

# Foundation Life



Bethel Lutheran Church Endowment Foundation

[www.bethel-madison.org](http://www.bethel-madison.org)

Fall / Winter 2008

## ***Bethel group travels to Cortez, Colorado:*** **Mission trips are transforming lives – and strengthening communities**

*“Thank you for blessing us all with bringing us on this trip.”*

*“It has been amazing. I hope it changes my life. I had alone time with Jesus my Lord. I believe I was meant to be here.”*

*“Thank you so much for letting me be a chaperone on this trip. I had one of the best times of my life. Being able to connect with the youth, the community and God was wonderful.”*

Imagine an experience so powerful that participants consider it life-changing. That is how 37 youth and seven adults felt after returning from Bethel’s senior high mission trip to Colorado in July. The trip was organized by YouthWorks!, a Minnesota-based organization that provides Christ-centered youth mission opportunities.

The Bethel group traveled by bus to Colorado. The travel time is important for community building. By the time they reached their destination, “they were one happy family,” according to Anita Grue, Bethel’s Coordinator of Youth Ministries.



“I love to watch the transformation from the time we start the trip until we come home,” Grue said. “It is hard to explain, but I would not miss an opportunity such as the mission trip that provides an environment for youth to emulate Jesus.”

Mission trip participants spent time working with children from the community, painting a house and participating in personal devotion time.

“During the week, youth are changed by the gospel, but they can’t explain it,” Grue said. “However, I see it in their actions on the trip and afterward.”

Grants from the Bethel Endowment Foundation support mission trips like this that impact the lives of participants and the people they serve.

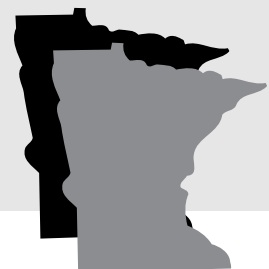
***“I can’t wait ‘til next year when I can go on the senior high mission trip!”***

And, that was the response of a Year II Confirmation student after painting homes, assisting with community outreach programs and helping with neighborhood activities for youth.

Fourteen Bethel youth took part in this mission trip to the Cass Lake Reservation in Minnesota in June. Participants also attended a pow wow and learned about Native American food, culture, dance and art.

“This trip was a huge success,” Pastor John Swanson said. “I think the youth connected with one another and grew in their faith.”

Funding from the Bethel Endowment Foundation helps cover the costs of these valuable learning experiences for youth.





Dear Bethel Endowment Foundation:

Thank you very much for your generous scholarship that allows me to be able to afford the cost of seminary. Your kind gift is allowing me to pursue my passion of reaching out to the Spanish-speaking community by sharing the gospel with them. I am looking forward to growing the Lutheran Church by integrating the rich, festive, Hispanic populace into our own rich beliefs and traditions.

Zachary Courter, Seminarian



Kary Jonas

“There are quite a few people that are being helped between Chicago, Minneapolis and the Wartburg Seminary. We really appreciate it.”

Kary Jonas, Seminarian

## Seminarians value scholarships

The Bethel Endowment Foundation’s Cephas Johnson Seminary Scholarship provides financial assistance to students (including non-Bethel members from Dane County) attending an ELCA seminary. 2008-09 recipients include:

**Zachary Courter**

*Bethel Lutheran Church, Madison*

**Kristin Engstrom**

*Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Madison*

**Kirsten Fryer**

*Bethel Lutheran Church, Madison*

**Breanne Johnson**

*Bethel Lutheran Church, Madison*

**Kary Jonas**

*St. Martin’s Lutheran Church, Cross Plains*

**Sandra Kershner**

*Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Madison*

**Lindsay Stolen**

*East Koshkonong Lutheran Church, Cambridge*

**Erin Ficken Stoney**

*Bethel Lutheran Church, Madison*

## Gifts and memorials inspire others

*Thank you for your generous gifts that enable the Bethel Endowment Foundation to contribute to many special programs.*

*Bethel Lutheran Church has established memorials for each deceased member since 1964. You may add to one of these, start a special fund or offer general contributions.*

