



BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel Lutheran Church Newsletter

September 2023

FROM INTERIM PASTOR SUSAN ENGHOLM

Greetings, Bethel Lutheran!



I am delighted to be stepping into the role as your interim pastor beginning this September.

A little about me: I grew up in Fargo, ND and then went to college at the University of Minnesota. I then graduated from Luther Seminary and was ordained in 2003. Since then, I have served in a variety of settings, including as an associate pastor (First Lutheran, St James, MN), a chaplain at an in-patient addiction treatment center (Project Turnabout, Granite Falls, MN), and as an interim pastor (St Luke's Episcopal, Willmar, MN, Our Redeemer's & Shepherd of the Hills, Benson, MN, and Family of Christ, Chanhassen, MN). In 2013, I graduated from the Christos Center for Spiritual Formation in Lino Lakes, MN and have also served as a spiritual director since that time.



I live in Watertown, MN with my husband, Jeff, who serves as solo pastor at Trinity Lutheran in Watertown. When Jeff and I married, I "inherited" a family from him through his first marriage! Isaac lives in Robbinsdale, MN with his wife, Christina and their children, Alice and Elijah. Hannah lives in Valley Center, CA with her husband, Chris, and their children, Levi and Owen. We also have a small dog, Beverly, who is a little bossy and is nice enough to let us live in "her" house!



All kidding aside, I am looking forward to being at Bethel and getting the chance to meet each of you. Having had the chance to meet your executive committee, have conversations with Tamie, and looking around your website, you clearly have a vibrant ministry here at Bethel. You have many wonderful leaders in the congregation, and it has already been a joy partnering with you. I look forward to the days to come together!

As I consider our partnership together, the Lutheran Prayer of Good Courage comes to mind. It is a prayer shared most often as we set out upon a new journey, preparing our hearts and minds for a new day ahead. May God bless our path as together we meet all that is to come:

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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: Thursdays

September 14 & 28
1:30 pm-3:00 pm

Where:

Bethel Lutheran
Church parking lot

Bethel welcomes newly baptized member!



Andrew Edward Fosdick, born on July 22, 2023, was baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit on Sunday, August 20, 2023. Andrew is the son of Katie and Nick Fosdick. His sponsors are Brian Stockman and Krystal Fair. We welcome this new member of God's family!

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. 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. The deadline to bring in donations is Sunday, September 10. Kits will be assembled later in September and brought to the Crow River Conference Fall Gathering on Saturday, September 30, and will continue on their way to the LWR warehouse in St. Paul.



School Kit List

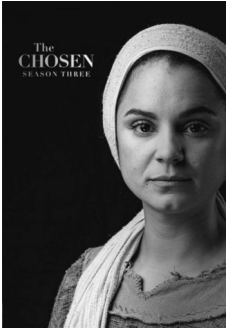
- Four 70-sheet notebooks, wide or college ruled, 8 X 10 1/2" (no loose-leaf paper)
- One 30 cm ruler (or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other)
- One pencil sharpener
- One 2 1/2" pink eraser
- One blunt point scissors (Fiskars brand)
- Five ballpoint pens, blue or black ink (no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

Crow River Conference WELCA Fall Gathering:

Saturday, September 30, First Lutheran Church, Litchfield. Sign up by Sunday, September 17 if you would like to attend. Reservation fee: \$10 payable to Diane Horsman.

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

The Chosen: Season 3



We will meet weekly again on Sundays at 6:00 pm later in September. If you haven't yet viewed Seasons 1 and 2, you can do so online, or you are welcome to borrow Bethel's DVDs. Contact Jill Duncan with questions.

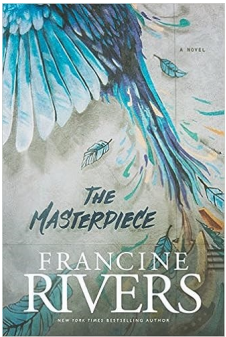
Happy Birthday!

Would you like to be part of the Chimes Choir?

We could play for special occasions or it could become a regular thing. Contact Jan Smith if you are interested and share your ideas!

September Book Club

The Masterpiece by Francine Rivers



A successful LA artist, Roman Velasco appears to have everything he could possibly want—money, women, fame. Only Grace Moore, his reluctant, newly hired personal assistant, knows how little he truly has. The demons of Roman's past seem to echo through the halls of his empty mansion and out across his breathtaking Topanga Canyon view. But Grace doesn't know how her boss secretly wrestles with

those demons: by tagging buildings as the Bird, a notorious but unidentified graffiti artist—an alter ego that could destroy his career and land him in prison. Like Roman, Grace is wrestling with ghosts and secrets of her own. After a disastrous marriage threw her life completely off course, she vowed never to let love steal her dreams again. But as she gets to know the enigmatic man behind the reputation, it's as if the jagged pieces of both of their pasts slowly begin to fit together . . . until something so unexpected happens that it changes the course of their relationship—and both their lives—forever.

Celebrate your Baptism!



FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

All Ages
Vacation Bible School
August 14-17



—BLOSSOMING
IN FAITH—



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).

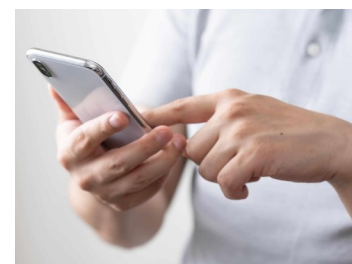
3. Bethel offering envelope

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!

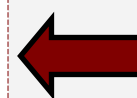
Simply Giving offers convenience for you and much needed donation consistency for our congregation!



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



*Bethel's
Financial
Update*



SEPTEMBER 2023

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
		1			1 Women's Retreat deadline	2 bp Resplandor de Gloria
3 (Pent 14) 9a worship (Interim Pr. Susan)	4 (office closed) Labor Day	5	6 (office hours) 1-4:30p quilting 6:30p WELCA mtg.	7 (office hours)	8	9 bp Resplandor de Gloria
10 (Pent 15) 9a worship (Pr. Bill) 10a 1st day of Sunday school School supplies donation deadline	11 (office hours) 6:30p council mtg.	12	13 (office hours) 1-4:30p quilting	14 (office hours) 1:30-3p mobile outreach-MEFS	15	16 bp Resplandor de Gloria
17 (Pent 16) 9a praise worship (Pr. Bill) 10a Sunday school WELCA Fall Gathering deadline	18 (office hours)	19	20 (office hours) 4p worship & music mtg. 7:30p book discussion	21 (office hours)	22	23 bp Resplandor de Gloria
24 (Pent 17) 9a worship/noisy offering (Pr. Susan) 10a Sunday school	25 (office hours) newsletter deadline	26	27 (office hours) 1-4:30p quilting	28 (office hours) 1:30-3p mobile outreach-MEFS	29	30 CR Conf. WELCA Fall Gathering bp 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, AUGUST 14, 2023

Mark your October calendars!

Family Game Night



Sunday, October 15, from 5-8 pm at church. Please bring a hotdish or salad to share, your own beverage, and your favorite game to play.

Pumpkin Festival

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:

Interim Pastor Susan Engholm
320-293-1811

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