

# BETHEL ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

Foundation Life newsletter

[www.bethel-madison.org](http://www.bethel-madison.org)

Bethel Lutheran Church Endowment Foundation

Spring / Summer 2022

## Caring4Creation promotes environmental awareness

As Lutheran Christians, we are called to care for others and for the Earth – to live in harmony with the environment, others, ourselves and God. This compels us to raise awareness of the global and local threats to human welfare and the natural world from pollution, mismanagement and waste.

Since 2016, Caring for Creation (C4C) has produced more than 20 well-attended environmental awareness programs. Adapting to the pandemic in 2020, programs were shifted to Zoom.

This year, C4C plans to enhance its series of environmental programs with a mix of Zoom webinars and in-person events. They will focus on connecting climate responsibilities and social justice.

Webinars this year have included:

- Coexistence with wildlife: Dr. Adrian Treves, Professor of Environmental Studies at UW-Madison
- Madison's Lakeshore Nature Preserve and the importance of experiencing nature: Dr. Gisela Kutzbach
- Grassland 2.0 - Restoring Prairie and People to Agriculture with Randy Jackson, Campbell-Bascom Professor of Grassland



### Ecology at UW-Madison

- Solving the Climate Challenge - Perspectives from a Science Mom with Dr. Tracey Holloway

Continuing live and recorded webinars is an opportunity to share our message within and beyond Bethel. Working with professionals will give us programs of broadcast quality



that can be extended to the wider community. Professional video live streaming, recording and editing also will allow us to incorporate more complex features, such as interactive programs.

Funding from the Bethel Endowment Foundation helps cover the cost of video production and publicity to extend our reach.



In 2022, the Bethel Endowment Foundation will grant more than \$734,000 to projects that will stimulate growth and make priceless memories for many children and adults locally and worldwide. While nearly three dozen projects were funded, many other great ideas were not. Your support is still needed to help make dreams come true for others.

Consider stepping up and playing an active role in this important mission. Contact Alice Mowbray at [alicem@bethel-madison.org](mailto:alicem@bethel-madison.org) or 608-257-3577, ext. 222.

# What's new at Horizons?

Thanks to a grant from the Bethel Endowment Foundation, a number of improvements are in the works at Bethel Horizons, including:

- **The Barn Retreat Center Siding.** New siding has been installed in several areas where existing siding deteriorated or was infiltrated by birds.
- **Prairie Center Bedroom Moisture Issues.** Seventeen new A/C units were ordered for the 16 bedrooms and the apartment in the Prairie Center. These new units are appropriately sized for the bedrooms and should do a better job of pulling moisture out of the rooms as they are cooled.
- **Adamah Improvements.** Site improvements are being planned at the Adamah art studio. With increasing construction costs, some modifications are being made to stay within budget for this project.
- **Ropes Course Strandvise.** The remaining strandvises need to be removed from the ropes

course to be in compliance with a new update. The hardware replacement is being scheduled. We have been eliminating strandvises from our ropes course as we made upgrades since 2007.



## 2022 Bethel Foundation grants

Church Growth Communication	\$ 50,000
Vacation Bible Camp	\$ 33,400
Bethel Series - Teaching the Bible Around the World in 2022	\$ 11,295
Kids and Family Ministry Retreats	\$ 10,000
Video Production	\$ 6,000
ACTJAM 2022	\$ 5,000
C4C Production and Publicity	\$ 4,000
Kids and Family Outreach	\$ 3,100

## Gifts and memorials make memories

*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 October 1, 2021, and March 31, 2022:***

Robert Benson  
Aimee Biba

Gary Broge  
Martin Clarke  
Harold Cushman  
Shirley Dokken  
Zelda Droster  
Emrick Espelien  
Barbara Espeseth  
Jane Evans  
John Hilton  
Muriel Jevne  
Kenneth Johnson

Earl Larson  
Karl Marquardt  
Gordon May  
Dorothy Mott  
John Nicka  
David Otis  
Bruce Roberts  
Eugene Summ  
Cheryl Tesnow  
Lucille Westervelt

*(cont'd. on page 6)*

# We are chosen

In the past few months, I've been drawn to the music of Jon Batiste – who recently has added to the awards bestowed on him.

I think his name was first pleasantly curious to me, as it seemed similar yet different I knew, to John the Baptist – but really he's not too far off the mark.

He hails from New Orleans vicinity, and seems to mix in an ample amount of religious undertones to his song writing and performances. He'll say things like 'Tap into the Truth' while pointing upward on stage.

His hit 'We Are' is about us being the chosen ones, the golden ones – we have a reason for being here – reminding us of Deuteronomy 7:6, *we are treasured possessions being rescued from the slavery [of sin], we are objects of divine favor.*

This is such a powerful message, I encourage you to tune into this (and more!) of his offerings and enjoy the subliminal uplifting message he conveys. He's a star, and not every

recording star is one to walk by the light they exude.

