



Bethelite

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A publication of Bethel Lutheran Church distributed twice monthly.



bethelmadison.org/bethelite

IN THE IMAGE OF GOD:

Helping Those Who Feel Like They Don't Matter

Our Madison community is hurting. On top of COVID-19 fears and pains, our community also hurts with a need and desire for justice and healing. The murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis again opened the wound of decades and centuries of racial prejudice, discrimination, and mistreatment of blacks in America. There can be no denying that racism is alive and active in our nation and communities. In the Bible's language, racism is a deep form of sin that destroys people and community. In America it has hit blacks over and over again. Because of this, black people in America and in Madison have been hurting. Many of us hurt with them and long to see a day when the hurts unique to them because of the color of their skin are permanently healed.

I would dare to say that virtually every member of Bethel can join the call for a society where all people are treated with respect, dignity, and fairness. I would dare say that every person at Bethel could cry out to God for an end to prejudice against blacks, and indeed, all people of color. On Sunday, June 7, several Bethel members joined me in support of a peaceful march in support of these

values. The Black Lives Matter march was a part of a movement to help our community and nation be true to its ideals and values. The Black Lives Matter march does not mean that other lives do not matter but points to the fact that black Americans are at risk in ways other people are not.

The march was a way to help build a better society. In 1630, Jonathon Winthrop sailed across the Atlantic to help found a new colony in what would be called "America". On this trip he gave a rousing speech to all the passengers saying *"Thus stands the cause between us and God. We have entered into a covenant with Him for this work. . . .we shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us."*

The first English-speaking settlers in this country came with a sense that their lives mattered, that they were on a mission from God, that they had a pact with the Almighty to be an example and a force for good in establishing a new community for the world. These are the same words Jesus spoke to his disciples in the Gospel of Matthew. Jesus says to his followers, then and now, that we are to be a "city set on a hill" shining

bright the glory, grace, and justice of God. And then Jesus sent his followers out onto the streets of the Roman Empire to carry that message and build a new kind of human community. They knew, too, that their lives mattered. There are people in our communities who live with a daily sense that their lives do not matter. The injustices they live with are constant reminder that they don't count like others.

In my very first sermon at Bethel, on June 9, 2019, I said that God has called us at Bethel to help create a new kind of community in Madison. Madison needs our help. Madison needs us to demonstrate how to value, love, forgive others. Madison needs Bethel to show how to defeat the giants in our midst. Madison needs Bethel to help others deal with the deep Job-like grief it feels. Madison needs Bethel at the heart of the city to breathe new life and new hope. You and I, my dear brothers and sisters, have the happy calling of letting people who have for so long been the castaways of our world know that they matter to God and they matter in society. 🌈

—Mike Brown, Lead Pastor

Drive-In Family Worship & Movie

Saturday, June 20 at 7:30pm



Join us at the Alliant Energy Center Parking Lot on Saturday, June 20 at 7:30pm for a special family worship (30-40min) and then watch Disney's Cars movie!

Saturday, June 20 at 7:30pm
Alliant Energy Center Parking Lot
30-40min worship followed by Disney's Cars movie

More info: www.bethel-madison.org/movie

Have a question or concern in advance of the event?
Email cindy@bethel-madison.org. 🌈

COVID-19 Masks

Thank You

Here are the names of the women who participated in making masks for Bethel.

Jeanne Moren
Mary Anne Smith
Cristel Gjerde
Betty Pohlman
Betty Ingwell
Candee Smith
Lake Locken and her daughter
Sharon Luehring
Dana Lund
Kathy DeMets
Dana (Tackes) Reagan 🌈

COVID-19 Message

Bethel Lutheran Church

With businesses beginning to re-open in Dane County, you might be wondering when Bethel will be opening too? The truth is that Bethel has never been closed. The building on Wisconsin Avenue is not the church, we are the church. Through the use of technology, we have been worshipping together, providing daily devotions, holding fireside chats, sharing communion, and raising our voices in song. The Joint Council, Resource and Ministry Teams, Sunday school, Confirmation, and Youth Group have continued to meet virtually. In addition, the church's members and friends have been praying together, studying the bible, and loving and supporting each other throughout this difficult time. While we long to see each other in person, right now the primary focus is to protect everyone by keeping our distance.

We don't know the specific date when the building can be safely re-opened for in-person worship or other gatherings, but realize that much work needs to be done before any of these events can take place. At this time, several groups and individuals are busy planning what our "new normal" will look like.

- The Joint Council and Pastor Mike are working with the Bethel Covid-19 Task Force, the Dane County Health Department, our synod, and other downtown churches to determine when it is safe to meet indoors.
- Dane County infection metrics are constantly being monitored to evaluate the results of Phase 1 as outlined in the Forward Dane plan.
- The custodial staff is awaiting the delivery of sanitizing equipment, cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment that will be needed to keep us safe together.
- The Covid 19 Task Force is working on guidelines to make all of our Bethel activities as safe as possible so that we protect ourselves, each other and our community.

We know that worship won't look the same until there is a vaccine, effective treatments or herd immunity to this virus. In the meantime, we may be online, in our cars or outside/inside in small numbers. But wherever and however we are gathered in His name, be assured that Christ will be with us! 🌈

New Member Spotlight

Larry & Elaine Waldhart



Originally from Appleton and Milwaukee; after each traveling the world for work, we are now retired in Madison. We have four adult children. We are looking forward to the Bethel series, camera club and enjoy

woodworking, bicycling, traveling, singing, playing music, reading, desire world peace and are wondering what we'll be when we grow up. 🌈

'Just Mercy' Movie

A powerful true story of systemic racism



The prophet Micah asks the question, "What does our God require of us?"; he then answers that we are required to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. As we witness the current protests of the death of yet another unarmed person at the hands of the police, we are reminded that justice and racial equity are often missing in our country.

The film 'Just Mercy' is a very moving account of civil rights attorney Bryan Stevenson's crusade to free wrongly condemned death row prisoner Walter McMillian. It is being made available by Warner Bros. to rent for **FREE** during the month of June on all digital platforms. The film is rated PG-13. 🌈

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 on Revelation to deepen the discussion and provide time for questions and conversations. 🌈

Revelation Bible Study

Wednesdays at 1pm & 7:30pm

1pm Session

Login Link: <https://zoom.us/j/91675127185>

Meeting ID: 916 7512 7185

7:30pm Session

Login Link: <https://zoom.us/j/95208437354>

Meeting ID: 952 0843 7354

If Calling In Via Phone:

312.626.6799

Send any questions to Pastor Mike Brown at pastormikebrown@bethel-madison.org. 🌈



BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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4 PENTECOST

Pastor Mike Brown - June 21 at 7:45, 9am & 11:15am

5 PENTECOST

Pastor Mike Brown - June 28 at 7:45, 9am & 11:15am

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

- 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, JUNE 22

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 23

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

- 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, JUNE 26

- 9:00a Daily Devotion (Email)

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

- 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

Pastor John O. Swanson - Director of Congregational Life
jswanson@bethel-madison.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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