

In gratitude, Bethel Lutheran Church amplifies God's grace, nourishes all creation, reaches out, and builds community.

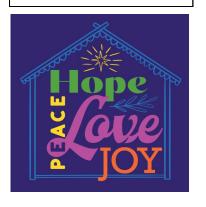
- •We are a Reconciling in Christ Congregation.
- Bethel Children Youth & Family Ministry bridges generations to model, equip, and encourage a foundation of trust in God's story.

BETHEL HERALD

Volume 85 Number 12 December 2021



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Blessed Advent Season, Everyone!

In this time of the church year when we wait for the birth of our Savior who is laid in a feeding trough for animals, we are humbled to remember the way in which God reveals Godself on this earth. As our King is born to a poor traveling family, visited first by lowly shepherds, and soon put on the list of the most wanted by the powers that be, we are reminded that God shows up in the most interesting ways in our lives. It is my hope this season that we take the time to notice the face of God in our neighbors, in the strangers we see, and in the hearts of one another. It is my prayer that our society takes the time to experience the love, joy, and peace that this season can bring all people, without exception.

There are a few new things this season that I would like to point out, so that you do not miss any opportunities. First of all, we are adding **Sunday School** back into our Sunday morning plans for the kids and youth. We will meet in Nazareth Hall on Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM with any children and youth interested in learning more about this wonderful Christmas story. Now that the kids can get vaccinated too, we hope more families will join us for the fun, as well as for worship at 10 AM. We have advertised to the 900 households in the area, so come and join us!

We will share a **Blue Christmas worship service** with Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church. This service will be both in-person at BOLD (2901 38th Ave S, Minneapolis) and online on Sunday, December 19 at 3 PM. We hope anyone struggling with loss and loneliness will join us for this important service.

You may note that Christmas Eve is on Friday, Christmas Day on Saturday, and Christmas One is on Sunday. That creates many opportunities to sing praise and worship God. Please know that both **Christmas Eve and Christmas One** will be in-person and online as we have been doing for some time now. However, **Christmas Day** will actually be a worship service on Zoom (similar to our Thanksgiving Eve service). We hope you join us for as many services as possible.

Finally, as most of you know by now, Phil Radtke, our fabulous musician and director of music, has accepted a position at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and will be leaving us at the end of November. However, he has been very helpful in ensuring we have musicians for all our services through December. **THANK YOU, PHIL!** We will celebrate Phil's ministry on Sunday, November 28, after worship.

With you, for Jesus,

Pastor Brenda

In an effort for all of us to be on the same page, please allow me to share some updates for our community.

- * THANK YOU to the Estate of Lennore Bevis for the recent undesignated gift of \$25,000 to Bethel Lutheran Church. This gift has been split as follows: 10% to our general reserve fund, 10% to the Engagement Coordinator position, 10% to tithe outside of Bethel, and 70% as decided by the Board of Administrators. The Board has earmarked the 70% toward the 2022 Engagement Coordinator position as needed.
- * THANK YOU to Don Nelson, longtime friend of Bethel Lutheran Church, for the designated gift of \$10,000 to assist with paying for our 2021 and 2022 Engagement Coordinator position.
- * As an appropriate response to the rising COVID-19 numbers in Minnesota, we will continue to require masking, physical distancing, and COVID-safe behavioral practices in and around our property. If you do not feel well, please do not come to congregational events. Thank you for your patience and love for one another.
- * With all the COVID-19 protocol included, we are now serving Holy Communion during our worship services. We continue to learn how to do this in the safest way possible. You may also choose to use the pre-packaged bread and juice at your seat if you feel that is safer.

Gift Ideas for Refugees and Others

Mittens, hats, usable coat donations are being accepted and will be made available at the Little Free Pantry. Excess donations will be given to Refugee Services.

Are you looking for a Christmas gift idea? Go to the **ELCA Good Gifts** website (ELCA.org/goodgifts) and shop for animals, sending girls to school, a water filter. There are a variety of gift ideas that will benefit a person, a family, or a village.









Trust and Have Hope

It has been six amazing years that I have been graced with the opportunity to serve as Bethel's organist and director of music. Over that time, I was able to work with the many fantastic people of Bethel, sharing music and laughs, trying new things and enjoying every moment. It was a very challenging decision to leave and I wish all the best to a fantastic group of people whom I am leaving behind. And now, we wait and have hope for a new musician or music staff to get settled in soon. We wait and hope much like we wait and hope for Jesus this Advent season.

