



Jesus loves you. Walk with Him.

# BETHELITE

FEBRUARY 1, 2024: VOL 73, NO. 2

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## WALKING WITH GOD

BY PASTOR JEFF QUINTO

I met Pat Barry in 2018 when we moved the Bethel Bible Series offices from Waunakee, WI, to Bethel Lutheran Church in downtown Madison, WI. At the time, Pat was the past President of the Bethel Lutheran Church Council. I introduced myself to him after one Sunday service. Pat, at 6'6", was not hard to find among the crowd after the service. I suggested we meet the following week in my new office at Bethel Lutheran, and Pat agreed.

Pat and I hit it off and found that we had much in common. One of the things we had in common that few might have predicted was that we both smoked cigars. As there are only a limited number of places where you can smoke cigars in Madison, Pat suggested that we meet at Maduro, a cigar-friendly place off Capital Square.

Pat and I started meeting regularly at Maduro every few weeks. After we had met for a couple of months, we came up with the idea of starting our own informal Cigar Club.

As we did not know anyone else who smoked cigars, we invited a few of our friends who, although they did not smoke cigars, at least tolerated our smoking while they tried to stay upwind from the cigar smoke. Peder Moren, Craig Jolly, and Dan Jackson were the original members of the "Cigar Club," none of whom smoked cigars. Craig Jolly would wear clothes that were easy to wash after the club meetings as he did not like the cigar smoke smell on his clothes.



Pastor Jeff Quinto



# Easter Giving 2024

## ONLINE FORM

[bethel-madison.org/easter-garden](http://bethel-madison.org/easter-garden)

Please write **separate checks** for Easter Garden & Bethel Homeless Support. The **Deadline is Monday, March 11**, to return this form and money to Bethel for donations to be included in the Bethel Weekly.

### Easter Garden

CIRCLE ONE: In Memory In Honor

NAME

BY

X \$20 =

# OF PLANTS

TOTAL DUE

Flowers may be picked-up after last worship service on April 1 or after.

### Bethel Homeless Support

CIRCLE ONE: In Memory In Honor

NAME

BY

AMOUNT

CASH/CHECK #

ENVELOPE #

PHONE

Return entire form to: Bethel Lutheran Church  
Attn: Easter Giving  
312 Wisconsin Ave, Madison, WI 53703

Most of the talk at the “Cigar Club” was about the state of Christianity today. We meet as a group about once a month, and just Pat and I meet about every two weeks.

Sometime in late-2020, Pat and I came up with the idea of doing a podcast talking about our walk with Christ. We named it, “Walking with God, Pat and Jeff’s Podcast.” We released our first episode in January 2021 and try to release a new podcast every two weeks.

So far, without any promotion,



Walk with Jesus.

our podcast has been downloaded a couple thousand times. People who listen to the podcast tell us they enjoy our candid talk about what it means to be a Christian today. They seem to identify with us as a couple of normal guys devoted to the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Our theme for the podcast is based on a quote from C.S. Lewis that has been meaningful to both Pat and me. The quote is from Lewis’ God in the Dock (1970), “Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important.”

Both Pat and I have seen in our lived experiences that Christianity is indeed true and, therefore, is infinitely important. This is the theme of our podcast. We hope to inspire people to realize that a lukewarm Christianity does not make sense if Jesus is who He says He is, the Son of the Living God.

Pat and I know that He is who He says He is, and He will do what He says He will do.

Our discussions cover a wide range of Christian topics. Some of our recent podcasts have

focused on what it means to walk by faith and not by sight, how each of us can plant seeds to live out the Great Commission, and the “I AM” statements found in the Gospel of John.

I hope that the podcast will attract a wider audience, but whether it does or not, Pat and I are having a wonderful, meaningful time talking every two weeks about our Christian walk and sharing it in the podcast.

You can listen to “Walking with God, Pat and Jeff’s Podcast.” on Apple podcasts, Audible, Podbean.com and many other podcast apps or you can simply search on Google for “Walking

with God, Pat and Jeff’s Podcast.”

Soli Deo Gloria! 🌈

## UPCOMING PASTOR COVERAGE

**F**ebruary 3/4 - Pastor Jeff Quinto

**February 10/11** - Pastor Ken Schaub

**February 17/18** - Pastor Ken Schaub

**February 14, Ash Wednesday** - Pastor Ken Schaub

**February 24/25** - Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe at the 9am service and Pastor Ken Schaub for every other service. 🌈

We are having a wonderful, meaningful time.



## YOU'RE INVITED! KIDS & FAMILY MINISTRY PROGRAMS TOUR

February 11th at 10:30am

In August we received a generous grant from the Bethel Endowment Foundation to update Kids & Family space and programming. This grant, in conjunction with some of our existing resources, has allowed us to reorganize and enhance. We've created a separate child care space for school aged kids separate from the Nursery which serves our youngest children. This allows for more developmentally appropriate and safer spaces and activities. The new space, called Kids' Corner, also has room for large motor activities for all ages. This is a wonderful addition for a church without an outdoor play space.

