



Bethel lite

A publication of Bethel Lutheran Church distributed twice monthly.



bethelmadison.org/bethelite

IT'S GOOD FOR THE SOUL:

Ghosts of School Days Past

School is very much in the news these days. Do we start in the classroom or online? Is there another option? What are the risks? How do we decide? It's an extremely complicated situation. There are no easy answers for educators or parents. When I think back on my days in school in comparison, those days seem almost simplistic. I remember Mrs. Fox in first grade. She was sweet as could be. Then, there was Ms. Harbor in fourth grade. She was as tall as a tree, always wore a straight weathered black button-down dress, and looked like Abraham Lincoln, without the beard but maybe a little stubble. I was as afraid of her as I was of a bear. She walked around the classroom always carrying one of those wooden yard sticks, looking for some kid to whack. She was one year away from retirement and had nothing to lose. One day she walked by my desk and "Whack!" She hit me on my leg! I think she cracked the yard stick. I was shocked since I hadn't done a thing. She just looked down at me and grinned. Just a love tap. I was one of her favorites.

Then, there was Mrs. Hood in fifth grade. It was in her class that I learned first hand how your misdeeds can follow you. One day in her class, I had finished my work at my desk and walked over to the side of the room where some other kids were gathering



for another project. I was working over a big mouthful of Bubble Yum bubble gum. It had the perfect balance of flavor, elasticity, and resistance. It was the kind of gum that you could either blow gigantic bubbles or pull out of your mouth in long strings. But on that day, it never occurred to me to blow a record-setting bubble or stretch out a long string to dazzle my friends. Instead, while I was chomping and

chewing, my eyes landed on a sweet little girl named Debbie clear across the classroom. Everyone liked her. A very nice and likable girl. And she had the longest shiniest hair, going clear down to her waist. I started to think to myself, "I wonder if I could throw my gum all the way across the room and hit her in the head?" It had to be a good twenty yards. So taken was I with the geometric challenge that I never stopped to consider if I should make the throw, just if I could. There was only one way to know for sure. So, I reached up and pulled out the mouth full and hurled it across the room. The trajectory was right on. The arch, a thing of beauty. The landing, perfect! It hit her right on the left side of her head.

I could do it after all. Success! Or so I thought, because she reached up and felt it and called out the Mrs. Hood, who ran over to help her. Then I realized what I had done. I quickly slunk back into the group of kids I was with hoping no one saw what I had done. But someone had seen – Will Calley, who teased me with threats

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of revealing my deed. For days and weeks, he would torture me by telling Mrs. Hood in my presence that he knew who had done it and his initials were MB. That didn't out me though because there was a boy named Mike Baugh in the class. Will never revealed whether it was Mike Brown or Mike Baugh. But, he did regularly extort me for cookies or cokes at lunch in exchange for his silence. I always felt the suspicious eye of Mrs. Hood on me. Somehow, I thought, she had to know it was me. It was unbearable, until close to Christmas I approached her desk and told her it was me. Mrs. Hood had been able to get the gum out of Debbie's hair. But she had me apologize to Debbie, of course. I never forgot the experience of having someone follow me around and threaten to expose my bad deeds. I never forgot the cleansing feeling of going to the teacher and coming clean. Confession does wonders for the soul. The Bible tells us "If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). I encourage you to find time regularly to confess your imperfections to God. Coming clean with the center of all that is good and right in the world and our lives is just good for the soul. 🌈

—Mike Brown, Lead Pastor

Circle of Love Golf Outing

Will be held on Sept 21, 2020



The Circle of Love Golf Outing will be held on Sept 21, 2020 at Blackhawk Country Club as was planned. The outing will be recast as a "Day of Golf" in adherence to COVID-19 "rules of golf" published by the United States Golf

Association. Charitable contributions will be directed toward Bethel Horizons.

The associated activities such as auctions and dinner will not be held. A box "take on the course" lunch will be provided. A charitable contribution will be part of the fee charged to golfers participating in the day of golf. This charitable contribution part will be enumerated for tax purposes. There will be "cashless" funds management.

