

Bethelite



A publication of Bethel Lutheran Church distributed twice monthly.



bethelmadison.org/bethelite

Bethel, Your Gift is Ready: The Meaning of Reconciled in Christ

During the Sunday School hour on Aug 25, I led a forum in Borgwardt Hall where I shared what it means for Bethel to be Reconciled in Christ (RIC). What this means is that by seeing Jesus in each other and creating a powerful welcome, we make a safe place for everyone to heal, grow, and thrive in Christ.

One of the lessons I learned early from my own family was the importance of being there for your family. It was always

emphasized that we were to have each other's backs. That means to stand with your loved ones when life gets rough. This is one of the gifts I have always carried with me. It wasn't just my immediate family but my extended family.

Growing up I had two cousins, Ronny and Richard. They were Aunt Betty's and Uncle Lonnie's boys, with Ronnie two years older than Richard. One day in the 3rd grade, Richard was walking home from school when an older bigger boy jumped him and started giving him

a beating. Fists were flying. Legs were kicking. Bodies hit the ground. Other boys gathered 'round to watch and holler. About the time that the older

brother?!" Richard said, "He's still back in the fight!" Then Aunt Betty said to him, "Boy! You get back there and you help your brother!" And he did.



As family, we had each other's backs. Maybe you had some of that growing up, too. It is a gift to know you have support from your family. This is a gift that we want to give each other at Bethel. We all face battles.

There is a very real sense

bigger boy had Richard pinned to the ground, face in the dirt, his brother Ronnie ran up and jumped in the middle of the fight. He came to his brother's defense. When Richard saw he had help, he broke loose and ran home. Another boy jumped-in to pummel Ronnie along with the first boy. When Richard reached home, he ran into his momma's kitchen. There he stood, beaten, sweaty, and dirty. Aunt Betty shouted out, "Richard, what in the world happened to you? Where have you been!?" Richard, very much out of breath, said, "I just left from a fight!" Aunt Betty said, "Where's your

in which church is also our family. When Jesus calls the men, women, and children who would become his disciples, he tells them "you are family" (Mt. 12:46-50). You are children of the same heavenly Father. You are my brothers and sisters. You are my siblings. And I've got your back. I will be there for you when life gets rough. Now, do the same for each other.

Nothing has changed in what it means to a follower of Jesus. Jesus still teaches

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us to have each other's backs. He still wants us to stand with each other in our battles. That is especially important now since we live in a country that is at war with itself. So many people are fighting each other, taking shots at each other, yelling at each other. "Others" are considered enemies. Sometimes the "other" is a Democrat or a Republican. Sometimes the "other" is a black person or a white person. It could be a gay person or a straight person; a rich person or a poor person; a man or a woman. When we look at others as "other" we label them, judge them, dismiss them, and maybe even hate them. But that is not how it will be at Bethel. We are going to live out the gift Jesus gave us. We are going to live together as Jesus' family. We are going to have each other's backs.

We are a church where Democrats and Republicans worship; where gays and straights pray; men and women; and rich and poor. And family, in my way of thinking, protects each other, supports each other, and loves each other. The world wants to break us down with its meanness and hatreds and labels and judgments and divisiveness. But, we will NOT be broken. We are going to hold tight to Jesus. We are going to hold tight to each other. We are going to live as a family that jumps in to help each other in our fights. We are going to defend each other. We are going to welcome each other, stand by each other, and love each other. In the coming weeks, months, years, and decades, we are going to keep building a great church with a profound commitment to welcome each other. We are going to live into such a powerful hospitality where we see more than male or female, more than white or black, more than rich or poor, more than Republican or Democrat, more than straight or gay. We're going to create such a deep welcome that when we see each other, we see the face of Jesus Christ. 🌈

—Pastor Mike Brown



God's work. Our hands.

SEPTEMBER 8

Trivia question: What do the Iron Man competition and God's Work Our Hands have in common this year?

THEY ARE BOTH ON SUNDAY SEPT 8!

It is a GREAT opportunity for people of Bethel...adults, children, young and old alike...to be good neighbors in our "hood" and support State Street business as well as the athletes and their families.

