

Youth are the church of today

Students in grades 6 through 12 have a lot going on in their lives. It is a critical time as they learn, grow and define their values. In support of their development, the Bethel Youth Group provides opportunities for youth to feel a stronger connection to their church community. And, funding from the Bethel Endowment Foundation helps make these opportunities available.

Youth Quake and more

One such opportunity takes place on Sunday nights. An average of 25-30 middle schoolers and 12-22 high schoolers participate in Youth Quake. They are engaged and eager to meet for fellowship, spiritual exploration, a meal and worship. Youth enjoy games and creative group activities. The high schoolers have proposed extending their meeting times twice since the event began last fall. This reinforces that they feel at home and find meaning in Bethel's Youth Quake.

In addition, the youth group has hosted several special events including a lock-in, ice skating and Christmas party.

Coffee Hour

Thursday After-School Coffee Circle offers another opportunity for youth.

"Coffee Hour came about very organically – youth wanted more time together during the week," explained

Rachel Brown, Director of Youth Ministries. "We meet at Colectivo Coffee on Monroe Street. Whoever gets there first grabs a spot near the fireplace where we sip our coffee and get to know each other in meaningful ways."

This event has attracted many new faces. Youth group members frequently bring their friends to Coffee Hour and in turn to Youth Quake.

Confirmation programming

Grants from the Bethel Endowment Foundation also help cover the cost of confirmation materials/activities:

- Art supplies, game materials and other essentials for engagement and faith exploration.
- Strings, picks, guitar straps and guitar cases to support the exploration of faith through music.

Prior to the coronavirus quarantine, Rachel Brown regularly attended sporting events, plays, musicals, cheerleading competitions and show choir competitions to further connect with youth.

"The goal of each program, event and ministry moment is to remind young people that they are beloved children of God and that they are the church – not the church of the future but the church of today," Rachel said.



This year, the Bethel Endowment Foundation will grant more than \$725,000 to projects that will bring smiles to new and familiar faces right here in our community and around the world.

Music • Art • Youth
Outdoors • Education
Evangelism • Community
Worldwide missions

This year, more than 40 projects were funded, but many other great ideas were not. Your support is still needed to help make dreams come true for others.

Take an active role in this important mission. Contact Alice Mowbray at alicem@bethel-madison.org or 608-257-3577 to help make a difference in the lives of others.

Since its inception, our Foundation has provided grant gifts exceeding \$13 million.

Ready to face the music

Music is a special part of worship that appeals to people of all ages. Bethel regularly invites professional musicians and college music students to help enhance the experience at Bethel during festival worship services.

While the Isthmus Brass (pictured below) event planned for Easter worship was not possible due to

the coronavirus, plans are under way for the group to join Bethel's choir for Christmas worship. As Wisconsin's premiere professional large brass ensemble, the Isthmus Brass is a favorite among Bethel members. The ensemble features artists who have performed across the country and internationally.



Grants from the Bethel Endowment Foundation make possible uplifting and inspiring musical events throughout the year.



2020 Bethel Foundation grants

Vacation Bible Camp	\$ 30,000
Outreach (Associate)	
Pastor Search 2020	\$ 12,950
2020 Women of the ELCA	\$ 8,500
Rebuilding at Bethel	\$ 6,500
Liturgical Arts 2020	\$ 5,000
Bethel Series New Testament Teaching Mission to Kilgoma, Tanzania	\$ 4,000
Women's retreat	\$ 3,000

Gifts and memorials create opportunities

Thank you for your generous gifts that enable the Bethel Endowment Foundation to contribute to many special programs.

Bethel Lutheran Church has established memorials for each deceased member since 1964. You may add

to one of these, start a special fund or offer general contributions.

