



BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel Lutheran Church Newsletter

August 2023

FROM THE VICAR'S DESK

Psalm 86:11-13a (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

Teach me your way, O LORD,

that I may walk in your truth;

give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,

and I will glorify your name forever.

For great is your steadfast love toward me.

Dear Bethel Lutheran Church,

I give thanks to God with my whole heart for our time together these past eleven months. Although I am excited to begin my new role as a hospice chaplain with CentraCare, leaving Bethel is bittersweet for me, and I will miss you all a great deal. It has been a great privilege to serve as your vicar and to spend some time with you during this interim period. I leave Bethel with fond memories of worshipping together, ministering together, and listening together to dreams and visions about what God might be doing among this people. I want to express my thanks to the Bethel Congregational Council and to all of Bethel's staff and lay leaders – I learned a great deal from each of you and am grateful for your support and guidance during this interim time.

I'm also grateful to the Congregational Council for allowing me to celebrate my ordination at Bethel Lutheran Church on Saturday, August 19th at 2pm! Everyone is invited and I am thrilled to be able to observe this special event at a church which is also special to me.

Finally, know that Bethel and its leadership and call committee will remain in my prayers as the call process continues to unfold. I trust that God's steadfast love will guide Bethel to walk in paths of truth, and that God's faithfulness will guide this process for the glory of God's name.

In Christ,

Stefan Swanson

Interim Vicar

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

When:

Thurs., Aug. 10 & 24
1:30 pm-3:00 pm

Where:

Bethel Lutheran
Church parking lot

Bethel welcomes new members



Alayna Jolene Staub was baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit on Sunday, July 2, 2023. Alayna is the daughter of Katie Radtke and John Staub. Her sponsors are Brianna Bren and Thomas Staub. We welcome this new member of God's family!

Also, affirming their faith in which we are baptized into the body of Christ, expressing to live out this faith with the members of this congregation are Katie Fosdick, Dave Gohl, Jan Gohl, Katie Radtke, and John Staub. Welcome!



Prepare for the Back-to-School Kits Collection

The collected school supplies will be put into backpacks and given to Lutheran World Relief to distribute to children around the world. Often, the ability to have school supplies is what makes it possible for some children to attend school. Thank you in advance for your generosity that helps provide basic education for children! Please donate *only* high-quality, name-brand supplies requested from the list. You may donate all the items for one or more kits or some items from the list. Watch for the donation drop-off area in the Narthex. Monetary donations are welcome, and will purchase additional supplies to complete the school kits. Earmark your monetary donation "school kits" for the weekly offering plate.

Call Committee

Pastor Naomi Mahler, Synod Representative, has met with the newly formed Call Committee continuing to guide us through calling our new pastor. If you have any questions, contact Ron Foust, Council President, or a Call Committee member, Jean Hallberg (CH), Julie Hanson, Cathy Houg, Connor Meyer, Stacy Meyer, Max Petersen, Jan Smith, LuAnn Weisenburger, or Peggy Wick. Thank you to this group for taking on this vital role in our church.

School Kit List

- Four 70-sheet notebooks, wide or college ruled, 8 X 10 1/2" (no loose-leaf paper)
- One 30 cm ruler (or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other)
- One pencil sharpener
- One 2 1/2" pink eraser
- One blunt point scissors (Fiskars brand)
- Five ballpoint pens, blue or black ink (no gel ink)
- One box of 24 crayons (Crayola brand)
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers

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

WITH JOY AND THANKS TO GOD,
YOU ARE INVITED TO

THE ORDINATION OF
STEFAN SWANSON

TO THE MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENT IN THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Saturday, 19 August 2023
2 pm Worship Service

Bethel Lutheran Church
77 Lincoln Ave
Lester Prairie, Minnesota

Rostered ministers and seminarians
are invited to join in the procession.
The color of the day is red.

Punch and treats to follow.



Service will livestream at:
<https://www.facebook.com/lpbethel>

STEFAN HAS BEEN CALLED BY THE
SOUTHWESTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD
TO SERVE AS A HOSPICE CHAPLAIN
WITH THE CENTRACARE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

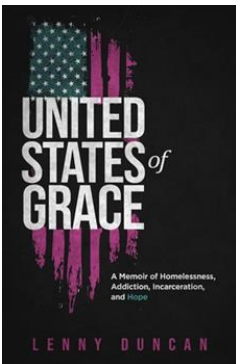
Happy Birthday!



- 8/2 Mark D./Dave A.
- 8/4 Jesse D.
- 8/5 Katie A./Andria C.
- 8/8 Nancy P.
- 8/9 Brantley G.
- 8/10 Bruce Y./Anne J.
- 8/13 Linda D./Nora C.
- 8/14 Kim J.
- 8/16 Mike R.
- 8/20 Drake P.
- 8/24 Dick K./Jeff H.
- 8/25 Marilyn P./Kathy K./Connor R.