- We will **GATHER** in the Emmaus Room after the 9am service (Leader: Connie Caucutt) as well as after the 11:15am service (Leader: Amy Hartsough).
- **WEAR** comfortable clothes & shoes
- If you are able, **BRING** garbage bags to help with "collecting" trash
- **T-SHIRTS** will be provided along with disposable gloves – or if you prefer, bring your own!
- Intergenerational **TEAMS** will be "sent forth"
- We will start at each end of State St and 'clean-our-way-up-and down.'
- It is a great way to serve our downtown community AND the athletes as we help keep State Street clean during the Ironman.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE for God's Work Our Hands Sunday:

In Borgwardt Hall you will find:

1. Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Quilts (knot tying) (Leader: Jeanne Moren)
2. Packing LWR Kits (school and personal care) (Leader: Patty Saxe)
3. Packing Emergency Kits for the

Homeless (Leader: Bev Thom)

Food Pantry Drive – BRING canned vegetables, soup, hot cereal, muffin mix, bar soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, toilet paper. Bring your donations to the pantry window and check out the pantry.

VBC Rock Path Installation - The beautiful painted fish rocks from VBC will be blessed during the 9am service and then installed outside during GWOH.

Our Kids, Potters Hands for Rwanda
Bethel children will sell their clay creations, made this summer on Special Sundays, in a donations-based sale for the Rwanda Potters for Peace program. They hope you will stop by to support both their creativity and the Rwanda Potters for Peace program by making a donation and taking a creation or two home with you.

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the ELCA – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

We are simply Bethel members serving others. By doing so, we can explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

For more info, please reach out to Margie Czechowicz at 608.469.0297. 🌈

—Margie Czechowicz
Serving Team Facilitator

Why Bethel should engage in a Solar Mission

“Using creation wisely includes paying attention to the large changes in climate now underway. Our planet is not only becoming warmer, but wet regions are becoming wetter and dry regions even drier. The rate of these changes is increasing sea levels at least a foot by 2050 and at least 3 feet by 2100 unless we act NOW to help reduce carbon emissions.” –John Kutzbach, Professor Emeritus Atmospheric and Oceanic Science, UW-Madison

Living the Four Harmonies (God, Self, Others, Nature) has been a hallmark of Bethel for almost 60 years. One of the early lessons of the Bethel Bible Series, developed by Pastor Harley Swiggum in 1960, speaks to these Harmonies. Quoting from Harley’s text, ‘we were created to be in Harmony with Nature’; ‘to listen to our Creator-Father in order to properly use the gift of his Creation’. Bethel has listened--the development of Bethel Horizons, our generous support of its programs, and the installation of solar panels on its campus in 2018 has been a visible sign of our caring.

Bethel recently completed an Energy Efficiency and Condition Study that outlines ways we can reduce energy costs on our city campus and be better stewards of our environment. These improvements include installations of solar panels on the education building’s flat roof, completing the change to high-efficient LED lighting, and a number of other measures and new equipment throughout the church. These actions will give Bethel its first energy cost reduction in many years.

Installing solar panels would be the most **HIGHLY VISIBLE** step to demonstrate our commitment to environmental stewardship. It will immediately reduce our carbon footprint by 40 metric tons per year or 6% of Bethel’s emissions and contribute to the huge increase in solar energy needed to eliminate carbon emissions from the production of electricity by 2050. It will also reduce Bethel’s long-term electricity cost by 10%.



Solar panels will help sustain Bethel’s pro-active reputation in the community. It is a form of outreach to the 75% of young people born between 1998-2001 who are deeply concerned about global warming and take note of what churches are doing to care for creation.

Pastor Swiggum vividly described God’s post-Eden sorrow when he looked into the future and saw “a world in turmoil because men had lost the power to know how to use creation wisely.” We know how to reduce carbon emissions, let’s use our “power “to do it!

Caring for Creation Committee: Kris Fensler, Todd Fensler, Faith Fitzpatrick, David Knuti, Sigrid Knuti, Gisela Kutzbach, John Kutzbach, Wilda Nilsestuen, and Tom Solheim.

For more information about Caring for Creation’s solar plan for Bethel contact: David Knuti, Solar Project Chair, at knuti@yahoo.com 🌈

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



Celebrate

Goal: \$3.5 million

August 15: \$2,435,000

Bethel Horizons 50th Anniversary Campaign includes building a **new Farmhouse**, honoring Pastor Duane Hanson who influenced thousands of lives throughout his tenure as Horizons first Executive Director. His 45-years of service were fueled by his endless energy, clear vision and unwavering faith in God. Pastor Duane believed that we need to achieve harmony with God, ourselves, others, and nature. He turned this belief into action as he drew-out the talents of staff, created exciting programs for all ages, and asked us to look for the Holy Spirit in the “fleeting glimpses in the forest.”

