

Jesus loves you. Walk with Him.

BETHELITE

FEBRUARY 1, 2023: VOL 72, NO.2

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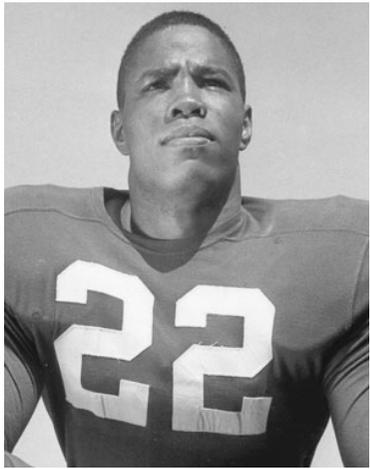


BETHEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

MATURE IN CHRIST

Badger Football, Redlining, & Jesus

At Bethel, we celebrate with God the wondrous variety of diverse human communities as a gift from God. The world's multiplicity of cultures, peoples, and languages shows God's creative will that humankind "fill the earth," according to Genesis. As Bethel has turned the page from one generation to the next, it has had major ministries with people in or from Ukraine, Poland, Rwanda, Puerto Rico, Bhutan, and Latin America. As we turn the page of this year's calendar from January to February, our nation commemorates Black History Month. What had been known as Negro History Week expanded to Black History Month with President Gerald Ford's pen in 1976 who declared it was to "honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." Of course, Black History Month is bitter-sweet. It is bitter since, in many ways, the history of African-Americans is a tragic story born out of slavery, racism, and a wrong-headed use of the Bible. How people used the Bible to justify racism is a real head-scratcher. It is a subject historians and Biblical scholars like Stephen R. Haynes author of *Noah's Curse: The Biblical Justification of American Slavery*, and David M. Goldenberg author of *The Curse of Ham: Race and Slavery in Early Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*, have explained quite well. It can be difficult to understand how something as sinful as racism can become embedded in something as holy as the Bible. But it was. Community life is a complicated mix of good and bad, life and death. And it continues to be, even in our own community of Madison's history.



Sydney Williams, Badger Quarterback

Some will remember, but many more may never have known that the UW Badgers took quite a stand against racism. In 1957 and 1958, the Wisconsin Badgers football team canceled

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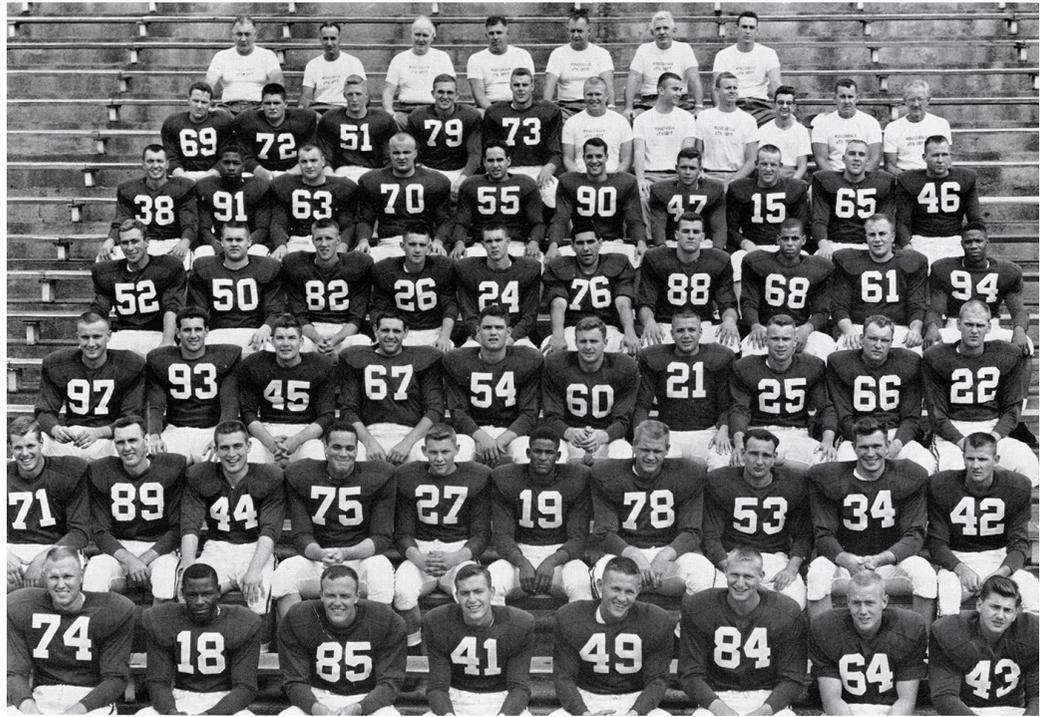


