



# Bethel Blaze

October 2025

*Sharing Christ's love with a big heart*

## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

### In Person

#### Sunday Mornings

8:15 am and 10:30 am  
in the sanctuary  
beginning September 7

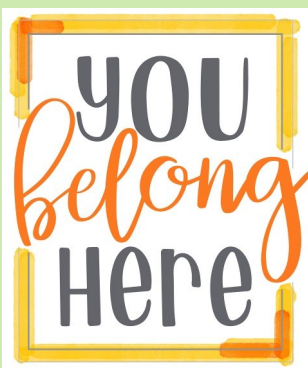
(8:30 am in the sanctuary &  
last 10:30 am outdoor service  
on the lawn August 31)

### Online

The 8:15 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 12**  
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.



Molly Albers	Nathan Hoekstra	
Tavis Ballstadt	Camden Holz	
Norah Belcourt	Thisbe Jothen	
Nathan Broughton	Logan Krupicka	
Tegan Chadwick	Kai Kust	Theo Rustad
Charlotte Doeden	Colt Mann	Ian Schleif
Ava Gansen	Greta Marohl	Mari Schoenbauer
Lucy Gordon Mercer	Carlie Oehler	Caitlin Sommer
William Hessian	Drew Pribyl	Erik Walter

## A SEASON FOR STEWARDSHIP



**Trusting in  
God's Provision**



**Listening  
for God's Call**



**Aligning with  
God's Vision**



**Building for  
God's Glory**

While stewardship is a year-round practice, this month we will intentionally reflect about how we manage the gifts God blesses us with: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. In worship, the lectionary will remind us to trust in God's provision, to listen for God's call, to align with God's vision, and build for God's glory. Beyond the sanctuary, you are invited to

- **Sign up** to lend your skill and strength to Bethel ministries through the **2025-2026 Time & Talent** form.
- **Attend a special "Bethel presents" on October 12** to learn from and be inspired by a panel of members. There are so many beautiful ways to think about and practice stewardship!
- **Reflect** on your financial support of our mission and consider a "step up" in giving.

## FIRESIDE REFLECTIONS



**Pastor Ben Schori**

(he/him)

[pastor.ben@](mailto:pastor.ben@bethelnorthfield.org)

[bethelnorthfield.org](http://bethelnorthfield.org)  
(preferred for non-urgent  
communication)

**office**

507-786-8953

**office hours**

by appointment Mondays,  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays,  
and Thursdays

“Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions.”

The opening to a familiar Offertory Prayer, this line has always resonated strongly with me when I reflect on stewardship. Everything we, everything we are, and every opportunity given is a gift from God. We are just the conduits, the vessels, the stewards of what God has blessed us with to be used to bless our lives, bless the lives of others, and to further the work of the church, the Body of Christ, that others may better experience the Kingdom of God in the here and now.

Recently, I have experienced Bethel living into this on Sunday mornings with a new schedule attempting to build up our second worship service (now at 10:30am) and our children and youth programing. It’s still early, but we’re beginning to see the effects we were hoping for. Attendance over these past few weeks has been noticeably higher than the average from last year, and we have more children and youth participating in Fellowship and Sunday School. Thank you to those who regularly attend the first service (now at 8:15am) for “giving of your time” and coming 15 minutes earlier to accommodate this schedule shift.

Looking to the month ahead, the first “Stewardship Month” Bethel has had in a while, I return to that opening line of that familiar prayer and how everything I have, am, and can do is a gift. Melissa and I will be intentionally sitting down at the kitchen table with our laptop open to Breeze and our bank information and having an intentional conversation about what more we can give to Bethel and give back to our God who has given us everything. I hope you’ll join us.

Peace & Blessings,  
Pastor Ben

## BeFRIENDERS

by Marci Groenewold

There are many Biblical references comparing God’s people to sheep. As a farmgirl, I’ve been around my share of sheep. Sheep are interesting creatures. They’ll come running to the feed bunk when they hear the feed wagon coming, but they don’t notice when the feed is dispensed on the opposite side of the pen. They clamor over each other until, finally, one of them figures it out. Sheep are rather defenseless; they don’t have sharp teeth or claws. Sheep are safer if they stay together in a group. A sheep is most vulnerable when it is separated from the flock. It might be sick, lost, or just got out of the pen and can’t figure out how to get back in. Without intervention, they could lose their way and become a coyote’s next meal.

