



Bethel Blaze

AUGUST 2026

Sharing Christ's love with a big heart

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

In Person

Sunday Morning:

8:30 am and 10:30 am

Online

The 8:30 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



SEASON OF CREATION

Every August, Bethel celebrates a "season of Creation" in the midst of the larger season of the Time After Pentecost. You are especially encouraged to walk, bike, or carpool to worship this month! Our Creation Care team selected themes that heighten our awareness of the planet and each week will give us action steps for being better stewards. Scripture texts were chosen to highlight creation in God's word. This year, the Sunday themes are Oceans, Climate, Forests, and Animals.



August 2 - Pastor Inger



August 9 - Pastor Ben



August 16 - Jessica
Labenski, ELCA
candidate for ministry



August 23 - Pastor Phil

**God's work.
Our hands.**

August 30 - Pastor Ben

The month ends with our observation of "God's work. Our Hands." Sunday (the ELCA's annual day of service). The service opportunities will be announced later in the month. There is also a special fellowship (see below).

GOING TO THE CHAPEL... ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

Congregational Life and Creation Care invite you to enjoy God's amazing outdoor creation using whatever eco-friendly mode of transportation (kayak, bike, walk, or carpool) you prefer to get to the Chapel - Chapel Brewery, that is! Bethel members from our two committees will be at the Chapel Brewery in Dundas (15 Hester Street) to welcome travelers from 4:00 - 6:00 pm.

This has been a wonderful way to engage in fellowship, enjoy a cool beverage and snacks, and savor the beautiful outdoor setting along the river in Dundas. The Northfield riverside bike path that runs behind Culver's will guide you if you choose to walk or bike south to Dundas (about 3 miles) where Chapel Brewery is nestled alongside the Cannon River. If you are feeling adventurous, kayak rentals are available from Farmstead Bicycle to enjoy a beautiful 2.5-hour (average) paddle from Wilderness Park to Dundas - right near the Chapel. Check out the Farmstead Outdoor Adventures website for more details.

FIRESIDE REFLECTIONS

from Pastor Inger



Pastor Inger Hanson
(she/her)
pastor.inger@bethelnorthfield.org
(preferred for non-urgent communication)

office
507-786-8875

office hours
by appointment Monday,
Tuesday, Wednesday,
and Thursday

days off
Friday & Saturday

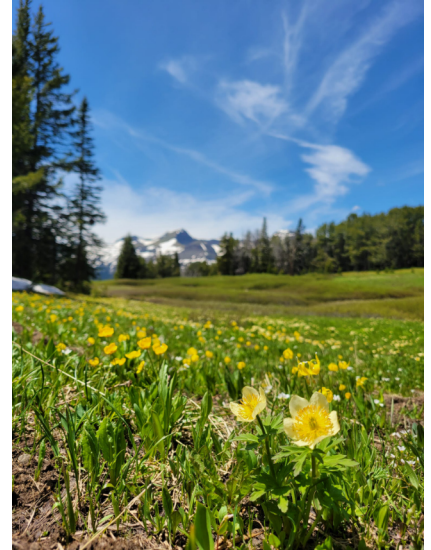
Dear Bethel,

Summer, and ordinary time, is about growth. Early summer is marked by that light minty green and then gives way to richer, lush tones as summer goes on. Fed by the light of the sun, trees and plants flourish.

Perhaps my travels this summer have made Bethel's growth more obvious, but it is exciting to see all the blossoms, big and small. I treasure the personal faith milestones shared in conversations as well as the developments in our community and ministries. There have been "bingos" achieved easily or with effort, participation in the vibrant worship services of summer conferences, treasured ideas coming to fruition (young adult gatherings, and a full-day Vacation Bible School offered through partnership with Good Earth Village), careful plans taking root (as Pastor Ben takes up confirmation), and prayers answered (with Megan Shoup accepting the position of Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry).

As we soak in the summer sunshine this last month of summer, I am reminded that as Christians we are Son-kissed, sealed with the cross of Christ at our baptisms, and growing into our identities as God's beloved. Thanks be to God!

God's peace,
Pastor Inger



ARLA IN AUGUST

from Connie DeGrote

Please join in an ARLA (Anti-Racism Learning and Advocacy) planning meeting on Tuesday, August 20, 10:15 -11:30 am. We will be looking ahead to the coming year and planning how we can continue educating ourselves and also be allies and advocates for people of color, in our community and beyond. All are welcome!

