



Bethel Blaze

October 2024

Sharing Christ's love with a big heart

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

In Person

Sunday Mornings
8:30 am and 10:45 am
in the sanctuary

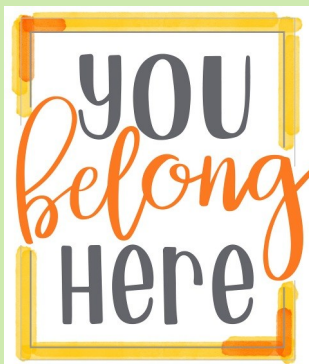
Online

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



CELEBRATE OUR CONFIRMANDS!

Join us for a special Confirmation service **Sunday, October 13 at 1:30 pm** as our 10th Graders affirm their baptisms. Please pray for our Confirmands as they prepare for this important step in their journey of faith.

Asher Engle	Elizabeth McCormick
Benjamin Heinritz	Davis Ness
Tyler Holz	Peyton Quaas
Jay Koehler	Nora Schmidt
Silas Leer	Gwen Tapper
Samuel Mathews	Oliver Waters



REFORMATION

We celebrate Reformation on Sunday, October 27. **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.

THE WAY FORWARD FOR BETHEL'S AV UPDATE

Bethel's Council is grateful for the AV Update Task Force's work and all the feedback received from the congregation. 80 households completed surveys, with the majority indicating support for moving forward with the full update now. Of those responses that expressed concerns, two general themes emerged: the operating budget deficit and screens in the sanctuary. Weighing this information, Council has prayerfully discerned our way forward. We moved to form an AV Update Fundraising Task Force, to be led by Catherine Engle. The update will be accomplished in three phases. 100% of the funds needed for each phase will be raised before Council signs that phase's contract.

Phase 1: Sanctuary Audio—\$65,550

Phase 2: Back of the House (i.e. Youth Room, Center Pod, CLC, and Narthex)—\$49,200

Phase 3: Sanctuary Video—\$67,500

The AV Update Fundraising Task Force will determine appropriate timeline goals and manage education about the project as it unfolds.

- *Bill Hoekstra, Council President*

FIRESIDE REFLECTIONS



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 Mondays,
Tuesdays, Wednesdays,
and Thursdays

days off
Fridays & Saturday

Dear Bethel,

It's delightful to be part of the ensemble in the Northfield Arts Guild's fall production of *My Fair Lady*, and I am enjoying singing about getting to the church on time. My favorite song from the show, however, is Eliza's "Show Me!" A young admirer tries to profess his love, but Eliza, frustrated by the artifice she's found in the world of the upper class, explodes: *Words! Words! Words! I'm so sick of words ... Don't talk of stars burning above; if you're in love, show me! ... Don't talk of June! Don't talk of fall! Don't talk at all! Show me!* I'm a big fan of words, but Eliza's plea echoes exhortations in scripture:

- 1 John 3:18: "Little children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth."
- James 2:15-17, more firmly: "If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead."
- Finally, a quote attributed to St. Francis: "Preach the gospel. If necessary, use words." We bless our pets this month, but they bless us in all the ways they show us love.

Who has shown you Christ's love recently? Was it in a latte or a hug, a shared activity, a task taken off your plate, a listening ear?

Thank you for all the ways I see you show Christ's love with a big heart in the congregation. Sometimes it is simply by your commitment to showing up for each other each Sunday at worship. Sometimes it is through the Good Samaritan Fund and the gas and food cards that help our neighbors. Sometimes it is in serving at fellowship or Bistro, or volunteering in Sunday School and confirmation classrooms. As you keep doing the things you've received or seen that have been meaningful to you yourself, may you know God's peace and joy.

In Christ, Pastor Inger

BEFRIENDERS

by Marci Groenewold

It happened unexpectedly. It caught me utterly by surprise. I needed to grab a part off of a skid loader trailer and take it to the field. The trailer is over waist high so my plan was to run up one of the wheel ramps that was lowered to drive the skidder off. As I started up the incline, I realized I didn't have the balance required to go up the ramp. That had never happened before. So, I rolled onto the trailer somewhat like a beached whale and hoped no one noticed it on the shop camera. In that moment I experienced a little bit of what it feels like to get older. I was somewhat embarrassed and really never mentioned it to anyone. However, I knew things had changed.

