Alive in Christ • Loved in His grace • Living to serve and proclaim

The Messenger

A publication of Bethany Lutheran Church March—2026

Praying Unconventionally

A couple weeks ago, our older Living Water Youth went on a retreat to Metigoshe. In true camp fashion, we packed a week's worth of fun into a short 24 hours. We drove up Sunday night, played lots of fun camp games, ice skated, went sledding, and had a pizza party. The next day, we went to the Bottineau Winter Park to go tubing before getting lunch and coming home.

However, perhaps one of the most important things we did was learn about prayer. When we are young, we all learn to close our eyes, fold our hands, and bow our heads, but that weekend, the camp staff taught us some new ways to pray that seemed a little unconventional.

The first way we prayed was through art. Using 2x2" canvases, we each painted something, anything, that we wanted to pray for. Our next prayer used Alka-Seltzer tablets. We were each handed a tablet and after reflecting on our worries, we dropped our tablets into a pitcher of water and watched them fizzle away to symbolize how we can put our worries on God who promises to care and provide for us in spite of our fears.

The final prayer we learned was the Skittles Gratitude Prayer. We were each instructed to take a handful of skittles from a bowl, and for each one, we prayed for something we were grateful for based on its color.

- **Red = Person**
- **Orange = Place**
- **Green = Food**
- **Yellow = Thing**
- **Purple = Anything**

All these methods seemed out of the ordinary, but that's okay because our God is not ordinary either. He can and does meet with us anywhere at any time. I am so glad that our students had this opportunity to reflect on themselves and to learn and grow in their faith.

"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard our hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

~Philippians 4:6-7

In Gloria Dei,

Dalyce Leslie

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CAPITAL CAMPAIGN Phase 2 Update

Great news! The BLC Foundation has approved a **$25,000 matching grant** for Phase 2 of Raise for the Roof.

With this grant, we are now **only $6,500 away of paying off the roof**. Every gift makes a difference. ...can we reach this amount by **May 2026**?

Just **Scan** you QR Code or **Text** to give @ 844-628-9083

Journeying Through Lent with Jesus

Lent is not a season we observe from a distance. It is a journey we take. And the Gospels do not invite us merely to admire Jesus on the road to Jerusalem. They invite us to walk with him.

Each year during Lent, we move intentionally through the Gospel narratives. We follow Jesus into the wilderness where he faces temptation. We stand beside him as he heals the broken and calls disciples who do not yet understand what that call will cost. We listen as he teaches about forgiveness, humility, generosity, and love for enemies. Step by step, the Gospel writers lead us closer to the cross.

Lent slows us down enough to notice what we might otherwise rush past. We see how often the disciples misunderstand. We recognize ourselves in Peter's bold promises and fearful denials. We hear Jesus speak hard truths about losing our life in order to find it. The journey through the Gospels is not comfortable, but it is honest. It reveals both the depth of our need and the depth of Christ's mercy.

As we move deeper into March, the Gospel readings grow more intense. The opposition increases. The tension builds. Jerusalem draws near. Yet through it all, Jesus walks steadily forward. He does not turn away from suffering. He does not abandon his mission. He sets his face toward the cross for the sake of the world.

That is the heart of Lent. We are not trying to impress God with spiritual effort. We are learning again what it means to follow a Savior who gives himself fully. We repent. We pray. We examine our hearts. But above all, we fix our eyes on Jesus.

This season, I encourage you to read the Gospels devotionally. Take one story at a time. Place yourself in the scene. Listen carefully to the words of Christ. Ask where he is calling you to trust more deeply, forgive more freely, or surrender more honestly.

Lent is a journey. And the good news is this: we do not walk it alone. The One who walks toward the cross also walks with us, leading us through repentance and into resurrection hope.

