



Bethel Blaze

OCTOBER 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.

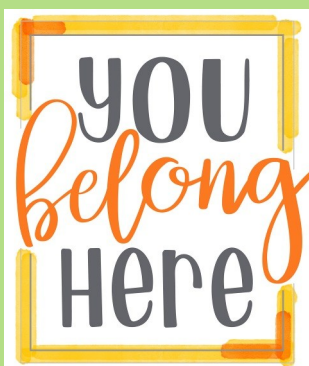
There are four opportunities
to watch:

Monday 2:00 pm

Tuesday 1:30 pm

Wednesday 7:00 pm

Saturday 7:00 am



STEWARDSHIP IN ANXIOUS TIMES

There are many contextual factors at play right now that can make it feel hard to be generous. Feelings of scarcity (of resources, time, or energy) can make us anxious. "What if I'll need that money a few months from now? What if I over-commit and have to back out? What if I sign up and don't like it, or I'm not good at it?"

Our Stewardship theme in October is "What if?" and the lectionary texts will help us face some of our anxieties together. The Israelites will be pinned against the Red Sea. *What if things feel hopeless?* They won't know how to be a community in the wilderness. *What if we don't know what to do?* They will forget the covenant. *What if we forget?* King David will abuse his power. *What if we make a mistake?*

One of the best ways to lessen the power of something that brings fear and anxiety into our lives is to name it and talk about it. The hope is to do just that for anxieties around Stewardship. On Sunday, October 4 between services, the Bible Study will explore more traditional texts around time, talent, and treasure. The following



Sunday, October 11, will have a special faith and finances presentation. May Christ use these conversations to free us anew, and fashion us into ever greater stewards of the gifts we have been given.

CELEBRATE OUR CONFIRMANDS!

The 10th Grade Confirmands have been meeting with Pastor Ben the last few Wednesdays as they prepare to affirm their baptism on Reformation Sunday! The Confirmation worship service will be at 1:30 pm on Sunday, October 25 and will also be livestreamed. Please pray for these Confirmands as they continue to prepare for this important rite and milestone in their journey of faith.

Brandon Atzinger

Austen Bateza

Odin Christopherson

Soren Christopherson

Shea Engle

Emma Froman

Wyatt Pagel

Evan Toth



FIRESIDE REFLECTIONS

from Pastor Inger



Pastor Inger Hanson
(she/her)
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(preferred for non-urgent communication)

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

days off
Friday & Saturday

Dear Bethel,

While we commemorate Reformation at the end of the month, Lutherans have an understanding that we are always being made new by the Holy Spirit. I am particularly delighted for new approaches to 1) youth-led worship and 2) Sunday morning Bible study.

Youth-Led (or Student-Led Worship) Our reimagined confirmation now has service expectations, and students are given opportunities to fulfill them by volunteering in worship on any Sunday. A few times a year, we will use special Sundays to engage children and youth more deeply in worship planning. When we center our younger voices, what do we learn? Find out on October 4!

Sunday morning Bible study While Bethel has several weekly options for Bible study, our Sunday offerings have often been in the shadow of other programming. At the Spring Ministry Summit, we discerned a new path forward... having Bible study be the program (typically on the first Sunday of the month). This month, join Pastor Ben and me to explore some of stewardship's scriptural foundations.

These are two practical reformations in our life together. Reformation also looks like welcoming new members and confirming our 10th graders! To channel a beloved hymn (ELW #396), the Spirit of gentleness continues to call. What are we being stirred or coaxed toward? When might the Spirit be stinging or goading us into action? Where is the Spirit singing? Where is it crying?

As the seasons change, may we be freshly attuned to being molded by and for love and justice.

In Christ, Pastor Inger

WEEKLY CALENDAR

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS MONDAY - THURSDAY 9 AM - 3 PM

SUNDAY



8:30 am Worship/Livestream

9:40 am Coffee Fellowship & Education

10:30 am Worship with Sunday School

MONDAY



12:00 pm Bible Text Study @ The Vault

6:30 pm Resonance Bell Choir

TUESDAY

9:45 am Staff Meeting (except Staff will meet Monday, 10/19 instead of Tuesday, 10/20)

WEDNESDAY*



3:30 pm SPARK (formerly Limitless)

5:30 pm Bistro Join us for a fresh cooked meal and fellowship! Cost is \$5/meal; family cap of \$20.

6:15 pm Ring Forth Youth Bell Choir

7:00 pm 6th Grade Connections / 7-8-9 Warm Up / 10th Grade Confirmation

HangTime

Church Choir

8:05 pm Brio

EVERY WEEK

THURSDAY 9:00 am MoB (Men of Bethel) will be discussing several articles from the Luther Seminary journal, Word and World, on the topic of Church and State during the month of October. New folks are always welcome.

