

Bethelite

A publication of Bethel Lutheran Church distributed twice monthly.



bethelmadison.org/bethelite

GOING TO THE CROSS FOR YOU

Pastor Mike Brown

In Peggy Noonan's book, *When Character Was King*, she tells about a meeting between President George W. Bush and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. It was their first meeting as world leaders and Bush wanted to be sure they connected-- that they looked for depth of soul and character. It was not simply a political meeting. In the meeting, Bush brought up a story he had read about Putin describing how his mother had given him a Christian cross that Putin had had blessed while in Jerusalem. Bush shared that he had been touched by the story.

In response, Putin told Bush that it was indeed true and that he would wear the cross regularly. But, one day he set it down in a house he had been visiting and mistakenly left it behind. Strangely, the house had burned down, and all Putin could think about was that his cross was lost in the ruins. Motioning for a worker to come to him, Putin wanted to ask him to look for his

cross. But before he got the chance, the worker stretched out his hand and showed him the already recovered cross. Then, Putin said to Bush, "It was as if something meant for me to have the cross," implying that he believed in a higher power.



"For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified." -1 Corinthians 2:2

Bush said, "Mr. Putin, President Putin, that's what it's all about—that's the story of the cross." The story of the cross is that God intended it just for you.

Whether a person is a leader of a whole nation, of the "free world," or just one patch of sod in the middle of nowhere, there are few words more

important in all of scripture than the words "for you." When the Apostle Paul speaks of the Lord's Supper, he quotes Jesus as saying, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me" (1 Corinthians 11:24). God has done all that needed and could be done for you. You are the apple of God's eye, the special object of God's affection. There are times when you might say to yourself, "No, not me. Jesus wouldn't really love me if he really knew me. And if he does really know me, then he couldn't possibly go to the cross for me." But, he did, my friend. And he does. Everything that belongs to God, is now yours in Jesus Christ.

As we emerge from the season of Lent in the wonderful celebration of Easter Sunday, begin each day by laying or sitting up in your bed. Before you take your first step into the day, close your eyes and tell yourself that you belong to God. Jesus has set his seal upon you. 🌈

Passion Story Bake Off

Let the Baking Begin



During the month of March, we challenge you to bake a cake decorated as part of the Passion Story. The cake can be any shape, any size, any flavor and decorated with whatever you would like. To the right is a photo of the Passion Story map we have used on Palm Sundays in previous years - this can be a good reminder of different parts of the story. Once your cake is decorated, please send a photo of your final product to cindy@bethel-madison.org Please note that we are fully aware that cake decorating can end in mishaps, like on the Netflix baking show titled "Nailed It!" and sometimes



can look Pinterest worthy - or anything in between! We want to see it all! And eat it all...maybe next time post-COVID.

All entries received before Easter morning will be entered into a drawing for a gift card to a local bakery. We will announce the winner via Bethel emails and our social media pages during the week after Easter.

We hope you enjoy finding a part of the Passion Story to express through baking and decorating. We look forward to seeing your creativity! Thank you for sharing with us.



Traveling with Jesus

Holy Week Drive Through; Apr 3



Bring your journey through Lent to a meaningful close by experiencing the events of Jesus' last days. "Traveling with Jesus: Holy Week Drive Through" is a Covid-safe adaptation of our traditional Holy Week observances where you can drive your car through Bethel's parking lot and see eight tableaus telling the story of the passion narrative in Mark's Gospel. (Think of them as versions of a Christmas "live nativity" except for Holy Week.) You'll get a guide book with passages of scripture to read at each tableau, additional activities for the children in the car, and conversation starters for your drive home.

