



Bethel Lutheran Church
607 6th Street North
Wahpeton, ND 58075

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WAHPETON, ND
PERMIT NO. 72

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Bethel - Your Home for the Holidays

"Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people." Luke 2: 10

We invite you to find "Peace" this Advent season. .



Christmas, Advent and Beyond

Information Meeting – December 4th, 2022 between services:

Summary of:

- Suggested 2023 Budget
- November Financials
- Servicing the existing mortgage and discuss the completed building project

Annual Meeting – January 29, 2023

One Worship Service at 10 am
Annual meeting in Sanctuary with Potluck to follow

Lent begins Feb.22

Ash Wednesday is February 22 -
Holden Evening Prayer + Sermon Series

NEW - Mid-Day Services - 12:10-12:35 with Soup and sandwich lunch after services

This time might be attractive to some of our seniors who don't like to come out in the evening and some of our business people over the noon hour and need to get back to work by 1:00.

Traditional Evening Services @ 6:45 preceded by a meal

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 8 am–5 pm
Friday closed

Church Office 701-642-4472
facebook.com/bethelwahpeton

Bethel Youth & Families

*ADVENT:
Love our Children*

Wednesday School

4:45-5:30 pm Supper Served
5:30-6:30 pm Christian Education
6:45 pm Youth Led Worship

Sunday School

10-10:45 am
Dec. 4, Jan. 8, Feb. 5,
March 5

Christmas Stories read by our Bethel family posted to Facebook @ 7:30 PM or on the website

***Advent Fair December 14 is from 5:45 to 6:30 - bring your whole family to enjoy games, crafts, treats, and fellowship**



- Join us December 18 at 4:00 for our Christmas program, Come here the story of Jesus birth told by our children here at Bethel. Stay for coffee, juice, treats, and fellowship after the program.

Youth Events in 2023

Planning for the 2024 National Youth Gathering has started. If you are or have 7th – 11th grader, please plan on attending our next meeting January 4 at 7:30. It is not too late to get signed up to go.



The 3rd graders along with their parents will be taking two classes in January (11 & 18) to prepare them to receive their Bibles on January 18 at the 6:45 service. When these children were baptized their parents promised to place the Bible in their hands, we are excited to help fulfill that promise with them.

Join us at Sterns arena January 15 @ 6:30 pm for a night of ice skating, hot chocolate, and friendship. All are welcome!

The Youth advisory committee is made up of students in grades 3rd – 12th We meet, and every other month and they help plan and execute events and activities. Our next meeting will be January 8 at 6:30 in the youth room.

Church Family Gatherings

- December 24 - 4:00, 6:00, 10:00 PM
Candlelight Service with Holy Communion
- December 25th - one Service at 10 am with Holy Communion
- January 1 - HAPPY NEW YEAR -
One Service at 10 AM with Holy Communion

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Traditional	9:00 am
Coffee Hour/ Adult Study	10:00 am
Sunday Contemporary	11:00 am
Wednesday	6:45 pm

CONNECT WITH US

www.bethelwahpeton.com

PEACE

definition: Calm & Comfort, Born of the Spirit

Important Events

FYCC - Family Cookie Decorating

December 3rd - 3-5 PM

Informational Meeting

December 4th - 10 AM

Concordia Christmas Concert

December 4th - Bus leaves Bethel @

Community Cantata

December 10th - 7 PM & December 11th - 2 PM

BLCW Brunch - Circles 1 & 5

December 14 - 8AM - 12 noon

Advent Fair - Worship to Follow

December 14 - 5:45 - 6:30 pm

Live Nativity

December 18 - 3 to 5 PM

Children's Christmas Program

December 18th - 4 PM

Christmas Eve Services

4 PM, 6 PM, 10 PM

Christmas Day Services

10 AM with communion

New Year's Day Services

10 AM with communion

Discussion and Dessert - Veteran Funeral

Benefits and Advanced Planning

January 10 - 2 PM to 4 PM

Dinner and Dancing

January 20 - 6:30 PM

Worship - 10:00, Annual Meeting - 11:00

with Potluck to follow January 29th

Ash Wednesday - Lent begins

February 22 - 12:10 and 6:45 pm

Marriage Enrichment Night

February 24 - 6:00

World Day of Prayer

March 3rd, 2023



A TIME for Peace

Below are ideas and scripture to help lead you to slow down and be present in this wonderful Advent season:

Isaiah 41:10 - "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

John 16:33 - "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

2 Thessalonians 3:16 - "Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all."

Matthew 5:9 - "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

Romans 15:13 - "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

- **Retreat. Take a day during Advent and go on a personal retreat for prayer and quiet biblical reflection. Spend time in quiet.**
- **Take long walks. This isn't walk for exercise; it's time to breath the cool air and observe God's handiwork. Slow down and watch nature and all of the beauty surrounding us.**
- **Visit our empty sanctuary. Being in the empty sanctuary forces us to practice being still and silent. We invite you to enjoy a few moments of reflective, private worship and to allow God to lift anything that weighs on your heart. Enjoy soft music and the glow of the decorated sanctuary to bring you peace.**
- **And think on these things,,,,,,,,,,,,,**

"...for to you is born this day....a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

— Luke 2: 11



.....from Interim Pastor Tom

Who can forget at this special time of the year that at his birth the angels sang, "Peace on earth, goodwill to all?" Christmas serves as an eternal reminder that violence and arguing and division among nations and groups closer to home was never God's plan for humanity.

