

# BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel Lutheran Church Newsletter

April 2022

## From the pastor's desk

"Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him."

Mark 16:6

Bethel Community,

The month of April brings with it the end of Lent and the start of the Easter season. Sometimes it appears strange to designate a specific time in the church year for such a celebration when, in fact, we declare the resurrection as often as we gather in worship. Having been born after the events of God's salvific work through the cross and empty tomb, we all live as Easter people in every moment of our lives. The Spirit of the Lord has been poured out upon all God's people; each can carry the Gospel on their tongues and hearts with each new day. Yet I think, the importance of this specific season set aside for us in the church year lies in the stunning reminder and sometimes a needed refresher of what we are celebrating and who we are worshiping.

During Lent, we repent and turn our eyes to God, looking for hope in God's forgiveness and praying for God's mercy. And in this next season, we hear the reply, "Do not be alarmed." We are met with resurrection and the promise of new life. In the face of so much change and a world of so many unknowns, it can be easy to lose focus or fall into confusion and despair. But that confusion and the feeling of lament most likely resemble the emotions and thoughts of the first witnesses to the empty tomb. The women approached with perfumes for a dead body, uncertain of what to do next. Yet they are met with an empty tomb and a risen Lord. The Gospel of Mark leaves the story at this crucial moment. A cliff-hanger.

What does the world look like when we know there is resurrection?

What can the kingdom of God look like when new life is promised?

As change inevitably comes to a person, family, or community at large, there is loss. Some things are left behind or rolled away for the next steps to be taken. And while we may sometimes focus on the things left in the wake of change, the angel of the Lord calls us to look forward in hope, to run from the tomb with joy and good news, sharing the Gospel as we have before and as we always will.

The promise of the Resurrection can change all our calculations as we rest assured that nothing, not even death can dismantle the work of God, or disrupt the Gospel from finding willing feet and voices to carry the good news to neighbors and ourselves.

The open-ended, never-ending "ending" of the Gospel story that Easter morning greets us with each new day. What will we make of God's gift of grace today?

God's peace,

-Pr. Aaron



## Mission and Ministries

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

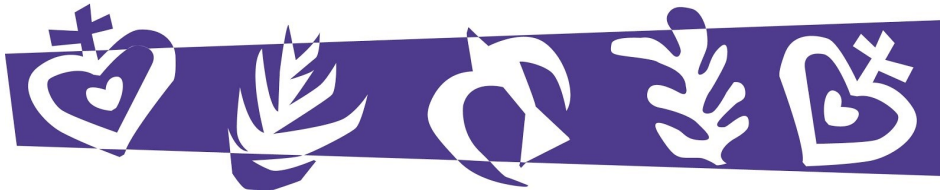
**Driving Away Hunger** is designed to reduce transportation and mobility issues associated with food access in our communities.

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.mcleodemergencyfoodshelf.org/mobile-outreach](http://www.mcleodemergencyfoodshelf.org/mobile-outreach). Grocery orders for the upcoming month will also be available on the bus.

### **You're Invited! McLeod Food Shelf Open House Celebration!**

Grab a friend and join us on April 5, 2022, from 3:00-7:00 pm. We're expanding hope for the hungry in our new facility at: 719 13th ST E, Glencoe, MN. Take a tour of the building. Sneak a peak inside the mobile bus. Enjoy light refreshments! Hear the many ways we're distributing rescued and donated food to anyone in need.



### **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 (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 [mar-iesandvikcenter.org](http://mar-iesandvikcenter.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!

**Lenten supper: April 6, 5:00 pm-6:15 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: Wednesday, April 6, 6:30 pm**

**Maundy Thursday worship: April 14, 6:30 pm**

**Good Friday worship: April 15, 6:30 pm**

**Easter Sunday worship: April 17, 8:00 am**

**Easter Breakfast: 9:00 am**



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

April 14



**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.mcleodemergencyfoodshelf.org](http://www.mcleodemergencyfoodshelf.org)

# Announcing a change of call

Beloved Community of Christ,

I write these words, thinking they may possibly greet you on April 1st, and while it may be a strange April Fools joke to pull in the first place, I assure you that this news is not in any way tied to the holiday.

