

Volume 89

Number 1

January 2025

# PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

A swe embark upon a new year, I find myself pondering what this one will bring for us at Bethel Lutheran.

- What will make us jump for joy, do the happy dance, and fall to our knees in thanksgiving?
- What will make our hearts fall to our toes, hold one another tight, and pray in earnest for help and direction?
- What will make us stand up and show up, write letters to the powers that be, and actively work for change?
- What will make us share a sigh of relief, sink into peace, and know truly know that we belong to God?

These are the sorts of questions I ponder as I look back on 2024 and look ahead to 2025. I dare say, I am not alone in my reflections. What do you wonder about? What brings you uncertainty or fear? What are you most looking forward to in 2025? How can your church help?

One thing is clear, whatever 2025 brings us, we will not experience any of it alone. That is the beauty of faith and what is special about a faith community. We are here for one another – with food, support, prayers, listening ears, visits, fellowship, community connections, letters and cards, a sense of belonging, and radical welcome for each other – no matter what. *I often long for more people to know this truth – what faith communities really offer to all who are curious.* 

We have a long Epiphany Season in 2025. You know I like to change things up for worship during this season of light. *So, this year we have several opportunities for all of us to invite our family, friends, neighbors, and strangers to different themes of worship.* 

#### In fact, **I know worship may look a bit different during this time.** So, please consider challenging yourself to bring someone to worship alongside you! Here are the themes – pick one, two, or

- more and bring folks to join us!
  - Jan 5 Visit from the Wise Ones
  - Jan 12 A Healing Sunday
    Jan 18 Justice and Jacus
  - Jan 18 Justice and Jesus
  - Jan 26 Reconciling in Christ Sunday
  - Feb 2 Hymn Sing Sunday
  - Feb 9 Scout Sunday
  - Feb 16 Friendship Sunday
  - Feb 21 Baptism Sunday

• Mar 2 - Comedy Sunday - We should probably have a Waffle Breakfast this day! A sort of Mardi Gras celebration before Ash Wednesday that week!

As we delve into another year, I hope we can all find ways to know that we are never alone! And that we share this truth along the way.



With you, for Jesus,

Pastor Brenda

Pastor Brenda pastor@bethel-mpls.org

# BERNIE'S MUSIC UPDATE

#### Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Merry Christmas? Isn't Christmas over? In the Lutheran church, Christmas starts with the First Day of Christmas on December 25, when we count "a Partridge in a Pear Tree" in the Christmas carol, "The 12 Days of Christmas." Christmas continues through the "12 Drummers Drumming" on January 5, followed by Epiphany on January 6. Here we celebrate the visit of the Magi, or the Wise Ones, to the Christ Child, and we sing carols such as "We Three Kings."

What gifts did we receive to celebrate Christ's birth? We celebrated the First Sunday in Christmas on December 29 with a service of Christmas Lessons and Carols: the first Christmas season in a few years with an additional Sunday worship service!

We have Sundays in January to sing God's Word of forgiveness and peace, and pray for healing, justice, and love for our LGBTQAI+ siblings, along with a Hymn Sing service of hymns beloved and new. Another gift is the National Lutheran Choir Choral Tune-Up, January 31 -February 1. Bethel Choir will join church choirs from the Twin Cities and beyond to sing with the NLC members themselves, and to learn new choral pieces from prominent choral directors. This year offers a second day that includes a youth workshop with the Minnesota Gospel Choir, and a Festival choir concert open to the public. I invite you to join us even if you are not a member, or to attend the free Festival choir concert on February 1. Please contact me with questions or to join. I also invite you to join our choirs for one Sunday or many, or to assist with music in worship. Please contact me with your questions!

