

BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel Lutheran Church Newsletter

February 2023

From the Vicar's desk

Psalm 119:105-106, 111-112 (New Revised Standard Version)

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.
I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
to observe your righteous ordinances.
Your decrees are my heritage forever;
they are the joy of my heart.
I incline my heart to perform your
statutes
forever, to the end.



What a joy it was to spend the Christmas season with Bethel Lutheran Church. I'm so grateful to all who contributed to making the season a special time through decorating the church, donating Poinsettias, making beautiful music, providing treats, and other ways big and small. It warmed my heart to celebrate God's surprising entrance into the world with this community. Christ is indeed with us, Immanuel, dwelling among us.

And... it's hard to believe it's already February! With "holidays" season behind us, we now look ahead in our church calendar towards Lent (and, in the not too distant future, Holy Week.) This month we will encounter the exhilaration of Transfiguration Sunday followed close behind by the solemnity of Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent - a reminder to us that our lives, though mortal and passing, are still marked by breathtaking encounters with God.

An exciting note to highlight this month is the Mission Assessment Kickoff Potluck on Sunday, February 5th after the service. The Mission Assessment team is meeting and working hard to plan a meaningful process for listening to this church community as we together ask ourselves, "where is Bethel encountering God today?" I sincerely hope you'll consider joining for a time of fellowship, for an introduction to the mission assessment process, and for conversation, dreaming, and discernment. As Bethel Lutheran Church walks down this Mission Assessment path, seeking to serve God and our neighbors, we can trust that God's word will be a light for our paths, and a joy for our hearts.

In Christ,

Stefan Swanson
Interim Vicar, Bethel Lutheran Church



Mission & Ministries

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

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., February 16
1:30 pm-3:00 pm

2022 Advent Mission Project Report

Thank you to everyone who donated to the collection of items on the McLeod Alliance Wish List! Items from every category were received, with more than 50 individual items collected. In addition, money from our Thrivent Action Team grant allowed us to purchase office supplies, including reams of copy paper, legal pads, business window envelopes, paper clips, highlighters, white-out, accordion files, and postage stamps. Delivered to the McLeod Alliance, Hutchinson, the items were received with appreciation. Thank you for helping to support the work of this worthy organization!

New Council & Committee members

New council and committee members were elected [and council appointed] at our Annual Congregational meeting on January 22.

Church Council (Council Installation is February 12 during worship.)

Council President: (2 yr.-term) Ron Foust

Council Secretary: (2 yr.-term) Cathy Houg

Financial Secretary: (2 yr.-term) Stacy Meyer

Finance Board: (2 yr.-term) Sara Jepsen

Trustee Board: (2 yr.-term) Bryon Weisenburger

Education Board: (2 yr.-term) Emily Koehler

Committees

Cemetery: (2 yr.-term) Mary Lou Teubert

Nominations: (1 yr.-term) Nancy Krull, Jeff Breidenbach, Julie Hanson, Sara Jepsen, Daved Anderson

Mission Endowment: (3 yr.-term) Eric Angvall and Carolyn Barr

Audit: (1 yr.-term) Sara Jepsen

Synod Assembly Representatives: June 9-10, 2023 (in person)

Pete Hallberg & Jan Smith

Thank you all for serving!

Bethel Quilting

The group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month in the Fellowship Hall from 1:00 pm-4:30 pm-come and go as you wish. If you are interested in evening quilting, call Judy or Roxanne. Quilts worked on are for baptized babies, graduates, GLLM Quilt auction, and Don't Cry I'm Here (homeless shelter).

Early Bird Discount

Register for Green Lake Bible Camp by Feb. 16 to secure the Early Bird Discount! For more information call: 320-796-2181 or go to camp@gllm.org, or pick up a brochure in the narthex.



2B CONTINUED

Suicide Prevention Symposium

A TRAINING DAY FOR **FAITH LEADERS**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2023 | GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH, GLENCOE

INCLUDES



Evidence-Based
Suicide Prevention
Training



Glen Bloomstrom

Living Works

Director of Faith Community
Engagement



Tammy Diehn

2B CONTINUED

Founder & Executive Director



Pastor Peter Preus

Retired LCMS Pastor

Author, "I Will Grieve for the
Suicide"

Learn about the critical role faith leaders can play in preventing deaths by suicide, how to support those affected by suicide, and helpful community resources that are available.

