

Bethelite

A publication of Bethel Lutheran Church distributed twice monthly.



bethelmadison.org/bethelite

In his book, *Six Months in the White House with Abraham Lincoln*, Francis B. Carpenter wrote the following about an interaction between President Lincoln and a clergyman.

"No nobler reply ever fell from the lips of a ruler, than that uttered by President Lincoln in response to the clergyman who ventured to say, in his presence, that he hoped 'the Lord was on our side.'

"'I am not at all concerned about that,' replied Mr. Lincoln, 'for I know that the Lord is always on the side of the right. **But it is my constant anxiety and prayer that I and this nation should be on the Lord's side.**'"

What a powerful statement! In that brief, candid reply, President Lincoln conveyed an incredible sense of vulnerability. Like the clergyman, many of us hope or claim to have God on our side. It is done in hopes of elevating and improving our side, while discounting and dismissing the other. Lincoln saw the great danger in doing that. And given the intense pressure that he was under - to save the Union and to bring an end to slavery - making such a claim had to be very tempting. Instead, President Lincoln hoped and prayed that he and the northern states were on God's side. With that confession he acknowledged the distinct possibility that he and they could be wrong.

It is an acknowledgment that few of us seem willing to make today. Far too often we do just the opposite - we attempt to manipulate God's word to fit into our twisted earthly thinking.

Imagine what would happen - what could happen - if we dared to show our vulnerability as President Lincoln did. If we first recognized the possibility that we could be wrong and then openly admitted that to others. Imagine if we did that. Not if someone we disagree with did that, but imagine if WE did.

We take great risk in becoming that vulnerable. It is far easier to build a wall around ourselves and to profess our "rightness" and the other person's "wrongness." But to dare to become vulnerable takes real guts - guts like that of President Lincoln. And in so doing, we (like he) show strength, honesty, and integrity. We also show that we want to be on God's side. What a witness that would be. May we take that brave step to be vulnerable today. 🌈

—Pastor John O. Swanson

A TABLE FOR 3 GENERATIONS

A Table for 3 Generations is an effort to increase connection and community between all ages of the Bethel congregation, sponsored by the Nurturing Team.

What is it? People who register to be part of Table for 3 Generations will be randomly placed in a cross generational group of 8-12 people (2-4 households) who will agree to meet together for a meal three times during the next year.

Who can participate? We're looking for singles, grandparents, new members, confirmation families, empty nesters, single parent families, anyone and everyone. The goal of Table for 3 Generations is: to forge new relationships between adults, teens, and children; to integrate new members into the congregation; and to find new ways to nurture one another through a deepening, Christian connection.

Where will they meet to eat? The "Table" groups will meet in homes. The members can rotate between homes or not as the group members decide. Group members can bring different assigned dishes, bring potluck, or share responsibilities in any way that works for the group.

When will the groups meet? We suggest that each Table for 3 Generations should dine together once between September and Thanksgiving, again between Thanksgiving and Lent, and finally between Easter and June. Members of each group will set their own dates and times so as to meet the needs of all the members of that particular group.

What do I have to do to join?

1. Register in September. You will be placed in a group.
2. Come with your calendar to an organizational meeting where you'll divide up food responsibilities and/or volunteer to host.
3. Show up for all 3 meals.
4. Have fun! Talk to folks. Get to know some new friends of different ages. 🌈

Call Committee Update

We are in the excitement stage of the pastoral search, having reviewed the credentials of a dozen or more possibilities and now identifying final candidates. Our process is to visit the current church of candidates to get a feel for how they relate to their congregations now. We know that Bethel seeks a pastor who is warm and engaging, so those qualities are important to us as we visit.

Those candidates who appear to be the best fit for Bethel will be invited to come to Bethel, interview with the Church Council and the Call Committee, and meet with Bethel staff members. The Call Committee will solicit input from the persons and groups that meet with pastoral prospects.

The next step is that the Call Committee will make a recommendation to the Council to call our selected new lead pastor. Pat Barry, Council President, assures me that the Council will act quickly, meeting on an emergency basis if needed, to consider the Call. Then, we pray even harder that the pastor we want feels called to be at Bethel!

Looking for a Pastor during the summer has its own unique challenges. It is no surprise that Pastors tend to take vacations like the rest of us, which does make them less available to engage with us. Do know that we continue to meet several times a month and are working hard to complete our mission on behalf of the church we love. Be assured that the Spirit has been of tremendous help to us and we more than ever need your continued prayers.

Call Committee: Larry Larabee, Holly Jackson, Craig Jolly, Amy Bailey and Jane Stoneman

Ex Officio Members: Pat Barry (Council President) and Dirk Von Below, Kim Kindshi, Vern Leibbrandt (representing the three TTF teams) 🌈

—Donna Ulteig,
Call Committee Facilitator

Sunday Schedule Update

The Sunday Schedule Task Force has made the recommendation to leave the Sunday schedule as it currently is and the Joint Council has accepted this recommendation. Moving forward, the Sunday schedule will remain the same with our service times being 7:45am, 9am, and 11:15am. Thank you for your feedback! 🌈

—Christal Swigart
Director of Communications

Faith Communities Hold A Dementia Dialogue

Saturday, September 29 | 2-4:30pm

Bethel Lutheran Church is hosting a discussion on how faith communities can best serve and support families living with dementia. Age is the single greatest risk factor for Alzheimer's. The risk doubles every five years beyond the age of 65. It is estimated that one in three families has a loved one with some type of dementia.

