



BETHELITE

AUGUST 1, 2023: VOL 72, NO. 8

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WRAPPED IN LOVE COVERED IN GRACE

April 25 marked the eighth anniversary of the deadly earthquake that struck Nepal in 2015. Its toll was huge, killing nearly 9,000 people, injuring 20,000 more and destroying more than 600,000 homes. A second earthquake hit on May 12, causing more damage and casualties. Together, the suffering they caused was incalculable. Bethel's support since then has made possible a relief response that began almost immediately and a recovery process that is ongoing. Lutheran World Relief (LWR) was already working in Nepal with existing development programs close to the epicenter, and there they mobilized an emergency response within the first 24 hours after the first earthquake hit. In the immediate aftermath, LWR staff, in cooperation with local partners distributed food packs, Quilts, Personal Care Kits, water filtration units, tarpaulins and corrugated galvanized iron sheets to affected families most in need. In the months that followed dwellings were built. Today, despite well-documented delays caused by internal political issues, the process of recovery has come a long way, and continues as families work with local government officials and organizations like LWR to build permanent houses designed to with stand future earthquakes. Thanks to Bethel's support through LWR drives, houses are being completed in several poor, rural and isolated villages with quilts and kits providing necessary care. Families displaced by the earthquake once again have a place they can call home.



Bethel quilts and kits shelter
and comfort children around
the world



Pastor Mike

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Stories like this are among the reasons Lutheran World Relief is consistently listed among the top relief agencies in the world by charity watchers. In 2021, LWR added a new accolade to its long list of awards and rankings. The Quilters Hall of Fame, in Marion, IN, honored LWR with a special award for its historic contributions to quilt making. A press release from the Quilters Hall of Fame stated the "Quilters Hall of Fame applauds the Lutheran World Relief Quilt and Kit Ministry for their determined endeavors to meet the needs of people affected by poverty and disaster and on July 15-17, 2021 will award them the Crystal Thimble Award for their significant impact in the world of quilt making. LWR Mission Quilts are highly regarded throughout the world because of their quality and consistency. Considering LWR's first quilts in 1945 given to families in war-torn Europe to today's annual average world distribution of 300,000 quilts, it is clear to



the TQHF Selection Committee Lutheran World Relief is their choice for the Crystal Thimble Award in 2021. The Crystal Thimble Award is new in 2021 and is to recognize not-for-profit organizations that have had a significant impact in the world of quilting."

This quilting honor not only recognized the countless acts of service from Lutheran women across the world, it also revealed a very simple but powerful truth. It revealed the power of simple acts of love for the neighbor. When Jesus was asked "Which commandment is the greatest and most important?" he did not hesitate. He said "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and soul, and strength, and mind." Then he added, "and the second is just like it, 'love your neighbor as yourself.'" Loving God is loving our neighbor. Loving our neighbor is loving God.

When Martin Luther talked about how to love God and neighbor, he said that the way to be a good Christian is not to call attention

to the fact that you are a Christian. If you are a cobbler (shoe maker) and want to be a good Christian and serve God, you don't do it by stamping little crosses somewhere on the shoe. You just make the best shoes you can make. Likewise, if you are a baker and want to serve God well, you don't shape the bread into the form of a cross. You just make good bread at a fair price. This honors God



Serving God Serving Others

and serves the neighbor. For decades, so many at Bethel have served God by serving their neighbor by making good quilts and preparing kits. They have done so through several generations, collecting fabric, cutting squares, meeting at church to sew and tie piece after piece. It is slow painstaking work that requires endurance, commitment, and a heart for God. They have done this, for the most part, out of the public eye. But in the weeks ahead, we will come together as a church in support of this work. Making quilt, making kits to ship all over the world. 🌍

— Pastor Mike

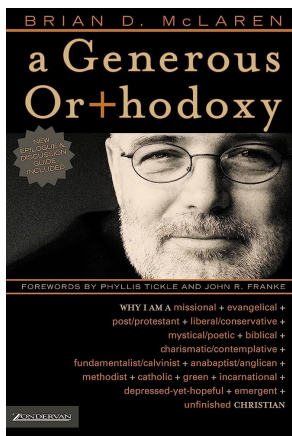


BETHEL SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTS BRIAN MCLAREN

Free tickets available on Eventbrite
<https://tinyurl.com/mr3tj6ea>

Brian McLaren joins Bethel on September 7 at 7:00 pm for an evening of not only straight talk about Christianity but also genuine inspiration. McLaren is a Christian thinker, author, and activist. In 2015, he was recognized by *Time* magazine as one of the 25 Most Influential Evangelicals in America. Since that recognition, he has left the evangelical church and is no longer a pastor. His journey mirrors that of millions of Christians who have left the religion they were handed to grow into a different kind of Christian. He writes about this transformation in his more than dozen books. As a former pastor, Brian D. McLaren is a champion for a more loving, inclusive, and contemplative Christianity. A faculty member at the Center

