

Bethel Herald

VOLUME 88 NUMBER 1 - JANUARY 2024

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Pastor's Ponderings

Do you know what tennis, cooking, spirituality, bridge, ASL and deaf culture, drumming, crafts, drawing, and chess have in common? They are all a part of an outreach program we are doing in February and March of 2024.

That is right, each Monday evening in those two months, you, your family, friends, strangers, and all our neighbors will have several opportunities to learn something new at our **Bethel**

Community Education Pilot Program.

In fact, we are putting together classes adults can take with their kids/ grandkids (drumming, tennis, crafts, and drawing) or adults can take on their own (spirituality, cooking, or chess). Maybe you want to bring a friend or two and learn how to play bridge, American Sign Language, or more about Ho'oponopono.

Everyone will have the chance to sign up (and pay for) individual classes and/or a series of classes. We have several folks from Bethel helping out with teaching, as well as friends and acquaintances of our members. What might you want to learn throughout February and March?

We are aiming to launch our sign-up platform no later than January 3, 2024. Watch for more information on our website, in



Rev. Brenda Froisland Pastor

our emails, on Facebook and Instagram, on Nextdoor, and in the US mail.

We are excited about how this sort of outreach might give us all the chance to meet new neighbors, make more friends, and share our resources.

Below is a chart of what classes will most likely be offered during our pilot program in 2024. Will you join us for some fun and learning?

You know you want to join us! Watch for more explanation and how to sign up! See you at Bethel's Community Education Pilot Program!

With you, for Jesus!

Pastor Brenda

Date	8 week series	Kid centered	Two 4-week	4-week series
Feb 5	Healthy and Balanced Spirituality	Drumming	ASL and the Deaf culture	

Feb 12	Tarot and our intuition	Drumming	ASL and the Deaf Culture	
Feb 19	Meditation and Chanting	Tennis	ASL and the Deaf Culture	
Feb 26	Chakras Part 1	Tennis	ASL and the Deaf Culture	
Mar 4	Chakras Part 2	Drawing	Learn to play Bridge	Cookbook Club
Mar 11	Yoga and the Mind-Body Connection	Drawing	Learn to play Bridge	Cookbook Club
Mar 18	Creating a Spiritual Practice	Craft	Learn to play Bridge	Cookbook Club
Mar 25	Ho'oponopono, forgiveness, and compassion	Craft	Learn to play Bridge	Cookbook Club

AS THIS YEAR COMES TO AN END, I'M GRATEFUL FOR ALL OF THE HELP I'VE RECEIVED FROM MANY OF YOU IN THE BETHEL COMMUNITY. I APPRECIATE HOW YOU HAVE GIVEN YOUR TIME AND KINDNESS TO ME. YOUR GIFTS, EVEN YOUR SMILES, ARE THE BEST KIND. SOME OF YOU HAVE SARCASM THAT MATCHES MINE, AND I LOVE THAT ABOUT EACH OF YOU! SOME OF YOU HAVE PRACTICALLY ADOPTED ME AS YOUR OWN, AND I APPRECIATE THAT MORE THAN YOU KNOW.

THANK YOU FOR ALL OF THE CONVERSATIONS, THE SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE BETHEL STRONGER, THE PUSH TO HAVE NEW ART AROUND BETHEL, AND FOR JUST HAVING POSITIVE VIBES FOR THE MAJORITY OF











Michelle's Grant Update

A big shout out of thanks to Clarice and Norris Lovstuen and to Ruth Aaskov for sharing their Thrivent Action Teams in 2023 with Bethel. The seed money that Thrivent offers for Service, Education, or Fundraising events provided the funds for the new flags that you will see waving around at the church building! The seed money also helped/will help with purchasing food and supplies for the December, January, and March Community Fun Nights!

We have a gorgeous array of the Bethel colors and the Bethel logo on each flag and a new way to advertise and draw attention to the activities Bethel offers the neighborhood on a weekly or monthly basis.