Christ's Peace,

Pastor Dave

Words from the Council President

Here we are in the season of Lent, a time of reflection on the ministry of Jesus, his being betrayed by one of his disciples, his trial, and crucifixion. It's hard for us to comprehend how God could send his Son to suffer as he did for our sake. He is called the Lamb of God as a reminder that he was sacrificed for us so we could be reconciled to God. We wonder how anyone can send another to die, especially to benefit others.

This year, I find myself dealing with the emotional toll of the deaths of a friend's family member and a faithful member of Bethany and its choir. In addition, my family and I must make life and death decisions regarding my father's declining health. It can be overwhelming but also provide us comfort as comfort is afforded to those who die or are dying. We live in the hope that they and we will be joined with Christ in a resurrection like His, a major tenet of our faith.

We don't live out that faith in isolation. We are a church family who reach out to those who lose loved ones, pray for comfort to come to the families and their loved ones, or assist at funeral services and the accompanying lunches where support and comfort are provided to grieving families. This support is a large part of our congregation's mission to feed others – here feeding the emotional needs of others in our congregation and community.

Dealing with death or impending death can be overwhelming. Yet the promises of our God and the fellowship and support of our congregation can see us through the challenges and the struggles with loss. Thank you to the Bethany family for being a source of comfort and support to those who need it! You are a blessing and need to hear that what you do matters!

Cheryl Nilsen

President, Church Council

Participating in God's World

When many people hear the word stewardship, they immediately think about money. They imagine budgets, pledge cards, or keeping the lights on in the church building. While financial giving is certainly one expression of stewardship, it is not the heart of it. Stewardship is about recognizing that everything we have and everything we are belongs first to God. Our time, our abilities, our relationships, our work, our resources, our witness — all of it is entrusted to us by the One who created us and redeemed us. A steward is simply someone who manages what belongs to another.

Christian stewardship, then, is not about what the church wants from you. It is about what God desires for you. It is a way of life rooted in gratitude. When we understand that we are caretakers of God's gifts, we begin to ask different questions. Not "How much do I have to give?" but "How is God inviting me to use what I have been given?" Stewardship is lived out when we serve our neighbor, encourage one another, pray faithfully, show hospitality, forgive freely, and yes, give generously. It is not about paying bills. It is about participating in God's work in the world.

~Stewardship Team~

Team 7-2 Visitation Program

There are many faithful members of our congregation who would love to be present in worship each Sunday but are no longer able to attend due to illness, recovery, or ongoing health concerns. While they may be absent from the pews, they are never absent from the body of Christ.

That is where our **Team 7-2 Visitation Program** steps in.

Inspired by Luke 7:2, where faith meets compassion, this team extends the presence of Christ beyond our church walls. Members of the team visit those who are homebound, hospitalized, or in care facilities. They bring prayer, conversation, encouragement, and when requested, Holy Communion. These visits are not lengthy or complicated. They are simple and holy moments where Christ meets people right where they are.

For those receiving visits, it is a powerful reminder: *You are remembered. You are loved. You still belong.* For those serving on the team, the blessing flows both ways. There is something deeply sacred about sitting at a kitchen table, holding a hand in prayer, or sharing the bread and wine in a quiet living room. These encounters strengthen our faith, deepen our relationships, and remind us that church is not just a place we go — it is a people we are.

If you feel called to be part of this ministry of presence and care, we would love to have you join the team. Judy Mathson serves as our Team 7-2 leader and would be happy to visit with you about what serving involves.

Together, we continue to be the hands and feet of Christ — especially for those who cannot physically be with us.

BLCW Happenings

As we transition into March, we begin to think of spring, planting and of course, Lent. The original meaning of "Lent" comes from the Old English word lencten, which means "spring" or "springtime". The lengthening of days that lead up to Easter.

BLCW is also excited for March because we have many activities planned for this special time of year. We would like to invite all women of Bethany Lutheran Church to a special gardening day on April 18th at 10:00 am. We are going to have some exciting speakers that will teach us how to propagate petunias, and coleus plants. Another speaker is going to teach us how to plant a porch pot and a third speaker is going to instruct us on making some garden markers. It's going to be a fun filled morning of fellowship with others who love to garden. SAVE THE DATE!

