



BETHELITE

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WELCOME HEATHER RAINWATER MOEN

What draws you to youth ministry and young people?

My whole family is in education and so I really just grew up in a world where the frame of reference is around young people developing into adults. My dad would always say, whenever you are faced with a choice, you have to do what is best for children. That has shaped my worldview in a significant way. When I became a doctor I chose to become a pediatrician. So it makes sense to me that as I'm drawn into ministry, ministering to youth is appealing to me. As a pediatrician I was fascinated with human development - how we grow and change to become adult people. So, faith formation is a passion for me - how do we support young people as they grow into people of faith? Youth ministry is a great place to do that.



Heather Rainwater Moen,
Director of Youth Ministries

What's your vision for youth ministry at Bethel?

I think youth ministry rests on four pillars: community, worship, faith formation and service. So definitely I'm building a program based on those. My motto for youth ministry, is 'You belong, you matter.' What people need in our world today is a place where they can experience real authentic community, where they can be seen for who they really are, accepted for who they are. Kids in particular need a place where they can do things that really matter. Real belonging and doing things that matter is something they can get here but not in many of the other spaces they're in.



The other element of my vision is just being honest about recognizing the pressures that families and youth face with all of the choices they have. We don't need to compete with those but we need to show that faith can be part of real life. We do that by providing a variety of spaces where youth can interact with their faith, whether that be on weeknights, weekends or during retreats. There are different ways they can interface with the program so that this faith community can be part of their lived experience along with other things that are important in their lives.

Where do you begin?

I think you always pay attention to and value the people God puts in your life. Then you just do the next job and take the next step. Whether there are three or 30 kids at Bethel who show up and want to be part of an authentic Christian community, we start with that. We start with who's here, and find out what they bring and build the program around that. It's like the story in the bible of Jesus feeding the multitude. Like the disciples in the story, we can see all of this

need in the world and maybe all we have is two fish. And Jesus doesn't say 'how much more do you need?' or 'that's not enough.' Jesus says, 'what DO you have?' Jesus says use what you have, and trust that God will bless it and make it enough.

What are your plans for confirmation (7th and 8th graders)?

Confirmation is off to a great start. We had a great bunch of 8th graders who were confirmed last year and we have another great group of 8th graders completing confirmation this year. My plan is to provide an hour of confirmation instruction on Sunday morning – with 7th and 8th graders together – AND to include 7th and 8th graders in the youth group. Youth group is where they'll get fellowship, fun, service opportunities and where they'll build community together.

Bethel hasn't had any focus on our high school youth in a while which presents both challenges and opportunities. How do you see it?

I'm really excited about building something from scratch. One of the challenges of the pandemic is that we lost so many traditions but one of the opportunities is that we have a chance to start over and to build on what was good and to make something new. Having had a few years of seeing the youth programming interrupted by the pandemic has caused the congregation to know how much they cherish having youth present and active among us.

What can Bethel offer young people that they can't get from sports and extra-curricular activities?

Why does this matter?

Kids have so many choices. They can go anywhere to have fun. They can watch anything they want at any time. They can connect with their friends constantly on social media. They have sports. They have music. They have all kinds of opportunities. Finding what they need but can't get anywhere else is what will make

what we have to offer meaningful to their lives. Real, authentic relationships and a chance to be accepted for your true self is one thing I think all people need desperately. Relationships with other people, relationship with God, relationship to the created world – those are all crucial relationships that a faith community supports. What's different about the relationship you have with a faith community is we start with the premise that all people are worthy and valuable because they're created by God. You don't have to look a certain way or act a certain way or accomplish anything. You can be who you were created to be. And that's a message you don't get anywhere else.

How is youth ministry today different from youth group in the past?

That's a hard one for me to answer because I did not have a youth group experience growing up. I grew up Catholic in a church that didn't have a youth group. I'm mostly relying on stories I've heard about what youth group was like. I imagine the way it looks and the activities we do are different today, but what I hear that people remember from youth group of the past is the relationships, the sense of belonging, the sense that this is a safe space. And I think that is the fundamental power of the youth group in any age.

What response have you gotten so far from youth and parents?

I've had some really lovely conversations about their hopes for what youth ministry can be and what is important to them as a family. I see a tremendous amount of enthusiasm among the families who have stuck it out through

the pandemic and gotten to this point. They really want this faith community to be a part of their kids' lives and the life of their family.

It's really a very remarkable group of kids. I have known these kids since they were toddlers, and I have watched them grow up. The kids starting

You
matter,
you
belong

confirmation were part of my 3rd grade Sunday School class when we closed in the middle of the year for the pandemic. So the chance to pick back up with them is really very special.

