

BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel Lutheran Church Newsletter

April 2023

From the Vicar's desk

Psalm 118:14-17 (New Revised Standard Version)

The LORD is my strength and my might;

he has become my salvation.

There are glad songs of victory in the

tents of the righteous:

"The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;

the right hand of the LORD is exalted;

the right hand of the LORD does valiantly."

I shall not die, but I shall live,

and recount the deeds of the LORD.

Even though it still looks like February outside, April is upon us and we are entering the final chapter of our Lenten journey. It has been such a blessing to take part in Bethel's Lenten season. Thanks go out to all who helped make Lent a special time by organizing, cooking, and serving meals, by providing delicious desserts, by contributing to the Lenten worship services, and by blessing us all with your presence. It was easy to notice Bethel's energy for fellowship and spending time together during this season. The joy in this community is contagious.

Last Sunday we embarked on our Holy Week journey of recalling Jesus' final days in Jerusalem by recounting the entrance into Jerusalem with palm branches and cries of "Hosanna!" Now we move forward into Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, remembering the betrayal and suffering that Jesus experienced. We'll hear about the different people surrounding Jesus on his path to the cross, and be invited to place ourselves in the shoes of disciples and crowds, friends and betrayers, mothers and soldiers, kings and criminals. In all this, we can marvel at the great love that our God demonstrates toward all, and be confident that even though our own faith and courage may fail, the Lord is our strength and our might, and has become our salvation. Glad songs of victory are on the way, and we shall not die, but live. Easter is coming.

Blessings on the journey,

Stefan Swanson

Interim Vicar



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

When:

Thursday, April 13
1:30 pm-3:00 pm

Where:

Bethel Lutheran
Church parking lot

Twin Cities Area Homeless Ministry-Adult Forum



Join us after worship on Sunday, April 16, for an Adult Forum featuring guest Jeff Schmidt. Jeff will share his Outreach Homeless Ministry in the Twin Cities area. Jeff is a teacher in Hutchinson and began this grassroots ministry where he brings basic survival items to those living on the streets. Jeff will tell his stories of

how he shares his faith and respectfully helps meet the basic needs of these individuals.

Save The Date!

September 8-10, 2023

Women's Retreat at
Medayto Lodge,
Green Lake Bible Camp

2B CONTINUED PRESENTS
dancing like the stars
Annual Gala to Benefit Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Awareness
SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2023 | 6:30PM SHOW TIME | GLENCOE CITY CENTER
PRE-SHOW AT 5:30PM, FEATURING LIVE MUSIC BY AL HEIDORN

3 WAYS TO WATCH:

- IN PERSON**
While tickets last!
- WATCH PARTIES AT LOCAL VENUES**
- FREE LIVESTREAM**

DLTS Livestream tickets are now available!

1. See it LIVE at the Glencoe City Center!
2. View the show at an Official DLTS Watch Party!
3. View the show from home via FREE Livestream!

To have access to the Livestream link, you MUST register for a free Livestream ticket. You will then receive an email with the link, which will not go live until April 15. This is a LIVE SHOW only-it will not be available for public viewing later. Only 50 tickets remain for seeing the show in person at the Glencoe City Center! For more info./tickets and to vote, go to 2bcontinued.org.

*The Watch Party for Joe & Beth Sawatzke is at Glenfield's Living with Care, Glencoe.

You're Invited this summer!

As Green Lake Lutheran Ministries enters our 85th year of summer camp ministry, we invite you to gather together, grow in faith, and be inspired to go share God's love with the world! (Bethel has Summer Camp 2023 brochures in the Narthex.) Register online [GLLM.ORG](https://www.gllm.org)



Plant your roots in Christ and let God be the foundation for your life. Be strong in your faith, just as you were taught. And be grateful.
—Colossians 2:7

Spring Fever Youth Retreat: April 28-April 30, 2023

Green Lake Bible Camp, Grades 2-6, Fee \$175



Are you getting the itch for summer? This is the retreat for you! Come, join us for Bible studies, games, arts and crafts, worships, campfires and more! This retreat is great for new campers who want to give camp a try before doing a full week. Sign up today and get ready for some fun!

Half Blast, Completed Grades 1-4

If you are new to camp or not ready to dig into a full week, Half Blast is for you! Camp begins on Sunday and concludes on Tuesday evenings with an opportunity for campers to share their amazing experience with their parents. You will fully enjoy all that camp has to offer: swimming, quality cabin time, campfires, faith building, worship, and exciting games and activities. Supported Fee \$320 | Full Fee \$435. See the Summer Camp 2023 brochure for the schedule.

*In addition to GLLM Scholarships, Bethel offers Youth Camperships! If you are interested in a Bethel campership (scholarship), contact Emily Koehler (emily.e.koehler@gmail.com).

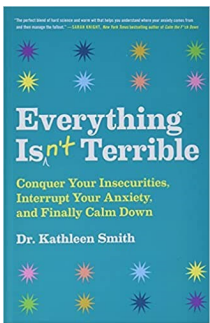
*Visit [GLLM.ORG](https://www.gllm.org) for orientation packet, packing list, cell phone policy, FAQs, scholarship forms and more!

