



Bethel Blaze

August 2024

Sharing Christ's love with a big heart

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

In Person

Sunday Mornings:

8:30 am and 10:30 am
June 18th—August 27th

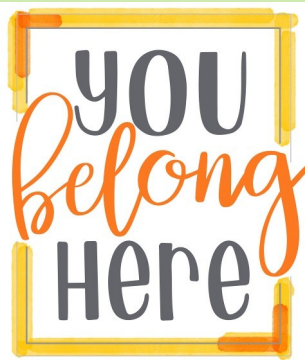
Online:

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

The Lutheran World Federation's Season of Creation theme for 2024 is "To Hope and Act with Creation," drawing on Romans 8:19-25. Here at Bethel, we will focus on the lakes, prairies and fields, and birds particular to our local Minnesota environment. Our Creation Care team will offer specific actions we can take to protect and support.



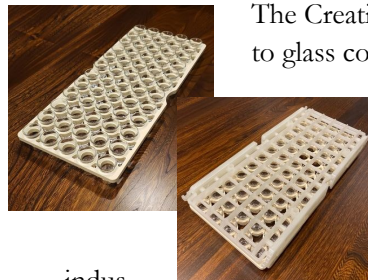
TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope

(Rom 8:19-25)

At the 8:30 service on August 4th, bring water from the ponds, rivers and lakes that have been part of your summer for a special Thanksgiving for Baptism. Throughout the month, you are encouraged to walk, bike or carpool as an act of worship on the way to worship (of course, no need to limit yourself to August if the Spirit so moves you)! This year, your reward is in the connection to and satisfaction of caring for God's world.



indus-

The Creation Care team has also spearheaded an effort to move back to glass communion cups beginning this month. Northfield is unable to recycle number 6 plastic—so the cups we have been using each week go to the landfill. Stewardship of water and people's energy are also important considerations! Creation Care discovered "SaintSavers," easy-use trays that are compatible with regular and trial dishwashers. Support Bethel's efforts by volunteering to be a sacramental minister on Sunday

mornings (glass does weigh more than plastic, so trays will be heavier!) and by helping out our altar angels who do communion set up and clean up.

Finally, on the last Sunday of the month, **August 25th** will be God's Work, Our Hands Sunday in Northfield! As we think about humans as part of creation, we will have **one 9:30 am worship**. Afterward, we disperse to serve from 11 am—2 pm at one of the service opportunities that the three ELCA congregations will be offering, such as "Friendship & Good Neighbor Garden" for the Starfish 2 house, bandage rolling for Global Health Ministries, and a lawn game party for Laura Baker residents. Details and sign ups will follow in the weeks to come.

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



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

office
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cell
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office hours
by appointment Tuesdays,
Wednesdays, and Thursdays

days off
Mondays & Saturday

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

from Pastor Inger Hanson

Dear Bethel,

In August, within the liturgical season of the Time after Pentecost (also known as Ordinary Time), Bethel celebrates a “Season of Creation.” This year, our lectionary will highlight the wonders of Minnesota: lakes, prairies & fields, birds, and humans (as part of - rather than apart from - God’s creation). We will be learning “Peace of the Prairie,” an exciting new liturgy that was developed for Shalom Hill Farm (a Lutheran retreat center near Windom focused on the gifts of rural culture and care of creation), written by Minnesotan composer Carol Meier and St. Olaf Alum and ELCA pastor Meta Herrick Carlson. The offertory song is called “Enough for Today,” and in the midst of our budget concerns and considerations, the lyrics ground us in God’s providence. God provides enough for us to trust, to grow, to mend, to live, and to sing.

Nature often helps restore us to an “abundance” mindset: Consider the birds and the beauty of the earth. “Enough” is about so much more than money... God’s abundance doesn’t always translate to extra funds. Abundance can be experienced in myriad ways – hope, time, talent, laughter, learning, patience, kindness. Bethel may very well be entering a chapter where, in order to be good stewards, we have to reduce our operating budget. If so, this in no way means we have a “scarcity” mindset. Rather, we are trusting God to show up in new ways to fill our cups, and remembering that God’s grace is sufficient.