Peace and Grace, **Bernie Asher** 



music2023@bethel-mpls.org

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH'S **2ND SATURDAY** 

oncert Series

# BRET HESLA SATURDAY, JAN. 11 3:00PM SHOW DOORS 2:30PM

Suggested \$10 Donation





**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH** 4120 17TH AVE S, MPLS, MN bethel-mpls.org

# **MICHELLE'S GRANTS UPDATE**

ive Generously is the tagline for a program called "Thrivent Action Teams." These teams are a part of Thrivent Financial's strategy to give back to the broader community through our hands and feet and creative ideas. Each \$250 Thrivent Action Team Grant is awarded for service projects, educational events, or fundraisers that excite you. Projects that are approved (by Thrivent Financial) receive a \$250 gift card that can be used for your project.

As we enter 2025, we want to invite more people into participating in Thrivent Action Teams and to Live (more) Generously! In January, Bethel has a goal of signing up 40 Associate Members of Thrivent Financial in order to help us give back to the community and to bring your ideas to life!

Before worship on January 12 and 26 we will offer a brief presentation about Thrivent Action Teams, and following worship on those days we will have someone at Fellowship Time to help get you signed up to be an Associate Member of Thrivent Financial.



Bethel will be working to help our members become Thrivent Associate members during the month of January. Thrivent will award Bethel with \$250 of grant money for every Associate *Membership that is completed. Associate Memberships are only* \$19.95 annually and do not automatically renew. Volunteers will be available after worship to assist with the application.

### THRIVENT INFORMATION SESSIONS:

Sunday, January 12 and Sunday, January 26, 2025 9:30am-9:45am in the Parlor at Bethel

All Thrivent members\* are eligible for two \$250 Thrivent Action Team Grants EVERY YEAR! Anyone who is not a Thrivent member can purchase an annual Associate Membership for \$19.95 and qualify for one yearly \$250 Thrivent Action Team Grant. (Associate members do not need to own a Thrivent Financial Asset.)

Peace and Joy to you, Rev. Michelle Lewis

651-226-6804



\*To be a Thrivent member, you need to own a Thrivent Financial Asset such as life insurance, an annuity account, or a money market account, for example. If you are interested in this, Pastor Michelle can help connect you with a Thrivent Financial Advisor.



**OUR GOAL:** 

MEMBERS

# BUILDING UPDATE

There have been some changes in staffing the building, and we thought we would let you know what is happening.

- Rachel recently asked for fewer hours and less responsibility, so she will now work some nights and weekends as an assistant custodian.
- Kristian recently asked for more hours, so he will now work Mon-Fri in the mornings, and no longer on nights and weekends.

• The rest of the time we will be covered by Jester, John, Bill, Michael, Katie, and Franklin (when home from college), as our assistant custodians. • Kristian is not taking on the Building Facilitator portion of the morning job, so the personnel committee and staff are working on how best to cover those duties.

Thank you, in advance, for your patience as we sort things out and do our best with all that happens here at Bethel!

A special **THANK YOU to Regan and Kristian** for stepping up and making things happen while Rachel has been unavailable. These two are amazing and deserve all the credit for keeping us above board for the past four weeks!

Pastor Brenda

# Join uç for our free COMMUNITY FUNNIGHT



#### **FEBRUARY FUN NIGHT**

Thursday, February 13, 5:30pm-7:30pm

Free Meal at 5:30-6:15pm: Lasagna and Garlic Bread Activity: Decorate Valentine Cookies and Learn Valentine Origami



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# FEASIBILITY UPDATE

A tour December meeting the Feasibility Study Team met via Zoom with Sam Grant of Rainbow Research, a Minneapolis non-profit with expertise in Evaluation Research. He brought a set of fresh eyes to our current situation and made some recommendations that we will follow up on. First, we will focus more on the possibility of becoming a site for an expansion of El Colegio School (42nd and Bloomington). Sam will help us connect with COPAL, another Minneapolis non-profit that works with Latine families in the community, which will in turn strengthen our connection with El Colegio.