For older adults, these kinds of changes can be concerning; both for the person involved and for their families. Sometimes it's awkward to bring up level of care issues that are becoming a reality for our loved ones. It's difficult to know how to start the conversation for both parties. A good conversation starts with a good question that leads to more good questions. These kinds of conversations require deep listening. Change can happen when we listen for feelings and emotions as well as words.

The BeFriends are hosting an opportunity for you to come and hear how other Bethel folk have navigated level of care issues with their own parents and families. Please join us for

Navigating Changing Needs:








Conversation Starter Tips for Adult Children and Their Parents

October 10 @ 3:00 pm in the Youth Room. Everyone is welcome!

For more information regarding the BeFrienders Ministry at Bethel, please contact the Bethel Office (507-786-6674).

EVERY WEEK

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - 3 PM

SUNDAY		8:30 am	Worship/Livestream
		9:45 am	Coffee Fellowship
		10:45 am	Worship in the Sanctuary
MONDAY		6:30 pm	Resonance (Adult Bell Choir)
TUESDAY		9:45 am	Staff Meeting
WEDNESDAY		3:30 pm	Limitless
		5:45 pm	Bistro! Join us in the Christian Life Center (CLC) for a fresh cooked meal and delightful fellowship. Suggested donation is \$5/person. Kid friendly SunButter or cheese sandwiches are available as alternatives.
		6:15 pm	Ring Forth Bell Choir
		7:00 pm	Confirmation & Hangtime (6th Grade Connections October 2, 9, and 23)
		7:00 pm	Church Choir
		8:05 pm	Brio Bell Choir
THURSDAY		8:30 am	MOB (Men of Bethel) Rev. Gene Broughton will lead our study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's <i>The Cost of Discipleship</i> . Bonhoeffer, a German theologian and pastor, emphasized the communal aspect of following Jesus, and that discipleship is not just about personal spiritual growth, but also about the formation of a community of believers who live out their faith together.
		9:30 am	FAB (Faith and Books) We're reading and discussing the book <i>Braiding Sweetgrass</i> by Robin Kimmerer. We meet each week in the Youth Room for our rich discussions. Please contact lanareich@yahoo.com to be added to the FaB email list.

There is NO Wednesday Programming October 16 due to MEA

THIS MONTH

OCT 2		4:30 pm	Pet Blessings To Go	OCT 14		Office Closed—Indigenous Peoples' Day
		6:30 pm	9th Grade Christikon Meeting	OCT 15		6:30 pm Church Council
OCT 3		10:45 am	OWLs (Older, Wiser Lutherans)	OCT 16		4:30 pm Homes For God's Children
		7:00 pm	Vision Seekers @ Reunion			No Programming—MEA
OCT 5		8:30 am	Fall Ministry Summit	OCT 20		1:00 pm Benedictine Chapel
OCT 6		12:00 pm	10th Grade Confirmation Retreat	OCT 22		9:00 am Quilting Group
OCT 8		9:00 am	Quilting Group	OCT 23		12:30 pm Mission & Justice
OCT 9		4:30 pm	Congregational Life			7:00 pm Mentor Kickoff Gathering
		7:00 pm	Confirmation Rehearsal			8:00 pm 8th Grade Christikon Meeting
OCT 10		3:00 pm	Navigating Changing Needs <i>discussion hosted by BeFriends</i>	OCT 26		10:00 am Nurturing Spiritual Conversations Seminar
		5:00 pm	Personnel Committee	OCT 27		Reformation Sunday
		7:00 pm	Finance Committee			8:30 am New Member Installation
OCT 13		1:30 pm	Rite of Confirmation *Livestream			9:30 am New Member Reception

FAITH FORMATION AT BETHEL...

Nursery

Our Sunday mornings are packed full of exciting projects, meaningful stories, crazy games, silly songs, tasty snacks, and fantastic friendships! Our motto in the nursery is "Sundays are the FUN day of the week!"