for Action and Contemplation, he teaches ways to reconnect with the message that Jesus lived and died for—unconditional love. He is a faculty member of The Living School and podcaster with Learning How to See, which are part of the Center for Action and Contemplation. His newest book *Do I Stay Christian?* (May 2022) shows how people of faith benefit from religious doubts and how by confronting the ugly realities of Christian history, people are shaped by the grace and life of Christ. Tickets for this event are available on Eventbrite and are free. Obtaining a free “ticket” helps Bethel anticipate and provide great hospitality. If you are interested in helping being a greeter, please contact Pastor Mike. 🌈



Barry Dobbs leading a song

WORSHIP TIME CHANGE

Contemporary Service moves to 11:00 starting September 3rd

You don't need to be at Bethel many Sunday mornings to recognize that we have a very packed morning with three back-to-back services, regular Adult Forums and Bible classes, Sunday School during the school year, and hundreds of people moving in and out of the building and parking lot. To provide a little more breathing room for various programs and to provide opportunity for growing ministries, Bethel will tweak the Sunday morning schedule. Starting September 3, the Contemporary worship service will begin at 11:00 rather than 10:30. The Contemporary Service provides exciting worship with an exceptional band featuring each Sunday dynamic singers, bass guitar, electric guitar, acoustic guitar drums, drums, and saxophone. Supported by a large video screen, words are displayed on inspiring colorful backgrounds. 🌈



Bethel-Madison volunteers join hands with Bethel-Dorado in show of solidarity

23 YEARS STRONG IN PUERTO RICO

Puerto Rico is a major focus of Bethel's history of mission. It was started in 2000 through a partnership created by Pastor Bill White with Iglesia Luterana Bethel in Dorado, Puerto Rico. Each year since, volunteers have flown to Puerto Rico to help build and rebuild homes affected by frequent hurricanes, often with support from the Bethel Endowment Foundation. More importantly, vital friendships are maintained between our two congregations. Joining in worship, prayer, meals, and study, members of both churches are enriched beyond measure. 🌈



MISSION

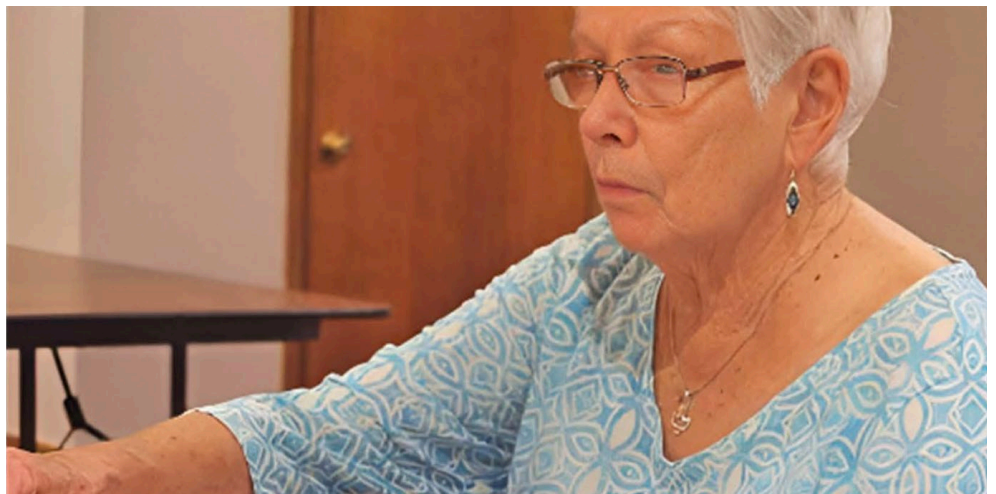
BETHEL QUILTS & KITS REACH 18 COUNTRIES

September 3rd, Special Worship Celebration

Today's Lutherans are known as Christianity's first responders. Because of our own history of being displaced by war and forced migration during the Reformation and WWII, God has instilled in us a heart for those who walk that road. When there is global tragedy and need, we are the first ones in and the last ones out.

