

# Bethelite

A publication of Bethel Lutheran Church distributed twice monthly.



[bethelmadison.org/bethelite](http://bethelmadison.org/bethelite)

## Holy Currencies: 6 Blessings for Sustainable Missional Ministries

Holy Currencies: 6 Blessings for Sustainable Missional Ministries by Eric H. F. Law is the book that the program staff has begun reading and discussing in the past few weeks. The book describes “a holistic model for stewardship and congregational vitality moving beyond “time, talent and treasure” to create missional and sustainable ministries.” The process illustrates six essential currencies: money, time & place, gracious leadership, relationship, truth and wellness.

We have recently completed chapter four and the book has already inspired meaningful and in-depth conversations at our weekly Wednesday program staff meeting. The book teaches us to understand these currencies as blessings that flow in cycles to sustain our lives and our ministries. It is the movement and flowing of these abundant blessings that provide enrichment and sustainability.

There are four fundamental assumptions in this cycle. 1. God owns everything. 2. God gives abundantly. 3. We are not to keep God’s resources; we are to circulate them. 4. Gods blessings are then recycled to create more blessings.

In chapter three we read about the Currency of Relationship. The theory by Nicholas Christakis and James Fowler is called three degrees of influence. “Everything we do or say tends to

ripple through our network, having an impact on our friends (one degree), our friends’ friends (two degrees) and even our friends’ friends’ friends (three degrees).” We choose to shape our networks and which networks we belong to. Our networks of relationships can spread goodness and blessing or destructiveness. We get to decide what to spread throughout our network.



Especially in this age of social media, do we choose to spread lies or truth, instill fear or foster trust? As Christians, we are a part of one of the largest faith networks in the world. “We need to value our role in this network and do our part in calling the people in our network back to following Jesus, who seeded this network of connections and influence with grace and truth.”

Jesus began his network in Jerusalem which then spread to Samaria and then

to “the ends of the earth”. Jesus chose His network to include those whose voices were marginalized. Through Jesus we are all sisters and brothers. This diverse network calls us to use our currency of relationships to make faithful relationship connections with each other which flow out into our ministries.

Relationship ministry focuses on listening, trust-building, connecting and storytelling. To often we are focused on talking, convincing, doing and instruction-giving. What would it look like for Bethel’s programs to be more relational focused and less task driven? For us to move from “doing” church to being a church with people who relate to people? A relationship driven ministry requires a level of vulnerability and a focus on listening. When Sunday morning or an event is over, we can ask ourselves “How did we do on building relationships?”

On October 14 as we will gather together and worship with “One Voice, One Song” and eat together at a congregation brunch potluck, we have an opportunity to listen and to build relationships with others that go to a different service. We will sing together, pray together and break bread together. This currency of relationship flows into the wellness of our community, all in a cycle of blessings. 🌈

—Deacon Lisa R. Huber

# Welcome Henry Elling



**What youth trips did you attend as a youth?** As a youth I had the opportunity to attend the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, the second time. I was also involved in Scouts all the way through high school and had the opportunity to travel to New Mexico twice for a high adventure camp hiking in the mountains. Some of my opportunities have included trips to

Chicago, the Dells, and summer camps.

**What's it like to have younger siblings?** Growing-up I find it has been a blessing to have my younger sisters because it helped teach me lessons like patience and sharing at a young age. One of my sisters is 19 and a freshmen in college and my other sister is 15 and a sophomore in high school. I also love that I can joke with them about anything and most of the time we will always understand the jokes.

**How has your faith grown from your Cambodia experience?** My faith has grown and changed in so many different ways that it is even hard to describe accurately just how much it has. Being in Cambodia has helped broaden my understanding of what it means to be both Lutheran and Christian. Here in America we have such a western and, to an extent, white view of both being Christian and Lutheran. A fun fact there are six million Lutherans in Indonesia and four million in India.

**When did you know youth ministry was your calling?** I have always had an interest in working with youth I think. I have always volunteered at my churches VBS and while I was in college I worked at three different summer camps all across the county; one in Oregon, one in Montana, and one in Michigan. Also while in Cambodia I worked with the youth everyday because the church is about eight years old officially and the majority of the people who interact with the church are younger. One of the parts I enjoy most about working with the youth is the moment when someone finally gets it.

They light up with excitement that they finally understand something that may have been troubling them and they feel so proud of themselves.

