



Bethel Blaze

November 2025

Sharing Christ's love with a big heart

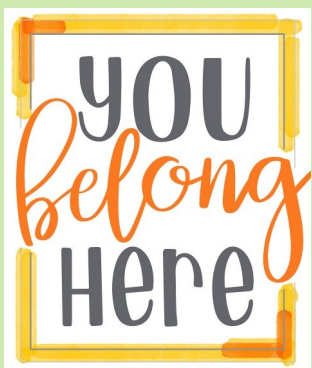
JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

In Person
Sunday Mornings:
8:15 am and 10:30 am
in the sanctuary

Online
The 8:15 service is
livestreamed
on our YouTube channel.
Check our website
for the link!
You can also view the service
at your convenience.

Past services are also available
on Northfield's public
television station channels
180 & 187
No cable is required.
There are four opportunities
to watch:

Monday 2:00 pm
Tuesday 1:30 pm
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Saturday 7:00 am



A SEASON FOR JUSTICE: PROPHETS

Three Week Fall Series on the Old Testament Prophets



**LET JUSTICE
ROLL**

**November 9:
AMOS 5**



**A LIGHT
IN THE
DARKNESS**

**November 16:
ISAIAH 9**



**A FUTURE
WITH HOPE**

**November 23:
JEREMIAH 29**

ADVENT FESTIVAL

The Congregational Life Team is excited to bring back a past tradition at Bethel and will once again be hosting an **Advent Festival** on **Sunday, November 23**. Please plan to **join us!**

WHAT: An intergenerational activity fair that allows us to understand, prepare for, and joyfully welcome in the Advent season!

WHEN: **November 23** (the Sunday before Thanksgiving). There will be only one worship service that day starting at 9:00 am with the **Advent Festival** immediately following **from 10:00 am—noon**.

WHO: Fifteen Bethel groups are planning to offer activities that celebrate the Advent themes of *Hope, Peace, Joy and Love* for adults and families, from our congregation and from around the community, to participate in together.

Attendees will be invited to participate in various Advent-themed activities around the rooms at Bethel. Examples of activities you will find include: making Advent Logs, eco-friendly bird feeders, Mexican Bingo, making Christmas ornaments and writing Christmas cards, homemade lefse and cookie decorating, decorating home Advent banks to collect funds for ELCA World Hunger, playing 4-Square, and more!

*We are so excited to have you join us in **Hope, Peace, Joy and Love**
as we prepare for the Advent season!*

FIRESIDE REFLECTIONS



Pastor Inger Hanson
(she/her)

pastor.inger@
bethelnorthfield.org
(preferred for non-urgent
communication)

office

507-786-8875

cell

307-248-0438

office hours

by appointment
Monday—Thursday

days off

Friday & Saturday

Dear Bethel,

Nestled into my letter of call is that I am “to speak for justice on behalf of the poor and oppressed.” Prophets, like Amos, Isaiah, and Jeremiah (whom we’ll encounter this month in the Narrative Lectionary), always make me do some soul-searching. Some pastors understand their role as being a prophet, but I’ve often worried about how calling out warnings and hard truths can undermine other aspects of my call, including the slow work of nourishing faith through relationship and community building. I’m struck that prophetic work doesn’t always happen in a sermon—that sometimes it is in being present in other places and other times.

Nestled into the baptismal covenant is that the baptized are to “work for justice and peace.” Perhaps prophets should make us all do some soul-searching. Not that we all need to be prophets, but that as part of how we proclaim Christ in word and deed, and care for others and the world God made, we engage in prophetic work, responding to the warnings and the hard truths. Prophetic work has political ramifications, helping us live out spiritual imperatives in the day to day of the real world. Faith in action is inherently political; but it should not be partisan.

“Christ the King” Sunday (November 23) was instituted in 1925 to counter rising nationalism, fascism, and secularism—powers of this world that rebel against and draw us away from God. 100 years later, we see growing authoritarianism in our own country and policies built on hate, fear, and division. “Christ the King” reminds us of our ultimate allegiance to Christ. How do we stand up for healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and welcoming the stranger here and now? (Matthew 25:35-40) As we individually and collectively discern paths forward, I am grateful for a newly formed Mission & Justice Task Force that is working to offer parishioners the opportunity to participate in a mass action on Palm Sunday afternoon. Learn more at our station at the Advent Festival!

