



DECEMBER 2020
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JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Fireside Worship is available to everyone with access to the internet. You can find the link in our weekly email or by going to our website. It's also available on NTV daily at midnight, 9 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Cable Ch. 187, and at the NRC on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at 1 p.m.

Revive! Worship takes place every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. on our YouTube channel. (Search for Bethel Northfield.)

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

O come all ye faithful! Joyful and triumphant! The preparation of Advent and the blessed Christmas season are upon us. 2020 is set to be the most... unforgettable Christmas ever. Perhaps not the way we planned, but maybe appropriate. Mary likely didn't plan to have Jesus in a stable. Through every twist and turn of this year, the joy and miracle of Christmas will still be present, and we are excited to celebrate the birth of our Savior with you. Fireside and Advent services will be sent in our usual Sunday and Wednesday weekly emails.



Advent - Every Wednesday in December at 6:30 p.m.

Revive! Advent Services - Join us to anticipate the coming of our Lord with beautiful music and reflections from Bethelites.

Christmas Eve - Thursday, December 24

Fireside Worship: Carols, lessons, and special music from Bethel members.

Drive-in Candlelight Service at 5:00 p.m.: Come to the parking lot for a very special Christmas Eve worship service! Carols, lessons, and a message from Pastor Tim. Bring an electric candle or download a candle app on your phone. Glow stick candles will be available for kids.

Christmas Day - Friday, December 25

Fireside Worship: Join us for our traditional Christmas Day worship complete with liturgy, carols, readings, special music, and Holy Communion.

CHRISTMAS MOVIE PREMIER



Bethel's first ever Christmas Movie Special *Breaking News from Bethlehem* will debut at 2:00 p.m. on December 13. Production is (safely) underway and Director Brenda Atzinger and our Bethel stars are ready to bring the Good News to the big screen (or whatever size screen you have in your house). Stay tuned for announcements with details on this "red carpet" event!

BE.THE.LIGHT THIS ADVENT SEASON

Finding Christmas cheer might be a little harder this year, but with every challenge comes opportunity. Here's some ideas on how to be the light of Christ and celebrate Advent this year:

- * Create your own Advent wreath and have a special weekly candle lighting ceremony.
- * Bake your favorite Christmas cookies and surprise friends and family at their door.
- * Make the world's best hot cocoa.
- * Mask up and carol as a family, leave a luminary at the door of your lucky recipients.
- * Plan a Christmas Zoom social.

Send your ideas to Chelsey Headrick to be shared in the Weekly *Banner!*

FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR...

Dear Partners,

On the last Sunday of Drive-In Worship, as I greeted participants who were leaving the Bethel parking lot, I heard over-and-over again, "I'm going to miss seeing my Bethel family." Missing. Missing what? The music? Well, of course. Corporate worship? Yes, certainly. The homilies? Not so much. But one another? Yes indeed.

The pandemic has forced all of us into one form of isolation or another. The second wave of the virus has the potential of forcing our elected leaders into imposing more stringent forms of isolation. While helpful in mitigating the virus, the unforeseen cost is many people feeling lonely and alone. Two Sundays in November I included this

prayer in the Prayer of the Faithful:

A/ Holy Companion, console those who feel lonely or abandoned. Share the hours of those who live and eat alone. Comfort those who are cut off from family and friends. Lord, in your mercy...

C/ Hear our prayer.

I trust that God hears and answers this prayer. Often, God provides by sending people to alleviate the pain of isolating. At Bethel we have fellow members who want to reach out to those who feel cut-off and alone. Among these are Bethel BeFriends, Bethel Companions, Prayer Shawl Ministers, Home Communion Ministers, New Members Sponsors, Meal Angels,

Bethel Card Ministers, and Transportation Assistants. Any of these ministers are ready and able to bridge the divide that so many are feeling.