We are especially happy to announce that the new "gathering room" is complete and it looks beautiful! We know that many people will benefit from this new area. We would like to thank Holiday Inn Express and Hannah Foley for the donation of furniture. (Ed Duchsherer, Ken Stroklund and Steve Beutler hauled the furniture for us). Thank you, Bernie Gangle for laying the carpet, Ed Duchsherer for staining and hanging the new closet doors and Mary Duchsherer and Steve Beutler for painting the room. Your talents and hard work made this room come alive!

BLCW has ordered new greeting cards. They are available to purchase now. We sell them at special events, but they are always available to purchase in the church office as well.

March 8th the BLCW will be serving caramel rolls after church. Please come and join us for fellowship and coffee.

BLCW would also like to thank you for your donations for the personal care kits. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

If you have any questions or suggestions for BLCW, please contact President, June Stroklund @ 701-509-7063. All Bethany Lutheran Church Women are invited and encouraged to join us.

Next meeting will be March 1st in the library after church.

Ministry of Care

"Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers." Romans 12:13

The purpose of the Ministry of Care is essentially contained in the above quotation. Reflecting on the works we engaged in over the past year, the MOC would not be as effective as it is without your support. This congregation's efforts to extend its hospitality to strangers makes Bethany stronger by bringing us together for a common purpose, serving God through serving his people.

The MOC and others represented this congregation on February 24th at MSU by sponsoring and serving in the Tuesday Student Soup Luncheon.

The February Food Drive was a successful effort to serve our neighbors at the Towers and Minot State University in keeping with Bethany's values.

Bethany will be using a Thrivent Grant to sponsor and serve lunch on April 11 at the Lord's Welcome Table Soup Kitchen. We need six volunteers for the early shift from 8:30am to 10:30pm and six for the 10:30am to 12:30pm shift. Please consider spending a couple of hours with us on that Saturday.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans continues to fund many of the community support efforts of Bethany's Ministry of Care. If you use Thrivent, you are eligible to apply for a grant which would be used to fund MOC community events. Please allow Mike Filipkowski to briefly explain the very simple process to obtain a grant.

The Ministry Of Care needs you! If you can spare a few hours and share in our efforts, you would be helping to continue Bethany's ongoing efforts to serve others. Our next meeting is on Thursday, March 12, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Come share a cup of coffee and your ideas with us.

Draft~Bethany Lutheran Church Council Meeting~Draft

February 10th, 2026 (5:30pm – 7:30pm)

In attendance: Mary Duchsherer, Cheryl Nilsen, Shawn Peterson, Darek Zaun, Bernie Gangl, Judy Mathson, Jacob Jenkins, Owen Casey.

Excused: Carol Lucier

Absent:

Others in attendance: Patti Abrahamson, Nadine Holmly, Pastor David Myers, Dalyce Leslie.

Due to election of 2026 officers this evening, President Cheryl requested minutes be taken by Patti.

Devotions: Pastor Dave led us in devotions. Things happen for a reason.

The Lord's Prayer: Pastor Dave opened the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Call to Order: By President Cheryl.

Election of 2026 Officers:

- Jacob made motion of Cheryl for President. Mary seconded. No other motions.
- Bernie made motion for Darek as Vice President. Shawn seconded. No other motions.
- Darek made motion for Bernie as Treasurer. Shawn seconded. No other motions.
- Judy made motion for Mary to be Secretary. Bernie seconded. No other motions.

Motion to close nominations by Jay and Bernie seconded. All unanimous.

Covenant of conduct and council responsibilities were discussed by President Cheryl. New Committee sign-up sheet was passed, and all are expected to sign up for at least 1.

