



Jesus loves you. Walk with him.

BETHELITE

DECEMBER 15, 2021: VOL. 70, NO. 24

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BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Color Bethelite provided in part by
Bethel Endowment Foundation*

WE ARE MADE OF STAR DUST

As we turn the page of the calendar from December to January, we cross into a new year. Yet, our focus remains very much the same. It stays on Jesus. Advent focuses on preparing for the coming of Jesus, Christmas - the birth of Jesus, and Epiphany - the cosmic significance of Jesus. The season begins on January 6, with the journey of the Magi, the wisemen, who travelled from the far East following a star to bring gifts to the child Jesus. Like a canopy overhead sits the night sky bejeweled with heavenly lights. The magi were not astronomers or scientists in the modern sense, but still, they were the learned men in their society and used their time and resources to study the stars and movements above to make sense of things below. From the beginning of the Bible, there has been a deep connection and sense of wonder with the night sky. As Psalm 19:1 sings "The heavens declare the glory of the Lord." There is beauty and wonder in the recognition that the dust out of which God formed the adam comes from the dust of exploded stars. In some religious and scientific circles, the study of the cosmos by science and the world of religious faith are incompatible.



Young child star gazing.

For years, some have spread a view that the Christian faith is hostile toward science. There are, no doubt, individual Christians who are anti-science as there are individual scientists who are anti-religion. But these individuals do not represent the whole Bible, the whole Christian

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community, or all scientists. One of the overused examples some use to argue that Christianity is anti-science is the famous feud the church had with Galileo. The important part of that story is that the church didn't place Galileo under house arrest for scientific reasons but for political ones. Galileo's discoveries and papers were taking place at roughly the same time as the Reformation when the Roman Catholic Church was in no mood for any kind of controversy. Even more importantly, at that same time the Church was the most significant supporter of astronomy in the world.

In his book, *The Sun in the Church*, John L. Heilbron, a historian of science, uncovers an astounding number of Christian solar observatories. What Heilbron calls "solar observatories" are, in fact, cathedrals. Little known



to modern scholars, the church adapted cathedrals across Europe, and a tower at the Vatican itself, so their darkened vaults could serve as solar observatories. Beams of sunlight that fell past religious art and marble columns not only inspired the faithful but provided astronomers with information about the Sun, the Earth and their celestial relationship. Over the centuries, Heilbron writes, observatories were built in cathedrals and churches throughout Europe, including Rome, Paris, Milan, Florence, Bologna, Palermo, Brussels and Antwerp. Typically, the buildings, which were dark inside, needed only a small hole in the roof to allow a beam of sunlight to strike the floor below, producing a clear image of the solar disk. The path on the floor was known as a meridian line, like the north-south meridians of geographers.

Studying science praises the Creator.

The rod, in keeping with its setting and duties, was often surrounded by rich tile inlays and zodiacal motifs. The instruments lost much of their astronomical value around the middle of the 18th century because of advancements in the telescope.

The Church's interest in astronomy was not necessarily seeking knowledge for knowledge's sake, a traditional aim of pure science. Instead, it wanted to improve the calendar so church officials could more accurately establish the date of Easter.

Because all truth comes from God, the study of science is one of the many ways to praise the creator. There is no real conflict. Science cannot disprove God or Christianity any more than we can pray away gravity. Let us embrace both faith and science. 🌈

COVID TASK FORCE

Update

The Bethel COVID-19 Task Force was formed to advise Pastor Brown and the Church Council on actions to protect the Bethel congregation and staff from the transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in the church and thus reduce the chances of COVID-19 illness spreading in the church.

Through literature review and data analysis for Dane County the Task Force has attempted to “stay ahead” of the COVID virus, rather than reacting too late to circumstances that are out of our control. This is analogous to investing in the stock market. While past market performance is one factor, the focus of the successful investor is on the future and not the past.