I ask you; I urge you to call the church office if you are looking to connect with a member of your Bethel family. I assure you that your plea for help will not go unheeded. There are many who want to help. Even if the pandemic necessitates your being alone, you need not be lonely. We can help. Please call.

Your Partner in the Gospel,

Timothy McDermott, Pastor

"THANK OFFERING" BENEFICIARIES

The COVID-19 pandemic has uncovered a variety of extra needs in our community and our country has been besieged by many disasters including fires, hurricanes, and flooding. The Church Council approved a "thank offering" of \$12,000 from our 2020 income surplus to help with local, national, and global needs at this time of crisis. We are thrilled with the continued generous response of Bethelites in spite of all the financial implications of the pandemic and our inability to meet in person for worship and gatherings. This distribution of thank offering funds is a witness to Bethel's role in ministering, not only to our own members, but to the greater community and world. An important role of the church.

Recipients of our thank offering have been chosen through careful interviews and selection to include a variety of charities. We are thrilled to be able to share some of our bounty with others during this crisis time in our world and

are grateful to Bethel members for making it possible. Recipients include:

Northfield Retirement Community (Supplying COVID-19 related needs) - \$1,000

AMMPARO Program (ELCA and S.E. MN Synod program focusing on the plight of children at our southern border) - \$1,000

Lutheran Disaster Response (National Lutheran-based program responding mostly to natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, wild fires, etc.) - \$5,000

Community Action Center (Besides the food shelf, the CAC has many other programs such as transportation and special needs for our underserved community) - \$2,000

Legal Funds for Immigrants (A local fund through the CAC, providing legal help for families with at least one undocumented member) - \$1,000

Pine Ridge Reservation (Located in South Dakota, this native population is suffering greatly from the effects of the pandemic) - \$1,000

Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry (Funds are needed to supplement regular programming and food distribution during the pandemic especially in hard-hit India) - \$1,000

Thank you, Bethel, for once again, "sharing Christ's love with a big heart!"



NEWS FROM AROUND BETHEL

FaB (Faith and Books) will begin reading *A Bigger Table* by John Pavolitz in December. Pavolitz invites us to envision a church that is big enough for everyone by holding up a mirror to the modern church and speaking clearly on issues at the heart of Christianity: LGBTQ inclusion, racial tensions and more. Meetings will be held through Zoom on the first and third Thursdays of the month, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. For more information and to receive the Zoom invitation, contact lanareich@yahoo.com. The group may decide to meet weekly during the winter months. Watch for an announcement in the weekly *Banner*.

Men of Bethel (MoB) will be reading *Pursued by Grace: A Newspaperman's Own Story of Spiritual Recovery* by Jim Klobuchar. We will be using a recurring Zoom meeting link, so the link will always be the same and an email notice will be sent the day before each meeting. All meetings are on Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. for an hour. New members are welcome and encouraged. To get on the email list, contact Wayne Kivell at kivell@charter.net or Kelly Groenewold at kelly.groenewold@gmail.com.

Mission Quilters will be meeting on the third Tuesday of each month (December 15 this month) at 9 a.m. in the CLC. Masks are required and stations will be distanced from each other. The need for quilts is great in our own country and around the world as natural disasters continue to impact

families. No need to be great at sewing. Contact Dottie Hammer at (507) 645-7619 with questions.

ARLA ARLA is a group that is learning more about racism, how to actively combat it as anti-racists, and how to be advocates whenever possible. Our next meeting will be on Zoom at **9:30-10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 8**. We will discuss a podcast in the "Seeing White" series: Season 2, Episode 8 ("Skulls and Skin"). If you would like to join us, call Paula Mathison (507-645-7546 or 612-702-2496) or Connie DeGrote (507-645-7091 or 507-581-0240). You can join at any time, come and learn with us at our lively, meaningful discussions.

