

Bethelite

A publication of Bethel Lutheran Church distributed twice monthly.



bethelmadison.org/bethelite

THIS IS HOW WE DO CHURCH:

Bethel

Our faith is an embodied religion. It is intimately and irrevocably connected to the body. In the beginning, God scooped-up the dust of the clay, molded a body, and breathed life into it. In Hebrew, “spirit” and “breath” are the same word. The Hebrew language is very graphic, very body-conscious language. It is not an abstract language but very concrete. For example, when the Bible says that David, or God, or anyone gets “angry”, it doesn’t have a word like “angry”. Instead it conveys the meaning by saying David “flared his nostrils.” Flaring of one’s nostrils is to feel angry in the Old Testament language of the Bible. It is an embodied language. And through this embodied language, we have an embodied connection with God. That is even more obvious when we consider the birth of Jesus, the God-

Human. God takes on human flesh and it is in the flesh that we hear and see and know of God’s ways through Jesus Christ. It is in the crucified body of Jesus that we see God take



on human suffering. It is in the resurrected body of Jesus that we see our future.

Right now in our world and in our city, bodies are under attack. There is a new virus sweeping around the world

at breakneck speed. What began in a village in China not long ago is now a global pandemic shutting down schools and all manner of major events. On March 12, Governor Tony

Evers declared a state of public health emergency. The next day, the president did the same for the nation. Bethel is being called upon to offer support and leadership in this crisis. We can help influence a series of events that will bring relief and healing to people throughout the area.

First and foremost, we can help slow the spread of the virus. We can do that by practicing good hygiene and

by foregoing our normal worship practices. Normally, worship for us means gathering each Saturday and Sunday for singing, loving, studying, eating, and hearing God’s word. It

continued on next page

continued from previous page

becomes ingrained in us. It becomes part of our routine. It becomes part of us. Right now, this part of us needs to be set aside. To help slow the spread of the virus, we need to not meet as a group on Saturdays or Sundays for a period.

By taking this action, other churches will be strengthened in their resolve to slow the spread by not gathering in large groups. This can be difficult because our faith is, as I said, an embodied faith. We are fed by the interaction. We are encouraged by the shaking of hands. We are inspired by sitting together. Our community needs our help. One way we can help is by being a responsible member of the community and doing our part to slow its spread.

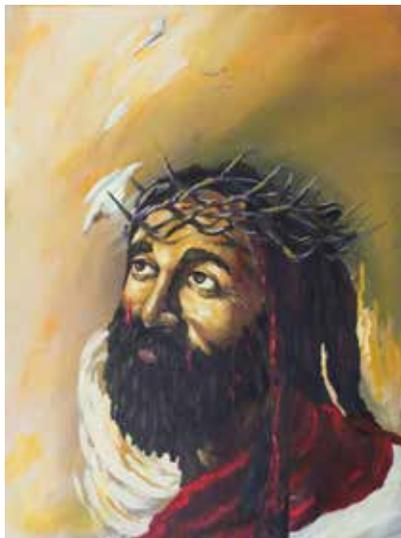
A second way we can help is show people how to live confidently into an unknown future. We know that life is uncertain. But we also know that in the midst of uncertainty, our God breaks in with divine guidance and comfort. As we break from our normal routine of weekly church attendance, as we let go of our routines, as we let go of our attachments, even for a brief (hopefully) time, we can encourage our neighbors and families into a world that is seldom routine, or certain, or comfortable.

As we discontinue gathering physically for a period, we will continue to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus in Bethel. You can participate in these celebrations at 10am on channel 27 WKOW on Sundays as we broadcast the 7:45am service. You can also participate at 9am and 11:15am as we Live Stream each of those services. I look forward to seeing you soon. 🌈

*–Mike Brown
Lead Pastor*

DarRen Morris Art Show by Judith Adrian

Now–April 29



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.

You can view his artwork in the Fireside Gallery and Emmaus Room Hallway Gallery.

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. 🌈



CARING FOR CREATION:

Extreme Weather Events Signal Climate Change

April 19 | 10:15am | Borgwardt Hall

Wisconsin and the rest of the country have experienced an overall increase in extreme weather during recent decades. More extreme rainfall



accounts for much of this negative trend, including some high-profile events such as the August 2018 record deluge in the Madison area. Climate models project a greater frequency and intensity of heavy rainfalls and heat waves in Wisconsin and elsewhere, pointing to an urgent need for adaptation strategies. Improvements in climate modeling are allowing greater confidence in predicting and attributing extreme weather occurrences. This presentation will highlight the major changes expected in extreme weather related to ongoing climate change.



