



BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel Lutheran Church Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2024

FROM PASTOR MOLLY



Hello Beloved Children of God!

As we enter November, all our minds (at least those of adults) are focused on elections, whether with fear, anger, excitement, or anticipation. Each person has their reasons for voting as they choose, just as each person has their own interpretation of how the Bible speaks into today's time. Is one interpretation, one reason, the only right way?

I don't think so. But more important than how we vote, is *how we choose to live with and communicate with one another*, whether Republican or Democrat, Black or White, LGBTQ+ or straight, etc. We can all agree that God commanded us to love God with all our hearts, souls, and minds, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. God never commanded us to judge and condemn each other.

But November isn't just about elections, it's also about losses and thanksgivings. Losses of home by indigenous people, immigrants, those affected by natural disasters, and those affected by financial struggles. Losses of loved ones, acquaintances, and strangers.

On November 3rd, we celebrate and remember all those saints who have gone before us during our service. Their lives touched us and left a mark of God's love that will always be remembered. It is not easy to lose someone we love. It is not easy to see the losses other's experience, especially when we aren't able to help all of them. As you journey through the month of November, take a moment each day to pray – to talk to God about your own losses, your own struggles happening in life, and then talk to God about the losses and struggles of others, praying that God may be with and guide all through their losses and struggles into a time of renewal and joy, because November is also about thanksgivings.

Thanksgiving in the bounty God has set before us whether in food, shelter, and/or relationships. Thanksgiving in knowing God loves us all eternally. Thanksgiving in knowing we have a church community that opens their arms and hearts to all - to children rolling down the aisles, to teenagers silently sulking on couches and then exuberantly running amuck, to adults worn by worries, fears, and sorrows, to the joy and humor of the Holy Spirit working amongst us, causing teeth to fall out at the perfect moment during a children's sermon, or causing people to talk at the perfect moment during a sermon, or causing something that brings smiles and laughter to everyone's faces and joy to blossom in everyone's hearts.

There are more losses and more thanksgivings than just those mentioned here. Know that I am praying for every single one of you, for your loved ones, for all who struggle, for all who are filled with joy, as we enter this time of year, that is full of losses and thanksgivings.

May God's face shine upon you, loving arms wrap around you, and bring you peace.

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 and on Facebook @ McLeod Food Shelf. Follow us! Questions? Call 320-864-2088!

Equipping Congregations Day-November 2

WHAT: Equipping Congregation Day-“Gather Us In”

Keynote Speaker: Angie Larson, Executive Pastor, Calvary Lutheran Church, Alexandria, MN. and a catered lunch by Azteca Mexican Restaurant.

WHEN: Saturday, November 2, 2024, 8:30 am-3:00 pm

WHERE: Peace Lutheran Church, New London, MN

This Equipping Day will focus on many aspects of worship, from specific how-to ideas and using creative imaginations to ways of welcoming all people and extending the kind of hospitality that leads people to want to come back again and again and to be part of this loving community! Each participant can choose to attend two workshops, and bring home information to share with our congregation! If you are interested in attending this event, sign up at church or email bethellutheranlp@gmail.com.

“This has always been a wonderful day of learning and a great chance to meet others from around our Synod and get a taste of what’s happening in their congregations. It is inspiring and uplifting and always well done. It exposes us to new ideas and gives us tools to use to bring about good things here at Bethel. If you are available, I strongly encourage you to attend!” —Jill Duncan



MEFS Mobile Outreach

Winter Schedule

WHEN: Thursday

December 12
1:30 pm-3:00 pm

WHERE:

Bethel Lutheran
Church parking lot

ORDER ONLINE & STAY

UP-TO-DATE HERE:



CHRISTMAS TREAT BAGS

Anyone wishing to donate cash toward the Christmas Treat bags, please contact Diane Horsman. These Treat bags will be given to the Sunday school children in December.

SAVE THE DATE

The Sunday school children will present their Christmas program during worship Sunday, the 15th of December.

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



BLTs



FAITH & FELLOWSHIP



Happy November Birthdays!

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



November Baptisms!

Jan S. 2
Dick K. 8
Kathy E. 19
Dana S. 22
Cheryl S. 22
Zander G. 23
Connor M. 26



Cemetery clean-up/tree trimming crew!

What does Christ the King celebrate?

Christ the King is a Christian feast day that celebrates Jesus's kingship over the entire universe. It occurs on the last Sunday of the liturgical year, right before Advent. This year it will be on November 24. Join us for 9:00 am worship, fellowship and PIE!