Register Here: www.bethel-madison.org/traveling 🌈

Celebrate Holy Thursday at Home

Thursday Night, April 1



“Love one another as I have loved you” - Jesus

Coming to your mailboxes the week of March 22, an order of service to help you celebrate Holy Thursday at home. This at-home worship service includes the sharing of meal (first-century Judean style) and instructions for a foot-washing ritual. Designed to be family friendly, casual, and reverent, your household can participate in the activities through which Jesus called us to love one another as he loved us. The order of service also includes clear directions for food shopping and preparation, and for readying the space for the meal and foot-washing. Set aside Thursday night, April 1 on your calendars for this observation of an important night in Jesus' last days. And look for the order of service after March 22. 🌈



Good Friday
April 2, 7pm
Live Streamed

Easter Sunday
7:30am, 9am,
11am



Back to Nature Spring Edition



**Apr 10; 9am-4pm;
Bethel Horizons**

A family friendly day of outdoor activities at Bethel Horizons.

We know that friends and families are looking for ways to recreate and reconnect while being aware of Covid guidelines. We have just the place. Join us at Bethel Horizons where we have over 500 acres to share!

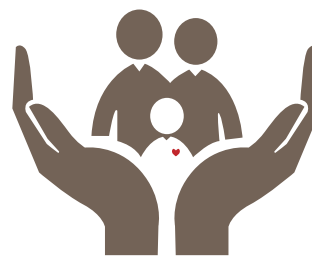
Activities:

- Hiking on Bethel Horizons numerous trails
- Live animals at the Nature Center
- Story book trail around Question Mark Pond
- Tree tapping demonstration
- Vertical Playground on our high ropes challenge course
- Kid friendly obstacle course at the high ropes challenge course

Space will be limited so register early! Lunch will not be provided by Horizons, you will need to bring your own meals, snacks and beverages. With any questions please contact Phil at phil@bethelhorizons.org.

Register Here: <https://tinyurl.com/w5x5r783> 🌈

Family Conversations Unrealistic Expectations



Sun, Mar 21 & 28 at 10am

Family Conversations
Time spent with our family is precious and beautiful, except when it's a total disaster. Let's look at the times things didn't go according to plan, and talk about how we cope and what we can learn from these experiences. Bring your frustrations and disappointments, along with your sense of humor and share some wisdom and grace.

Login Link: <https://zoom.us/j/95400599178> 🌈

Caring for Creation - Wisconsin DNR: Watchdog for Natural Resources Protection and Restoration

March 23, 2021 at 7:30pm – Online Event



Statewide, DNR's workforce of 4,000 manages a vast swath of policy and regulatory responsibilities that directly affect the population at many levels. In Wisconsin, all environmental questions come under this agency, broadly including water, forestry, wildlife – and

everything from parks and outdoor recreation, conservation, regulating CAFOs and deer populations, flood and invasive species management, hunting and fishing permits to air quality and waste management regulation.

Does it matter how this environmental “watchdog” sees its role in protecting our natural heritage and preparing for a future threatened by climate change and extreme weather? Many Wisconsinites are concerned about state and federal policy directions over the past decade. Todd Ambs' position and long history in (OH and WI) government and environmental policy make

him well positioned to assess what those changes have meant to land and water stewardship in Wisconsin and what practices and priorities have developed under the Evers administration. Ambs will address our questions and concerns about DNR's impact on the health of our environment, the influence of science on decision-making and the work being done to combat imminent and long-term challenges.



Todd Ambs, Deputy Director, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Previously, Ambs has worked in the environmental policy field for more than 30 years, most recently as the campaign director for Healing our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition. From 2003-2010, he was the DNR's Water Division

administrator, where he was lead negotiator for the State of Wisconsin during the development of the Great Lakes Compact. Ambs serves and has served on numerous state and regional conservation-related boards, councils and commissions.

