

Bethelite

A publication of Bethel Lutheran Church distributed twice monthly.



bethelmadison.org/bethelite

Being Present



The best dog that I have ever and suspect ever will have the pleasure of owning, died on June 25, 2019. Raven was 14 years old and was experiencing

kidney failure when she was euthanized. Because both of our kids and I were on the Virginia Beach Summer Youth Mission Trip, my wife, Beth, had to deal with the whole end of life journey on her own. While I was able to call in when Beth and the veterinarian were with Raven at the end of her life, I feel bad that I was not actually present.

This past Sunday I preached on the story of Mary, Martha and Jesus (Luke 10:38-42) and I made the point that Jesus was stressing the importance of being present. While Martha's activity and effort were not bad things, Jesus lifted up Mary's eagerness to be present as the better choice.

As I was half a country away on the phone with my wife Beth – both of us crying because our beloved dog was being put down – I appreciated the gift of presence in a way I had not appreciated for some time. I appreciated

it by the absolute lack of true presence I was currently experiencing or providing.

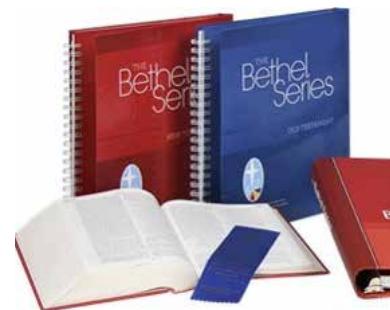
Being present – being truly present – is a special gift we can give others. And as Christians we dare to think that as we gather with others in Jesus' name we are graced with a Holy presence as well.

As we face the joys and the challenges that are a part of being present with others, I hope each of us holds on to the promise that God is indeed with us in this process. As we walk with someone grieving, hold the hand of someone lonely or sit next to a neighbor in a hospital bed, we are doing a holy thing. That is wild and frightening and awesome thing all at once! ☺

—Pastor John O. Swanson



Bethel Series Rally



Bethel Series Rally, Aug 17, 8:30-11:30am in the Community Room at Bethel

Want to learn more about the Bible and strengthen your faith? Come to the Bethel Series Rally at Bethel on Sat, Aug 17, 8:30-11:30am.

Already taken the Bethel Series? Come and hear about all the things God is doing through the Bethel Series around the world and here at home. ☺

—Rev Jeff Quinto
Director, Bethel Series



You Come From Good Stock



You may know someone or be someone who has an interest in family history. Both my mother and father enjoyed knowing where they came from. They liked discovering the characters and figures from their families' histories. They were even interested in knowing their genetic make-up, going so far as to

send blood samples to gene testing labs to get a sense for their historic roots. Dad always said we "came from good stock."

Some of that good stock included an English gentleman, a Highlander Scott, a Black Dutch, a native American Cherokee woman, a preacher, a bootlegger, a horse thief, and a poet. A mixed bag for sure, but good stock nonetheless. Knowing who we are and where we come from can sometimes provide strength for the present and hope for the future. The same can be true of churches.

Churches have their own historical figures who exemplify certain values, strengths, propensities, and characteristics. In a way, churches, have a DNA, an inner code and logic. As I spend more and more time in conversations at Bethel, I am getting a sense for a few things that make Bethel what it is. I'll never have the entire code. None of us will. Only Jesus Christ knows us that well. But I think I have identified at least one marker on the double helix that is Bethel. That marker is innovation.

During my interviews before coming to Bethel, I was told that Bethel was filled with entrepreneur types, people who thought outside the box, people who lived in the realm of possibilities,

people who could see opportunities where others did not. And I would have to say that after only a couple of months of being here as Lead Pastor, I can see what they mean.

Looking into the history of Bethel, we see that clearly in the life of one of the original founders of Bethel Lutheran Church, Halle Steensland (1832-1910). Flat broke, he immigrated to the US from Norway. While he was penniless and poor, he was rich in imagination. He saw opportunities to make things appear that were not there. Through tireless effort and a wild imagination, he founded the Savings Loan and Trust Company as well as the Hekla National Fire Insurance Company. He was a Madison city leader and helped shape the city park system we enjoy today. He even donated the money for the arched stone bridge over Yahara River.

Steensland was a man who built bridges to the future in many ways and was at the heart of the founding of Bethel. He was one of the early fathers of the church. As such, the spirit of innovation courses through our life as a church. It's in our genes. You see this spirit in several throughout the years in groundbreaking innovative developments.

