

Synod School, Mission Ministry and Growing in Faith

So many of you greeted me on Sunday morning asking how my week had gone and I was touched realizing folks had remembered that I was going to be away as I attended the Synod School offered by the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. This past week, I was billeted at a dorm at Buena Vista University from Sunday afternoon to Friday noon with 577 people of all ages plus one emotional support cat named Reepicheep. I'm sure those of you who asked about my week saw a smile light up my face and one of you even called me on Sunday afternoon to tell me I was glowing; this sister in Christ was certain it was due to my week at Synod School.

Synod School met while riders on RAGBRAI crossed our state, mostly under the power of their own bodies, and I gave thanks on those very humid days that I wasn't on the seat of a bicycle and if needed, a golf cart would get me where I wanted to go. I think we all understand the camaraderie that RAGBRAI inspires amongst the participants and I couldn't help but feel that same connection happening in Storm Lake. Folks come to Synod School year after year with one person posting it is her favorite week of the year. You can get a glimpse of what we experienced by visiting the Synod School Facebook page: Synod School – "Is this Heaven? No, it's Iowa!"

I focused my time away attending sessions that would be most helpful in my role as your pastor. Presbyterian Polity and John Calvin and the Reformation would likely not be at the top of anyone's sessions they hoped to attend especially when things like Intermediate Pickleball, Not Your Granny's Granny Square and Gentle Yoga are other options! I attended Presbyterian Polity from 2:00 – 5:00 pm each day while enjoying Christian Nationalism and Leadership Models Beyond the "One Church, One Pastor" Model each morning following Prayer/Song and Convocation. Worship and an opportunity for an evening mini-course followed our evening meal. I attended a Foreign Policy Update (taught by a retired State Department employee), the movie 'Bad Faith,' and I Still Have Questions About My iPhone/iPad.

To cap off this amazing week of learning, we welcomed Kirk and Ann Bruso 'home' to hear Ann share about her mission trip to Kenya supporting teachers and ultimately their students who work and attend school in an impoverished area outside Nairobi, Kenya. Bright Hope understands education is the surest means out of poverty and Ann's gifts in education will have an ongoing positive impact for many children who call a slum 'home.' You can learn more about this ministry by visiting brighthouse.org on the internet or Facebook. By viewing our Sunday, July 27 service online, you would be able to hear Ann's interesting presentation.

We continue to grow in faith throughout all stages of life. My past week brought God into focus in so many ways. I pray we all take time during this month of August to be in thoughtful, peaceful communion with God who is our source of all hope.

Peace, Lori
563-380-8187

This photo shows the chapel at BVU.



Join us for August's Bible Study
Sustaining Creation's Health for All
Wednesday, August, 20 at 10:00 am (Note date change.)
Stoney Brook

What's the 'Big Idea?' Scripture and modern science help us see nature's wisdom more clearly and lead us to seek just ways to care for the earth and one another.

Want to learn more? Watch Janine Benyus's TED talk on biomimicry at biomimicry.org/what-is-biomimicry. Scroll down on the Biomimicry Institute's main page to find the short video. A longer, twenty minute video, is found on YouTube by searching for 'biomimicry and Janine Benyus.' This is a video from 2009 but is filled with fascinating information.

God's love in action:

Sign up for the PC(USA) Office of Public Action Witness action alerts or check specific campaigns at [votervoice.net/PC\(USA\)/campaigns](http://votervoice.net/PC(USA)/campaigns).

We pray:

God who creates and recreates, renew our vision and invigorate our souls, that we may both see and seek the world you desire for all. Help us translate hope into daily actions in the corner of the earth that we call home. Amen.

Horizons Bible Study beginning fall of 2025
Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ

Open Hands Food Pantry Stats:

The total number of households served in June was 186, made up of 435 individuals. We served 14,404 lbs of food. 38 households received food stamps.



EXTENDED TABLE OFFERING

The gifts you bring to the Extended Table offering that are received on Communion Sunday are now supporting the Open Hands Food Pantry in West Union.

The extended table offering items requested for Communion Sunday, August 3, 2025, are: personal hygiene items

Thanks so much for your offerings to support Bethel's mission to reach out in our community!

This is one simple way we can share with those in need. We are called to be generous as God has been overwhelmingly generous to us!



CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to our Bethel family members as they celebrate birthdays and anniversaries this month!

AUGUST 2	Joy Miller
AUGUST 9	Lee Johansen
AUGUST 10	Lucas Bostrom
AUGUST 11	Dawn Jacobsen
	Lois Franzen
AUGUST 13	Doyle Gorden
AUGUST 19	Nancy Dunt
AUGUST 20	Kirk Bruso
AUGUST 23	Randy Ruroden
	Rev. Ron Wilson
AUGUST 24	Jodi Granger
AUGUST 25	Scott & Joleen Garvin (A)
AUGUST 28	Nancy Franzen
AUGUST 30	Dave Aanes



Members and friends of Bethel who seek healing and wholeness in their lives are kept in prayer.

