

# BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel Lutheran Church Newsletter

December 2022

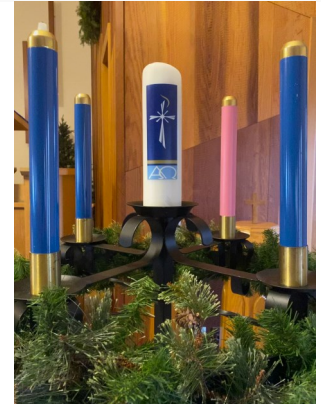
## From the Vicar's desk

Psalm 24:1-7 (translation by Robert Alter)

1 "The LORD's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world and the dwellers within it.

2 For He on the seas did found it,  
and on the torrents set it firm.

7 Lift up your heads, O gates,  
and rise up, eternal portals,  
that the king of glory may enter."



We seem to have crossed the threshold into winter weather – the temperatures are dipping below freezing, seeming to flirt with spending some serious time below that line, and there is snow on the ground (at time of writing). We are now in the thick of "the holidays." With Thanksgiving dinner still happily digesting, many anticipate the coming of Christmas at the end of this month. This time of year can find people in many different ways – it can be a joyous time of gathering with loved ones, but also be an isolating time or a time of grief and difficulty for those whose loved ones are unable to be present for one of many reasons.

As we enter the season of Advent, we collectively experience a time of waiting and watching, of preparing the way of God. However this Advent finds you, my prayer is that you also find hope in this season when the days are short and the nights long. We have hope in the knowledge that the LORD's is the earth and its fullness, and all the world and the dwellers within it, and we have hope as we wait and anticipate Christ's grand entrance into the fullness of this earth that belongs to God – in all its beauty and joy, challenge and grief – the gates lift up their heads and the eternal portals rise up – the king of glory is near.

During this Advent season, there are many opportunities for all to wait and watch with the Bethel Lutheran Church community – come and worship at our 9:00am Sunday services where we will light our Advent wreath candles, join us on Wednesday evening Advent services at 7:00 pm as we sing, pray, and reflect with the Holden Evening Prayer, or join us for any of our other weekly gatherings, like Choir, Monday Coffee, or Sunday evenings with WELCA. We'd love to spend some time with you this season.

Keeping awake,  
Interim Vicar Stefan Swanson



## 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.



**MEFS Mobile Outreach Bethel Lutheran**

parking lot

**Schedule:**

Thurs., December 15

1:30 pm-3:00 pm

### Advent Mission Project: McLeod Alliance

McLeod Alliance has assisted those affected by domestic violence in McLeod County and the surrounding areas since 1992. Their mission is to support and promote the elimination of relationship violence through education, empowerment, protection, and advocacy.

Visit [www.mcleodalliance.org](http://www.mcleodalliance.org) for more information.

Beginning Sunday, December 4, donations can be brought to church and placed in the designated collection baskets.

A representative from McLeod Alliance will speak briefly during the announcements on Sunday, December 11. Amanda Raisanen, Executive Director, will share more about the organization's mission, activities, and needs.



#### **McLeod Alliance Wish List**

- Paper products (facial tissue, paper towels, toilet paper)
- Laundry soap, fabric softener/dryer sheets
- Diapers (especially sizes 4, 5, & 6)
- Baby wipes
- Feminine products
- Cleaning supplies, including dish soap
- Deodorant

#### **Advent mid-week**

7:00 pm worship-  
Holden Evening Prayer  
12/7, 12/14, 12/21

#### **Christmas Eve:**

4:30 pm Candlelight  
worship

#### **Christmas Day:**

9:00 am worship

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

## 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 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](mailto:kjpeten@gmail.com)

Jenna Pariseau: 320-420-0531 or [jenna.foust@gmail.com](mailto:jenna.foust@gmail.com)

Lloyd Wortz: 612-501-8770 or [landcwortz@hotmail.com](mailto:landcwortz@hotmail.com)

### Council openings

President (2 yr. term)

Secretary (2 yr. term)

Finance Board (2 yr. term)

Education Board (2 yr. term)

Trustee Board (2 yr. term)

### Committee openings

Cemetery (2 yr. term)

Mission Endowment (3 yr. term) need two

Audit (3 yr. term) council appointed

Nominating (1 yr. term)

Synod Assembly reps. (1 male, 1 female)

## Holiday Secret Pal

During Advent we suggest you remember your Holiday Secret Pal, at least once, with a card or small gift (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.

## Bethel Quilting Group

The group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month in the Fellowship Hall. 1:00 pm-4:30 pm-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).



Online and paper registration opens on **December 13**, for Green Lake Bible camp. Register by **February 16** to secure the Early Bird Discount! For more information go to [camp@gllm.org](mailto:camp@gllm.org), call 320-796-2181, or pick up a brochure in the narthex.

## Annual Congregational Meeting

Our annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 22, 2023, following worship.

