

BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel Lutheran Church Newsletter

September 2022

Supply Pastor's Message

Dear Children of God in Lester Prairie,

One of the amazing gifts God has given me is the ability to sit with people and listen to their stories. This gift is one of those gifts that continue giving as I learn about one of God's beloved children. A gift from God and one that I am honored to give. I work as a hospice chaplain for Knute Nelson Hospice. This gift gives me the ability to hold people as they are in that liminal space between life and death. Liminal space is a place of immense change and can be turbulent because of the emotional component of being in-between.

Liminal space is that in-between time. We live in that in-between time as Christians. We live in the liminal space between life on earth and life in God's kingdom. We have a foot in both realms as disciples of Christ. Because of this liminal space, God calls us to serve all of God's beloved children. By using the gifts that God gave us, we are gifting a glimpse of God's kingdom that we live in every day by the grace of our baptism. We have received so many wonderful gifts from God. Using these gifts is gratifying and brings joy to God, who gave us this gift.

We are in the season of liminal spaces. We are in between summer and fall-between school getting out and school starting. In this liminal time, what are some things that we can do to bring God's kingdom here to earth? In what ways are you using the gifts God gave you to serve God's beloved children?

Ephesians 4:11-13

¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

With love,

Rev. Trudy Powell
Knute Nelson Hospice

Welcome to Bethel Lutheran Church!

Vicar Stefan J. Swanson will begin his ministry at Bethel Lutheran Church on September 1, 2022. We will welcome him with a fellowship time following worship on Sunday, September 11, 2022.
Contact information: 507-360-7570; pastor@lpbethel.org



Mission & Ministries

"Our faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing."-Martin Luther

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

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

Do you enjoy working on quilts or want to learn?

Beginning Wed., Sept. 14, a Quilting group will gather on regularly scheduled days. We will get together on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. Come at 11:00 am, stay as long as you like, or until 4:30 pm. Or if you are busy during the day, join us from 6:30 pm-9:30 pm. The times are flexible and can be changed to meet the group.

Bring something to eat if you are staying during mealtime. We will meet downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. All levels of experience are welcome and encouraged to join! We will work on quilts for our babies that are baptized, for our graduates, and for our donations to Green Lake Lutheran Ministries Quilt Auction, and Don't Cry I'm Here (homeless shelter).



Mobile Outreach at Bethel Lutheran Church

77 Lincoln AVE N, LP, parking lot

Schedule:

Thurs., Sept. 15 & 29
1:30 pm-3:00 pm



UCAP Mobile Outreach at Bethel Lutheran Church

77 Lincoln AVE N, LP, parking lot

Schedule:

Thurs., Sept. 15
1:30 pm-3:00 pm

Crow River Conference WELCA Fall Gathering

Saturday, Sept. 24, Stockholm Lutheran Church, Cokato. See the poster outside the church office for more information. Give your \$10 registration fee to Diane Horsman by **September 14.**

It's Back-to-School time!

We are collecting school supplies to fill backpacks to donate to Lutheran World Relief!

LWR will distribute them around the world! Often, the ability to have school supplies is what makes it possible to attend school! You can find great prices on school supplies at your local Target, Walmart, and Dollar General stores. Please donate only the high-quality, name-brand supplies requested from the list. Place your donations in the baskets set out in the Narthex. Thank you for your generosity in helping to make a *Basic education* possible for others! You may donate all items for one kit or more kits, or you may donate some of the items on the list. If unable to shop for the necessary items, you may make a monetary donation. Earmark your donation "school kits" and place in the weekly offering plate. Monetary donations will purchase additional school kit supplies to complete the kits. **Each School Kit contains the following:**

Four 70-sheet notebooks, wide or college-ruled paper, approx. 8" x 10 1/2" (no loose-leaf paper)

One 30 cm ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other

One pencil sharpener

One 2 1/2" pink eraser

One blunt point scissors (Fiskars brand)

Five ballpoint pens, blue or black ink (no gel ink)

One box of 24 crayons (Crayola brand)

Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers-Not needed now, since we have plenty!

Summer Journey-Intergenerational VB& 2022!



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.

New or used books for our Little Free Library

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 in the Narthex in the coming weeks. Thank you!

