



Bethel Blaze

APRIL 2024

Sharing Christ's love with a big heart

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

In Person

Sunday Mornings:
8:30 am and 10:45 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



EASTERTIDE & EXPERIENCES OF THE HOLY

Easter isn't just a day. Our emphasis this Eastertide, which continues the celebration of the resurrection for fifty more days, is experiences of the holy. We experience the divine in worship together, but it's important we don't limit God (or worshipping God) to the sanctuary. Consider taking part in these opportunities that help us share the joy of Easter with the community beyond our building.

Alleluia 5k Worship & Fish Taco Fellowship—April 7



Invite your friends to this *moving* worship Sunday, April 7 that will again benefit our neighbors in Viking Terrace. Walk or run the 5k or half-distance route, or be guided in gentle movement indoors. Children from our Limitless "Bodybuilders" program will provide extra musical motivation.

8:30 am Worship with Holy Communion

10:00 am Alleluia 5k Fun Run/Walk
and indoor gentle movement option Worship Start

11:00 am Concluding Worship & Fish Taco Fellowship

After we move, we feast! A fish taco fellowship (in honor of Jesus' resurrection appearance on the beach) will cap off the morning. If you're not a fish person, other fixings will be available too. Please register at <https://runsignup.com/Race/MN/Northfield/Alleluia5k>

Be a Lifesaver! Blood Drive—April 21

Bethel is hosting our 24th blood drive on Sunday, April 21 from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm with Memorial Blood Center's bus in our West parking lot. Each whole blood unit can be separated into 3 life-saving components (platelets, plasma, red cells). Bethel averages 30-34 units at our biannual blood drives, which means 90-100 people benefit each time!

Three ways to schedule your donation:

- Visit www.mbc.org/searchdrives and enter sponsor code 4044.
- Call Memorial Blood Centers at 888-448-3253.
- Scan the QR code from signs posted at Bethel.

Thank you for recruiting donors even if you are unable to donate yourself.



Adopt-A-Highway with Creation Care—April 27



Please join us for our annual spring Adopt-a-Highway pick up, Saturday, April 27, at 9:00 am. Gather at the Bethel parking lot right before 9:00 am, and we will carpool to our site, located on Highway 3 N. and Co. Rd. 86. Please bring work gloves. Safety vests and bags will be provided. The cleanup is sponsored by the Creation Care Team. Please join us for 1 1/2 hours of care for God's creation.



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 Tuesdays,
Wednesdays, and Thursdays

days off
Mondays & Saturday

FIRESIDE REFLECTIONS

by Pastor Inger

Dear Bethel,

I think, therefore I am. However helpful Descartes may be, I sometimes wonder if we think too much, and if such a saying privileges rationalism and neglects embodied knowledge. My thoughts get clunky and my eyes tend to glaze over when considering how a bicycle uses momentum, force, and friction to create kinetic energy. But while my brain struggles to remember the equations, my body learned long ago how to instinctively calculate the shifts in balance or effort needed, and I am eager to get the bike out this spring.

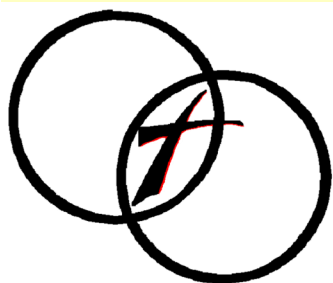
In the face of resurrection – defying death but also defying logic – bike rides remind me of other ways of knowing: through poems instead of essays, in songs instead of statements. Faith, especially during Eastertide, invites us into experience. We are pushed beyond our thoughts and ideas: love is known in each squeeze of the stress ball while donating blood, or in the comradery of Adopt-A-Highway clean up. Peace expands our lungs, breath enables muscles, joy bubbles up in laughter or settles softly in our chests.

However interesting your thoughts, may you embrace the Eastertide experiences. Perhaps you're in the first lurches, desperately driving one leg forward and fearfully wobbling. Perhaps your muscle memory is rusty, but coming back quick. Perhaps you're cruising with your hands casually at your sides. Maybe you're forging into the wind, or maybe you're drafting off of riders ahead of you. Whatever your stage or felt condition of faith and doubt, may your Eastertide "ride(s)" help you know resurrection in your bones and breath, even if your mind still boggles. May you relish mystery rather than mastery, and how the promise of resurrection makes all things new.

Eastertide blessings,
Pastor Inger

BeFRIENDERS

by Marci Groenewold



The BeFriender logo with its intersecting circles and cross in the center provides a visual image of the "sacred space" that occurs when BeFriender ministers visit their friends. The two circles represent each person in the conversation while the overlapping portion represents God's presence. The time spent and stories shared now become a special "holy ground."