BOOMERANG BAGS

from Deb Roberts

[Boomerang Bags](#) is a global grassroots movement where volunteers sew reusable shopping bags out of upcycled, pre-loved fabric to replace single-use plastics. In Northfield, MN, local volunteers have sewn over 4,000 bags. You can borrow, keep, or return these free, volunteer-made bags found on the coat tree just outside the celebration center at Bethel. If you would like to donate any fabric not useful to the quilters, please place it in the chest by the coat tree and I will sew bags out of it. Most useful fabric includes leftover reupholstery fabric, used drapes you are no longer using, or any heavy-duty fabric at least 18"x18". I donate many of the boomerang bags I make to the library, to the food shelf, and to anyone wanting them for their groceries. If you would like to sew some Boomerang Bags and don't have a pattern, please contact me and I would love to help you. Deb Roberts 218-839-1805.

FINANCIAL NOTES

from Barb Fowler

Financials as of June 30, 2026

Revenue	\$438,109
Expenses	-473,485
Total	\$ (35,376)

June revenue exceeded expenses by \$14,643 which reduced the YTD deficit to \$35K. Thank you for your support of Bethel's ministry!

EVERY WEEK

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - 3 PM

SUNDAY



- 8:30 am Worship/Livestream
 9:40 am Coffee Fellowship & Education
 10:30 am Outdoor Worship

MONDAY



- 12:00 pm Bible Text Study @ The Vault

TUESDAY

- 9:45 am Staff Meeting

THURSDAY

- 9:00 am MoB (Men of Bethel) Rev. Keith Homstad is leading our study of *The Gospel of James*.
 9:00 am FaB (Faith and Books), our women's book group, is reading *The Faith Club* with discussions held weekly in the Youth Room.
 Contact Lana Reich at lanareich@yahoo.com to be added to the FaB email list.

FRIDAY



- 9:15 am WoW (Women of the Word) Bible study via Zoom

THIS MONTH

AUG 3-6	8:45 am	Vacation Bible School! Day Camp @ Bethel	AUG 16	1:00 pm	Bethel @ Benedictine Chapel
AUG 3-6	9:00 am	Preschool VBS @ St. John's	AUG 17	6:30 pm	Mission & Justice Committee
	4:45 pm	CYF Board	AUG 18	12:00 pm	Lydia Circle
	6:30 pm	Kitchen Committee		5:00 pm	Personnel
AUG 5	12:15 pm	Noontime Organ Recital		6:30 pm	Church Council
AUG 6	7:00 pm	Bethel Vision Seekers @ Flaherty's Northfield Lanes, 1700 MN-3 S	AUG 19	4:00 pm	Summer Sonshine-Romans & Christians Pizza Party
	11:30 am	Day Camp Closing Worship		4:30 pm	Homes for God's Children
AUG 11		PRIMARY ELECTION DAY - Voting @ Bethel		5:00 pm	Congregational Life
	3:00 pm	Lydia Circle Fellowship	AUG 20	10:00 am	Parkview Fellowship
AUG 12	5:00 pm	Congregational Life		10:15 am	ARLA (Anti-Racism Learning and Advocacy) Planning
	6:00 pm	Young Adult Gathering at Red Barn Pizza Farm	AUG 25	6:30 pm	ISAIAH: Discipleship Training
AUG 13	10:00 am	Projects with Purpose	AUG 26	5:00 pm	Bridge Chamber Music Festival
	5:45 pm	Active BeFriender Ministry Support		5:30 pm	RIC Committee
	7:00 pm	Finance	AUG 27	10:00 am	Projects with Purpose

BETHEL BRIGHT LIGHTS



Sunday Funday! The nursery beat the heat with water play...

Meanwhile, intrepid youth traveled to North Carolina. There was work with Lutheran Disaster Response, rock climbing and whitewater rafting, worship and much more!



A joy to have Larry Narhi back at his usher post!



Thanks to a grant from the Bethel Endowment, we hosted a summer gathering for young adults! It was lovely to reconnect, share a meal and make mocktails.



Bethel members supported (and were key leaders in) worship for multiple summer conferences at St. Olaf.

Carsten Walter shared is building archival work!

ISAIAH DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITY

"For Such a Time as This." ISAIAH has developed a three-session training to equip you for a deeper search into your strengths for God's wider work. These consecutive Tuesday sessions will meet at Bethel on August 25, September 1 and September 8 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Each meeting covers different topics, so we suggest attending all sessions if possible; however, you are also welcome for only one or two sessions. We welcome people of all faiths to join us. Signing up in advance will help us plan for adequate space. See the *This Week @ Bethel* email for more information or text or call Mary Loven at 507-581-1193.

WELCOME!



MEGAN SHOUP

Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries

Welcome Megan!

We are so excited to have Megan Shoup join the Bethel staff. Megan is pioneering the reenvisioned Director of Children, Youth, & Family (CYF) Ministries as Pastor Ben takes lead of our Confirmation program. She brings a wealth of experience and love of children and youth to the position.

If she looks familiar, she should! Megan and her family (husband Ben and Deilianna, Ciercina, and Anoren) joined Bethel in the fall of 2024. She officially begins on August 17.