



BETHELITE

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HALL OF FAME FOR LWR QUILTS

April 25 marked the sixth anniversary of the deadly earthquake that struck Nepal in 2015. Its toll was huge, killing nearly 9,000 people, injuring 20,000 more and destroying more than 600,000 homes. A second earthquake hit on May 12, causing more damage and casualties. Together, the suffering they caused was incalculable. Bethel's support since then has made possible a relief response that began almost immediately and a recovery process that is ongoing. Lutheran World Relief (LWR) was already working in Nepal with existing development pro-grams close to the epicenter, and there they mobilized an emergency response within the first 24 hours after the first earthquake hit.



Bethel seamstress and quilter, Jeanne Moren.

In the immediate aftermath, LWR staff, in cooperation with lo-cal partners distributed food packs, Quilts, Personal Care Kits, water filtration units, tarpaulins and corrugated galvanized iron sheets to affected families most in need. In the months that fol-lowed dwellings were built. Today, despite well-documented delays caused by internal political issues, the process of recovery has come a long way, and continues as families work with local government officials and organizations like LWR to build permanent houses designed to with-stand future earthquakes. Thanks to Bethel's support though the ELCA and LWR drives, houses are being completed in several poor, rural and isolated villages with quilts and kits providing necessary care. Families displaced by the earthquake once again have a place they can call home.



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Stories like this are among the reasons Lutheran World Relief is consistently listed among the top relief agencies in the world by charity watchers. This July 15-17, 2021, LWR adds a new accolade to its long list of awards and rankings. The Quilters Hall of Fame, in Marion, IN, is honoring LWR with a special award for its historic contributions to quilt making. A press release from the Quilters Hall of Fame states the “Quilters Hall of Fame applauds the Lutheran World Relief Quilt and Kit Ministry for their determined endeavors to meet the needs of people affected by poverty and disaster and on July 15-17, 2021 will award them the Crystal Thimble Award for their significant impact in the world of quilt making. LWR Mission Quilts are highly regarded throughout the world because of their quality and consistency. Considering LWR’s



Bethel member, John Hueschen’s, grandmother Mary McElwain from Walworth, WI, was inducted into the Quilter’s Hall of Fame in 2019.

first quilts in 1945 given to families in war-torn Europe to today’s annual average world distribution of 300,000 quilts, it is clear to the TQHF Selection Committee Lutheran World Relief is their choice for the Crystal Thimble Award in 2021. The Crystal Thimble Award is new in 2021 and is to recognize not-for-profit organizations that have had a significant impact in the world of quilting.”

This quilting honor not only recognizes the countless acts of service from Lutheran women across the world, it also reveals a very simple but powerful truth.

It reveals the power of simple acts of love for our neighbor. When Jesus was asked “Which commandment is the greatest and most important?” he did not hesitate. He said “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and soul, and strength, and mind.” Then he added, “and the second is just like it, ‘love your neighbor as your-self.’” Loving God is loving our neighbor. Loving our neighbor is loving God.

When Martin Luther talked about how to love God and neighbor, he said that the way to

be a good Christian is not to call attention to the fact that you are a Christian. If you are a cobbler (shoe maker) and want to be a good Christian and serve God, you don’t do it by stamping little crosses somewhere on the shoe. You just make the best shoes you can make.

Likewise, if you are a baker and want to serve God well, you don’t shape the bread into the form of a cross. You just make good bread at a fair price. This honors God and serves the neighbor.

For decades, so many women at Bethel have served God by serving their neighbor by making good quilts and preparing kits.

