

Bethelite

A publication of Bethel Lutheran Church distributed twice monthly.



bethelmadison.org/bethelite

The Spiritual Strength in Your Story: Bethel

Pastor Mike Brown, Lead Pastor

National Lampoon's Vacation, starring Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo, Imogene Coca, and Randy Quaid is a favorite go-to cult comedy movie for many. Setting out across the country in their station wagon for what they think is going to be the adventure trip of a lifetime to Wally World, the Griswold family is beset by problem after problem. Their only goal was to travel, bond, and enjoy the pleasures of a fantastic destination. No doubt there are many of us today who feel the same way about our current situation. A year that began with such promise and exciting goals has been overtaken by crisis after crisis. For the Griswolds, nothing really prepared them for the ordeal they went through. But the same cannot be said of us. We, at Bethel, are well prepared for this journey.

Search the Bible for the most dramatic journey in the entire Old Testament and you will quickly land at the story of the Exodus. You may remember how the Hebrews had been in captivity in Egypt for 400 years and longing to be free. Dramatically, God intervened and broke loose the hold of Pharaoh setting the people

on a long journey into the wilderness. Their ultimate destination was a "land flowing with milk and honey" where the bounty and beauty were beyond compare. What they expected would be a direct route to bounty



I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.

—Philippians 3:14

and fulfillment turned into a 40-year endurance contest. Unexpected challenges, crises, and hardship filled the space between. People don't often laugh when they are under extreme duress. More often than not, we gripe, complain, moan, and call out to God. That is precisely what the Bible records in the book of Numbers.

Numbers is the record of unvarnished laments about the direction their journey had taken.

Jump forward to the New Testament and you find even more. The 300 years following Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, Christians were often the target of legal, social, and economic abuse by the pagan Roman world. Christians were dragged into the Coliseum in Rome to be torn apart by wild dogs, devoured by lions, struck down by gladiators, and more. The strength of these early Christians flows through the faiths of Bethel members today.

Jump to the day and life of Martin and Katie Luther and again you see how well prepared we are for this journey. Luther lived with a price on his head for years.

Every step he took could have been his last. His journey was fraught with peril and restrictions on his movements. He "sheltered in place" for more than a decade. Yet, he endured. He persevered. He reached the destination. The tenacity of

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Martin, Katie, and all those who took the journey of the Reformation runs directly to 312 Wisconsin Ave in Madison, WI. We can do this.

While churches can talk of lofty qualities like grace, forgiveness, heaven, reconciliation, and the like, the critical spiritual quality that is often overlooked is simply this: GRIT. Grit is the ability to just grind out each day as it comes. Bethel is a place of grit. You, good people, have good grit. We aren't being asked to deal with 40 years as were the Hebrews in the wilderness. We aren't being forced to deal with 300 of years of persecution as were the early Christians. We aren't even being expected to push through a decade of "safer at home" as was Luther. We simply need to hang tough until this pandemic passes. We can do this. We have the grit of thousands of years and thousands of God's people pumping through our veins. We can do this. We will get to the destination. No doubt about it! 🌈

Saints and Sinners: Trunk-or-Treat Halloween Drive-In

Oct 24, 4-6pm



Dress-up for vehicle's trunk for Halloween, dress-up yourself in a Halloween costume, and come to Bethel's parking lot for a walking tour of all the Halloween spirit! Each family will park in the parking lot and see marked on the parking lot with chalk their own space for carving pumpkins. Bring supplies to decorate or carve a Jack-o-lantern, pumpkins provided! Pre-packaged candy will be provided, too! To participate, please sign-up here: <https://tinyurl.com/y4fjddy7>. Space will be limited to ensure social distancing. 🌈

Friends & Family Campfire Picnics at Bethel Thursdays in October



Bethel will be hosting a Campfire Picnic from 5:30-7:30pm on Thursdays in October in the church parking lot. There will be a light meal, prayer, games, music and smores around a warm campfire.

