



Bethel Lutheran Church

607 6th St. N

Wahpeton, ND 58075

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Our Mission

Bethel Lutheran Church in Wahpeton, ND is a community of believers called by God to:



Sunday Worship Services

- 9:00 am Traditional
- 10:10 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Contemporary

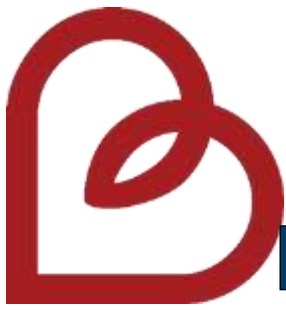
Wednesday Services

- 4:45 Supper Served
- 5:30 Wednesday School & Confirmation
- 6:35 Worship Service

Remember Bethel is online!
www.bethelwahpeton.com

Scan code on right to donate.





Bethel Beacon

February 2025

Volume 61 Issue 2

Upcoming Events

(Subject to Change)

- Feb 2 Scout Sunday
- Feb 12 NO Wednesday Programming/Service
- Feb 16 NO Sunday School
- Feb 23 Ice Skating @ Sterns Arena
- Mar 5 Ash Wednesday—Lent Starts
Noon Service and Lunch follow service
- Mar 15 Steam Event
- Mar 16 Bethel Youth @ Three Rivers Gymnastics
- Mar 23 New Member Orientation
- Mar 24 Food Backpack Packing
- Mar 30 New Member Sunday
- Apr 6 Congregation Birthday Party
- Apr 13 Palm Sunday
- Apr 17 Maundy Thursday
- Apr 18 Good Friday
- Apr 20 Easter
- Apr 21 Office & Building Closed
- Apr 27 Last Day of Sunday School
Confirmation Rehearsal
- Apr 30 Last Day of Programming
- May 3 Women’s Spring Luncheon
- May 4 Confirmation at 11am Worship Service
- May 11 Senior Sunday
- May 25 Start of Summer Worship Schedule
- May 26 Office & Building Closed
- Jun 7-8 Synod Assembly
- June 23-26 Vacation Bible School
- Sept 1 Office & Building Closed



**Our theme for this Lenten season will be
“Cultivating & Letting Go”**

Sundays
9am & 11am
Wednesdays
12:10pm & 6:35pm

March 5: Ash Wednesday Service

March 9: Letting Go of Temptation,
Cultivating Resistance

March 16: Letting Go of Self-Reliance,
Cultivating Trust in God’s Care

March 23: Letting Go of the Fear of Failure,
Cultivating Patience

March 30: Letting Go of the Fear of Not
Having Enough, Cultivating Forgiveness

April 6: Letting Go of Judging Ourselves &
Others, Cultivating Authenticity



Note from Pastor Amy

Bethel Friends,

In my devotions recently, I read about when Joshua went into battle, and as long as Moses held up his staff, they were winning. When he lowered it, they began to lose. In Exodus 17:12 it says:

“When Moses’ hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset.” Exodus 17:12 (NIV)

Moses’ friends, Aaron and Hur, had followed him up the mountain. They saw Moses struggling to keep his staff up, and they saw him growing tired. With compassion, these men pushed a large rock under Moses so he could rest. Then, in a selfless act of love and friendship, they each held up one of Moses’ arms as he held the staff high. They could not hold the staff *for* Moses, but they could stand *with* him through the long battle. They filled in the gap created by Moses’ weakness with the strength of their faith.

I was thinking as I read this how we each need others to support our weaknesses. Often, we feel when we come to church, we need to have it all together, and need to be great in each area of our jobs, and our lives. To at least appear like we have no weakness, no pain, no shortcomings.

But I wonder as we continue to strengthen our church family, if we might find ways to be gap-standers for each other’s weaknesses instead. A gap-stander has empathy and takes action, using the strength of their faith to help the fighter stand until victory comes. A gap-stander is someone the one in battle can lean on.

So, here’s my challenge to you. What is a part of your place here at Bethel where you could use a gap-stander? Think about all the things you do, and what are the things that drain your energy, that might be a place where you need some support? How might you let others come and support you in those places. Where are the places where, if you asked for help in the things that are draining you could then stand in the gap and help another who needs it in their gaps.

We talked at the annual meeting about how we need to lean on each other. My hope and my prayer as we prepare to move into Lent, is that we can continue to learn to lean on one another, and support one another, so that no one feels alone, but all feel a part of the love that defines who we are inside and outside our walls.

