Bethel Blaze

November 2026

Sharing Christ's love with a big heart

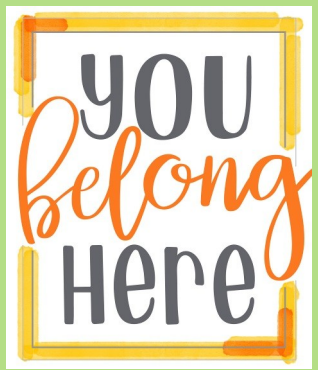
JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

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



CHRIST THE KING

After All Saints, we build to the formal end of the church year: Christ the King. This year the focus will be on the prophet Isaiah's words about the Lord teaching the people and judging between the nations, so that "they beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks." (Isaiah 2:4)

On Christ the King Sunday (November 22)
we will have ONE special worship service at 9:00 am
allowing you to then embrace the new church year
at the Advent Festival from 10:00 am - 11:30 am

As we take Isaiah's words to heart, there will be a special sung litany for the healing of the nations. Our children and youth have been crafting a world map that will serve as a powerful visual as we pray. A few helping hands are needed to help us finish painting the continents and oceans, so you are invited to the Art Room between services on **November 8 for Liturgical Art with Pastor Inger & Tim Mahr.** They will provide some guidance and help mix paint. No art degree required, just bring your enthusiasm and ability to follow directions!

Once the globe is completed, our nursery kids will help us outline the world, and a high school artist and mentor are taking charge of the corners.

& ADVENT FESTIVAL

You are invited to our joyful, inter-generational gathering for families with children and individuals of all ages to come together to usher in this sacred season!

Please join us for complimentary activities and refreshments as we prepare our hearts and homes for the Advent season of hope, peace, joy, and love!

• Make lefsa • Play loteria • Decorate cookies
• Make an eco-friendly bird feeder • Make an Advent window hanging
…and much more!

Fireside Reflections

from Pastor Ben

Pastor Ben Schori
(he/him)
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(preferred for non-urgent communication)

office
507-786-8953

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

days off
Friday & Saturday

Dear Bethel,

November has always felt like a transition month for me. Transitioning from the beautiful colors and pleasant sweatshirt temperatures of fall toward the bare, snowy, cold of winter. And this theme of November transitions holds true for Bethel as well.

10th graders have been confirmed and entered high school ministry along with the 11th and 12th graders, while 7th, 8th, and 9th graders start up their Confirmation year. In worship, the month begins with All Saints and ends with Christ the King and a shift into Advent. And of course, we will once again join with St. John's at St. Peter's for our annual combined Northfield ELCA Thanksgiving Eve Service November 25.

November, this year, brings with it other transitions. For months now, so much communal energy has been pored into polling, campaigning, and concern around the midterm elections. I know that my phone has been bombarded with calls, texts, and emails daily in a way it never has before. And then, after November 3, the elections will be over, and we will transition into a new post-election reality.

How can we as people of faith and followers of Jesus live intentionally into this time of transition? In his letter to the Philippians, Paul writes, "forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:13b-14)

Amid the transitions, let us look to the love, justice, generosity, persistence, and inspiration of the Gospel of Christ and the promise that we are always transitioning toward God's Kingdom come.

Peace & Blessings, Pastor Ben

Exhibit Reception & Presentation

by Connie DeGrote

The Worship & Arts Action Team and ARLA (Anti-Racism and Learning) teamed up to bring a powerful exhibit to the Bethel Narthex, *Why We Record - Defying Fragmentation and Erasure in Palestine,* from October 27 - November 29. On **Tuesday, November 10, from 4 - 5 pm, there will be a reception with a presentation by Jenny Hartley and Fred Rogers of Northfielders for Justice in Palestine**, followed by time to view the exhibit and to debrief. Light snacks with a Palestine theme will be served. All are welcome! Also consider inviting others to view the exhibit during the five weeks it will be on display. It includes a collection of Visualizing Palestine's archival photos, visuals and excerpts from published stories on the themes of fragmentation, displacement, return, and future visioning. The exhibit is family-friendly, and despite difficult material, it is appropriate for all ages.