Think, for example, of the Bethel Bible Series. In its time, it was groundbreaking. Even today, it continues to bless people around the world. Think of the TV ministry, which at its beginning was groundbreaking for a church to do this. There are many more examples of adapting to new realities in Bethel's life and ministry. There are countless moments where the propensity to think in terms of opportunities, possibilities, and adaptation to a changing world fill our Bethel family album.

At Bethel, we come from good stock. Certainly you notice that the Steensland family home is still a major feature of our life and ministry. You can't pull into the parking lot without driving by it. As you do, ask yourself: Where will we go next? What new ground will we break now? What major tasks for Jesus will we pour ourselves into? ☀️

—Pastor Mike Brown

Grief Support Group

As a follow-up to the **Walking through Grief** sermon series, the pastoral staff at Bethel is offering Grief Support Groups.

Details known at this time include:

- 4 Session Series; Sept 19 & 26; Oct 3 & 10
- Offered twice each Thursday
1-2:30pm and 5:30-7pm
- Materials will be provided

- Pre-registration is requested
- Maximum size of each group: 10 people

Please contact Pastor Margo (margo@bethel-madison.org or 608.843.3245) to register, or with questions.

Please know that we honor grief experiences of all dimensions, whether this is loss of a loved one, loss of job, change in marital status, or any other grief that is part of your life. ☀️



—Pastor Margo R. Martens

WALKING Through GRIEF



Days of deep joy; days of deep sadness; ordinary days without the extremes of ups and downs. Such is the complexity of life. Most of us tend to talk more easily about our joys than about our times of sadness and loss. Yet, as people of faith, we know that God takes our hand and walks with us through our times of grief as surely as through our joyful times. Join us for a sermon series entitled **Walking Through Grief**, beginning the first weekend in August for five consecutive weekends, as our pastoral staff explores God's ways of holding us close in sadness.

New Sermon Series

- Aug 10/11:** Walking Through National Grief
- Aug 17/18:** Walking Through Community Grief
- Aug 24/25:** Walking Through Familial Grief
- Aug 30/Sept 1:** Walking Through Personal Grief

Lead by

Pastoral Staff



Humans of Bethel

Seekers Circle members purchase backpacks and fill them with basic school supplies. Backpacks are given to families with elementary school age children who come to the Bethel Food Pantry. They will distribute the back packs starting Aug 13 and will continue until their supplies are gone, usually about 2 weeks. ☀️

From Hunger to Hope

Bethel Puts Food on Empty Plates



One in six people living in Wisconsin are hungry. But because of you and your generosity, hundreds of people in our community have food on their plates. You have helped turn their hunger into hope. During the month

of June alone, Bethel's Food Pantry served a total of 263 households. That includes 717 individuals with 416 adults, 38 seniors, and 263 children. Thank you for your support, prayers, service, and contributions.

As a church, Bethel gets behind this Jesus-blessed work in several ways. First, Bethel dedicates the physical space, utilities, and service support to house the pantry. If you have not seen it, please consider a visit downstairs off the main church entry. Second, we support the effort to end hunger with generous financial gifts to the food pantry. These gifts make it possible to purchase the food from Second Harvest Food Bank that is then given to people in need. In June alone the pantry purchased 8,062 pounds of food at a cost of \$2,663.23 from Second Harvest! This food, along with the many additional items you bring to the pantry or donate through the Drop in the Barrel program, fills Bethel's pantry shelves. And third, we support the effort to end hunger with volunteer hours. Over 50 volunteers work in the pantry Monday-Saturday. So, it is no exaggeration to say, "THANKS A TON!"

Bethel's Food Pantry is standing in the gap of food insecurity and turning hunger into hope. You, good people, make it all possible. Please consider volunteering for the Bethel Food Pantry operation. Contact the church office at 608.257.3577 to join this important program. The Bethel Food Pantry is open Mon-Fri from 12-3pm and Sat 9:30-11:30am. ☀️

—Ken Martin
Food Pantry Volunteer



Financial Resources Team Second Quarter Review

The 2019 Operating Budget was presented and approved by the congregation at the Annual Meeting in January. The Financial Resource Team committed to the congregation that we would diligently monitor the budget and report to the congregation the status of the budget at the end of each quarter. Please see the accompanying graph and chart as you read this summary of the second quarter financial review.

