

Worship

Faithful Waiting

"I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope." Psalm 130:5

Many of you may know I spent nearly ten years in the Navy and I enjoy being by the water. While serving as a pastor in southwest Wisconsin, I became rather fond of spending time on the shores of the Mississippi. Old Man River has long been a part of my life as I grew up near those shores when I called a small town near the Quad Cities home. After college, I moved to northeast Iowa and crossed over those familiar waters each time Gregg and I needed to do a grocery run. Now that I'm calling the Kleppe farm home, I miss visiting a favorite coffee shop in Lansing where I would sit to write a sermon or devotions; Coffee on the River is a quaint shop with a great view of the water. As I was pondering days gone by, I came across the following reflection written while sitting at that coffee shop. I hope you enjoy reminiscing with me as you read my words. I pray they help you grow in faith.

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The river has been busy this past hour. I've been pleasantly distracted by some dredging going on upstream and have a rather large tug, or is it a tow?, just across the channel...waiting. Life is like that sometimes...we just have to wait...but waiting can be hard especially if the stakes are high.

I wonder how you are doing today. Are you in a time of waiting? Is a loved one in a time of waiting? Waiting for news that there is no sign of cancer, waiting to learn if a new opportunity is coming your way? Waiting for a little one to be born

We all know what it is to wait and it takes some discipline to learn to wait in a way that is helpful. I have found entering into a time of prayer with our Lord to be most helpful. Taking a few slow deep breaths I begin, Dear God,...and the words flow from my lips to God's ear.

Waiting may be hard but I have found it to be a bit easier when I am not waiting alone, taking time to remember that God, who I have come to know through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, waits with me. That's really something if you think about it and believe it. God is with us. We are not alone.

I've been watching a barge across the water wondering what it is waiting for and as I sit here I see water begin moving behind it. The barge remains stationary and I muttered, "Start your engines!" to myself.

Upstream I see another barge coming my way. It makes its way around the bend and it's right by the Black Hawk Bridge where the captain makes a sharp left hand turn. The barge across from me remains still...waiting. It doesn't move even as the approaching barge passes by. And then I see it...and hear it...another barge, she's a big one, and is following right behind. She's moving at a good clip over the water, making that left hand turn as it crosses beneath the bridge. The captain toots the horn and I'd like to think it was for me as I'm recording as it passes by. I wait to see what the first barge will do, the one that has been idling nearby. And then, just as the second barge passes by going down stream, the barge heading upstream begins to move. It's been a busy hour on the river and the journey continues for each crew as they have kindly taken turns in the narrow channel of the Mighty Mississippi!

If you find yourself in a time of waiting today, may you do so as kindly, patiently, and hopefully as you are able. God is with you. You are not alone. Take slow deep breaths and invite God's Holy Spirit into your journey whatever and wherever it may be.

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This month we wait. We wait for All Saints Sunday, some anticipating it as a painful reminder of a loved one gone on to the Church triumphant, but trusting there is resurrection to new life. The candles will flicker as we remember. We wait for Election Day and then for the results of that election. We may be excitedly waiting for family to arrive for the Thanksgiving holiday or to travel to family as established holiday traditions will be embraced once again. We wait for Advent those four weeks before Christmas, but before Advent we will celebrate Christ the King/The Reign of Christ Sunday on the last Sunday of the month. On that day we will have a special service as we travel through the church year through readings and song.. I hope you will be able to join us. As we confess our faith with the Apostles' Creed we are ever reminded that we are waiting for the glorious day when Jesus will come again. I don't know about you, but that day will be an incredible gift for God's people and all of creation. Thanks be to God!

Please pray with me. Holy One, We give you thanks this day knowing that you are journeying with us...that you have never and will never forsake us. You gave us life and you will see us through this one until we commune with you in paradise. Ah, paradise that is God given. You have provided for our utmost needs. Help us to see this...help us to believe it. Help us to take comfort in it. Amen.

In Christ,
Lori 563.380.8187 lori.kleppe@gmail.com





Session took the following action at their 12 October meeting:

- Opened with devotion and prayer led by Ken Popenhagen;
- Shared with each other our Joys and Concerns;
- Approved minutes from Session meeting on 07 September 2025;
- Received Treasurer's Reports for September 2025;
- Approved dates in 2026 for Four Oaks' Foster Parent training classes;
- Pastor Lori discussed the meaning of Christian Nationalism and reported Bethel will offer a presentation in the near future;
- Pastor Lori thanked the ministry teams and encouraged them to continue working on reorganization efforts;
- Heard from Worship team regarding Advent activities and plans for Christmas in the Barn, which will be posted on Facebook;
- Approved Mission team's recommendation to support Open Hands' Thanksgiving Day dinner with a gift of \$250;
- Heard from Mission team about supporting a PSAS family at Christmas;
- Heard an update on plans for Sarah Updegraff Murray to speak after worship on 19 October. A light luncheon will be served before and dessert after Sarah speaks. The event will be advertised inviting the community to attend;
- Appointed Building and Grounds team to purchase Smart TV, smaller TV, and sound system so we can broadcast worship service from the dining area;
- Discussed and approved an expense budget for 2026;
- Heard from Celebration team about a large donation which will be used for technological purposes, specifically the TV and sound system purchases;
- Heard from Nominating team regarding candidates for new session members;
- The meeting was closed with prayer led by Rev. Kleppe.

