



BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel Lutheran Church Newsletter

November 2023

FROM PASTOR SUSAN ENGHOLM

"Love the Lord Your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind..."

As I wrote in last month's newsletter, each month I am introducing a prayer practice for you to consider and try out. Last month, we learned that by focusing on deep breathing, we are reminded that God's Spirit is as near to us as our own breath, which becomes a kind of prayer. This month, we focus on *Lectio Divina*.

Lectio Divina, Latin for "Sacred Reading," is a practice of reading the Bible slowly and deliberately to shape a time of personal prayer. *Lectio Divina* was originally described by St. Benedict in the 6th century, using four practices: *lectio* (reading), *meditatio* (meditation), *oratio* (prayer), and *contemplatio* (contemplation). While many people choose to practice *Lectio Divina* alone, you can also share in the practice with others.

When we practice *Lectio Divina*, it might look something like this:

- 1) Choose a Bible passage in which you would like to spend some time. I have included a scripture from Matthew below to get you started. (Or save your bulletin from Sunday! You could use one of the scriptures printed on back.)
- 2) Prepare your heart and space. Find a quiet place and a comfortable chair. Perhaps say a short prayer to begin your time.
- 3) **READ:** Slowly read the scripture passage you have chosen. Listen for a word, phrase, or image that captures your attention.
- 4) **MEDITATE:** Read the scripture a second time, this time noticing how the word, phrase, or image brings the passage to light in a new way. Allow your imagination to notice how this word, phrase, or image shapes how you hear it.
- 5) **PRAY:** As you read the scripture a third time, this time let it be an entrance into prayer. What does this scripture raise up in you? Does it create questions? Does it speak to things you hold in your heart? Offer all these things to God in prayer.
- 6) **CONTEMPLATE:** Finally, release all the images, questions, and thoughts you have been holding and read the scripture a fourth time. Consider the gift God as given to you in this time. Where is God calling you to be? Who is God calling you to serve?

Many blessings as you seek ways to deepen your relationship to God. Let me know how this practice goes for you!

In Christ,
Pastor Susan Engholm

Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

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: Thursday

November 16
1:30 pm-3:00 pm

Where:

Bethel Lutheran
Church parking lot

MEFS Cash Collection



During the month of November WELCA will collect a cash offering for the McLeod Emergency Food Shelf. Special envelopes will be handed out on Sunday, November 12. Please put your offering in the envelope and place it in the offering plate any Sunday during November. Thank you for your generosity!

Apply NOW for Endowment Grants!

Endowment grant applications will be accepted through Thursday, November 30. Application forms are on the wall in the narthex. Please place completed applications in the Endowment Committee mailbox. *The grants will be announced at the Annual Congregational meeting in January.*

WELCA Advent project



You're invited to the WELCA's upcoming advent project: "A Birthday Party for Jesus"! Bethel will be sponsoring three families through the Lester Prairie School Outreach Program. We will have a Giving Tree in the narthex with various items to purchase for our families by the 19th of November. Go shopping and bring your items back for the "Birthday Party for Jesus" on Sunday, December 17, where we will wrap the gifts, play some games, enjoy treats and make some crafts.

Confirmation Sunday



On Sunday, the 29th of October we welcomed Olivia Radtke, Ashlyn Rosenau, Bryce Shields, and Mallorie Torry to share in the mission of the Bethel Lutheran congregation and the whole church!

Thanksgiving Worship

Sunday, November 19

Worship begins at
6:30 p.m. followed
by a Pie Social
served by WELCA!



Midweek Advent

Worship service

6:30 pm

November 29

December 6

December 13

December 20

The choir will practice at
5:45 pm during Advent.

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

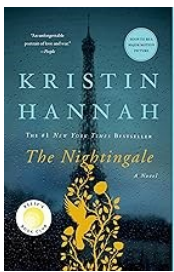
Adult Education begins Sunday, November 5

Adult Education will be offered during coffee hour. Join us for a time of education and conversation! We will have education every Sunday except for the last Sunday of the month. The focus will be frequently asked questions about being Lutheran. Speak to Cathy Houg or Mitch Overbye if you have any questions.

Bible Study begins Monday, November 6

Join us for Bible Study on Monday mornings at 9:00 am. Similar to how it was done in the past, we will review the sermon from the day before and look at the Gospel for the coming week. Looking forward to seeing you there!

November Book Club



The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah

With courage, grace, and powerful insight, bestselling author Kristin Hannah captures the epic panorama of World War II and illuminates an intimate part of history seldom seen: the women's war. *The Nightingale* tells the stories of two sisters, separated by years and experience, by ideals, passion and circumstance, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love, and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn France—a heartbreakingly beautiful novel that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women. It is a novel for everyone, a novel for a lifetime.

