



Pastors:

Jake Dyrhaug

Erika Buller

Bethel Beacon

♥ B E . T H E . L o v e

B E . T H E . L i g h t

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Bethel Lutheran Mission Statement

Bethel Lutheran Church is a community of believers called by God to invite all people into a living relationship with Jesus Christ, build them up in the faith, and send them out to be witnesses in word and deed to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

“Get Back in Your Cradle!”—What if Jesus Would Have Stayed in the Manger?

In “A Charlie Brown Christmas”, Linus of the “Peanuts” cartoon still told the Christmas story on television in 2020! For awhile there, many were thinking it would no longer be shown, free and available to all on the public airwaves. But after much reaction, this tradition spanning decades was allowed to continue. It’s remarkable that Linus, of all voices in the world, continues to be the primary public figure in our culture who tells the whole Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke, year after year. Linus tells the story, once again, of Jesus’ birth, with the angel and the manger and the “swaddling clothes.” It’s the story we recently saw portrayed at the Bethel Live Nativity, complete with a horse, alpaca and goat representing the animals along with the people we picture surrounding the baby Jesus, albeit with scarves, masks and social distancing this year.

In the days of January with the church season of Epiphany, the season of lights and new insights, here is a question for you to ponder. How would our lives would be different if Jesus would have stayed in the manger as a baby? As the story goes, three young girls and their little brother were once “playing” the Nativity scene. They dressed up their begrudging cat to be the baby Jesus. But just as they were getting it all straight, the cat bolted from the ready-made manger and escaped for its life, leaving the swaddling clothes flying behind. The oldest of the girls suddenly shouted out, “Jesus, get back in your cradle!”

Maybe that’s how we feel after the holidays are over. We’re not ready to fathom how the center of the glowing nativity scene would grow up to take on the dark forces of this world, to cast out demons and to heal, to teach the huge crowds that would follow him, even when it would become controversial. We’re not ready to think yet about how this Jesus would be crucified on a cross to die, even if it means the taking away of the sins of the world. We, like the little girl might cry out inside, “Jesus, get back in your cradle!” There in the manger, Jesus is so vulnerable. There in the make-shift cradle, we don’t expect him to necessarily transform our lives, and we’re comfortable with that. We don’t want Jesus to escape the swaddling clothes and bolt into the reality of our busy, complicated lives. Just think, he might change us somehow!

But instead of balking and resisting the changes and chances of life which come after the nostalgia of the holidays, we can pray with the psalmist in Psalm 31, “Into your hand I commit my spirit.” We can hope in the words of Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’” We can trust God to lead us wherever God’s will might take us into another year and into eternity.

God bless your New Year!

Joy & Peace,

Pastor Jake



happy new year

Special dates

New Year's Day, *January 1, 2021*

Epiphany, *January 6, 2021*

Baptism of the Lord, *January 10, 2021*

Religious Freedom Day, *January 16, 2021*



Are you/your family being quarantined due to Covid-19? Please let us know so we can provide prayer and support. Call the office at 642-4472 or email us at: betheloffice@bethelwahpeton.com.



Martin Luther King Jr. Day, *January 18, 2021*

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, *January 18-25, 2021*

Inauguration Day, *January 20, 2021*



Truth + love



I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become reality.

I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.

—Martin Luther King Jr.

Live in the light

Often we want to be able to see into the future. We say, “How will next year be for me? Where will I be five or 10 years from now?” There are no answers to these questions. Mostly we have just enough light to see the next step — what we have to do in the coming hour or the following day.

The art of living is to enjoy what we can see and not complain about what remains in the dark. When we are able to take the next step with the trust that we will have enough light for the step that follows, we can walk through life with joy and be surprised at how far we go. Let's rejoice in the little light we carry and not ask for the great beam that would take all our shadows away.

—Henri Nouwen, *Bread*

for the Journey

An ongoing goal

Still searching for a New Year's resolution? None is more worthy than becoming Christ-like. In fact, 19th-century evangelist Henry Drummond calls it “the only thing in the whole world worth caring for.”



Two modern-day authors offer more insights. Stormie Omartian points out that we're either making progress or backsliding on this goal. “There is no neutral position in the Lord,” she writes. “You are either becoming more like Christ every day or you're becoming less like him.” And followers of Jesus must keep the goal always in focus. Christ-likeness is our “eventual destination,” writes Rick Warren, but the “journey will last a lifetime.”