Income and Expense Budget – (refer to graph on next pg)

- Total expenses budgeted for 2019 were \$1,928,713. As the dashed line of the graph illustrates, we expect expenses to be spread evenly across all twelve months of the year.
- The dotted line on the graph represents the projection of income for the year. This is based on the average historical income pattern over the last 5 years. Notice that historically, 15% of total income is received in December.
- Overall, total expenses were budgeted to exceed projected income by \$66,713. That is, we approved a deficit budget with the expectation that with prudent management of expenses and increased income we would close the deficit by the end of 2019.

Income and Expense Summary – (refer to chart on next pg)

- The first column shows the annual budget numbers with expenses broken out by major expense categories.
- The second column shows budget numbers for the first half of 2019.
- The third column shows the actual expenses and income for the first half of 2019.
- The first half actual expense exceeds budgeted expense by \$16,989. Contributing to this excess was the paying out of \$80,000 in mission dollars during the second quarter (\$35,000 over the first half budgeted amount).
- The \$920,468 of first half income exceeds the projected amount by \$24,617. This is primarily due to the special offerings received in June and July in response to the Financial Resources Team letter sent out at the end of May to all Bethel members.

Staffing Expenses Funded by Operating Budget

- 72% (\$1,388,563) of our budgeted expense is due to staff salaries and benefits.
- We are under budget for staffing expenses as of the end of the first half of the year and based on a detailed staffing analysis are confident we will complete the year within the staffing budget number.

Summary

- If we adjust for the \$35,000 of mission dollars paid out in excess of the first half budgeted amount, the first half expense over income gap would be \$25,877 (instead of the \$60,877). This puts us well on our way in closing the \$66,713 budgeted deficit. ☀️