Like sheep, people generally don’t thrive in isolation. Sometimes the pain and confusion following a move, change in relationship, loss, or an illness can make it easy to feel disconnected and withdraw from the community. It’s difficult when you feel you’re unnoticed. What a difference it makes when you’re greeted with a smile and a listening ear.







As a “formal extension of the pastoral ministry of Bethel Lutheran Church,” BeFriender ministers are trained listeners. Knowing that our pastors cannot make the number of visits to parishioners that they would like, BeFrienders are a valuable asset to our pastors. Monthly BeFriender meetings provide ongoing training and support.

Bethel strives to create and maintain community; a friendly greeter in the narthex, a handshake during the sharing of the peace, coffee fellowship between services, a visit from a pastor or a BeFriender. Any one of us can make a difference to someone feeling separated and alone.

A fundamental BeFriender principle: “Caring not Curing.” For more information on receiving a visit or becoming a BeFriender, please contact Owen Mibus (952-688-2719), Marci Groenewold (507-649-3160), Karen Mader (507-301-4368) or the Bethel Office (507-786-6674).

## EVERY WEEK

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - 3 PM

SUNDAY		8:15 am	Worship / Livestream
		9:30 am	Coffee Fellowship & Education
		10:30 am	Worship (with Sunday School option)
MONDAY		noon	Bible Study @ The Vault
		6:30 pm	Resonance Bell Choir
TUESDAY		9:45 am	Staff Meeting
WEDNESDAY		3:30 pm	Limitless
		5:45 pm	<b>Bistro!</b> A community meal with delightful fellowship. Suggested donation is \$5/person. Kid friendly chicken strips and fries are also available each week.
		6:15 pm	Ring Forth Bell Choir
		7:00 pm	Confirmation & Hangtime
			Church Choir
THURSDAY		8:05 pm	Brio Bell Choir
		8:30 am	<b>MOB (Men of Bethel)</b> We'll also use those meetings to plan our fall schedule, so bring your suggestions! Join us in Room 54.
		9:30 am	<b>FAB (Faith and Books)</b> We are reading <i>Somehow: Thoughts on Love</i> by Anne Lamott. Come join our rich discussions! Please contact Lana Reich at <a href="mailto:lanareich@yahoo.com">lanareich@yahoo.com</a> to be added to the FaB email list.
FRIDAY		9:45 am	WoW (Women of the Word)

## THIS MONTH

OCT 2	10:45 am	OWLs (Older Wiser Lutherans)	OCT 12	1:30 pm	Rite of Confirmation	
	2:00 pm	Bethel Monthly Movie	OCT 14		9:00 am	Quilting Group
	5:00 pm	Worship & Arts Planning		2:00 pm	Library	
	7:00 pm	Vision Seekers @ Imminent Brewing 519 Division St			5:00 pm	Personnel
				6:30 pm	Council	
OCT 4	8:30 am	Fall Ministry Summit	OCT 15		MEA— NO PROGRAMMING	
	noon	Sandra Germundson Visitation		4:30 pm	Homes for God’s Children	
	1:00 pm	Sandra Germundson Service				
OCT 5	noon	10th Grade Confirmation Retreat	OCT 16	10:00 am	Parkview East Fellowship	
			OCT 21	noon	Lydia Circle	
OCT 6	5:00 pm	Worship & Arts Action Team		2:00 pm	Grief Support Group	
OCT 7	2:00 pm	Grief Support Group	OCT 26		<i>Reformation Sunday</i>	
				9:15 am	New Member Reception	
OCT 8	3:30 pm	Christmas Program Casting	OCT 28		9:00 am	Quilting Group
	4:30 pm	Pet Blessings To Go!				
	5:00 pm	Congregational Life				

## FAITH FORMATION AT BETHEL...

### WEDNESDAY

#### Limitless (3:30—5:45 pm)

Our after-school programming for elementary kids is underway! Buses bring children from school to Bethel at 3:30 pm.

As everyone arrives and checks in, we play games and unwind before sharing a snack. At 4:10 pm, we have chapel, followed by a large group activity with Pastor Ben. At 4:45 pm, kids rotate between more age-specific activities. This fall, K-1st and 2-3rd graders are enjoying “Singing Shenanigans” with Abby Atzinger and games with Juley Jenkinson. 4-5th graders are rotating between chimes with Jill Mahr and faith conversations with Kristi Larson.

#### Kids’ Options During Bistro (5:45—7 pm)

Our Bistro meal is for the whole family—and that includes fun spaces just for kids!

