



Jesus loves you. Walk with him.

# BETHELITE

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**BETHEL**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## THE GREATEST STORY

Writing systems are thousands of years old and are found in ancient Sumer, China, and Egypt. But even in the most literate ancient societies only a small fraction of people ever learned to read, rarely more than 10 percent. So, when did people decide that everyone should learn to read? The move toward mass literacy began in the 16th century with the belief that every person should read and interpret the Bible for themselves. This belief began to rapidly diffuse across Europe with the eruption of the Protestant Reformation. It was initiated in 1517 by Martin Luther's delivery of his famous 95 theses. Luther believed that people had to study the Bible for themselves to draw even closer to God. In the wake of the spread of the Reformation, the literacy rates in Germany, Britain, Sweden, and the Netherlands rose. Motivated by a desire to know God more personally as Luther did, parents and leaders made sure adults and children learned to read. Even more, it was the powerful emphasis on literacy as a path to greater comprehension of God's revelation that helped spur the beginning of state-funded schooling. As early as 1524, Martin Luther emphasized the need for parents to ensure their children's literacy and placed the responsibility for creating schools on secular governments.

In our modern world, we are more likely to take both literacy and the Bible for granted. It is so common that, like the ground we walk on, barely gets noticed. As Rally Day approaches



Celebrated sand artist for Bethel Bible Study, author of *SandStory: The Amazing Tale of How Sand Changed My Life*, and guest on America's Got Talent.

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## Pastor Mike

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419.345.2836

on September 12 with the Fall kickoff to a wide variety of programs to help people enter more deeply into the mystery of God, I want to invite all adults to a new weekday Bible study opportunity beginning September 22, Wednesday, at 10:30am. This Bible study is for all adults, men and women, singles and couples, who want to learn and grow and wonder. This first class will run for sixteen weeks and will be an Overview of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. A workbook will be provided at no cost, although people may contribute \$10 for the workbook if they choose.

The Bible Study workbook is published by Augsburg Fortress Publishing House, of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Each session features a compelling video by



Long time member, Lila Mathwich, who belongs to Abigail Circle, displays her handy work of prayer shawls, sweaters/caps, and dolls.

She has contributed her talents to Bethel for several decades.

celebrated sand artist Joe Castillo, plus a book chapter and corresponding helps. Learners read, hear, see, and discuss the story and how it connects to their lives. Comprehensive guides provide suggested Bible readings, story scripts, activities, charts, maps, and more. It is organized into the following easy to understand sixteen sessions:

1. The Story (Introducing the Bible), 2. Beginnings (Genesis), 3. God's People on the Move (Exodus—Deuteronomy), 4. Getting Settled (Joshua—Ruth), 5. Kings and Kingdoms (Samuel—Chronicles), 6. Trails of Tears and Joy (2 Kings—Esther, Lamentations), 7. When God Speaks (The Prophets), 8. For



Every Matter under Heaven (Wisdom and Poetry Books), 9. People of Promise (The Old Testament Story for Us), 10. The Word Became Flesh (The Gospels, Part 1), 11. Who Do You Say I Am? (The Gospels, Part 2), 12. You Will Be My Witnesses (Acts), 13. The Power of God for Salvation (The Letters of Paul), 14. So Great a Cloud of Witnesses (General Letters), 15. Come, Lord Jesus! (Revelation), 16. Jesus People (The New Testament Story for Us)

Following the Bible study, Steve Nelson will provide a light lunch of soup and salad for a cost of \$10. Please RSVP to Jeff Bittner at [jeff@bethel-madison.org](mailto:jeff@bethel-madison.org). I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. 🌈

# 20TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

## Sept 27 at Blackhawk Country Club



Bethel's is hosting the 20th annual Circle of Love Golf Outing on Mon, Sept 27 at Blackhawk Country Club. This year the proceeds from the Circle of Love Golf Outing will support two efforts to improve Black baby mortality in Milwaukee and Dane County. In Milwaukee, Bethel will support our sister congregation Hephatha Lutheran Church's Strong Baby Sanctuary program. In Dane County Bethel will support the similar efforts of the Foundation for Black Women's Wellness — Saving Our Babies program. Both of these are "grass-roots" programs helping improve the health of Black women and their newborn babies. The registration fee of \$150 covers a box lunch, 18 holes of golf with a cart, eligibility for awards and prizes, post-golf reception, and hors d'oeuvres buffet. All money donated above that amount will be split equally between the two groups and is tax-deductible.