If you are a Thrivent member, I'll be reaching out soon to enact your Action Teams here at Bethel. If you are not a Thrivent member, you can become an associate member for \$25 and receive one Action Team (\$250) annually. Let me



know if you are interested in pursuing that opportunity.

Meanwhile, enjoy the lively new colors at the church building!

Peace and Joy to you, Rev. Michelle







Join us for our free COMMUNITY

FUN NIGHTS

JANUARY FUN NIGHT

Thursday, Jan. 11, 5:30pm-7:30pm

Free Meal at 5:30-6:15pm: Waffles Activity: Make sandwiches for

The Sandwich Project



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4120 17th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN bethel-mpls.org



Stewardship Corner

What Awaits in the Future?

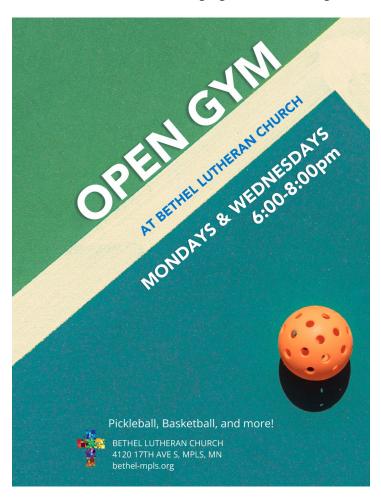
As we wait to hear more from our feasibility study I know most of our members are wondering what is going to happen to Bethel in the near (and later) future? We pretty much know how things have changed over the last 20 years or so. Being in the middle of a large city with an ever increasing diverse society – we know it's no surprise that the whitest denomination in the country is having membership decline. (Its peak was when the Baby Boomers were kids and now they are all older as time marches on.)

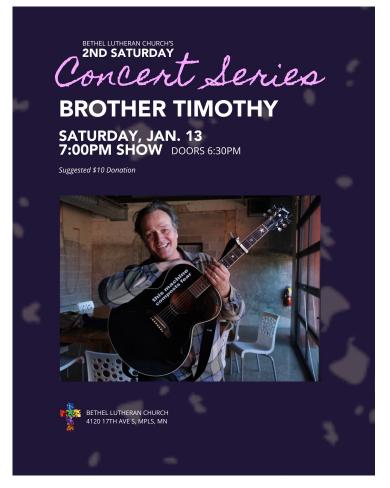
But it's not just the ELCA - it's the same with most all inner-city denominations of any type. And of course we know that the pandemic just made any difficulties worse. I read an interesting quote today from people trying to figure out what to do in the ECLA – "Acknowledging the predominant racial and ethnic makeup of the denomination is a necessary first step in considering to what degree the Lutheran Church's liturgical traditions perpetuate the apparent exclusion of black, indigenous and persons of color." A lot of people have been looking at this – most of us in our congregation have thought

about it too, I'm sure. But what I see in our own little reality at Bethel - as for trying to be more inclusive – I think Bethel does an excellent job of accepting everyone of all types and Pastor Brenda brings in new ideas, new thinking and different ways of doing old things in a new way - most all the time. But I think it's really hard to get the word out. Really, really hard – especially to the people that would be interested.

It looks like a super tough road to keep going on – but that's how it's going to be for a while. We have to keep working so that outreach is more than a check mailed somewhere, and make it who and what we are in our neighborhoods. We also need to keep accepting society as changing and adapt to meet people where they are, just as Christ meets us where we are, each day. I read another great quote today, "From every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, is the vision from which, and out of which, every church must live."

Thanks for reading – Stay tuned – More to come. **Jerry Johnson**





Feasibility Study Team Report

As you read the latest about what our committee has been discussing, please remember that NO long-term decisions have been made about any changes for Bethel's building in the future, and that all major decisions will be decided by congregational vote.

