

# BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel Lutheran Church Newsletter

May 2023

## From the Vicar's desk

Psalm 100 – New Revised Standard Version

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

Serve the LORD with gladness;  
come into his presence with singing.

Know that the LORD is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him; bless his name.

For the LORD is good;

his steadfast love endures forever  
and his faithfulness to all generations.



As of the day of writing (April 24<sup>th</sup>), the church parking lot is snow-free, and the birds singing outside seem to finally believe that it is spring. I love how quickly the landscape changes this time of year, and I'm always amazed at how the grass seems to grow overnight. As I reflect on the words of Psalm 100 today, the bright, new green grass reminds me that we each belong to the Good Shepherd, and we are the sheep of God's pasture – this beautiful creation God has given us. This beautiful earth which, especially led by the birds in springtime, makes joyful noises to the Lord, reminding us that God is good, and God's steadfast love endures forever.

I'd like to thank all who gave of their time and insights to participate in a focus group or interview during the mission assessment process over the past few months. My heart was warmed by hearing stories, ideas, and visions for Bethel. More than one person has commented to me that "there is really good energy at Bethel," and this is very apparent to me as well. Your energy and excitement for the ministry of the Gospel in this place is contagious, and I am excited for you and the upcoming call process as you look for a leader to partner with you in ministry. I hope you'll join me on May 21<sup>st</sup> after the service when I present a report compiled from these interviews and focus groups. My goal is that it will be a great opportunity to listen for how God is moving in the hearts of Bethel Lutheran Church. Please continue to pray for the Mission Assessment Team as they faithfully work to prepare the way for a meaningful call process.

The peace of the Risen One be with you this Easter season!

In Christ,

Stefan Swanson  
Interim Vicar



## Mission & Ministries

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

### Spring Gathering In-Kind Offering

The Crow River Conference Women of the ELCA gathered on April 22, 2023. Bethel's Women of the ELCA assembled Lutheran World Relief Baby Care Kits and brought this In-Kind offering to the gathering. Below is a sample of each Baby Care Kit. These kits help provide the basics a family needs to care for their newborn family member and proudly introduce them to the world.



Bethel's WELCA Baby Care Kits ready to go!

### 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:

Thurs., May 11 & 25  
1:30 pm-3:00 pm

#### Where:

Bethel Lutheran Church parking lot

### Mission Assessment Coffee Hour

Join us at 10:15 am on Sunday, May 21, after the service for a presentation from Vicar Stefan about the results of the Mission Assessment process. We'll hear about the information gathered during interviews and focus groups, discuss next steps in Bethel's process, and have some time for questions.

## You're Invited this summer!

As Green Lake Lutheran Ministries enters our 85<sup>th</sup> 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)

- In addition to GLLM Scholarships, Bethel offers Youth Camperships (scholarships)! If you are interested in a Bethel campership, contact Emily Koehler ([emily.e.koehler@gmail.com](mailto: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!



**GREEN  
LAKE**   
**LUTHERAN  
ministries**

**FINAL CAMPER  
PAYMENTS DUE  
MAY 22, 2023!**

**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**

### Family Camp Up North-June 25-29, 2023 at Camp House

Family Camp at Camp House is the get-away you've been looking for! Located near all the North Shore has to offer. Camp House (Brimson, MN) is a peaceful place for you and your family to spend quality time together. Enjoy programming and free time, or take day trips to your favorite places like Gooseberry and Tettegouche State Parks as well as Camp House favorites like paddle boarding, brick oven cooking, and the Finnish sauna! Infants and preschoolers stay free!

### Grandparent & Grandchild Camp-July 16-19, 2023 at Green Lake Bible Camp

Grandparents & Grandchild Camp is a great opportunity for intergenerational faith formation as grandparents and grandchildren spend time together doing all the fun camp activities while also learning about faith together. This program runs Sunday-Wednesday morning, providing a great half week of fun!

### Family Camp-July 23-27, 2023 at Green Lake Bible Camp

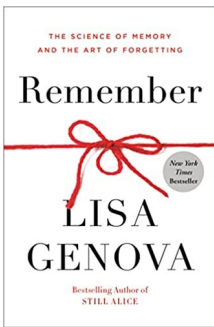
Family Camp is for everyone: individuals, couples, grandparents, families with kids of any age—all are welcome! It truly is a vacation, with refreshing free time on the lake, evening events for all, worships around the campfire, local excursions, and so much more! Our Minister-in-Residence will be available all week, leading faith-centered activities and being a supportive presence for you to get to know.

