



# Bethel Blaze

January 2024

*Sharing Christ's love with a big heart*

## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

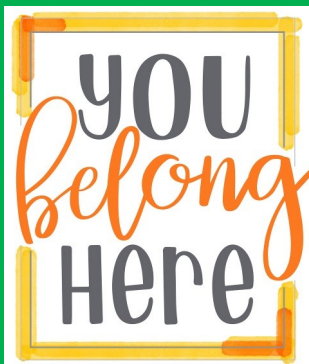
**In Person**  
Sunday Mornings:  
8:30 and 10:45 am

**Online**  
The 8:30 service is  
livestreamed  
on our YouTube channel.  
Check our website  
for the link!  
You can also view the service  
at your convenience.

Past services are also available  
on Northfield's public  
television station channels  
180 & 187

No cable is required.  
There are four opportunities  
to watch:

Monday 2:00 pm  
Tuesday 1:30 pm  
Wednesday 7:00 pm  
Saturday 7:00 am



## WHERE IS OUR ATTENTION?

2023 Annual  
Report



### BUDGET MEETING

Sunday, January 21

9:45 am in the sanctuary

Our treasurer will present the proposed 2024 budget.

### ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 28

9:45 am in the sanctuary

As a congregation, we will receive 2023 reports from the council, pastor, staff and committees, and look together at the year ahead.

## Do Our Values Have Our Attention?

During the past few months, we've been participating, first as individuals and now as a congregation, in the Nourishing Vocation Project, to deepen our understanding of God's call in our lives and our life together as *Bethel*. We've talked about aligning our attention with our values as a congregation, but just what are those values?

On November 19, Rev. Dr. Char Cox and NVP Fellow, Emily King-Nobles conducted a workshop (pictured) for the congregation to determine what our values might be. The results of that workshop revealed that our very highest priority is worship and music. A close second is a welcoming fellowship and compassionate community, followed by education for children, youth and adults. There was strong consensus among these choices, but it was clear that additional values were in the hearts of our members as well, such as outreach, service, stewardship and more.

As we move into a new year planning programs and activities for the congregation, we can give attention to our values and how they show up in our work together. We will revisit these values in Eastertide and announce our top five for the coming year. In the time of Christmas and following Epiphany, our focus will be *attentiveness*. Does our attention align with the values we've prioritized?



## FIRESIDE REFLECTIONS



**Pastor Ben Schori**  
(he/him)  
pastor.ben@  
bethelnorthfield.org  
(preferred for non-urgent  
communication)

**office**  
507-786-8953

**office hours**  
by appointment Mondays,  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and  
Thursdays

**days off**  
Friday & Saturday

Happy New Year, Bethel!

I've never really been one for New Year's resolutions. It's not that I have never aspired to improve or could stand to improve in one way or another (God and my friends and family know I am far from perfect), but I've never really used the "New Year" to inspire a "new me" or, rather, something new about myself. This New Year, however, I think I might make a resolution to be more attentive. Allow me to elaborate.

I have this paper weight on my office desk. I've had it for so long, I can't remember how I got it. Engraved on it is the famous adage "Be the change you wish to see in the world" (not a Mahatma Gandhi quote, by the way). I hope for most of us, this is a goal in life, to aspire to be a conduit of the change we believe the world needs. But having goals rooted in our values is one thing, living them out with authenticity, effectiveness, and consistency is another.

So, this New Year, I'm resolving to be more attentive. Attentive to my values and the ways I would wish to see the world change. And attentive to whether my thoughts, words, and actions are helping to make that happen in big and small ways.

I welcome you to join me in this resolution. In the Time After Epiphany, the Nourishing Vocation Project will help us reflect on where we give our attention, and how it aligns with our values. Have you thought recently about your values, or Bethel's values? How are we already living them out in thought, word, and deed? How could we change to be even more authentic to the values toward which we aspire?

Peace & Blessings,

Pastor Ben

## BEFRIENDERS

by Marci Groenewold

Pay attention! our teachers insist, as they give out directions for the next classroom assignment. Pay attention! the car behind us honks, reminding us to stay in our lane. Pay attention. In Paul's letter to the Ephesians as rendered by "The Message", Chapter 4, verse 3, invites us to pay attention by "pouring yourselves out for each other in acts of love, alert at noticing differences and quick at mending fences."