Memorials were established for the following Bethel members between October 1, 2019, and March 31, 2020:

Virgil C. Alfred
Viola (Salg) Bach

Betty Carpenter
Suzanne Christoffersen
Sylvia Engen
Marilyn Erdman
Robert Gay
Karen Gould
C. Stanley Grimstad
Luella Hamre
Myrna Hanson
William "Bill" Hoekstra
Roger Kolseth

Melvin Lamb
Clarice Littel
Elmo Peterson
Karl Peterson
Carol Jean Reimann
Kenneth J. Roeh
H. Sam Roth
Beverly Schluenz
Donald R. Schmidt
Virginia Swingen

(cont'd. on page 6)

We're all in this storm together

Matthew 6:34: Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will have worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own . . . This is the final verse of the chapter, and is part of the Sermon on the Mount. This verse concludes the discussion of worry about material provisions, so says Wikipedia.

I can't help thinking of this Bible verse as one day morphs into the next as we're *still safer at home, in an effort to slow the spread...* These two phrases are in our everyday news now, and I don't believe that I've ever heard them used before six weeks ago.

These are tumultuous times for certain. And I'm not naive, but there have been other seriously

2020 Bethel Foundation grants

Church Growth Communication	\$ 54,972
Bethel Youth Group – 2020 Summer Youth Mission Trip	\$ 35,000
Speaker Series	\$ 30,000
Musicians for Special Events	\$ 10,400
Puerto Rico Mission Trip	\$ 6,500
Works in Worship	\$ 3,050
Sanctuary Parament Completion	\$ 3,000
Art Inventory Database	\$ 960

tragic times that somehow, we've gotten through.

Maybe life lived lends perspective. The past eight years at Bethel have themselves been a rotating time of change and transition, turbulent in itself.

In these recent six weeks though, I am so very proud of the constructive pivot that Bethel has been able to accomplish. It feels like all hands-on deck to produce valuable and quality content for congregants on a daily basis! And all in a concerted effort to stay in touch with all the people who make Bethel the church that it is.

Relationships are certainly what make the world go around, and the spending of more time with oneself sub-conscientiously places emphasis on the importance of friends, family, neighbors – who we now find ourselves more intentionally finding time to reach out and touch (metaphorically) in order to keep or strengthen connections.

I'm seeking out constants in this time, what is good and reliable that we can count on as a guide during these days of each having its own worries. We like a schedule that shapes our days, which is not to say that we don't leave ample space for interesting spontaneity!



Alice Mowbray

Your Endowment Foundation is one fine example of consistency and steady vision, alongside of Bethel Lutheran Church. Over the past 56 years, now more than \$13 million have been put into gift circulation for the greater good of Bethel's ministries. But they too can pivot and be responsive to a change in the atmosphere as is happening in this time and place. Many conversations have already taken place to consider 'what if' scenarios with grant spending as 2020 progresses.

It most certainly drives home the well-made point that we're all in this together, not just now during the virus time but for always. And we Thank God for that.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alice Mowbray".

Alice Mowbray
Director of Development

Two decades: Partners with Puerto Rico

In February, a 21 people from Bethel traveled to Puerto Rico for an annual trip that continues to touch many lives. This was the 20th mission trip to our sister congregation in Dorado, Puerto Rico, and once again Bethel member Sandy Ripp organized and led the effort.

Bethel participants painted homes that were damaged by Hurricane Maria two years ago and worked on the church's new roof. They also attended a 20-year anniversary party.

“The work put into these projects is founded on a deep and loving collaborative relationship between Bethel of Madison and Bethel of Dorado,” explained Rachel Brown,

Director of Youth Ministries. “As with all forms of relationships, it is two-sided, and the gifts shared between the two churches are endless and abundant.”

Funding from the Bethel Endowment Foundation helps strengthen ties with Puerto Rico and supports other international outreach efforts.



Banners and paraments beautify sanctuary

The congregation now enjoys new banners and paraments for six seasons that hang in the sanctuary. These vibrant, classic and beautiful works of art will last many years.

Liturgical fiber artist Pamela T. Hardiman of Connecticut designed Bethel's banners and paraments. She began by painting a heavy-weight habotai silk using special fabric paint formulated to give brilliant color. The paint was layered to give additional richness and depth. Fabric pieces from around the world were then sewn together to create the banners and paraments.

