



Volume 90

Number 1

January 2026

## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

### HELLO CHILDREN OF GOD,

*M*erry Christmas! I hope you enjoy all twelve days of Christmas and begin a wonderful new year. I find myself so very thankful for our faith community.

After getting feedback and thinking through what to do the first few months of 2026, I offer the following options for our internal ministry:

#### January:

2026 Thrivent Action Teams Sign up Sessions

- **4 and 11** from 9:15-9:45am in the Parlor
- Faith Forum at 9am in the Parlor
- **18** - *Christian Nationalism 101*
- **25**- review of book *Hungry for Hope*

#### February:

- **15**- Breakfast/Comedy Church at 10am – a sort of Mardi Gras celebration before Ash Wednesday and a different sort of worship. Let's do it in the gym this time.
- **18** - Ash Wednesday Worship at 7pm
- **21-22** - Winter Family Camp at Mount Olivet Retreat Center in Farmington, MN
- **25** - Lent supper and worship

#### March:

- **1** - Annual Meeting after worship
- Lent supper and worship on Wednesday nights
- **29** - Palm Sunday Worship at 10am
- **29** - HUGE MN Christian event in the afternoon

#### April:

- **2-5**: Holy Week and Easter Sunday
- **26** - Book Study on a banned book after worship

#### Summer Months:

- Beer and the Bible on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday nights each month.

Will you join me?

*We also have some regular outreach events scattered throughout these months. They include, but are not limited to: Second Saturday Concerts (January 10, February 14, March 14), February Community Fun Night (2/12), March Food Collection, Easter Egg Hunt (4/4), and May Community Fun Night (5/14).*

Please mark your calendars and let's enjoy one another, our faith community, and our neighbors!



With you, for Jesus,

*Pastor Brenda*

# BOARD OF ADMINISTRATORS

## GREETINGS FROM YOUR BOARD OF ADMINISTRATORS!

The Board met in December over Zoom on a cold, windy, and snowy night. As usual, there was a lot to celebrate at Bethel - in particular, the successful Raise the Roof fundraiser. Thank you to all who worked hard to make this happen, and who attended and contributed, and thanks especially to the Bethel staff for their amazing efforts! We're also grateful for the overall increase in the use of our building this year -- it's wonderful to feel the energy and see so many neighbors in our space.

This month, again, we checked in on various operational issues - from our insurance coverage, to the various legal arrangements related to the cell phone tower, to budget projections for next year, to the snow clearing plan that's working well so far this year. Staff are in the process of renewing leases and discussing upcoming space needs with the partner organizations who rent space at Bethel.

Looking ahead to our annual congregational meeting on March 1, we are looking for new leaders willing to serve on the board (at least two seats will be open), and in other leadership roles throughout our church community, for new terms that begin in mid-2026. If you've ever wondered what it's like to serve, please reach out! In addition to ongoing stewardship of our spaces, resources, and ministry, next year's board will continue to work closely with the Feasibility Study Team, Mission Council, and other leaders to help discern the best next steps for right-sizing our space and building new partnerships.

Sending Christmas greetings to all, with prayers for peace and safety for all in our community.

*Sarah Berke*

*President*

*On behalf of the Board of Administrators*

## BUILDING UPDATE

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Our custodians will be busy this month waxing floors, shampooing carpets, and continuing to keep the snow managed. A building the size of Bethel takes a lot of time and work to take care of, and we are grateful for all of our custodians and staff for all their hard work.

We hope for all your continued support this year!



*Kristian Ask*

*[building@bethel-mpls.org](mailto:building@bethel-mpls.org)*



# BERNIE'S MUSIC UPDATE

## MERRY CHRISTMAS!

As we start January, we celebrate the last five days of Christmas and transition to Epiphany, which centers on the revelation of Christ's birth to the world. This means we get to keep singing carols into the new year!

This month our songs and instrumental music will also focus our worship on themes that are part of our life as a congregation throughout the year: Baptism, Justice, and supporting our LGBTQIA+ members and friends as a Reconciling In Christ (RIC) congregation.

