



# Bethel Blaze

March 2024

*Sharing Christ's love with a big heart*

## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

### In Person

**Sunday Mornings:**  
8:30 and 10:45 am

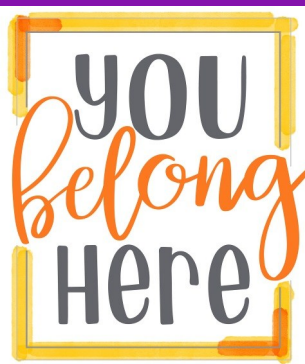
### Online

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



## REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HUNGER

Lent is an especially appropriate time to remember the hungry, as we recall the time Jesus spent in the wilderness and perhaps participate in the traditional discipline of fasting. It is also a great time to take advantage of the MN Food Share program and support our local food shelf. Once again, the youth will lead our efforts as a congregation. The food shelf is more important than ever: food prices continue to rise as do the needs of our community. This year, our goal is to raise \$10,000. Checks can be made to Bethel Lutheran with "March Food Drive" in the memo and dropped off at church or placed in the offering on Sunday morning.



Hunger is also global, and this year, our Stewardship and Mission & Justice Committees have chosen **ELCA World Hunger** as the recipient of our Easter offering. This amazing arm of the ELCA works in 60 countries including the United States to alleviate hunger and pro-actively deal with agriculture, nutrition, clean water, sanitation, health care, disease prevention, savings groups and education. This year the ELCA celebrates 50 years of addressing the root causes of hunger and poverty around the world. Because the program is under the ELCA umbrella, remarkably only 8% of donations are used for administration. As a partner in this world-wide ministry, Bethel has been a faithful donor to ELCA World Hunger for many years.

This year, Bethel is joining our SE MN Synod and the ELCA Church-wide to give even more emphasis to ELCA World Hunger, and we hope our congregation is generous as we share in this celebration of 50 years of life-saving work. A more detailed letter will be mailed to all members in early March with a return envelope for your gift. Let's be especially generous this anniversary year as we reach out, through ELCA World Hunger, to our siblings in need around the globe.

## FIRESIDE REFLECTIONS



**Pastor Ben Schori**  
(he/him)  
pastor.ben@bethelnorthfield.org  
(preferred for non-urgent communication)

**office**  
507-786-8953

**office hours**  
by appointment Mondays,  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays,  
and Thursdays

**days off**  
Friday & Saturday

March is typically the month we begin transitioning from winter into spring here in Minnesota. But these past months have felt like we've been transitioning into spring all winter long. And as the season of winter has been odd for us these past months, the same could be said for our recent seasons in the church year. The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve fell on the same day, Ash Wednesday fell on Valentine's Day, and Holy Week and Easter will be early, falling on the last week and day of this month (which will also be Spring Break for Northfield schools).

Amidst all this oddity, I find it can be hard to feel settled, to stop and reflect on what I and we want and need out of this church season we are in. Intention can be hard, but I never really regret trying to be intentional about where and with what I am investing my time, energy, and resources. I find this intention especially valuable as we approach Holy Week at the end of this month. It takes intention to commit to and experience the journey of Holy Week, to discipline ourselves to participate in worship on days and times that are abnormal, and to spiritually traverse the mountaintop and deep valley emotional experiences the scriptures take us through.

In these last weeks of Lent, may we give ourselves space to acknowledge and feel the oddities and challenges of this season, may we intentionally prepare ourselves for the coming Holiest of Weeks in the church year, and may we remember that we are resurrection people and aspire to continuously rise to new life in countless ways.

Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter blessings,

Pastor Ben

## BEFRIENDERS

by Marci Groenewold

"Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me?" despairs the Psalmist in chapter 42 verse 11. A Minnesota winter filled with endless cloudy days might leave one feeling sad and depressed. When focusing on the negative, on what's hard or unfair or distressing, we can be easily overwhelmed. In America, where approximately one in ten people experience depression at any one time, you might be feeling dejected, gloomy, despondent, broken hearted, miserable, wretched, grief-stricken, crushed or depressed.

There are support groups to join, websites with podcasts devoted to specific issues, and online support available. Locally there are groups willing to listen and help. Among them are:

The **FaceItFoundation.org** which empowers men to recover from depression. Dan Foley runs a group that meets Tuesdays twice a month at Bethel.

The **NamiMN.org** group provides support and advocacy for adults with mental illness. Led by Kent, a group meets at St John's Lutheran Church every Friday.

Hosanna Lutheran in Dundas hosts **GriefShare.org** self-contained sessions on Thursdays.