St**aff Reports**: Pastor Dave updated us on this past month's activities. This has been a slower month but there was a quadruple baptism done here at Bethany 3 weeks ago. A father and 3 children. What a blessing!

Youth Advisory Board: Nothing to report.

Secretary's Report: Jay motioned to approve the annual report as is. Judy seconded. Last month's council report Bernie motioned to approve. Jay seconded. No other discussion. All approved both reports.

Treasurer's Report: Darek handled the Treasure's report this time. He did a comparison of monthly pledges since 2023. Council will keep track of that to see how it flows. We are currently down for the month of January. Expenses are as expected to be. The beginning of the year means paying up some quarterlies and annual bills. There will be new categories for the old LYO account, now listed as Living Waters.

Budget/Finance Report: Nothing to report.

Correspondence: No correspondence.

President/Executive Team: Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Onboarding was discussed. Church has a sheet for 1 on 1's to visit with Pastor Dave. Schedule is in the office for all to sign up. March 19th is the last day of this. Pastor Dave will give a report to council next month at meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Patti brought up dormant bank accounts. These will be closed as council approved. All were in favor.
b. Audit is being worked upon.
c. Cleaning service fee went up for 2026 and will be over budget. Jay made motion to keep cleaning company and Judy seconded. All agreed unanimously to keep the cleaning service we currently have and pay the up fee as good people are hard to find, and the cleaning service has been very good at Bethany.

CHRISTIAN NURTURE TEAMS

Worship/Altar/Music: Nothing to report.

Faith Formation: The youth sang at RhubarbFest and that was a wonderful addition to the evening. The annual carnival will now go from a Sunday to a Wednesday in anticipation of more participation. Living Water Youth will be making Helper Bags for the Homeless, also this month they will have movie night, Valentine's bingo and Gaga ball. There will also be spaghetti feed put on by the youth to help support our roof fund. This will be on Saturday, February 21st. Also, they will be going to Bottineau Metigoshe this Sunday for a retreat and snow tubing at the Winter Park and be home on Monday.

Ministry of Care/Local Missions: Food drive is still going on for Milton Young Towers pantry and MSU pantry. This will be through Feb 15th. Easter cards will be sent to those in need. They are attending the Welcome Table on April 11th and applying for a Thrivent grant to cover the cost. Looking for more members to help assist in all the projects that Ministry of Care does for Bethany and the Community.

Faith & Care: Stewardship is responsible for March.

Library: nothing to report.

7-2 Program: See Ministerial Acts Report. Judy gave a report that visits were down due to sickness has been going around.

Next Generation Ministry: Nothing to report.

CHURCH OPERATIONS TEAMS

Property Management: Nothing to report.

Foundation: Nothing to report.

Staff Support: Nothing to report.

Hostfest/Lutefisk/German Fest/Big One Events: Spring Big One is April 10 & 11. Still anticipating what the "Save the Hostfest" team is coming up with in the community. Patti is on the sub committee and will keep the church updated. Lutefisk dinner is anticipated to be moved to last Saturday in September this year in coordination with when the actual Hostfest was held. More to come.

Technology: Nothing to report.

MISSIONS TEAMS

Stewardship: Needs to meet with new committee members.

Global Missions: nothing until December.

BLCW: The new funeral/gathering space is nearly complete. This is in the old nursery. A special offering will be taken on Feb 15th for Blanket Sunday. Women of the ELCA is Sunday March 8th and they will be serving caramel rolls at fellowship. A spring event is planned for April 18th.

Breakfast Boys: Nothing to report.

Memorial: Nothing to report.

Jacob moved to adjourn the meeting. Judy seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Final prayer was given by Pastor Dave.

