

Bethel Lite

A publication of Bethel Lutheran Church distributed twice monthly.



bethelmadison.org/bethelite

ISTHMUS WANTS TO KNOW “WHY?” PASTOR MIKE: Why Bring in a National Speaker to Talk about Sex

In an interview with the Isthmus this month, I was asked the question “why?” “Why, Pastor Mike did you decide to bring in a speaker to talk about sex?” Why? The reason is Madison needs to hear the good news of God about sex.

Here is the truth. Human sexuality is part of God’s good creation. It is a beautiful and sacred element in our lives. Unfortunately, too many people in Madison live with a sense of insecurity, guilt, and shame when it comes to sexuality, the body, and gender. So many have been told that sex is dirty, desire is wrong, and they are bad.

For all the talk about how liberal Madison is, the fact is the sex education in our community has been heavily influenced by Christian traditions that are more fundamentalist and look upon sexuality with distrust. These other timid traditions moralize and judge. Because they see the body through a lens of rules and regulations, they boil the issues down into good/bad and right/wrong. In doing this, they overlook the treasures God embeds

for us in the gift of sexuality, the body, and gender. In their moralizing and judging, they leave behind a trail of people who are confused and hurt.

We ELCA Lutherans do not see the Bible like the fundamentalists. Of all the Christian traditions, we are the ones who can appreciate the complexities of the Bible and our bodies. There is so much more to say

about the body and intimacy. There is so much good news to share. Bringing in Nadia Bolz-Weber is Bethel giving a gift to the community. We want our beloved city to have the best, the best of everything, including the best Christian teaching. 🌈

*–Mike Brown
Lead Pastor*



CARING FOR CREATION:

DNR: Watchdog for Natural Resources Protection and Restoration

March 15 | 10:15am | Borgwardt Hall

Statewide, DNR's workforce of 4,000 manages a vast swath of policy and regulatory responsibilities that directly affect the population at many levels. In Wisconsin, all environmental questions come under this agency, broadly including water, forestry, wildlife – and everything from parks and outdoor recreation, conservation, regulating CAFO's and deer populations, flood and invasive species management, hunting and fishing permits to air quality and waste management regulation.

Does it matter how this environmental “watchdog” sees its role in protecting our natural heritage and preparing for a future threatened by climate change and extreme weather? Many Wisconsinites are concerned about state and federal policy directions over the past decade. Todd Ambs' position and long history in government and environmental policy make him well positioned to assess what those changes have meant to land and water stewardship in Wisconsin and what practices and priorities have developed under the Evers administration. Ambs will address our questions and concerns about DNR's impact on the health of our environment, the influence of science on decision-making and the work being done to combat imminent and long-term challenges.



Todd Ambs has worked in the environmental policy field for more than 30 years, most recently as the campaign director for Healing our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition. From 2003-2010, he was the DNR's Water Division administrator, where he was lead negotiator for the State of Wisconsin during the development of the Great Lakes Compact.

This is one of five forums C4C will offer this year. The full schedule is available in the current C4C/C4SJ brochure, on the info board outside of the sanctuary and online at www.bethel-madison.org/caring-creation.



–Wilda Nilsestuen
Caring for Creation Team Member



Slaying Giants: The Cross for Everyday Power

We all face moments where all seems lost. We all deal with forces that seem overwhelming and overpowering. “How will I ever get through this?” we ask ourselves. Jesus, too, faced this opposition. In the Garden of Gethsemane, he literally sweated blood. Facing the giants of rejection, anguish, and death, he called upon a power that brought them to the ground. In Slaying Giants: The Cross for Everyday Power, Pastor Mike will lift-up three key figures from the Bible, Paul, Elijah, and David to show how slaying giants isn't just for the Son of God, but for all who walk by his side.