### Save the date for the Women's Retreat! September 8-10, 2023

Bethel women & friends together for a retreat September 8-10, 2023, at Medayto Lodge, Green Lake Bible Camp, Spicer, MN. Contact Jill Duncan if you have questions.

# Faith & Fellowship

## Bethel Book club



**MAJ:** **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.

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

## Bergen Lutheran Church Site Worship-June 4



Join us for a special worship service on Sunday, June 4, 2023, at the Bergen Lutheran Church site in the country. Worship will begin at 10:00 am followed by a potluck picnic. Bring your lawn chairs, and a dish to share. Tableware and a beverage will be provided.

**We hope to see you there!**

### **Directions:**

Go south of Lester Prairie on County Road 1, at the first curve turn left on Babcock Ave. After two miles the road turns to gravel and becomes Bergen Road. Continue south on Bergen Road approximately 3 1/2 miles and you will come to an intersection. The church site is located on the right-hand side of the intersection.

## Happy Birthday!

- 5/5 Owen C.
- 5/7 Tony S.
- 5/15 Felicity G.
- 5/17 Grace A.
- 5/19 Georgia G.
- 5/21 Kayla W.
- 5/22 Sally K.
- 5/25 Roger M.
- 5/28 Lois S.
- 5/28 Hailee C.



## Remember your Baptism!

- 5/2 Vaydah R.
- 5/3 Charles S.
- 5/8 Bryon W.
- 5/17 Jeff R.
- 5/19 Logan M.
- 5/24 Diane H.
- 5/25 Pete H.
- 5/27 Oliver A.



## Bethel Cemeteries Spring Cleanup-Saturday, May 6

Seeking volunteers for clean up at the cemeteries on Saturday, May 6 at 10:00 am. Questions? Contact Mary Lou Teubert or Nicole Weisenburger.

# 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 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.

### 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).

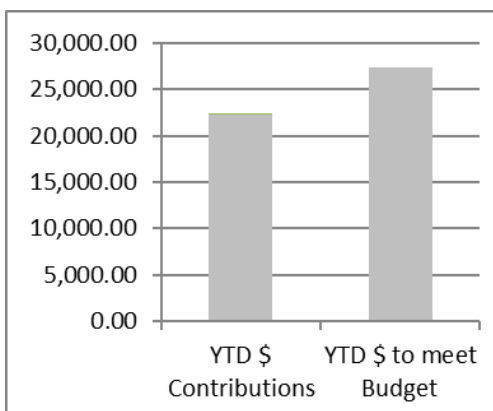
### 3. Bethel offering envelope

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](mailto:finsec@lpbethel.org).

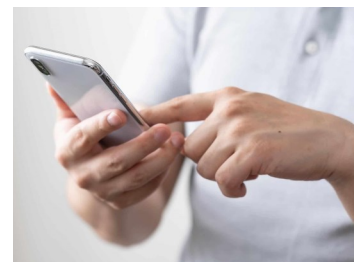
## “Noisy” offering

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!

<b><u>For the Month of March 2023</u></b>	
Weekly Av. Attendance	45
\$ Contributions	6,995.40
\$ to meet Budget	9,141.22
\$ Difference	-2,145.82
<b><u>For the Year 2023</u></b>	
YTD \$ Contributions	22,259.69
YTD \$ to meet Budget	27,423.66
YTD \$ Difference	-5,163.97



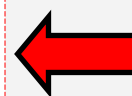
*Simply Giving* offers convenience for you and much needed donation consistency for our congregation!



