

Bethelite

A publication of Bethel Lutheran Church distributed twice monthly.



bethelmadison.org/bethelite

When Easter comes each year and Easter lilies are placed all over the sanctuary, I cannot help but think of my Dad, Erv Swanson. My Dad was a Lutheran pastor for 40 years, serving churches in Rice Lake, Wisconsin, Des Moines, Iowa and Bettendorf, Iowa. He retired three months after I began serving Bethel in July of 1994 and he died on Dec 2, 2012.

The reason I think of my Dad when Easter lilies make their annual appearance in church sanctuaries is best explained by the late Pastor Leif A. Pohl, who wrote an article about my Dad, who was a friend of his, in a church newsletter article in April, 2002 (and I first shared in a Bethelite article in March, 2013). I would like to share a portion of that letter:

One of Erv Swanson's claims to fame is that he doesn't like Easter lilies.

He acknowledges that they are beautiful – but he just doesn't think they are very appropriate symbols of Easter. They may be beautiful, but they are very delicate; they require a great deal of care; the blossoms last only a short time and the old blossoms are ugly and messy.

Pastor Swanson's pick for the ideal and perfect Easter flower is the dandelion.

The dandelion is readily available to everyone. You have to look a lot closer to see the beauty of its blossoms, but they are much more colorful and complex than lilies. They are not at all delicate; they are just about indestructible. No matter how hard you work to get rid

of them, you know that they will be back. When a blossom is done, instead of collapsing into a slimy mess, it turns into dozens of tiny little parachutes, which are borne on the wind to carry the message of the dandelion far and wide. Dandelions are not only beautiful; they are tough, resilient, and irrepressible. Lilies are poisonous, but you can eat the dandelion's leaves cooked or raw as a vegetable or salad. And the blossoms can be used to make wine.

I am not advocating that we get rid of Easter lilies ... Lilies are spectacular and wonderful: but let us remember that the Resurrection is not a hot-house plant. It is not delicate or ephemeral. Jesus' Resurrection comes among us like a dandelion: it is bright and brash and cheerful. It is indestructible and irrepressible. Its Good News spreads all by itself. There are those who have been trying to stamp out the message of the Resurrection for 2,000 years. They have always failed. They will continue to fail.

If we make dandelions the new symbol of our Easter Faith, then even our lawns will proclaim the glorious Message: Jesus is Risen. He is Risen indeed!

That was my Dad, even and perhaps especially, when thinking about faith – contrary, off-beat, pragmatic and clear. As we move from Lent to Easter, I pray that we not only experience God's bright, brash, cheerful, indestructible and irrepressible message of love and grace, but that we eagerly share that message with others. 🌻

–John O. Swanson



MAY 2

**Wednesday, ~~April 4~~
6:30-8:30pm**

Bethel Lutheran Church
312 Wisconsin Ave, Madison
Community Room

Have you ever wondered how to respond during an active shooter event? This two-hour training will help you develop the mental, physical and emotional skills critical to an effective response. Topics include:

- Statistics of Active Shooter Violence
- Critical Incident Stress
- History of Active Shooter Violence
- Perception of Disaster
- The Police Response
- Resilience/Response Tools
- Tabletop Scenario Discussions
- Question and Answer Session

**THIS IS A FREE EVENT PRESENTED
BY THE CITY OF MADISON POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

Contact: Police Officer Matt Magolan
City of Madison Police Department
608.209.8589

Meet Your Community Ministry Team

*Our Vision: Building a Christ-focused community
Recognizing all people as created and loved by God
Devoted to learning, fellowship and prayer*

This vision for the Bethel community is based on the description of the early church in Acts 2:42-46. Like the early church we come together here to find support and belonging in times of uncertainty and change. Like the early church we cling together to the promise that Jesus is with us always.

The goal of the Community Ministry Team is to help Bethel to be a place where everyone feels that they belong. We have five action teams working hard to bring the message of Jesus' love to each other and the larger world.

The Hospitality Action Team is led by Jacob Himmelman. This team is evaluating the way we welcome and communicate with visitors. Hospitality at Bethel relies on many volunteers including the Coffee Service, Sunday Receptionists, Greeters and Parking Ushers to make everyone feel welcome,

from the first-time visitor to the longtime member.

