

BETHEL
ENDOWMENT
FOUNDATION

Foundation Life newsletter

www.bethel-madison.org

Bethel Lutheran Church Endowment Foundation

Spring / Summer 2023

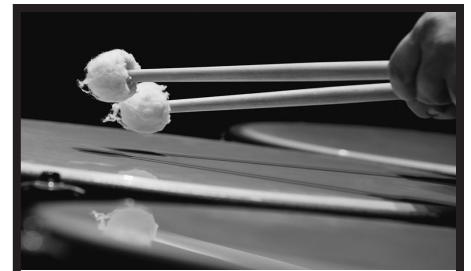
Bethel Brass adds depth to worship

Musicians help a congregation build energy and community while adding broader texture to worship. That's exactly what Bethel Brass is doing. This group of professional musicians bolsters worship with liveliness, triumph and beauty. They inspire us to leave with a sense of renewal and joy.

Not only does the Bethel congregation enjoy this experience, the musicians themselves appreciate the opportunity too (see comments from Bethel Brass members on this page).

Incorporating Bethel Brass allows us to celebrate the power of the Holy Spirit in the creative arts, elevating our worship life and praising God using sound and breath. It's a truly magnificent atmosphere for all who attend.

Funding from the Bethel Endowment Foundation helps cover the cost of worship enhancements, like professional musicians, that build bridges between Bethel and the wider community.



"One of my favorite experiences of playing with the Bethel Brass this year was Easter Sunday. Getting to share the joy of music with the congregation that morning was particularly special. The Good Friday music special was also a great experience to create."

Robert Rockman,
Timpani and Percussion



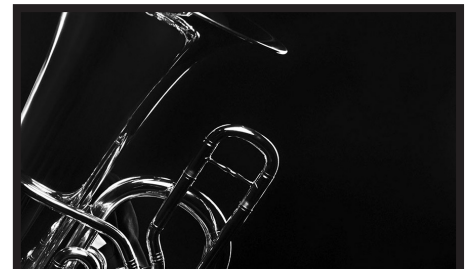
"It's been wonderful having the opportunity to make music at Bethel Lutheran each Sunday. The sanctuary is a beautiful space for brass playing, the people are friendly, and the level of musicianship is quite high. The Christmas and Easter services are always a highlight, and it is an honor to add meaning with our music to these important days."

Michael Hackett, Trumpet



"I've loved playing the Lutheran worship music since I was in high school, but usually the opportunities to play brass music in a church are rare, and not always in the same place. It is such a treat to have a musical home, play with talented musicians, and contribute to something important... the services and worship at Bethel. Thank you so much for including us and for your support."

Benjamin Skroch, Trombone



"As a performer, the most thrilling things that we get to do is to play for an appreciative audience. The congregation at Bethel has demonstrated time and again that they really appreciate what we do. It's an honor to play for them and support the community there."

Josh Biere, Tuba

On the Horizon at camp

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

Camphouse Improvements. We are replacing the siding, windows and gutters at the Camphouse. This work is scheduled to get started right after summer camp ends in August.

Campground Improvements. We have completed signage updates for the campground, which will be installed this spring. We hope to continue working on other improvements throughout the summer as time allows.

Inflatable Obstacle Course. It is going to be an exciting summer with our new Inflatable Obstacle Course. It has been purchased and will be tested out during staff training to make sure it is ready for the Congregational Picnic in June.

Prairie Center, Farmhouse and Camphouse. New furniture has been ordered for these spaces. It will make the areas comfortable and visually attractive.

Mountain Bikes. Trek partnered with Bethel Horizons to offer a 20% discount to purchase 20 Marlin 6 bikes and helmets. These bikes are being built now and should arrive at camp soon.



Website. A new website coming this summer will make things easier for those looking to get connected to something at camp.



Within the next few weeks, watch for the two monument signs at the two corners of Wisconsin Avenue receive an eye-catching face lift that includes information that's informative yet easier to read by a driver passing by.

Thanks to the Bethel Endowment Foundation for funding that regularly sees the need for a better, more inviting look to potential visitors. Likewise, inside the Wisconsin Avenue entrance at the top of the staircase, is the installation of Welcome signage that let's those who enter realize exactly where they are!

Finally, just outside the Sanctuary prominently mounted on a column is a brightly framed Bethel statement proclaiming that God Welcomes All. And indeed we do.

Gifts and memorials impact lives

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, 2022, and March 31, 2023:

Larry Brackett
Michele Brand
James Brandenburg
Heather Dunn

Helen George
Virginia Gerber
Judith Haag
Beverly Hanson
Kathleen Hendricks
Leo Hendricks
Virginia Johnson
Rolland Julseth
Gisela Kutzbach
Barbara LaMay
Donald Lewis
Elaine Moehlman

Thomas Nelson
Mary Jane Nicholson
Dean Olsen
Jane O'Sheridan
Kathryn Reed
Sylvia Ritterbusch
Frank Rudrud
Sallylu Schneider
Warren Sime
Dorie Underkofler
Louann Zibell

(cont'd. on page 6)

Ahead of the curve?