This project began in 2019 and wrapped up earlier this year. Funding from the Bethel Endowment

Foundation helped cover the cost of these works of art that represent the universal church – many pieces from many cultures coming together.



2020 Bethel Foundation grants

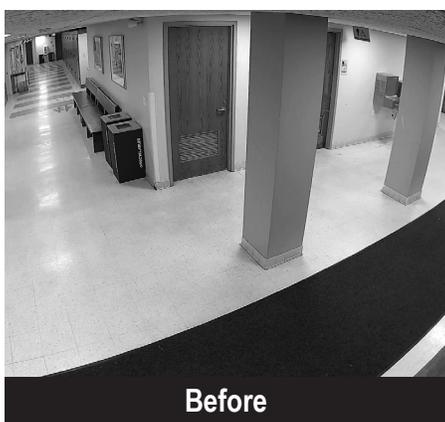
Bethel Horizons' total	\$	136,646
Adventure Toilet	\$	26,250
Prairie Center Commercial Laundry Appliances	\$	25,000
Scholarships	\$	15,000
Adamah Pottery Wheels	\$	14,300
Cultural Immersion	\$	10,795
Camperships	\$	10,000
50th Anniversary Appeal	\$	10,000
Horizons Accountant	\$	10,000
Barn Retreat Center Dehumidification	\$	7,454
Kitchen Upgrades	\$	3,097
Bob Westervelt Honorary Camperships	\$	4,750

Building improvements make an impact now and for the future

This year’s building improvements enhance comfort, safety, energy efficiency and aesthetics. Here’s a glimpse at a few of them.

Flooring replacement

Flooring was replaced in the lower-level corridor and kitchen area. Old asbestos floor tile and mastic was abated and new luxury vinyl tile/plank was installed. See before and after images below.



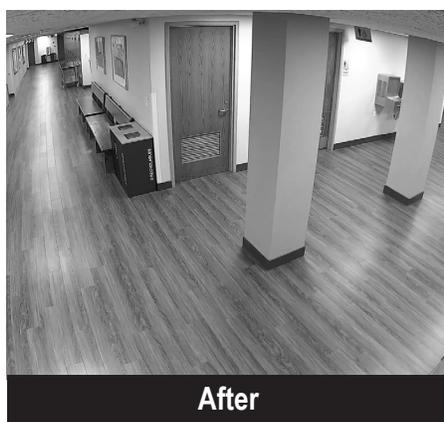
Before

Masonry at Bell Tower

This critical project will begin when the weather gets warmer. The existing masonry is failing. Deterioration would otherwise continue and accelerate, causing damage to the structure.

Water softener replacement

This project will replace an early 1990s single softener with limited



After

soft water distribution to the boilers and water heater only. The new system will be a dual progressive system, which provides soft water to the entire facility.

With a dual system, no hard water is sent into the building because while one softener is regenerating, the other provides soft water. This is crucial for maintaining equipment, specifically the boilers and water heaters.

There are numerous other benefits to this system, including facilities’ maintenance and drinking water quality.

Grants from the Bethel Endowment Foundation help cover the cost of facility improvement projects like these.

A place of our own

Bethel youth have a new place of their own – a place they can gather, relax, play and worship. The warm inviting space features new furniture, decor and games.

“The young people of the church have taken ownership of the space and take every opportunity to

This is a place just for you,
designed with you in mind,
where you belong and
can feel at home
and comfortable.

spend time there,” said Rachel Brown, Director of Youth Ministries. “We have seen a growth in high school-aged youth group members who feel right at home and look forward to coming back every week.”

Confirmants also enjoy the new space. They have held several modules there, and group guitar lessons will take place there in the future.

A grant from the Bethel Endowment Foundation helped cover the cost of creating this updated space that will serve young people for many years.