Weekly Calendar

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS Monday - Thursday 9 am - 3 pm

Sunday		**8:30 am**	**Worship/Livestream** with Sunday School
		9:40 am	**Coffee Fellowship & Education**
		10:30 am	**Worship** and Sunday School
Monday		**12:00 pm**	**Bible Text Study @ The Vault**
		6:30 pm	**Resonance Bell Choir**
Tuesday		**9:45 am**	**Staff Meeting**

Every Week

Wednesday	3:30 pm	**SPARK**
	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	**7-8-9 Confirmation** (7th grade: 61 A/B, 8th grade: Fireside, 9th grade: Center Pod)
		HangTime
		Church Choir
	8:05 pm	**Brio Youth Bell Choir**
Thursday	9:00 am	**MoB (Men of Bethel)** will be focusing on a Bible study led by Keith Homstad. New folks are always welcome.
		FaB (Faith and Books), our women's book group, is reading Richard Rohr's *The Tears of Things*. Discussions are held weekly in the Youth Room. Contact Lana Reich at lanareich@yahoo.com to be added to the email list.
Friday	9:15 am	**WoW (Women of the Word)** Bible study via Zoom

This Month

Nov 1	All Saints' Sunday	*Daylight Saving ends*
	12:00 pm	Circle of Saints Retreat
Nov 3	*Election Day*	
	2:00 pm	Grief & Loss Support #3
	8:00 pm	Election Day Prayer Vigil @ Bridge Square
Nov 4	4:30 pm	Immigration Team
	7:00 pm	6th Grade Connections
		7-8-9 Confirmation Kickoff
Nov 5	10:15 am	OWLs (Older Wiser Lutherans)
	2:00 pm	Bethel Monthly Movie: "A Man Called Otto" (2022)
	7:00 pm	Bethel Vision Seekers @ Tanzenwald, 103 Water Street, 55057
Nov 7	2:00 pm	St. Olaf & Bethel Bell Choirs Kids Concert
Nov 8	8:30 am	Bethel Blood Drive
Nov 9	6:30 pm	Rice County ISAIAH meeting
Nov 10	9:00 am	Quilting Group
	3:00 pm	Lydia Circle Fellowship
	4:00 pm	Palestine Exhibit Reception hosted by ARLA & Arts Teams
	5:45 pm	CYF Advisory Board
Nov 12	10:00 am	Projects with Purpose
	5:45 pm	Active BeFriender Support
	7:00 pm	Finance
Nov 15	1:00 pm	Bethel @ Benedictine Chapel
Nov 17	12:00 pm	Lydia Circle
	2:00 pm	Grief & Loss Support #4
	5:00 pm	Personnel Committee
	6:30 pm	Church Council
Nov 18	4:30 pm	Homes for God's Children
	7:00 pm	6th Grade Connections
Nov 19	10:00 am	Parkview Fellowship
	10:15 am	ARLA Planning Team
Nov 22	9:00 am	Christ the King (single worship service)
	10:00 am	Advent Festival
Nov 24	9:00 am	Quilting Group
Nov 25	No Programming -Thanksgiving Break	
	6:30 pm	Thanksgiving Eve Joint Worship & Pie Fest @ St. Peter's
Nov 25	Church Office & Library Closed Thanksgiving Day	

Children, Youth & Family (CYF) Ministries

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What is the sum of one VERY energetic 1st grader, the guiding hand of a retired teacher, and yogurt-covered snack tables? Sparkling clean tables, a new life skill, and two happy humans! Our SPARK Wednesday after-school program has amazing volunteers who show up and dive in. They serve snacks, lead song motions (we love Pharoah Pharoah!), spearhead games, or keep students engaged during choir. SPARK is growing far beyond "a place for kids to go" into a vibrant community of people who laugh, learn, and grow together.

Sunday morning Youth Fellowship is growing its personality and culture of connection as well. Getting to hang out with such a dynamic range of youth and learn about faith in today's world alongside them is a gift. They are playful, witty, and surprisingly insightful. The students often deliver deep wisdom while looking like they're doing something completely unrelated! Recently, when asked what they hope to take with them when they leave on Sunday morning, they answered: *"Knowledge, a full belly, and a full heart."* To that end, consider asking a 6-12th grader on any given Sunday morning about the spiritual practice they are exploring for faith formation or snacks, or maybe even both!

November is going to be full of preparation as anticipation builds for our children's Christmas Program, "Then Do It Scared: Finding Your Place in the Greatest Story Ever Told" (December 13 at both worship services). Working alongside the wonderfully talented Ian Schlief, we are adapting the script to fit our context.