For BeFrienders, "paying attention" is known as attending. "Attending is one of the key behaviors of active listening. Attending means paying close attention and being sensitive to cues in yourself and others that indicate what is going on. It means to listen with the eyes and heart as well as the ears. Through attending, BeFrienders create a listening space in which we can be fully present to the other, respect silence, and maintain our focus on the here and now." (BeFriender Training Workbook)

Paying attention requires patience. We must be silent; taking the time to get to know the other person and allowing them the time they need to express their thoughts without judgment. This requires a non-anxious presence that blocks out all other distractions. When we focus on another in this way, we allow ourselves to view them through the lens of Christ's love. By getting to know others, we also discover more about ourselves and our calling to be more of what God intended for us to be -- loving and sensitive to the hopes, dreams, and needs of each other.





Notice that the same letters in the word Silent are in the word Listen. Silent=Listen

Upcoming opportunity: BeFriender Group Meeting -- Pastor Ben Schori -- 3:00pm Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> Bethel Youth Room. All trained BeFrienders and Companions are welcome.



A fundamental BeFriender principle: "Active Listening". For more information, please contact Marci Groenewold (507-649-3160), Knight Stanley (612-877-0893), Myrna Luehmann (507-951-7112), Karen Mader (507-301-4368) or the Bethel Office (507-786-6674).

**EVERY WEEK**

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 9 AM - 3 PM

SUNDAY		8:30 am	Worship (livestream)
		9:45 am	Coffee Fellowship/Bethel Presents / Faith Flow /Bible Deep Dive
		10:45 am	Worship in the Sanctuary
MONDAY		6:30 pm	Adult/Resonance Bell Choir
TUESDAY		9:45 am	Staff Meeting
WEDNESDAY		3:30 pm	Limitless (Starts 1/10)
		5:45 pm	BISTRO! (Starts 1/3)
		6:15 pm	Ring Forth Bell Choir (Starts 1/10)
		7:00 pm	Confirmation
		8:05 pm	Brio Bell Choir (Starts 1/10)
THURSDAY		8:30 am	MOB (Men of Bethel) Study into Joshua and the battle of Jericho' continues.
		9:30 am	FAB (Faith and Books) We begin, <i>Fierce: Women of the Bible and Their Stories of Violence, Mercy, Wisdom, Bravery, Sex, and Salvation</i> , on Jan. 11, with discussions led by Pastor Ben.
		2:00 pm	Grief Support Group

**THIS MONTH**

JAN 4		10:45 am	OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans)
		5:00 pm	Personnel Committee Meeting
		7:00 pm	Bethel Vision Seekers will meet on Thursday January 4, 2024 at 7 pm at Ettlin's Rancho in Webster. If you wish to be added to the Vision Seekers Tag in Breeze, please contact Kelly Groenewold at <a href="mailto:kelly.groenewold@gmail.com">kelly.groenewold@gmail.com</a>
JAN 8		5:00 pm	Worship & Arts Committee Meeting
JAN 9		9:00 am	Quilting Group
		7:00 pm	Creation Care Committee
JAN 10		12:30 am	Mission & Justice Meeting
		5:15 pm	Congregational Life Committee
JAN 11		7:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting
JAN 16		9:30 am	ARLA Zoom Meeting (Anti-Racism Learning & Advocacy)
		3:00 pm	Befriender Group Meeting
JAN 20		9:00 am	Sr. Quilting Day
JAN 21		9:45 am	BUDGET MEETING
		9:45 am	Third Grade Prayer Class Begins
JAN 23		9:30 am	Quilting Group
JAN 28		9:45 am	ANNUAL MEETING
JAN 31		7:00 pm	Sixth Grade Connections

## FAITH FORMATION AT BETHEL...

### Nursery News — Sunday FUN-Days

**January 7th:  
ICE PAINTING**

In the spirit of chilly January, we will give Ice Painting a try! What a fun way to combine a fan-favorite nursery activity (painting) with the frigid temps that we usually see in January!

**January 14th:  
MLK Jr DAY**

We L♥VE Martin Luther King, Jr., in the nursery and we can't wait to devote an entire morning to celebrating every single wonderful thing he did.

**January 21st:  
PUPPET PLAY**

The nursery has a great collection of puppets and a puppet theatre! Our selection ranges from Jesus, Mary, and Joseph to a cow, a parrot, and Clifford the Big Red Dog! How might these puppet characters play out in a Puppet Show?!? We can't wait to find out!

**January 28th:  
SNOW MUCH FUN**

Snow has been scarce this winter so here's hoping we will have some and we'll be excited about it! If not, no worries, we will still enjoy the "cool" fun you can have with SNOW! Stop by and chill out with a snowy treat and some snow-inspired activities and crafts.