2020 Bethel Foundation grants

Masonry Repairs on Bell Tower	\$ 55,220
Flooring Pantry Corridor	\$ 37,989
Horizons Exec. Director Salary Cost Share	\$ 29,500
Steam Trap Repairs	\$ 25,000
Energy Efficiency	\$ 25,000
Water Softener Replacement	\$ 18,400
Bethel Youth Group - Programmatic Expenses & Director Continuing Ed.	\$ 12,500

Keep on truckin'

A new used truck is making life easier and more efficient at Bethel Horizons.

“This truck has been essential to our work at camp,” said Eric Knueve, Bethel Horizons Executive Director. “We were able to save delivery fees and pick up over 20,000 pounds of crushed limestone for the campfire area and the new Nine Square in the Air and Gaga Ball pit areas.”

“In addition, we hauled tons of gravel to the valley to complete a bridge that now gives us mowing access to the entire valley in one trip,” he added.

Grants from the Bethel Endowment Foundation support efforts like this that help make the work-day easier and enhance the areas Bethel members and friends gather, learn and worship.



2020 Bethel Foundation grants

Stewardship 2020	\$ 14,000
Road trips to Horizons	\$ 10,000
Youth Engagement: A Place of Our Own	\$ 4,000
Seminarian Support	\$ 10,000
Admin. & Publicity	\$ 87,000
Contingency reserve	\$ 42,126

Memorials

(cont'd. from page 2)

The following bequests were made to the Foundation between October 1, 2019, and March 31, 2020:

H. Sam Roth
Betty Saxe

The following individuals contributed general gifts to the Foundation between October 1, 2019, and March 31, 2020, by these individuals:

Sharon Bloodgood
Lola Cator
Donna Clasen
Eileen Cripps
Karol & Jim Dillie
Jim Esmoil
Joe Kirgues
Robyn Kitson
Bill & Alice Mowbray
Randy Roeh

Gifts, honorary gifts and memorial contributions were made to the Foundation from October 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020

In memory of Virgil Alfred
by Judi & Thomas Griffin
In memory of Ellie Bauer
by Joan Bruce

In memory of Paul Bernhard by Steven & Karlee Babcock, Joan Calkins, Irene Sherman

In memory of Ron Caldwell by Matthew & Tracy Brandel

In memory of Suzanne J. Christoffersen by Judi & Tom Griffin, Ray & Helen

Kruse, Peder & Jeanne Moren, Burt & Darlene Olson, Thomas Pierce, Jan & Dave Primus, Jacqui & John Shanda, Henry & Sharon Starkey

In memory of Wendy Coe
by David Coe

In memory of my parents, Vernon N. and Shirley J. Dodson by Martha Dodson

In memory of Karen Gould
by Helen Holt Baillies, Karl & Velma Marquardt, Thomas Pierce, Beverly Stephen, Donna Ulteig
In memory of Sherri Hahn
by Kris Kennedy

In memory of Luella Hamre by Nancy Olson, Colleen Wincentzen

In memory of Myrna Hanson by Kenneth & Linda Antaramian, Bob & Marilyn Cleveland, Harold & Audrey Cushman, Joan Gilbertson, Mary Hugdahl, Karl & Velma Marquardt, Carl & Janice Powell, Eugene Strangman, Mike & Bev Thom

In memory of Jean Hodel
by Tricia Hodel

In memory of Robert Hofmeister by Dennis & Jean Blackmore

In memory of Bill Johnson
by the Wood & Holmes family

In memory of our Aunt & Uncle Myrtle & Curt Knutson by Rev. Jim & Joni Schalkhauser

In memory of Coach Roger Kolseth by Nathan Brand

In memory of Roger Kolseth by Kimberly Ault, Mary Banovetz, Jim & Sharon Burton, Naomi Chavez, Robert & Marilyn Cleveland, Phil & Mary Lou Dzick, Helen & Dick Falch, John & Nancy Foerst, Kelly Hatch, John & Sandra Hefte, Camala Kolseth, James & Marlene Ludolph, Brent Odell, Kent & Ellen Peshorn, Karl Peterson, John & Sheryl Prestemon, Philip & Joyce Wildt, and family & friends

