

# Bethelite

A publication of Bethel Lutheran Church distributed twice monthly.



[bethelmadison.org/bethelite](http://bethelmadison.org/bethelite)

## IN THE TRENCHES TOGETHER:

### We've Got This

One of the best movies of 2019 was the film 1917 which tells the story two British soldiers -- Lance Cpl. Schofield and Lance Cpl. Blake -- receive seemingly impossible orders during WWI. In a race against time, they must cross over into enemy territory to deliver a message that could potentially save 1,600 of their fellow comrades -- including Blake's own brother. Scenes of trench warfare are vivid in a war that seemed to go nowhere. As we continue the battle against COVID-19, we often find ourselves going nowhere. Movement is restricted and limited. Danger could be anywhere. Many feel as if they are in a foxhole or trench trying to gut out another day.

This is where Bethel makes a move as a community of faith. When the virus invaded our communities, churches, and families, Bethel began an "air campaign" by moving worship and church activities online.

Literally, the majority of our work for several weeks has taken place in "the cloud" that nebulous region of the cyber and digital world. Having established a strong presence in the air, Bethel now moves to a "ground

Adam "it is not good to be alone," so we recognize that physical and social distancing weighs on people. It can bring them down into discouragement. The note cards were the first step in the ground campaign.



The next step involves direct phone calls. Through the months of May and June, volunteers will again cross the divides to bring more encouragement and support. The intent is simply to check-in with each person at Bethel, to do a wellness check. During the conversation, we hope to see new friendships kindled and weary souls embraced. We

campaign" where we cross the divides to bring a message. This campaign is already well underway. It began some weeks ago with a note writing campaign. Some sixty volunteers hand wrote personal notes to all 1,500 households in the church. These notes were to bring a personal message of encouragement, support, and care. As God said to

also hope to share information with everyone on what to expect from Bethel as we walk this path together. During this time, however long it is, you can rest assured that we've got this. And we will make it through together. 🌈

—Mike Brown  
Lead Pastor

# Ground Campaign Part 2

We Need You!



During this time of Covid 19, Bethel is doing its best to keep connected to our community through online worship, Fireside Chats, Daily Devotions, Wednesday evening Lord's Supper, Zoom Coffee Hour, Children's Worship Bulletin, coloring sheets and more.

Pr. Mike made reference to all of these online experiences as the "Air Campaign" in our response to this "Safer at Home" way of "doing" church. Bethel also began a "Ground Campaign" to continue our connection and to try to touch Bethel members who may not have access to the internet. This "Ground Campaign" Part 1 came in the form of hand written note cards to all Bethel Members. You may have received one of these cards from a staff member or another Bethel Member.

We are preparing to launch our "Ground Campaign" Part 2. We will be calling all people listed in Realm as Bethel Members to check in to see how each person is doing and to ask if there is anything they need. If you would like to be a part of this campaign by making phone calls to your fellow Bethelites please contact Judy Armelin using the email [judy@bethel-madison.org](mailto:judy@bethel-madison.org).

Thank you for all that you are doing individually to help others during this "Safer at Home" time. 🌈

## Hymn Sing

Patrick Kenney and Amy Hartsough are hosting a Hymn Sing!! Get your requests ready, and we will have fun singing, laughing, and praising the Lord together! 7pm - Thursday, June 4! Live on Facebook!

# Reconciling In Christ (RIC) Reflection



I have lived in Madison for 40 years after having grown up in a small rural community in northern Illinois. The move was quite a shock to my system but I loved living in a college town and was intrigued with the diversity of people (as compared to my little village). In 1981, I began my career as an RN at UW Hospital. Another shock and a very steep learning curve!

At the age of 21, I was taking care of some of the young men diagnosed with AIDS that started arriving at the hospital who were, sadly, lying on their deathbeds. There was no Google or email system to rely on to learn more about this illness and how to protect ourselves and others. We were simply told to wear full isolation gear and to be careful. That's when I noticed that some of my colleagues, nurses and doctors, stood back from this patient population whenever possible and would occasionally make some judgmental comments. I found their attitudes disappointing. I'm thankful for having been an RN during this time because it made me realize the importance of approaching every patient with compassion and respect regardless of their background or disease.