**What do you see as the highs and lows of working with youth?** One of the highs and lows at the same time that I see working with youth is just how passionate they are about different subjects. Young people are just finding what they are passionate about and it's fun to see what they discover. A downside is that youth can become too passionate about things where it gets out of hand. This is where I hopefully come in and can help them direct some of their passions and discover more about themselves.

**What was it like to work at Lutheran camps in Montana and Oregon?** As a camp counselor I have led a few different outings. In Montana I had the opportunity to lead a week long backpacking trip through the mountains. While in Oregon I was a day camp counselor in Portland, Corvallis, and Klamath Falls. I also led a rafting and kayaking trip on the Deschutes River. I counseled over 150 youth as a camp counselor. To work at camp is one of my favorite experiences because I get to work outside and get to worship God with music, games, and lots of youth and young adults.

**Tell us a couple of your favorite musical moments that you have experienced. Why do you enjoy music so much?** Some of my fondest musical moments include all my years in the Madison Youth Choirs where I got sang in The St. Matthew Passion, The Britten War Requiem, and La Boheme. While in college I got to perform all over the country and the world including New York, Chicago, Greece, and Macedonia. One of the most recent experiences is that I was able to play my saxophone while I was in Cambodia every church service because the church needed more musicians. I enjoy music and am passionate about it because it fills my soul with a purpose and love. It is also the closest I feel to God and life. 🌈

## Hope House Update

Since 2002 Hope House has served homeless mothers with young children and most recently a homeless family of seven. For 16 years we successfully provided transitional housing for 100 families. Due to the continuing changes in needs of the homeless community it became apparent that we needed to re-evaluate the Hope House ministry.

After much prayer and discernment, the decision was made by the Hope House Building Corporation Board to sell the house. Bethel Foundation will hold the sale proceeds in a restricted account for the Hope House ministry. The next step is to do an in-depth study of how we can best serve the needs of families with young children in crisis.

With grateful hearts we thank the Bethel Community for your generous support of time, talents and financial support. Without your prayers and dedication this ministry would not have thrived.

We ask for your continued prayers and support as we look for God's guidance in determining the future of Hope House.

Hope House Building Corporation Board,  
Greg Smith, Laureen Thoemke Plum, Aileen Kacvinsky, Carol Ross, and Bonnie Orvick 🌈

# Bethel Constitution Revisions

You may have read the title, cringed, and wondered why there are yet more changes to consider at Bethel. If so, you are in good company as until I learned more about our current 1989 constitution, I certainly did not feel that updating the constitution was a priority. Upon reading the current constitution in more detail though, I was surprised to find that as a member, if I "...have the financial ability to contribute to the support of the church but neglect to do so...", the Church Council could deny me my voting privileges!

Motivated by the need to update this section along with others, the Joint Council approved the creation of a team to update the constitution. The Bethel Constitution Revision Team has created and we will have an updated draft for the congregation to review in the coming weeks. In order to create a space for open dialogue to discuss the updated draft of the constitution, two listening sessions or forums have been scheduled:

- **Sun, Oct 21 at 10am; repeated on Wed, Oct 24 at 6:30pm**
- **Sun, Nov 4 at 10am; repeated on Wed, Nov 7 at 6:30pm**

**Why Now?:** While I don't see my fellow Church Council members voting to revoke voting privileges should any of us fail to provide an offering, it certainly changed my mind about the need to update our constitution. I strongly felt and still feel that it is time to ensure that Bethel has a constitution that more accurately reflects the life of Bethel today as well as providing clear guidance for current generations and for the generations to come.

In addition to members' time, abilities, and financial support being equally and officially recognized by Bethel, another much needed update is required in order to reflect the new leadership structure that was recently implemented. Yet another change in the updated draft will allow for seasonal membership for those who only spend part of the year here in Madison. This update will grant regular, seasonal congregants at Bethel the same privileges afforded to Bethel members who consider themselves "snow birds" and who may join another ELCA church as a seasonal member while spending the winter in warmer climates.

**About the Team:** The Bethel Constitution Revision Team members include Jeanne Hilton, Tom Pierce, Calvin Williams, and Dan Jackson (consulting) and I (Jenee Jerome). We have been working diligently over the summer to create an updated draft for the congregation to review. Fellow leaders and congregants have already approached our team with concerns regarding changes they feel will not be a good fit for Bethel. We have listened to these concerns and we welcome others to bring their concerns forward as well. Please consider this a personal invite to you from our team, to join us for these important listening/forum sessions. 🌈

—Jenee Jerome  
Bethel Constitution Revision Team Facilitator

# MANY VOICES. ONE SONG.

(One Worship Weekend)  
**Sun, October 14, 2018 at 9am**  
(No 5pm, 7:45am, or 11:15am services)



**Mark your calendar!**

**Let's worship AS ONE on Sun, Oct 14!**

Everyone from our five services will worship together at 9am, in the sanctuary. Our Bhutanese sisters and brothers will add the beauty of their voices to this ONE SONG festive worship and we look forward to our Sunday School children worshiping with us for the entire service. This will be in place of the traditional Sunday School morning schedule.