Sacred space is intentional and follows ground rules that encourage a positive outcome. Called to be listeners, BeFriender ministers hold sacred each conversation. One way to maintain sacred space during a dialogue is to use "I" statements when presenting your perspective.

This greatly reduces blaming, accusations, and defensiveness in conversation. Using this technique allows you to make your point without causing the other person to shut down and stop listening. An example of using an "I" statement is to say "I feel ___when" instead of "you make me feel ___when." Other ways to uphold sacred space is being open to new insights and refraining from dominating the conversation.

Confidentiality is another important aspect of honoring sacred ground. Sometimes what is shared is deep and very personal. BeFriender conversations are rarely shared with anyone. As trusted representatives of Bethel, BeFrienders feel the people visited are entitled to a safe, supportive environment in which to share their story. Knowing that what's shared during a visit is confidential, allows for deeper, more meaningful conversation. This allows little nuggets of clarity to emerge as issues are resolved.

This Eastertide, experience the holy as you listen to stories shared with family, neighbors, friends, coworkers and even people you've never met. Let our conversations with each other reflect God in Jesus whose resurrection we celebrate.

A fundamental BeFriender principle: "God is Present". For more information regarding the BeFriender Ministry at Bethel, please contact Marci Groenewold (507-649-3160), Knight Stanley (612-877-0893), Karen Mader (507-301-4368) or the Bethel Office (507-786-6674).

EVERY WEEK

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - 3 PM

SUNDAY



- 8:30 am **Worship** (also available via livestream)
- 9:45 am **Coffee Fellowship & Education Opportunities**
- 10:45 am **Worship**

MONDAY



- 6:30 pm **Adult/Resonance Bell Choir**

TUESDAY

- 9:45 am **Staff Meeting**

WEDNESDAY

- 3:30 pm **Limitless**
- 5:45 pm **Bistro Supper**



- 6:15 pm **Ring Forth Bell Choir**
- 7:00 pm **Church Choir Rehearsal**
- 8:05 pm **Brio Bell Choir**

THURSDAY

- 8:30 am **MOB (Men of Bethel)** are continuing their film festival. They are now beginning the 2019 film *The Two Popes*. Behind Vatican walls, the conservative Pope Benedict XVI and the liberal future Pope Francis must find common ground to forge a new path for the Catholic Church. The movie stars Anthony Hopkins and Jonathan Pryce. New members are always welcome. We meet for an hour at 8:30 a.m. on Thursdays in Room 54.
- 9:30 am **FAB (Faith and Books)** continues to read *The Gift of Years* by Sr. Joan Chittister. Join us in the Youth Room for rich discussions.

THIS MONTH

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| <p>APR 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:45 am OWLs (Older Wiser Lutherans) 7:00 pm Vision Seekers
@ Crooked Pint Ale House, Faribault <p>APR 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 am Spring Ministry Summit <p>APR 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 am Alleluia 5K <p>APR 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 am Quilting Group 6:30 pm Endowment Committee <p>APR 10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:45 pm Refugee Welcome Team 5:15 pm Congregational Life Committee <p>APR 11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 pm Finance Committee <p>APR 14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:00 pm Holy Baptism Retreat (3rd graders) Senior Stepping Stone Retreat #2 | <p>APR 16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 am ARLA (Anti-Racism Learning and Advocacy) 12:00 pm Lydia Circle 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting <p>APR 17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30 pm Homes for God's Children <p>APR 21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer Appreciation Sunday 8:00 am Spring Blood Drive 12:00 pm Mission and Justice Committee & Worship and Art <p>APR 23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 am Quilting Group <p>APR 27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 am Adopt-A-Highway Spring Clean Up
@ Highway 3 N & County Road 86 |
|--|---|



FAITH FORMATION AT BETHEL

**A staffed nursery for little ones is available
8:00 am—noon on Sunday mornings
and Wednesdays 3:00—8:00 pm**

Our new Nursery Coordinator, Sierra Hansen, will begin shadowing Juley Jenkinson this April! Make sure to stop by the nursery to say hello. Look forward to a fuller introduction later! We are excited for the love and skill Sierra brings to Bethel.

Children's Ministry



Brenda Rabbe (she/her)
Director of Children's Ministries
507-786-8878
childrensministry
@bethelnorthfield.org

Sunday School for 3 year olds—5th Grade

is offered in various classrooms —Please ask if you need help finding yours!

Kids' Worship Option for K—5 at 10:45 am service

After the children's homily, children may join Brenda in the Center Pod for kid-accessible parts of worship and lesson-enriching games or crafts. Rejoin worship for communion.