There was a famous incident amid the horrors of World War I that some of you may be familiar with. Christmas Eve, 1914. All was quiet on France's Western Front, from the English Channel to the Swiss Alps. The war was only five months old, and approximately 800,000 men had been wounded and killed. But on that Christmas Eve, something happened – something unique in man's bloody history. British soldiers raised "Merry Christmas" signs above their trenches. The hated Germans responded in kind. Soon carols were heard from German and British trenches alike.

Christmas Day found unarmed soldiers from both sides meeting the enemy in the middle of no-man's land for song and conversation. Exchanging small gifts, they passed Christmas Day peacefully. This unusual outbreak of peace occurred for miles along the battlefield. At one spot, the British played soccer with the Germans, who won 3-2.

In some places, the spontaneous truce continued the next day as neither side was willing to fire the first shot. Finally, fighting resumed when fresh troops arrived, and the high command of both armies ordered that further "informal understandings" with the enemy would be punishable as treason.

Christmas – a small pocket of sanity in an insane world. I invite you to make your way to Bethel sometime during the weekdays of the Advent season and spend a few moments at the prayer station in the sanctuary to clear your thoughts of the pain, anger and divisiveness hurled at us as accepted behavior these days. The words for this season, and all year, are – HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE.

May God's Spirit place these virtues in our hearts that we might witness to each other in this congregation such a spirit – to the glory of God and the welfare of this community of faith. Peace and joy. It's a choice we all have – in so many of the arenas, really, of our lives. As the angel said to the shepherds, "Behold, I bring to you good news of great joy...."

Pastor Tom

**Save the Date: Hunter Pinke
May 21st Both Services
ASK JOYCE for details**



**All are
Welcome.
Please Decide
to Join Us.**

Transition Team

A Transition Team has begun

1) will seek input from congregational members as to the heartbeat of this church's passions for ministry, outreach, congregational life .

2) will interview community leaders

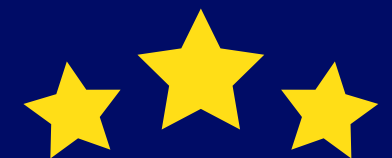
3) will report back, periodically

4) Define what we are looking for in a Senior Pastor

5) will write the "Ministry Site Profile" that will be shared with the congregation in March and then sent to the Synod and the ELCA for potential pastoral candidates

The members on the Transition Team are Dana Anderson, Kathy Dimmer, Harvey Link, Briana Walsh, Perry Miller, Zach/Lauren Maas, and Cyndy Kolle.

Please talk to them if you have questions and insights. Take part in the process by giving your input when given the opportunity.



The Call Committee will be elected in March.

Financial Report

Thank you for supporting Bethel's ministries. We had a strong October and we expect it to continue through the end of the year. Final Donations for 2022 due December 28th.

Operating Fund Balance

12-31-21 -\$53,259

9-30-22 -\$61,147

10-30-22 -\$45,573

MORTGAGE BALANCE

09/30/2022 \$929,905

10/31/2022 \$887,849

Capital Improvement Fund

Balance 10-31-22 \$65,830

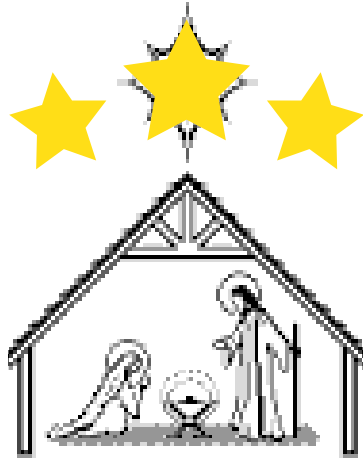
Monthly Payment \$5,113



Bethel - Your Home for the Holidays



Great memories
with family
& Great food



This means sharing with
others - the joy, thankfulness,
& blessings that come from
our Lord.



As with many, my most
precious meaning is being
with my family going to the
Candle-light Christmas Eve
Service. My Dad passed away
this year + even though there
is a lot of sadness in our hearts,
we are rejoicing Dad is now in
Paradise!

Home for the holidays
means all the kids +
grandkids are home. I
make rigatoni, sausage
& meatballs. We make a
fire + open presents +
enjoy each other. also
attend the candle lit service.

Our church in Hazen, ND,
always had a Christ mas program
on Christmas Eve. My 5 brothers
and sisters all had 4-5 lines to
memorize + recite as part of the
Christ mas program, and of course,
there were many Christmas songs we
sang. Afterwards we would dance
around Hazen + look at all the lights.
Once home + open our gifts from Santa.

We had a Christmas
celebration on our
Parents house. It was
cold + stormy so we
didn't make it to church.
Instead we each, my
parents, my husband, and
I boy chose a Bible
verse to read. We held
our own service at home.



Family
Traditions

Great memories
with family
& Great food



I always looked forward to
my brother coming from Minneapolis
with his wife and 3 girls.
We would always spend Christmas
eve with my family, and Christmas
Day with my husband's family,
food was great, many
traditions!

