

What a journey – from Nepal to Madison

We all face new challenges and uncomfortable situations. But imagine having to take on such struggles in an unfamiliar place – or in an entirely different country. That’s exactly the reality Suchana Gomden was faced with.

She and her family arrived in Madison on February 10, 2011. Suchana entered third grade unable to speak English.

Fast forward to today when Suchana is thriving. In fact, she will graduate from Memorial High School next year – she actually has the credits to graduate now.

Suchana’s goal is to study nursing. She is kick starting that career by taking a CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) class at Memorial.

Her family was the third of the 17 Bhutanese/Nepali families Bethel has officially helped settle in a new land. Bethel’s Resettlement Ministry began in 2010. As a sponsoring church, Bethel helps these families learn how to live in the United States, connecting them to support systems both within and without the church.

Background

Bhutan is located north of India. In the mid-1980s the government launched a policy of *Bhutanization*. This meant that the traditional dress, language and worship of the southern Bhutanese



Most Bhutanese children have never lived life outside of refugee camps, which can make the transition to American schools very difficult. Most adults haven’t worked many years, making it challenging to stay on task at a job.

people was outlawed in favor of the ethnicity of the majority.

Southern Bhutanese suffered human rights violations and loss of land and citizenship, causing thousands to flee their country. Many have lived in refugee camps for two decades. Such camps are being closed by the United Nations (UN) because there is no hope of repatriation. Residents of all UN camps in Nepal have been given the opportunity to be voluntarily resettled in various countries.



Bethel has welcomed these families into this country, into our church and into our hearts. It is a welcome that has continued to this present day. Many of the refugees have made Bethel their church home, being received through baptism. Worshiping on Saturday evenings, the Bethel Bhutanese community has enjoyed the full support of the staff, church and Foundation.

Creating a transformed community – at camp

More than 100 children and adults spent time at Bethel Horizons in August for Vacation Bible Camp. This year’s theme of Transformed Community, focused on the practices and values of generosity, inclusion, compassion and forgiveness.

From Bible study to music, art and other activities, campers strengthened their connections to each other and to God.

One elementary school-aged girl shared an inspiring story, “I was sleeping over at a friend’s house and had a nightmare. She woke up with me and told me to pray because it would make me feel better. I talked to God and then I slept better.”

Funding from the Bethel Endowment Foundation helps more campers take part in Vacation Bible Camp and other learning experiences.



Gifts and memorials keep giving

Thank you for your generous gifts that enable the Bethel Endowment Foundation to contribute to many special programs.

Bethel Lutheran Church has established memorials for each deceased

member since 1964.

You may add to one of these, start a special fund or offer general contributions.

Memorials were established for the following Bethel members between

April 1 and Sept. 30, 2019:

- Thomas Bennett
- Ivan Bruner
- Eloise Davis
- Beverly England
- Sharon “Sherri” Hahn
- Jean Hodel
- William H. Johnson
- Curtis Alvin Knutson
- Betty Korth

- John Larson
- Horst Lobe
- Constance “Connie” Nelson
- Donna Peterson
- Betty Saxe
- Donna Shomberg
- Neal Starkweather
- Devona Swiggum
- Florence E. Ustad
- Jack Westman

(cont’d. on page 6)

Coming into focus

This fall has brought a lot of excitement and newness to Bethel. We've now had our Lead Pastor Mike Brown in our midst for five months. And he has a vision for this church and many creative ideas to help us realize the new path set in front of us. He is genuinely happy to meet Bethelites, and other Madisonians – and learn what makes us tick. Compelling sermon series, one after the other – draw us and others into the weekend worship community and invigorate us to stay around for other fellowship groups, bible and book study sessions, mission and service centered endeavors.

The greater Madison area seems

also at a time of transition. It continues to be raised up as a very desirable destination city attracting all ages, while at the same time struggling with education and public safety lapses from excellence.

The delicate balance will be struck when those new to the city become an integral part of the positive solution to keeping - or getting back to - the realized perception of greatness.

And thus it can be with Bethel's future. The unique asset that is Bethel's Endowment Foundation provides a reliable and sturdy support for most matters of Bethel



Alice Mowbray

– in addition to providing for capital improvements and repairs, and some above and beyond programming support, it's poised to allow for thinking outside the box of normal operations. Long view perspective helps allow for this thoughtfulness in planning.

