

# Bethelite

A publication of Bethel Lutheran Church distributed twice monthly.



[bethelmadison.org/bethelite](http://bethelmadison.org/bethelite)

## LEARNING TO “GO LEFT”

### Lessons From Basketball

Pastor Mike Brown

In many ways, February is a month of pivoting. Mainline churches pivot from the season of Epiphany to Lent with Ash Wednesday (February 17). Attention in sports turns from football to basketball. So far, the Badgers Men’s Team is competing for first in the Big Ten. In post-game press conferences, Coach Greg Gard breaks-down the strengths and weaknesses of the game and the players’ performances. Constant attention to detail helps the Badgers improve with each succeeding game in both the wins and the losses.

One of the things you will see at Badger games is how adept some of the players appear equally adept at dribbling with either the right or the left hand. They switch back and forth with ease. How can that be since so few people are fully ambidextrous. Almost everyone is born with a dominant hand. The answer is in the details of training and practice. Players who can go up and down and around the court moving left or right with both hands have spent years in the gym doing drills to strengthen their non-dominant side. That way when the

opposing team’s defender presses a Badger player with the ball, he can pivot from his right or left and continue advancing to the hoop.



D'Mitrik Trice UW Badger Guard

During this pandemic, Bethel has been in the gym, so to speak. We have had to learn how to “go left,” that is, get the job done without using our natural strengths. Historically, Bethel success had come with in-

person worship and ministry. The pandemic has brought the full court press to us. To continue moving forward, we have had to learn to how to go to strong on the internet. While we had some ability there, it was not our natural strength. So, we have gone “left”. Each week, with attention to detail and regular practice, we have been getting better and better. Over and over again, we are finding the open spot and sinking the shot. This is a good thing. It is a great thing.

Our ability to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to people is expanding and getting stronger. This is how championship teams are built. Once the pandemic is over and we are able to once again do what comes more naturally to us, we will continue our new abilities. The pandemic has given us an opportunity to “up our game” the offering hope, healing, and encouragement of Jesus to each other and to our community. Keep up the good work, good friends! 🌈

## Upcoming Sermon Series: The Way – The Book of Mark



Beginning with the first Sunday of Lent this year, Pastor Mike begins a new series of messages on the Gospel of Mark. 2021 is the year of Mark in the lectionary and throughout the year the entire gospel is the main focus for the gospel readings in liturgical churches across the world. Join us this Lent for a deep dive into the book of the Bible that was the very first written gospel.

**Feb 21:** Making an About Face

**Feb 28:** Healing the Dark Side

**Mar 7:** Avoiding Food Fights

**March 14:** Hidden in Plain Sight

**March 21:** Pushing the Envelope

**March 28:** The Turning Point 🌈

## Family Conversations

Feb 7 at 9:45am



**Family Conversations**

Love Is...

Join Family Conversations as we look to Paul's first letter to the Corinthians to see what love looks like for followers of Christ. Patience, kindness, contentment, humility, and forgiveness marked the early Christians' counter-cultural

movement, and can still transform our relationships today. We will share ideas for how to cultivate this Christian love in our daily lives. All are welcome, YOU are invited.

**Zoom Login Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/91259353738> 🌈

## Ash Wednesday at Home Request Your Bethel Ash Wednesday Kits



**February 17 at 7pm**

**Streamed on Facebook and YouTube**

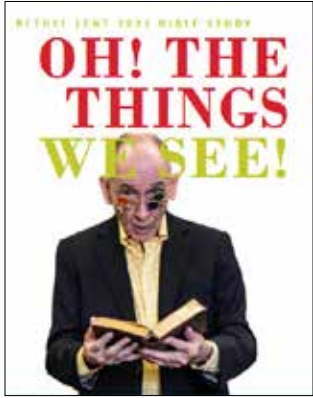
Ash Wednesday has been one of the most solemn and treasured worship services of the entire Christian church for well over 1,000 years. Ash Wednesday brings us a dual encounter. As we have the sign of the cross marked on our forehead or hand, we hear the words “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” In this action, the ashes present our mortality soiled with sin, self-destruction, and death. In this action, the cross shaped ashes also present the promise of new life.

You are invited and encouraged to share in this powerful ancient yet modern service. The service will be streamed on Facebook and YouTube on Wednesday, February 17, at 7pm. You are encouraged to participate in the service by sharing in the confession of sins, the imposition of ashes, the hymns and the Lord's Supper. The order for the service is included in the center spread of this issue of the Bethelite.

