



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

BEACON

Fall 2025

810 Third Ave SE, Rochester, MN | (507) 288-6430 | bethellutheran.com | [@bethelrochester](https://www.instagram.com/bethelrochester)

Dear Bethel Members and Friends:

As I write this, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Churchwide Assembly is taking place in Phoenix, Arizona. We have a new Presiding Bishop-elect Yehiel Curry, and accolades given to Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton who will soon retire after twelve years of faithfully serving in this role. In her final address as Presiding Bishop, she shared a quote from Martin Luther that was a powerful reminder of how faith is about growth as well as God's infinite grace. Luther says,

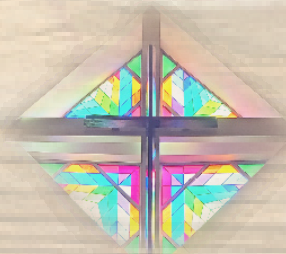
"This life therefore is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness, not health, but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished, but it is going on, this is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified."

One thing I love about Luther's quote is that it acknowledges that life is not about perfection, but about the process of growth and becoming. Through faith, God is always at work in us! At Bethel, we gather weekly to worship and to center in the promise that God is continuing to work in and through each of our lives and collectively as a church for the world.

Another program year is soon to unfold with multiple ways for you to engage and grow in your life of faith. Programs will resume that feed us with relationship building, learning, and serving. The rhythm of worship will keep the cadence steady with weekly opportunities for Holy Communion and hearing the proclamation of the Gospel in preaching, scripture, liturgy, and song. Of note, this fall we will celebrate the 11th anniversary of The Gate of Life service held weekly at 10:10 am in the Bethel Chapel. And in October a special concert will commission the Antiphonal Organ Division that was added in our main sanctuary (and funded entirely by a generous gift from an anonymous member of our congregation).

Bethel is a thriving congregation with something for everyone. You will always find a place there to exercise and grow in faith through Christ Jesus.

PASTOR ANJANETTE BANDEL



We are always thankful for you and your generosity

Ways to Give

- Rally Weekend | Worship Information | Gate of Life Anniversary Celebration | Health Cabinet Update | Young in Spirit 2
- Fall Adult Bible Studies | Adult Education Forums 3
- Music Opportunities at Bethel | Wicks Pipe-Organ Antiphonal & Console Dedication Concert 4
- Bethel Stewardship Message | Columbarium & Memorial Garden Update | New Member Orientation 101 Classes
Bethel Volunteer Guidebook 5
- Food For Kidz | Rummage Sale | Bethel Tea Team Events 6
- Children, Youth & Families Ministry News 7
- Worship at a Glance | Thanksgiving Dinner Information 8

- Mail your weekly or monthly giving to us
- Text "BETHELGIVES" to 73256
- Visit our website, bethellutheran.org, and click -Give Online-
- Venmo: [@bethel-lutheran-rochester](https://venmo.com/bethel-lutheran-rochester) or scan this QR code





RALLY SATURDAY

September 6th

Snack Mix social time
immediately following
the 6 pm service.

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry is hosting the traditional Rally Day Carnival along with a special Meet the Leaders event! Join us as we kick off a new school year at Bethel. Families should plan to attend a special worship service and allow time for Meet the Leaders from 10 – 10:30 am. On Rally Day, we will have bounce houses, Not Your Average Joe Magician who will make balloon animals after some magic tricks, a photo booth, and more fun activities starting at 10:30 am in the courtyard!

Worship INFORMATION

Saturdays - 6 pm (Traditional Liturgy)

Sundays

- 9 am* & 10:30 am** (Traditional Liturgy)
- 10:10 am Gate of Life (Contemporary Service)

RALLY SUNDAY

September 7th

- 9:15-10:45 am complimentary brunch served in Bethel Hall (egg bake, muffins/breads, fruit & coffee)
- 10:30 am - Carnival in the Courtyard begins

Holy Communion is offered during our Saturday worship at 6 pm and Gate of Life Contemporary service on Sunday at 10:10 am each week. Our 9 am & 10:30 am Sunday services offer Holy Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.

* 9 am worship offers a Sign Language Interpreter and is streamed by 11 am on our website and YouTube channel.

** 'Side-by-Side' Families together at worship

Save the Date!