Over the years, I've watched the struggle of LGBTQ people in our community as they worked for social justice through activism. It's been a long, long road and there's still work to be done so that they are fully integrated throughout our society, including church. It's time.

As an ally, I look forward to being a part of the RIC team as we strive toward an intentional welcome with full participation of people from diverse backgrounds and orientations. All God's children have a right to belong and worship in a safe space for spiritual growth. My hope is that we will build a community of diverse relationships by breaking bread together, serving together and worshipping together. The title of an article in a recent Gather magazine was "Be together, not the same". Our faith can be richer and deeper if we truly welcome all to Christ's house and table. There's plenty of room for everyone! 🌈

—Sue Rogers  
RIC Steering Team Member

# Outreach Pastor Call Committee

## Member Bios



### Clay Schubert

Hi, I'm Clay Schubert. I'm 23 years old and was born and raised in the Madison area. I work as a HVAC steamfitter at NAMI (North American Mechanical Inc.). I've worked there for 5 years and I'm in the process of becoming a journeyman. I like to fish, make music, work on my car, go

to the gym, hang out with my friends, and spend time with my girlfriend, Mariah Deschler. Mariah and I tried a church in Madison, and Bethel happened to be the first one, and we fell in love with the church right after the first service!

I am married to Susan and have two adult daughters, Heidi who lives in the Twin Cities and Emily who is married to John and are the parents of my only grandchild, Annabelle. They have returned to Madison and are seeking a church home where they will feel comfortable.



### Hillary (Czech) Schreiner

I'm Hillary (Czech) Schreiner and I grew up as a member of Bethel Lutheran Church. I was married here in 2010, and both of my children were baptized here at Bethel.



### Kristin Dewey

Hello and thank you for your interest in meeting our team! I'm Kristin Dewey and I am a Madison native and a life-long member of Bethel Lutheran Church. After graduating from Marquette University, I spent nine years as an Executive

Recruiter at the QTI Group here in Madison. Since my time recruiting, I have focused my energy on building a new business, Farmstrong Design, and managing the Hogan personality assessment practice at QTI. My fiancé, Mark, and I reside in downtown Madison. I look forward to participating on the committee to call a pastor who will not only focus on continuing to connect Bethel with the greater community, but who will reach out to those who practice and realize spirituality outside the context of institutional religion.

My husband, Riley, and I have a 6-year-old son (Reis) and 3-year-old daughter (Reagan). We recently moved to McFarland and love it. My husband is a physical therapist and I work for Baker Tilly as a financial recruiter.

I look forward to being a part of the Call Committee to see how Bethel can continue to evolve and meet the demands of our ever-changing congregation.



### Dan Stein

As a 30+ year member of Bethel and recently retired, I have seen significant change at our church and in the community. I have served on numerous call committees and also the church council, twice. Outreach has always been a challenge at Bethel

and I am excited about the opportunity to identify a new pastor who is comfortable welcoming guests to our church. I know my faith journey was jumpstarted by someone doing outreach and meeting me where I was most comfortable.



### Mariah Deschler

Hi, I'm Mariah Deschler! I'm 23 years old and recently moved to Madison this past fall from a small town in SE Minnesota. In October, I started as a graphic designer at Lands' End in Dodgeville, WI, where I work on designing the kids print catalogs and helping my team organize photo shoots. In my free

time, I love longboarding, yoga, traveling, exploring new places in Madison, reading, playing piano, and anything art-related.

Bethel is the first church in Madison I tried out, and I've loved it ever since! My boyfriend, Clay Schubert, and I started coming here in fall of 2018 on weekends I was visiting him. Once I moved to Madison, I was happy we could start coming more regularly. I've thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the friendly people at church, singing to the beautiful music during services, and being connected to a like-minded community! I'm excited to help call an outreach pastor!

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### Ashley Becker

My name is Ashley! After growing up on a farm and attending college in eastern Iowa, I came to Madison a year and a half ago to pursue an Environment and Resources Master's degree. My academic interests focus on agricultural practices that benefit

both people and the environment, but I enjoy reading a good book and satisfying my sweet tooth outside of school. It's great being in a new city, yet close enough to my hometown that I can spend time with family often. Bethel was not the only church I visited in Madison, but to me it felt like home. I was so welcomed by the pastors and the congregation when I first started attending. I am excited and thankful for the opportunity to help call a pastor that can be just as welcoming for new groups of people who may be looking for a home like Bethel too.