There are many ways I feel like Bethel is Chosen to be the beacon in the lives of many – those already in our midst, those not yet here, those in the downtown neighborhood who live in the comfort and shadow that Bethel provides.

We are of course richly Blessed to be a Blessing, an element of being Chosen. A TED video that I recently viewed on the National Christian Foundation site, says that research has shown generosity to ripple out three degrees (I would argue even more than three...) – our acts today will cause the person benefiting to do something selfless and grand which will cause a third and fourth person to act with generosity – it's contagious! in a very healthy way.

So many of our grant awarded projects help create outreach opportunities and enhanced worship and fellowship experiences within our church community. Since 1964, more than \$14.5 million has been



Alice Mowbray

granted to various Bethel-related ministry projects.

Back to the song lyrics 'We Are' – we're never alone, we gotta get our soul in order, get that inner peace, man cannot give you that, we're never alone.

Indeed – the synergy of togetherness and commitment is powerful as we each live in the world and do what we can to embrace being Chosen.

Alice Mowbray  
Director of Development

## 2022 Lent at Bethel



Bethel's Lent Sermon Series, from the Gospel of Luke, focused on stories of Jesus having a meal. During the five-week series, participants learned more about the person of Jesus, his mission and what his dining habits mean for our everyday faith. Small groups at church and at home participated in this special study led by Pastor Mike.

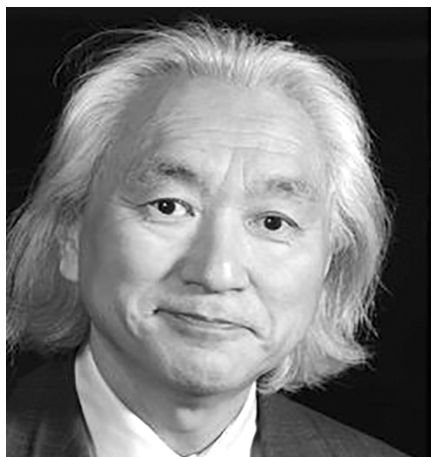
A grant from the Bethel Endowment Foundation covered the cost of a study guide for the Gospel of Luke, the 40-day devotional and other materials that made this experience possible.

# Engaging community, sparking interest in Bethel

Hundreds of Bethel members and friends gathered in January for the 2022 kickoff of The Bethel Speaker Series. The evening featured a thought-provoking presentation by Michio Kaku, one of the world's most sought-after astrophysicists.

Steeped in two religious traditions, Kaku has a deep sensitivity to the reality and power of religious influences and scientific realities. He is a professor of theoretical physics at the City College of New York and CUNY Graduate Center. Kaku also authored several best-selling books, and made appearances on TV and radio as well as in film.

Raised with Buddhist parents while attending a Christian private school,



Kaku offers tremendous insight into the nature of the relationship between faith and religion.

Plans are under way to host another dynamic speaker at Bethel this fall.

## Opening our doors

The Speaker Series, which is open at no cost to the community, creates a compelling reason for visitors to step inside and discover Bethel. It's an invitation for them to learn how our downtown city church is the place for deep thinking and leadership on relevant topics.

To individuals without a spiritual home, the Speaker Series may be the beginning of a fulfilling worship community experience.

Funding from the Bethel Endowment Foundation helps cover the cost of this valuable format, which made its resurgence last fall following a hiatus during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Katie's corner

In 2021, the unused grant for the women's triennial conference was asked to be repurposed for use in updating meeting room 200, into a complementary room adjacent to the Martin Luther meeting room 201.

The amount of \$8,500 was perfect in providing for three new commercial grade sofas, six upholstered chairs and a few side tables.

Five gifted leather club chairs from The Edgewater, a donated electric fireplace, plus a few resale shop finds (rose embossed coffee table, two café lamps, a mirror, some artwork) nearly finished the space.

An historic weaving from Bethel's art collection crafted in Norway more than 100 years ago adorns a wall space, and several depictions of Katie Luther hang on the walls. The new large screen smart TV allows for virtual meetings as well as program viewing.

A few plants, a kitschy cuckoo clock and throw pillows – the latter made by a crafty seamstress from our quilt making group – create a very pleasant gathering space for three to nearly 20 participants. It is already attracting many group uses.

## 2022 Bethel Foundation grants

**Bethel Horizons' total \$ 144,733**

Adamah General Site Improvements

Barn Retreat Center Siding Repairs

Camperships/Scholarships

Camphouse Siding and Windows

Cultural Immersion

Minivan

PC Gables Siding and Gutters

Prairie Center Bedroom Moisture Solution

Ropes Course Strandwise Replacement

Bob Westervelt Honorary Camperships



# Supporting the Bethel Series worldwide

The Bethel Series debuted more than 60 years ago at Bethel Lutheran Church, and it continues to make an impact worldwide. The Bethel Series study uses an historical approach to the Hebrew-Christian heritage of faith with an overview of the Old and New Testaments.