To sign-up visit: www.bethel-madison.org/colgolf. 🌈

—Greg and Sharon Moses
COL Golf Outing Coordinators

New Member Orientation

Bethel 101 Class; Sept 2-30



Pastor Mike invites you to a six-week orientation class to life at Bethel. The class will include elements of Bethel's teachings on what it means to be a follower of Jesus, how to understand the Bible, the meaning of the Lord's Supper and baptism, how to get involved at Bethel, and many other subjects. Since booklets will be sent by US mail, pre-registration is encouraged.

Bethel 101 will meet on Wed evenings from 7-8:30pm. To pre-register, please email pastormikebrown@bethel-madison.org. This class is open to all people, members, non-members, and the simply Bethel-curious. 🌈

Drive-In Family Worship & Movie

Saturday, Aug 29 at 7pm



Join us at the Alliant Energy Center Parking Lot on Saturday, Aug 29 at 7pm for a special family worship (30-40min) and then watch Disney's Inside Out movie!

Saturday, Aug 29 at 7pm
Alliant Energy Center Parking Lot
30-40min worship followed by Disney's Inside Out movie
No charge - donations accepted

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

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

Supported by the Bethel Endowment Foundation 🌈

Reconciling in Christ (RIC)

A Welcome and Invitation

Bethel has been welcoming members of the greater Madison community since its inception over 160 years ago. From its original Norwegian roots Bethel has expanded to welcome all community members, including in more recent years the Spanish, Bhutanese and Homeless communities.

Have you heard of our Reconciling in Christ program? If you missed some of the early communications we welcome and invite you to learn more about the Reconciling in Christ program as we enter a more visible phase of the program through our new Reconciling in Christ webpage, our 1-on-1 listening sessions and educational offerings.

What is the Reconciling in Christ program? Bethel's 2020 - 2025 Strategic Plan includes a vision of Bethel being an actively welcoming church, serving a diverse and inclusive greater Madison population. As part of this vision Bethel is on a journey to become Reconciling in Christ affirmed in January, 2021. In so doing Bethel will join over 900 other Lutheran congregations who are RIC affirmed, plus over 350 more who are on the journey to becoming RIC affirmed. A Reconciling in Christ congregation is one that is recognized as openly welcoming to the LGBTQIA+ community.

Why is this important? Many in the LGBTQIA+ community feel they are not welcome in faith communities, even those that state "all are welcome here." "For Bethel to become a truly welcoming church under the philosophy of 'Reconciling in Christ,' it must move beyond being passively open to diversity and must actively seek to welcome full participation by people from diverse backgrounds and orientations." (Bethel 2020 – 2025 Strategic Plan)

"Called by God in our journey of faith to carry out Jesus' ministry of inclusivity, the Bethel congregation begins a series of educational and programmatic opportunities so that we become a Reconciling in Christ congregation. An RIC congregation articulates – intentionally, specifically and publicly – full embrace of persons of all sexual orientation, gender identities and gender expressions." (Bethel Joint Council - June 6, 2019)

Yes, Bethel has always been welcoming to all people, however, we remind ourselves that a welcoming culture is one rooted in an actively welcoming mindset. There is nothing passive about a welcoming culture whether in our home, work or faith lives. "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love

does not know God, for God is love." (1 John 4:4-8)



Where can I find the Reconciling in Christ webpage?

You can find the Reconciling in Christ webpage by typing "Bethel-Madison.org/RIC" in your browser's search bar. You can also find the Reconciling in Christ link in the "About Us" or "I'm New" pages on Bethel's website. What you'll find there includes:

- A Charter outlining the goals and guiding principles of the RIC program.
- A Timeline outlining key milestones in the rollout of the RIC program.
- A video message from the pastor, and messages from the RIC Steering Committee members.
- Reconciling in Christ Reflections.
- RIC related resources in the form of articles and videos, including a selection of music videos.
- An invitation to be heard via a 1-on-1 confidential listening session with one of the RIC Steering Committee members.

An invitation to hear from you. Graceful engagement is a way of hearing one another's perspectives, and finding commonalities and shared experiences. It is also about building relationships based on shared values. As part of the Reconciling in Christ program we invite you to sign up for a 1-on-1 listening session with one of the RIC Steering Committee members, including Pastor Mike. These 30-45 minute confidential sessions give us the opportunity to get to know and learn from you. To sign-up visit the "We Want to Hear from You" link on the Reconciling in Christ webpage.

