

BETHEL
ENDOWMENT
FOUNDATION

Foundation Life newsletter

www.bethel-madison.org

Bethel Lutheran Church Endowment Foundation

Fall / Winter 2018

There's no place like camp . . .

. . . especially with all the recent updates! For nearly 50 years, children, teens and families have packed their bags and headed to Bethel Horizons. It's a unique opportunity to spend time in nature taking part in everything from art, music and worship to hiking, exploring and other adventures.

Funding from the Bethel Endowment Foundation allows more children to attend exciting programs at camp, as well as supports various projects and improvements at Bethel Horizons.

Here is a glimpse at some of the 2018 Horizons' happenings:

Adventure vehicle

Bethel Horizons is home to a new adventure vehicle – it's a used 2001 GMC 2500 with a plow and salter. It will be used from April to November for transporting staff and adventure equipment. It then will be used from November to April for clearing snow.

Concrete patio for kiln

A concrete patio was built for the Mani Kiln. This will hold it in place and prevent it from shifting on gravel and needing to be rebuilt regularly. Artists from around the country visit the high-quality Adamah Art Studio at Bethel Horizons.

This kiln, which was built with a gift from the Household/Estate



A new concrete slab supports the new and necessary Mani Kiln.

Sales group, was integral for hosting the recent international Potters for Peace event. This nonprofit group makes low-cost, highly effective water filters from local clay that can be manufactured, distributed and sold in developing countries where clean drinking water is scarce.



The new adventure vehicle will serve multiple purposes year-round at camp.

Director's quarters

A recent remodel transformed two one-bedroom studio apartments into one more livable space that includes a bedroom, bathroom, kitchen and sitting area. This creates a fully usable stand-alone space for the Program Director to reside.

Bat guano

The top of the barn (hay mow) area at camp had been increasingly infiltrated with bats for several years. After displacing the bat population from inside the barn to outside, some clean up work was needed. Recently, the top of the barn was cleaned and sanitized. It is important to keep the space clean and safe for campers, as the area is relied on during rainy days throughout camp season.

Continued on back

Making an impact through LUAD

Participating in LUAD, Lutherans United to Assist after Disasters, Bethel works to assist survivors through the initial stages of recovery – following tornadoes, fires and other disasters. And, these efforts are making an impact, thanks in part to previous funding from the Bethel Endowment Foundation.

A recent note from Bill Berkan, a former Bethel member and volunteer, illustrates exactly how . . .

The help that you gave to LUAD as we began our journey has paid great dividends. The current flooding in Cross Plains, Black Earth and Mazomanie, in addition to Reedsburg and Sauk County, have all been sites for teams from LUAD to provide help to survivors.

Your belief in our mission meant a great deal. No one person is responsible for the development of LUAD, it has grown by the grace of God and the willingness

LUAD was created at Bethel and is now a synod-recognized ministry.

of many individuals to lend their gifts to that mission. We were blessed by God that you lent your support to us and that you found it a worthy mission to include in the work of the Bethel Foundation. Many folks over the past years, and during today's disaster, will never know that your work and influence with the Bethel Foundation lies at the root of the assistance they are getting. That assistance gave an early credence to the work of LUAD and inspired others to join in the work – financially and physically.

I wanted to remind you of the positive impact that your Christian concern and actions have had on this difficult mission. Thank you and may God's blessings be with you each day.

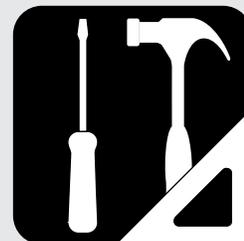
Fall maintenance projects planned

Outside building repair work will be under way soon at Bethel.

Projects include:

- Checking and reattaching large limestone panels on the building facade along Johnson Street and the parking lot.
- Masonry work, to prepare areas that have deteriorated, on the parapet wall in that same area.

Funding from the Bethel Endowment Foundation helps cover the cost of maintenance projects that keep Bethel pleasant and safe place for members, visitors and staff.



