

## Speaker series motivates participants

The Bethel speaker series returned this fall with influential millennial and motivational speaker Shane Feldman. On Sept. 16, he spoke to hundreds of members of the Madison business, public leader, young adult and academic communities. Feldman was originally scheduled to speak at Bethel in 2020 but was rescheduled due to the pandemic.

Feldman is best known for starting the world's largest youth-led change movement, Count Me In. He is a sought-after speaker by organizations, business and governments. He is recognized by the White House, the Prime Minister of Canada and the United Nations.

In addition to enjoying Feldman's invigorating and entertaining presentation, the speaker series also aims to plant a seed in participants' minds. We want them to view Bethel as the downtown city center church for deep thinking, leadership on relevant topics and generously making such opportunities available



to all. To individuals without a spiritual home, the speaker series may be the start of a fulfilling worship community experience.

Many congregants remember the days of having regular, cutting-edge, speaker series guests hosted by Bethel, to which the greater Madison community was invited to participate. The resurgence of this valuable format is underwritten by the Bethel Endowment Foundation.

### Meet me at Sacred Grounds

It's a great place to meet new friends, share ideas and spread the word about Bethel. It's Sacred Grounds, Bethel's new onsite gourmet coffee house. Members and visitors can enjoy complimentary gourmet java, tea and hot chocolate in a contemporary, cozy space.

"Retired former staff member Jacqui Shanda and I embraced the outfitting challenge of creating an eclectic space to seat nearly three dozen people – in colors and fabrics that are comfy and coordinate well with the recently remodeled Emmaus Room gathering space," said Alice Mowbray, Director of Development & Administration. "Join us! Your eyes and nose will be drawn in before your steps are ..."

A mid-year grant from the Bethel Endowment Foundation covered the furnishing costs of Sacred Grounds.



# Youth matter!

During 6th-12th grade, young people are developing opinions and defining values that will guide them throughout their lives. It is key during this time to provide them with opportunities to connect to their church community. That is the goal of Bethel's Youth Group.

The Youth Group coordinates special activities like theater events, athletic outings or coffee gatherings, as well as regular activities, such as:

- **High School Youth Quake.** In this weekly gathering, 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. This group has been life-changing for the young people who have been part of it.
- **Confirmation.** This opportunity is for 7th and 8th graders who are trying to figure out who they are, where they belong and who God is to them. A crash course in Lutheran Theology kicked off Confirmation this fall.

Funding from the Bethel Endowment Foundation helps cover programmatic above-and-beyond expenses for these activities that remind young people they are beloved children of God and that they are the church - not the church of the future but the church of today.



## Gifts and memorials open doors of opportunity

*Thank you for your generous gifts that enable the Bethel Endowment Foundation to contribute to many special programs.*

*Bethel Lutheran Church has established memorials for each deceased*

*member since 1964. You may add to one of these, start a special fund or offer general contributions.*

***Memorials were established for the following Bethel members between***

***April 1 and Sept. 30, 2021:***

Delma Baker  
Norval (Norv) Bernhardt  
Philip (Phil) Brickson  
Norma Brooks  
Mariann Crose  
Marvin Droster  
Donna Hilgendorf

Phyllis Kolseth  
Betty Lewis  
Marion Lewis  
David Martinson  
Alden (Al) Moe  
Millie Osborn  
Kurt Simatic  
Joanne Sprecher  
Thomas (Tom) Ullsvik

*(cont'd. on page 6)*

# Who tells our story?

Time flies – it was already three-and-a-half years ago that my husband Bill and I were fortunate enough to secure tickets for Hamilton on stage in Chicago in early May 2018.

Many Bethelites I'm sure have likewise seen it, in one city venue or another. The soundtrack is really compelling and outstanding, composed by Lin-Manuel Miranda – it is fast paced and cleverly word smithing packed into a few hours of historically correct storytelling.

