

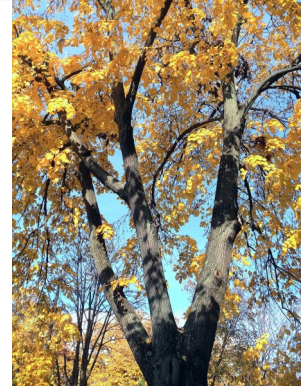
BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel Lutheran Church Newsletter

November 2022

From the Vicar's desk

For better one day in Your courts
than a thousand I have chosen,
standing on the threshold in the house of my God,
than living in the tents of wickedness.
For a sun and shield is the LORD,
God is grace and glory.
The LORD grants, He does not withhold
bounty to those who go blameless.
Psalm 84:10-11 (translation by Robert Alter)



I find that November is something of a threshold month in the life of a church. Of course, here in the upper Midwest, November is the threshold of winter. As we shift out of daylight savings time, days begin to feel shorter, temperatures lower, and we anticipate when we might begin to be interrupted by the arrival of snow. It's the time for fall cleaning, winterizing, and making preparations for the cold season, whether that means waxing your skis or stockpiling hot cocoa for some good old hibernation and hygge.

As we each make preparations in this time of meteorological threshold, in our congregational life we have several upcoming Sundays in which we recall some important spiritual thresholds in our lives. With only a handful of weeks remaining in the Time after Pentecost, on Oct. 30th we will celebrate two of our students who are currently on the threshold of confirmation and church membership, and then on Nov. 6th, All Saints Sunday, we will remember the saints and loved ones who have crossed the threshold into the house of the God of grace before us.

November also places us on the threshold of Advent, and a new church year. I love that we will begin Advent at the end of November with Matthew's "Little Apocalypse" text. One reason being that, as something of a summer child, this time of year always feels a little bit like the end of the world to me. But also, I appreciate the chance to zoom out a bit at the beginning of the church year and recall that we live in a world of thresholds – of endings that always bring the promise of new beginning. And we know that even when the days get short and darkness more present, the Lord is our sun and shield, and a day in God's courts are better than a thousand we may have chosen.

Peace always,

Vicar Stefan



Mission & Ministries

Driving Away Hunger

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.

UCAP Mobile Outreach

United Community Action Partnership is helping people, changing lives, and working to eliminate poverty in local communities of south-west 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

Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee is seeking volunteers for open council and committee positions for the upcoming year. If you are interested in serving in 2023, contact one of the committee members. We are also seeking two people to be on the current committee. Please consider joining this year's committee!

Katie Anderson: 763-244-9182 or kjpeten@gmail.com

Jenna Pariseau: 320-420-0531 or jenna.foust@gmail.com

Lloyd Wortz: 612-501-8770 or landcwortz@hotmail.com

Mission Assessment & (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 (MSP) 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.



MEFS Mobile Outreach Bethel Lutheran

parking lot

Schedule:

Thurs., Nov.

1:30 pm-3:00 pm



UCAP Mobile Outreach Bethel Lutheran

parking lot

Schedule:

Thurs.,

1:30 pm-3:00 pm

New Member Class

Sunday, November 20, following worship.

Have you thought about becoming a member of our Bethel Community? Here is your opportunity to learn more about membership. The New Member Welcome, during worship, will be on November 27.

GOD has a MINISTRY for You in this CHURCH and a MISSION for You in the WORLD.

McLeod Emergency Food Shelf

November Collection & Offering

WELCA will have baskets to take in food donations during November. Also, we will hand out Grocery bags and a list of desired food items on Sunday, November 6. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, you may put it in the weekly offering plate during November. Make your check out to "Bethel Lutheran Church" and mark it "Food Shelf." We will be purchasing additional food items with a Thrivent Action Team Grant. Thank you for your generosity!

Improvement Project Committee

The Trustee and Finance Boards seek three to four individuals willing to help on a building and grounds improvement project. The 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.

Bethel Quilting Group



The group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month in the Fellowship Hall. 1:00 pm-4:30 pm (Note time change)-come and go as you wish. Or, join us from 6:30 pm-8:30 pm. Bring something to eat if you are here during mealtime. Quilts worked on are for baptized babies, graduates, GLLM Quilt auction, and Don't Cry I'm Here (homeless shelter). The quilting group is putting together three blue jean quilts made from donated blue jeans. The quilts will be part of our donation to Don't Cry I'm Here.

Equipping Congregations Road Show

The equipping workshops are hitting the road! The former Equipping congregations Day is taking a new format. The Road Show will offer three different dates and three different locations.

