

BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel Lutheran Church Newsletter

August 2022

Supply Pastor's Message

"Persevering in Faith"

By Pastor Bill

What a joy it is to be back with the friendly, welcoming people of Bethel Lutheran Church. Margie and I will always be grateful for the opportunity we had to be with you and serve with you during a full year in 2015-2016. And I look forward to serving as your supply Pastor on Sunday, August 14 and Sunday, August 28. It will also be most enjoyable to join in the Book Club discussions on August 17 related to Embracing Diversity: Faith, Vocation, and the Promise of America that I co-authored recently with Dr. Darrell Jodock.

The title of this message for August is "Persevering in Faith." Why? Most of us will agree that these are not happy and non-stressful times for us, especially when we experience daily the national and international scenes. We often don't really want to turn on the TV news, read the newspaper, or review the internet news sites. COVID is still present, and often strikes people close by; the terrible, unnecessary war in Ukraine impacts negatively the whole world; inflation has gone up and the stock market down; record heat waves are occurring in our nation and around the world; we have a divided nation with people too often clinging to self-righteous views rather than engaging in meaningful discussions and seeking common ground.

What can we do? Can scripture help us during such times? The answer is yes, and during this month of August, I point especially to the assigned lessons from the book of Hebrews to which I will give special attention in my two sermons in August. The new Christians in the first century faced many stressful difficulties as well, living under Roman occupation and ongoing major societal changes. The book of Hebrews is all about people respecting the history and laws of their long-term faith while learning and living the faith of the risen Christ, filled with new ways of loving, caring, and supporting one another through the troublesome times. The author of Hebrews stresses the power of faith that has sustained believers for centuries. Hebrews calls on the new Christians to "run with perseverance the race" and to follow the lessons of Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith." Hebrews calls on us to live in hope each day, to show hospitality to strangers, to show "mutual love" for one another. We cannot change the world overnight, but we can all find ways to bring joy and hope to each other each day in our families, our church, and our community by "persevering in faith."



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 other locations see the schedule on the bulletin board.

United Community Action Partnership is coming to LP!

UCAP is helping people, changing lives, and working to eliminate poverty in local communities of southwest MN!

Kelsey Rooney will be putting the rubber to the road as UCAP Community Services Specialist, Mobile Outreach! Our bus is quite literally an office on wheels! The goal of our mobile outreach unit is to take services to communities without a UCAP outreach office, build and strengthen partnerships with providers and enhance existing partnerships through collaboration efforts! Questions? Reach out to kelsey.rooney@unitedcapmn.org or heatherj@unitedcapmn.org

Services offered: Community and Family Services, Head Start, Housing, and Community Transit. For more information about these services go to unitedcapmn.org

MISSION: ELIMINATING POVERTY BY EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES.



Mobile Outreach at Bethel Lutheran Church

77 Lincoln AVE N, LP, parking lot

Schedule:

Thurs., August 11 & 25
1:30 pm-3:00 pm



UCAP Mobile Outreach at Bethel Lutheran Church

77 Lincoln AVE N, LP, parking lot

Schedule:

Thurs., August 25
1:30 pm-3:00 pm



Members of Bethel and the community volunteering at the Prairie Days Burger stand in July.

Bethel Book club-August

Darrell Jodock & William Nelsen

Embracing DIVERSITY

Faith, Vocation,
and the
Promise of America



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.

Join the book club this month by reading this book and attending the book discussion-

Wednesday, August 17, at 6:30 pm! We are excited to welcome our special guest, author William Nelsen (Pastor Bill), that evening! He will be glad to sign your book and will bring a few books along in case you still need and want one. You are welcome to attend, even if you have not previously participated in the book club! Check Bethel's library for a copy of the book.

Fellowship Around the Fire



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!

Summer Journey Together-a Bethel intergenerational event!



Tuesday, August 23, Wednesday, August 24, & Thursday, August 25

6:00-8:00 pm People of **ALL AGES** are welcome to gather, learn, play, and enjoy fellowship together! The themes are Bible, Spirit, Disciples, Church, and the World! We will have supper every night. On *Wednesday, August 24*, we plan to join the gathering by the fire for supper and welcome everyone to join us for activities!

Please pick up a Student and Adult Participation Form from the Narthex and return the completed form on the first day! **RSVP by Sunday, August 14** to bethellu-theranlp.com or sign up in the Narthex. A Thrivent Action Grant will help fund this event.

Bethel Women's Retreat



Medayto Lodge at Green Lake Bible Camp, Spicer, MN Friday-Sunday, September 16-18

This weekend event is open to Bethel women of all ages and their invited friends and relatives.

Registration is now open!

The cost is \$75.00, for the weekend, which includes lodging, meals, and programming. Registration forms are in the Narthex. Please give your payment to Diane Horsman when you register. Scholarships (full or partial) are available.