Mar 15 - How to Face Incredible Odds

Mar 22 - What to Do When You're at the End

Mar 29 - When You Need a Miracle 🌈

New Member Spotlight Nicole Ferguson, Blake & Max Miller



Our family has been attending service at Bethel for almost a year now and we couldn't be more excited to become members of the church! Blake has been a Madison resident for about 10 years now and I relocated here from Milwaukee a little over a year ago. At this time last year, we were both looking for a new

church that we could make our own and raise our family in which is when we found Bethel. Maxwell is 5 1/2 years old and attends Sunday school here which he loves and always talks about! This past July we got engaged and plan to get married at Bethel next October so the decision to become members was an easy one. Our family seems to revolve around all things "sports" (I guess that is what you get when you are outnumbered by boys) but we also like to travel, spend time outdoors, listen to music, and try new things! We are happy to say we are now part of the Bethel family and look forward to our future here. 🌈

1,000 Madisonians to Fill Bethel for a Night with Nadia

Nadia Bolz-Weber to Speak at Bethel

It's time for "the TALK." Yep, that's the one, S-E-X. There is a dirty little secret when it comes to sex. But, it's not the sex! The real secret is how damaging everyday religious attitudes about sex really are. That's the thing nobody really wants to talk about, until now!



**March 12, Thursday,
at 7pm**

Join Nadia Bolz-Weber in the evening for a frank conversation about bodies, shame, sex, love, and more. Walk away with a new ability to accept and affirm yourself, remove shame from the equation, and live your sexuality in ways that result in real connection.

Free tickets: www.bethel-madison.org/nadia (less than 50 left) 🌈

Lent Service Opportunity: Second Harvest Foodbank



Second Harvest Foodbank needs our help! Everyone 12 years old and older is invited to register for a 3-hour work shift at Second Harvest Foodbank. Choose from five options between Mar 13 & Apr 2 to meet at Second Harvest Foodbank and help

package food items for distribution throughout south-central Wisconsin. One-hour of your volunteer time = 66.7 meals for families in need and you will get to know a few more members of your Bethel family. Register at the sign-up table on Sunday mornings or online at bethel-madison.org/lent. 🌈

Lutheran Campus Ministry Alleviates Food Insecurity on Campus



Did you know that more than 1 in 3 students attending four-year colleges experience food insecurity? According to a 2018 report from the Wisconsin HOPE

Center, 25% of students reported skipping at least one meal in the past month or eating less than they wanted due to a lack of funds. Six percent of students reported having not eaten for an entire day because money was short.

In 2015, after learning about the prevalence of hunger on campus, Lutheran Campus Ministry began to serve a free, nutritious lunch to students. Now in its fifth school year, the Taste of Grace Community meal serves 80 to 120 students per day. In 2018-2019, over 15,000 lunches were served. Lutheran Campus Ministry partners with Second Harvest to serve food that would otherwise be wasted. Each week we utilize about four hundred pounds of produce, dairy, and other foods that did not sell in grocery stores.

Beyond alleviating physical hunger, the community lunch also creates a safe and welcoming space for a diverse community of students on campus. Because of the lunch, Lutherans are known as caring, thoughtful, and open-minded.

Join Campus Pastor Emily Tveite and a student representative on Sun, Mar 22 at 10:15am in the Fireside Gallery as they discuss campus hunger, Lutheran Campus Ministry's meal program, and how meals help to create community among university students. 🌈

Bethel Supports Milwaukee Inner City Church



Hephatha Lutheran Church has stood at the corner of Locust and 18th Street in Milwaukee for 100 years. When Pastor Mary Martha Kannass accepted a call there in the early '90s, there was talk of closing it down. "Before I came, the church got very close to closure," she says, "and there was a decision that they were going to try redevelopment." Mary Martha wasn't at Hephatha long before she realized just how important Hephatha was to the community.

"It was like a second home," says Marquitta Smith, whose children made frequent visits to Hephatha. "Every day except Friday; that was pastor's day off. We would just knock on the door, go downstairs and ransack the candy jar and cookies," she laughs. It was those children that confirmed Pastor Mary's mission to keep the congregation alive. "We had to find a way for this congregation to continue being a neighborhood church."

