

Bethelite

Photo by:
joegarzaphotography.com
608.445.7284

A publication of Bethel Lutheran Church distributed twice monthly.



bethelmadison.org/bethelite

THE ANTLION AND THE CROSS

One fascinating creature you can find in the sand of West Texas is the ant-lion. Google it. It's quite fascinating. It digs a little cone-like trap of fine sand in the dirt, waiting for an ant to fall into it. As the ant tries to climb out of the miniature sand pit, the walls cave-in carrying the ant back down to the bottom of the pit into the waiting pincers of the ant-lion. Trapped and in the clutches of the ant-lion, the ant is devoured.

“Trapped” is a word people sometimes use today to describe themselves or their lives these days of COVID-19. We can feel trapped by the Safer at Home order, social distancing, a relationship, or a job. We can feel trapped by health issues or financial strains. There are feelings of being trapped by stress or depression, or by social and political realities. Indeed, there is a long list of everyday realities that can “trap” us. And as we try to climb out of some particular pit, the ground just gives beneath our feet and we end-up deeper in the hole.



One thing I learned about ant-lions as a kid is that if you take a slender stick of wood and “tease” or “tickle” the sides of the sand trap to simulate an ant in the trap, the ant-lion will stretch out its pincers to grab what it senses is the “ant”. Only, instead of snatching an ant it will grab the wood. Oddly enough, the ant-lion will hang onto that stick for a moment, thinking in its little ant-lion “brain” that it has an ant. Once the ant-lion

is attached to the twig, it is then possible to pull it out of the pit, place it on a rock, and expose it. As a kid, I would, at times, dispense with the ant-lion with the fiery beam of a magnifying glass.

The good news for Christians is that what is true for the ant-lion is also true for the devil. 1 Peter 5:7-9 says the devil is that “lion that prowls and roars looking for someone to devour”. The devil is adept at laying traps for us and pouncing on us from a pit. But, the Bible tells us that Jesus enters the trap with his own type of wood — the cross — not to give us an escape route but to be with us in the pit. Since the devil can’t resist a chance to attack Jesus, he reaches out to draw Jesus into his jaws.

But instead of Jesus, the devil gets a mouth full of the cross. In placing his cross in the heart of the pit, Jesus draws the devil out, exposes him, and ultimately dispenses with him. The key for us is not to look for Jesus to “beam us up” out of the pit but for us to endure long enough for Jesus to finish his

work of dispensing with the devil. Make no mistake about it, Jesus will finish his work. He won’t rest until the job is done. Do not be afraid. Hang in there! The devil's time for exposure has come. He is being dispensed. 🌈

—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.

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

Thank You From Hephatha Lutheran

Mission Partner in Milwaukee



We pray this finds you in good health and strong faith. The picture serves as a greeting of gratitude in the Gospel to you.

THANK YOU

for your many gifts shared with us in all seasons and in this season of pandemic! Your offerings of finances, prayers, encouragement...are combined with all the offerings available to us for the work that is needed in this time. Soon after our building was closed, our nurses began to arrange deliveries of diapers, toilet paper, formula, food, baby wipes, and \$100 bills to 30 family units covering some 83 children of our Strong Baby Sanctuary. (Many of those families are in the picture above.) A second delivery of the same content, again done in safe social distancing mode, would follow 2-3 weeks later. A third is being arranged at this moment. For our families and our community hit so hard by this virus and by so many forms of oppression, these gifts are both life-saving (a time to stay in instead of risk exposure going out) and a sign of God's mercy in circumstances that are cruel.

Bethel, there are many things we will want to forget about this time of the pandemic. One thing we will remember always is you stepping forward to strengthen us in care for our families with offerings before we even asked. In so doing, you reminded us of how God works and you helped us do the same for our families with small children: before they asked, we offered...diapers and food and a special gift are on their way...stay put... stay safe...stay in good faith...someone is going to bring these items to you...God loves you so much and so does the church.