7-8-9 Confirmation Kicks Off

On Reformation Sunday, the Confirmation Class of 2026 affirmed their baptism at a joyous and love-filled afternoon worship service. Congratulations and blessings to our 10th graders as they join with the 11th and 12th graders for HangTime on Wednesday nights!

The Confirmation Kickoff for 7th, 8th, and 9th graders is Wednesday, November 4 in the Sanctuary. Come learn about the changes to the program, summer trip plans, and more! Please pray for our confirmands, mentors, and teachers as they start their year together! 7th graders study some of the key stories in scripture with Pastor Inger. 8th graders delve into the Lutheran perspective (Small Catechism, etc.) with Rev. Dr. Anthony Bateza and Dr. Kiara Jorgenson. 9th graders look at faith in action with Pastor Ben.

BETHEL PRESENTS... (SUNDAY MORNING ADULT EDUCATION)

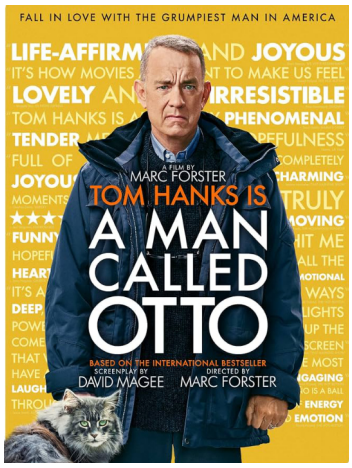
November Bible Study: A Scriptural Understanding of Saints - November 1: What texts inform how we talk about saints as Lutherans? Join Pastor Inger and Pastor Ben for this month's Bible study.

Revisiting Our Bethel Land Acknowledgement Statement - November 8: Bethel acknowledges a variety of injustices to our Indigenous neighbors while also pledging to promote healing and justice. This compels us to listen, learn and act. What does this look like? A team from Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Minneapolis will share their story of building relationships with the Indigenous Protector Movement, cultivating partnerships within the neighborhood and the land stewardship that has come about.

Bringing Change to Mind - November 15: NEED HOPE? Come hear some heartwarming stories of collaboration and intention happening with our Northfield youth around the topic of mental health! Bring Change to Mind (BC2M) is a nationally supported, evidence-based, student-led club that provides teens with a platform to end stigma in their school and promote mental health self care in a way that is relevant to them and their peers. The goal of the Bring Change to Mind high school program is to create a more understanding and empathetic high school environment through education and awareness. The program empowers students to change the traditional mental health narrative using active events, passive messaging and persistent safe spaces. Northfield High School (NHS) Visual Art teacher and long time Bethel Member, Karna Hauck, advises the group along with Mandi Toegel, Fernbrook Therapist at NHS. This year, Rocky Casillas, of Rokaturas, is working as a resident artist with the club and will be joining Karna and a few of the BC2M student officers to share about their impactful NHS mental health initiatives for 2025-26.

Listening to Life - November 29: Everyone is welcome to participate in a session of listening and sharing in a special way. You have a story to tell about "what makes you, You" and there are others who would benefit from hearing it! You also have the gift of hearing others stories in order to grow in our understanding and compassion for one another.

MONTHLY MOVIE - NOVEMBER 5



We love movies! Join Pastor Phil in the Youth Room on **Tuesday, November 5, at 2:00 pm.**

BLOOD DRIVE - NOVEMBER 8

Bethel will host Memorial Blood Centers' mobile donor bus **Sunday, November 8, 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

MEALS ON WHEELS - BEGINS NOVEMBER 9

Bethel's annual *three weeks* of delivering Meals on Wheels starts on November 9. This is a service ministry that Bethel has helped support for many years. **Bethel is responsible for delivering meals from November 9 through November 24** (no weekend or holiday deliveries are needed in 2026). Comprehensive delivery instructions are provided. **Invitations have been sent to members who have signed up for the Meals on Wheels ministry in Breeze.** If you haven't received an email invitation and would like to volunteer, or you need more information, please contact Pam Santerre at 651-335-3465 or go to https://www.northfieldhospital.org/meals-wheels. Thank you for delivering meals to our neighbors!

Bethel Bright Lights

Council, staff, and lay leaders gathered to align on vision and share ideas at the Fall Ministry Summit .

SPARK kids loving on God's creatures at Pet Blessings to Go.