One of the songs that caught my attention was near the end, *Who Lives Who Dies Who Tells Your Story*. To highlight just one of the verses, that actually refers to a local name in the news of late – President James Madison:

*He took our country from  
bankruptcy to prosperity.  
I hate to admit it but he  
doesn't get enough credit  
for all the credit he gave us.  
Who lives, who dies, who  
tells our story? Every other  
founding father's story gets  
told. Every other founding  
father gets to grow old.  
And when you're gone...  
Who remembers your name?  
Who keeps your flame?  
Who tells your story?*

Like our city and country – if we at Bethel don't remember our past and how we got to the evolved place that we are, any mis steps seem destined to be repeated.

I reflect on this in terms of Bethel and all of the personnel changes in the past decade especially. But the underlying goodness and reach of Bethel has stayed constant and forward moving. Maybe a nugget of this comes from me being the 'staff historian' of sorts :)

Who remembers our rich past and continues to tell our story – who keeps and tends the flame?

A good part of this answer is naturally our Foundation trustees who serve usually for several terms running. In fact, just last year we celebrated the retirement of two longstanding trustees (Fred and Arlen) who had served a collective 59 years! This experience and consistency thread is priceless to a church like Bethel that has been serving in the community for nearly 167 years.

I personally love to tell the story of how our Foundation came into being in 1964 and how we've

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## Consider this . . .

Remember to include Bethel Lutheran Church Endowment Foundation in your will or estate plan. This allows you to continue your support beyond your lifetime and positively impact mission and ministry of Bethel for generations.

Our federal identification #  
is 39-6068618.

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Alice Mowbray

grown and thrived in subsequent years.

This semi-annual newsletter helps tell our story – in quantitative and qualitative ways to readers, so that no matter their learning preference, they gain a good understanding of what ministry enhancements are able to be provided by your Foundation, what additional outreach is possible because of all the donors before us who named this Bethel entity as a beneficiary of their gifts, combined with steady and value centric stewardship by our Investment Committee.

We are blessed, and as we know from Genesis 12 – so to be a blessing – to others. They too then will help tell our story.

Alice Mowbray  
Director of Development & Administration



# Hope for homelessness

Imagine walking the streets in search of a place to spend the night that will keep you protected from the howling wind and frigid cold. This is reality for families, veterans and other individuals statewide.

To help combat this problem in Madison, Bethel teamed up with other downtown churches and partners to pool ideas and resources. Although many of these groups had their own niche in serving the homeless population, their individual efforts often were fragmented.

Bethel took the lead, and along with its partners, organized the Summit on Homelessness held on Sept. 9. The goal was to create a more cohesive and effective response to this issue in downtown Madison.

## Expert advice

One of the event's keynote speakers was Dr. Ron Diamond, local psychiatrist, author and professor. He shared his expertise in treating mental health of individuals and the implications for working with and among people who are experiencing homelessness.



*Pastor Mike, who led this effort, welcomed participants to the Summit.*

Hector Colon, CEO of Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, was the other keynote speaker. He previously served as Director of Milwaukee Health and Human Services, when the department achieved a 59% reduction in Milwaukee County's uninsured rate, reduced



*Hector Colon talks with participants at the Summit on Homelessness.*

chronic homelessness by more than 87% and pushed to move Milwaukee County youth out of the state's juvenile prisons and return them to the county.

Colon expressed confidence in finding answers to address chronic homelessness and highlighted Off the Square Club as one of the great success stories of Lutheran Social Services (LSS) in Madison.

LSS is looking for partners in the Madison area to expand homeless services and repeat their success in other cities. LSS is looking to Bethel for collaboration on homeless support services.

## Successful event

Participants noted the Summit, including keynotes and breakout sessions, was encouraging and offered great hope for Bethel's future expanded work among the homeless population.

Funding from the Bethel Endowment Foundation helped cover the cost of organizing this outreach event.

## Rebuilding after a relationship ends

When a significant committed relationship ends, we feel many emotions, including sadness and loss. Bethel may be able to help you maneuver this time in your life.

Rebuilding at Bethel is non-denominational program open to anyone regardless of race, heritage, religion, age or sexual orientation.

The program offers a safe place to process and recover from the ending of a relationship – whether it was your choice, one made by your partner or a mutual decision.

