

Bethelite

A publication of Bethel Lutheran Church distributed twice monthly.



bethelmadison.org/bethelite

Take a Look at Your Hands?

As we approach yet another Mother's Day, we are fresh from hearing our Lord's third Word from the cross: From John 19:26-27a, "When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, *Woman, behold, your son!* Then he said to the disciple, *Behold, your mother!* And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home."

Grief. Intense, immense, unimaginable grief. Jesus mother and brother felt it. You and I feel it in our faith journey. It is unavoidable where love has lived. And in our grief, God reaches out to us to be with us.

"Ever since I came to know God's hand," Henri Nouwen writes, "not as the powerful hand controlling the course of history, but as the powerless hand of Jesus asking to be grasped by a caring human hand, I have been looking differently at my own hands. Gradually, I have come to see God's powerless hand reaching out to me from everywhere in the world, and, the clearer I see it, the closer these out-stretched hands seem to be. The hands of the poor begging for food, the hands of the lonely calling for simple presence, the hands of children asking to be lifted up and held, the hands of the sick hoping to be touched, the hands of the unskilled wanting to be trained – all these hands are the hands of the fallen Jesus waiting for others to come and give him their hand." (*Henri Nouwen*).

On this Mother's Day, we cannot help but think of the loving hands of the woman who was/is our Mother. I share with you the beautiful words of "Grandma's Hands." 🌈

—Pastor Paul N. Svingen, Interim

Grandma, some ninety plus years, sat feebly on the patio bench. She didn't move, just sat with her head down staring at her hands. When I sat down beside her she didn't acknowledge my presence and the longer I sat I wondered if she was OK.

Finally, not really wanting to disturb her but wanting to check on her at the same time, I asked her if she was OK. She raised her head and looked at me and smiled. "Yes, I'm fine, thank you for asking," she said in a clear strong voice.

"I didn't mean to disturb you, grandma, but you were just sitting here staring at your hands and I wanted to make sure you were OK," I explained to her.

"Have you ever looked at your hands," she asked. "I mean really looked at your hands?"

I slowly opened my hands and stared down at them. I turned them over, palms up and then palms down. No, I guess I had never really looked at my hands as I tried to figure out the point she was making.

Grandma smiled and related this story: "Stop and think for a moment about the hands you have, how they have served you well throughout your years. These hands, though wrinkled, shriveled and weak have been the tools I have used all my life to reach out and grab and embrace life."

"They braced and caught my fall when as a toddler I crashed upon the floor. They put

food in my mouth and clothes on my back. As a child my mother taught me to fold them in prayer. They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots. They held my husband and wiped my tears when he went off to war."

"They have been dirty, scraped and raw, swollen and bent. They were uneasy and clumsy when I tried to hold my newborn son. Decorated with my wedding band they



showed the world that I was married and loved someone special. They wrote my letters to him and trembled and shook when I buried my parents and spouse."

"They have held my children and grandchildren, consoled neighbors, and shook in fists of anger when I didn't understand."

"They have covered my face, combed my hair, and washed and cleansed the rest of my body. They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw. And to this day when not much of anything else of me works real well these hands hold me up, lay me down, and again continue to fold in prayer."

"These hands are the mark of where I've been and the ruggedness of life. But more importantly it will be these hands that God will reach out and take when he leads me home. And with my hands He will lift me to His side and there I will use these hands to touch the face of Christ."

