

Jesus loves you. Walk with Him.

# BETHELITE

DECEMBER 1, 2022: VOL 71, NO.18

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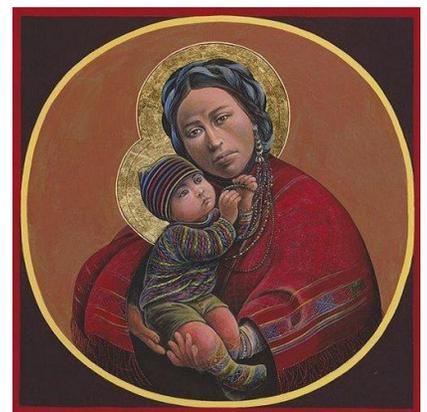
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**BETHEL**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## THERE'S MORE HERE THAN MEETS THE EYE

When it comes to Christmas, almost everyone understands that it is the celebration of Jesus' birth. Christians see in this birth not just a human being but also the incarnation of God. It says in Colossians that *"he is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell."* (1:15-19). Simply put, when we see Jesus, we see God. Many Christians see this as unique and unrepeated. For Martin Luther, the incarnation wasn't what we might call a "one off" or a "one and done" event, limited only to Jesus. For Luther, the incarnation gets repeated over and over again. In one of his Christmas sermons, Martin Luther said: *"We see here how Christ, as it were, takes our birth from us and absorbs it in his birth, and grants us his, that in it we might become pure and holy, as if it were our own, so that every Christian may rejoice and glory in Christ's birth as much as if he had himself been born of Mary as was Christ."* Luther taught that the incarnation did not happen just once 2,000 years ago and never before and never since, but instead, God's incarnation is present through the entire span of the universe. The Divine One of eternity, who is beyond space and time, has become incarnate (physically



Madonna and Child  
Father John B. Giuliani

312 Wisconsin Ave, Madison, WI 53703

608.257.3577 [www.bethel-madison.org](http://www.bethel-madison.org)



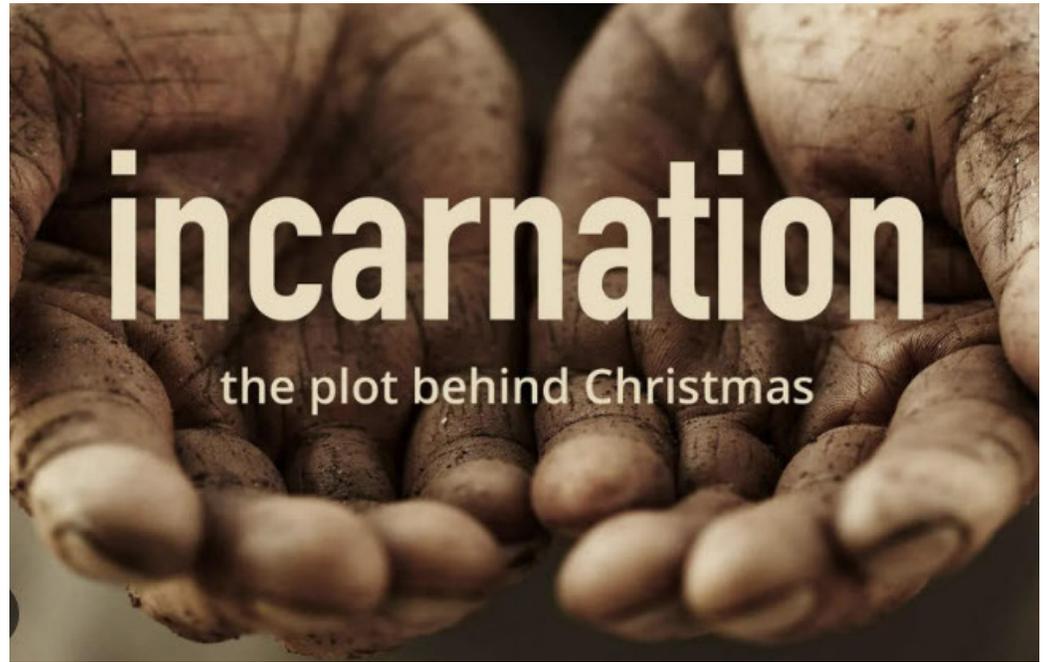
## Pastor Mike

[pastormikebrown@bethel-madison.org](mailto:pastormikebrown@bethel-madison.org)