### Kiel Majewski

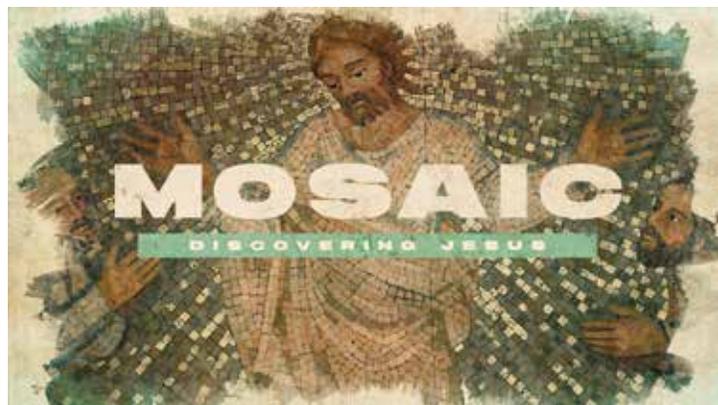
Kiel Majewski is a public historian who was mentored by the founding generation of scholars and survivors in the field of Holocaust and genocide studies. He started as the first executive director of CANDLES Holocaust Museum and Education Center, based in Terre Haute,

Indiana. Through the power of survivor testimony and social media, he helped to grow this small museum into an international education center. Kiel has curated exhibits, led tours of genocide memorials in North America, Europe, and Africa, and has mentored youth and adult peace-building advocates. He writes and speaks regularly on topics such as the Holocaust, Rwanda, polarization and radicalization, documenting history, fostering dialogue, and civic engagement. The grandson of a US Army liberator during World War II, Kiel is passionate about helping the generation of eyewitnesses transfer their legacies to next and future generations.

In 2017, Kiel founded Timberwolf Advisors in Madison, Wisconsin. It is named after Kiel's grandfather's US Army unit, the 104th Infantry Division - aka the Timberwolves - which helped to liberate the Dora-Mittelbau Concentration Camp in Nordhausen, Germany. The mission of Timberwolf Advisors is to support, scale, and sustain organizations that educate the public about the Holocaust, genocide, and peace-building skills and values. 🌈

## Sermon Series: May 17-31

### MOSAIC: Discovering Jesus



Just as we live in a topsy-turvy world, Jesus's first disciples had a real roller-coaster experience with the Lord. One wonders if they experienced a kind of spiritual whiplash. In little over a month, they were ecstatic at the miracles, crushed at the crucifixion, petrified by the Romans, overjoyed and incredulous at the resurrection, anointed with a mission, and filled with power from on high. In these separate stories, a picture emerges of Jesus – a mosaic. From May 17-31, Pastor John and Pastor Mike will explore these moments in time to share the good news for our own moments of spiritual whiplash. This three-week series provides a mosaic of Jesus' appearances to the disciples between his resurrection and the giving of the Holy Spirit. 🌈

## New Member Spotlight

### Sue Rogers



I have lived in Madison since 1981 and have worked as an RN giving bedside care at UW Hospital in a variety of areas for 36 years. I retired in 2016 and volunteer many hours at Dane County Humane Society and love it! I have adopted two senior dogs, Tori and Molly, who will be forever grateful. I have a niece and nephew who live in northern Illinois. Thank you to the folks at Bethel for your warm welcome! 🌈

# Bethel Food Pantry:

## A Leader in Bringing Food Security to Dane County

Bethel Lutheran Church is always looking to help its neighbors, especially in dire times of need such as the present. Bethel Food Pantry Coordinator, Cheryl Frazier, is passionate about ending hunger and giving back to her community. “Right now, we are serving more [people] than we ever have,” said Frazier. “The need is there. In one two-hour period recently, we served a total of 78 people.”

