

Bethelite

A publication of Bethel Lutheran Church distributed twice monthly.



bethelmadison.org/bethelite

It is the genesis of a spanking new year. Normally, people approach any beginning with optimism and hope. After all, like the dawn of a new day, it may lead to new possibilities, like that of a blank page to a highly motivated early school aged child. But now as we begin 2019, I hear many voices that are not excited or thrilled with our point in time. These voices come from people whose anxieties and concerns based on the short-term past have outweighed their confidence toward the prospects of the long-term future. So, I am writing to encourage all of us to be hopeful. As Paul writes to the Romans, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

So many of us suffer from short-term memory loss when it comes to engaging the present. We are like Lucy, the woman played by Drew Barrymore in the movie *50 First Dates* who forget the good time spent with Henry, played by Adam Sandler, after every night. When we are confronted with a challenge, we forget the many ways that God has blessed us in the past. We become anxious over whether we ever will return to normalcy. The anxiety that is created by change dumbs us down, makes us reactive, and leads us to not think deeply or clearly. As we experience it in our larger world setting anxiety can be chronic, and instead of leading us to trust in our positive experiences in the past can lead us to turn to those who offer the "quick fix" for our situation. In a congregational setting this chronic anxiety can even become infectious, being conducted from person to person. Some people who are less grounded in the positive experiences of the past can serve

as antennae who transmit that anxiety. Like a microphone given to a youth, these individuals use all ways of telling us "the sky is falling." Others who are grounded in grace and hope can reduce the volume of anxiety. In the church they may call attention to the proper places to put our trust—in God, in the promises of Scripture, and in those called to positions of leadership in the church.

When I think of allaying anxiety both in the larger world and in the Bethel congregation I think of the need for unity in Christ. On January 20 and 27 we will have second lessons from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians that emphasize that we are one in Christ. We have all received gifts of the Spirit, as different as the abilities of children in a family. We are to recognize one another's gifts in the body of Christ right now and use them for the common good and the glory of God. On February 3, we will have the familiar love chapter from 1 Corinthians 13 that reminds us that the greatest gift for maintaining the body of Christ is love.

What could be better to direct us in the beginning of this new year? As we realize that God is alive in working through the present leadership, both rostered and lay people, we can begin to trust in God more fully in the present, and in the future that God prepares for us. As we think about how God first loved us even before we could love God, we will be encouraged to lay down any barriers that divide us and channel the love of Christ.

The truth is that we are best as stewards of God's grace and servants of Christ when we are one. How can we begin to realize the unity that God wants us to have? We

can begin with a new year principle, to get in shape. As individuals and as a church we can begin to communicate better, taking responsibility for ourselves. We can use "I statements" not "he/she or we statements." This means that if we hear any gossip or judgments made of others, we can begin to cut it off at the pass, thinking that what someone said or did probably had an explanation for it. We can practice our faith, living out of Paul's direction in Ephesians to "walk in love as Christ loved us and gave Himself for us," Like a child who comes home hurt by bullies at school, we can find our trust in our loving parent, God, and our Christian family—our fellow parishioners who also seek to serve God. We can practice living in gratitude for all God has given us in the past, looking to our gracious God to show us how we can be used by God as a blessing in the present and future.

As we begin 2019 as individuals and as a congregation, let us ask: "How can I serve God and this church as a beacon of hope? How can I be someone who welds the church together, reducing anxiety and stress? How can I step by step be on the side of building a foundation that resists negativity while "building up the body of Christ?"

May these words of Rich Mullins guide us:
"Oh God, You are our God
And we will ever praise You
We will seek You in the morning
And we will learn to walk in Your ways
And step by step You'll lead us
And we will follow You all of our days."

Let us walk forward in 2019, step by step, following God. 🌈

—Pastor Roger H. Black

Madison Lakes:

Challenges Facing These Local & Regional Treasures

January 13 | 10:15am
Borgwardt Hall



Professor Carpenter describes himself as a free-range scientist who studies whole ecosystems. The Yahara River flowage that includes the Madison Lakes has been a primary interest of his for many years. He and others recently completed a project called Yahara 2070. It is an exploration of potential futures for water, ecosystems, and people in Wisconsin's Yahara Watershed. The researchers analyzed large amounts of information to better understand the long-term impacts on our lakes of social and

environmental change. He will engage us in a crucial conversation about the alternative futures for this key resource. This will help us understand how our personal actions and group decisions will determine whether the future conditions will be improving, stable, or degrading.

Steve is the Stephen Alfred Forbes Professor of Integrative Biology at University of Wisconsin-Madison and emeritus Director of its Center for Limnology. Professor Carpenter is accomplished, as a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a recipient of awards for excellence including the Stockholm Water Prize for global contributions to water science.