Next, Sam recommended we contact Minnesota Humanities Center and offer our building as a site for some of their events. He also has connections with other

## **BOARD OF** ADMINISTRATORS

#### Greetings from your Board of Administrators!

In this time of year, we're attuned to darkness and light. The board had many "points of light" to celebrate looking back at this year when we gathered on a recent wintry night. Taking stock of 2024, just a few highlights include: A loving and active community of members, a budget that is on target with projections, an engaged Feasibility Study Team, an active Mission Council, a vibrant group of building users and renters, a renewed Sunday School approach, and lots of new opportunities to consider as we discern our mission and calling in our neighborhood.

Looking forward, the BOA is already getting started on business for 2025. We will have a draft budget to share soon, as well as annual reports and updates, ahead of our cultural organizations that may be possible partners for us in some way.

We are excited about moving forward with Sam's assistance. He and Rainbow Research can also help us with our neighborhood survey when the appropriate time comes.

As always, please get in touch with us if you have questions or ideas. Our email is feasibility@bethel-mpls.org.

Laurie Hauge feasibility@bethel-mpls.org

upcoming Annual Meeting. Mark your calendars for this important annual gathering on Sunday, March 16, after worship!

It's also time to begin thinking about nominations for leadership positions for terms on elected bodies at Bethel that will begin in June 2025. If you have ever wondered what it's like to serve on the BOA or the Mission Council, please ask me and other current leaders! If you are asked to serve or if you're interested in nominating yourself -feel free to ask questions and learn more, and please give it prayerful consideration.

Sarah Berke

On behalf of the Board



# Bethel's Annual Meeting Sunday, March 16, 2025

after worship

# MINISTRY CALEND

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes
29 10:00am Bethel Worship 11:00am Fellowship Time 1:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship 5:30pm Minneapolis Jo	30 Bethel Office Closed 10:00am CANMN Distribution 6:00pm Open Gym 7:00pm Bridge to Shore AA	31 BETHEL OFFICE CLOSED 9:00am OA HOW Meeting 7:00pm Pentecostal Casa Music 8:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship	1 BETHEL OFFICE CLOSED 6:30pm Continuous Action A
5 10:00am Bethel Worship 10:15am Faith Trek Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Time 1:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship 5:30pm Minneapolis Jo	6 Bethel Office Closed 10:00am CANMN Distribution 6:00pm Open Gym 7:00pm Bethel Bell Choir 7:00pm Bridge to Shore AA	7 9:00am OA HOW Meeting 9:30am The Curiosity Crew School 10:00am NHS Exercise 10:00am Staff Meeting 11:00am NHS 500 Cards Group 6:30pm Scout Troop 7:00pm Pentecostal Casa Music	8 10:00am Bldg & Grounds Mtg 10:00am NHS Women's Art G 10:00am NHS Yoga 12:00pm Hybrid Bible Study 6:00pm Open Gym 6:30pm Continuous Action A 6:30pm Nokomis Quilters 7:00pm Bethel Choir Rehears
12 Bethel Choir Sings 9:30am Thrivent Info Session 10:00am Bethel Worship 10:15am Faith Trek Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Time 1:00pm Pentecostal Casa Fellowship 1:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship 5:30pm Minneapolis Jo 7:00pm A Holy Experiment	13 Bethel Office Closed 2:30pm Feasibility Study Team 6:00pm Open Gym 7:00pm Bethel Bell Choir 7:00pm Bridge to Shore AA 7:00pm BSA Troop 38 Committee Mtg 8:00pm Bridge to Shore AA - Meeting	14 9:00am OA HOW Meeting 9:30am Operation Love Quilters 9:30am The Curiosity Crew School 10:00am NHS Exercise 10:00am Staff Meeting 11:00am NHS 500 Cards Group 1:00pm NHS Grief Support Group 6:30pm Mission Council 6:30pm Scout Troop 7:00pm Pentecostal Casa Music	15 9:30am Ensemble Music Clas 10:00am NHS Women's Art G 10:00am NHS Yoga 12:00pm Hybrid Bible Study 6:00pm Open Gym 6:30pm Continuous Action Av 7:00pm Bethel Choir Rehears 7:30pm Continuous Action Le
19 Bethel Bells Play 10:00am Bethel Worship 10:15am Faith Trek Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Time 1:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship 5:30pm Minneapolis Jo	20 Bethel Office Closed 10:00am CANMN Distribution 6:00pm Open Gym 7:00pm Bethel Bell Choir 7:00pm Bridge to Shore AA	21 9:00am OA HOW Meeting 9:30am The Curiosity Crew School 10:00am NHS Exercise 10:00am Staff Meeting 11:00am NHS 500 Cards Group 6:30pm Scout Troop 7:00pm Board of Administrators 7:00pm Pentecostal Casa Music	22 9:30am Ensemble Music Clas 10:00am NHS Women's Art G 10:00am NHS Yoga 12:00pm Hybrid Bible Study 6:00pm Open Gym 6:30pm Continuous Action Av 7:00pm Bethel Choir Rehears Herald Deadline 12:
26 Bethel Choir Sings 9:30am Thrivent Info Session 10:00am Bethel Worship 10:15am Faith Trek Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Time 1:00pm Pentecostal Casa Fellowship 1:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship 5:30pm Minneapolis Jo 7:00pm A Holy Experiment at Atonement	27 Bethel Office Closed 6:00pm Open Gym 7:00pm Bethel Bell Choir 7:00pm Bridge to Shore AA	28 9:00am OA HOW Meeting 9:30am The Curiosity Crew School 10:00am NHS Exercise 10:00am Staff Meeting 11:00am NHS 500 Cards Group 6:30pm Scout Troop 7:00pm Pentecostal Casa Music	29 9:30am Ensemble Music Clas 10:00am NHS Women's Art G 10:00am NHS Yoga 12:00pm Hybrid Bible Study 6:00pm Open Gym 6:30pm Continuous Action Av 7:00pm Bethel Choir Rehears