*All youth programming will take place at Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp, New London, MN!

*Final camper payments are due May 22, 2023.

Faith & Fellowship

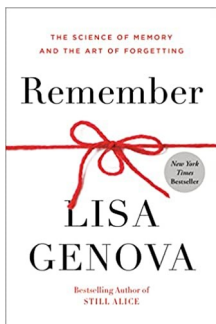
Bethel Book club



APRIL: *Everything Isn't Terrible: Conquer Your Insecurities, Interrupt Your Anxiety, and Finally Calm Down* by Dr. Kathleen Smith—Licensed therapist and mental health writer Dr. Kathleen Smith offers a smart, practical antidote to our anxiety-ridden times. *Everything Isn't Terrible* is an informative and practical guide—featuring a healthy dose of humor—for people who want to become beacons of calmness in their families, at

work, and in our anxious world. *Everything Isn't Terrible* will give anyone suffering from anxiety all the tools they need to finally...calm...down. Ultimately, living a calmer and less anxious life—one that isn't terrible—is possible, and with this book you'll learn how to do it.

Discussion date: Wednesday, April 19, 7:30 pm



MAU: *Remember: The Science of Memory and the Art of Forgetting* by Lisa Genova—In *Remember*, neuroscientist and acclaimed novelist Lisa Genova delves into how memories are made and how we retrieve them. You'll learn whether forgotten memories are temporarily inaccessible or erased forever and why some memories are built to exist for only a few seconds (like a passcode) while others can last a lifetime (your wedding day).

You'll come to appreciate the clear distinction between normal forgetting (where you parked your car) and forgetting due to Alzheimer's (that you own a car). And you'll see how memory is profoundly impacted by meaning, emotion, sleep, stress, and context. Once you understand the language of memory and how it functions, its incredible strengths and maddening weaknesses, its natural vulnerabilities and potential superpowers, you can both vastly improve your ability to remember and feel less rattled when you inevitably forget. You can set educated expectations for your memory, and in doing so, create a better relationship with it. You don't have to fear it anymore. And that can be life-changing.

Discussion date: Wednesday, May 17, 7:30 pm

Family Game Night



Sunday, April 16, from 5:00-8:00 pm at church. Please bring a hotdish or salad to share, your own beverage, and your favorite game to play.

Happy Birthday!



- 6 Iris R.
- 9 Kaelyn S.
- 10 Charles S.,
Laurie M.,
Myles A.
- 11 Stacy M.
Amy Z.,
Jesse C.
- 13 Dana S.
Ashlyn R.
- 17 Kim W.
- 19 Jeff R.
- 24 Olivia R.
- 25 Matt M.
Zander G.
Jameson H.
- 26 Jill D.
Hannah S.
- 28 Diane H.
- 30 Kim R.
Dick D., Jr.

Remember your Baptism!

- 1 Heather H.
- 4 Jeff B.
- 6 Victor G.
- 7 Beth S.
- 8 Ed E.
Eric A.
- 13 Jenna P.
- 15 Jill D.
Jesse C.
- 16 Steve L.
Grady M.
- 20 Gary S.
- 23 James K.
- 25 Georgia G.
- 27 Harrison J.
- 28 Erin K.
Peg R. & Jon K.



Financial Corner

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).

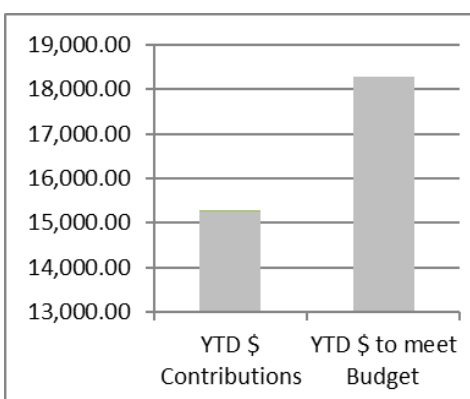
3. Bethel offering envelope

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

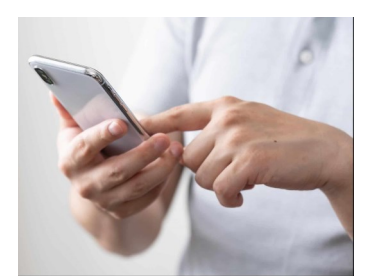
"Noisy" offering

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!