STEVE CARPENTER
Director of Center for
Limnology UW-Madison

Welcome to Pam Shellberg and Cindy Terhune Melrose



We welcome Pam Shellberg our new full-time Director of Lifelong Faith Formation to our Bethel staff. She will oversee things as they relate to the Lifelong Learning Ministry and Nurturing Ministry and to direct and manage all Christian Education ministries of Bethel. She will supervise Cindy Terhune Melrose, Coordinator of Sunday School and Family Ministries, and Henry Elling, Coordinator of Middle and High School Youth Ministry. Pam's primary responsibilities are to develop and lead ministries to, with, and by children, youth and adults and to nurture Christian faith and discipleship in visible and fruitful ways.



We welcome Cindy Terhune Melrose our new part-time Coordinator of Sunday School and Family Ministry to our Bethel Staff. Cindy will oversee a variety of engaging groups such as Bethel Jr!, Sunday School JAM, Vacation Bible Camp and Sunday School.

Please give them a warm Bethel welcome the next time you see them! 🌈

Thank You to Bethel's Household/ Estate Sales Group

We are so very appreciative of the active, all volunteer group of dedicated helpers who work all year long organizing, selling and cleaning up after household sales in the greater Madison area. The proceeds from all of this hard, time consuming labor results in a great year end gift distributed by this group among varied Bethel related missions and ministries. At year end 2018, they gave away \$18,000 to – Bethel Horizons, including Adamah; Puerto Rico mission partner project expenses; Resettlement ministry/Bhutanese worship; God's Work Our Hands community day at Bethel; Campus Ministry partnership; Homeless Support Services at Bethel. When you see any of these three dozen+ volunteers, please extend your gratefulness as well. This was their 13th year of independent work, since the Parish Shoppe ended its long successful run at the end of 2005. 🌈

–Alice Mowbray

The gift of a WELCOME BAG! Thanks to the Community Ministry Team, we now offer a 'WELCOME BAG' as a gift to those who are worshipping with us for the first time. These bags are available following each worship service. At our 5pm, Sat worship and at our 11:15am, Sun worship, these Welcome Bags are available in the Pentecost Room. First time worshipers at 7:45am and 9am on Sun, are invited to pick up their Welcome Bag at the reception Desk. Thanks for worshipping with us and 'WELCOME'!

Prayer-Partners for you after the 9am Sunday worship on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. Members of our Stephen Ministry Team are available to pray with you or simply have a conversation. Look for the blue PRAYER PARTNER name tags in the Emmaus Room after worship.

Bethel's "The Holy Family" Advent Art Show is on display now-Jan 11 in both of Bethel's Art Galleries: Emmaus Room Hallway Gallery and Fireside Gallery. Numerous Advent-themed fine art originals and prints from the Bethel Fine Art Collection pictorially tell the story of The Holy Family.

Men's Current Christian Concerns (Thurs at 7am; Community Rm)
Jan 10 - IGen | **Jan 17** - America's Belief in God
Jan 24 - Optimism in a Pessimistic Age
Jan 31 - Business Ethics in Today's World

Bethel Horizons Events: Breakfast with the Birds - Join naturalist Eric Volden for an entertaining morning of bird watching and bird lore at Bethel Horizons' Nature Center. A hearty breakfast will be served as Eric identifies birds coming to the feeders and relates bird feeding information and stories. Bring binoculars if you have them, and bird feeding stories to share. To register or for more information contact Eric Volden at 608.574.1992. **Cost:** \$10/adult, \$6/child. **Time:** 9-11am
Dates: Jan 12 & 26, Feb 9 & 23; March 9 & 23 and May 4

Men's Friday Book Study (Jan) - For the month of January we will begin a new book, *The Four Doors: A Guide to Joy, Freedom and a Meaningful Life* by best selling author, Richard Paul Evans. The book study meets every Friday at 7am in Room 120 (sanctuary level). This is the most irreverent, non-serious book club you will ever find. Please join us for an hour's worth of fun and lots of delicious coffee.

Christian Men's Fellowship (Jan 22 - a change from the 3rd Tuesday)
History of the Wisconsin State Capitol; Michael Edmunds is a writer and public historian living in Madison. His talk on the Wisconsin State Capitol is the story of the monument that in 2017 turned 100 years old. He'll highlight the colorful personalities associated with it over the past century and tell stories about governors, architects, legislators, protestors, receptionists and activists and how they carried out the experiment of self-government under the dome of this great building. Michael has written a number of publications and will have copies of his book *The Wisconsin Capitol* available. He is a graduate of Harvard and Simmons College and is on the staff of the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Food Pantry Drop in the Barrel - January: Toilet Paper

Community Meal Program (Jan 14) - Bethel volunteers serve the Community Meal at Luke House, 312 Ingersoll Street, once a month. The next serving date is Jan 14. 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.*

Feed & Read (Jan 14) - Have you attended a church service in another country? Come share your experiences as we discuss author Chad Gibbs experiences going to worship services in 13 countries including Brazil, Spain, England, Russia, India, and Israel. Feed and Read meets early in January – on January 14. We will get together at Noon to have lunch and talk about Jesus without Borders by Chad Gibbs. Bring your sack lunch or a dish to share.