August Book Club

United States of Grace by Lenny Duncan



Discussion date: Wed., Aug. 16, 7:30 pm

Lenny Duncan brings us a deeply personal story about growing up black and queer in the U.S. He recounts an intimate portrayal of his life's struggles and joys. A love story about America, revealing the joy and resilience of places many call "the margins" but Lenny has called home. This book makes a bold claim that God is present with us in the most difficult of circumstances, bringing life out of death.

Community Garden update



A Blessing of the Garden took place on Sunday, July 30. Thank you to those helping our garden grow, especially the Garden Committee: Emily Koehler, Cathy Houg, and Pete Hallberg! If you would like to help, contact

Emily Koehler at emily.e.koehler@gmail.com.

Celebrate your Baptism!



- 8/1 Adam M.
 - 8/6 Owen C.
 - 8/8 Quentin M./Felicity G.
 - 8/9 Kyla H.
 - 8/16 Corrine B./Sarah R.
 - 8/19 Nancy P./Jerry C.
 - 8/26 Laurie M.
 - 8/30 Katie A.
 - 8/31 Steve K./Alexa L.
- Also this month: Jeff H.

FAITH & FELLOWSHIP



Last Fellowship Around the Fire | Wednesday, August 23

You are invited to join us at 6:30 pm around our beautiful fire pit for hot dogs, chips, and beverages. Please bring a side dish to share and lawn chairs. Hope to see you there!

All Ages Vacation Bible School | BLOSSOMING IN FAITH | August 14-17



Meal: 5:30-6:00 pm | VBS: 6:00-8:00 pm | Open to all ages 0-100+

Join us each night for a meal, lessons, games, and activities that help us grow in faith and build community!

To sign up go to: <https://tinyurl.com/blcvbs2023> or call 320-395-2125



Bethel Women's Retreat

You are invited to join
the fellowship & fun!

Friday and Saturday
September 8-10, 2023

Medayto Lodge
Green Lake Bible Camp
Spicer, MN.



Registration is now open!

This retreat is open to Bethel women of all ages along with their invited friends and relatives! Registration Fee: \$75 per person covers lodging, meals and programming. Scholarships (full or partial) are available. Contact Jill Duncan at 320-420-6284 or any WELCA Board member with questions. Give your registration form and fee to Diane Horsman or mail it to the church office.

The registration deadline is September 1.

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 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).

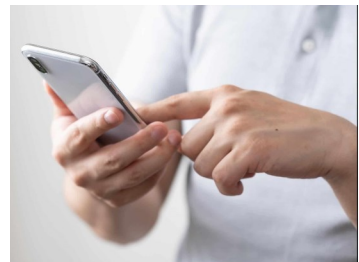
3. Bethel offering envelope

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!

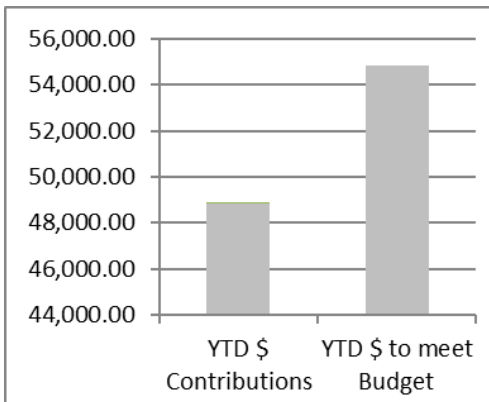
Simply Giving offers convenience for you and much needed donation consistency for our congregation!



To GIVE Text the dollar amount to 866-298-7547



| For the Month of June 2023 | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Weekly Av. Attendance | 48 |
| \$ Contributions | 7,680.40 |
| \$ to meet Budget | 9,141.22 |
| \$ Difference | -1,460.82 |
| For the Year 2023 | |
| YTD \$ Contributions | 48,819.89 |
| YTD \$ to meet Budget | 54,847.32 |
| YTD \$ Difference | -6,027.43 |



Bethel's Financial Update

AUGUST 2023

| SUN. | MON. | TUES. | WED. | THURS. | FRI. | SAT. |
|---|--|----------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| | | 1 | 2 (office hours) | 3 (office hours) | 4 | 5 6p Resplandor de Gloria |
| 6 (Pent 10) 9a worship (Pastor Donna) | 7 (office hours) | 8 | 9 (office hours) 1-4:30p quilting 6:30p WELCA mtg. | 10 (office hours) 1:30-3p mobile outreach-MEFS | 11 | 12 6p Resplandor de Gloria |
| 13 (Pent 11) 9a worship (Pastor Bill) | 14 (office hours) 5:30-8p All Ages VBS 6:30p council mtg. | 15 5:30-8p All Ages VBS | 16 (office hours) 4p worship & music mtg. 5:30-8p All Ages VBS 7:30p book discussion | 17 (office hours) 5:30-8p All Ages VBS | 18 | 19 2p Ordination of Stefan Swanson 6p Resplandor de Gloria |
| 20 (Pent 12) 9a outdoor worship (Pastor Donna) | 21 (office hours) | 22 | 23 (office hours) 1-4:30p quilting 6:30p Fellowship Around the Fire | 24 (office hours) 1:30-3p mobile outreach-MEFS | 25 newsletter deadline | 26 6p Resplandor de Gloria |
| 27 (Pent 13) 9a worship (Pastor Bill) noisy offering | 28 (office hours) | 29 | 30 (office hours) | 31 (office hours) | 1 women's retreat registration deadline | 2 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 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. 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, JULY 10, 2023

