



# *Bethel Lutheran Church* *December 2025-January 2026* *Announcements*

## *Events Calendar*

**December Noisy Offering –**  
Muskego Senior Taxi

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

**December 6 –** Gift wrapping for  
Friends of Jesus toy drive, starting  
at 10 am

**December 7 –** Decorating for  
Christmas after worship

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

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

**December 13 –** Bible study at 10  
am.

**December 24 –** Christmas Eve  
candlelight worship at 7 pm

**December 25 –** No Christmas  
Day worship

**December 28 –** Lessons and  
Carols worship at 8:30 am

**Pastor on vacation –** Pastor  
Jaime will be out of town from  
December 26-January 3. In case  
of emergency, please contact  
Debbie Zortman.

**January Noisy Offering –**  
Pastor's Discretionary Fund,  
which helps neighbors in need

**January 4 –** Take down  
Christmas decorations after  
worship

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## *A Message from Pastor Jaime*

Just over half of Americans - 51 percent - say they'd like to read the Bible more. That's according to survey results released this year by the American Bible Society.

Maybe you are one of those people. The start of Advent on November 30 marks the beginning of a new church year. So maybe that could be a "new church year" resolution: To read the Bible more.

But maybe you wish that reading the Bible was a little easier. In a book called "The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life," a pastor named Adam Hamilton encourages those of us who want to read the Bible more to start with five verses a day, and work our way up to five chapters a week. He also offers some ideas for how to listen for God to speak as we read the Bible.

That can be hard, especially because the Bible was written in a culture very different from ours, by people different from us in many ways. The Bible contains words and names we struggle to pronounce. It describes rituals and traditions that don't make sense to us. The Bible is long, and heavy, and has small print and pages that can be hard to turn.

Despite that, daily Bible reading is a practice for me – and not just for the purpose of preparing sermons. I want to hear God speak. Here's a practice I use almost every day.

You can remember it by the acronym SOAP.

- S: Scripture. Choose a short scripture passage. If you're keeping a journal, maybe write down a verse or two.
- O: Observation. In your own words, what stood out to you from this passage? What might God be trying to say to you? (Notice that word "might." It's OK if you're not sure!)
- A: Application. How might this passage apply to your life, or our life together as a church?
- P: Prayer. Thank God for speaking to you through this passage, or let God know if you're having trouble hearing. Ask God for greater understanding, or to help you apply the passage to your life.

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**January 10** – Bible study at 10 am

**January 13** – Senior dinner at 4:30 pm

**January 13** – Evening worship at 6 pm

**January 18** – Annual reports due. Annual meeting will be after worship on February 15.

**January 20** – Council at 4:30 pm

## ***Sunday Worship***

**Worship with Holy Communion**  
8:30 am Sundays

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

Family and friends of Jeffrey – Glenn's nephew; Linda R.; James and Jeanne; Janet – a colleague of Neva's daughter; Carol, Debbie, and family; Dan; Sheila – friend of Ginny; family of Harold – Joyce's uncle; Barb; Sandy – cousin of Eileen; those affected by flooding; Glenn; Terry and Julie; Teri; Laurel – friend of Dan and Diane; Jeff – friend of Jim and Eileen; Wayne – brother of Jim B.; 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; Rick and Sue – friends of Bethel; Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry; ministry partners in Tanzania

### ***Contact Us***

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I like to use this practice alongside a favorite devotional, such as the Christ in Our Home daily devotionals available at church. After I've studied each day's passage on my own, and listened for what God might be saying to me, I open my devotional and read someone else's perspective on that same passage. You might also find a friend to read along with you, so you can share your observations with each other. We get the most out of Bible study when we read scripture together with others. If you'd like to do that here at Bethel, we have a ...

### ***New Bible study starting in December***

Over the next several months, our monthly Bible study group will focus on some things the Bible doesn't say – even though many people think it does: things like “everything happens for a reason” and “God helps those who help themselves.” We'll talk about those popular phrases, and then look at what the Bible DOES say. Our monthly Bible study typically meets on the second Saturday of the month from 10-11:30 am. Everyone is welcome to join us – even if you can't make it every month.



**We created Christmas trees on Craft and Wine Night. This project was inspired by our friend Edna – and many of our buttons came from her collection.**