Budget Review Session (Jan 20) - The Financial Resources Team invites you to attend a budget review session on Sunday, Jan 20, at 10:15am in Good Shepherd Chapel. The budget review session will be your opportunity to review the proposed budget and ask questions. The 2019 proposed budget will be voted on at the Jan 27 annual meeting. We look forward to seeing you.

Annual Meeting (Jan 27) - The Annual Meeting will be held on January 27, the fourth Sunday of January per our constitution. The time will be immediately after the 9am service in the sanctuary.

Steensland Board Needs You - Looking for a way to share your gifts of communication or social media or sales for an apartment rental ministry? Do you like working with students to help them live up to their full potential and build community while volunteering their time? Steensland Board needs you! Please contact Michelle Jolly at mtesnow@yahoo.com or 608.213.7727. Learn more about the ministry at: www.steenslandhouse.org

Steensland House for Rent Starting Aug 16 - The historic Steensland House Apartments has an apartment for rent for 2019-2020 (Available Aug 16, 2019). It is located at 15 W. Gorham St, Madison WI. This 4 bed/1 bath, 1,274 sq/ft apartment includes classic design elements, beautiful crown molding, built in storage, and new appliances. A comfortable living room is perfect for relaxing or entertaining friends. Central AC, heat, internet, water, trash, electricity, and in-unit washer/dryer are included. Rent is \$2,920/month (security deposit is \$2,920). Community service hours are also needed (16 hrs/month). It is close to downtown with everything it offers. We have a parking lot that you may be able to park in for \$240/month (optional). Bike and basement storage is also available.

Reception Desk Help - We are looking for a couple volunteers available weekdays to substitute at the Reception Desk. We would train volunteers on the phone system and daily tasks. If you would like to be one of the friendly faces to welcome folks to Bethel on an occasional basis we would appreciate your time and talents. Contact recep@bethel-madison.org.

The Food Pantry is looking for plastic and cloth grocery bags. Please drop off on the table across from the Food Pantry on the lower level.



BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Erik Kneuve, Executive Dir of Bethel Horizons - Jan 12 at 5pm - Pentecost
Erik Kneuve, Executive Dir of Bethel Horizons - Jan 13 at 9am - Sanctuary
Erik Kneuve, Executive Dir of Bethel Horizons - Jan 13 at 11:15am - Pentecost

2 EPIPHANY

Pastor John O. Swanson - Jan 19 at 5pm - Pentecost
Pastor John O. Swanson - Jan 20 at 7:45am & 9am - Sanctuary
Pastor John O. Swanson - Jan 20 at 11:15am - Pentecost

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

7:45a Worship Service (Sanctuary)
8:00a Coffee Fellowship (Emmaus & Fireside)
Bethel Choir Rehearsal (Choir)
8:30a Childcare provided 8:30am-12:30pm (Nursery)
Library Open (Library)
XYZ Table Sales (Emmaus)
9:00a Worship Service (Sanctuary)
9:30a Children's Ministry: Sunday School, Choir and Kids Fellowship
10:15a Caring for Creation (Borgwardt Hall)
Adult Bible Study (Rm 120)
11:00a Minecraft for Kids (Rm 216)
11:15a Worship Service (Pentecost)
6:00p Middle School Confirmation (Emmaus)
6:30p Youth Group (Pentecost)

MONDAY, JANUARY 14

9:30a Community Meals (Kitchen)
12:00p Food Pantry Open 12-3pm (M-F) (Lower Level)
BLCEF Investment Committee Mtg (Rm 200)
Feed & Read (Rm 120)
1:30p Seekers Circle (Rm 120)
7:00p Bethel Book Women (Rm 120)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15

8:30a Homeless Support Services (T&TH) (Pentecost)
9:00a Library Open (Library)
1:30p Human Resources Team (Rm 120)
5:30p Women's Choir (Choir)
Horizons Board Meeting (Rm 105)
6:15p Rebuilding at Bethel (Library, Rm 100 & 120)
6:30p Creative Worship Singers (Choir)
Joint Council (Community)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16

9:30a Abigail Circle (Community)
6:00p Bell Choir (Rm 202)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17

7:00a Current Christian Concerns (Community)
8:00a Second Harvest Delivery
6:30p Stephen Ministry (Rm 201)
7:00p Bethel Choir (Choir)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18

7:00a Men's Friday Book Study (Rm 120)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

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

GETTING READY FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Preschool: First Look

Jan Basic Truth: I need Jesus.
Memory Verse: You are everything I need. (Psalm 119:57)

Jan 13 Bible Story: Healing the Deaf Man. Mark 7:32-37

Jan 20 Bible Story: Healing the Blind Man. John 9:1-12

K-Grade 5: 252 Kids

Jan Life App: SELF-CONTROL—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to.

Memory Verse: God's power has given us everything we need to lead a Godly life.
(2 Peter 1:3a)

Jan 13 Bible Story: Slow to Anger. (Proverbs 16:32)

Bottom Line: Think before you lose your temper.

Jan 20 Bible Story: Choose Your Words Carefully. (Proverbs 12:18)

Bottom Line: Choose your words carefully.