



BETHELITE

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MORE THAN FUNDAMENTALS

“Gentlemen, this is a football!” That is one of the most famous and often used sports quotes in history. It was from legendary Green Packer coach Vince Lombardi in July 1961. Lombardi kicked off the first day of training camp for the 38 players on his Green Bay Packers football team. The prior season had ended in a heartbreaking loss to the Philadelphia Eagles after blowing a lead in the 4th quarter of the NFL Championship Game. When the players came-in to start training camp, they expected to immediately begin where they left off and work on ways to advance their game and learn fancy new ways to win the championship in the new season. When they sat down and began, Vince Lombardi held up a football and said, “Gentlemen, this is a football!” He then had everyone open up their playbooks and start on page one, where they began to learn the fundamentals – blocking, tackling, throwing, catching, etc. That was clearly not what they expected as players who were at the top of their game. Lombardi’s hyper-focus on the fundamentals of teamwork led them to win the NFL championship that season 37-0 against the New York Giants. With Lombardi, the Packers would go on to win five NFL championships in seven years. He never coached a team with a losing season after that and never lost a playoff game again.



Vince Lombardi Statue
Lambeau Field



BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Color Bethelite provided in part by
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Many have concluded that it was because of Lombardi's focus on the fundamentals of the game that his teams were so successful. Not so, at least according to Lombardi. Fundamentals, alone, are not enough. They are just the first step in reaching a great goal with a team as Lee Iacocca learned in a conversation with Lombardi. The legendary auto executive and turnaround specialist for Chrysler Motor Company once asked Vince Lombardi what it took to make a winning team. Lombardi replied, "There are a lot of coaches with good ball clubs who know the fundamentals and have plenty of discipline but still don't win the game. Then you come to the third ingredient: if you're going to play together as a team, you've got to care for one another. You've got to love each other. Each player has to be thinking about the next guy and saying to himself: 'If I don't



"Love one another" — John 15:12

block that man, Paul is going to get his legs broken. I have to do my job well in order that he can do his.'

"The difference between mediocrity and greatness," Lombardi said, "is the feeling these guys have for each other." The truth stated by Lombardi and that Iacocca would

later use to turnaround Chrysler also applies to churches. In the healthy church, each Christian learns to care for others. There is a lot that goes into building a church that reaches its greatest goals. There are the fundamentals of how the church is organized. At Bethel

we organize ourselves into several teams and then teams within those teams. In this way, we share the workload. But it is not just the work that we share, we also share the joy. Working for the Lord, getting things done for Christ, contributing to Bethel's life is fun, actually. It gives a joy that you really cannot get any

other way. By working in teams, we share the joy. Other fundamentals of church life include: 1) an ability to keep the main thing the main thing. This means to keep our hearts centered in Jesus Christ and our eyes clear with vision; 2) Financial discipline, commitment, and generosity; 3) Transparency; 4) Open and clear

communication; and 5) Good leadership development and support. These are a few of the fundamentals of church life. But for a church to accomplish great things just basics are not enough. That is where love comes in: love for Jesus Christ and love for each other. As we gather for the

annual meeting, as we continue this journey through the pandemic, as we work toward great goals, let's let our love out of the closet. People often develop a habit of loving others from afar, or at a distance. In 2022, let us at Bethel close the gap. Let us exert some real effort opening expressing our love for each other. 🌈

*Let our
love out
of the closet.*



FEBRUARY 6-27

Bethel is in for a real treat in 2022 with a strong emphasis on gospel readings from the Gospel of Luke. Known as “Year C” in the Revised Common Lectionary, Luke’s time in the spotlight begins with a deep dive into the radical beauty of the Bible’s message on hospitality. Hospitality in the Bible is not what you might learn about from Miss Manners or Martha Stewart. It is not what you would read about in *Good Housekeeping* or *Better Homes and Gardens*.

Hospitality in the Bible

is a transformational experience where a stranger becomes a friend. Hospitality begins with the first chapter of the Bible when God creates the world and places Adam and Eve in the garden as God’s guests. As the owner of the garden, God makes a place for them, welcomes them, and provides for them.

Our world today seems more bent on hostility than hospitality. What author, Henri Nouwen,

wrote in 1975 is even more true in our day: “Our society seems to be increasingly full of fearful, defensive, aggressive people anxiously clinging to their property and inclined to look at their surrounding world with suspicion, always expecting an enemy to suddenly



appear, intrude, and do harm.” Life in our society has become hyper-partisan and filled with rancor.