The New Member Action Team is led by Carrie Bernhardt. This team is revamping our New member program. They are especially looking at how we keep members connected and active in our congregation during their first two years.

Bonnie Orvick leads the newly formed Community Building Team. This team cares for our current Bethel members. They hope to provide support to various communities within our congregation, growing opportunities for learning, fellowship and prayer.

Craig Gjerde is Bethel's Volunteer Coordinator. The Community Ministry Team believes that working together and serving each other are vital to sustaining a loving and vibrant congregation. Craig is finding ways to connect volunteers

with opportunities through the church and in the Madison community.

Robyn Kitson and Steve Borgwardt are working together to form a new Communication and Outreach Team for Bethel. They are evaluating metrics to better understand our congregation, the surrounding community and the populations we serve. This will help us to better reach out to the world with our message of Christ's love.

Our Christian life is fundamentally about relationships—our relationship with Christ, with one another and with the strangers among us. The Community Ministry Team hopes to help Bethel as we strengthen each of these relationships. In this way our congregation can truly be a Christ-focused community, recognizing all people as loved and created by God.

*—Heather Moen, Facilitator
—Jeanne Hrovat, Joint Council Rep*

Earth Stewardship Sunday, April 22

Caring for Creation (C4C) will be organizing an Earth Stewardship Sunday here at Bethel on April 22. April 22 is Earth Day nationwide and around the world.

The theme of the sermon on this Sunday will be Earth Stewardship. UW Professor Emeritus John Kutzbach, a member of the C4C Committee here at Bethel, will preach at all services on April 21 and 22. He will emphasize the Earth and Nature, as one of the Four Harmonies highlighted in the Bethel Bible Series and at Bethel Horizons: Harmony with God,

Self, Others and Nature. The importance and the blessings of the Natural World are a central theme of the Genesis narrative, and this importance is echoed in the Psalms and in the warnings of Prophets when we fall short in our caring for God's creation.

C4C is completing three years of bringing a series of outstanding speakers to Bethel to discuss various topics of C4C including clean water, clean air, renewable energy, livable cities, sustainable agriculture, future directions in agriculture, global health, the dangers of climate change, and much more.

In Nov 2017 we started our third year of offerings with UW Professor Emeritus Cal DeWitt preaching on God's gifts of creation and our stewardship responsibilities. The sermon on this Earth Day Sunday will reinforce those themes.

John Kutzbach is a member of the National Academy of Science, and is known nationally and internationally for his research on climate and climate change, including the importance of climate as part of the natural environment. Kutzbach will lead a post-sermon discussion at 10:15am. 🌍

BETHEL HORIZONS**Bethel Horizons' 2018 Budgeted Operating Revenue:** \$785,000

Following is a summary of the portion dependent on gifts and fundraising.

	2018 Goal	2018 YTD Feb
Fundraising for Operations	\$100,000	\$15,000
Bike-A-Thon	\$30,000	\$1,265
Scholarships/Camperships	\$80,000	\$24,000

Men's Current Christian Concerns

(Every Thurs at 7am in the Community Rm)

April 5 - Ethics & Agricultural Biotechnology**April 12** - Forces of Nature: From Creation to Understanding**April 19** - Energy: Dominance or Making Do?**April 26** - Our Self-Centeredness: Our Future?**Men's Friday Book Study (Apr 6)** - On Fri, Apr 6, the Bethel Men'sBook Study will begin to discuss *YANKS: The Epic Story of the**American Army in World War I* by John S. D. Eisenhower. The Men's

Book Study meets each Friday morning from 7-8am in Room 120

(Sanctuary Floor) for lively discussion and delicious coffee. This is not

your ordinary book club. You don't have to read the book to have fun.