Steve Vavrus is a Senior Scientist in the Nelson Institute Center for Climatic Research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He uses computer climate models and observational data to understand how our climate is changing across the world, including the Arctic and more locally in Wisconsin. Extreme

weather events are an important theme of his research, particularly how they might be affected by climate change. Steve is co-director of the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) and has been a long-time member of its Climate Working Group. He is also Coordinator of the Yahara Watershed Academy, an educational and leadership training program that promotes actionable sustainability in the Madison area.

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 22 - What to Do When You’re at the End

Mar 29 - When You Need a Miracle 🌈

New Member Spotlight

Laura Larsen



Nash and I have been attending Bethel since 2017. We were married at Bethel in August 2019. We live downtown and are excited to become more involved at Bethel. 🌈

Thank You Volunteers



ELCA presiding bishop addresses concerns about COVID-19

In 1527 the plague returned to Wittenberg, Germany. Two hundred years earlier the plague had swept across Europe killing up to 40% of the population. Understandably, people were anxious and wondered what a safe and faithful response might be. In answer to this, Martin Luther wrote "Whether One May Flee from a Deadly Plague." In it, he emphasized the duty to care for the neighbor, the responsibility of government to protect and provide services to its citizens, a caution about recklessness, and the importance of science, medicine and common sense.

To provide care for the neighbor, Luther recommended that pastors, those in public office, doctors and public servants should remain in the city. Luther himself remained in Wittenberg to care for his people. He recommended that public

hospitals be built to accommodate those with the plague. He condemned those who took unnecessary risks that put themselves and others in danger of contagion. Luther also encouraged the use of reason and medicine, writing, "God has created medicines and has provided us with intelligence to guard and take care of the body. ... Use medicine; take potions which can help you; fumigate house, yard, and street; shun persons and places wherever your neighbor does not need your presence" ("Whether One May Flee from a Deadly Plague," 1527).



We are living in the time of the coronavirus. We are also living in the time of social media and constant, relentless news coverage. Many of our people have the same concerns as those in Luther's day. Many of our people are anxious. Luther's counsel, based on Scripture, is still sound. Respect the disease. Do not take unnecessary risks. Provide for the spiritual and physical needs of the neighbor. Make use of medical aid. Care for one another, especially the most vulnerable.

The churchwide organization recommends the following

for churchwide staff: Wash your hands, stay home when you are sick, wear a mask if you have symptoms, consult your medical provider. Bishops and pastors will provide guidelines for worship and church gatherings. Luther also

reminded his people and us that we should trust God's faithfulness and promises, particularly the promise eternal life. Paul writes: "If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's" (Romans 14:8). 🌈

*In peace,
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



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! 🌈



BBQ Dinner: 6-6:45pm

Dancing: 7-9pm

Cost: \$10/person or \$15/couple (for the caller)

Sign-up Here: <https://tinyurl.com/ua2sgbt>

All ages and skill levels welcome

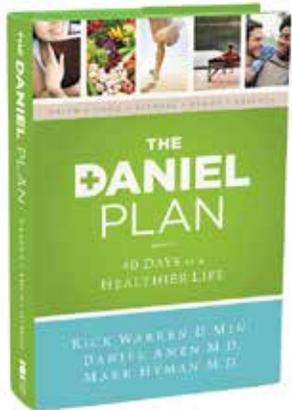
Nursery care provided

Questions: Pastor John at jswanson@bethel-madison.org



Daniel Plan 2020

Christian Based Wellness Program



You may remember we held a trial class last fall for this program that brings many areas together to create a successful wellness plan for your life. This helps us make sure we are strong and healthy so we are able to do what God has planned for our life. People really enjoyed it and some want to go through it again!

We will look at the areas of Food, Faith, Fitness, Focus and Friends. You will hear about all of them, but many just focus on one area they want to work on for the 6-week program.

Save the date(s) for the launch potluck on Wed, April 22 and then the 6-weeks after that on Wednesdays from 6-7:30pm at Bethel for our study and discussion. People don't have to be a Bethel member to participate in the class. If you know already you want to join or if you have questions, please email Michelle Jolly at mtesnow@yahoo.com. More info in a couple weeks! 🌈

RIC (Reconciling In Christ) Reflections



In May of 2016, I made the decision to relocate from Denver to Madison. My decision to move was rooted in the fact that I could be closer to family, to reconnect with extended family, and to be an active uncle to my nephew. My decision to move was, in part, that I no longer saw myself growing. And while relocating does place a large shock on the body, my decision to move ultimately was the healthiest choice for myself.

