



# BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel Lutheran Church Newsletter

March 2025

## FROM PASTOR MOLLY

Hello Beloved Children of God!

The Epiphany season has come to an end, and we begin our Lenten journey to the cross. This is a journey of introspection. A time to meditate on how you act and react within your relationship with God, with one another, and with neighbors and enemies. A time to meditate on the idea that we are all made in the image of God, who chose to share our humanity by becoming human and what exactly that means *to* and *for* you. I wrote a poem once while contemplating that very idea and I'll share it below to help focus your meditations during this Lenten season.

### **The Smile**

You stood there  
Looking at  
The world. I  
Didn't know what  
You saw that made  
You smile, but  
I wanted to. I've  
Stood here, in this  
Same place, waiting  
To see the world  
Through your eyes.

May each of you be granted the gift of seeing the world through God's eyes during this Lenten season and throughout your lives.

Love,  
Pastor Molly B. Wills

# MISSION & MINISTRIES

## Driving Away Hunger-MEFS Mobile Outreach

Driving Away Hunger is 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, dairy, grains, and bakery treats. STOP & SHOP THE BUS at no cost to you! All sites are open to the public!

Orders must be placed prior to delivery dates and are pre-packed during the winter months. A limited number of walk-up portions will be available at each delivery site. The staff will accommodate anyone not able to safely enter the vehicle for shopping. The staff are not permitted to carry food inside a residence.

Full grocery distributions are available once (1X) per month, per household. One visit per week is allowed across all sites. Schedule changes are announced at [www.mcleodemergencyfoodshelf.org](http://www.mcleodemergencyfoodshelf.org) and on Facebook @ McLeod Food Shelf. Follow us! Questions? Call 320-864-2088!

**SPREAD THE WORD! The BUS comes to Bethel every month!**



### MEFS Mobile Outreach

#### WINTER SCHEDULE

WHEN: THURSDAY

MARCH 13

1:30 pm-3:00 pm

WHERE:

Bethel Lutheran  
Church parking lot

TO ORDER ONLINE &  
STAY UP-TO-DATE



## WELCA Lenten Project



During Lent, WELCA will collect items for Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. We ask that you bring a specific item to each mid-week Lenten worship service. If you cannot attend on Wednesdays, please note that donations will be accepted anytime during Lent. We ask that all items are new and in good condition. Thank you!

### Items to bring each week:

**March 12:** One metal nail clipper (attached file optional), remove packaging

**March 19:** One sturdy new comb, remove packaging

**March 26:** One adult-size toothbrush, in original packaging

**April 2:** Two or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8-9 oz., any brand, in original packaging

**April 9:** One lightweight bath-size towel (between 20"x 40" and 52"x 27", dark color recommended)

### HOW CAN YOU SERVE FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP?

1. PREPARE COMMUNION
2. GREET PEOPLE
3. USHER
4. READ SCRIPTURE
5. SERVE COMMUNION
6. MAKE COFFEE
7. BRING TREATS

No experience necessary!

Sign up in the narthex!

Questions? Contact the office  
or the group chairperson!

THANK YOU  
VOLUNTEERS!

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

## Lent begins Ash Wednesday, March 5

Join us for worship on Ash Wednesday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m. Mid-week Holden Evening Prayer will be at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, March 12-April 9. There is an opportunity to share your faith story during a mid-week Lenten worship service! The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by the offices. (March 26, & April 2 are still open.)

Meals will be served each week from 5:00 pm-6:15 pm. There is a Lenten meal sign-up sheet in the narthex for anyone that wants to take a turn organizing, preparing, and serving a meal for 35-45 people. Thrivent Action grants will cover the meal expenses. You can also sign up to bring bars and clean up. Ask Diane Horsman if you have any questions.



### Maundy Thursday, Agape Meal

**A sign-up sheet to bring a pot of soup is on the bulletin board by the offices. Watch for more information!**



**GRANDPARENTS**

+

**GRANDCHILDREN**

spent time celebrating Valentine's Day on Saturday, February 15! The morning was filled with fun activities such as eating breakfast, crafting, and playing games together! 3



**Valentine Celebration**  
9:00 Breakfast  
9:30 Minute to Win It  
9:30 Whole Group  
9:45 Welcome/Schedule  
9:45 "About Us" books  
10:00 Games  
10:20 "You Are Special" activity  
10:45 Valentine Bingo  
11:05 Banner Creation  
11:25 Scavenger Hunt  
11:45 Wrap Up



## FAITH & FELLOWSHIP



### Birthdays

6 Heather H.

8 Vic G.

9 Jenna P.

14 Katie F.

15 Beth S.

16 Erin K.

17 Grady M.

17 Pete H.

20 Peg R.

21 Carl O.

24 Kyla H.

28 Katie R.

31 Bryon W.

### Baptism

### Birthdays

1 Sara R.

3 Judy A.

3 Jim M.

6 Grace A.

11 Cameron B.

15 Lisa K.

18 Carol W.

20 Cathy H.

27 Evie K.

27 Brantley G.



## WELCA March Bible study

The Bethel WELCA group is sponsoring and welcoming all women to a Bible study focusing on **"Discovering the Power of Prayer"** during the month of March. The study will be held on Tuesdays (March 11, 18, and 25) from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The first meeting will be held at Diane Horsman's house. (The location of the second and third dates will be announced later.)

