

BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel Lutheran Church Newsletter

October 2022

From the Vicar's desk

Greetings Bethel community,

I'll confess I don't think I've ever really spent time in this region of Minnesota just west of the metro before. And though my commute is currently "a bit of a hike," in true Midwestern lingo, I've been enjoying the scenery as I depart the metro on I-394 and wind my way down through Wattertown and over to Lester Prairie. The rolling hills, lakes and rivers, fields and trees are a sight to behold, especially over the past couple weeks as they've started to tip farther and farther toward the fall colors we all know are on the way.

This morning on my drive, the radio informed me that today (Sept 22) is the autumnal equinox – one of the days that we collectively have decided could mark the beginning of fall. Following this equinox, "the most direct rays of the sun will now be reserved for the southern hemisphere, and you know what that means..." the meteorologist foreshadowed. With the temperature in the high 40s and the yellows and oranges of fall visible all around us, what the radio man announced was already evident.

Here at Bethel Lutheran Church, there is also a self-evident season of transition underway, in more than one way. This community has returned to fully in-person worship over the spring and summer, bid farewell to its pastor, and welcomed an interim vicar. I would like to express my gratitude to this community for the warmth and welcome extended to me as I have transitioned into this role. It has been a joy to begin meeting and getting to know the Bethel community and to join you in this season of transition – I am looking forward to our time together in this interim period.

Transition times mean change, and any time we experience change, there is an accompanying grief process, because change means the loss of what came before. This grief is normal and healthy, a time of remembering fondly the good things from the before time, even as we look ahead to discern our future directions. Strangely, this also means we are constantly stuck in a peculiar place between the past and the future, known by some as the present, which is always a transition – always a time of change. And in this dynamic, interim present, we continue to be God's people together, gathering, listening, communing, and going out into the world with good news.

I'll leave you with these words from Luke 17:20-21: "Once Jesus was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, and he answered, 'The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; nor will they say, "Look, here it is!" or "There it is!" For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you.'"

Peace,
Interim Vicar Stefan Swanson



Mission & Ministries

God has a ministry for you in this church and a mission for you in the world.

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 Mobile Outreach

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

The UCAP 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! Any questions can be emailed 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

Bethel Quilting group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month, Fellowship Hall, 11:00 am-4:30 pm-come and go as you wish. Or, join us from 6:30 pm-8:30 pm. The times are flexible and can be changed to meet the group. Bring something to eat if you are staying during mealtime. All levels of experience are welcome and encouraged to join! We will work on quilts for our baptized babies, our graduates, and our donations to Green Lake Lutheran Ministries Quilt Auction and Don't Cry I'm Here (homeless shelter).

We are looking for donations of new or used books for our **Little Free Library**, located outside the front door. Because this is an Outreach Ministry of our congregation, we request the books be Christian or inspirational or focus on a Biblical theme such as kindness, love, caring, etc. Bibles and Devotional books, children's storybooks, and books by Christian authors would all be appropriate. Look for a collection container by the bulletin board. Thank you!



Mobile Outreach at Bethel Lutheran Church

77 Lincoln AVE N, LP, parking lot

Schedule:

Thurs., Oct. 13 & 27
1:30 pm-3:00 pm



UCAP Mobile Outreach at Bethel Lutheran Church

77 Lincoln AVE N, LP, parking lot

Schedule:

Thurs., Oct. 13
1:30 pm-3:00 pm

Crow River Habitat Oktoberfest October 22

5:30 pm

Bobbing Bobber Brewery, Hutchinson,

Join us for pretzels, brats, and beer! Visit www.crhfh.org/oktoberfest to purchase tickets.

Confirmation Sunday-October 30, 2022-Reformation Sunday

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."—Romans 10:9-10

Join us for the Confirmation of **Oliver A. and Logan M.**, Sunday, October 30, 2022, 9:00 am, reception following worship, hosted by Bethel Women of the ELCA.