Bethel Walkers Are you looking for ways to stay fit during these next winter months? Looking for social contacts at a time when those are fewer than we are used to? Join us once a week on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. to walk outside when conditions are not icy or inside, when they reopen, at the Dundas Dome when weather is too inclement to be outside. Call Kitty Runzheimer (507-645-2245 or 507-649-2615) or Paula Mathison (507-645-7546 or 612-702-2496) to be added to our email list so you will know where we are walking each week. This is not a walking group only for women. Everyone is welcome. Join us whenever you can.

Bethel Vision Seekers, our men's fellowship group, will be meeting on Wednesday, December 9, at 7 p.m. via Zoom. We will be using a recurring



meeting link, so the link will always be the same and an email notice will be sent the day before each meeting. If you wish to be added to the email list, please contact Kelly Groenewold at kelly.groenewold@gmail.com.

The ladies of **Women of the Word (WoW)** study continue to meet Friday mornings via Zoom. The study entitled *Faithful, Abundant, True* began November 20th and will continue through December. We begin with our discussion of the week's lessons and then watch a video presentation by the author(s). If you have questions or would like to join us on Zoom on Friday mornings at 9 a.m., please contact Myrna Luehmann at myrnalueh@gmail.com or call (507) 951-7112. All are welcome!

The **Daily Text Devotional** is a new resource in the vestibule. For each day of the year there is an Old and New Testament verse and companion prayer. The January prayers this year are written by Bethel's own Barb Holm! *The Daily Texts* originated with the Moravian denomination in 1735 and is now translated into 50 languages. How special to be in the Word each day with people all over the world! A new daily podcast has been added this year as an extra meditation and can be found at groundupgrace.com.

THANK YOU BETHEL BLOOD DONORS!

Thank you, Bethel blood donors! Nearly 30 of you saved lives at Bethel's blood drive last month. We had several walk-ins and four double donors! Want to be a part of saving lives? The next Bethel drive is set for March 2021.

The Bethel *Banner* is published monthly as a ministry of Bethel Lutheran Church of Northfield, Minnesota. **Articles are due by the 15th of each month.** Questions, suggestions, or comments? Contact editor Chelsey Headrick at cheadrick@bethelnorthfield.org, or call the church office at 786-6674.

Children ~ Youth ~ Disciples ~ Children ~ Youth ~ Disciples

WHAT'S NEW IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY?



Red Carpet...here we come!

Bethel's first ever Christmas Movie Special has been cast and rehearsals are underway! We are finding new ways to keep our kids connected and share the good news of Jesus. *Breaking News from Bethlehem* will debut at 2:00 p.m. on December 13. Stay tuned for announcements with details on this "red carpet" event! Please note, following safety protocol, all parts are being recorded remotely and assembled by Bethel's production team. We are committed to innovating around and through the pandemic to celebrate the joy and true meaning of Christmas.

BETHEL U

All adults and 10th-12th graders are invited to Christian education this month. Bethel U courses begin at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings and Zoom links will be available on the Bethel website and in the weekly *Banner*. All sessions will be recorded for viewing at a time other than indicated in the class descriptions, too.

Alternative Giving Fair, How Can I Help Those in Need: *December 6, 13 with Karna Hauck, Amy Narveson, & Friends*

We are living in unprecedented times, similarly to when Jesus walked the earth. People were experiencing extreme challenges like we are experiencing today...fear, pain, suffering, and injustice along with unbridled hope and resilience, then and now. Jesus was the

hope and love *then*, and Jesus is the hope and love *now* – through us. Together, we can create equality and support justice. We can help provide resources for those in need and raise up those who are marginalized. We can protect our planet so we can live healthy lives. One person, one contribution, one act of faith, and one offer of help adds up to a world of hope in a world of need. When we give, we provide hope.

Hosts Karna Hauck and Amy Narveson will feature a different guest speaker each week and Mac Gimse will share a story or poem at the end of each session!

Dec 6 - Out of the Dead Earth Rises the Green Shoot: Dan Ruth talks about Minneapolis-based

organization, **Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry - LPGM** (founded by Bethel members, Gordon and Betty Olson) - the past, present and future of this global relationship-building group.