Register Here: <https://tinyurl.com/1kvOzygv> 🌈

A Call for Mercy & Justice

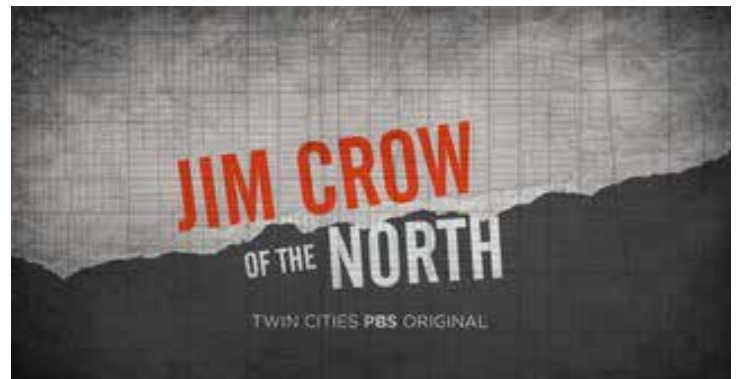
Jim Crow of the North Discussion

ACTJAM will host a discussion of the documentary Jim Crow of the North on Thurs, March 25 at 6:30pm via Zoom. Send an email to ACTJAM@Bethel-madison.org to let us know you're coming and to get the Zoom link.

To quote from Jim Crow of the North: “[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.” In Madison too.

Jim Crow of the North can be viewed free at these sites:
<https://tinyurl.com/ywkad79b>
<https://tinyurl.com/j47er7jc>

The ACTJAM discussion guide for Jim Crow of the North – with discussion questions - is available here: <https://bit.ly/3qUmBzv>. The guide explores the legacy of segregated housing in Madison. 🌈



COVID-19 VACCINE

Getting vaccinated is one of the best tools we have to protect yourself and your family from COVID-19.



The vaccine is safe and effective

- Scientists thoroughly researched the vaccine to make sure that it is safe and effective.
- The vaccine cannot give you the virus.



There are currently two vaccines authorized for use

- Currently, Pfizer / BioNTech and Moderna have vaccines authorized for use in the US.
- Although there are some small differences between the two vaccines, both are about 95% effective at preventing COVID-19.



You will need two doses several weeks apart

- Both of the vaccines available right now require two doses.
- When you get vaccinated, both doses need to be from the same manufacturer (both Moderna or both Pfizer).
- You won't get full benefits of the vaccine until about seven days after your second dose.



Side effects are normal and should go away in a day or two

- After COVID-19 vaccination, you may have some side effects, like sore muscles, feeling tired, or mild fever.
- This is a normal sign that your body is building protection against the virus. For most people, these side effects will last no longer than a day or two.
- Having these types of side effects does NOT mean that you have COVID-19.



It's important to continue washing your hands, distancing, and wearing a mask

- After being vaccinated, it can take a few weeks for your body to develop immunity. During this time, it's possible to get the virus.
- So even if you get the vaccine, it's important to continue to wash your hands, watch your distance, and wear a mask.

Stay up-to-date on when you can get vaccinated:
publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine

Fusion, Elevation, Appreciation or Appropriation

A Lecture-Recital of Asian American, Catalan & Colombian Songs



Bethel Music Director Amy Hartsough presented the following lecture/recital with her dear friend, Dr. Eric Hung, for the College Music Society. They are presenting at several regional and international conferences for this society, including the

postponed conference in Bogota, Colombia (2022). Considering the Big Read, Watch, and Sing in which Bethel is participating, Amy thought this would be of interest to the Bethel congregation. What follows is the content and repertoire of these presentations, the first was on Friday, March 5 (video below).

Fusion, Elevation, Appreciation, or Appropriation: A Lecture-Recital of Asian American, Catalan and Colombian Songs

In 1988, Gayatri C. Spivak asked a simple question, “Can the subaltern speak?” Can we truly hear the ideas and emotions of those without any power? Or can they really only speak through intermediaries—media organizations, university professors—who might subvert their messages? In the world of Western Classical Music, the subaltern’s messages are filtered through composers, performers, and institutional practices who often have different backgrounds.

In this lecture-recital, we ask: how can composers ethically use elements of musical cultures with which they are not intimately involved? Should performers—and how should we—present works that mishandle elements of different cultures (e.g., taking sacred rituals into concert halls)? Can we—and how can we—continue to perform works that perpetuate harmful stereotypes? In short, where are the lines between cultural fusion (where different traditions are intimately intertwined), cultural elevation (where composers condescendingly “improve” the music from lower classes), cultural appreciation (where distinct traditions respectfully coexist), and cultural appropriation (where elements of a marginalized culture are misused by members of a more dominant culture)? To create a more equitable musical culture, we need to investigate and struggle with these difficult questions.