Blast Off for Books (Now-April 22) - Help Bethel Youth donate new books to the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering - Houston Literacy Campaign! 74% of Houston students come from families who struggle to provide books for their children. By donating books, we will help ensure bright futures! Donate books through April 22 to the Emmaus Room, reception desk, or directly to Elisabeth (arrange via email: elisabeth@bethel-madison.org). View list of books here: www.bethel-madison.org/blastoffbooks

Faith Transforms Fear (Apr 8) - On Sun, Apr 8 at the 10:15am during the education hour, a forum will be offered examining the intricate relationship between faith and fear. We live in a time when the usual sources of information have come under fire and are mistrusted by many. The things we used to hold onto because of the certainty they offered us aren't so secure. It seems there is very little room for compromise these days which all open the door for fear to cover up faith. Come and hear and ask your questions about the impact of fear on your faith.

Social Justice Issues Group (Apr 8) - The next meeting of the social justice issues group will be Sun, April 8, 10:15-11:15am in the Community Room. Please join us.

Social Justice Book Discussion Group (Apr 8) - We will be discussing the first selection of the social justice book discussion group, *Rethinking Incarceration*, by Dominique DuBois Gilliard, on Sun, April 8, from 11:15-12:15 in room 120. This 2018 book can be obtained from Amazon or from your public library. All are welcome - whether you have read the book or not.

XYZ Schedule - Apr 13: *Chapel* - TBD; *Lunch* - Meat Loaf, baked potatoes, corn, ice cream; *Program* - Representative from State of Wisconsin Dept of Ag, Trade and Consumer Protection will speak on Consumer Protection for Wisconsin's Senior Citizens, from resolving issues with an auto mechanic or a home improvement contractor, to

avoiding potential scams and identity theft. **Apr 20:** *Chapel* - Jacqui Shanda and Lori Poulson; *Lunch* - Chicken Rice Soup, dinner rolls, cookie; *Program* - Janet Bolling, M.S.S.W., Outreach Manager with Home Health United will be making a presentation on "Depression and Loneliness in the Older Adult, Promoting Emotional Health and Preventing Suicide in the Older Adult". Time for questions & answers.

Bethel Friendship Club (Apr 13) - *Davis Beck & Cody Kleinsmith: "A Special Tribute to Elvis"*; Two local young men, Davis Beck and Cody Kleinsmith, will present "A Special Tribute to Elvis" at the Fri, April 13 Friendship Club. We'll gather at 6:15pm for the 6:30pm baked and deep fried fish dinner with baked potatoes, salad and cake for dessert. The cost is \$10 for members and \$13 for visitors. Reservations are necessary and can be made by calling Judi at 608.222.9290. Plan to join us for an evening of friendship, fellowship and fun.

Feed & Read (Apr 16) - Meets on Mon, April 16 at Noon in Room 120 to share lunch and discuss, *A Dog Called Hope: A Wounded Warrior and the Service Dog Who Saved Him* by Jason Morgan and Damien Lewis. It's an inspiring buddy memoir of an extraordinary service dog whose enduring love brought a wounded soldier back to life.

Christian Men's Fellowship (Apr 17) Autism 101; Autism is a commonly discussed disease that was unheard of 30 years ago. Today, 1 out of 68 kids are diagnosed with this neurodevelopmental disorder. Dr. Geovanna Rodriguez, a leading research specialist in autism will explain what it is, possible causes, how it is detected, how to treat it and review some of her current research on social-emotional and behavioral outcomes in ASD. 10:30am in Borgwardt Hall.

Blanket Workshop (Apr 26) - Meets from 9am-2pm in Borgwardt Hall.

New members will be received at Bethel on Sun, May 20 at 11:15am worship. Watch for more info. Questions? Talk to Pastor John or Pastor Margo.

Bethel Horizons Bike-A-Thon (June 2) - It is time to register to ride, walk or pledge to benefit the Nature and Adventure Programs at Bethel Horizons. Simply sign up at a table on a Saturday evening or a Sunday morning or register online at bethelhorizons.org by May 28. Help us reach our \$30,000 goal! Don't miss the fun on the Military Ridge Trail!

Puerto Rico Mission/Friendship Trip 2019 - The dates are set for our 2019 Mission/Friendship trip to Puerto Rico; Feb 5-12. We have four condos (on the ocean) and room for 25 travelers. Please sign-up early so we know if we need all four. Contact Sandy Ripp at sandy@bethel-madison.org or 608.257.3577 x231 if you are interested.