Since 2012, Bethel has created and delivered thousands of relief Quilts & Kits through Lutheran World Relief, bringing hope and comfort to some of the most afflicted areas of the world. Ethiopia is a fertile land of great beauty, ancient Christianity, and the source of Bethel's Sunday morning coffee.

that many of the children have not had a clean change since arriving at the camp. Your contributions for Baby Care Kits provide the basics a family needs to care for their newest members and clothe them with love. Bethel baby care kits help Emebet have the basic necessities she needs to care for her baby. She and others like her have also received Mission Quilts and Personal Care Kits to help restore dignity and a sense of comfort and home. This year, Bethel will approach 10,000 quilts and kits. How close can we get to that? Can we surpass it? Our biggest outpouring was in 2019 when donated items created 861 quilts and kits. The quilts and kits you help create each year



Mary Anne Smith works on a quilt during the blanket workshop.

But more than one million people there have been driven from their homes because of ethnic conflict. Among them is Emebet Elias (pictured above right), a 35-year-old mother who now makes her home at a camp for displaced persons. When you are forced to flee for your life, you travel quick and light, which means

give people the support they need to get back on their feet and experience the blessing and promise of Jesus.

Bring one or several of each and any item to Bethel leaving them at the drop-off station in the Bethel entry foyer any day in August. 🌈

SUNDAY

**Emebet Elias
from Ethiopia**

BETHEL'S UKRAINIAN CIRCLE OF LOVE, A LIFELINE

When Russia invaded Ukraine, Bethel's Circle of Love Ukrainian Relief ministry moved into high gear to organize support. Through a special fund, Bethel brought Marina Suhaida to safety from Ukraine to Madison. Now living with members Craig and Michelle Jolly, she has shared her harrowing escape from the Russian army through the Carpathian Mountains and then Turkey. Bethel's fund for the needy covered the expense of Marina's application for asylum, enabling her to attend school, get a driver's license, and work legally. Bethel's Circle of Love has also provided



Marina

direct support to people in Ukraine: \$4,000 to help for Bethel's individual Circle of Love participants living in Borodyanka, Ukraine; \$3,550 for supplies for the children's psychological play therapy program; \$2,900 for dental supplies, shipping expenses and traumatic dental services for active military; \$3,000 for Circle of Love Ukrainian immigrants; \$5,000 for the community center for their timely distribution for emergency care. In the immediate future, we are sending \$2,500 quarterly for children's psychological programming and \$5,000 bi-annually

for emergency relief in addition to helping Bethel's Circle of Love immigrants.



In a recent email, Lyudmila Boyko, the director of the community center in Borodyanka, wrote: *We continue to work hard, in full force, even though don't have our own premises we got used to it. We have a small office in one building and another one - a small classroom - in the survived school building where part of our team works. Other staff work outside and make home visits to those in need. The new center is slowly being built.* 🌈



NEWLY COMPLETED COLUMBARIUM TO BE DEDICATED AUGUST 6

What began as a dream and idea in 2021 has become a reality at Bethel. On Sunday, August 6, Bethel will hold a dedication during the 9:00 worship service for the recently completed Bethel Columbarium.

The long wait is finally over. After two years of surveys, planning, and construction, Bethel has created a sacred place for the cremated remains of members, former members, friends of Bethel, and their families. The Bethel Columbarium, located in a separate room accessible through the sanctuary contains individual niches or compartments to hold the cremated remains of loved ones. There is also a memorial wall for plaques honoring others interred elsewhere.

The Columbarium is a place to pray, remember, and to give thanks to God for the deceased person's life. The room contains artwork from Bethel's past, stained glass windows and a custom designed cross at its center. The Columbarium may be visited whenever the church is open or people wishing to visit at other times may contact the church office to schedule a special visit. 🌈



JUST FOR YOU MOMS OF PRESCHOOLERS

August 9, at 10 am

To the mom who feels unseen, unheard, unloved, and uncared for. To the mom who feels overwhelmed, overworked, overanxious, and overlooked. To the mom who feels depleted, depressed, damaged, and deprived of. Rest assured friend, you are seen! There may be moments in the day when you feel your voice goes unheard, and unless you shout with all your might, no one will hear. Know this; you are heard.