GATE
OF LIFE
~~10th~~ 11th
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION



SEPTEMBER 14TH AT 10:10 AM

- Worship service meets in the Bethel Chapel
- Cookie reception before and after the GOL service.
- Former band members and original GOL members will be present for memories and music.
- All members and friends of Bethel are invited.



HEALTH CABINET UPDATE

The Fall and Winter season will continue to have several opportunities from the Health Cabinet for those who wish to participate. We'll continue to have the Holy Strollers walking group which will move indoors when the weather changes. Another option will be a Coffee & Chat group. In February, three experienced individuals will also present the Adult Ed program about Palliative Care and Hospice, discussing when a person/family should begin thinking about investigating the services. We anticipate offering blood pressure monitoring on the third Sunday of each month, flu vaccinations again in October, and future grief sessions.



Young in Spirit



Young in Spirit meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month for food, friendship and fun. At noon we gather for Christian devotions and a catered meal. At 1 pm there is an entertaining or educational program. Reservations for the meal are due the Tuesday before the meeting by calling the church office or Judy Pucci at (507) 282-0155 (no texts). The meal is \$17 and can be paid by cash or check at the door. There is no charge to attend the program only.



EVENING *Bible Study*

Starting this fall, Pastor Mandsager will offer a study that moves through the whole Bible in one education year: Dan Erlander's *Manna and Mercy*. Erlander's vibrant, in-depth exploration of the Bible focuses on God's grace and never-ending love for humanity. We'll explore creation, the story of the exodus, God's covenant with the Israelites, stories of kings, prophets, exile, and return.

Some evening study participants have expressed a desire for an earlier meeting time, as the days get shorter and it gets dark earlier, so this fall, our study will begin at 4 pm in Room 115. We will meet October 1st, 8th, 22nd, 29th, November 5th, 12th, 19th, and December 3rd, and 10th. To register, please email mandsager@bethellutheran.com by September 12th so we can order your copy of *Manna and Mercy*.

Weekly **SCRIPTURE STUDY**

This is an informal study group that helps participants gain deeper appreciation of the scripture texts for upcoming worship services on Saturdays and Sundays. No preparation or special knowledge is needed. Come as you are and learn more about the Bible! We meet in Room 115 on Wednesdays at 10 am.



MEN'S MINISTRY: *Word and Service*

We invite Bethel men to join Pastor Mandsager in gathering around God's word, hearing inspiring stories, and doing occasional service projects. We'll meet in Room 115 at 6 pm, October 9th, 22nd, and 29th, and on December 10th and 17th. Here's the schedule:

- October 8th - *About the Bible: Short Answers to Big Questions*, based on the book by the same name by Terence Fretheim. (Please send an email to mandsager@bethellutheran.com to order a copy of the book).
- October 22nd - Ray of Life service project with confirmation students: we will assemble emergency power kits for people in Ukraine.
- October 29th - *About the Bible: Short Answers to Big Questions*.
- December 10th - The Candy Bomber: as we move into Advent, we will hear Tom Brokaw narrate "Christmas From Heaven," the story of an Air Force Pilot who dropped candy during the Berlin Air Lift.
- December 17th - As we approach the NCAA playoffs, we will view and discuss Lou Holtz's film, "Do Right."

ADULT EDUCATION SUNDAY FORUMS *Fall 2025*

The Adult Education Forum is presented most Sundays, September through March, at 10:30 am in Room 115. The program starts this year on September 14th with a presentation by Olivia Bergen from the Isaiah Program; followed the next week by Bishop Regina Hassanally presenting "What is happening in the ELCA".

Other presenters and topics include Darrell Jodock on "Observations about Israel-Palestine"; Pastor Norman Wahl on "Stories from the Parson"; Paula Lofstrom on "International Health Partners"; and Phil Quanbeck on "Lutheran Work in Madagascar". In addition to some of our favorite presenters (Darrell Jodock, Mark Tranvik, and Sarah Ruble), we are

excited to have some new presenters including Wayne Stenberg (Samaritan Bethany), Joyce Lehman (LSS), and Maureen Bigalow (Palliative Care/Hospice).

There is a complete Adult Education schedule in a brochure for you to take home. Check our Bethel e-News and the pre-service screens each week for upcoming presenters and topics.

You can also watch the forums online at bethellutheran.com under the 'Education' and then the 'Adult Education Video' tabs. Previous video recordings are sorted by topic and presenter.