Dec 13 - Water is Life: Paige Nagle from **International organization, charity:water** will share information about clean water needs in the world. It is a known fact that one in ten people lack access to clean water and Paige will share how charity:water is on a mission to change that fact by bringing safe water to the planet.

Join this Bethel U class where you will hear from organizations who are making a difference, and where you can find ways to help and inspiration to act.

Upcoming Dates:

- December 23 & 30 - No *Limitless!*
- December 27- No Family Sunday School
- January 3 - Family Sunday School resumes on Zoom
- January 6 - *Limitless!* resumes on Zoom

Limitless! Upcoming Break-out Activities:

	12/2	12/9	12/16
K	Music	Music	Christmas Party
1 st	Games	Games	Christmas Party
2 nd	Faith Stretch	Faith Stretch	Christmas Party
3 rd	SOD	SOD	Christmas Party
4 th	Games	Games	Christmas Party
5 th	Magnified	Faith Building	Christmas Party

Serving Other Daily updates:

Our 5th and 3rd Graders have worked on projects during *Limitless!* to share with our NRC neighbors. Thanksgiving Turkey decorations were delivered in time for Thanksgiving and Christmas ornaments will be delivered mid-December. We hope to BE.THE.Light in our community.

Brenda Atzinger, Director of Children's Ministries
786-8878
batzinger@bethelnorthfield.org

Children ~ Youth ~ Disciples ~ Children ~ Youth ~ Disciples

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUTH MINISTRY?

Confirmation students ~ watch your emails this month for some great J-Term offerings!

Confirmation classes will be in session through December 16th. Confirmation winter break will include Wednesdays, December 23rd and 30th and January 6th. Classes will resume with J-Term on Wednesday, January 13th.

FALL SCRIP SALE

The Annual Fall Scrip Sale has started and will run through December with all orders arriving by December 18, in time for holiday gift giving. Remember any Bethel member can purchase Scrip and designate the earnings to a Bethel youth. Because Scrip has cards to make everyday purchases at Target, Cub, Kwik Trip, Speedway, Holiday and Walgreen's, Bethel members can support our youth trips without a special occasion or for favorite restaurants and retailers any time of the year. With many \$10 cards available for purchase, Scrip makes GREAT stocking stuffers: Arby's, Burger King,

Sunday School and Bethel U will continue through Sunday, December 13. Christmas break will include Sundays, December 20 and 27 and January 3. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 10th.

Looking ahead ~ Mark your calendars! Christmas is about HOPE and we're HOPING to go forward with our annual **High School Progressive**

Chipotle, Caribou, Claire's, Bath and Body Works, Barnes and Noble, Panera, Dominos, Pizza Hut and MORE!

Order forms are available between the doors at church or on the Bethel website and can be dropped off in the secure Bethel mailbox on North Ave or mailed to the church. Please allow at least 2 weeks for your physical cards to arrive. Please note: Kwik Trip cards (available in \$20, \$25, \$50 and \$100 cards earning 5%) and Sonic cards (available in \$10 and \$25 cards earning 8%) are not on the order sheet. Please write these on the back with the denomination(s) you need.

Dinner but in a different way, of course! So put Sunday, January 3, 5:00 p.m., on your calendars and get ready for some fun! Watch emails this month for more details and registration info. We need more ways to celebrate and prolong the holidays – plan to do it with your Bethel friends!

Barb Farmer, Director of Youth Ministries
786-8877
bfarmer@bethelnorthfield.org

Scrip stock card sales/order drop off/order pickup times are:

Wednesday evenings starting November 11-December 16 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

December only, Thursday afternoons from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

For questions or to learn more about Scrip online and the new Scrip app, contact Lori at 612-226-7022, Krista at 612-840-3626, or Barb at 507-261-2773.

