



BETHELITE

DECEMBER 1, 2023: VOL 72, NO. 12

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THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

As we embrace the joyous season of Christmas, our hearts are filled with warmth and anticipation. Beyond the twinkling lights and festive decorations lies a deeper message that resonates strongly within our Lutheran community—the essence of giving and togetherness.

Christmas echoes the ultimate act of giving—the gift of love through the birth of Jesus Christ. His arrival symbolizes hope, compassion, and selflessness. This profound act of divine generosity serves as a guiding light for us, encouraging a spirit of giving that extends far beyond material presents. It calls us to offer our time, kindness, and empathy to those around us, mirroring the generosity shown to us.

At the heart of the Christmas narrative lies the significance of togetherness. The Holy Family gathered in humble surroundings, fostering a bond that transcended their circumstances. Their unity in love and faith speaks volumes about the power of coming together, despite challenges or differences. In our Lutheran community, this unity is a cornerstone—a reminder that we are stronger when we stand together, supporting and uplifting one another.



Be the light in the darkness



BETHEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

312 Wisconsin Ave, Madison, WI 53703
608.257.3577 www.bethel-madison.org

As we immerse ourselves in the festivities, let us reflect on the true essence of this season. It's a time for reaching out to those in need, extending a helping hand, and sharing the blessings we've received. Whether it's through charitable acts, lending an ear to someone in distress, or simply offering a comforting presence, each gesture resonates with the spirit of Christmas.

Our church embodies this spirit through various outreach programs, fostering a sense of community and solidarity. Let us continue this tradition by engaging in acts of service and kindness, embodying the teachings of Christ in our everyday lives.

During this sacred season, our church is doubly blessed as we come together not only in fellowship but also through the gift of music and celebration. We're honored to present concerts, and other special events that enrich our community gatherings, filling our sanctuary with melodies that echo the joy of the season.

We have plenty of options for however you would like to give back: Homeless Ministry, Nursery Volunteers, Food Pantry, Media Ministry. Consider joining our Choir or Handbell Choir to share the gift of music in the new year. Other Ministries can be found on bethel-madison.org. We are blessed to have so many opportunities to better ourselves, our environment, and our community. Consider attending our 9am service on December 17th to enjoy our Children's Christmas Pageant. It



Spread the warmth and cheer - volunteer, give, and be kind to those around you.

is a great way to get into the Christmas spirit! Getting into the Christmas spirit is more than just a festive tradition; it's an opportunity to embrace joy, kindness, and goodwill. It allows us to reconnect with our inner child, fostering a sense of wonder and warmth that transcends the ordinary. When we immerse ourselves in the Christmas spirit, we invite a renewed sense of hope, generosity, and togetherness into our lives. Embracing the Christmas spirit not only brightens our days but also inspires us to spread cheer and make a positive difference in the lives of those around us.

These events serve as reminders of the unity and joy found in shared experiences. Through these moments, we deepen our connections and create cherished memories, strengthening the bonds that tie us together as a church family.

The Christmas season reminds us that the greatest gifts are often intangible—love, compassion, and unity. May we carry these lessons with us not just during this season but throughout the year, nurturing a spirit of giving

and togetherness that defines our Lutheran family.

In the midst of the festivities, let us cherish the bonds we share, embodying the true essence of Christmas—a celebration of love, generosity, and the beauty of being together.

For your consideration, Bethel will be closed on the following days:

- Monday, December 25th for Christmas
- Monday, January 1st & Tuesday, January 2nd for the New Year
- Monday, January 15th for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Upcoming Pastor Coverage:

- December 2/3** - Pastor Jeff Quinto
- December 9/10** - Pastor George Carlson
- December 16/17** - Pastor Jeff Quinto

December 23 - 5pm, 7:30pm, 9pm Pastor Jeff Quinto

December 24 - 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, Pastor Katya Ouchakof

December 30/31 - Pastor Roger Black

January 6/7 - Katya Ouchakof

January 13/14 - Katya Ouchakof 🌈

Give thanks
this holiday
season.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Nominating Committee

We Are The Church

We gather in this faith community because our spiritual health depends on it.

We love because God first loved us.

We build Bethel to support our members in their faith journey

Now is the time to ask, "How can I help build the Church?"

We serve the community that surrounds us

We actively demonstrate God's love.

We are the church filled with opportunity to live fully.

Prayerfully consider what God is calling you to do.

A term is 2 years with commitment to attending monthly meeting.

Be part of creating a vision for Bethel's future beginning January 2024

New members can join these teams throughout the year

The ministry teams are inviting new members.

Listed is the Team Facilitator, then the Council Liaison

Community Faith Kelley Sue Rogers

Life Long Learning Ann Leon Kris Fansler

Nurturing Kathy Forde Carrie Bernhardt

Serving John Hueschen Bev Priefer

Worship Carolyn White Larry Veleke

The structure of our church is made complete with the resource teams.