Although the coming of Jesus was proclaimed by prophesy, and foretold by many, people of the time must have been somewhat skeptical of this great "Savior" who was coming down to earth. Even Mary was troubled when the angel of the Lord told her she was going to bear a child and give birth to Jesus. Not knowing what is coming can be scary. Some will remain skeptical until they have seen results for themselves. Later in Jesus' life Thomas did not believe Jesus was risen from the dead even after his closest colleagues, the other disciples, told him about it. Thomas wanted to see for himself, not trusting, not having hope, and not believing. Only after he saw Jesus' wounds did Thomas believe Jesus had truly risen from the dead.

These stories help show us how we are called to live our lives with hope and trust in the Lord that a new beginning will spring forth. Continue to have hope in the process and trust that the hard work of those involved in selecting the next musician(s) will pay off. Trust and have hope.

Merry Christmas! Soli Deo Gloria.



Christmas Garden of Memories

You can make a donation towards poinsettias that will decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. Donations made in memory of or in honor of loved ones will be indicated in the "Garden of Memories" insert.

Use your Garden of Memories envelope or your own envelope to make your donation. Please be sure to indicate the loved one(s) you are remembering.

Thank you!

All donations must be in the office no later than Sunday, Dec. 19th.





From the desk of Dr. Jen Kilps, Engagement Coordinator

Remember the WHOLE Story

During Advent, as we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child, we will also be preparing our hearts for the story that unfolds of the Holy Family. Epiphany can sometimes be overlooked as the Christmas season passes. But as we prepare to listen to the story of Jesus' birth, let us remember the WHOLE story. That story includes Mary and Joseph fleeing Bethlehem and escaping to Egypt as Herod commands to kill the Jewish children in the region.

That Jesus, Mary and Joseph flee Bethlehem as refugees is an important part of the story of Jesus' birth. It is the bookend to what we know of Christ as an infant and the last we hear of him until he is an adult. Jesus' miraculous birth is realized and almost immediately he has to flee. Jesus knows persecution from the very beginning of his life.

It is important to recognize this horror that arrives as part of the miraculous story of Jesus' birth. His earliest experiences are not all hay, lowing cows, singing angels, frankincense and myrrh. That all is not glory and light is important for us to remember as we prepare for this Advent season.

Currently:

- The deteriorating situation in Afghanistan is a humanitarian crisis that has left upwards of 2.9 million Afghans internally displaced in the country since the end of 2020.
- Many of our Afghan allies who have supported the U.S. armed forces and individuals who have worked for the U.S. armed forces as interpreters, drivers, and other support roles face dire situations as the United States has pulled out of the region, including potential violent reprisals targeting them and their family members. (Data taken from Episcopal Migration Ministries site.)
- According to Refugee Services of the Minnesota Council of Churches, hundreds of Afghan refugees have already been resettled in Minnesota with many more on the way.

This advent we will be remembering the refugees in our midst. Bethel's Mission Council will be hosting Faith Formation on November 28 at 9:15 AM, discussing the plight of Afghan refugees and what we can do to help.

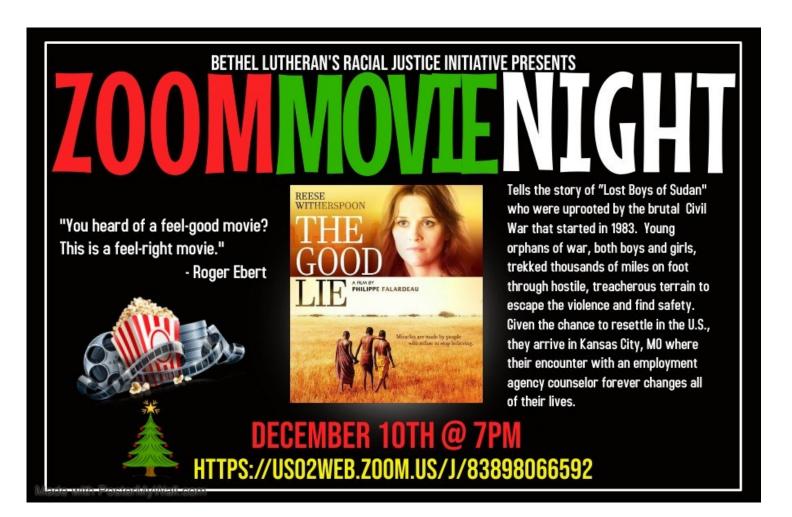
During Advent we will be collecting NEW mittens, gloves, hats & scarves, as well as new & gently used coats for Refugee Services to help incoming Afghan refugees. Mittens, gloves, hats and scarves can be placed on the Mitten Tree while coats and jackets may be hung in the closets just off the Narthex.