The new Farmhouse will be a focal point of the Horizons campus, creating centralized administration office spaces that will help build collegiality, improve communication and stimulate creativity—values Duane nurtured in his staff. A new basement shower, bathroom and laundry facilities will be ideally located for use by the summer staff, who are housed nearby and currently lack adequate facilities. The replacement Farm House will be architecturally consistent with the current Horizons icon and will be a fitting tribute to Duane ministry.

If you haven't given to Horizons 50th Anniversary Campaign, please carefully consider how you might participate. **It will take many gifts at all levels to meet our campaign goal.** Another way to participate is to support the Sept 16 **Circle of Love Golf Outing**, which will raise money for the Farmhouse, recognizing Pastor Duane. Or, attend the **Anniversary Gala and Auction**, Sat, Oct 19 from 5-9pm, Spark building 621 E. Washington Ave, \$50/person. You can sign-up online at: www.bethelhorizons.org/50th-anniversary. Scroll down to Horizons 50th Gala and click on: Register for Bethel Horizons 50th Gala, where you can buy a ticket.

Thank you.

Campaign and Project Development Co-Chairs: Dale Mathwich and Jack Salzwedel. Committee Members: Eric Knueve, Executive Director; Sigrid Knuti, Dave Lombardo, Alice Mowbray, and Phil Pielage.

**We live on glimpses, fleeting glimpses in the forest;
this is its beauty, this its charm.**

Gerhard E. Frost, Lutheran Theologian 🌈



Rally Sunday Roundup

Sept 15 from 10am-1pm

Rally Day this year will be a western style party for the congregation and the neighborhood when we'll celebrate the start of a new program year at Bethel with our friends, family, and neighbors. We're going to have some good eats and a rowdy good time!

Children (of all ages) can participate in a "Bethel Crawl" – with maps in hand everyone can get acquainted with the people who share God's love and explore all the spaces in the building where love is found. Then there will just be lots of wildly fun things to do – riding a mechanical bull, petting some animals in a petting zoo, jumping in a bounce house, getting faces painted, watching balloons get twisted into magical shapes, and lots of singing and dancing!

The roundup winds up with a spread of western grub – succulent brisket, rattlesnake kabobs, and brats, plus loads of sides, fixins, and sweets. Don't forget to wear your country duds! 🌮



SEPTEMBER 15 AT 9AM

BACK
TO SCHOOL
BLESSING

(bring your backpacks)

Bethel's Circle of Love Golf Outing Set for Sept 16

An Event to Benefit Bethel Horizons
50th Anniversary (1969-2019)



Bethel's Serving Team is hosting the 18th annual Circle of Love Golf Outing on Mon, Sept 16 at Blackhawk Country Club. This year the proceeds from the Circle of Love Golf Outing will go toward the Bethel Horizons 50th Anniversary Capital Campaign. Specifically, these funds will be used to help furnish the new Welcome Center honoring Pastor Duane Hanson. These furnishings will help make sure that all who come to Bethel Horizons feel welcomed and ready for what Bethel Horizons has to offer them. The registration fee of \$125 covers a cookout lunch, 18 holes of golf, followed by dinner and a program. All money donated above that amount goes directly to Horizons and is tax deductible.

How can you help?

- Register to play golf! (bethel-madison.org/colgolf) Golfers at all skill levels are welcome & enjoy the scramble format.
- Consider sponsoring a golfer (\$125 or more) or a hole (\$300) or one of the meals (\$1,000 and/or \$500).
- Donate Silent Auction items such as artwork, event tickets, gift baskets, gift certificates, jewelry, memorabilia, rounds of golf, sports items, vacation rentals and wine. Please bring donated auction items to church between Aug 18 & 25, and leave items at the front desk.
- Bid on the Silent Auction items.
- Participate in the 50/50 raffle (on the day of the tournament only)
- Make a monetary donation.

If you are unable to play, join us for the post-golf celebration and dinner beginning at 4:30pm at Blackhawk Country Club. The cost is \$35.