They have done so through several generations, collecting fabric, cutting squares, meeting at church to sew and tie piece after piece. It is slow painstaking work that requires endurance, commitment, and a heart for God. They have done this, for the most part, out of the public eye. But in the weeks ahead, we will come together as a church in support of this work. Making quilt, making kits to ship all over the world. 🌍

*Which
command
is the
greatest?*

9TH ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE

In memory of Chas Bertun



Donate blood in memory of Lance Corporal Charles Bertun on July 28 from 12-5pm in Borgwardt Hall. Charles "Chas" Bertun was a life-long member of Bethel, serving many years as a food pantry volunteer and camp counselor at Bethel Horizons. Also a dedicated blood donor, Chas is loved and missed by many. To honor and celebrate his life, please come and donate blood. Non-perishable food items and/or cash donations will be accepted for the Bethel Food Pantry. We have 60 spots to fill and you can sign-up online for an appointment, so no waiting in line! Go to redcrossblood.org, then the 'Find A Blood Drive' red box at the top right of the page, next enter sponsor

code: BethelChasBertun and then sign-up. If interested in volunteering at the blood drive please contact Dale at holmendd13@att.net with available times between 12-5pm. Thanks in advance.

The American Red Cross is experiencing a **SEVERE BLOOD SHORTAGE** of all blood types and there is an emergency need for type O! We need your help! Come to donate July 7-31, 2021, and you will receive a \$10 AMAZON.COM GIFT CARD, VIA EMAIL. PLUS have a chance to WIN GAS FOR A YEAR, A \$5K VALUE! 3 WINNERS! See rcblood.org/fuel. 🍀



SUMMER BAGGAGE Sermon Series

This three-week series unpacks some of the heaviest baggage we carry and invites us to leave it at the side of the road for a greater sense of peace, freedom, and fulfillment in Jesus Christ. Many, though not all, have been vaccinated from the coronavirus. Our community is re-opening. Events are again taking place. Still, an emotional weight remains. In the Bible, we learn that our baggage is often filled with unmet expectations, ungrieved losses, and unexpressed feelings. The Bible also shares story after story of people who have released the burdens to Christ and experienced healing and freedom. Join us for the following messages:

- July 4** - Letting Go of Betrayal
- July 11** - Setting Aside Bitterness
- July 18** - Getting Rid of Blame 🍀



Bethel Member,
Patty Saxe,
ties a quilt

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Over the past several years, Patty Saxe has kept track of where the Kits and Quilts from Bethel are delivered throughout the world. Since 2016, the hands of Bethel have reached Angola, Burkina Faso, Ukraine, Georgia, Peru, El Salvador, Mauritania, Zimbabwe, Bahamas, Haiti, Iraq, Bosnia, Honduras, Mali, Rwanda, Nicaragua, Djibouti, and Zambia.



EYES O

Bethel Joins Global Lutheran Effort

Bethel's Women's Circles have had a long tradition of supporting the health of women, children, and infants both locally and globally. Our global outreach efforts are made possible by partnering with Lutheran World Relief. Through LWR we are able to use our resources to reach-out globally with a compassionate response to the needs of mothers and newborns, men, and children who live beyond our borders.


Lutheran World Relief was created in 1945 to send aid to a devastated Europe after WW II. At the time, it was estimated that 40 million people were refugees, and one fifth of the world's Lutherans were left homeless. Although the recipients of LWR's aid have

in addition to its Flagship Quilt and Kit Ministry. Lutheran World Relief currently provides kits and quilts to East and West Africa, Asia, Latin American and to the Middle East.

Bethel's Women's Ministry calls on all family groups, men's groups, women's circles, book groups, and individuals to contribute kits and/or shipping funds to our summer Kit Drive. Lists of the contents of the school, baby, fabric, and personal care kits are available at the LWR website (www.lwr.org) or on the display table in the Good Shepherd Chapel. Kits can be turned in there any Sunday from July 11-August 29 between 6:30am and Noon, or at any time from Monday — Friday.



changed over the years, the commitment of LWR to address human suffering has never wavered, and has led to the creation of many health and agricultural development pro-grams

On September 5, all the kits and quilts that have been made and gathered will be dedicated and blessed with special worship services at 9am and 11am. 