Following our worship time, all are invited to bring food to share for brunch in Borgwardt Hall. An egg-bake and ham will be provided and our gifts fruit and veggies, baked goods will complement the main dishes.

### **Our time together at worship will include:**

- LOTS of singing, with piano, organ and praise-band accompaniment
- Reception of New Members
- Lessons, Sermon and Prayers
- Sacrament of Holy Communion
  - Children's Moment

### **Suggestions for the food you bring to share:**

- If your last name begins with letters A-L: please bring fruit or veggie trays, or juice
- If your last name begins with letters M-Z: please bring baked breads/muffins/coffee cakes
- WE ASK YOUR HELP: please bring the recipe for whatever baked goods you bring, or at least a list of the ingredients, so that all food allergy concerns are honored.

*"Jesus said: The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." John 4:14b 🌈*

# Four of Bethel's Bhutanese Friends Become Citizens



JOHN HART, STATE JOURNAL

## NEW AMERICANS

Four-year-old Bipshon Biswa is greeted Thursday during a naturalization ceremony at the federal courthouse in Madison as his parents, Om and Bishnu Biswa, behind, receive their certificates of United States citizenship. About 40 area residents became citizens during the event hosted by the United States Citizen and Immigration Services and the Madison-based Open Doors for Refugees organization. The event was part of a nationwide Welcoming Week initiative being observed in 300 communities.

Bethel had exciting news on Thursday, September 20 at Madison's federal courthouse. Four of our Bhutanese friends were sworn in as United States Citizens. They are Om and Bishnu Biswa (the second family sponsored by Bethel) and Tahal & Poonam Rana (the eighth family sponsored by Bethel). Congratulations!

To find out more about Bethel's Resettlement Ministry visit: [www.bethel-madison.org/resettlement-ministry](http://www.bethel-madison.org/resettlement-ministry) 🌈

## Community Ministry Team Update



Christal Swigart  
Director of Communications

The Community Ministry team is working to create a culture of hospitality at Bethel and equip our members to welcome others into our congregation. At the same time, the Director of Communications, Christal Swigart, is working to reach out to the Madison community with our message of welcome. We are so excited about her communications initiatives, including messages in print, social, and online media, radio advertising, and via direct mailing.

Bethel has a weekly presence in the Wisconsin State Journal and the Isthmus, including special sections at Easter and Christmas. The Isthmus campaign is published in the printed newspaper (circulation of 43,000) and also an electronic newsletter that reaches all UW-Madison and Madison College students as well as 30,000 subscribers.

We engage the local community on Facebook and Instagram, with weekly invitations to worship or special events, and advertisements specifically for Easter and Christmas. Bethel also has an online ad campaign directed at people searching

for Madison churches through Google or other search engines. Once people have reached our website and then leave our site to continue searching the web, ads created by Christal will show-up during their session and in the future.

If you listen to 102.5FM radio, you may have recently heard advertising for the upcoming Caring for Creation event on Oct 7 featuring Todd Fansler. Christal worked with the radio station to get this ad aired.

In addition, approximately 200 families new to the surrounding neighborhood (within 1 mile) are invited to worship at Bethel each month via direct mailing.

If you have ideas for a new avenue of advertising or helping to spread the word of Bethel, Christal is always looking for new ideas. Reach out to her at [christal@bethel-madison.org](mailto:christal@bethel-madison.org).