ALTERNATIVE GIVING FAIR

Bethel's annual Alternative Giving Fair officially begins on Sunday, November 22nd and runs through December 13th. How meaningful it is to both giver and receiver to know that we can, through our giving, share with someone in need here or around the world? The Alternative Giving Fair, now in its 12th year, is a great opportunity for Bethel Lutheran Church members and guests to share. Gifts range from a \$1 donation to a \$360 gift that will improve the lives of others who would genuinely benefit from your giving. And that gift can be given during the

Holidays in honor of someone else who you love!

We urge you to read through the 2020 Bethel Alternative Giving Fair booklet that you received in the mail. Extra order forms are in the Bethel vestibule. This booklet is designed especially for Bethel using projects from ELCA Good Gifts, Charity Water, YWAM, Isaiah Project, The Memory Project, Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry - whose founders attends Bethel and Alternative Gifts International - a national ministry who focuses on finding projects to support through

local church giving fairs. Carefully and prayerfully select one or more items that are meaningful and priced right for your family and for your designated receiver. For your convenience, free cards will be available to send along with your Christmas greeting with an insert explaining the gift and the purpose of your giving.

You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

(2 Corinthians 9:11)

FISCAL HEALTH as of October 31, 2020					
	MONTH Actual	YEAR TO DATE			Annual Budget
		Actual	Budget	Fav (Unfav) Variance	
<i>Revenue</i>					
Total Revenue	<u>\$61,005</u>	<u>\$766,854</u>	<u>\$800,954</u>	<u>\$(34,100)</u>	<u>\$990,000</u>
<i>Expenses</i>					
Personnel	\$42,434	\$449,487	\$564,812	\$115,325	\$704,549
Facilities/Reserves	4,428	\$66,517	109,513	42,996	126,765
Benevolence	3,008	\$45,930	45,930	-	62,380
Youth Formation	792	\$7,851	24,943	17,092	29,700
Administration	3,208	\$25,768	39,507	13,739	51,475
Adult& Family Formation	-	\$1,137	4,052	2,915	4,845
Worship & Music	130	\$5,313	6,050	737	6,884
Congregational Life	-	<u>\$4,419</u>	<u>2,950</u>	<u>(1,469)</u>	<u>3,402</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$54,000</u>	<u>\$606,422</u>	<u>\$797,757</u>	<u>\$191,335</u>	<u>\$990,000</u>
<i>Net Income (Loss)</i>	<u>\$7,005</u>	<u>\$160,432</u>	<u>\$3,197</u>	<u>\$157,235</u>	<u>0*</u>
<i>*We always budget our revenue to meet expenses.</i>					

FINANCIAL NOTES

Contributions dipped farther below budget, but because of excellent expense control and your continued support, we are in a great financial position. We are so thankful to all of you!

Net Income: Oct: \$7k net income actual vs. \$4k net loss budget. We do not have our typical programming start-up expenses, nor transportation costs from youth summer trips or Limitless!.

Revenue: Oct: \$61k actual vs. \$86k budgeted. This is the third consecutive month revenue has been under budget, and the first month it was significantly (nearly 30%) under budget.

Expense: Oct: \$54k actual vs. \$91k budgeted. YTD expenses are \$606k vs. \$798k budgeted. Personnel is 19% below budget as we do not have a co-senior Pastor and had two unfilled staff vacancies for several months. Programming expenses are less than half of what was budgeted. Facilities expenses are significantly underrunning due to lower utility expenses, custodial supplies, and maintenance.

Mortgage balance: \$66,996

Endowment Fund balance: \$14,137

Nichole Porath,
Director of Finance
786-6687
nporath@bethelnorthfield.org

BEFRIENDERS

by Marci Groenewold

Look. One day as I sat at the classroom table, my rural schoolteacher showed me a flash card. On it was the word Look. This was the first word I learned to read. The word “look” directs our attention to the future. We are now in the season of Advent. Advent means “to come to” or “get ready for” in Latin. It means the arrival of something that’s been waited for with anticipation. During the season of Advent, Christians look forward with anticipation to Christ’s return.