God’s peace,
Pastor Inger

BeFRIENDERS

by Marci Groenewold

“Love is an attitude and a behavior” proclaimed Gary Chapman at a recent Thrivent event. For Gary, who is a pastor and family counselor, this means an attitude of love is what it takes to nourish and strengthen relationships. He further maintains that God loves us, not with a “feeling” but with an attitude and behavior that indicates his love for us.

For Chapman, a loving attitude does not focus on self, but rather, it focuses on the other person. Chapman identified what he saw people needing and categorized them into five “love languages:” Quality Time, Words of Affirmation, Touch, Acts of Service, and Gifts. With this understanding we can give our spouse or children what they really need to feel loved and improve the relationship.

For example, a child whose love language is touch will do whatever it takes, including misbehaving to get that touch. By using the insight of love languages, now, when the child misbehaves, the parent can offer a hug first. Another child has an absolute meltdown until he finally gets his mom to stop looking at her phone. After a few minutes of alone time with his mother he becomes calm and happy. The child just got the quality time he needed.




Adopting an attitude of love and acting in that love is an important part of BeFriender ministry. As part of BeFriender training, trainees explore their motivation to become a BeFriender as well as practice listening skills, learn how to set boundaries and understand various kinds of grief. BeFriender Training will again be offered during the Winter of 2025. If you are interested in becoming a BeFriender, please indicate it on your 2024 Time and Talent Form or contact a coordinator.



A fundamental BeFriender principle: “God is Present.” For more information regarding the BeFriender Ministry at Bethel, please contact Marci Groenewold (507-649-3160) or the Bethel Office (507-786-6674).

EVERY WEEK

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 8 AM - 3 PM

<p>SUNDAY</p>   	8:30 am	Worship/Livestream
	9:45 am	Coffee Fellowship
	10:30 am*	Worship (* Summer Schedule through September 1)
	Evening	<p>Bethel Softball August 4 @ Sechler 2 at 7:05 pm playing St. John's August 11 @ Sechler 2 at 6:00 pm playing St. Dominic White</p>
TUESDAY	9:45 am	Staff Meeting
THURSDAY	9:30 am	<p>FaB (Faith and Books) We are reading and discussing Trish Harrison's <i>Prayer in the Night</i> each week in the Bethel Youth Room. Contact lanareich@yahoo.com to be added to the FaB email list.</p>



THIS MONTH

AUGUST 1	7:00 pm	<p>Bethel Vision Seekers Men gather for fellowship! The Bethel Vision Seekers will meet on Thursday, August 1, at 7 pm at Flaherty's Northfield Lanes., 1700 MN-3 S, Northfield.</p>
AUGUST 2	10:00 am 11:00 am	<p>Douglas Johnson Visitation Celebration of Life Service for Douglas Johnson with reception to follow</p>
AUGUST 6	7:00 pm	I Cantanti Auditions
AUGUST 8	5:00 pm	Personnel Committee
AUGUST 9	8:45 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	<p>Earl Forkner—Interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery Earl Forkner Visitation Memorial Service for Earl Forkner followed by reception</p>
AUGUST 13	6:30 pm	<p>Primary Election Church Council</p>
AUGUST 14	12:30 pm 4:00 pm	<p>Mission and Justice Congregational Life Committee</p>
AUGUST 18	1:00 pm	<p>Youth Celebration Sunday Bethel pastors lead Chapel @ the Benedictine Living Community</p>
AUGUST 19	9:30 am	Carl Ames—Interment Fort Snelling National Cemetery
AUGUST 20	12:00 pm	Lydia Circle
AUGUST 21	4:30 pm 6:00 pm	<p>Homes For God Children Meeting Romans & Christians (and pizza!) @ St. John's</p>
AUGUST 27	9:00 am	Quilting Group

FAITH FORMATION IN THE SUMMER

Summer Fun Continues in the Nursery!

8:00 am—noon on Sunday mornings

The nursery has been bustling with all kinds of fun this summer. We love seeing families pop in and out during the summer months when they don't find themselves away on vacations, partaking in family activities, or enjoying a leisurely Sunday morning at home.

