



BETHELITE

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LIFE IS MESSY, THANKS BE TO GOD

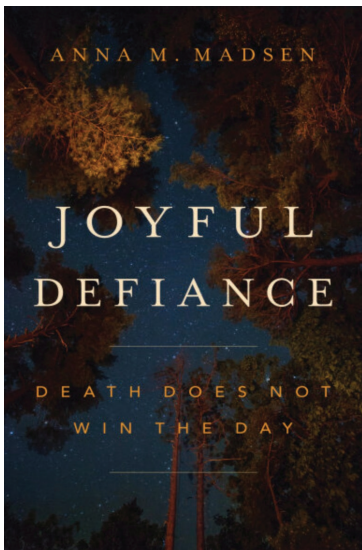
Life is messy. Church life is messy. We know it's not all sweetness and light but oh, do we ever wish it was. So much so that when life turns bitter and dark - as it inevitably does — we're tripped up. When we lose someone or experience deep loss, we're never prepared for what happens. Reality doesn't meet our expectation for how things should be and that leaves a deep chasm where sadness and confusion take up residence. We're in the pit and we want out. God, just put things back the way they were.

Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen knows this landscape well. Anna will join us in Good Shepherd Chapel or Fireside via Zoom from Two Harbors, MN. for two Sunday forums - Sept 17 and Oct 1 @ 10:30 and on October 8, she will be with us in person. These forums will draw upon her new book *Joyful Defiance: Death Does Not Win The Day*.



Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen

Joyful defiance isn't happy talk or a feeling. It's a way of living planted between the reality of loss and the realer reality of life. Anna calls it "Holy Saturday living". It's a way of living that says 'no' to the power of loss over us and 'yes' to life.



Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen's book, *Joyful Defiance: Death Does Not Win The Day*

The challenge is to acknowledge the reality of loss without letting it claim us. In Anna's experience, loss must be aired with God and lamented. We are freed to share our pain, anger, grief, and confusion with God just like the Psalmists. Lamenting to God deprives loss from having the last word. It zaps its power running through us like an endless victory lap and invites joy-filled defiance to take its place. She writes, "Joy is the source of hope and resilience despite, and to spite, death...Joy is rooted in God...is a bit like grace."

"...now that we know that death doesn't win, there is more to do with our lives than preserve them. Savoring and spreading delight instead of death may take energy, but it gives it right back by way of individual and communal joy. This joy is not the stuff of platitudes, positive thinking will not bring it about, it is not a panacea, and it cannot be created or sold or bought. Instead it's an essence defined by the knowledge that God has been, is and will be present in



Life is real, death is real, your emotions are real.

our pain to bring about peace." Anna Madsen, *Joyful Defiance: Death Does Not Win the Day*.

Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen is a Lutheran pastor and public theologian living outside Two Harbors, Minnesota.

After graduating from Trinity Lutheran Seminary, she served a small South Dakota parish for three years before earning a doctorate in systematic theology in Regensburg, Germany. Immediately prior to her return to teach religion at a college in the Midwest, an accident killed her husband and severely injured her three-year-old son Karl. Her daughter Else was eight months old at the time. This event profoundly shaped her theology and her life.

Sitting in the pew at her husband's funeral, Anna heard the last verse of the great Reformation hymn: "Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day. The kingdom's ours forever!" Reflecting on this experience, Madsen realized that death takes victory laps when its power appears to be

greater than life. And she defiantly refused to cede death any more wins.

About Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen:

Today she is host of the Spent Dandelion Theological Retreat Center in Two Harbors and creative force behind OMG: Center for Theological Conversation, through which she writes, blogs, consults, and presents. Her work can be found regularly in Gather Magazine and Living Lutheran. Her first book *I Can Do No*

Other: The Church's New Here and *We Stand Moment* addresses the call to speak not just to justification but to justice, and her latest book *Joyful Defiance: Death Does Not Win The Day*, seeks to ground the experience of joy within the experience of loss and lament, leading to a life which echoes the holy truth of Holy Saturday.

