

COVID UPDATE

The COVID Advisory Task Force (CAT) made recommendations to the Congregation Council regarding worship practices during the current coronavirus surge. **We strongly encourage everyone to attend services online.** However, some may have a personal desire to attend in-person worship or require additional technical assistance. We will limit in-person worship to 30.

You may sign up for in-person service at <http://bethelstl.org/worship-signup>.

If you are unable to use the link, please call the church office at (314) 863-3112.

We will continue to open the windows during the service so please dress warmly. The fellowship hall will remain closed during worship. We ask that singing remain with soft voices.

Please also note our standard practices:

1. All individuals must remain masked at all times
2. Do not attend if you have cold or flu symptoms or have been exposed to COVID

Please direct questions to covidquestions@bethelstl.org

Adult Forum

All Adult Forum sessions are Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm over Zoom.

January 19: Dr. Stephen Mager, Bethel organist and music director since 1988.

A Musical Way to a Spiritual Way of Life (II): Music as a Spiritual Discipline

How is the **Discipline of Music** corporate, social, and inclusive? What **Values** set it apart, and how does **Science** enter into this? How is **Music as a Discipline** compatible with a Christian way of life?

Transition Update

Bible Study leaders have been receiving training on leading and participating in the combined Bible studies/visioning sessions, in which the congregation will participate. This self-understanding is important to ensure we call a new pastor who can further us in our mission. We hope everyone will attend at least one of the sessions and contribute their thoughts. The feedback will ultimately help us write the Ministry Site Profile which addresses Bethel's calling and is used in finding and interviewing pastoral candidates. Bible passages to be used for discussion are Micah 6:6-8, Matthew 22:34-40, Luke 4:16-21, and John 15:9-17.

Star Words

There are still plenty of yellow stars waiting for their owners. Each star has a unique word on it, meant as a guide for your year. In this time after Epiphany as we see in Scripture how God has revealed Godself in Jesus, we also can ask God to use a human word to guide us in our faith journey for 2022. The blue bowl in the narthex has stars for adults and older youth. The paperboard star-shaped bowl has words for children up through about 4th grade. The bowls will stay out into early February.

If you would like a star word and cannot make it to Bethel, let Deb Grupe know at deb.grupe@gmail.com and she will randomly select, then deliver a word to you, mostly likely through the mail.

This Week's Schedule

SUN	1/16	10 am	Holy Communion – Second Sunday after the Epiphany
WED	1/19	7 pm	Adult Forum <i>A Musical Way to a Spiritual Way of Life (II): Music as a Spiritual Discipline</i> Dr. Stephen Mager, organist and music director
SUN	1/23	10 am	Holy Communion – Third Sunday after the Epiphany Pastor Merle Brockhoff, Celebrant & Preacher

Looking Ahead

WED	1/26	7 pm	Adult Forum <i>A Liturgical Way of Life: Aspects of Bethel's Worship Life</i> Matt Bear, chair of the Worship Board
SUN	1/30	10 am	Holy Communion – Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany <i>Reconciling in Christ Sunday</i> Pastor Roy Ledbetter, Celebrant & Preacher <i>Pastor Roy gives thanks for 48 years of grace as an ordained minister.</i>

Contributions

Contributions since July are only about 2/3 of what we have budgeted. At the end of November we are at \$120,000 in contributions against a budget of \$180,000. Our spending has been down as well, so we are OK at the moment. As we head into the new year please keep Bethel in mind.

The contribution envelopes are here, and they are sitting in the back of church. Please pick yours up and take it home. If you prefer to make electronic payments, go to bethelstl.org and click on "Give a Gift" just below the map or scan this QR code.



*Have Something for the Bethel Connection, Bulletin, Sunday Announcements,
Website, Narthex Information Board, or Facebook?
Email it to submissions@bethelstl.org by 9 AM Monday morning.*