We filled in gaps and added new toys, games, books, supplies and other equipment. We improved the aesthetics of the Nursery/Kids Corner, Sunday School classrooms, hallways, and the choir/large group room with art, lighting and home-like decor to make it warmer and more inviting. We also organized the storage areas and purchased shelving and storage containers to inventory and better utilize the resources we now have. We've added signage and labeling for clarity and organization. Last,

we created a waiting area and a meeting space where families can connect while waiting for their kids' programs to end. Families can have small group playdates for toddlers or meet for parent support groups in a space dedicated to family ministry.

Everyone is invited to come and check it out. The Director of Kids & Family Ministry, Paula, and Nursery Coordinator, Zoey, will be giving a tour on Sunday, February 11th. We will begin in the Nursery on the 1st floor at 10:30am, will venture up to the Sunday School wing including the family spaces and end in Kids Corner. Kids won't be in the spaces when we tour them so you can ask questions and see how everything looks and works better with our updates. We will work around the kids' slightly modified Sunday routine.

We want to thank the Bethel Endowment Foundation for supporting the upgrade to our space and programming! Thanks also to the many volunteers and staff who assisted in this next-level update, we couldn't have done it without you! 🌈

## BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS

February 3 at Bethel Horizons

Bethel Horizons is again hosting "Breakfast with the Birds" Saturday, February 3, 2024. Relax in the Nature Center classroom as we identify birds coming to the feeders and relate bird feeding information, stories, and area sightings. Bring binoculars if you have them and bird-feeding stories to share! Please register using this QR code, as space is limited. We look forward to spending a wonderful morning with you.



## MOM'S GROUP KICK OFF MEETING

February 4th, 10:30am in  
Room 203

Whether you are a mom of young children or a mom of older children interested in sharing the journey of motherhood, please join us for our group meeting kick off to get an overview of the MomCo curriculum and meeting options (formerly MOPS, Mothers of Preschoolers). Paula Evenson, Director of Kids & Family Ministry, will introduce the group concept including how mom's can take the lead in making this group work for them. Learn more at [mops.org](http://mops.org). Light refreshments will be served. Child care will be provided by the Bethel Nursery and Kids Corner. Your child must be registered for nursery or Sunday School prior to dropping them off. Hope to see you there! 🌈

## NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, STEPHEN SELF

**B**ethel Lutheran Church is excited to announce that Stephen Self will be serving as the Director of Music beginning on January 30th. Stephen has an extensive background in both church organ performance as well as academia. He joins us from his most recent role as Director of Traditional Music at Wayzata Community Church in Wayzata, Minnesota. Stephen holds a Doctoral of Musical Arts in Organ Performance from West Virginia University, a Doctor of Philosophy in Music History from The Ohio State University, and a Master of Music in Piano Performance from the University of Missouri at Kansas City. He is also a fellow of the American Guild of Organists at the highest certification level. We would like to thank the search committee for the time and efforts in the recruitment process and the Bethel Choir for their time in the candidate audition process. We want to thank the Worship Team in advance for their time and work in helping Stephen in his new role. Please join us in welcoming Stephen Self to Bethel Lutheran Church. 🌈

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE FINE ARTS TEAM

**O**n Friday, May 3rd (5:00-9:00), Bethel will be participating in Madison's Gallery Night. We will need the assistance from art enthusiasts in our congregation. Jobs include, greeting, setting up and serving refreshments, possibly acting as a docent and just offering hospitality to the Madison community. Please email Kathy Engel-Hunt at kengelhunt@gmail.com for further information. 🌈



# LENT SEA

## Catching Up With The Spirit

**L**ent is almost here.

Lent is the 40-day preparation for Easter. This year we'll look at how the Holy Spirit leads us – individually and as a church – as we walk the way of Jesus to the foot of the cross and on to the hope of Easter.

Our guide for this journey is the book of Acts of the Apostles -- the sequel to the Gospel of Luke. Some have suggested a more appropriate title for Acts is "the Acts of the Spirit" because the book is filled with stories of the Spirit beckoning and nudging and calling the Apostles into new ways of seeing and being. One thing is for certain – the Apostles were forever changed by the presence of the Spirit – and they forever changed the church.

These stories of the early church invite us to open ourselves to the Spirit and where it's beckoning and nudging and calling us today.

Take a few minutes to read about Lent 2024 and consider how you'll join in 40 Days of Spiritual Renewal - Catching Up With the Spirit here at Bethel.