Gifts and memorials turn dreams into realities

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 Sept. 30, 2018:

Naomi Bekkum
Viletta Arneson
Dorothy Berg
Jack Chandler
William Clerkin
Carol Groneng
Eileen Gundlach
Gail Harms

Patricia Hatch
Joan Knudtson
Steven Larson
Judith Mayer
Jacqueline Mulhern
Albert Oleson
Kathryn Ramberg
Gay Ronne
Dolores Thimke
Joanne Woellner

(cont'd. on page 6)

Recipe for Bethel

I like a clearly defined process – always have! The timeline, overarching reason(s), expectations for outcomes – much like a recipe – it’s a logical, straightforward, systematic way to reach conclusion on any given matter. And, so it is with our Endowment Foundation’s grant letting activity and sequence.

For reference, from the Articles of Incorporation for the Bethel Lutheran Church Endowment Foundation:

The purpose of this corporation shall be to receive by gift, grant, devise or bequest moneys and property, real, personal and mixed, and to hold, invest and reinvest such property ... and to administer the same and to use and devote the net rents and income thereof, unless the use of the principal is specifically permitted or approved by the donor, to the benefit and maintenance of the church, now known as Bethel Lutheran Church of the City of Madison, State of Wisconsin, and of any and all the institutions and lines of work and activity of whatsoever character now or hereafter conducted by said Bethel Lutheran Church or any of its organizations or committees...

From my view, the work begins in early fall when grant requests are actively sought from Bethel staff – with member input, and this year the eight Ministry and Resource Teams have added involvement in the funds-seeking effort. All of that creative input is received by mid September, and then each request is assigned to a Church Council member in order for that person to become the *expert* go-to resource for further information on topic. At the October Council meeting, several Foundation trustees, as well as Team Facilitators, are involved as active listeners as

each of the requests is discussed and ultimately ranked by the Council for decided importance to the life of Bethel in the coming calendar year.

Grant evaluations from the current year are also written and compiled for the Foundation trustees’ review so that they can read and determine greatest impact of the prior year’s grant gifts given. The Foundation New Projects Committee then takes this created list, as well as the Bethel Horizons requests, and begins further deliberation work over the next six to seven weeks in order to help fund as much as possible with available grant funds. (The amount of available funds is determined by the calculation of the September ending Endowment value, added to the previous 11 quarters ending value, divided by 12 to find average quarterly balance X 5%. This *pay out* amount has been a constant for our Foundation and is considerably higher than many other Endowment Foundations that currently are gifting out more likely in the 3.5% range.).

In late November, our Household/ Estate Sales group also has their proceeds money to give away. The wish list provided to them generally includes many service/mission-focused grant requests that further adds to what projects can receive funding for the coming year. By mid December, our Foundation communicates final funding decisions for the coming year, so to aid the Bethel budget-setting process before year end.

Some contingency funds are routinely set aside, so to be able to address mid-year requests that aren’t necessarily known to be asked for in the fall of the year. The goal is to be as helpful and responsive as possible in



Alice Mowbray

furthering the life and vision of Bethel Lutheran Church overall.

As the new year begins, grant funds are spent, and reimbursement is sought for Bethel or Horizons, as the year progresses. The Investment Committee of seven faithfully volunteers their expertise and meets monthly to manage the portfolio of funds, saving *us* approximately 1% of overall value annually in management fees, which effectively adds more than \$100,000 each year to what is given away.

The 13 Foundation trustees meet quarterly (besides their special December grant letting meeting) to conduct the business of this Endowment Foundation on your behalf. And, I’m lucky enough to see and be involved in the whole process: grant seeking, grant giving, funds investment and stewardship, foundation managing, gift asking and gift receiving from generous donors. Thanks be to God!



Alice Mowbray
Director of Development

Where there's a will, there's a way

Have you written a will or updated yours if time has passed – and most certainly if you've had life changing events occur?

This is a relatively simple action, that can provide great peace of mind, and gather your wishes together so they are carried out in a manner that you choose and that fits your family circumstance. This is an act of Christian stewardship. We know that all we have is a gift from God, so we keep close the story from Matthew 25: *We are stewards of everything we have been given, including our time, money, abilities, information, wisdom, relationships and authority. And we will all give account to the rightful owner as to how well we managed the things he has entrusted to us. We are called to exercise our dominion under the watchful eye of the Creator managing his creation in accord with the principles he has established.*

One resource that can help get your planning juices flowing is www.freewill.com* (basic and advanced legal wills, 100% free). Do this very soon for the people and causes you love. Take about a half hour to type in your information and wishes, then print your personalized legal documents.