REMINDER: Bethel does not notify families of memorials given directly to the church.

The Memorial Committee's main objective is to be the resource for any one person or group of people that would like to give a memorial, honorarium, or commemorate an occasion to Bethel Lutheran Church. It is the committee's responsibility to formulate a catalog of specific items, keep a record of all memorials and to acknowledge those that have given gifts.

If you have any questions regarding memorial items or wish to give a memorial item or honorarium please contact committee members: Bev McRoberts @640-8876, Luther Sannes@642-5140; or Reeann Enderson@640-4230

Thank you to the members of Bethel for your continued support.

In memory of:	Given by:	In memory of:	Given by:
Bell Choir:		Faith Tool Boxes:	
Bill Bair	Kathy Hammer	Clark Williams	Lynda Neumann
Joan Brown	Linda Palmer	Bill Bair	Duane & Diane Finnie
Bethel Choir:		Meryl Hansey	Sonja Christensen
David Engstrom	Ron & Kathleen McBeth	Meryl Hansey	Duane & Diane Finnie
Linda Grochow	Linda Palmer	Bill Bair	Sonja Christensen
Doris Steindfson	Linda Palmer	Clark Williams	Henry & Mary Ann Look
Bethel Youth:		Bill Bair	Ruth Larson
Ralph Oehlke	Harvey & Gale Link	David Engstrom	Duane & Diane Finnie
Clark Williams	Harvey & Gale Link	General Memorial:	
Clark Williams	Linda Miller	Clark Williams	Carol Sturdevant
Clark Williams	Blake & Tracy Peterson	Joan Brown	Judy McDaniel
Clark Williams	Elaine Sommers	Bill Bair	Cyndy Kolle
Clark Williams	Bill & Gladys Bair	Bill Bair	Karen Kearn Lutz
Bill Bair	Al & Elaine Sommers	Bill Bair	Barry & Sue Hendrickson
Building Fund:		Bill Bair	Carol Sturdevant
Dorothy Edman	Linda Miller	Bill Bair	Coleen Krohn
Capital Campaign:		Clark Williams	Coleen Krohn
Fran Werre	Paul & Char Oehlke	Bill Bair	James & Trudy Jacobson
Linda Grochow	Blake & Tracy Peterson	Bill Bair	Henry & Mary Ann Look
Ralph Oehlke	Blake & Tracy Peterson	Betty Cope	Bev McRoberts
Clark Williams	Tom & Susan Arnhalt	Bill Bair	Judy McDaniel
Bill Bair	Dennis & VonDaLee Grandalen	David Engstrom	Judy McDaniel
Bill Bair	Geri Coyne	Clark Williams	Burton & Kristie Berg
Bill Bair	Connie Sletten	Bill Bair	Deb Roesler
Bill Bair	Luella Kleingartner	Bill Bair	Nicole Grochow
Bill Bair	Sharon Kotnour	Bill Bair	Burton & Kristie Berg
Bill Bair	Marty & Carol Schmidt	Bill Bair	Wayne Braaten
Bill Bair	Gail Williams	Bill Bair	Bob & Sharon Jokumson
Bill Bair	Phil & Bonnie MacIver	Bill Bair	Gloria Dohman
Linda Grochow	Brian & Jardy Day	Bill Bair	Neal & Phyllis Folstad
Bill Bair	Art Grochow	Bill Bair	Stan & Marilyn Sirek
Meryl Hansey	Judy Koppang	Bill Bair	Don & Joann Tobin
Linda Grochow	Judy Koppang	Bill Bair	Jan Judisch
Bill Bair	Judy Koppang	Bill Bair	Bev McRoberts
Clark Williams	Judy Koppang	Bill Bair	Alice Schlotfeldt
David Engstrom	Gail Williams	Bill Bair	Chuck & Ione Muralt
Betty Cope	Clare Byron	Bill Bair	Howard & Janelle Jenson
Bill Bair	Clare Byron	Bill Bair	Larry & Suzanne Pehl
Bill Bair	Cindy & Keath Borchert	Bill Bair	Bob & Ginnie Buck
Children's Library:		Bill Bair	Monte & Renee Hanson
Dorothy Edman	Harvey & Gale Link	Bill Bair	Brad & Angela Cruff
Brenda Decker	Blake & Tracy Peterson	Bill Bair	Liz & Ralph Graalum
Endowment:		Bill Bair	Lu Ella Marlock
Fran Werre	Marilyn Anderson	Quilting:	
Library:		Bill Bair	Joan Hardie
Joan Brown	Clare Byron	Clark Williams	Alan & Deb Redman

J



JANUARY

These are Bethel members known to have birthdays in January. If you have a birthday in January & your name is not listed, please contact the church office so we may update our church records.