"Death is real, but life is realer."

-Anna Madsen

She and her husband David Willis have just launched a business for her son Karl. Through Two Lugs and a Nut Workshop, they make candles and etchings, but more importantly they love the fullness and the heck out of Karl.

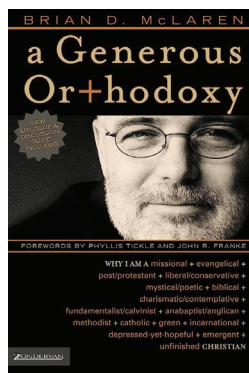




BETHEL SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTS BRIAN MCLAREN

Free tickets available on Eventbrite at <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. 🌈



Barry Dobbs leading a song

WORSHIP TIME CHANGE

Contemporary Service moves to 11:00 starting September 3

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. 🌈



CHAS BERTUN BLOOD DRIVE THANK YOU

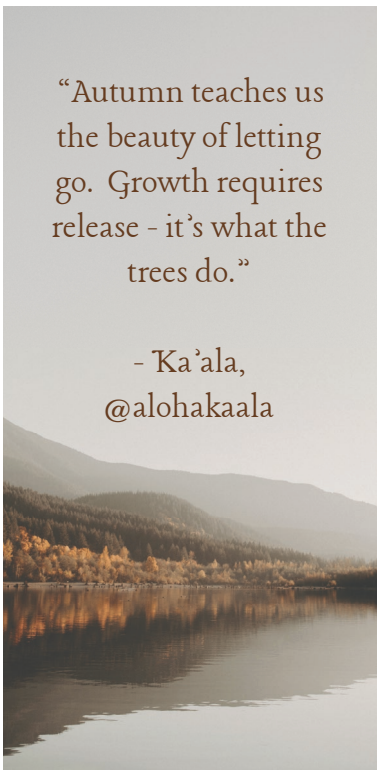
Every summer Bethel sponsors a Red Cross blood drive in memory of our son, Chas Bertun, who was a member of the USMC, a blood donor, and a volunteer at Bethel's food pantry.

This year on July 26, 2023 the Red Cross collected 27 units of blood.

Thanks go to Bethel members Dale Holmen and Eric Bertun for organizing this drive each year. Postcard design always donated by Mary Buckland. 🌈

“Autumn teaches us
the beauty of letting
go. Growth requires
release - it's what the
trees do.”

- Ka'ala,
@alohakaala



BETHEL TO PARTNER WITH EMERSON ELEMENTARY

June 6, 2023, a group of interested Bethel members joined a “Lunch and Learn” session with Mary Bartzen, Director of Community Partnerships for the Madison Public Schools Foundation, to learn about the Adopt-a-School partnership program. Five Bethel members, Renee Tennant, Katie Ward, John Shanda, Linda Leonhart, and Kris Fansler, emerged as a leadership team when the people present decided to form a partnership with a Madison Area Elementary School.

On Thursday, August 3, Renee Tennant, John Shanda, and I along with Adopt-a-School coordinator Mary Bartzen, met with the principal of Emerson Elementary, Jessica Awe, to talk about establishing a Bethel-Emerson partnership. Jessica remarked that, “this partnership would be a dream!” Our leadership team has committed to being a partner for at least one year. After Jessica meets with her school leadership team, they will come up with a list of needs and wants, some of which we may be able to fulfill.

Emerson is a 360-student school, 4K through grade 5, located between E Johnson St. and E Washington and between 6th and 7th St. Its student population is diverse both racially and

economically. It is supported by its neighborhood and school families.