While adults enjoy fellowship, children are welcome to stay with their parents in the CLC, or choose from the following:

- **Nursery (Children Pre-K and younger)** – A safe and caring environment for our youngest ones.
- **Art Room (Elementary Kids)** – A creative space to make the week’s featured project or their own designs.
- **Games & Activities in the Center Pod (Elementary Kids)** – A place for active play and large group games.

Please remember that the **Youth Room is reserved for middle school and high school students.**

#### 6th Grade Connections, Confirmation & Hangtime (7 pm—8 pm)

6th Grade Connections, led by Scott Broughton (for the third year in a row!), meets every other week and helps youth prepare for confirmation.

7th—10th Grade Confirmation. This year, Kristi Larson is teaching 7th Grade, focusing on key Bible stories. Pastor Ben teaches 8th Grade, delving into the Lutheran understandings of the creed, the Lord’s Prayer, and the sacraments. This year, veterans Peder Jothen and Doug Casson are back to help 9th Grade explore how we live out our faith. Ruth Hoekstra is shepherding our 10th graders reflect before they are confirmed on October 12.

Hangtime—youth fellowship—starts for all 11th and 12th graders on October 1st, Chad and Juley Jenkinson. 10th Graders join after they are confirmed. **Please thank all our volunteers for their work when you see them!**

### SUNDAY

#### The Nursery is open 8:00 am—11:45 am.

#### Kids’ Fellowship & Youth Fellowship (9:30 am—10:15 am)

Kids K-5 and our middle and high school youth begin all together in the center pod with games & activities.

The kids continue with a devotion/prayer time led by the pastors

followed by closing praise songs with Scott & Elga Broughton.

The youth move to the Youth Room for a devotion, snacks, and more fellowship

#### Sunday School (during the 10:30 am worship)

After the Prayer of the Day, children Ages 3-5 are invited to the new Sunday School room next to the nursery—a joyful space to begin learning about God’s love through creative storytelling, music, crafts, and play with Juley Jenkinson. Children K-5 go with Kristi Larson to the Center Pod for a continuation of worship at a kid appropriate level, combined with traditional Sunday School activities. Children rejoin their families prior to communion

#### Youth Sunday is back!

If you would like to help with reading, ushering, or serving communion on October 26 please reach out to Kristi!

## OPPORTUNITIES

### Grief Group

Bethel is offering a six session extended retreat for people who are grieving the loss of a relative or friend. The mixed emotions, time constraints and extended family concerns during and after the death of a loved one make bereavement a difficult human experience. A person can also feel burdensome and lonely. Coming together, or retreating, with others who are experiencing similar losses can give relief, comfort, and healing.

The sessions will be held every other week in room 55 from 2:00 to 3:30 pm. The meeting dates are October 7 and 21, November 4 and 18, December 2 and 16. Pastor Phil Ruud and Barb Holm will be the group facilitators. The topics covered each session will be: 1) Telling your story 2) Emotions: Where do they start and end? 3) Dealing with Guilt, Shame and Anger 4) Rebuilding and Remembering 5) Finding Hope and Healing and 6) The Memorable joys of your loved one.

The group size will be limited to 12 participants and the registration deadline is Friday, October 3. Please call the church office to sign up. Participants can expect to have their stories and concerns held in confidentiality. All judgments will be set aside. Each person's experience will be received with warmth, support, and God's loving presence.

### Monthly Movie

We will watch the second part of the classic film "It's a Wonderful Life" on Thursday, October 2, and continue our rich discussion of how the film connects to our own lives and the story of scripture.

### 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 8 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.



### Bethel Breast Friends

Sometimes you just need to talk to someone who "gets it." If you have ever been diagnosed with breast cancer (or a genetic mutation, such as BRCA), please join us for a morning of conversation and friendship with fellow Bethel breast cancer survivors, thrivers, and previvors.

Saturday, October 25 9:30am - 11:00am  
Hideaway Coffeehouse, 421 Division St. S, Northfield

Email Jaimee Frank [jaimie.frank@gmail.com](mailto:jaimie.frank@gmail.com) to get connected!

\*Note: this group is solely for support and fellowship and is led by survivors, not medical or social work professionals.



### Reformation Celebration & New Member Welcome

We celebrate Reformation on Sunday, October 26. **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.



## BETHEL BRIGHT LIGHTS



Kelly Groenewold, Blair Fowler, Lee Skaar, Lee Enquist, and Tim Valley (not pictured) took our educational spaces to the next level just in time for the program year start. They equipped the East Pod, Center Pod, and Room 61 with custom cabinets that function as white boards but also house large TVs.



4 preKs and 17 elementary kids attended the first Sunday School of the fall!

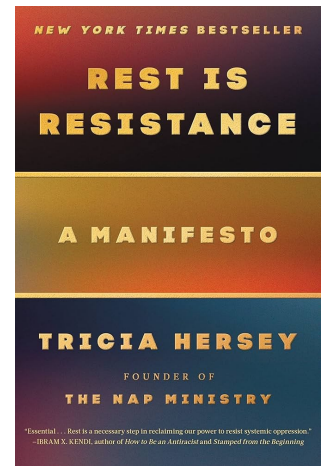
Kids love the new activities offered during Bistro!



Sunday morning Youth Fellowship

## IN THE LIBRARY...

Some people spend their first year of retirement resting and helping their bodies heal and recover after years of work. Others are exhausted in mind and spirit. In *Rest Is Resistance*, Hersey looks at our current Grind Culture and explores the connections to slave labor, capitalism, white supremacy, poverty, and exhaustion. Her research of Black history, and how her ancestors survived slavery, generational poverty, and exhaustion from working hard without ever getting ahead, inspired this book. Hersey's great-grandmother, a Jim Crow survivor, napped every day from 30 to 60 minutes and passed that habit down to her grandmother, Rhodi, and Grandmother Rhodie "napped" with a gun in her pocket while the Ku Klux Klan made its presence known in her neighborhood. Hersey is committed to not simply surviving, but to thriving without sacrificing her mind and body in the grind culture of today. Hersey says, "The time to rest is now."



## ENDOWMENT FUND GRANT WINDOW OPEN! APPLY BY OCTOBER 31.

Applications for the fall cycle of the Endowment Grants are being accepted through October 31. The Endowment Fund provides funds for ministries, programs, projects, and appeals outside of the scope of Bethel's operating budget that further the mission of Bethel, "Share Christ's Love with a Big Heart." Any Bethel member or Bethel group, or any person or organization, may request funds by completing this grant application. Apply [HERE](#).

## THE BETHEL ENDOWMENT CELEBRATES ALL SAINTS!

There is also a new way to support the Endowment this year! All Saints Sunday (November 2) reminds us that the past, present, and future are held in God's infinity. We give thanks for the example of those who have died, the companionship of those who journey with us, and the hope the next generations offer. **You are invited to celebrate the great cloud of witnesses before, beside, and beyond you by giving a gift of any size to the Bethel Endowment by Wednesday, October 29.** Forms will be available at the welcome desks and the church office for you to name who your gift is in memory of, in honor of, or in hope for. You may also donate through Breeze by going to "Give Now" and selecting "Give to Restricted-Endowment" from the drop-down menu. All names submitted will be printed in the November 2 bulletin (donor information will not be shared.)

## FINANCIAL NOTES

### Financial information:

	August 2025	YTD as of 8-31-25
Revenue:	\$ 53,071	\$ 560,887
Expenses -	71,236	-647,608
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ ( 18,165)</b>	<b>\$ ( 86,521)</b>

As you read this, we are entering the last quarter of the fiscal year. Historically, charitable donations are higher in these three months than any other quarter of the year. We need that to be true this year at Bethel. There are many good causes and we may feel torn about how to stretch our donation budget. Please know that Bethel needs your offerings to cover the deficit plus current expenses. Your generosity is a blessing to Bethel's important ministry.

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





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

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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)

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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**



**Bethel's Autumn Blood Drive is almost here!**

Sign up to donate on Sunday, November 9, 2025  
from 8:30 am -1:30 pm

Sign up at the "Among the Ministries" table  
the first two Sundays in October.

A link will also be provided in the weekly email.

Whole blood donors cannot have donated in the past 8 weeks; Double red donors need 16 weeks. Please plan ahead and save the date as blood products have a limited shelf life and are always needed. Thank you!

## MEALS ON WHEELS!

Bethel's annual *three weeks* of delivering Meals on Wheels starts on Monday, November 10.

This is a service ministry that Bethel has helped support for many years. Bethel will be responsible for delivering meals from November 10, 2025 through November 28, 2025. Comprehensive delivery instructions are provided.

As of this writing, there are only a few openings left—thank you! We still need volunteers on the Fridays of November 14, 21, and 28 and one opening on Saturday, November 22.

If you haven't received an email invitation from Breeze and would like to volunteer, please contact Pam Santerre at 651-335-3465. For more information, go to <https://www.northfieldhospital.org/meals-wheels>.

Thank you for ALL that you give, especially the gift of your time to feed our neighbors!