**Memorials were established for the following Bethel members between April 1 and September 30, 2008:**

- Anna C. Anderson
- Elfie M. Clemens
- Mildred I. Cook
- Burr R. Downing
- Lorn Richard “Dick” Evans
- Helen M. Fossen

- Karen R. Fox
- Beth A. Galey
- Robert Gordon
- Dale F. Gritzmacher
- Gilma B. Gruen
- Margaret Hallett
- Ruth L. Hanusa
- Donald D. Henke
- Donald Christian Hunt
- Virginia N. Johnson
- Elizabeth N. Lang
- Ralph W. Loy

- Ruth Manke
- Margaret W. Martens
- Paul Mast
- Joan L. Olson
- Elsa Rattin
- Daniel Arthur Schutt
- Nathan J. Sherven
- Richard C. Swenson
- Josephine “Jo” A. Verdon
- Albert L. Vinje

*(cont’d. on page 6)*

# Ask for direction

As I reviewed the articles for this issue, the Vacation Bible Camp theme of *God's GPS* caught my eye. I thought it was a clever tag line since I first heard about it. I'm reminded of it when I see frequent ads for navigation systems, which get more affordable all the time!

To further "drive home" the concept of this popular tool, I recently read an article in *The Lutheran Journal*. This short essay, *Who Needs GPS?*, is about a man stranded in the frigid Alaskan Ocean. I think I held my breath during the whole read! I don't mind a tame, placid body of water, but the vast, reckless, unpredictable nature of an ocean is another story. Feeling the weight on my lungs, I felt exhausted when it was over. It eventually turned out fine, but the idea of being stranded in a small boat and drifting further out, in a choppy cold

ocean depths with no workable engine motor, no radio, no cell phone signal and no GPS seemed insurmountable. The author says he smiled at the helplessness of it – everything had gone wrong, and no one was in control. He smiled because God is ultimately in control when everything seems to malfunction.

So, we seek direction. We set our moral compass on how best we know to live as Christians. Sometimes, we act as a beacon for others. Other times, we can only hang on for dear life, lest we be caught off guard. Brace yourself either way – it's a ride worth enjoying and living in the moment – whether you're leaned upon or doing the leaning!

I've talked myself out of the need for an auto GPS – partly because we don't

drive in many unfamiliar locales, and also because our son has such an innate sense of direction, we call him our human GPS.



Alice Mowbray

Global positioning. Global economy. Global (world-wide) ministry. The Endowment Foundation is your partner in Bethel's life of outreach. So it is – In God's Positioning System we trust.

Alice Mowbray  
Director of Development

## IRA rollover extension allows tax-free charitable gifts

President Bush signed into law the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 in October. It includes an extension of the charitable IRA rollover provisions that expired in 2007. This means donors have an opportunity to make tax-free charitable gifts.



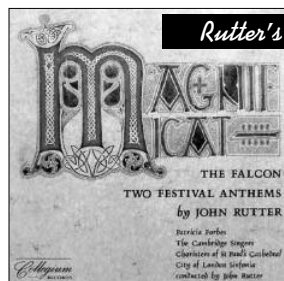
### IRA rollover highlights

- Applies to gifts made after Dec. 31, 2007.
- Allows donors age 70 1/2 and older to make tax-free charitable gifts directly from IRAs.
- Expires Dec. 31, 2009.

To learn more about the IRA rollover extension, contact Alice Mowbray at 256-3577, ext. 222, or your tax advisor.

## Celebrate the holiday season with special music

Experience joy and a renewed sense of faith through a special musical celebration in December. Join Bethel's choir, accompanied by an orchestra, for John Rutter's *Magnificat*. Feel the energy, rhythm and strong melody of this masterpiece. Funding from the Bethel Endowment Foundation helps make this special musical second Sunday of Advent possible.



Sunday, Dec. 14

9:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. worship services

Bethel Lutheran Church


## Men's retreat

Ten men gathered at Bethel Horizons for a 24-hour retreat in February. Through workshops and other activities, they focused on discipleship and the importance of faith in their daily lives. A grant from the Bethel Endowment Foundation made this unique opportunity for men possible.