* If you have a large or complex estate, you may want to have your will drafted by an attorney instead of using this free resource. Many people have assets that pass via beneficiary designation, which needs careful consideration. If you have art and jewelry, you may need to carefully handle those designations. It could be that a revocable trust is better suited for your circumstance. However, you could still go through this will-making process and provide your set of documented wishes to your attorney to help speed up the process.



This freewill option is legal in all states. It was built with extensive input from legal experts and is made possible by the support of many nonprofit organizations. It is changeable/replaceable – simply destroy the old will and sign the new one with witnesses.

Keep in mind the other aspects of planning, such as health care powers of attorney, living wills, etc., that are in many ways as or more important than a will. If you are still reading this helpful article to the end, perhaps it's simply inspired you to act, to get off go. That's great! That's success. Many quality estate planning attorneys in the Madison area offer an initial no-obligation conference if you are interested and feel this is a more suitable path to take for you.

But the bottom line is – take action now. Thank you for remembering your church.

Unplug and reset

A group of women gathered Oct. 26-27 for a weekend retreat at Bethel Horizons – a beautiful place to feel closer to God in a natural setting.

Participants focused on mindfulness and prayer as they learned to have:

- Less stress, more time.
- Less clutter, more organization.
- More joy in life and a feeling of freedom.
- More time for what is important to them.

A variety of speakers and activities encouraged participants to live in the moment and remove the *shoulds* from their lives. Women focused on strategies that will allow them to live a happier and healthier life.

Grants from the Bethel Endowment Foundation help cover the cost of educational retreats that allow women to come together, learn about themselves and deepen their spirituality.





Orange curriculum unites and empowers

“Many thanks to the Bethel Endowment Foundation for this comprehensive (Orange) grant,” said Cindy Terhune Melrose, Bethel’s Interim Director of Life-long Faith Formation. “It is a part of countless people’s lives every day at Bethel.”

Orange is a way to unite community members at each stage of life in faith formation. By unifying material we use to teach and empower members, we can strengthen the church while building connections within the community.

Funding from the Bethel Endowment

Foundation gives Bethel education leaders the ability to teach God’s word through a variety of activities and projects, such as written activities, discussion questions, skits and videos that share Bible stories and how they translate to students’ lives. The curriculum also includes a vast assortment of media options (digital and print) to help bring the monthly theme and weekly stories into families’ homes in an accessible format. We also display the theme of the month around Bethel in classrooms and hallways.

Our Orange curriculum reaches near

and far – from Bethel education leaders (staff and volunteer Sunday School leaders), children in grades 2-5 and their families to the friends and families everywhere with whom we share.

In addition to the daily and weekly use of the Orange curriculum, a handful of Bethel members and staff attended the Orange conference in Atlanta last spring. They returned with infectious enthusiasm – not only about the curriculum and everything it has to offer but about doing God’s work. Two staff members also attended a one-day conference in Chicago on Oct. 19.

Resettlement ministry celebrates eight years

Bethel’s Resettlement Ministry is charged with helping refugees learn to live in the United States, which includes connecting them to support systems within and outside of the church. Since it was developed eight years ago, the Resettlement Ministry has:

- Settled nearly 20 families and regularly see an additional 20 of their friends and family members.

- Served more than 90 individuals, including those we sponsored, as well as those who came to us through sponsored individuals.

These legal refugees are all Bhutanese of Nepali origin and predominantly Christian. While they have come here for a new start, they also face challenges. Funding from the Bethel Endowment Foundation supports this ministry,

which helps ease that transition. Efforts include:

- Saturday night worship in Nepali, which attracts up to 60 people.
- Home visits and support provided by Bijay and Andrea Lama. Bijay is from Bhutan and speaks Nepali fluently. He leads the Saturday evening service.
- A community car to help Bhutanese refugees travel to regional events and other locations.

The Bhutanese refugees are transitioning successfully. Many of them own homes, and many have two wage earners.