This move allowed me to rediscover myself and what makes me happy, giving myself permission to explore and do more without guilt. This move pushed me out of my comfort zone, and in doing so allowed me to rediscover my faith. Moving forward is what also drew me to Bethel in the spring of 2019.

Faith for me was always something of a sensitive issue as I am a gay male from southern Florida. While I grew up in the church, the church that I knew never grew with me. Over the past decade, I fell in and out of pursuing faith because the leadership within each congregation that I would attend would never address, recognize, or affirm those who identify on the LGBTQ spectrum. Until now.

Bethel is not only an institution in Madison, but a reflection of the community that she serves. The work that the Reconciling In Christ (RIC) committee does, the willingness to adapt and grow, the openness of being accepted for who I am, and the desire to reach out and serve others; that is what drew me to this church. My feelings are only amplified as the church pursues the RIC designation to be a welcoming community for those who are seeking something more. I am happy that I have found a home here in Madison, and a chosen family with whom I can worship." 🌈

*—Matthew Coppens
RIC Steering Team Member*

Seeking Bethel Military Connections - If you or a member of your family is a member of the military, Peace Corps or some other form of service, we would like to know. Please share the name, branch of service, address and Bethel connection to christal@bethelmadison.org.

SAVE THE DATE: Bike-a-Thon - The 35th annual Bike-a-thon for Bethel Horizons will happen Sat, June 6. Sign-up to ride, walk or pledge support in the Fireside Room on Sunday mornings starting May 3. Naturalist and Adventure programs will benefit at Horizons!

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

Food Pantry - Thank you for your continued support of Bethel's Food Pantry! Over 200 pounds of items were donated at Christmas, and items are donated each week for our "Drop in the Barrel" collections. (Please note that the barrel is at the top of the stairs at the Johnson St. entrance.) An item for the barrel is highlighted each month, but other items are welcome as well, good to remember if you come upon a sale of a personal essential item. Toiletries are always in high demand and are rarely available through Second Harvest. Unopened travel toiletries are welcome, too! We would especially like to thank the anonymous donor for the monetary gift earmarked specifically for a month's worth of toilet paper. Please contact Cheryl Frazier (608.240.1770) with any questions about pantry donations.

Lent 2020 Wed Activities (Mar 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

Men's Current Christian Concerns

(7-8am; Community Room)

Mar 19 - Does Nadia Have It Right?

Mar 26 - Charitable Giving in America

XYZ Activities:

MAR 20 - Chapel: Pastor Mike Brown, Lenten Bible Study; **Lunch:** Chef's Choice; **Program:** Service Project
MAR 27 - Chapel: Pastor Mike Brown, Lenten Bible Study; **Program:** TBD

Breakfast with the Birds (Mar 21, and May 9; 9-11am; Bethel Horizons Nature Center) - With this year's early snows, we've already identified 23 species visiting our feeding station. Join naturalist Eric Volden for an entertaining morning of bird watching and bird lore at Bethel Horizons' Nature Center. A hearty breakfast will be served with each session as Eric identifies birds coming to the feeders and relates bird feeding information and stories. Bring binoculars if you have them, and bird feeding stories to share. Cost for the breakfast and program is \$10/adult and \$7/child. Call 608.574.1992 for more info.

Lutheran Campus Ministry Alleviates Food Insecurity on Campus (Mar 22 at 10:15am; Fireside) - Did you know that more than 1 in 3 students attending four-year colleges experience food insecurity? 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. Beyond alleviating physical hunger, the community lunch also creates a safe and welcoming space for a diverse community of students on campus. Join Campus Pastor Emily Tveite on Sunday, March 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.

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.

CANCELED - Victory Choir (Mar 24; 10:30am; Middleton Village) Contact Connie Dreger at cdreger@madisoncollege.edu or 608.221.1754.