N YOU



as you did it to one of the least of these
you did it to me
—Matthew 25:40

Mary Anne Smith works on a quilt for world refugees

DROP OFF AT GOOD SHEPHERD CHAPEL

Often, when natural disasters strike or when war drives families from their homes, our hearts ache with com-*pas*sion, but we don't know how to help. Making Lutheran World Relief Kits is a simple, fun and tangible way to offer com-fort to those suffering and express love to our



*If God loved us
as much as
that, surely we,
in our turn,
should love
each other!*

—1 John 4:11

neighbors in mailing with a detailed list for the four different types of kits we are gathering. Bring the kits or the materials for the kits to Bethel's Good Shepherd Chapel during the months of July and August, Monday—Friday from 9am-4pm, and on Sunday mornings from 6:30am-Noon. 🌈



BABY CARE KIT ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS
Include the following items in each Baby Care Kit:

| | | |
|--|---|--|
|  x2 Two highweight wet wipes or tissues |  x2 Two long or short-sleeved gowns or blankets (adult size) |  x2 Two receiving blankets, medium weight cotton or fleece, or muslin or flannel with grommets (90% or less cotton) |
|  x1 One jacket, sweater or sweater with a hood, or blanket a baby size |  x4 Four cloth diapers, not too generous |  x2 Two pairs of socks |
|  x2-3 Two or three baby-size bars of gentle soap (making 8-9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping, no tube or bottle size bars) |  x2 Two diaper pins or large safety pins |  x1 One hand towel, adult color recommended |



Red Hot Dixie Band

PARKING LOT CONCERT & WORSHIP

July 25
Sunday
4-6pm

July's parking lot concert and worship service will be led by the Red Hot Dixie band. Starting at 4pm, the band will wow with exciting dixie jazz versions of classic church hymns as well provide other entertaining music before and after. Park in the parking lot or in the city garage and pull up your lawn chair. A food truck will be on site to supply all your needs for sustenance. 🌈

OUTDOOR FAMILY WORSHIP & MOVIE

Bethel Parking Lot
July 24, Saturday, 6:30pm

Bethel brings a second season of creative community programming with a new series of Outdoor Family Worship and Movie events. The first of these takes place at the Bethel parking lot. Inspired by memories of Drive-In movie theaters from years gone by, Bethel creates a Outdoor Movie experience with two large high-definition screens, powerful sound systems, FM radio transmission, and a stage.

The second Outdoor movie will be the award-winning movie, Frozen 2, from Pixar. Prior to showing the movie, Bethel will offer a short worship experience of song, scripture, and a message that relates to the movie, helping people learn something of Jesus in the movie. In the movie, Elisa, is a bridge between two types of worlds, the mystical and the

human. She discovers that her memories are an important way to connect the two as well as the past with the present. In the Bible, points to followers of Jesus as bridges. They are people of reconciliation and help bring together what is broken in our relationships with God, self, nature, and others.

Please join us and others from around Madison in this unique and wonderful outreach experience. Simply show up by 6:30pm or come earlier to volunteer. To offer your help as a volunteer, please contact Cindy at cindy@bethel-madison.org

This event is made possible by a generous grant from the Bethel Endowment Foundation.



**OUTDOOR FAMILY
WORSHIP & MOVIE**

BETHEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Disney
FROZEN II**

- Saturday, July 24 at 6:30pm
- Bethel Lutheran Church Parking Lot
- 30-40min worship followed by Disney's Frozen II movie

www.bethel-madison.org/frozen

COMING SOON



Bethel's Church Ladies working with women recently released from prison or jail.

ACTJAM Focus: Racism & The Justice System

There was a note a few weeks ago from the Dane County Jail. Could we provide clothes for a woman who was going to be released the end of June? She came to jail from the hospital and she had no street clothes. Nor did she have family or friends to bring clothes. Like many women in our local jail, she was being trafficked. Some get arrested because jail is better than the alternative. Being arrested for shoplifting is better than getting back in the car with the man who made you do it. So we found clothes and shoes and gave them to our contact at the jail.