Upcoming Dates:

April 7 – Alleluia 5k Worship (No Sunday School)

April 14 – 3rd Grade Holy Baptism Retreat

VBS: Camp Firelight

Registration opens in April for this joint VBS endeavor with St. John's Lutheran Church. Check the Children's Ministry Newsletter or the website for the registration link!

Ages: Entering K – Grade 3 in 2024 **Cost:** \$15/child; \$30/family

Monday, June 10 – Thursday, June 13
9:00—11:00 am

Be blessed. We're in this together. Brenda



Youth Ministry

6th Grade Connections will meet two more times this year: April 10 and April 24 from 7:00 —8:00 pm!

9th Grader Students and Mentors! Your final Mentor event will be held April 28 from noon until 2:00 pm at church. Meet in the youth room after worship for lunch and our service project rolling bandages for developing countries. Students, please bring \$15 to offset the cost of lunch. No cost to the mentors. Please register for this event via breeze: <https://bethelnorthfield.breezechms.com/form/123da1>

10th – 11th Graders! Hangtime continues this spring on Wednesdays from 7:00 – 8:00 pm! If you have not yet joined us for Hangtime, now is a great time!

Seniors! The final Senior Retreat will be on Sunday April 14 from noon until 2:30 pm. This is for the seniors and their parents. There is no cost for this event. Please register on Breeze so we can plan for lunch: <https://bethelnorthfield.breezechms.com/form/dc6472>

March Food Drive! As of March 26, we've raised \$9,196 of our goal of raising \$10,000 for the CAC! The last day to donate is April 7. Make checks out to Bethel Lutheran with "March Food Drive" in the memo; bring to the church office or put in the offering plate Sunday morning.

Sunday *faith flow* for 6th Grade & Up!

April 7—Alleluia 5k Worship & Fish (and Chicken) Taco Fellowship

• **April 14**—Creation Care Activity with Curbside Compost Coop • **April 21**—Breathing Room: In the Kitchen with Kristi • **April 28**—Stump the Pastor



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

BURN BRIGHTLY...

Adult Education

Every Sunday 9:45—10:30 am

Be sure to pick up a “Bethel U” brochure for a full overview of each month’s educational offerings.

Bethel Presents... **April 7**—Alleluia 5k Worship & Fish Taco Fellowship • **April 14**—When My Time Comes (Barbara Krause from MN Aid in Dying Education) • **April 21**—Creation Care: see below • **April 28**—Nourishing Vocation Reflections (with Dr. Char Cox)



April 21: Earth Day

Come learn from Ashley Gallagher, Senior Resource Conservationist with the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District. She will talk about some of the things she is helping people do on their land, and give us tips for what we can do in our own little corners of the world, around our homes and property.

Bible Deep Dive *in the fireside room*

Each Sunday, explore the texts of the day with the preaching pastor.

Other Education Opportunities

Make sure to check the calendar (page 3) for the regular small groups that meet throughout the week—Men of Bethel, Faith & Books as well as groups that meet monthly such as Lydia Circle or ARLA

REGISTER NOW FOR EXPERIENCES AHEAD!

Sacred Sites Tour—Register by April 15

Don't miss the opportunity to visit **three sacred Native American sites** in the Twin Cities on **Saturday, June 1**.

Part of the efforts of *Healing Minnesota Stories* is to create dialogue, understanding, and healing between Native and non-Native peoples, the Minnesota Council of Churches offers Sacred Sites Tours of the Twin Cities area. The tour offers an opportunity to learn about Minnesota history from a Native perspective through story-telling and experiencing the sites in silence/meditation/reflection. The tour is completely accessible for those with physical limitations. The tour is 3 ½-4 hours long, and we will carpool from the Bethel parking lot, so do not worry about having to drive to the Twin Cities to participate.

Cost of the tour is \$30 per person. You can make your check payable to Bethel and drop it off at the church office or give it to Kirsten Scott (608-358-3093, dkcpscott@gmail.com) or Paula Mathison (612-702-2496, pamathiso@yahoo.com) by **April 15**.

Space is limited. This experience, which offers the opportunity to learn more about and better understand the history and present-day lives of our Native Minnesota siblings, is sponsored by Bethel's Mission & Justice and ARLA teams. For more information, contact Kirsten or Paula.

