

Jesus loves you. Walk with him.

BETHELITE

OCTOBER 6, 2021: VOL. 70, NO. 19

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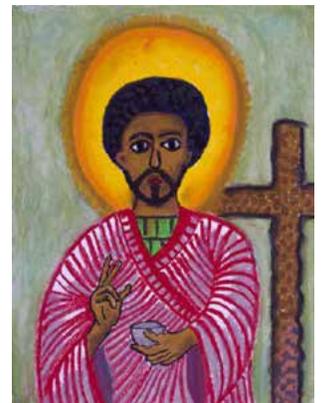
BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Color Bethelite provided in part by
Bethel Endowment Foundation*

ETHIOPIA AND THE LUTHERANS

This year marks the 504th year anniversary of the launching of the Protestant Reformation in Germany. Celebrations will be held around the world to remember the history and tell the story. When telling these stories of the Reformation, the names that usually come up begin, of course, with Martin Luther. Luther is rightly considered the father of the Protestant Reformation. After Luther, comes John Calvin and then Ulrich Zwingli. Both Calvin and Zwingli were inspired and shaped by Luther's writings. But, who inspired and shaped Luther? Some would simply say "the Holy Spirit," or perhaps "St. Augustine," or the "Apostle Paul," maybe even "Jesus Christ." These figures did indeed help shape Luther. But there was a contemporary to Luther who is often over-looked who helped shape the Reformation in Europe and then around the world. That oft' overlooked influence was a monk in the Ethiopian church. His name was Deacon Michael. It is a little-known fact of history that Luther was very inspired by one of the oldest groups of Christians in the world, the African church in Ethiopia. Ethiopian Christianity traces its roots to the book of Acts (8:26-38) when Philip converted an Ethiopian court official. According to Luther, the Ethiopian church served as an older, wiser, black sibling to white Christian kingdoms in Europe. Located in Africa – out of reach from the Roman Catholic Church – the Ethiopian church developed somewhat independent of Rome and the



Ethiopian Monk, Michael
the Deacon

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pope. This, according to Luther, made Ethiopian Christianity the “dream,” a true forerunner to Protestantism. The Coptic church was an ancient church with direct ties to the apostles. This validated Luther’s vision of a church outside the authority of the Roman Catholic papacy. Ethiopian Christians practiced their faith in ways unacceptable in Roman Catholicism. These practices included celebrating communion with both bread and wine, Scriptures in the language of the people, and married clergy. Ethiopian Christianity also lacked certain practices Protestants came to dismiss. That included the primacy of the Roman pope, indulgences, purgatory, and marriage as a sacrament. Luther’s fascination with the Ethiopian Church was solidified in 1534 when he had a face-to-face



Come enjoy the Sacred Grounds Coffee house

dialogue with an Ethiopian monk, Michael the Deacon. In his conversation with Michael the Deacon, Luther was thrilled to learn that what he had rediscovered in his reading of the Scriptures was already present in the Ethiopian Church. For Luther, the Church of Ethiopia was the historical proof that his reform of the Church in Europe had a clear historical and biblical basis. The historical fact that the Protestant Reformation has some roots in Ethiopia is part of the meaning for Bethel’s new gathering area, called Sacred Grounds. Sacred Grounds is the combined space of what has been known as the Emmaus Room and the Community Room. Both these spaces have served as a gathering area for worshipers on Sunday morning to share a cup of coffee, a donut hole, and good conversation.

*Inspired by
the sense of
community
taking root*

Inspired by the strong sense of community that is taking root at Bethel, the Community Team sought and received a mid-year grant from the Bethel Endowment Foundation to improve the ambiance and seating in the Community Room to create a cozy, inviting, and warm welcome. Not only is some of the décor from Ethiopia, but so is the coffee. Yes, Bethel’s unique blend of coffee is grown and harvested in the land from which Martin Luther drew such inspiration and encouragement during the world-changing days of the Reformation. I hope you will come in soon, on a Sunday or during the week, to drink deeply from the rich brew that is Bethel. 🌍

BETHEL'S CHURCH LADIES

Sharing Life With Others



Good food, fellowship and card making highlighted Bethel's Church Ladies picnic with women from Dayton House.