419.345.2836

and materially present) within the creation. What this means, good friend, is that you are also part of God's manifestation. In his birth, Jesus takes on our being so completely that when he is born of Mary, so are we. What we, in the Western church, call "incarnation" and "salvation" has another name in the Eastern church: "divinization" (theosis). We become part of the divine. 2 Peter 1:4 says it plainly, "*He has given us something very great and wonderful...you are able to become part of the divine nature!*"

The Apostle Paul had the same view of the incarnation as he talked repeatedly about the fact that we are "in Christ". In fact, he uses the phrase more than 164 times. Paul's point, in the words of Richard Rohr, "*is that all of us, without exception, are living inside of a cosmic identity, already in place, that is driving and guiding us forward. We are all en Cristo, willingly or unwillingly, happily or unhappily, consciously*



*"Christ if everywhere, closer to everything than these things are to themselves. God's embodiment through Christ encompasses the world."*  
Vitor Westhelle, *The Scandalous God: The Use and Abuse of the Cross*

or unconsciously." Paul pointedly asks the followers of Jesus in the city of Corinth, "*Do you acknowledge that Jesus Christ is really in you?*" (2 Corinthians 13:5-6). And he tells the Christians in the region of Galatia that "*God revealed his Son in me*" (Galatians 1:16).

In Luke's nativity story, Jesus is called a "*light to the nations.*" But light is not something you see so much as something that allows you to see all other things.

Having "faith" in Jesus means seeing the world as God sees it. It means to see the Holy Divine not in one person alone but how God is manifest in the people around you and in the cosmos.

One of the most prolific and important writers in church history was a man named Athanasius. He was a chief proponent of the doctrine of the Trinity at a time in the 4th century when other Christian thinkers were less certain or clear on its meaning or importance. Athanasius was a principle force in the

conference that generated the Nicene Creed. It is due to his great intellect, endurance, and writings that the doctrine of the Trinity assumed such prominence in Christianity. Yet, through all the decades of his work, through all the pages of his voluminous writings, perhaps the most profound thing he wrote was a single line: "*He became what we are that he might make us what he is.*"

As you prepare yourself for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, remind yourself that his birth is your birth. As in him, in whom the fullness of God is pleased to dwell, so it is in you. God is pleased to dwell within you.





## KIDS' CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

### Sunday, December 18, 9:00 am

Come one, Come all!! We are thrilled to offer our KIDS' CHRISTMAS PROGRAM and would love every one of you to be blessed! 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. 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, December 4 and 11th: 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](mailto:Karin@bethel-madison.org) and/or text/call at 317-374-3397. 🍪



## ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

December 5, 5:00pm

Women of Bethel are invited to join together in a beautiful evening of candlelight, music, and God's good news. Advent by Candlelight will feature Karin Brown, Bethel Director for Kids and Family Ministries who will speak on "*Grief and the Holidays: Finding and Sharing Comfort and Hope*"

A graduate of Wartburg Theological Seminary, Karin has served congregations in Iowa, Indiana, and now Wisconsin. Prior to joining Bethel, Karin served for six years as a Hospice chaplain in Ohio and Wisconsin. Walking with patients and their loved ones through their final days, Karin developed deep compassion and understanding of death, dying, and the grieving process. She will offer some do's and don'ts and provide practical everyday wisdom for all to use. She will share from her wisdom and experience what all people need to hear and know as they are passing into God's arms. While recounting some stories, Karin hopes to give some practical advice to survivors of loss (all of us!) and a heartfelt reminder from I Thessalonians 4:13-18 "*so that you won't mourn like others who don't have any hope.*" Tickets cost \$10 and you can RSVP from the Bethel website via Realm.





## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SUNDAY

Sunday, Dec. 25  
All Online

This year is an unusual year for the calendar with Christmas Day falling on a Sunday. With that in mind, Bethel will provide worship exclusively on-line and by TV on WKOW, channel 27.

**(Updated Time) Sunday, December 25, 8:00 am on WKOW, Channel 27**

Please join us online both Christmas Day and the Sunday after Christmas for an intimate gathering in your home.