The program will include a brief presentation by Dr. Nathaniel Chin, UW Assistant Professor of Geriatrics, and a panel discussion that includes: ELCA Pastor Mary Kay Baum, who is experiencing mild-cognitive impairment, UCC Pastor Stephen Welch, who has conducted monthly dementia friendly church services for three years in Watertown, WI, Pastor Anthony Wade, who is serving at Madison's Second Baptist Church and Gina Green-Harris Director, WAI Milwaukee Regional Office, UW School of Medicine and Public Health.



Amazing Grace Chorus

Through a grant from Bethel's Foundation, the program will feature an up-lifting performance by the Amazing Grace Chorus. The chorus is an outgrowth of the Wisconsin

Alzheimer's Institute's (WAI) outreach effort in the African-American community in Milwaukee. Native Americans and the Hispanic and African-American Communities are twice more likely to develop cognitive impairment. While dementia has stolen some memories from the Amazing Grace Chorus, it hasn't taken their music. The chorus is an inspiring example of what it means to "preserve the essential portion of self that is encompassed by faith."

Following the program, Bethel's Saturday, 5pm service will be led by Pastor Stephen Welch who is currently serving as interim pastor at the First Congregational Church in Ripon, WI. The service will be adjusted to better engage those with cognitive issues, while worshiping with their fellow members. The service provides an opportunity to experience the minor accommodations that can be made to make a worship service more meaningful and inclusive for those with cognitive impairment.

All are invited to the afternoon program and the worship service following. 🌈

—Sigrid Knuti

Installation of Bishop Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld - If you were looking for a worship experience that looked and felt like the kingdom of God had come as God intended, you would have found it at the bishop's installation. The Reverend Viviane Elise Thomas-Breitfeld was installed as Bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin on Saturday, August 18 at First Lutheran Church in Janesville. View full article: <https://tinyurl.com/y97n2h4d>

Bethel's Homeless Ministry is in great need of bus tickets. We were blessed with your generous gifts of money at Christmas time but have now used all of those 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. We received a very generous anonymous gift for 3 ten-ride tickets and this is the only means we might be able to say THANK YOU to that person or persons. As always, we are deeply appreciative for any contributions, be they monetary or material gifts such as clothing or hygiene items.

Prayer Shawls - Please pick-up those knitting needles and crochet hooks! We need more prayer shawls! Contact Deb Holman (dholmen@bethel-madison.org) with questions.

Robin Chapman's "Flowers of the Field" Art Exhibit (Now-Oct 30)
Robin's acrylic paintings will be on display in the Fireside Gallery Sept 4-Oct 30 with a Meet the Artist Reception on Sun, Sept 16 from 10-11:30am. Robin Chapman is a painter, poet, and retired Professor emerita of Communication Science and Disorders at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and emerita Principle Investigator at the Waisman Center, where she studied language learning in children and adolescents with Down syndrome. Her most recent book of poetry, *Six True Things*, focuses on her own childhood growing up in the Manhattan Project town of Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Painting is her most recent art. A student of Jane Fasse's at Madison College, she works in acrylics in larger paintings and in watercolor on postcards that she sends to friends. She is a member of the Thursday's Artists group that meets weekly to paint together for two hours, a fellow of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters, and one of the 500 gardeners in Eagle Heights Community Gardens.

Men's Current Christian Concerns (Thurs at 7am; Community Rm)
Sept 6 - All We Are to Know? | **Sept 13** - Our Changing World
Sept 20 - Everybody Lies: Big Data | **Sept 27** - S.A.I.L.

XYZ Activities: Sept 14: Chapel (9:30am) - Rev Jeff Quinto; (10:30am) *Book Discussion* - Living Lutheran Article: the "e" word Why does the ELCA have the word "evangelical" in its name? or Tai Chi or Euchre; *Lunch (11:45am)* - Build Your Own Taco, and Dessert; *Program (after lunch)* - Jerry Apps' latest documentary "One Room Country School" March 2018. **Sept 21: Chapel (9:30am)** - Ruth Hanson; (10:30am) *Book Discussion* - The Whistler or Tai Chi or Euchre; *Lunch (11:45am)* - Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Corn and Dessert; *Program (after lunch)* - Hope Zvara, Bethel Women's Retreat Presenter. Hope will be sharing with us Oils of Ancient Scripture (Healing Oils of the Bible) - The 12 that Time has not Forgotten! These 12 oils are centuries old, but their constituents and properties have never changed. This

unique walk through the Bible walks us from Ancient Egypt to King Tut's tomb, through WWII to present time. Starting with a short movie and moving into a PowerPoint presentation which explores scripture for each essential oil, including oils application, brings all the "scent'ses" into play truly providing the audience a working knowledge of Frankincense, Myrrh, Galbanum, Spikenard, Onycha, Cedarwood, Cassia, Rose of Sharon, Cypress, Hyssop, Myrtle and Calamus. All are welcome! Come for all or part of the day.