Pastor Mike

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its games against Louisiana State University because the 1956 Louisiana state law that outlawed social events and athletic contests that mixed black people with whites. Since Wisconsin was the only northern team with black players on LSU's future schedules, the new laws were clearly designed to exclude Wisconsin's black players from the coming UW-LSU games, and to ensure that future Sugar Bowl games played in Louisiana would be by all-white teams. Even the admission tickets to the Sugar Bowl back then said they were to be used by Caucasians only. Some of the Badger stars in those years were African-American, including Sidney Williams, the first black starting quarterback in the history of Big Ten football and 2008 inductee into the UW Athletic Hall of Fame.

But Wisconsin would have none of it. Athletic director and former football coach Ivan Williamson led the charge to tell LSU 'forget it.' The athletic department issued a statement on July 19, 1956, saying it would not play LSU at home in 1957 or in Baton Rouge in 1958.



The 1956 UW–Madison Football Team photo from the 1957 Badger Yearbook. Courtesy UW Archives.

Other universities followed suit. In 1959, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Louisiana's sports segregation law was unconstitutional. The civil rights movement was gaining strength, and football fields nationwide were opening to the best players rather than just the whitest. UW-Madison Athletics stood on the right side of history. That is a good story and something to celebrate.

But, as anti-black views wound their way into some interpretations of the Bible we can also acknowledge how anti-black sentiment slithered its way into a part of our own community. At the same time the Athletic Department heroically refused to go along with LSU's segregationist plans, the city of Madison was exhibiting its own segregationist impulses. These impulses appeared with decades of redlining and restrictive covenants that pushed African Americans into specific neighborhoods that would become increasingly neglected and impoverished.

PARADOX TO BE SURE

Like the rest of our world, Madison is a complicated blend of both good and bad, life and death. In the words of Martin Luther, we are both saint and sinner. Maturing in Christ means accepting the fact that are both. We are both guilty and forgiven. We are both prone to destruction but promised new life. Being a mature Christian calls for us to accept the brutal fact of our imperfect self that is in love with sin and turning away from God, yet in

the next breath, claiming our inheritance in Jesus Christ as irrevocable. It is paradoxical, to be sure. But paradox is at the heart of the Christian life. We hold two truths that seem to be polar opposites, even contradictory realities, together in a way that generates deeper understanding and possibilities. In

our celebrating Black History Month, we acknowledge both what is good and right and what is bad and wrong. Owning our relationship to both generates deeper understanding and opens great possibilities for encountering Jesus Christ in the streets, stadiums, concert halls, and shopping centers of Madison. 🌈



ANNUAL CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Announcement and Invitation

WHO:

ALL 7th and 8th graders out there! Please consider joining even if you have been unable to attend weekly Wednesday confirmation classes! We warmly welcome ALL!

WHAT:

A RETREAT! An opportunity to experience God through nature, art, the Bible, music, prayer and meditation, Holy Communion, and one another!

WHERE:

Bethel HORIZONS Bible Camp in Dodgeville, Wisconsin.....specifically, the Prairie Retreat Center.

WHY:

To relax, take a load off, get to know each other and God at another level, play with clay (and make a pot!) in the Addamah Center, take a recreational spiritual hike with Phil, listen to

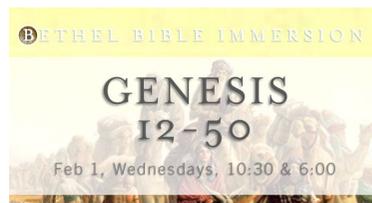
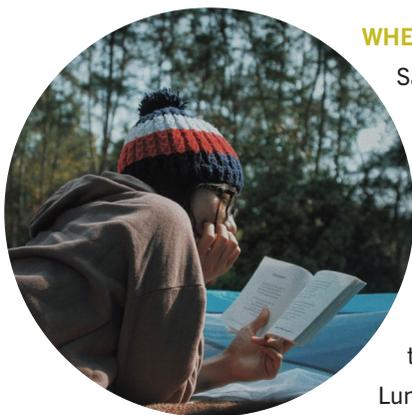
popular music through God's eyes, experience the Spirit through prayer and meditation, and grow closer to Jesus while sharing Holy Communion during Sunday morning worship.