What gaps do you see happening around you? How might you seek out gap-standers when you need them, or be a gap-stander for others?

As we continue to get to know each other, let me know how I can support you or stand in the gap for you as well friends. I am so thankful to be on the journey with you!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Amy



Memorial Gifts for January

Faith Toolboxes

In memory of Kristin Kellogg/ Given by Gail Williams

Youth

In memory of Karen Ostgarden (mother of Alison Voss)/ Given by Alan and Ruth Ann Voss

General Memorial

- In memory of Kristin Kellogg/ Given by Ila Flesche
- In memory of Kristin Kellogg/ Given by Wayne and Carol Colby
- In memory of Kristin Kellogg/ Given by Richard and Barb Yaggie
- In memory of Kristin Kellogg/ Given by Neil and Kim Berseth
- In memory of Kristin Kellogg/ Given by Jim and Marlene Aas
- In memory of Kristin Kellogg/ Given by Sid Berg and Deb Mitkog
- In memory of Kristin Kellogg/ Given by Paula Aigner
- In Thankfulness of Laurie Stiller/ Given by Gary and Jody Friskop

FFS-Debt Reduction

In memory of Kristin Kellogg/ Given by Joe and Renee Speidel

Library

In memory of Karen Ostgarden / Given by Clare Byron

Bathroom Remodel

In memory of Kristin Kellogg/ Given by Linda Miller and Larry Bethel

Roof Repair/Replacement

- In memory of Kristin Kellogg/ Given by Judy McDaniel
- In memory of Kristin Kellogg/ Given by Karen Kearns Lutz
- In memory of Larry Hjelmstad/ Given by Clare Byron

1 Thessalonians 5:11

¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.




Eternal Candles and Altar Flowers
Sign up on the Volunteer Board for 2025


The sign up sheets are on the bulletin board by the Centennial Room Kitchenette. The cost for the Altar flowers will be \$30 per Sunday and Eternal Candles will be \$5 per week.



Church
OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday
9:00 am—5:00 pm

Friday
Closed



“HELLO FEBRUARY” Prayer Station

Check out the prayer station at the back of the sanctuary, light a candle for someone you care about and say a prayer. Think about what God’s Love is for you and write it on the heart and attach it to the sign provided with **GOD’S LOVE IS:** on it.

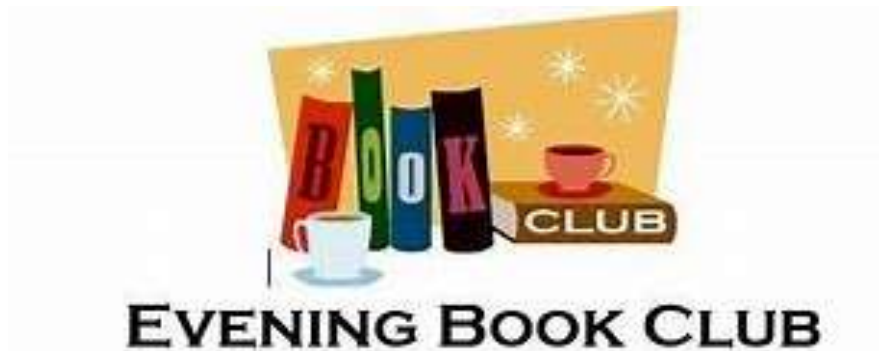
“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13:34-35



*This group meets on the Second Monday of the month at 10:00am.
The books they are reading in the coming months are:*

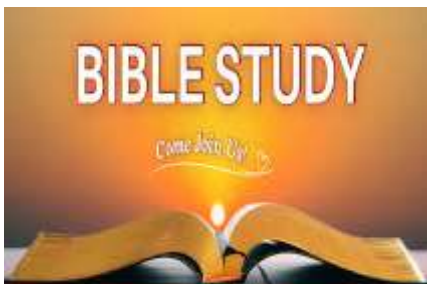
- February 10: Searching for Savana by Mona Gable**
- March 10: The All-Girl Filling Station Last Reunion by Fanny Flay**
- April 14: The Boy from the Woods by Harlen Coban**
- May 12: Sons of Fortune by Jeffrey Archer**
- June 9: The Island by Nancy Lee**
- July 14: When Crickets Cry by Charles Martin**
- August 11: The Apartment Across the Hall by Jack Dane**
- September 8: Lineage of Grace by Francine Rivers**
- October 13: Dinner for Vampires by Bethany Joy Lenny**
- November 10: The Hiding Place by Corrie Tenboom**