Churches in 47 denominations have chosen the Bethel Series as their basic adult education tool. The text is in the language of the lay person, and the course is effective in small or large congregations. A grant from the Bethel Endowment Foundation is helping to offer the Bethel Series to areas where lack of funding is a barrier.

## Areas of focus

The Bethel Series: Teaching the Bible Around the World in 2022 will focus on three projects:

- **Chinese Language Outreach.** Since 2007, Bethel has supported

Reverend Qiu Lin, a Chinese missionary, who has taught the Bethel Series in secret to more than 1,000 Chinese pastors. These brave pastors continue to teach the Bethel Series in Chinese underground churches.

It is unlikely to be safe in the foreseeable future for Lin to teach in China, so he is currently teaching the Bethel Series in Mandarin Chinese to Chinese American and Canadian pastors. Funding from the Bethel Endowment Foundation will provide scholarships for enrollment fees for five small Chinese American churches and 50 Chinese lesson books.

- **Costa Rican Bethel Series Training.** Bethel supports Bethel Series teaching in Bajo Barrantes in the mountains of San Ramon in Costa Rica. Funding from the Bethel Endowment Foundation will provide



30 lesson books and bibles for long-time Bethel Series teacher Patricia Vargas to use in her teachings.

- **Scholarships for International Teaching Ministries.** Funding from the Bethel Endowment Foundation will provide scholarships for three new international teaching ministries this year.

# Welcoming building improvements

Several building improvement projects recently were completed at Bethel, funded by the Bethel Endowment Foundation.

A new Welcome sign now graces the reception desk. It is backlit, making it highly visible and attention grabbing. The previous "Welcome To Bethel" sign was difficult to see, so when people unfamiliar with the building walked in, it was not obvious that the reception desk is on the first floor and not at the parking lot lobby.

A host of improvements also were made at Bethel's Ceremonial Entrance. Daniel's construction removed the

cracked semi-circular concrete walk, the first step to the entry and the lone handrail that was still in place. Two new handrails were installed at that entry, a popular photo-op backdrop – especially for weddings.

Wrought iron lattice work at the top of the arch was soda blasted clean and repainted. The concrete semi circular sidewalk was replaced. This project was unique in that it was cost-shared by a generous Bethel member.

Mid-year grants from the Bethel Endowment Foundation made these projects possible.

## 2022 Bethel Foundation grants

Speaker Series	\$ 32,000
2022 Youth Gathering re-allocated to Sunday School Rooms Refresh	\$ 24,230
Bethel Youth Group	\$ 16,500
Horizons Exec. Director Salary and Benefits	\$ 9,818
Stewardship	\$ 9,000
Lent 2022	\$ 6,300
Rebuilding at Bethel	\$ 6,000
Homeless Ministry Summit	\$ 2,500
Women's Retreat	\$ 2,000

## Looking for new faces

From newspaper and online ads to banners, signs and mailers, Bethel is working to reach new people through a variety of platforms.

In an effort to expand the congregation, the goal of Church Growth Communication is to connect with new families, current residents and students in the Madison area. The goal is to pique interest in Bethel by creating awareness, maintaining a presence and sharing all that we have to offer. When people come through Bethel's doors, most choose to stay.

Grants from the Bethel Endowment Foundation help fund church growth efforts.



### 2022 Bethel Foundation grants

AHU3	\$106,750
Brass and Timpani	\$ 38,500
EMS Software	\$ 18,870
Bethel Choir Section Leaders	\$ 15,200
Chimney Repairs	\$ 5,050
String Quartet	\$ 3,600
Concert Series	\$ 1,400
Seminarian Support	\$ 17,000
Admin. & Publicity	\$ 68,000
Contingency reserve	\$ 39,409
Capital needs	\$100,000

## Memorials

(cont'd. from page 2)

*The following individuals contributed general gifts to the Foundation between October 1, 2021, and March 31, 2022:*

Terry Boyd  
Lola Cator  
Karol & Jim Dillie  
Sarah Knoop & Corey Barnes  
Dale & Lila Ann Mathwich  
Bill & Alice Mowbray  
Thomas & MaryAnne Smith  
Dave & Cynthia Sugar

*Gifts, honorary gifts and memorial contributions were made to the Foundation from October 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022:*

**In memory of Ellie Bauer** by Leonard & Joan Bruce

**In memory of Norv Bernhardt** by Bob Courter, Kevin Gould, Larry & Carol Larrabee, Bonnie Orvick, Dave & Jan Primus, JoAnn Six, Thomas & MaryAnne Smith, Mary Lou Tyne, Donna Ulteig