We are currently in the process of:

- Finding out what would be required to get Bethel's kitchen commercially licensed. There is a demand for commercial kitchen use.
- Contacting surrounding neighborhood organizations, including Bancroft Neighborhood Association where we are located, and contacting Minneapolis City Council members so that they can keep us in mind when they hear of potential groups/organizations who may be looking for partnership opportunities.
- Meeting with representatives of two local schools who may be looking for space.

- Learning more about tiny homes built on the parking lot at a Roseville church.
- Awaiting a proposal from Flourish Placemaking, consultants in church partnerships, to see if we want to hire them to help us through this process.

We ask for your prayers and support as we continue to learn and discuss potential ideas for Bethel.

Please, if you have questions, ask about what we are learning. You can talk to any of us in person or email feasibility@bethel-mpls.org

Committee members:

Jim Lair, Laurie Hauge, Don Olson, Ann Allison, Andrea Allie, Gene Rodi, and Pastor Brenda (ex-officio)



Welcome, Anne!

It is our pleasure to welcome Anne Phillips to our music team. Anne is Bethel's new musician and has been playing accompaniment for our worship services as well as for our Bethel Vocal Choir.

Anne has been with us since November 26th, and has slid onto the organ and piano benches with ease and delightful talent. It is wonderful to hear the organ on a more regular basis again!

Anne has been a church musician since playing for services in middle school. She studied liturgical music and theology at the College of St Benedict and St John's University and has been playing for churches in the Twin Cities ever since. She loves to travel, hike in the mountains, run long distances, and relax on her standup paddleboard. Her other job is at REI in Bloomington, so if you are there, be sure to say hello.

Let's all thank Anne for joining us, and let her know how much we love what she adds to our faith community!

MINISTRY CALENDA

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wedr
31 10:00am Bethel Worship 11:00am Fellowship Time 1:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship 5:00pm Pentecostal Casa Potluck	1 Bethel Office Closed 7:00pm Bridge to Shore AA	2 9:00am OA HOW Meeting 10:00am Staff Meeting 11:00am NHS 500 Cards Group 6:30pm Scout Troop 7:00pm Pentecostal Casa Music	3 10:00am NHS Yoga 12:00pm Hybrid Bibl 3:15pm El Colegio G 5:45pm Bethel Bell C 6:00pm Open Gym 6:30pm Continuous 7:00pm Bethel Choir
7 EPIPHANY SUNDAY 10:00am Bethel Worship 11:00am Fellowship Time 1:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship	8 Bethel Office Closed 10:54am El Colegio Gym Class 3:08pm El Colegio Gym Class 4:00pm Feasibility Study Team 6:00pm Open Gym 7:00pm Bridge to Shore AA 8:00pm Bridge to Shore AA - Meeting	9 9:00am OA HOW Meeting 10:00am Staff Meeting 11:00am NHS 500 Cards Group 11:00am Operation Love Quilters 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop #14854 Meeting 6:30pm Scout Troop 7:00pm Pentecostal Casa Music	10 9:00am Ensemble M 10:00am Building & 10:00am NHS Yoga 10:40am El Colegio (12:00pm Hybrid Bibl 5:45pm Bethel Bell (6:00pm Open Gym 6:30pm Continuous 7:00pm Bethel Choir
14 JUSTICE SUNDAY 10:00am Bethel Worship 11:00am Fellowship Time 1:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship 5:00pm Pentecostal Casa Potluck	15 MLK, Jr. HOLIDAY Bethel Building Closed 6:00pm Open Gym 7:00pm Bridge to Shore AA	9:00am OA HOW Meeting 10:00am Staff Meeting 10:54am El Colegio Gym Class 11:00am NHS 500 Cards Group 3:08pm El Colegio Gym Class 6:30pm Scout Troop 7:00pm Pentecostal Casa Music	17 9:00am Ensemble M 10:00am NHS Yoga 10:40am El Colegio G 12:00pm Hybrid Bibl 3:15pm El Colegio G 5:45pm Bethel Bell G 6:00pm Open Gym 6:30pm Continuous 7:00pm Bethel Choir 7:30pm Continuous Meeting Herald Deadl
21 PEACE SUNDAY 10:00am Bethel Worship 11:00am Fellowship Time 11:15am Joint Leadership Meeting 1:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship	22 Bethel Office Closed 10:54am El Colegio Gym Class 3:08pm El Colegio Gym Class 4:00pm Feasibility Study Team 6:00pm Open Gym 7:00pm Bridge to Shore AA	23 9:00am OA HOW Meeting 10:00am Staff Meeting 10:54am El Colegio Gym Class 11:00am NHS 500 Cards Group 3:08pm El Colegio Gym Class 6:30pm Scout Troop 7:00pm Pentecostal Casa Music	24 9:00am Ensemble M 10:00am NHS Yoga 10:40am El Colegio (12:00pm Hybrid Bibl 3:15pm El Colegio G 5:45pm Bethel Bell (6:00pm Open Gym 6:30pm Continuous 7:00pm Bethel Choir
28 RIC SUNDAY 10:00am Bethel Worship 11:00am Fellowship Time 1:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship 5:00pm Pentecostal Casa Potluck	29 Bethel Office Closed 6:00pm Open Gym 7:00pm Bridge to Shore AA	30 9:00am OA HOW Meeting 10:00am Staff Meeting 11:00am NHS 500 Cards Group 6:30pm Scout Troop 7:00pm Pentecostal Casa Music	31 9:00am Ensemble M 10:00am NHS Yoga 12:00pm Hybrid Bibl 5:45pm Bethel Bell C 6:00pm Open Gym 6:30pm Continuous 7:00pm Bethel Choir