"This retreat has a great spirit, and it really helps with relationship building and leadership development," Pastor Pedro Suárez said. "We all felt touched and challenged at the same time."



# Need direction? Forget the map, get to camp!



Camp is a great place for children – and adults – to explore the Bible, grow their faith and help ensure they move forward in the right direction. Each year, hundreds of campers take advantage of the exciting opportunities at Bethel Horizons.



## Finding our way with God's GPS

About 180 children (ages three and up) and adults attended *Gods GPS: Finding Our Way with Parables*, Bethel's Vacation Bible Camp, in August. Daily lessons were reinforced with fun activities, such as:

- Making birds to attach to a mustard bush (*parable of the mustard seed*).
- Taking a labyrinth walk through the pines and creating magnetic mazes (*parable of the sower and the seed*).
- Opening treasure rocks to find a cross and GPS-led treasure hunt (*parable of the pearl*).

“Building relationships and community is vital to our ministries at Bethel,” said Jacqui Shanda, Bethel's Director of Education. “Vacation Bible Camp gives all participants the time and opportunity to develop intergenerational friendships that continue after camp.”



## Participating in summer activities

When school began in fall, hundreds of students grinned when their teachers asked how they spent their summer vacation. It was these youth who took time away from the T.V. to do something unique and constructive. They participated in the fishing Olympics, learned Indian myths and legends, netted bats, banded birds, used a bow and arrow, sang around campfires and strengthened their faith. They did all this and more as part of Bethel Horizon's summer camp programs.

“Bethel Horizons is a place for children to live in a community with one another and experience the harmonies of Horizons: God, self, others and nature,” Pastor Duane Hanson said. “These experiences can help Bethel young people grow together and build a stronger church.”

Support from the Bethel Endowment Foundation allows more children to experience exciting, educational and faith-building opportunities at camp.

# Latino ministry is a guiding light

The Latino population in the Madison area continues to grow. And, Bethel's Latino ministry continues to be a shining star for many individuals – a place where Latinos can come together and be part of a faith community.

The Latino ministry focused on several projects this year, like working with:

- Juventura, an organization that promotes art and cultural education to empower the Latino community.
- The Southdale afterschool program, which as of this fall, is located at Bethel. Latino youth get help with

homework and computers. They also participate in prayer and leadership development.

Bethel also offers several annual activities for Latino youth and families at Bethel Horizons.

- More than 80 people attended this year's Latino Worship and Picnic, despite stormy weather that day. This is an opportunity for participants to eat, listen to music, enjoy an art fair and connect with friends and God in a natural setting.
- More than 50 children and adults

took part in the Latino Family Opportunities events in spring and fall. They worked on improving their relationship with God, exploring prayer, watching inspirational movies, playing games and hiking.

- Bethel members and visitors from Puerto Rico spent a week together in July sharing information about their culture and faith. They also enjoyed campfires, Bible study, dancing, art and canoeing.

“It is important to have opportunities for Latinos to come together, learn more about themselves and what it means to be a Latino Lutheran,” Pastor Pedro Suárez said. “The activities we offer help participants grow spiritually and feel more comfortable in a new culture.”

Funding from the Bethel Endowment Foundation supports the growing Latino ministry.

## Top of barn renovation

During rainy weather over the summer, tepee campers slept there and other campers used the space for daytime sessions. A renovated top of the barn at Bethel Horizons was beneficial then and will be valuable for campers and staff in the future. The project included adding new soffit and fascia, installing new lighting, adding two windows and a door, building a ramp and doing landscaping.

## Chuckwagon upgrade

Summer campers enjoyed food cooked at the upgraded chuckwagon. The project included new appliances (stove, refrigerator, freezer and screens).

## Used bus

This summer, it transported campers to and from Madison and took them to the Kickapoo River, beach, Sparta-Elroy Bike Trail and other locations. It's Bethel Horizon's "new" used bus. It was purchased this year to serve as a second safe, reliable bus to meet transportation needs at camp.

