

# BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel Lutheran Church Newsletter

June 2022

## *From the pastor's desk*

### Pentecost Come, Holy Spirit, Come

In St. John's gospel account, Jesus enters the place where his followers are staying, locked in a room and afraid. Jesus says to them, "Peace be with you." And then Jesus *breathes* on them. And when he does, they receive the Holy Spirit; they receive the power of God's *breath*.

Breathing – how unnoticeable it usually is. But, what does our breath have to do with God's breath? What is this *breath of God's*? And why did the followers need to receive *it* as they gathered in fear?

An English theologian, John Courtney Hall, described the Church as a *conspiracy*. That's because we *breathe together*. "Con" means "with," and "spire" means breathe. When we conspire, we breathe together. As Jesus breathes on his disciples locked in a room in Jerusalem, he makes them a *conspiracy* – he gives them the breath that holds them together. In God's *breath*, they share the experience of the grace Jesus gives. As Church, we breathe together as God's people, modeling a common way of life that is good for this world God so loves.

And people who breathe together can afford to be diverse. The Holy Spirit gives us all different gifts – given by the same God for the same purpose. People who breathe together can be diverse; we are *meant* to be diverse! The community of the Bible, the early Church, was very diverse, just as God intended. A community of resurrection faith cannot happen if we surround ourselves only with people who think, look, and act as we do.

The Day of Pentecost is on June 5<sup>th</sup> this year. In the reading appointed for that day, in Acts, it is the Jewish feast day of Pentecost in Jerusalem. The first community of believers – were the believing Jews. And they were as diverse a community as could be found in the world at that time. Let's look at who God draws together for this *conspiracy*: Galileans, Parthians, Medes, Elamites, Mesopotamians, Judeans, Cappadocians, those from Pontus, Asians, Phrygians, Pamphylans, Egyptians, Romans, Cretans, Arabs. This is the early congregation of believers, formed at Pentecost, and recorded in Acts. God's Church forms when people from all varieties of backgrounds enter the messiness of each other's lives. This is the way the Church, through God's Holy Spirit, transforms the world. That's because we have the *breath of God* breathed into us. We believe that the love generated by a community of faith is greater than the love we are capable of as individuals. That's because Jesus breathes the same *holy breath* into each of us.

This breath, this gift of the Holy Spirit, is given to us – at our baptism. We are sealed by the Holy Spirit; we are authentically God's. This cleansing bath of baptism – is also our *death* and our *resurrection* and our *rising to new birth*. In this new identity in Jesus, our faith life begins. And that life of faith is the work of the Holy Spirit. At our baptism we are welcomed by God's *conspiracy* – the congregation of Jesus Christ.

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## From the Pastor's desk, continued

There is something else going on at this Pentecost recorded in Acts. The holy wind comes to a place where followers are gathered – and *beyond* the followers. Many from all lands are gathered. Peter is entrusted with the first proclamation of the Church; the message of the living God. And the first words of the Church's sermon: "We're not drunk! We're not filled with wine! We're on fire!" Jesus is kindling a fire in the community of the baptized. We do not have to do Jesus' work alone. The Holy Spirit opens our eyes through God's Word, and feeds us in God's meal. The Spirit enlivens us and gives us the gift of holy community, because God knows we need strength for the journey.

As you will hear on June 5<sup>th</sup>, through St. Luke's recording in Acts, Pentecost has a mark. It must have. What would have convinced *Jewish* believers that what they experienced was the very *breath and fire* of God? This: the community that was filled with the Holy Spirit looked around and said, "What do I have that you need?" Being filled with the Spirit, they gave of their love, their time, their vocation, their money, themselves. The mark of this new people formed by God was: "How much do we care about the people who need what God gave us?"

The *breath and fire* of God's Holy Spirit is God's way of saying, "I love you enough to suffer for you. I love you enough to overcome the power of death itself. Now, confront evil. Spread my saving Word to all. And, most of all, ask each other, "What do you need that I have?" Amen

-Written by Pulpit Supply Pastor Donna Olsen

## Fellowship Around the Fire



**Fellowship Around the Fire** is scheduled for three Wednesday evenings this summer, June 22, July 27, and 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. Put these dates on your calendar now so you won't miss one, and give some thought to inviting someone to join you!



## 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., June 16 & 30  
1:30 pm-3:00 pm

## Green Lake Lutheran Ministries Bible Camp

**Stargazers | completed grades 7-9 | June 12-16, June 19-23, June 26-30, 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](http://www.gllm.org/summer-camp)

**Family Camp North | Camp House | June 26-30**

Located near all the North Shore has to offer, Camp House is a peaceful place for you and your family to spend quality time together. Stay at Camp House all week to enjoy programming and free time, or take day trips to your favorite places like Gooseberry & Tettegouche State Parks. More info. [www.gllm.org/family-camp](http://www.gllm.org/family-camp)

**High School Up North | for HS students | June 19-23, June 26-30**

(completed grades 9-12) Reignite your faith with an unplugged week of faith exploration, outdoor adventures and intentional time together. When you come Up North, you'll have the opportunity to take in the North Shore, build community, and see God's love at work in new ways. Come as a group or join the group here, we'll do all the fun camp stuff and even journey off site for new adventures together. More info. [www.gllm.org/summer-camp](http://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 and Saturday July 22 & 23, 2022 | Live, Silent & Online Auctions | Beachfront Concert | Bounce House | Hotdish Supper & Pulled Pork Lunch | More information go to [GLLM.org](http://GLLM.org)**

## Bethel WELCA quilt making for High School graduate

**Bethel WELCA** is busy making a quilt that was given to GSL HS graduate **Alexander Wick**. The quilt was designed with Alex's favorite colors and interests. Pictured- Judy A. Roxanne S. Lisa K. Diane H. Jill D. Not pictured- Jean H.