Coming up in August:

*Watermelon Squish Bag

*Beach Sand Slime

*Ice Cream Cone Volcano

*Stroller, bike, trike, truck, tractor, push-toy, wagon "Car Wash" (bring a favorite riding toy to wash at our Nursery Sudsy-Soap Car Wash on **August 4th**)

Just a Reminder:

The nursery is always open on Sunday for both the indoor worship service at 8:30 and the outdoor worship service at 10:30. We **LOVE** seeing our little Bethel friends on Sunday mornings!

Something FUN for All Ages:

Back by popular demand—**Hide-and-Seek Jesus!** Stop by the nursery for all the details and for a clue to where Jesus might be hiding.

August Youth Event: Romans & Christians!

Our final summer youth event with St. John's and St. Peter's is on Wednesday, August 21st and it's the moment you have all been waiting for... **ROMANS & CHRISTIANS!!!** **All students going into 6th – 9th grade are welcome** to join us and **high schoolers are needed to play the Romans.** If you are entering 6th – 9th grade there is no need to sign up. If you are in 10th grade or above and would like to be a Roman please reach out to Kristi.

Wednesday, August 21st

6:00 – 8:00 pm at St. John's

Please bring \$5 in cash for pizza.

YOUTH MINISTRY



Christikon! Bethel has a long-standing tradition of sending young people to Christikon in southern Montana each year. As August begins, 8 young men (plus adult leader Elizabeth Leer) will be on the side of a mountain hiking, worshipping, longing for a shower, and having a great time. Please pray they will have the eye-opening time that many before them have experienced.

Youth Celebration Sunday is August 18th. At both worship services, you'll have a chance to hear our campers, hikers, and travelers share their stories from the summer.

Summer Photo Board Creation Party Did you go to Duluth, Christikon, or the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer? Bring your photos and let's eat some pizza and make our photo boards on August 18th from 11:30 am—1:00 pm.

Save the Dates for September!

Class of 2025 Senior Meeting at the Red Barn – September 4th (time TBA)

10th Grade Confirmation Orientation – September 11th at 7:00 pm

6th—9th Grade Confirmation Orientation – September 18th at 7:00 pm

Senior Retreat – September 29th from noon – 2:00pm

FELLOWSHIP & FALL PLANNING

Going to the Chapel... Saturday, August 17th!

Congregational Life and Creation Care committees 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 these two committees will be there to welcome travelers at the Chapel Brewery in Dundas from 4:00-6:00 pm on Saturday, August 17th. Come enjoy a cool beverage and light snacks while we socialize together in their beautiful outdoor setting along the river.



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 to rent from Farmstead Outdoor Adventures in order to enjoy a beautiful 2.5 hour (average) paddle from Wilderness Park to Dundas - right near the Chapel. Rental rates are \$40 for a single or \$60 for a 2-seat kayak. An easy 10-minute shuttle (which can be provided) to the park is all you need to get started – no hauling of kayaks needed. Kayaks will be there waiting for you! Check out their website for more details: <https://www.farmsteadoutdooradventures.com> or contact any member of the Congregational Life or Creation Care teams.



ACTSS: Adults Coming Together for Soup and Socializing

ACTSS is back this fall, with groups of all sizes! This is an opportunity to gather with other Bethel members for fellowship and a simple soup supper three times a year. Join in a group with 4-8 people as you take turns hosting; building connections with one another, dining and breaking bread together in each other's homes! Pick up a registration form at the nametag stations outside the sanctuary. Register by **Sunday, September 22nd** in order to participate. Please join us, we'd love to share a meal with you! Sponsored by the Congregational Life Committee.

Bistro is Just Around the Corner...

We have been excitedly planning for another great year of Bistro! We have an updated website for everything Bistro: menus, dates, the sign up to volunteer, and more are all located at the following link:

<https://sites.google.com/isd192.org/2024-2025/menus>

Be looking for additional information in upcoming communications about this great Wednesday evening fellowship opportunity. We will be kicking off in early September and are looking to strengthen our volunteer ranks in 2024-2025. If you have never volunteered for Bistro in the past and are interested, we would be so glad to have you! Simply click on the link below and complete the form. You will then be added to a list that will receive future communications via Breeze from which you can sign up for specific dates and shifts: <https://bethelnorthfield.breezechms.com/form/15da1a>

We will be using our Breeze church management system for ease of use and auto-generated email reminders for those who sign up to volunteer at specific Bistro evenings.

