



Bethelite

A publication of Bethel Lutheran Church distributed twice monthly.



bethelmadison.org/bethelite

Some spring cleaning has begun in the Sunday School spaces lately. Cabinets and closets are being cleared of old craft supplies, dated curricular materials, and well, stuff. I stand, a bit paralyzed, before the projects, reminded of every time I have had to relocate. Moving is similarly an occasion to sort and cull, to re-organize, to excavate the layers of life's debris and detritus that accumulate over the years. I, myself, dread the decision-making, dread the tension in desperately not wanting to pack something up for one more move, but also not having the heart to leave it behind.

These are important moments, though. They are the in-between space we heard Pr. Mike preach about two Sundays ago in his "three steps forward" sermon. Between the "step of leaving" and the "step into the future" is the step into this ambiguous space. Between saying, "This really meant a lot to me, this is an heirloom, my grandmother gave me this," and saying, "let's lighten the load and make a clean slate" – are the important discernments made only at the threshold.

We are at the threshold with cleaning projects here, but also, I think, in our life as a congregation. Here and now we feel the weight of our decisions – the risk of the loss of important aspects of our identity and purpose, but also the risk of not leaning boldly into the promise of a sure but unknown future.

The last time I moved, I actually followed the advice from Marie Kondo's bestseller, *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up* – well, at least the one step she considers most important: I held each item I owned in my hands, looked at it, and asked if it was something that "sparked joy." The principle is simple, shifting the focus away from the chore of getting rid of stuff to

figuring out what to keep, **and knowing why**. The notion of testing for joy opens a new way through fear, uncertainty, sentimentality, and habit.

A few years ago, the third movie in the Toy Story series was released. While pitched as a kids' movie, it is quite a good study in change, and a strong witness to the promise of the sparking-joy principle.

The movie begins with seventeen-year-old man-child Andy getting ready to head off to college, while Sheriff Woody and the rest of Andy's childhood toys are preparing for their relocation to the attic.

In the chaos that always attends transitions, Woody gets separated from his friends and is found by a new child named Bonnie—a toddler with a vivid imagination and rich interior life. For the first time in years, Woody is played with as the toy he was designed to be – but not in the ways he was accustomed to, and not with the old toys that have been his family. You can see the confusion and surprise on his little toy face when he experiences unexpected moments of joy in an unexpected place, and with an unexpected new little person.

Meanwhile, Andy's mom wants Andy to make decisions about what he's going to take to school, what's going to the curb, what he might donate, and what's going to be stored in the attic. In a moment of exasperation with his mom's nagging, Andy says he's not going to get his old toys ready for donation, that no kid today would want them, that they were just junk. (All the toys are cut to the quick.) So, at the end of the movie, Andy's old toys, all except for Sheriff Woody, are in the box labeled "attic."

Woody is tucked away in the "college" box, where he sees that Andy has packed

a photograph of himself as a small boy, sitting on the floor surrounded by all his other favorite toys and holding Sheriff Woody in hand. Woody realizes that while Andy has outgrown playing with the toys, the memory of them still sparks joy. Woody slips out of the "college" box, grabs a magic marker, and scribbles some words on a Post-it note that he sticks to the "attic" box.

It's a bit mysterious, but it leads Andy to bring his old toys to the house of his mother's friend, who just happens to be the mother of the very imaginative little Bonnie. Andy introduces Bonnie to each of the toys in the box one by one, telling her each toy's name and describing its special traits and disposition. Then he and Bonnie play together for a long while before he leaves the toys with her and drives off down the street.

And Woody? Well, he decides to slip out of the college box and take his place in a new life with young Bonnie, with new toys, in new playtime scenarios that only Bonnie could imagine—in a new life that he knew would spark joy, for him and for her.

At this threshold, it is good to for us to discern the difference between what in our life together sparks joy and the memory of what has given joy; good to reflect on why we are saving the things we hold onto; good to imagine ourselves as Woody and Andy; and most importantly, good to be honest about how we are relating to the Bonnie's who come into our midst.

