

Bethelite

A publication of Bethel Lutheran Church distributed twice monthly.



bethelmadison.org/bethelite

Visiting the Wadi Qelt

On our first trip to the Holy Land, my wife and I were part of a tour that was organized for pastors. There were 54 of us and most were Lutheran pastors. Many had been to the Holy Land before.

On the third morning, when the tour guide said that we were going to Wadi Qelt (pronounced “kelt”), all the people who had been there before were pleased. I had never heard of the Wadi Qelt, so I did not know what to think.

As we drove through the wilderness on



the narrow road, I was taken by how desolate it was.

Where could we possibly be going?

After about a 45-minute drive from the main road, the bus stopped. There was a lone Bedouin selling souvenirs by the side of the road, but no one else – no other busses, no other tourists, no buildings, no signs.



The guide led us up the hill by a rocky path to the top of the hill where there was a cross.

Why the cross was there I had not a clue.

Then, I looked to the right and down into the deep valley and saw what all the fuss was about.

It was the Valley of the Shadow of Death. It is a deep valley with nearly vertical walls making it dark at the bottom of the valley for much of the day.



It is on the ancient road between Jericho to Jerusalem. Travelers wanting to go between these two cities walked in groups because robbers waited in caves at the bottom of the valley to rob anyone who dared travel alone on this dangerous road.

When you look at the valley, you cannot help repeating, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me” (Psalm 23:4 AKJV)

As meaningful as this verse is to you and me, imagine how powerful it would be if you heard it and could visualize the actual place.

Seeing the foreboding valley, you can picture Jesus’ parable of the Good Samaritan when he said, “... A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho,

and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead” (Luke 10:30 ESV). The first people hearing this parable would have instantly understood the place where this would have happened, the Valley of the Shadow of Death – Wadi Qelt.

This is why the Holy Land is often called the “Fifth Gospel.” Seeing where the stories in the Bible took place makes the Bible literally come alive. Knowing that the Valley of the Shadow of Death is not just a literary device. It is an actual place making the story far more meaningful.

When I led this year’s group on our Bethel Series Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, I purposely did not tell anyone we were headed to the Valley of the Shadow of Death. I just said that where we were going would be a surprise.

When we arrived at the deserted place and walked up the hill, no one guessed what they were going to see. At the top of the hill, I read the 23rd Psalm and when I was done, I pointed down to the valley – the Valley of the Shadow of Death.

You can join twenty-five fellow Christians on the Bethel Series Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Feb 22 – March 3, 2019. The limited spots on this amazing, Spirit-filled, once-in-a-lifetime trip are filling up. You can find out more at [www.bethel-madison.org/holyland](http://bethel-madison.org/holyland).

–Rev Jeff Quinto

NURTURING MINISTRY TEAM UPDATE

Vision Statement: Building the next generation of believers through nurturing youth and family.

Our vision statement is specifically focused upon nurturing faith in youth and family. The focus of this team is devoted to learning, fellowship and prayer through multiple avenues including social events, educational opportunities and outreach/serving opportunities. Principal function and accountability of the Nurturing Ministry Team is to establish short and long term goals for continuing, Christ centered opportunities for all ages.

We look back at the community that is growing in Bethel. The children and adult choirs joined to sing and share a potluck meal. Gentle Parenting of Madison shared information to begin a discussion around screen time conversations which parents and grandparents attended. The Road Trip to Horizons the Sunday after Easter was a turning point in building faith and community for many of us.

This Ministry team is planning activities that bring all ages together.

Sunday July 15 during the 9am service, there will be activities offered in the library after the children's message. After the service we will gather in the parking lot entrance to head to James Madison Park. Pack a picnic lunch and spend a few hours playing.

A Table for 3 Generations is a new way to build community within Bethel. When you share a meal together something special happens. Three generations will gather around a table to forge new relationships. The "Table" groups will meet in homes. The members can rotate between homes but the group can decide when and where to eat. Look for registration to begin in August with groups created in September. Each "Table for 3 Generations" should dine together once between September and Thanksgiving, again between Thanksgiving and Lent and finally between Easter and July 4. Members of each group will set their own dates and times so as to meet the needs of all the members in that particular group.

If you would like to be part of the planning of a Road Trip to Bethel Horizons on September 15 please contact us.

The Women's retreat planning committee is gathering ideas for a fall symposium here at Bethel. We would welcome your ideas and leadership as we plan activities that support fellowship and prayer. Please contact us.