For more information contact Sharon Moses at 608.575.7934 or email sharonhmoses@gmail.com. 🌮

–Sharon Moses
COL Golf Outing Committee

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

Music at Bethel - Do you like to sing? There are some fun opportunities in which to participate in Bethel's music program this year! There are several choirs to choose from. This announcement is concentrating on the Bethel Choir (traditional choir that sings mainly for the 9am service, Sept-May of each year), and the Women's Choir (sings once a month for Sun services, Sept- May). We have some new music, and some old favorites coming down the pike for both of these ensembles. There are no auditions, but I would like the chance to have you sing for me so that we can put you in the place that is most comfortable for you.

Here are the details:

Bethel Choir

Rehearsals: Thursdays 7pm-8:30pm

Where: Choir Room (basement of Bethel)

Women's Choir

Rehearsals: Tuesdays at 5:30pm-6:30pm

Where: Choir Room (basement of Bethel)

Come join in our musical camaraderie! Please email Amy Hartsough (amyh@bethel-madison.org) with any questions or concerns. I hope to see you soon!

Paws at Bethel (Sept 4, 11, 18, 25) - Join us for a series of Wed night gatherings to socialize with each other and our 4-footed doggy friends. There will be food, beverages, music, and fun dog activities (cutest dog contest, simple dog trick contest, etc). Dogs will be able to socialize freely in a large enclosure and humans can relax on Bethel's patio. Hours are 6-8:30pm.

Volunteers Needed for Paws at Bethel - We need your help to make Paws at Bethel a huge success! We are needing volunteers for these opportunities:

- Set-up & take down fenced enclosure from 4:30-6pm & 8:30-9pm.
- Laying and taking-up a small enclosure of sod (5' x 8').
- Set-up and clean-up tasks including: cover tables, put up posters/balloons on tables/fence, check in/welcome table duties, sit at Humane Society table, judge doggie trick contest, a designated photographer, direct folks inside Bethel to bathrooms etc, general clean-up and putting things away.

If you are interested in helping with this event contact Mike Thom at mlthom@me.com or call/text at 608.576.7246.

Men's Current Christian Concerns (7am; Community Room)

Sept 5 - Reflections on Near-Death Experiences

Sept 12 - Our Changing World | **Sept 19** - Mueller's Report Revisited

Sept 26 - The Electoral College

XYZ Activities: Sept 6: Chapel (9:30am) - Pam Shellberg; Book Discussion (10:30am) - Anne of Avonlea by Lucy Montgomery, QiGong, Euchre, or learning/playing Bridge; Lunch (11:45am) - Build Your Own Salad Bar, Dessert; Program (after lunch) - Birthday celebrations with bingo & prizes. **Sept 13:** Chapel (9:30am) - Jeff Quinto; Book Discussion (10:30am) - Anne of Avonlea by Lucy Montgomery, QiGong, Euchre, or learning/playing Bridge; Lunch

(11:45am) - Soup & Sandwich, Dessert; Program (after lunch) - Sing Along with Victory Choir. **Sept 20:** Chapel (9:30am) - Lois Seymour; (10:30am) - QiGong, Euchre, or learning/playing Bridge; Lunch (11:45am) - Chef's Choice, Dessert; Program (after lunch) - The Sound Billies - old tunes, bluegrass folk and blues music.

Men's Friday Book Study (Starting Sept 6; 7am; Rm 110) - we will begin discussing *Irresistible: The Rise of Addictive Technology and the Business of Keeping Us Hooked* by Adam Alter. Please join us!

Bethel Confirmation

- Sun, Sept 8 at 10:15am in the Pentecost Room - Confirmation Information Meeting with Pastor John
- Suns, beginning with Sept 15 from 6-7:30pm in the Youth Quake Room (formerly Borgwardt Lounge) - Confirmation & Senior High Sunday night Youth Quake (this will be the first of a weekly confirmation and senior high youth gathering that will include opening worship, food, games, and faith formation)
- Suns, beginning with Sept 22 at 10:15am - Confirmation Module Offerings (modules are in-depth confirmation classes that will be offered on many Sun mornings from Sept-May and will focus on issues like "faith and life," "why confirmation," and other relevant issues. There will also be opportunities to participate in book clubs, Bible studies, and many other multi-learning styled activities.)
- Fri, Sept 27 thru Sat, Sept 28 - Confirmation Fall Retreat at Bethel Horizons
- Sun, Oct 27 at 9am - Affirmation of Baptism Service

We are trying some new things this fall at Bethel - especially with respect to our youth programming. It is our hope that each young person that comes to Bethel confirmation or youth events feels welcomed, accepted, understood and appreciated. We will also strive to provide opportunities for growth, faith development, and service to others as we plan and implement all of our ministry programming.

