



Bethel Blaze

June 2025

Sharing Christ's love with a big heart

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

In Person

Sunday Mornings:

8:30 am and 10:30 am
May 25—August 31

Online

The 8:30 am service is livestreamed on our YouTube channel.

Check our website for the link!

You can also view a recording of 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

GATHER, GROW, GO: SUMMER BEGINS

Jump into June as the Spirit moves you—enjoy the change of pace and be nourished in fresh ways.



Senior Sunday—Congratulations, Class of 2025!

Help us celebrate our graduating seniors on **June 1 at the 8:30 am** worship service.

Claire Casson
University of Wisconsin—Madison

Addison Doeden
College of St. Benedict

Max Frank
University of St. Thomas

Kate Gansen
St. Olaf College

Erick Granquist
University of Minnesota—Twin Cities

Teagan Jaynes
Montana State University

Ella Krupicka
Gustavus Adolphus College

Ryan Kuyper
Full-time Firefighter

Noa Marohl
St. Olaf College

Allison Mathews
Purdue University

Sophie Meyer
University of Minnesota—Twin Cities

Aidian Molesky
Gustavus Adolphus College

Tait Narveson
University of Wisconsin—Madison

Jack Pribyl
Minnesota State University—Mankato

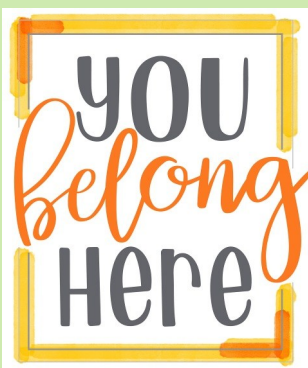
Rachel Swenson
University of Minnesota—Twin Cities

Ryan Waters
Dakota County Technical College

Tristan Westergren
Iowa State University

Pride in the Park!

June is Pride month! Northfield's annual Pride in the Park event is **Saturday, June 7, from noon to 4 pm**, at Central Park. Bethel's Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Team will again be hosting a table and would love for you to come by this joyous event and say hello. Pride themes will be present in worship services throughout the month in word and song.





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

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

from Pastor Ben

It's June! Summer is here! How will you be spending your precious summertime? Me? This month, if it's a weeknight, you'll find my family and me at the Spring Creek Soccer Fields. Both of my girls are playing soccer this summer and, somehow, I'm coaching my youngest's team. How did that happen? It certainly wasn't part of the plan. I haven't played soccer since 2nd grade, and I felt completely unqualified and out of my element. But there was a need, and Melissa encouraged me to do it and said she'd help if I did.

As I'm writing this, I've led my first practice and my feelings of being unqualified and out of my element certainly haven't gone away. It was a lot keeping 8 kindergarteners and 1st graders engaged in learning and playing soccer for an hour, but I did it (with the help of my oldest who's excited for her new role as "coach's helper" at our practices). As I move forward on this new journey over the next few weeks, I'll aspire to remember that I'm not in it alone, my family is there to support me, and I don't have to be this fully realized soccer coach right away. It's okay to enjoy learning as I go, just like the kids on my team.

May we all approach living out our faith in a similar way as we approach Pentecost (June 8), and in the season that follows. May we be open to the callings and inspirations of the Holy Spirit toward the things we feel unqualified for, or are outside of our comfort zones. Sometimes that happens in worship! Throughout this month and the next, we'll be embarking on a reading series in worship entitled *Hidden Figures of Hebrew Scripture* where we'll explore stories of women from the Old Testament. Likely, an experience most of us have never done before.

However you get "out of your element" this summer, know that Bethel is here to support you as you live into your calling as a disciple of Christ.

Happy Pentecost,
Pastor Ben

FINANCIAL NOTES

Financial information: January – April 2025

Revenue: \$258,368
Expenses: - 338,524
Total: (80,156)

As many of you have heard, Bethel is \$80,000 in deficit as of April 30. This is not an estimated number; this is real income received that does not cover the actual expenses of running the church. The good news is that Bethel has a long history of meeting its expenses by year-end. However, the farther behind we fall, the harder it will be to catch up.



Please do your part. Send a check, or sign up in Breeze for one-time or routine giving. Help us get this deficit under control.

Thank you for all you give and do.

Members of the Finance Committee: Barb Fowler (Financial Officer), Heidi McCormick, Lee Runzheimer, Lois Stratmoen, Blair Fowler (Trustee), Andrew Jorgenson (Steward), Paula Mathison (President), and Pastor Inger (ex-officio)

EVERY WEEK

NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY—THURSDAY 9 AM - 3 PM

SUNDAY		8:30 am	Worship/Livestream
		9:45 am	Coffee Fellowship
		10:30 am*	Outdoor Worship (* Summer Schedule through September 1)
		Evening	Bethel Softball June 1 @ Babcock at 8:10 pm playing Canvas June 8 @ Sechler 1 (near Railroad Tracks) at 7:05 pm playing St. John's June 15 @ Sechler 2 at 6:00 pm playing River Church June 22 @ Sechler 1 (near Railroad Tracks) at 8:10 pm playing United Methodist June 29 @ Sechler 1 (near Railroad Tracks) at 7:05 pm playing St. Dominic White
MONDAY		1:30 pm	Bible Text Study @ The Vault (note new time for June!)
TUESDAY		9:45 am	Staff Meeting
WEDNESDAY		6:00 pm	Summer English as a Second Language (ESL) Classes begins June 11 in the Fireside Room
THURSDAY		9:30 am	FaB (Faith and Books) , our women's book group, is reading <i>Field Notes for the Wilderness</i> by Sarah Bessey. Our rich discussions are held weekly in the Youth Room. Please email Lana Reich at lanareich@yahoo.com if you would like to be added to the FaB email list.
FRIDAY		9:30 am	WoW (Women of the Word) via zoom

THIS MONTH

JUNE 1		8:30 am	Senior Sunday We celebrate our 2025 high school graduates at the first service.	JUNE 12	5:00 pm	Worship & Arts
JUNE 2		5:00 pm	Worship & Arts		6:00 pm	BeFriender
JUNE 5		6:30 pm	Mission & Justice		7:00 pm	Finance
		7:00 pm	Vision Seekers Men gather for fellowship at Flaherty's Northfield Lanes.	JUNE 15	1:00 pm	Bethel @ Benedictine Chapel
				JUNE 17	12:00 pm	Lydia Circle
					2:00 pm	Monthly Movie "Forty Two"
JUNE 7		noon—4:00 pm	Pride in the Park		5:15 pm	Personnel
JUNE 8			PENTECOST		6:30 pm	Church Council
		8:30 am	Volunteer Recognition/ Blessing of the Quilts	JUNE 18	4:00 pm	Feed My Starving Children
				JUNE 19		Juneteenth — Church Offices Closed
JUNE 9 - 13		9:00 am	Vacation Bible School hosted @ St. John's	JUNE 21	10:00 am	Visitation
					11:00 am	Celebration of Life: Victor Swanson
JUNE 10		2:00 pm	Library	JUNE 22—27		Good Earth Village Northfield Week & High School Summer Trip
JUNE 12		2:00 pm	Visitation			
		3:00 pm	Celebration of Life: Jim Dale	JUNE 24	9:00 am	Quilting Group

BETHEL BRIGHT LIGHTS



Moments from May: Welcoming New Members on our Spring Music Festival Sunday; Brenda preparing an acolyte for the opening of worship, unexpected Etch-a-Sketch art, and a visit from one of God's creatures.

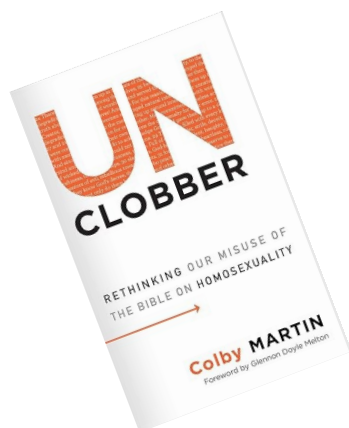


IN THE LIBRARY...

Unclobber: Rethinking Our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality

Churches in America are experiencing an unprecedented fracturing due to their belief and attitudes toward the LGBTQ community. Armed with only six passages in the Bible—often known as the "clobber passages"—the traditional Christian position has been one that stands against the full inclusion of our LGBTQ siblings.

UnClobber reexamines each of those frequently quoted passages of Scripture, alternating with author Colby Martin's own story of being fired from an evangelical megachurch when they discovered his stance on sexuality.



UnClobber reexamines what the Bible says (and does not say) about homosexuality in such a way that breathes fresh life into outdated and inaccurate assumptions and interpretations.

MONTHLY MOVIE

Join us Tuesday, June 17 from 2—4 pm for
"42"

In this 2013 film, baseball icon Jackie Robinson contends with racism on and off the field when he becomes the first Black Major League player of the modern era.