Facilitator: Kathy Pielage
kmpielage@gmail.com

Team Members: Kris Fansler, Alice Hansen, Scott LaMontagne, Lake Lochen, Cindy Melrose and Sharon Sumner ☺



'The Road Trip to Horizons' Easter Weekend Group

From Badger to Panther



In response to those who have inquired regarding my future, I wish to report here that I will be serving as Interim Senior Pastor at St. John's

Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls, Iowa, beginning August 7. The congregation has average weekly worshipers numbering 350-400. It hosts a very active Day School and has a faculty of teachers and supportive staff who host up to 100 children daily. The congregation has three weekend worship services and more than 20 staff members on the payroll.

The Cedar Falls/Waterloo metro area includes the University of Northern Iowa and a large John Deere manufacturing facility. The large Cedar River flows through the area and supports a beautiful parks and recreation system.

As I prepare for the beginning of this interim pastorate, I invite your prayers as I, in turn, remember Bethel in my prayers as you work toward the conclusion of your current interim period.

Again, my sincere thanks to you all for your faithful partnership in the ministry of God's Gospel at Bethel. ☺

—Pastor Paul N. Svingen

Paul's Address:
Rev. Paul N. Svingen
870 County 46NW
Backus, MN 56435

Painting the Past: Memories of Home, Family & Belonging (Now-Aug 24) - Jan Richardson and Brigitte Boucher, artists from two different generations, working in two different media, share a common desire to explore, understand, and make peace with their own memories and family experiences. This show is the culmination of a project that started when both artists inherited collections of old family photos. Both artists have created paintings inspired by some of the photos they found, interpreting the past through the lens of the present. Interestingly, the photos Jan and Brigitte used come from about the same time (the 60s and 70s), though Jan is a baby boomer, and Brigitte is a millennial. Jan's oil paintings include images of herself and her immediate family, exploring her own life experience and memories. Brigitte's pastel paintings include images of her grandparents, mother, and mother's siblings, exploring events from before she was born. This dichotomy and difference of perspective adds an interesting twist to the show. There will be an open house at Bethel on Aug 24 from 11am-2pm.

Men's Current Christian Concerns

(Every Thurs at 7am in the Community Rm)

July 5 - Just Being Happy | **July 12** - Corporate Mergers: A Menace?

July 19 - Autonomous Cars

July 26 - Politics Revive Protestants - At a Cost

XYZ Activities: July 6: NOT MEETING; July 13: Chapel (9:30am) - Rev. Jeff Quinto; **Book Discussion (10:30am)** - Adventures of Huckleberry Finn; **Lunch (11:45am)** - Build Your Own Chef Salad, and Dessert; **Program (after lunch)** - Birthday celebrations with games and prizes.

July 20: Chapel (9:30am) - Anne Wickland; **Book Discussion (10:30am)** - Adventures of Huckleberry Finn; **Lunch (11:45am)** - Build Your Own Burger, Salad, and Dessert; **Program (after lunch)** - The "Duo of Amy and Charlotte", will entertain you with sacred hymns, show tunes and old time favorite "sing-a-long" songs. **July 27: Chapel (9:30am)** - Mary Brennan; **Book Discussion (10:30am)** - Living Lutheran Article: Ministry of Presence; **Lunch (11:45am)** - Build Your Own Baked Potato, Fruit and Dessert; **Program (after lunch)** - Mission Friday: Addressing "Badger Honor Flight" cards/packing detergent for Bethel's Food Pantry.

7th Annual Blood Drive in Honor of Chas Bertun (July 12; 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.

Bethel Summer Social (July 15) - Let's get together after the 9am service for a chance to visit and play! If weather cooperates we will be heading to James Madison park with our packed lunches (bring your own) and whatever gear you would like to have - hats,

sunscreens, frisbees, balls, swimsuits and towels, chairs, blankets... anything! Hope to see you there!

Blanket Workshop (July 26) - Meets from 9am-2pm in Borgwardt Hall.

Bethel's Summer Choir (July 29 & Aug 19) - Join Amy this summer as part of Bethel's Summer Choir Crazy Fun on Sundays July 29 and Aug 19! We will meet at 8:10am in the Choir Room (below the Sanctuary), and learn one song. We will sing during the offertory at 9am worship, from the balcony. No robes or experience required...just your voice, and a willingness to sing and make friends with others!