You may participate online with the service included alone. You may also participate in the service with the ashes and communion. Bethel will provide small containers of Ash Wednesday ashes and individual servings for communion for each household. Please call or email the church office at [bethel@bethel-madison.org](mailto:bethel@bethel-madison.org) to request ashes and the elements for the Lord's Supper. Please indicate how many individuals will be communing in your home. Ash Wednesday kits will be mailed out on February 10. 🌈

# Lent Bible Study

*Oh, the Things We See*



If you have ever had a group of people to “do life” with, then you know how important and powerful it can be. This year for the six weeks of Lent which begins February 17, Bethel encourages all members to become part of a Bethel-wide Small Group Bible Study. The Bible study, Oh, the Things

We See written by Pastor Mike, is focused on the Gospel of Mark and is full of fun and learning. If you are already part of a group, a women’s circle, a men’s group, or other, please let Pastor Mike know by email to [pastormikebrown@bethel-madison.org](mailto:pastormikebrown@bethel-madison.org). If you are not currently plugged into a group then please let Pastor Mike know. New groups are forming now and looking for members. 🌈

## Realm Corner

For those of you who may have missed some of the previous Realm Corners, here is a list of the five articles and videos that have been included in Bethelites in the last couple of months. You can also find them on Bethel’s website at: [www.bethel-madison.org/realm](http://www.bethel-madison.org/realm)

What is Realm? How does it work?

**How Do I .....** ?

log in to Realm and update my profile?

set up automatic giving in Realm?

find council meeting minutes and financial reports?

find Member contact information in Realm? 🌈



Logo on your personal computer



Logo on your smartphone

# Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence  
and blameless when you pass judgment.  
Indeed, I was born guilty,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.  
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.  
Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.  
Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,  
O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.  
For you have no delight in sacrifice;  
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.  
The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;  
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,  
then you will delight in right sacrifices,  
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;  
then bulls will be offered on your altar. 🌈



# BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

ASH WEDNESDAY AT HOME SERVICE  
FEBRUARY 17, 2021

7:00 PM  
FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE

WELCOME  
OPENING SONG  
(ON THE SCREEN)

INVITATION TO LENT  
PRAYER OF CONFESSION  
(EITHER SEATED OR KNEELING)



PASTOR: Most holy and merciful God, we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

***Have mercy on us, O God.***

PASTOR: We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

***Have mercy on us, O God.***

PASTOR: Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

***Have mercy on us, O God.***

PASTOR: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

***Have mercy on us, O God.***

PASTOR: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

***Have mercy on us, O God.***

PASTOR: Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

***Have mercy on us, O God.***

PASTOR: Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

***Have mercy on us, O God.***

PASTOR: Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

***Have mercy on us, O God.***

PASTOR: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

***Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.***

### **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

Take a moment and dip your finger into the ashes mixed with a drop of oil and make the sign of the cross on one another's forehead. If worshipping alone, apply it to yourself.

### **PRAYER**

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,  
***that we may show forth your glory in the world.***

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,  
***bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.***

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

***Amen.***

**HYMN** (ON THE SCREEN)

**READING:** Psalm 51:1-17

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**SERMON:** BEAUTY FROM ASHES

**HYMN** (ON THE SCREEN)

**APOSTLES' CREED** (ON THE SCREEN)

**PRAYERS**

**LORD'S SUPPER**

**HYMN** (ON THE SCREEN)

**BLESSING**



# A Call to Justice and Mercy

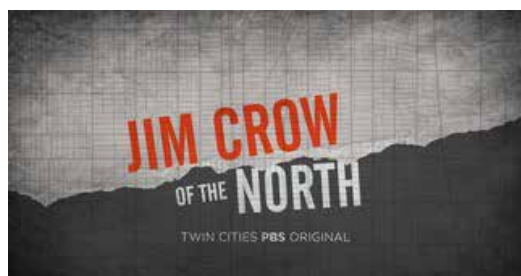
Welcome to February's (continued) focus on housing



We know from January's Big Read of *Evicted* that housing is a precarious tipping point for thousands of people in Wisconsin and Madison. When your home goes, it's so easy for everything else to go too. The loss is often sudden and unexpected (think pandemic) taking with it one's grip on job, health, educational opportunity, and even family.

Lack of housing is an equal opportunity issue that disproportionately impacts people of color. This is a legacy of decades of housing segregation. This month we'll look at that legacy – racial covenants, redlining – in northern cities like Madison.

Our BIG WATCH for February is the 1-hour PBS film *Jim Crow of the North* which documents racial segregation in Minneapolis.



Minneapolis is not unique. To quote from the film: “[There’s] this very persistent

myth that northern cities never had formal segregation. The south had Jim Crow and look at those signs! [“whites only”] Well racial covenants did the work of Jim Crow in the north. All over the north.”

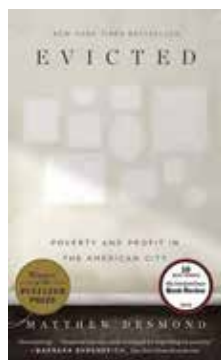
*Jim Crow of the North* can be viewed at no cost at these sites:

<https://tinyurl.com/y4naxyjb>

<https://tinyurl.com/yy9unq38>

The discussion guide is available on the ACTJAM page on Bethel's website ([www.bethel-madison.org/actjam](http://www.bethel-madison.org/actjam)).

## **Evicted Discussion with Arlen Christenson & Bev Thom**



Arlen Christenson and Bev Thom will lead discussions of *Evicted* on February 10 and 11 via Zoom.

Wednesday, Feb 10 from 6:30-8pm

Thursday, Feb 11 from 3:30-5pm

Send an email to [ACTJAM@Bethel-madison.org](mailto:ACTJAM@Bethel-madison.org) to let us know you're

coming and to get the Zoom link. You are welcome to attend one or both of the discussions. As a reminder, community loaner copies of *Evicted* are available at Bethel's reception desk.