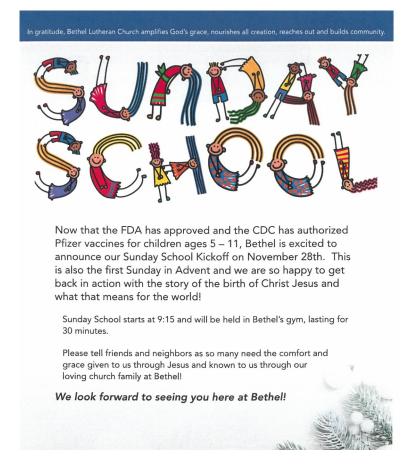
We will also be watching the movie The Good Lie for our Racial Justice & Cultural Capacity Initiative's movie night December 10th at 7 PM. The Good Lie tells the story of "Lost Boys of Sudan, young orphans of Sudan's civil war who trekked thousands of miles on foot through hostile, treacherous terrain to escape the violence and find safety. They are resettled in the U.S. and meet an employment agency counselor who impacts their lives." Join us in watching this heartwarming story and learn more about refugees.

Let us remember the entire story of Jesus' birth into a broken world. Let us meet the miracle of the Christ Child with open and loving hearts.

Peace during this Advent Season,

Jukin





WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study continues on Zoom and in person.

If you would like to come in person, you are welcome to join us in the Fireside Room. We will all need to be masked and distanced.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81542792093

Wednesday at 12:00 Noon	Scripture
December 5	Isaiah 40:3-5 Luke 3:2-6
December 12	Isaiah 12:2-6 Luke 3:7-18
December 19	Luke 1:39-55
December 26	Lessons and Carols



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	W
			1 9:51 AM Morning 10:00 AM NHS A 12:00 PM Virtua https://us02web.: 3:15 PM Afterno 6:45 PM Confirm
5 9:15 AM Faith Formation 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Bethel Worship Advent 2 1:00 PM Pentecostal Casa Worship 1:30 PM MN CASA Worship	6 9:58 AM Morning Gym Class 3:08 PM Afternoon Gym Class	7 8:30 AM OA HOW Meeting 9:58 AM Morning Gym Class 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 12:30 PM Virtual Text Study 3:08 PM Afternoon Gym Class 6:00 PM Girl Scout Meeting 6:30 PM Scout Parent Meeting 6:45 PM Scout Troop 7:00 PM Pentecostal Casa Music Practice	8 9:51 AM Mornin 10:00 AM NHS A 12:00 PM Virtua https://us02web.: 3:15 PM Afterno 6:45 PM Confirn
12 9:15 AM Faith Formation 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Bethel Worship Advent 3 11:15 AM Faith Forum 12:30 PM Book Group: United States of Grace 1:00 PM Pentecostal Casa Worship 1:30 PM MN CASA Worship 4:30 PM Pentecostal Casa Gathering	9:58 AM Morning Gym Class 3:08 PM Afternoon Gym Class	14 8:30 AM OA HOW Meeting 9:58 AM Morning Gym Class 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 11:00 AM Operation Love Quilters 12:30 PM Virtual Text Study 3:08 PM Afternoon Gym Class 6:00 PM Girl Scout Meeting 6:30 PM Virtual Mission Council https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/84515895120 6:45 PM Scout Troop 7:00 PM Pentecostal Casa Music Practice	15 9:51 AM Mornin 10:00 AM NHS A 12:00 PM Virtua https//us02web.: 3:15 PM Afterno 6:45 PM Confirn
19 9:15 AM Faith Formation 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Bethel Worship Advent 4 11:15 AM Faith Forum 1:00 PM Pentecostal Casa Worship 1:30 PM MN CASA Worship 3:00 PM Blue Christmas at BOLD and online	20	21 8:30 AM OA HOW Meeting 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 12:30 PM Virtual Text Study 6:30 PM Board of Administrators https:us02web.zoom.us/j/88432252374 6:45 PM Scout Troop 7:00 PM Pentecostal Casa Music Practice	22 10:00 AM NHS A 12:00 PM HERA 12:00 PM Virtua https//us02web.:
26 9:15 AM Faith Formation 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Bethel Worship Christmas 1 1:00 PM Pentecostal Casa Worship 1:30 PM MN CASA Worship 4:30 PM Pentecostal Casa Gathering	27 6:30 PM Nokomis Quilters	28 8:30 AM OA HOW Meeting 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 12:30 PM Virtual Text Study 6:45 PM Scout Troop 7:00 PM Pentecostal Casa Music Practice	29 10:00 AM NHS A 12:00 PM Virtua https//us02web.2

