

Bethel Lutheran Church

Building with the Love of Christ

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Rev. Eric T. Eichinger, Senior Pastor

James Gray, Youth & Family Ministry
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Rev. Dr. T.J. Parsch, Pastor Emeritus

Bethel Banner January 2021



As We Start the New Year

Looking back on this past year, many are tempted to forget it and move on. For we see clearer with our sour past experiences behind us; masks, lockdowns, illness, and fear. As the saying goes, **"Hindsight is 2020."** With a New Year bursting with potential, we look forward longing for something better.

The Christian life is one of travels and travails. We are but pilgrims on sojourn knowing full well God does not always promise it will be filled with sunshine and rainbows. Yet we do have a greater hope of everlasting joy we look forward to. As the annual calendar mercifully flips forward, I am reminded of Psalm 84 which paints a powerful image of this longing of something better through the bitterness of our past...

"Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. ⁶ As they pass through the Valley of Weeping, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools. ⁷ They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion." (Psalm 84:5-7).

While we tend to want to forget about the past, let us be mindful not to wish it away, for Christ works amazing things to us His people through our past experiences, painful as they may be.

Let us leave the forgetting to God. He forgets our sins, as He pours over us baptismal pools of blessings; grace, mercy, and forgiveness. He gifts us with a hope to look forward to something far far greater than our wildest dreams.

I find it interesting that in the season of Advent, a pivot point of the past year and a new beginning to come, some of the collect prayers we pray. One week we pray, "Stir up our hearts Oh Lord." Another follows up with "Stir up your power, Oh Lord." Dare we dream what we bid our Lord to do? What might happen? What joys might come?

For the scholarly Christian author, C.S. Lewis, Joy was a longing, a desire. He wrote of this sweet desire in images of distant hills and exotic gardens, and once after he became a Christian referred to it as "bright shoots of everlastingness." Our Joy should not be nostalgia or longing for a return to "better times" in the past, but joy is a hopefulness for something much deeper and further, as Lewis would say, "the serious business of heaven."

How fitting that pilgrimage Psalm 84 opens with "How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!² My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God." (Psalm 84:1-2)

My dear saints of Bethel Lutheran Church, let us continue to into a new year of Hope, wonder, and mindful of the eternal Joys to come, in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Happy New Year, and Amen!
Pastor Eich.

Hello Bethel
Family and
friends!

Happy New
Year!



Youth & Family Corner

That's right, 2021 is upon us and it's filled with new and exciting possibilities for every one of us. The start of the New Year gives us new hope for a brighter life we envision it to be. Today I stumbled upon a website that showed a list of the Top 10 New Year's resolutions for 2018.

- #1 on the list Lose Weight - 21.4%
- #2 Self Improvements – 12.3%
- #3 Better Financial Decisions – 8.5%
- #4 Quit Smoking – 7.1%
- #5 Do more exciting things – 6.3%
- #6 Spend more time with family / close friends - 6.2%
- #7 Workout more often - 5.5%
- #8 Learn something new on my own - 5.3%
- #9 Do more good deeds for others - 5.2%
- #10 Find the love of my life - 4.3%

My question for you all is, have your resolutions changed from the previous year's?

As I looked over the list I started to think, after the year we have had does it even make sense to set a new year's resolution this year?

I made a point many years ago in a newsletter "you can't truly obtain and maintain any of these resolutions without first having faith in the Lord God and, second, a core group of people in our lives to help guide and support us to something truly special."

Even if we don't feel like holding ourselves up to a goal or resolution for any number of reasons, please know that you have a Lord and many people that want nothing more than to see you be the person you have been called to be.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken."

I would like to thank you all for the gifts, support, and kind words you all have given me this past year. I wake up every morning in gratitude to our Lord for the incredible life he has given me, the wonderful family I have, and the truly amazing people we have at Bethel.

Thank you again!

James Gray

Youth & Family Ministry Director



MEN'S BIBLE & BREW

Men's Bible Study meets on the third Monday of the month for stimulating and topical discussion. We meet **January 18**, at 7:30pm at Lagerhaus Brewery and Grill, 3438 East Lake Rd (Boot Ranch), Palm Harbor 34685.