Coffee with Stefan



You're invited to join Stefan on Monday mornings at church from 8:30 am-9:30 am for coffee hour. We will discuss the sermon from the Sunday prior and then spend some time listening to and reflecting on the Gospel text for the coming Sunday.

Mission Assessment & Ministry Site Profile (MSP) Volunteers

We are searching for volunteers to begin working on a Mission Assessment to develop a picture of how God is at work in and through this congregation-past, present, and future. This team will work with the interim vicar to conduct this assessment. The congregational council will approve the assessment report and present it to the congregation. Work on the Ministry Site Profile begins based on the assessment report. The MSP will be approved by the congregational council and submitted to the synod. Contact Ron Foust @ 612-201-2351 or rfoust@lesterbuildings.com if you are willing to serve our congregation in this way.

Upcoming Adult retreats



Grandparent & Grandchild Retreat

Friday, November 5-Saturday, November 6, 2022

Green Lake Bible Camp | Adult Fee: \$85 | Youth Fee: \$35

This one night retreat will offer grandparents and grandchildren a unique chance to spend time doing camp activities, while also learning more about your faith together! With intergenerational Bible studies, worship, activities, and more, this is your chance to spend intentional time together while playing in God's creation!

Creative Souls Retreats

Friday, November 18-Sunday, November 20, 2022

Friday, March 31-Sunday, April 2, 2023

Green Lake Bible Camp | Fee: \$175

Whatever your hobby may be, bring your supplies and join us for a great weekend of crafting at Bible Camp. You will enjoy fellowship, and a supportive Christian atmosphere in the company of other creative women. You will also have time for devotions, taking a walk, or even a nap.

Visit www.gllm.org for more information about upcoming events and to register online! Registration available via email and over the phone by contacting Steph at retreat@gllm.org or 320-796-2181.

Attention Bethel members!

The Trustee and Finance Boards seek three to four individuals willing to help on a building and grounds improvement project. Several needs have been identified and need to be reviewed and potentially put out for bids. The goal is to have a comprehensive plan to present to the entire congregation during our annual meeting in January 2023. If you are interested in serving Bethel this way, please, contact Brian Duncan, Daved Anderson, Nancy Krull, or Mitch Overbye.

The Chosen video series begins October 2

Join us beginning October 2 [and running for several weeks] as we view **The Chosen**, an acclaimed video series that brings to life the Biblical gospel story. A time for reflection, discussion, and refreshments will follow the video. We will gather Sunday evenings from 6:00 to 7:00-7:30 pm at church. Sponsors of this event are WELCA with an Action Team Grant from Thrivent.

Baptisms, Birthdays & Being of service

October Birthday Blessings	October Baptism Days	Serving in October
10/3 Jon K.	10/2 Tamie F.	Altar-Judy A.
10/4 Jan S. Sarah G.	10/4 Kaelyn S.	Lector-Jeff B.
10/7 Luke P.	10/5 Nicole W.	Communion-Dana S.
10/10 Connor R.	10/7 Mark D. Nora C.	
10/11 Cameron B.	10/10 Cassandra M.	
10/12 Kristie C. Abigail C.	10/14 Beckett S.	
10/17 Roxanne S.	10/15 Alek H. Myles A.	
10/18 Quentin M.	10/18 Mary Lou T.	
10/20 Jane L.	10/20 Jacob S.	
10/22 Eric A.	10/25 Hailee C.	
10/28 Alex W.	10/26 Mallorie T.	
	10/29 Drake P.	 VOLUNTEER

Choir Note: The choir will practice at 6:30 pm on Wednesdays beginning October 12. Everyone is welcome to join at any time!

“Noisy” offering



On the 4th Sunday of the month, a second “noisy” offering will be taken toward our Youth Summer Camperships at Green Lake Bible Camp. On your way out of the sanctuary, drop your loose change into the metal can with a clang! Although paper bills and checks won’t have the same “noisy” effect, they will be accepted and appreciated!

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 the Financial Secretary church mailbox.