In Christ, Pastor Inger

BeFRIENDERS

by Marci Groenewold

In school, children are taught to Stop, Look, and Listen for trains before crossing railroad tracks. Wouldn’t it be great if we use that same formula - Stop, Look, and Listen - as we approach life crossings? I have the gift of “ready, fire, aim.” Yes, that’s right. Ready, Fire, Aim. While that formula makes sense in rare instances, most of the time navigating life on the fly without stopping to consider the feelings of others, or making quick decisions without buy-in and clear direction from the key players, spells disaster. Today, our culture often demands instant decisions, perfect families, homes, and workplaces, and the ability to do it all on our own. It’s kind of a “ready, fire, aim” mentality. If we stop to think about this for even one minute, it doesn’t take long to see how unrealistic this all is. We are not perfect. We need people who take the time to listen and understand our stories of joy as well as our pain. We all need a reason to Stop! Look! and Listen!

For the next few weeks, several art pieces by Rocky Casillas Aguirre are being featured in the Bethel Narthex. Rocky’s comics and creative efforts are inspired by personal struggles with anxiety, identity and the exploration of the mind. This partial exhibition is an attempt by the artist to break the silence on mental health. His art is especially impactful for youth. These pieces talk about the causes, science and remedies of stress. I invite you to stop and look at these works of art and then listen to your family, friends and coworkers. Ask good questions that don’t require a yes or no answer. “Tell me about” is a wonderful conversation starter that works for nearly anyone.

A fundamental BeFriender principle: “Active Listening.” For more information regarding the BeFriender Ministry at Bethel, please contact Owen Mibus (952-688-2719), Marci Groenewold (507-649-3160), Rose Turnacliff 507-581-1431), Karen Mader (507-301-4368) or the Bethel Office (507-786-6674).

EVERY WEEK

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - 3 PM		
SUNDAY		8:15 am Worship / Livestream
		9:30 am Coffee Fellowship & Education
		10:30 am Worship (with Sunday School option)
MONDAY		noon Bible Study @ The Vault
		6:30 pm Resonance Bell Choir
TUESDAY		9:45 am Staff Meeting
WEDNESDAY		3:30 pm Limitless
		5:45 pm Bistro! A community meal with delightful fellowship. Suggested donation is \$5 per person. Kid friendly chicken strips and fries are also available each week.
		6:15 pm Ring Forth Bell Choir
		7:00 pm Church Choir
		Confirmation & Hangtime
		8:05 pm Brio Bell Choir
THURSDAY	8:30 am	MoB (Men of Bethel) Join us in Room 54.
	9:30 am	FaB (Faith and Books) We are reading <i>Somehow: Thoughts on Love</i> by Anne Lamott. Come join our rich discussions! Please contact Lana Reich at lanareich@yahoo.com to be added to the FaB email list.
FRIDAY	9:45 am	WoW (Women of the Word)

THIS MONTH

NOV 1	2:00 pm	Eunice Anderson-Webb Service (Visitation at 1:00 pm)	NOV 13	7:00 pm	Finance
NOV 2	ALL SAINTS SUNDAY noon	6th Grade Circle of Saints Retreat with Parents	NOV 16	1:00 pm	Benedictine Chapel
NOV 3	5:00 pm	Worship & Arts Action Team	NOV 18	11:00 am	Hanard Lien Service (Visitation at 10:00 am)
NOV 4	2:00 pm	Grief Support Group		5:00 pm	Personnel Committee
NOV 6	10:45 am	OWLs (Older Wiser Lutherans)		6:30 pm	Church Council
	2:00 pm	Monthly Movie	NOV 20	10:00 am	Parkview East Fellowship
	7:00 pm	Bethel Vision Seekers @ Fielder's Choice (2300 Gleason, Northfield)	NOV 23	9:00 am	CHRIST THE KING
				10:00 am	Advent Fair
NOV 9		Blood Drive	NOV 25		9:00 am Quilting Group
NOV 11		9:00 am Quilting Group	NOV 26	6:30 pm	<i>Thanksgiving Eve Service</i> @ St. Peter's
	noon	Lydia Circle (Youth Room)			
NOV 12	6:30 pm	Confirmation J-TERM Kickoff	NOV 27 & 28		<i>Thanksgiving—Church Office Closed</i>
NOV 13	10:30 am	Projects with a Purpose	NOV 29	9:00 am	Worship & Arts Action Team
	5:45 pm	Active BeFriender Support			

FAITH FORMATION AT BETHEL...

The Nursery is open 8:00 am—11:45 am on Sunday
and 5:45 pm—7:00 pm on Wednesday
a safe and caring environment for our youngest ones (up to preK)

Children's Ministry

SUNDAY

9:30—10:15 am Kids' Fellowship

Kids K-5 begin together with our middle and high school youth in the center pod with games & activities.