BETHEL BANNER MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Would you like to receive the Bethel Banner at your email address? Please send your address to BLutheranChurch@tampabay.rr.com. The newsletter link is on our website if you prefer to read it on the website. We also use this distribution list to send out notices when necessary.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Copies of the Church Council minutes are available on the tables near the restrooms in the narthex. If you would like a copy mailed to you at home, please call Jeannie at 727 799 3010.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Pastor Eich leads a study exploring Christ in the Old Testament with the Book of Numbers. Class is held Sunday mornings at 9:15am in the Great Hall. Grab a snack and cup of coffee before class. Thank you to all those who have signed up to provide those delicious snacks.

PRAYER GROUP

In addition to our Prayer Partners who pray at home at their convenience, we have a new group who meet at Bethel every Tuesday morning at 10am to pray for our church, our leaders, our country, and our people. All are welcome to join this group in the Great Hall.

NURSERY AVAILABLE

Our nursery is open on Sundays from 9:15am to 11:30 (or later when we have communion. It is located in the north education hallway/between the Sanctuary and the Great Hall.

UNSPOKEN!

Do you want to build a snowman? We are going to Snowcat Ridge January 8, 7-9pm. We welcome all high school Juniors & Seniors and young adults. For more information contact Alan Klingensmith at 727 560 3676 or Alan.klingensmith@outlook.com

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by his renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing, and perfect will." Romans 12:2



Ephesians 1:15-19b –
For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have

not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparable great power for us who believe.

We would like to express our sincerest appreciation to you for your Christmas gifts, cards, and kindnesses this beautiful Christmas season. It continues to be a privilege and blessing to serve this congregation and to be served. May the Lord richly bless us as we work together *Building with the Love of Christ!*

With Christmas love,

Pastor Eichinger
Jeannie Hughes
Crystal Berner
Hannah Engwall

James Gray
Connie Wallert
Kathy Miller

TAMPA BAY VIRTUAL MEMORY CAFÉ EVENTS

Are you finding the stay-at-home orders are making your care partner stir-crazy? You? Care partners connect to reminisce, share stories, and build friendships through events led by Dr. Cate McCarty, Ph.D., who has over 40 years of personal and professional experience. Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 11:10am. Zoom is a free and user-friendly platform. With a computer, tablet, or smart phone, you can see and hear other participants in the meeting. No smart phone? No worries—you can hear and talk to others in the meeting using a dial-in phone number and entering the meeting number. You must register by visiting: www.catemccarty.com/calendar
Questions? 727.771.1600 or email PalmHarbor@arden-courts.com

DISCOVER KFUD — on your Lutheran Radio Station Worldwide KFUD. Help us spread the word to people outside your congregation about what KFUD can provide for them...Bible Studies, Apologetics, Lutheran Confessions Studies, Devotions, Sacred Music, Global Lutheran News, and much more! Help us spread the love of Jesus Christ worldwide. Find us at www.kfuo.org and follow us at [Facebook.com/KFUDradio](https://www.facebook.com/KFUDradio).

LCMS APP AVAILABLE

Available on both the Apple® and Android® app stores, the easy-to-use app features links to some of the most popular information on the LCMS website, including the LCMS church locator and links to news stories, giving opportunities, LCMS social media and other ways to connect with the LCMS.

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

Investing in a strong LCMS community
LCEF empowers LCMS ministries with every dollar invested. And with nearly 60,000 investors, we've been able to make a difference for thousands of ministries.

Securing your financial future

Our generous investors and dedicated loan customers have made it possible for us to maintain a strong capital position. We offer competitive rates and ensure your invested funds remain accessible and in your control.

Supporting you around the clock

LCEF offers secure, 24/7 online access to investments and loans through MyAccount.



You shop. Amazon gives.

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device.

How do I select Bethel when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

How much of my purchase does Amazon donate?

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.

Make a difference this holiday. Shop for gifts at smile.amazon.com/ch/59-1608203 to generate donations for Bethel Lutheran Church and check out our [AmazonSmile Charity Lists](#) to donate items we need most.