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

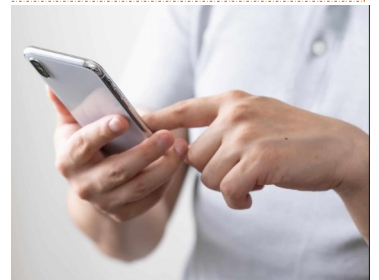
2. Text + Give

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).

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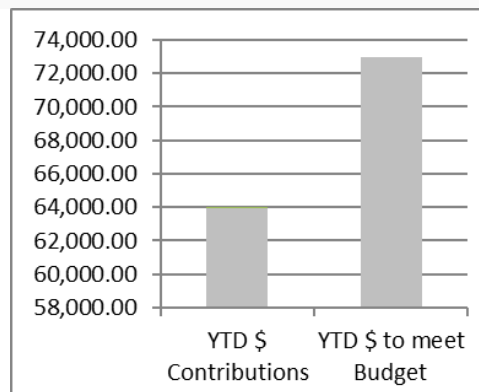
3. Bethel offering envelope

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 M. at 320-395-2869 or finsec@lpbethel.org.



Financial Corner

For the Month of Aug 2022	
Weekly Av. Attendance	34
\$ Contributions	6,441.90
\$ to meet Budget	9,119.33
\$ Difference	-2,677.43
For the Year 2022	
YTD \$ Contributions	63,907.15
YTD \$ to meet Budget	72,954.64
YTD \$ Difference	-9,047.49



October 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 6p Resplandor de Gloria
2 9a worship 10:15a Sunday school & confirmation 6p <i>The Chosen</i> video series	3 (office hours) 8:30-9:30a coffee w/Stefan	4	5 (office hours) 6:30 WELCA mtg.	6 (office hours)	7	8 6p Resplandor de Gloria
9 9a worship 10:15a Sunday school & confirmation 6p <i>The Chosen</i>	10 (office hours) 8:30-9:30a coffee w/Stefan 6:30p council meeting	11	12 (office hours) 11a-4:30p & 6:30p choir 6:30p-8:30p quilting group	13 (office hours) 1:30-3p MEFS Mobile Outreach and UCAP Mobile Outreach	14	15 6p Resplandor de Gloria
16 9a worship 10:15a Sunday school & confirmation 6p <i>The Chosen</i>	17 (office hours) 8:30-9:30a coffee w/Stefan	18	19 (office hours) 4p worship & music meeting 6:30p choir	20 (office hours)	21	22 6p Resplandor de Gloria
23 9a worship 10:15a SS & conf. 6p <i>The Chosen</i> 30	24 (office hours) 8:30-9:30a coffee w/Stefan (office hrs.) 8:30-9:30a coffee w/Stefan 31	25 <i>newsletter deadline</i>	26 (office hours) 11a-4:30p & 6:30 p choir 6:30p-8:30p quilting group	27 (office hours) 1:30-3p MEFS Mobile Outreach	28	29 6p Resplandor de Gloria

- **Online Worship:** <https://www.facebook.com/lpbethel/live> or <https://www.lpbethel.org/worship/watch-Sunday-livestream/>
- **Worship CDs:** Contact the church office if you would like a weekly copy 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
- **2022 Church Directory:** Contact the church office if you would like a hard copy and also if your contact information has changed! Go to www.lpbethel.org, *Contact Us*, *Member Directory*, then enter the password. Contact the church office if you need the password to view online.
- **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, September 12, 2022

Council Members Present: President: Ron Foust; Vice President: Peggy Wick; Secretary: Cathy Houg; Treasurer: Matt Krull; Finance Board: Nancy Krull and Mitch Overbye; Education Board: Steve Klobe; Trustee Board: Daved Anderson; Vicar Stefan Swanson

Opening Prayer:

Vicar Stefan Swanson opened the meeting with prayer.

Council Business:

A motion was made by Steve Klobe and seconded by Mitch Overbye to accept the agenda with two additions. Motion carried.

Old Business:

There was no old business.