What role do parents play in youth ministry?

Parents are the most important factor in faith formation for kids of all ages. Kids learn some by what you say and a lot by what they see you do. I would encourage parents to cultivate spaces where your family can ask questions and share doubts and wonder about faith issues together. It's not so important that you find the right answer. It's important that you spend the time asking the questions together.

How can people in the congregation support our youth — especially if we don't have close ties with young people?

There is research that faith formation is supported by the number of adults in your community who know you by name. If you can learn the names of youth, make a point of saying hello. That makes a difference. What we as adults need to do is take kids seriously. It can be easy to assume that they're not serious about their faith or assume they don't have the same questions and problems that we're wrestling with. I think they're every bit as spiritual and questioning and capable of participating in the life of the faith community as any adult. They live in a world where church is optional and that comes with a lot of questions. They need to be able to ask and be heard.

Many young people care deeply about the

climate and social justice. Where does youth ministry go with this? What's the message for the rest of us?

I think it's really important for youth ministry to give kids an opportunity to do real service in the world that matters. And some of the issues they may care very deeply about like social justice and climate justice are tremendously important to our congregation as well. So this is a beautiful place for youth and adults to work together and have a chance to get to know each other and for kids to receive the gift of adults' wisdom and experience and vice versa for adults to receive the gifts of our youth.

When it comes to service and justice, I'm the coach, the facilitator. I'm not going to tell the kids what projects to do or what causes to get behind. I love the idea of being able to help youth learn how to do service well. You just don't go to people in need and give them stuff. You learn from them, you build a relationship with them, you listen to them, and then you find out where you're called to partner with them. To have so many people in the congregation who do this everyday and do it well, what a tremendous resource for kids to have as mentors.

What excites you most about this ministry?

I think I'm most excited about getting to know these youth in a new and deeper way, getting to watch them grow and getting to have some fun with them. I love to laugh and be silly, and being with youth fills me with joy. I really can't believe I get to do this. 🌈

XYZ EVENTS

Oct. 13th, 9 am at Bethel, birthday bingo with prizes and usual activities.

Oct. 27th, 9am at Bethel, usual activities

Nov. 10th, 9am at Bethel, last meeting for 2023, so we will have our secret valentine sign up. We will have our yearly meeting with financial report. Plans for 2024, celebrating our 50th year. After the meeting, we will carpool to Esquire on Sherman ave. for our "traditional

thanksgiving dinner", Instead of turkey we will have fish, and chicken.

Dec. 2nd is our bus trip to Appleton to see Christmas Stars. This year is the 30th anniversary production. Lunch is included in the price of \$36 for members or \$45 for non members. Please contact Sue Marking at 608-318-0090 or wmarking@msn.com. 🌈

BETHEL'S MUSIC DIRECTORS

Ken Sosinski will be our interim Music Director with support from Gary Lewis, until we have hired the new Music Director. Ken served as organist/choral Director at St. Bernard's church in Madison for 24 years, and then at Well Springs Methodist church in Madison. Gary was our organist/choir director at Bethel for over twenty years, prior to his retirement. We are thankful for their expertise and Gary's experience and knowledge of our music program. The two of them will lead the music program throughout the Fall. We also are fortunate to have Katie Gerlach leading the Contemporary service, Carol Graves directing the handbell choir and and Jennifer Gulsvig with the Children's Choir. Music remains an important part of our worship experience at Bethel. 🌈

THE HOMELESS MINISTRY RECEIVES HELP FROM THROUGHOUT DANE COUNTY AND BEYOND

During the year Bethel members provide wonderful support for the Homeless Ministry through financial donations and donations of new and gently used clothing. These donations are critical in meeting the needs of the folks that are being served by the program. However, many individuals and groups throughout Dane County also provide significant support. Pete and Barb who are members of St. Stephens Lutheran Church in Monona, the owner of the Bargain Nook in Mount Horeb, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Church Health Services in Beaver Dam, and 4-H group in Dodge Country - thank you! 🌈



PUERTO RICO, 2024

In the early stages of planning for our next mission trip to Puerto Rico. Until we know the number of people going costs are not yet set but we are looking at the second or third week of March 2024.

If you are planning on going or would like more information as it becomes available, please email Phil Ingwell at pingwell60@gmail.com or call and leave a message at 608-535-0777. He would like to have a response by October 31 so planning can get underway. 🌈

NEW CUSTODIAN - DONOVAN TRUSS

Bethel is excited to share that Donovan Truss is returning to Bethel in the role of Custodian. Donovan has been with us before in this role and will be returning on Wednesday, September 20th.

