



BETHELITE

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BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT

It was April 12, 2007 when a 39-year-old man stationed himself next to a trash bin at the L'Enfant Plaza subway station in Washington, D.C. He had on a sweatshirt and a Washington Nationals baseball cap. He was a busker—a street entertainer familiar to those who frequent public transportation. He opened a violin case and seeded it with some change. He started to play. He did not play just anything; he started with a Bach that is one of the most challenging pieces for violin. And he was not playing just any violin: He was playing a 1713 violin handcrafted by Stradivari, so famous it had been stolen twice. The violinist was Joshua Bell, one of the most accomplished and talented violinists today. He was an accomplice with The Washington Post newspaper and willingly participated in an experiment: Would the greatest violinist in the world, playing the best music ever written on the most expensive violin, get anybody's attention at rush hour? He looked like a common street entertainer, standing by a trash barrel. What happened? It was 3 minutes into his performance, and after 63 people had rushed by, that one man finally slowed down and looked—but did not stop. It was six minutes into it before one man stopped, leaned



Joshua Bell

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against a wall, and listened. In total, 1,070 people rushed by without giving any attention at all for 15 minutes. Twenty-seven people threw change in as they were running by, for a total of \$32. Josh Bell usually makes \$1,000 per minute at concerts. The resulting newspaper article won a Pulitzer Prize. Something about incognito stories grabs your attention: greatness unnoticed, talent ignored, fame overlooked. The first Easter Sunday evening has the greatest of all incognito stories. Two disciples (from the margins of the disciples) are walking from Jerusalem to a village seven miles away. They are on the road with others, going home after Passover in Jerusalem. Dusk darkens the dirt. The mood of the walk is glum. Have you ever left an old friend for the last time at the hospital and walked through the cold rain toward



“Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them,”

darkness? It was that mood. Have you ever left a cemetery after laying someone to rest and walked into the lowering sun? It was that mood.

They were talking back and forth, batting words to one another.

Probably, it was with low, hushed voices. A stranger overtakes them, someone else going home after Passover. There are footfalls behind them, the sense that someone is gaining on you. The stranger strides alongside them. On a dark road, a stranger needs to say something when he surprises you from behind. He asks them what they are talking about; they ask him if he is the only stranger in Jerusalem. The word suggests a resident alien who just showed up. It is a gentle reproof: a half-joke, with the other half a rebuke, like folks do when they are disappointed and tense.

Luke lets you in on the plot

“What planet did you come from?” they’re saying. “We are talking about what everybody is talking about.” Luke lets you in on the plot. This is more than Joshua Bell in the subway station. You know it, but the other people in

the story do not know it. You are in on the joke. This is the Son of God, crucified on Friday, raised from the dead that morning, who has already been to the glory and is now on a dirt road at dusk. In our walk with Jesus throughout our lifetime, Jesus is always walking with us. But often

times, we are unaware and fail to recognize him. It is good to recognize and be aware of him, of course. But even in the times we do not recognize his presence, he is still there. He stays with us the entire journey. There never comes a time when he walks away from us. 🌈

BETHEL GIVES BIBLES TO KIDS



Bethel joyfully resumes its tradition of giving Bibles to children on May 8, at the 9am service. The tradition which was interrupted by the pandemic in 2020 picks back up with Bibles to all the kids who did not receive them on the past two years. First and second graders receive the *Spark Story Bible*, an incredible well illustrated Bible that brings God's word to life through colorful art and rich retellings of 150 of the most popular Bible stories.

Designed for Sunday school and church settings, the *Spark Story Bible* is perfect for reading aloud and includes entertaining activities and questions to keep kids engaged with the text. The 150 stories provide an excellent foundation for a biblical education that is both inspiring and fun. There are many strengths to this particular Bible for kids.

Illustrators, Peter Grosshauser and Ed Temple, create dynamic, vibrant illustrations in a cartoon style. They're simple and often comedic in presentation. Additionally, they are large enough to make for effective storytelling to a group.