Twenty-one years later, thanks in part to help from an ELCA churchwide ministries grant, Hephatha is still that neighborhood church. They work to make the community safer and healthier. And in the spring of 2012, the congregation took part in a city-wide building week where a number of organizations joined together to construct 10 houses — one of which will now belong to Marquitta and her three children. "It's amazing," Marquitta says. "I want my kids to raise their kids in this church." 🌈

—Mike Brown
Lead Pastor

Puerto Rico Mission Trip 20 Years in the Making



I participated in my first Puerto Rico Mission Trip with 20 dear Bethel of Madison members. What a joy to be there to witness this reunion of 20 years! The members from Bethel of Dorado greeted us with excitement and warmth, saying, "bienvenidos a su casa", meaning "welcome home." It was clear that over the past 20 years, it has not just been a mission trip.

I know with confidence that it was a huge help to paint houses of the congregation members who suffered great losses following Hurricane Maria two years ago, and to tear down the church's awning to put up new roofing. However, the work happening there was about more than completing these projects. The work put into these projects is founded on a deep and loving collaborative relationship between Bethel of Madison and Bethel of Dorado. As with all forms of relationships, it is two-sided, and the gifts shared between the two churches are endless and abundant.

Community members and leaders of Dorado, San Juan, and Maguayo can't help but be moved by the ongoing and compassionate commitment the churches have to one another. Mayor Carlos Lopez Rivera of Dorado, Puerto Rico, attended the 20-year anniversary party on Friday night to offer a Proclamation to Bethel of Madison, in writing, stamped and signed, to celebrate our participation in the community.

Light, life, and love spoke truth to the presence of God in the way we related to one another, across cultural differences and different languages. Together we subverted notions of xenophobia and lived into God's vision for humanity—we are all one body. Pastor Ivy emphasized this in her sermon at Sunday morning church with the story of "God's Toolbox." The synopsis is, we all have a part to play, and the way we create and sustain relationships with each other lifts up God in all of us and moves us forward in God's plan. Here's to many years more of friendship and love, working for God in all we do together! 🌈

—Rachel Brown
Director of Youth Ministries

Bridging Faiths for a Stronger Democracy

The Wisconsin Council of Churches (WCC) and Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice (WFVJ) are collaborating on a statewide campaign for a **nonpartisan** Civic Engagement Project: Bridging Faiths for a Stronger Democracy. They are partnering to engage the interfaith community in the democratic process in 2020 based on the belief that engaging in this work will build increased understanding and stronger ties among different faith communities, increase engagement in the electoral process, and result in greater understanding by faith communities of the influential role they can play in the public square.

The project is beginning the third of five phases: Voter Engagement Training; followed by Get Out the Vote Plan of Action, and Evaluation/Lessons Learned. The kick-off meeting for Madison occurred Feb 13 at First United Methodist Church. The second meeting will occur **Mar 2, at Christ Presbyterian Church**, 944 E. Gorham St. from 7-9pm.

“Interfaith” includes a large assortment of religious groups that encourage their members to be active in civic affairs, e.g., Christian (including ELCA), Muslim, Sikh, Jewish, Quaker, Unitarian, Baha’i and Buddhist communities, as well as urban, rural, minority and underserved populations. They hope to learn from each other their different social justice and political action teachings and share best practices.

There will be partnering opportunities with other groups that work on civic engagement, including League of Women Voters, NAACP, and Voces de la Frontera. The director of the US Census Bureau has asked faith-based organizations to help with hard-to-count populations, especially on Faith Community Census Weekend of Action, Mar 27-29.