For those of you who have been unable to attend worship in the last few weeks and may have missed the announcement following worship on March 20th, this letter is to inform the congregation that I will be leaving at the end of April for a new call. On March 20th, a congregation in West St. Paul voted to call me as their new pastor. The details have been finalized in the last few days, making my new call starting date of May 1st, 2022, official. My last Sunday serving Bethel will be April 24th.

While I am sure many thoughts, feelings, and emotions will be shared over the next month while we are still together. I hope to express in this letter a few things I would most likely be unable to speak out loud without turning into a blubbering puddle on the floor. :) Serving the community of Bethel for these past five and a half years has been a true blessing. The time I have spent among you has been filled with some of my greatest joys and crushing griefs-expected when one is part of a family. We have learned, loved, lost, and mourned as a congregation weathering unimaginable events and experiencing surprising joys together. The love that I have experienced at Bethel has been more than many first-call pastors could ever expect or be given, as you have welcomed me from day one with grace, forgiveness, patience, and support. I pray that I reflected those same experiences to you in the time that I have served. For all the wonderful moments of ministry we have shared I give my thanks to God. For all the moments I have, for any reason, caused confusion, harm, resentment, or pain, I pray to God for forgiveness and I ask for yours as well.

I do not worry about the future ministry of Bethel. You all have been church far before I got here (well before I was even born), and you will be church long after I'm gone. In some way or another as you remain vibrantly open to the Spirit, Bethel will continue to serve God and neighbors by joyfully living into the Good news of Jesus Christ. Praise be to God for the work that God has in store for you.

May God be with us all on these journeys of faith and forever united in Christ. May we continue to sing God's praises, serve God's creation, and seek God's kingdom in all we say and do.

It has been a blessing to be part of your lives, and may I never take this experience for granted.

God's Peace,  
Rev. Aaron Holmgren

## Anti-racist activity-April 2022



Another Podcast!

Last month I suggested listening to the “Ash Wednesday” episode of the podcast *Nerd’s at Church* as they discussed being a welcoming, diverse church. This month I want to suggest another podcast that I have been listening to lately that has challenged and enlightened me in my walk of faith.

“Three Black Men: Theology, Culture, and the World Around Us” is an amazing podcast that grew out of the pandemic as three black men met and interacted on Twitter, of all places. Through the lens of their faith, these men speak honestly about their experiences, as black men, in the church and the world around them. Each one comes from a different background and upbringing, but they all confess a powerful faith in Christ Jesus as Lord.

This podcast has been a continuing education experience for me as they bring their vast theological knowledge and insights to the table in a very conversational approach. I strongly recommend it as a podcast simply for those wanted to deepen their faith and understanding of the world around them, and it is a perfect resource for our continued anti-racist efforts.

<https://anchor.fm/threeblackmen>

## 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](http://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](mailto: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**

## 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](http://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



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](http://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!

### April Birthdays



4/6 Iris R.  
4/9 Kaelyn S.  
4/10 Myles A.  
4/10 Laurie M.  
4/10 Charles S.  
4/11 Stacy M.  
4/11 Amy Z.  
4/11 Jesse C.  
4/13 Dana S.  
4/13 Ashlyn R.  
4/17 Kim W.  
4/19 Jeff R.  
4/24 Olivia R.  
4/25 Matt M.  
4/25 Zander G.  
4/25 Jameson H.  
4/26 Jill D.  
4/26 Hannah S.  
4/28 Diane H.  
4/30 Kim R.  
4/30 Dick D., Jr.

### April Baptism Days



4/1 Heather H.  
4/4 Jeff B.  
4/6 Victor G.  
4/7 Beth S.  
4/8 Eric A.  
4/8 Ed E.  
4/13 Jenna P.  
4/15 Jesse C.  
4/15 Jill D.  
4/16 Grady M.  
4/16 Steve L.  
4/20 Gary S.  
4/23 James K.  
4/25 Georgia G.  
4/27 Harrison J.  
4/28 Erin K.  
Peg R.  
Jon K.