Strengthening Hope— Register by May 1

STRENGTHENING *Hope*

**Cannon River Conference
Women's Spring Event**

**Saturday, May 11, 2024
8:00-Noon**


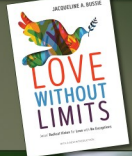

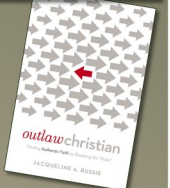
St. John's Lutheran Church
500 Third St. West
Northfield, MN 55057

featuring

**Dr. Jacqueline
Bussie, PhD,**
Keynote speaker at 2023
WELCA Triennial
Author of "Love Without
Limits"
and "Outlaw Christian"

In Kind gifts: women's period
products will be collected for
Rice County Community Action
Center Food Shelf

Registration Fee \$15 (includes lunch)
Forms available on church bulletin board.
Register before May 1, 2024

BETHEL BRIGHT LIGHTS

March Review



As always at Bethel, art assisted us this Lent—the Last Supper paintings engaging youth on a Wednesday evening; Kiara Jorgenson’s writing, Mac Gimse’s sculpture *Moses in a Mushroom Cloud* and musical gifts from folks like Gerry Hoekstra deepening our reflections each week; and finally, the new cross by Bob Kaul drawing us into Holy Week.

Parishioners of all ages “lent” their talents to our Palm/Passion worship and all enjoyed Congregational Life’s fantastic Pancake Breakfast!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME & TALENT



Volunteer Appreciation Sunday—April 21

There is LOTS to love at Bethel, but a big one is our amazing volunteers that make it all possible! Our volunteers have planted seeds of kindness and generosity in the last year and they have sprouted and bloomed into a thriving ministry. If you are a volunteer or if you are someone that has benefited from their awesome work and want to say thank you, join us on April 21 from 9:30 am – 10:45 am for coffee, treats, and celebration.

BEYOND THE BUDGET...



Do you know of anyone who has been subjected to domestic abuse, homelessness related to family turmoil or struggling with drug dependency? Unfortunately, these topics are all too common in our society and there is a great need in providing support to those in such struggles.

In Rice County it is Ruth's House, a nonprofit organization which receives very limited government funding, that provides care and rehabilitation to women suffering from homelessness, domestic abuse and drug dependency. To aid their present work and to free up money to advance their plans for a new facility, the Homes for God's Children has committed to raising money to fund the basic utilities for Ruth's House in 2024.

We are asking the members of Bethel to remember these individuals in their recovery efforts when you pay your own utility bills. If each of us uses our monthly utility bills as a reminder to use the following link to make a contribution to help pay the utilities for Ruth's House, we can slowly and steadily achieve our goal of \$20,000 to aid their work. Go to bethelnorthfield.org/give, click "Give Online," and select the dropdown "HomesforGod'sChildren/Ruth'sHouse" to make a contribution.

Additional printed materials on Ruth's House are available on the materials table near the east entrance. You can also obtain more information about Ruth's House on their website: ruthshousemn.org.



Ruth's House

FINANCIAL NOTES from Barb Fowler, Treasurer

2024 Financial Status (YTD as of end of February)

Income received	\$166,660
Expenses	\$170,460
Net Deficit	\$3,800

The February financial report provided very positive news. Comparing 2023 offerings received with 2024 offerings received, our giving for the first two months of the year is ahead by \$42,000! What an encouraging start.

The Finance Committee analyzes the report numbers in various ways: monthly offerings, actual total revenue to budgeted revenue, and actual revenue less actual expense. It can be confusing – not wrong, not mis-leading, just different.

In the weekly bulletin, our monthly goal of \$80,771 is 1/12 of the annual budgeted revenue. Actual revenue received week by week is a guide to meeting our monthly total. As of February 29, 2024, total income received is \$166,660, versus the two month budget of \$161,540; a positive \$5,120.

We will strive to keep you informed by sharing various ways to looking at our operating budget. Questions are always welcome.

Members of the Finance Committee: Lee Runzheimer, Brian Haefner, Andrew Jorgenson, Heidi McCormick, Lois Stratmoen, Blair Fowler, Trustee, Joel Leer, Steward, Bill Hoekstra, President, Pastor Inger, ex-officio, Barb Fowler, Finance Officer.



Bethel Lutheran Church
1321 North Avenue
Northfield, MN 55057



Phone: 507-786-6674

Web: www.bethelnorthfield.org

www.facebook.com/bethellutheran

Email: bethel@bethelnorthfield.org



Return Service Requested



YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

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.



GARAGE SALE GENEROSITY

The Garage Sale is Coming!

Mark your calendars now!

The 27th Annual Bethel Garage Sale is closer than you think.

Sale dates are Friday, May 17 and Saturday, May 18.

Setting up for the sale will start on Sunday, May 12 and continue each day leading up to the sale, so there will be numerous opportunities to volunteer.

Look for an electronic sign-up through Breeze (coming soon), as well as paper sign-up sheets at the Among the Ministries table on Sunday, April 21 and Sunday, May 5.

There is no Garage Sale without your “stuff” to sell, so start digging through your closets, basement & garage now. It’s always so fun to see the amazing volume of generous donations each year!

More detailed information will be available in the May Blaze and on the Bethel website.

