



Herald

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Volume 88

Number 12

December 2024

PASTOR'S Ponderings

Advent greetings to each of you and to all those you love.

After a couple months of attending some Cottage Meetings and talking with several of you, I wanted to let you know some of what I learned.

Allow me to start with an invitation. There are a few of you who voiced interest in taking the trip in what I call "our catacombs." These are tunnels that go under the church and are a part of the solution to the time when the church was sinking in the 1960-70s. As your youth and family minister, I took the kids down there often, and we would do a short worship service underneath the pulpit. If you would like to join this group in exploring (it is not as intense as spelunking) please let me know and we will find a time for all of us. You will need to wear a hard hat or bike helmet.

At our Cottage Meetings, some folks indicated they liked the more positive energy that seems to be enveloping the congregation, especially after the April retreat with Pr Brenna Ziemet. There was some thanksgiving for new members and renewed Sunday school, as well as the fun of the Fall Festival. We had one discussion about if we are doing too much as a small congregation, yet we also talked about how great it is that we are getting better connected to our neighbors.

Some asked about the parking lot changes with chains and buckets. This is to respond to our neighbors' frustrations about people being noisy and doing donuts in our lot at all hours of the

night. Some asked about our sanctuary roof and solar panels. We are getting more money from our insurance company to move forward with plans for the sanctuary roof. The solar panels are working just fine, and I hope those of you who subscribed are getting your discounts. Others indicated we need some new transistor hearing devices for worship, and we are looking into this.

Finally, there was a question about my plans as your pastor, because some of you know that my wife has recently retired. My response was, "I have no plans to depart Bethel before my own retirement age, if you will continue to have me." Mary is six years older than me, so I have some work time left. I am also open for change if Bethel needs to change things, so know that you are also not stuck with me! I am very grateful to the Personnel and Board of Administrators members for granting me more vacation time, as I have been your pastor for 12+ years and have never had an increase in this. So, although I might be gone a bit more next year traveling with my retired wife, I intend to continue to serve this wonderful faith community.

If anyone wants to speak with me further or invite me to another Cottage Meeting at your home with a group of people, I am more than willing to meet with any or all of you. Know that my door is always open, and I would love to hear what you are thinking about Bethel - past, present, and future. Friends, we are doing just fine, and God blesses us more than we even know!



With you, for Jesus,

Pastor Brenda

BERNIE'S MUSIC UPDATE

As you read this, we give thanks for God's gifts, and wait expectantly in the season of Advent for Jesus' birth at Christmas. We have celebrated Reign of Christ Sunday on the last Sunday of the liturgical (or church) year, and we mark the new year with Advent.

I am thankful for many things after my first year at Bethel. First, a congregation that loves singing, and warmly welcomes visitors, the community, new members and a new Music Director, and music from different cultures. Second, talented and intuitive musicians who sing and play with devotion in our choirs. Third, Pastor Brenda, who sings as worship leader and choir member, and who loves and supports the role of music in worship. And fourth, Anne Phillips, our organist and pianist, who is musically gifted, knowledgeable in faith and the church, intuitive in leading the congregation in song, and wonderful at collaborating with me to lead music.

Artists make the difficult look easy, so we may overlook how accomplished they are. So I want to highlight Anne's talent by sharing links to a past story and performance that featured her and other young organists continuing the life of the organ in contemporary church music. I was thrilled to have a "Hey, there she is!" moment when I found these, and I hope you enjoy the artistry Anne brings to us at Bethel.

- pipedreams.org/episode/2005/07/04/twenty-somethings
- thecatholicspirit.com/culture/faith-and-culture/young_organists_pave_way_as_professional_liturgical_musicians/

This Advent, I look forward to our next 2nd Saturday concert on December 14th at 3:00 pm, with AGAPE (David Scherer), a Christian hip-hop and spoken word artist from a family of pastors, whom I first heard at Luther Seminary. I warmly encourage you to attend! You may be surprised, as I was, how hip-hop gives voice to the struggles and joys of our faith.

I look forward to Christ's birth and the solemn observations and celebrations that mark these high holy days (or holidays). As a child, I treasured my mother's Swiss-German tradition of waiting in my darkened bedroom on Christmas Eve with my father for her to greet the Christ Child. A little bell was rung, and we emerged to see the illuminated Christmas tree and gifts. I eagerly await with you in the darkness of Advent for the Christ Child to leave us gifts of peace, grace, and hope this Christmas. I invite you to celebrate together in worship and song in this blessed community at Bethel.

Blessings,

Bernie Asher

music2023@bethel-mpls.org



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH'S
2ND SATURDAY

Concert Series

Join us at 3pm every 2nd Saturday of the month
November 2024 through March 2025 for an afternoon of beautiful music.