This approach necessarily demands value judgements between science and social norms. Sometimes the recommendations

will be correct and sometimes they will be incorrect, in hindsight. The Task Force continuously reviews its recommendations and challenges itself about whether to change the recommendations because they are failing to have the expected influence.

At this time the Task Force recommendation is to follow the Dane County order inside the church and to not have food and beverages available because these encourage the removal of masks.

Task Force members:

Pr. Mike Brown	Kathy Pielage
Craig Gjerde	Heather Rainwater
Kim Kindschi	Bev Thom
Eric Knueve	Mike Thom
Steve Lawrence	Denis Vogel
Greg Moses	Laura Vogel 🌈

CHRISTMAS

Bethel's schedule of events for the Christmas Season.

DECEMBER 20

7pm Blue Christmas
Good Shepherd Chapel

DECEMBER 24

3pm Family
5pm Contemporary
7pm Traditional w/Isthmus
Brass/Organ/Choir
9pm Traditional with Isthmus
Brass/Organ
10pm WKOW Channel 27
(1-hr special)

ONLINE ONLY

Please join us online both Christmas Day and the Sunday after Christmas for an intimate gathering in your home.

View at:
<https://tinyurl.com/4av9zmr>

DECEMBER 25

10am Christmas Day

DECEMBER 26

10am Service of Lesson & Carols 🌈



SERMON SERIES

January 9, 16, 23

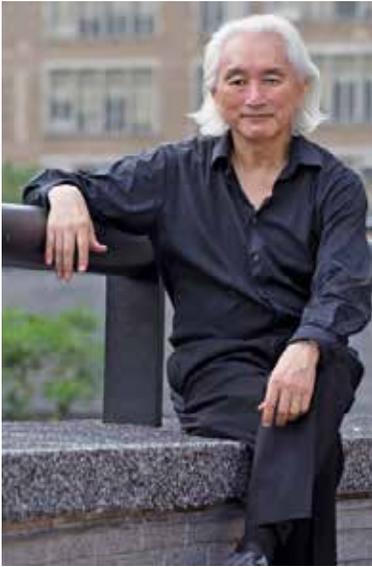
The wise men were the students of the stars in their day. Not quite astronomers as we understand the term, but more like astrologers. They looked and studied the night sky to make sense of the world and their lives. They didn't have telescopes but instead looked directly into the sky or used a reflecting pool to chart stars and developments. One night something new appeared. Something they hadn't seen caught their attention. It captured their imaginations and stirred the wonder within them. Jumping on their camels they headed west. It is true that when we gaze into the Heavens, wonder fills the world.

In the sermon series, *World of Wonder: Lessons from Scripture and Science*. Pastor Mike will take us into the Biblical world of wonder drawing on insights from both scripture and science to bring encouragement and hope to light.

Jan 9: Why Your Future is So Bright

Jan 16: Why Your Darkness Won't Bring You Down

Jan 23: Why Your Present Is So Promising 🌈



MICHIO KAKU QUOTES

“The universe is a symphony. And the mind of God, which Einstein eloquently wrote about, is cosmic music resonating throughout space-time.”

“Science is based on what is testable, reproducible, and falsifiable...However, there are certain things that are not testable, not reproducible, and not falsifiable. And that would include the existence of God.”

“Music is the voice of God traveling through ten-dimensional hyperspace.”

“Eternal life does not violate the laws of physics.”

“In the beginning, God said that the four dimensional divergence of an antisymmetric second rank tensor equals zero and there was light.”