**Sunday, January 1, 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am**

In-person worship at Bethel

7:30 and 9:00 worship will be a Service of Lessons and Carols. 🌈



# BETHEL

## JOURNEY WITH JESUS ON CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24

The stage is set. The music ready. The characters are familiar. On December 24, Bethel remembers and retells the story of the birth of Jesus Christ in four different worship experiences. At 3, 5, 7, and 9pm, the community gathers to hear once again the drama of how God is revealed in the babe of Bethlehem. Along with Jesus in the story are, of course, Mary and Joseph. There are angels, shepherds, and barnyard animals too. The story and the characters are so familiar to many that we sometimes overlook one key player: You! The

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES - DECEMBER 24

3pm - Family Service

5pm - Contemporary Service

7pm - Traditional with Brass, Organ, and Choir

9pm - Traditional with Brass and Organ

10pm - WKOW Channel 27 (1 hour special)

"In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.



story of Jesus's birth is not just a story that took place almost 2,000 years ago, but a story that continues to play out in your life today. The prayers during and around Christmas often call for Jesus to be born in us. His birth, his revelation, his presence break into our world again and again through the lives of those who follow him. His voice and love ring over and over again in the conversations of the faithful. Join us this year for one of four services that join your story to his.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." —Luke 2:1-7 🌈

# CHRISTMAS



## BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE

December 21, 7:00pm  
Good Shepherd Chapel

**B**lue? Yes, blue as in the blues. As in “I am feeling blue.” Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people in our church and communities. There are



many people who are blue at Christmas. Creating sacred space for people living through dark times. Bethel offers a quiet, contemplative Christmas worship service for those with a heavy heart. Sharing carols for listening or singalong, comforting readings from scripture, prayer, silent and spoken, and lighting candles of hope, Bethel’s Blue Christmas provides a safe space for mourners to come together at Christmas time 🌈

## GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

**A** grief support group is forming to meet for four (or possibly five) consecutive Tuesdays at 2:00pm beginning on Tuesday, December 6. John Hueschen, a Bethel Stephen Minister and experienced leader of grief groups, will guide the sessions. The group will meet in-person in Katie’s Korner (Room 200). The sessions will help participants 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 John Hueschen at [johnhueschen@gmail.com](mailto:johnhueschen@gmail.com) or call the church at 608.257.3577. 🌈



## ADVENT AT HORIZONS

DECEMBER 2 & 3

Let's create space in this busy holiday season to get away with family and friends to celebrate Advent surrounded by the beauty of Bethel Horizons. You are invited to come Friday evening and stay through Saturday afternoon (or just come on Saturday). We will have numerous activities for all to enjoy including tree decorating, caroling, sharing family traditions, gift making at Adamah Art Studio, a chance to play board games, hike, and play outdoors. We will conclude the experience with an Advent service on Saturday late afternoon. We hope to you there! 🌈



Pastor Roger out with his staff axe throwing excursion.

## PASTOR ROGER FAREWELL SERMON AND RECEPTION

### DEC. 11TH

Pastor Roger Black has served as a pastor in the ALC (American Lutheran Church) and the ELCA since his ordination June 4, 1978. After graduating from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, in 1978, he began his ministry as associate pastor at Abiding Savior in Milwaukee (1978-1984) before being the sole pastor at West Koshkonong in rural Stoughton (1984-1994). His love for history and theology led him to pursue a Ph.D. degree in historical theology, which he completed at Marquette in 1996. This led Pastor Roger to teach ethics in lay school in the South-Central Synod of WI as well as in diakonia in four synods. While completing his advanced degree, he served a short-time ministry at Central in Edgerton, followed by interims at Calvary in Beloit, English in La Crosse, and Good Shepherd in Viroqua (all Lutheran). He served his third and final regular call at St. Stephen in Antioch, IL from 2000-

2006. Pastor Roger then answered the call to full-time interim ministry, being trained as an intentional interim pastor and serving in the Greater Milwaukee Synod from 2006 through 2017 (Cross/Burlington, Grace/Thiensville, All Saints/Wales, Dr. Martin Luther/Oconomowoc, Resurrection/Racine, Immanuel/Wausau, and a few other parishes). He returned to