Extensive resources and training opportunities are available for individuals or groups from any faith-based organization to be part of this effort. **If you would like to learn more about participating in this effort or would like to organize a group from Bethel to do so, you are encouraged to:**

- Contact Rabbi Bonnie Margulis, Exec. Dir. of WI Faith Voices for Justice at rabbibonnie@charter.net or 608.513.7121
- Sign-up for the Mar 2 meeting by emailing Bonnie
- Check out the website www.pacefunders.org/faith, the funding source for this project. Wisconsin is one of the five grantees nationally. 🌈

New Banners and Paraments at Bethel



The banners and paraments at Bethel were designed by liturgical fiber artist Pamela T Hardiman of Farmington, CT. She began the project by painting a heavyweight habotai silk using special fabric paints formulated to give brilliant color on silk. She layers the paint, giving richness and depth to the final

product. The next step is to “audition” dozens of fabrics in that color scheme from her collection of fabric from all over the world, to find a set that work with the painted silk and harmonize with each other. Most of the fabrics are 100% cotton, and come from places such as Africa, Bali, China, Japan, India, Mexico, Guatemala, Finland, Hawaii, and the United States. She adds in some dupioni silk and metallic fabrics as accents. Starting with the center strip, the fabrics are then laid out and arranged in their approximate shape and order, measured, cut, and sewn together. The result yields a banner reflective of the universal church, composed of many pieces from many cultures united in a whole that is all together more than the sum of its parts. 🌈



**WHAT'S
HAPPENING**

Do you want to know what is happening at Bethel? A listing (with description) of all the events at Bethel is available here: www.bethel-madison.org/events. Bookmark this page to stay up-to-date with happenings at Bethel! 🌈

Fireside Chat News - There will be no Fireside Chat in April. In May, Fireside Chats will continue on the second Sunday of the month.

Lent Devotional Available - A book of daily devotions for Lent, "Wondrous Love," is now available in the Community Room. These are available in regular and large print. (Please take just one per household.) We hope it will richly bless your Lenten observance! The **Lenten Calendar** is also available at the same table.

DarRen Morris Art Show by Judith Adrian (Now-Apr 29; Fireside Gallery & Emmaus Room Hallway Gallery) -The Bethel Fine Art Committee, at the request of Bethel's Caring for Social Justice Book Discussion Group who is currently reading *In Warm Blood*, has on display this March-April the powerful and dramatically informative pieces of art created by incarcerated artist DarRen Morris. Judith Gwinn Adrian and DarRen Morris co-authored the book which includes DarRen's paintings. Per the artist, there are four threads to this art show 1) Rasta in the Lion's Den 2) The hood 3) Prison and 4) Abuse/family. DarRen's acrylic, oil and pastel paintings illustrate his beliefs, past experiences, traumas and religious chapel experiences. Painting is DarRen's survival; his sanity. He donates his works of art and hopes that his art will help save youth from making thoughtless choices along with informing the public of the need to involve more people in working toward prisoner rehabilitation rather than punishment. This March 29 from 10-11:30am in the Fireside Room, Judith Adrian will represent DarRen allowing us to Meet the Artist through an Art Talk.

Men's Current Christian Concerns

(7-8am; Community Room)

Mar 5 - The Kids Are All Right

Mar 12 - Our Changing World

Mar 19 - Does Nadia Have It Right?

Mar 26 - Charitable Giving in America

Music and Diversity (Mar 8; 10:15am; Fireside) Amy Hartsough, invites you to share in her experiences and stories she gathered from the College Music Society's National Conference in Louisville, KY in October, 2019. Amy presented a performance and lecture with pianist Dr. Eric Hung. Their presentation discussed women and cultural expectations, expressed through poetry and music. Attending different lectures and performances, Amy was exposed to the expectations and issues students, teachers and professional musicians face in

a global, richly diverse culture. Amy invites us along as she honestly looks at the challenges and joys of diversity through all music. Please join her on Sun, Mar 8, at 10:15am in the Fireside Gallery as she discusses her conference experience. All are welcome to attend!