BETHEL BRIGHT LIGHTS



Bethel quilters meet every other Tuesday morning (with a few exceptions) throughout the year to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief and local non-profits.



The Jenkinsons host a fabulous coffee fellowship. #VolunteerGoals



Parishioners connect with one another before worship....



Glimpses from the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana. Despite the heat and the rain, students enjoyed a week of learning, service, worship and fun. Megan was especially thrilled they visited with the Lutheran Musician Association.



SPECIAL PROJECTS

Land Acknowledgement Sanctuary Art Update

John Sterner, Sicangu Lakota and Bethel’s commissioned artist, is hard at work on the visual expression of Bethel’s land acknowledgement statement. He is using mahogany, and after completing the prep work of purchasing, cutting and gluing the wood to create a large carvable surface, he has begun the exciting process of creating the relief. The wood relief wall sculpture design bridges Christian and Native American symbolism by reflecting our interconnected vision of God, nature and creation. The plan is for the work to be ready for installation on the west sanctuary entrance wall sometime in September, with a formal dedication by either the end of September (tentatively September 29th) or October 2024.

This project was selected as one of the recipients of the 2024 Garage Sale proceeds. Your generosity, along with those funds, means that we are close to our goal of \$14,000. We have about \$1,500 to go! Thank you for seeing this project through.

Discerning an AV Update



Even in the midst of summer vacations, 45 Bethel folk attended the July AV Update Info meetings. Initial responses have been supportive of moving forward. Please note, however, that at this time no funds have been spent or committed. We are offering more opportunities to learn about what is envisioned this month—the council hopes to engage as much of the congregation as possible. If you haven’t already been to one, please attend an AV Update Info meetings between services on August 4th, 11th, or 18th. Check out the news post (<https://www.bethelnorthfield.org/news/possible-av-update>) and an [introductory video](#) from the AV Task Force on the church website.

AV Update Info Meetings
August 4th, 11th & 18th
between worship services
Room 61 A & B
Please attend!

FINANCIAL NOTES from Barb Fowler, Treasurer

Financial information:

	June	YTD as of June 30
Revenue	\$ 58,611	\$ 448,049
Expenses	74,035	483,349
Total	\$-15,424	\$- 35,300 (May YTD deficit was \$20,000)

As of June 30, the year-to-date deficit rose to \$35,300. July is looking more promising. The Finance Committee and Church Council are looking for consistency in the third quarter as we will soon begin planning the budget for 2025. Please help us keep the August and September numbers strong, as well as chip away at the deficit. **Send a message that you are willing to support a growing and dynamic Bethel.**

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, and Barb Fowler / Treasurer



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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



NARRATIVE LECTIONARY

Coming in September—The Narrative Lectionary

What is it?

Lectionaries unite the church in the reading of scripture and provide a much-needed structure. They have strengths and weaknesses – depth is sometimes sacrificed for breadth; various texts are included or omitted.

The Narrative Lectionary is an alternative to the Revised Common Lectionary. Rather than a first, sometimes second, and gospel reading every Sunday, the Narrative Lectionary offers a single reading. The texts include the major episodes in Scripture. They are arranged in a narrative sequence to help people see Scripture as a story that has coherence and a dynamic movement.

Why?

The Narrative Lectionary's approach **1) strengthens biblical literacy, 2) tightens the focus in worship, and 3) supports learning** (honoring the attention capacity of different ages and creating potential for enhanced ministry cohesiveness).

When?

We will move to this lectionary on Sunday, September 8th. Readings begin with the early chapters of Genesis, move through the stories of Israel's early history, the exodus, the kings, prophets, exile and return. These texts from the Hebrew Scriptures (or Old Testament) will be the primary focus for proclaiming the biblical story through Advent 3, when we will begin a sustained reading of the gospel of Luke.