**\*\*Please make every effort to attend this important meeting for our congregation. \*\***

Annual Reports  
are due  
**DECEMBER 15.**

Email to:

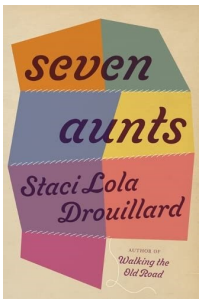
[bethellutheranlp@gmail.com](mailto:bethellutheranlp@gmail.com)



Cassidy, her mom, Sara, and her sister, Avery, are pictured. Cassidy was presented with a quilt on October 30, 2022, in recognition of obtaining her GED.

# Faith & Fellowship

## Bethel Book club



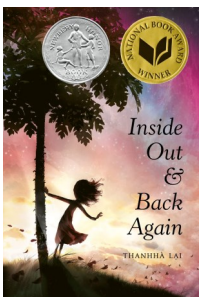
### **December: Seven Aunts**

by Staci Lola Drouillard

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.

Discussion: Wednesday, December 21, 7:30 pm



### **January: Inside Out and Back Again**

by Thanhha Lai

Inspired by the author's childhood experience as a refugee—fleeing Vietnam after the fall of Saigon and immigrating to Alabama—this coming of age debut novel told in verse has been celebrated for its touching child's eye view of family and immigration. This moving story of one girl's year of change, dreams, grief, and healing received four

starred reviews, including one from Kirkus which proclaimed it "enlightening, poignant, and unexpectedly funny."

Discussion: Wednesday, January 18, 6:30 pm

## Monday Coffee hour with Vicar 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. No Monday Coffee on December 19 and 26.

## The Chosen video series continues...

Join us at 6:00 pm on Sunday evenings 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. Sponsors of this event are WELCA with an Action Team Grant from Thrivent.



## December Birthday Blessings

- (1) LuAnn W.
- (2) Amber S.
- (4) Harrison J.
- (11) Riley C.
- (12) Linda H.
- (18) Jen B.
- (21) Ed E. & Ron F.
- (26) Sara R.
- (31) Lisa K.

## December Baptism Days



- (4) Amy Z.
- (7) Jane L.
- (14) Luke P.
- (15) LuAnn W.
- (22) Abigail C.
- (25) Nancy K.

## Welcome New Members!

On November 27, 2022, Bethel received four new members! Welcome Carolyn, Elaine, Craig and Sara!

# Financial Corner

## Noisy offering

A second “Noisy offering” will be taken on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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!

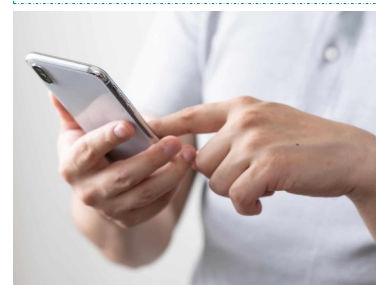
### 2. Text + Give

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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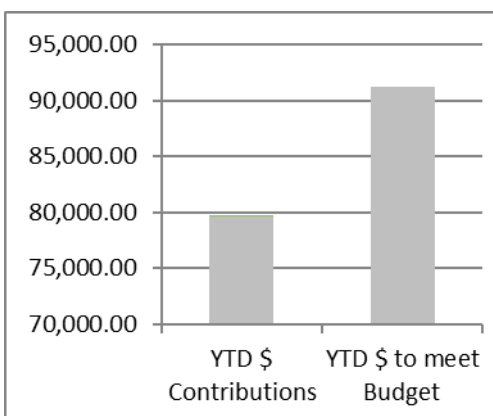
### 3. Bethel offering envelope

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](mailto:finsec@lpbethel.org).



Annual Financial Reports are due **JANUARY 5.**  
Email to: [bethellutheranlp@gmail.com](mailto:bethellutheranlp@gmail.com)

For the Month of Oct 2022	
Weekly Av. Attendance	53
\$ Contributions	8,964.40
\$ to meet Budget	9,119.33
\$ Difference	-154.93
For the Year 2022	
YTD \$ Contributions	79,629.96
YTD \$ to meet Budget	91,193.30
YTD \$ Difference	-11,563.34