RIC-related educational opportunities are posted on Bethel's Events webpage and communicated in the Bethelite and Daily Devotion. They are also noted in the RIC Timeline found on the Reconciling in Christ webpage.

The journey continues...All are welcome and invited to join us on our Reconciling in Christ journey, however, the "welcome journey" continues beyond becoming RIC affirmed in January. As with any journey there may be twists and turns, and challenges. We recognize that the corona virus temporarily limits our ability to provide in-person welcomes but we will persevere. Bethel will learn and grow as an actively welcoming congregation to all communities in the greater Madison area; it's in our DNA. 🌈

– Dave Clack
Reconciling in Christ Steering Committee

Children and Family Ministry Fall Update

Usually in August, families find themselves fitting in a final weekend away or a family vacation, school shopping for the correct colored folders (with prongs or without prongs...ah!), perhaps looking for a special first day of school outfit and likely feeling both nervous and excited for the start of something new. In our house this nervous excitement can lead to big mood changes ranging from sky-high excitement to dark and gloomy irritability.

A source of big emotions can be the stress of the unknown. Is my school starting in person or virtual? Will I have to wear a mask all of the time? Can I play with my friends if they are in a different class? Is it safe? At Bethel, we would like to turn an unknown about Children & Family Ministry for this fall to a known, hopefully bringing your family comfort in knowing what to expect and when we will be together again.

Children and Family Ministry will continue virtually until winter break when we will reevaluate based on COVID-19 conditions in Dane County. While we would much prefer to be in person, we cannot say that enough, we strongly feel this is the safest way to move forward for families and leaders.

This past spring and early summer we ran a handful of Sunday School Zoom mornings which were a lot of fun for everyone! Interestingly, we connected with a few students we don't see as regularly at church on Sunday mornings due to schedule. We also discovered that some students felt more comfortable participating from their homes than while in-person. We learned more about those students in a few Zoom calls than we had in months together in-person, a wonderful silver lining!

Most importantly, we learned that it is better to be together via technology (even when clunky!) than not at all.

Beginning in September and continuing through December, Children and Family Ministry will open each month with a virtual Bethel Jr! service via Zoom. We will have Sunday School via Zoom the rest of the Sundays each month. Confirmation programming will be held, via Zoom, on Sunday evenings.

September Children & Family Ministry:

All activities will be virtual via Zoom on Sunday mornings (Bethel Jr! and Sunday School) and Sunday evenings (Confirmation).



**Online registration opens on Sunday, September 6. Watch for more details via daily and weekly emails!

- Sept 6 (Labor Day weekend - no scheduled events)
- Sept 13 Bethel Jr! via Zoom (morning) and Confirmation via Zoom (evening)
- Sept 20 Sunday School via Zoom (morning) and Confirmation via Zoom (evening)
- Sept 27 Sunday School via Zoom (morning) and Confirmation via Zoom (evening)

We appreciate your patience in this unprecedented time. There have been clunky moments already with technology and there will be more but we will do everything we can to make this as smooth as possible. Most importantly, we will be connecting as a faith community to support one another in God's steadfast love.

Finally, parents and caregivers, let's remember that kids (frankly, me too as a 41-year old) are still learning how to regulate those big emotions that come with excitement and uncertainty. Sit with them (or yourself) in these big emotions and let them flow. Gently remind them they are not alone, you are there for them and God is with them always. Perhaps return to the big emotion at a calmer time to process together. This can be a beautiful opportunity to build emotional resilience and strengthen relationships.

Questions? Please contact cindy@bethel-madison.org or pam@bethel-madison.org

***We are looking to rename "Sunday School" - do you have any suggestions? Please email cindy@bethel-madison.org with your ideas, thank you! 🌈

*–Cindy Terhune-Melrose
Coordinator of Sunday School & Family Ministry*

Bethel Neighborhood Picnics



In the coming weeks throughout Dane County, Bethel folks will be gathering at local parks for food, fellowship and fun. There will be an optional activity to participate in, a game called Kubb. We will be following COVID-19 guidelines to keep ourselves and others safe.

Date & Location - 5:30-8pm:

Aug 20 – Maple Bluff Beach, Maple Bluff
Aug 27 - Settler's Park, Middleton

Food by 'Food Junkies': Tacos (GF, vegetarian or meat), salad bowl and fruit bowl for \$10/person or \$25/family. Payment options are text to give (text BLC to 73256) or cash/check night of the event.

Cost: \$10/person or \$25/family

In order to attend the event **you must register** at least 2 days before the event. You can sign-up for as many picnics as you would like to attend.

Sign-up here: www.bethel-madison.org/kubb

Don't know what Kubb is? Bottom line, it is a fun and safe game for people of all ages and athletic abilities. Teams of two or more will compete. The ultimate winner of each Neighborhood Picnic event will move on to the Bethel Kubb Finals in September. 🎯

—Nurturing Team



Transformed Community: Freed & Empowered for Radical Welcome



Five Thursdays, beginning Sept 3, 7-8:30pm
Led by Pam Shellberg

A Bible Study for our Reconciling in Christ work together, opening our hearts and our church to the LGBTQIA+ community

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God— what is good and acceptable and perfect. —Romans 12:2

The kind of transformation Paul is talking about is not easily come by. It demands that we not conform to this world but rather live counterculturally. This kind of faithfulness requires a group effort! This study will focus on the nature and character of Christian community—what kind of change it makes in the world and also how it challenges its individual members, even as it sustains them, in the work of living with radical generosity, inclusion, compassion, justice, and forgiveness. Let's consider how this kind of radical discipleship shapes relationships with LGBTQIA+ people, and advances Bethel's effort to become an RIC church.

Login Link: <https://tinyurl.com/yd97ymws>

Meeting ID: 985 8873 5393

Password: 431880

If Calling In Via Phone: 312.626.6799 🎯

Bethel Safely Forward Plan

“Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God,” Isaiah 41:10

During this time of uncertainty and suffering due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we rely on God’s promise to always be with us. He has blessed us with a loving and supportive faith community at Bethel Lutheran Church. Even though we cannot gather as we would like, God continues to strengthen our relationships with each other and inspire our work in the community. The Bethel COVID-19 Task Force has been working to better define what church, ministry and mission will look like in the coming months. The result of this work is the “Bethel Safely Forward Plan.” On July 21, Bethel’s Joint Council unanimously approved this plan to help our congregation respond to the challenges and opportunities of the global pandemic.

This plan is based on the best available scientific and medical information. The Task Force relies on primary scientific literature and published data in addition to guidance from the CDC, WHO, and Dane County Health Department. The Task Force has chosen to abide by Dane County’s guidelines for mass gatherings. The mass gathering guidelines are safest, because they best reflect the level of exposure that occurs during church gatherings and are subject to change by the county in response to real time risks of infection.

Currently, Dane County is experiencing widespread community transmission of COVID-19. We can mitigate but cannot eliminate risk of infection at Bethel events. Risks associated with community transmission of the virus will increase and decrease over time. These guidelines use a phased approach, coordinated with the county-designated phases in their Forward Dane plan, so that we can respond quickly to changes in the community infection rate. *Full worship services with unlimited participants will not be offered until there is a vaccine, effective treatment or herd immunity.* Bethel will continue our robust online offerings for the duration of the pandemic.

Bethel Safely Forward Plan:

- **Dane Co Safer at Home:** In this phase all worship, meetings and events will be online or drive-in only.
- **Dane Co Phase 1:** Outdoor worship and gatherings are allowed, not to exceed the number allowed by Dane County for outdoor mass gatherings. Indoor baptisms, funerals, and weddings are allowed for up to 10 persons. Online and drive-in events continue.
- **Dane Co Phases 2 and 3:** Indoor worship and gatherings are allowed, not to exceed the number allowed by Dane County for indoor mass gatherings.

Indoor worship will only be considered if 50 people are allowed to gather. Indoor baptisms, funerals and weddings are allowed, not to exceed the number allowed by Dane County for indoor mass gatherings. Outdoor events continue per county outdoor mass gatherings guidelines. Sunday school may resume after January 1, 2021, with physical distancing and masks required. Online and drive-in events continue.

Infection control measures:

- Masks are required at all times inside the building and for any indoor event.
- Physical distancing of 6 feet will be required at all events.
- Prior to entering the building, all people will have their temperature checked and a symptom questionnaire administered.
- Facilities will be cleaned according to CDC guidelines, including enhanced cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.
- All events will require advance registration.

What does this mean for us now?

- Dane County is in Phase 2; however, indoor mass gatherings are limited to 10 people. Also, we continue to wait for the arrival of cleaning equipment that is backordered. We will not have indoor worship, gatherings or meetings until the number allowed for indoor mass gatherings reaches 50, and all necessary cleaning supplies have arrived. Once the building is safe to open for worship, other events and meetings can be scheduled as well. Outdoor gatherings are allowed for up to 25 people. Online and drive-in events continue.

We long for the day when we can safely gather inside our beautiful sanctuary. Until that time, we will share the love of Christ with our wider community in new ways and we will share our faith, love and support with each other in the ways available to us. The COVID-19 Task Force will continue its work, monitoring the conditions in Dane County, responding to changes and adjusting plans as needed.

Bethel COVID-19 Task Force

Judy Armelin, Tony Arneson, Pr. Mike Brown, Craig Gjerde, Kim Kindschi, Eric Knueve, Steve Lawrence, Kiel Majewski, Heather Moen, Greg Moses, Kathy Pielage, Bev & Mike Thom, Denis & Laura Vogel

View our entire plan: <https://tinyurl.com/y5cvs2ao> 🌈

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 6:30pm 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 6:30pm 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.

Men's Current Christian Concern (Thursdays at 8:30am)

Men's Current Christian Concerns continues to meet each Thursday morning via a Zoom video conference. The meeting starts at 8:30am instead of 7am during this temporary rearrangement.

Aug 20 – Increased Moralization?

Aug 27 - Lifestyle Changes After Covid-19

If you have questions, contact Larry Larrabee at 608.249.9982.

The **Men's Friday Book Study** currently meets every Friday from 8-9am via Zoom. The group will begin Malcolm Gladwell's *Talking to Strangers* on Friday, August 7. Contact Larry Larrabee at lar3car2@gmail.com or 608.249.9982 for the Meeting ID and Password.

Use Amazon Smile and Donate to Bethel - Do you shop online using Amazon? Did you know you can donate to Bethel by doing your regular shopping through Amazon? By using Amazon Smile, they will donate 0.5% of the price of your purchase automatically to Bethel!

How can you set this up? It's Easy!

1. Go to: <http://smile.amazon.com> (we recommend bookmarking this page for easy accessing)
2. Under the search bar click on the word “Supporting” in orange letters.
3. Select “Change your charity”.
4. Type “Bethel Lutheran Church, Madison, WI”
5. Click the Search Button.
6. Click the Select button.

That's it! You will now be donating to Bethel every time you make a purchase. (Remember to use the Amazon Smile web page as that is how Amazon tracks your purchases for donation. If you use the regular Amazon page, your donation won't be recorded.) Your Contact: christal@bethel-madison.org

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

GIVE ONLINE - www.bethel-madison.org/giveonline



BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Emergency Cell: 608.216.3600

12 PENTECOST

Pastor Mike Brown - Aug 23 at 7:45, 9am & 11:15am

13 PENTECOST

Pastor Mike Brown - Aug 30 at 7:45, 9am & 11:15am

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

- 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, AUGUST 24

- 9:00a Daily Devotion (Email)
- 12:00p Food Pantry Open 1-3pm (MWF)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

- 9:00a Daily Devotion (Email)
- 6:30p Lord's Supper (live-stream Facebook)
- 8:00p Lord's Supper (YouTube)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

- 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, AUGUST 28

- 8:00a Men's Friday Book Study (Zoom interactive)
- 9:00a Daily Devotion (Email)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

- 9:00a Daily Devotion (Email)

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor Mike Brown - Lead Pastor
pastormike@bethel-madison.org

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

Sunday Flowers:

Aug 9: Altar Spray is given in loving memory of my husband, Don Hunt, by Kathy Hunt.

Pulpit Flowers are given in honor of the ordination of Elisabeth Pynn Himmelman, which occurred at Bethel Friday, Aug 7, by the Bethel Congregation.

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