“Bijay and Andrea are the hub of this ministry (along with community leaders), and other Bethel staff and members work with them to foster the stability and growth of the community,” said Susan Stein, Bethel member and active participant in the Resettlement Ministry.



Bipsika and Bipshon Biswa are two children assisted by Bethel’s Resettlement Ministry.

Dementia friendly worship

Chances are you know someone who has Alzheimer's Disease. It's not surprising when you consider:

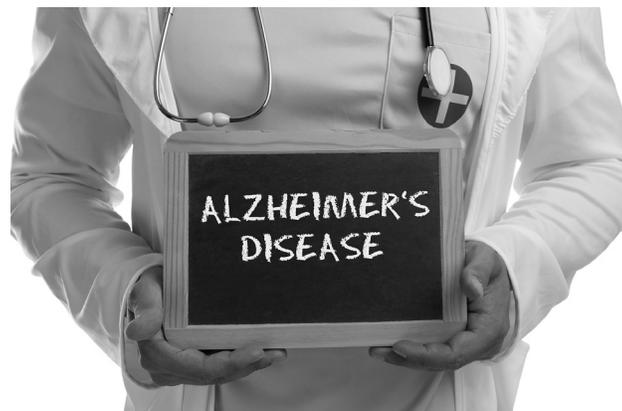
- 5.7 million Americans live with Alzheimer's. This is expected to increase to 14 million by 2050.
- Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States.
- Every 65 seconds, someone in the nation develops Alzheimer's.

With this reality, it is important that we learn how we can be more dementia friendly. That is the goal of a faith-based community event that Bethel hosted on Sept. 29. The Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute was a presenting partner of this special educational and interactive event where church communities of all faiths came together to discuss how churches can become more dementia friendly.

Pastor Stephen Welch, serving as Interim Pastor at the First Congregational Church in Ripon conducted Bethel's first dementia friendly service. It was slightly adjusted to better engage those experiencing cognitive impairment while worshipping within the congregation.

Other activities included a panel discussion and a performance by the Amazing Grace Chorus, a diverse choir comprised of individuals who have dementia, and their caregivers.

A grant from the Bethel Endowment Foundation helped cover the cost of the Choir and its transportation for this important educational event.



Memorials

(cont'd. from page 2)

The following individuals contributed general gifts to the Foundation between April 1 and Sept. 30, 2018, by these individuals:

Beverly Block
Lola Cator
Oscar Cardenas, Jr
Donna Clasen
Karol Dillie
Robyn Kitson
Janet Kowing
Randy Skram
Joel & Sandra Zander

Gifts, honorary gifts and memorial contributions were made to the Foundation from April 1 to Sept. 30, 2018, by these individuals:

In memory of Viletta Arneson by Carolyn Wright

In memory of Naomi Bakkum by Earl & Glory Mikkelson

In memory of Dorothy Berg by Marian Osterberg

In memory of Jack Chandler by Peder & Jeanne Moren, Fred & Janet Zimmerman

In memory of Robert Clasen by Donna Rae & Douglas Clasen

In memory of DuWayne Gilbertson by Margaret Dukerschein

In memory of Gail Harms by Larry and Carol Larrabee
In memory of Jim Kennedy by Kris Kennedy

In memory of Dorothy Leon by Ann Leon

In memory of Jim Rose, on the birthday of Sarah Rose by Nancy & Ed Young

In honor of Jacqui Shanda's retirement by Ray & Helen Kruse

In memory of Betty Skowlund by Karl & Vel Marquardt, Marian Osterberg, Barbara Weaver

In memory of Gloria Wheeler by Kris Kennedy

In memory of Gloria Wheeler, sister of Kris Kennedy by Ray & Helen Kruse

The following individuals made gifts to the Foundation's XYZ Fund from April 1 to Sept. 30, 2018:

Anton Arneson, Jr
Carl Arneson
Delma Baker
Daniel & Shirley Dettmann
Charlotte Dillabough
Kathy Heimann
Karl Peterson
Colleen Wincentzen

Honorary gifts and memorial contributions were made to the Foundation's XYZ Fund from April 1 to Sept. 30, 2018 by this individual:

In memory of Viletta Arneson by Karl Peterson, Wendell Arneson, Sam & Joan Arneson, Carl, Susan & Karen Arneson, Delma Baker, Thomas & Wendy Bround, Carole Buchsteiner, Shirley Dettmann, Charlotte Dillabough, Kathleen Heimann, Anna Henning, Ruth Kahl, Judith Kimball, Colleen Wincentzen

Bethel seminarian graduate tells of missionary work

On Aug. 5, the Financial Resources Team and the Bethel Endowment Foundation welcomed Zach Courter (a “son of Bethel”) and his wife Rachel Ann Eskesen. Both are graduates of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, Calif., and are serving as ELCA missionaries in Central Europe. Rachel coordinates the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program in Hungary and Serbia.