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, November 2, 2025, are: foods the holiday dinners. They would always welcome gluten free 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!

NOV 4- Julie Aanes
Diann Cline
NOV 5- Michelle Demeyer
NOV 12 - Kathy Meyer
NOV 15 - Randy Tope
NOV 20 - Lauren Bruso
NOV 24 - Teri Brockway
Pastor Lori
NOV 25 -Randy & Brenda Tope (A)
NOV 27 - Tom & Connie Buresh(A)



Sewing Circle will meet on Thursday, November 13, at 9:30 until approximately 3:00.

The last meeting for this year will be Dec. 4th.



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



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 Durscher, Sarah Updegraff Murray, Kirk Bruso, baby McCoy, and Rose Marie Knight (Julie Larson's mom).

Good Samaritan Center - Peggi Pape
Stoney Brook - Kate Ewing, Kathy Meyer
Eastern Star Decorah - Doyle Gorden
Ossian Care Center -Cindy Barness
Maple Crest—Tex Heyer
Copper Creek—Sandy Schnor



LAYLEADERS

02 ROBIN BOSTROM
09 KRIS & COREY MOSER
16 JULIE AANES
23 GREGG KLEPPE
30

POWER POINT02

02 MARK BOSTROM
09 COREY MOSER
16 KAREN SCHMITZ
23 STEPHEN BARTENHAGEN
30 DAWN JACOBSEN

FELLOWSHIP TREATS

02 ROBIN BOSTROM
09 LEE JOHANSEN
16 JULIE AANES
23
30 KAREN SCHMITZ

COMMUNION

Communion will be served on Sunday, November 2. Dawn Jacobsen and Lee Johansen will be servers.



Find us on:
facebook®

DECORATING FOR ADVENT - *from the Worship Team -*

The Season of Advent begins on Sunday, November 30th. We plan to decorate the sanctuary following worship on Sunday, November 23rd.

Volunteers will be needed!



CHRISTMAS GIVING PROJECT

Last year, the Mission Team adopted a family through Parent Share and Support and provided Christmas gifts for their family. We will again be supporting a local family through PSAS. In November, a Christmas tree will be placed in the narthex with gifts tags of items requested for each family member. You may select a gift tag and shop for the gift, or if you would like to participate but do not want to shop, you may donate money and the Mission Team will purchase gifts. Thank you for your support of our Christmas mission project! You are sharing the love of Jesus Christ in our community!



A shipment to Knitting4Peace will take place in December. If you are knitting for this mission, please have your items in the Sewing Room by Sunday, December 14th. We thank you for your time and talent for this mission of Presbyterian Women.

**Bethel Presbyterian Church
invites you to join us for...**

~ Christmas Eve in a Barn ~



December 24, 2025 @ 5:30pm

**Rustic Chic Events Center
(renovated Gibbs barn)**

**Join us for hearing the story of Jesus's birth,
animals, singing carols, special music,
and sharing the Light of Christ together.**

**Open Hands Food Pantry
Stats:**

The total number of households served in September was 193, made up of 420 individuals. We served 13, 288 lbs of food. 43 households received food stamps.



Diaconate will meet
November 10th at 9:30.
Martha Bartenhagen will be hosting.

The Diaconate received a total of \$155.00 in our special quarterly offering in October! We appreciate your generous support of our mission as we serve the members of Bethel!



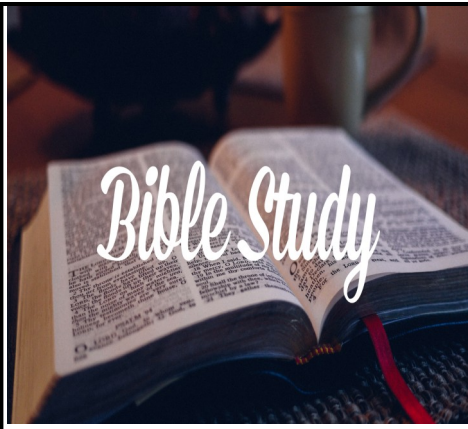
New Members Welcome

We will welcome those interested in becoming a member of Bethel on November 16 during worship. Would you like to join this amazing congregation? Let Lori or Stephen know if you're interested.

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.





Women's Bible Study

November 20 10:00 am Stoney Brook

Our topic: Land Justice

Main Idea: Scriptural accounts of divinely ordered conquest and laws of Jubilee that support the rights of individual landowners stand in tension but are rooted in the perception that all the earth is God's.