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

at Bethel

Bethel members of all ages are invited to be part of our music ministry as we kick off a new season in September 2025! No need to read music—just bring your voice or instrument and a heart ready to praise. With flexible rehearsals (to be absent when needed) and a variety of vocal, handbell, and instrumental ensembles, there's something for everyone. Solos and special music opportunities are also available throughout the year. To learn more or get involved, visit our website or contact Brock Besse at (507) 288-6430 or besse@bethellutheran.com.

Chancel Choir (High School Students – Adults): Rehearse each Wednesday beginning Sept. 3rd from 7 to 8:30 pm in the sanctuary. Sing each weekend throughout the year.

Men's Quartet (Select group of 4 lower voices): Rehearse each Wednesday beginning Sept. 10th from 8:30 to 9 pm in the sanctuary. Sing once a month at assigned service(s).

Blessings Women's Choir (High School Students – Adults): Rehearse each Thursday beginning Sept. 11th from 5:45 to 6:30 pm in the chapel. Sing once a month at 9 & 10:30 am services.

Sing for Joy Men's Choir (High School Students – Adults): Rehearse each Thursday beginning Sept. 11th from 5 to 5:45 pm in the chapel. Sing once a month at 9 & 10:30 am services.

Choristers Choir (Grades 1 – 5): Rehearse each Wednesday beginning Sept. 17th from 5:45 to 6:15 pm in the chapel. Sing once a month at assigned service(s).

Cherub Choir (Ages 3 through kindergarten): Rehearse each Wednesday beginning Sept. 17th from 5:45 to 6:15 pm in room 100. Sing once a month at assigned service(s).

Youth Orffestra (NEW! - Grades 2 – 6): Rehearse each Wednesday beginning Sept. 17th from 6:15 to 6:45 pm in room 100. Play at select service(s) as selections are ready throughout the season.

Bethel Brass (High School Students – Adults): Rehearse each Wednesday beginning Sept. 10th from 5:30 to 6:15 pm in the sanctuary. Play once a month at 9 & 10:30 am services.

Bethel Ensemble (formerly Orchestra - High School Students – Adults): Rehearse each Wednesday beginning Sept. 10th from 6:15 to 7 pm in the sanctuary. Play once a month at 9 & 10:30 am.



Bethel Ringers (High School Students – Adults): Rehearse each Thursday beginning Sept. 4th from 7:15 to 8 pm in the sanctuary. Ring once a month at 9 & 10:30 am services.

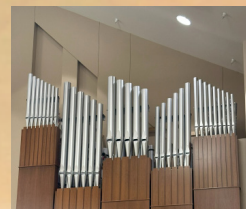
Chapel Ringers (High School Students – Adults): Rehearse each Thursday beginning Sept. 4th from 6:30 to 7:15 pm in the sanctuary. Ring once a month at 9 & 10:30 am services.

Gate of Life Singers & Band (All Vocalists & Instrumentalists): Meet each Sunday throughout the year at 9 am to rehearse weekly selections. Lead worship at 10:10 am each Sunday in the chapel.

We hope you'll join us. Let's make a joyful noise together!



WICKS PIPE-ORGAN ANTIPHONAL & CONSOLE DEDICATION CONCERT



The official dedication of our newly installed Wicks organ console and antiphonal division will be **Sunday, October 5th, 2025, at 2 pm** in the sanctuary. To mark this special occasion, we are honored to welcome Paul Fey, internationally acclaimed organist, composer, and media sensation.

We encourage you to invite friends, family, and neighbors to join us for this musical celebration. Don't miss this opportunity to experience the majesty of the Wicks pipe organ in the hands of one of today's most extraordinary talents!



"This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine..." You know the rest of the tune. Well, we think you and our Bethel staff have really taken this song's message to heart! You are not hiding your lights under bushel baskets but letting them

shine through the use of your gifts and talents to make Bethel an amazing place.

Our "Let it Shine" campaign theme is not only based on a catchy Sunday School song but comes from Jesus' message to his disciples in Matthew 5:16. "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." We are reminded of this verse at our baptism, and encouraged, with our new life, to go forward to use our gifts to glorify God.

This fall, your Bethel Stewardship Committee wants to celebrate the shining lights at Bethel by bringing you images and stories that highlight the impact you, our staff and our programs make every day at Bethel and in the broader community.

We also want to remind you that these "good works" wouldn't be possible without your financial support. We encourage you to support Bethel through your financial commitments so that we can continue to have the kind of staff, worship, programs and spaces that shine, and in turn help you to shine.

