

*Celebrating 135 Years of Making Jesus Known*

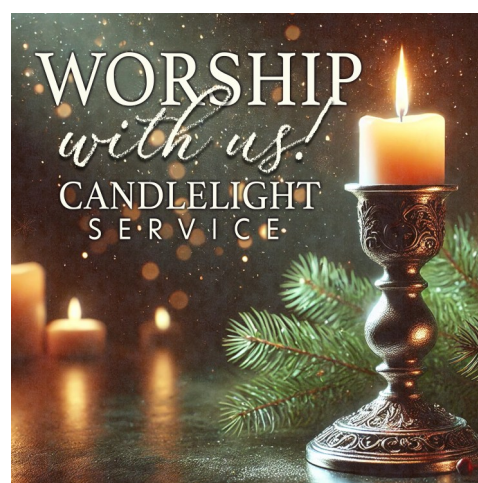
# THE BETHEL NEWS

DECEMBER  
2026



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## SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

10:30	Inside w/communion (and streamed on FaceBook)
9:30	Children & Adult Sunday School 9:30
9:00	Children's Choir

4:00 pm Christmas Eve-Dec. 24th

# Pastor's Page

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ!

We have been looking at Lutheran Cards by Pastor Dave Daubert that talks about the basics of the Lutheran faith using a stack of cards to explain it. I am going to go through these points each month in our newsletter. The first Card was the Ace-There is no way to God (Period) God comes to us. The Second Card was the "The King. The God revealed in Christ is different. "The King' is Jesus who reveals God is love. The crucified and Risen Jesus stands as the central figure in our faith. The Third card is the Queen-Grace for us includes hope for others. As Lutheran Christians we emphasize grace. Grace is unconditional and comes freely as a gift by faith alone. If God is gracious to us, we should be gracious to others.

Last month we looked at the Jack- Vocation of the Baptized. As baptized children of God we all have a calling and vocation from God. Holy Calling is not just for pastors, Sunday School, Bible teachers, and people who work at the church. Luther's insight was that God can and does use you anywhere.

This month we are looking at the Ten Card-Priesthood of all Believers which expands on the vocation of the baptized. Daubert says, 'Because Christ has come to us in Christ and is present and accessible to all who have faith, all Christians have the ability and the calling to serve as priests (ministers) for their neighbors.'" It is also called the priesthood of all the baptized. There's a phrase that is attributed to Martin Luther that says we are to be "little Christs" for each other. Luther never said that. However, he said we are to "be Christ for each other." The focus on the priesthood of all believers is that our focus should be on our identity in the Crucified Risen Christ for others. We are called to be Christ's true presence in our communities in which we live and serve. As Pastor Daubert says, "Faithful Christians are called to pray, speak, and act in priestly ways within the natural flow of our lives. It would change how we interact with each other, with neighbors and co-workers, and how we lived with our families in our own homes." This Card goes with Bethel's own Mission statement of "Making Jesus Known."