# AR - JANUARY 2025

day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
A	2 9:00am NHS Foot Care 9:30am NHS Nurse Is In/Blood Pressure 10:00am NHS Exercise 11:00am NHS Senior Discussion Group 7:00pm BNA Board Meeting 7:00pm Up A Creek AA 8:00pm Up A Creek AA Meeting	3 6:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship	4 9:00am AA Amigos 11:00am CANMN Distribution 3:00pm Celebration of Life: Mike Simons
g iroup A sal	9 9:30am NHS Nurse Is In/Blood Pressure 10:00am NHS Exercise 11:15am NHS Lunch and Bingo/Movie 3:00pm CANMN Distribution 7:00pm Up A Creek AA	10 6:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship	11 8:30am Cub Scout Pack 38 Meeting 9:00am AA Amigos 11:00am CANMN Distribution 3:00pm 2nd Saturday Concert 5:00pm Les Johnson Private Event <b>2ND SATURDAY</b> <i>Concerthy</i>
s iroup A al adership Meeting	16 9:30am NHS Nurse Is In/Blood Pressure 10:00am NHS Exercise 11:00am NHS Support As We Are 12:30pm Diabetes Support Group 3:00pm CANMN Distribution 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop 18896 7:00pm Up A Creek AA	17 9:30am Ensemble Music Class 6:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship	18 9:00am AA Amigos 11:00am CANMN Distribution
s iroup A ;al <b>00pm</b>	23 9:30am NHS Nurse Is In/Blood Pressure 10:00am NHS Exercise 11:00am NHS Caregiver Support Group 3:00pm CANMN Distribution 7:00pm Up A Creek AA	24 9:30am Ensemble Music Class 6:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship	25 8:30am Cub Scout Pack 38 Meeting 9:00am AA Amigos 11:00am CANMN Distribution
s iroup	30 9:30am NHS Nurse Is In/Blood Pressure 10:00am NHS Exercise 3:00pm CANMN Distribution 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop 18896 7:00pm Up A Creek AA	31 9:30am Ensemble Music Class 6:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship	1 9:00am AA Amigos 11:00am CANMN Distribution
al			

# **BIBLE STUDY** WITH PR BRENDA

Wednesdays at 12pm

Online meeting room: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81542792093



And in-person in the Fireside Room.