Discussion date: Wednesday, November 15, 7:30 pm

"Living the Word Today"-Equipping Congregations Day

Saturday, December 2, 2023-8:30 am-3:00 pm, Vinje Lutheran Church, Willmar. Come gather together as we enter the season of Advent with learning opportunities to equip congregations as we live the Word today. Keynote Speaker: Rolf A. Jacobson, *Luther Seminary Dean of the Faculty, Professor of Old Testament and The Alvin N. Rogness Chair of Scripture, Theology, and Ministry*-*"The Spirit of God is Loose in the World"* You will be able to attend your choice of 2 out of 8 workshops. A finalized workshop list will be available online soon. All are welcome! Childcare available. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.



Happy Birthday!

- 11/1 Steve L. & Dean S.
- 11/2 Lachlynn S.
- 11/3 Gary S.
- 11/7 Jeff W.
- 11/9 Sam R.
- 11/14 Jeremy R.
- 11/17 Max P.
- 11/24 Nancy K.
- 11/29 Colton H.



Celebrate your Baptism!

- 11/2 Jan S.
- 11/8 Dick K.
- 11/18 Kristie C.
- 11/19 Kathy E.
- 11/22 Dana S. & Cheryl S.
- 11/23 Zander G.
- 11/26 Connor M.
- 11/27 Adeline J.



FAITH & FELLOWSHIP



Hot Drinks!



Popcorn Snack!



Cookie Decorating!



Pumpkins! Activities!



Elephant Joe's Coffee Truck & Photo Ops!

Pumpkin Festival 2023

Our first Pumpkin Festival on the 15th of October was a lot of fun! Thanks to the Garden Committee-Emily, Cathy, Katie, Pete, and Stacy! Also, Terri and kids, Danise, Carol and Lloyd, Sara, Peggy, Dave and Diane and all others who helped to make this event come together!



Game Night 2023

A beautiful fall evening on Sunday, October 15, began with a potluck, including hotdogs roasted over the fire. Following the wonderful food, we moved inside for a time of fellowship and games.



Fun & Games!

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).

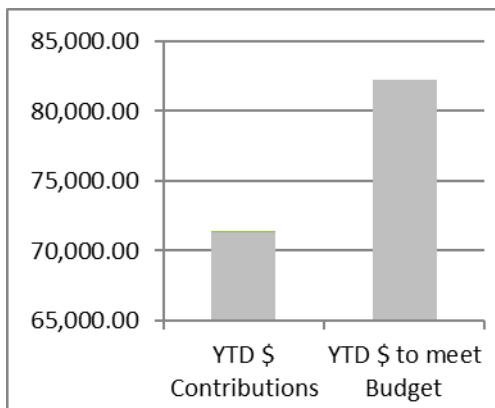
3. Bethel offering envelope

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.

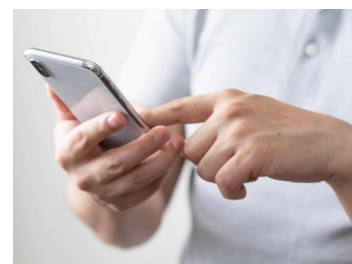
“Noisy” offering

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!

For the Month of Sept 2023	
Weekly Av. Attendance	50
\$ Contributions	8,510.40
\$ to meet Budget	9,141.22
\$ Difference	-630.82
For the Year 2023	
YTD \$ Contributions	71,366.09
YTD \$ to meet Budget	82,270.98
YTD \$ Difference	-10,904.89



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

NOVEMBER 2023

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
			1 (office hours) 6:30p choir 7:30 WELCA mtg.	2 (office hours)	3	4 6p Resplandor de Gloria
5 (All Saints Sunday) 9a worship 10a Sunday school & confirmation class & adult education 6:30p The Chosen	6 (office hours) 9a Bible study	7	8 (office hours) 1-4:30p quilting 6:30p choir	9 (office hours)	10	11 6p Resplandor de Gloria Veteran's Day
12 (Pent 24) 9a worship (Pr. Bill) 10a Sunday school & adult education No confirmation class 6:30p The Chosen	13 (office hours) 9a Bible study 6:30p council mtg.	14	15 (office hours) 4p worship & music mtg. 6:30p choir 7:30p book club	16 (office hours) 1:30-3p MEFS mobile outreach	17	18 6p Resplandor de Gloria
19 (Christ the King) 9a praise worship 10a Sunday school & confirmation class & adult education 6:30p Thanksgiving worship service & pie	20 (office hours) 9a Bible study	21	22 (office hours) 1-4:30p quilting 6:30p choir	23 Thanksgiving Day	24	25 6p Resplandor de Gloria newsletter deadline
26 (Advent 1) (noisy offering) 9a worship 10a Sunday school & confirmation class 10:30a Breakfast w/ Bethel @ Longhorn's 6:30p The Chosen	27 (office hours) 9a Bible study	28	29 (office hours) 5:45p choir 6:30p Advent worship service	30 (office hours) Endowment grant applications due	1	2 8:30a-3p Equipping Congregations Day, Willmar 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, OCTOBER 9, 2023