As I wrote in my annual report summary this past January, our church's rich history matters as informing how to move forward. Instead of unrealistically wishing our past to come back, we find what is enduring and otherwise what needs changing in order to thrive as Bethel Lutheran Church, in the heart of the isthmus, just steps from the state capitol, and in spite of the freedom from religion home base.

Many of the key elements remain intact, and now we step into our promised future with new and confident leadership. Thanks be to God for the sight line.


Alice Mowbray
Director of Development

Your legacy: gifts can help you and others

IRA Rollover – if you are 70½ or older, a directed gift from your IRA can use your required minimum distribution while reducing your taxable income, whether or not you itemize on your tax return.

Charitable Gift Annuity – this gives you guaranteed fixed income for life and a tax deduction. Ask for an illustration based on your gift amount and age.

Gifts of Appreciated Stock – or other appreciated assets can benefit you, when you use it to fund a gift like the aforementioned CGA. And with no change to the capital gains tax rates, an appreciated stock gift going directly to Bethel Endowment Foundation, for example - is more beneficial to you than ever.

Donor Advised Funds are increasing in popularity. Let's discuss the myriad of options available to you for establishing such a fund, providing you time and perspective to be thoughtful and strategic in your charitable giving.

Charitable Life Insurance gifts are another way to fund your legacy gift throughout the years, providing a significant gift eventually and tax-deductible payments annually.

Consider naming Bethel Endowment Foundation as a beneficiary of your retirement plan or regular life insurance policy, as well as from your donor advised fund or your will.

In any of your planning, you can use this helpful, directive language – leaving no mystery about your charitable intent and conveying what is ultimately very near and dear, and important to you:

I hereby give or bequeath _____ (dollar amount or percent) to Bethel Lutheran Church Endowment Foundation, Inc. a nonprofit organization located at 312 Wisconsin Avenue, Madison, WI 53703, Federal Tax ID 39-6068618, for its general use and purpose.

Welcoming our homeless population

This fall, from Oct. 1-3, 31 participants in Bethel's Homeless Ministry Support Services, boarded a bus to attend an annual retreat at Bethel Horizons offered by Bethel's Homeless Ministry. For many, this event is the highlight of the year.

The original plan included outdoor activities, such as nature hiking, canoeing, and campfires. However, rain and cold weather intervened. Instead, the group enjoyed craft projects, board games, movies and reading.

The last evening, the group had a roaring fire in the retreat center fireplace and made s'mores while watching movies and playing cards and board games. On the last morning, participants turned their chairs to the east and watched the sun shine over the valley as Pastor Jerry Tews led a worship service to include Holy Communion.

"This retreat was perhaps the most meaningful retreat we have experienced in that we spent time together in a relaxed atmosphere – safe, warm and dry. Several were so grateful that they did not have to worry about how they would stay dry while sleeping outside, (as if they) were back on the streets of Madison," said Bev Thom with

Bethel's Homeless Support Services. "These retreats are a blessing to all who attend because it is an opportunity to witness God's great love for all while enjoying the beauty of His surroundings."

Funding from the Bethel Endowment Foundation helps cover the cost this annual retreat, which provides a unique opportunity for the homeless population to experience the beauty of God's creation at Bethel Horizons.



Cultivate joy

A group of women gathered in October for a weekend retreat at Bethel Horizons – a beautiful place to feel closer to God in a natural setting.

Participants explored how they can cultivate joy in their lives.

Pam Shellberg, Bethel's Director of Lifelong Faith Formation, led a session to help participants better understand joy and help them identify ways to experience more joy and more happiness.

The women also created greeting cards at the Art Venture Center, hiked, journaled, and practiced Reiki, which is a Japanese technique for stress reduction and relaxation that also promotes healing.

It was a unique opportunity for women to be with the Creator in the beautiful setting of Bethel Horizons and then leave with a renewed spirit.

Grants from the Bethel Endowment Foundation help cover the cost of educational retreats that allow women to come together, learn about themselves and deepen their spirituality.



Orange unites community members

“Many thanks to the Bethel Endowment Foundation for this comprehensive (Orange) grant,” said Cindy Terhune Melrose, Coordinator of Sunday School and Family Ministry. “It is a part of countless people’s lives every day at Bethel.”

Orange is a way to unite community members at each stage of life in faith formation. By unifying material we use to teach and empower members, we can strengthen the church while building connections within the community.