## Puerto Rico staff

Bethel Horizon's welcomed a camp counselor from Puerto Rico this summer. He taught campers about his country and learned more about our culture. This program helps build Bethel's relationship with a sister synod in Puerto Rico.

Projects and programs at camp are possible with funding from the Bethel Endowment Foundation.

## Horizons highlights

## Desks make a difference!

The Lutheran Campus Center (LCC) is home to new



desks and ergonomic chairs for professional staff members. The new office furniture is more comfortable, user friendly, attractive and takes up less space. It replaced furniture that was nearly 30 years old and no longer met the needs of staff. Rewiring work also was done at the LCC to accommodate a new computer with Internet access for the student office.

A grant from the Bethel Endowment Foundation helped cover the cost of these upgrades, which keep the LCC efficient and inviting.



## Memorials

(cont'd. from page 2)

*The following individuals made general gifts to the Foundation between April 1 and September 30, 2008:*

Lola Cator  
John Folts & Margaret Olson-Folts  
Karen Fox  
Val Halverson  
Todd & Jennifer Lewis  
Corinne McVey  
Agnes Meddings  
Gary Ranum  
Evelyn Scott  
Joel & Sandra Zander

*The following bequests were made to the Foundation between April 1 and September 30, 2008:*

Edith Knutson Estate

*Gifts, honorary gifts and memorial contributions were made to the Foundation from April 1 to September 30, 2008, by these individuals:*

**In memory of Anna Anderson**  
by Donald Anderson, Paul & Diane Anderson, Delma Baker,

Connie Caucutt, Arlen & Judith Christenson, James & Carol Conant, Mary Conlin, Charlton Dietz, Maybelle Hansen, Virginia Johnson, Douglas & Cynthia Knoble, M. Le Eldra Morgan, Phillip & Phyllis Ninedorf, Karl Peterson, Velma Peterson, Dennis & Sheri Rodefled, Noreen Schmidt, Craig & Edith Vitale, Waunakee Community Band Inc.

**In memory of Bernice Bridgeman** by Eugene Hagen, Sr.

**In memory of Lester Bridgeman** by Eugene Hagen, Sr.

**In memory of Mildred Cook**  
by Barbara & Eugene Haak, Howard & Vallerie Lee, Marian, Tom & Peter Osterberg

**In memory of Lois Dame**  
by Ian & Joan Carlson

**In memory of C.J. Davis**  
by Faith Kelley

**In memory of Edward DeGraff**  
by Anne DeGraff & family

**In memory of Burr Downing**  
by his family, the estate of Burr Downing, James & Joan Langdon, Tom & Marian Osterberg, Edith Sunderlage

**In memory of Margaret Dykstra** by her family

**In memory of Dick Evans**  
by Lois Anderson, Bradley & Barbara Armstrong, Delma Baker, Catherine Buege, Bob & Jan Felker, Donna Fox, Georgiann Ganser, Steve & Dorothy Greiert, Jim & Myrna Hanson, Russell & Mae Jensen, Doris Koch, Raymond & Helen Kruse, Gordon & Ardell May, Ronald & Betty McMurray, Mae Nelson, Jack & Lori Poulson, Thomas & Sylvia Roberts, Helen Sanborn, John & Jacqui Shanda, Harland & Devona Swiggum, Carolyn White