Appropriately Illustrated Characters: Figures are shown with olive skin and dark hair, honoring the Bible's Middle Eastern context.

Table of Contents Included: Having a table of contents makes for easy reading, especially if a child has favorites they like to return to repeatedly.

Digestible Story Length: The stories, which are retold compilations of several chapters, are short. This aspect makes it easy to hold the attention of young readers.

Classic Stories Included: All the classic stories you'd hope for from a children's Bible are included here. This exposes children to the foundational texts of the faith.

Mostly Familiar Story Titles: The story titles aren't all the same as those found in the Bible. However, the ones that are different are so similar to the biblical ones that the children likely wouldn't have trouble transitioning to a Bible.

Large Font Size: The font size is large enough for children new to reading, making it easy for them to stay motivated and focused on the story.

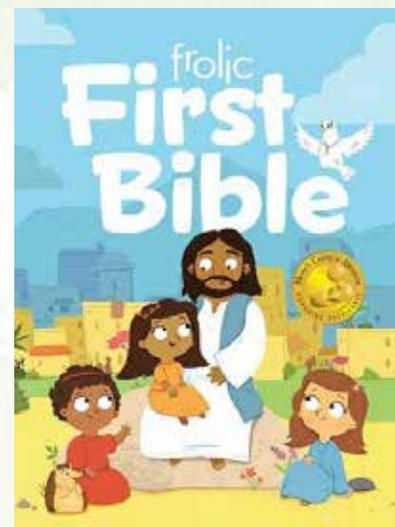
Activities and Questions Included: At the end of each story, there is an activity or question for the children to explore. These neither moralize nor editorialize the story but simply invite participation. 🌈

BIBLES FOR 2 AND 3 YEAR OLDS

Little Steps Big Faith

How do you talk to your toddler about God? How do you pray with your child? How do you help your child see God in the world around us? Sparkhouse's Bible for toddlers, Frolic, focuses on giving caregivers tools to help small children become people of faith.

Although Frolic is aimed at children ages 0-3, the real audience of this curriculum is parents and caregivers of very young children. Frolic First Bible goes through 10 stories from the Old Testament and 10 from the New Testament while using child-friendly language and providing a short take-away point to help apply the lesson of each story to your child's own life. 🌈



Award winning

GRETA GERBIG

Interview Excerpt



When asked by NPR “what kind of reactions have you gotten” to the film *Lady Bird*?, film producer, Greta Gerwig replied:

You know, I’ve gotten such a range of reactions. A lot of women have told me, particularly women who are in their 50s or 60s - they’ve said, you know, I’ve been that mother, and I’ve been that daughter, and I understand both. And that’s very meaningful for me. What I really wanted to do was kind of capture this idea that one person’s coming of age is another person’s letting go. And I didn’t want the character of the mother to fall neatly into a category of either an angel or a monster, which is generally what I think happens with mother characters in movies. And that’s not what - how I see most mothers in the world. I see most mothers doing their level best, making mistakes and trying to pick up and keep going. And I think I always wanted the audience to feel like - even when *Lady Bird* says the wrong thing or makes a mistake or her mother says the wrong thing or makes a mistake, I never wanted the audience to feel like these are bad people. It’s that you can be a good person, and parenting is hard.



MOTHERS

May 8 The Messy Truth of Being a Mom

When it came out in 2017, *Lady Bird*, took the critics by storm. It is the most-reviewed movie in the history of the website *Rotten Tomatoes* to have sustained a 100% positive rating. Winner of several awards, including Best Motion Picture and Best Actress, it touched the hearts of countless people. It explores the complex relationship between Christine (who calls herself “Lady

hovering, over-protective, hyper-demanding, and guilt-inducing. When Marion discovers that *Lady Bird* has kept secret the fact that she was accepted to an east-coast university, she responds in cold anger, giving her daughter the silent treatment, refusing even to say goodbye to *Lady Bird* as she leaves for college.