### How can you help?

- Register to play golf! ([bethel-madison.org/col](http://bethel-madison.org/col)) Golfers at all skill levels are welcome & enjoy the scramble format.
- Consider sponsoring a golfer (\$150 or more) or a hole (\$300) or one of the meals (\$1,000 and/or \$500).
- Participate in the 50/50 raffle (on the day of the tournament only)
- Make a monetary donation.
- If you are unable to play, join us for the post-golf reception and hors d'oeuvres buffet beginning at 4:30pm at Blackhawk Country Club. The cost is \$35.

For more information contact Sharon Moses at 608.575.7934 or email [sharonhmoses@gmail.com](mailto:sharonhmoses@gmail.com).



## THE Best Seller Getting the Bible Right

It's a crazy thing to press pause on your day-to-day life and realize that we have access to the very words of God. The Bible is no doubt the greatest book ever written. Many different authors, over the course of many different years, all pointing to one man, Jesus Christ. In this three-week series, Pastor Mike will share keys on how to understand and interpret this book as a whole.

**Sept 12:** Key One - The Problem

**Sept 19:** Key Two - The Promise

**Sept 26:** Key Three - The Power



## HAMMOCK HANGS

We leaned into our creativity extra during pandemic times to maximize our togetherness in safe ways. Hammock Hangs became a perfect solution for us in the temperate weather months. We set up at Vilas Park where we could safely hang our hammocks with social distance.

These young people processed aloud their experiences of life in the pandemic while each one was suspended in the air between the trees. In another way, they were also suspended in the unknown of what was to come, but nevertheless, they were together and held by the trees, by each other, and by our gracious God. 🌈



# BETHE MINI

## An Exciting New Year

**G**reetings from Your Youth Director, Rachel! I can't wait to kick off this program year with you, because we have so much good and God to share with one another! Allow me to take you on a journey through Bethel's Youth Ministry programming, and extend a special invitation to you and/or to the young people in your life to join in on something truly special.

### **Expedition: 3rd Sunday of the Month; 11:45am-1pm; starts Sept 19**

Expedition is brand-new programming being launched this year! Expedition is designed especially with 5th and 6th graders in mind, who are kicking off their expedition into a spiritual life they can call their own. Break down the word, "expedition", and it means. "free the feet." In Expedition, we are going to celebrate each person's spiritual curiosity and

### **Confirmation: every Wednesday night; 5-7pm; starts Sept 15**

Confirmation is for 7th and 8th graders who long to figure it out—who they are, where they belong, and who God is to them. Questioning, exploring, and being curious are second nature to young people at this time in their lives. Through all of this, we come to discover that God is a true mystery: our questions turn into more questions, our explorations reap more curiosity, and thus our spiritual life is in full swing—awake and alive with God all over us.

To kick off Confirmation this year, we're going to have a crash course in Lutheran Theology. Because, let's face it, we've got something really good going here. We come from a long line of rebels, of unhinged question-ers, doubters—all sorts of people of faith. We'll



roam together into new spiritual territories, We'll meet in the Youth Room (near Borgwardt Hall) on the 3rd Sunday of the month for a snack, music, and the "freeing of the feet."

gather in-person on Wednesday nights for singing around our Youth Room firepit, dinner, general wildness, and spicy conversations.

# L'S YOUTH STRY



Bethel high school youth, embracing one another after a week of axe throwing, airsofting, tubing, campfires, sleeping in hammocks, and growing closer in Godly love.

## Youth Quake: every Sunday night; 5-7pm; starts Sept 12

In Bethel's High School youth group, *YOUTH QUAKE*, there are no questions that are "off-limits". There's no policing about what you can wear or about how you can express yourself. There's no judgment, shame, or pressure. There's only grace. And a ton of it. Because grace comes from God, which means it's unlimited. This group has been life-changing for the young people who have been part of it. Come to be seen for who you are, celebrated for who God made you to be, and loved as a

member of this community. Join us for our kick-off on September 12 at 5-7pm. Food, music, in-house laser tag, and authentic, unfiltered conversations.

If there is a young person you have in mind who you'd like to connect to Bethel's Youth Ministry, send me an email, a text, or give me a call! I'll reach out to them and welcome them in.