We recognize that transitioning from being a couple to being

single again can create many challenges. Our multi-level program provides information, guidance and emotional support necessary to move forward.

### People need help during COVID too

During the coronavirus pandemic, Bethel remained available for individuals dealing with these issues. Therapists who provide services for the Rebuilding at Bethel program, were available via phone at no charge.

A grant from the Bethel Endowment Foundation helps cover the cost of this critical larger community support service.

## Clean water to Rwanda

The Bethel Endowment Foundation helped fund a trip to Rwanda for Jennifer Mally, Director of Adamah Clay Studios. Through connections made, she and a Potters for Peace team are returning to Rwanda to help set up a water filter plant outside of Kigali.

While Rwanda has made much progress after a brutal civil war, many people do not have access to clean water. Potters for Peace believes clean water is a human right. Through its ceramic water filter effort, the organization provides technical support, education and filter production set-up for communities worldwide.

## Vacation Bible Camp successful during pandemic

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic still a reality, Vacation Bible Camp at Bethel Horizons in August was a success!

“VBC registrations were alarmingly low three weeks out from camp,



resulting in a campaign to contact each Bethel family connected to the Kids' Ministry and invite them to camp via the Text-In-Church program,” explained Cindy Terhune Melrose, then-Coordinator of Sunday School and Family Ministry. “This resulted in a 55% increase in registrations and led to conversations with 12 families who had not been in touch for the past year.”

Additionally, we saw:

- A 72% increase in teen participation, meeting a goal from the 2019 VBC Grant Evaluations.
- A 90% increase in adult participation, including three grandparents.

This year's theme was appropriately titled *Confidence*. Campers enjoyed Bible stories centered on the theme, crafts and other activities. Campers followed all required COVID policies.

“The highlight of VBC 2021 was being together. It had been so long since we had been together in person!” Terhune Melrose said. “The beautiful natural setting of Bethel Horizons and wonderful accommodations made by Horizons staff made VBC 2021 a special opportunity to come together safely.”

A grant from the Bethel Endowment Foundation helps cover the cost of this special week for children.



### 2021-22 recipients include:

**Laura Jasiczek**, Lakeview Lutheran Church, Madison

**Heather (Rainwater) Moen**, Bethel Lutheran Church, Madison

**James Ranney**, Two Steeples Parish, Springdale Lutheran Church, Mt.Horeb

**Vica Steel**, Midvale Community Lutheran Church, Madison

**Elise Iverson Uphoff**, Midvale Community Lutheran Church, Madison.

Iverson Uphoff is enrolled at Luther Seminary; the other four students at Wartburg Seminary. With the cost for three academic years easily exceeding \$100,000, the Foundation's Cephas Johnson Seminary Scholarship is vital for many seminarians.

Bethel has a rich history of helping to encourage and financially support called students studying at an ELCA seminary on Ordination track. Our Endowment Foundation has been in existence for 57 years, and just after its 25th anniversary - in 1990, we enhanced the regular and steady assistance to not only Bethel members, but also to Dane County residents who were on this same path.

Since that time, very few years have not had at least one Bethel member at seminary, and this fall Heather Moen began classes with Wartburg in Dubuque Iowa. Of the more than 100 unique seminarians since 1990, roughly a fifth of them were initially nurtured in their faith at Bethel.

## Oh, the places you'll go!

Bethel celebrated its high school seniors who graduated this year. They accomplished a great deal and have much to be proud of and to give thanks to God for.

On June 12, Bethel hosted these graduates and others from the community for a unique celebration that included planned tethered hot-air balloon rides, to give participants a fun perspective on their

## Memorials

(cont'd. from page 2)

*The following individuals contributed general gifts to the Foundation between April 1 and Sept. 30, 2021, by these individuals:*

Lola Cator  
Karol & Jim Dillie  
Bill & Alice Mowbray  
Connie Scholz  
David Spengler  
Gladys Starkweather  
Bev Vitale

*Gifts, honorary gifts and memorial contributions were made to the Foundation from April 1 to Sept. 30, 2021*