01/02 Jackson Fliflet
Berklee McGarry
Abby Miller

01/03 Trey Grant
Taylor Vaneps

01/04 Lorraine Dronen
Harleigh Higdem
Bobbi Jo Jelinek

01/05 Ryan Hendrickson
01/06 Thomas Bakewell
Benjamin Buller
Liam Dohman
Levi Ibarra
Meredith Mitskog
Abigail Voss

01/08 Lori Buboltz
Allen Hunt
Mary Julson
Bjorn Kubela
Jason Sirek

01/09 Jerry Bakken
Michelle Blome
Kamdyn Heitkamp
Denise Johnson

01/10 Olivia Hansen

01/11 Braxton Heitkamp
Tricia Kriel

01/12 Neal Folstad
Monique Gregor
Wade Mund
Jody Rezac
Wanda Sherven

01/13 Keath Borchert
Carmen Tischer
Westin Wiberg

01/14 Chris Koval
Sawyer Malme
Lori Pithey

01/15 Gage Berndt
Kaycee Fuder
Brooklyn Sirek

01/16 Clinton Gilbertson

01/17 David Bjerkager

01/18 Allison Grefsrud
Carla Lee
Gale Link

01/19 Burton Berg
Travis Dammann
Janna Fatland
Cody Shockley
Elaine Sommers

01/20 Jon Miller

01/21 Alexis Johanson
Christa Krump

01/22 Cynthia Borchert
Bruce Christianson
Landon Dimmer
Karen Nelsen
Ellie Rezac

01/23 Taylor Bollinger

01/24 Haleigh Gebro
Angela Hofmann
Judy Knudson
Justin Miller

01/25 Roger Bergeman
Kathleen Dimmer

01/26 Rachel Bassingthwaite
Wayne Flack
Gabriella Hendrickson

Blake Kutter
Gabrielle Paulson

01/27 Daryl Eberhardt
Robin Finke
Jacob Uhlich

01/28 Brad Bollinger
Michael Boock
Phyllis Folstad

01/30 Myrna Ball

01/31 Natalie Bruschein
Brad Hubrig
Brandon Wixo



8am-5pm Monday-Thursday
8am-3pm Friday
8am-11am Sunday
**The office will be closed on January 1st.*

Contact Information:

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Fax: 701-642-2477

Pastor Jake: 320-733-0257

email: jdyrhaug@bethelwahpeton.com

Pastor Erika: 952-454-6012

email: ebuller@bethelwahpeton.com

Lisa Bassingthwaite: 701-642-4472

email: wschool@bethelwahpeton.com

Lois Fenske: 701-642-4472

email: betheloffice@bethelwahpeton.com

Brian Finnie: 701-642-4472

email: bfinnie@bethelwahpeton.com

Joyce Johnson: 701-642-4472

email: jjohnson@bethelwahpeton.com

Bethel Youth & Families

Happy New Year! I pray that I will get to see you all soon!

I would like to thank all who read during our Advent Storytime each day. Everyone enjoyed seeing the familiar faces and hearing the Christmas stories. We will be continuing Storytime; however, it will look a little different. We will be doing a Saturday night story at 7:30 each week. If you would like to read, please let me know and we will get you on the schedule.

ALL WEDNESDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION STUDENTS NEED TO FILL OUT AN ON-LINE REGISTRATION FORM FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE! Go to the Bethel Website to the drop down menu under ministries and click on children & youth.

Christian Education Update:

The Preschool-5th Wednesday school will have a review of what we have done so far this year. New Wednesday school bags will be available January 7 and will include material for January 13, 20, 27, and February 3.

The 6th, 7th & 8th grade confirmation classes will resume meeting via zoom on January 6.

The 9th graders will start back up on January 13 with an in-person meeting. We will meet in the centennial room at 6:30. Parents and students are urged to attend.

National Youth Gathering Information!