Community Meal Program (Mar 9) - Bethel volunteers serve the Community Meal at Luke House, 310 Ingersoll Street, once a month. The next serving date is Mar 9. 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. Food contributions and servers for the meal are always welcome. This is a great opportunity to share in a vitally important ministry taking place outside our church walls that has a very low time commitment. Janet at 274.6745 or janetjohnson44@mac.com

Lent 2020 Wed Activities (Mar 4, 11, 18, 25, Apr 1)

- **12pm** – Worship in the Sanctuary (Holden Evening Prayer)
- **12:30pm** – Soup & Sandwich in Borgwardt Hall (free-will offering)
- **5:30pm** – Soup & Sandwich in Borgwardt Hall (free-will offering)
- **6:15pm** – Worship in the Sanctuary (Holden Evening Prayer)
- **6:45-7:30pm** – Bible Study in the Fireside Gallery led by Pam Shellberg, Director of Lifelong Faith Formation

Friendship Club (Mar 13; 6:15pm; Borgwardt Hall) - Bethel Series Trip to Israel; We have a special program tonight, Pastor Jeff Quinto will share his experiences on his trip to Israel. The menu is Country meat loaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, glazed carrots, salad, rolls and apple crisp for dessert. Please make reservations with Judi Griffin at 608.222.9290 before noon Tues, Mar 9. Costs are \$12/members and \$15/guests. Membership dues are \$10/year.

LEAD 2020: Sat, Mar 14, 8:30am-3:30pm at Good Shepherd Lutheran, Madison: Join with congregational members around our synod to learn new ministry ideas/perspectives from each other. 23 workshops to choose from! Pick-up a brochure with details at our reception desk or talk to Pastor Margo. Register: <https://bit.ly/SCSWLEAD2020>

Feed & Read (Mar 16; Noon; Library) - will discuss *My Antonia* by Willa Cather. It is considered her first

masterpiece. Cather was praised for bringing the American West to life and making it personally interesting. Bring a dish to share or a sack lunch so we can eat lunch while we talk. Join us!

Christian Men's Fellowship (Mar 17; 10:30am; Borgwardt Hall) *What Were You Before You Were Norwegian?* So you are a proud Norwegian or German or whatever! You may have traced your family back 2-3 generations back to the family farm. But where did your family live before that - when half of Europe was covered in ice? Where did you really come from? Our speaker, Craig Gjerde, will lead us back about two million years and follow early man as he left Africa and moved into Asia and Europe. He will tell us how the DNA found in the bone and teeth of these people and that found in your cheek cells will help in telling us the answer. Dr. Gjerde is originally from North Dakota. After he left there he was a Peace Corps volunteer in Malawi, Africa, a mathematics teacher in St Paul, and a professor in medical education—where he helped physicians to be better teachers. He enjoys languages, international cultures, and travel. In this talk, he will use recent studies that use DNA evidence to help us understand how early man left Africa and moved into Europe. If you know your Y DNA, tell him so he can work you into the talk.

Social Justice Book Discussion (Mar 22; 10:15am in GS Chapel) - *In Warm Blood: Prison and Privilege, Hurt and Heart* is written by Judith Gwinn Adrian, a retired Edgewood College professor, and DarRen Morris, an incarcerated black man serving a life sentence. Told in letter format, the writers over time reveal stories of their lives of privilege and prison life.

Judy's father, as a young man, committed armed robbery and served three months of a fifteen year sentence, after which his white privilege allowed him to join the military, become a doctor, and then a medical researcher. DarRen, at age 17, was sentenced to life in prison for being party to murder. He has served more than half his life in Wisconsin maximum security prisons where he has become a talented artist.

The Caring for Social Justice Book Discussion group welcomes Judy Adrian March 22, 10:15-11:15am, in Good Shepherd Chapel, as she leads a discussion of the book. She will also represent DarRen Morris March 29 at the Meet the Artist Reception where his work will be featured for two months in the Fireside Gallery and the Emmaus Room Hallway Gallery. As part of the book discussion on March 22, she will take questions for DarRen from the group to which she will share his replies the following week during the Meet the Artist Reception.

Victory Choir (Mar 24; 10:30am; Middleton Village) 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@](mailto:cdreger@madisoncollege.edu)

madisoncollege.edu or 608.221.1754.

Blanket Workshop (Mar 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. Join us for this wonderful time of fellowship and mission work as we create quilts that benefit those in need around the world.