Advent 2024

Sunday, December 1, 2024, is the first day of Advent. Mid-week Advent services (*Light of the World*) will be December 4, 11, and 18, beginning at 6:30 pm. The choir will practice at 5:45 pm during Advent. Christmas Eve Candlelight worship service, with communion, will begin at 4 pm.

The Chosen (season 4)

We will offer *The Chosen* (season 4) during Adult Forum at 10:15 am on Sundays. Join us with your coffee in our lower-level chapel area to discuss these engaging stories of Jesus and the disciples. Come whether or not you have viewed previous seasons! Or binge-watch to catch up by borrowing Bethel's DVDs or streaming the episodes. Speak to Jill Duncan if you have questions.

Confirmation Sunday

On Sunday, the 27th of October we welcomed Kyla Hodny and Hannah Smith to share in the mission of the Bethel Lutheran congregation and the whole church! The service was followed by a reception hosted by WELCA.



All Saints Sunday November 3, 2024

During worship on November 3, we will name both your loved ones who have gone before us and those baptized since All Saints Day 2023. Also, during worship, you will be invited forward to light a candle for those whom you grieve.

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 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.



4. Online Giving

scan here



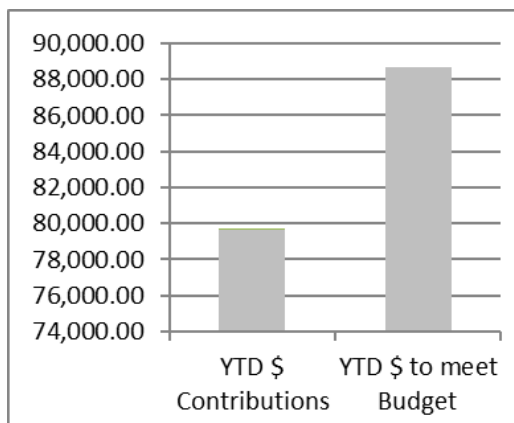
"Noisy" Offering 4th Sunday of the month

The "Noisy" offering can will be located at the back 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.

Apply NOW for Endowment Grants!

Endowment grant applications will be accepted through **NOV. 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.*

For the Month of Sept 2024	
Weekly Av. Attendance	47
\$ Contributions	9,257.95
\$ to meet Budget	9,853.52
\$ Difference	-595.57
For the Year 2024	
YTD \$ Contributions	79,674.05
YTD \$ to meet Budget	88,681.68
YTD \$ Difference	-9,007.63





NOVEMBER 2024

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
			BULLETIN DEADLINE: NOON WEDNESDAYS		1 ALL SAINTS DAY	2 (8:30a-3p Equip- ping Congregations Day, New London)
3 (ALL SAINTS SUNDAY) DST ends 9a worship, 10:15a Sun sch., BLTs, fellowship, The Chosen, NO BF 4p Resplandor de Gloria	4 (office hours) NO Bible study (Pr. Molly vacation)	5 ELECTION DAY	6 (office hours) (Pr. Molly vacation) 1-4:30p quilting 6:30p choir practice	7	8	9
10 (Pent 25) 9a worship 10:15a Sun sch., cfm., fellowship, The Chosen, NO BF 4p Resplandor de Gloria	11 (office hours) NO Bible study 5p worship & music comm. mtg. 6p council mtg. VETERAN'S DAY	12	13 (office hours) 1-4:30p quilting 6:30p choir practice	14 1:30p-3p MEFS Mobile Outreach- *REMEMBER TO PRE-ORDER!	15	16
17 (Pent 26) 9a praise worship 10:15a Sun. sch., BLTs, fellowship, The Chosen 4p Resplandor de Gloria	18 (office hours) NO Bible study	19	20 (office hours) 1-4:30p quilting 6:30p choir practice	21	22	23
24 (Christ the King) 9a worship/noisy offering, 10:15a Sun. sch., cfm., fellow- ship & PIE! The Chosen 4p Resplandor de Gloria	25 (office hours) NO Bible study (Pr. work @ home) NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	26	27 (office hours) (Pr. Molly vacation) 1-4:30p quilting 6:30p choir practice	28 THANKSGIVING DAY	29	30

- **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 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 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, OCTOBER 14, 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: Dave Gohl and Bryon Weisenburger; Pastor Molly Wills

Call to Order:

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

Council Business:

- A **motion** was made by Cathy Houg and seconded by Pete Hallberg to approve the agenda as presented. MC
- Pastor Molly reported premarital sessions are nearly completed. She has visited shut-ins and led Bible Studies this last month. The Harvest Festival was held on September 22, 2024, and was successful. Confirmation has begun with 10 confirmands. Pastor Molly led devotions at the Fall WELCA gathering on September 28, 2024. She attended the Fall Theological Conference in Spicer followed by a meeting with the pastoral support group. On January 15, 2025, Bethel will be hosting a Youth Task Force event. Plans will need to be made. On February 11, the pastoral support group will be meeting at Bethel. Plans will be made in the future.