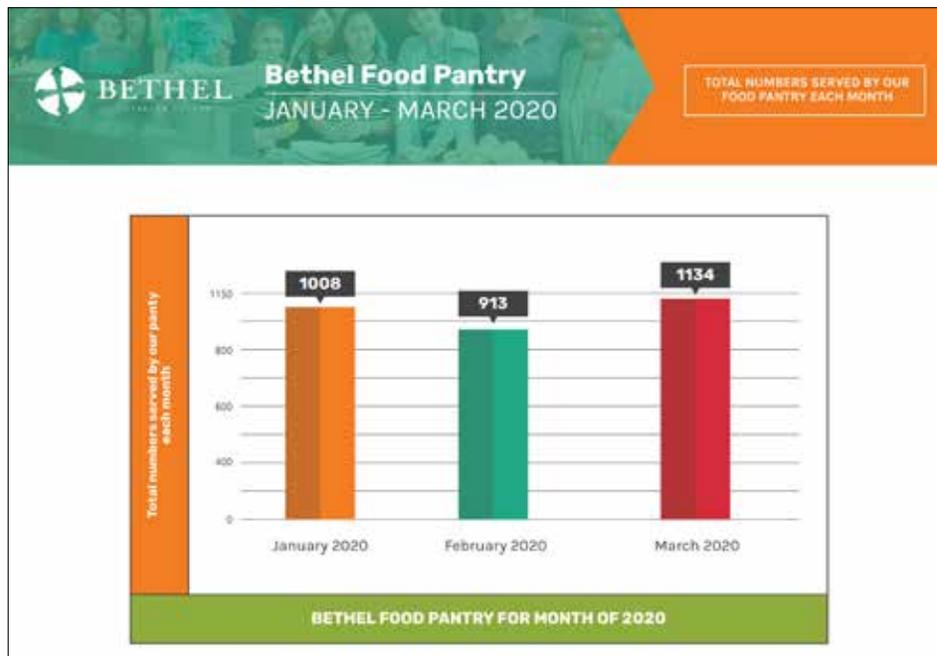
In March alone, 316 households were aided by Bethel’s food pantry, totaling 779 people. Typically, open six days per week, Bethel’s pantry is not as physically large as some of the leading food pantries in the area, but it is open more often and therefore able to aid Dane County residents more regularly.

So, how does Bethel’s Food Pantry work for those seeking aid? People in need can contact Bethel by calling the receptionist starting at 9:00 A.M. on the day they want to come to the pantry. The receptionist records contact information and basic household information, so volunteers can bring prepacked boxes of food for the various sized households to the parking lot entryway for distribution starting at 1:00. The food pantry is able to aid a few walk-ins every day as well, although Frazier says the pantry prefers when households call in advance so volunteers can get everything ready for those needing aid before they arrive.

Normally, when someone in need of aid arrives, they are typically able to request certain goods by filling out a selection sheet detailing what they are most in need of. This means that

a person can choose the type of meat they would like – beef, poultry, seafood or pork – as well as other staple parts of their order. Giving households the ability to choose is what makes Bethel a Choice Pantry, a system that allows those seeking food assistance to go home with the food they need and like while leaving behind items that they will not use. This system ensures that no items go to waste while giving those in need a choice in their food rather than receiving a pre-packed box of groceries. As a result of the pandemic, however, the pantry is currently only able to order two sizes of prepacked boxes from their partner food bank, Second Harvest. All the pantry volunteers are looking forward to returning to a Choice Pantry operation.

For those looking to donate to Bethel Food Pantry, Frazier noted that monetary donations are the best option during the COVID-19 pandemic.



“Otherwise, it’s great when people donate specific items directly,” said Frazier. “For example, every month we ask for a different item with Drop-In-the-Barrel.” Sometimes the pantry is unable to get personal items from Second Harvest and need to rely on Bethel’s members to donate such items. Bethel Food Pantry is more than just food, and often those in need of aid are also looking for toiletries, dish soap, diapers and other essential items.

If you are looking to volunteer for the Bethel Food Pantry, the easiest way to get involved is to call Bethel’s receptionist and leave your contact information or email Kris Fansler, Pantry Volunteer Coordinator at [krisfansler@gmail.com](mailto:krisfansler@gmail.com). 🌈

# We Want You!

## The Bethel Face Mask Brigade



Bethel is seeking any and all individuals, men, women, young, and old, who sew to help make homemade face masks. As we anticipate a time when we are able to once again gather for worship, we do so knowing full well that we will still be living in the land

of COVID-19. It is likely that the State of Wisconsin will allow groups of under 50 to meet, provided they continue to practice good COVID-19 protocols including masks, and distancing. You can help Bethel prepare for the eventual day when we are allowed to gather again with face masks. To join this important volunteer brigade, email Patty Saxe at [buckygrad2@charter.net](mailto:buckygrad2@charter.net) or by phone at 608.835.9531. 🌈

## Signs of the Times: Revelation

Sermon Series: June 7 – July 12



The book of Revelation has often been used to frighten, bully, and condemn people. Filled with fantastic images, sights, creatures, and storyline, it has left many Christians feeling threatened or worse, condemned. Beginning in June, Pastor Mike will begin a new series of messages to peel back the layers of fear and dread that often accompany this book of the Bible to show why it is one of the most uplifting and hopeful works in Scripture.

There will also be a weekly Zoom Bible Study each week on Revelation to deepen the discussion and provide time for questions and conversations. 🌈

# Bethel Sends Another Into Ministry:

## Congratulations Elisabeth Pynn Himmelman

Bethel member and former Youth Director, Elisabeth Pynn Himmelman, graduated from Wartburg Seminary on May 17 with a Masters of Divinity.

She says, “My family - husband Jacob and our son Jens - came to Bethel when I was hired as youth director in 2013. I was on staff until August 2018 when I left for internship. We have been so thankful for the prayers, love, and support of the Bethel community! So much gratitude as well for the Bethel Endowment Foundation for partially funding three of my four years at Wartburg. Jacob was one of the lead architects on the most recent building remodel, so both the community of faith and the physical space are always and forever near and dear to our hearts! I have been assigned to the Nebraska Synod. A total surprise, and now that the reality has settled in a bit, we are definitely starting to feel excited! I am in conversation with a congregation for a shared associate/campus ministry call. In the midst of pandemic, there are a lot of unknowns, but we are trusting God is present in the midst of it. With thanks, Elisabeth”

Bethel has a long history of supporting higher education with scholarships to ELCA affiliated colleges and significant support through seminary. In a time when fewer and fewer men and women are pursuing full time ministry because of the costs, Bethel is a major contributor to a new generation of clergy. 🌈



**Flowers for Bethel Gardens** - Every year Bethel members beautify our church by adopting a garden area and providing plants. I'm sure that you have all admired the three planters near the parking lot door. Individuals who maintained an area last year get first dibs in 2020. However, we always have some areas looking for adoption. If you would like to take responsibility for a flower area, please email Craig Gjerde from the Property Committee. ([clgjerde@wisc.edu](mailto:clgjerde@wisc.edu))

**Puerto Rico Mission Trip (Apr 20-27, 2021)** - As we are all adjusting to the COVID-19 pandemic, it's time to start thinking of the 21st annual mission trip to Puerto Rico, which will take place April 20-27, 2021. It is a fun filled trip and an opportunity to meet some amazing people. Applications are already coming in and we will be limited to 19 people. You can find the application on the Bethel website ([www.bethel-madison.org/pr](http://www.bethel-madison.org/pr)) or contact Phil Ingwell at [pingwell60@gmail.com](mailto:pingwell60@gmail.com) or 608.535.0777. We look forward to speaking with you.

**Fireside Chats with Pastor Mike** - Pastor Mike will be sitting down with you virtually and answering questions you have for him during his Tuesday Fireside Chats live-streamed on Facebook at 7pm (or it can be viewed on YouTube any time after 8pm). If you have any questions you would like to ask him, please send them to [christal@bethel-madison.org](mailto:christal@bethel-madison.org).