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nesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
e Study ym Class Thoir Action AA	4 9:00am NHS Foot Care 11:00am NHS Roundtable Discussions 3:15pm El Colegio Gym Class 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop 18896 7:00pm BNA Board Meeting	5 6:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship	6 9:00am AA Amigos
usic Class Grounds Mtg Gym Class e Study Choir Action AA	11 5:30pm Community Fun Night COMMUNITY FUN NIGHTS	12 9:00am Ensemble Music Class 6:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship	13 9:00am AA Amigos 7:00pm 2nd Saturday Concert 2ND SATURDAY Leviles
usic Class Gym Class e Study ym Class Choir Action AA	18 12:30pm NHS Diabetes Support Group 3:15pm El Colegio Gym Class 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop 18896 - Molly Rosa	19 9:00am Ensemble Music Class 6:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship	20 8:30am Cub Scout Pack 38 Meeting 9:00am AA Amigos
Action Leadership		Herald Printing 12:00pm	
usic Class Gym Class e Study ym Class Choir Action AA	25	26 9:00am Ensemble Music Class 6:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship	9:00am AA Amigos
usic Class le Study Choir Action AA	SAVE the DATE	Bethel's Annu Sunday, Marc	

Bethel Bible Study with Pastor Brenda

Wednesdays at 12pm

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



And in-person in the Fireside Room.

1/3	Matthew 2:1-15
1/10	Psalm 146 Isaiah 64
1/17	Hebrews 13:20-21 Philippians 4:1-9
1/24	Amos 5:24 Romans 8: 31-39
1/31	Hymns

Bethel Lutheran Church Staff and Leadership

Rev. Brenda Froisland, Pastor:

pastor@bethel-mpls.org

Music:

Bernie Asher music2023@bethel-mpls.org

Office Manager:

Regan Saunders bethel@bethel-mpls.org

Finance Coordinator:

Teresa Klotz assttreas@bethel-mpls.org

Facilities Manager:

Rachel Allison headcustodian@bethelmpls.org

Assistant Custodians:

Michael Hauge, Nicole Larson, Joe Pace, Bill Shy, Katie Simons

Grant Manager:

Rev. Michelle Lewis grantmanager@bethel mpls.org

Board of Administrators:

boa@bethel-mpls.org
Sarah Berke, President
Tom Keating, Vice President
Doug Psick, Treasurer
Stephanie Johnson, Secretary
Dean Anderson, At-Large
Jayson Spence, At-Large