WHEN:

Saturday, February 11-Sunday, February 12. Meet in Bethel's parking lot at 10:30 AM Saturday and caravan to Horizons Camp by noon for lunch. Leave Horizon's Camp at 10:30 AM Sunday to be back at Bethel by noon. Lunch and dinner on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday are provided.

BRING:

You! And.....a sleeping bag, pillow, towel, change of clothes, snow gear (hat, gloves, winter coat, boots), and personal hygiene items.



GENESIS 12-50

BETHEL BIBLE IMMERSION

February 1

On February 1, Wednesday, 10:30 am and 6:30 pm, Pastor Mike Brown begins a new Bethel Bible Immersion class that takes a deep dive into Genesis 12-50. This 12-week study covers the last 39 chapters of Genesis and revolves exclusively around the patriarchs and matriarchs of Biblical experience. These include Abraham & Sarah, Isaac & Rebecca, Jacob & Rachel, and their descendants. It is through this ragtag, flawed, and vulnerable group of people that God's story unfolds. With every page turn, we encounter a God who twists and turns to open dysfunctional and unsettled lives to new meaning, purpose, and power. These early pioneers of hope stand as a testimony to the rewards of taking risks with God and leaps of faith. 🌈





HOW TO PRAY: CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD

February 26 – March 26

God has wired us for prayer. Prayer is prevalent in every culture, every religion. Who people pray to may differ, but there is an internal desire in every human being to communicate with the divine. In fact, it's part of what makes us human. Animals don't pray. Cows don't pray. Birds don't pray. Dogs don't pray. Worms don't pray. The reason is they are not made in God's image. But you are. There is something about you as a human being that corresponds to God, that mirrors God, that reflects God. This reflection brings with it a desire to connect, to connect with God. Prayer is part of that connection. Learning how to pray brings us into