Please join us in welcoming Donovan back to Bethel! 🌈

KARIN BROWN'S RESIGNATION

Karin Brown gave Bethel her resignation notice in September— she had been a much appreciated visitation chaplain in her short time in this capacity. We wish her well in her next path of ministry. 🌈



WE ARE

There is a structure to Bethel's Ministry. It is how we organize ourselves for the work of the church. Tying together all the parts, people and pieces of the structure is the work of our shared ministry. Bethel is committed to building a Christian Community. Bethel's organization for ministry is one of working together.

The Nominating Committee is inviting you to learn about the structure of the church and invite you to share your time and talents in building the community. There are many ways you can help build the church of the future. You can participate in Ministry Teams and Resource Teams. The term of office is two years and team members may serve two consecutive terms. The teams meet once a month. The Facilitator of the group builds the agenda based on the needs of the church in consultation with the staff liaison. There are between 5-8 members on a team, a staff liaison and a council representative.

The congregants that serve on the teams participate in the budget process, grant writing and gain a good understanding of Bethel's Strategic Plan. There is an interrelatedness of all the teams, staff and volunteers. The structure of the Ministry teams and Resource teams assure that Joint Council has the needed information to lead the congregation. Last month we highlighted the 5 Ministry Teams: Community, Lifelong learning, Nurturing, Serving and Worship. There are also 3 Resource Teams that report to the Joint Council.

The outstanding work of the Financial Resource Team is to be commended. The team has streamlined the accounting to tell the story of Bethel. The story is one of stability and generosity. The members of the Joint Council

are well informed of the impacts their decisions have on the budget. In addition to monitoring the Bethel Lutheran Church (BLC) operating budget, this team is charged with overseeing the financials for the non-BLC entities: Bethel Community Service Corporation, Steensland/Bethel LLC, Homeless Program, Media Ministry and Food Pantry. This team makes funding recommendations for various capital projects.

Facilitator: Paul Aspinwall Staff Liaison: Jon Eckenrod

The Property Resource Team determines how best to care for this beautiful old building. They report to Joint Council and give recommendations on how to best manage the property and keep the building secure.

Facilitator: Eric Frailing and Phil Pielage, Staff Liaison: Steve Lawrence

The Human Resource Team exists to advise and support the Lead Pastor in the care and development of Bethel's staff for the benefit and growth of the church. It hosts staff appreciation gatherings, maintains the employee handbook, encourages continuing education, assures completion of performance reviews, evaluates staffing needs and compensation.

Facilitator: Kathy Pielage, Staff Liaison: Alice Mowbray and the Lead Pastor

Joint Council is supported by the expertise and knowledge from the Ministry and Resource Teams. There are 15 members on the Joint Council and they have all been part of at least one of the Ministry or Resource teams. The Congregation delegates and authorizes the Joint Council to manage and care for the life of the church in a way that is consistent with Jesus' life and message. Members are listed in the Sunday bulletin or on the website. 🌈

THE CHURCH

We welcome people into a living relationship with the Living Lord.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN

Sunday, October 15 10:30 AM Fireside Room

Caring for Creation is excited to begin our eighth year with a forum that delves into the unequal effects of climate change on different communities in Wisconsin. Bethel's social-justice group ACTJAM joins forces with C4C to offer this as the first forum in their weekly series on "Who Is My Neighbor?"

Appropriately, this forum will be on the last day of National Hispanic



Cristina Carvajal
founder and Executive director of
Wisconsin EcoLatinos

Heritage Month. Cristina Carvajal will lead our discussion. She is the founder and Executive director of Wisconsin EcoLatinos, a non-profit organization that assists the Latino community in Wisconsin to combat environmental hazards and advocate for a just and sustainable environment. Her leadership is further demonstrated by her service with the Sustainable Madison Committee, the Lake

Monona Waterfront Ad-hoc Committee, and the UW Public Health Institute Advisory Committee.