**In memory of Marty Clarke** by Brad & Barb Armstrong

**In memory of Harold Cushman** by Joan Gilbertson

**In memory of Larry Dopkins** by Joan Gilbertson

**In memory of DuWayne Gilbertson** by Joan Gilbertson

**In memory of John "Chico" Hilton** by Bill & Alice Mowbray

**In memory of John Kutzbach** by Donna Ulteig

**In memory of Jack Marking's brother, Chuck** who passed away on Oct 12th in Baraboo by Kevin Gould

**In memory of Karl Marquardt** by Brad & Barb Armstrong, Joan Gilbertson, Kevin Gould, Judi Griffin, Kathy Hunt, Gisela Kutzbach, Dave & Jan Primus, JoAnn Six, Dorie Underkofler, Bill Wiedenbeck

**In memory of Dorothy Mott** by JoAnn Six

**In memory of Stephen Napier** by Donna Ulteig

**In memory of Helen Sanborn** by Bill & Alice Mowbray

**In memory of Donna Suby** by Brad & Barb Armstrong, JoAnn Six, Dorie Underkofler

**In memory of Tom Ullsvik** by Tom & Jill Derr, Bonnie Orvick, Donna Ulteig

**In memory of James Underkofler** by Alliant Energy

**In memory of Lucille "Lu" Westervelt** by Brad & Barb Armstrong, Paul Aspinwall & Bonnie Bruce, Cathy Buege, Allan Deptula, Jean Hastings, Gisela Kutzbach, Renate Madsen, Dorie Underkofler, John & Pat Zimbrick

## Rebuilding at Bethel

When a relationship ends, we feel many emotions – from sadness and loss to everything in between. Additionally, those going through separation and divorce often face severe financial struggles along with emotional and mental trials. This can make it difficult for them to access the support they need.

Grants from the Bethel Endowment Foundation provide partial scholarships for the Rebuilding at Bethel program, which includes a fall retreat. Rebuilding at Bethel helps individuals navigate life after a break up. It offers a safe place to share thoughts and feelings as well as find information, guidance, support and friendship.

Through the Rebuilding process, participants discover a new awareness of their personal growth potential. This non-denominational series offers three different approaches to the recovery process.



## Investment Committee, *continued from back*

That's significant – and will be helpful as we move through the rest of the year. As of close of March, the stocks were 69.6% of the total, bonds laddered out over the coming seven+ years are 24.6%, leaving the remainder in cash at 5.8% - having ample cash on hand provides good opportunity for reinvesting at the once-a-month meetings, as the market ebbs and flows.

The memory of longtime committee chair George Austin is honored each and every time this group of Bethel professionals meet. Their volunteer work and expertise shared saves Bethel paying any management fee over the past nearly six decades. For this, we are all very thankful.

### 2021 Bethel Foundation mid-year grants

	Mid-year total	\$ 79,824
Sanctuary Sound Cost Share	\$	25,000
Coffee Lounge	\$	17,900
Moving Music Director	\$	11,000
Ceremonial Entrance	\$	8,568
Katie's Corner Room*	\$	8,500
Horizons Farmhouse Bathroom	\$	7,066
Welcome Sign at Reception	\$	4,690
Columbarium Seed Money	\$	2,500
New Day Scholars	\$	2,500
C4C Ad	\$	600

*\*Approved grant that was re-allocated to a new concept.*

## Thank you, Wendy Schultz!

Since 2005, longtime involved member Wendy had been the Recording Secretary for our Endowment Foundation and retired this April. She faithfully attended quarterly meetings and took minutes that reflected the diverse meeting agenda items as they were presented and discussed.

We are very grateful for her attention to detail and diligence in completion of minutes, over the past 17 years. She and husband Al have been members since 1976, and Al was recently named as a trustee of Endowment Foundation in late 2020, replacing Fred Zimmermann – so Wendy will likely remain in close touch.



**BETHEL**

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## Investment results 2021 and first quarter 2022



We have a lot to be thankful for at Bethel – in the midst of these turbulent economic times, the steady hands guiding your Endowment Foundation investment portfolio continue to take the long view and focus on value versus growth category assets.

The discipline exhibited during their monthly meetings conveys a sense of measured calm – they take their fiduciary task very much to heart as they work to protect the buying power of all gifts held in perpetuity.

The results for last year was an impressive 3.4 points over the benchmark of 12.9%, and over the past thirty years of analysis, the average annual gain of 8.7% outpaced the benchmark – on average – by .8 points.

We all know that this calendar year is quite different than the previous – for a variety of reasons. But yet, even in experiencing loss overall on the balanced portfolio for the first quarter of just under 3%, this is better than the benchmark results by nearly 2 points.

## Bethel Endowment Foundation Trustees

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\* Denotes member of the New Projects Committee

### George Austin Honorary Investment Committee

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*Continued inside on page 7*

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