February 26: Raising Your Hopes with Prayer

March 5: How to Set Your Mind to Pray

March 12: The Five Quantum Leaps of Prayer

March 19: Easy Steps to Daily Prayer

March 26: Made Whole Through Prayer



LENT AT

TAIZE MIDWEEK WORSHIP SERVICE

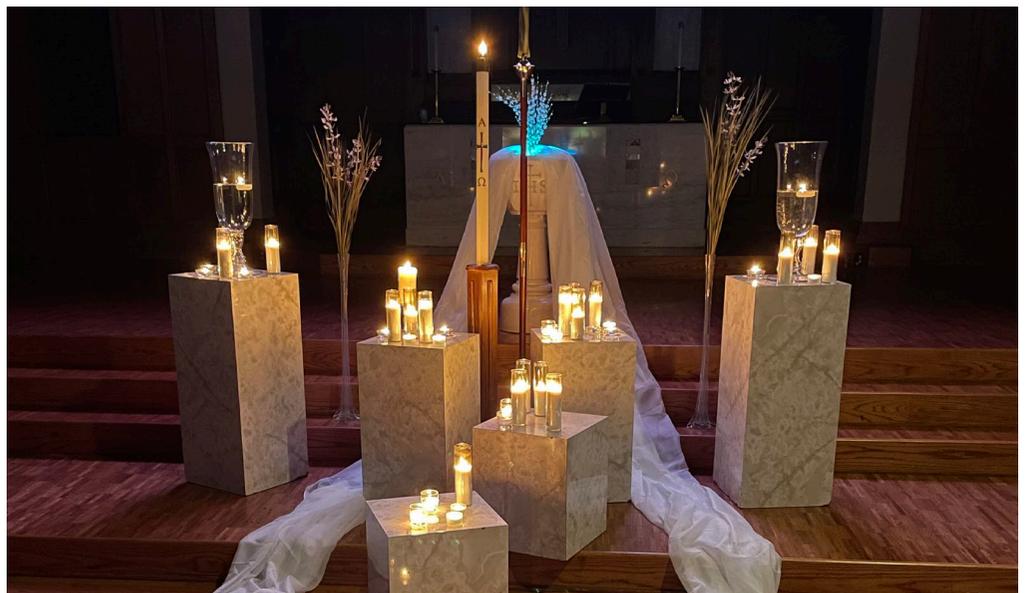
Returns February 1st

There is an old saying that goes “the more things change, the more they stay the same.” There was a time in the past where Wednesday night was known as “church night” across the country. For the most part, schools, groups, businesses, and organizations tried to steer away from scheduling meetings on Wednesday evenings so as to avoid conflicting with church activities. Of course, that courtesy ended decades ago. But the value of churches like Bethel grouping together several programs on the same midweek evening continues to make sense. Beginning February 1st, Bethel will have church night experience. In some ways, the evening will feel like Wednesdays during Lent.

Bethel's midweek Taizé Worship service is one of prayer, healing, and song. It is a service

wholly dedicated to prayer and to hearing God's word using song, scripture, and silent meditation. Much of the music we will sing is known as Taizé. They are short, easy, beautiful songs with rich meaning that help worshipers enter a state of deep relaxation and meditation. Each song will be sung many times in order to allow you to meditate on the words, so that each song may become a prayer offering. During moments of silence, you're invited to offer your own silent prayers, or to simply sit in quiet and listen with the intent of being with God. Candlelight in the service provides a focal point for the inner stillness and connection to the Living Jesus.

Come for all or part of the evening, we will have a seat saved for you. 🌈

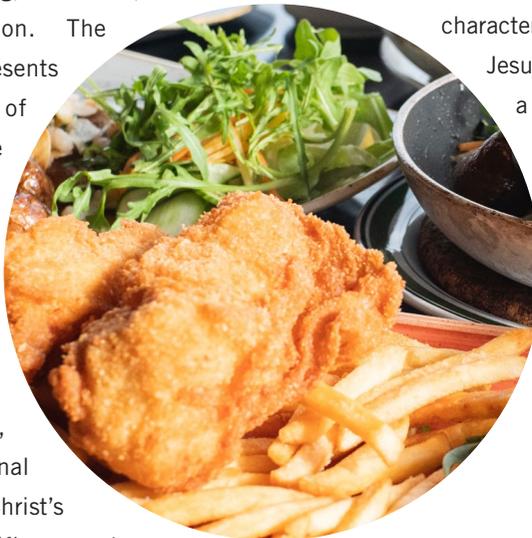


BETHEL

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 22, 7:00pm

Each year, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and is always 46 days before Easter Sunday. Lent is a 40-day season (not counting Sundays) marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, and ultimately celebration. The 40-day period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where he fasted and where Satan tempted him. Lent asks believers to set aside a time each year for similar fasting, marking an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection. Catholic, Orthodox, and many



(but not all) Protestants appreciate and observe Lent. Though Lent is not named or observed in the Bible, the path of Lent—prayer, fasting, and generosity over a period of time—is heavily emphasized by the authors of and characters in the Bible, including Jesus. The Bible commands a lifestyle of worship and devotion that looks considerably like Lent. Therefore, while the word is absent in the Bible, the reality of Lent is woven throughout the whole of Scripture. 🌈

Fish Dinner at 5:30pm

WEDNESDAY LENT SCHEDULE

March 1, 11:30am

11:30am Soup and Salad
12:00pm Lent Worship
5:30pm Soup and Salad
6:00pm Lent Worship



UPCOMING FRIENDSHIP CLUB EVENTS

Friendship Club recently celebrated 85 years of Fellowship, growing in God's Love and sharing this love with each other. A Bethel supported group that provides ANYONE with Christian Fellowship. All are made to feel welcome. This club ministers to church members with cards, prayers and greetings; a spiritual leader guides us each month after dinner.

Programs for February - June, after a delicious dinner:

FEBRUARY 9: Linda Warren, Bethel Horizons Adm. Ass't., Beautiful Harp Music and a few brief 'how to play' tips AND transporting a harp.