God offers a different way. It is a way where enemies become friends.

This happens in the

Bible through the experience of hospitality where the “other,” the “stranger” no longer stands before us as an unknown threat to be vanquished. Instead, the stranger stands before us as a mysterious guest bearing gifts of beauty and value. Join us for worship, in person or online, for four messages that promise to reduce your stress, lighten your worry, and enlarge your heart. 🌈

BETHEL IS SEEING STARS!

New Full-time Director of Kids and Family Ministries to Begin

After weeks and weeks of prayer, conversation, discernment, and three interviews, the Bethel interview



team for the Director of Kids & Family Ministries, which included Heather Moen, Jenee Jerome, Rachel Kenney-Brown, Jennifer LaMontagne, Faith Kelly, Stacey Simatic, Travis Ward, and Pastor Mike, has offered the position to Melissa Hathaway. Thanks be to God for Bethel, its kids, and families, Melissa has accepted. She joins Bethel’s journey on January 17.

Melissa brings with her a deep commitment to Christ and to ministry. She is an MDiv student at Luther Seminary which will deepen her understanding of scripture, ministry, and Lutheran theology even further. With a BS in Education from Edgewood College, she comes highly recommended from several leaders of other churches both in Madison and in Minnesota with whom she has worked. Her grandmother, Betty Mansfield, a former director of the Bethel Bible Series was a major spiritual influence for Melissa. As a result, Melissa has a very strong background in scripture, theology, and faith. She is also familiar with Bethel as a church and is excited and honored to join its staff. 🌈



Corey Olson
First-term Council
Candidate



Donna Ultieg
First-term Council
Candidate

Other Council Candidates

Members of council who have completed one three-year term and who have agreed to serve a second consecutive term, if elected, include:

Jeanne Hilton
Soren Schoff

Returning to Council as Assistant
Treasurer: Paul Aspinwall 🌈



MAXIM

Annual Meeting Ready to Launch New Year

Meeting Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7458589816>

Bethel celebrates its mission and ministry at the annual meeting being held at 1:00 on January 23. This meeting will be a Zoom meeting. It is out of an abundance of caution for the health and welfare of the members during a time of increasing infections and hospitalizations due to Covid. Two major decisions that the congregation will make are: 1) electing new leaders to church council, and 2) adopting a budget for 2022. Bethel's Nominating Committee has identified four wonderful new candidates to commend to the congregation for serving on council. These include Donna Ultieg, Corey Olson, Larry Veleke, and Steve Young. When the Nominating Committee looks for individuals for council it looks first to the existing teams. This includes the five ministry teams and

with the budget process; 2) working through the grant process; 3) working effectively and collaboratively in a team setting; and 4) working with the church's organization structure. These are invaluable experiences that greatly contribute to a strong and capable church council. Donna Ultieg has served for the past two years as the facilitator for the Serving Team. Larry Veleke has served as the facilitator for the Worship Ministry Team for the previous four years. Corey Olson has served for the past three years on the Worship Ministry Team. Steve Young has served for four years as the secretary for the Worship Ministry Team. Each one is committed to Christ, to Bethel and have been active participants in worship for many years. They are seasoned leaders, steeped in the culture,