If you are interested in tutoring, classroom assisting, accompanying field trips, or any volunteer situation in which you may be alone with students, MMSD requires a background check. This is easy and doesn't take more than a few minutes. Please go to the district's website, madison.k12.wi.us/partnerships/volunteering and click on the Volunteering button which will lead you through the steps. Completing a background check does not commit you to volunteering, but the sooner you complete the background check application and it is processed, the sooner you can be one of Bethel's Adopt-a-School Volunteers if and when you choose. Please do this ASAP as our hope is to begin with Emerson in late September/early October.

Thank you for your interest in participating in this way as part of your Christian service to others. In my opinion, our partnership in this project is also proof that the congregation remains strong even in this time of stress and change, as we continue to reach out to others as Jesus would. - Kris Fansler 🌈

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We are the Church. We welcome people into a living relationship with the Living Lord. This congregation is vibrant. The Annual Reports shows the depth of our church. Please review the flow chart of how the congregation is organized. Jesus Christ is the head of the church. Everyone and everything is accountable to Him. Following Christ.

The Nominating Committee is looking for people who would share their time and talents. There are 5 ministry teams: Community, Serving, Worship, Life Long Learning and Nurturing. Each team has a Council member serving as a liaison, a staff liaison as well as facilitator. Each team meets monthly and provides a brief update to the council every month. By organizing Bethel's ministry into various teams, the church council fulfills and honors the congregation's charge to manage and care for the life of the church in a way that is consistent with Jesus' life and message.

There are also 3 resource teams: Finance, Property and Human Resource. These will be introduced next month.

We are the Church. We welcome you to join in the leadership of the church. Review the ministry teams vision statements and purpose. Reflect where you might offer your time and talents. Contact Kathy Pielage, kmpielage@gmail.com, the Facilitator or Staff Liaison to ask questions and offer your gift of leadership.

Community Ministry Team focuses on hospitality by organizing activities and events that promote fellowship within our Bethel congregation and our community. Hosting speaker series, organizing Rally Sunday in the fall and the church picnic in the spring. Create genuine opportunities to connect within the community.

Facilitator: Faith Kelly, Staff: Associate Pastor.

Life Long Learning Team (LLL) Growing faith

in Christ through learning about God and His will for us. Kid's and Youth ministry including Sunday School, Vacation Bible Camp, Christmas Pageant, Choir, Confirmation and High School Youth. Young adults and Adult Education including bible studies, adult forums, Caring for Creation and ACTJAM (A Call To Justice and Mercy). The Fine Arts Committee brings the visual arts into our building. Contemplative practices are offered through the LLLteam. The Nursery and the Library also coordinated by the LLL team. Facilitator: Ann Leon, Staff: Paula Evenson

Nurturing Ministry Team encourages Christ-centered lives by developing connections across generations. Lutheran World Relief, Women's Ministry, Men's Ministry, XYZ and Friendship Club. Creating opportunities to gather as a church socially to build community. Facilitator : Kathy Forde, Staff: Karin Brown

Serving Ministry Team exists to develop and manage programs focused on connecting members to bring love and comfort to those who are hurting. The mission is to bring peace to weary souls through Jesus. We are called to be the hands and feet of Christ. Programs include Homeless Summit, Homeless Ministry, Food Pantry, Jail Ministry, blood drives as well as Stephen Ministry, Care ministry, Rebuilding at Bethel and grief groups.

Facilitator: John Hueschen, Staff: Karin Brown

Worship Ministry Team vision statement: Connecting people to Jesus through diverse experiences of worship, praise and thanksgiving. Worship is central to Bethel Lutheran Church. Many people are needed every Sunday for meaningful worship including communion assistants, Altar guild preparing communion, readers, ushers as well as musicians. Media ministry and sound technicians are part of the creative and inspiring programming. Facilitator: Carolyn White, Staff: Pastor and Music Director. 🌈

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. 🌈

NEW DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES TO JOIN BETHEL STAFF