Sneak peek: Visit YouTube and search for "The Indian Removal Act of 1830: America's Darkest Betrayal to view a 10-minute video.

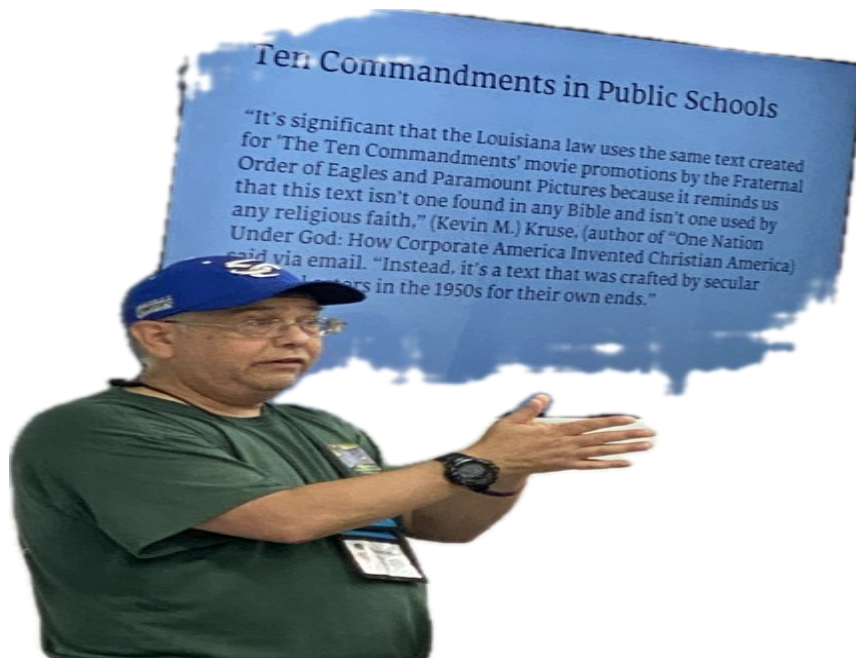
Christian Nationalism

Join Lori on November 5

Christian Nationalism (CN) is a topic that is being spoken of more frequently in our society. It's important to understand what this term means and its long history in the United States. Rev. Dr. Tom Willadsen will offer a 90 minute presentation with time for questions on November 5 at 1:30 PM in the fellowship hall at Bethel. Tom will join us online from his church in Peoria, IL. I met Tom at Synod School this past summer and spent five engaging hours learning about CN. Tom has 25 years as an installed pastor and has been serving in transitional ministry for the past six years. He brings a passion for accuracy and fairness to the discussion of the line separating church and state in American history.

Here is a blurb explaining Tom's presentation:

Scholars and journalists use the term Christian Nationalism to describe a nostalgic mythology driving the imposition of theocratic government. American Presbyterians, traditionally, have defended the separation of church and state. This course looks at this intersection of American and Presbyterian history and identifies current trends and themes of Christian Nationalism.





We gave Sarah and her family a warm, love-filled welcome on October 19th when we gathered to hear from Sarah. Resilience, inspired by a hope-filled faith, is transforming. Our prayers continue for the Updegraff-Murray family. A special thank you to everyone providing for the luncheon served to our guests.



HAVE *faith*



The Worship Ministry Team would like to invite our Bethel Congregation to participate in our "Give *Digital* Thanks" video during November. Send us a photo of what you are thankful for with a one or two word caption. We love hearing from our Bethel family and this video is so enjoyable for everyone because it is created by YOU! What a great way to stay connected with our extended church family. ***What are you thankful for?***

Send your photo to bethelpresbych@q.com

If you don't use email, bring a photo to the church office to scan.

The Worship Ministry Team



Noisy Bucket offering for September was \$26.10.

It will be collected again November 30th.

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!*



PLEDGE DEDICATION SUNDAY NOVEMBER 23 2025

As you prayerfully consider your pledge to Bethel Church for the new year, the Personnel and Administration team reminds you that Sunday, November 23rd has been set aside as Pledge Dedication Sunday.

Please bring your 2026 pledge card with you that morning for dedication during worship. If you know you will not be able to be here that day, please mail it to the church as soon as possible! **THANK YOU!**

November 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2 Worship 10:00 w/ the Lord's Supper All Saints Sun. Fellowship	3	4	5 1:30—3:00 Christian Nationalism Presentation	6	7	8
9 Worship 10:00 Fellowship Session	10 9:30 Diaconate	11	12	13 Sewing Circle 9:30-3	14	15
16 Worship 10:00 Fellowship New Member Welcome	17	18	19	20 Women's Bible Study 10:00	21	22
23 Worship 10:00 Pledge Sunday Fellowship w/Decorating	24	25 Pastor Lori Good Sam 2:00 p.m.	26	27 Thanksgiving	28	29
30 Worship 10:00 w/ Noisy Bucket Fellowship						

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