In late February, I attended the annual development conference that attracts participants from around the country and Canada. I listened intently as one keynote speaker, who was very engaging in his presentation style and information conveyed, said that within the next 12 years, non-profits, including churches, should expect to / hope to receive a significant portion (20-25%) of funding from their endowment foundation.

The primary reasons for this were cited as aging buildings, fewer worship attendees, rising costs of all operations, increasing number of competing charities and most probably an aging population of membership. (Our church leader has a vision for Bethel's future, but needs the structure in place to be able to count on funding this community wide mission.)

2023 Bethel Foundation grants

Church Growth Communication	\$ 50,000
Bethel Brass	\$ 48,000
Vacation Bible Camp	\$ 29,500
Kids and Family Outreach	\$ 10,000
Bethel Bible Series - New Testament Teaching Tanzania, Part 2	\$ 9,900
Video Content	\$ 6,000
ACTJAM	\$ 4,000
C4C Environmental Justice for Diverse Communities	\$ 4,000

A nervous twitter went through the assembly, as so many charities do not have such an asset – they are lucky to fund a year's worth of operations on a continual basis.

How clever and fore thinking was Bethel in 1964 – nearly 60 years ago, in establishing just such a funding source, that would need to be intentionally focused on, marketed and promoted, invested wisely, given to and given from regularly. Pr. Borgwardt had the nugget of the idea and it was executed by wise church leaders of that time.

And here we are, six decades later – having done all that was asked of us, and this year, a bit more than \$800,000 will be given as icing on the cake to so many Bethel ministries including Bethel Horizons.

We take care not to include this grant funding with our operating budget, so not to cloud the amount of ongoing need from congregants. In all, over this time period just over \$15.3 million dollars have been given out from the Bethel Endowment Foundation – that enhances music life at Bethel, youth supported endeavors, educational opportunities including seminary scholars, significant capital repairs, and international outreach – to Puerto Rico and Tanzania this current year.

Within Bethel, there are so many worthy gift recipients – the church itself, media ministry, our wholly owned camp – but what entity touches all of it? Our Endowment Foundation.



Alice Mowbray

If not for the infusion of assets from our Foundation, many more and larger dollar size campaigns would be happening. We are fortunate – and what in turn is asked of us? To consider how we can invest in and care for Bethel going forward.

The divinely touched combination of well-constructed plans and solid investment guidance has produced laudable support over the years. Two years after the Foundation came into being, they gave away \$3800 – nearly twenty years later, gifts of \$44K were annually provided – and just 10 years after that in the mid 1990s, three times this gift value was able to be given – by 2000, this amount had amazingly doubled to \$340K – and then doubled again by 2018, and is now as aforementioned, providing more than \$800K to the benefit of Bethel and its related entities.

I invite you to join me in planning for and providing a legacy gift to our unique and valuable asset. It's a gift that will continually be blessed for abundance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alice Mowbray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Alice Mowbray
Director of Development

Foundation supports environmental music video

Through a grant to Caring for Creation (C4C), the Bethel Endowment Foundation supported the professional production of Suite Prayers for Our Earth. This is a seven-minute music video of a new choral composition by Bethel's

former Minister of Liturgical Worship Zach Busch and Minneapolis songwriter Bret Hesla. The text is the "Prayer for Our Earth" at the end of Pope Francis's environmental encyclical letter Laudato Si'.



Scan this QR code to watch the music video

Beautifully sung by the Bethel Choir and recorded in our sanctuary and outdoors around Madison, Suite Prayers premiered in November 2022 during the two-Sunday all-church Voices for Creation events jointly

sponsored by C4C, ACTJAM, the Music Department and the Fine Arts Group.

Earth Day dinner and a movie

Caring for Creation and ACTJAM collaborated on a widely publicized Earth



Day 2023 dinner and movie night. It featured the Suite Prayers music video (see article above) and the award-winning documentary The Letter, which tells the compelling story behind the Laudato Si' encyclical. Both were especially impressive on the giant screen in the sanctuary.

A grant from the Bethel Endowment Foundation helped cover the cost of these special Earth Day events.