The Church Ladies ministry of Bethel Lutheran Church has been ongoing since Pastor Susan Quigley created it almost 20 years ago. It was her desire to create a caring ministry for women who felt left out — or cast out — of society. She called for people to “lift others up.” She gathered a small group of Bethel women together to meet monthly with women who were transitioning into society after being incarcerated. They met monthly and did crafts. Following her tragic death in 2003, the women involved in this wonderful mission wanted to have it continue in Pastor Quigley's memory, and this mission was led by Alice Hansen.

Through February of 2020 we still had a small group of dedicated Bethel women, dubbed “The Church Ladies,” who visited a house on the east side of Madison monthly where the women live. We brought treats and had fellowship for a couple hours with around

ten women ranging in age from 18 to 60. We often made greeting cards with them, and occasionally we created jewelry, did a craft of some kind, or sang a few songs. During these gatherings we created a bond as we shared stories, visited, and laughed together. At the end of our stay we clasped hands in a circle and said a prayer.

*They
know
we
care.*

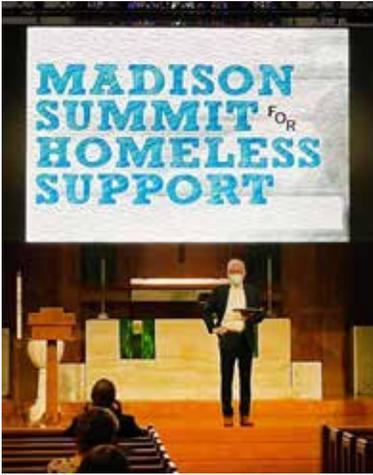
Traditionally, for our December gathering, we have hosted the women and counselors in Borgwardt Hall for a lasagna dinner followed by companionship as we made cards and ornaments together.

Each of the women received a small gift bag filled with items the Church Ladies individually donated. We ended the evening with the singing of Christmas songs and a prayer. Our fellowship together was always marked with uplifting energy, prayers, and a shared hope for a new future for them as they individually work on rehabilitation, personal growth and independence.

Upon the arrival of the COVID pandemic in March of 2020 our connections changed, and we began a monthly drop-off of card-making supplies and treats so they could still have a craft time amongst themselves, and they'd know we are still keeping them in our thoughts and prayers. In December this year, keeping our tradition alive, we provided a lasagna dinner from Benvenuto's! Additionally, we had a ZOOM Christmas party together with singing, spiritual reading, prayer, and a time for them to open the gift bags we dropped off for them along with the lasagna dinner.

In June we lost our chair, Alice Hansen, who was a guiding light for many of Bethel's missions, but especially for this outreach. We keep Alice and Pastor Susan in our hearts now as we continue this small but very important women's service mission. We bring God's grace and love to them monthly as they work through rehabilitation and society re-entry. They know we care.

We would love to encourage other Bethel women to join us in this worthwhile and fulfilling ministry. Please contact Mary Lou Tyne at 608.843.1602 for further information. 🌈



Pastor Mike begins summit with warm Bethel welcome

BETHEL LEADS IN MADISON

Pastor Mike developed the idea of a summit for homelessness in the summer of 2020 during conversations with the pastors of other downtown Madison churches, including Grace Episcopal, First United Methodist, and St. John's Lutheran Church. Each church had its own niche in serving people who were experiencing homelessness. There are several, even dozens of organizations and agencies that have had their own niche serving the same population. Oftentimes, the groups felt fragmented and separated. Pastor Mike believed that Bethel had an important role to play in this situation, a leadership role of gathering together people for learning, encouragement, and networking. Thanks to the financial support of the Bethel Foundation and the efforts of many volunteers, Bethel stepped in and filled an important need. 🌈



HOME

INSIGHTFUL EXPERTS SHARE GOOD NEWS

The two keynote speakers for Bethel's annual Summit on Homelessness shared, each in his own way, the good news that there are answers and reasons to hope in the fight against homelessness. Dr. Ron Diamond, local psychiatrist, published author, and university professor. He is also a three-time recipient, Exemplary Psychiatry Award, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill. For the AM keynote, Ron shared his expertise in treating mental health of individuals and the implications for working with and among people who are experiencing homelessness.

