

# *Bethel Lutheran Church*

## *February/March 2025 Announcements*

### *Events Calendar*

**February Noisy Offering –** Repairers of the Breach, a shelter in Milwaukee.

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

**February 8 –** Bible study from 10-11:30 am. This month's topic is: Grace. What is grace? And how do we experience God's grace through scripture?

**February 9 –** Donate soup to our Souper Bowl collection for the Muskego Food Pantry.

**February 11 –** Senior dinner at 4:30 pm

**February 11 –** Evening worship at 6 pm

**February 16 –** Annual meeting after worship. Please get reports to Debbie Zortman and Pastor Jaime by February 1.

**February 18 –** Council at 4:30 pm

**March Noisy Offering –** Hope Center, helping people in Waukesha County with basic needs.

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### *A Message from Pastor Jaime*

I love to learn new things, so every year, I look forward to our synod's day of learning, an event called Together in Mission.

This gathering brings together church members, deacons, and pastors from around our synod to worship, share a meal, and learn about a variety of topics. I encourage you to think about joining me.

There are a variety of topics for learning, including practicing forgiveness, understanding and updating a congregation's constitution, encouraging generosity, ministry to people with addictions, understanding and responding to Christian nationalism, even church recordkeeping.

You can find descriptions about all 19 workshop offerings on the synod's website, at [tinyurl.com/GMS-TIM-2025](https://tinyurl.com/GMS-TIM-2025). But I also want to share descriptions of a couple I am especially excited about:

#### **Deep, Then Wide: Church Growth in the 21st Century**

*We all know that the landscape of church is changing rapidly. At the same time, there is an epidemic of loneliness and social isolation afoot in the broader culture and more people than ever are hungry for a sense of belonging. In this session, we will practice together some tools that can help your congregation connect more deeply with God, each other, and your neighbors in a way that will breathe new life into your ministry!*

#### **Story-Linking**

*Story-linking, originated by Anne Streaty Wimberly, has the goal of equipping us to speak more confidently about our own lived Christian faith. In this session, you'll get an overview of engaging memoirs, the Biblical narrative, faith stories from the American Christian tradition, and finally our own decision making.*

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**March 1** – All ages Lent event. We'll have some breakfast treats, hear a Bible story, and burn last year's palms to make ashes for this year's Ash Wednesday worship service. Come join in this tradition and learn more about it.

**March 5** – Ash Wednesday worship at 6 pm

**March 8** – Bible study from 10-11:30 am.

**March 11** – Senior dinner at 4:30 pm

**March 11** – Evening worship at 6 pm

**March 18** – Council at 4:30 pm

**Pastor on vacation** – Pastor Jaime will be on vacation March 20-27. Debbie Zortman will have emergency contact information.

## ***Worship Schedule***

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

**Evening Worship with Holy Communion**  
6 pm on the second Tuesday, following Senior Dinner

## ***Contact Us***

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Together in Mission will take place from 8 am-3 pm on Saturday, February 15, at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Wauwatosa. The cost to attend is \$25, which includes lunch. The deadline to register is 11:59 am on Tuesday, February 11.

For more information or to register, go to [tinyurl.com/GMS-TIM-2025](https://tinyurl.com/GMS-TIM-2025).

This could also be a great opportunity for some folks from Bethel and Gloria Dei to attend a synod event together. If you are interested, please let me know so I can connect you and make introductions.

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## ***Direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars***

If you are a Thrivent financial services client, you may be able to help Bethel or another charitable organization.

Through Choice Dollars, eligible Thrivent clients choose where Thrivent donates a portion of its charitable funding each year. The deadline to direct Choice Dollars to Bethel or another organization is March 31.

If you're a Thrivent client, call your representative or go to [www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-choice](https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-choice) to find out more.

Last year, Bethel received almost \$650 in donations through the Choice Dollars program!

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## ***Please keep in your prayers ...***

Charlie – brother-in-law of Barb; Bonnie; Jeff H.; Sue P. – Jeff W.'s mother; Doug – Ken's brother; Jim – friend of Dan; Renee and Lisa – friends of Bonnie; Julie and Terry; Bryon and Jean; Vera – Heidi L.'s aunt; Jiggs – cousin of Jim; Jennifer – Bryon's sister; Judy – sister of Kathy; Fletcher – Discovery Days friend; Gary – friend of Barb; Gavin – great-nephew of Sue H.; Jerry and Pat – friends of Dan and Diane; Kathy and Dennis; Albert and Donna – parents of Jeff and Gerald; Ann and Kris – friends of Bethel; Ashley – granddaughter of Ginny; Cheryl; Courtney; George – friend of Dave H.; George – Heidi's brother; Ginny; Landon; Lauren; Lori; MJ; Rick and Sue – friends of Bethel; Ron; Teri; Todd – brother of Teri.

***We celebrate God's grace, and we reach out  
with Christ's love.***