For the Month of Feb 2023	
Weekly Av. Attendance	50
\$ Contributions	6,600.17
\$ to meet Budget	9,141.22
\$ Difference	-2,541.05
For the Year 2023	
YTD \$ Contributions	15,264.29
YTD \$ to meet Budget	18,282.44
YTD \$ Difference	-3,018.15



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



To Give text the dollar amount to 866-298-7547



Bethel Financial Update

APRIL 2023

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
						1 6p Resplendor de Gloria
2 (Palm Sunday) 9a worship 10:15a SS/conf.	3 (office open)	4	5 (office open) 6:30p choir 7:30p WELCA mtg.	6 (office open) (Maundy Thursday) 6:30p worship w/communion	7 (Good Friday) 6:30p worship	8 6p Resplendor de Gloria
9 (Easter Day) 8a worship 9a breakfast	10 (office open) 8:30-9:30a coffee w/Stefan 6:30p council mtg.	11 Vicar vacation 11 th -16 th	12 (office open) 1-4:30p quilting 6:30p choir	13 (office open) 1:30-3p mobile outreach-MEFS	14	15 6p Resplendor de Gloria
16 (2 Easter) 9a worship 10:15a SS/conf. 10:15a adult forum-Jeff S. 5-8p family game	17 (office open) 8:30-9:30a coffee w/Stefan	18	19 (office open) 4p worship & music mtg. 6:30p choir 7:30p book club	20 (office open)	21	22 (Earth Day) 6p Resplendor de Gloria
23 (3 Easter) 9a worship (noisy offering) 10:15a SS/conf.	24 (office open) 8:30-9:30a coffee w/Stefan	25 newsletter deadline	26 (office open) 1-4:30p quilting	27 (office open)	28	29 6p Resplendor de Gloria
30 (4 Easter) 9a worship 10:15a SS/conf.						

- **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 [recently changed] password to view online. Contact the church office if you would like a hard copy.
- **Seeking volunteers of all ages!** Check out the bulletin board outside the church office. Sign up for a month or be a substitute! No experience necessary! Questions? Contact the chairperson.

Bethel Lutheran Church—Council Meeting Minutes—Monday, March 13, 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; Education Board: Pete Hallberg and Emily Koehler; Trustee Board: Brian Duncan and Bryon Weisenburger; Vicar Stefan Swanson

Call to Order and Opening Prayer:

The meeting was called to order by President Ron Foust at 6:32 p.m. Vicar Swanson opened the meeting with prayer.

Council Business:

*A **motion** was made by Cathy Houg and seconded by Pete Hallberg to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

*Vicar Stefan Swanson updated the Council on the progress of the Mission Assessment Team including the upcoming focus groups, individual interviews, and the questions to be covered. When these interviews are completed, a written summary will be presented.

Holy Week will include Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services at 6:30 p.m. Easter Sunday worship will be at 8:00 a.m. followed by an Easter breakfast.

May 21, 2023, has been set as the ending date of Confirmation.

Vicar Stefan will be gone the week of April 11-16, 2023. A supply pastor will be needed for April 16, 2023.

Programming including worship, music, Lenten services, Lenten meals, Sunday School, and Confirmation are going well.

Old Business:

1. The Finance Board is working to schedule the 2022 audit review. The goal is to have the audit complete by April 10, 2023.
2. The motion to purchase an Allen Organ passed unanimously at the Congregational meeting on March 5, 2023. Bryon Weisenburger will call Calvin Dolezal about removing and disposing of the existing organ, in the event no one else is interested. The Council discussed that interested congregational members and supply organists should be invited to attend the organ training sessions.

New Business:

1. President Ron Foust will call some members in an effort to replace Sara Jepsen on the 2023 Audit Committee, as she is now a member of the Church Council/Finance Committee.
2. A motion was made by Bryon Weisenburger and seconded by Mitch Overbye to donate the Easter breakfast proceeds to camperships. Motion carried.
3. The Finance Board is working with Resplendor de Gloria to extend their annual Church use agreement.

Secretary Minutes:

A **motion** was made by Ron Foust and seconded by Emily Koehler to accept February's secretary's report. Motion carried.

Treasurer Reports:

A **motion** was made by Cathy Houg and seconded by Peggy Wick to accept February's treasurer's reports. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary Report:

A **motion** was made by Brian Duncan and seconded by Emily Koehler to accept February's financial secretary's report. Motion carried.

Reports:

1. Education Board:

The Education Board will be meeting to discuss programming for the BLTs and Bible School, 2023.

The Education Board will check to see how many attendees are signing up for Youth Summer Camp and to see if financial arrangements can be made.

2. Finance Board:

The Audit Committee is being contacted.

3. Trustee Board:

The Trustees have obtained 2 quotes for the repair of the roof. A recommendation will be made in at the April Council meeting.

Communications:

Congregational Mission Assessment/MSP (Mission Site Profile) Committee Members: Jean Hallberg, Jan Smith, Mary Lou Teubert, Emily Koehler, Lloyd Wortz, Jeff Hanson, Carl Overbye, Connor Meyer.

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

The next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, April 10, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Cathy Houg, Council Secretary

Thank You!



Thank you for joining us for our Lenten meals. It was a great time of fellowship! Thank you to those who helped plan, prepare, and serve meals, and cleaned up afterward!

Bethel WELCA

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.

Contact us

Bethel Lutheran Church

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PO Box 207
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Office

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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
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PLACE
STAMP
HERE