Mark your calendars for special worship services for more

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Advent 1	Sunday, November 28 ~ 10 AM	Christmas Or
Advent 2	Sunday, December 5 ~ 10 AM	Christmas Tv
Advent 3	Sunday, December 12 ~ 10 AM	Epiphany
Advent 4	Sunday, December 19 ~ 10 AM	Justice Sund
Blue Christmas	Sunday, December 19 ~ 3 PM	Jesus' Baptis
Christmas Eve	Friday, December 24 ~ 5:30 PM	RIC Sunday
Christmas Day	Saturday, December 25 ~ 9:30 AM Zoom	j

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ednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
g Gym Class Art Group Il & In-person Bible Study zoom.us/j/81542792093 on Gym Class nation Class	9:51 AM Morning Gym Class 3:15 PM Afternoon Gym Class 6:00 PM MN CASA Service	3 6:00 PM Pentecostal Worship	4 9:00 AM AA Amigos 9:00 AM Cub Scout Den Meeting 9:00 AM Debtors Anonymous 3:30 PM MN Casa Hour of Prayer		
g Gym Class Art Group I & In-person Bible Study zoom.us/j/81542792093 on Gym Class nation Class	9 9:51 AM Morning Gym Class 3:15 PM Afternoon Gym Class 6:00 PM MN CASA Service	10 6:00 PM Pentecostal Worship 7:00 PM Movie Night: The Good Lie http//us02web.zoom,us/J/83898066592 Discussion to follow	9:00 AM AA Amigos 9:00 AM Debtors Anonymous 5:00 PM Pentecostal Casa Special Event		
g Gym Class Art Group Il & In-person Bible Study zoom.us/j/81542792093 on Gym Class nation Class	16 9:51 AM Morning Gym Class 3:15 PM Afternoon Gym Class 6:00 PM MN CASA Service	17 6:00 PM Pentecostal Worship	18 9:00 AM AA Amigos 9:00 AM Debtors Anonymous 3:30 PM MN Casa Hour of Prayer		
Art Group LD DEADLINE Il & In-person Bible Study zoom.us/j/81542792093	23 6:00 PM MN CASA Service	24 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Worship Service In-person and online 9:00 PM Pentecostal Worship	25 9:00 AM AA Amigos 9:00 AM Debtors Anonymous 9:30 AM Christmas Day Worship on Zoom only https://us02web.zoom.us/ j/84290673949		
Art Group Il & In-person Bible Study zoom.us/j/81542792093	30 6:00 PM MN CASA Service	31 9:00 PM Pentecostal Worship	appy**		

nths to come!

ne Sunday, December 26 ~ 10 AM vo Sunday, January 2 ~ 10 AM Sunday, January 9 ~ 10 AM ay Sunday, January 16 ~ 10 AM Sunday, January 23 ~ 10 AM Sunday, January 30 ~ 10 AM

Birthdays

Cyenna Resendez	December 4
Mary Rosby	December 11
Senay Matewos	December 15
Chris Phillips	December 15
Samm Jones	December 18
Jim Cleary	December 19
Diane Jackson	December 19
Michael Hauge	December 21
Madalynn Bresina	December 22
Theodore Wahlstrom-Helgren	December 24
Teondre Martinez	December 25
Andrew Martinson	December 27
Gail Hanson	December 31

If your birthday or anniversary is missing or incorrect please let the office know so we can update our records!



Anniversaries

Leanne & Ken Puckett December 18
Stan & Mary Rosby December 19
Gretchen & Daniel Mitcham December 27
Anne & Paul Kile December 30

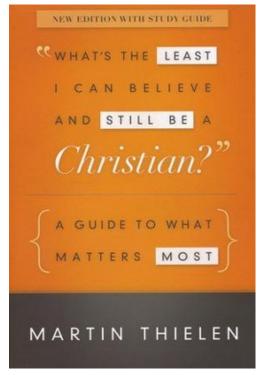
Faith Forum Revival

In light of Sunday mornings now offering Faith Formation for all ages, there has been some interest in reviving Faith Forum for adults, for a longer period of time.