3:00PM SHOW DOORS 2:30PM

Suggested \$10 Donation



AGAPE -- DAVID SCHERER
SATURDAY, DEC. 14

BRET HESLA
SATURDAY, JAN. 11

MINNESOTA BOYCHOIR
SATURDAY, FEB. 8

TOO OLD CAT
SATURDAY, MAR. 8



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH | 4120 17th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN | bethel-mpls.org

MICHELLE'S GRANTS UPDATE

Dear Bethel,

Thank you for participating in the Grants life of Bethel! This year, you participated in Thrivent Action Teams, bringing in more than \$2,000 to Bethel to help us feed volunteers, celebrate our Fall Festival well, and to help purchase supplies to clean up our property this spring!

You also participated in Give to the Max Day '24, helping Bethel raise funds for new ministry outreach to establish Queer Safe Sober Space at Bethel. Thanks to your participation and matching funds from the Lenore Bevis Memorial, we raised \$3975.00 for a new ministry! It is exciting to pursue new opportunities to meet the people God will bring to us and to see where those relationships will lead Bethel.

In October, Bethel was awarded a \$750 grant from the Fairview Interfaith Health Collaborative. These funds will be used to offer an evening "Paint the Town" canvas painting and hors d'oeuvres event in the summer of 2025. Thanks to the support of funders like Fairview, Bethel is bringing people together to learn, laugh, and lean on each other.

I am happy to report too that we have been spending our other grant funds! We are hosting events and thinking creatively how to leverage our community's gifts and skills to equip Bethel to pursue new ministry opportunities!

Peace and Joy to you,

Rev. Michelle Lewis

grantmanager@bethel-mpls.org
651-226-6804



We are in need of

LITTLE FREE PANTRY DONATIONS



We Accept:

- non-perishable foods
- canned items:
 - especially meat and canned fruit with flip-top lids
- boxed meals
- personal care items
- bottled water



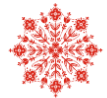
We Do Not Accept:

- used clothing
- DVDs and other media
- kitchen utensils or knives
- open food/personal care items
- perishable foods or foods needing refrigeration



Join us for our free

COMMUNITY FUN NIGHT



DECEMBER FUN NIGHT

Thursday, Dec. 12, 5:30-7:30pm

Meal: Chili Dogs

Activity: Make a Gift



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4120 17th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN

bethel-mpls.org



FEASIBILITY UPDATE

Last month we were focused on three areas of our work. Here is a brief update on each of those.

- We are still waiting to continue our discussion with El Colegio as they begin working on adding grades K-8 to their school.
- Our lawyers will soon be taking a look at our contracts with Crown Castle, the owners of the monopole.
- We have found a professional organization that may potentially be who we hire to conduct a neighborhood survey. We are working on what questions we would like to ask our neighbors. We will meet with a representative from this company at our December meeting.

We are also looking at revisions for our mission statement to help us match it up with what the neighborhood needs and what future potential partners may be interested in as a mission in this neighborhood. Please keep in mind that this process of finding partnerships for our building is going to take some time.

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

BOARD OF ADMINISTRATORS

The Board of Administrators held our Bagels with the Board event on November 17 before worship. Thanks to those of you who were able to join us for that. Having that time set aside to connect, communicate, and keep people in the know is important.

Also on November 17, the Board of Administrators and Mission Council had a joint meeting. We had some homework for this meeting, reviewing and thinking about our mission statement and other statements that we use. We had a nice start to a discussion about this and notes from that will be shared with the Feasibility Study Group. We also talked about possible new renters and the need to review some of our lesser-used spaces to determine if they could be available for longer-term

rental. We have really increased our income from rentals this year and it sounds like the goal for next year will be even higher.

Some things coming up in the near and longer term are creating next year's budget and conducting an internal audit. Then we will set a date for our next Congregational Meeting to be held in February or March.




Thank you for being a part of this community.