Students helped plan and lead worship the first Sunday of the month - including sprinkling the congregation for a special thanksgiving for baptism!

The confirmation retreat included "dinner church" (thanks chef Chad Jenkinson!) as well as celebratory cupcakes; and the Confirmation service itself was moving as these young people enter a new chapter.

On Reformation Sunday morning, we formally welcomed new members Jerry & Teresa Elsbernd (and others in absentia).

Wayne Kivell was honored with Luther College's Weston Noble Lifetime Achievement award!

The weather held for a delightful Trunk or Treat! Thank you to all who donated candy, hosted a trunk, and attended!

From the Artemis II crew to construction cones, Bob Ross to Oscar the Grouch - so much creativity!

For the world map project, Sam Dwyer and Pastor Inger sketched an outline for the students to work from. Lois Cary and Linda Zolnosky tackled hemming. You can take part Nov 8!

BEFRIENDERS

by Marci Groenewold

In 1897, Ian Maclaren, under the pen name Rev. John Watson, wrote "Be kind, everyone you know is fighting a hard battle," as part of a Christmas message for the British Weekly. Although this quote has evolved over time, the message remains the same: Be kind. Don't judge.

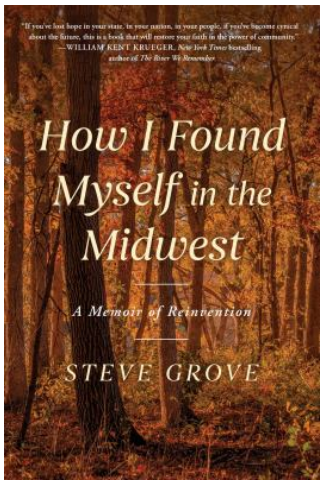
Colossians Forum contributor Raymond Chang writes, we live in a society where relationships are treated like consumer goods: when they become frustrating or demanding, the instinct is to replace them. When personal peace and preference become ultimate, people are subtly reduced to the functions they serve - valued when they align with us and discarded when they do not.

While abusive relationships can never be tolerated, Chang challenges us to consider another way. If dismissal or distancing was not the default option, then conflict could become a means of formation. Scripture calls us to bear with one another, forgive one another, and remain bound together even under strain. Covenant becomes stronger than convenience. This idea encourages endurance, working through things and repair. Relationships are held together not by agreement or ease, but by shared commitment before God. It means recognizing that some of the most important growth happens when people remain, tell the truth, and trust that covenant can sustain what comfort cannot.

A fundamental BeFriender principle: "Nonjudgmental presence."

IN THE LIBRARY...

A Midwestern native shares the power of moving forward by going back home. Just after turning forty, Steve Grove left Silicon Valley as a Google executive to move to his home state of Minnesota with his wife and fellow tech exec, Mary Grove, and their one-year-old twins. Gone from the Midwest for two decades, Grove returned with fresh eyes. He traded his career at Google for a state government position with Governor Walz. Grove's shift brought struggles and triumphs vividly portrayed with humor and affection.



This story of reinvention takes on new urgency when crisis strikes, as the coronavirus pandemic and the tragic murder of George Floyd thrust Grove's work into the spotlight. Tasked with distributing billions in aid, rolling out pandemic restrictions, redeveloping neighborhoods, and navigating deep divisions, Grove's journey through crisis brings new insights about himself and his community. His experiences of the political, geographic, and racial divisions in his home state also yield surprising discoveries about what binds us together.

From making new friends and building a family to reconciling with his past and exploring his faith, Grove's journey to find purpose by going local provides a roadmap for anyone looking to discover what gives meaning to their life. His insights about the Midwest, and why he is optimistic about America's future, are also inspiring.

BETHEL'S 18TH ANNUAL ALTERNATIVE GIVING FAIR ...

With the holiday season just around the corner, keep Bethel's Alternative Giving Fair in mind. 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 build security. They offer hope and new life to people facing grave crises and needs.

Every year, Karna Hauck and Amy Narveson select projects tended by reliable, low-overhead organizations, many of which are grassroots and "on the ground." At the end of November and beginning of December, there will be displays in the Narthex and a 2026 Bethel Alternative Giving Fair booklet for you to select one or more projects that are meaningful and priced right for your family - check the weekly email for exact dates!

Looking for the Financial Notes? They'll be back in December!

The most up-to-date information was shared throughout October as part of our Stewardship month.

SAVE THE DATE!