## Baptisms, Birthdays & Being of service

### June Baptism Days

6/10 Dick D.  
6/11 Bruce Y.  
6/16 Stacy M.  
6/18 Matt M.  
6/22 Kim W.  
6/23 Lois S.  
6/27 Roger M.  
6/30 Maggie K.



### June Birthday Blessings

6/3 Katie R.  
6/4 Sarah R.  
6/11 Maggie K.  
6/12 Jacob D.  
6/14 Avery B.  
6/15 Jim M.  
6/16 Alek H.  
6/20 Matt P.



### Serving in June

Altar Guild:

Lector:

Usher:

Greeter:

Communion Assistant:  
Jean H.

Lawn mowing:  
Lloyd W.



## President's corner

### **Step 2: Beginning the Interim**

- We have secured Pulpit Supply pastors for Sunday morning worship services through June and July. Pastor Melanie Lichtenberg and Pastor Donna Olsen have graciously agreed to continue leading our congregation.
- Pastor Jeff Engholm at Trinity Lutheran, Watertown, will continue to provide emergency pastoral needs. Contact information is below.
- Bethel's Executive Committee has begun the search for a long-term interim pastor.

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

Bethel office: Tamie at 320-295-2125 or [bethellutheranlp@gmail.com](mailto:bethellutheranlp@gmail.com)

Trinity office: 952-955-1891 or [trinityoffice@trin.org](mailto:trinityoffice@trin.org) or Pr. Jeff: [jengholm@trin.org](mailto: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](http://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](tel: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).



Honor the LORD with  
your substance and  
with the first fruits  
of all your produce.  
Proverbs 3:9

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

# JUNE 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 6p Remanente Escogido USA
5 (wear red) Day of Pentecost 9a worship (Pastor Melanie) 12-4p Grad party for Alex W.	6	7	8	9	10	11 6p Remanente Escogido USA Synod Assembly -canceled
12 The Holy Trinity 9a worship (Pastor Donna)	13 6:30p council meeting	14	15 4p worship & music meeting	16 1:30-4p MEFS Mobile Outreach	17	18 6p Remanente Escogido USA
19 9a worship (Pastor Donna)	20	21	22 6:30p Fellowship around the Fire	23	24 camping trip	25 6p Remanente Escogido USA newsletter deadline camping trip
26 9a worship (Pastor Donna) camping trip	27	28	29	30 1:30-4p MEFS Mobile Outreach	1	2 6p Remanente Escogido USA

- **Online Worship:** <https://www.facebook.com/lpbethel/live> or <https://www.lpbethel.org/worship/watch-Sunday-livestream/>
- **Worship CDs:** Contact Tamie @ [bethellutheranlp@gmail.com](mailto:bethellutheranlp@gmail.com) or 320-395-212 to have it sent to you.
- **Bulletin Submissions Deadline:** Wednesday at noon | **Newsletter Deadline:** 25th of the month
- **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.
- **2022 Church Directory:** Let Tamie know if you would like a hard copy.
- **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! Questions? Contact the church office.
- **The 2022 Synod Assembly has been canceled due to the inability to obtain quorum.** Next year's assembly WILL be held on June 9-10, 2023, in person, at Gustavus Adolphus College. Save the dates!

## BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH – Council Meeting Minutes–Monday, May 9, 2022

**Council Members Present:** President: Ron Foust; Secretary: Cathy Houg; Treasurer: Matt Krull; Financial Secretary: Stacy Meyer; Finance Board: Nancy Krull; Education Board: Steve Klobe; Trustee Board: Brian Duncan

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

### **Council Business:**

A **motion** was made by Cathy Houg and seconded by Nancy Krull to approve the agenda.  
Motion carried.

### **Old Business:**

1. Finance Committee will be contacting Remanente Escogido USA regarding extending their annual church use agreement.

### **New Business:**

1. Pulpit supply pastors have been scheduled for May and June worship services. Pastor Jeff, Trinity Lutheran, Watertown, can be contacted for emergency support. The Church Council Executive Committee will meet with a prospective interim pastor on May 16, 2022, at 6:30 pm.
2. Pastor Aaron's final financial obligations have all been paid. The Synod Adoption, certifying that all records are up to date, was signed.

### **Secretary Minutes:**

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

### **Treasurer Reports:**

A **motion** was made by Steve Klobe and seconded by Stacy Meyer to accept April's treasurer report.  
Motion carried.

### **Financial Secretary Report:**

A **motion** was made by Nancy Krull and seconded by Cathy Houg to accept the April financial secretary's report. Motion carried.

### **Reports:**

1. **Education Board:**  
No report given.
2. **Finance Board:**  
WEB site licensing is on hold at this time. Remanente Escogido USA will be contacted to extend our annual agreement.
3. **Trustees:**  
No report given.

### **Communications:**

\*Council members identified where the hearing-assist devices are stored and checked batteries.

All five batteries need to be replaced. Cathy Houg will purchase and replace the batteries by next Sunday, May 15, 2022.

\*Executive Committee will meet to interview an interim pastoral candidate at 6:30 pm on May 16, 2022.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**The next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, June 13, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted: Cathy Houg, Council Secretary

*Packing food for Ukraine refugee relief on May 25.*  
*Pictured-* Jerry C., Judy A., Diane H., Jean C., Steve K., Lisa K., LuAnn W., Nicole W. *Not pictured-* Jean H.



## 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](http://www.lpbethel.org)  
[www.facebook.com/lpbethel](https://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