This month's 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Concert features a return engagement by a duo that brought us lovely music last year: Too Old Cat. Too Old Cat plays and sings charming, original folk music that blends traditional and progressive elements, featuring Mikey on cello and Helen on banjo and accordion. I hope you will join us at 3:00 pm on the 10th to hear some wonderful music, and to have some treats and conversation after the concert to boot.

As always, the Bethel Choir sings and the Handbell Choir plays this month for worship. We greatly appreciate your support and comments. We have openings in both ensembles, and you do not need to audition to join. So if you are interested in trying us out, or if you know someone else who is, please drop me a line at [music2023@bethel-mpls.org](mailto:music2023@bethel-mpls.org), and/or join us on Monday evenings for Handbell Choir, or on Wednesday evenings for Bethel Choir.



Peace and grace,

*Bernie Asher*

[music2023@bethel-mpls.org](mailto:music2023@bethel-mpls.org)

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH'S  
2ND SATURDAY

# CONCERT SERIES

TOO OLD CAT  
JANUARY 10, 2026, 3PM

*Suggested \$10 Donation.*

**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
4120 17th Ave. S.  
Minneapolis, MN | [bethel-mpls.org](http://bethel-mpls.org)

**ALL ARE WELCOME**  
*without exception!*





# ELLIE'S GRANTS UPDATE

## HAPPY JANUARY AND HAPPY 2026!

**I**n my last article, I extended my general thanks for everyone's efforts towards the Raise the Roof fundraising campaign, even though Give to the Max Day and the Raise the Roof party hadn't happened yet. Now that I'm writing this in December, I want to give everyone a massive THANK YOU in light of the results of our campaign! Thanks to all of your help, we were able to raise over \$20,000 towards the repair of our roof, which may be our most successful Give to the Max Day ever! We couldn't have done it without you, so thank you to everyone who donated, spread the word about the fundraiser, and/or attended the party. Given the success of this year's fundraiser, we definitely plan to host a similar event next fall, so please let us know if you have any ideas of fundraising goals we might focus on, or ways to make our Give to the Max Day 2026 event even better.

Speaking of events, I want to give an update about a grant we received towards the end of 2025. You may remember the Paint-n-Sip event we hosted last September; this was made possible with a \$750 mini-grant awarded by Fairview Health, to be used towards community health and connectedness. I'm

pleased to announce that we were awarded the same grant again for 2026, and this time we plan to use it towards a blood drive and neighborhood feast this upcoming May or June. Please keep an eye out for more information about the blood drive in the near future, and let me know if you have an idea for a snappy/alliterative title before we roll out the marketing campaign!

Lastly, I'd like to remind everyone that Thrivent Members are eligible to apply for new Action Team Grants at the start of 2026, and Associate Members are eligible to reapply one calendar year from their last grant. Please reach out to us in the office if you'd like to help out with a project and claim your \$250 worth of funding from Thrivent. We have a list of upcoming events and funding needs for 2026, so there's plenty to choose from, whether you'd like to sponsor food for a Community Fun Night, activities for summer camp, or something else. Our goal for the year is \$10,000 worth of grants, or 40 grants total, so please reach out to sign up soon!

Thank you and have a great start to your year,

Warmly,  
*Ellie Erb*

Bethel Grant Manager  
[grantmanager@bethel-mpls.org](mailto:grantmanager@bethel-mpls.org)



# FEASIBILITY UPDATE

**A**t the Feasibility Study Team meeting in December we learned more about the history and current situation with the monopole in our parking lot. Sarah Berke and Andy Hestness attended the meeting. Sarah, as president of the Board of Administrators, will report to the board about what we have learned. Andy has experience in real estate issues and shared with us some questions and concerns that we will likely need to address with a real estate lawyer to determine our best course of action in dealing with the monopole.

Many thanks to Sarah and Andy for their help and to Jim Lair, our committee chair, for many hours spent searching for and reading monopole documents and leases.

There's more to come . . . stay tuned.