About 90 young adults, ages 21-29, serve as YAGM missionaries each year. There are programs in Central Europe, Jerusalem/West Bank, Madagascar, Senegal, Southern Africa, Rwanda, Cambodia, Australia, Mexico and Argentina/Uruguay. Participants spend a year abroad learning about their Christian faith while living simply in community with others. Thirty percent of YAGM alumni go to seminary and 50% work at non-profits. Seventy percent of participants get involved in advocacy and justice-related initiatives through their vocations or as volunteers.



Rachael Eskesen, Zach Courter and Bethel’s former Senior Pastor Bill White.

Zach assists Rachel in her role as the Central European YAGM Program Coordinator and leads services and congregational events at City Park Lutheran Church in Budapest, Hungary. Zach is working with the Lutheran Church in Hungary to make City Park a self-sustaining ministry. Until five years ago, when the Lutheran Indonesian Ambassador pushed to form an English-language Lutheran congregation in Budapest, there was no mainline protestant church in Budapest with services conducted in English. Zach was ordained at City Park Lutheran Church on Oct. 5, 2018, which continues to

attract a growing number of diverse international worshippers.

Zach is one of the many seminarians that Bethel has supported over the years. His story exemplifies the far-reaching effect that Bethel’s investment has not only on him personally but his colleagues and the many people they serve and inspire. Zach and Rachel are passionate about justice issues and how we as Christians in a globalized world are called to respond to injustices locally and globally. Read more about their work on their blog: [https:// zachandrachel.wordpress.com](https://zachandrachel.wordpress.com).

As missionaries with the ELCA, Zach and Rachel are supported by congregations, individuals and the greater church budget. It costs the ELCA approximately \$80,000 per year to support a missionary household. Zach and Rachel are asked to raise at least \$20,000 annually toward this total. If you are interested in donating to help support Zach and Rachel, go to support. elca.org/goto/EskesenCourter.

Seminary Scholarships

2018-19 recipients: **Ian Coen-Frei***, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Madison, **Elisabeth Himmelmann***, Bethel Lutheran Church, Madison, **Tom Kreis**, Norway Grove Memorial Lutheran Church, DeForest, **Kathi Matthews-Risley**, St. John’s Lutheran Church, Prairie du Sac, **Jose Rodriguez**, Bethel Lutheran Church, Madison, **Derek Rosenstiel**, St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, Middleton, **Carolyn Staats**, Bethel Lutheran Church, Madison, **Anne Wickland**, Bethel Lutheran Church, Madison.

The Bethel Endowment Foundation’s Cephias Johnson Seminary Scholarship has provided financial assistance since 1990 to students (including non-Bethel members from Dane County) attending an ELCA seminary on ordination track. The cost for three academic years can easily exceed \$100,000, making this scholarship vital for many seminarians.

* Intern year



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Bethel Horizons, continued from front

Camp House reclamation

The entire house received a face lift, adding two egress windows to the basement to create two additional bedroom spaces. New carpet was installed throughout and the house was painted. New beds also were purchased. The Camp House's comfortable space now allows for up to 12 participants.



The metal roof on the Prairie Center was replaced earlier this year.

Nature Center

Energy-efficient LED lighting, including ballasts, was installed. Outside lights also were updated and are now functioning for the first time in a long time.

Prairie Center

A new roof now covers the Prairie Center, but that's not all. Four aging futon pull-out style bunk beds were replaced with metal adult-size beds with Memory Foam mattresses – they've been getting rave reviews.

Bethel Endowment Foundation Trustees

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* Denotes member of the New Projects Committee

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Writing and design: Effective Communications*