



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

BEACON



Summer 2022

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

Dear Bethel Members and Friends:

An often told joke is, "Where is baseball found in the bible?" The answer is "Genesis 1:1... In the BIG INNING!" Baseball and summer go together as do many other recreational endeavors. While the joke is a play on the word "beginning," the story of creation told in Genesis is no joke but is about God's intentions for the earth and its inhabitants. And, as we know, God's creation is ultimately deemed "good." Celebrating the goodness of creation is an important part of enjoying summer months. We often term the activities we enjoy as "recreation."

If you take the word "recreation" and break it apart, you discover that the activities that we enjoy are actually an act of "RE-creation." In other words, recreation helps RE-create the goodness God intended for us in the beginning. Whether it be summer baseball, time at the cabin, enjoying the lake, a long walk, bicycling, golfing, gardening, or simply soaking in sunshine and warmth, recreational activities in the season of summer have the potential to re-create in us a new spirit.

Psalm 51 sings of this kind of new spirit, "¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.¹¹Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit."

SAVE THE DATE!

National
Night Out
70's **TUESDAY,**
AUGUST 2ND

Worship is also a significant form of "re-creation" in our life and faith. Each time we gather for worship we are renewed in the promises given to us in baptism so that we can live out fully the new life we have in Christ Jesus.

We worship in the context of community, like a team that has a shared purpose of serving using the gifts God gives to us and encouraging each other along the way. In the meal of forgiveness, we gather at the Lord's table to be nourished and strengthened so that we might have all that is needed from day to day in order to serve our neighbors.

Take a look at the summer worship opportunities and activities happening at Bethel that are featured in this newsletter and stay connected through our website and e-News. Enjoy summer recreational opportunities in God's beautiful creation and Bethel activities throughout these next months. We'll see you in worship where you are always made a new creation in Christ.



PASTOR ANJANETTE BANDEL

National Night Out is coming to Bethel again this year, hosted by the Neighborhood Outreach Team! Join us on Tuesday, August 2nd from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. for an evening of stepping back into the 1970's, for a 'groovy' and 'far out' time with friends and your Bethel family! Food to be served around 5:30 with games and activities during the evening!

We will again sponsor a School Supplies drive and are looking at other possibilities as well for community mission support. More details to come. We look forward to seeing you for a 'groovy' night out!

LET'S ROLL INTO Summer!

On June 26th, July 24th, and August 28th (the 4th Sunday of each month), we invite you to bring your lawn chair for worshipping in the courtyard while enjoying cinnamon rolls and other treats! We will be combining the 10:10 and 10:30 am Sunday services offering a unique worship experience with Holy Communion at 10:30 am with the participation of The Gate of Life and Music Ministry groups.

Our CYF team will also prepare special activities for the kids! If you feel more comfortable, you are welcome to worship from your car (just like when we had drive-in services). In case of inclement weather, we will be in the sanctuary. We hope to see you!

SUMMER 2022 Preaching Series

This summer offers us the luxury of choosing to spend a number of Sundays on any one topic. We are pleased to offer three series this summer of focused preaching on the following:

June THE SACRAMENTS: BAPTISM AND HOLY COMMUNION

We will hear how the Lutheran understanding of the Sacraments bring us Christ's forgiveness, life and promise.

July JESUS "I AM" STATEMENTS

We will explore the gift of the five "I AM" statements of Jesus in the Gospel of John (I AM: the bread of life, the light of the world, the gate, the Good Shepherd, and The Resurrection and the Life).

August BOOK OF RUTH: DARING TO ACT AND WAIT

We will focus on the Old Testament book of Ruth to tell the fullness of her story of faith.

Come and worship this summer to be refreshed by God's Word.

RECURRING SERVICES: *Join us!*

Whether you have been joining us for worship and other events during the past months or not, please know that you are always welcome and we hope that if it is within your possibilities, you and/or your family decide to come back to regular worship services. There is something powerful and life changing about meeting together at church!

Saturday Evening Worship
6 pm in Sanctuary

Sunday Morning Worship
9 am* & 10:30 am in Sanctuary
10:10 am in Chapel (Gate of Life)

*Service with a sign language interpreter and live-streamed through our YouTube channel (Videos of the services will be posted on our website)

Concerts in the Courtyard: Brock Besse & Friends

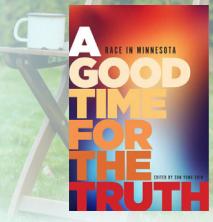
Mark your calendars! Our Minister of Music & Worship, Brock Besse will be assembling some talented folks from in and around Rochester for two summer evening concerts in the courtyard. **Tuesday, June 28 and Tuesday, July 26 at 6 pm** are the selected dates. Bethel values the gifts of artists and musicians in the community. Plan to bring a lawn chair and attend both concerts to experience the variety of music and a beautiful evening outside. The concerts will be free of charge!

SUMMER Music!

Bethel is blessed with many talented individuals. We invite you to share your musical gifts with the congregation throughout the upcoming summer months. Whether you play an instrument, sing or both, please reach out to our Minister of Music, Brock A. Besse at (507) 288-6430 ext. 3106 OR besse@bethellutheran.com to schedule a time to share your gifts. The Lord has richly blessed each of us and by sharing your musical gifts, you are helping to uplift the Word of our Lord. We would love to hear from you!

