

Jesus loves you. Walk with Him.

BETHELITE

NOVEMBER 1, 2022: VOL 71, NO.17

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BETHEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEEING YOURSELF AS GOD SEES YOU

Growing up, I didn't think much about saints. I always assumed they were just a Catholics thing. Anytime I would see a picture of one, they always looked Catholic to me. Not something that I would have any reason to give any thought to. Not something that was very real to me. Then, a new pastor joined our church – John Victor Halverson. He was as Norwegian as they came. Though born in America, his accent was as Norwegian as lefse and lutefisk. One of his first sermons was on All Saints Sunday, a sermon where he explained that All Saints Sunday was a day of celebration for “all” the saints, both living and deceased. Before that, I had never understood what “all” in the “All Saints” meant. His sermon opened my eyes to see how all of Christ's followers are “saints”. That's what the Bible says. That includes very person in the family of God. The saints are not some sort of Christian super-heroes. They are not extra-ordinary and exceptional from one another. They are common, run-of-the-mill believers like you and me.



Ignatius of Antioch

Recently, I came across a website with paintings of the traditional and historical saints. Instead of portraying them as holier-than-thou, other-worldly, or hyper-spiritual, they are presented as normal people. The website is TheModernSaints.com. As the artist, Gracie Morbitzer, writes,

“Ancient icons of saints portray everyone as old, white, expressionless, and hard to tell apart. I believe these pieces of Church imagery can turn modern-thinking people away from the influences of the saints, and even the Church itself. My goal was to re-imagine these

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extraordinary people as modern, everyday humans... because that is exactly what they were, and they remind us of ourselves. They show us that we can all be saints just like them. The saints were hopeless, spunky, terrified, lonely, individualistic, rebellious, progressive, loving, ambitious, counter-cultural, or boisterous outcasts and sinners who reached beyond themselves and made the world and themselves so much better. They were some of the original social justice warriors, and they can inspire us even in our present day. In these paintings, I have tried to make a point to prove that fact. I have corrected ethnicities to show the Church's more widespread, though hidden, diversity. I have given each a character or personality and a real human expression, and each has a style and a modern twist.

These icons are also traditional, though, in the ways that backgrounds are kept to solid colors, the original ancient Greek



Mary Magdalene

(or as close to it as we can get) lettering spells out each saint's name, and details, poses, and symbols are mimicked from original icons, too. You may notice that some of these pieces have a noticeable wood texture, cracks, or imperfections.

To further the notion of extraordinary coming from ordinary, I have painted each on a discarded or thrifted piece of wood. Much like the saints, each plaque once forgotten was transformed and is now revered."

As we remember on All Saints Sunday the saints who have passed, many of us are reminded of our mortality, that our lives are finite. And that is true. We are finite beings. But we are finite beings connected to an infinite source of life — Jesus. In Jesus, we see how finite human nature and infinite

holiness come together. In Latin the term for this is *finitum capax infiniti* which translates to essentially mean that the finite is capable of containing or receiving or bearing the infinite. This was a central aspect of Martin Luther's understanding of Jesus. In Jesus, heaven and earth have come together into one. In Jesus, God embraces and makes holy all that

is common in creation, including us. Just as God has embraced all things through Christ's earthly incarnation, God is also at work healing, redeeming, and restoring all things. Through baptism and communion, we finite humans intimately receive God's infinite presence and grace, and we are God bearers for the world. Our very beings are capable of containing, receiving, and bearing the infinite. Jesus' incarnation on this earth has brought heaven and earth together as one. Ancient Church Father Athanasius boldly put it, "God became

human that humankind might become God." But this is just it, Jesus' birth is for all of us a reminder that finite as we may be, we are Christ bearers. The Apostle Paul says in his letter to the Galatians, "God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts," so the spirit of Christ not only rests upon us but flows through

us like the blood in our veins pumping from our hearts. This spirit flows through us and through all creation as we sing praise to God together.



Teresa of Avila



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

On November 6, at the 9am and 10:30am worship services. Bethel offers a one-of-a-kind worship experience where we remember and celebrate the lives of people of faith, living and passed. A “saint” is not some spiritual super hero or holier-than-thou persona. A “saint” is simply a person who has been drawn into the mystery and reality of Jesus’ resurrected life. All who are baptized into his living spirit are “Saints”.