New Business:

A motion was made by Daved Anderson and seconded by Steve Klobe to sponsor a Lester Prairie School banner. The sponsorship renewal is \$300.00. Motion carried. Ideas for 2023 campership fundraising were discussed. A motion was made by Steve Klobe and seconded by Matt Krull to pass the offering plate a second time on the last Sunday of each month in order to raise funds for Green Lake Bible Camp sponsorships. Motion carried. Green Lake will hold a Fall Frenzy Youth Retreat. Tamie will include information in the monthly newsletter and Sunday bulletin.

Secretary Minutes:

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

Treasurer Reports:

A motion was made by Cathy Houg and seconded by Daved Anderson to accept August's treasurer reports. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary Report:

There was no August financial secretary report.

Reports:

Education Board:

The education board met with Vicar Stefan to discuss adult and youth educational opportunities for the upcoming year. The intergenerational Vacation Bible School was a success.

Finance Board

The finance board and trustees will be meeting about major maintenance projects that are needed for the church and how to proceed with funding these projects.

Trustees:

No trustee report.

Vicar Report:

Vicar Stefan reported that Steven Cook will join him for the worship service on November 13. There will be training for facilitating live-stream worship services soon. A baptism and a burial service are coming up. Vicar is also planning a Bible study/sermon feedback for Mondays in the near future. The Fall Theological Conference is September 25 – 27, 2022.

Communications:

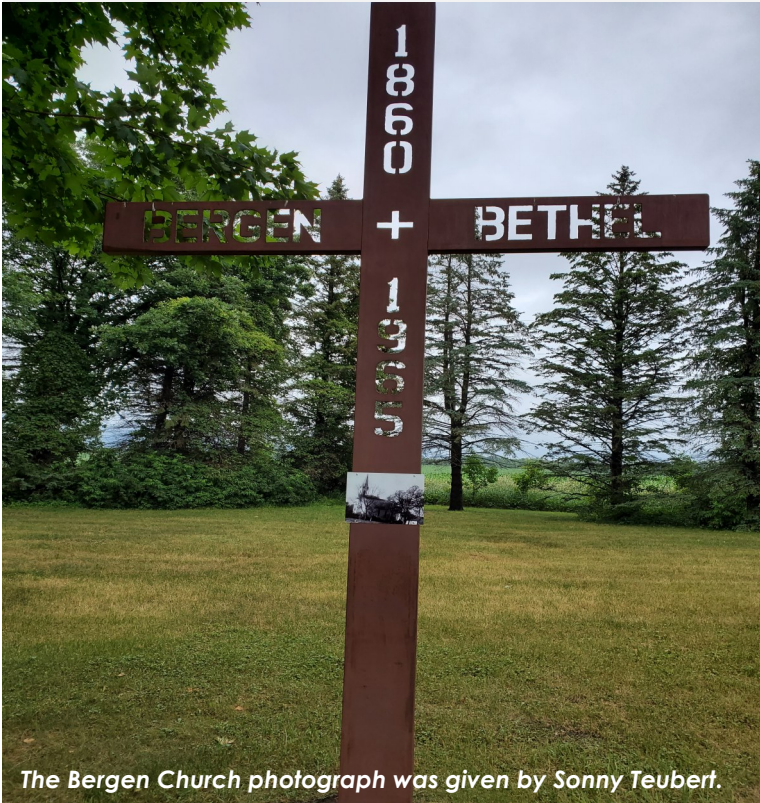
Ministry Site Profile: The council will be looking for members to serve on this committee.

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

The next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, October 10, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Cathy Houg, Council Secretary

Bergen Church remembrance



The Bergen Church photograph was given by Sonny Teubert.

Contact us

Bethel Lutheran Church

77 Lincoln AVE N

PO Box 207

Lester Prairie, MN 55354

Office

320-395-2125

bethellutheranlp@gmail.com

Interim Vicar Stefan Swanson

320-434-7113

pastor@lpbethel.org

Mission Statement

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.

Visit us on the web! www.lpbethel.org

www.facebook.com/lpbethel

Bethel Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 207

Lester Prairie, MN 55354



PLACE
STAMP
HERE