The food is by 'Food Junkies' and will include: a soup and sandwich combo for \$10/person or \$25/family. Payment options are text to give (text BLC to 73256) or cash/check night of the event.

The event will follow all the COVID -19 guidelines to insure we are keeping ourselves and each other safe.

To sign-up please select the below link. To order food you must sign-up by Tuesday the week of the picnic you are attending.

Sign-up Here: www.bethel-madison.org/campfire

You will receive a follow-up email a day before the event.

If you are willing to donate your fire pit for the month of October to Bethel please contact John at jswanson@bethel-madison.org.

For questions please contact one of the Nurturing Committee members: Pastor John Swanson at jswanson@bethel-madison.org, Kathy Pielage at kmpielage@gmail.com or Kelly Knueve at kellyknueve@gmail.com. 🌈

Thank You From Hephatha Lutheran in Milwaukee

Thank you for your continued support and mission partnership in the Gospel with us at Hephatha. In this time of hardship and struggle, we have been able to grow goodness in the Gospel in our congregation and community. THANK YOU for your part in this goodness that grows like wheat in the field of God. THANK YOU for your tremendous support over so many decades, for your regular offerings for our ministry, and for the gift of the freezer.

We are thankful to share with you some signs of God's goodness growing in our work together this summer:

- Worship on our website: hephatha100.com (please visit us): Sunday and Wednesday worship videos in YouTube format and weekly holy communion Sundays at 10:30am by ZOOM. We would love to see you! Sunday School for adults and youth by ZOOM every week since the building closed!
- Summer Work Ministry for our young people took place over ZOOM and the young people served by visiting elders over the phone, cleaning up the community and planting flowers in SAFE MODE (only with one's own family), and dwelling in the prayer of St. Francis, "Lord, make us instruments of your peace." Almost \$13,000 of back to school gift cards for new clothing will be delivered to the work ministry youth, who give a collective offering of \$1,300 to our companion synod in Tanzania. Back packs with school supplies have been delivered to every work ministry family. We thank God for our young people.
- Food distributions in partnership with Just One More Meal Ministry continue almost weekly on the

front sidewalk of Hephatha. 3,000 pounds of food at a time, people are fed. Countless gift cards for food have also been shared in this time of economic hardship.

- Our anti-racism work continues with young people of Hephatha joining me to offer a presentation to our national church entitled, "To Be Young, Gifted And Black Servants of God." You can view this one-hour presentation by going to: www.elcacoaching.org. Then scroll to the recording of the Wed, Aug 12 Session, "TO BE YOUNG, GIFTED AND BLACK SERVANTS OF GOD."

We have not missed a beat in our Coalition On Lead Emergency and Strong Baby Sanctuary work, addressing through direct service and advocacy the evil and harmful impact of lead poisoning and infant mortality on the black community.

- Our congregation continues our meaningful community partnerships including hard work in the community garden and orchard in our neighborhood, continued care for the local public school, work to support the Benedict Center through grants and use of our showers and washer/dryer area for those women who live and work on the streets. We are thankful to be a community hub in virtual modes of ministry these days.

YOU ARE WITH US IN IT ALL—thank you for your offerings, prayers and goodness to us. We thank God for you and we miss seeing you face to face. 🌈

—Pastor Mary Martha
Hephatha Lutheran Church



Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Reflection

Tom Solheim Shares His Story



Tom Solheim
RIC Steering Committee
Member

My connection with Bethel started with a warm welcome almost 40 years ago, and that time is still fresh in my mind. It came from people in my pew, the presiding minister at the end of the service, the lead pastor in a 1:1 meeting, and from co-participants in church activities. It does not seem like long ago. Since then my extended family has also been welcomed and drawn into children's programs, adult

education, music, Horizons, and participation on church administrative and leadership activities. We have also formed many personal relationships with Bethel people encountered in those activities. As a member of Bethel's Reconciling in Christ Steering Committee I now have the opportunity to extend the welcome we have all received in a special way. I have close connections to LGBTQIA people, both those who have deep ongoing connections to Bethel and others who have been touched by Bethel but have not developed a sustained relationship to Bethel, so this opportunity is important to me.