Thank you for sharing God's goodness among us.

God's peace and our love,
Pastor Mary Martha Kannass

View 'Thank You' Video here:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOIK2sHVTkk 🌈

Bethel Graduates

Beloved Graduates and their families:



This is not the graduation you imagined. Quite frankly, it's not fair and it's heartbreaking. But hey--you are always worth celebrating--everyday, and especially as you reach

this milestone achievement in your life: **YOU** are **GRADUATING!** We are blown away by you, and have been working hard to lift you up and make you feel special.

Mark your calendars on Sat, June 13, for a two-part Bethel Graduation Celebration.

Part One: 11am Facebook Live-stream "Blessing of the Graduates"

Join in on Facebook Live-stream with Pastor Mike and Rachel Brown, Youth Director. Rachel will share your photo and things about you that we love, and Pastor Mike will offer a blessing over the graduates.

Part Two: 12pm In-Car Graduation Parade in the Alliant Energy Center Southeast Parking Lot

After the blessing, celebrants from the Bethel community and beyond will line up in their cars in the designated spots, facing the parade route marked in the Alliant Energy Center Parking Lot. The graduates, driving with their families, wear their graduation caps and gowns, and soak up the cheers of celebration and admiration from either side! Families will have the opportunity to get out of their cars at the end of the parade route for a family photo.

To feature you in the Facebook Live-stream Graduate Blessing, **PLEASE SIGN-UP** with the link below. It is so important to us to get the details right so we can give you the glowing praise you deserve:
<https://forms.gle/mbR9d96eo4MPXt8GA>

Are you interested in joining a Parade Party and cheering on the graduates from your car? It's easy! Show up to the Alliant Center Southeast Parking Lot as early as 11am on Sat, June 13, look for the parade route markers, and park your car facing the route. Be sure to deck out your car with celebration decor—balloons, posters, signs! Let's show our graduates some **BIG LOVE!** The graduates will begin the parade route at 12pm, so be sure to find your parking spot in time to cheer them on! 🎉

—Rachel Brown
Director of Youth Ministries

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. 🎉

Flowers for Bethel Gardens



Every year Bethel members beautify our church by adopting a garden area and planting plants (Bethel provides the plants). I'm sure that you have all admired the three

planters near the parking lot door. However, we have some areas looking for adoption. We are hoping to have everything planted by the beginning of June.

If you would like to take responsibility for a flower area, please email Craig Gjerde from the Property Committee. (clgjerde@wisc.edu) 🎉

Bethel Pen Pals

Seeking 'Church Buddies'



It is never too early or too late to connect to faith, and as children of God, we are called to a lifetime of service and ministry together across generations. We would like to try something new for Bethel to connect through an 'old school' mode of communication - snail mail. We want to bring all ages together and invite them to join in a 'Church Buddy' pen pal program. Through the power of pen, paper, and friendship, we hope you connect and learn about someone new in our congregation.

We are asking to exchange a handwritten letter, card, or even pictures, and learn about each other during this time. When the time comes, we can gather and meet face-to-face and celebrate these new friendships.

Please fill out the form at www.bethel-madison.org/bethel-pen-pals and Pastor John will be in contact with a name.

If multiple people want to participate in your home please fill out a form for each person.

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

Bethel COVID-19 Task Force Gets to Work

If life as we once knew it was Plan A, then life since the onset of COVID-19 is Plan B. For Bethel, that included a rapid and effective flip to an all online mode for church. But the situation remains fluid and there are more adjustments on the horizon. To support Bethel's ministry teams, resource teams, council, and staff, a task force of health care professionals, scientists, staff, and clear thinkers will gather to map out a cogent, practical, and flexible plan to allow Bethel members and ministries to deepen its relationship with Jesus Christ, learn valuable lessons during this time, and emerge stronger in a better position to effectively reach our communities. The task force will help Bethel develop a Plan C. Plan C will take us up until the time when a vaccine or treatment for COVID-19 is widely available and widely used. Bethel's members are a great treasure and we must make every effort to care for our own and not put them at risk of this silent killer virus.

