

Bethelite

A publication of Bethel Lutheran Church distributed twice monthly.



bethelmadison.org/bethelite

I am writing this the morning after the last session of the Lenten Bible study, a study in which we explored the story of how the resurrected Christ appeared to the apostle Paul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-19). It was a good story for Lent, especially as we make our own ways on life's roads, and as we ourselves anticipate seeing the resurrected Christ.

Paul's story is a stellar example of the mysterious ways of God's grace. The fact that you and I, in this very moment, believe we are Christians connected to each other in the body of Christ, is testimony itself to how God drew abundant life out of Paul's experience of brokenness. However, it is also the case that God's grace worked to break Paul in his wholeness – breaking Paul of the certainty he had of his place in Jewish society, of the confidence he had in his status as a “Hebrew born of Hebrews” and as a well-trained Pharisee, and of the zeal with which he defended the traditions of his ancestors.

Our own Lenten journey – as we have accompanied Jesus and Paul – has been a time to explore the spirituality of brokenness. With Paul, we have learned that it can indeed be grace that works to break us in our self-confidence, defenses, and calcified identities, so that the light and love of the spirit of God shines in us with more glory.

Paul has left us two really powerful pieces of writing that illuminate how he came to understand this grace and its power for creating a spirit-led life. In his first letter to the Corinthians he wrote: “For I decided to know nothing among you

except Jesus Christ, and him crucified” (1 Cor 2:2). This is rather astonishing, don't you think, coming from a person who actually met the resurrected Christ? Astonishing that he is, instead, choosing to know nothing among the people except Christ and Christ crucified?

What did Paul “know” in Christ crucified? In his letter to the Philippians, and through a passage we know as the “Christ hymn,” Paul offers the distillation of what he believed God was doing through Christ – through the crucifixion as well as through the resurrection. Paul encourages the Philippians to imitate Christ and to “have the mind of Christ” (Phil 2:1-11).

By way of this early Christian hymn, Paul determines that what it means to have the mind of Christ is to empty one's self, just as Christ “emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in human likeness.” And what is this emptying but Jesus' voluntary relinquishment of all claims to the status, power, and privilege he legitimately had the right to claim because he was equal with God. In the midst of the torture of the crucifixion, through the humiliation, the pain, and abandonment he must have felt, and right up to the moment of his last breath, Jesus – who had equality with God – could have played the “equality with God card” and saved himself, could have demonstrated his equality in some epic display of power and glory. But he didn't do that. Instead, he emptied himself of that claim, he relinquished the power, he surrendered in obedience all the way unto his death. And then God resurrected and exalted him and established him as Lord.

In asking his people to have the mind of Christ, Paul encourages this same disposition of emptying and relinquishing. And he shows them what the surrender of a claim to power and privilege might look like in their lives by offering his own life as an example. After listing his reasons for confidence in the flesh, all the claims he could legitimately make to status in the world of first-century Judaism, Paul writes this:

“Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him.”

Paul is imitating Christ, and he asks the Philippians to imitate him; and now we must consider how we are being asked to imitate Christ and to imitate Paul. In these days of Holy Week as we follow Jesus to the cross – observing especially the crucifixion on Good Friday and the days of the Triduum when Jesus lies dead in the tomb – what will it mean for us, like Paul, to know only Christ and him crucified? How should we, as a community and as a congregation, think about our own emptying? How might we practice our own relinquishment of the claims to power, status, and privilege that close us off to the Spirit? The glory of the resurrection promise beckons – may we be found in Christ! 🌈

—Pam Shellberg
Director of Lifelong Faith Formation

"Art of The Word" Art Shows

**Emmaus Room Hallway Gallery
and Fireside Gallery
April 28 - June 30**

Fine Art images with Biblically themed text will be on display in the Emmaus Room Hallway Gallery. Local artists creating art for this show are Rhonda Nass, Linda Hancock, Nancy Cox, Julie San Felipe, and Bethel's Paul Briskey and Dana Lund Rice. Meet the Artists Reception: Sunday, May 5, 10-11:30am.