FaB (Faith and Books) will begin reading Richard Rohr's, *The Tears of Things* on October 8. Discussions are 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

OCT 1	10:15 am	OWLs (Older, Wiser Lutherans)	OCT 15	10:00 am	Parkview Fellowship
	2:00 pm	Bethel Monthly Movie	Oct 17	11:00 am	Jerry Germundson Service (10:00 am Visitation, reception to follow service)
	4:30 pm	Endowment Committee	OCT 18	1:00 pm	Bethel @ Benedictine Chapel
OCT 3	8:30 am	Fall Ministry Summit		3:00 pm	Confirmation Retreat
OCT 6	2:00 pm	Grief and Loss Support #1	OCT 19	9:45 am	Bethel Staff Meeting
OCT 7	4:30 pm	St. Francis/Pet Blessing To Go	OCT 20	9:00 am	Quilting Group
	7:00 pm	10th Grade Confirmation Rehearsal		12:00 pm	Lydia Circle
OCT 8	10:00 am	Projects with Purpose		2:00 pm	Grief and Loss Support #2
	5:45 pm	Active BeFriender Support	OCT 22	10:00 am	Projects with Purpose
	7:00 pm	Finance		5:00 pm	Ed Durand Visitation
	7:00 pm	Bethel Vision Seekers @ Imminent Brewing, 519 Division Street, 55057	OCT 23	11:00 am	Ed Durand Service (10:00 am Visitation, reception to follow service)
OCT 9	9:00 am	Bethel People Having Fun, Adventure #1	OCT 25	REFORMATION SUNDAY	
OCT 12	6:30 pm	Rice County ISAIAH		8:30 am	New Member Recognition
OCT 13	9:00 am	Quilting Group		9:40 am	New Member Reception
	3:00 pm	Lydia Circle Fellowship		1:30 pm	CONFIRMATION with Livestream
	5:00 pm	Personnel	OCT 27	9:00 am	Quilting Group
	6:30 pm	Church Council	OCT 28	6:15 pm	Youth-sponsored Trunk or Treat
OCT 14	NO PROGRAMMING/BISTRO (MEA BREAK)			7:00 pm	Confirmation Mentor Orientation
	5:00 pm	Congregational Life			

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY (CYF) MINISTRIES



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(she/her)
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Some glimpses into our Children, Youth, and Family Ministries here at Bethel.

At a recent Sunday School, children raced from signs marked Pharoah's palace to strike a royal pose, to Potipher's house to make sweeping motions, and finally to prison to link arms as we engaged Joseph's story with our bodies, hearts, and minds. Our kids are diving in to the lessons with energy and insight. Remember that Sunday School is now offered during both worship services!

We also love to have children in worship, from presenting 3-year-olds their Bibles to blessing backpacks at the start of the school year. Beginning plans are being formed for this year's Christmas program (sneak peek: it is titled "Then Do It Scared.")

It is not only our elementary kids that can lead us deeper into scripture and worship. Our 6th - 12th graders have pondered how to help the congregation physically engage the thanksgiving for baptism, chosen music, and even highlighted stewardship differently, for a very special Student-Led Sunday on October 4. Our youth are exploring the sacred work of leading the wider community in corporate worship.

*Joyful Sunday worship planning
and joyful SPARK chapel!*



On Wednesdays, our after-school SPARK (Spirit, Play, Arts, and Relationships for Kids) program has been shining brightly. Particularity luminous are the relationships we see forming. Students are reconnecting after a summer apart.

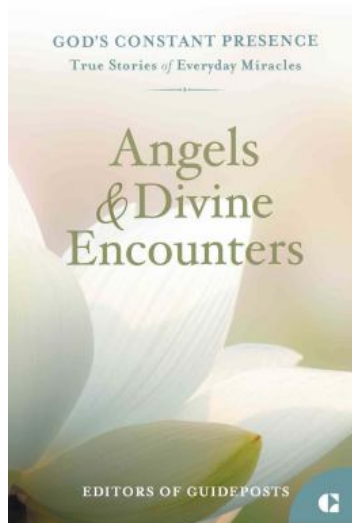
The AMAZING middle and high schoolers get kids laughing and learning with games and music. The cross-generational connections as students are greeted and served a snack each week by retired congregants, parents, and staff beautifully illustrate the whole body of Christ doing life together.



7-8-9 WARM UP FOR CONFIRMATION

As 10th graders have their final classes with Pastor Ben, 7th, 8th, and 9th graders are invited to 7-8-9 Warm Up with Pastor Inger. We begin with song and then get to know each other as we play games, brush off our Bible skills and knowledge, get some orientation and training for service opportunities, and make art. It's a great way to get in the Wednesday night rhythm before confirmation classes begin in November.

IN THE LIBRARY...



In times of danger, doubt, or deep need, God can intervene to protect us, whether through His messengers or His direct action, performing miracles that keep us safe.

In **Angels & Divine Encounters**, people just like you share their stories of: mysterious strangers who arrive just in time to save a life or offer comfort and guidance; invisible guardian angels who act to keep people out of harm's way; and ordinary people who embody the love of God by bringing His comfort to people in need.

Let your spirit be lifted as you discover the many beautiful ways in which God is present for all of us, every day. **Be sure to come and check out our "Among the Ministries" table on Sunday, October 4.** The Bethel Library will have many more books available on angels, heaven, and near-death experiences.