“In Einstein’s equation, time is a river. It speeds up, meanders, and slows down. The new wrinkle is that it can have whirlpools and fork into two rivers. So, if the river of time can be bent into a pretzel, create whirlpools and fork into two rivers, then time travel cannot be ruled out.” 🌈



WORL

Theoretical Physicist and Futurist Comes to Bethel

What do you get when you mix Buddhist Japanese parents, weekly Christian private school, and a mind for theoretical physics? The answer is Michio Kaku. Steeped in two religious traditions, Kaku has a deep awareness of the reality and power not only of religious influences but also scientific realities. This sensitivity to both science and religion has made Kaku one of the most brilliant and sought after astrophysicists in the world. Remarkably, Kaku will speak at Bethel January 27, 7pm. As an American theoretical physicist, futurist, and science communicator, Kaku is professor of theoretical physics at the City College of New York. A New York Times Best-Selling author, he is the author of several books including *Physics of*

concepts into common understanding, Kaku has hosted several television specials for the BBC, the Discovery Channel, the History Channel, and the Science Channel and appeared on many programs and networks, including Good Morning America, The Screen Savers, Larry King Live, 60 Minutes, Imus In The Morning, Nightline, 20/20, Naked Science, CNN, ABC News, CBS News, NBC News, Al Jazeera English, Fox News Channel, The History Channel, Conan, TLC, Countdown with Keith Olbermann, The Colbert Report, Coast to Coast AM, BBC World News America, Late Show with David Letterman, and Real Time with Bill Maher. Kaku’s parents were Buddhists but he attended a Christian private school and brings tremendous insights into



the Impossible (2008), Physics of the Future (2011), The Future of the Mind (2014), and The God Equation: The Quest for a Theory of Everything (2021). Able to put scientific

the nature of the relationship between faith and religion. This event is made possible by a generous grant of the Bethel Endowment Foundation. 🌈

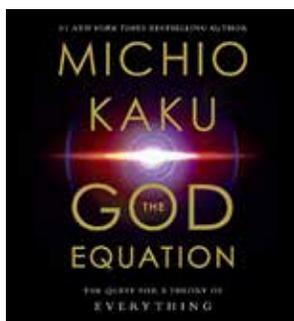
LD RENOWN

January 27, 2022, 7pm

Highly Religious Americans Less Likely to See Conflict Between Faith & Science

This headline in 2015, from the Pew Research Center shocked many with the results. The finding sounds, at first, like a head-scratcher: “Highly religious Americans are less likely than others to see conflict between faith and science.” After all, don’t religion and science represent two opposing worldviews, as fundamentally incompatible as oil and water? Isn’t it true that the more committed you are to the one, the more likely you are to reject the other?

Well, no. And if you believe that, you’re probably not religious. That’s the takeaway of



the Pew Research Center survey on religion and science, which asked more than 2,000 respondents whether they believed that science and religion were in conflict. Those who subscribe to the idea that science and religion exist in tense, perpetual opposition are largely those without a religion themselves, the survey found. In fact, religious Americans by and large support science, says Jonathan Hill, a sociologist at Calvin College. You’d think

the religious would know what contradicts their own beliefs, right? In fact, the findings say more about the assumptions of

nonreligious Americans than they do about religious ones, says Robert P. Jones, a religion scholar and CEO of the nonprofit Public Religion Research Institute. As the new Pew survey shows, they want to see more government investment in science, and their religious views hold little bearing on their opinions on the vast majority of scientific issues—including experimental medical treatments, bioengineered organs, genetically modified foods, climate change, and space exploration. 🌈



CONFIRMATION RETREAT

December 17-19

After a year of virtual meetings Confirmation is back in person as of Fall 2021! Every Wednesday night, 7th & 8th graders gather for music around the candlelight, wild games, and Christ-centered Confirmation class.

To wrap up this fall, we are spending two nights at Bethel Horizons for our Winter Retreat. We will sled, hike, build snow-people, cozy up by the fireplace, and surround each other with Godly love as we prepare our hearts to celebrate the coming of God this Christmas!

For information, contact Rachel Kenney-Brown at rachel@bethel-madison.org.