# April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 6p Remanente Escogido USA
3 9a worship 10a Sunday school 10:15a confirmation	4 8:30a-9a <i>Dwelling in the Word</i> (Zoom)	5	6 4:15p Bible study (Zoom) 5p Lenten supper w/video 6:30p worship	7	8	9 Funeral-Judi L. 6p Remanente Escogido USA
10 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9a worship 10a Sunday school	11 8:30a-9a <i>Dwelling in the Word</i> (Zoom) 6:30p council meeting	12	13 4:15p Bible study (Zoom)	14 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 1:30-4p MEFS Mobile Outreach 6:30p worship w/communion	15 <b>Good Friday</b> 6:30p worship	16 6p Remanente Escogido USA
17 <b>Easter Sunday</b> 8a worship 9a breakfast	18 8:30a-9a <i>Dwelling in the Word</i> (Zoom)	19	20 4:15p Bible study (Zoom) 5:30p worship & music meeting	21	22 <b>Earth Day</b>	23 6p Remanente Escogido USA
24 9a praise worship 10a Sunday school	25 <b>Newsletter deadline</b>	26	27	28	29	30 6p Remanente Escogido USA

- **Monthly Memory Verse:** "They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them." –Acts 6:6
- **Worship CDs** are available. (Contact the church office if you would like one sent to you.)
- **Online worship:** <https://www.facebook.com/lpbethel/live> or <https://www.lpbethel.org/worship/watch-Sunday-livestream/>
- **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](http://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](http://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!

## BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH – Council Meeting Minutes-Monday, March 14, 2022

**Council Members Present:** President: Ron Foust; Vice President: Peggy Wick; Secretary: Cathy Houg; Treasurer: Matt Krull; Financial Secretary: Stacy Meyer; Finance Board: Nancy Krull; Education Board: Steve Klobe; Trustee Board: Daved Anderson, Brian Duncan; Pastor Aaron Holmgren

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

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

### **Council Business:**

- A **motion** was made by Steve Klobe and seconded by Nancy Krull to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
- **Pastor's Report:** Since our last meeting Pastor has had one funeral, two baptisms, and two communions. Lenten services are going well. Pastor is accepting another call with his last Sunday being April 24, 2022. President Ron Foust will be in contact with the SW Minnesota Synod as to how to proceed and facilitate a smooth transition.

### **Old Business:**

- The Audit Committee is scheduled to meet to review 2021 records.
- Grinnell Mutual Insurance Company has conducted its building inspection. The two items of concern (fire extinguishers and securing large furniture in rooms used by children) are in the process of being completed.

### **New Business:**

- A **motion** was made by Nancy Krull and seconded by Cathy Houg to serve an Easter breakfast with donations going towards 2022 camperships. The breakfast will begin at 9:00 a.m. Motion carried.
- Some damage has been done to a section of the cemetery fence. The Trustees will be working with the Cemetery Committee to complete the insurance claims.
- A **motion** passed via email to purchase supplemental hymnals, All Creation Sings, to augment our ELW hymnals.
- A **motion** was made by Steve Klobe and seconded by Peggy Wick to pay one-half of the summer 2022 youth camperships to Green Lake Bible Camp. Motion carried.

### **Secretary Minutes:**

- A **motion** was made by Ron Foust and seconded by Stacy Meyer to accept the February secretary's report with one addition that Pastor officiated at one funeral. Motion carried.

### **Treasurer Report:**

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

### **Financial Secretary Report:**

- A **motion** was made by Nancy Krull and seconded by Daved Anderson to accept the financial secretary's report. Motion carried.

### **Board Reports:**

- **Education:** The Education Board will be having a brainstorming session on Wednesday, March 16, 2022. Sunday School is continuing with SOLA curriculum.
- **Finance:** The 2021 Audit is scheduled. Tamie Foust will be asked to check into our Website Domain payment.
- **Trustee:** The trustees continue to complete items of concern from Grinnell Insurance Company.

### **Communications:**

- No communications were discussed.

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

**The next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, April 11, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted: Cathy Houg, Council Secretary



**-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.**

## Contact Us

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Visit us on the web!  
[www.lpbethel.org](http://www.lpbethel.org)  
[www.facebook.com/lpbethel](https://www.facebook.com/lpbethel)

**Happy Easter!**  
**April 17, 2022**

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



PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE