



# Bethel Blaze

August 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

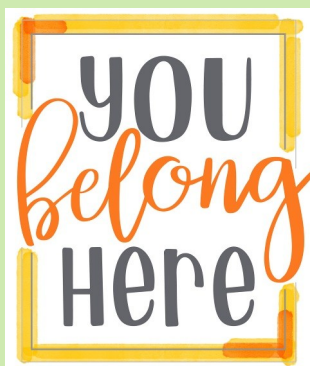
### Online:

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



**Garden of Peace**  
Isaiah 32:14-18

## PEACE WITH CREATION

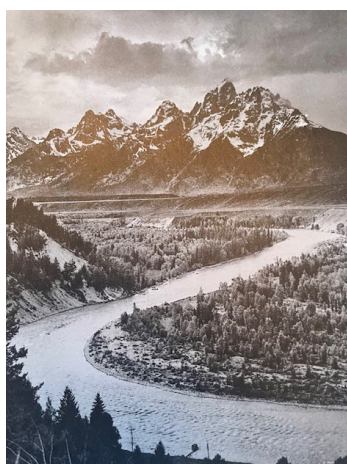
### SEASON OF CREATION 2025

The Lutheran World Federation's Season of Creation theme for 2025 is "Peace with Creation," drawing on Isaiah 32:14-18. Here at Bethel, we will focus on deserts, mountains, rivers, and flora.

**On August 3, 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)! We hope you feel the connection to and satisfaction of caring for God's world! Here are other action steps from our Creation Care team to consider this month...

### AUGUST 3: DESERTS

From the Saguaro cactus to the cactus wren and the javelina, a desert ecosystem is uniquely beautiful. Advocate to protect deserts (especially that are part of our National Parks or public lands) from mining and housing development.



**AUGUST 10: MOUNTAINS** Mountains are more than picturesque; they are vital for our planet's well-being. Mountains are vital water towers, biodiversity hubs for plants and animals, and climate regulators. Replenish depleted forests, plant more trees and encourage conservation efforts. Grassroots efforts and policy level interventions are needed.

**AUGUST 17: RIVERS** Essential for the survival of many species, rivers provide drinking water, irrigation, transportation, recreation and more. Climate change, aging infrastructure and pollution are some of the biggest threats to rivers today. Work to reduce polluted runoff, volunteer with river and watershed protection organizations, and commit to reducing water consumption. Advocate for policies that protect water resources.

**AUGUST 24: FLORA** Flora, as the base of the food chain, is the backbone of all ecosystems. All animals, from insects to elephants (including humans), would not exist without the earth's vast diversity of flora. Flora (plants) regulate the climate, purify air and water, and prevent soil erosion. To take care of this pillar of God's creation, grow native plants in home gardens, landscaping, city parks and open spaces. Support policies that preserve native plant communities and that encourage, incentivize, and help fund the planting of native flora on public and private lands.





**Pastor Ben Schori**  
(he/him)

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(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 Schori

Last year, on the last Sunday of August, Bethel joined with St. John's and St. Peter's to offer the first **"God's work. Our hands." Sunday** here in Northfield. GWOH Sunday is a day of service for the ELCA. Historically, the Northfield ELCA congregations had not participated in this churchwide event because the default Sunday landed on Defeat of Jesse James Days. So, we opted to try for the last Sunday of August, and it was a great day of service. This year, the last Sunday of August (the 31st) lands on Labor Day Weekend, and both St. John's and St. Peter's are, understandably, unable to join with Bethel for this year. So, GWOH Sunday will be a solo Bethel event this time and we are dialing it back a bit in attempt to accommodate for Labor Day Weekend.

On **August 31** the theme of "God's Work. Our Hands." will be present throughout both worship services, and there will be an onsite and offsite service opportunity in between.

**Onsite from 9:30-10:30am**, Rose Turnacliiff will be leading TORCH Fall Care Package assembling, which will be distributed to Northfield TORCH college students this fall.

**Offsite from 10-12pm**, Bill Nelson will be leading a clean up of Bethel's new Adopt-A-Highway section. Much closer than our previous section, the section runs north along Eveleth Ave from the intersection with North Ave (right by Bethel) then runs west along County Road 96 until Foliage Ave. A fitting conclusion to our Season of Creation!

A small number of the yellow GWOH t-shirts will be available for purchase. If you received a t-shirt last year, make sure to wear it on the 31st.

I'm excited to serve with many of you later this month!

Peace & Blessings,  
Pastor Ben

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

## GARAGE SALE REVIEW!

by Marci Groenewold

It's a wrap!! The 28<sup>th</sup> Bethel Garage Sale was a huge success. From the multitude of items donated by Bethel members, to the scores of volunteers who set-up, sorted, priced, baked and then worked at the two-day sale, this was an opportunity to experience the joy of community. Working together, supporting each other and getting to know one another better, were just a few ways the "community within" flourished.






From its inception, the Bethel Garage sale was intended to benefit our community by providing gently used, economically priced items, especially for families. This same principle guides the allocation of proceeds. This year the garage sale netted \$22,600.29. First, a tithe of \$2000 was donated to Bethel Lutheran for the operating budget. Next \$1000 was given to Bethel's Youth Camp scholarship fund, \$1250 to the quilting group for shipping and supplies, \$1250 for outdoor plant purchases, and \$200 to the AV fund to purchase equipment needed to convert the old wireless system into a portable system usable anywhere in the church. \$2500 was added to Bethel's Good Samaritan Fund for Aldi and Kwik Trip gift cards. \$50 was used for postage to send seashells to Florida for hermit crab homes. The CAC Food Shelf Diaper fund received \$2000, Northfield Health Finders \$2000, and \$7900 to Homes for God's Children. Finally, \$2000 was donated to the All-Seasons Community Services in Kenyon. They graciously accept our leftover donations and, despite losing the majority of their funding, their food shelf serves 5 communities. 140 leftover shoes were donated to "Good in the Hood."

This donation provided a week's worth of groceries for 140 people and got shoes on 120 people's feet.

The 2026 garage sale dates are May 15 & 16. Setup and donation collection dates are May 10-13<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers who can lift and carry furniture are especially needed. Living into Bethel's values of "community within" and "community beyond", Bethel's garage sale event "shared Christ's love with a big heart."

## EVERY WEEK

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - 3 PM

SUNDAY		8:30 am	Worship/Livestream
		9:45 am	Coffee Fellowship
		10:30 am	Worship
		Evening	Bethel Softball August 3 @ Sechler 2 at 8:10 pm playing Life 21 August 3 @ Sechler 1 (near Railroad Tracks) at 7:05 pm playing Cornerstone
MONDAY		noon	Bible Text Study @ the Vault (1520 Clinton Lane)
TUESDAY		9:45 am	Staff Meeting
WEDNESDAY		12:15 pm	Pray Without Ceasing A half-hour prayer service to uplift and unite us in this time of significant change.
THURSDAY		9:30 am	FaB (Faith and Books) We are currently reading Sister Chittister's <i>In Search of Belief</i> . Join our rich discussions each week in the Youth Room. Please contact Lana Reich at lanareich@yahoo.com to be added to the FaB email list.
FRIDAY		9:30 am	WoW (Women of the Word) via zoom

## THIS MONTH

AUG 7	7:00 pm	Vision Seekers @ Tilion Brewing, Cannon Falls	AUG 17	1:00 pm 3:00pm	Bethel @ Benedictine Chapel Church Grounds Clean Up
AUG 10	8:30 & 10:30 am 4:00—6:00 pm	Youth Celebration Sunday “Going to the Chapel” Congregational Life & Creation Care host fellowship @ Chapel Brewing in Dundas	AUG 20	4:30 pm 5:00 pm	Homes For God's Children Youth Romans & Christians (and pizza) @ St. Johns
AUG 12	2:00 pm	Library	AUG 21	10:00 am	Fellowship @ Parkview East (sunroom)
AUG 14	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Active Befriender Support Finance	AUG 28	6:30 pm	Mission and Justice
			AUG 31		God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

## FINANCIAL NOTES

### Financial information: January – June 2025

Revenue: \$ 433,309  
Expenses - 500,352  
 Total      \$( 67,044)

This deficit amount is almost twice as much as last year at this point. Our expenses are running very close to the projected budget but revenue is under budget by about \$70K. Please show your support of Bethel's ministry by helping to meet our expenses. Thank you for all you give.

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



## BETHEL BRIGHT LIGHTS



July meant summer trips to Flathead and Christikon Lutheran camps! Minnesota youth love Montana.

## GOING TO THE CHAPEL...

**Congregational Life & Creation Care** 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 in Dundas, that is! Bethel members from our two committees will be there to welcome travelers from 4:00-6:00 pm on Sunday, August 10th. 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 Canon 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. Check out their website for more details: <https://www.farmsteadoutdooradventures.com/>

## Coming in September—A Shift in the Sunday Schedule

As the program year begins next month, we are shifting the worship & education schedule up 15 minutes. As announced in May, the Council approved this move in the hopes that the earlier start time for the second service will better meet our young families' current needs. So, starting September 7, our Sunday morning schedule will be:

**8:15 am — First Worship Service with livestream**

**9:30 am — Bethel Presents & Fellowship**

**10:30 am — Second Worship Service & Sunday School**

We are also excited for a reconfiguration of our Sunday offerings for children. Between the worship services, from 9:30—10:15 am, Elementary age children are invited to enjoy Children's Fellowship—games with older youth, a devotion with Brenda, the pastors, or other leaders, and music. Youth are invited to help with the children's games before joining Kristi for a devotion and fellowship. The Nursery will also still be open during this time. Sunday School will now take place during the 10:30 am service. Children will be excused from the Sanctuary after the Prayer of the Day and return in time for communion. Also, Juley Jenkinson will once again be offering Sunday School in the Nursery for our PreK and younger kids during this time.

Look for more details and a fuller explanation of our hopes in the September Blaze.