LAWN CHAIR LEARNING

Lawn Chair Learning is a summer “book study” opportunity that will meet once a month in June, July, and August. Sponsored by the Bethel Anti-Racism Team, the monthly gatherings will be centered around the book “A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota”. While participants are welcome to read the entirety of the anthology of essays published in 2016 and selected in 2020 as the ‘One Book One Minnesota’ program, each month’s gathering will lift up a specific story in the book to center the discussion.



The following dates will allow two opportunities to gather either at 4 pm or at 7 pm at the Bethel Columbarium. Bring a lawn chair and a desire to learn and engage in conversation.

Dates are **Tuesday, June 21, July 19, and August 16**. Pastor Anjanette Bandel will facilitate the discussion. Please register in advance if you plan to attend by calling our church office (507-288-6430) or online through Bethel Connect or at www.bethellutheran.com/calendar-events. Once registered, the essay to be discussed will be mailed to you in advance of each gathering and news about special guests with racially diverse backgrounds that will join us.

CYF Summer Activities: bethellutheran.com/cyf

VBS



June 27-30th is Monumental VBS.

There are ways for everyone to get involved... Register your kids or grandkids (age 4 (by 9/1/22) –

4th Grade) online to attend VBS by June 19. We also need volunteers during VBS: 5th grade (2021/2022) – adults to help in a variety of ways. Sign up at our website. 5th – 12th grade students can volunteer as youth leaders in many different capacities during VBS for a fun way to achieve service hours. On Wed. June 29 we will host a VBS youth volunteer picnic in the courtyard ending with a hike to Dairy Queen for treats!

BETHEL YOUTH TRIP TO Valley Fair

A July trip to Valley Fair is in the works for the last week of July. Save that week on your calendars and think about which friend you will invite along!

YOUTH HALL Open House

On August 14 5th & 6th grade (fall of 2022) students will be invited to join us for an afternoon of games, social time and pizza! Let's share some time and get comfortable with the youth gathering space!

CONFIRMATION CAMP AT GEV

From June 19 to 24, incoming 7th and 8th grade confirmation youth will spend a week at camp, with 8 high school helpers (9-12 grade) assisting in activities! It is going to be a fun week learning about confirmation at Bethel and exploring faith in a new way.

EXPLORER'S RETREAT AT GEV

From August 7 to 10, incoming 9th grade students will be heading to Good Earth Village for a special half-week retreat! This will be a special time celebrating the youth's upcoming transition to high school! Details at bit.ly/gevexplorersretreat2022



A NIGHT OF Magic @ BETHEL

We are excited to have Magician ‘Not Your Average Joe’ back at Bethel on **July 17th**! Last summer’s show was a HUGE HIT entertaining people of all ages. If you are looking for a fun night out with your kids or grandkids, don’t miss this! After the show, there will be balloon animals and treats. Watch the e-News for more details!

SERVICE SATURDAYS!

7-12 grade high school youth gather once a month to serve together! Save these dates: **June 18, July 16 & August 20.**

GEV DAY CAMP AT BETHEL

Aug. 1-5 from 9 am – 3 pm (M-Th), 9 am – noon (F). 2021/2022

Kindergarten – 5th Graders can attend. \$50/camper. We will take a bus to GEV on Wed. for an extended day (8-4)! There will be an evening family event on Aug. 4! Watch for details.

CHRISTIKON TRIP

From July 16 to 24, A group of high school youth (9-12 grades) will be traveling to Montana to spend a week backpacking at camp Christikon!





810 Third Avenue SE
Rochester, MN 55904-7394

Return Service Requested

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

BETHEL FAMILY INTERGENERATIONAL *Choir*

During the summer months at Bethel the original music programming takes a break to reenergize and gear up for the coming fall season. This year during July and August we would like to try something new! Families are invited to come to church by 10 am and meet in room 100 for a brief time of fellowship and donuts followed by approx. 20 minutes of singing to learn a fun selection that will be presented as a musical offering at the 10:30 worship service. EVERYONE is welcome to come and participate from pre-K through seniors. Families will attend the 10:30 am service and come forward during the musical offering to present the learned song. You do not need to be able to read music to participate. The Sundays that we will meet in room 100 at 10 am are: July 3, 10, 17, August 7, 14 & 21. Please note that it is not necessary to participate in ALL of the mentioned dates, join us as you are available.

Membership: HELP KEEP US UP TO DATE!

- As we continue to keep our membership list current, please contact us with any address or email changes. If you are temporarily away for a period, please let us know - when communications are sent out via bulk mail they cannot be forwarded, and we are charged a fee when they come back.
- If you have moved and are members of another church or do not wish to remain a member of Bethel, let us know so your name can be removed from our membership and mailing address list.
- If you would like to receive the Bethel Beacon via email rather than receiving a paper copy in the mail, please let us know. Thanks for helping us reduce paper and postage costs!

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



Church office hours

8 am – 3 pm (Mon-Fri)
8:30 am – 12 pm (Sat)
8 am – 12 pm (Sun)