

BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel Lutheran Church Newsletter

July 2022

From the pastor's desk

July is the season when we see God's blessings of growth all around us. The flower and vegetable gardens, the fields and, maybe even the grass blades, are taller due to water and light, weeding and waiting.

God's work in all creation and in our lives is amazing! Each season of life, we grow in love with our Savior Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit blesses us with deep roots of trusting the Lord. We grow stronger in God's grace to be His visible sign to those who are hungering for food to feed their souls. Enjoy this poem, whose author is unknown, as we plant our gardens for daily living.

Plant 3 rows of peas:

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul

Plant 4 rows of squash:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

Plant 4 rows of lettuce:

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another



No garden is without turnips:

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another

To conclude our garden, we must have thyme:

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. There is much fruit in our gardens because we reap what we sow.

**“Let us not lose heart in doing good,
for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.”
Galatians 6:9, NRSV**

~Written by Pulpit Supply Pastor Melanie Lichtenberg

Fellowship Around the Fire



Fellowship Around the Fire **July 27 & August 24, 6:30 pm**

All are welcome to join in for a light meal [provided with funds from Thrivent] and have a relaxing time together, visiting and enjoying the outdoors in the beautiful space created in memory of Roxy and Loren Johnson. Give some thought to inviting someone to join you!

Bethel Book club

Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir

Ryland Grace is the sole survivor on a desperate, last-chance mission—and if he fails, humanity and the earth itself will perish.

Except that right now, he doesn't know that. He can't even remember his own name, let alone the nature of his assignment or how to complete it.

All he knows is that he's been asleep for a very, very long time. And he's just been awakened to find himself millions of miles from home, with nothing but two corpses for company.

His crewmates dead, his memories fuzzily returning, Ryland realizes that an impossible task now confronts him. Hurling through space on this tiny ship, it's up to him to puzzle out an impossible scientific mystery—and conquer an extinction-level threat to our species.

And with the clock ticking down and the nearest human being light-years away, he's got to do it all alone.

Or does he? Discussion date: Wednesday, July 13, 6:30 pm at Bethel

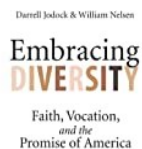


Embracing Diversity by Darrell Jodock and William Nelsen

Throughout its history, America has been confronted with two alternative views of its identity. Is it, according to one argument, a deeply Christian nation called to purity and uniformity in the face of a challenging world? Or is it, according to the other argument, a beacon of hope and openness, a land in which a variety of people can work side by side in justice and for a common good?

In this timely and needed book, the authors challenge readers—especially readers in Christian communities—to step up to the promise of an America that works for the good of everyone who calls this nation home.

Certainly, part of that challenge is recognizing where America has failed, and the authors do not step back from that challenge. But a tone of hope prevails throughout as a gracious and compelling case is made that America's better angels exist and can motivate us to create a more just society. Discussion date: Wednesday, August 17, 6:20 pm at Bethel





Mission and Ministries

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

Driving Away Hunger

is designed to reduce transportation and mobility issues associated with food access in our communities. The Mobile Outreach vehicle is stocked with shelf stable pantry items, fresh produce, frozen proteins, grains, dairy, and bakery treats. STOP & SHOP THE BUS at no cost to you! Please bring bags and a cart to carry food. Staff are not permitted to carry food inside residence. Full grocery distributions available (1) one visit per month, per household, across all distribution sites. Produce available weekly. Staff will accommodate anyone not able to safely enter the vehicle for shopping. Questions? Call 320-664-2088. For locations other than Bethel see the schedule on the bulletin board.



Mobile Outreach **Bethel Lu Church**

77 Lincoln AVE N, LP,
parking lot

Schedule:

Thurs., July 14 & 28
1:30 pm-3:00 pm

Green Lake Lutheran Ministries Bible Camp

Stargazers | completed grades 7-9 | July 10-14, July 17-21, July 24-28

Stargazers offers late night games that have you sneaking through the woods with your cabin mates, hammocking overnight under the stars, a high-adventure program, and a later start to your day so you can sleep in. Come for a week of building friendships, faith conversations and memories you won't forget anytime soon! More info. www.gllm.org/summer-camp

Bethel Women's Retreat | Medayto Lodge | September 16-18

Registration is now open! The cost is \$75 for the weekend and includes all meals and programming. Forms are available in the narthex, and you can give your payment to Diane Horsman when you register. Join us!

Green Lake Lutheran Ministries 38th Annual Quilt Auction

Friday & Saturday July 22 & 23, 2022 | Live, Silent & Online Auctions | Beachfront Concert | Bounce House | Hotdish Supper & Pulled Pork Lunch | More information go to GLLM.org



Thoughts from a Concussion—Not Made to Worry

What has God given me energy to do?

That's the question I've been asking myself over and over again each day. These last few weeks have been an eye-opening gift wrapped in the form of a bad concussion. My brain right now only has so much energy, and when I run low, it starts shutting down, demanding rest.

I'm discovering that different tasks require different amounts of energy. Any guess what requires the most? Worry and stress. Yep. I gave an inward smile when the doctor told me that. As he described how I had to live as I recover, I thought to myself that the Bible already had the prescription for our brains written out.

"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Philippians 4:6

This concussion has made me aware in a new way of how we only have so much energy—and thinking a lot about how each bit is a gift to be used wisely. Even when well, our energy is limited. And one thing is clear: none of it was given to us for worry. Next time you find yourself wondering what someone else will think, fearful of what might happen, stressed over how to get everything done, etc., remember to stop and cast those cares. We weren't made to carry them.