For Faith Leaders, including:

- Pastors
- Vicars
- Elders
- Deacons
- Educators,
- Sunday School Teachers
- Youth Group Leaders

REGISTRATION FEE:
\$30 (INCLUDES LUNCH)

PRE-REGISTRATION IS
REQUIRED

A CERTIFICATE OF
ATTENDANCE WILL BE
AVAILABLE

Date: Thursday, February 2, 2023

Time: 8:00am-3:30pm

Location: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1407 Cedar Avenue North, Glencoe, MN

Faith & Fellowship

Ash Wednesday—Lent Begins



February 22—

Ash Wednesday service: 6:30 pm

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29—

Lenten supper: 5:15-6:15 pm

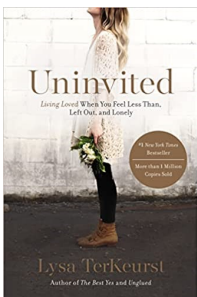
Choir practice: 6:00 pm

Lenten worship service: 6:30 pm

Mission Assessment Kick-Off Potluck!

Bethel's Mission Assessment Team will host a Potluck Brunch after the service on February 5, 2023. Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share, join together in fellowship, participate in a time of reflection, discussion, and dreaming together about the future of Bethel Lutheran Church.

Bethel Book club



February: Uninvited: Living Loved When You Feel Less Than, Left Out, and Lonely by Lysa Terkeurst

Do you ever feel left out, lonely, or less than? Today, learn the secret of belonging which will help you keep rejections in perspective and be better equipped to foster healthy connections in your relationships.

Discussion: Wednesday, February 15, 7:30 pm

Coffee hour with Vicar Stefan



You're invited to join Vicar Stefan for coffee on Monday mornings at church from 8:30 am-9:30 am. 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.

The Chosen video series—season 2



Join us from 6:00 pm-7:30 pm on Sundays 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. *Everyone is welcome to attend at any time!* (You can stream missed episodes or view them on your phone app.)

February Birthday Blessings



- Dave H. (2)
- Peter H. (4)
- Vaydah R. (5)
- Carol W. (7)
- Judy A. (9)
- Jeff B. (10)
- Joanna H. (14)
- Brian D. (15)
- Derek D. (16)
- Ramona D. (18)
- Mitch O. (21)
- Bernie H. (23)
- Dan R. (26)

February Baptism Days



- Colton H. (9)
- Peter H. (17)
- Shirley W. (18)
- Emily K. (18)
- Iris R. (22)
- Sarah G. (22)
- Bernie H. (23)
- Ramona D. (26)

Financial Corner

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 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).

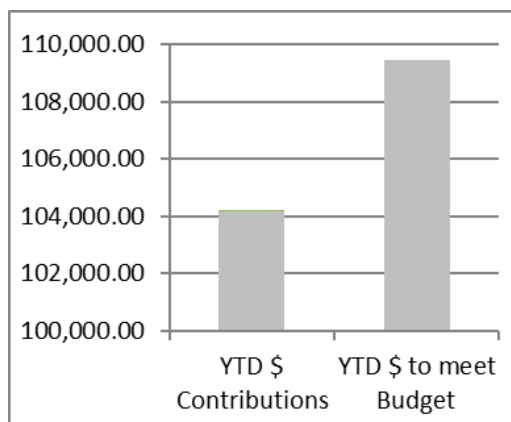
3. Bethel offering envelope

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.

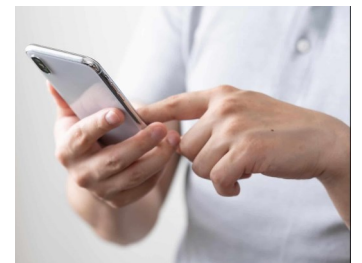
Noisy offering

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!

<u>For the Month of Dec 2022</u>	
Weekly Av. Attendance	60
\$ Contributions	16,887.40
\$ to meet Budget	9,119.33
\$ Difference	7,768.07
<u>For the Year 2022</u>	
YTD \$ Contributions	104,173.76
YTD \$ to meet Budget	109,431.96
YTD \$ Difference	-5,258.20



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



To Give text the dollar amount to [866-298-7547](tel:866-298-7547)