Composers in the House

Yasha Hoffman and Michael Roth are both residents in the Steenland House and are a part of Bethel's Handbell Choir. They each recently composed a piece which will be performed by the Handbell Choir on Mother's Day, May 13. Here is how they described their work:



"My piece for the Bethel Lutheran Handbell Choir was inspired by a beautiful tune by Tchaikovsky. I love the resonance of the handbells, and so one of

the main ideas upon which I build is the building of resonant harmonies that accompany the melodies. The original Tchaikovsky melody is bombastically proclaimed in the middle of the piece, but the energy eventually winds down for a peaceful ending." –Yasha Hoffman



"My music for the bell choir is based on the American folk song, "Oh Shenandoah." My goal was to set the song in a way that

would reflect the Shenandoah River Valley in West Virginia, so much of the music is sweet, peaceful, and subdued. The melody from the original folk song can be heard in its entirety two times in the center of the piece, and parts of it can also be heard woven into the beginning and ending materials." –Michael Roth

Both Yasha and Michael will graduate on May 12. Yasha has a double major in Composition and Russian and Michael double major's in Composition and Finance. We want to thank them both for their contribution to Bethel and the Handbell Choir. 🌈

Community PICNIC

on June 3

It is Community Picnic time! Registration is open for early bird pricing (ending May 27). Our amazing chicken dinner with sides, beverages & dessert is \$10/adult, \$5/child 3-11, or \$30/family – which includes all the amazing activities planned for the afternoon featuring live music, large inflatables, a petting zoo, wagon rides and lots of other fun stuff! Dessert, as always, is homemade pie and/or ice cream but this year it is included in your meal price.

Registration closes May 27 and tickets the day of the event can still be purchased for \$13/adult, \$7/child 3-11, or \$40/family.

Guests are always welcome so invite friends and family!

Bus transportation from Bethel is available and can be reserved online during the community picnic registration. The bus will load in the parking lot at 8:45am, leaving Bethel promptly at 9am to arrive in time for the 10:30am worship. A returning bus will load outside the farmhouse at 3pm returning to Bethel at 4pm. \$3/per person to



cover gas and driver expense. To reserve your spot on the bus, please notify us by Sun, May 27 at bethelhorizons@bethelhorizons.org.

Donations of homemade pies are needed - please bring them to the farmhouse on June 3 or, if they can be frozen, deliver them to Bethel during regular office hours or on Sundays and we'll get them out to camp for you!

TIMES:

- **10am** - Park at our main site and our staff will direct you to the worship space at our main site.
- **10:30am** - Worship
- **Noon-1:30pm** - BBQ Chicken Dinner served at the Art Shack at our main site
- **1-3pm** - Music, Nature Programming, Self Guided Hikes, Hay Rides, Games, Bounce House and more!
- Pre-purchase food tickets (chicken, sides & dessert) are \$10/adults, \$5/kids, or \$30/family (day of \$13/adults, \$7/kids, or \$40/family).



To Register:

www.bethel-madison.org/picnic 🌈

Your Bethel community waits to hear from you: please tell us the names of family members who are currently deployed, either in the U.S. or globally. Call or email Deacon Lisa (lisa@bethel-madison.org) with names and details of those deployed. Thank you!

Sunday Volunteer Opportunity - Sunlight through colored glass, surrounded by books and great coffee are only some of the perks to volunteering in Bethel's library from 10-11:30am one Sunday/month. Contact Jacqui Shanda for more information.

"Earthly Harmonies" by Patricia Freres Stinger and Charles Stinger (Now-June 29) - "Earthly Harmonies," exhibit of paintings by Patricia Freres Stinger and Charles Stinger, are on view in the Fireside Gallery until June 29. The paintings include landscapes and other related subjects, in oil and in pastel. Charles and Patricia, enthusiastic amateur artists, have been especially captivated by their explorations of Wisconsin since their move here in 2011. Their recent paintings take inspiration from the beauty and harmony found in our natural places, depicting scenes that inspired the artists' creative attempts to capture the colors, light, forms and moods they experienced. A Meet-the-Artists reception is on May 6, from 10-11:30am.

Have you changed? It's time to update the contact info that Bethel has for you. On May 5/6, the Community Ministry Team will distribute a survey along with the bulletin. In the survey, members can update their contact info, state their desire for a free updated digital photo (courtesy of Bethel's Camera Club), and indicate their interest in volunteering or participating in Bethel's many activities. Members who will not be present at Bethel can find the survey at <https://tinyurl.com/ybfgxua>.

