descriptions were found in the front of binders.
3. A **motion** was made by Brian Duncan and seconded by Nancy Krull to add Jenna Pariseau to the Audit Committee for a 3-year term beginning in 2023. Motion carried.
4. The 2022 Audit Committee consisting of Bobbie Kadrie, Amanda Latzig and Lloyd Wortz will be reviewing the books in the next 60 days.
5. A **motion** was made by Steve Klobe and seconded by Pete Hallberg to set Church Council meeting dates/time at 6:30 on the second Monday of the month: March 14, April 11, May 9, July 11, September 12, October 10, November 14, December 12, and January 9, 2023.
6. Grinnell Mutual Insurance Company has conducted its building inspection and identified two items of concern: fire extinguishers and the securing of large furniture (bookshelves, TV) especially in rooms used by children. The corrections need to be completed and forms filled out and returned to the insurance company by March 1, 2022.

Secretary Minutes:

A **motion** was made by Ron Foust and seconded by Pete Hallberg to accept the secretary's report as written. 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 Nancy Krull and seconded by Steve Klobe to accept the report as written. Motion carried.

Board Reports:

1. **Education:**
The Education Board will be looking at Sola Publishing curriculum.
2. **Finance:**
The 2022 budget will be entered into the QuickBooks System. Pay increases need to be reflected in the upcoming checks.
3. **Trustees:**
No report given.

Communications:

1. Members were encouraged to go through their binders.

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

The next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, March 14, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Cathy Houg, Council Secretary

Contact Us

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Visit us on the web!
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