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
Written by Katherine [Loop] Hannon 7/3/13
Christian Perspective—an online Resource and Encouragement Center <https://www.christianperspective.net>

Baptisms, Birthdays & Being of service



July Baptism Days



- 9 Jacob D.
- 13 Dave H.
- 16 Grady M.
- 18 Jameson H.
- 22 Kayla W.
- 24 Sally K.
- 26 Hannah S.
(Julie H.)

July Birthday Blessings

- 3 Dave H.
- 16 Julie H.
- 18 Beckett S.
- 21 Jerry C.
- 22 Katie O.
- 22 Alex O.
- 23 Steve K.
- 23 Lennon S.
- 24 Victor M.
- 25 Corrine B.
- 25 Kathy E.
- 25 Dawn R.
- 28 Peggy W.



Serving in July

Altar Guild:

Lector: Jeff B.

Usher:

Greeter:

Communion: Dana S.

Lawn mowing: Ed E.

*As you can see there are openings for serving in July! You are welcome to share the duties if you are unable to help the whole month.

**Pastor Melanie is also looking for someone to assist with communion on 7/3.

Prairie Garden Club Tour



Prairie Garden Club is sponsoring a Garden Tour in Lester Prairie, Monday, July 11 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, come and go as you please. The event is **FREE** and open to the public! Six gardens will be highlighted in and within a mile of Lester Prairie. To begin the tour, pick up a map at the gazebo in Central Park. Addresses and garden descriptions will be on the map. Tour the gardens in any order at and at your own pace. Questions? Contact Jill Duncan at 320-420-6284.

Pastoral Emergency Contact: Pastor Jeff Engholm, Trinity Lu Church, Watertown

Bethel office: Tamie at 320-295-2125 or bethellutheranlp@gmail.com

Trinity office: 952-955-1891 or trinityoffice@trin.org or Pr. Jeff: jengholm@trin.org

After hours (urgent only): Pastor Jeff at 320-212-0976

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 needed 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 Financial Secretary church 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.



Honor the LORD with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce.

Simply Giving offers convenience for you and much needed donation consistency for our congregation!

July 2022

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|-----|--|---------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 6p Resplandor de Gloria |
| 3 (Pent 4) 9a worship (Pastor Melanie) | 4 office closed <i>Independence Day</i> | 5 | 6 office closed | 7 office closed | 8 | 9 6p Resplandor de Gloria |
| 10 (Pent 5) 9a worship (Pastor Donna) | 11 6:30p council meeting | 12 | 13 6:30p book club discussion | 14 1:30-4p MEFS Mobile Outreach | 15 | 16 6p Resplandor de Gloria |
| 17 (Pent 6) 9a worship (Pastor Donna) | 18 | 19 | 20 4p worship & music meeting | 21 | 22 | 23 6p Resplandor de Gloria |
| 24 (Pent 8) 9a worship (Pastor Bill) | 25 <i>newsletter deadline</i> | 26 | 27 6:30p Fellowship around the Fire | 28 1:30-4p MEFS Mobile Outreach | 29 | 30 6p Resplandor de Gloria |
| 31 (Pent 9) 9a worship (Pastor Melanie) | | | | | | |

- **Online Worship:** <https://www.facebook.com/lpbethel/live> or <https://www.lpbethel.org/worship/watch-Sunday-livestream/>
- **Worship CDs:** Contact Tamie @ bethellutheranlp@gmail.com or 320-395-212
- **Bulletin Submissions Deadline:** Wednesday at noon | **Newsletter Deadline:** 25th of the month
- **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.
- **2022 Church Directory:** Let Tamie know if you would like a hard copy. Also, if your contact info. has changed!
- **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! Questions? Contact the church office.

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH – *Council Meeting Minutes-Monday, June 13, 2022*

Council Members Present: President: Ron Foust; Vice President: Peggy Wick; Secretary: Cathy Houg; Treasurer: Matt Krull; Financial Secretary: Stacy Meyer; Education Board: Steve Klobe and Pete Hallberg; Trustee Board: Daved Anderson

Call to Order: President Ron Foust called the meeting to order followed by Round Table Prayers.

Council Business:

*A **motion** was made by Pete Hallberg and seconded by Steve Klobe to approve the agenda.
Motion carried.

Old Business:

The finance committee is working to extend the annual agreement with Replandor de Gloria for their church use.

New Business:

President Foust will contact the Prairie Days Committee to see if they still need our church to fill a shift at the burger stand on Saturday, July 16.

Secretary Minutes:

A **motion** was made by Ron Foust and seconded by Steve Klobe to accept May's secretary report.
Motion carried.

Treasurer Reports:

A **motion** was made by Steve Klobe and seconded by Peggy Wick to accept May's treasurer report.
Motion carried.

Financial Secretary Report:

A **motion** was made by Cathy Houg and seconded by Steve Klobe to accept May's financial secretary report.

Reports:

Education Board:

Stacy Meyer reported that she is working on Vacation Bible School dates and programming (possibly intergenerational programming).

Finance Board

No report given.

Trustees:

No report given.

Communications:

*Ron has been in touch with Elizabeth Becker who was a potential interim candidate. However, she needs to remain at her current congregational position longer than expected. Ron has already scheduled supply pastors for June and July and will work to fill August dates. He will be in touch with the Synod for further direction. Congregational members are needed to fill the mission profile/call committee positions.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

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

Respectfully submitted: Cathy Houg, Council Secretary



Contact us

Bethel Lutheran Church
77 Lincoln AVE N
PO Box 207
Lester Prairie, MN 55354

Office
320-395-2125
bethellutheranlp@gmail.com

Visit us on the web! www.lpbethel.org
www.facebook.com/lpbethel

Mission Statement

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