



## ***Bethel Lutheran Church August/September 2025 Announcements***

### ***Events Calendar***

**August Noisy Offering** – Corner House, the ELCA campus ministry at UW-Milwaukee

**Coffee with Pastor Jaime** – First and third Tuesdays from 1-2 pm at Vintage Grounds, except August 19

**August 9** – Bible study at 10 am. A grown-up look at the story of Jonah and the whale (or big fish).

**August 9** – Faith Family Fun at noon. We'll pack backpacks with school supplies for Lutheran World Relief

**August 12** – Senior dinner at 4:30 pm

**August 12** – Evening worship at 6 pm

**August 26** – Council at 4:30 pm (note date change)

**September Noisy Offering** – Outreach for Hope, which supports ministries serving low-income communities in our synod

**September 9** – Senior dinner at 4:30 pm

**September 9** – Evening worship at 6 pm

**September 13** – Bible study from 10-11:30 am. We'll hear a familiar parable in a new way.

**September 16** – Council at 4:30 pm

### ***A Message from Pastor Jaime***

We are not alone. We know this. God is with us, the Holy Spirit is leading us, and we have each other. But we are also part of a larger church.

I experienced that in a new way at the end of July, when I helped another congregation conduct a practice interview so that they will soon be ready to interview “real” candidates to serve as their next pastor. (Don't worry! I am not going anywhere! I think someone helped you out with a practice interview when you were in the process of calling me as your pastor, too.)

It was so joyful for me to meet another congregation that wanted to know what sharing a pastor was like. Other congregations are learning from our stories! I learned some new things from their stories, too.

The experience also reminded me of the many congregations in our synod that are in transition – more than 25 as of July. You remember what that waiting was like, so I want to invite us all, as we pray for the whole church, to include a prayer for those congregations in our synod that are preparing to call a new pastor. May God bless their members, neighbors, call committees, and those candidates God is preparing to serve.

Also, I think by the time you read this, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will have elected a new presiding (churchwide) bishop. So in our prayers we also give thanks for the service of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and pray for our new presiding bishop and other churchwide leaders.

Bishop Eaton's daughter Beckah Selnick wrote a lovely tribute for Living Lutheran magazine, and here's how she summarized her mom's service: “Her ministry is holding all of it with grace – the grief, the joy, the broken drinking fountains, the broken systems. This is what she's done. Not for recognition. Not to build a legacy – she hates that word. But to show up. To do what is asked, what she has been called to do. Ordinary. Extraordinary.”

The article is called “Ordinary and extraordinary,” and you can find it under “Voices of Faith” at [LivingLutheran.org](https://www.livinglutheran.org).

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**We had surprisingly good weather for bonfire worship!**

## ***Sunday Worship***

**Worship with Holy Communion**

8:30 am Sundays

## ***Please pray for ...***

Laurie – friend of Teri; family of Ardis – Debbie’s aunt; family and friends of Jim – friend of Dan; Maverick and family – relatives of Diane and Dan; Cindy – friend of Jeff and Jerry; Terry and Julie; Teri; Laurel – friend of Dan and Diane; Jeff – friend of Jim and Eileen; Wayne – brother of Jim B.; Vanessa – granddaughter of a friend of Ken; Carol; Charlie – brother-in-law of Barb; Doug – Ken’s brother; Vera – Heidi L.’s aunt; Jiggs – cousin of Jim; Gary – friend of Barb; Kathy and Dennis; Ann and Kris – friends of Bethel; Cheryl; George – friend of Dave H.; George – Heidi’s brother; Lauren; Lori; Rick and Sue – friends of Bethel

## ***Contact Us***

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Being part of a larger church also means extra opportunities to worship, serve, experience fellowship, and spend time in God’s presence. Here are a few that I encourage you to consider:

## **Connect with God through nature**

Wild Church, a new ministry in our synod, is planning HOP into the Wild, a nature spirituality weekend at House of Prayer (HOP) Lutheran Church in Franklin on August 16 and 17. The event includes a bonfire, workshops, activities for all ages, prayer walk, and Wild Church worship services. You will have the option of camping overnight. The event is free, with the exception of a small fee for overnight camping, and you can attend as many of the activities as you would like. You can learn more and register at <https://sandbox.hopfranklin.org/2249-2/>.

## **Mending Our Souls: Women of the ELCA annual convention**

Mending Our Souls is a workshop centered on the healing power of creativity and community. The workshop includes a presentation on the significance of textiles in relation to grief across cultures and history. Together, we will create keepsakes that honor our personal experiences with loss. This event also includes worship, lunch, and an afternoon business meeting and update from the churchwide Women of the ELCA. It takes place from 9 am-2 pm on Saturday, September 13, at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Brookfield. Registration is free but required. Find more information under “Events” at [milwaukeeesynod.org](http://milwaukeeesynod.org).

## **Hope in Motion! Outreach for Hope Family Ride Run Walk**

Join people from around the synod in raising \$165,000 for grants to ministries serving communities experiencing poverty in our Greater Milwaukee Synod. You can ride your bike, walk, or run – and then enjoy lunch – at one of four different locations: Grafton, Kenosha, Milwaukee (no bike ride at the Milwaukee site), or Waukesha. This year’s event is Saturday, September 27. I’m planning to walk at the Milwaukee site, which is Washington Park. If you’d like to join me, let me know, and we can meet at my house and go there together. Register with a freewill donation and learn more at [OFHRRW.org](http://OFHRRW.org).

## ***Parking lot update***

Thanks to a generous anonymous donation, our parking lot fund has reached almost \$40,000. Once we reach \$45,000, we’ll get new bids. Thank you to all who have donated so far. If you’d like to make a donation, pick up an envelope from the table in the narthex, or use your own envelope, marked “parking lot fund.”