



BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel Lutheran Church Newsletter

October 2025

FROM PASTOR MOLLY

Hello Beloved Children of God,

This month I've decided to share a part of one of my sermons from September in writing because it is something we all need to remember, think on, and pray about daily.

At this moment in time, worry weighs heavy on almost everyone's hearts, young and old. Our country seems to be set on a road that leads straight toward more division, more chaos, more violence. And it just seems to be getting worse instead of better. The school shootings, the political assassinations, the increasing prices, the panic and worry that seems to be setting in over the uncertainty of everything, and the general anger of everyone as we each point the finger, blaming someone else, instead of looking at ourselves and changing ourselves for the better.

Remember Jesus said, "So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions." If you do not give up your *formed substance*, the good and the bad, the labels, the stereotypes, the assumptions, the accusations, and the excuses, and pick up the cross and follow me.

Give it all up, and live first and foremost as a Child of God *openly*,
trusting God to the very end while carrying your cross *publicly*,
carrying the potential of dying because you are a *visible* child of God,
and while you carry that potential -
loving every single person you meet, instead of condemning them,
even if that means in the end being nailed to that cross you carry by the very
person you're loving, metaphorically or literally.

In today's world, that cross feels very heavy to carry out where everyone else can see it and *will* react to it, in good and bad ways. So, instead of focusing on and worrying about what will happen tomorrow, in a week, a month, a year, or the far-off future, focus on carrying that cross and living as God's disciple one day at a time. Do not worry about tomorrow's troubles. Do not be afraid. It's enough to trust God to give you the strength you need to face today.

Love,
Pastor Molly B. Wills

MISSION & MINISTRIES

BETHEL COMMUNITY GARDEN HARVEST FESTIVAL 2025



WELCOME TABLE



GAMES



FOOD TENT



FIRE TRUCK RIDES



GARDEN EXPLORING



CUPCAKE DECORATING



GAMES



PUMPKIN PAINTING

Thank you to everyone who helped make our annual harvest festival a success!

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

MEFS Mobile Outreach bus is DRIVING AWAY HUNGER!

Driving Away Hunger aims to address transportation and mobility issues related to food access in our communities. Our Mobile Outreach vehicle is stocked with shelf-stable pantry items, fresh produce, frozen proteins, dairy, grains, and bakery goods. A limited number of walk-up portions will be available at each delivery site. Our staff will assist anyone who is unable to safely enter the vehicle for shopping. However, staff members are not allowed to carry food inside a residence. Full grocery distributions are available once a month per household, and you may visit different distributions sites once per week. All sites are open to the public. Go to www.mcleodemergencyfoodshelf.org for schedule change announcements. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook <http://facebook.com/McLeodFoodShelf>. If you have any questions, please call 320-864-2088!

STOP & SHOP THE BUS!

SCHEDULE

WHEN: October 15 & 30

2:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

WHERE: BETHEL

PARKING LOT

TO ORDER ONLINE &

STAY UP-TO-DATE

SCAN HERE:



Bethel's new parking lot progression...



FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Jon K.
- 4 Jan S.
- 4 Sarah G.
- 7 Luke P.
- 8 Alayna S.
- 10 Connor R.
- 11 Cameron B.
- 12 Abigail C.
- 17 Roxanne S.
- 19 David G.
- 20 Jane L.
- 22 Eric A.
- 28 Alex W.

BAPTISM

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Tamie F.
- 4 Kaelyn S.
- 5 Nicole K.
- 7 Mark D.
- 10 Cassandra M.
- 14 Beckett S.
- 15 Alek H.
- 15 Myles A.
- 18 Mary Lou T.
- 20 Jacob S.
- 26 Mallorie T.
- 29 Drake P.
David G.

BETHEL BOOK CLUB



SEPTEMBER:

James by Percival Everett A novel that reimagines Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* but narrated by Huckleberry's friend on his travels, the fugitive slave Jim, rather than by Huck, as in the original.

Discussion date: 10/15, 7:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER:

Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, an American Town by Warren St. John
The extraordinary tale of a refugee youth soccer team and the transformation of a small American town.

DECEMBER:

Prodigal Summer

by Barbara Kingsolver

A novel set in rural Appalachia that intertwines three distinct stories over a single summer, focusing on the characters' personal relationships and their intricate connections to the natural world.

WOMEN IN THE BIBLE-

A Learning Opportunity!