LUTHERAN LIFE

Lutheran LIFE is the official communications instrument of the Florida-Georgia District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Lutheran LIFE is designed to inform LCMS church and school members of the activities, the personalities and resources offered by the Synod and the District. Lutheran LIFE is published bimonthly. Editorials, new items, and photos are encouraged and should be received at our publication offices no later than the 10th of the month prior to the publication date.

Lutheran Life Publishing

971 SW Pepperridge Ter, Boca Raton, FL 33486

LutheranLife@flgadistrict.org

FLOWERS IN JANUARY

Jan 3 OPEN

Jan 10 OPEN

Jan 17 OPEN

Jan 24 In loving memory of Charles Wadenklee on his birthday

Jan 31 Trudy MacDonald in loving memory of Walter MacDonald



If you would like to place flowers on the altar, please complete a form which may be found on the table next to the flower book. Place the completed form in the 3-ring flower chart binder on the credenza in the narthex. Print your name in the book for the date chosen. Each arrangement is \$20 and can be added to your regular contribution. Mark the "Flower" line with the amount.



MEMORIAL GIFTS TO BETHEL

In memory of Eleanor & Paul Brasted

Karen & Linda Brasted

In memory of Lee Nelson

Jerry & Nancy Miller

In memory of Debbie Larson

Jim & Bonnie Larson
Dorothy & Ken Kossow
Nancy & Lee Tieman

In memory of Herb Powell

Nancy & Lee Tieman
Howard & Elaine Ledder

In memory of Michael Kules

Karla & Brock Manner

In memory of Alfred Pac

David F. Pac

In memory of Lee & Ken Weber

Rosalie Streng

CHANGE A CHILD'S LIFE

Pinellas County Schools is seeking mentors for their Lunch Pals program. Workshops will be held January 6, 14, and 27 (virtual workshops). It's easy to be a mentor, be present, listen, encourage, be a friend and have fun! For more information go to lunchpals.org.

BETHEL LWML NEWS

To all our Bethel ladies, I send you my love and prayers for a "New" year that will be filled with God's love and blessings for a happy and healthy 2021. Our January meeting will be on Wednesday, January 6, at 10 AM. I'll be looking for new ideas for Mission Projects. Please come with your ideas.

FL-GA DISTRICT LWML MISSION GRANTS 2020-2022

The total 2020-2022 Biennium District Mission Grant is \$126,093.55. Our 2nd Grant is for **Alaska LCMS Mission Church Outpost—\$5,000** for transportation costs of pastors to serve at Prince of Peace Lutheran mission outpost in Seldovia, AK.

The District grants are supported by your donation of Mites. Did you know you can mail your Mites to Bonnie Larson for submission to the District?

LUTHERAN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Our charter approval by the NCUA contains a specific field of membership definition of who we serve. The specifics of NCUA rules and regulations prohibit us from allowing every person to join our credit union. So here is the guidance we can give you for becoming a member. If You answer Yes to one of these questions you are in!

- I am a member of a congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
- I am a Rostered Church Worker within The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
- I am employee or volunteer of one of the following:
- Any congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
- Any District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
- Any synodical entity/agency of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
- I am a family member of one of the above members or employees
- I am the parent or family member of a student that attends one of the LCMS congregation owned schools.



GOOD STEWARDSHIP

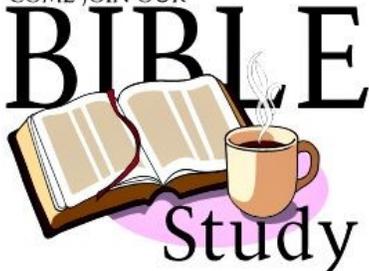
"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." Malachi 3:10

NEW GLASSES? NICE!

Did you know that MOST Ministries will take your old pair—or all those pairs sitting in your dresser drawers? Our eyeglass teams are requested by churches around the world. Is your Bible study group searching for a service project? In addition to an eyeglass donation, please consider making witness materials (bracelets or puppets) that our teams use to share the Gospel! Call MOST Ministries at 734.994.7909 or visit www.mostministries.org to learn more. You may drop off your old eyeglasses in the baskets located in our narthex (on the tables at either end—near the restrooms).