SERAPH BRASS CONCERT

At Bethel Jan 23, 7pm

The Seraph Brass is a dynamic brass quintet drawing from a roster of America's top female brass players. Committed to engaging audiences with captivating programming, It presents a diverse body of repertoire that includes original transcriptions, newly commissioned works, and well-known classics. Seraph released their debut studio album, *Asteria*, on Summit Records in January 2018 and has toured throughout the United States, Mexico, and Europe. They have performed multiple concerts at the Lieksa Brass Week in Finland, and they were the featured ensemble at the International Women's Brass Conference. Seraph has performed concerts at the Forum

Cultural Guanajuato in León, Mexico, Dame Myra Hess Concerts in Chicago, Gettysburg Concert Association, Norton Museum of Art in West Palm Beach, SUNY Cortland, Jamestown Concert Association, and they have toured extensively as Allied Concert Service artists.

Seraph is on the roster of the Manhattan Music Many members of Seraph Brass performed with Adele on her North American tour in 2016.

Now, Seraph Brass, the group that has been called "the next Boston or Canadian Brass" comes to Bethel for one night

only. There is no admission fee. This concert is being funded by a generous gift from an anonymous donor. 🌈





STEPHEN MINISTRY

Join us in 2022

Bethel is planning a new class for Stephen Ministers in 2022.

Stephen Ministry is defined as Christ caring for people through people. Often times, pastors' time is in such high demand that they are not able to give individuals the focused one-on-one time that they need. Stephen Ministry was formed to meet the needs that arise during these times. Stephen Ministers are trained to care for people during times such as grief, divorce, job loss, or caregiving. They are trained Christian caregivers who care in Jesus name. Stephen Ministers are fully trained volunteers who need not have a background as professional counselors, therapist, or pastors. Their role is to listen and care, not to give advice or counsel,

Stephen Ministers receive 50 hours of training to become a Stephen Minister. Classes are

held at Bethel for two hours a week. A week-end retreat is held at another location towards the end of training. Additional training is done with monthly in-services to complete 50 hours of training. All materials for the class are provided.

Once classes are completed, each Stephen Minister is assigned a Care Receiver. They are assigned one Care Receiver at a time. Stephen Ministers meet individuals of the same gender. Stephen Ministers are expected to meet with their Care Receivers for an hour once a week. All personal information is strictly confidential. Care Receivers may share information with others but it will not be done by the Stephen Minister. Visits continue as long as the need is there. 🌈

VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Dec 24

Coming to your home studio this Christmas! (Or at least to one of your devices!) A video offering from the children of Bethel and their families - part Christmas story readings, part families singing carols together, and part artistic meditations on Jesus' birth in a stable. This offering will bring you the best parts of a traditional pageant while the children announce Christ's birth under the continuing constraints and influence of the pandemic. 🌈



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FINANCIAL REVIEW SESSION

Jan 16

The Financial Resources Team and the Joint Council invite you to attend a financial review session on Sunday, Jan 16, 2022 at 6:30pm. This review will be held via Zoom; the Zoom link will be sent closer to the event. The purpose of the financial review is to present an overview of the 2021 financial results and the proposed 2022 operating budget. Following the presentation, there will be an opportunity to ask questions. 🌈

BETHEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
312 Wisconsin Avenue
Madison, WI 53703

NOVEMBER YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIALS RESULTS

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
REVENUES			
Offerings	1,369,334	1,435,592	(66,258)
Miscellaneous revenue	149,350	78,191	71,159
Non-operating revenue	263,582	268,213	(4,631)
Total Revenue	1,782,266	1,781,996	270
MINISTRY INVESTMENTS			
Staff	1,078,713	1,206,244	(127,531)
Ministry & Resource Teams	321,395	358,097	(36,702)
Benevolence	95,242	99,298	(4,056)
Administration	97,586	79,110	18,476
Other	11,021	15,858	(4,837)
Total Ministry Investments	1,603,957	1,758,607	(154,650)
Total Net Income (Loss)	178,309	23,389	154,920

A complete copy of the financial statements are posted to Realm;
you can access these through your Bethel Realm profile.



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BethelLutheranTV

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