Lady Bird is a coming-of-age movie with powerful explorations of the complex



Bird”) and her mother Marion. The movie opens with the two of them crying in the front seat of their car, having just finished listening together to *The Grapes of Wrath*. It’s obvious that they share a powerful emotional bond. But within seconds of that touching moment, they are arguing so violently that *Lady Bird* (in the most memorable sight-gag of the movie) simply opens the door and exits the moving vehicle!

And Marion is essentially a good woman who sincerely loves *Lady Bird*, but she is also

challenges between mother and daughter. It is, in a word, messy. But that is not all it is. It is also pregnant with grace, which breaks through in strange and surprising ways. There is much in this movie that resonates with scripture and the truth of the Gospel. On May 8, Mothers, Pastor Mike uses this movie to focus the sermon on the messy complicated relationships between children and mother (or any parent, or parental figure) and the ways that God’s grace breaks through. 

MOTHERS' DAY



MOTHERING WHEN YOUR WORLD IS NOT A TROPICAL PARADISE

Encouraging Booklet Available on Mothers' Day

In 2001 (March 19) *Time Magazine* called it the "Columbine Effect". In the years since the horrific shooting attack at Columbine High School, schools have been plagued by new attacks. These incidents, as unimaginable as they are, became more and more frequent in the schools and playgrounds where our children spend much of their childhood. Since then, too, there have been countless other threats to the safety and well-being of our children. So what's a mother to do? How do you prepare your child or children for a world that is so far from a tropical paradise that it makes *Survivor*



seem like a dream resort? Schools across the nation try to prepare for such emergencies. Conducting fire drills and tornado drills seem

quaint when compared to "Lock-Down" or what some schools call "Bad Guy Drills." "Bad Guy Drills" teach the children where to go and what action to take in the event someone dressed in trench coats or military garb roams the halls flashing weapons intending to kill. There are no easy quick answers. But there

is hope and encouragement from scripture. Pastor Mike has written a little booklet for mothers to passed out on Mothers Day, *Mother When Your World Is Not a Tropical Garden*. 🌈

NOT ALWAYS SWEET

Mothers' Day is one of those "complicated" days on the yearly calendar. While many, the day is sweet and lovely. For others it is not so sweet. On this day some will be grieving the passing of a mother, or a relationship that was without blessing. Some women and couples grieve the loss of a child on this day or the inability to bear a child. The Bible not only offers refers to parenting as a blessing from the Lord (Psalm 123:7), it also expresses the pain over the loss and suffering of a child, the pain of infertility, and the pain brought by children and parents. On Mothers' Day we pray for all those who are mothers, were mothers, wished to be mothers, and for those carrying burdens related to this day. 🌈

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Journey Toward Healing

While much of the world celebrates the resurrection of Jesus on Easter, we often lose sight of the fact that the first reaction of the disciples to Jesus' death was one of loss and grief. Because of their deep pain, they were not running through the streets singing and praising but at home grieving. There are many today who have experienced a loss and who need a space to grieve. That is the purpose of the Bethel Grief Support Group. It provides a place to grieve. Meeting for five consecutive Tuesdays from 2-4pm on April 26 - May 24 in the cozy room called Katie's Korner (Room 220). John Hueschen, a Bethel Stephen Minister and experienced grief group leader, will facilitate the meetings as the group helps each person 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.



BIKE, HIKE, OR GIVE FOR BETHEL HORIZONS

June 4 from 10am-2pm

Join us for the 37th Annual Bethel Horizons Bike-A-Thon & Drive on Saturday, June 4, 2022 from 10am-2pm! Participants and volunteers come together to raise money for, and raise awareness about the Adventure & Environmental Education Programs at Bethel Horizons. All while building community along the way!

The Bethel Horizons Bike-A-Thon & Drive starts at the Mount Horeb Train Depot and participants ride on the Military Ridge State Trail between Mount Horeb and Barneveld and back or Mount Horeb and Ridgeway and back, giving the option of a short ride, a long ride or anything in between.

The ride is supported with rest stops along the way and a lunch/snack pack will be provided. Join us at Bethel Horizons after your ride for the After Party and Dinner at 6pm.