The Bethel Joint Council is announcing that Bethel member, Heather Moen, will be joining the staff as Director of Youth Ministries. Heather is attending seminary at Wartburg Seminary. She has been working at Bethel Horizons this summer and directed the Bethel Vacation Bible Camp. Heather has served as a volunteer at Bethel in many ways over the years, and we are delighted that she will be joining the staff and leading youth ministry to Bethel's teens. 🌈



Kids will enjoy the curriculum this year

NURSERY OPENING SEPTEMBER 3

Look for Interim Nursery Coordinator, Frankie Hann, to welcome your child(ren) beginning Sunday, 9/3 along with our team of professionally trained Nursery Attendants! All child(ren) must be registered prior to joining the nursery and will be supervised by at least 2 staff at all times. The Frolic curriculum will be used with children under age 2 and is based on early childhood best practices to help your little ones take little steps to big faith—starting at birth. The Spark Activate Faith Sunday School curriculum will be used during the 9:00am worship service for 2-3 year-olds. Plans are under way for further space improvements so stay tuned for future announcements.

If you have questions about any kids and family program at Bethel, including the Nursery, please contact paula@bethel-madison.org. Please contact her to make sure you are on the Kid's and Family E-news list! Use this code to register now! 🌈



RALLY

Bethel's Parking Lot, September 10 at 10:00am

Let's all celebrate the first day of Sunday School.

A parking lot full of food and fun-filled activities is coming up on September 10th as we gather in joyful praise of the youngest of our flock on their first day of Sunday School for the new church year. We invite the entire congregation to surround the children of Bethel with our love and support!

There will be lots to do! The fun includes a Face painter, Super Balloon Man, Pony rides, Corn hole, Football toss, Bubble wands and a variety of carnival games. There will be a My Little Farm inflatable for toddlers and a 38' Wacky Obstacle Course for the bigger kids. 🌈

Strike a pose with the family at the photo booth which will have a Safari theme this year! Chef Steve Nelson will prepare a mouth watering meal. Bring your appetite! Bring your smiles! Let's all gather on Rally Day for an uplifting celebration full of fun and inspiration!! The schedule will be:

8:30 - 9:00 Sign in @ Sacred Grounds Kiosk
9:00 - 9:15 Worship until kids dismissed
9:15 - 9:50 Bible lessons in classes
9:50 - 10:00 Large group closing
10:00 - 10:15 Music
10:15 - 12:30 Outdoor activities w/ families



SLEEP BASICS WITH PEDIATRIC SLEEP CONSULTANT, DR. AMBER EVENSON

October 1 at 10:00am

Parents of infants and young children: we are thrilled to invite you to an exclusive event featuring Dr. Amber Evenson, a pediatric sleep consultant based in Madison, Wisconsin.

"I help restore sleep for families through an expertise in child development. From expectant families to school aged children... I believe in evaluating and supporting the entire family when addressing sleep challenges."

We understand that one of the most important challenges you face is ensuring your baby gets the restful sleep they need for healthy development. Dr. Amber Evenson will be sharing valuable insights, tips, and strategies to help your little ones establish healthy sleep habits that promote their overall well-being. There will be plenty of time for questions. 🌈



SUNDAY



SUNDAY SCHOOL SIGN UP

For children ages 2-3, Sunday school is held in the Nursery during the 9:00am worship service. Your child should join the nursery prior to the start of the service and you may pick them up after service before the nursery closes at 12:30 (you must be on site in the church).

For children 4K-6th grade, Sunday School is held on Sundays from 9:15-10:00am. Children start with families in the Sanctuary 9:00 worship service. Around 9:15, children are dismissed from the sanctuary and are escorted by the Sunday School Leaders to their 2nd floor



classrooms for the lesson using the Spark curriculum and Bibles. At 9:50 children move to Rm 216 for a large group closing reflecting on the lesson of the week and ending with some music and movement. We are fortunate to have many excellent trained returning Leaders.