Today we anticipate and look forward to an end to the Covid 19 pandemic so we can be together with family and friends. In this time of community isolation especially from those we love, let’s look for opportunities to reach out to our loved ones. Let’s look for the good in others and ourselves. Let’s look for things we can do, things that fill us with life and joy. Let’s look for God every day and everywhere.

As we look for and act on these good things, we will find ourselves

celebrating while we wait.

Blessings from Bethel’s BeFriender Coordinators

A fundamental BeFriender principle: “God is Present.” For more information regarding the BeFriender Ministry at Bethel, please contact:

Marci Groenewold (507) 649-0760, Knight Stanley (612) 877-0893, Myrna Luehmann (507) 951-7112, Vicki Roller (507)-645-8999, Karen Mader, (507)301-4368 or the Bethel Office (507) 786-6674.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

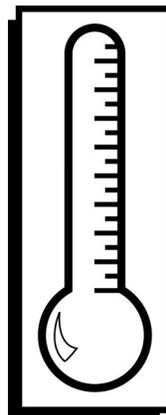
You will receive a letter this month detailing the recipients of our annual Christmas offering. Mission and Justice and Stewardship have selected two wonderful organizations that are working on the front lines of the global coronavirus pandemic. A generous offering at this critical time will most certainly save lives.

Global Health Ministries, a Minneapolis Lutheran-based organization, works in many countries around the world supplying much-needed medicines and equipment and supports local hospital and medical personnel. **Doctors without Borders** does tremendous work throughout the world on the front lines of conflict-related medical needs as well as communicable diseases, immunizations, and surgeries.

When you receive your letter, please respond generously as you have in the past and remember those in the world who are served by these tremendous organizations.

GOODBYE MORTGAGE?!?!

With recent generous contributions from members our mortgage, which started at \$3.5 million in 2008, is now down to an all-time low of \$66,996. In February, 2021 we are facing a rate increase adjustment. Wouldn't it be exciting to "burn" our mortgage in late January? Our 2020 surplus funds would cover at least half of the remaining mortgage \$32,500. Are you interested in helping to match this amount and bring our mortgage to zero? You can contribute either by mailing a check to Bethel with Mortgage in the subject line or contributing via our online giving portal in the designated Thrivent Mortgage field. This would be worth a big post-Covid celebration for our congregation!



FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Throughout 2020, with our church doors literally closed since the middle of March, Bethel’s ministry has gone forward. Yes, many changes have been made as to how we function as a church, but so many people, especially our wonderful staff, have worked consistently and creatively to keep us together as a church family, doing God’s work. But, no matter how hard we work, things are not the same and will not be for several more months.

We are so grateful for the adjustments you’ve all made and for your continued financial support and volunteerism that has been a mark of Bethel’s desire to BE.THE.Love & Light of Christ in the World. As we approach year’s end, we encourage you to continue in your spirit of generosity as a part of your spiritual worship. May we all be well and safe until the day we can come together again physically to worship and share in community. Thanks for all you give!

Your Stewardship Team,
Pastor Tim McDermott, Gordon Olson, Don Pavek, Vicki Roller, Noel Stratmoen, Pam Vig



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Bethel *Love & Light* of Christ in the World

Bethel's Vision

NOVEMBER 2020



Bethel's Mission

AN UPDATE ON THE CALL PROCESS

The Call Committee has completed the extensive Ministry Site Profile, the base informational document for pastors who inquire about our call. This detailed document required many hours from our dedicated Call Committee and we thank them for their hard work in helping us to find our next terrific pastor. The results of the congregational survey, "What I love about Bethel," are shown in the word cloud to the right. The larger the word, the more times it was mentioned in the survey. It is a beautiful representation of what a special community we have at Bethel. The pastoral job posting will be out on the Synod website soon.