COME JOIN OUR



Study

Wine, Women, & The Word

Come join other ladies of Bethel as we meet together for scripture and fellowship. We will meet on Monday, January 11th at 7:00 pm at the Lagerhaus Brewery and Grill of East Lake Woodlands. (Same place men meet for Bible and Brew). Would love to have you join us as we sip a glass of wine, (or diet coke), and explore what the Bible says about fellowship. If you are like me, you need it.

Bethel
Lutheran
Church

Clearwater, Florida



January Lunch Friday, Jan. 15th, 2021 12 noon in the Great Hall

Serving a variety of sub sandwiches, individual bags of chips and cookies
Free Will Offering to cover expenses.

ENTERTAINMENT?

**We're going to have
FUN WITH THE
STATES OF OUR UNION.**



**Let's all be careful -
but at least we can SEE each other,
even if it's at a distance!**

**Plans are underway for a Valentine's
Party Fri. Feb. 12th. Watch the Sunday
bulletins and the newsletter for info.**

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

The Way to a Happy New Year

*To leave the old with a burst of song;
To recall the right and forget the wrong;
To forget the things that bind you fast
To the vain regrets of the year that's past;
To have the strength to let go your hold
Of the not worthwhile of the days grown old;
To dare go forth with a purpose true,
To the unknown task of the year that's new;
To help your brother along the road,
To do his work and lift his load;
To add your gift to the world's good cheer,
Is to have and to give a Happy New Year.*

Author unknown

JANUARY

Elders

3 Communion

*Early:** Erik Schulz, Dwayne Leininger,
Mark Thibideau, Brian Wolf (lector)

*Late:** Lee Genco, Dennis Williams,
Fred Behnke, John Voda (lector)

10

Early: * Ken Drewke, Jamie Munro (lector)

Late: * Paul Blake, Phil Hubbell (lector)

17 Communion

*Early:** Lee Tieman, John Voda,
Mike Anstett, Erik Schulz (lector)

*Late:** Dustin Anderson, John Voda,
Mike Vanhorenbeck,
Paul Fenton (lector)

24

Early: * Jamie Munro,
Dwayne Leininger (lector)

Late: * Dustin Anderson,
Dennis Williams (lector)

31 Communion

*Early:** Lee Tieman, Erik Schulz, Ken Drewke,
Fred Behnke (lector)

*Late:** Lee Genco, John Voda,
Skip Dayhoff, Phil Hubbell (lector)

Altar Guild

Early: Marianne & Kelly Craig,
Gail Leppert

Late: Jeanne & Steve Krick, Julie Myers

Counters

Lee & Nancy Tieman

Ushers

Early: Terry Tetzlaff

Sound/Video

Early: Gavin Ray, Isaac Gray,
Ronnie Perkins

3 Ben & Michelle Anderson

10 Don & Cindy Nelson

17 Cindy & Don Nelson

24 Ben & Michelle Anderson

31 Don & Cindy Nelson

Greeters

3 *Early:* Fred & Carol Bennett
Late: Sunday School Youth

10 *Early:* Karen Beck
Late: Jim & Bonnie Larson

17 *Early:* Evangelism
Late: Youth

24 *Early:* Jim & Dorothy Fulford
Late: Beverly Ashby

31 *Early:*
Late:

Acolytes

3 *Early:* Kate Lahey
Late: Elsie Eichinger

10 *Early:* Gavin Munro
Late: Annie Johnson

17 *Early:* Ella Perkins
Late: Mitchell Korzenski, Jr.

24 *Early:* Leland Sokolowski
Late: Erin Lahey

31 *Early:* Bella Wiley
Late: Luke Leininger



A Heartfelt Gifts & Greens Thank You!

The Bethel Gifts & Greens Team would like to extend a huge *Thank You* to all of the church members, their guests, the volunteers, the Bethel staff and the vendors who supported the 2021 Teen Ministry fundraiser and made it a huge success!