Register Here: <https://tinyurl.com/yw65ya37>

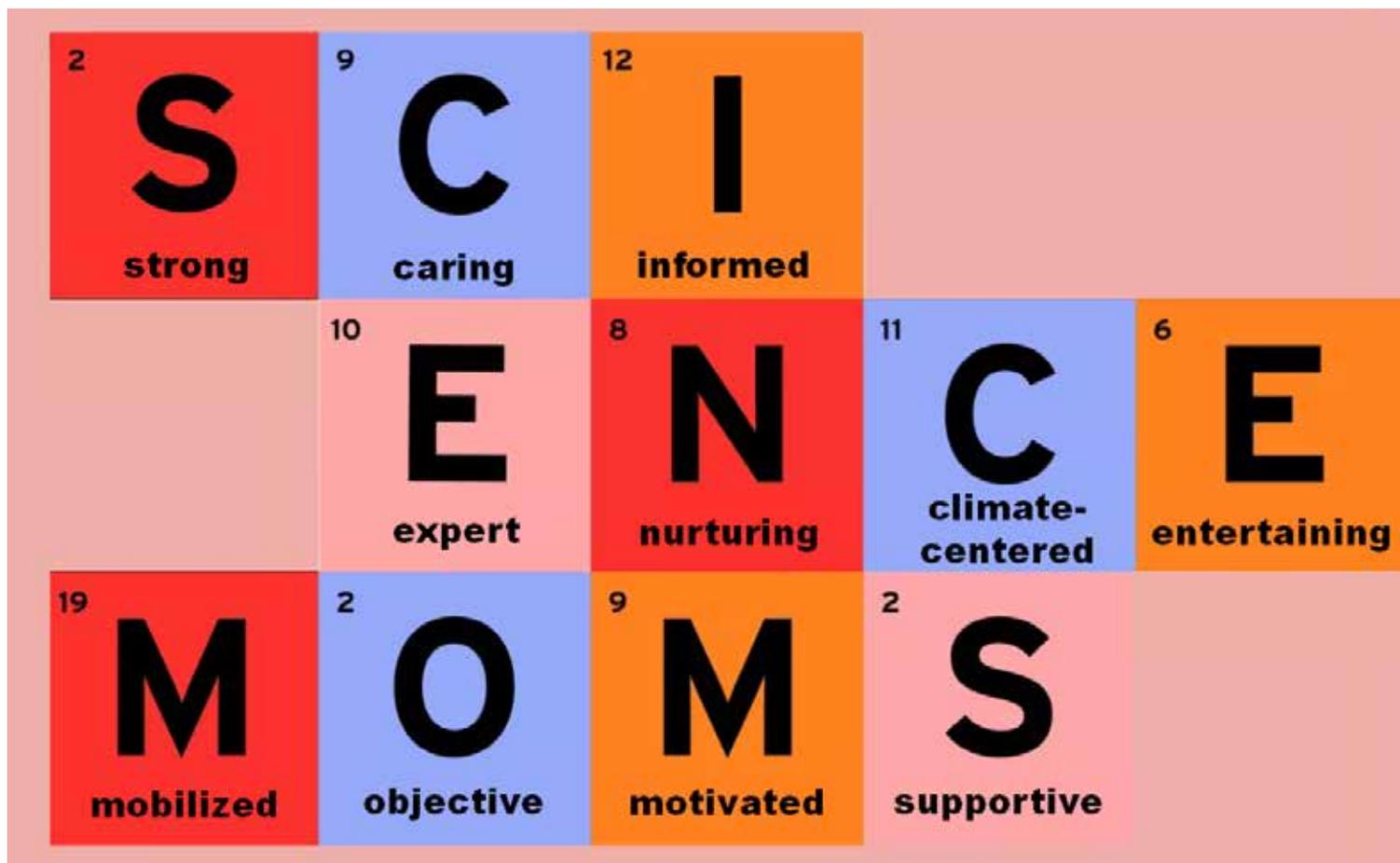


BIKE DRIVE - NEW IN 2022

We are so excited to be giving back this year and have partnered with Free Bikes 4 Kidz Madison (<https://fb4kmadison.org>) for our Bike Drive. If you have a gently used bike you would like to contribute to the Bike Drive we have a couple collection options for you.