The ACTJAM discussion guide for *Evicted* – with discussion questions - is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/y9wjdo8f>

Watch an interview with author Matthew Desmond here: <https://tinyurl.com/y87xajcx>

## **Wisconsin's Racial Disparities Podcast**

As we delve into the housing crisis and its disproportionate impact on people of color, we need the bigger picture of racial disparities in Wisconsin. Not just what they are but why they exist here.

Wisconsin ranks at or near the bottom of the 50 states on racial disparity. Worst in employment and unemployment. Second worst in incarceration. Third worst in income. Fourth worst in child poverty. Add to this that Wisconsin has the absolute worst Black infant mortality rate.



To help us understand the issue, we spoke with Laura Dresser, Assistant Director of the Center for Wisconsin Studies (COWS) which authored the 2019 Wisconsin Extreme Racial Disparities report. You can download the six-page report here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2o9mmh4>

Listen to the podcast here: <https://tinyurl.com/ybsgpg8g>



# Fireside Chats



Pastor Mike will continue to host Fireside Chats on Tuesday evenings. Tuesday Fireside Chats are live-streamed at 7pm on Facebook or viewed on YouTube any time after 8pm except on the third Tuesday of the month. On the third Tuesday of the month, the Fireside Chat will

be later due to the Church Council meeting that takes place at 7pm. It should start between 8:30-9pm. If you have any questions you would like to ask, please send them to [christal@bethel-madison.org](mailto:christal@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.

**Feb 4** – Black Lives Matter

**Feb 11** – The Death of Expertise

**Feb 18** – Confronting Misinformation

**Feb 25** – Our Changing World

If you have questions, contact Larry Larrabee at 608.249.9982.

The Bethel **Men's Friday Book Study** will begin to read *The Second Mountain* by David Brooks on Friday, Jan 15. The Book Study's pandemic schedule requires meeting via Zoom every Friday morning at 8am. Men wishing to participate should contact Larry Larrabee in advance to obtain the Meeting ID and Passcode. His contact information is 608.249.9982 or [lar3car2@gmail.com](mailto:lar3car2@gmail.com).

**Wednesday Night Live Streamed Lord's Supper** - Join us on Wednesdays at 6:30pm for the Lord's Supper. Every Wednesday until we are able to celebrate in person, Pastor Mike 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. Everyone is asked to have wine/juice and bread ready for the evening's communion.

## Thursday Contemplative Scripture Reading (Zoom)

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. Links provided in the Thursday Daily Devotion email for joining this group. Send any questions to Pam Shellberg at [pam@bethel-madison.org](mailto:pam@bethel-madison.org).

**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](mailto:christal@bethel-madison.org)

**TEXT TO GIVE** - Text "BLC" to 73256 to give.

**GIVE ONLINE** - [www.bethel-madison.org/giveonline](http://www.bethel-madison.org/giveonline)

**Bethel on Instagram** - Scan the image below to follow us!







# BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Emergency Cell: 608.216.3600

## 5 EPIPHANY

Pastor Mike Brown - Feb 7 at 7:30am, 9am, & 11am

## TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Pastor Mike Brown - Feb 14 at 7:30am, 9am, & 11am

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

- 7:30a Worship Service (live-stream Facebook & YouTube)
- 9:00a Worship Service (viewed on Facebook & YouTube)
- 10:00a Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)
- 11:00a Worship Service (live-stream on Facebook & YouTube)

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8

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

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

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

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

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

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

- 8:30a Men's Current Christian Concerns (Zoom)
- 9:00a Daily Devotion (Email)
- 10:00a Contemplative Scripture Reading with Pam Shellberg (Zoom)
- 8:30p Contemplative Scripture Reading with Pam Shellberg (Zoom)

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

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

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13

- 9:00a Daily Devotion (Email)

### PASTORAL STAFF

**Pastor Mike Brown - Lead Pastor**  
[pastormikebrown@bethel-madison.org](mailto:pastormikebrown@bethel-madison.org)

**Pastor Roger Black - Visitation**  
[roger@bethel-madison.org](mailto:roger@bethel-madison.org)

### SUNDAY FLOWERS

**Jan 24:** Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of Kathryn Strangman by Gene Strangman

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**DATED MATERIAL:** REQUESTED IN HOME BY FEB 5 2021

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**PAID**

MADISON, WI  
PERMIT 602

We welcome you to Bethel. We see you as we see ourselves, vulnerable to the challenges of human relationships, and deeply beloved by God.

We welcome you who have ever felt excluded by the church because of race, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental ability, family or economic status, or for a reason known only to you. We welcome you whether church life is familiar to you or your faith journey is new, whether you are certain in your beliefs or unsure what you believe.

We invite you here because God is inviting you to be here. Striving to create a place where all feel safe and can find peace, let us share the unconditional love of God and, in the power of the Holy Spirit, work together to extend grace, mercy, and justice – within Bethel, in our communities, and the world.



Hearing Loop available in all our worship spaces.