Keep in prayers members of the task force: Greg Moses, Heather Moen, Mike Thom, Bev Thom, Dennis Vogel, Laura Vogel, Keil Majewski, Steve Lawrence, Kim Kindschi, Craig Gjerde, and Judy Armelin. 🌈

Church Through Children's Eyes



I've been regularly streaming church at Bethel on Sunday mornings, and trying to get my kids to sit and watch with me. However, they recently decided they wanted to hold their own church; so while I'm on the couch watching Bethel, they go into their bedroom and hold their own service including singing, taking turns reading from

their bible at a table (while the other one is sitting in the audience), and passing out communion (they even use my wine glasses). Last week they went into the bathroom for a long time, then suddenly burst out with our squirming puppy in their arms "Mom, mom! we baptized the dog!" 🌈

Join Realm

And Stay Connected

Welcome to Realm, Bethel's online community. Please join us and give it a try!

Realm provides many ways for the people of Bethel to connect with each other as well as being a store house for our online directory. Realm is a closed community which means you need to be invited to join (we only invite Bethel Members). You also need an email and password in order to access the information so your information is only visible to Bethel staff and members.

How does Realm work?

- Profiles: Your profile is your starting point. It contains your contact information, household members, email preferences, giving history, groups you belong to, and more.
- Groups: Realm's "Groups" feature simplifies interacting with others in the church, including committees and small group ministries. When you activate your profile, you are automatically part of a group called "Bethel Member Directory."
- Giving: You can pledge, contribute, and see your giving history through your profile.

How do I get started with Realm?

If you have an email address on file with the church, you have a profile waiting to be activated. To activate your profile and get started with Realm, you need to open an email invitation from "Bethel Lutheran Church". Follow these steps to activate your profile:

1. Open the email and create a password. You will then be sent a verification email.
2. Open the verification email and click on the link to verify your account. Your profile is activated!
3. To log in to Realm, click on the Realm login button.
4. Enter your email address and the password you created.

I didn't receive an email invitation. What do I do?

You may have received your email invitation and did not realize it. If you did not receive an email invitation and you know you have a valid email address on file with the church, first please check your spam/junk folder. If the email invitation isn't there, please contact Judy Armelin using judy@bethel-madison.org and she will send you another invitation.

If you think the email address we have on file, could no longer active, please email Judy to update your address.

If you did not receive an email invitation and you don't have an email address on file, with the church, you will need to give Judy your email address.

FYI- Each profile is linked to a separate email address so that each individual receives emails and information for the groups they belong to. Therefore, two or more people cannot use the same email address.

Can I give an offering using Realm?

Yes, to give in Realm, Login, then look at the left column and click on "Giving", you will see your giving.

To add an offering click "+Give", and complete the amount and fund (use the arrow to choose a different fund), choose once or multiple times and the date to schedule the offering. Click continue and add your payment method.

What can I do in Realm?

As a member of Bethel with a profile, you can:

- Update your profile (when updating your profile include as much information as you are able under "Personal Information" section. Doing so will help us better serve you, and include you in more community and ministry opportunities)
- View contact information for other Bethel members
- Update your contact information
- Manage your privacy settings
- Update your password
- Update your notification settings
- Register for events
- Give online (one time or schedule ongoing) or add pledges

A graphic logo with the text "Join realm" in blue and "and stay connected!" in orange script. Above the word "realm" is a blue cloud with a yellow star.

continued on next pg

Horizons Summer Camp

As a member of a group, you can:

- View names on the group roster
- View member's contact information
- View list of group events
- View and download files
- Read and create posts
- Post resources (files and photos)
- Send a message to the group

As a leader of a group, you can:

- Do everything a member of the group can plus:
- Add events for your group
- Update the group information
- Update group roster

If you are having problems logging in to Realm or for answers to Frequently Asked Questions "FAQs" look under "CONNECT" then 'REALM MEMBER PORTAL' on Bethel's website.