1. Thursday evening, November 3 @ Faith Lutheran, Spicer
2. Saturday, November 5 @ First Lutheran, Marshall
3. Monday evening, November 7, @ American, Worthington

You'll have the opportunity to attend two workshops during the evening events and for the Saturday event, three workshops.

Key note speaker: Bishop Dee Pederson, For more information and to register go to www.swmnelca.org or to the email you should have received in your inbox.

Most needed food items

- ⇒ **WHOLE GRAINS**
quinoa, barley, rice, dry popcorn, cereal
- ⇒ **UNSALTED NUTS & NUT BUTTERS** all varieties
- ⇒ **CANNED MEATS**
pork, beef, chicken, tuna, salmon
- ⇒ **COOKING & BAKING ITEMS**
all varieties of flour, spices & seasonings, salad dressings, marinades, condiments
- ⇒ **MEAL/SIDE-DISH ITEMS**
boxed/pouch potatoes, rice & pasta, canned soup

Bethel Youth Bible Camp fundraiser

November 21, 4:00 pm-8:00 pm, Unhinged Pizza, Glencoe. Bring family, friends, and neighbors and join us for food, fun, and fellowship while supporting our Bethel Youth! A percentage of all "buffet dinners" and all the tips will go to support the Bethel Youth Campers!



Faith & Fellowship

Bethel Book club

November: Faith in Action: A Handbook for Activists, Advocates, and Allies (11/16)

Copies of the book can be purchased at www.augsburgfortress.org for \$12.99. If you want to make the world better. This book can help. *Faith in Action* offers quick dives into a range of topics, from racial justice to environmental concerns, from LGBTQIA equality to Native people's rights, from women's equality to disability rights, from mass incarceration to immigration. Each topic includes informative visuals and data, as well as practical suggestions for what you can do to make a difference in your community.

December: Seven Aunts by Staci Lola Drouillard (12/21)

Part memoir, part cultural history, these memories of seven aunts holding home and family together tell a crucial, often overlooked story of women in the twentieth century. In this multifaceted portrait, Drouillard summons ways of life largely lost to history, even as the possibilities created by these women live on. Unfolding against a personal view of the settler invasion of the Midwest by men who farmed and logged, fished and hunted, and mined, it reveals true heart and soul of that history: the lives of the women who held together family, home, and community—women who defied expectations and overwhelming odds to make a place in the world for the next generation.

The Chosen-video series

Join us 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.

Holiday Secret Pal

In the past, our Women of the ELCA group has invited the women of the church to participate in a year-long Secret Pal program. *This year, we are trying something a little different by offering the Secret Pal program just during the Advent season!* We invite women 16 years and older to sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office. The deadline to sign up is November 20. Assignments will be made and distributed to your church mailbox on November 27. We suggest you remember your Holiday Secret Pal, at least once, with a card or small gift during the Advent season (more often is OK, too!) And that you reveal your identity at Christmas time, before the new year, with a gift not to exceed \$15.00 in value. As always, we ask that you pray for and encourage your Secret Pal with the messages you send.

November Birthday Blessings

- 11/1 Steve L.
Dean S.
- 11/2 Lachlynn S.
- 11/3 Gary S.
- 11/7 Jeff W.
- 11/9 Sam R.
- 11/14 Jeremy R.
- 11/17 Max P.
- 11/24 Nancy K.

November Baptism Days



- 11/2 Jan S.
- 11/8 Dick K.
- 11/18 Kristie C.
- 11/19 Kathy E.
- 11/22 Dana S.
Cheryl S.
- 11/23 Zander G.
- 11/26 Connor M.
- 11/27 Adeline J.

Financial Corner

Noisy offering

A second “Noisy offering” will be taken on the 4th Sunday of the month 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!



Three 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 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).

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.



Endowment Fund Grant Applications

The Endowment Committee is now accepting applications for 2023. Do you have a special project in mind? Consider applying this year! Have your completed application to the Endowment Committee by November 30-either by Endowment Committee church mailbox or mailed to Endowment Committee, Bethel Lutheran Church, PO Box 207, Lester Prairie, MN 55354. Forms are available in the Narthex. Questions can be directed to Lloyd Wertz 612-501-8770. Grant announcements take place at the Bethel Lutheran Annual Meeting in January.