This quarter ACTJAM looks at racism and the justice system – especially incarceration -- with sponsorship from Bethel's Church Ladies and Bethel friends of the Madison Area Jail Ministry. The question we ask is: How can we do God's justice and make a difference in a world filled with injustice? (Here's a quick 6-minute refresher on biblical justice: <https://bibleproject.com/learn/justice/>)

The statistics on incarceration are abysmal. Wisconsin ranks at the bottom for locking up disproportionately more Black than white people. Across the country, states lock up

5 times more African Americans than white people yet in Wisconsin the disparity is 11.5 times, the second highest in the U.S. While African Americans are 7% of the population of the state, they are 41% of the state prison population. A recent report by the Wisconsin Court System shows that Black men are 28% more likely than white men to receive a prison sentence for comparable crimes.

But we're also going to look beyond the statistics. That's where things get really messy and complicated because we'll look at people and their stories. Often the situation isn't just a matter of "If you do the crime, you do the time." Like when the man who's trafficking you has your child. Or you have a mental illness or trauma. Or, you live paycheck to paycheck and can't make the \$500 bail.

We need to look beyond the statistics to get to meaningful action as a church community. We can take our cue from Bethel's Church Ladies. There is a ministry of accompaniment; they work with women recently released from prison or jail. Bryan Stevenson in his book *Just Mercy* calls it proximity, and it's not comfortable. It means getting close to people

in prison and jail or re-entering our community. Given that prison and jail separate people inside from people outside, proximity is a challenge. Yet it can be done. And if we follow Jesus' words in Matthew 25, it must be done. "Feed the hungry," says Jesus. "Visit the prisoner." That's doing biblical justice.

It will be an active ACTJAM quarter. In addition to a Big Read and Big Watch, we'll highlight organizations and volunteer opportunities to do justice like Bethel's Church Ladies, Madison Area Jail Ministry and JustDane's Circles of Support. We'll look at the impact of parental incarceration on children and the correlation between childhood trauma and incarceration, why people with four or more Adverse Childhood Experiences are 20 times more likely to be incarcerated at some point in their life compared to the general population. 🌈



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BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

312 Wisconsin Avenue
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Dan and Bethany Rasmussen

NEW MEMBERS

Dan and Bethany are getting married this Fall at Bethel and look forward to making it their church home. Bethany works for a Wisconsin state senator at the capitol and is looking forward to joining the choir.

They have made Bethel their church home this Spring along with Suzanne McMillan; Marcus Alzine; Bethany Rasmussen/Dan Crombie; Aaron/Felicia Dettman; Alex Wranovksy/Bridgette; Matt/Jenny Brooks; Stuart/Michelle Rittenhouse; and Matt/Alex Endress. 🌈

ACTJAM JULY BIG READ *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson

Our Big Read for July is Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy*, a book about the justice system and doing God's justice to heal the hurt and bring about change. It's a story of racism infecting the justice system in the U.S. and how lawyer Bryan Stevenson got proximate with death row inmates to free many who were innocent and change the narrative of justice in the United States.

Community copies of *Just Mercy* are available from Bethel's Library (and public libraries) or you can watch the movie *Just Mercy*, for rent on Amazon Prime video and

YouTube. Discussions will be held at the end of the month.

To get started, we invite you to watch Bryan Stevenson speak with Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City about what it takes to "do justice and love mercy." Redeemer's senior pastor Tim Keller asks the same question we're asking in ACTJAM: "How can a church committed to the flourishing of the whole city engage as ambassadors of reconciliation and justice? Stevenson and



Bryan Stevenson

Keller answer the question here:
<https://tinyurl.com/d7nr36bp>. 🌈



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BethelLutheranTV

Worship Times: Sunday at 7:30am & 9am - Traditional; 11am - Contemporary