Funding from the Bethel Endowment Foundation gives Bethel education leaders the ability to teach God’s word through a variety of activities and projects, such as written activities, discussion questions, skits and videos that share Bible stories and how they translate to students’ lives. The curric-

ulum also includes a vast assortment of media options (digital and print) to help bring the monthly theme and weekly stories into families’ homes in an accessible format. We display the theme of the month around Bethel in classrooms and hallways and through social media.

Our Orange curriculum reaches near and far – from Bethel education leaders (staff and volunteer Sunday School leaders), children in 2-5th grade and their families to the friends and families everywhere with whom we share.



Bethel’s 2nd grade Sunday School class is one group that benefits from the Orange curriculum.

In addition to the daily and weekly use of the Orange curriculum, three Bethel education staff and one Bethel member attended the Orange Conference in Atlanta. They returned with a better understanding of all aspects of the curriculum.

It’s Youth Quake time

Like so much else at Bethel and in the world, our youth group has been experiencing transition. Over the summer, we bid farewell to Henry Elling as Director of Youth Ministries. Fortunately, we were able to quickly welcome Rachel Brown to take on that role. Rachel has been busy getting to know Bethel youth. She also has been working to improve the place they gather and increase how often they gather.

Beginning in September, Bethel youth (grades 6 through 12) started to gather each Sunday evening in the *Youth Quake Room*. Thanks to the Bethel Foundation grant this room is beautifully decorated. It is the perfect



setting for worship, casual conversations and having fun.

“We are supporting Bethel’s ministry by providing opportunities for young people in grades 6-12 to feel a strong



connection to their church community,” Pastor John Swanson said. “The goal is to remind young people that they are beloved children of God and they are the church – not the church of the future but the church of today.

Memorials

(cont'd. from page 2)

The following individuals contributed general gifts to the Foundation between April 1 and Sept. 30, 2019, by these individuals:

Bev Block
Terry Boyd
Lola Cator
David & Sharon Chapman
Jim Dillie
Karol Dillie
Robyn Kitson
Bill & Alice Mowbray
Tara & Gau Rai

The following individuals made bequests to the Foundation between April 1 and Sept. 30, 2019:

Ivan L. Bruner
Kathryn (Kay) Ramberg
Jack Conrad Westman

Gifts, honorary gifts and memorial contributions were made to the Foundation from April 1 to Sept. 30, 2019, by these individuals:

In honor of Delma Baker's 100th birthday by Lou & Jean Unverzagt

In memory of Ivan Bruner by Bradley & Barbara Armstrong

In memory of Ronald W. Caldwell by Richard & Nancy Marsceau

In memory of Bob Clasen by Donna Rae & Douglas J.

In memory of Eloise Davis by Louanne Pauley

In memory of Joyce Dewey by Alinda & Robert Nelson

In memory of Marian Drolsom by Marian Osterberg

In memory of Sherri Hahn by Bradley & Barbara Armstrong, Norv & Carrie Bernhardt, Cherie Bethke, Stephen & Joanne Borgwardt, Randall & Beth Brining, Richard & Mary Ann Bystol, Mark & Sharon Cameli, Daniel & Rae Carman, Susan Carnell, JoAnn Cartwright, Barbara Crabb, John Dague, Phil & Mary Lou Dzick, Virginia Evert, Nancy Fahl, Dennis Hahn, Donald Harris, Sandra & Randolph Harrison, Jim & Jesslyn Hollar, Corinne Hollar, Kerstan Johnson, Kenneth Johnson, Robert & Gilberte Karlen, Thomas & Darcy Kobinsky, Raymond & Helen Kruse, Bonnie & Howard Kulke, Constance Malak, Karl & Velma Marquardt, Jim & Lorrie McKinny, Peder & Jeanne Moren, David & Mary Myhre, Ronald Nelson, Norman & Darlene Olson, Richard & Rita Paulson, Tom Pierce, Norma Satter, David & Patricia Saxe, Jacqui & John Shanda, Gregory & Carrie Siebers, Peter & Phyllis Sprecher, Florence & Philip Sprecher, Henry & Sharon Starkey, Jo Thomley, Linda Tigert, David & Marian Torkelson, Catherine & Robert Trevallee, Gary & Janet Tupy, Jennifer & Steve