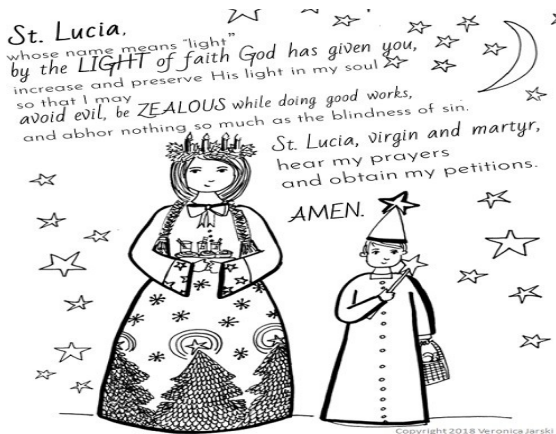
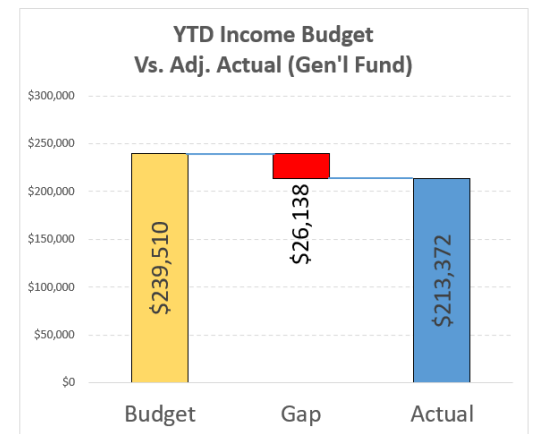
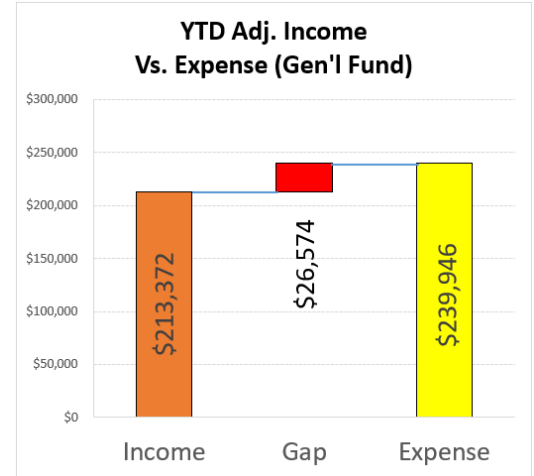
Next month we will be looking at the 9<sup>th</sup> card that Life is Sacramental.

In Christ alone,  
Pastor Richard Kidd



## On Going Prayers including occasional homebound folks

Deanna Brannigan	Johnny Conti
Lynn Henry	Janet Phelps
Linda Martin	Sharon Chase
Cora Dixon	Janice John
Arlene McAtee	Doris Gluck
Ron Kinnick	Alice Ogden
JJ LoSasso	Elva Evans
Ruth Schenker	Carl Dahlgren
Nicole Gettman Wells	Lori Richards
Theresa Krazinski	Rick Swanson



Our Annual St. Lucia and children's pageants will be on December 14th during the 10:30 worship service. Who will be our 2025 Lucia? You'll have to join us to see! There will be fellowship following the service in Memorial Hall.

See you on the 14th!

## Dear Members:



Contact for our e-mail for the Prayer chain is Nancy Kuivila. Her email is [nkuivila41@gmail.com](mailto:nkuivila41@gmail.com) If you would like to be a part of the e-mail prayer chain, contact Nancy. ~Thank you Nancy!!~





## NOTES TO THE CONGREGATION:




If you have **Altar Flowers** or a **Candle**: Please pay when you reserve your flower date. Make checks payable to the church **\$25.00** for flowers and \$8.00 for a candle, and mail to the church or put in the offering plate.

If you have a date you want, let Susan know 330-360-4537

*Thanks, Altar Flower Committee*

**Bible Quiz**



Who told Mary that her child would be called "the Son of the Most High"?

- A. Zechariah
- B. Gabriel
- C. Simeon
- D. Joseph

Answer: B (See Luke 1:26-32.)

### 2024 Church Council

<b>President:</b>	<b>Tom Peterson</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Gary Wollet</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Linda Titus</b>
<b>Christian Ed:</b>	<b>Erin Conway</b>
<b>Communications:</b>	<b>Shelia Kidd</b>
<b>Finance:</b>	<b>Ed Rusinowski</b>
<b>Parish Life:</b>	<b>Candy Rusinowski</b>
<b>Property:</b>	<b>John Smiley</b>
<b>Outreach:</b>	<b>Karen Protzman</b>
<b>Worship:</b>	<b>Karen Marchese</b>

Join us on December 21st at the 10:30 worship service for a beautiful Christmas Cantata: "My Christmas Prayer".

We are looking forward to hearing the joint efforts of the Bethel Choir in addition to other guest singers singing us into the Christmas season!



We hope to see you in church, but if you can't be here in person, remember, Online Giving is a way to stay connected and up to date! Go to our web page [www.bethelboardman.org](http://www.bethelboardman.org) you will find the Online Giving Link there.