Now Renting the Steensland House: A Service-Learning Community located adjacent to Bethel in the heart of downtown Madison, just blocks from UW-Madison campus. Luxury living at a discounted price for service minded individuals. 3 and 4 bedroom apartments available starting August 2018. For more information, check out our website at steenslandhouse.org.



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3 EASTER

Pastor Martha Butzier, Interim - Apr 14 at 5pm - Sanctuary
Pastor Martha Butzier, Interim - Apr 15 at 7:45am & 9am - Sanctuary
Pastor Martha Butzier, Interim - Apr 15 at 11:15am - Sanctuary

4 EASTER

UW Professor Emeritus John Kutzbach - Apr 21 at 5pm - Pentecost
UW Professor Emeritus John Kutzbach - Apr 22 at 7:45am & 9am - Sanctuary
UW Professor Emeritus John Kutzbach - Apr 22 at 11:15am - Pentecost

SUNDAY, APRIL 8

7:45a Worship Service (Sanctuary)
8:00a Bethel Choir Rehearsal (Choir)
8:30a Childcare provided 8:30am-12pm in the Nursery
Coffee Fellowship (Emmaus & Fireside)
Library Open (Library)
9:00a Worship Service (Sanctuary)
9:30a Sunday School JAM (Pentecost)
10:00a Preschool Sunday School Opening (Pentecost)
Sunday School (2nd Floor)
Third Grade Introduction to Holy Communion
(Borgwardt Hall)
10:15a Daniel Bible Study (Rm 120)
Pipe Organ Repair Update (Rm 20)
Bethel Series: On Fire Across the Globe (GS Chapel)
Confirmation Class (Youth Game Rm)
Faith Transforms Fear (Rm 21)
Social Justice Group (Community)
10:30a Joyful Noise Rehearsal (Rm 202)
Spirited Sound Rehearsal (Rm 216)
11:15a Worship Service (Pentecost)
Social Justice Book Discussion Group (Rm 120)
4:30p Youth Group (On Road to St. John's in Oregon)
6:30p Confirmation Core Groups (Emmaus)

MONDAY, APRIL 9

9:30a Community Meals (Kitchen)
12:00p BLCEF Investment Committee Meeting (Rm 200)
1:30p Seekers Circle (Rm 120)
6:00p Executive Committee Meeting (Rm 210)

TUESDAY, APRIL 10

8:00a Multi-Church Gathering (Luther Memorial)
8:30a Homeless Support Services (T&TH) (Pentecost)
9:00a Library Open (Library)
10:00a Fine Arts Committee (Rm 216)
5:30p Women's Choir (Choir)
5:45p Hope House Board Meeting (Rm 201)
6:15p Rebuilding at Bethel (Rm 100, 20, & Library)
6:30p Creative Worship Singers (Choir)
7:00p Horizons Board Meeting (Community)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11

6:00p Compassion Circle (Community)
6:15p Bell Choir (Rm 202)

THURSDAY, APRIL 12

7:00a Current Christian Concerns (Community)
8:00a Second Harvest Delivery
12:00p Blessing Circle (Rm 120)
6:00p Lead Pastor Call Committee Meeting (Rm 201)
6:30p Centering Prayer (Rm 211)
7:00p Bethel Choir Rehearsal (Choir)
Renew Circle (Rm 100)

GETTING READY FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Preschool: First Look

April Basic Truth: I can tell others about Jesus.

Memory Verse: Go and make disciples of all nations. (Matthew 28:19)

April 8 Bible Story: Easter, SPARK! pgs 482-487

April 15 Bible Story: Saul to Paul, SPARK! pgs 514-519

K-Grade 5: 252 Kids

April Life App: Because of Jesus, we can trust God and wait.

Memory Verse: Wait for the Lord. Be strong and don't lose hope.
Wait for the Lord. (Psalm 27:14)

April 8 Bible Story: Easter! (John 20:1-18)

Bottom Line: Jesus is alive!

April 15 Bible Story: A Patience Proverb (Proverbs 14:29)

Bottom Line: When you think you can't wait, keep your cool.

**3rd graders and their parents meet with Pastor Margo on April 8 for an exploration of Holy Communion in Borgwardt Hall at 10am.