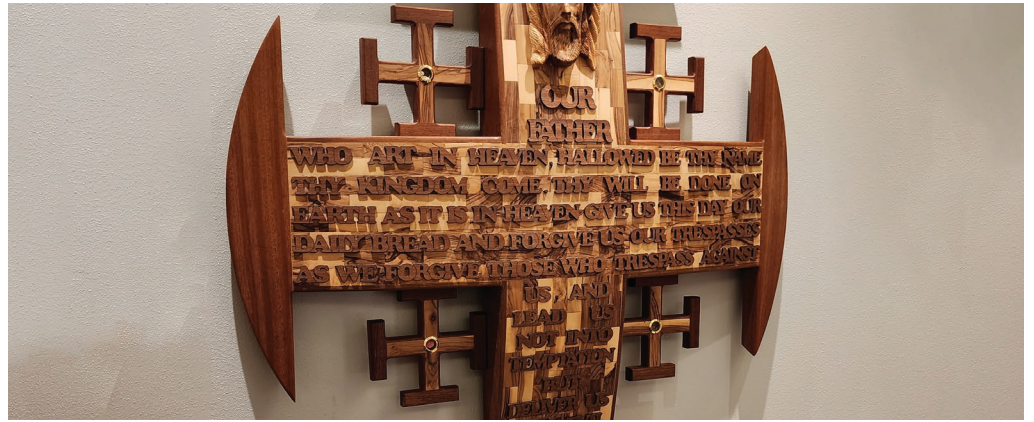
Working to Raise Equity and Participation
in Environmental Quality and Conservation

Wisconsin EcoLatinos works with marginalized communities to meet their specific needs in response to the unequal consequences of environmental degradation and climate change, which compound their existing social and health vulnerabilities. 🌍



MEDIA EQUIPMENT NEEDED UPGRADE MATCH APPEAL

Recently Bethel received ERC (employee retention credit) funds for the Media ministry staff that we were able to keep on board all throughout the pandemic – we are grateful to have been able to do this, in order to provide increased live stream options of worship each week, plus maintain our Service of the Word telecast on WKOW Channel 27 each Sunday morning. The extra use has more quickly worn out our necessary equipment, so we are designating the ERC funds to provide a match for new gifts toward this effort – needed are three HD cameras with fiber optic cable plus color control that will last into the future. Total need from gifts is \$69,000. If you can help this project move forward for sustained best quality sharing of the Gospel each week with more than ten thousand viewers, please send your gifts marked ‘Media Match’ to Bethel. Thank you for considering how you can help provide for this continuation of this meaningful ministry. Update on progress = 13% received of Goal! 🌈



THE COLUMBARIUM'S JERUSALEM CROSS

I was pleased to see so many people stop to see the Columbarium after the space was dedicated on September 17. There were many questions about the Jerusalem cross, given in memory of my late husband, Tim Frazier. Bethel was Tim's home church, the church he was confirmed at, and where he was active in various ministries as an adult. I wanted to honor Tim's memory, so I supported the Columbarium project.

I had the opportunity to travel with a group to Israel in November to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Our group stopped one day at a Christian community's olive wood factory in Bethlehem. As I stepped off the bus, I saw a hand-carved olive wood cross with the words to the Lord's Prayer on it. I looked at other artwork in the factory and store, but this cross just seemed to speak to my heart, telling me to purchase it and donate it to Bethel for the Columbarium. I listened, and by doing so we not only have a beautiful Jerusalem cross for

our Columbarium, but a Christian community in Palestine was supported after months of having to close their business due to the pandemic. The Jerusalem cross has a large cross in the center, surrounded by four smaller crosses. There are various explanations of the meanings behind the five crosses. One is that they represent the five wounds of Christ when he was crucified: nail holes in each of his hands and feet, and a wound in his side where a spear was thrust. Another is that the center represents Christ, and the smaller crosses represent the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Yet another explanation is that the large center cross represents Jerusalem, and the smaller crosses represent the four corners of the Earth. Regardless of the explanation, the cross is a meaningful symbol that also contains a holy element in each of the centers of the small crosses. They are called holy because they come from the Holy Land. The elements in our cross are stones, olive leaves, flowers, and soil. 🌈

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

All are invited to join Friendship Club in Borgwardt Hall on Friday, October 13th at 6:15 for a pork tenderloin dinner and dessert. The cost is \$12 for members and \$15 for visitors. Our spiritual leader will be Pr. Ken Schaub. The entertainment will feature "The Harmonica Hour" with DeWayne Keyes on

harmonica and Doug Barrette on guitar. Please remember to call Judi Griffin at 608.222.9290 by noon on Tuesday, October 10th if you need to cancel. Cancellations after the deadline will be charged. Membership dues are \$10 for the year. Hope you can join us. 🌈

CHRISTIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP OCTOBER

Tuesday, October 4th at 10:30am in Borgwardt Hall

On Tuesday, October 24th, the presentation at Christian Men's Fellowship will be "The Manhattan Project, Cold War and Stockpile Stewardship." This discussion is motivated by the Oppenheimer movie. This will include a discussion of the science behind the Manhattan Project which started in 1942. There will be a brief overview of the subsequent Cold War with the USSR extending from roughly 1946 to 1992 ending with the breakup of the Soviet Union and ceasing of nuclear testing by the US and Russia. From 1992 to the present the US approach is called Stockpile Stewardship. This is maintenance of the nuclear stockpile with the goals of security, safety and reliability without full scale testing.