—Gary Hertel

INCOME AND EXPENSE BUDGET

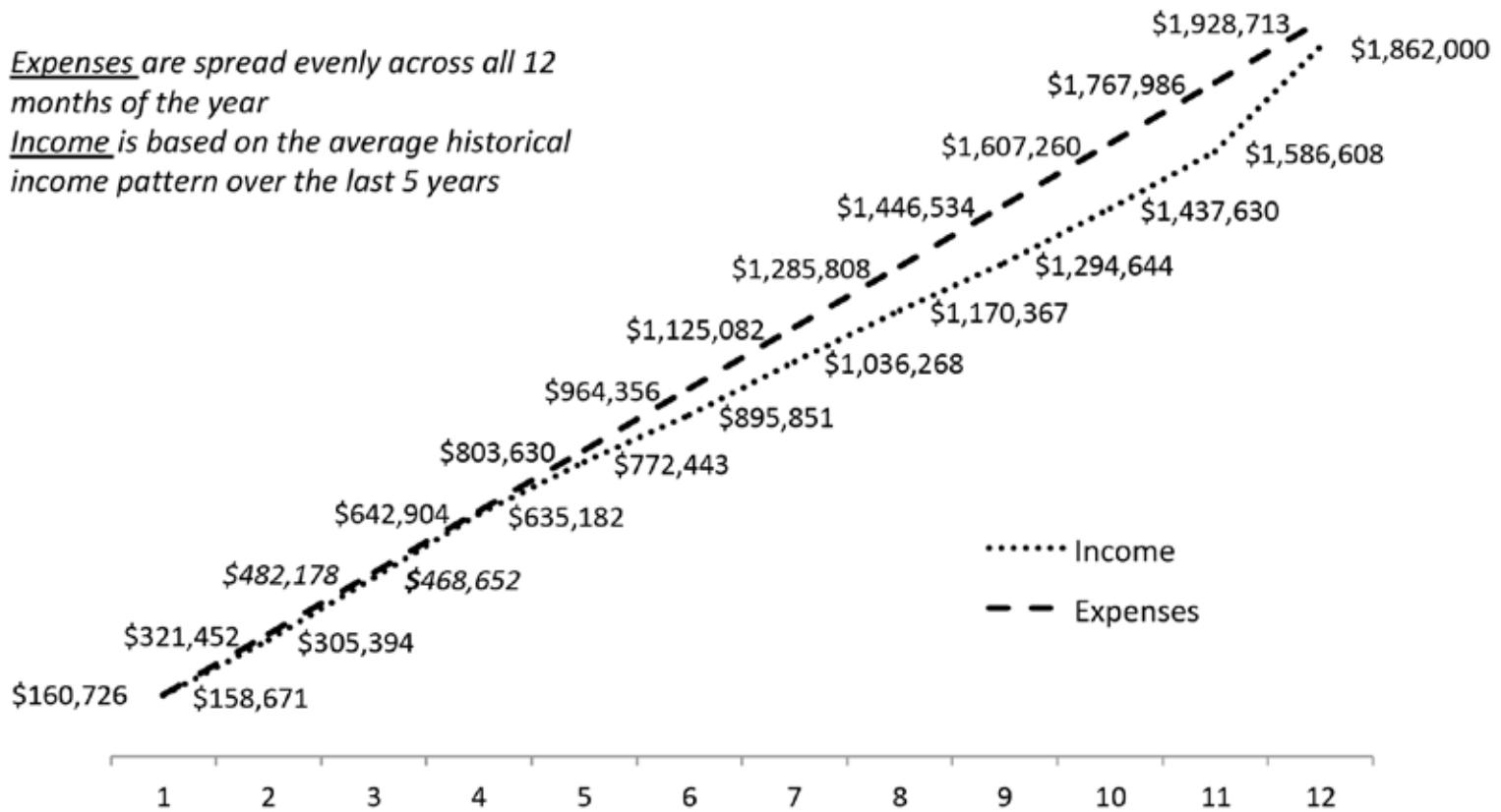
Second Quarter Review

2019

Bethel Lutheran Church

Expenses are spread evenly across all 12 months of the year

Income is based on the average historical income pattern over the last 5 years



INCOME AND EXPENSE SUMMARY

	Annual Budget	1st Half Budget	1st Half Actual	Adjusted	Staffing Expenses: Salaries and Benefits	
Missions/Benevolence	\$90,000	\$45,000	\$80,000		Annual Budget	\$1,388,563
Ministerial/Program	\$947,063	\$473,532	\$432,690		1st Half Actual	\$619,759
Music	\$35,425	\$17,713	\$23,088		1st Half Projected*	\$646,198
Church Operations/Parish Life	\$102,225	\$51,112	\$54,297		Under/(Over) Budget	\$26,439
Real Estate	\$206,600	\$103,300	\$91,403		* based on detailed staffing analysis	
Youth/Education	\$12,600	\$6,300	\$6,488			
Administration	\$509,800	\$254,900	\$280,879			
Deficit Payback	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$12,500			
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,928,713	\$964,356	\$981,345			
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,862,000	\$895,851	\$920,468			
INCOME (EXPENSE)	(\$66,713)	(\$68,505)	(\$60,877)			

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

Bethel's Homeless Ministry is in short supply of the following items: toothpaste, mens' white cotton socks and ankle socks, mens' boxer underwear. Should you have a backpack that has been gently used, we would so appreciate donations of backpacks. Imagine when one is carrying everything one owns in a backpack and it is either stolen or wears out!! This is a much needed item for our homeless friends. Thank you, as always for your kind generosity in giving to those less fortunate. Please keep them in your prayers.

LWR Kit List for Early Shoppers - Although the official kick-off day for Bethel's Lutheran World Relief efforts isn't until July 28 a list of School Kit items is listed here for early shoppers.

- School Kit Items List Include:
- 70-sheet notebook either wide- or college-ruled
- 30-centimeter flat ruler, or a flat ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- Pencil sharpener
- Blunt scissors
- Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- Black or blue ballpoint pens
- Box of 16 or 24 crayons
- 2 1/2 inch eraser

In addition to School Kit items, donations of bath-sized towels that are the foundational piece of the Personal Care Kit are appreciated at anytime. (Dark color towel preferred, light-weight, size 20" X 40" to 27" X 52")

Please drop off any donations to Bethel's reception desk indicating they are for LWR. Thank you for your support of LWR! Contact: Patty Saxe, LWR Coordinator, buckygrad2@charter.net

Art Display: Bethel's with a Backstory is the theme for the July-Aug Fine Arts display in the Fireside Gallery. This display features many unique items that are significant to Bethel's past. Framed drawings, ceramic and wooden art pieces are on display. These include a hand painted silk fan, a carved cane, an ornate chair, and a "Wizard of Oz" diorama. These each have a backstory that is shared in the display. Some items have unknown sources, and others have additional historic information that is unknown to Bethel's Fine Arts committee. We invite you to contribute to the display by sharing information in the notebook we are providing. This is a wonderful chance to view and learn more about some of Bethel's unique fine art treasures.