Contact Jill Duncan at 320-420-6284 or any other WELCA Board member with questions or to express ideas about what you'd like to see included as part of the retreat.

Please plan to
join in the
fellowship and
fun!

Baptisms, Birthdays & Being of service



August Birthday Blessings

- 2 Mark D./Dave A.
- 4 Jesse D.
- 5 Katie A./Andria C.
- 8 Nancy P.
- 9 Brantley G.
- 10 Bruce Y./Anne J.
- 13 Linda D./Nora C.
- 14 Kim J.
- 16 Mike R.
- 20 Drake P.
- 24 Dick K./Jeff H./Chris K.
- 25 Kathy K./Marilyn P./Connor R.



August Baptism Days

- 1 Adam M.
- 6 Owen C.
- 8 Quentin M./Felicity G.
- 9 Kyla H.
- 16 Corrine B./Sarah R.
- 19 Jerry C./Nancy P.
- 26 Laurie M.
- 30 Katie A.
- 31 Steve K.
- 31 Alexa L.
Jeff H.



Serving in August

Altar Guild: Judy A.

Lector: Michael S.

Usher:

Greeter:

Communion:

Lawn mowing: Pete H.

**CAN YOU SERVE IN
AUGUST?**



Emergency Contacts

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

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

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 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 Financial Secretary's 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 or place in the offering plate. Any further questions can be directed to the Financial Secretary, Stacy Meyer at 320-395-2869 or finsec@lpbethel.org.

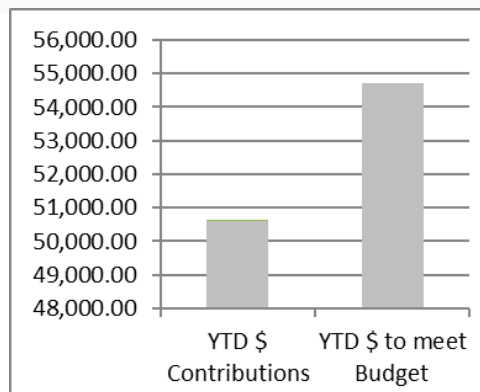


"...give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." Luke 6:38

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

Financial Corner

For the Month of June 2022	
Av. Weekly Attendance	34
\$ Contributions	5,907.50
\$ to meet Budget	9,119.33
\$ Difference	-3,211.83
For the Year 2022	
YTD \$ Contributions	50,589.75
YTD \$ to meet Budget	54,715.98
YTD \$ Difference	-4,126.23



August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 National Night Out-Bethel is serving ice cream treats at Central Park!	3	4	5	6 6p Resplandor de Gloria
7 9a worship (Pastor)	8 6:30p council meeting	9	10	11 1:30-3p MEFS Mobile Outreach	12	13 6p Resplandor de Gloria
14 9a worship (Pastor Bill Nelsen)	15	16	17 4p worship & music meeting 6:30p book club discussion w/ author William Nelsen	18	19	20 6p Resplandor de Gloria
21 9a worship (Pastor Trudy Powell)	22	23 6-8p Summer Journey Kick-off	24 6-8p Summer Journey event 6:30p Fellowship Around the Fire	25 1:30-3p MEFS Mobile Outreach UCAP Mobile Outreach 6-8p Summer Journey event <i>newsletter deadline</i>	26	27 6p Resplandor de Gloria
28 9a worship (Pastor Bill Nelsen)	29	30	31	1	2	3 6p Resplandor de Gloria

- 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, July 11, 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; 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 Steve Klobe to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Old Business:

A **motion** was made by Steve Klobe and seconded by Stacy Meyer to extend the contract with Resplendor de Gloria for another year at \$150.00 per month.

New Business:

A motion was made by Matt Krull and seconded by Stacy Meyer to extend an offer to Stefan J. Swanson as interim pastor at two thirds time. Motion carried.

Secretary Minutes:

A motion was made by Stacy Meyer and seconded by Steve Klobe to accept June's secretary report. Motion carried.

Treasurer Reports:

No treasure report for this meeting.

Financial Secretary Report:

A motion was made by Brian Duncan and seconded by Steve Klobe to accept June's financial secretary report.

Reports:

Education Board:

Stacy Meyer reported that plans are being drawn up for Vacation Bible School as a three day intergenerational curriculum. It most likely will be held in August.

Finance Board:

No report given.

Trustees:

No report given.

Communications:

Nine Bethel members are volunteering to work at the Prairie Days burger stand from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Saturday, July 16, 2022.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, August 8, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Cathy Houg, Council Secretary

National Night Out-August 2

Building Police and Community Partnerships to Prevent Crime

Come out and enjoy the celebration with your fellow neighbors! The event takes place in Central Park at the intersection of Juniper and Central. Look for Bethel members serving ice cream treats provided by Thrivent funds!



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