Beginning March 18<sup>th</sup>, a grief support group called "**Facing the Mourning**" will meet for four Mondays at the Allina Health Clinic located in the Lower-Level Education Room from 4-5:30 pm. Please contact Brenda Jirik at [Brenda.Jirik@Allina.com](mailto:Brenda.Jirik@Allina.com) or call 507-977-2856 for details. This interactive support group for friends and family addresses all types of death and lengths of grieving. Participant Manual cost is \$20.

While BeFriender ministers are not trained therapists, they are trained to listen without judgment, all the while recognizing that most people can resolve their issues on their own. By initiating conversations, and listening attentively, they provide kind and compassionate care. Blessings from Bethel's Befrienders.





### Upcoming opportunity:

BeFriender Group Meeting March 19 3:00 pm Youth Room "The Downcast Soul" Presenter: Karen Mader



For more information on this ministry, contact Marci Groenewold (507-649-3160) 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		11:30 am	Lenten Midday Worship
		12:00 pm	Lenten Soup Lunch
		3:30 pm	Limitless
		5:45 pm	Bistro Soup Supper
		6:15 pm	Ring Forth Bell Choir
		6:30 pm	Lenten Evening Prayer (Joyous Light)
		7:00 pm	Confirmation
		7:00 pm	Church Choir Rehearsal
	8:05 pm	Brio Bell Choir	
THURSDAY		8:30 am	<b>MOB (Men of Bethel)</b> is starting a mini-film festival, featuring religious-themed movies such as <i>The Seventh Seal</i> , <i>Chariots of Fire</i> , <i>Philomena</i> , and <i>The Two Popes</i> .
		9:30 am	<b>FAB (Faith and Books)</b> will be reading <i>The Gift of Years</i> by Sr. Joan Chiuttister this March. Join us in the Youth Room for rich discussions.
		4:00 pm	<b>Grief Support Group</b> led by Barb Grabowski (507-301-8225) in the Prayer Chapel

**THIS MONTH**

MAR 2	10:00 am	Visitation	MAR 14	6:00 pm	Holden Village Meeting
	11:00 am	Mara Halls Memorial Service		7:00 pm	Finance Committee
	12:00 pm	Reception			
MAR 6	5:00 pm	Garage Sale Meeting	MAR 16	9:00 am	Senior Quilting Day
MAR 7	10:45 am	OWLs (Older Wiser Lutherans)	MAR 19	12:00 pm	Lydia Circle
	5:00 pm	Personnel Committee		3:00 pm	Befriender Group
	7:00 pm	Vision Seekers @ Imminent Brewing, Northfield		6:30 pm	Church Council
MAR 9	8:30 am	Bethel Craft Day (ends at 5:00 pm)	MAR 20	LAST CONFIRMATION CLASS & PARTY 4:30 pm Homes for God's Children	
MAR 10	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS— SPRING FORWARD!		MAR 24	PALM / PASSION SUNDAY 	
	9:45 am	4th Grade Holy Worship Retreat	MAR 26	9:00 am	Quilting Group
	12:00 pm	6th & 7th Grade Lord's Prayer Retreat	MAR 28	11:00 am	<i>MAUNDY THURSDAY</i>
	7:00 pm			7:00 pm	
MAR 11	7:30 pm	Creation Care	MAR 29	11:00 am	<i>GOOD FRIDAY</i>
				7:00 pm	
MAR 12	9:00 am	Quilting Group	MAR 30	8:00 pm	<i>EASTER VIGIL @ ST. OLAF</i>
MAR 13	12:30 pm	Mission & Justice	MAR 31	8:00 am	<i>EASTER SUNDAY</i> 
	5:15 pm	Congregational Life		9:30 am	
				11:00 am	

## 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**

Juley Jenkinson continues to provide support for this ministry as we search for a Nursery Coordinator to maintain this loving environment. Might it be you? A full job description is available online or at church office; reach out to Pastor Inger or Connie Nelson, Personnel Committee chair, at [constance1321church@gmail.com](mailto:constance1321church@gmail.com), if interested!

### Children’s Ministry



**Brenda Rabbe (she/her)**  
Director of Children’s Ministries  
507-786-8878  
[childrensministry@bethelnorthfield.org](mailto: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**

Following the children’s homily, elementary age children are invited to join Brenda in the Center Pod for kid-accessible parts of worship, plus games or crafts to enrich the lesson. Rejoin worship in time for communion.

#### **Upcoming Dates:**

- March 10**—Holy Worship Retreat, 4<sup>th</sup> Graders
- March 24**—Family Sunday School Easter Egg & Story Event
- March 27**—No Limitless (Spring Break)
- March 31**—No Sunday School (Easter Sunday!)