Minutes submitted by: Patti Abrahamson, acting Secretary

1st – Taya Bearman, Brenda Miller
2nd – Tyler Ballantyne, Linsay Johnson, Joshua Vannett, Haley Williams
3rd – Teegan Dangel
4th – Patrick Fix, Marcus Hughes, Sydney Okeson, Darek Zaun
6th – Kimberly Alexander, Krista Mathistad
7th – Elliott Flood-Johnson, Rhett Pederson, Derek Telehey
8th – Donald Anderson, Sophia Rau
9th – Gloria Sorenson, Bonnie Eklund
10th – Alicia Presky, Ryan Walker, Randi Westmeyer
11th – Bonnie Pearce
12th – Grady Duchscherer
13th – Cole Brose, Jeff Brose, Jackie Gehring, Mary Jordahl
14th – Lori Armstrong, Ethan Dangel, Deb Kunkle, Julie Post
15th – Evan Holmly
16th – Stephanie Metz
17th – Angelina Bertsch, Jane Grunenwald
18th – Justin Deisch, Jerry Hoiland, Marilyn Lucy
19th – Becky Hill, Signe Meinert, Julie Okeson
20th – Todd Breitkreutz
21st – Ariel Files, Matthew Metz, Paesley Stenvold
22nd – Liane Anderson, Anthony Malachowski, Ethan Shoberg, Larry Sorenson
23rd – Travis Hubrig, Ty Jones, Shelly Randash
24th – Justin Deisch, Jaci Jones, Ryker Nelson, Colton Schuster
25th – Meredythe Lester
26th – David Abel, Brian Aufforth, Savannah Field, Brooke Rofenau
27th – Peder Colbenson, Oliver Decoteau
28th – Don Hummel, Kari Olson, Brittany Telehey, Quade Everson
29th – Sherry Cunningham, Sharon Fix
30th – Colton Bourquin, Jonathan Daluge
31st – Stephanie Hubrig, Alma Lee, Roger Lee

Memorials Foundation GIFTS

In Memory of Rodney Selfors
Ministry of Care from Bill & Bev Jensen
Roof from Gayle & Kathy Fimreite, Roger & Roberta Larson, Boyd & Phyllis Hanson, Greg Simonson, Erna Pederson

In Memory of Rini Coffin
Music from Bryan & Nadine Holmly
Roof fund from Greg Simonson
Ministry of Care from Bill & Bev Jensen

In Memory of Noran Olson
Roof from Mark & Linda Nygard

In Memory of David Newman
Roof from Terry & Jackie Gehring

In Memory of Daryl Nicolaisen
Roof from Cleo Nicolaisen

In Memory of James & Delores Morken
Roof from Nancy Morken, Brenda & Dion Miller

In Memory of John Phippins
Roof from Vicki Phippins

Roof Fund from Breakfast Boys, Rodney & Sharon Guderjahn

Campership Fund from BLCW

Your GIVING matters

January 2026 Online Giving $7,256

Week 1 = $2,970 Week 2 = $3,196

Week 3= $6,894 Week 4 = $3,775

Week 5 = N/A

FILL-A-PEW

Sunday	Online	Wednesday
Wk 1 = 67	Wk 1 = 82	Wk 1 = 32
Wk 2 = 74	Wk 2 = 45	Wk 2 = 42
Wk 3 = 68	Wk 3 = 71	Wk 3 = 60
Wk 4 = 88	Wk 4 = 70	Wk 4 =
Wk 5 =	Wk 5 =	Wk 5 =

Church Announcements

You are invited. . .

Christ Lutheran Church invites the retired and retirement age friends at Bethany Lutheran to join us here at Christ Lutheran on Thursday, March 26th at 2:00 in Augustana Hall. This will be an opportunity to get acquainted with friends in the other ELCA churches here in Minot. We have no program planned, but we do have a Sundae Bar planned and will share it with you!

