



# BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel Lutheran Church Newsletter

JUNE 2024

## FROM PASTOR MOLLY

Hello beloved Bethel members!

Again, I continue the saga of questions and answers. Remember, as you read, I encourage you to think about these questions yourself!

### **When you feel hopeless, do you have anything specific you do to help?**

In these moments, what helps me is to write either in my journal or to write poetry. When I journal, it is always a letter to God, talking about the day, the week, the month, the year, and all my feelings, the pains, sorrows, and frustrations that are pent up inside and need to be released. I don't hold anything back because God can take it all. When I write poetry, it is more introspective, focusing on describing what is happening inside me, using imagery to give what I am feeling a life and story of its own that is separate from me, but still speaks to me.

### **Where do you find hope in your life?**

I find hope by looking at the silver linings. When things feel incredibly horrible, and I find myself spiraling farther and farther down, after a good cry I will write, and as I do I inevitably find the silver linings, the glimmers of hope that help me push through the rough patch. Sometimes the silver linings are incredibly small things, like maybe I accidentally break three dishes, bang my head on the cabinet, my car has mechanical issues that will cost a lot to fix, and our well is leaking which will take a small fortune to repair, but at least I haven't broken a bone or at least my kids are all happy and healthy or at least I didn't spill my tea on myself. Some of those might seem like trivial things to find a glimmer of hope in, but it's those small things that remind me that life hasn't really fallen apart, even when it feels like so much is crashing around me. Those things still standing give me hope.

### **What period of time do you find yourself living in most – past, present, or future?**

### **Why do you spend your time living there? And how do you move yourself out of living in that time?**

I tend to live in the future. I'm constantly looking forward and thinking about what I do now and how that will affect my future. My husband is always saying, "That's future Chris's problem" when I bring up how something may affect him later. Mainly I live in the future because I don't want to be stuck dealing with frustrating consequences in the future, it's so much easier to just deal with it now and be done with it. However, there are definitely times when it's better to not worry about all that and just live in the moment or to sit back and think about the past. A lot of times my husband and kids help me live in the moment telling me not to worry about it, it'll all be okay, or that's future Molly's problem and to not think about it right now, just enjoy. When I'm alone I have to very consciously tell myself to not worry, to not think about it, to just be. That is an incredibly hard thing to do and sometimes I am better at it than others. When it comes to looking toward the past, the best way for me is to look at old pictures, read past journal entries or poems, or look at keepsakes and sit in the memories they invoke which are sometimes good and sometimes bad. There are certainly things to learn from the past and hold on to, there are things to appreciate in the moment as I live it and keep a small piece of, and there are things to look forward to in the future in changes and growth. It's all something I have to remind myself of when I get stuck in any one place too long.

Blessings to you all!  
Pastor Molly B. Wills

## MISSION & MINISTRIES

### Driving Away Hunger-MEFS Mobile Outreach

Designed to reduce transportation and mobility issues associated with food access in our communities. The MEFS 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=McLeod Emergency Food Shelf)**



#### MEFS Mobile Outreach

When: Thursday

June 13 & 27

2:30 pm-4:00 pm

Where:

Bethel Lutheran  
Church parking lot

### Sunday morning worship in the country!

WHAT: Outdoor Worship Service & Potluck Picnic

WHERE: Bergen Lutheran Church site

WHEN: Sunday, June 30, 10:00 am



Join us in the country for worship, potluck, and fellowship! Bring lawn chairs and games, and a dish to share. A beverage, plates, cups, utensils, and napkins will be provided. We hope to see you there! *This worship service will be the only one on this day and note the time change.*

#### 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 on the right-hand side of the intersection.



We are campaigning to raise funds to paint the bell tower. We have already painted the cross, but now the base needs painting. Our goal is to raise \$8,000.00 and get the job done this summer. Mark your donation "Bell Tower" and place it in the offering plate on any Sunday. Follow our progress on the Bell Tower model in the narthex. *The Trustees,*  
Bryon W. & Dave G.