Men's Current Christian Concerns (7am; Community Room)
Aug 8 - Religion & Politics in Israel | **Aug 15** - Seeking Legal Asylum
Aug 22 - Why the Church Says No | **Aug 29** - A Conundrum



"Drop in the Barrel"
 for the Bethel Food Pantry
 August: Shampoo

XYZ Activities: Aug 9: Chapel (9:30am) - Jeff Quinto; Book Discussion (10:30am) - *Cold Sassy Tree* by Olive Ann Burns, QiGong, Euchre, or learning/playing Bridge; Lunch (11:45am) - Build Your Own Taco Bar, Dessert; Program (after lunch) - Tomlinson Vintage Ford with a car from movie Public Enemy. **Aug 16:** Chapel (9:30am) - Pastor Mike Brown; (10:30am) - QiGong, Euchre, or learning/playing Bridge; Lunch (11:45am) - Pulled Pork, Salad, Dessert; Program (after lunch) - "Show Tunes" by Charlotte Dillabough and Amy Hartsough. **Aug 23:** Chapel (9:30am) - Jeff Quinto and his guest visitor - a Pastor from Kenya; Book Discussion (10:30am) - *A Study in Scarlet Sherlock Holmes* by Arthur Conan Doyle, QiGong, Euchre, or learning/playing Bridge; Lunch (11:45am) - Chicken Casserole, Dessert; Program (after lunch) - Mission Friday: Packing laundry detergent for Bethel's Food Pantry & addressing cards. *If you signed up for the rescheduled pontoon boat trip this group meets at 12:30pm at the Tenney Boat Dock.* **Aug 30: NO XYZ - Labor Day Weekend**

Blanket Workshop (Aug 8 & 22) - 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.

Community Meal Program (Aug 12) - Bethel volunteers serve the Community Meal at Luke House, 310 Ingersoll Street, once a month. The next serving date is Aug 12. 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.

RWANDA UPDATE: We have raised just over \$5,200 for the Water Filtration Project. Thanks to all the donations, Edward Makara will be coming to Bethel Horizons for the Potters for Peace Water Filtration Training course from Aug 16-29. He is very excited to learn this business, one that is much needed in his home country. Edward will join us for worship at 9am on Sun, Aug 25 and speak about his learnings in the Good Shepherd Chapel at 10:15am.

Feed and Read (Aug 19) - Join us starting at noon on Mon Aug 19 to discuss *Being Mortal* by Dr. Atul Gawande. Dr. Gawande, a surgeon in Boston, addresses the issues and realities for people nearing the end of their life. This is a powerful book on a topic that touches all of us. Bring a dish to share or a bag lunch. We'll discuss these important issues and have lunch together. All are welcome. Come and bring a friend.

Victory Choir (Aug 27; 10:30am; Attic Angel Place) - 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.

Got Used Puzzles and Games? Please donate them to Bethel for Renew Circle's Used Puzzles and Games Sale, Nov 2-3. Used puzzles and games will be collected following Sunday church services on Sept

29, Oct 6, 13 & 20. Please bring your used puzzles and games with NO missing pieces in their boxes, taped shut, to our collection table. Donations made during the week will be collected at the Reception Desk. All proceeds from this sale will benefit Bethel's women who are willing to represent Bethel by attending the 11th Triennial Convention of Women of the ELCA, July 14-16, 2020, in Phoenix, AZ.

Stensland House Needs Roommate for Fall - This wonderful community of service oriented people are looking for ONE more roommate. The 1st floor unit has a couple returning tenants who need another roommate to join their lease in this 3-bedroom unit. It is a very unique space with beautiful historic features. The house was fully remodeled and restored 3-yrs ago and brought up to contemporary uses inside with central air and new appliances and w/d in unit. All utilities are included. There is a community service hours requirement of 16hrs/month to receive the discounted rent. If you or someone you know is looking for housing and plays the base guitar, we might have a special offer for you. 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

Circle of Love Golf Outing (Sept 16) - Bethel's Circle of Love is hosting its 18th annual golf outing to benefit Bethel Horizons 50th Anniversary on Monday, Sept 16, at Blackhawk Country Club. The registration fee of \$125 covers a cook-out lunch, an afternoon of golf and dinner. All money donated above that amount is tax deductible and goes directly to Horizons. Contact Sharon Moses at 608.575.7934 or sharonmoses@gmail.com. Register: www.bethel-madison.org/cologf

Bethel Series Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2020 - Join Reverend Jeff Quinto, Bethel Series Executive Director, and his wife Toni on **11 life-changing days in the Holy Land**, Jan 14-24, 2020.