Bethel's resources devoted to outreach and community activities attracted me in the 80s. The congregation was a "Citywide church with a worldwide mission." This expansive and open view drew me into the Bethel Horizons ministry to campers from everywhere, and later into the Latino ministry. The openness was also tangible in a book study group where people worked hard to broaden their understanding of new ideas and strangers. This outward focus might be in Bethel's DNA, since it was formed by and for newcomer immigrants who were perhaps feeling like outsiders.

The Bethel Bible Series taught me about being "blessed to be a blessing", from the story of Abraham. Genesis 12:1-3:

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

This seems like another way of describing the vision of Bethel for outreach.

Even more recently, this idea has been articulated as "Jesus loves you. Walk with him." In all of these words and themes Bethel has continuously invited and welcomed me to come, and be not just an observer, but a participant in a welcoming and outreaching ministry.

Now we are on our walk to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation. As the Bethel Joint Council resolved, "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 (RIC) congregation. An RIC congregation articulates – intentionally, specifically and publicly – full embrace of persons of all sexual orientation, gender identities and gender expressions." This seems like a new initiative, but it also seems like the logical extension of something that has been happening at Bethel for a very long time.

As I was welcomed to be a participant in this work, we now cultivate a new, energetic welcoming for others, especially the LGBTQIA community. The people who will be attracted, like us, will not want to be observers, but will want to be active participants in the outreach that we are doing now and will continue to be doing, in new ways in the future. If our re-energized spirit of welcoming is to be effective, we must show our prospective new members how they can be active participants in extending the same outreach to others from all communities. Please join us in this RIC initiative. Pick up on the educational opportunities and follow the news about the process. Most of all, open yourself personally to being a part of this welcoming culture. 🌈

–Tom Solheim
RIC Steering Committee Member

Bethel's Director of Music to Sing at Bishop Installation

Amy Hartsough Represents Bethel



Amy Hartsough will be one of two singers at the upcoming installation of the newest bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin. In an historic assembly, The Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe was elected Aug 29 to serve a six-year term as the bishop of the synod. Mortensen-Wiebe was elected on the 3rd ballot with 166 votes. While normally held

at a venue in Madison or the Wisconsin Dells, this year's assembly due to the pandemic was held virtually via videoconference. Over 350 voting members connected using Zoom and Lumi interactive technologies to elect new leadership of the synod and vote on important matters pertaining to the future of its ministry. The bishop elect currently serves as pastor of St. Luke Lutheran Church in Slinger, Wisconsin. She formerly served the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin as interim Director for Evangelical Mission, and as pastor of Living Hope Lutheran Church in Saukville, Wisconsin. From 2004-2014, Bishop-Elect Mortensen-Weibe served as an Associate to the Bishop in the East Central Synod of Wisconsin. The installation will be Sun, Oct 11, 1pm <https://scsw-elca.org/bishopinstallation>

Among those representing Bethel at the assembly were Pr. Mike Brown, Pr. John Swanson, Kim Kindschi, Jim Messinger, Kathleen Messinger, Dave Clack, Dale Holmen, and Deb Holman. Bethel Council

President, Kim Kindschi, reports that "given all of these challenges, the entire day ran very smoothly. In addition to the election of a new bishop of the synod, several business items were on the agenda. They included the 2021 Synod Spending Plan, the 2021 Compensation Guidelines including amendments to the Pulpit Supply compensation, the approval of constitutional amendments, the adoption of a resolution to add Common Ground Church to the roster of ELCA congregations and the election of a slate of candidates for synod leadership. Details on each of these agenda items are available on the synod website.