Bethel Jr! (May 6) - ORANGE is where the yellow light of faith intersects with the red love of home. Come to worship in the Pentecost Room at 9am on May 6 to Bethel Jr!, one component of the ORANGE program that Bethel adopted. The May theme is Honesty and on the 6th we'll be reminded that when we're not truthful, we lose trust. Along with that we discover that EVERY WEEK COUNTS in the lives of children, parents, grandparents and caregivers. There are no age limits, but energy is encouraged.

Social Justice Group (May 6) - Tina Hogle, past president of the Madison Area Jail Ministry Board, will join us for our next meeting, Sunday, May 6, 10:15am, in Room 21 on the lower level. Tina is co-leader of the MOSES Communication Team and an active participant in the Madison Christian Community's program, Faith in Action for Racial Justice. She will share with us what the jail ministry does and ways that individuals and groups can support its important work.

Social Justice Book Discussion (May 6) - Small, Great Things by Jodi Picoult is the story of Ruth Jefferson, a veteran nurse, accused of causing the death of a newborn in her care. Ruth is African American; the baby's parents are white supremacists. We see the situation through the eyes of Turk, the baby's father, Ruth, and Kennedy, Ruth's lawyer. Please join us next Sunday, May 6, Room 120, 11:15am-12:15pm at the next Social Justice Book Discussion.

XYZ Schedule - May 11: Chapel (9:30am) - Rev. Jeff Quinto; Lunch (11:45am) - Mary's Breakfast Casserole, fresh fruit, muffins; Program

(after lunch) - Movie: The Greatest Showman. Inspired by the imagination of P.T. Barnum, it is an original musical that celebrates the birth of show business & tells of a visionary who rose from nothing to create a spectacle that became a worldwide sensation. Starring Hugh Jackman; **May 18:** Chapel (9:30am) - Deacon Lisa; Lunch (11:45am) - Chili, egg salad sliders, applesauce; Program (after lunch) - Mission Friday: Addressing "Badger Honor Flight" cards/packing detergent for Bethel's Food Pantry; **May 25: Not Meeting - Memorial Weekend**

Bethel Friendship Club (May 11) - The next Friendship Club meeting on Fri, May 11 will feature Jerry Strack's One Man Orchestra playing "Old Time Accordion Favorites" from the Big Band era. We'll gather at 6:15pm for a 6:30pm dinner with grilled chicken, rice pilaf, vegetable, salad and apple pie. The cost is \$10 for Friendship Club members and \$13 for visitors. Reservations are necessary and must be made by Tues Noon, May 8 by calling Judi at 608.222.9290. Plan to join us for an evening of friendship, fellowship and fun!

Christian Men's Fellowship (May 15) - Betty Lou Cruise with lunch

Spanish 101 - FREE Class (May 15-Aug 24) - This is a FREE intro Spanish class by Professor Fritz Lazo, Tues from 6:30-8pm in Room 216. The class is conversational, and we are fortunate to have Mr. Lazo, a long time Bethel member, offering his talent to help English speaking persons communicate in Spanish. Classes run May 15-Aug 24. Visit www.bethel-madison.org/spahish101 for more info.

Horizons Work Day (May 19) - Come join us on May 19 as we prepare Bethel Horizons for the summer season! Be at Horizons by 9am and will work until 4pm. Lunch will be provided at Noon. If transportation is an issue, please let us know. Please RSVP by Mon, May 14 by responding to bethelhorizons@bethelhorizons.org.

Celebrate Youth Milestone Sunday & Jacqui Shanda's Retirement (May 20) - It's Pentecost Sunday, so get the **Red** out to celebrate! At 9am worship we'll celebrate First Communion, Bridge to Confirmation and Senior High Recognition with special music provided by Sunday School JAM and special solos. This will be followed by a party in the Emmaus and Community Rooms honoring Bethel's youth and the retirement of Jacqui Shanda, Bethel's Director of Discipleship, with food and fun activities from 8:30-11:30am. Questions call Pastor John at 608.257.3577.