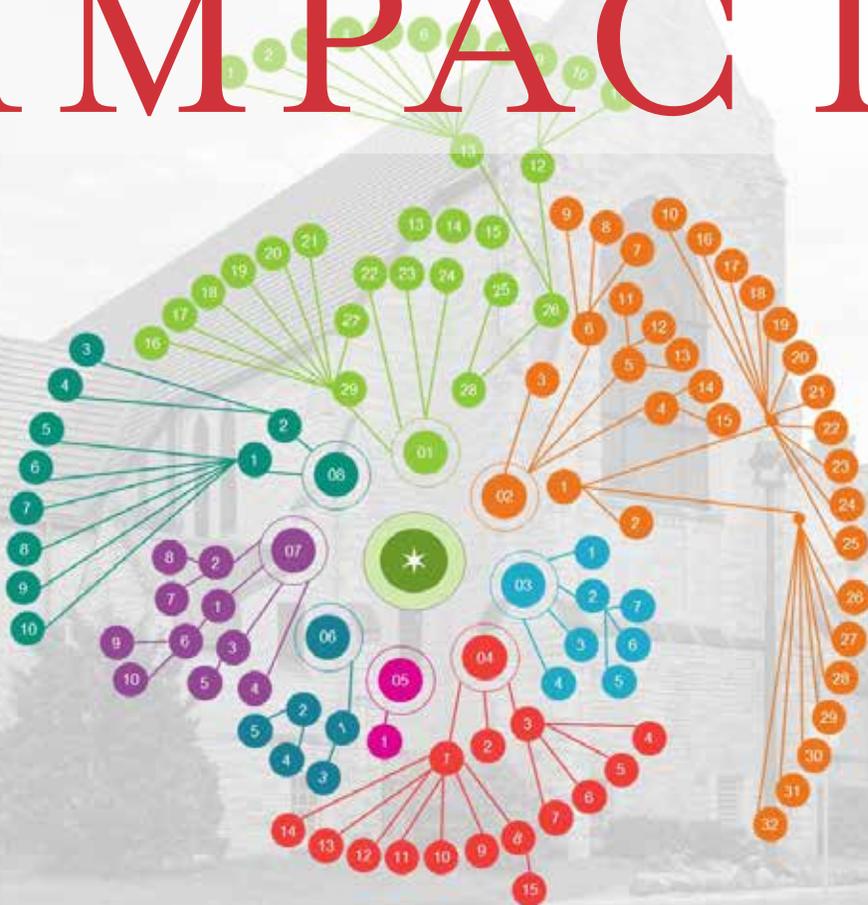


Larry Veleke
First-time Council Candidate

three resource teams. Bethel's teams are, in many ways, a leadership development process. Teams provide experiences in 1) working

values, and mission of Bethel. Each is a gift and a blessing to Bethel's common life. 🌈

NUM IMPACT



Bethel Organization Reflects Commitment to Working Together

Though you wouldn't know it just by looking from the outside, Bethel Lutheran Church has two structures. No, there isn't another campus somewhere you don't know about. But there is a structure that pairs with the physical structure we see from the corner of Wisconsin and Gorham. This other structure is the ministry structure of Bethel. It is how we organize ourselves for mission and ministry. The circles you see in the graph above represent key organizational and cultural values that enable Bethel to

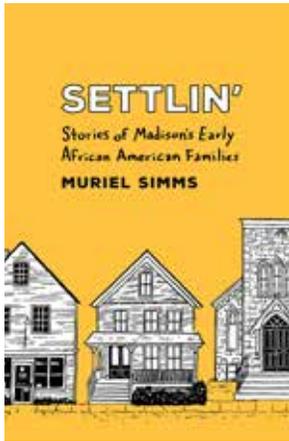


Steve Young
First-term Council
Candidate

accomplish the work of the church. These values begin with the foundational principle of "shared ministry". As God is committed sharing God's work with us of building Christ's kingdom of reconciliation and love, we are also committed to working together. Bethel's organization for ministry is one of collaboration. By co-laboring, we share the joy of impacting the world and making good things happen. Bethel is organized into 8 teams. Many of those teams have sub-teams that focus on just one thing. These 8 teams include five

ministry teams: Nurturing, Serving, Community, Worship, and Life Long Learning. The other three teams are the resource teams: Finance, Property, and Human Resources.

While the eight teams focus on the support, oversight, and management of the day to day ministries, the fifteen-member church council focuses on Mission, Strategic Progress, Legal Compliance, Collaboration, Good Communication, Financial Strength, Transparency, and Leadership Support. 🌈



ACTJAM JAN BIG READ

Stories are bridges. They connect us – past to present, one life to another. Oral history is true story, ordinary people doing ordinary things, filling gaps in the historical record.

Which is why our Big Read for January is oral history -- titled *SETTLIN': Stories of Madison's Early African American Families*, by author Muriel Simms.

These stories reveal life for African Americans living in Madison over 100 years ago and onwards, with its pervasive discrimination in school, work and housing, and strong community spirit rooted in hard work, justice and faith.

Community copies of *SETTLIN'* are available from the Bethel or public library. Plan to discuss the book on Sun, Jan 30 and Feb 6 at 10:15am in Good Shepherd Chapel, and/or Wed, Jan 26 and Feb 2 at 3pm via Zoom. Send a note to ACTJAM@Bethel-madison.org for the link. The discussion guide is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/bdevasw8>.