Stephanie Johnson
On behalf of the Board

MINISTRY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
<p>1</p> <p>10:00am Bethel Worship 10:15am Faith Trek Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Time 1:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship 5:30pm Minneapolis Jo 7:00pm A Holy Experiment at Bethel</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Bethel Office Closed 10:00am CANMN Distribution 6:00pm Open Gym 7:00pm Bethel Bell Choir 7:00pm Bridge to Shore AA</p>	<p>3</p> <p>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</p>	<p>4</p> <p>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 6:30pm Nokomis Quilters 7:00pm Bethel Choir Rehears</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Bethel Choir Sings 10:00am Bethel Worship 10:00am Buy Nothing Bancroft Event 10:15am Faith Trek Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Time 1:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship 5:30pm Minneapolis Jo</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Bethel Office Closed 2:00pm Feasibility Study Team 6:00pm Open Gym 7:00pm Bethel Bell Choir 7:00pm Bridge to Shore AA 8:00pm Bridge to Shore AA - Meeting</p>	<p>10</p> <p>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 6:30pm Mission Council 6:30pm Scout Troop 7:00pm Pentecostal Casa Music</p>	<p>11</p> <p>(No Open Gym) 8:00am NHS Holiday party Se 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</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Bethel Bells Play 10:00am Bethel Worship 10:15am Faith Trek Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Time 1:00pm Casa De Oracion Event 1:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship 5:30pm Minneapolis Jo 7:00pm A Holy Experiment at Atonement</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Bethel Office Closed 10:00am CANMN Distribution 6:00pm Open Gym 7:00pm Bethel Bell Choir 7:00pm Bridge to Shore AA</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00am OA HOW Meeting 10:00am NHS Exercise 10:00am Staff Meeting 11:00am NHS 500 Cards Group 12:00pm Curiosity Crew Movie & Lunch 6:30pm Scout Troop 7:00pm Board of Administrators 7:00pm Pentecostal Casa Music</p>	<p>18</p> <p>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</p> <p>Herald Deadline 12:</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Bethel Choir Sings 10:00am Bethel Worship 11:00am Fellowship Time 1:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship 5:30pm Minneapolis Jo</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Bethel Office Closed 6:00pm Open Gym 7:00pm Bethel Bell Choir 7:00pm Bridge to Shore AA</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:00am OA HOW Meeting 10:00am Staff Meeting 4:00pm Bethel Christmas Eve Worship 6:30pm Scout Troop 7:00pm Pentecostal Casa Music 8:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship</p>	<p>25</p> <p>BETHEL OFFICE AND BUILDING Bethel Worship Online Only 6:30pm Continuous Action Av</p> 
<p>29</p> <p>10:00am Bethel Worship 11:00am Fellowship Time 1:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship 5:30pm Minneapolis Jo</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Bethel Office Closed 6:00pm Open Gym 7:00pm Bethel Bell Choir 7:00pm Bridge to Shore AA</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:00am OA HOW Meeting 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Scout Troop 7:00pm Pentecostal Casa Music 8:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship</p>	<p>1</p> <p>BETHEL OFFICE AND BUILDING 6:30pm Continuous Action Av</p> 

AR - DECEMBER 2024

Monday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Group</p> <p>A</p> <p>gal</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00am NHS Foot Care 9:30am NHS Nurse Is In/Blood Pressure 10:00am NHS Exercise 11:00am NHS Roundtable Discussions 3:00pm CANMN Distribution 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop 18896 7:00pm BNA Board Meeting</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:30am Cub Scout Pack 38 Meeting 9:00am AA Amigos 11:00am CANMN Distribution 12:00pm Wild Goose Chase Cloggers Holiday Show</p>
<p>et-up</p> <p>roup</p> <p>A</p> <p>gal</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30am NHS Nurse Is In/Blood Pressure 10:00am NHS Exercise 10:30am NHS Holiday Party 3:00pm CANMN Distribution 5:30pm Community Fun Night</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>6:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00am AA Amigos 11:00am CANMN Distribution 3:00pm 2nd Saturday Concert</p> <p>2ND SATURDAY <i>Concert Series</i></p>
<p>roup</p> <p>A</p> <p>gal</p> <p>adership Meeting</p> <p>00pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:30am NHS Nurse Is In/Blood Pressure 10:00am NHS Exercise 11:00am Diabetes Support Group 11:00am NHS Let's talk About Loss 3:00pm CANMN Distribution 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop 18896</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship Vigil</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00am AA Amigos 11:00am CANMN Distribution</p>
<p>IG CLOSED</p> <p>A</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>3:00pm CANMN Distribution</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00am AA Amigos 11:00am CANMN Distribution</p>
<p>IG CLOSED</p> <p>A</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>9:00am NHS Foot Care 9:30am NHS Nurse Is In/Blood Pressure 10:00am NHS Exercise 11:00am NHS Roundtable Discussions 3:00pm CANMN Distribution 7:00pm BNA Board Meeting 7:00pm Up A Creek AA 8:00pm Up A Creek AA Meeting</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00am AA Amigos 11:00am CANMN Distribution</p>

BIBLE STUDY WITH PR BRENDA

Wednesdays at 12pm

Online meeting room:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81542792093>



12/4	Luke 1:67-80, Luke 3:1-6
12/11	Isaiah 12:2-6, Luke 1:26-38
12/18	Luke 1:39-55
12/25	No Bible Study

And in-person in the Fireside Room.

CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

Rev. Brenda Froisland, Pastor:

pastor@bethel-mpls.org

Music:

Bernie Asher, Music Director

music2023@bethel-mpls.org

Anne Phillips, Musician

musician2023@bethel-mpls.org

Office Manager:

Regan Saunders

bethel@bethel-mpls.org

Finance Coordinator:

Teresa Klotz

assttreas@bethel-mpls.org

Facilities Manager:

Rachel Allison

headcustodian@bethel-mpls.org

Assistant Custodians:

Kristian Ask, John Fleming,

Michael Hauge, Jester Lewis, Bill Shy,

Katie Simons, Franklin Wohnoutka

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
12/1	Susan Johnson	Libby Krogh	Dean Anderson	Stephanie Johnson	Tom	Gene and Ted	Alice Evenson	Barb and Barb
12/8	Sharon Rodi	Norma Lanning	Janet Anderson	Marilyn Newborg	Dean and Dave S	Gene and Ted	Sharon Rodi	Barb and Barb
12/15	Kristin Cleary	Jerry Johnson	Bernie Asher	Clarice Lovstuen	Susan and Jerry	Gene and Ted	Joan Bargman	Barb and Barb
12/22	Ann Allison	Sharon Rodi	Sarah Berke	Marilyn Newborg	Dave K and Norris	Gene and Ted	Laurie Hauge	Barb and Barb
12/29	Anna Olsen	Anna Wohnoutka	Kristin Cleary	Marilyn Newborg	Dean and Dave	Gene and Ted	Wohnoutkas	Barb and Barb



DECEMBER

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

Mary Rosby	11
Chris Phillips	15
Diane Jackson	19
Jim Cleary	19
Michael Hauge	21
Theodore Jay Helgren	24
Teondre Martinez	25
Louise Fleming	28
Gail Hanson	31

Wedding Anniversaries

Ken and Leanne Puckett	18
Stan and Mary Rosby	19
Dave and Katie Sunde	22

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



STARTING IN NOVEMBER



We are collecting coats, hats, scarves, and mittens for the homeless!

Please drop them off at Bethel before December 31, 2024.



PRAYER list...

PRAY FOR BETHEL MEMBERS

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

PRAY FOR OUR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

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)
Ian (Pr B's friend)
Laura (Sue Dorumsgaard Ayers' friend)
Rita (Sharon Phillip's friend)
Calvin (Angel Cannon's godfather)
Sandie (Anna Wohnoutka's aunt)
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)

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
- Refugees, Migrants and Asylum Seekers
- People dying due to gun violence

MEMBERS, RELATIVES

AND FRIENDS IN THE SERVICE

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

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

Thank you to everyone who prepared delicious hot dishes, made tasty desserts, and brought salads to our Potato Hotdish Cook-off on Sunday, November 10! Thank you also to everyone who helped set up, serve and clean up. Jerry Johnson's ham au gratin potatoes got the most votes; congrats to him for the second year in a row! I promise, even though he's a member of the Stewardship committee, the voting wasn't rigged (although a recount was almost demanded – all in good fun, I think!). It was so nice to see members and visitors gathering together for good food and conversation. There will be more opportunities to gather this month, including Advent services, Community Fun Night, a 2nd Saturday concert, and our Christmas Eve service. If you haven't already, please turn in your promise cards to the church office. We are blessed by the support of Bethel members to continue all of our wonderful ministries as we remember our history and God's promises, while reimagining what the future will hold.

Thanks for reading,
Kristin Cleary

MISSION COUNCIL REPORT

I trust everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and is looking forward to the rest of the Holiday Season. The Mission Council met twice in November, our regular meeting and a joint meeting with the Board of Administrators. At our regular meeting, Pastor Michelle reminded us how important humor can be to our health, especially during times of stress. A good belly laugh can release a lot of stress and tension. Consider finding a way to bring some humor into your life, such as by watching a comedy or trading jokes with friends.

We reviewed Trunk or Treat, which went well with about 150 attendees. At the joint meeting with the Board of Administrators, we talked about a variety of topics, including appointing a committee to review the possible transitioning of underused rooms at Bethel. We also did some work on the Mission Statement review. Looking ahead, Bethel is holding another Community Fun Night on December 12. We will be making gifts and have chili dogs + chili. I hope we will see you there!

Susan Johnson

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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bethel-mpls.org | [YouTube@bethelmpls](https://www.youtube.com/bethelmpls)



Herald

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4120 17th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN, 55407

bethel-mpls.org | 612-724-3693

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

- We are a Reconciling in Christ Congregation.
- Why a Public Church? To impact and enhance the community so that everyone feels a sense of love and belonging.

Christmas

at Bethel:



December 24, 4pm
December 25, online only