Old Business:

- The Finance Board continues to investigate whether to obtain a credit/debit card for the church or not. They will be in touch with the Synod for guidance.
- The Executive Board will review additions to the Church Council's job descriptions following the November Church Council meeting.

New Business:

- A **motion** was made by Sara Jepsen and seconded by Mitch Overbye to accept the remodeling proposal for the upstairs rest rooms. Motion carried.
- A **motion** was made by Pete Hallberg and seconded by Ron Foust to give Pastor Molly two extra weeks/two Sundays as vacation time. Part of negotiating the 2025 salary remains the same. This would be a total of six weeks/six Sundays. Motion carried. Pulpit supply and emergency coverage will need to be planned and included in the 2025 budget.

Secretary Minutes:

- A **motion** was made by Ron Foust and seconded by Sara Jepsen to accept September's secretary's report. MC

Treasurer Reports:

- A **motion** was made by Sara Jepsen and seconded by Cathy Houg to merge the 11032 Paper Drive Fund money into the 11033 Community Garden Outreach Fund and to merge the 11026 Faith Formation Fund money into the 11034 Youth Education Fund. Motion carried. A motion was made by Bryon Weisenburger and seconded by Mitch Overbye to take the remaining 11056 Bell Tower and Cross Work Fund and begin a Parking Lot Fund. Motion carried.
- A **motion** was made by Bryon Weisenburger and seconded by Dave Gohl to accept September's treasurer's report. MC

Financial Secretary Report:

- A **motion** was made by Emily Koehler and seconded by Mitch Overbye to accept September's financial secretary's report. Motion carried.

Reports:

- **Education Board:** Confirmation with 2 confirmands will be held on October 27, 2024. The BLTs played mini-golf on October 13. Third graders received their Bibles during Sunday morning worship, and in the coming weeks, the fourth grade class will receive instruction on the Ten Commandments. "The Chosen" series will begin after worship on Oct. 20, 2024.
- **Finance Board:** Work continues on the credit/debit card. It was explained that various funds can be accessed by using a Reimbursement Form.
- **Trustees:** There are still issues with the streaming of worship services. The Trustees and Jan Smith will be looking at new keyboard options. Four new CO2 detectors and new altar room locks have been installed. The bushes have been trimmed and a shelf has been hung in the nursery. The Trustees are obtaining quotes for snowplowing and beginning to research options/quotes for the parking lot.

Communications:

- The Executive Board and Pastor Molly will be reviewing the Constitution and By-Laws.
- Endowment Grants are due at the end of November 2024.
- The Stewardship Campaign has been set for February 2, 2025 – March 2, 2025.
- The Executive Board will meet following November's Council meeting to review Council job descriptions and annual membership records.
- Work should begin on 2025 budget considerations.
- The Nominating Committee for 2025 will be alerted.
- The Equipping Congregation event will be held November 2, 2024, 8:30am – 3:00 pm at Peace Lutheran Church in New London, MN. President Foust encouraged the Council to attend. Motion carried.

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

The next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, November 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Cathy Houg, Council Secretary

MCBRIDE FUNERAL CHAPELS EVENT

WHAT: A program for adults of all ages, hosted by McBride Funeral Chapels

WHEN: Tuesday, November 12, 2024, 6:00 pm

WHERE: St. Paul Lu Church, 124 Maple ST N, Lester PR

Relax with your neighbors, enjoy dinner, and learn about the many spiritual, emotional, and financial benefits of making important decisions in advance. Find out how to assist your parents or make things easier for your children or other family members. Everyone who attends will receive a Funeral & Cremation Planning folder, planning assistance, and dinner. Featured topics include Biblical Beliefs on Life's Final Passage, Advance Funeral Planning, Legal Topics, and Funeral and Cremation Options by local experts.

Make your reservation by calling the funeral home at 320.864.3737. If you can't attend the event but want to receive the information call the funeral home.

CONTACT US

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OFFICE 320-395-2125

bethellutheranlp@gmail.com

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