**Juley Jenkinson (she/her)**  
Director of  
Early Childhood Faith Formation  
507-786-8973  
jjenkinson@bethelnorthfield.org



### What's New in Children's Ministry?

**Upcoming Dates:**

- January 7 - Sunday School Resumes
- January 7 - Children's Church Resumes
- January 10 - Limitless Resumes
- January 21 - Third Grade Parent- Child Prayer Class

**Thank you!**

As always, I am incredibly proud of the dedication our children put into sharing the Good News in our annual Children's Christmas Program. We had approximately 60 participants in our double cast production of *The Late Night Chat*. Adults, thank you for all the behind-the-scenes support, costume, and cuing assistance! I love how Bethel loves our children.

**Third Grade Parent-Child Prayer Class**

Parents and kids, join us Sunday January 21<sup>st</sup> in the Center Pod for an exploration of Prayer. What is it? How do we do it? Why is it important?  
9:55-10:30AM; Following opening music

**Children's Church Continues during the 10:45 service**

Would your elementary school child enjoy a kid-focused worship experience Sunday morning? Immediately following the Children's Message, children Grades K- 5 are invited to follow us to the Center Pod for elements of worship, a story, music, and game or craft to enhance the lesson. Children will be brought back to join their parents in the Sanctuary prior to worship concluding.

Be blessed. We're in this together.  
Brenda

**Brenda Rabbe (she/her)**  
Director of Children's Ministries  
507-786-8878  
childrensministry@bethelnorthfield



### Children's Church

### It's Back!

children Kindergarten - fifth grade. Everyone begins worship together in the sanctuary. After the Children's Message, kids are invited to go to Children's Church elsewhere in the building. Activities will involve aspects of worship crafted for children as well as games or crafts to compliment the teaching. Children will rejoin their families in the sanctuary for the sending song. This option will be available again from January 7th through February 11th. If it shows to be of value to the community, it could continue to be offered.

## Youth Ministry

Ninth Grade and **Mentor Bowling** is Sunday, January 14, from 1:00 – 3:00 at Flahtery Lanes. Register on Breeze!

**Summer Trips!** Sign up on Breeze for Eighth Grade Service Trip to Duluth, Christikon backpacking trip, and The ELCA Youth Gathering! Contact Kristi for more information.

**Newest Bethel Youth Fundraiser!** Egg Rolls! All the deliciousness of Cambodian Egg Rolls, to support our youth and their summer adventures. Order in January with delivery on February 4. Details are on the youth webpage.

Seniors! Your **quilt packets** are due in the office by January 14!

The first **senior quilting day** — January 20 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Graduating seniors, family members, experienced quilters and newbies are invited to join us as we prepare over 30 quilts to celebrate these young people.

**Kristi Larson (she/her)**  
**Director of Youth Ministries**  
 651-230-6057 (cell/text)  
 youth@bethelnorthfield.org



## BURN BRIGHTLY...

### ARLA Is Back on Zoom This Winter!

After in-person meetings and a museum trip in the fall, ARLA discussions will be back on Zoom this winter. In preparation for our time together on **Tuesday, January 16, at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom**, we will listen ahead of the meeting to the podcast called “Healing the Harms of Cultural Appropriation.” Simply type in the title, and the podcast will come up. This podcast is on a timely, important topic and includes the efforts of a well-known Minnesota company with Minnesota Native Americans. Even if you can’t join us on Zoom, listen to the podcast. You will find it enriching and thought-provoking. Tell your friends about ARLA, and contact Darlene Broughton at 507-323-4258 to be added to the Zoom list.

### ARLA’s New Section of the Library

ARLA (Anti-Racism Learning and Advocacy) has started a new section in the Bethel Library! So far we have some Native American-related books for all ages and some African American-related books.

The first of two books we are recommending this month are *I’m Still Here*, a memoir with practical help for the reader. It’s an engaging, easily readable memoir of parts of Channing Brown’s life. A young, black, Christian woman, she describes her experiences in American society and offers practical help in being an anti-racist.

*Neither Wolf Nor Dog: On Forgotten Roads with an Indian Elder* by Kent Michael Nerburn leads the reader through Indian country with remarkable descriptions of the Dakota west. A Native American elder asked Nerburn, a white college professor, to record his story and teachings so whites could understand. The conversations they have reveal insights into Lakota culture beyond stereotypes and myths to reverence, respect, and honor. Read more about these books in the Weekly this month.



## Happy Birthday to YOU!

*Building Connections through Birthdays!*



Happy Birthday! Isn't it nice when someone recognizes you've made it through another trip around the sun? Starting in January, on the first Sunday of each month during coffee hour in the CLC, Congregational Life will be putting up a poster with a list of everyone who is celebrating a birthday that month. No specific dates and no year, just names of those of us who were born that month. This will enable you to wish “Happy Birthday” to your fellow Bethelites.