Financial Paul Aspenwall Laurie Plum
Human Resources Kathy Pielage Jeanne Hilton
Property Eric Frailing/Phil Pielage Tom Solhiem
Descriptions of these teams are on the website, outlined in the Bethelite in September and October or reach out to the leaders of these teams.

The Nominating Committee members were elected in January of 2023 Annual Meeting. Kim Kindschi, Kathy Pielage, Renee Tennant and Jennifer LaMontagne are willing to answer questions and help you find the just right challenge.

We are accepting nominations of members who would like to serve on Joint Council. The slate of candidates will be elected at the Annual Meeting January of 2024. This group of leaders meets the third Tuesday of every month. The ministry teams and resource teams report to the Joint Council.

Please reach out. Kathy Pielage is the facilitator of the Nominating Committee at kmpiealge@gmail.com, leave a message at the front desk or call her at 608-695-4534. 🌈

SENDING OF HOLY COMMUNION

On the second Sunday of each month, a brief sending rite will be added to the 9:00am service. A representative homebound communion set will be on the altar. After the Holy Communion has been redistributed and before the benediction, the presiding pastor will place a hand on the communion set and offer a word of blessing. Care Team Visitors will then take their communion sets to the homebound and hospitalized members of the congregation to share those elements that have been blessed during worship with the people of Bethel.

- Pastor Ken Schaub 🌈

HOMELESS CHRISTMAS

Bethel's Homeless Ministry is once again planning the annual Christmas dinner for Tuesday, December 19th. This meal is for the Bethel Staff and our homeless guests. If you or a friend would like to consider helping with financing a portion of the meal, please let us know. This meal is often the highlight for our guests as they struggle through the holiday season. You may contact Kenny at the reception desk if you able to help out. Thank you. 🌈

HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

Rehearsals will be Wednesdays from 6:15 to 7:30pm. We have spots open if you would like to join! For questions, please contact Carol Graves at singsingsing@tds.net. 🌈



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN THE NURSERY FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

Please consider volunteering in the Nursery for Special Events at Bethel including a few select Saturdays from 4:15-6:00pm. You will work with another adult volunteer or staff. To get started, please contact Paula Evenson at paula@bethel-madison.org. 🌈

CALLING ALL MOMS!

If you are interested in joining or leading a Christian based Mom's support group that meets twice per month on Sundays from 9:00-10:30 OR Wednesdays from 6:00-7:30 with nursery care provided from our professional nursery staff OR if you are a Mom willing to join or lead the group to mentor newer Moms of young kids, please contact Paula, Director of Kids & Family Ministry. We are looking to have the group(s) start in late January or early February. Modifiable curriculum from MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) will be paid for by Bethel Family Ministry. See mops.org for more information. Your kids can be older than preschoolers to join. We just need 2 or 3 moms per group to get started so sign up today! 🌈



A GRAN

Joyce Russell was a member of Bethel since 1957 and passed away on April 17, 2023. Recently, Joyce's family presented Bethel with a gift to continue a legacy she started years ago, at least as long as since 2012. Joyce had been purchasing gift cards and donating them to Bethel Lutheran Church for underprivileged children so that kids without a lot of money could feel the thrill of buying something they wanted for themselves. Joyce always attached an anonymous note that the gift was from "a Grandma who cares". What a wonderful way to show that care! Joyce ensured, through her recent generous gift, that these cards would continue to be distributed to kids in need for years into the future.

Joyce was also a huge supporter for Bethel Horizons providing camper scholarships for years after her grandchildren outgrew the program. She also just left an additional legacy gift to continue providing for several camper scholarships for kids in need to have a great life experience at Horizons summer camp for at least eight years.

Joyce's thoughtfulness in leaving her legacy gift can remind us all to share with our families - and those missions and ministries most important to us - what a difference this planning can make in so many lives that come after us.

In the words of Maya Angelou –

"When we cast our bread upon the waters, we can presume that someone downstream whose face we may never see will benefit from our action, even as we enjoy the gifts sent to us from a donor upstream."

If you would like to make a gift to Bethel Kids and Family Ministries, Bethel Horizons or any Bethel Ministry, you can do so as an above and beyond gift at any time of the

year, or make a plan within your Will writing like Joyce had done. Find options on our website including giving via text, the Realm app, electronic check, ACH, credit or debit card, check, money order or cash or appreciated stock and gifts from your IRA. You can also contact

Alice Mowbray or Angie Buelow at Bethel and Horizons respectively and they can help direct you to the option that will work best for you.

Thank you for all the ways that so many Bethelites find to be generous – during their lives and at their end of earthly life.