2023 Bethel Foundation grants

Balcony Upgrades	\$ 24,525
Bethel Youth Programming	\$ 18,000
Speaker Series	\$ 18,000
Signage	\$ 17,533
Youth Mission Trip	\$ 15,000
Stewardship	\$ 13,000
W-ELCA 2023 Triennial Gathering	\$ 10,000
Choir Room Smart Board	\$ 9,000
Emmaus Gallery Wall Lighting	\$ 8,680
Kids and Family Ministry Retreats	\$ 7,900
Homeless Retreat	\$ 6,500
Rebuilding at Bethel	\$ 6,000
Puerto Rico Mission Trip	\$ 5,000
Women's Retreat	\$ 4,800
Homeless Ministry Summit	\$ 2,700
Advent by Candlelight	\$ 2,000

Doing justice God's way

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God.

– Micah 6:8

The Bethel Endowment Foundation supports Bethel's Call to Justice and Mercy (ACTJAM) effort. We all need to learn about racism, how it came to be, and in what forms it lives exists today. We need to know it to do something about it. ACTJAM is one way we can work together to tackle this injustice. We feel called to action, to do something.

In January, Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen joined the ACTJAM Sunday Forum via Zoom for an enlightening conversation about how we're called to do justice and why it matters in 2023. We discussed what it means to do justice God's way and how we right the wrongs of injustice like racism and poverty the way God wants – as individuals and church community.

Dr. Madsen is an ELCA pastor and "freelance theologian" with a doctorate in systematic theology from Regensburg, Germany.

Pushing our musical limits

“When Pastor Mike first approached me with the idea for a new concert series at Bethel, I thought it was extremely ambitious,” said Benjamin Skroch, Concert Series Coordinator. “But now in a second year, I couldn’t be more pleased with the concerts.”

The Bethel Concert Series presents live music events, in our intimate church sanctuary. We invite the community and congregation to share in the joy of live music.

To date, the Bethel Concert Series has presented eight concerts, three of them this year, which have delighted our audience members. We have had the highest quality performers and a diverse mix of soloists and small ensembles along

with keyboard, voice and instrumental musicians.

“This really doesn’t happen anywhere else,” Skroch said.

The performers also have had a positive experience. Oftentimes, small touring acts end up in irregular spaces – small venues or a low-ceiling room that is unforgiving to music. Every performer has said Bethel is a lovely place to perform. The sanctuary is a beautiful space and has a beautiful sound.

Visit bethelconcertseries.com, and click “performances” to view past concerts. Funding from the Bethel Endowment Foundation makes special musical experiences like this possible.



Michael Chertock, pianist, and Kara Shay Thomson, dramatic soprano, performed at Bethel in January. They collaborate in recital and concert venues performing multiple genres.



Bethel members and friends enjoyed the Verona Quartet in April.

From installations to remodels and repairs

Building maintenance is a continuous process. Bethel regularly makes improvements to keep the building efficient, safe and comfortable. Funding from the Bethel Endowment Foundation helps cover project costs. Some recent efforts include:

Installed EMS software. A valuable feature of this update gives Building Manager Steve Lawrence access to the system via a smartphone app. He now receives text messages when certain things go awry.

For example, a boiler recently went down on a Saturday. Steve got a text message and was able to reset it via the smartphone app and calling an employee who was working that day to physically reset the boiler (both steps were necessary). The boiler

was up and running before anyone in the building noticed we had lost heating.

Prior to this, if the boiler went out on a Saturday, it would likely be hours or even a day before it got cold enough in the building to prompt a boiler check.

Remodeling security apartment. Demolition is complete, 90% of the new flooring is in place, repainted, cabinets are installed and 75% of the electrical rework complete. By early June, it will be ready for the next resident.

Repaired the chimney. The abandoned chimney from the Fireside Gallery above the roof line was deteriorating. Repairs were completed to prevent further damage.

2023 Bethel Foundation grants

Bethel Horizons’ total \$ 170,000

15-Passenger Van

Bailey Gas Kiln

Bikes, Bike Helmets and Tools

Bob Westervelt Honorary Camperships

Camperships/Scholarships

Campground Upgrades

Camphouse Siding, Windows, Gutters and Deck

Inflatable Obstacle Course

PC Main Room and Camphouse Furnishings

Rebuilding lives at Bethel

It is with great pleasure for me to let you know that both your classes were so pivotal to the healing changes I made over the last couple years. I'm growing in my career, I am at peace when I am alone, I am running again (slowly), I started new hobbies and I am coming up on 1 year of the healthiest and happiest relationship in all my life. I have met and am dating a wonderful man; something I never dreamed would happen again. We have so much fun together and I have no fear or rejected feelings when we are apart.

Thank you so much Margaret. I was really in a bad place when I began your Rebuilding Seminar and then the Self-esteem class almost 2 years ago.



- A past participant in Rebuilding at Bethel

It makes a real difference in participants' lives. It's the Rebuilding at Bethel program. Since 2010, this multi-level program has been providing support for individuals who are experiencing the end of a significant love relationship. Grants from the Bethel Endowment Foundation provide partial scholarships for this program, which includes a fall retreat.