Council Members Present: President: Ron Foust; Vice President: Peggy Wick; Secretary: Cathy Houg; Treasurer: Matt Krull; Financial Secretary: Stacy Meyer; Finance Board: Nancy Krull and Mitch Overbye; Education Board: Pete Hallberg; Trustee Board: Bryon Weisenburger; Interim Pastor Susan Engholm; Lloyd Wortz: Representative of the Endowment Committee

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by President Ron Foust followed by a prayer led by Pastor Engholm.

Council Business:

- * A **motion** was made by Pete Hallberg and seconded by Bryon Weisenburger to approve the agenda as amended to include one more communication item. Motion carried.
- * Pastor Engholm reported that confirmation will be held on October 29, 2023, Reformation Sunday. She will be attending the upcoming Youth Task Force meeting. She presided over the reinterment of Verona Howell. She also visited Pastor Naomi Mahler and was updated on the Counselorship for Green Lake Bible Camp. She discussed with Council the process of updating the congregational membership records. The Executive Board will assist with this process following November's Church Council meeting.

Old Business:

- * A **motion** was made by Peg Wick and seconded by Stacy Meyer to accept the job description for the Audit Committee as completed by the Finance Board. Motion carried.

New Business:

- * Lloyd Wortz presented information on the recently updated bylaws of the Endowment Committee. At the next meeting, November 13, 2023, the Church Council will provide feedback on any concerns followed by a vote to accept. A **motion** was made by Cathy Houg and seconded by Nancy Krull to have a second passing of the plate during worship on October 29, 2023. This offering will go to the Endowment Fund. Motion carried.

Secretary Minutes:

A **motion** was made by Pete Hallberg and seconded by Mitch Overbye to accept September's secretary's report with a correction that the funeral for Alan Stern was on August 30, 2023, with burial in September 2023. Motion carried.

Treasurer Reports:

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

Financial Secretary Report:

A **motion** was made by Nancy Krull and seconded by Bryon Weisenburger to accept September's financial secretary's report. Motion carried.

Reports:

Education Board:

Sunday School has begun.

Finance Board:

The Board is researching various stewardship programs for the beginning of 2024. They are also working with three companies on insurance options.

Trustees:

The roof and siding will be completed by the end of the month. A new-to-us pastor's desk has been purchased and is now in the pastor's office. Items no longer needed include two speakers used with the old organ, two gas burners (\$10 each), an L-shaped black computer desk with a hutch and a bookshelf (\$30), and two gold office chairs. Anyone interested should speak to Bryon Weisenburger. The Trustees will replace the batteries in the AED unit and check the electrodes.

Communications:

- *A thank you card from Pastor Stefan Swanson was read.
- *Rev. William Nelson will lead worship on November 12, 2023.
- *Dr. Dee Pederson will celebrate her 2-year anniversary as SWMN Synod Bishop.
- *The Nominating Committee will be activated.
- *The congregational meeting for 09-17-2023 was cancelled. The Call Committee is once again activated.
- *Adult Forum will begin in November from 10:20-11:00 following worship service. (There will not be Adult Forum on the last Sunday of the month due to Bethel Breakfast.) The focus will be: Frequently Asked Questions about being Lutheran.

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

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

Respectfully submitted: Cathy Houg, Council Secretary

Creative Souls Retreat

Welcoming crafters of all kinds!

Chrysalis House at Green Lake Bible Camp
November 17-19, 2023
Fee: 2 nights-\$175

Whatever your hobby may be, bring your supplies and join us for a great weekend of crafting at Green Lake Bible Camp. You will enjoy fellowship, and a supportive Christian atmosphere in the company of other creative women. You will also have time for devotions, taking a walk, or even a nap. Register before November 10! gllm.org



SAVE THE DATE!

Women's Retreat
September 13-15, 2024



Bethel Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 207
Lester Prairie, MN 55354

CONTACT US

Bethel Lutheran Church

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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.

PLACE
STAMP
HERE