The Fireside Gallery will display similarly themed art pieces from Bethel's Fine Art Collection inclusive of five prints created by Vonda Drees in response to events at the 2017 Tenth Triennial Gathering for the Women of the ELCA. 🌈

*—Dana Lund Rice
Fine Arts Committee*

A Thank You from the Food Pantry

Thank you for all your donations to the Food Pantry! We are able to help more families this year, thanks to your generosity. Although we ask for specific items for our "Drop in the Barrel" each month, please know that all donations, especially of personal care items, are welcome at any time! For example, if you see a sale on deodorant, but the monthly "Drop in the Barrel" item is shampoo, don't worry, we can use it!

One item we can't use now is egg cartons. Second Harvest has an overabundance of them, so they are not collecting them from us. We are always in need of bags, however. Paper and plastic bags can be left on the table in the hall across from the pantry. Cloth bags can be placed by the pantry window or in the barrel by the receptionist's window. Again, thank you for supporting this outreach mission! 🌈

*—Cheryl Frazier
Food Pantry Volunteer Leader*

Lifelong Learning Ministry Team Update

"But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Luke 18:16

Kudos to the Lifelong Faith Formation Staff

The Lifelong Learning Ministry Team is feeling so blessed to have our staff positions filled with such energetic, creative, and inspirational leaders. **Pam Shellberg**, Director of Lifelong Faith Formation; **Cindy Melrose**, Coordinator of Children's Ministry; and **Henry Elling**, Coordinator of Youth Ministry are delving into their ministry areas with zest and using their own special gifts. For example, Pam's Lenten Bible Study on Paul, Cindy's input for Bethel Jr!, and Henry's leadership with the confirmation youth to volunteer as servers at a meal at the Grace Episcopal Food Shelter illustrate how they are leading us to develop our faith.

Recent Team Activities

1. Pam's sermon in mid-Feb which was augmented by the co-facilitators, David Myhre and Betty Pohlman speaking about lifelong faith formation.
2. Cooperating with the Bethel kitchen staff to help with the Lenten luncheon and supper on Mar 13.
3. Cooperating with the other ministry teams to have a display at the Ministry Council Fair on Mar 31. Perhaps the highlight was the two Sunday School children wearing "Ask me about Sunday School" signs and hearing them proudly explaining several activities to congregants.

Caring for Social Justice

The group organized a Saturday workshop in March entitled, **"Empowering People to Break the Bias Habit: Creating Inclusion and Reducing Bias"**. It was about realizing our individual unintentional attitudes of bias. *Dr. Patricia Devine and William Cox, two UW-Madison social psychologists*, led the free workshop. In addition, **"Just Imprisonment: "Community Supervision"** was an adult forum presented by *Cecelia M. Klingele, JD, Associate Professor, UW School of Law* on Mar 10.

Lifelong Learning Team Members: Cathy Buege, Dave Myhre, Wilda Nilsestuen, Kym Davick, Kay Wickland, Pam Shellberg, and Betty Pohlman.

Dates of Coming Opportunities:

5/12 **"Behind the Curtain: The Ins and Outs of Incarceration in Wisconsin" Adult Forum**

Karen Reece, PhD, Vice President, Research & Education at the Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership, will be presenting.

5/19 **Milestone Sunday** when the second graders will receive first communion, fifth graders will be moving on to confirmation, and graduating seniors will be honored.

Fall 2019 **Bethel Bible Series** is planning an intensive study on Saturdays. 🌈

*—Betty Pohlman
Co-facilitator*

Part-time Help Needed at Horizons - As the grass begins to green at Bethel Horizons, more and more groups are coming to enjoy the beauty that camp offers. If you or someone you know is interested in helping with cooking or housekeeping at Horizons, please contact Eric Knueve at 608.257.3577 or ericknueve@bethelhorizons.org.

Men's Current Christian Concerns (7am; Community Room)
Apr 18 - Life's Matters | **Apr 25** - May A.I. Help You?