# **CHURCH STAFF** AND LEADERSHIP

Rev. Brenda Froisland, Pastor:

pastor@bethel-mpls.org

#### **Office Manager:**

**Regan Saunders** bethel@bethel-mpls.org

#### Music:

Bernie Asher, Music Director music2023@bethel-mpls.org Anne Phillips, Musician musician2023@bethel-mpls.org

#### **Finance Coordinator:** Teresa Klotz

assttreas@bethel-mpls.org **Assistant Custodians:** 

Rachel Allison, Kristian Ask, John Fleming, Michael Hauge, Jester Lewis, Bill Shy, Katie Simons, Franklin Wohnoutka

1/1

1/8

1/15

1/22

1/29

No Bible Study

Isaiah 43:1-3a Psalm 147

John 10:14-18

Luke 4:14-21

2 Corinthians 5:13-20

What is your favorite hymn?

#### Grant Manager:

Rev. Michelle Lewis grantmanager@bethel-mpls.org

For a full list of our staff and leadership
members, please visit our website:



# SUNDAY SERVERS

Date	Assisting Minister	Lector	Cantor	Sacristy	Ushers	Streaming	Hospitality	Altar Guild
1/5	Susan Johnson	Anna Olsen	Bernie Asher	Stephanie Johnson	Tom and Norris	Gene and Ted	Clarice Lovstuen	Libby, Laurie, &
1/12	Sharon Rodi	Dan Hauge	Janet Anderson	Marilyn Newborg	Dean and Dave S	Gene and Ted	Romell White	Libby, Laurie, &
1/19	Kristin Cleary	Ann Allison	Dean Anderson	Clarice Lovstuen	Susan and Jerry	Gene and Ted	Janet Anderson	Libby, Laurie, &
1/26	Anna Olsen	Darlene Olson	Sarah Berke	Marilyn Newborg	Dave K and Norris	Gene and Ted	Ann Allison	Libby, Laurie, &



#### **Birthdays**

Brock Hanson	1
Peter Laursen	1
Jay Lovstuen	4
Pat Gramentz	5
Karen Ramerth	9
Doug Psick	10
Grace Simons	10
Sue Dorumsgaard Ayers	17
Barb Wandberg	21
Jeff Kevelin	24
Mario Rolack, Jr.	24

Bree Rice	26
Beverly Berg	29
Eric Soderberg	29

If your birthday or anniversary is missing or incorrect, please let the office know so we can update our records! Thank you!

# JANUARY WORSHIP SERVICES

#### SUNDAYS AT 10AM | IN-PERSON AND ONLINE

JAN 5 - EPIPHANY CELEBRATION JAN 12 - HEALING SUNDAY JAN 19 - JUSTICE SUNDAY JAN 29 - RECONCILING IN CHRIST SUNDAY



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#### **PRAY FOR BETHEL MEMBERS**

Darlene Olson The family of Mike Simons Leonard Phillips Gert Carlson Jan Walker David and Sue Dorumsgaard Ayers Larissa Hoover Libby and Dave Krogh Warwick Family Pikkarainen Family Cannon Family Walker Family Karen McBride Sharon Phillips Laurel Jorgensen Kevin Hoover Gloria Condon Hundt Family Puckett Family Doris Christianson Darrell Dahl

#### MORE PEOPLE OF GOD

- Victims of natural and human disasters
- People of Ukraine, Israeli Citizens, and Palestinians in Gaza
- All of us regarding COVID, RSV, Flu, Mpox
- Black, Brown, Indigenous, and Asian Lives
- People without homes

#### MEMBERS, RELATIVES AND FRIENDS IN THE SERVICE

Katrel Bishop (Pr B's nephew) Adam Froisland (Pr B's nephew) Evan Harrison (Pr B's great nephew)