We had 30 vendors, located both inside and outside the church. The silent auction was very profitable, with items donated by the vendors and Bethel members. Our special emcee, James Gray, encouraged the bidding and made this a fun Friday evening event!

Connie Wallert, on the keyboard, joined by many choir members, Dena & Isaac Gray on the flute, and Sophia Drewke on her violin, made beautiful music & carols together. The delicious hors d'oeuvres and wine bar also contributed to the festive atmosphere! The teens provided the serving of the delicious appetizers. For the fourth year, child care was offered during the evening for ages 2-10. Movies and munchies were provided, along with teen companionship. This year Santa's Giftshop was open on Friday night to allow the children to shop.

On Saturday, the volunteers and the vendors were treated to breakfast and a pulled pork sandwich & pasta salad lunch, homemade by Tom & Cheryl Butcher. Santa's Giftshop has become an annual shopping treat for the children to purchase gifts for family & friends for \$1! The teens were excellent wrappers & labelers of the treasures.

Rounding out the event were the Bethel Ladies Craft sale and the Bethel Ladies outstanding Bake Sale! The Wisconsin Greens were again a big hit! Over \$4000 was raised and will support the teen's July mission trip. They definitely earned this donation by their hard work and dedication all weekend!

Save the Date on your 2021 calendar - December 3rd & 4th for the 8th Annual Gifts & Greens Christmas Party and Youth Ministry fundraiser!

Merry Christmas & have a Fantastic New Year!



**Celebrate Mardi Gras at
Bethel's Fat Tuesday Party!**

Hear a preview of Pastor Eich's
Lenten message.

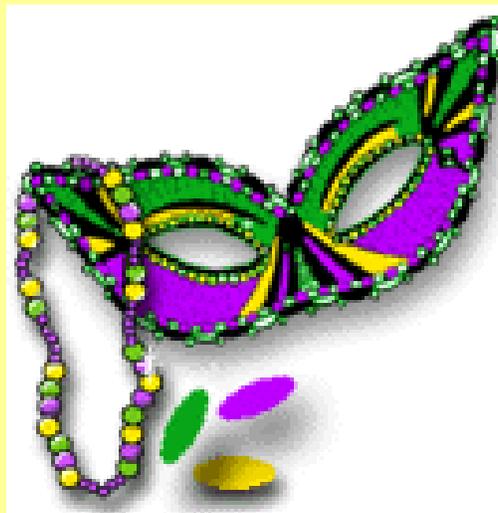
Eat jambalaya, etouffee, red beans
& rice, and beignets
while listening to some great jazz!

Tuesday

February 16, 2021, 6 PM

All Free!

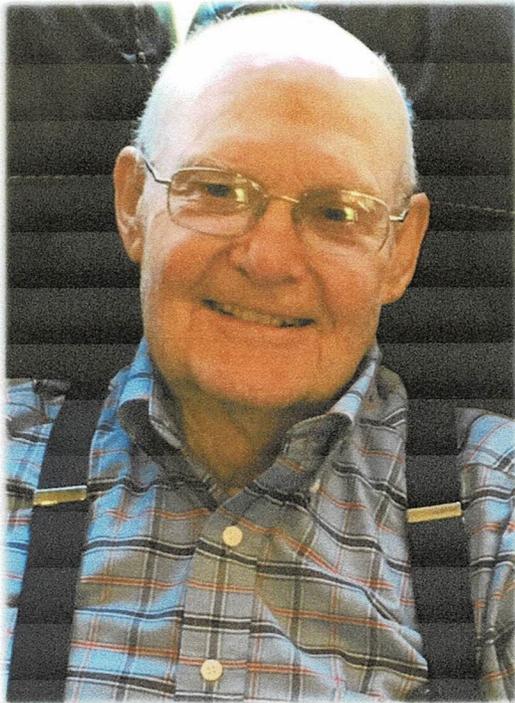
RSVP to 727 799 3010



Lee Stuart Nelson

Age 86 of Minnetonka
(February 14, 1934 – November 28, 2020)

Lee was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, son, uncle, and friend to all who knew him. He was unfailingly kind and welcoming to everyone he met. He lived his life with true faith in Christ and with love for his family and friends. He wanted everyone to know that he believed Jesus was God's son and died on the cross for his sins. He wanted people to know that for one to enter eternal Glory upon death, one must understand their desperate need for a Savior, repent of their sins, and trust in Jesus' work on the cross to pay for their sins.