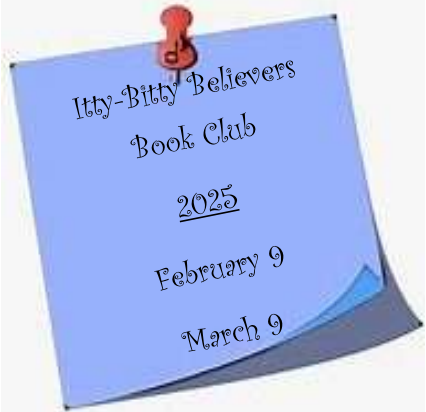
This group meets on the First Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm.
You can follow us on Facebook at ***Bethel Lutheran Evening Book Club***.
All are welcome!

- February 4: Sons of Fortune by Jeffrey Archer**
- March 4: Everything I Know about Love by Dolly Alterton**
- April 1: the God of the Woods by Liz Moore**
- May 6: Frankenstein by Mary Shelly**

Tuesday Morning Bible Study—10:30



Pastor Amy leads the group in discussion on the bible texts for the upcoming Sunday worship. This is helpful time to think through and reflect upon these Scripture lessons in order that the message might be more meaningful.



Vacation Bible School
June 23rd thru June 26th

We will begin serving supper each evening at 4:45pm. VBS will start at 5:30pm each evening and run till 7:45. Watch for more information to come!

Bethel Youth!!

Lets flip, jump, tumble and play on March 16th at Three Rivers Gymnastics!

1:30-2:45: Preschool thru 2nd grade

2:45-4:00: 3rd grade thru 5th grade

4:00-5:00: 6th grade and up

These times are flexible, if you have children in different age groups pick the section that works best for your family.

Contact Lisa with any questions. Friends are always invited to join us. Fun and snacks will be provided!

Bethel Families & Friends

Please join us for an evening of free ice skating, fun, friendship & fellowship at Sterns Arena on February 23rd from 7pm-9pm. Hot chocolate & treats will be provided.



Confirmation Students

Confirmation UPDATE:

Mentor Events:

6th grade—March 26th

7th grade—April 2nd

8th grade—April 9th

9th Grade Schedule:

March 5th: Faith statement

April 2nd: Stoles

April 27th: Confirmation rehearsal

5:30pm

May 4th: Confirmation 11am Service



STEAM EVENT

Families with kids ages 0-5 are invited to join us on Saturday, March 15th from 9am to 12pm as we have a morning of fun STEAM exploration. The Children's Discovery Center, Gallery on the Go with Tami Sirek, and the PBS Learning Express will join us for stations with hands-on fun. Come and go as needed during this event.

This event is free and open to the public.

We are asking for a donation of children's hygiene items (shampoo, lotion, pain reliever, etc.) or paper products (tissues, paper towels, toilet paper, etc.) for Three Rivers Crisis Center and Someplace Safe if you are able.

We are looking for volunteers to help supervise the different stations.

If you can help, please contact Brianna Walsh or Lisa Bassingthwaite.

February Noisy Offering Richland-Wilkin Food Pantry

Donations will be sent in March when there are matching dollars. In conjunction with the noisy offering, the Board of Outreach will be collecting specific items for the food pantry to make special family meal bags. Each family meal bag will include the following: 2 cans of chicken breast, 2 packs of Knorr's rice, 2 cans of cream of chicken soup, 1 can of chicken broth & shredded cheese.

We will be collecting items as follows:

Feb 2—chicken in a can

Feb 9—Knorr's rice packets

Feb 16—cans of cream of chicken soup

Feb 23—cans of chicken broth

March 1—Bag of cheese or financial donations for cheese purchasing

Sunday March 23rd

New Member Orientation

Sunday March 30th

New Member Sunday!

If you are interested in membership, please talk to one of the ushers or Joyce Johnson. New Member Form needs to be completed.

Board of Outreach has been made aware of families in our communities that need some very basic things such as cleaning supplies, paper products, groceries and gas. Sometimes a little boost can do wonders for those who are struggling. With February being the "Month of Love" and Bethel reminds us to "Be the Love" we are asking parishioners to consider donating gift cards from area businesses such as Econofoods, Walmart or gas stations. The gift cards will be made into gift card bouquets and given to the families needing support. The gift cards can be dropped off in the office during the week or placed in the offering plate on Sundays in February.