8:00 am — noon on Sunday mornings

3:00 — 8:00 pm on Wednesdays

On Wednesdays, little ones can play in the nursery while parents take advantage of endless volunteer possibilities. Volunteer at Limitless or Bistro! Join the Church Choir! Lead a small group in a Confirmation class!

Pray-Ground

We had so much fun experimenting with a “Pray-Ground” in worship in September! A Pray-Ground is a designated place in the front of the sanctuary (so that kids can see!) where families can sit so that young children can experience worship through age-appropriate materials like themed activities, toys, children’s Bibles and books. Such a space helps children bridge from the nursery to being part of the Sunday assembly. We are still honing how to engage the children in this special way while complementing the overall worship experience. For now, we will offer this space from time to time rather than as a permanent feature. The Pray-Ground will next make an appearance on Reformation / New Member Sunday.

Children’s Ministry

Sunday School 9:45—10:30 am

Age 3—PreK	Room 43
K—Grade 1	Room 41
Grades 2—3	Room 53
Grades 4—5	Room 54

Kids’ Worship is offered during the **10:45 am** service.

Immediately following the Children’s Message, children Grades K—5 are invited to follow Brenda to the Center Pod for a story, music, and game or craft. Children will be brought back to the sanctuary to join their parents in the Sanctuary prior to communion.



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

Upcoming Dates:

- **October 9 or 13** Christmas Program Casting
- **October 16** No Limitless—MEA
- **October 20** Family Sunday School Field Trip

Christmas Program Casting

It’s that time! Join us during Limitless or Sunday School to do a kid-friendly “audition” to help us cast this year’s program. Families, watch for a sign-up sheet to register and indicate how your child wishes to participate. All Ages 3 -Grade 5 are invited to be part of the fun. Children ages 3 - Grade 1 will not have an audition. Rehearsals will happen during Limitless and Sunday School. The program itself is during both worship services on December 15.

Youth Ministry

Youth Sabbath on Sunday mornings 9:45—10:45 am is a time each week that our middle and high school students can rest, relax, visit and spend time learning about the different ways we as Christians understand what sabbath is in our lives and why we need it. Join us in the Youth Room. As always, there will be snacks!

Youth Sunday at the end of each month **is back!** If you would like to help with reading, ushering or serving communion on **October 27** please reach out to Kristi.

10th Grade Confirmation Students

- The **Confirmation Retreat** (with photos and dinner) is **Sunday, October 6**, starting at noon.
- **Confirmation Rehearsal** is **Wednesday, October 9** at 7:00 pm.

Wednesdays

- **Hangtime** begins **October 2** at 7:00 pm (11th & 12th Grades; *10th Graders joins mid-October after their Confirmation service.*) Pizza! Games! Snacks! Bethel Ball! Bring your friends!
- Note there is **NO 6th Grade Connections, Confirmation, or Hangtime** on **October 16** due to MEA. Enjoy your break!
- **The Mentor Kick Off** (9th Graders & Mentors) is during confirmation on **October 30**. Students, don't forget to invite your mentors!

Summer Trip Meetings

- **9th Grade Christikon Meeting** – **October 2** – 8:00 pm in the Center Pod
- **8th Grade Trip Christikon On Site Trip** – **October 23** – 8:00 pm in Room 61



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

OPPORTUNITIES

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 4 from 4:30—5:30 pm**. Photos or drawings of pets are also welcome! A canine fellowship area will be available for social dogs and their owners.

**Fall Ministry Summit**

The Fall Ministry Summit will be on **October 5** from **8:30—10:00 am** in the CLC. All Bethel committees are encouraged to come to this meeting to connect with staff, Council, and each other. This is a wonderful time to share and learn about key things going on and coming up at Bethel, as well as to explore and discuss future possibilities. If you serve on a ministry committee, you are encouraged to attend! Some committees even schedule their regular monthly meeting immediately after in order to integrate their learnings into their plans.

Nurturing Spiritual Conversations— A Seminar with Rev. Ben Shoup

Rev. Ben Shoup is an ordained pastor and a spiritual director in Northfield. Essence House, his spiritual direction practice, is run in partnership with the Ash Tree Center for Transformation, Connection and Hope, a counseling center in Atlanta, Georgia, focused on a trauma-informed approach to integrating psychological and spiritual development. When he's not serving as pulpit supply, he often worships at Bethel with his family—wife Megan and children Deilianna (7), Ciercina (4), and Anoren (1). Ben has graciously offered to lead a seminar at no cost for Bethel folk who would like to develop deep, meaningful, spiritual conversations in their closest relationships.