**Wednesday Night Live Streamed Lord's Supper** - Join us on Wednesdays at 7pm for the Lord's Supper. Just because we are unable to meet in person for worship doesn't mean we can't share the Lord's meal. There are few features more central to the life and teaching of Jesus than the common meal. Every Wednesday until we are able to celebrate in person, a pastor will lead us in a live-streamed Lord's Supper at 7pm on Bethel's Facebook or you can watch any time after 8pm on our YouTube channel. Of course, no Lord's Supper is complete without the bread and wine (or juice). So, everyone is asked to have wine/juice and bread ready for the evening's communion (any type of bread and wine/juice will work). A pastor will lead the blessing over the internet. We will all share the body and blood together and the goodness of God.

**Contemplative Scripture Reading on Thursdays (Interactive)** - Join Pam Shellberg for a time of interactive, contemplative scripture reading. During each 45-minute period, we will read a passage from scripture and reflect on it by way of the ancient practice of lectio divina. This involves engaging the scripture with our minds, imaginations, and hearts – along with good measures of silence and sharing. This will happen in “real-time,” and you will be able to join in as part of a video conference (if you have a webcam on your computer) or by phone. Links will be provided in the Thursday Daily Devotion email for joining this group. Send any questions to Pam Shellberg at [pam@bethel-madison.org](mailto:pam@bethel-madison.org).

**Community Picnic Update** - Spring is here and a Community Picnic would be something fun to look forward to after several challenging months of social distancing. Unfortunately, in light of the pandemic circumstances, the Bethel Community Picnic scheduled for June 7 will be postponed and held at a time when it is safe to gather as a church family. Best wishes and blessings to all for healthier days ahead!

**Bike-a-Thon update** - Due to the current situation, the Bethel Horizons Bike-a-Thon scheduled for June 6 has been postponed. With the effect of the ongoing shutdown on Bethel Horizons, the Bike-a-Thon will be critical to camp navigating through this crisis. By postponing, the event may be able to happen at a later date. We will also be able to spend more time recruiting riders and helping them to raise pledges for the important work of Bethel Horizons overall. To be a rider for this event, please sign-up at [www.bethelhorizons.org/get-involved/bike-a-thon/](http://www.bethelhorizons.org/get-involved/bike-a-thon/).

**TEXT TO GIVE** - Text “BLC” to 73256 to give.

**GIVE ONLINE** - [www.bethel-madison.org/giveonline](http://www.bethel-madison.org/giveonline)

**Bethel Now on Instagram** - Scan the image below to follow us!





# BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## 7 EASTER

Pastor Mike Brown - May 24 at 7:45, 9am & 11:15am

## 1 PENTECOST

Pastor Mike Brown - May 31 at 7:45, 9am & 11:15am

### SUNDAY, MAY 24

- 7:45a Worship Service (live-stream on Facebook & YouTube)
- 9:00a Worship Service (viewed on Facebook & YouTube)
- 10:00a Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom - Interactive)
- 11:15a Worship Service (live-stream on Facebook & YouTube)

### MONDAY, MAY 25

- 9:00a Daily Devotion (Email)
- 12:00p Food Pantry Open 12-3pm (M-F)

### TUESDAY, MAY 26

- 9:00a Daily Devotion (Email)
- 7:00p Fireside Chats with Pastor Mike (live-stream Facebook)
- 8:00a Fireside Chats with Pastor Mike (YouTube)

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

- 9:00a Daily Devotion (Email)
- 7:00p Lord's Supper (live-stream Facebook)
- 8:00p Lord's Supper (YouTube)

### THURSDAY, MAY 28

- 8:00a Second Harvest Delivery
- 8:30a Men's Current Christian Concerns (Zoom - Interactive)
- 9:00a Daily Devotion (Email)
- 10:00a Contemplative Scripture Reading with Pam Shellberg (Zoom - Interactive)
- 8:30p Contemplative Scripture Reading with Pam Shellberg (Zoom - Interactive)

### FRIDAY, MAY 29

- 9:00a Daily Devotion (Email)

### SATURDAY, MAY 30

- 9:00a Daily Devotion (Email)
- 9:30a Food Pantry Open 9:30-11:30am

### PASTORAL STAFF

**Pastor Mike Brown - Lead Pastor**  
[pastormike@bethel-madison.org](mailto:pastormike@bethel-madison.org)

**Pastor John O. Swanson - Director of Congregational Life**  
[jswanson@bethel-madison.org](mailto:jswanson@bethel-madison.org)

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