Thank you,  
*Laurie Hauge, Ann Allison, Gene Rodi,  
Don Olson, Pastor Brenda, and Jim  
Lair, Chair*

[feasibility@bethel-mpls.org](mailto:feasibility@bethel-mpls.org)

*January is*  
**thrivent**<sup>®</sup>  
*month at Bethel*

*Thrivent information sessions:*

**SUNDAYS  
JANUARY 4 AND 11  
9:15am | PARLOR**



*Last year we received 34 Thrivent Action Team Grants. This gave Bethel \$8,500 to use towards a variety of existing programs—this money normally comes from our budget. Thank you to all who applied!*

## **THRIVENT GRANT SIGN-UP:**

*Thrivent Action Team Grants can be used for Service Projects, Educational Events, or Fundraisers. Thank you for signing up to support Bethel with one of the grant options listed.*

## **SIGN-UP TODAY!**

*We can help you become a Thrivent Action Teams Member and select a grant to donate to Bethel. If you're already a Thrivent Member or Thrivent Associate Member, you can attend this event to select a grant to donate to Bethel with no sign-up required!*

# MINISTRY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
28 <b>10:00am Bethel Worship</b> <b>11:00am Fellowship Time</b> 1:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship 5:30pm Minneapolis Jo 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA	29 <b>Bethel Office Closed</b> 2:30pm CANMN Set-up 5:00pm CANMN Distribution <b>7:00pm Bell Choir</b> 7:00pm Bridge to Shore AA 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA	30 7:00am AA Meditation 9:30am OA HOW Meeting 10:00am NHS Exercise <b>10:00am Staff Meeting</b> 11:00am NHS 500 Cards Group 5:30pm Minneapolis Jo 6:00pm Luz Alas Naciones 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA 7:00pm Pentecostal Casa Music	31 6:00pm Luz Alas Naciones 6:30pm Continuous Action AA 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA 8:00pm Casa de Oracion New
4 <b>9:15am Thrivent Info Session</b> <b>10:00am Bethel Worship</b> <b>10:15am Sunday School</b> <b>11:00am Fellowship Time</b> 1:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship 5:30pm Minneapolis Jo 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA	5 <b>Bethel Office Closed</b> 10:00am CANMN Intake <b>7:00pm Bell Choir</b> 7:00pm Bridge to Shore AA 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA	6 7:00am AA Meditation 9:30am OA HOW Meeting 10:00am NHS Exercise <b>10:00am Staff Meeting</b> 11:00am NHS 500 Cards Group 5:30pm Minneapolis Jo 6:00pm Luz Alas Naciones 6:30pm Scout Troop 38 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA 7:00pm Pentecostal Casa Music	7 10:00am NHS Women's Art G 10:00am NHS Yoga <b>12:00pm Hybrid Bible Study</b> 6:00pm Luz Alas Naciones 6:30pm Continuous Action AA <b>7:00pm Bethel Choir</b> 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA
11 <b>Bethel Choir Sings</b> <b>9:15am Thrivent Info Session</b> <b>10:00am Bethel Worship</b> <b>10:15am Sunday School</b> <b>11:00am Fellowship Time</b> 1:00pm Casa De Oracion Fellowship 1:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship 5:30pm Minneapolis Jo - Dave Cross 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA	12 <b>Bethel Office Closed</b> 10:00am CANMN Distribution 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop 18896 <b>7:00pm Bell Choir</b> 7:00pm Bridge to Shore AA 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA 7:00pm Troop 38 Committee Meeting 8:00pm Bridge to Shore AA - Meeting	13 7:00am AA Meditation 9:30am OA HOW Meeting <b>9:30am Operation Love Quilters</b> 10:00am NHS Exercise <b>10:00am Staff Meeting</b> 11:00am NHS 500 Cards Group 1:00pm NHS Grief Support Group 5:30pm Minneapolis Jo 6:00pm Luz Alas Naciones 6:30pm Scout Troop 38 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA 7:00pm Pentecostal Casa Music	14 10:00am NHS Women's Art G 10:00am NHS Yoga <b>12:00pm Hybrid Bible Study</b> 3:50pm NHS Board Meeting 6:00pm Luz Alas Naciones 6:30pm Continuous Action AA <b>7:00pm Bethel Choir</b> 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA
18 <b>Handbells Play</b> <b>9:00am Faith Forum</b> <b>10:00am Bethel Worship</b> <b>10:15am Sunday School</b> <b>11:00am Fellowship Time</b> 1:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship 5:30pm Minneapolis Jo - Dave Cross 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA	19 <b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b> <b>Bethel Office Closed</b> 10:00am CANMN Intake 7:00pm Bridge to Shore AA 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA  <b>Herald Deadline 12:00pm</b>	20 7:00am AA Meditation 9:30am OA HOW Meeting 10:00am NHS Exercise <b>10:00am Staff Meeting</b> 11:00am NHS 500 Cards Group 4:00pm NHS Board Meeting 5:30pm Minneapolis Jo 6:00pm Luz Alas Naciones <b>6:30pm Mission Council</b> 6:30pm Scout Troop 38 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA 7:00pm Pentecostal Casa Music	21 10:00am NHS Women's Art G 10:00am NHS Yoga <b>12:00pm Hybrid Bible Study</b> 6:00pm Luz Alas Naciones 6:30pm Continuous Action AA 6:30pm Minnesota Nature PH <b>7:00pm Bethel Choir</b> 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA 7:30pm Continuous Action Le
25 <b>Bethel Choir Sings</b> <b>9:00am Faith Forum</b> <b>10:00am Bethel Worship</b> <b>10:15am Sunday School</b> <b>11:00am Fellowship Time</b> 1:00pm Casa De Oracion Fellowship 1:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship 5:30pm Minneapolis Jo - Dave Cross <b>7:00pm A Holy Experiment</b> 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA	26 <b>Bethel Office Closed</b> 9:45am Community Ed Watercolour Class 10:00am CANMN Distribution <b>2:30pm Feasibility Study Team</b> 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop 18896 <b>7:00pm Bell Choir</b> 7:00pm Bridge to Shore AA 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA	27 7:00am AA Meditation 9:30am OA HOW Meeting 9:30am The Curiosity Crew School 10:00am NHS Exercise <b>10:00am Staff Meeting</b> 11:00am NHS 500 Cards Group 5:30pm Minneapolis Jo 6:00pm Luz Alas Naciones 6:30pm Scout Troop 38 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA 7:00pm Pentecostal Casa Music	28 10:00am NHS Women's Art G 10:00am NHS Yoga <b>12:00pm Hybrid Bible Study</b> 5:00pm Winter Chili Dinner C 6:00pm Luz Alas Naciones <b>7:00pm Bethel Choir</b> 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA

# AR — JANUARY 2026

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>AA New Year's Worship</p>	<p>1 <b>New Year's Day</b> <b>Bethel Office Closed</b> 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA</p>	<p>2 <b>2:00pm Confirmation Lock-in Start Time</b> 6:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA</p>	<p>3 <b>10:00am Confirmation Lock-in End Time</b> 9:00am AA Amigos 11:00am CANMN Deliveries 6:00pm Luz Alas Naciones 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA</p>
<p>Group AA AA</p>	<p>8 9:30am NHS Nurse Is In/Blood Pressure <b>10:00am Building and Grounds Meeting</b> 10:00am NHS Exercise 11:15am NHS Lunch and Bingo/Movie 2:30pm CANMN Set-up 5:00pm CANMN Distribution 7:00pm BNA Board Meeting 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA 7:00pm Up the Creek AA</p>	<p>9 6:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA</p>	<p>10 9:00am AA Amigos 11:00am CANMN Deliveries <b>3:00pm 2nd Saturday Concert</b> 6:00pm Luz Alas Naciones 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA</p> <p><b>CONCERT SERIES</b></p>
<p>Group AA AA</p>	<p>15 9:30am NHS Nurse Is In/Blood Pressure 10:00am NHS Exercise 11:00am NHS Support As We Are 2:30pm CANMN Set-up 5:00pm CANMN Distribution <b>7:00pm Board of Administrators</b> 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA 7:00pm Up the Creek AA</p>	<p>16 6:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA</p>	<p>17 9:00am AA Amigos 11:00am CANMN Deliveries 6:00pm Luz Alas Naciones 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA</p>
<p>Group AA Photo Club AA Leadership Meeting</p>	<p>22 9:30am NHS Nurse Is In/Blood Pressure 10:00am NHS Exercise 11:00am NHS Caregiver Support Group 12:30pm Diabetes Support Group 2:30pm CANMN Set-up 5:00pm CANMN Distribution 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA 7:00pm Up the Creek AA</p>	<p>23 6:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA</p>	<p>24 9:00am AA Amigos 11:00am CANMN Deliveries 6:00pm Luz Alas Naciones 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA</p>
<p>Group Continuous Action AA</p>	<p>29 9:30am NHS Nurse Is In/Blood Pressure 10:00am NHS Exercise 2:30pm CANMN Set-up 5:00pm CANMN Distribution 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA 7:00pm Up the Creek AA</p>	<p>30 6:00pm Pentecostal Casa Worship 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA</p>	<p>31 9:00am AA Amigos 11:00am CANMN Deliveries 3:00pm Alliance Coven Friends and Family 6:00pm Luz Alas Naciones 7:00pm El Nuevo Despertar AA</p>

# BIBLE STUDY WITH PR BRENDA

*Wednesdays at 12pm*

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



And in-person in the Fireside Room.

1/7	Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17
1/14	Psalms 40:1-11 Jeremiah 22:3 Zechariah 7:9 Micah 6:8
1/21	1 John 3:1-2 Matthew 4:12-23
1/28	Scout Oath Scout Law Matthew 18:1-6, 10-11

## CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

### Rev. Brenda Froisland, Pastor:

[pastor@bethel-mpls.org](mailto:pastor@bethel-mpls.org)

### Operations Manager:

Regan Saunders  
[bethel@bethel-mpls.org](mailto:bethel@bethel-mpls.org)

### Music:

Bernie Asher, Music Director  
[music2023@bethel-mpls.org](mailto:music2023@bethel-mpls.org)  
Anne Phillips, Musician  
[musician2023@bethel-mpls.org](mailto:musician2023@bethel-mpls.org)

### Office Manager:

Margaret Borg  
[office@bethel-mpls.org](mailto:office@bethel-mpls.org)

### Building Facilitator:

Kristian Ask  
[building@bethel-mpls.org](mailto:building@bethel-mpls.org)

### Assistant Custodians:

Michael Hauge, Jester Lewis,  
Kingston Normil, Jaden Watson,  
and Josh Weber

### Grant Manager:

Ellie Erb  
[grantmanager@bethel-mpls.org](mailto:grantmanager@bethel-mpls.org)

### Finance Coordinator:

Teresa O'Brien  
[assttreas@bethel-mpls.org](mailto:assttreas@bethel-mpls.org)

### Visitation Minister:

Susan Johnson  
[visitation@bethel-mpls.org](mailto:visitation@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
1/4	Kristin Cleary	Sharon Rodi	Janet Anderson	Stephanie Johnson	Norris	Gene and Ted	Clarice Lovstuen	Laurie & Anna
1/11	Ann Allison	Dan Hauge	Sarah Berke	Marilyn Newborg	Dean & Susan & Jerry	Gene and Ted	Romell White	Laurie & Anna
1/18	Anna Olsen	Anna Wohnoutka	Kristin Cleary	Clarice Lovstuen	Susan and Jerry	Gene and Ted	Janet Anderson	Laurie & Anna
1/25	Susan Johnson	Anna Olsen	Bernie Asher	Marilyn Newborg	Dave & Norris	Gene and Ted	Ann Allison	Laurie & Anna



# JANUARY

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### 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
John Fleming	19
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 4 - EPIPHANY CELEBRATION**