Nurturing Spiritual Conversations
Saturday, October 26 from 10 am—12:30 pm

He will be sharing the underlying mindset that fosters better dialogues and three skills he uses every day in his work with individuals and couples. Please sign up by **October 13** through the church office or by emailing Ben directly at essenhousesd@gmail.com.

BETHEL BRIGHT LIGHTS



The fun has begun! Limitless and Rally Day joy



On our second Sunday following the Narrative Lectionary, stars were made at the "playground" to help us imagine God's promise to Abraham.



Bethel also hosted the Cannon River Conference's monthly clergy gathering. Lois Cary and friends hosted an amazing fellowship time before Megan Engel and the pastors led a presentation and a worship service.





Seniors and their parents gathered at the Red Barn together. All the youth are enjoying a new foosball table donated by the Fink family!



ENDOWMENT FUND ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2025

The Bethel Endowment Committee is pleased to announce it will be accepting grant proposals for its 2025 Endowment distribution. **The Committee will accept proposals starting September 15 and ending November 15.**

- Applications are available at the East Welcome Station and on the Bethel website. Please submit completed applications online or to the church office, attention Endowment Committee.
- The proposal should focus on one of the three Endowment designations – Outreach Ministries, General Missions of Bethel, or Education.

Winning proposals will be announced in January of 2025, and the award disbursements will be made early 2025, totaling \$15,000. For example, one proposal may be awarded \$2000, a second \$5000 and a third \$8000. The Bethel Endowment Committee will be sharing more about the proposal process throughout the fall. If you have questions, please reach out to an Endowment Committee member.

The Bethel Endowment Committee: Ryan Blumboefer (Chair), Mari Aylin, Steve Engle, Kevin Fink, John Larson, Joel Leer, Heidi Muller Peterson, and Rose Turnacliff

FINANCIAL NOTES from Barb Fowler, Treasurer

Financial information:

	August	YTD
Revenue	\$ 63,875	\$599,801
Expenses	69,024	620,596
Total	\$ (5,149)	\$ (20,795)

As I follow the political campaigns, I realize one truth – money matters. Money equates to support. Money allows the parties to pay for campaign workers, TV time, and rallies. Money enables the message to be heard.

In many ways, Bethel is no different. Money, nicely referred to as offerings, allows Bethel to share the message. Offerings pay for skilled pastors and staff, a building where we come together, and a place for all to find comfort and acceptance.

Through August, we have received \$600,000. To meet our budget, we need an additional \$369,000 or \$92,000 per month, September through December. Can we do it? Absolutely. Last year, Bethel members donated \$375,000 in the same period. This is a race we can win.

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



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



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



SEEING GOD'S STORY IN NEW WAYS

You have read about John Sterner, the Indigenous artist commissioned to create a large wood relief piece to grace our sanctuary wall. Updates on the progress of the work and financial giving have been shared over the previous months. You have seen the "Coming Soon" posters in the Bethel hallway. The Mission & Justice and Worship & Arts committees, who have coordinated this project, are so pleased to announce that this stunning new piece is now receiving small final touches to the carving details and oil finishing. We can't wait for you to see it! The combination of symbols, line, and shape together create a visual catalyst for faith reflections. It speaks uniquely to our interconnectedness and will help keep Bethel engaged with our Land Acknowledgement Statement.

**The dedication will be at the 8:30 am worship service
on All Saints Sunday, November 3.**

During the education hour between services, John will share about himself as an artist and the particulars of this piece. Some of his other work, including his religious lithographs, will be on display in the Narthex gallery. Please save the date and invite your friends to this very special day.

Thank you, Bethel, for your generous donations to fund this enhancement to our worship space. It was an ambitious financial goal but through support from many individuals, a Bethel endowment grant, garage sale proceeds, and an Age-Friendly Northfield grant, the goal was met as of September 30. Any further gifts will be given to John in appreciation for his dedication to this project that went above and beyond.