Your sister in Christ,  
Rachel Kenney-Brown  
Email: [rachel@bethel-madison.org](mailto:rachel@bethel-madison.org)  
Cell: 608.886.0603

## High School Coffee Circle

Our high schoolers started the year meeting once a week on Sundays for Youth Quake. We quickly found that the kind of community we were finding in each other was something so special, and that we needed more time together. So, Thursday Coffee Circles came to be. ☕



High Schoolers, hanging out at Colectivo Coffee, giving each other the gift of belonging.

# BLACK HISTORY FOR A NEW DAY COURSE

Sept 27-Nov 22

**R**egistration is **OPEN** for the popular **BLACK HISTORY FOR A NEW DAY** course from Madison's Nehemiah Center starting Sept 27!

This spring fifteen Bethel members took the course and found it transformative. Learning more of the history that shapes all of our lives today is one way to be better neighbors. This college level course meets weekly on ZOOM on Monday nights from 7-9pm with lectures by UW history professors plus small group discussions. Bethel will have our own discussion group to reflect on past and present from a faith perspective.

Tuition for the 9-week course is \$300 per person with Bethel scholarship funds available up to \$200. More info can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/5dsdvmur>

With the leadership of Pastor Bill White, Bethel was a founding partner of the Nehemiah Center. Former Pastor Brorgwardt was influential in Dr. Alex Gee's evolution toward becoming a pastor and community leader.

Register for the class as a member of the Bethel group here:  
<https://tinyurl.com/hwhsu7> 



## New Strategies for Mental Health Support Sept 9 from 8:30-5pm at Bethel

**J**oin us for the 1st Annual Madison Summit for Homeless Support: New Strategies for Mental Health Support! We are excited to offer this engaging opportunity for you!

This Summit will allow us to gather in one place to learn from our talented keynote and breakout session presenters! We have included time throughout the day to network, socialize and learn from the collective knowledge that each attendee brings. Caring for people who struggle with mental illness in our homeless community can be overwhelming. It is our sincere desire that you leave the Summit spirited and energized, ready to take on the challenges and barriers that get in your way with a renewed sense of purpose.

### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

#### Dr. Ronald Diamond

##### Common Mental Health Challenges in Homeless Populations

Dr. Ronald Diamond is a Madison psychiatrist with 45 years of experience treating persons with severe and persistent mental illnesses, such as Schizophrenia and Bipolar Disorder. As a community psychiatrist, Dr. Diamond also has expertise in emergency psychiatry, and for many years served as the Medical Director of Journey Mental Health. He has also been a member of the faculty of the UW Department of Psychiatry.

Dr. Diamond Graduated from the University of

Pennsylvania Medical School with a psychiatry residency at Stanford Medical School.

#### Hector Colón

##### Successful Strategies to Combat Homelessness and Provide Mental Health Support

Hector Colón is a servant-leader who is President and CEO of Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. Hector ushered in a dramatic turn-around for LSS by adapting the LSS mission and organization with new models and business strategies that focused on increased viability for employees and clients. Prior to LSS, Hector served six years as director of Milwaukee County Health and Human Services, when the department achieved a 58% reduction in Milwaukee County's uninsured rate, reduced chronic homelessness by more than 75%, and pushed to move Milwaukee County youths out of the state's juvenile prisons in northern Wisconsin and return them to the county. In addition, he led several county-wide initiatives, including efforts to reform the juvenile justice system, end chronic homelessness, transform mental health care, and eliminate a 30-year waitlist for disabilities services.

The Bethel Homeless Summit is offered by the Bethel Serving Team and is made possible by a generous grant from the Bethel Endowment Foundation.

**More Information and Registration:**  
[www.bethel-madison.org/summit](http://www.bethel-madison.org/summit) 



# ARTS FOR ALL WISCONSIN

## Showcases the Art of Artists with Disabilities

### Now-Oct 12; Emmaus Hallway Gallery

AFA Wisconsin announces the presentation of Creative Power: ARTS for ALL Wisconsin's Traveling Exhibition. The exhibition is comprised of thirty award-winning artworks and four poems created by Wisconsin youth and adults with disabilities.