Christal and the Community Ministry team have formed a powerful partnership in sharing Jesus' message of love and acceptance to our neighbors outside of Bethel and around Madison. 🌈

—Heather Moen, Facilitator

**God's Work, Our Hands Thank You** - A big Thank You goes out to the volunteers that participated in assembly and packing of Lutheran World Relief School Kits and Personal Care Kits for God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. Thanks to the overwhelmingly generous donations of kit items from our Bethel congregation and the efficient work of volunteers that Sunday we assembled and packed 123 Personal Care Kits and 333 School Kits. Wow!! Patty Saxe, LWR Coordinator

**Horizons Job Opening** - Horizons is seeking a full-time Food Service and Housekeeping Director to serve the variety of users that come to Horizons. Join a staff of 8-10 full time staff that provide the support and programming for Bethel Horizons. Compensation will be commensurate with education and experience. Questions? Call Eric Kneuve at 608.257.3577. To apply, submit a cover letter, resume and 3 references to Eric at [erickneuve@bethelhorizons.org](mailto:erickneuve@bethelhorizons.org). Position is open until filled. View job description: [www.bethelhorizons.org/who-we-are/employment](http://www.bethelhorizons.org/who-we-are/employment)

**Bethel Series Job Opening** - The Bethel Series is looking for a part-time administrative and customer service person to work three-four mornings a week in the Bethel Series office located at Bethel Lutheran Church. Please contact Bethel Series Executive Director Jeff Quinto in person in Room 106 at Bethel Lutheran Church, by email to [Jeff@BethelSeries.org](mailto:Jeff@BethelSeries.org) or by phone to 608.579.5700.

**SAVE THE DATE - Grief Group**



Thursdays: 1-2:30pm  
October 11, 18, 25, November 1, 8  
Watch for details!

**Bethel's Homeless Ministry** is in great need of bus tickets. If you would like to contribute to this aspect of Bethel's ministry, please donate to Bethel Homeless Ministry Bus Ticket Fund (a separate restricted account) or simply indicate that you would like your gift to go to the purchase of bus tickets.

**Men's Current Christian Concerns** (Thurs at 7am; Community Rm)

**Oct 4** - Talking Dairy for Expo | **Oct 11** - Math

**Oct 18** - Citizenship & Faith

**Oct 25** - The World: For Better or Worse?

**XYZ Activities: Oct: 5 Chapel (9:30am)** - Sue Marking; (10:30am) *Book Discussion* - [Living Lutheran Article: Mercy and Addiction](#) or Tai Chi or Euchre; *Lunch (11:45am)* - Chili, French bread, and Fresh Fruit and Dessert; *Program (after lunch)* - Birthday celebrations with games (5 card Bingo) and prizes. **Oct: 12 Chapel (9:30am)** - Rev Jeff Quinto; (10:30am) *Book Discussion* - [I know Why the Caged Bird Sings](#) by poet Maya Angelou or Tai Chi or Euchre; *Lunch (11:45am)* - Fish, French Fries, Cole Slaw and Dessert; *Program (after lunch)* - Movie "Wish You Were Here" A tragic accident forces 12-year old Louisa Mae and her younger brother Oz to move from NY City to live with their great grandmother on a small farm in Virginia. All are welcome! Come for all or part of the day.

**Zachary Courter Ordination** to the ministry of Word and Sacrament in service of City Park Lutheran Church in Budapest, Hungary on Oct 5. Zach will be ordained by Bishop Kirby Unti from the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

with the support of Presiding Bishop Dr. Tamas Fabiny, of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary. Congratulations to Zach!

**Caring for Creation (Oct 7)** - Our first talk Cars, Trucks & the Environment is Sun, Oct 7 at 10:15am, in Borgwardt Hall, led by Bethel member Todd Fansler. Todd was Director of the Propulsion Systems Research Lab at General Motors and is now an Honorary Fellow at the UW's Engine Research Center. Todd will shed light on many topics of our transportation future: When will electric cars push the century-old internal-combustion engine into the junkyard of history? Is "zero-emission" the same as "non-polluting"? How badly do car and truck emissions affect the environment? Join an auto-industry expert to learn more about the technology that will affect us all. Expect a few surprises! And get ready for a lively question/answer session after Todd's talk.

**Welcome Reception for Henry Elling (Oct 7)** - Please join us in welcoming Henry Elling, Bethel's new Coordinator of Middle and High School Youth, at a reception on Sun, Oct 7 from 10-11am in the Emmaus Room. Henry has already started working with our vibrant youth group and we are so excited to have him join our community!

**New Members to be Received: Sun, Oct 14; 9am** - If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member with us at Bethel, please contact Pastor Margo or Pastor John. New Member classes will be held on Sun, **Oct 7** at 10:15am in Room 20 and Sat, **Oct 13**, 9-11am

**Community Meal Program (Oct 8)** - Bethel volunteers serve the Community Meal at Luke House, 312 Ingersoll Street, once a month. The next serving date is Oct 8. Please bring your food contributions to Bethel's main kitchen on the Sunday immediately preceding that date OR no later than 10am on the day of serving. *Contact: Janet Johnson at 608.274.6745 or [janetjohnson44@mac.com](mailto:janetjohnson44@mac.com)*

**Friendship Club (Oct 12)** - COME JOIN US! All are invited to join us in Borgwardt Hall at 6:15pm for a pork tenderloin dinner. The cost is \$12 members and \$15 visitors. The entertainment will feature Bethel's own Amy Hartsough, Wendy Ward: piano harpsicord; Donn Gasner: percussion; Presenting "Femme Fatale". Reservations are required prior to Noon on Oct 9 by contacting Judi at 608.222.9290.