After some investigating, we have decided to have Faith Forum on two Sundays a month, after worship. We will begin with a 7-part series on the book, What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian? A Guide to What Matters Most by Martin Thielen.

The book breaks down ten myths about the Christian Faith, as well as ten foundations upon which we must stand. It is an easy read, and should spark some great discussion. I hope to see as many of us exploring this book as possible.

The schedule for Faith Forum will be the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month. We will offer this study both in person and online, via Zoom. We will likely begin about 11:15 AM each Sunday and be done by 12:30 at the very latest. If you have questions, please let me know! Thank you! ~Pr Brenda



Sunday, December 12, read through chapter 13. Sunday, December 19, read through chapter 14.

Sunday Servers are back!

As we have returned to in-person worship, we also need regular Sunday servers for many of our Sunday morning activities. THANK YOU for signing up for these tasks! We look forward to seeing each other more often again.

If you are not able to fulfill your assigned task, please switch with someone and let the office know of your changes.

Also, please noté that there are empty spaces in three columns. Please let us know if you would like to help out in these areas! Thank you!

Date	Assisting minister	Lector	Acolyte	Cantor	Sacristy	Ushers	Live stream
Dec 5	Mary C	Sharon R	Mary C	Janet A	Stephanie J	Stan R Norris L	Franklin W
Dec 12	Paul K	Anna W	Wohnoutka Family	Sarah B	Marilyn N	Dean A David S	Ted A
Dec 19	Susan P	Anna O			Clarice L	Susan P Jerry J	Ted A
Dec 26	Jim L	Dan H		Kristin C		Dave K Jim H	Gene R

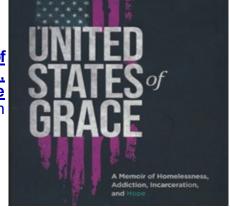
Book Club

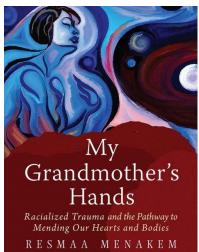
Do you want to increase your cultural capacity? Please join us for our Book Club every six weeks and learn more. We read one book at a time and discuss it together for an hour or so. **Sundays 12:30-2:00 PM**

December 12 - United States of Grace: A Memoir of

Homelessness, Addiction,
Incarceration, and Hope

by Lenny Duncan





Come 2022 we will take more time to work through

My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathways

to Mending our Hearts and Bodies

by Resmaa Menakem.

This might be a weekly or every other week meeting for several weeks. It is a great and heavy book, and provides healing options that we will practice as a group.



PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Sharon Phillips
Sheila Nelson
Mike & Grace Simons
Marilyn Romsaas
Mark & Jan Walker
Warwick Family
Mary Thone
Trudy Carlson
Pikkarainen Family
Laurel Jorgensen
Sue Dorumsgaard Ayers
Kevin Hoover
Cantu-Cannon Family
Rosie Smith & Family

Gloria Condon Marge Hauge Hundt Family Tom Keating Bresina Family Teondre Martinez Crystal Vaughn Lynn Vaughn Jeff Fossum Mel Olson Joan Dahlman Puckett Family Andy Martinson Doris Christianson

Prayers of Sympathy
For Trudy Carlson after the death of her sister and her niece,

for Anna Olsen and Family at the death of her mother, and

for the family of Audrey Campbell, who died Nov. 18th

OUR MISSION PARTNERS

- Bancroft Neighborhood Association
- Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church BOLD
 - Casa de Oracion MN
 - Casa de Oracion Pentecostal
 - Every Meal
 - Mpls Area Synod
 - Nokomis Healthy Seniors
 - ReconcilingWorks

RELATIVES & FRIENDS

Theresa (Pr B's sister) Nancy Purdin (Pr B's friend) Trent & Michelle Halvorson (Norma's family) Steven Keating (Tom's son) Bill Chilvers (Mary's dad) Vicki (Sheila Nelson's sister) Bill Shy (Assistant Custodian) Nini & Brenda (Christian Ledesma's uncle & aunt) Betty (Christian Ledesma's mom) Gretchen (Larissa Hoover's mom) Kristian (Pr B's bestie) Bob (Sue Dorumsgaard Ayers' uncle) Ray (AnnE Keating's brother) Darlene (Jeff Alberts' mom) Susan (Mike Condon's sister) Steve (Pr B's brother) Cherril (Candy Hickenbotham's friend) Susan & Dale (Wendy Ledesma's parents) Sue & Wayne (Karen Warwick's parents) Rhonda (Sheila Nelson's friend) Joni (Sheila Nelson's cousin) Rev. Ron Schuette (Dave's father) Joanne Wilberg (Marge Hauge's sister) Gabe Ness (Julie Hundt's husband) John Hundt (Kathy Hundt's brother-in-law) Ann Baskett (Crystal Vaughn's grandmother) Andrea (Mona Falk's daughter)