A huge thank you to all who attended the Drive-In Bingo fundraiser. It was a big success and was fun for all who attended. We will be holding another Drive-In Bingo sometime in February. Watch for more information to come.



After much prayer and consideration, the team working on the ELCA Youth Gathering have decided to postpone next summer's ELCA Youth Gathering to 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The new date is July 24-28, 2022, in Minneapolis, MN. This will be for youth who are in 8th to 12th grade at the time of registration.

Fundraising opportunities to support the youth of Bethel!

The youth going to the National Youth Gathering are willing to flamingo yards...what a great way to spread a little happiness when we are all stuck at home. Spend \$20 to flamingo someone else's lawn.

As always, if you have questions, suggestions, or concerns contact Lisa on her cell phone, 701-899-2060 or at church.

CHEERS TO A NEW YEAR!

What a challenging time for Bethel & the world! Our congregation has seen the impact from Covid but continues to give regularly & pledge for our future. Unfortunately, at the time of this writing we are not meeting in person & miss all the members that make Bethel a community of believers.

However, we give cheers to your dedication, commitment & faith in Bethel. Your decision to financially support the congregation's mission & ministries shows that we are all moved by the Holy Spirit & generous with our giving. During 2 Sundays in November we donated \$109 in cash, \$25 gift card & 165# of food to the food pantry. Watch for future food drives from this committee.

With your help & prayers, Bethel will continue to carry out the ministries of our congregation, community & world!

With heartfelt thanks,

Bethel Stewardship Committee



**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES
November 10, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER – Kelly Voss

Roll Call

Kelly Voss	x	Cyndy Kolle, Board of Lay	x
Kathy Johnson	x	Mike Bassingthwaite, Board of Property	x
Dee Jensen	x	Pastor Jake Dyrhaug	x
Cindy Borchert	x		
Pastor Erika Buller	x		
Blake Peterson, Board of Outreach	x	Guests:	
Dana Kasowski Board of Education	x	Brian Finnie	x
Linda Johnson , Board of Stewardship	x		

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION – Dee Jensen

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Cyndy moved & Linda seconded to approve. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Mike moved and Dee seconded to approve. Motion carried.

2019	January	February	March	April	May	June
<i>Envelope offering:</i>	\$36,498.48	\$33,928.50	\$30,378.50	\$31,087.00	\$26,194.00	\$26,002.34
<i>Income/Balance:</i>	(\$7,171.10)	(\$12,900.72)	(\$28,732.36)	(\$35,542.91)	(\$25,781.41)	(\$34,785.49)
<i>Checking acct balance:</i>	\$1,710.47	(\$4,019.15)	(\$19,850.79)		(\$32,746.00)	(\$25,903.92)
2019	July	August	September	October	November	December
<i>Envelope offering:</i>	\$27,759.00	\$23,724.00	\$40,032.21	\$34,791.00	\$28,390.00	\$64,524.05
<i>Income/Balance:</i>	(\$32,965.35)	(\$7,214.33)	\$21,380.28	\$21,169.19	\$1,666.92	\$33,872.80
<i>Checking acct balance:</i>	(\$24,083.73)	\$16,095.90)	\$30,261.85	\$29,061.42	\$10,548.49	\$42,754.37
2020	January	February	March	April	May	June
<i>Envelope offering:</i>	\$28,480.00	\$36,284.00	\$34,073.00	\$24,397.11	\$29,192.00	\$28,101.00
<i>Income/Balance :</i>	(\$13,438.91)	(\$19,336.94)	(\$20,267.87)	(\$28,689.78)	\$15,193.73	\$10,725.30
<i>Checking acct balance:</i>	\$29,315.46	\$23,417.43	\$22,486.50	\$14,064.59	\$57,948.10	\$53,479.67
2020	July	August	September	October	November	December
<i>Envelope offering:</i>	\$21,512.00	\$24,417.00	\$30,922.00	\$35,612.50	\$36,528.07	
<i>Income/Balance:</i>	(\$5,886.09)	(\$16,313.71)	(\$24,151.70)	(\$29,462.09)	(\$31,833.64)	
<i>Checking acct balance:</i>	\$36,868.28	\$26,440.66	\$18,602.67	\$13,292.28	\$10,920.73	