PET BLESSINGS TO GO!

Bring your furry, feathery or scaly friend(s) to Bethel's outdoor worship space for a special blessing and take home treats on **Wednesday, October 7 from 4:30—5:30 pm**. Photos or drawings of pets are also welcome!



BETHEL PRESENTS - OCTOBER 11 & 18

October 11 - Discover how faith and finances can work together through **Faithful Finances: Your Blueprint to Thrive**. Brenda Rabbe, Financial Advisor with Thrivent, will lead this workshop, offering practical insights and guidance to help you steward your resources with purpose and confidence.

October 18 - Did you know that our very own **The Key** (or **Northfield Union of Youth**) here in Northfield is known as the nation's longest running youth-led youth center? Youth find ownership and agency in this space, as well as friendship and access to many resources, including safe housing.

The Lock is a recent expansion next door to The Key, which further helps to connect youth to trusted adults, mental health support, wellness and recovery support, a learning lab, access for basic needs, as well as enrichment opportunities. Executive Director Kelli Podracky will speak to us about Northfield Union of Youth's important work. Please come to learn more!

REFORMATION CELEBRATION & NEW MEMBER WELCOME - OCTOBER 25



We celebrate Reformation on Sunday, October 25. **Wear red** to celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit in the church! New members formally join the congregation at the 8:30 am worship service, with a special welcome reception to follow. If you are interested in joining Bethel, or know someone who is, please connect with one of the pastors.

BETHEL BRIGHT LIGHTS



Worship highlights: Kinsley Niemann's baptism and all the Armstrong brothers in the house!

Bethel was also in the big city with parishioners attending the Lutheran Social Services gala....



Rally Sunday included a Mission & Justice Fair, games, snacks, and face-painting outside, and a community art project! Momentum continued with a FAB Retreat, a Habitat build, and Wednesday programs!



THE BETHEL ENDOWMENT WELCOMES GRANT PROPOSALS

The fall grant application cycle is open now and will run through November 15. The short electronic application can be found [here](#) and is available on the Bethel Website. Applicants will be notified in December about funding decisions and grant money will be available starting in January.

The Bethel Endowment supports outreach ministries (local or global), education, and general needs at Bethel related to worship, music or church facilities. Endowment grants provide funding for programs and projects that are outside of the scope of Bethel's operating budget and that further the mission of Bethel to Share Christ's Love with a Big Heart. More than \$35,000 in grant money was awarded in 2026. Examples of previous grant recipients/projects include:

- Operational funding for Lifting Voices Choir for people living with dementia
- Purchasing a lift to help Bethel members placing paraments in the sanctuary
- Additional handbells for the bell choirs
- Replenishing the Good Samaritan Fund
- Care packages for TORCH graduates in post-secondary education
- ... and more!

We look forward to your applications and the impact that the endowment dollars can make in 2027.

LEARNING NEW TERMS FOR ADVOCACY



For the next couple months, the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) committee will be sharing images made by Reconciling Works, an organization that advocates for the acceptance, full participation, and liberation of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expression within the Lutheran Church. Their website is full of wonderful educational material for congregations, so feel free to check it out. <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/>

And feel free to send the RIC committee questions anytime by emailing bethel@bethelnorthfield.org.

FINANCIAL NOTES

from Lee Runzheimer

Aug. 31 YTD Financials

Revenue:	\$555,391
Expenses	(597,534)
Total deficit	\$(42,143)

Lee Runzheimer, finance committee member, gave a post-summer financial update on Sunday, September 13 at both services, reporting that Bethel Lutheran Church continues to be in solid financial shape. We have no loans, debts or past due bills, and we are current on all our benevolence commitments. The facility is in excellent shape. The Endowment Fund continues to grow.

However, we do have a year-to-date August deficit of \$42,000. We did anticipate a possible summer slow-down, which our operating reserve lets us handle. Now, we need to REPLENISH the reserve, so that we are ready for any adverse event, a year-end shortfall, surprise expense inflation, and to have a strong reserve for next summer.

As our full staff gears up for the new autumn programs, and we begin budgeting for 2027, please review your contribution status, so that we get back to "break-even." THANKS for all you give to Bethel!

SAVE THE DATE!



“Save the Date”- Sunday, November 8, 2026 from 8:30 am - 1:30 pm for Bethel’s Autumn Blood Drive.

As the leaves fall down, let’s up our blood donations. About 42,000 blood products are used daily, meaning every single donation matters. Your generosity could help a neighbor, a friend, or a family member.

Plus, every donation comes with cozy snacks and a delicious beverage. Don’t wait, sign up today.

Whole blood donors need 8 weeks to replenish their supply before scheduling to donate and double red donors need 16 weeks spacing between donations of packed red cells. Please plan ahead and save the date as blood products have a limited shelf life and are always needed. Thank you.

[CLICK HERE TO SCHEDULE A DONATION](#)

Enter Sponsor Code: 4044

Or contact Memorial Blood Center at 888.GIVE.BLD