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday Cantata
March 29, 2026 • 9:00am

First Communion Family Night
April 1, 2026 • 6:00pm

Maundy Thursday Worship
April 2, 2026 • 5:45pm

Good Friday Worship
April 3, 2026 • 12:00pm & 5:45pm

Resurrection Sunday Worship
April 5, 2026 • 7:00am & 9:00am

CAMP METIGOSHE

EARLY BIRD Discount

Register for camp by April 1 and receive $20 off your registration or $10 off and a cool T-Shirt!

Register online at www.metigosheministries.com

165 Lake Loop Road
Bottineau, ND 58318
701-263-4788

Metigoshe Ministries

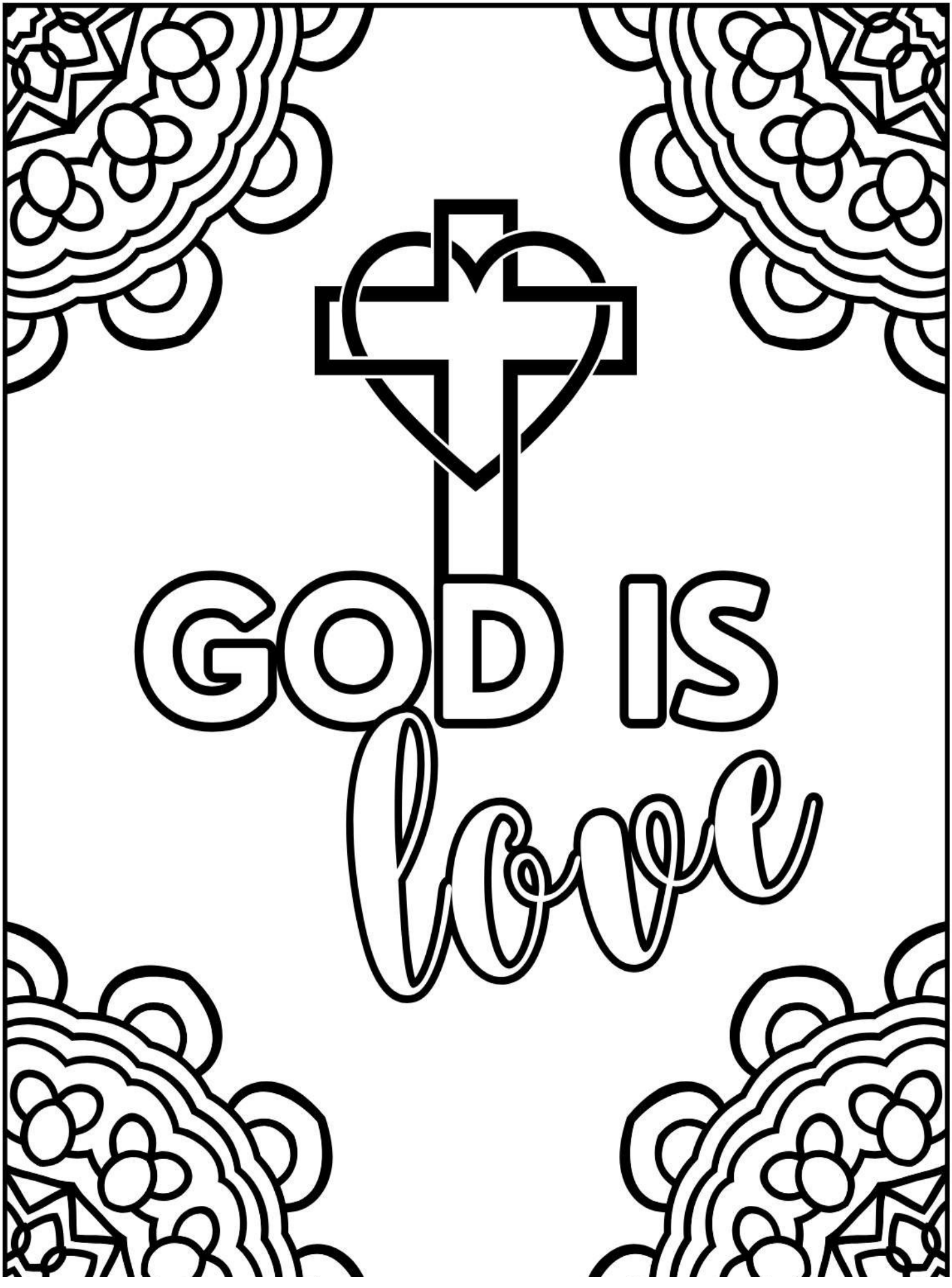
COME WORK FOR CAMP

Looking for work or know someone who is? Share the information below and come work at a place that will make a difference in lives!

Camp Metigoshe
Summer 2026
Employment:
May 25 - August 16

Have Questions?
Program Director: Skylar Schwab
program@metigosheministries.com
cell: 701-540-8719
www.metigosheministries.com

Apply Now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love

March 2026
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
215 THIRD AVE SE, MINOT, ND Phone: 838-5196

Office Hours 9:00am-4:00pm Times and Events subject to change

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:00am BLCW	**2** 7:30pm Next Generation	**3** 3:00pm Coffee and Conversation	**4** 11:30am Soup/Worship 4:45pm Carol Choir 5:15pm Chapel Choir 5:00pm Supper 5:45pm Lenten Worship 6:00pm Faith Forming 7:00pm LYO 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	**5** 9:00am Men's Coffee Hour 1:00pm Quilting 6:30pm Bible Study/Ruth	**6**	**7** 7:00am Breakfast Boys