# December 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 6p Resplandor de Gloria
4 (Advent 2) 9a worship 10:15a Sunday school & confirmation 6p The Chosen	5 (office open) 8:30-9:30a coffee w/Stefan	6	7 (office open) 6:15p choir 7p mid-week Advent service 7:30p WELCA mtg.	8 (office open)	9	10 6p Resplandor de Gloria
11 (Advent 3) 9a worship 10:15a Sunday school & confirmation 6p The Chosen	12 (office open) 8:30-9:30a coffee w/Stefan 6:30p council meeting	13	14 (office open) 1p & 6:30p quilting group 6:15p choir 7p mid-week Advent service	15 (office open) 1:30-3p MEFS Mobile Outreach Annual reports due	16	17 6p Resplandor de Gloria
18 (Advent 4) 9a worship 10:15a Sunday school & Confirmation 6p The Chosen newsletter Deadline	19 (office open) NO Monday coffee	20	21 1st day winter (office open) 4p worship & music mtg. 6:15p choir 7p mid-week Advent service 7:30p book club	22 (office closed)	23	24 Christmas Eve 4:30p Candle-light worship
25 Christmas Day 9a worship NO Sunday school or conf. class	26 (office closed) NO Monday coffee	27	28 (office open) 1p & 6:30p quilting group 6:30p choir	29 (office closed)	30	31 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](http://www.lpbethel.org)
- Church Directory: **Contact the church office if your contact information has changed** or for a hard copy. 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 to view online.
- Seeking volunteers of all ages! Sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office. Sign up for a month or be a substitute! Questions? Contact the church office.

## Bethel Lutheran Church-Council Meeting Minutes-Monday, November 14, 2022

**Council Members Present:** President: Ron Foust; 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; Vicar Stefan Swanson

**The meeting began with an opening prayer by Vicar Stefan Swanson.**

### **Council Business:**

\*A **motion** was made by Steve Klobe and seconded by Pete Hallberg to accept the agenda as presented. Motion passed.

\*Vicar Stefan gave his report for the last month. The Worship and Music Committee met with plans to restart contemporary worship after the new year. Monday Coffee Bible Study is meeting with 3-7 people attending. A **motion** was made by Steve Klobe and seconded by Pete Hallberg to accept four people into membership on November 27, 2022. Motion passed. New member class for this group was held on November 20, 2022. A burial service will be held for Avis Luebke. Vicar visited Iris Rognli. This last month, he attended a ministerial meeting, a Synod Equipping Congregational event in Spicer, and a 6-hour Synod Boundary Training session.

### **Old Business:**

There was no old business.

### **New Business:**

A **motion** was made by Pete Hallberg and seconded by Steve Klobe to give holiday gifts to our 5 employees. Emily Koehler, Jan Smith, Tamie Foust, Lori Dolezal, and Vicar Stefan. Motion passed. Employee year-end consultation was discussed.

### **Secretary Minutes:**

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

### **Treasurer Reports:**

A **motion** was made by Steve Klobe and seconded by Brian Duncan to accept the October's treasurer's report with direction to fix some of the report. Motion carried.

### **Financial Secretary Report:**

A **motion** was made by Steve Klobe and seconded by Nancy Krull to accept October's financial secretary's report. Motion carried.

### **Reports:**

#### **Education Board:**

Bethel members will be working at Unhinged Pizza on Monday November 21, 2022, in two shifts: 4-6 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. in an effort to raise money for camperships. The work rosters have been filled.

#### **Finance Board:**

No Finance Board report.

#### **Trustees:**

The thermostats have been updated. Snowplowing has been arranged. CO detector has been uploaded. The big stove in the kitchen had an issue. Trustees will work with Tamie Foust to update building use of the kitchen's ovens.

### **Communications:**

\*Five members (4 females and 1 male) have volunteered to serve on the Ministry Site Profile committee. President Foust would like one more male member and at least one more young adult (youth) to join the committee. This same committee could complete the Congregational Mission Assessment. \*Vicar Stefan will check with the Synod about stewardship programs. He will follow-up with the Finance Board.

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

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

Respectfully submitted: Nancy Krull and Cathy Houg, Council Secretary

## The NLC's Christmas Festival

Join the National Lutheran Choir this holiday season for the 37<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Festival, **Jesus Christ Yesterday, Today, Forever**. Concerts will be held December 9<sup>th</sup> (4:30 pm & 8 pm) & 10<sup>th</sup> (8 pm) at the Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis. A live-stream of the concert will be available during the 8 pm concert on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Visit [NLC.com](http://NLC.com) for tickets and more details!

## Community Breakfast

On Sunday, December 4, 2022, the Lester Prairie Lions will serve a Community Breakfast of pancakes, eggs, sausage, toast, juice and coffee from 9:00 am-noon at the City Hall. The proceeds from the free-will offering will support local projects. Come, enjoy, and support this worthy cause! Egg donations by Michael Foods, Gaylord, MN and support from a Thrivent Action grant. We collect and reuse eye glasses and hearing aids. Use the drop box outside the LP Post Office.

## Contact us

**Bethel Lutheran Church**  
77 Lincoln AVE N  
PO Box 207  
Lester Prairie, MN 55354

**Office**  
320-395-2125  
[bethellutheranlp@gmail.com](mailto:bethellutheranlp@gmail.com)

**Interim Vicar Stefan Swanson**  
320-434-7113  
[pastor@lpbethel.org](mailto: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](http://www.lpbethel.org)  
[www.facebook.com/lpbethel](https://www.facebook.com/lpbethel)

Bethel Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 207  
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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

  
MERRY  
Christmas