**Feed & Read (Oct 15)** - Feed and Read (Oct 15): Join us on Monday Oct 15 at noon to discuss *The Blessing Way*, a crime fiction novel by Tony Hillerman. Bring your bag lunch or a dish to share. We'll talk about solving a crime while we eat lunch! Our November book is *Vintage* by Susan Gloss. New readers are always welcome.

**Christian Men's Fellowship (Oct 16)**- *Are You Considering the Purchase of New Hearing Aids?*; 10:30am, Borgwardt Hall; Bethel and CMF member Ted Tweed finally got new hearing aids! For a retired audiologist, this represented the end of a period resistance and hypocrisy about the use of hearing aids. For folks in their 70's and 80's who experience moderate hearing loss – trouble hearing the TV, difficulty conversing in noisy situations, the need to have folks speak louder – hearing aids are usually the only treatment. Learn how Ted had to make the choice between the new low-cost hearing aids vs. higher cost prescription fit instruments and the process that led to a decision.



# BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## 21 PENTECOST

One Worship Weekend

No Sat 5pm, No Sun 7:45 or 11:15am services

Pastor Margo R. Martens - Oct 14 at 9am - Sanctuary

## 22 PENTECOST

Deacon Lisa R. Huber - Oct 20 at 5pm - Pentecost

Deacon Lisa R. Huber - Oct 21 at 7:45am & 9am - Sanctuary

Deacon Lisa R. Huber - Oct 21 at 11:15am - Pentecost

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7

- 7:45a Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 8:00a Bethel Choir Rehearsal (Choir)
- 8:30a Childcare provided 8:30am-12:30pm in the Nursery  
Coffee Fellowship (Emmaus & Fireside)  
Library Open (Library)  
Lutheran World Relief (Borgwardt Lounge)
- 9:00a Worship Service (Sanctuary)  
Bethel Jr! (Pentecost)
- 10:00a Children's Ministry: Sunday School, Choir and  
Kids Fellowship
- 10:15a Caring for Creation: Cars, Trucks & The Environment  
(Borgwardt Hall)  
New Member Orientation (Rm 20)  
Prayer Partners (Rm 100)  
Reception for Henry Elling (Emmaus)
- 11:15a Worship Service (Pentecost)
- 6:30p High School Youth Group (Pentecost)

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 8

- 9:30a Community Meals (kitchen)
- 12:00p Food Pantry Open 12-3pm (M-F) (Lower Level)  
BLCEF Investment Committee Meeting (Rm 200)
- 1:30p Seekers Circle (Rm 120)

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9

- 8:30a Homeless Support Services (T&TH) (Pentecost)
- 9:00a Library Open (Library)
- 11:45a Women's Coordinating Council (Rm 120)
- 1:00p Homeless Ministry Board Meeting (Fireside)
- 5:30p Women's Choir (Choir)
- 6:15p Rebuilding at Bethel (Rm 100, 120 & Library)
- 6:30p Creative Worship Singers (Choir)
- 7:00p Horizons Board Meeting (Community)

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10

- 10:00a Chapel (GS Chapel)
- 6:00p Bell Choir (Rm 202)  
Compassion Circle (Library)

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11

- 7:00a Current Christian Concerns (Community)
- 8:00a Second Harvest Delivery
- 12:00p Blessings Circle (Rm 120)
- 1:00p Grief Group (Rm 100)
- 6:30p Centering Prayer (Library)
- 7:00p Bethel Choir Rehearsal (Choir)

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12

- 7:00a Men's Friday Book Study (Rm 120)
- 8:30a XYZ Activities
- 6:15p Friendship Club (Borgwardt Hall)

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

- 8:30a New Member Orientation (Fireside)
- 9:30a Food Pantry Open 9:30-11:30am (Lower Level)
- 11:00a Confirmation: What is a Creed? (Rm 120)
- 5:00p Saturday Evening Worship Service (Pentecost)  
Bhutanese Worship in Nepali (GS Chapel)

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