#### ***Bethel’s Children are Blessing our Neighbors***

Did you know that Bethel’s children routinely share Christ’s love with our neighbors at the Northfield Retirement Center? Just this school year we have crafted Thanksgiving Centerpieces, Christmas Wreath Ornaments, went Christmas Caroling, and made Valentine Cards and Origami Tulips for Valentine’s Day. We are Sharing Christ’s Love with a Big Heart.

Be blessed. We’re in this together.  
Brenda

### Youth Ministry

**The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Lord’s Prayer Retreat is March 10** at the church from noon—2:30 pm. Lunch will be provided. A few parents are needed to help with lunch and the activities. Please fill out the registration form provided in my emails so we can plan for food.

**9<sup>th</sup> Grader Students and Mentors!** This month, you are asked to worship together and meet one-on-one to have a guided conversation. It is preferred that you meet for Sunday worship, however, Wednesday worship or Holy Week is an option. The discussion guide will be emailed to you by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

The final **Senior Quilting Day is March 16 starting at 9:00 am**. A light lunch will be served and treats available throughout the day! Please plan to come early as we hope to finish before 2:00 pm. All are welcome to attend!



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

**Sunday *faith flow* for 6th Grade & Up!** *in the youth room*

- March 3**—Food Drive Video-Making with Kristi • **March 10**—Quick Questions
- March 17**—Word Play with Kaethe Schwehn



**Adult Education**

***Every Sunday 9:45—10:30 am***

**Bethel Presents...**

**Lenten Series: Vocations In and Beyond Occupations**

**March 3**—Food Shelf Executive Director Mike Purcell • **March 10**—Creation Care: featured below  
**March 17**—Vocations In and Beyond Occupations Panel

*in the sanctuary*



**March 10: John Larson and the Clean Earth Magnet**

John Larson, Bethel member and Chief Operating Officer at Niron Magnetics, will be sharing the history of the 10-year journey behind the creation of Niron Magnetics’ “Clean Earth Magnet.” The “Clean Earth Magnet” was named to TIME’s List of the Best Inventions of 2023. Learn how the world’s first high-performance, rare earth-free permanent magnet has the potential to positively impact God’s creation using clean and sustainable input materials.

**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 (featured below):

**ARLA (Anti-Racism Learning & Advocacy)**

Our next ARLA discussion will be on **Tuesday, March 19, on Zoom at 9:30 am**. Before our discussion please watch two videos: (1) “The Cost of Inheritance: Reparations in the United States” is a PBS documentary and (2) “A Personal Plea for Humanity at the U.S.-Mexico Border” (September 2019), a 10-minute timely and thought-provoking piece. Simply type the titles into google, and you will be able to pull them up to watch.

Watch for information on our upcoming outings this spring. **Everyone is always welcome**. We are always open to new learning and to opportunities for advocacy, so if you have ideas for future ARLA sessions, please share them with us. If you wish to join our ARLA email list or do not have a Zoom link for our ARLA discussions, call Paula Mathison (612-702-2496) or Connie DeGrote (507-581-0240).

**SUMMER EXPERIENCES**

Cora, Lucy and Odin are stoked for **Youth Summer Camp**



with kids from Bethel, St. John’s & St. Peter’s during **Northfield Week**

**June 23-28**  
 You can still register at [www.goodearthvillage.org/northfield](http://www.goodearthvillage.org/northfield)



**Camp is for everyone!** Northfielders from all three ELCA congregations are planning to visit Holden Village in eastern Washington **August 4—9**. Registrations and travel arrangements must be made individually (there is no group registration), but the planning and the excitement can be shared! Ask questions and meet others planning to go **Thursday, March 14, 6:00 pm** here at Bethel in the Fireside Room. Register at [www.holdenvillage.org](http://www.holdenvillage.org)



# FEBRUARY BRIGHT LIGHTS

*February began with a Peruvian Dinner fundraiser to support the family we are sponsoring as they seek asylum. With Liz's expert direction and guidance, the Welcome Team and friends worked incredibly hard behind the scenes. And with big and open hearts, you came—to experience, to learn, to celebrate a birthday, to support! Thank you so much!*



*Pastor Ben, Mary & Loren Baumbach and Pastor Inger represented Bethel at the SEMN Synod's Cannon River Conference's annual meeting. Who did they sit with? Erica Aronson, née Anderson, a child of Bethel now living in Kenyon. Seeds of faith nourished here now flourishing!*

*At the end of the month, the Bethel family showed up in force in Rochester to support the Bethel hockey boys.*



*Congratulations to Max Frank, Sebastian Jenkinson, Cayden Monson, Ty Frank, Cooper Rand, Sam Boardman and coach Scott Cloud (not pictured) - you're going to STATE!*



Not pictured this month but as always sustaining our life together—a dedicated choir, inspiring volunteers and worship that ushered in the Lenten season.



## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



### Happy MARCH Birthday to YOU!

Join us on the first Sunday of the month, **March 3**, in the CLC for a special "Happy Birthday" coffee hour! There will be a poster and list of everyone celebrating a March birthday, as well as "birthday tables" so it will be easier to meet and greet them. Sit with them and get to know our Bethel birthday friends!

How does Bethel know your birthday? Through Breeze! Look yourself up on Breeze. If your birthday is not listed in the "Main" section, please click on "Main" and enter your birthday. Help us wish each other Happy Birthday!



### PALM SUNDAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Hosanna! Congregational Life is hosting a special Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, **April 2**. Breakfast will be served 9:30-10:30 in the CLC. Menu: pancakes with special toppings, yogurt parfaits, sausage, and fruit. Kids are invited to join in the feast

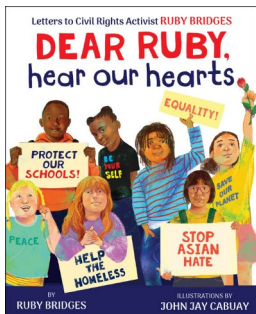
before their Easter Egg Hunt.

Note there is no adult education on this Sunday so we all can gather for this fantastic fellowship event!



## IN THE BETHEL LIBRARY... from Darla Dahl

**National civil rights activist and icon Ruby Bridges responds to letters from thoughtful and concerned young students across America.**



Ruby Bridges was the first Black child to attend an all-white elementary school in New Orleans. She established the Ruby Bridges Foundation to promote tolerance and to create change through education. She traveled across the US, listening to the inspiring voices of young children.

### "Dear Ruby, Hear Our Hearts"

*is a compilation of letters from young students about today's issues, including bullying, climate change, gun violence, and racism. Reading Ruby's intuitive and inspirational responses, young readers will embrace the courage to be brave, bold, and confident.*

## FINANCIAL NOTES from Barb Fowler, Treasurer

Bethel's February numbers are still being finalized.

The monthly 2024 revenue goal is \$80,771.

January's are:	total revenue	\$73,016
	total expenses	\$75,778
	net deficit	\$2,762

On a positive note, the offerings total this January was \$72,000, compared to last year's January offerings of \$59,000.

*Thank you for your support of all our ministries!*

## WEAR YOUR SPIRIT!

### Bethel Spirit Wear!

The Congregational Life team has put together an online store through Larson's Printing where you can order your Bethel Spirit wear. We will be selling clothing items featuring the Bethel logo from **February 24 –March 10** with hopes of delivery by Easter.

Many selections of style and colors are available. Simply scan the QR code to get started looking at home or ask a member of the Congregational Life team to help. Samples and brochures with pictures are located in the narthex.

### Bethel Lutheran Church Spirit Wear 2024



**You can purchase your items online in 3 easy steps:**

1. Scan the QR code or go online to <https://larsonsprinting.itemorder.com/>  
Use code **BETHEL2024** to enter site.
2. Choose your items and add them to your cart
3. Securely checkout with your credit card

Online Store Deadline:

Sunday March 10th, 2024 (11:59pm CDT)



**Bethel Lutheran Church**  
**1321 North Avenue**  
**Northfield, MN 55057**



Phone: 507-786-6674

Web: [www.bethelnorthfield.org](http://www.bethelnorthfield.org)

[www.facebook.com/bethellutheran](https://www.facebook.com/bethellutheran)

Email: [bethel@bethelnorthfield.org](mailto: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.



**SUPPORT OUR YOUTH!**

**PLANT**  
*Youth Fundraiser*

Spring is here and so is the Bethel Spring Youth Plant and Flower Fundraiser so our 8th - 12th grade youth can raise money for summer trips. You can designate which youth to support or just put "general youth fund." Plants will be delivered to your home Mother's Day Weekend.

To order: [www.gertensfundraising.com](http://www.gertensfundraising.com)  
 Store ID: 165

Orders will open March 1st and MUST be placed by March 28th

**Holy Week at Bethel Lutheran**

**Palm Sunday**

Sunday, March 24th  
 8:30 am & 10:45 am

Pancake Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt

**Maundy Thursday**

Thursday, March 28th  
 11:00 am & 7:00 pm

**Good Friday**

Friday, March 29th  
 11:00 am & 7:00 pm

**Easter Sunday**

Sunday, March 31st  
 8:00 am, 9:30 am & 11:00 am