A pastor then leads a reflection time, followed by closing praise songs with Scott & Elga Broughton.

during 10:30 am worship Sunday School

After the Prayer of the Day, children leave the sanctuary for a continuation of worship at a kid-appropriate level with traditional Sunday School activities. Children rejoin their families prior to communion.



WEDNESDAY

The 2025 Children's Christmas Program has been cast! 2-5 graders will begin rehearsals during **Limitless** on **Wednesday 3:30—5:45 pm**, and all kids can start working on their lines at home. During **Bistro** (our community meal **5:45—7:00 pm**), children are welcome to stay with their parents, go to the **Art Room**, or go to **Games & Activities in the Center Pod**.

Youth Ministry

Join us for **Youth Fellowship** each **Sunday morning from 9:30 am—10:15 am!** We begin with the K-5 students in the center pod and then move to the youth room for a devotion, snacks, and more fellowship.

Other Key Dates & Reminders

- **Mentors and 9th Graders!** Please remember to meet one time **this month**.
- **6th Grade Families**— The first 6th grade retreat is **November 2** from **noon—2:30 pm**.
- **6th – 9th Grade** will meet at Bethel on **November 12** for the **J-Term Kick Off**. Parents are invited to join us and hear Dr. Rolf Jacobson share music and his story **6:30—7:30 pm** (note the time change from our regular schedule). You will also learn more about the upcoming J-Term.
- **10th—12th grade students and friends**—check out **Hangtime! Wednesday 7:00—8:00 pm** in the Youth Room. Pizza, devotions, games, and more...
- **No 6th Grade Connections, Confirmation, or Hangtime on November 26 due to Thanksgiving.**
- **Youth Sunday** is **November 30** at the first service. Reach out to Kristi to help with reading, ushering, or serving communion!

Kristi Larson (she/her), Director of Youth Ministries
651-230-6057 (cell/text)
youth@bethelnorthfield.org

OPPORTUNITIES

Adult Education (Bethel Presents...) 9:30—10:15 am in the sanctuary

November 2—*“The Bethel Bell Petting Zoo”*



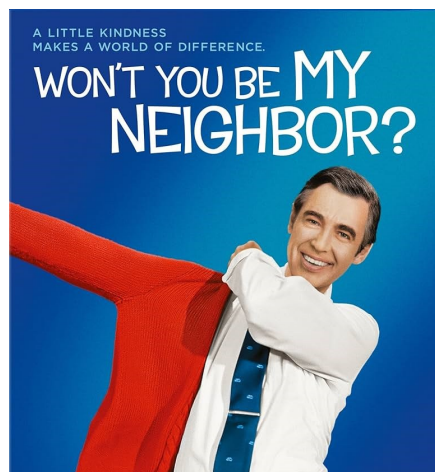
The Bethel Bell choirs amaze and delight - so much so that perhaps you've been intimidated. But bells don't bite! Choir directors Jill Mahr and Cindy Carlson will teach us the basics of how ringers look at music and key techniques. You'll have a chance to ring and damp and make different length notes on chimes and bells! At the end of this interactive session, we will ring out "When the Saints Go Marching In" together.

November 9 —*“The United States Agency for International Development (USAID): What it did & Why it's important”*

Stephen Silcox, a returned Peace Corps Volunteer and retired Foreign Service Officer for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), will present a brief history of USAID and describe its many programs over the years. He will show how American farmers, manufacturers, drug companies, non-governmental organizations, and consultants benefited from foreign assistance in addition to the recipients. The current attempt to eliminate USAID will have many negative impacts on the United States and will encourage autocrats in Russia, China, and elsewhere to gain allies in developing countries. Steve worked in this aid area for 30 years.

November 16—*“Art as a Spiritual Practice”*

Rocky Casillas Aguirre, the artist behind the bilingual pieces currently on display in the narthex gallery, will be with us! Learn more about his work on mental health, hope and laughter and connections to spirituality.



Monthly Movie

You're invited to watch *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* with Pastor Phil on **Thursday, November 6, from 2:00—4:00pm**. This 2018 documentary is about the life and guiding philosophy of Fred Rogers, the force behind *Mister Roger's Neighborhood*.

Blood Drive

Bethel will host Memorial Blood Centers' mobile donor bus **Sunday, November 9** from **8:30 am to 1:30 pm**. Donating blood is an incredible gift to others. If you haven't already, sign up to donate!

Three Ways to Schedule Your Donation:

1. Visit www.mbc.org/searchdrives and enter sponsor code 4044
2. Call Memorial Blood Centers @ 888-448-3253
3. Scan the QR code on the signs posted at church



NEW! Projects with a Purpose

Calling all Crafters! Join us for "Projects with Purpose" on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month from **10:30 am—noon** to share and learn skills for projects in Room 41. The next meeting will be on **November 13**.