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

Call to Order:

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 Stacy Meyer and seconded by Mitch Overbye to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried.
- Vicar Swanson reported that he had visited three homebound members in the last month. The dedication of the organ was on July 9, 2023, and on June 28, 2023, a fellowship around the fire was held at 6:30 P.M. Alayna Staub was baptized on July 2, 2023. New members will be welcomed into the congregation on July 23, 2023. On July 30, 2023, there will be outdoor worship, and it is Vicar Swanson's last Sunday.

Old Business:

- The Audit Committee job description was tabled.
- The Mission Assessment Report and Mission Site Profile was approved unanimously by Church Council. It has been submitted to the SW MN Synod. President Foust extended a THANK YOU to the members of the Mission Assessment/Site Profile Team. Job WELL done!!

New Business:

- A **motion** was made by Pete Hallberg and seconded by Brian Duncan to accept the following members on the Call Committee: Church Council Members: Peg Wick, Stacy Meyer, Cathy Houg; Members at Large: LuAnn Weisenburger, Jan Smith, Julie Hanson; WELCA: Jean Hallberg (committee chairperson); Youth Representatives: Connor Meyer, Max Peterson. Motion Carried.
- A **motion** was made by Pete Hallberg and seconded by Peggy Wick that our church be host to the ordination service of Vicar Swanson on August 19, 2023, at 2:00 P.M.

Secretary Minutes:

A **motion** was made by Mitch Overbye and seconded by Pete Hallberg to accept June's secretary's report with one correction under Communications Item #1 to read: "Kingdom Builders is in contact with our insurance company regarding roof and siding repair." Motion carried.

Treasurer Reports:

The treasurer's report was tabled until next month.

Financial Secretary Report:

A **motion** was made by Cathy Houg and seconded by Pete Hallberg to accept June's financial secretary's report. Motion carried.

Reports:

- **Education Board:** There is an upcoming meeting to plan Vacation Bible School.
- **Finance Board:** A contract was signed for the use of the office machines. The machines remain the same.
- **Trustees:** Kingdom Builders are still waiting on our insurance company as to the settlement of the roof and siding repair.

Communications:

- A team of Bethel's members will be working at the Prairie Days' Hamburger Stand on Saturday, July 15, 2023, from 1-3 P.M.
- Future Pulpit Supply Leadership is as follows: Pastor Donna Olson: August 6th and August 20, 2023. Pastor Bill Nelson: August 13th and August 27, 2023.
- An Interim Pastor will hopefully begin in September. The Executive Committee will be conducting interviews.
- During the worship service on July 23, 2023, there will be a special acknowledgement of the work done by the Mission Assessment/Site Profile Team. The report they compiled has been submitted on the Synod website, and is a platform for the Call Committee to follow. This Sunday will also be an opportunity to commission the Call Committee.
- During the worship service on July 30, 2023, the Garden Committee will be acknowledged.
- Before the prayers, President Ron Foust said words of thanks to Vicar Swanson for his exemplary ministry to our congregation.

The meeting was adjourned by Brian Duncan at 7:09 and closed with round Table Prayers and the Lord's Prayer.

The next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, August 14, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Cathy Houg, Council Secretary

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Bethel Burger Stand Crew at Prairie Days

July 15, 2023



Back row: Matt Krull, Lloyd Wortz, Carolyn Barr, Cathy Houg, Jerry Christenson, Ron Foust, Neil Kleve, Mitch Overbye
Front row: Nicole Weisenburger, Lachlynn Swatzke, Diane Horsman

CONTACT US

Bethel Lutheran Church

77 Lincoln AVE N | PO Box 207
Lester Prairie, MN 55354

OFFICE: 320-395-2125

bethellutheranlp@gmail.com

Visit us on the web! www.lpbethel.org

www.facebook.com/lpbethel

Pastoral Emergency Contact:

Pastor Jeffrey Engholm

Trinity Lutheran Church, Watertown
Office: 952-955-1891; Cell: 320-212-0976

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.



Bethel Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 207

Lester Prairie, MN 55354

PLACE
STAMP
HERE