Jesus has promised us that if we abide in him, then his joy will be in us, and our joy will be complete (John 15). May it be so! 🌈

—Pam Shellberg
Director of Lifelong Faith Formation



Do you ever wish life could be as new as a sunny spring morning? Or that you could start fresh as with a new day dawning? Well, you can! Here at **Bethel Lutheran Church** we have seen that when life breaks down, God breaks in with a new future for you filled with wonder and joy. Won't you join us in June and July as we find our way together with the series **New Day Dawning: Living with Hope when Life Changes.**

Pastor Mike Brown
Lead Pastor

New Sermon Series

July 6/7: When You're in the Middle of Nowhere
July 13/14: Finding the Dawn of Your New Day 🌈

New Website Launched July 1



We are proud to announce, after many months of hard work, the launch of our newly redesigned website. The launch date will be July 1! The new site features a streamlined, modern design, improved functionality, and easy access to essential information to help members and visitors enjoy their experience on our site. Bethel's new website will be updated on a regular basis with upcoming events, new images and other exciting news and information! Visitors are encouraged to explore the website and send any feedback to christal@bethel-madison.org.

REGISTRATION OPEN!
Vacation Bible Camp



Encourage your beloved children to be God's agents of change! Parents, godparents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, mentors, caregivers and friends - explore with your kids how forgiveness, inclusion, justice, generosity, and compassion are at the heart of the transformed Christian community. There will be stories, songs, crafts, adventures, swimming, and fun at the beach!

REGISTER ONLINE: www.bethel-madison.org/VBC 🌈



with Pastor Mike

Thursday July 25, 5:30-6:30pm dinner at Bethel for everyone, parents and Pastor Mike walk over to Monona Terrace for 7pm "Concert on the Rooftop," while kids have an indoor "drive-in movie" night! More details to come! 🌈



SAVE THE DATE: Women's Retreat (Oct 4-6) - "A Joy to Behold"
Come on Friday and stay for the weekend, or just come for the day on Saturday. Art Ventures Retreat Center at Bethel Horizons. Registration will open on August 30

XYZ Activities: July 5: NO XYZ - 4th of July Weekend. July 12: Chapel (9:30am) - Jeff Quinto; Book Discussion (10:30am) The ABC Murders by Agatha Christie, QiGong or Euchre; **Lunch (11:45am)** - Pizza, Dessert; **Program (after lunch)** - Movie - Sea Biscuit.

Community Meal Program (July 8) - Bethel volunteers serve the Community Meal at Luke House, 310 Ingersoll Street, once a month. The next serving date is July 8. 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 at 608.274.6745 or janetjohnson44@mac.com.

8th Annual Blood Drive in Honor of Chas Bertun (July 11; 12-5pm; Borgwardt Hall) Donate blood in honor of Lance Corporal Charles Bertun. Charles "Chas" Bertun was a life-long member of Bethel Lutheran Church, serving many years as a food pantry volunteer and camp counselor at Bethel Horizons. Also a dedicated blood donor, Chas is loved and missed by many. To honor and celebrate his life, please come and donate blood. Non-perishable food items and/or cash donations will be accepted for the Bethel Foodbank. We have 60 spots to fill and you can sign-up online for an appointment, so no waiting in line! Go to redcrossblood.org, then the 'Donate Blood' tab at the top of the page, next click 'Schedule an Appointment' option, and enter sponsor code: BethelChasBertun to sign-up online. If interested in volunteering at the blood drive please contact Dale at holmendd13@att.net with available times between 12-5pm. Thanks in advance.

Feed and Read (July 15) - Feed & Read meets at noon on July 15 to discuss *The Family Next Door* by Sally Hepworth. This novel is a modern mystery with family drama and neighborhood stories. Issues include marriage, family secrets, parenting, mental illness, and forgiveness. We will eat lunch while we talk, so bring a dish to share or a sack lunch.

Blanket Workshop (July 18) - 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.