New members will be received at Bethel on Sun, May 20 at 11:15am worship. Class are:

- Sun, May 6 - 10:15am (Rm 20)
- Sun, May 13 - 10:15am (Rm 20)
- Sat, May 19 - 9-11am (Community)

Questions? Talk to Pastor John or Pastor Margo.

Feed & Read (May 21) - Meets Mon, May 21 at Noon to have lunch (bring your lunch or a dish to share – deli salads are always appreciated) and discuss the book, *Educated* by Tara Westover. The book is an account of the struggle for self-invention. It is a tale of fierce family loyalty, and of the grief that comes from severing one's closest ties.



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7 EASTER

Pastor Paul N. Svingen, Interim - May 12 at 5pm - Sanctuary
Pastor Paul N. Svingen, Interim - May 13 at 7:45am & 9am - Sanctuary
Pastor Paul N. Svingen, Interim - May 13 at 11:15am - Sanctuary

PENTECOST

Pastor Martha Butzier, Interim - May 19 at 5pm - Pentecost
Pastor Martha Butzier, Interim - May 20 at 7:45am & 9am - Sanctuary
Pastor Martha Butzier, Interim - May 20 at 11:15am - Pentecost

SUNDAY, MAY 6

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)
Bethel Jr! (Pentecost)
10:00a Preschool Sunday School Opening (Pentecost)
Sunday School (2nd Floor)
10:15a Daniel Bible Study (Rm 120)
Confirmation Class (Youth Game Rm)
Bike-A-Thon Information (Emmaus)
Meet the Artist: Pat & Charles Stinger (Fireside)
Family Conversations (Community)
Financial Resources Forum (GS Chapel)
New Member Class (Rm 20)
Social Justice Group (Rm 21)
10:30a Joyful Noise Rehearsal (Rm 202)
Spirited Sound Rehearsal (Rm 216)
11:15a Worship Service (Pentecost)
Social Justice Book Discussion (Rm 120)
6:30p HS Youth Group (Emmaus)

MONDAY, MAY 7 - No events scheduled

TUESDAY, MAY 8

8:30a Homeless Support Services (T&TH) (Pentecost)
9:00a Library Open (Library)
2:00p Human Resources Ministry Team Meeting (Rm 200)
5:30p Women's Choir (Choir)
5:45p Hope House Board Meeting (Library)
6:15p Rebuilding at Bethel (Rm 100 & 120)
6:30p Creative Worship Singers (Choir)
7:00p Bethel Horizons Board Meeting (Community)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

5:00p Life Long Learning Ministry Team Meeting (Rm 120)
6:15p Bell Choir (Rm 202)
6:30p Media Ministry Meeting (Community)

THURSDAY, MAY 10

7:00a Current Christian Concerns (Community)
8:00a Second Harvest Delivery
12:00p Blessings 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)

FRIDAY, MAY 11

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

SATURDAY, MAY 12

8:00a Meditation (Rm 213)

GETTING READY FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Preschool: First Look

May Basic Truth: God has a plan for me.

Memory Verse: The plans of Jesus stand firm forever. (Psalm 33:11)

May 6 Bible Story: Joseph Gets a Coat and Goes to Egypt, SPARK! pages 48 – 53

May 13 Bible Story: Joseph Helps His Family, SPARK! pages 60 - 65

K-Grade 5: 252 Kids

May Life App: Honesty: Because we know that God is good, we can be honest.

Memory Verse: Anyone who lives without blame walks safely. (Proverbs 10:9)

May 6 Bible Story: Naaman and Elisha's Servant (2 Kings:5), SPARK! pages 148 - 151
Bottom Line: When you're not truthful, you lose trust.

May 13 Bible Story: David and Ahimelek (1 Samuel 21 - 22)

Bottom Line: When you're not truthful, you hurt others.