If you have any questions, please ask Jan Smith.

***"Prayer does not change God, but it changes the one who prays."***

**—Soren Kierkegaard**

## BLTs are going ice skating!

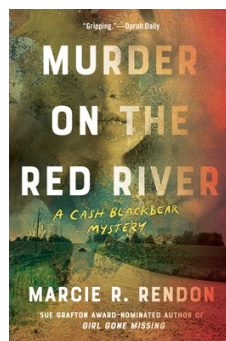
The BLTs are going to Waconia for an ice skating outing on Sunday, March 9, from noon to 1:30 p.m. We will leave the church at 11:30 a.m. and expect to return about 2:00 p.m. Attendance is free for BLTs! A participation form is required, but if you attended the Big Stone event, you can use the same form. Please sign up in the narthex or email Terri Helland at [terrihelland@gmail.com](mailto:terrihelland@gmail.com). This will be an indoor rink. Skates will be available to rent.

## Bethel book club

### ***Murder on the Red River* by Marcie Rendon**

Discussion date: Wed., March 19, 7:30 p.m.

This gripping mystery follows the life of a young Ojibwe woman as she struggles to come to terms with the callus murder of a Native American stranger, bringing to life the gritty, dark reality of a flawed foster care system and the oppression of Indigenous people.



# FINANCIAL CORNER

## 4 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 Fin. Sec. 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 on the wall in the narthex. 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 Meyer, at 320-395-2869 or [finsec@lpbethel.org](mailto:finsec@lpbethel.org).

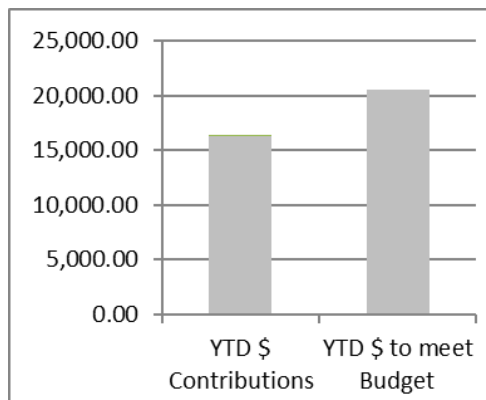


### 4. Online Giving scan QR code



## Financial update

For the Month of Feb 2025	
Weekly Av. Attendance	53
\$ Contributions	7,171.40
\$ to meet Budget	10,262.01
\$ Difference	-3,090.61
For the Year 2025	
YTD \$ Contributions	16,256.80
YTD \$ to meet Budget	20,524.02
YTD \$ Difference	-4,267.22



### "Noisy" offering 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month

The "Noisy" offering can will be located just outside of the sanctuary for you to 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! The proceeds go toward Bethel Youth Summer Camperships for Green Lake Bible Camp.



# MARCH

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
*4p RESPLANDOR de GLORIA ON SUNDAYS			*BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS DUE ON WEDNESDAYS @ NOON			1
2 9a worship 10:15a Sun school, confirmation, The Chosen	3 (office hours) 1:30p Bible study 6:30p WELCA mtg.	4	5 (office hours) ASH WEDNESDAY 5p-6:15p meal 5:45p choir practice 6:30p worship	6	7	8
9 9a worship 10:15a Sun school, 11:30a-2p BLTs ice skating  SPRING AHEAD-DST	10 (office hours) 1:30p Bible study 6p council mtg.	11 6:30p-7:30p WELCA Bible study @ Diane H.	12 (office hours) 12:30p W & M mtg. 5p-6:15p meal 5:45 choir practice 6:30p worship	13 1:30p-3p MEFS Mobile Outreach REMEMBER TO PRE-ORDER!	14	15
16 9a worship 10:15a Sun. school, confirmation, The Chosen	17 (office hours) 1:30p Bible study  St. Patrick's Day	18 6:30p-7:30p WELCA Bible study (location TBD)	19 (office hours) 5p-6:15p meal 5:45p choir practice 6:30p worship 7:30p book club	20  Spring begins	21	22
23 9a worship w/ noisy offering 10:15a Sun. school, BLTs, The Chosen 30 9a worship 10:15a Sun. school,	24  31	25 6:30p-7:30p WELCA Bible study (location TBD)	26 (office hours) 5p-6:15p meal 5:45p choir practice 6:30p worship	27	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.
- **Has your contact information changed? Please, inform the church office of any changes to your contact information to ensure accuracy in the 2025 Congregational Directory.**

## BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH | COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES | MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2025

**Council Members Present:** President: Dave Gohl, Secretary: Julie Hanson, Treasurer: Jill Duncan, Finance Secretary: Stacy Meyer, Finance Board: Mitch Overbye, Education Board: Pete Hallberg and Katie Radtke, Trustee Board: Jeff Hanson

**Call To Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:02 P.M. by President Dave Gohl followed with prayer by Pastor Molly Wills.

**Council Business:** A **motion** was made by Mitch Overbye and seconded by Stacy Meyer to approve the agenda and secretary minutes as presented. Motion carried.

### **Pastor Molly:**

- Attended the First Call Retreat in January.
- Helped lead the Youth Task Force Social, hosted by Bethel, in January. The youth made 168 cards to give out.
- Visited the homebound.
- Led the Crow River Conference Pastors meeting February 4<sup>th</sup> at Bethel with a total of 10 pastors.
- Will attend the Crow River Conference Assembly February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 P.M. Bethel can send up to two representatives as well as the pastor, if they so choose. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact Pastor Molly.

### **Synod Update:**

- There is one opening for Lutheran Men in Mission. This is a two-year term which meets four times per year. If any men are interested, they need to put their name forward before the Crow River Conf. Assembly on Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Immigration was a topic.
- The news of Lutheran Services committing fraud is false. The Synod is trying to stay up to date on their website with information.

### **Old Business:**

- The audit committee to provide the requested report by the end of February to have by March meeting.

### **New Business:**

- Welcomed new council members: Katie Radtke, Education board; Julie Hanson, Secretary; Jeff Hanson, Trustee.
- Two to three years of information is to be kept in our respective binders.
- Girl Scouts will be selling cookies outside of Bethel on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- A **motion** was made by Pete Hallberg and seconded by Jeff Hanson to update the name plate for Tamie Foust to Office Administrator. Motion carried.
- Discussed reviewing the church bylaws. Read through for any changes or updates.

### **Treasurer Reports:**

- A **motion** was made by Peter Hallberg and seconded by Stacy Meyer to accept the January treasurer's report. Motion carried.

### **Financial Secretary Report:**

- A **motion** was made by Mitch Overbye and seconded by Pete Hallberg to accept the January financial secretary's report. Motion carried.

### **Board Reports:**

- Education: Pete Hallberg completed Mile Stones expanding education program. Pete Hallberg and Katie Radtke to explore VBS materials.
- Finance: Finance board and trustees to discuss raising funds towards the new parking lot.
- Trustee: To close off the slide curtain by creating a wall that will fill the space with cork board to be used in the financial office and the Narthex.

### **Communication Report:**

- 100 envelopes were sent out for the Stewardship Program and the committee would like to have them back by the end of February. Informational church presentations.
- Easter Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, church service will be held at 9:00 A.M. with brunch to follow at 10:00. Brunch will be served by the council. Free will offerings will be accepted. A **motion** was made by Jill Duncan and seconded by Jeff Hanson that free will offerings from the Easter brunch will go towards the parking lot fund. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with round table prayers and the Lord's Prayer.

**Respectfully submitted by Secretary Julie Hanson**

**The next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.**

## Empty Bowls event



Saturday, March 8  
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Hutchinson High School

Please join us as we celebrate community with food and handmade bowls! Empty Bowls will feature handmade bowls made by professionals, hobbyists, and students. The bowl becomes a keepsake and a reminder of those whose bowls are empty. The cost of a bowl is a suggested donation of \$20.00. Everyone is welcome regardless of your ability to purchase a bowl. The proceeds will be shared by Common Cup Ministry, Inc. and McLeod Emergency Food Shelf. We are partnering with the Harvest of the Month program, through the school, to offer soup made with seasonally, locally available ingredients. A few soups will be available for everyone's enjoyment. There will be a small Silent Auction and a table of items for sale.

## CONTACT US

### BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

77 Lincoln AVE N | Lester Prairie, MN  
55354 | **MAILING ADDRESS:** PO Box 207

**OFFICE** 320-395-2125

[bethellutheranlp@gmail.com](mailto:bethellutheranlp@gmail.com)

### PASTOR

Rev. Molly Wills  
320-339-8169

[pastor@lpbethel.org](mailto:pastor@lpbethel.org)

### DON'T FORGET TO STAY CONNECTED!

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

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

### 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