Drop-In Summer Choir (July 21 & 28) - This summer at Bethel Lutheran, ALL ARE WELCOME to join together in song for "Drop-In Summer Choir"! Grab a cup of coffee and some friends and family, and we'll make music for the 9am Worship Service!

The Important Details:

- Sunday, July 21: "Dona Nobis Pacem"
- Sunday, July 28 "Down to the River to Pray"

Rehearsals: 8:15am on each Sunday in the Choir Room (located in Bethel's lower level); **Worship:** 9am - we sing from the balcony during the Offertory (after the sermon and prayers); For more info contact Amy Hartsough at amyh@bethel-madison.org.

Victory Choir (July 23; 10:30am; Oakwood East) - 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.



"Drop in the Barrel"
for the Bethel Food Pantry
July: Deodorant

Steensland House Needs a Couple Roommates for Fall - This wonderful community of service oriented people are looking for a couple more roommates. The 1st floor and 3rd floor have a couple returning tenants who need another roommate to join their lease for these three bedroom units. Both are very unique spaces with historic features. The house was fully remodeled and restored three years ago and brought up to contemporary uses inside with central air and new appliances and w/d in unit. All utilities included. There is a community service hours requirement of 16hrs per month to receive the discounted rent. You don't need to be a Bethel member to live there. Please contact Michelle (mtesnow@yahoo.com) if you or any student or young at heart person is looking for a place to live this fall.

Special Horizons 50th Anniversary Website - Bethel Horizons' Board of Directors is making plans to mark the 50th Anniversary of Horizons' founding.

- **Aug 30-Sept 2 Weekend** - Plans are underway for a special staff reunion.
- **Oct 19** - Gala to be held in Madison.

Learn more about Horizons 50-year journey and the events planned for 2019, check out www.bethelhorizons.org/50th-anniversary



Happy 90th Birthday, Helen George, on July 4! We are blessed mom & grandma. Love, Patti, Bob and Paul



BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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4 PENTECOST

Pastor Mike Brown - July 6 at 5pm - Pentecost
Pastor Mike Brown - July 7 at 7:45 & 9am - Sanctuary
Pastor Mike Brown - July 7 at 11:15am - Sanctuary

5 PENTECOST

Pastor Mike Brown - July 13 at 5pm - Pentecost
Pastor Mike Brown - July 14 at 7:45am & 9am - Sanctuary
Pastor Mike Brown - July 14 at 11:15am - Sanctuary

SUNDAY, JULY 7

7:45a Worship Service (Sanctuary)
8:00a Coffee Fellowship (Emmaus & Fireside)
8:30a Childcare provided 8:30am-12pm (Nursery)
Library Open (Library)
9:00a Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:45a Worship Service (Sanctuary)

MONDAY, JULY 8

12:00p Food Pantry Open 12-3pm (M-F) (Lower Level)
1:30p Seekers Circle (Rm 120)
5:00p Lifelong Learning Team (Rm 120)
6:00p Executive Board (Rm 201)

TUESDAY, JULY 9

8:30a Homeless Support Services (T&TH) (Pentecost)
9:00a Library Open (Library)
10:30a Steensland House Board Meeting (Rm 120)
1:00p Homeless Ministry Board Meeting (Fireside)
5:15p Rebuilding at Bethel (Library, Rm 100 & 120)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10

6:00p Compassion Circle (Library)

THURSDAY, JULY 11

7:00a Current Christian Concerns (Community)
8:00a Second Harvest Delivery
12:00p 8th Annual Blood Drive in Honor of Chas Bertun
(Borgwardt Hall)
Blessings Circle (Rm 120)
7:00p Renew Circle (Rm 100)

FRIDAY, JULY 12

9:00a XYZ Activities

SATURDAY, JULY 13

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

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor Mike Brown - Lead Pastor
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Pastor Roger Black - Visitation Pastor, Interim
roger@bethel-madison.org

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

Pastor John O. Swanson - Director of Congregational Life
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Pastor Jerry Tews - Interim Support Pastor
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