**In memory of Helen Fossen**  
by Earl Fossen

**In memory of Karen Fox**  
by Mauretta Mattison, Jack & Lori Poulson

**In memory of Beth A. Galey**  
by Eric & Susan Krenz

**In memory of Gerald Gehm**  
by Anna Anderson

**In memory of William Gestner** by Eugene Hagen, Sr.

**In memory of Clarice Gorman** by Anne DeGraff

**In memory of Margaret Gray**  
(Joanne Ellingson's mother) by Carol Jones

**In memory of Water Greiert**  
by Steven Greiert

**In memory of Lyman Hagen**  
by Eric Hagen

**In memory of Sally E. Hagen**  
by Eugene Hagen, Sr.

**In memory of Stanley Hagen**  
by Eugene Hagen, Sr.

**In memory of Violet G. Hagen**  
by Eugene Hagen, Sr.

**In memory of Marita Hallquist** by Marian Osterberg

**In memory of Lee & Don Henke** by friends and family, Carroll Accola, Frederick & Maren Anderson, Carolyn Aradine, Bradley & Barbara Armstrong, Ronald Balfanz, Bette Behrens, Sharon Bernhardt, Bev Block, Peggy Bloss, Anthony & Valerie Cappozzo, Betty Carpenter, Janette Chrisler, Roger & Jan Cole, Marshall & Ruth Dresser, Robert & Dorothy Enge, Willa Faust, Les & Janet Floeter, Roy & Louise Gag, Pamela Golden, Tim Harms, Barb Hess, Lloyd & Arlene Iverson, Jean Jessie, Carol Jones, Shawn & Heather Koranda, Irene Kringle, Raymond & Helen Kruse, Shirley Leege, Janet Markwart, Karl & Vel Marquardt, Michael & Sharon McCormick, John & Patricia Mecher, William & Ruth Munkwitz, Clarion & Martha Nelson, Lois Nelson, Paul & Juli Nicholson, Ron & Jan Opelt, Howard Ortel, Tom & Marian Osterberg, David & Pat Osterfund, Kenneth & Linda Perkins, Karl Peterson

**In memory of Don Hunt** by Jim & Sarah Rose, JoAnn Six-Plesko

**In memory of Charlotte Jones**  
(DuWayne Kleven's daughter) by Bradley & Barbara Armstrong

**In memory of Jack Keil**  
by Jeff & Arianna Keil

**In memory of Frances Kimmey** (Anne Thompson's mom) by Anne Thompson

**In honor of my father Herbert Krueger, Sr.'s birthday on 9-11** by Cindy Krueger

## Sliding into fall

It's hard to pass up cotton candy, face painting, mini golf and a super slide! Even the rainy, cool weather could not keep 175 people from food and fun at Bethel's Fall Family Barbeque in September. They enjoyed hot dogs, sandwiches, salads and desserts. They jumped in a bouncy house, tossed water balloons and blew bubbles. Grants from the Bethel Endowment Foundation help cover the cost of fellowship-building activities.



"This event allows families to connect and kick-off the fall season at Bethel," said Susan Straus, Bethel's Administrative Assistant to Care & Evangelism Ministries and Missions, "Kids, grandparents and everyone gets to interact, chat over a meal and meet other Bethel members they may not cross paths with during a Sunday morning."



**In memory of Dan Kvamme**  
(son of Alice Kvamme) by June Bale, Naomi Bekkum, Beth Keyes Circle, Mrs. Fernanda Byom, Mary Conlin, Barbara Grambsch, Luella Hamre, Irene Hendrickson, Hazel Hiemstra, Virginia Johnson, Irene Kringle, Dorothy Leon, Jeanette Livie, Ann Miller, Bill & Alice Mowbray, Tom & Marian Osterberg, Delbert & Rosella Paulman, Walter & Karen Pridham

**In memory of my father John Warren Meier** by Marilyn O'Brien

**In memory of Marion Natvig**  
by Bradley & Barbara Armstrong, Jane Evans, Janet Floeter, Clarence & Lucille Hamre, Kenneth Ludeking, Doris Mani, Jan Markwart, Arlene Moberg, Marilyn O'Brien, Evelyn Scott, JoAnn Six-Plesko, Carolyn White

**In memory of Clarenu Neilson** by Marilyn O'Brien

**In memory of Jon Olson** by Delma Baker, Norv & Carrie Bernhardt, George & Wilma Holt, Bill & Alice Mowbray, JoAnn Six-Plesko, Helen Wineke