**JAN 11 - BAPTISM SUNDAY**

**JAN 18 - JUSTICE SUNDAY**

**JAN 25 - RECONCILING IN CHRIST SUNDAY**



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

# PRAYER list

## PRAY FOR BETHEL MEMBERS

Matt Psick	Karen McBride
Sarah Psick	Laurel Jorgensen
Alice Evenson	Gloria Condon
Dave and Libby Krogh	Hundt Family
Hoover Family	Puckett Family
Leonard and Sharon Phillips	Darrell Dahl
David and Sue	Walker Family
Dorumsgaard Ayers	Cannon Family
Joyce Hughes	Warwick Family
Jerry Johnson	Pikkarainen Family
	Gert Carlson

## MORE PEOPLE OF GOD

- Victims of natural and human disasters
- People of Ukraine, Israeli Citizens, Iranian 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 affected by gun violence

## 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

Vince and Carrie (Kelly Chilvers friends)  
Martha Christensen (Sarah Psick's sister)  
Amanda and Sage (Candy Hickenbotham's family)  
Ethylmae Ross (Gloria Condon's aunt)  
The family of Nick (Ann Allison's nephew)  
Ian (Pr B's friend)  
Eric (Pr B's and Mary's family friend)  
Julian (Jan Walker's friend)  
Kevin Johnson and family (Les' brother)  
Beth (Dan Hauge's sister)  
Kristian (Pr B's friend)  
Steve (Pr B's brother)  
Michael (Marilyn Newborg's brother)  
Donovan (Angel Cannon's father)  
Rita (Sharon Phillips' 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

You can now submit a Prayer Request on our website.  
Please visit [bethel-mpls.org](http://bethel-mpls.org) and scroll towards the bottom  
of our main page to locate the form.

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

# MISSION COUNCIL REPORT

By the time you read this, it will be 2026. I wish everyone a joyous and blessed new year!

Something new this year, Bethel has joined the Mental Health Connect program (<https://www.mhconnect.org/>), which is housed at Bethlehem Lutheran in South Minneapolis. Bethel's congregation members are now eligible to attend their monthly educational meetings. I attended November's workshop, "Skills for Disagreeing Better." It was about being able to converse with those who have different political views, and it was very, very good. Their next event is "A Layperson's Guide to Understanding Trauma Disorders" on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Please let me know if you are interested, and I can send you the link to register. I have been onboarded as a Mental Health Connect Ambassador; others from our congregation are eligible to do the same. Please let me know if that would be something that would interest you.

Bethel members will be receiving a monthly email from me about their events and resources available to help those in need.

At our December meeting, the Mission Council decided that the February 12 Community Fun Night will feature board games, with a meal of chili, salad, and cinnamon rolls. Please mark your calendars for this fun event! We also learned that we already have 25 people registered to attend Family Camp at the Mt. Olivet Retreat Center. They have a wonderful space with beautiful winter nature views, great food, a rec center and a swimming pool. The cost is being offset with funds provided by Bethel's Endowment Fund, so it is very affordable. There is still space available, so please contact the church office if you are interested in joining in!

In peace,

*Susan Johnson*

*On behalf of the Mission Council*

**SAVE**  
*the*  
**DATE**

**Bethel's Annual Meeting**  
**Sunday, March 1, 2026**  
*after worship*

*Lent* **WITH BETHEL**

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

*Wednesday, February 18 at 7:00pm*

**SOUP AND WORSHIP  
WEDNESDAYS**

*February 25, March 4, 11, 18, and 25*  
*5:30pm Soup | 6:15pm Worship*



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

[bethel-mpls.org](http://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.

*Join us for our free*  
**COMMUNITY  
FUN NIGHT**



**FREE**

**BOARD GAME NIGHT**

**Thursday, February 12, 5:30pm-7:30pm**

Free Meal at 5:30-6:15pm: Chili, Salad, and Cinnamon Rolls

Activity: Play a variety of Board Games with those in attendance



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH | 4120 17th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN | [bethel-mpls.org](http://bethel-mpls.org)