Additional Volunteers Needed for Blanket Workshop (Mar 26) - The blanket workshop has fallen behind in assembly of quilts due to winter weather and January's workshop cancellation due to Bethel's temporary building evacuation. We now have a pile of quilts waiting to be tied. No sewing skills are required. If you can tie a knot you are qualified! The Blanket Workshop is a time of fellowship and mission work where quilts are assembled for Lutheran World Relief. Please consider helping, if only for an hour or so on Thurs, Mar 26 in Borgwardt Hall, between 9am-2pm. Coffee is provided. Bring a sack lunch if you plan to stay through the lunch hour. Contact Patty Saxe with questions at 608.835.9531.

No Bethel Jr! It's Palm Sunday (Apr 5) - Palm Sunday, April 5, will be the "Cry of the Whole Congregation" service at 9am in the sanctuary. The service will be a rich worship experience for all who come to begin the Holy Week Walk with Jesus toward his death and resurrection. It will be an interactive drama with a dancer, narrators, drummer, singers, pianist, hymns, communion, and prayers. **We encourage families to sit in the front of the sanctuary so children can feel a part of the drama** - wiggles, giggles, and cries are all part of life and welcome in church. Children will remain in the 9am worship service with their families until the conclusion of the service when they are dismissed for Sunday School from 10-11am.

Christian Men's Fellowship (Apr 7; 10:30am; Borgwardt Hall) Out of the Northwoods: The Many Lives of Paul Bunyon; Returning to the Fellowship is Michael Edmunds, writer, and public historian from Madison. He has written on history, nature, folklore and is fascinated by the eccentric, unusual and atypical of both people and events. He'll describe how the private jokes of semi-literate Wisconsin lumberjacks escaped the forest to become the nation's best-known folk hero and share some of the original stories told aloud by loggers long ago. The exploits of Paul Bunyan and his big blue ox, Babe, filled books, magazines and advertisements for more than a century. His likeness towers over tourist attractions from Maine to Minnesota, but Bunyan was actually born in Wisconsin.

Community Meal Program (Apr 13) - Bethel volunteers serve the Community Meal at Luke House, 310 Ingersoll Street, once a month. The next serving date is Apr 13. 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

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.

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

4 LENT

Pastor Mike Brown - Mar 21 at 5pm - Pentecost
Pastor Mike Brown - Mar 22 at 7:45 & 9am - Sanctuary
Pastor Mike Brown - Mar 22 at 11:15am - Sanctuary

5 LENT

Pastor Mike Brown - Mar 28 at 5pm - Pentecost
Pastor Mike Brown - Mar 29 at 7:45 & 9am - Sanctuary
Pastor Mike Brown - Mar 29 at 11:15am - Sanctuary

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

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)
Food Scarcity on UW Campus Forum (Fireside)
Caring 4 Social Justice Book Group (GS Chapel)
11:15a Worship Service (Sanctuary)
5:30p Parent Discussion Group (GS Chapel)
Youth Activities (Borgwardt Hall)
6:00p Confirmation & Senior High Youth Quake (Youth Quake Room)

MONDAY, MARCH 23

12:00p Food Pantry Open 12-3pm (M-F) (Lower Level)
5:30p Serving Ministry Team (Library)

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

8:30a Homeless Support Services (Pentecost)
9:00a Worshipping Ministry Team (Rm 20)
9:30a Library Open (Library)
11:15a Lenten Bible Study (Oakwood East)
2:00p Lenten Bible Study (Oakwood West)
5:15p Rebuilding at Bethel (Library, Rm 100, Rm 120)
5:30p Women's Choir (Choir)
6:30p Creative Worship Singers (Choir)
7:00p Worship Team Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

12:00p Worship (Sanctuary)
12:30p Soup & Sandwich (Borgwardt Hall)
5:30p Soup & Sandwich (Borgwardt Hall)
6:00p Bell Choir (Rm 202)
6:15p Worship (Sanctuary)
6:45p Bible Study led by Pam Shellberg (Fireside)

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

7:00a Current Christian Concerns (Community)
8:00a Second Harvest Delivery
8:30a Homeless Support Services (Pentecost)
9:00a Blanket Workshop (Borgwardt Hall)
7:00p Bethel Choir (Choir)

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

7:00a Men's Book Study (Rm 120)
8:30a XYZ Activities

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

9:30a Food Pantry Open 9:30-11:30am (Lower Level)
5:00p Worship Service (Pentecost)
Bhutanese Worship in Nepali (GS Chapel)



Hearing Loop available in all our worship spaces.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL: REQUESTED IN HOME BY MAR 20 2020

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

MADISON, WI
PERMIT 602