The Women's Bible study will resume on Tuesdays, October 7, 14, and 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the church. We will be using John MacArthur's book—*Twelve Extraordinary Women: How God Shaped Women of the Bible and What He Wants to Do with You as a resource and guide*. All women are welcome and encouraged to share this time of learning together. The first session will focus on Hannah. If you have any questions, please ask Jan Smith.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Confirmation Day for Alex and Max is Sunday, October 26, 2025! May you both continue to grow in faith and be a light to others! Join Alex and Max after the worship service for fellowship and treats in celebration!

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13

FINANCIAL CORNER

3 WAYS to make giving easier!



Scan the QR code to get started.



1. VANCO ONLINE

Discover the simplicity of giving with Vanco Online, our user-friendly eGiving tool at Bethel! You can make one-time gifts or set up recurring donations to ensure your support continues. Visit our church website at www.lpbethel.org and click the "Give" button, or simply scan the QR code to get started.

How to Use Vanco Online:

1. Select Your Funds and Amount—Choose your fund and click "Donate." Select your donation amount and frequency, then proceed to payment.

2. Enter Payment Method—Enter your credit card, debit card or checking account information. You can save your payment information for future donations by creating a free account. (From your Vanco account, you can review your giving history, manage recurring donations or update payment information.)

3. Complete Donation—Review your gift and click "Submit."

How to Have Automatic eGiving Set Up for You:

Simply complete an authorization form (from the narthex) and submit it to the church office or place it in the Financial Secretary's mailbox.

2. TEXT + GIVE

Donate easily and quickly by texting! Text giving is fast and flexible. You can give right away, set up a weekly donation, or respond to special requests—all in just a few seconds. To register, use your phone; it's simple! You can also set up recurring donations. To donate, just text the dollar amount to [866-298-7547](tel:866-298-7547).

3. BETHEL OFFERING ENVELOPE

We encourage you to fill out an envelope and include your assigned envelope number from your church mailbox. You can mail it to Bethel Lutheran Church, PO Box 207, Lester Prairie, MN 55354, or simply place it in the offering plate during service.

***If you have any questions, please contact our Financial Secretary, Stacy, at 320-395-2869 or finsec@lpbethel.org.**



Noisy Offering

On the 4th Sunday of the month, look for the tin can! All proceeds support Bethel Youth Camperships for GL Bible Camp.

Scan here to access the Church Parking Lot Fund.



OCTOBER 2025

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
*4p Resplandor de Gloria on Sundays			1 (office hours) 11:30a Bible study Noon-bulletin deadline 1-4p quilting 6:30p choir practice	2	3	4
5 9a worship 10a Intergenerational Sunday school (pastor @ sw fall theological conference)	6 (office hours) 6:30p WELCA mtg. (pastor @ sw fall theological conference)	7 9-10a Women's Bible study (pastor @ sw fall theological conference)	8 (office hours) NO Bible study Noon-bulletin deadline 1-4p quilting 6:30p choir practice	9	10	11
12 9a healing worship 10a Intergenerational Sunday school 1p Mid MN Concert Band	13 (office hours) 6p council mtg.	14 9-10a Women's Bible study	15 (office hours) 11:30a Bible study Noon-bulletin deadline 1-4p quilting 2-3:45p MEFS bus 6:30p choir practice 7:30p book club	16	17	18
19 9a worship	20 (office hours)	21 9-10a Women's Bible study	22 (office hours) 11:30a Bible study Noon-bulletin deadline 1-4p Quilting 6:30p choir practice	23	24	25 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
26 CONFIRMATION/ REFORMATION DAY 9a worship 10a Confirmation Celebration	27 (office hours)	28	29 (office hours) 11:30a Bible study Noon-bulletin deadline 1-4p Quilting 6:30p choir practice	30 2-3:45p MEFS Mobile Outreach bus	31	

- **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:** 25th of the month
- **Most up-to-date version of Bethel's Calendar:** Go to www.lpbethel.org
- **Online 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 the directory online, if you would like a hard copy of the directory, or if your contact information changes!
- **Seeking volunteers of all ages!** Check out the bulletin board in the narthex! Sign up or be a substitute! No experience necessary! Questions? Contact the chairperson listed.