Gregory Moses, Ph.D, Harvey D. Spangler
Professor Emeritus of the University of

Wisconsin will be the presenter. Dr. Moses is a professor of nuclear engineering with 50 years of experience working with the Department of Energy Los Alamos National Laboratory and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

The gathering will start at 10:30 AM in Borgwardt Hall with coffee and conversation followed by the presentation at 11:00 AM. Lunch will be served at 12N at the cost of \$10.00.

This is an opportunity to invite your friends (what few you may have) and brother-in-laws (who you may not like) to enjoy hearing about a significant part of our nation's recent history.

For questions, please contact Paul Aspinwall at 608-445-6085..🌈

BIBLE STUDY ON PSALMS WITH ROGER BLACK

Starting Wednesday, October 4th at 10am in Fireside

Have you ever wanted to get to know the Psalms better? Roger Black will lead a six-week Bible study on the book of Psalms on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in Fireside, starting October 4. Roger is a familiar face at Bethel and a retired pastor with a PhD in Religious Studies from Marquette University.

Psalms is the treasured songbook of ancient Israel that Martin Luther called the "Prayer

Book of the Bible." They're tried and true words to use when we don't know how or what to pray. With 150 total, there are psalms to match every emotion be it joy, anger, sadness, grief, hope, or praise. God wants us to bring our feelings to Him and name them, all of them. Through the powerful, poetic language of Psalms we can open our hearts to God and express our deepest thoughts, finding in the end that nothing is beyond God's grace.🌈

UPCOMING PASTOR COVERAGE IN OCTOBER

Sept 30/Oct 1 Pastor Roger Black
Oct 7/8 Pastor Bruce Engebretson
Oct 14/15 Pastor Jeff Quinto
Oct 21/22 Pastor Bruce Engebretson
Oct 28/29 Pastor Bruce Engebretson



FOOD PANTRY SERVES MORE PEOPLE

The Food Pantry has seen a 24% increase in usage over the past three months. This translates into serving 280 more individuals during that time. How can you help, you ask? Consider volunteering to work in the pantry on a Tuesday afternoon from 3-5:00. (Contact Cheryl Frazier, 608.206.4539) We added another day to our schedule and are open on the first Tuesday of the month now, but we need more volunteers so we can open on additional Tuesday afternoons. Also, stay tuned to future news about the return of the "Drop in the Barrel." We have heard from members who cannot volunteer at this time but want to stay involved, so we are passing along the information that our guests regularly ask if we have Ramen noodles. These are not typically available from Second Harvest, our foodbank partner, so we would welcome any that you might wish to drop off at the pantry when it's open, or placed in the barrel in the parking lot entry. Whether you have donated time, money, food, personal essential items, egg cartons or bags, please know how much your support means to this outreach mission. Thank you!🌈



LOOKING AHEAD

October 1

Sleep Basics with Pediatric Sleep
Consultant, Dr. Amber Evenson

October 6 - 7

Women's Retreat at Bethel Horizons

October 7

Trails & Tasting at Bethel Horizons

December 1 - 3

Advent at Bethel Horizons

December 4

Advent by Candlelight

December 17

Kids Nativity Service



BETHEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

312 Wisconsin Avenue
Madison, WI 53703

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AUGUST 2023 YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

| | YTD Actual | YTD Budget | Variance |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| REVENUES | | | |
| Offerings | 953,284 | 1,071,133 | (117,849) |
| Miscellaneous revenue | 165,205 | 156,064 | 9,141 |
| Non-operating revenue | 6,442 | (500) | 6,942 |
| Total Revenue | 1,124,932 | 1,226,697 | (101,765) |
| MINISTRY INVESTMENTS | | | |
| Staff | 811,653 | 919,350 | (107,697) |
| Ministry & Resource Teams | 237,256 | 229,633 | 7,623 |
| Benevolence | 20,358 | 18,667 | 1,691 |
| Administration | 71,768 | 58,767 | 13,001 |
| Other | - | - | - |
| Total Ministry Investments | 1,141,035 | 1,226,416 | (85,381) |
| Total Net Income (Loss) | (16,103) | 281 | (16,384) |

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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bethelmadison



BethelLutheranTV

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