For 4K-6th grade, Sunday School ends at 10:00am. Please find your child in Rm 216 just after 10:00 am worship service unless they will be joining the Kids Choir which will also be held in Rm 216 from 10:00-10:30. We encourage you to stay for coffee and

donut holes and mingle with other families until choir ends at 10:30. If your child is not picked up at 10:30, they will be transitioned to the nursery on the 1st floor. The nursery closes at 12:30 and you must be on site at the church.

Please contact paula@bethel-madison.org for more information or find Paula on Sunday mornings before or after worship. 🌈

FIRST ALERT FOR C4C'S FALL SEASON!

For eight years Caring for Creation has brought forums, events, and opportunities to help Bethel members and friends appreciate the beauty, complexity, and existential importance of the natural world.

The dramatic impact of climate change that the world is experiencing underscores how our lives are inextricably linked to the health of the earth. Join us as we renew our Christian commitment to address critical needs for healthy water, air and land for this and future generations.

This fall, in the hour between Sunday services, look forward to:

October 15: Wisconsin EcoLatinos - Clean Energy & Environmental Justice. Presented by Cristina Carvajal, founder and director of WI Eco-Latinos, a nonprofit that works to mobilize Latinos to protect the environment and advocate for social justice.

November 12: Bethel's Environmental Footprint. Ashley Becker, a member of both Caring for Creation and Bethel's Property Team, will highlight Bethel's accomplishments, aspirations, and challenges in meeting our environmental goals and maintaining our campus. Bring your questions for the concluding discussion.

Mark your calendar for both forums!



THROUGH MARTY'S LENS

September - October, Gallery Hallway

Martin Clarke, a passionate and talented photographer whose captivating work is currently on display at Bethel Lutheran Church, September through October, embraced the lens as a means to express human stories and emotions as well as the beauty of the everyday natural world around us.

Hailing from Madison, WI, and a lifelong member of Bethel, Marty found solace and inspiration in the world of photography starting in his early 20s.

Although Marty found career success in the corporate, business world, his "happy place" was in the many hours he spent feeding his creative soul through his writing and photography. He often lost all concept of time as he wrestled with his need for perfection and personal satisfaction in these two art forms. His lifelong friend, John Lorimer, also an avid photographer, encouraged Marty's passion for photography and they spent many years together perfecting their craft, shifting from development of their many photos in darkrooms to adapting to the

added creativity afforded them through the digital evolution.

Though Marty captured the personalities and special moments of family and friends in both candid and more formal portraiture over the years, the hallmark of Marty's work lay in his ability to capture the expansive beauty of panoramic vistas and the equally beautiful delicate details of God's natural world. He enjoyed photographing the wildlife and natural landscapes he experienced on family vacations and in his own backyard. Each photograph conveys a unique blend of creativity and an acute eye for detail, showcasing his innate talent and dedication to the art of nature photography.

Don't miss the opportunity to witness God's natural world...Through Marty's Lens.

Collection displayed in memory of Marty Clarke. (1939 -2021)

Select photographs will be available for sale. 🌈



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!! 🌈

TRAILS & TASTING - A HORIZONS HIKING EVENT

October 7 at 1pm

Please join us for the 2nd Annual Trails & Tasting at Bethel Horizons, Saturday, October 7, 2023 from 1pm - 5pm. This year we will be departing from our art campus, Adamah Art Studios! There will be multiple options for hikers at varying difficulty levels and length of distance. Come explore our beautiful cliffs, forests and valley! Push yourself to complete the 3 Cliff Challenge. Horizons has over 7 miles of hiking and 4 miles mountain bike trails to explore! Following the hike we will gather at the Adamah Retreat Center to enjoy live music and tasty treats including Holy Cow Food Truck. Feel free to explore the studios to learn more about the creative workshops offered and don't forget to visit Adamah's Gift Shop.

This is a free event but donations are greatly appreciated. Please register in advance so we have an idea of how many we should be expecting. There will be a "virtual hiking" option for anyone with mobility challenges.