For the Month of Sept 2022	
Weekly Av. Attendance	36
\$ Contributions	6,758.41
\$ to meet Budget	9,119.33
\$ Difference	-2,360.92
For the Year 2022	
YTD \$ Contributions	70,665.56
YTD \$ to meet Budget	82,073.97
YTD \$ Difference	-11,408.41

November 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Note: Daylight Saving Time ends on Nov. 6 -fall back 1 hr.</i>		1	2 6:30p choir WELCA mtg.	3	4	5 6p Resplandor de Gloria
6 All Saints Sunday 9a worship 10:15a Sunday school & confirmation 6p The Chosen video series	7 (office hours) 8:30-9:30a coffee w/ Stefan	8	9 (office hours) 1p-4:30p & 6:30p-8:30p quilting group 6:30p choir	10 (office hours)	11	12 6p Resplandor de Gloria
13 9a worship <i>joined by Pr. Steven Cook</i> 10:15a Sunday school & confirmation 6p The Chosen	14 (office hours) 8:30-9:30a coffee w/ Stefan 6:30p council meeting	15	16 (office hours) 4p worship & music mtg. 6:30p choir 7:15p book club discussion	17 (office hours) 1:30-3p MEFS Mobile Outreach & UCAP Mobile Outreach	18	19 6p Resplandor de Gloria
20 Christ the King 9a worship 10:15a Sunday school & conf., New Member class 7p Thanksgiving Worship & Pie	21 (office hours) 8:30-9:30a coffee w/ Stefan	22	23 (office hours) 1p-4:30p & 6:30p-8:30p quilting group 6:30p choir	24 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	25 <i>newsletter deadline</i>	26 6p Resplandor de Gloria
27 1 Advent 9a worship <i>Welcome New members</i> 10:15a Sunday school & confirmation 6p The Chosen	28 (office hours) 8:30-9:30a coffee w/ Stefan	29	30 (office hours) 6:15p choir 7p Advent worship	1 (office hours) 1:30-3p MEFS Mobile Outreach	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 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, October 10, 2022

Council Members Present: President: Ron Foust; Vice President: Peggy Wick; Secretary: Cathy Houg; Treasurer: Matt Krull; Financial Secretary: Stacy Meyer; Finance Board: Nancy Krull and Mitch Overbye; Education Board: Steve Klobe and Pete Hallberg; Trustee Board: Brian Duncan

Opening Prayer

Vicar Stefan Swanson opened the meeting with prayer.

Council Business:

*A motion was made by Cathy Houg and seconded by Steve Klobe to accept the agenda with one addition. Motion carried.

*Vicar Stefan's Report: Since our last meeting, Vicar Stefan has officiated in the burial of Arlene and Phillip Powers and performed the baptism of Ava Jane Dobrava. Confirmation has begun with Steve Klobe assisting. All the homebound members of the congregation have been visited since last month. Vicar attended the Fall Theological Conference and has met with the interim collaborative.

Old Business:

There was no old business.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Secretary Minutes:

A motion was made by Nancy Krull and seconded by Mitch Overbye to accept September's secretary report. Motion carried.

Treasurer Reports:

A motion was made by Steve Klobe and seconded by Cathy Houg to accept September's treasurer's reports. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary Report:

A motion was made by Nancy Krull and seconded by Pete Hallberg to accept September's financial secretary's report. Motion carried.

Board Reports:

Education:

Sunday School and confirmation have begun. An endowment request for 2023 camperships has been completed and submitted. In order to raise funds for camperships, "noisy" offerings have begun on the last Sunday of each month. Unhinged Pizza in Glencoe has been contacted to also help raise funds for camperships. Katie Overbye has developed card/stationery options featuring a drawing of Bethel Lutheran Church. A motion was made by Ron Foust and seconded by Nancy Krull to sell cards/stationery as a fundraiser for camperships. Motion carried. The Education Board will be in charge of this.

Finance:

The Finance Board will begin compiling a budget for 2023. Budget requests are needed in order to complete this project.

Trustees:

The Trustees are waiting for a check from Grinnell Insurance Company in payment for hail damage on the church's roof. They are compiling snowplowing estimates for this coming winter.

Communications:

*Two members have volunteered to serve on the Site Profile Committee. More members are needed.

*The Congregational Mission Assessment was discussed.

*It is the one-year anniversary of our Synod Bishop, Dr. Dee Pederson.

*The Nomination Committee of Katie Anderson, Jenna Pariseau, and Lloyd Wortz has been activated.

*Following the December Church Council Meeting, the Executive Committee will meet to review the Strategic Visioning Document.

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

The next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, November 14, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Cathy Houg, Council Secretary

Monday 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.

All Saints Sunday, November 6

Remembrance of the Saints that have gone before us [since November 6, 2021]. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex. You will have an opportunity to remember loved ones during the worship service by lighting a candle. A special Bethel Cemetery offering will be taken on this day.

Thanksgiving Worship & Pie: 7:00 pm, 11/ 20

First Sunday of Advent: 11/27

Wednesday Advent services: 7:00 pm,
11/30, 12/7, 12/14, 12/21, Holden Evening Prayer

Contact us

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Interim Vicar Stefan Swanson

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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