Bethel
Financial
Update

February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 (office open) 6:30p choir 7:30 pm WELCA mtg.	2	3	4 6p Resplandor de Gloria
5 (5 Epiphany) 9a worship 10:15a Mission Assessment Kick- off Potluck brunch 6p The Chosen	6 (office open) 8:30-9:30a coffee w/Stefan	7	8 (office open) 1-4:30p quilting 6:30p choir	9 (office open)	10	11 6p Resplandor de Gloria
12 (6 Epiphany) 9a worship/new council installation 10:15a Sun. school & confirmation 6p The Chosen	13 (office open) 8:30-9:30a coffee w/Stefan 6:30p council mtg.	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15 (office open) 4p worship mtg. 6:30p choir 7:30p book club discussion	16 (office open) 1:30-3p mobile outreach-MEFS	17	18 6p Resplandor de Gloria
19 (Transfiguration) 9a worship 10:15a Sun. school & confirmation 6p The Chosen	20 (office open) 8:30-9:30a coffee w/Stefan <i>President's Day</i>	21	22 <i>A&W Wednesday</i> (office open) 1-4:30p quilting 6p choir 6:30 Ash Wed. worship service	23 (office open)	24	25 6p Resplandor de Gloria <i>newsletter Deadline</i>
26 (1 Lent) 9a worship (noisy offering) 10:15a Sun. school & confirmation 6p The Chosen	27 (office open) 8:30-9:30a coffee w/Stefan	28	1 (office open) 5:15p Lenten supper 6p choir 6:30 Lenten service 7:30 WELCA	2 (office open)	3	4 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
- Church Directory: 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-**it has recently changed. The sign-up sheet for a hard copy of the new directory is in the Narthex.**
- **Contact the church office by February 6th if your contact information has changed.**
- Seeking volunteers of all ages! Sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office. Sign up for a month or be a substitute! No experience necessary! Contact the individual chairperson if you have questions.

Bethel Lutheran Church-Council Meeting Minutes-Monday, January 9, 2023

Council Members Present: President: Ron Foust; Vice President: Peggy Wick; Secretary: Cathy Houg; Treasurer: Matt Krull; Financial Secretary: Stacy Meyer; Finance Board: Mitch Overbye; Trustee Board: Brian Duncan; Vicar Stefan Swanson

The meeting was called to order, and Vicar Stefan Swanson led us in prayer.

Council Business:

*A motion was made by Cathy Houg and seconded by Mitch Overbye to accept the agenda with one addition under new business. Motion carried.

*Vicar Stefan Swanson reported that he attended the Youth Task Force lunch in December with other pastors, community members and students. The Mission Assessment Committee will meet at 5:00 on January 16, 2023. Contemporary Service will be held on January 15, 2023. Confirmation and music committee meetings have begun meeting for the new year. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services went well. Vicar passed out a letter regarding his status at Bethel Lutheran Church. This letter will be sent to congregational members.

Old Business:

*The Finance Board has completed employee year-end consultations.

New Business:

- 1) A **motion** was made by Stacy Meyer and seconded by Cathy Houg to acknowledge the proposed 2023 budget as presented. Motion carried. This budget will be presented at the congregational meeting on January 22, 2023, for final acceptance.
- 2) A **motion** was made by Brian Duncan and seconded by Stacy Meyer to acknowledge the following recommended 2022 Endowment Grant Opportunities that will be presented at the congregational meeting on January 22, 2023 for final acceptance: \$750 for Bethel youth camperships, \$200 toward updating contemporary worship music, and \$500 to the Bethel Organ Fund. Motion carried.
- 3) The next Church Council meeting will be Monday, February 13, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. New Church Council Installation Service will be on Sunday, February 12, 2023.

Secretary Minutes:

A **motion** was made by Ron Foust and seconded by Stacy Meyer to accept December's secretary's report. Motion passed.

Treasurer Reports:

A **motion** was made by Cathy Houg and seconded by Mitch Overbye to accept December's treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Financial Secretary Report:

A **motion** was made by Mitch Overbye and seconded by Peggy Wick to accept December's financial secretary's report. Motion passed.

Reports:

- 1) **Education Board:**
No Education Board report.
- 2) **Finance Board:**
Employee consultations are completed.
- 3) **Trustees:**
Brian Duncan is still in discussion with WELCA regarding updating the stove in the kitchen.

Communications:

- 1) Congregational Mission Assessment/ MSP (Ministry Site Profile) Committee will meet on January 16, 2023. Committee members are: Jean Hallberg, Jan Smith, Mary Lou Teubert, Emily Koehler, Lloyd Wortz, Jeff Hanson, Carl Overbye.
- 2) The Executive Committee will review the Strategic Visioning Document after this January meeting.
- 3) The Nominating Committee reports that there are still a couple of slots to fill for the upcoming elections.
- 4) All annual meeting reports are due to the church secretary, Tamie Foust.
- 5) Two thank you cards were received.
- 6) President Foust thanked the outgoing council members.

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

The next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, February 13, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Cathy Houg, Council Secretary



Has Your Contact Information Changed?

**If so, please let the church office know
by the 6th of February!**

Community Breakfast



The Lester Prairie Lions will serve a Community Breakfast at the Lester Prairie City Hall on **Sunday, February 12, 2023.**

Serving pancakes, eggs, sausage, toast, juice, and coffee from 9:00 am-Noon. The free-will

offering will go to support local Lions projects. Please, come, and enjoy and support this cause!

The Lions collect and reuse eyeglasses and hearing aids. Use our drop off box in front of the 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

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