DMA WHO CARES



OUT OF OUR ABUNDANCE

On November 19th, we heard the message from halfway around the world of lives changed because of two familiar things:

Vacation Bible School as a 12 year old and then taking the Bethel Bible Series class as a young adult. This is the origin story of Pastor Manoj Magar founder of Rays of Hope Ministry in Mumbai India. Use the QR code in this article to view his sermon at Bethel.


From literally nothing but \$11.25 in US dollars, this ministry of saving and changing children's lives for the better began. His expansion plan 'to



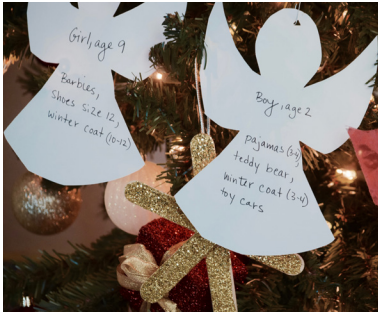
Pastor Manoj Magar

thirty acres near the new airport' is coming together, as one donor in India gave him the first ten acres. The ministry is in process of purchasing the other twenty – with three already paid. The pictures he showed of this undeveloped land looked wild and beautiful, much like Bethel Horizons looks and feels to us, just an hour from our downtown location. If you, like several others, this past weekend were inspired to help this growth from afar in a land that is not friendly to Christianity – please join in the challenge appeal beginning now. Within the next month, we will collect above and beyond

gifts directed to 'Rays of Hope' and add into the \$2000 gift committed on November 20th toward the challenge. When you hear Pastor Manoj's words, many of us thought – wow, we take so much of our comfortable lives and freedom of religion for granted... perhaps this will move your heart too to join in this special Christmas time gift to be sent on to this needful ministry in India – out of our abundance.

Stay up to date on their Ministry at raysofhopeindia.org/ 





GIVING TREE

Bethel Youth are hosting a Giving Tree to benefit Bethel's Homeless Ministry. Throughout the month of December the tree will be in the Emmaus room. Please take a tag and return a donation of supplies needed to help those who are unhoused this winter. Donations will be collected in the box beneath the Giving Tree, or at the Reception desk, through December 24th. 🌈

NEW HIRE - RESIDENT SECURITY PERSON

We are pleased to announce that Chris Fox has joined Bethel as our new Resident Security Person! His first day will be around the new year. Welcome to Bethel, Chris! 🌈

YOUTH MINISTRY

A huge thank you from Youth Ministry!

We asked for plastic bags and your response was overwhelming. Thank you for supporting our efforts to make plastic sleeping mats for people who are unhoused this winter. We have all the bags we need, and now we will get to work! 🌈

BETHEL YOUTH - PARTNERS IN COMPASSION

Sixty Halloween-themed cellophane bags filled with fresh candy, topped off with a package of hand warmers. Shortly before Halloween, our young people thought it would be nice if the guests of Bethel's Homeless Ministry would each have a bag of candy and something to help keep them warm, so they gathered to produce these bags as a gesture of awareness and compassion. Our guests were touched that someone remembered them.

Likewise, our young people have come up with an idea that will also help those who live on the street who seek a place to rest needing a barrier between their bodies and the harshness of cold cement. Our youth are learning how to crochet strips of plastic from plastic grocery bags to form mats that can be used as this barrier. This project will take place as an intergenerational retreat the first weekend in December at Horizons. They are busy cutting the strips now, to be taken to the retreat to produce the mats. This end product is lightweight, water-proof

and can provide some cushioning for those who have nothing but cardboard as a barrier between their bodies and the sidewalk. This is a wonderful gift and great reflection and insight on the part of our youth.

Soon, our young people will be decorating a Giving Tree which will be in the Emmaus Room throughout Advent. This will have tags with suggestions as to how the members of Bethel's congregation can help provide much needed items for those who are homeless and living on the street. This is with the blessing of Bethel's Joint Council and we look forward to watching this new project unfold.

Bethel's Homeless Ministry and Bethel Youth have a wonderful collaborative relationship for which we give thanks. They are innovative, caring and compassionate young people who will likely be mindful throughout their lives of those who have so little. They are walking in Christ's footsteps. 🌈

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY UPDATE

The Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM) program at UW-Madison is looking ahead to some exciting changes and challenges. The process of calling a new campus pastor will begin in January. There are bold new directions being charted as new leadership, a robust strategic plan related to mission, and big decisions related to the physical building are converging! It is both a challenging time but a very exciting one, as well. It is a time when as many people as possible who have hearts for campus ministry are needed at the table. It is a moment when the engagement of neighbors is needed!