MARCH 10: Jennifer O'Malley, Director Adamah Studio, Bethel Horizons, Fascinating experiences creating clay jugs to bring drinkable water to African homes, without transporting it over land, on foot, in pots on top of native's head.

APRIL 14: Harmonica Hour; DeWayne Keyes, Harmonica and Doug Barrette, Guitar

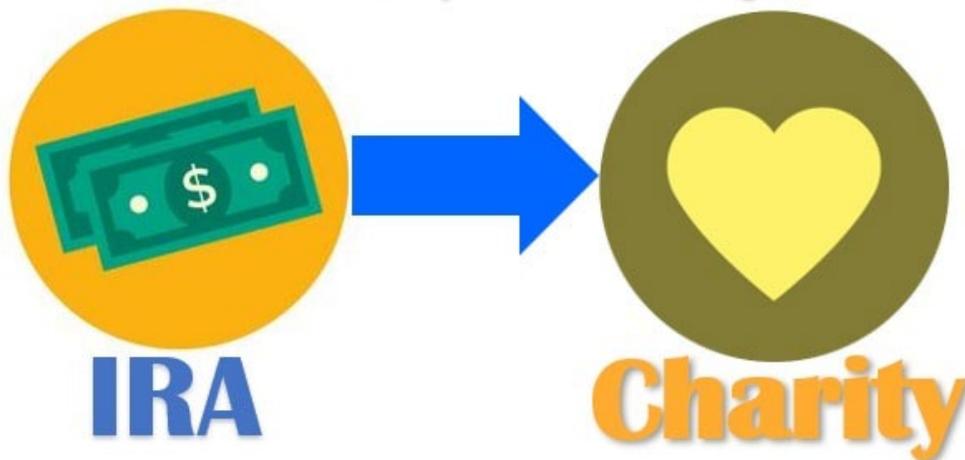
MAY 12: Deliberate Vibration; if you are frightened of musical instruments; terrifying trumpets, pernicious piccolos and snarling saxophones, look no further. This quintet of adult accapella male singers can do it all.

JUNE 9: New Horizons Swing Band; a Fellowship Club favorite at Lakeview Park in Middleton.

Contact Judi Griffin Program Coordinator, 608 222-9290. 🌈

QCD for RMD

Give charitably for tax savings



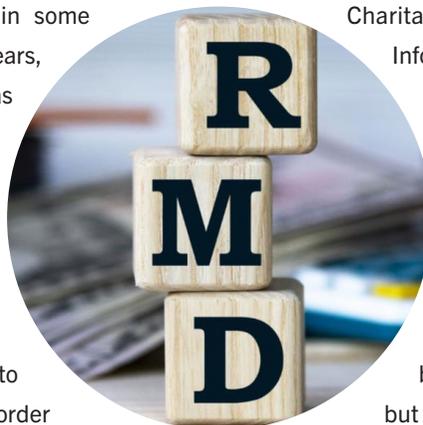
IRA – QCD – FYI – RMD ****

Loving the acronyms?? Only those philanthropic minded Bethelites of a certain age are tuned into what this all means... If you are age 70 ½ or older this year, that remains the magic age for gifting from your IRA directly to a non-profit / charity – like Bethel! – and thereby eliminating this amount given as taxable income to you.

There have been tweaks in some fashion the past several years, which can be confusing – as to when one has to start taking their RMD (another acronym!) – but the age for charitable gifting has been constant. The QCD has to be paid directly to Bethel, and not paid out to the account owner first in order to avoid being taxable. It's proven to be a really great way for many people of that age bracket to provide for their church, many times in a more significant way than they were able from their regular income, or other appreciated assets. (In any given year, up to \$100,000

can be directed from one's IRA to a specific non-profit and stay out of taxable income for the donor.) QCD's can also count toward one's RMD – which is another great aspect of this gifting mechanism, depending on one's personal financial needs for daily living.