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Council Meeting Minutes, Monday, September 8, 2025

Council Members Present: President: Dave Gohl, Secretary: Julie Hanson, Treasurer: Jill Duncan, Financial Secretary: Stacy Meyer, Finance Board: Mitch Overbye & Sara Jepsen, Education Board: Pete Hallberg & Katie Radtke, Trustee Board: Jeff Hanson & Bryon Weisenburger, Pastor Molly Wills.

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by President Dave Gohl followed with opening prayer by Pastor Molly Wills.

Council Business: A **motion** was made by Pete Hallberg and seconded by Sara Jepsen to approve the agenda.

Motion carried.

Pastor Molly:

- Led Bible studies
- Attended poolside plates
- Visited our homebound
- Attended a pastors' conference meeting
- Attended a First Call cohort meeting
- Led monthly worship
- Intergenerational Sunday school starts September 14th
- Attended digging and donuts
- Met with finance team and Marco copy machine representative
- Listened to Christian music (while on my drive) to give Jan Smith suggestions for possible contemporary music to introduce on our Prairie Sundays
- Met with the Ed board to discuss possibilities for the children and adults on Sundays that don't have intergenerational Sunday School

Old Business:

- Financial assistance for Bethel parking lot: As of Sunday, the 7th, we stand to collect \$6423.00. September 17th is the start date for removing the old tar. For the Harvest Festival on the 21st, parking will be on the south side of the street and/or on the grass.
- Name tags: There will be visitors tags available.
- Thrivent will be coming to our October council meeting for a presentation.
- Metronet: As of August 26th, we are connected! Thank you Pete Hallberg, Dave Horsman, Jeff & Joe Hanson.
- Harvest Festival: Emily Koehler relayed information that the event is all set to go.

New Business:

- November 9th Thrivent will give a presentation to the congregation and answer questions afterward the worship service.
- Jill Duncan to fill out a Grant Endowment request form to help fund the parking lot.
- Credit/debit card for the office: Sara Jepsen presented to Tamie Foust the use of a debit card for supplies. This would be attached to the churches checking account. A **motion** was made by Pete Hallberg and by seconded Sara Jepsen to approve the use of the card for purchases. Motion carried.
- Know Your Rights: Researching through the State of MN for a poster with information both in English and Spanish from immigration as a legal source. To also clarify that church is not a sanctuary (referring to ICE)
- Sunday late afternoon service with the Hispanics: Mitch Overbye to have discussion to alter their hours of worship.
- Copy machine is outdated. Within the decision-making process, a refurbished 1 year old machine was of interest. A **motion** was made by Bryon Weisenburger and seconded by Pete Hallberg to move forward on the refurbished copy machine. Motion carried.

Secretary Minutes:

- A **motion** was made by Sara Jepsen and seconded by Pete Hallberg to approve the previous months secretary minutes.

Motion carried.

Treasurer Report:

- A **motion** was made by Mitch Overbye and seconded by Bryon Weisenburger to approve treasurer report. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary Report:

- A **motion** was made by Julie Hanson and seconded by Mitch Overbye to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

Board Reports:

- **Education:** Pete Hallberg and Katie Radtke working on the intergenerational studies. To continue/lead with the Bible project on the off Sundays.
- **Finance:** Discussed the copy machine and debit card. All is approved.
- **Trustees:** Changing tables are the topic for the downstairs bathrooms. Bryon Weisenburger to check into these. Waiting for results on the energy audit. State of MN elevator inspection had three issues. Two of them have been completed. The third issue has to be completed by the inspector to install a 9-volt battery.

The meeting ended with the Gospel of the day and The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Julie Hanson

Next scheduled meeting date: Monday October 13th 6:00 P.M.

MID MN CONCERT BAND

The Mid Minnesota Concert Band will be with us on Sunday, October 12 in the afternoon (time TBD), serving bars and beverages after the concert. Come and enjoy their broad selection of lively music along with a sweet treat to top off the day. Free will offering. Invite a friend or neighbor to join you! (Bethel member, Nicole Kleve is part of this band!)

Thrivent Presentation

Thrivent team members will be coming to Bethel on Sunday, November 9. They will give a 15-minute presentation explaining the programs Thrivent has to offer. They will have a table set up in the narthex during coffee hour to answer questions.

CONTACT US

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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OFFICE 320-395-2125

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PASTOR

Rev. Molly Wills
320-339-8169

pastor@lpbethel.org

DON'T FORGET TO STAY CONNECTED!

www.lpbethel.org

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