As we gather together on November 6 in the sanctuary, worship will be wrapped in wondrous light with streams of white. Special care has been taken to infuse the space with a heavenly air and mood.

Because All Saints Sunday brings with it the memory of loved ones passed, worship will begin with an honoring of those beloved people. You are welcome, even encouraged, to gather in the sanctuary before worship begins to write the name of a loved one who has passed recently or long ago. A “Book of Life” will be laid-out at the front of the church for you to record your loved ones’ names. You are also invited and encouraged to light a candle and place it in the box filled with sand in memory of someone, a saint living or past.

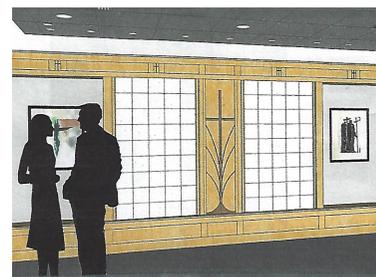
Come early. Stay late. Bask in the pure white glow of a service that is like heaven on earth.

Member deaths (since last All Saints Day):

Gary Robert Broge, Gene Summ, Jane Evans, Cheryl Lu Tesnow, Gordan E. May, Marty Clarke, Donna Suby, Bruce Roberts, Emrick S. Espelien, Zelda Droster, Robert H. Benson, John W Hilton (Chico), Dorothy Mott, Shirley Dokken, Muriel Jevne, John G. Nicka, Lu Westervelt, Karl Marquardt, Harold LeRoy Cushman, Aimee Biba, Barbara Espeseth, Warren Stolper, Daniel Gerland, Marion Urich, William (Bill) Kube, Marian Mylrea, Hope Bakken, Renate Madsen, Linda Clauder, Elvera (Ellie) V. Berg, Linda Louise Pauls, Lawrence Schantz, Roger Tietz, Gerald L. Sheskey, Eunice M. Peterson, Cheryl Dee Beecher, Joan R. Borgwardt-Halverson, John Luther, Jean Erickson, Eugene Woehler, Larry Brackett, Virginia Johnson.

Member baptisms (since last All Saints Day):

Sienna Kay Hansen, Nathan Marshall Baker, Natalie Ann Baker, Annelise Ross, Sloan Ashe Montgomery, Lane Taylor Dewey, John Bernard Philip Schmitthenne, Wade Alan Budde, McCoy Blake Miller, Dominic John Breidenbach, Letizia Marigold Webber, Willow Kenney-Brown, Dylan Torliel Koller, Maddilynn Jeannette Forrer, Oliver Scott Mulich, Daria Morgan Tracy. 🌈



COLUMBARIUM INFORMATION FORUM

Sunday, November 6,
10:30am

The Bethel Columbarium Committee has been working for over a year to create a new space within the Bethel building for a permanent location for cremated remains and a memorial wall. Following a design set-back due to the structure of the space, it was re-designed.

On Sunday morning, November 6th, there will be a forum at 10:30 to present the columbarium plans to the congregation. You will see drawings of the niche spaces, the memorial wall and the new entrance into the space. There will be samples of the granite niche front material, the memorial plaques and the urns that will be included with the purchase of a niche.

Members of the committee will be there to answer questions. The design architect will also be present. The plans going forward, pending council approval in November, will be explained. This will include construction plans and processes for securing niche spaces and memorial wall locations. 🌈



ADULT FORUM
 Sunday, November 20
 10:30 AM
 Good Shepherd Chapel

Eric and Brenna Cussen Anglada lead Christians to honor indigenous wisdom to learn how to live with the land. They practice living in reciprocity with the earth as co-founders of the 25-acre St. Isadore Catholic Worker Farm near Cuba City, Wisconsin on the ancestral homeland of the Ho-Chunk, Ioway, Meskwaki and Sauk nations. There they live in Christian community, integrating sustainable agriculture, communal prayer, simple living, hospitality, educational workshops, and activism. Their writing has appeared in numerous publications including *America*, *National Catholic Reporter*, *Sojourners*, *The Catholic Worker*, and *Dorothy Day and the Church: Past, Present, and Future*. In addition to farming, Eric is the Ecological Programming Coordinator for the Sinsinawa Dominicans at Sinsinawa Mound. He is a Wild Church Network lay leader and has been convening Wild Church gatherings in and around Dubuque, IA. Brenna is also a facilitator, song leader and member of the Nuns & Nones Land Justice Team. 🌈