MEMBERS, RELATIVES & FRIENDS IN THE SERVICE

Robert Hundt
Katrel Bishop (Pr Brenda's nephew)
Adam Froisland (Pr Brenda's nephew)
Dwana Froisland (Pr Brenda's niece)
Brian Hansen (Kaka Day's husband)
Aaron Larson (Rosie Smith's grandson)
Sean Young (Pr Brenda's godson)

Board of Administrators

Greetings, Bethel Friends,

We will be starting the search for our music ministry team, needed due to Phil's departure. As I write this, we still have him with us two more weeks. We have been so blessed with his gifts not only music, but all he has done with technology to keep us connected during the pandemic.

We are "clearing the rolls." This has nothing to do with food, but with having an accurate membership roster.

We are looking to do some renovation to the Parlor as well as replace carpet in some rooms where it is needed. A committee will start meeting soon for this purpose.

Another committee will meet to plan our 2022 budget. I ask everyone to please continue to keep up your giving to the church. We all need Bethel to be a healthy congregation. To do that, we all give of our gifts from God - money, time, and talent.

As far as COVID - as I write this on 11/17/21, our state ranks first in the nation for people being exposed to and getting COVID. Not a good place to be. We will not go back to virtual services only, but we cannot relax any other practices until the numbers go down and stay down. Even though most of us are vaccinated, we are still susceptible to getting COVID with the prevalence so high. So, we will still require masks by everyone in the building and the 6-foot physical distancing.

Blessings, Ann Allison BOA President

Mission Council

The 4th Sunday Faith Formation on November 28 is going to be about refugees. Dr. Jen is going to be leading this talk and she will be tying in the story of Mary and Joseph from the Christmas story. We will also be kicking off our annual Advent collection of coats, hats, mittens, and scarves. These will once again be donated for refugees. We will also be hearing about some ways we can help the Afghan refugees.

Am Mison

The December movie ties in with Racial Justice and the Intercultural Capacity Building Initiatives. We will be watching The Good Lie on December 10th at 7:00 PM. This movie follows a group of Sudanese refugees as they flee violence, live in a refugee camp and are resettled in Kansas City. This movie stars Reese Witherspoon and came out in 2014. Come for the movie and stay for the discussion afterwards.

Stephanie Johnson Mission Council Chair

Bethel Lutheran Church

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Office Hours 9 AM-3 PM Mon-Thurs 9 AM - 12 Noon Fri

Pastor: Brenda Froisland pastor@bethel-mpls.org (651) 270-4960

Engagement Coordinator: Dr. Jen Kilps engage@bethel-mpls.org (321) 750-7862

Music

Search in process organist@bethel-mpls.org Barb Saunders, Erin Gaines

Office Administrator:
Susie George
bethel@bethel-mpls.org

Finance Coordinator: Teresa Klotz assttreas@bethel-mpls.org

Head Custodian: Katie Simons Assistant Custodians: Bill Shy, Michael Hauge

Board of Administrators:
Ann Allison, President
Dean Anderson, At-Large
Laurie Hauge, Vice-President
Les Johnson, At-Large
Paul Kile, Treasurer
Bryan Mann-Entzel, Secretary

Mission Council:
Janet Anderson
Stephanie Johnson, Chair
Lizzy Kile
Jim Lair
Norma Lanning
Anna Olsen

Visitation Committee: Sharon Rodi, Coordinator

C Y & F Committee:
Lisa Chovan-Spence
Tom Keating
Wendy Krogh
Katie Simons
Anna Wohnoutka, Chair
Franklin Wohnoutka

January Deadline:

Approved Article, Advertisement and Calendar deadline is:

WEDNESDAY, Dec 21 @ 12 Noon



BETHEL HERALD

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4120 17th Ave S Minneapolis, MN 55407 612-724-3693 www.bethel-mpls.org