Mission Council:

missioncouncil@bethel-mpls.org
Janet Anderson, Chair
Candice Hickenbotham
Barb Wandberg
Anna Wohnoutka
Olivia Wohnoutka

Visitation Committee:

Sharon Rodi, Coordinator

Children, Youth & Family Committee:

Currently inactive

Stewardship Committee:

Jerry Johnson, Chair Kristin Cleary Karen Tennis

Personnel Committee:

Tom Keating, Chair Jeff Alberts Laurie Hauge Don Olson Barb Saunders

Endowment Committee:

Don Olson, Chair Paige Best Pat Gramentz Doug Psick Ann Allison Sarah Psick

Building and Grounds Committee:

Rachel Allison, Chair Jim Lair Anna Olsen Gene Rodi

Feasibility Study Team

feasibility@bethel-mpls.org Jim Lair, Chair Andrea Allie Don Olson Ann Allison Gene Rodi Laurie Hauge

February Herald Deadline: Wednesday, January 17 12:00pm

Bethel Mission Council is looking for one more member to help us dream about ministry. Would you like to join us? Talk to Pr Brenda or Janet Anderson.



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
Jon Melson	30

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

January Sunday Servers

Date	Assisting Minister	Lector	Cantor	Sacristy	Ushers	Streaming	Hospitality	Altar Guild
1/7	Anna Olsen	Kristin Cleary	Bernie Asher	Stephanie Johnson	Norris & Tom	Gene & Ted	Clarice Lovstuen	Libby, Laurie, Anna
1/14	Kristin Cleary	Norma Lanning	Janet Anderson	Marilyn Newborg	Dean & Dave Sunde	Gene & Ted	Laurie Hauge	Libby, Laurie, Anna
1/21	Ann Allison	Dan Hauge	Dean Anderson	Clarice Lovstuen	Susan & Jerry	Gene & Ted	Janet Anderson	Libby, Laurie, Anna
1/28	Susan Potratz	Darlene Olson	Kristin Cleary	Marilyn Newborg	Dave Krogh	Gene & Ted	Ann Allison	Libby, Laurie, Anna



PRAY FOR BETHEL MEMBERS

Mike and Grace Karen McBride Simons and Jon Cannon Family Sharon Phillips Cole Mann-Entzel Gert Carlson The Walker Family Laurel Jorgensen Sharon Rodi Kevin Hoover Libby Krogh Gloria Condon **Teddy Gaines Hundt Family** Lynn Vaughn-Teondre Martinez Arradondo Puckett Family Sue Dorumsgaard Andy Martinson Doris Christianson Ayers Romell White Pikkarainen Family Ray Pikkarainen, Darrell Dahl Marge Hauge Crystal Vaughn's leff Fossum Sarah Psick Family Larissa Hoover

PRAY FOR OUR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

Michael Erickson (Marilyn Newborg's brother) Miranda Lang (Chilvers' Family friend) Susie George and Family Laura (AnnE's sister) Angela (Tom and AnnE's granddaughter) Donovan (Angel Cannon's father) Ian Cook (Pr B's friend) Amy Lynn D (Sue Dorumsgaard Ayers' sister) Amy Lynn H (Sue Dorumsgaard Ayers' friend) Laura (Sue Dorumsgaard Ayers' friend) Rita Zdon (Sharon Phillip's friend) Calvin (Angel Cannon's godfather) Sandie (Anna Wohnoutka's aunt) Kristian Clauser (Pastor Brenda's friend) Della, Drew and Junior (Roberta Horning's Family) Laura Chovan (Lisa's sister) Wayne (Karen Warwick's dad) Trent and Michelle Halvorson (Norma's Family) Darlene (Jeff Alberts' mom)