VOICES

ZACH BUSCH PREMIERS

Suite Prayers for Our Earth

Sunday, November 13 & 20, 5:00 pm

Christian voices will resound in our worship services as the Bethel Choir premieres *Suite Prayers for Our Earth*, a new composition by our Minister of Liturgical Worship Zach Busch and Minneapolis songwriter Bret Hesla. Their text is the beautiful “*Prayer for Our Earth*” that concludes Pope Francis’s groundbreaking 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si’*. It’s a compelling call for all Christians to join in rescuing all creation - our damaged environment and “the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in [God’s]

Both Sundays will also feature a 10:30 am forum, a light lunch, and an informal after-lunch discussion.

Supporting the theme, Bethel’s Fine Arts Committee will display the striking and unique artwork of the late Father John Giuliani during the months of November and December. His award-winning iconographic paintings, which have been exhibited around the world, interpret major figures from the Bible as Native Americans.

Join in a Bethel first as the Music



eyes.” Pastor Mike’s sermon and the liturgy will echo and amplify these themes and point to the ways that Jesus shapes our response and care for the creation.

November 20 brings the wisdom of Native American voices with their deep understanding of the unity of land, people, and Spirit.

Department, Caring for Creation, our social-justice group ACTJAM (A Call to Justice and Mercy), and our Fine Arts Committee collaborate on these events. 🌈

4 CREATION

PASTOR JOANN CONROY

President of the ELCA American Indian/Alaska
Native Lutheran Association Guest Preacher,
Sunday, November 20

A member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe of South Dakota and ELCA Lutheran pastor, Joann Conroy, travels to join Bethel on November 20 as guest preacher.

Pastor Joann was born and raised on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota during a time of great unrest and transition nationally in reservation communities.

Her grandmother gave her a Sioux name, Winyan Wakan, meaning Holy Woman, when she was only 13 years



old, years before she followed a call to pastoral ministry. She earned a Master of Divinity

from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN, and is active in numerous

faith-based organizations that seek to build bridges and

connections within the faith and beyond. But perhaps

most importantly she is the Mother of two very successful children and an unabashedly proud grandmother. Pastor

Joann believes that her people have much wisdom to share

with the wider church for sustainable environmental practices and a spiritually based stewardship for our planet. 🌍

*And while I stood there
I saw more than I can tell
and I understand more
than I saw;
for I was seeing in a sacred
manner the shapes of all
things in the Spirit,
and the shape of all shapes
as they must lie together
like one being.*

*(Black Elk Speaks
by John G. Neihardt).*



CIRCLE OF LOVE RAISES OVER \$20,000 FOR UKRAINE

Thank you to all those who attended the Circle of Love Golf Outing on September 26 or supported the event through 43 golf hole sponsorships, prize donations, gift certificates, golf towels and blanket donations, golfer pledges, cash donations, and lunch and dinner underwriting. Sixty-six golfers enjoyed 18-holes of golf and were joined by 13 golf supporters at the evening reception.

As a result of your generosity, Bethel raised \$20,408 for Ukrainian families' relief. The critical need for this relief was highlighted by Maryna who first visited Madison several years ago as part of a Circle of Love sponsored delegation of children from the Ukraine. Maryna spoke at the evening reception of the plight of many families in Borodyanka, Ukraine, a town devastated early in the war and a town with close ties to Bethel.

The Circle of Love planning committee extends its gratitude to the Bethel members and friends for their generous support of this year's event and invite you to participate in the Fall 2023 golf outing. 🌈



KIDS' CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 18, 9:00 am

Come one, Come all!! We are thrilled to be planning our KIDS' CHRISTMAS PROGRAM and would love every one of you to be involved! Be sure to mark this date and time on your calendars! Sunday, December 18, 9:00 AM.

With snow flurries in the air, our thoughts go to Christmas and children and the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The children's ministry team has set a date and time and asks for your support and prayers, that as we resume our live in-house KIDS' CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, the story of Jesus' birth comes alive in our lives and touches our hearts anew as we witness the reading The Christmas Story from Luke 2:1-20 by our beloved children and youth.

All kids, ages 4 years old through 7th grade, are all warmly invited and encouraged to participate. We have a place and a role for each one of you. The younger kids (ages 4 through 4th grade) will act out the story in costume. The 5th through 7th graders will read from the Bible and narrate the story, and all (including the participating congregation)

will lead and joyfully sing beloved Christmas hymns during the 9:00 AM service on December 18, 2022 in the sanctuary.