Craft projects will be available to benefit our community, or you can work on your own project and share your talent with others. It's good fellowship for everyone to be working with a purpose!

BETHEL BRIGHT LIGHTS



Bishop Curry's installation, Pet Blessings, Confirmation, and some of our Bethel Youth "Trunk or Treat" hosts!



Fun during Limitless and some of the superheroes who helped with the stewardship mailing!



We also welcomed new members on Reformation Sunday! See their pictures on the back page.

IN THE LIBRARY...

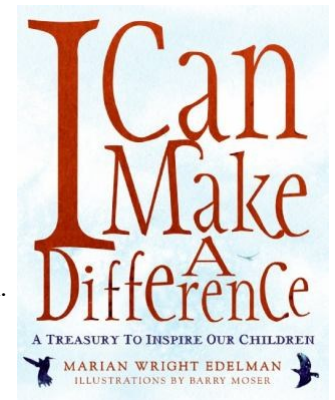
I Can Make A Difference by Marian Wright Edelman

A Treasury to Inspire Our Children

What if we taught our children that a smile can make a big difference in a friend's or a stranger's day? What if we taught our children that they have the gift, no matter how young, of making a difference by being kind, being honest, singing a song, or taking a moment to notice the worm on the sidewalk, and not stepping on it, but valuing it as part of God's wonderful creation. They can be the spark that lights a fire in someone's heart, making it joyful.

I Can Make a Difference is a collection of stories and poems highlighted with sage old advice from historical people from all around the world. It is a book for the young and the young at heart. The Bethel Library Committee highly recommends this book. Marian Wright

Edelman has drawn from a variety of cultures and peoples to compile these timeless stories, poems, songs, quotations, and folktales that speak to all children to let them know that they can make a difference in today's world.



BETHEL'S 17TH ANNUAL ALTERNATIVE GIVING FAIR

from Karna Hauck & Amy Narveson

Bethel's annual Alternative Giving Fair (AGF) begins on Sunday, November 23 and runs through Sunday, December 14. AGF is a great opportunity for Bethel Lutheran Church goes to make a REAL difference! Starting from a \$4 donation to a much larger gift, we can make life better for someone who could really benefit from our giving ...and that gift can be given in honor of someone you love!

WHAT IS AN ALTERNATIVE GIFT? An alternative gift is humanitarian support given in honor of a friend or family member. They are gifts of peace and justice, gifts that are sustainable and that build security. They offer hope and new life to people facing grave crises and needs.

This year we have chosen relevant projects tended by reliable, low-overhead organizations, many of which are grassroots and "on the ground." Be sure to pick up a 2025 Bethel Alternative Giving Fair booklet and select one or more projects that are meaningful and priced right for your family. You will be truly be blessed by blessing others!

FINANCIAL NOTES

from Barb Fowler, Financial Officer

Financial information:

YTD as of Sept. 30, 2025

Revenue: \$623,359

Expenses -730,420

Total \$ (107,061)

In January, the congregation committed to a budget of \$1,010,760, which was the amount that the Finance Committee submitted as the amount needed to fund Bethel's 2025 ministry. We have held our expenses below budget by about \$30,000. However, the revenue has not kept pace and as of September 30, we are in a deficit of \$107,000.

Please prayerfully consider how you can help clear this deficit. Thank you for all you give.

Members of the Finance Committee: Barb Fowler, *Financial Officer*, Greg Bussler, Heidi McCormick, Lee Runzheimer, Blair Fowler, *Trustee*, Andrew Jorgenson, *Steward*, Paula Mathison, *President*, and Pastor Inger, *ex-officio*.



Bethel Lutheran Church
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Web: www.bethelnorthfield.org

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Return Service Requested



Bethel Lutheran Church
Shares Christ's Love with a Big Heart

We celebrate all people as children of God. We unconditionally welcome diversity of age, race, citizenship, ethnicity, cultural identity, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, education, relationship status, family structure, and life challenges. Your diversity and uniqueness are valued. Your questions and your doubts have a home here. You, your spouse, partner, children, family, and friends are welcome to be full participants in the life of our church.

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!



Share
Christ's
Love with a
BIG HEART

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

New members help a congregation take seriously “always being made new” by God. Make sure to connect with these special folk: Brian & Cheryl Boesche, Anne Haga, Joannie Johnson, Trudy Lamb, Kellen Lambeau, Christopher Sherwood-Gabrielson, and Jenna York.



Not pictured:
Ryan, Calvin &
Miles Lambeau;
Mark & Katie
Forman with
Emma & Grace