Hector Colon, CEO of Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and upper Michigan, provided the keynote address in the afternoon. Prior to LSS, Hector having served six years as director of Milwaukee County Health and

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 countywide initiatives, including efforts to reform the juvenile justice system, end chronic homelessness, transform mental health care, and eliminate a 30-year wait-list for disabilities services.

Mr. Colon expressed confidence in finding real and lasting answers to address chronic homelessness and lifted up Off the Square Club as one of the great success stories of Lutheran Social Services in Madison. LSS is looking for more partners in the Madison area to expand homeless services and repeat the success in other cities. Lutheran Social Services is looking to Bethel for collaboration in the area of homeless support services.



Human Services, when the department achieved a 58% reduction in Milwaukee County's uninsured rate, reduced chronic homelessness by more than 75%, and pushed

Colon and others on the LSS staff and team have expressed great appreciation for Bethel and its commitment to expanding its impact among those experiencing homelessness. 🌈

LESS SUMMIT



Hector Colon greets participants at the Bethel Homeless Summit

COUNCIL APPROVES Homeless Ministry Transition Task Force

Expanding services and support for people experiencing homelessness, Bethel's Church Council voted unanimously at its September meeting to approve the recommendation from the Serving Team that the following individuals serve on the Homeless Ministry Transition Task Force:

- Pat Barry - Former Council President
- Paul Nehm - Current Board Member
- Cathie Trevallee - Former Board Member
- Nancy Kaech - Former Homeless Volunteer
- Ginny Pickerell - Serving Team Member
- Burt Olson - Council Member
- Margie Czechowitz - Council Member

This Task Force's responsibility is to facilitate the transition of Bethel's existing homeless support programs to a new off-site location in partnership with other providers, such as Lutheran Social Services. Bethel offers many important services to people experiencing homelessness such as, twice weekly respite, which includes breakfast/lunch/coffee, mutual support circle, clothing depot, mailing address, computer access.

As Bethel expands its services, its partner(s) will provide resources for provide mental health support, substance abuse recovery, and some case management. 🌈

ROUSING AND INSPIRING

For most participants of Bethel's Homeless Summit, "rousing," "inspiring," and "encouraging" were words often heard in describing the event. From the keynote speakers, to the breakout discussion leaders, to the hospitality with coffee, juice, continental breakfast, lunch, signage, and enthusiastic welcome from Bethel volunteers, the Bethel Homeless Summit was a great success and reason for great hope for Bethel's future work among people experiencing homelessness. 🌈



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP FORMING

A grief support group is forming to meet for four (or possibly five) consecutive Tuesdays at 6:30pm beginning on Tuesday, Oct 12. John Hueschen, a Bethel Stephen Minister and experienced leader for grief groups, will be the primary leader of the sessions. Plans are for the group to meet in-person in the newly remodeled Katie's Korner (Room 220) in a socially distanced way that conforms with current Dane County guidelines. The sessions will help participants work through the grief process. Individual sessions will cover all matters having to do with dealing with loss and working through the challenges that grief brings to each person. To sign up, please email Pastor Mike at pastormikebrown@bethel-madison.org or call the church at 608.257.3577. All are welcome.



ACTJAM

From Learning to Action for Racial Justice

The first reaction is “Why didn’t I learn this in school?” The second is “What can I do?”

We’re shocked by *Just Mercy* and *13th* – our most recent ACTJAM Big Read and Big Watch. Shocked that the 13th amendment, which abolished slavery in the U.S., purposefully left in one big loophole for people convicted of crimes. *Just Mercy* author Bryan Stevenson sums it up this way: “Slavery didn’t end, it just evolved.” In Wisconsin, African Americans comprise 7% of the state population and 41% of prisoners. The effects reverberate through and devastate families and neighborhoods.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

During October, ACTJAM features opportunities to “do something” for people in the justice system.