8 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:00am Sunday Circle 10:15am Bellievers	**9**	**10** 3:00pm Coffee and Conversation 6:00pm Church Council	**11** 11:30am Soup/Worship 4:45pm Carol Choir 5:15pm Chapel Choir 5:00pm Supper 5:45pm Lenten Worship 6:00pm Faith Forming 7:00pm LYO 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	**12** 9:00am Men's Coffee Hour 2:00pm Miriam Circle 6:30pm Ministry of Care 6:30pm Bible Study/Ruth	**13**	**14** 7:00am Breakfast Boys 10:00am Cantata Rehearsal for Sanctuary Choir
15 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:15am Bellievers	**16**	**17** 2:00pm Ruth Circle 3:00pm Coffee and Conversation	**18** 11:30am Soup/Worship 4:45pm Carol Choir 5:15pm Chapel Choir 5:00pm Supper 5:45pm Lenten Worship 6:00pm Faith Forming 7:00pm LYO 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	**19** 9:00am Men's Coffee Hour 1:00pm Quilting	**20**	**21** 7:00am Breakfast Boys
22 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 10:15am Bellievers	**23**	**24** 3:00pm Coffee and Conversation	**25** 11:30am Soup/Worship 4:45pm Carol Choir 5:15pm Chapel Choir 5:00pm Supper 5:45pm Lenten Worship 6:00pm Faith Forming 7:00pm LYO 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir	**26** 9:00am Men's Coffee Hour	**27**	**28** 7:00am Breakfast Boys 10:00am Cantata Rehearsal for Sanctuary Choir
29 **9:00am Palm Sunday Cantata** 10:00am LYO will serve breakfast	**30**	**31** 3:00pm Coffee and Conversation				

Bethany Lutheran Church

215 3rd Ave SE
Minot, ND 58701
(701) 838-5196
bethanylutheran@srt.com
https://bethanylutheranchurch58701.com/

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MEET THE CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Dave Myers
Office Manager: Patti Abrahamson
Church Secretary: Jackie Gehring
Director of Music: Nadine Holmly
Ministry Apprentice: Dalyce Leslie

MEET THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Cheryl Nilsen—President
Bernie Gangl—Treasurer
Jacob Jenkins
Carol Lucier
Owen Casey—Student
Darek Zaun—Vice President
Mary Duchsherer—Secretary
Judy Mathson
Shawn Peterson