Together we are remembering: Cathy Bemiss, Teri Brockway, Don & Janice Durscher, Sarah Updegraff Murray, Kirk Bruso, and baby McCoy

Good Samaritan Center - Peggi Pape

Stoney Brook - Kate Ewing, Kathy Meyer

Eastern Star Decorah - Doyle Gorden

Ossian Care Center - Cindy Barness



LAYLEADERS

- 03 Julie Aanes
- 10 Stephen Bartenhagen
- 17 LeAnn Popenhgen
- 24 Robin Bostrom
- 31 Pat Baumler

Power Point

- 03 Dave Aanes
- 10 Carrie Lee
- 17 Julie Aanes
- 24 Mark Bostrom
- 31 Corey Moser

FELLOWSHIP TREATS

- 03 Nancy Dunt
- 10 Julie Larson
- 17 Lee Johansen
- 24 Stepehen Bartenhagen
- 31 Linda Johansen

COMMUNION

Communion will be served on Sunday, August 3. Dave and Julie Aanes with be servers.



"Diaconate received their quarterly offering following worship on Sunday, July 13th and raised \$180.00. We appreciate your generous support of our mission. within Bethel Church."

Diaconate will meet
August 12th at 9:30.
Nancy Dunt will be hosting.



Noisy Bucket offering for June was \$58.17.
It will be collected again August 27th.
Thank you for your contributions to this ministry.



Sewing Circle will meet on Thursday, August 14th and 28th, at 9:30 until 3:00.



Committed to
nurturing faith,
supporting mission,
working for justice,
and building community.



Our VISION—

*Our Vision is for this Body of Christ to be a Community of Faith called...
Bethel—A **people** and a place where God is made known!*



Session took the following action at their 13 July meeting:

- Opened with devotion and prayer led by Dave Aanes;
- Shared with each other our Joys and Concerns;
- Approved minutes from Session meeting on 08 June 2025;
- Received Treasurer's Reports for May and June 2025;
- Approved giving \$10 gift certificates to each volunteer at the TigerHawk Summer Meal Program;
- Approved giving \$10 gift certificates to each bus driver at North Fayette Valley;
- Heard Building and Grounds' report on the basement flooring repair, new carpet, and painting completed by several volunteers. Thank You! to Pat Baumler for donating cost of the new carpet in memory of Charlie;
- Held a discussion on water issues and structural integrity of the bell tower. Decided Session needs more input from members of the congregation;
- The meeting was closed with prayer led by Rev. Kleppe.

August Be Strong In the Lord! Scripture Writing Reading Plan

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|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Day 1: Deuteronomy 31:6 | • Day 17: Palm 27:1 |
| • Day 2: Jeremiah 32:17 | • Day 18: Psalm 29:11 |
| • Day 3: Psalm 59:16 | • Day 19: Psalm 73:26 |
| • Day 4: Deuteronomy 20:4 | • Day 20: Psalm 18:1-2 |
| • Day 5: Exodus 15:2 | • Day 21: Ephesian 6:10 |
| • Day 6: Psalm 119:28 | • Day 22: Isaiah 40:31 |
| • Day 7: 1 Chronicles 16:11 | • Day 23: Mark 12:30 |
| • Day 8: 2 timothy 1:7 | • Day 24: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 |
| • Day 9: 1 Corinthians 16:13 | • Day 25: Psalm 46:1 |
| • Day 10: 2 Corinthians 1:7 | • Day 26: Nehemiah 8:10 |
| • Day 11: Isaiah 40:29 | • Day 27: Psalm 22:19 |
| • Day 12: 2 Thessalonians 3:2 | • Day 28: Psalm 2:7-8 |
| • Day 13: Isaiah 41:10 | • Day 29: Psalm 118:14 |
| • Day 14: John 16:33 | • Day 30: Isaiah 12:2 |
| • Day 15: Joshua 1:9 | |
| • Day 16: Philippians 4:13 | |

*"Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."
Nehemiah 8:10*



THANK you to everyone for attending our ecumenical worship service. It was such a meaningful experience for everyone. The holiday weekend can be busy (and weather is always a factor), but we had a great turn out at our service in the park.





CWS
Church World Service

KIDS KITS

previously known as SCHOOL KITS

This year the Sewing Circle will be making and filling Kids Kits for Church World Service. If you choose not to shop for the school supplies or wish to help with shipping and handling costs, you may make a monetary contribution to PW. Our sincere thanks for your support of this mission project.