CARING FOR CREATION

Wolves, People, Domestic Animals, and Deer

Feb 8 at 7:30pm via Zoom

Coexistence with wildlife has become increasingly important and contentious as humans encroach on traditional wild habitat around our state. Dr. Adrian Treves will address the current debate over wolves and their interactions with people, domestic animals and deer. Building on ecological and social scientific data he and colleagues have collected over two decades, he will discuss our coexistence with wildlife commonly around us. He will explain how to differentiate science from value judgment in claims from agencies and interest groups, and how to distinguish the best wildlife science from the rest following principles of 'Open Science'. Adrian will also suggest how each of us can help promote a more just and healthy relationship to nature during the present extinction and global crisis.

Adrian Treves is a Professor of Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has been director of the Carnivore Coexistence Lab since 2007. For 27 years, his research has focused on ecology, law, and human dimensions of ecosystems



Dr. Adrian Treves
Professor of Environmental
Studies, UW-Madison

in which crop and livestock ownership overlaps the habitat of carnivores from coyotes up to grizzly bears. Based on his independent research, Adrian advocates for future generations of all life, for scientific integrity, and for sovereign publics worldwide. He studies and speaks about the public trust doctrine and intergenerational equity around the world. He earned

his PhD at Harvard University in 1997 and has authored over 130 scientific papers on predator-prey ecology or conservation.

Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/y9sm8k9k>



TRANSCEND ART SHOW

Rae Senarighi, Jan-Feb; Emmaus Hallway Gallery

Transgender is not just about one experience, not linear and not simple. Each transgender person is unique with incredibly diverse experiences yet we are united in a common struggle. Portraits in this series are of individuals living their lives out in the open with courage, authenticity and commitment to integrity over safety.

Deliberately omitting natural skin tones, vibrant rainbow colors are used to take pride in our intersectional identities uniting us in celebration. All clothing is depicted in gray-scale, which helps (especially in the cases of many fashion trailblazers) to not distract from the individual represented while carefully respecting their style. The vast blue sky is in direct response to the oppression and erasure from public space experienced by transgender people and is an homage to reclaiming space for this community.

This work wouldn't be possible without social media, which has allowed the artist to find and paint people, regardless of geography, who are telling their stories and living their lives openly as trans /nonbinary. The title of each piece includes the individual's first name, location, and @ Instagram handle which the artist encourages people to follow in order to learn more about each subject. This portrait series aims to help unravel oppression and generate respect for the transgender community through a belief that respect comes from understanding. Sharing trans stories is our path to understanding ourselves and each other. Many trans people face dehumanizing and oppressive messages daily.

Black transwomen and femmes are at the highest risk of violence, discrimination and homelessness so it's essential their voices be amplified and given the respect they deserve.

Transgender youth should be able to see space for themselves in the fine art world.

Plenty of research has demonstrated the power of seeing faces and bodies, like our own, as beautiful and revered. Elevating authentic stories helps to empower communities.

www.raesenarighi.com/transcend-1



Rae Senarighi
Artist

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 MADISON, WI
 PERMIT 602



BETHEL
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COVID TASK FORCE UPDATE

COVID cases are surging due to the Omicron variant. Bethel COVID Task Force shares our community's concern about limited hospital capacity.

What can we do to help?

- Get Vaccinated: Vaccination is available for everyone over the age of 5.
- Boosters dramatically reduce infection and severe illness. Everyone 12 and up needs a booster if it has been more than 5 months since your last vaccine (2 months after Johnson and Johnson).
- Bethel offers a great online worship every Sunday. Stay home if you are sick
- Wear a well-fitting N95 mask anytime you are indoors, including at all church events.

Bethel is responding with the following recommended practices:

- Masks are required indoors at Bethel. Bethel will provide N95 masks for all congregants who need one. These are more effective than cloth or surgical masks.
- Sunday coffee and donut service are temporarily suspended so that masks remain on at all times.
- Groups hosting a meeting at Bethel may serve food and drink with masks removed provided everyone in attendance shows proof of vaccination. 🍷

DECEMBER YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
REVENUES			
Offerings	1,676,826	1,566,100	110,726
Miscellaneous revenue	158,014	85,300	72,714
Non-operating revenue	264,874	268,213	(3,339)
Total Revenue	2,099,714	1,919,613	180,101
MINISTRY INVESTMENTS			
Staff	1,214,403	1,315,901	(101,498)
Ministry & Resource Teams	412,472	390,650	21,822
Benevolence	107,030	108,325	(1,295)
Administration	106,524	86,100	20,424
Other	23,903	17,500	6,403
Total Ministry Investments	1,864,332	1,918,476	(54,144)
Total Net Income (Loss)	235,382	1,137	234,245

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



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