#### Creative Power: AFA Wisconsin's Traveling Exhibition on Display at Bethel

Each year, ARTS for ALL issues a Call for Art inviting all Wisconsin artists with disabilities to submit artwork for review by a jury of arts professionals, who look for originality, creativity and craftsmanship. Ten pieces are chosen as winners and then added to the Creative Power exhibit. The exhibition

generates increased public awareness of the artistic and creative talents of artists with disabilities and is viewed by an estimated 10,000 people each year. Many of the award winners go on to have a career as a working artist or continue their art-making as a hobby.

#### ABOUT ARTS for ALL Wisconsin

ARTS for ALL Wisconsin was founded in 1985 as Very Special Arts Wisconsin with the mission to expand the capabilities, confidence and quality of life for children and adults with disabilities throughout

Wisconsin by providing programs in dance, drama, creative writing, music and visual art. In 2010 it became VSA Wisconsin in accordance with the Department of VSA



and Accessibility at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. VSA became ARTS for ALL Wisconsin in 2019. For more info please visit: [www.artsf forallwi.org](http://www.artsf forallwi.org)

#### ARTS for ALL Wisconsin's REACH

ARTS for ALL Wisconsin works statewide in a variety of ways, including choirs, artist residencies, our Creative Power Traveling Exhibition, and a Call for Art that draws submissions from over sixty communities. ARTS for ALL communities include Appleton, Eau Claire, Janesville, Madison, Milwaukee, Mosinee, Oshkosh, Plover, Stevens Point, Stoughton, Sun Prairie, Watertown, Wausau and Wisconsin Rapids and more. 



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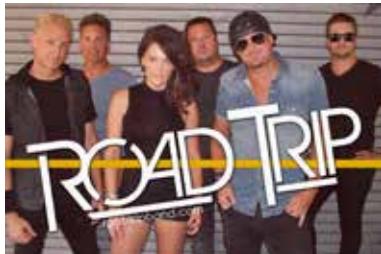
## ROCKTOBERFEST

October 1  
6-8pm

Combine great local beer, an electrifying Rock Band (Road Trip), enough food for an army, and hundreds of great friends and neighbors partying in the parking lot and you have the makings of Rocktoberfest at Bethel.

Martin Luther was known as a brilliant religious thinker, a lover of music, and a devout drinker of beer. Of course, it didn't hurt that his wife, Katie a former nun, ran her own brewery business. Because changing the world is hard work, unwinding with friends is just what the doctor ordered. You're invited to do the same. Bring your friends and neighbors for a celebration that only Bethel can bring to life.

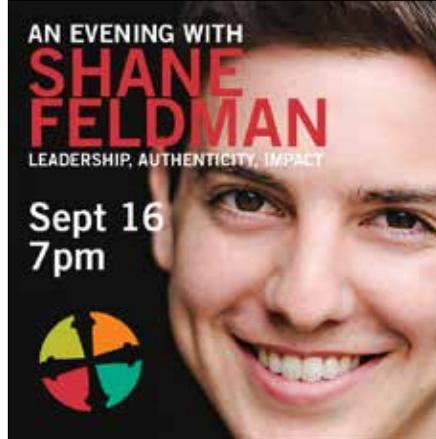
Bring your friends. Bring your cash. Wine and beer are available for purchase with a valid ID.



## BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

312 Wisconsin Avenue  
Madison, WI 53703



This September, Bethel resumes its speaker series with the appearance of motivational speaker Shane Feldman. Known best for starting the world's largest youth-led change movement, Count Me In, Shane is a much sought-after speaker by organizations, corporations, and governments.

Shane is recognized by **The White House**, **The Prime Minister of Canada**, and **The United Nations** for his achievements in community leadership. He helps audiences activate the leader within and connect more authentically with colleagues and customers to see greater engagement, satisfaction, and retention.

Attendance is limited so order your free ticket soon! Bethel members have the first opportunity for tickets. The tickets are free and available on Eventbrite at: [shane.feldman.eventbrite.com](https://shane.feldman.eventbrite.com).

More detailed info: [www.bethel-madison.org/shane](http://www.bethel-madison.org/shane)

Made possible by a generous grant of the Bethel Endowment Foundation



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BethelLutheranTV

**Worship Times:** Sunday at 7:30am & 9am - Traditional; 11am - Contemporary  
Saturday at 5pm - Acoustic Casual (Starting Sept 11)