Food Pantry Drop in the Barrel - Mar:
Deodorant

Easter Giving 2020

Please write **separate checks** for Easter Garden & Hephatha Lutheran Church. The **Deadline is Monday, March 30**, to return this form and money to Bethel for donations to be included in the Easter Publications.

Easter Garden

CIRCLE ONE: In Memory In Honor

NAME

BY

X \$20 =

OF PLANTS **TOTAL DUE**

Flowers may be picked-up after last worship service on April 12 or after.

Our Mission Partner: Hephatha Lutheran Church Milwaukee, WI

CIRCLE ONE: In Memory In Honor

NAME

BY

AMOUNT

CASH/CHECK # **ENVELOPE #**

PHONE

Return entire form to: Bethel Lutheran Church
Attn: Easter Giving
312 Wisconsin Ave, Madison, WI 53703



BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

312 Wisconsin Avenue | Madison, WI 53703

Bethelite (USPS 053-160) Published bi-weekly by Bethel Lutheran Church
608.257.3577 | Email Christal Swigart: christal@bethel-madison.org

2 LENT

- Pastor Mike Brown - Mar 7 at 5pm - Pentecost
- Pastor Mike Brown - Mar 8 at 7:45 & 9am - Sanctuary
- Pastor Mike Brown - Mar 8 at 11:15am - Sanctuary

3 LENT

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

- 7-11a Pentecost Respite (Pentecost)
- 7:45a Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 8:00a Coffee Fellowship (Emmaus)
- 9:00a Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 9:30a Children's Ministry: Sunday School, Choir and Kids FellowSHIP
- 10:15a Weekly Bible Study (Rm 120)
Communion Instruction Intro (GS Chapel)
Music & Diversity Forum (Fireside)
- 11:00a Minecraft for Kids (Rm 216)
- 11:15a Worship Service (Sanctuary)
Nurturing Ministry Team (Rm 205)
- 5:30p Parent Discussion Group (GS Chapel)
Youth Activities (Borgwardt Hall)
- 6:00p Confirmation & Senior High Youth Quake (Youth Quake Room)

MONDAY, MARCH 9

- 12:00p Food Pantry Open 12-3pm (M-F) (Lower Level)
BLCEF Investment Committee Mtg (Rm 200)
- 1:30p Seekers Circle (Library)
- 6:00p Executive Board (Rm 201)
- 6:30p RIC Steering Team (Rm 100)

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

- 8:30a Homeless Support Services (Pentecost)
- 9:00a Worshiping Ministry Team (Rm 20)
- 9:30a Library Open (Library)
- 1:00p Homeless Ministry Board Meeting (Fireside)
- 2:00p Ministry Council (Rm 120)
- 5:15p Rebuilding at Bethel (Library, Rm 100, Rm 120)
- 5:30p Women's Choir (Choir)
- 6:00p Worship Team Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

- 12:00p Worship (Sanctuary)
- 12:30p Soup & Sandwich (Borgwardt Hall)
- 5:00p Lifelong Learning Ministry Team (Rm 120)
- 5:30p Soup & Sandwich (Borgwardt Hall)
- 6:00p Bell Choir (Rm 202)
Compassion Circle (Library)
- 6:15p Worship (Sanctuary)
- 6:45p Bible Study led by Pam Shellberg (Fireside)

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

- 7:00a Current Christian Concerns (Community)
- 8:00a Second Harvest Delivery
- 8:30a Homeless Support Services (Pentecost)
- 12:00p Blessings Circle (Rm 120)
- 7:00p A Night with Nadia (Sanctuary)
Renew Circle (Library)

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

- 7:00a Men's Book Study (Rm 120)
- 8:30a XYZ Activities
- 9:00a Second Harvest Serving Opportunity
- 6:15p Friendship Club (Borgwardt Hall)

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

- 8:30a LEAD 2020 (Good Shepherd Lutheran)
- 9:30a Food Pantry Open 9:30-11:30am (Lower Level)
- 5:00p Worship Service (Pentecost)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL: REQUESTED IN HOME BY MAR 6 2020

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

MADISON, WI
PERMIT 602