### PRAY FOR OUR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

Julian (Jan Walker's friend) Kevin and Sue Johnson (Les' brother and sister-in-law) Beth (Dan Hauge's sister) Kristian (Pr B's friend) Jane (Ann Allison's sister) Kathy (Krogh Family friend) Judy (Sue Dorumsgaard Ayers' step-mom) Steve (Pr B's brother) Michael (Marilyn Newborg's brother) Donovan (Angel Cannon's father) lan (Pr B's friend) Laura (Sue Dorumsgaard Ayers' friend) Rita (Sharon Phillip's friend) Calvin (Angel Cannon's godfather) Laura (Lisa Chovan Spence's sister) Wayne (Karen Warwick's dad) Trent and Michelle (Norma's Family) Darlene (Jeff Alberts' mom) Susan (Mike Condon's sister) John (Kathy Hundt's brother-in-law) Andrea (Mona Falk's daughter)

#### **BETHEL'S MISSION PARTNERS**

Bancroft Neighborhood Association Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church (BOLD)
 ReconcilingWorks Casa de Oracion - Pentecostal
 Mpls Area Synod Nokomis Healthy Seniors CANMN

For additions or revisions to the Prayer List, please contact Pastor Brenda: pastor@bethel-mpls.org or the Office: bethel@bethel-mpls.org (612) 724-3693

# STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

s Kristin mentioned in last month's Stewardship Update – thanks again to everyone who participated in and came to our Potato Hotdish Cook-off. We are looking forward to 2025's cook-off. (Please send us your suggestions for cook-off events/ideas.)

Also, big thanks again to everyone for your contributions to Bethel in 2024. 2025 looks to be another busy year with plenty of fun events coming up. (And of course many challenges, in and outside the church, on the way too.) I thought a stewardship poem for the beginning of 2025 would be a good way to start. I found this one online – thought I would share it. Positive thoughts for the new year.

"A fresh new year, a blank slate clean, A time to tend what's been unseen, With hearts renewed, we take our stand, As stewards of this precious land. The gifts we hold, both big and small, A trust from One who gives to all, From time and talent, to the earth below, With mindful hands, let kindness grow. In every choice, a chance to share, To nurture life with loving care, For every seed that we may sow, A harvest blooms, a future to know. So let us start this year anew, With grateful hearts, and purpose true, To be the keepers, one and all, And answer to the highest call."

Thanks for reading, Jerry Johnson

### MISSION COUNCIL REPORT

By the time you read this, it will be the new year 2025 with all our hopes, fears, disappointments, and joys ahead of us. The Mission Council and others at Bethel are working hard this year to align our programs with our mission and the mission of our partners and neighbors. We are also in the process of reviewing our mission statement.

The foundations of mission appear in Matthew 22, where Jesus says the two most important commandments are to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Jesus further states, "On these two commandments the whole Law is based -- and the Prophets as well" (Matt 22:40). Earlier this year, we heard in a sermon that whatever happens, let our responses be based on love; love for God, love for our neighbors and ourselves, and love for creation. Let us ground our intentions on the greater good God has in mind for us. I wish everyone a blessed and happy 2025.

Susan Johnson

a Holy Experiment

A ground-breaking worship experience that combines healing ritual, meditation, teaching, and movement. No dogma, just healing connections to the Divine. Come and play with us.

The following Sundays at 7pm:

Sunday, January 12 at Bethel led by Pr Brendai Sunday, January 26 at Atonement led by Pr Siri

Bethel - 4120 17th Ave S, Minneapolis Atonement - 601 E 98th Street, Bloomington



In gratitude, Bethel Lutheran Church amplifies God's grace, nourishes all creation, reaches out, and builds community.

• We are a Reconciling in Christ Congregation.

bethel-mpls.org

• Why a Public Church? To impact and enhance the community so that everyone feels a sense of love and belonging.