MORE PEOPLE OF GOD

- Victims of natural and human disasters
- People of Ukraine
- All of us regarding COVID-19, RSV, Flu, Mpox
- Black and Brown Lives
- Indigenous Lives
- Asian Lives
- Refugees, Migrants and Asylum Seekers
- Palestinians in Gaza
- Israeli Citizens
- People dying due to gun violence

MEMBERS, RELATIVES and FRIENDS IN THE SERVICE

John Hundt (Kathy Hundt's brother-in-law)

Robert Hundt

Katrel Bishop (Pr Brenda's nephew) Adam Froisland (Pr Brenda's nephew) Dwana Froisland (Pr Brenda's niece) Sean Young (Pr Brenda's godson)

Susan (Mike Condon's sister)

Andrea (Mona Falk's daughter)

Gabe Ness (Julie Hundt's husband)

Evan Harrison (Pr Brenda's great nephew)

BETHEL'S MISSION PARTNERS

- ❖Bancroft Neighborhood Association
 ❖Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church (BOLD)
 - - Mpls Area Synod Nokomis Healthy Seniors

Board of Administrators

Greetings from the Board of Administrators!

This year, we've been meeting in joint session with the Mission Council every other month, and as just the Board on the opposite months.

In November, the Board and Mission Council together discussed progress and goals for our three joint congregational priorities: the feasibility task force, the anniversary celebration, and our ongoing ministry. It's exciting to work together and amazing to imagine how much we'll have to celebrate and work with by June.

In December, the Board caught up with some updates and started making plans for a new year. Mark

your calendars for our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, March 10, and consider whether you may be called to serve on a leadership group next year as the nominating committee starts to convene.

As one of our last acts in 2023, the Board also took a few minutes to celebrate Pastor Brenda. While Clergy Appreciation Month, formally, is in October, we're grateful for Pastor Brenda and the many gifts she shares with us here at Bethel all year round!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Sarah Berke

Bernie's Message



Bernie Asher Music Director

In January we celebrate Epiphany, or the revealing of Jesus to the world, with a song that the choir will lead: "Arise, Shine" by Ruth Cunningham. Cunningham quotes Isaiah 60:1, "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you." This is a "paperless" song that we sang in September, so it may sound familiar. Because we are learning and singing by

ear as people did for millenia before printed music became widespread, we have the opportunity to look up and share God's Word in song with each other.

I learned "Arise, Shine" from Music That Makes Community, an organization that teaches and supports paperless singing. One of its founders, Donald Schell, says, "Learning something by ear asks us to listen for both memorable pattern and surprises." I invite you to be surprised by new songs, by the renewed joy of songs you already know, and by the connections you make with your siblings in Christ as we pray to God and listen to God's Word in

Bernie Asher

Mission Council Report

At our December Mission Council meeting, we primarily looked at upcoming Community Fun Nights. We have tentative plans in place for January through March. Please be open to coming to the events, both as a volunteer and a participant. So far we have been pleased with the opportunity to meet new neighbors, participate in activities or presentations, and eat delicious food! Plans for months beyond March will be planned at upcoming meetings. If you any ideas, let us know.

Mission Council has also considered various service projects that Bethel could be involved with, perhaps with another congregation. A young member mentioned wanting to go to the Feed My Starving Children service site, as we have done

several times in the past. We are looking at possible dates to do this in the next couple months, probably on a Saturday so that working folks and families can participate. Two of the community fun nights also have a service component. We believe service to others is an important part of Bethel's mission, although such group activities were not possible during much of the pandemic.

At the time of this writing, preparations for Christmas are underway. It is a joyous time of year for many, as we celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus. I hope you had a blessed Christmas. May Bethel be ready for the challenges of the coming year.

Janet Anderson



Bethel Lutheran Church 4120 17th Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN 55407 www.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 community so that everyone feels a sense of love and belonging.

JANU JARY WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAYS AT 10AM | IN-PERSON AND ONLINE

JAN 7 - EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

JAN 14 - JUSTICE SUNDAY

JAN 21 - PEACE SUNDAY

JAN 28 - RECONCILING IN CHRIST SUNDAY



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