XYZ Activities: Apr 19: Good Friday - Not Meeting. Apr 26: Chapel (9:30am) - Pastor Margo; (10:30am) Article - Bold Café – I Loved You Before Your Instagram Was Pretty or QiGong or Euchre; **Lunch (11:45am)** *Breaded Fish, French Fries, Cole Slaw, Dessert*; **Program (after lunch)** - Mission Friday: Packing laundry detergent for Bethel's Food Pantry & addressing cards. **May 3: Chapel (9:30am)** - Eric Knueve, Director of Horizons; (10:30am) Book Discussion - Looking for Alaska by John Green Miles or QiGong or Euchre; **Lunch (11:45am)** Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Tossed Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert; **Program (after lunch)** - Birthday celebration with bingo and games and prizes.

Victory Choir (Apr 23; 10:30am; Waunakee Manor) - The mission of the Victory Choir is to sing to shut-ins primarily at Nursing Homes once a month and to take a word of encouragement. On the fourth Tuesday of each month at 10:30am, the Victory Choir, consisting of about 25 singers, gathers at a designated Nursing Home in the area to sing a two-part program consisting of old favorite hymns followed by "songs you didn't learn in church," or as the members call them, the "fun" songs. In a wonderfully unique way they touch the memories and the emotions of the residents. If interested in participating contact Connie Dreger at cdreger@madisoncollege.edu or 608.221.1754.

Blanket Workshop (Apr 25) - Consider joining us at Blanket Workshop! Anyone is welcome to drop in between the hours of 9am-2pm to help tie pre-assembled quilts for Lutheran World Relief. No sewing skills are required! If you can tie a knot you are qualified! We meet in Borgwardt Hall. Join us for this wonderful time of fellowship and mission work as we create quilts that benefit those in need around the world.

Blanket Workshop Donations Sought - Bethel's Blanket Workshop meets monthly at Bethel to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Currently we are in need of materials that serve as the middle layer of our quilts which provide warmth to the quilts. We are looking for donations of the following materials that can be used as a middle layer: blankets, mattress pads, electric blankets, draperies and flannel sheets. Donations may be dropped off at the Reception Desk with a note indicating the donation is for the Blanket Workshop. Your continued support of Bethel's Blanket Workshop has supported the construction of 9,154 quilts to date. Thank you for your support of the Blanket Workshop! Contact: Patty at buckygrad2@charter.net.

Bethel Horizons Events: Breakfast with the Birds (May 4) - 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 info contact Eric Volden at 608.574.1992. **Cost:** \$10/adult, \$6/child. **Time:** 9-11am

Christian Men's Fellowship (May 7; 10:30am; Borgwardt Hall) - Football Officiating 101: Getting into the Game!"; Jon Callaway returns to the Fellowship to talk about his other "life" as an athletic official. Jon has spent the past 22 seasons officiating football at various levels ranging from youth to high school to college to semi-pro. His presentation includes a behind-the-scenes look at what's involved with training to become an official and what a day in the life of an official is like. This lively and interactive presentation will have you looking at the zebras in a whole new light! Jon was a litigation attorney practicing primarily criminal defense in Madison. Jon is a Local Relations Consultant and has been with the American Transmission Co. since 2008. He has a J.D. from Drake Univ. and B.A. in political science from UW.

Friendship Club (May 10) - Davis Beck & Cody Kleinsmith: "The King of Rock'n Roll. What could be better than a delicious chicken dinner and an evening with the king? Well, we have them both at the friendship club dinner on Fri, May 10. Enjoy a great meal and Elvis music. Please make reservations with Judi Griffin (608.222.9290) before Noon, Tues, May 7. Costs are \$12/members and \$15/guests.

Community Meal Program (May 13) - Bethel volunteers serve the Community Meal at Luke House, 310 Ingersoll Street, once a month. The next serving date is May 13. 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 and Read (May 20) - At only five years old, Saroo Brierley got lost on a train in India. He survived alone for weeks on the streets of Calcutta before ultimately being adopted by a couple in Australia. Saroo tells his story in *A Long Way Home*, a bestseller that was made into the movie *Lion*. Join us to discuss his story on May 20 starting at noon. Bring a bag lunch or a dish to share.