**All Council Committee Meetings:** If you would like to attend a Committee Meeting, please contact the Chair person of that committee to find out when that committee meets. All committee members and associate members should attend monthly meetings.

**Church Council Meeting** on the 3rd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. each month unless notified of changes. All council members should attend monthly meetings.

**Mickey Schuster Meeting** will be as meetings are scheduled.

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



- 1 Janet Liga
- 4 Linda Swanson
- 8 David Griswold
- 9 Bill Klase
- 10 John Scacchetti
- 12 Tina Dunn
- 14 Sandy Dorman
- 16 Victoria Lee
- 18 Katie Butcher
- 19 Leah Griswold
- 20 Erin Conway
- 21 Carter Stockman
- 22 Cliff Protzman, Rick Hungerford
- 23 JJ LoSasso
- 24 Cheryl Snyder
- 26 Kay Kish
- 27 Glenn Garwig, Jeff Kulow
- 28 Stan Huddleston
- 30 Lissa Bell
- 31 Marcie Lieb



- 6 Anthony & Kari Harris
- 27 Guy & Beth Applegate

**MISSION OF THE MONTH  
FOR  
DECEMBER IS  
YOUNGSTOWN COMMUNITY FOOD  
CENTER  
TOTAL GIVING FOR OCTOBER  
MISSION (ACTION) \$75.00**



Let the office know of any changes,  
corrections or additions,  
or if celebrating a  
“milestone” birthday or anniversary.  
Thank you!



# DECEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Men's Group
7 10:30 Service with communion Sunday School @ 9:30	8 Confirmation 6- 8pm	9	10 Family Craft Night 6:30-8:30	11 Community Bible Study 7pm	12	13
14 10:30 service with communion Sunday School @ 9:30 St. Lucia & Children's Program	15 Confirmation 6- 8pm	16	17	18 Community Bible Study 7pm	19 Newsletter Deadline	20 Men's Group
21 10:30 Service with communion Sunday School @ 9:30 Christmas Cantata	22	23	24 OFFICE CLOSED	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27
28 10:30 Service Lessons & Carols NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	29	30 OFFICE CLOSED	31 OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY NEW YEAR!			

Bethel Families,

As you might have noticed from the financial charts included in every newsletter, or if you were at the Annual Congregational meeting, you know that Bethel is struggling with a decrease in donations. We cannot sustain the level of staffing and services that we've come to expect if this drop in donations continues at these levels.

During this holiday season of Giving, please consider helping Bethel maintain its work of "Making Jesus Known" within our parish and local community by increasing your gifts to the church.

Thank you and God Bless,

Tom Peterson, Council President

		Jan thru Oct		
		2024	2025	Variance
4.100.101	General Tithes & Offerings	\$98,008	\$76,327	(\$21,681)
4.100.102	Loose Offerings	\$1,250	\$1,625	\$375
4.100.103	Special Holiday Offerings	\$3,180	\$3,039	(\$141)
4.100.104	Sunday School Offerings	\$32	\$14	(\$18)
4.100.105	Sage/Online Giving	\$47,032	\$47,922	\$890
4.100.108	Initial Offerings	\$162	\$173	\$11
		\$149,664	\$129,099	(\$20,565)

The summary above is for the first ten months of each year, 2024 and 2025.

The online giving via Sage is showing a slight improvement, but the regular giving via worship offerings is dramatically down in 2025 when compared to the same time-frame of 2024.

Please note: if 40 families raised their tithing by \$10 per week, it would raise \$20,800 over a year and completely eliminate the existing deficit.

# Bethel Lutheran Church

November 30, 2025

Dear Bethel Family:

In the spirit of giving during the Holiday Season, it has been customary to present our staff with a gift from the congregation. A "Christmas Purse" will be presented to each of our seven staff members the week of December 21, 2025

If you would like to provide a monetary gift, please use an envelope and mark "Christmas Purse" on the outside of the envelope and return to church by December 21, 2025.

Bethel Staff and Church Council wishes everyone a Blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Yours in Christ,  
Bethel Lutheran Council