In memory of Melvin Lamb by John & Jacqui Shanda

In honor and memory of Ruth and Bill Munkwitz by the H. Sam Roth Estate

In honor of Bob & Mary Jane Nicholson's 65th wedding anniversary by Henry & Sharon Starkey

In memory of Dorothy Parker by Lee Holthaus

In memory of Karl Peterson by Robert & Marilyn Cleveland

In memory of Uncle Ken Roeh by Randy Roeh

In memory of Ken Roeh by Norv & Carrie Bernhardt, Sharon Bloodgood, Phil & Mary Lou Dzick,

Paul Eastwood, Wayland & Donna Hicks, William Meddings, Peder & Jeanne Moren, Alice & Bill Mowbray, Darlene & Burt Olson, Tom Pierce, Suzanne Roeh, Al & Wendy Schultz, Katherine Snellgrove, Carolyn White, Petrea Witt, and family & friends

In memory of Betty Saxe by Phil & Mary Lou Dzick, Edward Fong, Peder & Jeanne Moren, Jo Thomley

In memory of Neal Starkweather by Gladys Starkweather

In memory of Devona Swiggum by JoAnn Six

In memory of Virginia E. Swingen by Sam Arneson, Harriet Huff, JoAnn Six, Donna Ulteig

In memory of Fred & Eleanor Wertz by The Fred & Eleanor Wertz Charitable Fund

In memory of Jack Westman by Irene Kringle

In memory of Dr. Jack Westman by Georgene Stratman

Gifts, honorary gifts and memorial contributions were made to the Foundation's XYZ Fund from October 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020, by:

Lorayne Smythe

Speaker Series

In March, Bethel hosted Nadia Bolz-Weber, an ELCA pastor and New York Times best-selling author. 1,000 Bethel and community members reserved tickets; however, with a state mandate for group gathering size in place, only several hundred were able to attend the frank conversation with Nadia about bodies, shame, sex, love and more. She focused on everyday religious attitudes about sex and how damaging they can be. This event was live streamed and made available afterwards via Bethel's YouTube channel.

The evening was possible through the Bethel Speaker Series, which brings compelling speakers to Bethel. Opening these events to the greater Madison community allows more people to visit Bethel and learn about all it has to offer. Grants from the Bethel Endowment Foundation support outreach efforts like this that help us connect with the community.

Bethel Foundation last year grants update

Mid-year value 2019	\$ 100,543
& Re-direct value 2019	\$ 47,350
Strategic Plan Consultant	\$ 35,000
Rocktoberfest	\$ 27,150
Seminarians	\$ 16,800
Horizons New/Used Truck	\$ 15,000
Stewardship Campaign	\$ 13,300
Landscaping	\$ 10,000
All Saints Festival Worship	\$ 6,900
Water Heaters	\$ 5,743
Emmaus Room Coffee Shop Look	\$ 5,550
Youth Quake New Space	\$ 5,450
Lent	\$ 5,000
Rwanda Mission Trip	\$ 2,000



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Investment portfolio update



How does a banner performance year, then followed by a pandemic crushing Quarter 1 help us keep perspective on how life turns on a dime?

Certainly, at this writing in early May, the next chapter is yet to be written. But after an overall gain of 21.65% in 2019 – through March, performance is down 17.7%, or – ‘the wind was taken out of the sails’. The highly capable committee knows the lessons from 2000 and 2008, so continue with steady hands in guiding the investment management of this unique Bethel asset.

Even in spite of all this, the 30-year retrospective shows an overall 8.15% average annual gain for this portfolio outpacing the defined benchmark by nearly 1 percentage point. At March end, stocks accounted for 64% of the value, while bonds comprised 30% and cash available is 6%. This changed from the year-end holdings, primarily due to stock investment decline when the respective percentage split was 70, 25 and 5.

Regardless of what’s happening that impacts so very many aspects of our lives – Bethel is so grateful for the balanced guidance this volunteer committee provides to their church.

Bethel Endowment Foundation Trustees

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