Sunday, Oct 10 at 10:15am: Forum with Lara Miller, JustDane. Lara will tell us about JustDane programs to support people reentering the community from prison or jail. One program, Circles of Support, relies on members of the community – regular folk – to be a support team of 4-6 people for a returning citizen. Bethel could form a circle or two or three!

Sunday, Oct 17 at 10:15am: Forum with Ann Leon, Madison Area Jail Ministry (MAJM) Executive Committee. Ann will share how MAJM is thriving even during Covid, how Bethel members can support MAJM and future plans to offer reentry support.

Saturday, Oct 23 from 9am-Noon at Messiah Lutheran Church: Reentry Simulation presented by JustDane. The simulation is an authentic taste of what it’s like to return home from prison. In Wisconsin, about 9,000 men and women return to our communities every year. Many find the deck stacked against them, which is why the work of JustDane and Circles of Support are so important. Register here: [Register here: https://bit.ly/2WYJsA1](https://bit.ly/2WYJsA1)

Wednesday, Oct 27 at 7pm via Zoom: MOSES Interest Group. MOSES is the Madison affiliate of WISDOM, a statewide network of primarily faith-based organizations advocating for racial and economic justice. Bethel isn’t a member but could be. (Our neighbors Grace Episcopal and First Methodist are members, as are several ELCA congregations in Madison.) This conversation is for anyone who’d like to know more. Email ACTJAM@bethel-madison.org to get the Zoom link. 🌈



JUSTDANE
Changing Lives. Changing the Community.



MAJM
MADISON AREA JAIL MINISTRY



BETHEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH



CARING FOR CREATION

Wisconsin's Future: Living in a Warmer World

Oct 12 at 7:30pm via Zoom Webinar

Featuring Daniel Vimont, Director, UW Nelson Institute for Climatic Research

Wisconsin is feeling the effects of our changing climate. And, our communities are already taking action to reduce its impacts.

Dr. Vimont will discuss some of the historical changes we've experienced, and what we can expect in the coming decades. He will focus on recent results from the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) Second Assessment

Report, to spark conversation about actions we can take to adapt to our changing climate. Please bring questions and stories of what you

have experienced to discuss with Dan.

Dr. Vimont is Professor of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, and Director of the Nelson Institute Center for Climatic Research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research focuses on the causes and consequences of climate fluctuations and climate change, at global and regional scales. In the Midwest, he participates in a variety of groups that identify local impacts of climate change. For example, he co-directs the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts

(WICCI), which engages citizens, private and public decision-makers, and scientists in the region to generate and share information that

can foster solutions to climate change in Wisconsin.

He loves fly fishing, paddling, doing anything outdoors with his family, playing jazz piano, and baking pies. Especially blueberry.

Register Here:

www.bethel-madison.org/c4c 



Dr. Daniel Vimont





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BIBLE STUDY: THE GREATEST STORY

with
Pastor Mike Brown

Wednesdays, 10:30am
in Borgwardt Hall
Starting Oct 13

The *Greatest Story* bible study will be led by Pastor Mike Brown. This Bible study is for all adults, men and women, singles and couples, who want to deepen their understanding of the Bible. *The Greatest Story* will run for sixteen weeks and will be an overview of the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. Each session features a compelling video by celebrated sand artist Joe Castillo. 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. A workbook will be provided at no cost, although people may contribute \$10 for the workbook if they choose. Lunch will be provided after each session for \$10. 🍷

YEAR TO DATE (YTD) FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

YTD Pledged Offerings Received = \$873,995

Budgeted = \$802,667

YTD Non Operating Revenues = \$1,127,188

Budgeted = \$1,100,933

YTD Actual Expenses = \$1,115,468

Budgeted = \$1,278,855 🍷



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BethelLutheranTV

Worship Times: Sunday at 7:30am & 9am - Traditional; 10:30am - Contemporary
Saturday at 5pm - Acoustic Casual