*** Individual Retirement Account, Qualified Charitable Distribution, For Your Information, Required Minimum Distribution



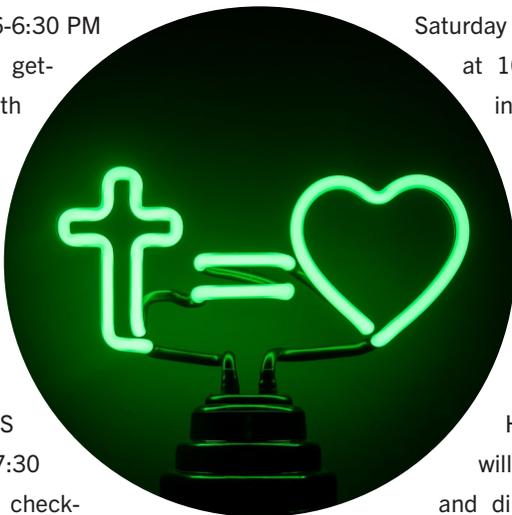
For the new year we embark on together, a quote to ponder from Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard – Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.

When you find you have questions about this topic or other stewardship details, please don't hesitate to contact me for a chat. Alice Mowbray, Director of Development and Administration. Contact me at alicem@bethel-madison.org. 🌈

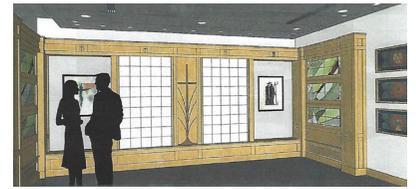


CONFIRMATION EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

We have some fun and exciting events planned and an adjustment/addition to our Wednesday night schedule: The youth GAME ROOM will now be open to all confirmation students beginning WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2023 at 6 PM. PIZZA will be delivered between 6-6:30 PM for all to enjoy while getting our energy out with fun and competitive games along with the option of participating in playing board games or a craft such as friendship bracelets. Consistent with fall semester, CLASS will still be held 6:30-7:30 PM, full with personal check-in, presentation, Bible and Lutheran theology study and discussion, and closing group prayer. These classes will meet every Wednesday through spring with the exception of Ash Wednesday (February 22), when all



Bethel will participate in a fish supper and placing of ashes in the sign of the cross on our hands or foreheads. The next fun big event is planned for the weekend of FEBRUARY 11-12, 2023.....a RETREAT at HORIZONS! We will leave the church parking lot at 10:30am Saturday and then leave camp at 10:30am Sunday morning to return home after spending the night at camp. Hiking, sledging, pottery, Holy Communion worship Sunday morning, s'mores, and games are on the agenda! Horizons expects us and will provide meals for lunch and dinner on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday morning. Please text or call Karin at 317-374-3397 or email at karin@bethel-madison.org with questions, to sign up, or to volunteer!! 🌈



COLUMBARIUM NEWS

Contracts are signed, niches and memorial plaques are ordered and construction will soon begin on the Bethel columbarium project. Soon you will see visual indications of what this new endeavor will entail. Niche sales are proceeding. Purchase documents are available at the Bethel reception desk. Completed documents with checks can also be returned there.

An important date to know is **February 23, 2023**. Niches purchased by that date will be engraved with owner's names at the time they are installed. This also includes memorial plaques.

Watch for this to all move forward.

If you have questions please contact John Shanda at J2Shanda@att.net.





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MEN'S BOOK STUDY

The Bethel Men's Friday Book Study meets weekly every Friday at 8:00 AM in Room 120 (Sanctuary Level) at Bethel for one hour of light-hearted discussion and delicious coffee. We are now reading **Is Atheism Dead?** by Eric Metaxas. All men are welcome to join and reading the book isn't a requirement so feel free to drop in. If you are reading this announcement, and are a man, you will definitely know someone in the group so don't be bashful. You will never find an easier book group to be a part of. 🌈

BETHEL
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312 Wisconsin Avenue
Madison, WI 53703

DECEMBER 2022 YEAR END FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Budget
REVENUES			
Offerings	1,594,583	1,683,600	(89,017)
Miscellaneous revenue	194,271	202,567	(8,296)
Non-operating revenue	(6)	(900)	894
Total Revenue	1,788,848	1,885,267	(96,419)
MINISTRY INVESTMENTS			
Staff	1,131,499	1,363,239	(231,740)
Ministry & Resource Teams	415,730	375,445	40,285
Benevolence	69,412	68,500	912
Administration	142,425	77,190	65,235
Other	-	-	-
Total Ministry Investments	1,759,066	1,884,374	(125,308)
Total Net Income (Loss)	29,780	893	28,889

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