Items need to be here by August 10th, we are putting them together on the 14th. Thank you! The Sewing Circle

Needed supplies for the Kids Kits:

Items needed:

12 colored pencils

Two-pocket folder

Glue Stick

Blunt-tip scissors

70-page wide ruled spiral-bound notebook

30-cm/12" ruler

Hand-held pencil sharpener

Large eraser

Six new, unsharpened pencils

Box of 24 crayons

1 14" X 17" bag with handles

Optional: Handmade or store-bought pencil pouch

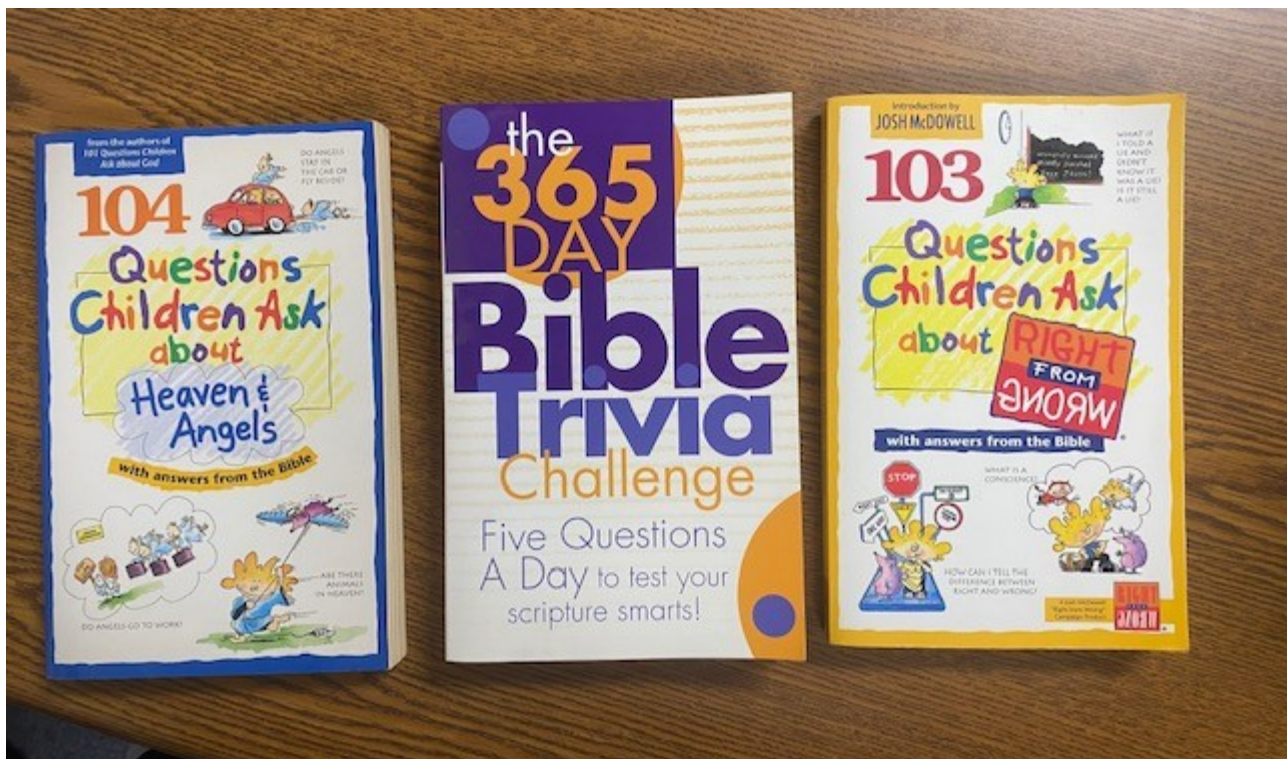
Donations will be accepted until Sunday, August 10th.

Please only buy the items that have been listed. Make no additions or substitutions as they cannot be used for these kits.



Devotionals, Study Bibles and More

A small collection of gently used books has been donated and are available on a table in the library. See something you'd like? It's yours to enjoy! The photos show only a few of the books available. You are welcome to donate to this Free Little Library, too.



August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Worship 10:00 w/ the Lord's Supper Fellowship	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Worship 10:00 Fellowship Session Meeting	11	12 9:30 Diaconate	13	14 Sewing Circle 9:30-3	15	16
17 Worship 10:00 Fellowship	18	19	20 Women's Bible Study 10:00 Stoney Brook	21	22	23
24 Worship 10:00 Fellowship	25	26	27	28 Sewing Circle 9:30-3	29	30
24 Worship 10:00 w/ Noisy Bucket/Baptism Fellowship	25					

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