October will be a time to commit financially to support the good works happening at Bethel through our annual fund and mortgage payment fund. Watch for a letter and pledge envelope coming to in early October. On the weekend of October 25th and 26th, we invite you to make your commitment at worship. This is also Reformation weekend with special music and the celebration of our Lutheran heritage and commitment to remain rooted in God's Word, proclaiming the Gospel, and the grace of Christ's love.

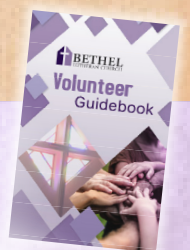
We'll thank you on October 25th and 26th for your intent to give by providing a special treat after the 6 pm Saturday service and a pancake breakfast on Sunday morning between worship services—all served by your Bethel Stewardship Team. Your financial offerings make Bethel shine through our mission and ministry. Thank you!

-Bethel Stewardship Team

Columbarium & MEMORIAL GARDEN UPDATE

Located on the east side of the church, the Columbarium and Memorial Garden offer a peaceful space for reflection, enhanced by beautiful landscaping, benches, and meaningful details like a "Peace Be With You" plaque.

There are currently four Columbaria (A–D), each with 25 niches. Just one niche remains in both A and D, with each niche holding two sets of ashes. Coming September 2025: Two new Columbaria (E & F). Memorial Garden spaces are also available. For more information, including pricing, please contact the church office.



New MEMBER ORIENTATION 101 CLASSES

Our monthly New Member Orientation 101 classes will begin on Wednesday, September 17th at 6 pm via Zoom.

The one hour class will include; what it means to be a member of Bethel Lutheran Church, information on various ministries at Bethel and enjoying fellowship together.

Attendance is required for all those interested in becoming a Bethel member. To register for the class, please visit our website at: bethellutheran.com/join or contact Sheri Kallembach, Membership Coordinator at kallembach@bethellutheran.com

Bethel Volunteer Guidebook

Check out our Volunteer Guidebook, it lists volunteer opportunities with the many different teams and ministries at Bethel Lutheran Church. Consider ways to use your God given gifts and talents as everyone is welcome to volunteer – all ages and stages of life are encouraged to become involved.

The Volunteer Guidebook can be found at the Welcome Center, the church office, or online at bethellutheran.com/servingministries.

For more information on ministries and volunteering at Bethel, contact Sheri Kallembach, Membership Coordinator at kallembach@bethellutheran.com

Food for Kidz

Fill Date:

Saturday **NOV. 1ST, 2025**

Ages 6 and older can help.

Some jobs can be done sitting down.

Registration to volunteer will be open soon!

We are excited to offer a Food for Kidz fill day again this fall with donations from our Lenten Season. Save the date for Saturday, November 1st. Our registration signup will begin in October through Signup Genius.

Our goal is to pack 150,000 meals. The meals will once again be shared both locally and internationally.

We are pleased to have co-sponsors joining us once again from Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Holy Spirit Catholic Church, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. It takes a village to feed our local neighbors and to send hope to our international neighbors. Please come and join us for a fun day of community giving.

Questions: contact Kelly Turner at kellyaturner4@gmail.com

Your Food for Kidz Chairs,
Kelly and Norm Turner



2025 BETHEL CHRISTMAS *Tea Team* EVENTS



The Christmas Tea team invites to you participate in the 2025 Chari-Tea and Christmas Tea.

The theme this year is



*"Oh Sing Unto the
Lord a New Song."*

The Chari-Tea allows you to give a donation (online, cash or check) for our charities. Donations of \$25 or greater receive a swag bag. The Chari-Tea will run from October 18th- December 6th. The Tea Team will be in the narthex November 15th-16th with swag bags available.

The Bethel Christmas Tea is on December 6th, 2025 and includes entertainment, vendors and cookie sales, and beautifully decorated tables with a delicious tea to enjoy with friends and family just for \$25. Ticket sales for the Christmas Tea will in the narthex on November 22nd & 23rd.

Checks for the Chari-Tea and Christmas Tea tickets should be made out to Bethel Tea Team. Please direct questions to the co-chairs Kathy Gustafson (krgustafson35@gmail.com) and Bianca DeLone (bdelone64@gmail.com).



**FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 10TH
7:30 AM – 2 PM
BAG SALE:
2:15 – 4 PM**

Time for fall cleaning! Find a place for your retired treasures!