Please note the schedule of events:

Sundays starting THIS week: 10:00-10:25 AM. Rehearsals with Jennifer upstairs in room 216.

Saturday, December 17, 2:00-4:00 PM. Dress Rehearsal in the sanctuary followed by Christmas cookies.

Sunday, December 18, 8:00 AM. Gather for costumes and warm-up.

Sunday, December 18, 9:00 AM. CHRISTMAS PROGRAM in the sanctuary for all to attend.

If you would like to help in any way....with costumes, set-up, music, or making a batch of Christmas cookies to share, please email Karin at Karin@bethel-madison.org and/or text/call at 317-374-3397. 🌈





ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

Monday, December 5, 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Advent by Candlelight is an opportunity for women of all ages to set aside the hustle and bustle of holiday preparation and focus their minds and hearts on the birth of Christ. Preparing for Christmas means preparing for Jesus, but the busyness, and preparations in our homes, churches, or communities can crowd our hearts. Day to day activities like working, taking care of the home, decorating, or shopping take up precious

time and attention. Advent by Candlelight is an opportunity for women to set aside all other activities long enough to focus hearts and minds again on Jesus. It is a beautiful evening filled with Scripture readings, narration, prayer, music, and fellowship. Please encourage all the women in your home or friendship circles to share in this special night. 🌈

HOLY COMMUNION

for 3rd - 5th Graders and Their Families
Saturday, November 19, 9:00 am - noon
in Borgwardt Hall

Everyone is invited to communion instruction including a morning of fun, study, and food for kids and families 3rd through 5th grade!

Those gathered on Saturday morning will learn about the history and mystery of Holy Communion, tour the sacristy, have craft time, and share a snack and a pancake brunch together. All generations are welcome to this event!

Please also include 9 AM worship on Sunday, November 20, in your plans on this important weekend as the kids will have the



opportunity to parade as a group to the front with the Holy Communion banner (with their names on it) and be blessed by Pastor Mike in the children's sermon that day. The children, 3rd grade and up, will not attend Sunday school that morning and will sit with their families for the entire worship service.

Please email Karin at karin@bethel-madison.org or call/text

Karin at 317-374-3397 to register so that we can plan for you. 🌈



SERMONS

While waiting in a Nazi prison cell in 1943 a few weeks before Advent, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote a friend, "A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes, does various unessential things, and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside, is not a bad picture of Advent." On November 27, Bethel begins the season of Advent with Christians around the world. As Bonhoeffer writes, it is a season of waiting. We are waiting because we are "in between" the advent of Jesus' first coming and the advent of his future coming. This Advent series shares the Bible's practical insight for daily living during this time of "in between."

Advent: Between Two Worlds

November 27: Just Over that Hill

December 4: How to Prepare Yourself for a Miracle

December 11: Simple Steps to Life with Jesus

December 18: Waking in the New World 🌈



BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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NEW MEMBERS

Any and all friends, guests, and attendees are warmly invited to make Bethel your spiritual home. There is no replacement for being surrounded by people who love you, support you, and bring out the best in you. We want that for you. If you have not officially made Bethel your church home, please do. We want to be a blessing to you and make you rich in Christian relationships. We want you to get in on the action as we are caught up in Christ's Spirit. We want you to feel the thrill of victory as we help transform our families and community. To learn more, please contact Pastor Mike at pastormikebrown@bethel-madison.org or 608.257.3577. 🌈

SEPTEMBER YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Budget
REVENUES			
Offerings	1,031,393.68	1,262,700.00	(231,306.32)
Miscellaneous revenue	222,502.00	151,925.22	70,576.78
Non-operating revenue	239.49	(675.00)	914.49
Total Revenue	1,254,135.17	1,413,950.22	(159,815.05)
MINISTRY INVESTMENTS			
Staff	807,641.06	1,022,429.16	(214,788.10)
Ministry & Resource Teams	308,785.81	281,583.63	27,202.18
Benevolence	59,469.81	1,575.00	57,894.81
Administration	139,499.67	57,892.41	87,607.26
Other	4,694.41	-	4,694.41
Total Ministry Investments	1,320,090.76	1,363,480.20	(43,389.44)
Total Net Income (Loss)	(65,955.59)	50,470.02	(116,425.61)

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



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