**In memory of Susan Paul** by Bradley & Barbara Armstrong

**In memory of Gertrude Mueller Struck Pearson** by Faith Svensson, Telephone & Data Systems Inc. - The Operations Dept.

**In memory of Elsa Rattin**  
by Tom & Marian Osterberg

**In memory of Jennifer Robinson** by Martha Erickson

**In memory of Romelle Roth**  
by Lorraine's Bridge Club Friends

**In memory of Rev. F. I. Schmidt** by Eugene Hagen, Sr.

**In memory of my husband Howard Schmidt** by Elaine Schmidt

**In memory of Baby Daniel Arthur Schutt** by Jarrett & Margaret Banwart, David Monheit, Monheit & Zongolowicz, CPAs & Diversified Asset Money Management. LLC

**In memory of Nathan Sher-ven** by Bob & Jan Bruegger

**In honor of Pastor John Swanson** by Roger Mott

**In memory of Lee Tyne** by Bradley & Barbara Armstrong, Sherrill Wagner

**In memory of Albert L. Vinje**  
by Jean Struchko, Lyla & Ed Vinje & family

**In memory of Rev. Morris Wee** by Eugene Hagen, Sr.

**In memory of Rhoda White**  
by Bradley & Barbara Armstrong, Marilyn O'Brien

**In memory of George Woodard** by Eugene Hagen, Sr.

**In memory of Margaret L. Woodward** by Eugene Hagen, Sr.

**In memory of our parents**  
by Walt & Delores Bjoraker

*The following individuals made gifts to the Foundation's XYZ Future Fund between April 1 and September 30, 2008:*

Barbara Swenson  
Evelyn Scott

*Gifts, honorary gifts and memorial contributions were made to the Foundation's XYZ Fund from April 1 to September 30, 2008, by these individuals:*

**In memory of Anna Anderson** by Eugene & Janice

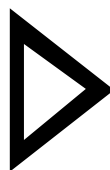
## Behind the scenes at Bethel

There has been plenty of activity at Bethel that members and visitors may not be aware of. Did you know we:

**Installed a building energy management system**, which is expected to save up to 40% in energy costs annually? This new control system also will allow for improved comfort control throughout the building. The Bethel Endowment Foundation covered nearly 50% of the project cost. A grant from Focus on Energy funded about 25%, and the remainder was covered with bequest gifts to Bethel.

**Welcomed 10 college interns** over the summer? Five of them were interns the previous summer. They helped with painting, office duties, youth trips, research and English-to-Spanish translation. Grants from the Bethel Endowment Foundation give college students an opportunity to work behind the scenes and explore a variety of church vocations.

"This was a very productive, interactive group," said Alice Mowbray, Business Administrator and Director of Development. "It was fantastic to have an opportunity to get to know kids (who may have been only slightly familiar to us) on a different professional, yet friendly level."



Funding from the Bethel Endowment Foundation helps support the **Triangle Community Ministry**, which services 350 residents in central Madison. This is a densely populated area of individuals requiring assistance for disabilities and mental challenges.

Anderson, Eleanor Bauer, Robert & Marilyn Cleveland, Joan Ellefson, Donna Berner Fox, Arlene Moberg, Lois A. Nelson, Burt & Darlene Olson, Else Solberg, Colleen Wincentsen

**In memory of Daniel Kvamme**  
(son of Alice Kvamme) by Jack & Lori Poulson

**In memory of Marion Natvig**  
by Lena Hinton



## Bethel Endowment Foundation Trustees



### Art & Faith: an ongoing connection with Eastern Europe

Twenty-five people went on Bethel's Art & Faith in East Central Europe trip earlier this year. They visited East Germany, Slovakia, Poland, the Czech Republic and some went to Austria. Participants enjoyed art fairs, learning about new places and worshipping with people from another culture who share the same faith.

The Bethel Endowment Foundation supports ongoing efforts to strengthen relationships with Eastern Europe. This includes a grant to help build a retreat center in Slovakia.

### Women gather, embrace ideas, grow their faith

Ten Bethel women were part of the largest gathering of Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. They attended the Triennial Gathering in Salt Lake City, Utah, in July. This event encouraged and challenged women of all ages to a greater understanding of faith and what it means to live it out and act boldly on our faith in Jesus Christ. A grant from the Bethel Endowment Foundation helped cover the cost of registration and travel for this powerful learning experience.



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Writing and design: Effective Communications



### Bethel Lutheran Church

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