Adult Education Forum: ELCA's Draft Social Statement on Women & Justice (Aug 12) - A forum will be held during the educational hour beginning at 10:15am on the ELCA's draft Social Statement on Women and Justice. This latest draft is out for public comment until Sept 30 and the forum will provide an opportunity for members to become familiar with its content. The forum will include a brief overview of the document's five areas and a discussion about the positions put forth in the draft. Additional discussion sessions will be scheduled if there is interest in further studying the draft and in developing a Bethel response. The Women and Justice document has five basic areas, each of which is presented in a basic statement and in a fuller explanation. These areas include (1) Core Convictions, (2) Analysis of Patriarchy and Sexism, (3) Resources for Resisting Patriarchy and Sexism, (4) Response to God's Work: Call to Action and New Commitments in Society, and (5) Response to God's Work: Call to Action and New Commitments Regarding the Church. It would be helpful to have read the statement before the forum. View statement here: <https://tinyurl.com/ycw598ls>

Local Art and Food Immersion! A Road Scholar Trail Program at Adamah Art Studios (Sept 9-13) - For 4 days, immerse yourself in local food and art! Tour cheese factories and the Bothum Vineyard, enjoy tickets to an American player Theater play, group ceramic projects, and cooking pizza in Bethel Horizon's wood oven using local ingredients. Tour Taliesin and engage with interesting guest speakers covering topics of art, honeybees and ecology and hike the beautiful trails of Bethel Horizons. During your stay you will lodge in the new Art Ventures Retreat Center on the art campus and eat most of the meals in our dining hall. You will have access to 570 acres of hiking trails and enjoy wine around an outdoor fire pit. Cost is \$425. To register visit www.adamahartsudio.org. For additional info or questions, contact Jennifer Mally at jennifer@bethelhorizons.org.

**FUND
FACT\$**

It's not about the amount that defines generosity – it's an attitude born of a spirit of abundance, not scarcity. Everyone can give.



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8 PENTECOST

Deacon Lisa R. Huber - July 14 at 5pm - Pentecost
Deacon Lisa R. Huber - July 15 at 7:45am & 9am - Sanctuary
Deacon Lisa R. Huber - July 15 at 11:15am - Pentecost

9 PENTECOST

Pastor Margo R. Martens - July 21 at 5pm - Pentecost
Pastor Margo R. Martens - July 22 at 7:45am & 9am - Sanctuary
Pastor Margo R. Martens - July 22 at 11:15am - Pentecost

SUNDAY, JULY 8

7:45a Worship Service (Sanctuary)
8:30a Childcare provided 8:30am-12pm in the Nursery
 Coffee Fellowship (Emmaus & Fireside)
 Library Open (Library)
 XYZ Table Sales (Emmaus)
9:00a Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15a Chas Bertun Blood Drive Sign-up (Emmaus)
11:15a Worship Service (Pentecost)
2:00p Horizons Bus Departs for Camp (Parking Lot)

MONDAY, JULY 9

12:00p Food Pantry Open 12-3pm (M-F) (Lower Level)

TUESDAY, JULY 10

8:30a Homeless Support Services (T&TH) (Pentecost)
9:00a Library Open (Library)
1:00p Homeless Ministry Board Meeting (Fireside)
2:00p Human Resources Team (Rm 200)
5:15p Women's Coordinating Council (Rm 120)
6:15p Rebuilding at Bethel (Rm 100 & Library)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11

6:00p Compassion Circle

THURSDAY, JULY 12

7:00a Current Christian Concerns (Community)
8:00a Second Harvest Delivery
12:00p Chas Bertun Blood Drive (Borgwardt Hall)
12:30p Steensland Board Meeting (Rm 200)
6:00p Lead Pastor Call Committee Meeting (Rm 120)
7:00p Renew Circle (Rm 100)

FRIDAY, JULY 13 - Church Office Closes at 3:30pm

7:00a Men's Book Study (Rm 120)
8:30a XYZ Activities
1:00p Horizons Bus Arrives from Camp (Parking Lot)
5:00p Bethel Youth Boat Outing

SATURDAY, JULY 14

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

PASTORAL STAFF

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Pastor John O. Swanson
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CELEBRATE JACQUI'S RETIREMENT PICNIC

**July 20 at 5pm
Dream Park in Monona**



Everyone is invited to join a group of Bethel women who are hosting a retirement celebration for Jacqui on Friday, July 20 at 5pm at the Dream Park in Monona off Nichols Rd. and Healy. Taco dinner \$5 over age 12, \$3 for kids with a family maximum of \$15. Bring yourselves and the whole family to honor Jacqui and celebrate her 24 years of ministry. Yard chairs are suggested. Program begins at 6:30pm. All are welcome! Please help spread the word to anyone who had the opportunity to feel Jacqui's warm support and encouragement.