Bethel Endowment Foundation names newest trustee

Before the close of 2022, the trustees met primarily for their grant awards decision making, but also to affirm the nomination of Dave Coe as trustee. He joined the board officially at their January meeting, and will also serve on the New Projects committee – who review grant requests and recommend approved funding levels.

He joined Bethel in 1997, and since then has served on the Bethel Horizons board, on the Church Council, and is presently a key part of the Food Pantry management team. Thank you for all of your capable, thoughtful service Dave, and welcome to the Endowment Foundation.

Remember your church

Leave a lasting, heartfelt message to your family and loved ones as to what is keenly important in your life. Join many other Bethelites who have planned to remember Bethel in their gift plan.

Consider giving through your will or naming Bethel as a beneficiary designation in your IRA or insurance policy.

If you would like:

- More information about making a gift to Bethel (the Endowment Foundation and or a related ministry),
- To learn more about available giving options, or information about how to include Bethel in your will or estate plan,
- To let us know that you already have included or intend to include Bethel in your plans,

Then contact Alice Mowbray at Bethel: alicem@bethel-madison.org or 608-257-3577, ext. 222.





Supporting the Bethel Series in Tanzania

The Bethel Series debuted more than 60 years ago at Bethel Lutheran Church, and it continues to make an impact worldwide. It features a 40-lesson overview of Scripture that has proven effective in training more than 2 million people in churches ranging from 15 to 5,000+ members.

The curriculum uses an historical approach to the Hebrew-Christian heritage of faith with an overview of the Old and New Testaments. A grant from the Bethel Endowment Foundation is helping to offer the Bethel Series to areas where lack of funding is a barrier.

Teaching in Kigoma, Tanzania

April 24-28, a team of Bethel Bible Series-trained teachers from Manna Ministries Kenya taught 250 Tanzanian pastors and church leaders the New Testament Lessons. Part 1 of this two-part mission took place in 2022.

Video highlights from each day of the seminar in Tanzania are available online at bethelbibleseries.org.



Memorials

(cont'd. from page 2)

A bequest was made to the Foundation between October 1, 2022, and March 31, 2023 by:

Virginia M. Johnson

The following individuals contributed general gifts to the Foundation between October 1, 2022, and March 31, 2023:

Carolyn Aradine
Lola Cator
Karol & Jim Dillie
Bill & Alice Mowbray
Dave & Cynthia Sugar

Gifts, honorary gifts and memorial contributions were made to the Foundation from October 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023:

In memory of Ellie Bauer by Leonard & Joan Bruce

In memory of Vern N. & Shirley J. Dodson by Martha Dodson

In memory of Bernice E. Dunhouse by Mary Beth Dunhouse & Steven Dunhouse

In memory of DuWayne Gilbertson by Joan Gilbertson

In memory of Judi Haag by Peder & Jeanne Moren, Al & Wendy Schultz

**In honor of Larry Larra-
bee** by Bill & Alice Mowbray

In memory of Mary Jane Nicholson by Joan Gilbertson, Bob & Cathie Trevallee, Mary Lou Tyne, Larry Veleke

In memory of Jan & Ted Tweed's Grandson, Tyler by Kevin Gould

In memory of Rod Ulteig by Donna Ulteig

In memory of James Underkofler by Alliant Energy

In memory of Dorie Underkofler by JoAnn Six

2023 Bethel Foundation grants

Bethel Concert Series	\$ 18,000
Bethel Choir Section Leaders	\$ 16,900
Instrumental Music - Good Friday and Advent	\$ 7,400
Seminarian Support	\$ 18,250
Admin. & Publicity	\$ 71,500
Contingency reserve	\$ 13,500
Capital needs	\$145,897



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Investment results for the portfolio



Challenging economic times we find ourselves in – fortunately for Bethel, the Investment committee members have ‘been around the block’ and meet with steady confidence in managing the Foundation’s portfolio of assets.

At the close of 2022, the results showed a loss of 9% - but against a benchmark loss of 14.3%, so although it’s hard to see this as a positive, it is.

The first quarter of 2023 has so far slightly positive results with a 1.7% gain posted – and I’m writing this quickly before April month end, as the general overall news of the market is not sounding so great. At the end of March, bonds made up 37% of the holdings, stocks 54% and cash 9%.

Over the past 30 years of tracking results, on average the Foundation portfolio has gained 8.1% annually – compared to a benchmark gain of 7.2% average. This outpacing is fantastic long term news for us, and adds significantly to funds that are available for gifts given – when combined with the no management fee charged by this volunteer group of professionals.

Bethel is thankful and blessed.

Bethel Endowment Foundation Trustees

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