For many, many years, Bethel has had a seat on the LCM board (per the LCM constitution), a seat that recently has been vacant. The board members of Lutheran Campus Ministry sincerely hope that a Bethel member might be at the table soon. The board meets monthly, and beginning in January will likely be meeting on Wednesdays in the late morning to make it possible for stronger student engagement. If you would like to know more about serving on the LCM board, please contact board members Tim Dean @ timwdean124@gmail.com or Pam Shellberg @ pshellberg@holylwisdom-monastery.org. 🌈

BETHEL HORIZONS UPDATE

Dear Bethel Community,

Recently, Jennifer Mally informed me that she is resigning from her position at Bethel Horizons, effective at the end of November. Jennifer has graciously offered to stay until the end of November so that all scheduled programs are completed. We are saddened to lose Jennifer's talents that have built Adamah into where it is today. We are incredibly grateful for the 10 years that Jennifer has dedicated to Bethel Horizons, and we wish her the very best as she moves on to new adventures.

Bethel Horizons remains committed to the arts and taking advantage of this beautiful art facility and equipment. We are also committed to remaining true to who we are as Bethel Horizons as we look to provide an opportunity to foster a better understanding of God, self, others, and nature through our programs. I will work with the other staff and the board to develop the best strategy for steering the Adamah program to feel like an integral program for Bethel Horizons.

Part of this strategy is that we will work to create opportunities to engage in art for all ages and abilities. This shift will mean that we have more of a variety of programming that caters to more individuals.

We welcome ideas for how you can contribute to keeping Adamah moving forward through this time of transition.

While I want to be clear about the vision for the future of Adamah and share some specifics about how we intend to get there, this process will take time. I appreciate your patience as we work to figure out the best way to move Adamah forward as a program of Bethel Horizons.

Sincerely,
Eric Knueve
Executive Director
Bethel Horizons 🌈

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Thank you to all who donated food for our pantry guests' Thanksgiving meals. The guests were very pleased with the extras they received, so thanks for helping to make a difference! Thanks, too, to those who volunteered to work in the pantry. We are now open four days a week!

Due to popular request, the Food Pantry now has "Wish Lists" available on the slat board outside the sanctuary. You may take a copy if interested in purchasing any of the items that we have a hard time getting from Second Harvest. The list will be updated monthly. Many

people also commented that they missed having our barrel in a convenient location, so our new, blue pantry barrel is now located near the reception desk.

Whether you donate items, money, or your time, or keep this outreach mission in your prayers, thank you! We hope you have a blessed holiday season! 🌈



FRIENDSHIP CLUB

HO HO HO!

Christmas comes early when Bethel Friendship Club meets on Friday, December 8. Our menu for December's meal is roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable, garden salad and dessert.

Our spiritual leader is Pastor Jeff Quinto. Our entertainment is Breezy Hill Blue Grass; sounds of the season with bluegrass, gospel and old-time acoustic music.

PLEASE NOTE, we have a different schedule for December; we will sit down to eat at 5:30, Pastor Jeff will bring us a devotion at 6:15 and Breezy Hill Blue Grass will perform at 7:00 in the Fireside Gallery.

The change is due to Bethel's hosting Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra with the Festival Choir of Madison, performing Handel's Messiah at 7:00.

Cost for dinner is \$12 for members and \$15 for visitors. A modest \$10 is the Annual Membership cost; this helps us support the wonderful local talent we bring to Friendship Club. Please remember to call Judi Griffin at 608 222 9290 by noon on Tuesday before the 2nd Friday if you need to cancel. Cancellations after the deadline will be charged. Please join us!! 🌈



CHRISTMAS GIVING

Give online at bethel-madison.org or use the QR code, print out the form, and return to Bethel Lutheran Church. Due date is December 5th to be included in the Bethel Weekly.



BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

312 Wisconsin Avenue
Madison, WI 53703

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OCTOBER 2023 YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
REVENUES			
Offerings	1,171,139	1,338,917	(167,777)
Miscellaneous revenue	182,372	195,080	(12,708)
Non-operating revenue	9,908	(625)	10,533
Total Revenue	1,363,419	1,533,372	(169,952)
MINISTRY INVESTMENTS			
Staff	978,573	1,149,187	(170,614)
Ministry & Resource Teams	309,206	287,041	22,165
Benevolence	25,358	23,333	2,025
Administration	84,402	73,458	10,944
Other	-	-	-
Total Ministry Investments	1,397,539	1,533,020	(135,481)
Total Net Income (Loss)	(34,119)	352	(34,472)

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



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[Bethel.Lutheran.Madison.WI](https://www.facebook.com/Bethel.Lutheran.Madison.WI)



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[BethelLutheranTV](https://www.youtube.com/BethelLutheranTV)

Worship Times: Sunday at 7:30am & 9am - Traditional; 11am - Contemporary
Saturday at 5pm - Casual