You may be so lost in the endless piles of laundry, dishes piled high in the sink, bills coming in, work outside the home,

childcare to arrange, and the need for food to be constantly replenished that you find yourself feeling overwhelmed. You are supported.



Momma, you are invited to Bethel's group for Mom's of Preschoolers, a time just for you to sit and relax, talk and laugh, cry and support. On August 9, Wednesday, at 10:00, Bethel's Moms of Preschoolers will meet in the Sacred Grounds Area to make new friends, watch their preschoolers play together, and share encouragement. 🌈





WOMEN OF ELCA GATHERING

September 21 - 24

After 6 long years, the women of the ECLA will gather in Phoenix to learn, be energized, and grow their relationship with God and each other. If you are interested in attending, please contact Kathy Forde for more informa-

tion at 414-303-1912 or kathyforde1212@yahoo.com. Early Bird pricing was extended and we have scholarships available through a generous Bethel Foundation Grant. Prayerfully consider attending! 🌈

GOLF OUTING CIRCLE OF LOVE

Monday, September 25 at Blackhawk Country Club

Plan now to participate in this fun afternoon, or consider supporting the fundraiser that it is! We'd love to raise more than the \$20K that was accomplished in 2022 – to benefit many Ukraine families who we know and love from our more than two decade regular contact with the community center near Chernobyl. The proceeds from last fall were given out over the past ten months as follows: \$4000 to individual Ukraine friends of Bethel still living in Borodyanka; nearly \$4000 provided for children's psychological therapy program there; \$3000 for dental supplies; \$3000 for Ukraine immigrant friends now living outside that country; and \$5000 sent to the Community center in Borodyanka for their emergency care distribution.

After last year's outing, a survey was sent

to all golfers plus some participants from prior years. WE HEARD YOU IN YOUR REPLIES and have tweaked a few elements of the day based on that feedback. We've capped the cost at \$150 each player at beautiful Blackhawk Country Club. Same start time, but no lunch provided. There will be a beverage cart on the course. The Dinner will be a much more robust offering of buffet menu items served starting at 5 pm. Non-golfers are cordially invited to this dinner (\$40) and program, with cocktail time in the Clubhouse by 4:30 pm.

For more information - review the COL Golf Outing brochure, available in the Emmaus Room kiosk. Thank you in advance for your generous support of this effort once again! We have a goal to beat!! 🌈



Paula Evenson,
Director of Kids & Family

SUNDAY SCHOOL SIGN UP

Sunday school starts September 10th and will be held during the 9:00am worship service.

We're excited to offer Spark: Activate Faith Sunday school for all kids age two to grade six. Each week we'll explore a new Bible story using the Spark Bibles. Parents, each week we'll send home a Family Page for you to explore that week's Bible story together as a family.

We're excited to explore the Old and New Testaments with kids using Spark: Activate Faith Sunday School! Kids will learn a new Bible story each week through reading the Bible, activities, and music. Contact paula@bethel-madison.org for all questions about Sunday School. 🌈





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LOOKING AHEAD

September 2

Mission Sunday

September 7

Speaker Brian McLaren
A New Kind of Christian

September 9

Rally Day for Sunday School

September 13

Bible Immersion: Exodus
10:30am and 6:30pm

September 21 - 24

Women of ELCA Gathering

September 25

Circle of Love Golf Outing

October 1

Family Conversations Speaker:
Sleep Solutions

October 6

Rocktoberfest



BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

312 Wisconsin Avenue
Madison, WI 53703

JUNE 2023 YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

| | YTD Actual | YTD Budget | Variance |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| REVENUES | | | |
| Offerings | 721,226 | 803,350 | (52,124) |
| Miscellaneous revenue | 59,567 | 117,048 | (57,481) |
| Non-operating revenue | 3,124 | (375) | 3,499 |
| Total Revenue | 812,917 | 920,023 | (104,106) |
| MINISTRY INVESTMENTS | | | |
| Staff | 604,576 | 689,513 | (84,937) |
| Ministry & Resource Teams | 181,460 | 172,225 | 9,235 |
| Benevolence | 15,858 | 14,000 | 1,858 |
| Administration | 53,970 | 44,075 | 9,895 |
| Other | - | - | - |
| Total Ministry Investments | 855,864 | 919,813 | (63,949) |
| Total Net Income (Loss) | (41,947) | 210 | (42,157) |

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



bethel_madison



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BethelLutheranTV

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