How does Bethel know your birthday? Through Breeze! Look yourself up on Breeze. If your birthday isn't listed in the “Main” section, click on “Main” and enter your birthday. Help us wish each other Happy Birthday!

# BETHEL BRIGHT LIGHTS IN DECEMBER



Making Gingerbread Houses



Stuffing Stockings for the residents at Northfield Retirement Center



Making Lefse

Children's Christmas Program

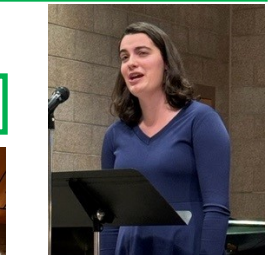


Strings for Advent



Christmas Tree Delivered

Christmas Eve by Candlelight



# LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE

## Try Choir in January!



Enjoy singing, but find it hard to make a long-term commitment? Here's your perfect opportunity! During the month of January, there will be no Wednesday night rehearsals. If you'd like to sing in the choir, just show up in the east pod 30 minutes before worship and Maestro Pete will pull out a simple piece for us to learn in less than 30 minutes! It's fun. It's important. And it's easy. See you there!

## Bethel Presents...

## “Raft and Flood: Baptism in Daily Life”

Greg Walter leads a two-part series on Baptism and the many different ways we might experience God's call in our lives. Over three sessions we will consider:

- how baptism promises a freed and freeing identity amidst all the names, roles, and identities we are given in daily life!
- how baptism gives courage to confront injustice, repent, and ready ourselves to give and receive forgiveness!
- how baptism shapes what to expect when we aren't expecting!

For each session, we will consider a piece of art, a hymn, a prayer, or a few lines of poetry. No preparation needed!



## The Northfield ELCA Congregations are considering a coordinated visit

to Holden Village in early August of 2024. Households must still register individually, but a coordinated visit gives us opportunities to share travel plans and wisdom in planning a Holden journey. If you are interested, contact Pastor Inger and explore Holden's website at holdenvillage.org. Registration will open in January.



## Land Acknowledgement

Bethel Lutheran Church stands on land that is the home of the Wahpekute band of the Dakota nation, whose people have been stewarding this land for many generations. We regret the injustices done to them: unkept promises, broken treaties, forced removal from homes, and genocide. So, with the Holy Spirit's help, we pledge to repair relationships with our Indigenous neighbors by learning about their history, current stories, and public policies that have impacted and continue to impact their lives. In doing so we commit ourselves to making inroads to interrupt systemic racism and helping to promote healing and justice.

*adopted by Bethel Church Council November 14, 2023*

Stringer

## FINANCIAL NOTES from Barb Fowler

### November 30, 2023 Financial Report

	<u>November Monthly</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Revenue	\$ 122,671	\$807,071
Expenses	\$ 87,104	\$850,790
Total	\$ 35,567	\$-43,719

The Budget Meeting will be January 21. We will review 2023 finances and present the financial needs for 2024. Please come with your questions.



**Bethel Lutheran Church**  
**1321 North Avenue**  
**Northfield, MN 55057**



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Return Service Requested



**Bethel Lutheran Church**  
**Shares Christ's Love with a Big Heart**

We celebrate all people as children of God. We unconditionally welcome diversity of age, race, citizenship, ethnicity, cultural identity, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, education, relationship status, family structure, and life challenges. Your diversity and uniqueness are valued. Your questions and your doubts have a home here. You, your spouse, partner, children, family, and friends are welcome to be full participants in the life of our church.

**YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!**



## MENU

### Beverage:

Iconic Chicha Morada—*purple corn juice made into a zesty, colorful punch with pineapple, peaches, apples, cinnamon and cloves.*

### First Course:

Ceviche—*an appetizer of small pieces of raw fish marinated in lime or lemon juice, served with pieces of sweet potato and corn.*

### Main Course:

Lomo Saltado (*made with beef tenderloin*)  
 Aji de Gallina (*made with chicken*)  
 Locro de Zapallo (*vegetarian option, made with squash*)

### Dessert:

Arroz con leche y mazamorra morada (*rice pudding with purple Peruvian sauce*)

**SAVE THE DATE!**

## Peruvian Dinner Fundraiser February 4

You will not want to miss out on the delicious and authentic Peruvian food served at this special dinner! The meal will be prepared by our very own Lizbeth Ramirez (and her crew of helpers) and will feature traditional foods. There will also be an educational program about Peru.

Tickets will be sold at the Among the Ministries table between services on Sundays, January 20 and 28, and in the Bethel office starting January 15. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go to the Bethel Refugee Fund.