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



**Bethel's**  
**Financial**  
**Update**



# MAY 2023

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
	1 (office open) 8:30-9:30a coffee w/Stefan	2	3 (office open) 6:30p choir 7:30p WELCA mtg.	4	5	6 10a clean up cemeteries 6p Resplandor de Gloria
7 (5 Easter) 9a worship 10:15a SS/conf.	8 (office open) 8:30-9:30a coffee w/Stefan 6:30p council mtg.	9	10 (office open) 1-4:30p quilting 6:30p choir	11 (office open) 1:30-3p mobile outreach-MEFS	12	13 6p Resplandor de Gloria
14 (6 Easter) 9a worship Mother's Day	15 (office open) 8:30-9:30a coffee w/Stefan	16	17 (office open) 4p worship & music mtg. 6:30p choir 7:30p book club	18 (office open)	19	20 6p Resplandor de Gloria
21 (Ascension of Our Lord) 9a worship 10:15a last day of SS/conf.; Mission Assessment coffee hour	22 (office open) 8:30-9:30a coffee w/Stefan	23	24 (office open) 1-4:30p quilting 6:30p choir	25 (office open) 1:30-3p mobile outreach-MEFS newsletter deadline	26	27 6p Resplandor de Gloria
28 (Day of Pentecost) 9a worship (noisy offering)	29 (office closed) Memorial Day	30	31 (office open) 6:30p choir	1 (office open)	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:** 25<sup>th</sup> of the month
- **Most up-to-date calendar version:** Go to [www.lpbethel.org](http://www.lpbethel.org)
- **Church Directory:** 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 [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, April 10, 2023

**Council Members Present:** President: Ron Foust; Secretary: Cathy Houg; Treasurer: Matt Krull; Financial Secretary: Stacy Meyer; Finance Board: Mitch Overbye and Sara Jepsen; Education Board: 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 Sara Jepsen and seconded by Bryon Weisenburger to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

\*Vicar Swanson reported that Holy Week had good attendance and went well. The Mission Assessment individual interviews are complete. While some of the focus groups have been interviewed, there are still a few to meet. A report to the congregation will be issued in May.

## **Old Business:**

1. A **motion** was made by Cathy Houg and seconded by Mitch Overbye to accept the appointment of Jeremy Radtke to the Audit Committee for a 3-year term (Audit review-2023, 2024, 2025). Motion carried.
2. A **motion** was made by Matt Krull and seconded by Emily Koehler to accept Diane Horsman for a one-year term (Audit review 2022) and Carol Wertz for a two-year term (Audit review-2022 and 2023) on the Audit Committee. Motion carried.
3. The Audit Committee consisting of Jenna Pariseau, Diane Horsman, and Carol Wertz completed the 2022 audit review on March 28, 2023. All checks, deposits, and transfers were verified and deemed legitimate. A **motion** was made and seconded by Brian Duncan and Bryon Weisenburger to accept the review. Motion carried.
4. The Organ Committee will coordinate with Allen Organs of Minneapolis as to the installation of the new organ. Documents will be signed and a check issued per the contract. Since there were no other offers, Allen Organ Company will dispose of the existing organ for \$200.
5. The proceeds of \$417 from the Easter breakfast will go into the Campership Fund.

## **New Business:**

1. A **motion** was made by Brian Duncan and seconded by Mitch Overbye to contract with Kingdom Builders for our church and garage roof replacement at \$55,891. Motion carried. Kingdom Builders estimates work will begin end of April. Since our insurance coverage is full replacement, Kingdom Builders will be working with the insurance company for payment.
2. Worship/Potluck will be held at the cemetery on June 4, 2023.

## **Secretary Minutes:**

A **motion** was made by Sara Jepsen and seconded by Bryon Weisenburger to accept March's secretary's report. Motion carried.

## **Treasurer Reports:**

A **motion** was made by Cathy Houg and seconded by Emily Koehler to accept March's treasurer's report. Motion carried.

## **Financial Secretary Report:**

A **motion** was made by Sara Jepsen and seconded by Mitch Overbye to accept March's financial secretary's report. Motion carried.

## **Reports:**

1. **Education Board:** The Board will be checking with parents to find young people who are interested in attending Bible camp this summer.
2. **Finance Board:** The 2022 audit is completed.
3. **Trustee Board:** Other than reporting on the roof replacement, no further report.

## **Communications:**

1. Congregational Mission Assessment/MSP Committee Members: Jean Hallberg, Jan Smith, Mary Lou Teubert, Emily Koehler, Lloyd Wertz, Jeff Hanson, Carl Overbye, and Connor Meyer.
2. Pulpit supply for Sunday, April 16, 2023, is Pastor Melanie Lichtenberg.

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

**The next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, May 8, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted: Cathy Houg, Council Secretary

## Bethel volunteers for Burger Stand



Mark your calendars for Prairie Days Friday, July 14 & Saturday, July 15, 2023. Bethel Lutheran Church has signed up to cover a shift at the Burger Stand from 1:00-3:00 pm on Saturday, July 15. If you are

willing and able to volunteer please contact Ron Foust at 612-245-3005.

## 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**

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

Lester Prairie, MN 55354



PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE