

Bethelite

A publication of Bethel Lutheran Church distributed twice monthly.



bethelmadison.org/bethelite

WHEN A ROCK IS NO LONGER JUST A ROCK: Reading Our Future at Devil's Lake

On a recent Sunday afternoon, Karin and I drove out to Devil's Lake, just a short drive west from Madison. No doubt, many of you have been there. The weather had been nice for a while or so which put us in the mood for some outdoor adventure. It was my first trip there and I didn't know what to expect. Of course, when we did arrive, I was totally impressed. It's a beautiful place. The water is clean and clear. The trees are tall and majestic. But what held my attention the most were the rocks. With the lake at one side and the trees all around, I couldn't take my eyes off the ground. I was spell-bound. I

soon learned that the rock that forms the bluffs and major features around the lake is called quartzite. It's a rock with an amazing history which, honestly, I believe tells the future of Bethel. Geologists calculate the age of the rock formations there to be about 1.6 billion years old. This makes it one of the oldest rock formations on the entire continent! The way the massive structure came about goes

back even further in time, almost another half billion years. This was before the rocks were formed or the gorge developed, when great rivers fed into shallow seas in this area

made of this beautiful material. If you want to see the sandstone, then you go to the Dells. But to see the result of immense heat and pressure, go to Devils Lake.



*"There is no Holy One like the LORD, no one besides you; there is no **Rock** like our God."* – 1 Samuel 2:2

depositing massive quantities of sand and sediment over staggeringly long periods of time. What were only sandy deposits would eventually dry-out and become sandstone. But it doesn't end there. The ground beneath began to push upward generating immense heat and pressure that transformed the soft sandstone into quartzite. Quartzite is a super hard rock, even harder than granite. The hills around Baraboo are

What I saw in my all too brief time at Devil's Lake was the value of going through periods of immense, almost unbearable, heat and pressure. There are certain desirable traits and qualities that can come only from going through the hottest of heat and the heaviest of pressure. This is true in geology. It is true in people. The heat and pressure cause the grains of sand to rearrange, fuse, meld, and bond together so

tightly that they form something with wondrous color and sheen that you cannot scratch even with metal. We, at Bethel, are undergoing considerable heat and pressure. We are caught in a global and national vice with a worldwide pandemic, financial insecurity, social unrest, political animosity, and personal loss. As a

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result, our lives as individuals and as a family of believers are being rearranged and fused much like the ancient sands around Baraboo were long ago. And as we can see the ultimate outcome of that heat and pressure towering over the lake in the great bluffs, we can also see the ultimate outcome of this time of pressure and heat upon Bethel. We are being fused into a strong, resilient, and beautiful feature for Madison. These times are melding together our essential makeup as a church to provide greater hope, stability, and strength for a community that is searching for solid ground. This pandemic and all that surrounds it will not be our crumbling at Bethel but our metamorphosis as a church. In this, we will bear and share the image of the God who is the Rock of our salvation, as it is written in Psalm 18:1-3 "I love you, Lord; you are my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my savior; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection." So, my good friends, hang in there. This heat and pressure is only for a season. It will pass. When it does, what beauty and strength we will behold. 🌈

—Mike Brown, Lead Pastor

The Dang-Its to Kick-off Bethel Drive-up Worship

Featuring the Dang-Its

September 13, Sunday, 4pm



Bethel's first weekly Drive-Up worship service will feature the award-winning bluegrass band, The Dang-Its! Using its own parking lot as the scene for a holy and wholesome time of worship, Bethel will celebrate the goodness of Jesus Christ and the invitation to a new life.

Attendance will be limited to 60 cars.

Because of limited parking, you must pre-register. Register by phone by calling the church office at 608.257.3577, or use the online registration form found on Bethel's website (www.bethel-madison.org/driveup) which is also included in the Bethel Weekly Wednesday email. Bulletins will be provided as well as communion elements for each person in the car. Sound will be broadcast over an outdoor PA system and over an FM radio station for worshipers to receive through the radio in their vehicles.

The Dang-Its will also provide ½ hour of music before the service begins and ½ hour of music after the service concludes. So, arrive early and stay late listening to friendly, fun, and familiar tunes like Down to the River to Pray, I Saw the Light, This Little Light of Mine, What a Friend We Have in Jesus, and more. 🌈



Reasons I wear a mask. Keeping a lid on Covid helps us all.

Humility

I don't know if I have Covid and the virus can be spread without me having symptoms.

Kindness

I don't know if the person I am near has a child battling cancer or if they are caring for an elderly parent.

Community

I want my community to thrive, I want our businesses to stay open. I want people to stay healthy, able to work and be able to provide for their families.

My Skin: Racial Reconciliation

New Sermon Series: Sept 20 - Oct 4



This three-week series by Pastor Mike and Pastor John will speak with honesty and hope about how Bethel can lead the community toward healing and racial reconciliation. Every single person in our community has been touched by racism and suffers from its effects. Every single person in our community needs to hear God's promise for people longing for a better world. 🌈

Farewell Penny Duane You Will Be Missed!



Bethel's long-time bookkeeper, Penny Duane, is wrapping up over 30 years of service to Bethel Lutheran Church and Bethel Horizons. She has been a faithful fixture and consistent presence in the office through three decades. Her tenure spanned several youth directors, Christian education staff, custodians, Music Directors, support staff, and many pastors. She has been with Bethel through "thick and thin." Her 31 years have been marked with a quiet faith, sweet spirit, and dedication to getting the job done. Penny leaves Bethel with fond memories, deep friendships, and gratitude.

If you would like to send a card or email to Penny, her contact information is below.

5322 Spicebush Ln
Madison, WI 53714

onewhoquilts56@gmail.com 🌈

Bethel Bibles on a Mission

These days my life feels suspended. Plans are canceled, the church doors are closed, and my friends feel distant. I find it hard to remember that God is powerful, active and creative in all times. From the dim, quiet storage closets at Bethel, our bibles burst forth to remind me that God's plans are not canceled and God's love is never suspended.

It all started when I read an email from an old friend, who works for the CDC. During the pandemic, she has been deployed to Native American reservations where residents have been disproportionately affected by COVID 19. She was writing from the White Mountain Apache tribe in Arizona, recently featured in a NY Times article about the pandemic. (<https://nyti.ms/3ORGxs5>)

Twenty-five percent of the tribe has tested positive for COVID-19. She was helping to set up isolation and quarantine centers. In these centers up to 40 people at a time receive meals and daily health checks for 14 days. She was writing to all of her contacts to request donations of books, games, and art supplies, things to help them pass the time. I planned to send a few books and games via amazon.

Then came a personal text to me. She said the tribe had specifically requested bibles, but she wasn't sure what kind of bibles to ask for or where to get them. She thought I could help. I knew just who to turn to.

I asked my Bethel community if anyone would like to help. Pam Shellberg and Cindy Melrose dug through stacks of bibles in the education wing, collecting 80 surplus bibles to send. Bill Webb helped to load them in my car and off they went to Pinetop, Arizona.

The beauty of this experience for me is being part of a community that I knew I could count on to make it happen. By responding with "you need bibles and we have plenty to share," Bethel participated in God's action in the world. Those bibles were sitting at Bethel because of the generosity and support of our members over the years. After being used and loved by us they will have a new life and new purpose that we could never have anticipated. This is another reminder to me that even when our doors are locked, our church is very much open and even when life seems to stand still, God is very much alive. 🌈

—Heather Moen
Bethel Community



Circle of Love: Day of Golf

MONDAY, SEPT 21

Due date for sign-up
and payment:
Sept 11



★ **Cost:** \$125 (paid by credit card)
Call 608.231.2456 to pay

Price includes greens fee, individual cart, box lunch
and contribution to Bethel Horizons

Sign up at: <https://tinyurl.com/y3agbmjv>
On the site you can add players to make a twosome,
threesome or foursome.
Or call the pro shop and they will sign you up
at 608.231.2456.

Tee times will be in two intervals:
8-9:50am and 12:30-2:30pm
(depending on numbers signed-up)



Blackhawk Country Club - Madison, WI
Contact: Matt Hartmann
matt@blackhawkecc.com - 608.231.2456

www.bethel-madison.org/colgolf

Sunday School Registration

Opens Sept 6!

Reminder: Children & Family Ministry will continue virtually this fall. Online registration opens Sunday Sept 6. More details coming soon! We are so excited to see you on Zoom!

End of summer into fall is a challenging transition time for all even without the challenges our country is facing at this time. Big emotions are likely popping up for everyone - yes, the adults too! Let's remember to breathe.

In our house, when we remind one of our children to breathe we usually get the response "I hate breathing!"...now that was a successful parenting moment, huh?! I usually have more luck if I suggest a specific breathing technique and then walk away giving them time to take or leave the suggestion without me there to observe. Disclaimer: On a very rare occasion, one of my super strong willed children will ask me to stay with them to calm down. This is a big parenting moment and one I have destroyed when I share my enthusiasm about being invited to help. After many botched attempts, I have learned to sit down quietly with almost no reaction and let them take the lead. I'll get this figured out by the time I have grandchildren! (by then breathing will be "out" - just kidding)

A breathing technique I like to recommend, and use myself regularly, is called "Box Breathing". This can be a helpful breathing exercise to get our brains out of the anxious fight or flight state. Here is a quick explanation that kids connect to quickly. A quick YouTube search for "Box Breathing" will show many results for people of all ages.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=YFdZXwE6fRE

Updates about Bethel Jr!, School Pictures @ Bethel, Sunday School Zoom Schedules and more coming soon! Enjoy these last few days of summer! 🌈

—Cindy Terhune Melrose
Coordinator of Sunday School & Family Ministry

DarRen Morris Art Show

By Judith Adrian



The Bethel Fine Art Committee, at the request of Bethel's Caring for Social Justice Planning Team, continues to have on display through October 11 the powerful and dramatically informative pieces of art created by incarcerated artist DarRen Morris. The artwork is located in the Emmaus Room Hallway Gallery, Good Shepherd Chapel, Community Room and Emmaus Room. 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.

Recently 10 new pieces of DarRen's current art have been added by artist's representative Judy Adrian, replacing 15 pieces originally installed.

To view all pieces of DarRen's art shown at Bethel:
www.bethel-madison.org/artshow. 🌈

*—Dana Lund Rice
Fine Arts Committee Member*

Transformed Community:

Freed & Empowered for Radical
Welcome



Five Thursdays, Sept 3-Oct 1, 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 🌈



Bedrock Financial Support in Unsteady Times

Bethel Endowment Foundation Comes Through Again

In these times of uncertainty, Bethel is blessed with the certain support of the Bethel Endowment Foundation (BEF). Each year the BEF adds several hundreds of thousands of dollars to support Bethel's ministries. In 2020 alone, the BEF granted \$445,441 to Bethel making possible close to a dozen projects that otherwise would not have happened. The BEF also supported Bethel Horizons with grants totaling \$131,896.

The Bethel Lutheran Church grant projects include repairs and upgrades to the physical campus like new flooring to replace the worn, weathered, and unsightly tile on the lower level. This new wood laminate floor creates a much fresher, modern, and warmer feel. Additionally, BEF grants are paying for repairs to the stone work on the Bell Tower, greater energy efficiency in the building which lowers energy costs, and a water softener replacement. All these grants for the physical plant are invaluable and free the Operating Fund to invest in mission and people.

The BEF also funded the stunningly beautiful paraments that adorn the sanctuary year round, as well as the special musicians who play on Sunday mornings for the live streams and TV broadcast. When you hear brass, timpani, or string ensemble, you can thank the BEF.

It has also been due to BEF support that Bethel has provided Drive-In Worship and Movie nights at the Alliant Center parking lot this summer. These events have generated significant visibility within the community with other churches calling to find out how we did that. The Drive-In Worship and Movie Nights have also helped Bethel connect with new people in the community who will someday become members.

Often in the background, the members of the Bethel Endowment Foundation provide a foundational role in the life and vitality of the congregation. Let us give thanks to God for the work of the BEF board which includes Barb Armstrong, Jill Derr, Laura Vogel, Arlen Christianson, John Stoneman, Wendy Schultz, Dirk vonBelow, Kathy Pielage, Abby Wallhaus, Joe Murphy, Sue Ullsvick, and Walter Dewey. 🌈

–Mike Brown, Lead Pastor

Profiles in Faith

Bill Webb



"Who knows what's next in my "retirement". Whatever it is, the VBC @ Home video of three trees marks a direction."

Recently I shared the VBC @ Home Bethel Trees video with Lisa (Elisabeth), a church school parent to students in my Sunday School class about 20

years ago. I remembered Lisa (Elisabeth) following our Sunday School class as her kids and I fed trees and collected leaves for school assignments together. We would leave almonds in the knots of trees for both the trees and squirrels nourishment. When she saw the VBC @ Home Bethel Trees video, it brought memories and she gave me a list of Choctaw writers. Lisa was an English major years back at UW and later involved in academic publishing for a university press. Lisa shared with me a 26-page list of Choctaw fiction writing for people age 0 to Old Man. From the list, the name Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer called to me and I used my kindergarten-level computer skills on the Choctaw Nation website to learn more about Sarah Elisabeth and get in touch with her via email. Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer is a 34-year old Choctaw mixed blood woman from Texas who is following her dream of being a writer. Last week I ordered from Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer all six of her published historical novels about the Choctaw people. She's been working hard, still a young woman.

This historical year of COVID-19 has connected me to two same-named women, looking back to Sunday School parent Lisa who lead me to look forward to Choctaw fiction author Sarah Elisabeth Sawyer. This VBC @ Home Bethel Trees videos feels a bit like a marker tree. Marker trees, usually oaks, are important for the walks of the Indian people. They keep us from getting lost on the trail.

My old Choctaw Grandfather Bill Carney would call "Billy, this way". I hear his voice again: "Listen to the trees, Grandson, listen to the trees. The trees are older and wiser than any of us. Listen to the trees."

View Bills' video here: <https://tinyurl.com/y58dh5yv> 🌈

–Bill Webb

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

September 13



God's work. Our hands.

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday will look a little different this year! We have compiled a list of opportunities that your family and friends can complete in your local community on Sunday, Sept 13 (or really anytime)! So get out your yellow shirts and take some photos and send them to christal@bethel-madison.org while you work so we can create a collage of our helping hands.

Here are some ideas, if you have others, please share them with us!

- Trash Pick-up
- Lawn Mowing
- Window Washing
- Raking
- Chopping Wood
- Clearing Brush
- Write cards or letters, or send care packages
- Pack hygiene kits for people experiencing homelessness
- Call or video-call seniors who are homebound or isolated
- Deliver meals or groceries to folks who aren't able to go out
- Create lawn signs with a positive message
- Collect donations to purchase toys/bones and then donate to the Humane Society
- Decorate rocks with a positive messages and place them around the community 🌈
- Painting
- Weeding
- Planting (tree / flowers)
- Washing Cars
- Clearing Gutters
- Make Masks



Lutheran World Relief Update

Many of you are aware of the ammonium nitrate explosion at the Port of Beirut which killed 150 and left 300,000 homeless in Beirut, Lebanon on August 4, 2020. In that explosion, three 40-foot shipping containers containing 22,000 quilts and baby kits worth \$624,000 were destroyed in the blast. These items were destined for Palestinian and Syrian refugees living in Lebanon where 25% of the population are refugees. Lutheran World Relief was the first to offer to replace what was lost.

Women's circles which have traditionally provided school, personal hygiene, quilts, and baby kits to LWR. This year, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Women's Coordinating Council has opted to send money in lieu of kits. The 39 quilts made by the Blanket Workshop last fall and winter will be shipped in late September.

How can Bethel help? Men, women, families, and individuals can donate to Lutheran World Relief. Sending money this year will assure that LWR will have more flexibility to buy what is needed for countries where the need is greatest.

Make your check out to Bethel Lutheran Church within the next three weeks with LWR designated on the memo line. To learn more about the work of LWR, go to the Lutheran World Relief Facebook page or lwr.org. 🌈

*–Kris Fansler
Bethel Community*

VIEW MORE OPPORTUNITIES:
www.bethel-madison.org/events

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.

Sept 3 - The False Logic of Science Denial

Sept 10 - Our Changing World

Sept 17 - China's Future in the World

Sept 24 - Reparations: Theory and Problems

If you have questions, contact Larry Larrabee at 608.249.9982.



BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

312 Wisconsin Avenue | Madison, WI 53703

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608.257.3577 | Email Christal Swigart: christal@bethel-madison.org
Emergency Cell: 608.216.3600

14 PENTECOST

Pastor Mike Brown - Sept 6 at 7:45am, 9am & 11:15am

15 PENTECOST

Pastor Mike Brown - Sept 13 at 7:45am, 9am & 11:15am

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

- 9:00a Daily Devotion (Email)
- 6:30p Lord's Supper (live-stream Facebook)
- 7:00p Bethel 101: New Member Orientation (Zoom)
- 8:00p Lord's Supper (YouTube)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

- 8:30a Men's Current Christian Concerns (Zoom)
- 9:00a Daily Devotion (Email)
- 10:00a Contemplative Scripture Reading with Pam Shellberg (Zoom)
- 7:00p Transformed Community: Freed & Empowered for Radical Welcome (Zoom)
- 8:30p Contemplative Scripture Reading with Pam Shellberg (Zoom)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

- 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

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