Note: Realm does not work in Internet Explorer. Recommended web browsers for Realm are Chrome, Firefox, Safari or Microsoft Edge. Remember to bookmark the Realm site to make it easy to find, or create a desktop icon.



If you want to access the community on your cell phone, download the "Connect" App from the app store on your IOS or Android phone.

We'll see you in Realm! 🌈

*–Judy Armelin
Ministry Support Specialist*

New Member Spotlight

Karen Solheim



Karen enjoys working as a clinical professor in nursing at UW-Madison. Her nursing and ministry interests focus on global health, especially girls' education and refugees. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, ballroom dancing, walking and hiking. 🌈

Greetings from camp. Thank you so much for your patience as the staff and I have continued to navigate this unprecedented situation. Your commitment to Bethel Horizons is appreciated!

As I have said from the start of this crisis, the primary factor in the decisions made is the health and well being of our campers and staff. Given all of the knowns and unknowns with this virus and because safety is always first at camp, the Bethel Horizons Board of Directors and I decided that we need to cancel our summer camp program. Since mid-March, myself, the staff and the board have been reviewing the latest information from the Centers for Disease Control, the local health agencies, American Camp Association and Lutheran Outdoor Ministries to make sure that we were preparing to minimize the risks associated with having summer camp. However, despite our best efforts, we cannot in good conscience put summer campers and staff at risk while we are continuing to learn how best to respond to this crisis.

This decision was incredibly difficult because we know how important summer camp is to you and your family. And we will miss being able to see your smiling faces and to connect with all of you this summer. Please keep us in your prayers as you will be in ours as we look for new ways to stay connected this summer.

If you have registered a camper, the Bethel Horizons staff will be in contact with you in the next two weeks. Together I invite you to join me in prayer for the Bethel Horizons leaders, who seek to determine the best ways forward. On their behalf, I thank you for your support.

Please know that while this decision was incredibly sad, the Bethel Horizons staff, board and myself are already working to learn from this experience to plan for Summer 2021. I will be overjoyed to welcome you all to camp next summer for that first campfire, picnics at the beach and so much more. Bethel Horizons will emerge from this situation better than ever to help people foster a better understanding of God, self, others and nature. 🌈

–Eric Knueve, Executive Director



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) or contact Phil Ingwell at 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.

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.

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!

Brosious Family Thank You



We have had an outpouring of cards, gifts, prayers, and acts of kindness from the congregation at Bethel. Bethel is so dear to our hearts and we would just like to send the congregation a heartfelt thank you and updates. Joe has recovered from his second surgery, the

reconstruction surgery to place a plate in his head. He is all put back together again:) He has moved quickly from a walker to a cane and is now almost completely independent. He is working hard in therapies. His greatest challenge at this time is speech. Joe has fluent aphasia, in which he understands and comprehends what is spoken to him, but many of the words he speaks do not make sense to our ear. True to Joe, he is approaching this with determination and speed, while still maintaining his sense of humor.

We are blessed with family time together. At this time, when the world is in pause and it feels like a terrible time to endure illness, it is also a blessing to have nothing but time to heal and be together. It will be a long journey, but we trust in God's plan and know Joe will heal. Thank you for all of your continued prayers and God bless each of you. 🌈

All our love,
Joe, Lynn, Mason & Connor Brosious



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 PENTECOST

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

3 PENTECOST

Pastor Mike Brown - June 14 at 7:45, 9am & 11:15am

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

- 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 8

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 9

- 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 10

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

- 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 12

- 9:00a Daily Devotion (Email)

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

- 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
DATED MATERIAL: REQUESTED IN HOME BY JUNE 5 2020

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

MADISON, WI
PERMIT 602