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Implementation team update:
 - a. The chairs will be finished in mid to late December and then shipped.
 - b. There are typical building construction things that cause delays.
 - c. We have \$200,000 in the capital improvement fund and have borrowed \$977,000. We will cap this amount. There should be enough money coming in monthly from pledges to cover the capital campaign account.
 - d. A question was raised about the height of the altar. Kelly will contact Lara to see if she knows any more about this.
 - e. The cost of the Paraments, altar,, baptismal font and railing have been taken care of.
 - f. A new camera is hooked up and waiting for a chip to make the sound better in the sanctuary. Other technical areas are being worked on.
 - g. Brian reported that the emergency resiliency fund has been finalized for no touch items in the rest rooms.
2. Worship discussion and communion possibilities:
 - a. The Bishop recommends no in-person Christmas services because of the pandemic conditions in our area.
 - b. Each board reported the feedback from their members that we should have online services only.
 - c. Cyndy moved and Dana seconded that out of concern for our members and staff that there should be no in-person services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Motion carried.
 - d. There was a suggestion that there might be “personal sanctuary times” made available on Wednesdays for a limited number of people in attendance. No action was taken.
 - e. Dana moved and Dee seconded that out of concern for our members and staff that until further notice, Bethel worship services will be online only. Motion carried.
 - f. Blake moved and Cyndy seconded that out of concern for our members and staff, that until further notice funerals will be family only and limited to 25 people in attendance. Motion carried.
3. Budgets from Boards:
 - a. Kelly has received some budgets already. They are due December 18, 2020.
4. Nominating Committee:
 - a. they have 7 positions to fill and have a list of possible people to contact. They have split up the list and committee members are making calls.
 - b. Kelly’s position will be on the ballot too as he is filling out the first term of another executive director.
 - c. All 4 on the executive Committee came on at the same time and the nominating committee would like to stagger these positions in the future.
5. ICON – technology access:
 - a. Kelly met with Lois regarding who will have access to the directory and at what level. It is password protected. Staff members have a higher level of access than others.
 - b. It was decided to test it out with the Planning Council first and then the boards to see how it works. Kelly will send out emails to request access when it is ready.
6. “Thanks – BINGO” – Pastor Erika:
 - a. We have used 120 cards and have ordered more. It has been a good way to administer Pastoral Care to members and the community.
 - b. This will continue for a couple more weeks.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Board Reports:

Board of Stewardship: Linda Johnson

- * The “Fill the Trunk” activity brought in \$109 cash, \$25 Econo gift card and 145 food items.
- * They are implementing the “Phone a Friend” activity again to reach out to members with a phone call. The Board of Outreach will help out with this.

Board of Property: Mike Bassingthwaite

- * They are planning carpet for the youth room to match the current floors.
- * Brian is working on many things throughout the church.
- * They are looking to ask the endowment board and others to help pay for the new video system.

Board of Education: Dana Kasowski

- * Wednesday School programming has been going well with about 60 families participating.
- * Adult education is on pause at this time.
- * The National Youth Gathering group held a Drive-in-Bingo on December 6 and brought in \$2,000 through this fun event and would like to do another on in February.

Board of Lay: Cyndy Kolle

- * Advent Bonfire on December 9th was poorly attended. Another one is planned for December 16th, but it will be decided later if it will be held.
- * A Drive By “Live Nativity” is planned for Sunday December 20th from 11:00-1:00, weather permitting. They are looking for people to participate as characters for this.

Board of Outreach: Blake Peterson

- * Sonja Christensen is an ad hoc member of this board performing mail outreach to members. Judy Peterson and Floss Johnson have joined Sonja in writing notes for the mail outreach.
- * They have had 5 names of families who have requested a quarantine care package.
- * They are continuing to work on the details for the fire victims supply and fund.

2. Audit Committee:

- a. A vacancy needs to be filled on this committee, appointed by the Planning Council.
- b. This is a 3 member committee for a 3 year term with one person appointed each year.
- c. Cindy will check past minutes to see who has been on this committee and for how many years. She will report this to Kathy Johnson and she will contact these individuals.

3. Other:

- a. Kelly and Cindy joined a Synod Zoom meeting at noon on December 8th regarding how to hold an annual meeting during the pandemic. Kelly will send out the information we received from them for discussion at a later meeting.

Board Reports – each board email minutes to Bethel office to review prior to Planning Council meeting.

Dates and notables:

Budgets from boards due December 19, 2020

Annual reports due December 28, 2020