Coffee, cinnamon rolls, cookies, bars, and a BBQ lunch for purchase. We accept furniture in good condition, fall and winter clothing, books, etc. Please do not bring computers, TVs, curtain rods/blinds, lighting or plumbing fixtures, microwaves, or out of season clothing.

Donationas may be brought on Wednesday, October 8th from 4 - 8 pm or Thursday, October 9th from 8 am - 4 pm to Bethel Hall using the loading dock door or south door of the church. Bring furniture and books to the Narthex (south door).

Thank you in advance for your support of this wonderful event. All monies go to help support charities.



Sunday Morning Education

- Sunday School Age 3 by 9/1/25 – 4th Grade
 - 9 am – Kids Connection (large group lesson and related stations)
 - 10:30 am – Side by Side (worship and Sunday School related stations)
- L.I.F.T. - 5th and 6th Grade, 9 and 10:30 am
- Reset and Chill - 7th – 12th Grade, 10:30 am

F.I.R.E. (CONFIRMATION MINISTRY)

7th and 8th grade: kicks off on Wednesday, Sept. 24th, 6 - 7:15 pm with Student/Parent Night.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Join us for game and craft night!
Fun games * crafts * snacks
November 7th, 6:30 – 8 pm at Bethel.
Registration required.

ELEVATE (9TH-12TH GRADE)

- 9th grade Affirmation of Baptism
 - Sunday, October 26th, 1:30 pm
 - Rehearsal on Saturday, October 25th, 9 am
- Reset and Chill – 7-12th grade 10:30 - 11:30 am
 - We talk about real life topics, reflect with a short devotion and share communion together
- Wednesdays – Elevate Youth Night, 7-12th grade, 7:15 - 8:45 pm (confirmation youth can join after class)
- Sign up to help Serve a meal at the Ronald McDonald House with this QR code.
 - 1st Thursday of the month, 4:30 - 7:30 pm



First Communion Instruction

- 5th graders attend both sessions with an adult
- Session 1 – November 9th, 1:30 pm
- Session 2 – November 11th, 6:30 pm

First Communion Celebration

- November 15th and 16th during all worship services



We will be serving pizza on Wednesday evenings starting Sept. 24th. \$3 will get you a slice of Topper's Pizza, fruit/carrots, a cookie, and lemonade. Additional pieces of pizza will be \$2 each. It's the best deal in town! Everyone is invited!

JUST FOR PARENTS!

Parent Socials will be held on the first Wednesday of the month, 6 - 7 pm, October 1st, November 5th, and December 3rd at Taco Jed. Come relax and connect with fellow parents in a casual setting while your kids are in youth programs.



Save the Date!



October 25th, 3 - 5 pm in Bethel's parking lot. Everyone is invited to join in the fun by decorating your vehicle to hand out treats!



Moms and the Message meets on the 4th Monday of the month at 6 pm for food, bible discussion, prayer and friendship. This is for moms with school-age kids. We meet in homes. Contact Kelly Jones (302-291-6142) if you are interested. Information is also shared through a private Facebook group you can join.



810 Third Avenue SE
Rochester, MN 55904-7394

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 346
Rochester, MN

Worship AT A GLANCE

For more information on events, please visit
www.bethellutheran.com/calendar-events

- Rally Weekend September 6th & 7th
- Commitment Weekend October 25th & 26th
- Reformation Weekend (Wear Red) October 25th & 26th
- All Saints Weekend November 1st & 2nd
- Thanksgiving Eve Worship November 26th | 7 pm



The Thanksgiving Dinner Team is bringing back Bethel's Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner this year! Make sure to check our e-news for updates. If you would like to join the Thanksgiving Dinner Team, please contact Art Larson (larsonart@charter.net).

Keep Us UP TO DATE!



- Please contact us with any address or email changes, or if you will temporarily be away for a time.
- Let us know if you are members of another church or do not wish to remain a member of Bethel.
- If you would like to receive this Beacon newsletter via email rather than mailed to you, please let us know.

Contact Connie Post at
post@bethellutheran.com or call
the church office (507) 288-6430
with any of the above updates.

If you would like to be added to our
weekly eNews (on Thursdays), please
email us at info@bethellutheran.com

If you are not receiving our text
messages already, you can
subscribe by texting "Subscribe"
to our number (507-288-6430)