- Collection at Bethel Lutheran Church in Madison, Sunday, May 22, 2022 between 7:30am-12:30pm
- Day of collection at the Bike-A-Thon on Saturday, June 4, 2022 at the Train Depot in Mount Horeb, WI
- Collection at your home courtesy of the "Bike Squad". Contact Phil Bramley to make arrangements at phil@bethelhorizons.org

Free Bikes 4 Kidz Madison is a nonprofit organization geared toward helping all kids ride into a happier, healthier childhood by providing bikes to those most in need. They give bikes through their nonprofit partners, area schools and churches. FB4K handles collecting and repairing bikes but they rely on their partners to distribute and vet bike recipients to ensure they're going to those most in need. Bethel Horizons feels that FB4K's mission of supporting happier, healthier kids is parallel to connecting youth to the harmonies of God, self, others and nature. We look forward to a long partnership with FB4K by being able to provide bikes to the youth we serve through our summer camp and mountain biking programs. 



CARING FOR CREATION

Solving the Climate Challenge — Perspectives from a Science Mom; May 10 at 7:30pm Via Zoom

Risks to humanity, complex science, and charged politics: Climate change is a daunting topic to talk about. But solutions depend on our ability to share perspectives, think through options, and move forward together. The nonpartisan Science Moms initiative started in 2021 to demystify climate science, and empower public engagement by moms and all of us.

Tracey Holloway will provide an overview of the Science Moms initiative, lessons learned from over 50 years of the Clean Air Act, and strategies



to address climate change. She'll share her own perspectives on environment, science, and thinking about the future as a mom of two boys, ages 12 and 2.

Tracey is one of the founding Science Moms, and a Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies and the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences. Following her Sc.B. in Applied Mathematics at Brown University and Ph.D. in Atmospheric and

Oceanic Sciences at Princeton University, Tracey joined UW-Madison in 2003 as part of a cluster hire on energy systems, science and policy. Today, her research group engages an interdisciplinary team of scientists, graduate students, and undergrads to examine connections between air quality, climate, energy, and health. She leads the national team for NASA linking satellite data with health and air quality. She works with partners from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to the US Environmental Protection Agency, from MG&E to the American Lung Association.

Register Here: <https://tinyurl.com/24u9fvy8>



ACTJAM
A Spirit of Healing
Among the Lakota People



This January, Bethel's Heather Moen travelled virtually to the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center in South Dakota for two-weeks with the Lakota people on the Pine Ridge Reservation. The experience was eye-opening and transformative. On Sunday, April 24, at 10:30am she'll tell us about it.

The ministry of the Reconciliation Center is to address poverty and trauma on the reservation, one of the poorest areas in the U.S. with few natural resources, no industry, and unemployment at 90%. The Lakota have the lowest life expectancy of any group in the U.S. and 97% live below the poverty line.

Yet there's more to the story. Good things are happening at Pine Ridge and these too are the ministry of the Reconciliation Center.



Join Heather on Sun, April 24 at 10:15am in Good Shepherd Chapel to learn the story of the Lakota

people and how the church can help bring about healing. 🌈



BETHEL
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Madison, WI 53703

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MARCH YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Over/(Under) Budget
REVENUES			
Offerings	455,334	420,900	34,434
Miscellaneous revenue	29,630	50,642	(21,012)
Non-operating revenue	(165)	(225)	60
Total Revenue	484,799	471,317	13,482
MINISTRY INVESTMENTS			
Staff	288,723	340,811	(52,088)
Ministry & Resource Teams	96,723	93,863	2,860
Benevolence	16,238	17,125	(887)
Administration	21,677	12,866	8,811
Other			-
Total Ministry Investments	430,120	471,097	(40,977)
Total Net Income (Loss)	54,679	220	54,459

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