South-Central Synod in 2017 serving as interim pastor at Hope in Milton until his retirement from full-time ministry in June 2018. Beginning in August 2018 he has served part-time as a bridge interim pastor at Bethel through September 2019, full-time bridge interim at St. Luke's in Middleton (2019-2020), and at Bethel as visitation pastor since January 2021. He also served as a bridge interim at All Saints, Fitchburg (2020). and long-term supply preacher at St. John's, Oregon (2022) while serving at Bethel. 🌈



# THE OK FACTOR CONCERT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 4:00PM

New classical crossover duo, The OK Factor is cellist Olivia Diercks and violinist Karla Colahan. Based in Minneapolis, Olivia and Karla are passionate about composing, performing, and teaching, creating unique and unexpected musical experiences for their audiences all across the Midwest. Organic and genuine, their original compositions feel both comfortably familiar and uniquely fresh, and have been described as “genre-bending” (Julie Amacher, MPR) and “pure magic” (Wausau Pilot & Review). The ease with which they write and perform has caught the attention of the Minnesota music community in which they live and work, bringing them success on stages such as The Cedar Cultural Center and as frequent featured artists with Minnesota Public Radio. Their distinct compositional and performance style awarded



them the honor of being finalists for the prestigious McKnight Fellowships for Musicians in 2018.

Within their six years of writing, performing, and regional touring, The OK Factor has been in residence with Minnesota Public Radio’s Class Notes Artists program (‘16), at The Grand Theater in Wausau (‘17), College of Saint Benedict (‘17) and Luther College (‘18), sharing their intimate performances, outreach activities, and educational workshops with these communities. The OK Factor has produced four studio albums of their original pieces and arrangements: Water Street (‘14), That’s Enough of That (‘16), Have Yourself an OK Christmas (‘17), and Love, The OK Factor, Lullabies & Love Songs, released in January of 2019. 🌈

## Christmas Giving 2022

**Online form:**  
bethel-madison.org/ministries/christmas-giving/

Please write **separate checks** for Poinsettias & Media Ministry. The **Deadline is Monday, Dec 12**, to return this form & money to Bethel for donations to be included in the Bethel Weekly.

### Poinsettia Garden

**CIRCLE ONE:** In Memory In Honor

NAME

NAME CONTINUED

BY

X \$20 =

# OF PLANTS

TOTAL DUE

Flowers may be picked up after worship on Dec 27 or after.

### Media Ministry

**CIRCLE ONE:** In Memory In Honor

NAME

NAME CONTINUED

BY

AMOUNT

CASH/CHECK #

ENVELOPE #

PHONE

Return entire form to: Bethel Lutheran Church  
Attn: Christmas Giving  
312 Wisconsin Ave, Madison, WI 53703



## UPCOMING CONCERTS

We have some wonderful concerts coming in the next few months. Come join us at Bethel Lutheran Church for The OK Factor concert on December 11th at 4:00pm. Olivia Diercks and Karla Colahan are returning for yet another year and will be playing the cello and violin, respectively. We have a soprano concert for Kara Shay Thompson on January 8th, 2023 at 4:00pm with Michael Chertok on the piano. On January 22, 2023 at 4:00pm we will have the Luther College Nordic Choir concert. On April 23, 2023 at 4:00pm we will have the Verona String Quartet playing for us. Be sure to mark your calendars for these special events!



# BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Madison, WI 53703

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## OCTOBER YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Over/(under) budget
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Offerings	1,125,287	1,403,000	(277,713)
Miscellaneous revenue	322,997	168,806	154,191
Non-operating revenue	379	(750)	1,129
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,448,663</b>	<b>1,571,056</b>	<b>(122,393)</b>
<b>MINISTRY INVESTMENTS</b>			
Staff	911,678	1,136,031	(224,353)
Ministry & Resource Teams	333,843	312,870	20,973
Benevolence	60,967	57,083	3,884
Administration	252,974	64,324	188,650
Other	-	-	-
<b>Total Ministry Investments</b>	<b>1,559,462</b>	<b>1,570,308</b>	<b>(10,846)</b>
<b>Total Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(110,799)</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>(111,547)</b>

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