**Bethel Sunday School—Mother's Day, May 12**

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

## Help Green Lake Lutheran Ministries!

Kick off a great summer of ministry at Green Lake Bible Camp on June 2, from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM! Enjoy a time of fellowship, fun and get a delicious French toast breakfast with a variety of syrups and toppings, sausage links, fruit, juice and coffee. Summer staff will be ready with activities for the whole family to enjoy by the lake! Price: \$9.00 for adults and children 13+, \$5.00 for children 5-12, children under 5 free! Proceeds will support the camp scholarship fund. Green Lake Lutheran Ministries firmly believes that everyone who wants to experience a week at camp should be able to. Financial concerns should not be a barrier to participating and we hope you'll attend this event to help make camp possible for more families!



## Celebration Bank

The Celebration Bank is back for June, July, and August! Bring your coins to worship and let us know what you are celebrating! Our goal is \$100 to purchase an item(s) from the Green Lake Lutheran Ministries Wish List!



A list of spring cleaning jobs for the church is in the narthex.

Please sign up for a job(s) to complete at your convenience. Your help is greatly appreciated!

MANY  
HANDS  
MAKE  
LIGHT  
WORK!

## Pop-Up Choir

This summer, we are exploring the idea of a "Pop-Up" choir on the second Sunday of each month. The plan is for anyone interested in singing in the choir to come to church at 8:15 on Sunday morning (June 9, July 14, and/or August 11), to rehearse a song with other music lovers, and then to sing the selection during worship that day. Individuals may participate once, twice, or three times, during the summer months. If you have questions, ask Emily Koehler or Jan Smith.

## Garden plots available for rent!

We're expanding the garden, and you're invited to join us! Each plot is approximately 180 sq. ft., and rent is \$20 for the season. Renters will be responsible for the care and upkeep of their plots, harvesting their goods, and helping with clean-up at the end of the season. If you want more details or want to reserve a plot, contact Emily Koehler, Pete Hallberg, or any other member of the Garden Committee.





## FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

### Happy Birthday!

6/3 Katie R.  
6/4 Sarah R.  
6/5 Etta H.  
6/8 Carolyn B.  
6/11 Maggie K.  
6/12 Jacob D.  
6/14 Avery B.  
6/15 Jim M.  
6/16 Alek H.  
6/17 McCoy H.  
6/20 Matt. P.



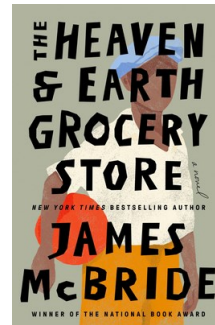
### Celebrate your Baptism!

6/10 Dick D.  
6/11 Bruce Y.  
6/11 Eleanor G.  
6/16 Stacy M.  
6/18 Matt M.  
6/22 Kim W.  
6/23 Lois S.  
6/27 Roger M.  
6/30 Maggie K.



## Bethel Book Club

June-The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBride



A historical fiction about the secrets and struggles of a diverse community in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, in 1972. The title refers to the grocery store where the characters meet and the values that sustain them in dark times.

### Upcoming books

July-No meeting

August-An Immense World by Ed Yong

## Fellowship by the Fire MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Fellowship by the Fire will return once a month this summer on Wednesdays, June 26, July 24, & August 21. The evening will begin at 6:00 pm, outside by the fire

pit. WELCA will supply hotdogs and buns. Please bring a dish to share for the meal, your lawn chair, a favorite game, and your friends!

## June Bible Study for Women



WHAT: WELCA sponsored Women's Bible Study next month!

DATES: Wednesdays in June (June 5, 12, 19, 26)

TIME: 7:00-8:00 pm

PLACE: We will meet at the fire pit in the church yard for the first gathering.

FOCUS: We will explore the scriptures, share personal experiences, and encourage each other in fellowship.

Please feel free to bring a friend!

If you are interested or have questions, ask Jan Smith. (Also, let her know if you need child care during that time.)