The selection of a bishop is very complex and time consuming. Transparency and openness are critical components throughout the duration of the search. The process began in January 2020 with town hall meetings that were held throughout the synod to develop a list of potential candidates for the position. Over the last few months, the Bishop Call Committee worked very hard to evaluate each nominee and, at the Synod Assembly on August 29th, presented a slate of four, highly qualified individuals for consideration. The first vote narrowed the field to 3 nominees. The second reduced the number to two candidates. On the 3rd ballot, The Reverend Joy Mortensen-Wiebe was elected to serve a six-year term as bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America." 🌈

Fireside Chats

Pastor Mike has hosted Fireside Chats each Tuesday evenings to answer questions about the church, the Bible, etc. Beginning in October, Fireside Chats will branch out by inviting others into the Fireside Seat. There is so much going-on at and with Bethel that we want to provide the most accurate and up-to-date information and details possible. Starting in October, other staff, leaders, and ministry volunteers will take a turn responding to your questions especially as they relate to something that they are intimately familiar with. Tuesday Fireside Chats are live-streamed at 7pm on Facebook or viewed on YouTube any time after 8pm. If you have any questions you would like to ask, please send them to christal@bethel-madison.org.

Upcoming Fireside Chat Schedule

- Oct 13** - Rachel Brown (Youth Ministry, Confirmation)
- Oct 20** - Pastor Mike
- Oct 27** - Pam Shellberg
- Nov 3** - Church Council (General)
- Nov 10** - Alice and Walter D (BEF)
- Nov 17** - Financial Resources Team
- Nov 24** - Cindy Terhune-Melrose (Children & Families)
- Dec 1** - Horizons
- Dec 8** - Amy (Music)
- Dec 15** - Pastor Mike (General)
- Dec 22** - John Swanson 🌈

A Call to Justice and Mercy

Welcome to our October Big Read

With the book *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You*, we're diving in to the complicated 400-year history of racism in the United States.

Kendi opens with these words in the Introduction:

"To know the past is to know the present. To know the present is to know yourself. I write about the history of racism to understand racism today. I want to understand racism today to understand how it is affecting me today."

To do our part as church to dismantle racism and heal our community, we have to know the past. We need to see the threads of racist and anti-racist ideas as they wind through us – past and present.

There are two parts to the Big Read. Reading the book and then talking about it with others who have read it. Find a conversation partner. Talk about the book as a family. Discuss it (virtually) in your Bethel small group – women's circle, ministry team, book group, men's group, youth group, etc.

Download the Reading Guide. We have our own Reading Guide for *Stamped* with background on the book and its authors plus discussion questions. There are questions for each section and the book overall located here: <https://tinyurl.com/yxw568qr>

Getting Started

- Order *Stamped* from the library or bookseller. There are two versions – the “young adult” version (which is really for everyone) and the longer, more scholarly version. Both have the same organization and the same discussion questions apply.
- Note: Bethel has 30 community copies of *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* to borrow on a first come, first served basis at Drive-Up Worship.
- Check out the ACTJAM web page on Bethel's website: www.bethel-madison.org/actjam
- Email ACTJAM@bethel-madison.org to join the ACTJAM Facebook group.

Read! You don't have to wait for your copy of the book to arrive.

- Read the first chapter of *Stamped* on the publisher's website: <https://tinyurl.com/y45z4k4h>
- The Museum of African American History in Washington D.C. offers an online “exhibit” on the history of racism in America: <https://tinyurl.com/yct5v3jt> 🌈

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made: Sex Differences and Scripture

A Conversation with Dr. Megan DeFranza

Thurs, Oct 15, 6-7:30pm via Zoom

This is an educational offering sponsored by the Reconciling in Christ steering team.

So that most of the time with Dr. DeFranza can be given to questions and conversation, you are encouraged to view the following videos prior to October 15.