- You will visit Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Jericho, Nazareth, Sea of Galilee and much more
- You will walk where Jesus walked.
- You will swim in the Dead Sea.
- You will dance on a fishing boat on the Sea of Galilee.
- You will pray at the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed for God to "let this cup pass from me, ..."

25 faith-filled believers like you will see the Scriptures come alive! **This will be the trip of a lifetime!** The cost of the trip, including airfare from Chicago, is \$3,690 based on double occupancy. Breakfast and dinner each day are included. As this is a limited opportunity at an excellent price, we expect to fill the 25 spots quickly. If you are interested in joining us, please download our brochure here: www.bethel-madison.org/holyland. For more info call 608.579.5700 or visit the Bethel Series office in Room 106 at Bethel.

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.

Use Amazon Smile and Donate to Bethel

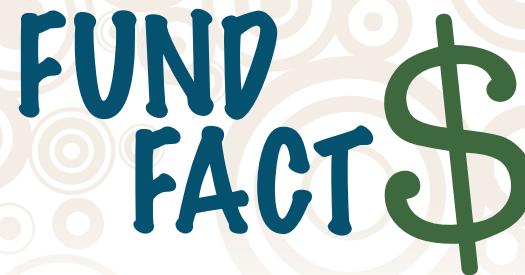
Do you shop online using Amazon? Did you know you can donate to Bethel by doing your regular shopping through Amazon? By using Amazon Smile, they will donate 0.5% of the price of your purchase automatically to Bethel!

How can you set this up? **It's Easy!**

1. Go to: <http://smile.amazon.com> (we recommend bookmarking this page for easy accessing)
2. Under the search bar click on the word "**Supporting**" in orange letters.
3. Select "**Change your charity**".
4. Type "**Bethel Lutheran Church, Madison, WI**"
5. Click the **Search Button**.
6. Click the **Select button**.

That's it! You will now be donating to Bethel every time you make a purchase. (Remember to use the Amazon Smile web page as that is how Amazon tracks your purchases for donation. If you use the regular Amazon page, your donation won't be recorded.) Your Contact: christal@bethel-madison.org

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 worshiping with us for the first time. First time worshipers are invited to pick up their Welcome Bag at the reception Desk. Thanks for worshiping with us and 'WELCOME'!



The cumulative number of gifts given from the Bethel Endowment Foundation through 2019 in support of the ministry and mission of Bethel Lutheran Church will total just over \$12,500,000. Generous donors and wise investing strategies have helped make this dramatic growth possible.



BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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9 PENTECOST

Pastor Jerry Tews - Aug 10 at 5pm - Pentecost
Pastor Jerry Tews - Aug 11 at 7:45 & 9am - Sanctuary
Pastor Jerry Tews - Aug 11 at 11:15am - Sanctuary

10 PENTECOST

Pastor Mike Brown - Aug 17 at 5pm - Pentecost
Pastor Mike Brown - Aug 18 at 7:45am & 9am - Sanctuary
Pastor Mike Brown - Aug 18 at 11:15am - Sanctuary

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

7:45a Worship Service (Sanctuary)
8:00a Coffee Fellowship (Emmaus & Fireside)
XYZ Table Sales (Emmaus)
8:30a Childcare provided 8:30am-12pm (Nursery)
Library Open (Library)
9:00a Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:00a Minecraft for Kids (Rm 216)
10:45a Worship Service (Sanctuary)

MONDAY, AUGUST 12

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13

8:30a Homeless Support Services (T&TH) (Pentecost)
9:00a Library Open (Library)
1:00p Fine Arts Committee (Rm 216)
Homeless Ministry Board Meeting (Borgwardt Hall)
5:15p Rebuilding at Bethel (Library, Rm 100 & 120)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14

6:00p Compassion Circle (Library)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

7:00a Current Christian Concerns (Community)
8:00a Second Harvest Delivery
6:30p Stephen Ministry (Rm 120)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16

9:00a XYZ Activities

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

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

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Pastor Margo R. Martens - Worship/Visitation Pastor
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Pastor John O. Swanson - Director of Congregational Life
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Pastor Jerry Tews - Interim Support Pastor
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