Baptisms, Birthdays & Being of service

September Birthday Blessings

- 1 Krissa L.
- 2 Cassandra M.
- 3 Michael S.
Adam M.
- 4 Jacob S.
- 5 Jean C.
Tamie F.
Nicole W.
- 11 Kurt R.
- 18 Mallorie T.
- 20 Neil K.
- 21 Mary Lou J.
- 24 Roger F.
- 25 Patty G.
- 27 Matt K.

September Baptism Days

- 2 Andria C.
- 7 Anne J.
- 9 Linda D.
- 16 Victor G.
- 17 Mike R.
- 22 Jean C.
- 24 Carl D.
Alex D.
- 26 Marilyn P.
Katie R.
Jesse D.
- 28 Olivia R.

Serving in September

Altar-Judy A.
Lector-Emily K.
Communion-Dana S.
Lawn-Bryon W.



Save the date!

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.

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.

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

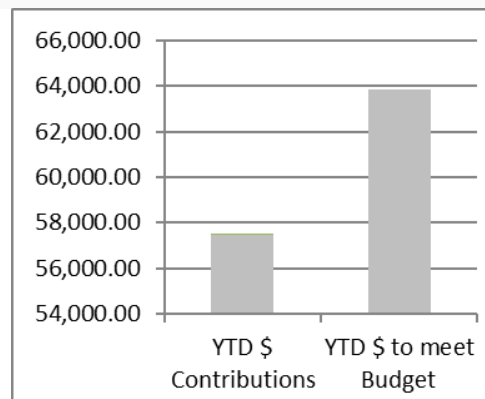


"...give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." Luke 6:38

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

Financial corner

For the Month of July 2022	
Weekly Av. Attendance	29
\$ Contributions	6,875.50
\$ to meet Budget	9,119.33
\$ Difference	-2,243.83
For the Year 2022	
YTD \$ Contributions	57,465.25
YTD \$ to meet Budget	63,835.31
YTD \$ Difference	-6,370.06



September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 6p Resplandor de Gloria
4 9a worship	5 <i>Labor Day</i> office closed	6	7 (office hours) 4p worship & music mtg. 6:30 WELCA mtg.	8 (office hours)	9	10 6p Resplandor de Gloria
11 9a worship	12 (office hours) 6:30p council meeting	13	14 (office hours) 11a-4:30p & 6:30p-9:30p Quilting group	15 (office hours) 1:30-3p MEFS Mobile Outreach and UCAP Mobile Outreach	16 Women's Retreat @ GL	17 Women's Retreat @ GL 6p Resplandor de Gloria
18 9a worship Women's Retreat @ GL	19 (office hours)	20	21 (office hours) 4p worship & music meeting	22 (office hours)	23	24 6p Resplandor de Gloria
25 9a worship <i>newsletter deadline</i>	26 (office hours)	27	28 (office hours) 11a-4:30p & 6:30p-9:30p Quilting group	29 (office hours) 1:30-3p MEFS Mobile Outreach	30	1 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, August 8, 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: Pete Hallberg; 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 Pete Hallberg to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Stefan J. Swanson has accepted the position of interim pastor at two-third time. His starting date is September 1, 2022, with September 4, 2022, his first Sunday. There will be a welcome fellowship following worship on September 11, 2022.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Secretary Minutes:

A motion was made by Ron Foust and seconded by Mitch Overbye to accept July's secretary report. Motion carried.

Treasurer Reports:

A motion was made by Nancy Krull and seconded by Pete Hallberg to accept July's treasurer reports. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary Report:

There was no July financial secretary report.

Reports:

Education Board:

Intergenerational Vacation Bible School will be held August 23, 24, 25, 2022. There is an attendance sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Finance Board:

No report was given.

Trustees:

A discussion was held regarding direction for needed maintenance improvements. The finance board and trustees will meet in the next few weeks to look at financial options for these improvements.

Communications:

Jeff Wick will set up a volunteer schedule and training to insure the worship service is live-streamed every Sunday.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, September 12, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Cathy Houg, Council Secretary

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.

It's not too late to register!

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.

Contact us

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PO Box 207
Lester Prairie, MN 55354

Office

320-395-2125
bethellutheranlp@gmail.com

Vicar Stefan Swanson

507-360-7570
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
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PLACE
STAMP
HERE