Lianne Simon and Dr. Megan DeFranza: Intersex Christians and the Image of God: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=331smwhgOgM> (1 hour)

From the Eerdman's Author Interview Series: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2qkaOU7_Z00 (18 minutes)



Megan DeFranza is a theologian, author, speaker, and film-maker. Author of *Sex Difference in Christian Theology: Male, Female, and Intersex in the Image of God* (Eerdmans) and a contributing author to several volumes including *Two Views on Homosexuality, the Bible, and the Church* (published by Zondervan) and most recently

Understanding Gender Identities: Four Views (published by Baker). She directed the new documentary *Stories of Intersex and Faith* to help communities, especially faith communities, “meet” people born with a mix of male and female physical characteristics. She loves facilitating discussions about sex, gender, and sexuality in ways that sensitively address common fears, gently modeling careful, charitable conversation. You can learn more about Megan at www.megandefranza.com and watch the documentary trailer at www.storiesofintersexandfaith.com. 🌈



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.

Oct 8 - Is Bad Teaching Tearing America Apart?

Oct 15 - The Good Life

Oct 22 - Ushering in Live Worship at Bethel

Oct 29 - All Things Nuclear

If you have questions, contact Larry Larrabee at 608.249.9982.

Realm Corner



How do I login to Realm and update my profile information?

Login to Realm

1. Type **onrealm.org** into your browser
2. Enter your email and password (if this does not work, please email Judy Armelin at judy@bethel-madison.org, you may be using a different email or need a password reset)

Profile Update

1. **Log in to Realm** (see above)
2. **Click on your name** (in the top right corner you will get a dropdown)
3. **Click My Profile**
 - a) Under your name click **"Edit Profile"**
 - b) Click **"Contact Information"** and change any of the information that needs to be updated (home phone is your landline at home).
 - c) Click **"Personal Information"** and add or change any information. We use birthdates and wedding dates to send greeting cards to members on those special occasions. Please be sure to update your skills and interests section. We will be using this to connect you with groups you are interested in.
 - d) When you are finished **"Click Save"**.
4. **Add or update your picture**

To add or update your picture

 - a) click on the circle to the left of your name
 - b) choose a photo file from your computer to add (drag the photo to reposition, use the slide to change the size)

Here is a link to watch a video:

<https://tinyurl.com/y3qmk4j> 🌈

Confirmation Program Updates: Introducing School

@ **Horizons** - Coming soon, students will have the opportunity to register for a week out at Bethel Horizons (Sunday-Saturday) for respite from the school-at-home routine. Monday-Friday, students will follow a daily schedule of schoolwork and do school from Horizons. Access to hotspots and fast wifi, tranquil workspace, tutors, and meals and healthy snacks. During non-school hours, students will be guided on adventures and have opportunities to explore special interests. More information coming soon as we collaborate with Bethel Horizons and the Bethel COVID Taskforce on COVID safety procedures. 🌈

New Sermon Series:

Reformation at Bethel

Taking the World One Heart at a Time
Oct 11, 18, and 25



This year Bethel celebrates the Reformation with a three week series of messages that will bring new perspectives to a story that is over 500 years old. Beginning Oct 11 In the form of a live one man drama, Martin Luther will make an appearance to share the insights and inspirations that transformed the world. On Oct 18, Katie Luther, Martin's wife and partner in changing the world, will also appear in the form of a one woman drama to share her insights on being true to the Word of God in turbulent times. These larger than life figures from the halls of Lutheran history, will be followed by a special guest from the Madison area – Dr. Alex Gee, who will share modern insights on the Reformation. Dr. Gee is the longest tenured pastor in the Madison area, pastor of Fountain of Life Community Church, and Director of the Nehemiah Center. Dr. Gee will preach at Bethel on Reformation Sun, Oct 25. 🌈

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



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
Emergency Cell: 608.216.3600

18 PENTECOST

Pastor Mike Brown - Oct 11 at 7:45am, 9am, 11:15am & 4pm

19 PENTECOST

Pastor Mike Brown - Oct 18 at 7:45am, 9am, 11:15am & 4pm

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

- 7:45a Worship Service (live-stream 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, OCTOBER 12

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

- 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, OCTOBER 15

- 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, OCTOBER 16

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

- 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

Church Flowers:

Sept 20: Altar Spray is given in loving memory of DuWayne Gilbertson by Joan Gilbertson and Family.

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