Turkington, Donna Ulteig, G.W. & Carol Veges, Carolyn White

In memory of Eva Jean Hinricks by Bob & Mary Johnson

In memory of Jean Hodel by Irene Kringle

In memory of Curtis Knutson by Marian Osterberg

In memory of Curtis & Myrtle Knutson by Linda Peterson

In memory of Connie Nelson by Bob & Marilyn Cleveland, Joan Gilbertson, Mary Anne Marsden, Jacqui & John Shanda,

Nancy Weinreis

In memory of Kay Ramberg by Hazel Hiemstra

In memory of Lauren Thorstad by Bradley & Barbara Armstrong, Virgil & Barbara Boeing, Nizar & Elma Jarjour, Barbara Koch, Ruth Munkwitz, Richard & Ann Schmidt, Patricia & Ron Skindrud, Lila Jean Stahnke, Ron Thorstad, Department of Medicine at the University of Wisconsin Medical Center

In memory of George Traut by Anonymous

Nurturing in Nature

Bethel's Nurturing Ministry Team works to build the next generation of believers through nurturing youth and families. One example is an intergenerational weekend held at Bethel Horizons in April. Children ran and played together while adults relaxed by the fire in the beautiful setting of Bethel Horizons. It was a time for fun, fellowship and inspiring worship.

Funding from the Bethel Endowment Foundation helps cover the cost of activities that promote learning, fellowship and prayer through avenues such as social events and outreach efforts.



Developing student leaders

Rylie was overjoyed when her mentor at the Bethel Food Pantry, Cheryl, took the time to take her to visit Second Harvest Food Bank and help her learn about the distribution network for food pantries.

This is an expression of gratitude from one member of last year's first cohort of Faith & Vocation Fellows at the Lutheran Campus Ministry.

Each student volunteered with a partner organization or ministry for 10 hours per week during the academic term. At their volunteer site, they were connected with a mentor and encouraged to reflect on their experiences regularly. In addition, the four fellows also met on a weekly basis for two hours - engaging in facilitated reflection on their recent experiences in their ministry sites and in their life in general, sharing spiritual practice

related to the monthly theme as well as hearing from presenters on a topic of faith.

Second cohort

This year, the Lutheran Campus Ministry's student leadership program is expanding. Once again, four Faith & Vocation fellows serve local ministry sites. In addition, five new student ministry interns, as well as one grad student/young adult ministry coordinator, reach out to other students, organizing programs at Lutheran Campus Ministry.

These student leaders gather twice per month for intentional prayer, reflection and spiritual formation.

Funding from the Bethel Endowment Foundation helps make possible efforts like this that help develop student lead-

ers for the Lutheran Campus Ministry and the greater church.

Each student leader receives a stipend, which allows him or her to dedicate time to growing in faith and serving others. The interns serve in various areas, including:

- Outreach and evangelism: reaching out to incoming students, organizing events.
- Spiritual formation: organizing and leading Bible studies, inviting speakers and guest presenters.
- Social justice: organizing guest presenters and advocacy actions.
- Graduate Student & Young Adult Ministry: developing a regular meeting for graduate students and young adults from nearby congregations, organizing speakers.



Seminary Scholarships

2019-20 recipients: **Ian Frei**, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Madison, **Elisabeth Himmelmann Pynn**, Bethel Lutheran Church, Madison, **Tom Kreis**, Norway Grove Memorial Lutheran Church, DeForest, **Jason Poole-Xong**, Lake Edge Lutheran Church, Monona, **Jose Rodriguez**, Bethel Lutheran Church, Madison, **Anne Wickland**, Bethel Lutheran Church, Madison.

The Bethel Endowment Foundation's Cephias Johnson Seminary Scholarship has provided financial assistance since 1990 to students (including non-Bethel members from Dane County) attending an ELCA seminary on ordination track. The cost for three academic years can easily exceed \$100,000, making this scholarship vital for many seminarians.



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A western good time

Bethel ushered in fall and celebrated the beginning of a new programming year in September on Rally Day. This western-style party for the congregation and neighborhood included:

- The Bethel Crawl. With maps in hand, participants explored the area with other's who share God's love and made many new friends.
- A mechanical bull, petting zoo and bounce house.

Refreshments ranged from kabobs and brisket to a variety of sides and sweets.

Funding from the Bethel Endowment Foundation helps cover the cost of activities like Rally Day that encourage Bethel members to stay involved in church activities and visitors to consider the opportunities Bethel has to offer.



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