Lee, the younger of two brothers, grew up in Minneapolis, MN. He met his wife, Mary Rebecca Archer, in high school and they, married on June 25, 1955. Lee practiced dentistry for 40 years. He enjoyed serving in many different capacities in the church throughout the years, including singing in the choir. Those who knew him will always remember his kindness, thoughtfulness, generosity, and his deep and unwavering love for his family and friends. He will be missed greatly and honored always.

Lee & Mary pioneered a special place on Gun Lake, MN, starting with camping and eventually building a cabin where all were welcome in the summers. Lee loved to fish, play the organ, and work on projects, including rebuilding a 1929 Model A truck. He also enjoyed listening to sermons and writing poetry and music to proclaim Jesus Christ.

In retirement, Lee & Mary spent the winters in Florida and were very involved with their church family down south, Bethel Lutheran Church. They made friends wherever they went.

Lee passed away on November 28, 2020, in his home surrounded by family. He was diagnosed with T-Cell Lymphoma cancer in mid-October 2020.

Lee was preceded in death by his parents, Ward and Elizabeth (Betty) Nelson; brother, Miles (Mike) Nelson. Survived by wife of 65 years, Mary; children, Reed (Kelli) Nelson & Kay (Scott) Nemanic; grandchildren, Charles (Wendy), Brian (Deborah), and Rachel; great-grandchildren, Tyler and Miranda Long, sister-in-law, Nancy Nelson; nieces and nephews, other relatives & friends. Memorial Service to be held in Spring 2021.

Memorial Gifts to either:

Bethel Lutheran Church 411 Main St. Palisade, MN 56469

Bethel Lutheran Church 3166 McMullen Booth Road Clearwater, Florida 33761

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

PHONE 727 799 3010

www.BethelLutheranClearwater.org BLutheranChurch@tampabay.rr.com

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2
3 8&10:30am Worship with Holy Communion 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 12pm Sunday MASS	4 9am Bulletin deadline	5 8am BBBs 7pm Elders	6 Epiphany 10am LWML 6pm Joy Bells 6:30pm Life Together/Adult Class/Confirmation 6:30pm Chancel Bells 6:30pm <i>Unspoken</i> 7:30pm Chancel Choir	7 7pm Finance	8 7-9pm <i>Unspoken</i> at Snowcat Ridge	9
10 8&10:30am Worship 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	11 9am Bulletin deadline 7pm Wine, Women & The Word	12 8am BBBs 7pm Church Council	13 6pm Joy Bells 6:30pm Life Together/Adult Class/Confirmation 6:30pm Chancel Bells 7:30pm Chancel Choir	14	15 12pm Snowbirds/Sunbirds Lunch & Fun with States	16 11am Memorial Service for Alfred Pac
17 8&10:30am Worship with Holy Communion 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	18 9am Bulletin deadline 7:30pm Men's Bible & Brew	19 8am BBBs 1pm Evangelism	20 6pm Joy Bells 6:30pm Life Together/Adult Class/Confirmation 6:30pm Chancel Bells 7:30pm Chancel Choir	21	22	23 6pm Dessert & Trivia Night
24 8&10:30am Worship 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	25 9am BANNER & Bulletin deadline	26 8am BBBs 7pm Safety Committee	27 6pm Joy Bells 6:30pm Life Together/Adult Class/Confirmation 6:30pm Chancel Bells 7:30pm Chancel Choir	28	29 7-9pm <i>Unspoken</i> Painting with Sara	30
31 8&10:30am Worship with Holy Communion 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class						

Have you considered including Bethel in your will? If you'd like more information about doing so, call Pastor Eichinger in the church office, 727 799 3010.