God's Work, Our Hands Work Day (Sept 9)

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. On SEPT 9 we will be blessed to do our part for our community locally and globally. Projects include:

- Picking-up trash on State Street
- Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Quilts (knot tying)
- Packing LWR Kits (school and personal care)
- Packing Emergency Packs for the Homeless (We are needing donations for the emergency packs. Please drop off donations at the reception desk labeled GWOH Emergency Packs. Items include: cotton or wool socks, hand/foot warmers, small flashlight, tissue, deodorant, soap, toothbrush/toothpaste, wash cloth/hand towel, power bar, bottle of water, Chapstick, & lotion)
- Food Pantry Drive - fruit juice, crackers, hot cereal, salt and pepper, toothpaste, toothbrushes, toilet paper, deodorant, shampoo, bar soap, dish soap, and children's pull-ups.

All projects inside of Bethel are happening in Borgwardt Hall. Projects run from 8:30am-1pm. Picking-up garbage on State Street starts at 10:15am and goes as long as you wish to participate. Meet in the Emmaus Room to grab your gloves and garbage bags! 10:15am leader is Mary Lou Tyne, 12pm leader is Margie Czechowicz. Plan on wearing your t-shirt from previous years (if you don't have a t-shirt you can pick one up on Sept 9)!

Feed & Read (Sept 17) - Meets Mon Sept 17 at Noon to eat lunch together & discuss *Every Note Played*. Neuroscientist Lisa Genova, bestselling author of *Still Alice*, shares an intimate view of ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). Bring your bag lunch or a dish to share to Room 120. Our book for our Oct 15 meeting will be *The Blessing Way* by Tony Hillerman.

Oils of Ancient Scripture (Healing Oils of the Bible) Presentation (Sept 21; 12:15pm) - Hope Zvara, Bethel Women's Retreat Presenter. Hope will be sharing with us Oils of Ancient Scripture (Healing Oils of the Bible) - The 12 that Time has not Forgotten! These 12 oils are centuries old, but their constituents and properties have never changed. This unique walk through the Bible walks us from Ancient Egypt to King Tut's tomb, through WWII to present time. Starting with a short movie and moving into a PowerPoint presentation which explores scripture for each essential oil, including oils application, brings all the "scent'ses" into play truly providing the audience a working knowledge of Frankincense, Myrrh, Galbanum, Spikenard, Onycha, Cedarwood, Cassia, Rose of Sharon, Cypress, Hyssop, Myrtle and Calamus. All are welcome!



BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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608.257.3577 | Email Christal Swigart: christal@bethel-madison.org

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

- 7:45a Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 8:30a Childcare provided 8:30am-12pm in the Nursery
Coffee Fellowship (Emmaus & Fireside)
Library Open (Library)
COL Golf Outing Sign-up (Emmaus)
GWOH Sunday (Borgwardt Hall & State Street)
XYZ Table Sale (Emmaus)
Table for 3 Generations (Emmaus)
- 9:00a Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 10:15a Sunday School Teacher Meeting (Rm 216)
- 11:15a Worship Service (Pentecost)
- 6:30p Confirmation Fall Kickoff (Parents & Students (Emmaus))

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

- 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)
- 5:00p Lifelong Learning Team (Rm 120)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

- 8:30a Homeless Support Services (T&TH) (Pentecost)
- 9:00a Library Open (Library)
- 1:00p Homeless Ministry Board Meeting (Fireside)
- 6:15p Rebuilding at Bethel (Rm 100, 120 & Library)
- 7:00p Horizons Board Meeting (Community)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

- 10:00a Chapel (GS Chapel)
- 1:00p Food Pantry Board Meeting (Rm 120)
- 6:00p Compassion Circle (Library)
- 6:30p Media Ministry Board Meeting (Rm 120)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

- 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 120)
- 6:30p Centering Prayer (Library)
- 7:00p Renew Circle (Rm 100)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

- 7:00a Men's Friday Book Study (Rm 120)
- 8:30a XYZ Activities

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

- 8:00a Meditation (Rm 213)
- 9:30a Food Pantry Open 9:30-11:30am (Lower Level)
- 5:00p Saturday Evening Worship (Pentecost)
Bhutanese Worship in Nepali (GS Chapel)

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor John O. Swanson - Acting Lead Pastor
jswanson@bethel-madison.org

Pastor Roger Black - Visitation/Bridge Pastor
roger@bethel-madison.org

Deacon Lisa R. Huber - Director of Pastoral Ministries
lisa@bethel-madison.org

Pastor Margo R. Martens - Worship/Visitation Pastor
margo@bethel-madison.org