# 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](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**.

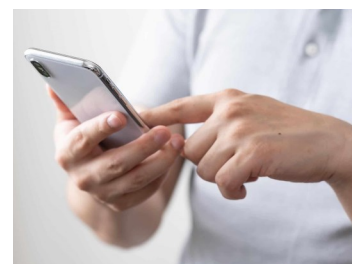
### 3. Bethel offering envelope

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!

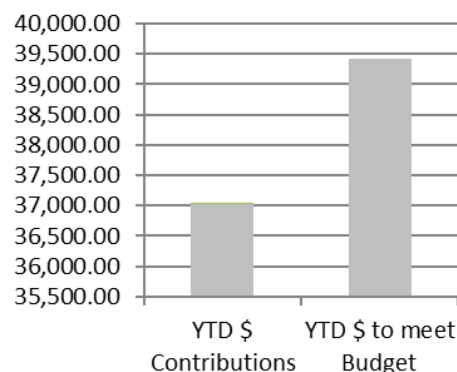
*Simply Giving* offers convenience for you and much needed donation consistency for our congregation!



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



For the Month of April 2024	
Weekly Av. Attendance	65
\$ Contributions	10,713.01
\$ to meet Budget	9,853.52
\$ Difference	859.49
For the Year 2024	
YTD \$ Contributions	37,016.15
YTD \$ to meet Budget	39,414.08
YTD \$ Difference	-2,397.93



**Bethel's Financial Update**

# JUNE 2024

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
*drop change in the celebration bank this month-GLLM wish list item			BULLETIN DEADLINE: NOON WEDNESDAYS			1
2 (Pent 2) 9a worship w/healing 10a fellowship 4p Resplandor de Gloria	3 (office hours) 1:30p Bible study	4 6p WELCA mtg.	5 (office hours) 1-4:30p quilting 7-8p Women's Bible study @ fire pit	6 (office hours)	7 Synod Assembly @ Gustavus	8 Synod Assembly @ Gustavus
9 (Pent 3) (Pastor Susan) 9a worship 10a fellowship 4p Resplandor de Gloria	10 (office hours) 1:30p Bible study 6p council mtg.	11	12 (office hours) 12:30p worship committee mtg. 1-4:30p quilting 7-8p Women's Bible study	13 (office hours) 2:30p-4p MEFS Mobile Outreach	14	15
16 (Pent 4) 9a praise worship 10a fellowship 4p Resplandor de Gloria  FATHER'S DAY	17 (office hours) 1:30p Bible study	18 9-noon Bethel WELCA /Crow River WELCA mtg.	19 (office hours) 1-4:30p quilting 6p book club 7-8p Women's Bible study JUNETEENTH	20 (office hours)  SUMMER BEGINS	21	22 Bethel camp-out @ Baylor Park thru the 23 <sup>rd</sup>
23 (Pent 5) 9a worship w/noisy offering-camperships 10:30a Bethel BF 30 (Pent 6) 10a Bergen site worship & potluck 4p Resplandor de Gloria	24 (office hours) 1:30p Bible study	25 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	26 (office hours) 1-4:30p quilting 6p Fellowship by the Fire 7-8p Women's Bible study	27 (office hours) 2:30p-4p MEFS Mobile Outreach	28	29

- **Online Worship:** <https://www.facebook.com/lpbethel/live>
- **Worship CDs:** Contact the church office if you would like a weekly copy sent to you.
- **Bulletin Submissions Deadline:** Wednesday 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 password to view the directory online, if you would like a hard copy, and if your contact information changes!
- **Seeking volunteers of all ages!** Check out the table in the narthex! Sign up for a month or be a substitute! No experience necessary! Questions? Contact the chairperson listed.

## BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH | COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES | MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024

**Council Members Present:** President: Ron Foust; Vice President: Peggy Wick; Secretary: Cathy Houg; Treasurer: Jill Duncan; Financial Secretary: Stacy Meyer; Finance Board: Mitch Overbye and Sara Jepsen; Education Board: Pete Hallberg and Emily Koehler; Trustee Board: Bryon Weisenburger and Dave Gohl; Pastor Molly Wills

**Call to Order:**

- The meeting was called to order at 6:00 by Pres. Ron Foust followed by an opening prayer led by Pr. Molly.