Check in at the Adamah Retreat Center upon arrival to receive a trail snack and map highlighting different distance options. Don't forget to wear comfy shoes and bring your water bottle! Feel free to bring a blanket or chairs to relax and enjoy the music after your hike. We look forward to sharing a beautiful fall afternoon with you! 🌈



WE'RE BACK! BETHEL'S FRIENDSHIP CLUB RETURNS THIS OCTOBER!!

Don't forget to put the **SECOND FRIDAY** evening every month on your calendars for fun, fellowship, dinner and some kind of wonderful entertainment. We begin each evening at 6:15 in Borgwardt Hall with a delicious dinner and fellowship. Next someone brings us a few moments of spirituality and more fellowship. Then we adjourn to the Fireside Gallery for our entertainment and some more fellowship. Please join us October 2023 – June, 2024. The end of year celebration the second Friday in June is our annual picnic; location to be determined. Our entertainment will be New Horizons Swing Band, Mark Saltzman, Director.

\$10 modest Annual Member Cost. Cost for monthly dinner has yet to be determined. Hope to see you then! 🌈

LWR UPDATE

Thank you, Bethel members and friends, for your response so far to our Lutheran World Relief school, baby, fabric, and personal hygiene kit drive. Though the response has been good, there is still time to contribute items for these kits or money to cover the shipping costs. You can bring items to the front desk during the week or to the LWR table in the Emmaus Room. We are currently in need of mild soap, like Ivory or Dove, for the baby kits. Bethel will celebrate LWR Mission Sunday on September 3rd. 🌈



WOMEN'S RETREAT AT HORIZONS

October 6-7

As the fall colors begin to emerge you are invited to attend the Bethel Women's Retreat October 6-7, 2023. Not just for Bethel members, bring other women in your life!

We will set aside time to consider and embrace the changes happening in life and how to engage both heart and mind to adapt and find joy in the process. We are made for change. Friday night will begin with a light dinner at 5:30pm, a gathering activity, short teaching and discussion time, which easily flows to bonfires and fellowship.

Saturday morning begins with stretching or

active movement options, bible study, discussion and journaling. A light lunch or snack will end the morning.

Saturday afternoon we explore the hiking and biking trails as Horizons hosts Trails and Tasting from 1-5pm. As always, this is your retreat. Opt in or out for any part as the Holy Spirit leads you for your personal healing and renewal that He wants for you.

More details coming soon! Send questions to Michelle Jolly at michelle@healthyhorizons.com. 🌈

FOOD PANTRY REQUEST AND THANKS

The Food Pantry is seeing an increase in people coming to the pantry. Therefore, we are hoping to expand our days of operations and are looking for a couple of people to help staff the Food Pantry on Tuesdays from 3-5 pm. Most of our volunteers work once a month, so it is a minimal time commitment, but one that truly makes a difference! Please contact Geri Matz, 608-772-2464, or Cheryl Frazier, 608-

206-4539, if you can volunteer at least once a month.

Thank you to those who have donated food, personal hygiene products, egg cartons, and bags to the pantry. We appreciate your support! The pantry's wish list currently includes shampoo, boxes of cereal, and baby wipes. We also welcome your extra garden produce. 🌈

THE POWER OF THE CIRCLE

One of the first components of Bethel's Homeless Ministry when initially conceived by Pastor Laura Sutherland and Arlen Christenson, was to provide a faith-based means in which guests could communicate with each other and Bethel volunteers. That became what is known as "The Circle". This has been a part of BHM for greater than 15 years and is still a significant and meaningful part of Tuesday mornings. We gather with our chairs in a circle and begin with a special reading that pertains to homelessness, followed by announcements that may pertain to the members of the group. Then we ask each person to identify themselves by first name and to share with us any part of their week that they would like to talk about. If a guest chooses not to talk with us, he/she can be an "active listener". We end by reciting a special prayer for Ukraine (blue and yellow candles are lit in the center of the circle) and then each member of the Circle is named in prayer, closing with Our Lord's Prayer. The following was composed during Circle in December 2022 by one of our volunteers.