**In memory of Delma Baker**  
by family and friends

**In memory of Norv Bernhardt** by Brad & Barb Armstrong, Hiroko Nelson, Joan Gilbertson, Karl & Vel Marquardt, Larry Veleke

**In memory of Marie Bredensteiner, my mother**  
by Debra Bredensteiner

**In memory of Norma Brooks** by JoAnn Six

**In honor of Pastor Mike Brown** by Erik Osterberg

**In memory of John Kutzbach** by Kevin Gould

**In memory of Kurt M. Simatic** by Kevin Gould

**In memory of David Martinson** by Ginny Martinson

**In memory of Marian Osterberg** by JoAnn Six, Kevin Gould, Mary Lou Tyne, Sarah Rose

**In memory of Kurt Simatic** by Bill & Alice Mowbray, Carolyn White, Peder & Jeanne Moren, Tom Solheim

**In memory of Tom Ullsvik** by Al & Wendy Schultz, Bill & Alice Mowbray, JoAnn Six, Kevin Gould, Peder & Jeanne Moren, Brad & Barb Armstrong, Dorie Underkofler, Joan Gilbertson, Karl & Vel Marquardt

**In memory of Vernon P. Young** by Kevin Gould

community and their lives. Unfortunately, the high winds that late afternoon didn't cooperate with this great plan! Imagining the wonders God will show the graduates, this event was called *Oh, the Places You'll Go*, named after Dr. Seuss book by the same title.

A grant from the Bethel Endowment Foundation helped cover the cost of this exciting celebration.



# Always something rewarding on the Horizon

Laundry, linen cabinets and toilets may not be the first things that come to mind when you think about camping. But they are among the recent improvements at Bethel Horizons that will enhance the camping experience for many.

Here's a glimpse of what's been happening at camp this year:

## **Prairie Center laundry**

Prep work has been completed and soon two commercial stack washers with natural gas dryers will be installed at the Prairie Center. The new equipment will wash three times the amount of laundry in one load.

With increased retreat participation, more linens are used and need washing. The new equipment will streamline the housekeeping process and allow rooms to be turned over more efficiently.

## **Linen cabinets**

New lockable cabinets for linens were purchased for Bethel Horizons. With the installation of new commercial laundry facilities, linens no longer fit in the laundry room. These cabinets solve that issue.

## **New composting toilet**

The ropes course at Bethel Horizons is one of the key features of the popular Adventure program. The course is located in a remote area that does not have access to running water or electricity. Restroom facilities consisted of only a two-stall pit toilet. This is something participants have reported as needing improvement.



*Hundreds of campers spend time each year on the 548 acres of Bethel Horizons where they enjoy the unique physical, social, intellectual and spiritual environment.*

A composting toilet was installed this fall. It is similar to those on the main site across from the farmhouse. The composting toilet will offer a more pleasant experience for campers using the ropes course.

## **Farmhouse bathroom**

A new second bathroom, including a shower, is being added to the farmhouse. It will offer greater convenience for guests staying in the five bedrooms upstairs.

## **Welcome campers!**

All of these improvements will make camp a more enjoyable place for the children and adults who visit Bethel Horizons each year.

Funding from the Bethel Endowment Foundation helps cover the cost of updates at Bethel Horizons

and makes it possible for more children to have the opportunity to learn and grow at camp.



*Prep work has been completed, and a shower soon will be installed in the farmhouse's new bathroom.*



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## Taking care of building business

It's important to keep our facility well-maintained, energy efficient and aesthetically pleasing. Major projects completed this year include:

**Lighting conversion.** Fluorescent can lights and chandeliers in Borgwardt Hall were replaced with efficient LEDs. We also added occupancy sensors that will automatically turn off the lights when no one is present. The result is improved light quality and expected energy savings.



**Masonry repairs** (Johnson Street and Wisconsin Avenue). This included repairs to the coping and cornice stones. Caulk joints were replaced, temporary repairs were made to cracks in the spires to help keep water out and prevent further rusting of the rebar. The entire facade was power washed and waterproofed.

Grants from the Bethel Endowment Foundation help with the cost of building improvements.

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