Join XYZ to see Menopause the Musical in Ft Atkinson (May 23) Come Join Our Sisterhood! Four women at a lingerie sale have nothing in common but a black lace bra and memory loss, hot flashes, night sweats, and more! This hilarious musical parody set to classic tunes from the 60's, 70's, and 80's will have you cheering and dancing in the aisles! See what audiences worldwide have been laughing about for over 16 years! Men in the audience can relate and understand this time in the lives of their wives, sisters or mothers. Winner of multiple awards around the world, *Menopause The Musical* is a theatrical experience not to be missed! **Menu:** Chicken Monterey served with Yukon Gold Potato Wedges, Fresh Julienne Vegetables, Broccoli and Cauliflower Salad, Freshly Baked Breads, and Dessert: Pecan Turtle Ball Sundae; **Cost:** \$70 for XYZ members; \$75 for non-members; **Includes:** meal, show, Badger Coach, tax, and tips; Please reserve with payment to Deacon Lisa or bring to XYZ. **Deadline to sign-up is April 19.**



BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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PAID

MADISON, WI
PERMIT 602

1 EASTER

Pastor John O. Swanson - Apr 20 at 6:30pm - Sanctuary
Pastor Margo R. Martens - Apr 21 at 7am - Sanctuary
Pastor John O. Swanson - Apr 21 at 9am - Sanctuary
Pastor John O. Swanson - Apr 21 at 11am - Sanctuary

2 EASTER

Pastor Margo R. Martens - Apr 27 at 5pm - Sanctuary
Pastor Margo R. Martens - Apr 28 at 7:45am & 9am - Sanctuary
Pastor Margo R. Martens - Apr 28 at 11:15am - Sanctuary

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

7:00a Easter 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)
9:00a Easter Worship Service (Sanctuary)
9:30a Children's Ministry: Sunday School, Choir and Kids Fellowship
10:15a Adult Bible Study (Rm 120)
Prayer Partners (Rm 100)
11:00a Easter Worship Service (Sanctuary)
6:30p Youth Group (Fireside)

MONDAY, APRIL 22 - BUILDING CLOSED

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

8:30a Homeless Support Services (T&TH) (Pentecost)
9:00a Library Open (Library)
10:30a Victory Choir (Waunakee Manor)
11:30a Bethel Endowment Foundation Annual Meeting (Borgwardt Hall)
1:30p Human Resources Team (Rm 120)
5:30p Women's Choir (Choir)
6:15p Rebuilding at Bethel (Library, Rm 100 & 120)
6:30p Creative Worship Singers (Choir)
7:00p Hope House (Rm 201)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

6:00p Bell Choir (Rm 202)

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

7:00a Current Christian Concerns (Community)
8:00a Second Harvest Delivery
9:00a Blanket Workshop (Borgwardt Hall)
12:30p University Hills Farm Circle (Borgwardt Hall)
7:00p Bethel Choir (Choir)

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

7:00a Men's Friday Book Study (Rm 120)
9:00a XYZ Activities
6:00p Easter at Horizons

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

All-day Easter at Horizons
9:30a Food Pantry Open 9:30-11:30am (Lower Level)
5:00p Saturday Evening Worship Service (Sanctuary)
Bhutanese Worship in Nepali (GS Chapel)

GETTING READY FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Preschool: First Look

May Basic Truth: God Made me.

Memory Verse: We have the Lord our God to help us. 2 Chronicles 32:8

May 5 Bible Story: Solomon leads the people to build a temple for God.
1 Kings 5-6

May 12 Bible Story: Joshua becomes the new leader of God's people after Moses dies. Joshua 1:1-9

K-Grade 5: 252 Kids

May Life App: PERSEVERANCE—Refusing to give up when life gets hard
Memory Verse: But those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak. Isaiah 40:31

May 5 Bible Story: Great Commission and Spread of the Gospel.
Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1-2

Bottom Line: Keep going because God is with you.

May 12 Bible Story: Paul and Silas in Prison. Acts 16:16-40
Bottom Line: You can choose joy when life gets hard.



Hearing Loop available in all our worship spaces.