Church Calendar

Find an up-to-date calendar at this link. (goes church web-



to



Volunteers make a huge difference in our ministries @ Bethel. We asked members to keep track of their volunteer time from July 1, 2024-December 31, 2024. The hours that were turned in totaled **2249 hours!** We know many did not turn in their times! According to the *Do Good Institute*, volunteer hourly wages are \$33.40. We could not do ministry @ Bethel without our volunteers! Thank you to all who donate their time! Please don't hesitate to contact the office if you would like to become involved in a ministry @ Bethel. We will help you to find a fit for your passion.



There will be a prayer space that will be available on Friday, March 7 for the World Day of Prayer, should you wish to come and have a place to pray.

There will be resources for prayers set up in the sanctuary for your use from 10am-2pm. If you are looking for someone to pray with, Pastor Amy will be available in her office during that time frame. May God bless your time of prayer and reflection.

**Join us on April 17th from 2-4pm
for Discussion & Dessert!**

Brad Cruff will be presenting the successes of Treatment Court in Richland County.

Come join the discussion & learn how this is making a difference in our area.

March Noisy Offering

Will be handled a little differently this year! We are calling it "Be The Love" noisy offering. We will collect the Noisy offering for the month of March but in April, we ask you to take the money from March to go into the community to "Be The Love!" We ask you to tell us how you made a difference in our community! You can donate to the Noisy Offering on the Bethel website giving page or by putting money into the Noisy Offering pails as the kids come around on Sunday mornings.

Join the Bethel Team to deliver Meals-on-Wheels!

I have a list of volunteers already making a difference for seniors who depend on home delivered meals. Are you willing to add your name so we can grow the volunteer base? Each month, I receive a schedule from the Senior meals program, & I send out a text asking the team if they are available to help. You choose when you can help & how often you would like to help. Then you donate 1 hour of your time to help make a difference. Please contact Joyce @ 701-642-4472 if you would like to give it a try!

You are invited to a church

Birthday Party

on April 6th!!

Please join us for coffee hour between services on April 6th to celebrate our birthdays.

FEBRUARY

Birthdays

- 2/1 - Kari Cvancara
Emily DeVries
Michael Grefsrud
Ignacio Guerrero
Sharon Humble
Linda Kocher
Holly Krump
Charlene Oehlke
- 2/2 - Jacob Goltz
Pam Hendrickson
- 2/3 - Paisley Bertelson
Clayton Floan
Richard Opoien
- 2/4 - Thomas Bernotas
Amy Boyer
Doug Skarp
Brody Thompson
- 2/5 - Kinslee Bladow
Serenity Melendrez
Jace Pausch
- 2/6 - Bjorn Birkelo
- 2/7 - Parker Bratlie
Brady Grefsrud
Nora Hjelmstad
Tyler Mauch

- 2/8 - Kevin Berger
Harriet Bjorke
Laikyn Mauch
Autumn Rossow
- 2/9 - Sharril Birkelo
Kylar Flack
- 2/10 - Brandon Bulson
Ryan Hoefs
Cohen Lovik
Isaac Prochnow
Keeran Rovig
- 2/11 - Leona Warholm
- 2/12 - Medora Good
Colette Leinen
Levi Prochnow
- 2/13 - Darci Eggen
Joann Ham
- 2/14 - Kijia Homes
- 2/15 - Gianna Maas
Lauren Maas
Mike Munter

- 2/16 - Alvin Eckre
Wyatt Meyer
Duane Smith
Ryder Spiekermeier
- 2/17 - Josh Berg
Tenley Hills
Brian Uhlich
- 2/18 - Lisa Bassingthwaite
Sonja Christensen
Hadley Hallquist
Caitlyn Pithey
Brittany Scott
- 2/19 - Leah Leraas
Deborah Loberg
Felisa Mastel
Donna Sherven
- 2/20 - Jeffrey McBeth
Carter miller
Ryland Pauly
Jeremy Wallender

These are the people known to have birthdays in February. If you have a birthday this month & your name is not listed, we do not have your birthday in our church records. Please contact the church office so we may have it in our records.

- 2/21 - Nicole Heitkamp
- 2/23 - Tim Cookman
Corbin Cornelius
Ashlyn Johnson
- 2/24 - Gregory Buboltz
Corey Kratcha
- 2/25 - Noah Brenden
Alicia Cornelius
Joncy Mastel
Catherine Prochnow
- 2/26 - Johnica Bernotas
Myron Braun
Kelsey Darwin
Norma Olson
- 2/27 - Matthew Berger
Raydan Hildebrand
Jay Townsend
- 2/28 - Jace Johanson
Lori Meyer