Community Meal Program (Sept 9) - 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.

Feed and Read (Sept 16; Noon) - Ryan Green found his way out of a rough childhood through music. In 2011, he won a nationwide competition hosted by New York's Metropolitan Opera. Today, he is a rising star performing major roles at the Met and Europe's most prestigious opera houses. Sing For Your Life by Daniel Bergner tells his story. Bring a sack lunch or a dish to share. Join us!

Five-Session Mini-Course: Seeing the Bible Again for the Very First Time" Wednesday nights in Sept and Oct, led by Pam Shellberg
Sept 18: How the Bible Came to Be (or, Scrapbooking Our Misty-Watercolored Memories)
Sept 25: Old and New Testaments (God's Text Messages: OMG, ILY, BFF, and <3)
Oct 9: Thinking about Reading before Thinking about Reading the Bible
Oct 16: Mind the Gap / Form Follows Function
Oct 23: T/truth and Spiritual Imagination

Victory Choir (Sept 24; 10:30am; Oak Park 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.

Blanket Workshop (Sept 26) - 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.

Widening Our Welcome at Bethel: Forum Offered to Discuss Hospitality for our LGBT+

Sept 28 at 3:30pm & 29 at 10:15am in Borgwardt Hall
From the days in 1853, when Pastor H.A. Preus rode into town on his horse to help start what would become Bethel Lutheran Church, Bethel has pushed pass barriers for the sake of the gospel to bring ministry and faith to more and more people. Even the name of Bethel Lutheran Church represents one of those moments. In 1896, before it was known as Bethel, the church was called the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Madison. The name was changed after decades of use because it was believed that saying the church was "Norwegian" kept some people away. In changing the name, the church widened its welcome. As a result, more people came to learn about Jesus. The church grew. In 1905, Bethel made another move to widen its welcome when it began offering worship services in English. More people were reached with the message of Jesus. And by 1929, all services were in English. The church grew. Buildings were erected. A decade after the move to all English services, the current sanctuary was built, making even more room for newcomers.

The story of Bethel's ability to adapt and extend its reach into the community and grow appears again in the development of the Bethel Bible Study, the Bethel radio program, the Bethel TV broadcasts, the various international missions, the Latino ministry, and the homeless ministry. Widening our welcome is what we do at Bethel. It is the cause of our historic growth and place in the church. It is one of our defining characteristics. There are new opportunities for us to extend ourselves for others. There are new communities to reach with the good news. Sunday we will continue the movement that started in 1853 as we talk about how to open wide our welcome to people in the community who are LGBT+.

You are invited to join this very exciting and very Bethel conversation.

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.

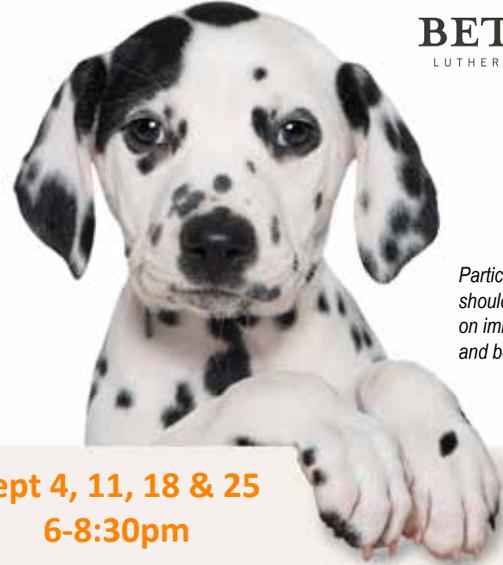


"Drop in the Barrel"
for the Bethel Food Pantry
September: Toilet Paper

Paws at Bethel



BETHEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Participating dogs should be current on immunizations and be neutered.

Sept 4, 11, 18 & 25
6-8:30pm

Join us for a series of Wednesday night gatherings to socialize with each other and our 4-footed doggy friends. There will be food, beverages, music, and fun dog activities. Dogs will be able to socialize freely in a large enclosure and humans can relax on Bethel's patio.

312 Wisconsin Ave, Madison
www.bethel-madison.org

FUND FACT \$

For those age eligible, financial experts say that one's IRA is the best asset to give to charity, even better than appreciated stock gifts (and, one's IRA is the least desirable asset to leave to your family because of the tax implications).

VIEW MORE OPPORTUNITIES: www.bethel-madison.org/events