We will first present the models on cultural borrowing and cultural appropriation presented by theorists George Lipsitz, Robin Armstrong, Barı Büyükokutan, and Jason Chu. Afterwards, we will apply the models to and perform extended excerpts of Melissa Dunphy’s *Come, My Tan-Faced Children*, P.Q. Phan’s *Spring Confessions*, and Xavier Montsalvatge’s *Cinco canciones negras*.

Dr. Eric Hung, Director of Music of Asian America Research Center
Amy Hartsough, Mezzo-Soprano and Independent Scholar.

View Lectur Here: <https://tinyurl.com/43r5a4ss> 🌈

Attention Bethel Gardeners

As spring approaches, gardeners are making plans for the coming growing season. The Bethel Food Pantry is interested in offering our guests fresh produce. Although we currently stock potatoes and onions and were delighted to offer fresh fruit over the holidays thanks to a generous donor, we’d love to be able to provide lettuces, cucumbers, beans, tomatoes, peppers, and summer squash. So, if you or someone you know will be planting a garden in the next few months, consider planting a row of vegetables to donate to the Food Pantry. 🌈



Help My Unbelief

Sermon Series April 11 - May 2



One of the glaring features of the story of Jesus' resurrection is the fact that when the disciples first heard the news, they refused to believe it (Mark 16:5-11, 16:12, Luke 24:11, John 20:25). To them, it seemed like "crazy talk." Jesus' life, death, and resurrection were beyond their experience or comprehension. Their acceptance and experience of the Risen Lord was neither natural nor immediate. Today, we live in a world with a super abundance of unbelief, skepticism, cynicism, and plain old doubt. That's why none of us should be surprised that, from time to time, many if not most Christians have a difficult time believing all or a part of Jesus' story. Join us the Sundays following Easter for an inspiring series of messages on this age-old topic.

Apr 11 - I Believe, Why Do I Doubt?

Apr 18 - I Don't Believe, Why Shouldn't I Doubt

Apr 25 - How Much Do I Need to Believe?

May 2 - What You Didn't Know About Doubt 🌈

Fireside Chats



Pastor Mike will continue to host Fireside Chats on Tuesday evenings. If you have any questions you would like to ask, please send them to christal@bethel-madison.org. 🌈

Horizons Summer Camps

Registration Now Open



your child this summer!

Summer Camps are the cornerstone of Horizons' Ministry. Our camps run Sun-Fri for 8 different weeks over the summer from mid-June through mid-August. Our camps are open to all youth in 2nd-11th grades. Set your Summer Camp schedule now, we look forward to sharing sunshine and smiles with

More Info & to Register:

<https://tinyurl.com/phcveye8y>

Contact the Horizons office at bethelhorizons@bethelhorizons.org 608.257.3577 x334. 🌈

Men's Current Christian Concerns (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.

Mar 18 - Judging America

Mar 25 - Thinking About China

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.

TEXT TO GIVE

Text "BLC" to 73256 to give.

GIVE ONLINE

www.bethel-madison.org/giveonline

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

PALM SUNDAY

Pastor Mike Brown - Mar 28 at 7:30am, 9am, & 11am

EASTER

Pastor Mike Brown - Apr 4 at 7:30am, 9am, & 11am

SUNDAY, MARCH 21

- 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, MARCH 22

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 23

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

- 9:00a Daily Devotion (Email)
- 2:00p Lent Bible Study w/Mike (Facebook & YouTube)
- 6:30p Lent Service at Home (Facebook & YouTube)
- 7:00p Lent Bible Study w/Mike (Facebook & YouTube)

THURSDAY, MARCH 25

- 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, MARCH 26

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

- 9:00a Daily Devotion (Email)

PASTORAL STAFF

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

Pastor Roger Black - Visitation
roger@bethel-madison.org

SUNDAY FLOWERS

Mar 14: Altar Spray is given by Jan & Dave Primus in honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary on March 6, 2021.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL: REQUESTED IN HOME BY MAR 19 2021

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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.