**Council Business:**

- A **motion** was made by Cathy Houg and seconded by Peggy Wick to approve the agenda as presented with two additions under New Business. Motion carried.
- Pastor Molly has visited the members who are unable to attend Sunday worship. Confirmation will wrap-up on Sunday, May 12, 2024. She met with two Gideon representatives. The Council's general consensus is to invite them to present a temple talk during a Sunday morning worship. She attended a first-call meeting. The Bethel Funeral Handbook has been completed and will be distributed to families when needed.

**Old Business:**

- Two new kitchen stoves have been installed. A **motion** was made by Cathy Houg and seconded by Pete Hallberg to pay the \$2089.95 (\$500 from WELCA and the remainder from Thrivent Choice) to HomeSource for the stoves. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

- Peggy Wick, Pastor Molly, Dave Gohl, and Pete Hallberg will serve on the committee to develop a Stewardship Campaign.
- The suggestion of a new pictorial directory was discussed. Someone will be needed to spearhead this project. Dave Gohl will contact Lifetouch/Shutterfly to see if they have a team that works with churches.
- Pastor Molly brought up the need of a credit or debit card for the church. Jill Duncan and the Finance Board will look into options.

**Secretary Minutes:**

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

**Treasurer Reports:**

- A **motion** was made by Emily Koehler and seconded by Peggy Wick to accept April's treasurer's report. Motion carried.

**Financial Secretary Report:**

- A **motion** was made by Cathy Houg and seconded by Sara Jepsen to accept April's financial secretary's report. Motion carried.

**Reports:**

- Education Board:**

Work continues implementing the Child Protection policy. They are completing a schedule as to when awards and/or blessings be given to Sunday School students.

- Finance Board:**

Nothing to discuss.

- Trustees:**

Bryon Weisenburger presented a plan for a fund raising campaign in order to paint the bell tower. A **motion** was made by Emily Koehler and seconded by Dave Gohl to contract with CertaPro Painters to paint the bell tower at the price of \$7980, and to go forward with scheduling the project and paying the downpayment. The Council, per Constitution, can spend up to \$5000, while continuing to receive donations to reach the \$8000 goal. Motion carried. The Trustees looked for damage in the Sunday School room because of water leaking in. They found no stains, mold, or mildew. The Spring Clean-up Chart has been posted. Birds building nests in the bell caused the bell not to ring. Issue has been mitigated.

**Communications:**

- Pastor Molly Wills will be out for Continuing Education May 13-16. Pastor Susan has agreed to be "on call".
- Sunday, June 9, 2024, Pastor Molly will be on vacation. Pastor Susan will provide pulpit supply.

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

**The next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, June 10, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted: Cathy Houg, Council Secretary

## Song of the month: "Bread of Life"

Have you noticed that we have been singing "Bread of Life" for several consecutive Sundays? The song was written by Larry Olson and Karol Baer, who are a part of Dakota Road Music, a publishing, leadership, and performance company specializing in original faith-filled music. The song relates especially to Exodus 16:4, reminding us of God's gift of manna to the Israelites in the wilderness and to John 6:32-38 where Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

The plan is to introduce a new song during the Praise worship each month when we have song leaders and repeat the song so we become familiar with it.

## 2B Continued Support Groups

Suicide Loss Support Group meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at the Glencoe 2B Continued office. Peer Support for Mental Health meets weekly on Tuesdays at the Glencoe 2B Continued office. To join a support group, email [info@2Bcontinued.org](mailto:info@2Bcontinued.org) or call 320-864-4673,

## 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)

## DON'T FORGET TO STAY CONNECTED!

[www.lpbethel.org](http://www.lpbethel.org)

[www.facebook.com/lpbethel](https://www.facebook.com/lpbethel)

## PASTOR

Rev. Molly Wills

320-339-8169

[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.



Bethel Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 207

Lester Prairie, MN 55354

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE