



Bethel Blaze

June 2026

Sharing Christ's love with a big heart

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

In Person

Sunday Mornings:

8:30 am and 10:30 am

Online:

The 8:30 am 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 channels
180 & 187.

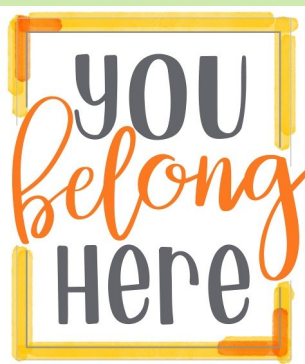
No cable is required.
There are four opportunities
to watch:

Monday 2:00 pm

Tuesday 1:30 pm

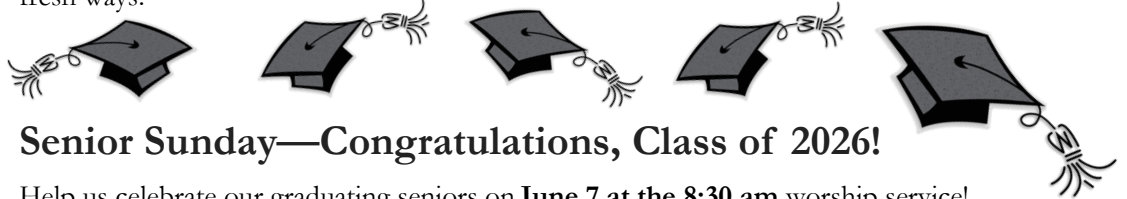
Wednesday 7:00 pm

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 2026!

Help us celebrate our graduating seniors on **June 7 at the 8:30 am** worship service!

Abby Atzinger

Luther College

Fletcher Aylin

St. Olaf College

Evie Bauer

Carleton College

Maxwell Boardman

University of Wisconsin Madison

Eloise DeBus

College of St. Scholastica

Matthew Haefner

Iowa State University

Boden Jenkinson

Iowa State University

Annika Johnson

Gustavus Adolphus College

Karina Johnson

Gustavus Adolphus College

Austin Mathre

Iowa State University

Erik Radtke

Concordia College

Keegan Resendiz

TBA

Isaac Schleif

Concordia College

Grant Selchow

Aurora University

Planting & Watering Seeds: Spring Endowment Grants

Anti-Racism Learning & Advocacy (ARLA) and Immigration Team received funds to bring speaker from the Immigration Law Center of Minnesota to Northfield.

Lifting Voices Phyllis Larson and Kristin Kivell will primarily use funds to purchase music and cover printing costs for the singers starting their second season this fall.

Youth Room Furniture Evie Bauer along with Pastor Inger spearheaded purchasing new seating for the Barb Hanson Youth Room. Youth led the furniture assembly. The room is not only the location for Hangtime, but is also utilized by many other church members during the week for other activities.

Northfield Supporting Neighbors (NSN) Rachel Matzner and Jane Runzheimer NSN will help immigrant members of our community with children obtain passports to help maintain family unity and prevent erroneous detention from racial profiling.

Ruth's House of Hope / Sarah's House Carrie Hackney

Funding will help to cover the unprecedented increase in utility costs so that Sarah's House remains a well-light, warm safe refuge to reduce trauma for recently unhoused children in Northfield.

(continued on back page)



Pastor Inger Hanson
(she/her)
pastor.inger@bethelnorthfield.org
(preferred for non-urgent communication)

office
507-786-8875

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

days off
Friday & Saturday

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

from Pastor Inger



Dear Bethel,
Usually I use this space to reflect on the season or look forward to upcoming opportunities in worship or the community. First, however, I'd like to invite you to pause with me in gratitude. "Maycember" can knock the wind out of you; but it can also make you catch your breath at the beauty of community alive with dedicated volunteers in all areas of ministry. For a few days, the narthex was a greenhouse, full of flowers to be delivered from the Youth Plant Sale. A few days later, it was full of furniture and the Garage Sale was well underway. People have filled the same

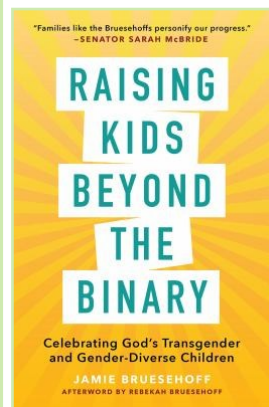
space with joy welcoming our new members, and with sorrow as we gathered for Randy Knox's funeral.

As summer unfolds, may we continue to appreciate the various dimensions of our vibrant life together. Have some fun with Bethel Bingo (cards available at the welcome stations!) for ideas on how to engage in worship, fellowship, outreach, and learning.

God's peace, Pastor Inger



IN THE LIBRARY...



Raising Kids Beyond the Binary by Jamie Bruesehoff

Dare to dream of a church and a world transformed by the bold celebration of transgender and gender-diverse children. Drawing on the author's experience as a mother walking with and learning from her own transgender child, as well as working with hundreds of families across the country doing the same, this book helps parents navigate the emotional, spiritual, and logistical landscape of raising a gender-diverse child.

Grounded in the unequivocal truth of God's deep love and limitless creativity, this book compels listeners to move past "all are welcome" to loving and celebrating transgender and gender-diverse youth in the brilliance of their uniqueness, the wisdom of their self-awareness, and the joy of their authenticity. Faith leaders and adults who work with youth will also find the book a helpful tool for gaining insight and building safer and more welcoming congregations for these children.

Rich with personal stories, research, and practical steps, this book dares to dream of a church and a world transformed by the bold and joyful acceptance and celebration of transgender and gender-diverse children and youth. These children need us, and the world needs them.

FINANCIAL NOTES

from Barb Fowler, Financial Officer

YTD Financials as of April 30, 2026

Revenue \$281,208




Expenses \$321,505

Total (\$ 40,296)

Thank you to Pastor Inger for the inspiring Stewardship letter sent out in May. I encourage you to re-read it and think about her statement "another dimension of stewardship is a discipline of gratitude". I would add that gratitude yields generosity. Make a list of all the reasons you and your family have chosen to be part of the Bethel family. We hope that your list will inspire participation and generous giving. Have a good summer!

EVERY WEEK

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

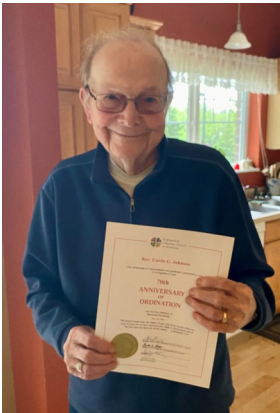
SUNDAY		8:30 am	Worship/Livestream
		9:45 am	Coffee Fellowship
		10:30 am*	Outdoor Worship (* Summer Schedule through August 30)
		Evening	Bethel Softball June 7 @ Sechler 1 (near Railroad Tracks) at 8:20 pm playing River Valley June 14 @ Babcock at 7:10 pm playing Emmaus June 21 @ Sechler 2 at 6:00 pm playing Life 21 June 28 @ Babcock at 6:00 pm playing Canvas Full Season Schedule
MONDAY		12:00 pm	Bible Text Study @ The Vault
TUESDAY		9:45 am	Staff Meeting
THURSDAY		9:00 am	Men of Bethel
		9:30 am	FaB (Faith and Books) , our women’s book group, is reading <i>A is for Alabaster</i> by Anna Carter Florence. Our rich discussions are held weekly in the Youth Room. Contact Lana Reich at lanareich@yahoo.com to be added to the FaB email list.
FRIDAY		9:15 am	WoW (Women of the Word) via zoom

THIS MONTH

JUNE 1	5:00 pm	Worship & Arts	JUNE 15	5:00 pm	Personnel
JUNE 3	7:00 pm	Vision Seekers @ Dundas Dukes Game at Memorial Field		6:30 pm	Church Council
JUNE 6	 noon —4 pm	Pride in the Park (link here)	JUNE 16	12:00 pm	Lydia Circle
JUNE 7	 8:30 am	Senior Sunday	JUNE 17	5:00 pm	Summer Sunshine for 6th—8th Graders Feed My Starving Children
JUNE 9	9:00 am	Quilting Group	JUNE 18	10:00 am	Parkview Fellowship
	3:00 pm	Lydia Circle Fellowship	JUNE 19	JUNETEENTH — Church Offices Closed	
JUNE 10	5:00 pm	Congregational Life	JUNE 20—28	Christikon Trips — 8th Graders Onsite and other youth Backpacking	
JUNE 11	10:30 am	Projects with Purpose	JUNE 21	1:00 pm	Bethel at Benedictine Chapel
	7:00 pm	Finance	JUNE 21—26	Good Earth Village Northfield Week	
JUNE 13	11:00am	Service for Mary Overfield (Christy Valek’s sister)	JUNE 23	 9:00 am	Quilting Group
JUNE 14	<i>Jessi Labenski preaching at Bethel!</i>		JUNE 25	10:30 am	Projects with Purpose
	9:00 am <i>All Nations Indian Church Visit</i> (special ARLA and Mission & Justice event— see weekly emails for more information!)				

BETHEL BRIGHT LIGHTS

MAY REVIEW



A few of the faces behind the always epic Bethel Garage Sale! Thank you to all our volunteers, donors and shoppers!



Curt Johnson celebrating 70 years of ordination—congrats!

On Music Festival Sunday, Resonance, Bethel's adult bell choir, gifted director Cindy Carlson wind chimes in celebration of the April premiere of her composition, "Shalom for Peace," and in gratitude for her dedication to excellent performances (including the one with guest percussionist Preston Pollington.)

PRIDE in the park NORTHFIELD

June is Pride month! Northfield's annual Pride in the Park event is **Saturday, June 7, from noon—4:00 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.

Spring Endowment Grant Recipients continued...

Projects with a Purpose Lana Reich, Lois Cary, Linda Zolnosky are leading the making of reusable period pads to be given to the 1 in 4 teens who face period poverty. Work is also beginning on much needed kits for Lutheran World Relief.

Good Samaritan Fund Andrew Jorgenson As Bethel's steward, Andrew sees many requests coming to the church not only for food and gas cards, but also for rent, medical bills, vehicle repairs and emergency family travel.

TORCH Bethel Care Team provides 10 to 15 college students with care packages that include 3 times annually with cash, treats and special surprises to provide encouragement and support as they complete post secondary education.

Worship and Arts As the Worship and Arts team begins a Bethel archive, Carsten Walter is working this summer to digitally organize our congregation's history.

Kindergarten Author Visit Tallie Berkvam-Peter

All kindergarten students at Spring Creek Elementary School, including special education students, will experience an author/illustrator visit in May. Students will then explore their own artistic talents with writing and then with stamps designed by the author both during and after the visit.

Over \$22,000 was distributed this spring, in addition to the almost \$12,500 in grants awarded in the fall, for a total of approximately \$34,500 for 2026 from the Endowment Fund—what a gift that keeps giving!