"The Power of the unconditional love of Christ is present in the circle. This morning 40+ members of our community ...

Those who have no shelter or home ...

Those who are without warm clothing or a meal to eat ...

Those who have been incarcerated ...

Those with substance issues ... (both their own or being affected by other's)

Those struggling with a myriad of mental illness and mental health issues ...

Those who have attempted suicide and self-harm ...

Those who have witnessed death, murder, and unspeakable violence ...

Those who are poor and lacking in any mate-

rial possessions, amid great wealth and abundance ...

Those who have bled and suffered without care ...

Those who have accessed medical services only to be dismissed or medicated and forgotten ...

Yet ...

Despite these and so many unspoken hardships on which life and death balance on a thread ...

The presence of our loving God ... He knows each one in the circle and welcomes all with warmth, care and loving and open arms ... our God whose love gives and instills hope.

The strength of the Homeless Ministry at Bethel can be found in the hearts and relationships that are formed between strangers who have now shed anonymity to become family ... who feel loved and welcomed.

Our Father tells us and instills in our hearts the Good News ... that He loves us and died to save us from our sins and give us everlasting life ... but our love for Him without works is dead ... He calls us to clothe the naked, to feed the hungry, to shelter our brothers and sisters from the cold, to welcome them ... to bind their wounds ... to show them unconditional love ... to be His face and hands and feet ... but by the Grace of God, there go I. The mission of Bethel's Homeless Ministry is found in the welcoming relationships it forms with hundreds of God's children ... in providing faith, hope, safety and unconditional love." 🌈

XYZ (EXTRA YEARS OF ZEST)

Friday, Sept. 8th
Meeting at Bethel at 9am

Friday, Sept. 22nd

Bus trip and Guide to the Amish Community in Cashton, Wi

Lunch in Sparta before.

For reservations and information, contact Sue Marking, 608-318-0090 or

wmarking@msn.com

No meeting at Bethel.

Looking Ahead:

Dec. 2 Bus trip to Appleton to see Christmas Stars, and lunch before

The performance. Contact Sue at above. ONLY A FEW SPOTS LEFT! 🌈

MADE FOR CHANGE WORKSHOP

September 9

For surely I know that plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future of hope. -Jeremiah 20:11

Michelle Jolly, a Bethel member will introduce us to Revelation Wellness®. We will begin by learning that change is something we are made for as we are born to learn. We will listen and watch Alisa Keeton preach on the power to change needing both heart and mind to be involved. The concepts she introduces is helpful for personal change as well as community change. Please join us on September 9, 2023 at Bethel in the Fireside room from 9-12pm.

Please register using <https://forms.gle/mzSE3uvYmeWgd6SPA> or by contacting Kathy Pielage at kmpielage@gmail.com or Michelle Jolly at michelle@healthyhorizonsllc.com 🌈



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BETHEL

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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

October 18

59th Anniversary Organ Concert

December 3

Advent at Bethel Horizons

December 4

Advent by Candlelight

December 17

Kids Nativity Service



JULY 2023 YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
REVENUES			
Offerings	876,257	937,242	(60,985)
Miscellaneous revenue	159,629	136,556	23,073
Non-operating revenue	4,705	(438)	5,143
Total Revenue	1,040,591	1,073,360	(32,769)
MINISTRY INVESTMENTS			
Staff	704,194	804,431	(100,237)
Ministry & Resource Teams	202,590	200,926	1,664
Benevolence	18,108	16,334	1,774
Administration	58,791	51,421	7,370
Other	-	-	-
Total Ministry Investments	983,683	1,073,112	(89,429)
Total Net Income (Loss)	(56,910)	248	56,660

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



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