### When does Lent start?

Lent starts on February 14, Ash Wednesday, and lasts for 40 days, not counting Sundays, since Sundays are celebrated as feasts of the resurrection. The study groups will begin the week of February 19 (Monday) and run for a total of five weeks, ending the week before Holy Week.

### What about Ash Wednesday worship?

Bethel will have two Ash Wednesday worship opportunities on February 14, a traditional Ash Wednesday service from 12:30 – 1:30 pm and a traditional Ash Wednesday service led by Bethel Youth from 6:00 - 6:30 pm. Imposition of ashes will be offered at both services. The nursery will be open for the evening service, families must pre-register.

### What is Bethel doing for Lent this year?

The Lent journey is marked by a daily and weekly rhythm – daily devotion and prayer and weekly worship and Bible study. At Bethel we call it 2+2+1 – two daily practices plus two weekly plus one service project.

Almost 40 Bethel members and friends have contributed a daily devotion and prayer that will be emailed daily and available in a digital pdf document for download. There will not be a printed devotional booklet.

Our weekly Bible study uses the book Acts: Catching Up With the Spirit by Matthew Skinner. There will be large and small group discussion opportunities based on the book.

Individuals, families and small groups are encouraged to find a service project that fits their schedules and interests. Maybe it's shoveling snow for an elderly neighbor or donating blood. Maybe it's tying quilts for Blanket Workshop or making kits for Lutheran World Relief. Maybe the time is right to start tutoring at your local elementary school or helping to serve a monthly meal at Luke House.

We will also collect a weekly "drop in the barrel" for Bethel's Food Pantry during Lent. The items for the barrel are:

- Week 1: Shampoo
- Week 2: Dish Soap
- Week 3: Toothpaste
- Week 4: Deodorant
- Week 5: Baby Wipes
- Week 6: Hand Sanitizer (in small containers)

### How can I participate in the Lent study and what is the schedule?

#### Large Group: Open to all

Mondays at noon, starting February 19 for 5 weeks, by Zoom  
Led by Mary Brennan



# SON 2024



Email [adulted@bethel-madison.org](mailto:adulted@bethel-madison.org) to sign up and get the link)

Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. at Bethel, starting February 21 for 5 weeks

Led by Heather Moen

No advance signup is required

Note: The large group studies are interchangeable. You can attend the Monday or Wednesday session during the week. Email [adulted@bethel-madison.org](mailto:adulted@bethel-madison.org) to get the Zoom link.

#### **Small Group: For existing or new small groups**

Encourage your existing small group (like a women's circle) to participate OR form a small group just for this 5-week study. A member of the group will need to serve as the discussion leader. We will provide the leader with a leader guide, videos, training and support. Email [adulted@bethel-madison.org](mailto:adulted@bethel-madison.org) to sign up your small group and discussion leader.

#### **Asynchronously: For individuals**

We'll use the app "Marco Polo" to facilitate an online asynchronous group discussion. Email [adulted@bethel-madison.org](mailto:adulted@bethel-madison.org) for more

information.

#### **Do I need a copy of Acts: Catching Up With the Spirit by Matthew Skinner and how can I get one?**

Acts: Catching Up With the Spirit is the basis for our study of the book of Acts and access to a copy is strongly recommended. We'll read and study a chapter a week of the Skinner book.

Option 1: We will sell paperback copies of Acts: Catching Up With the Spirit on Sundays, February 4 and 11, in the Emmaus Room for \$10 each.

Option 2: Order the ebook for \$11.99+tax or the paperback for \$12.99+tax+shipping from Cokesbury ([cokesbury.com](http://cokesbury.com)). The ebook and paperback are also available from Amazon.

#### **How can I receive the daily devotions?**

The daily devotions will be distributed digitally.

#### **Daily email:**

If you currently receive Bethel's Friday devotion via email, you will be sent the daily Lent devotions. No further action is needed.



If you don't currently receive Bethel's Friday devotion via email and would like to receive the daily Lent devotion, sign up by using the QR code.

#### **PDF File:**

A digital pdf document (8.5 x 11 format) of all devotions will be available for download by February 11. The pdf file can be viewed online or printed.

#### **Will there be an Acts study opportunity on Sundays at Bethel?**

During the Sunday Forum hour (10:30 – 11:30 am) we will have an expert speaker on the book of Acts.

February 25: Pam Shellberg, PhD

March 3: Pam Shellberg, PhD

March 10: Mary Brennan, Bethel Series

March 17: Matthew Skinner, Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary, via Zoom

#### **What if I have questions?**

If you have questions, please reach out to any member of the Lent Team – Kathy Kube, Ann Leon, Heather Moen or Jacqui Shanda.



## CARING MINISTRY TEAM

God has given each of us a purpose, unique gifts and an opportunity to serve. How are you called to serve in 2024? The Community Ministry Team seeks to create a friendly environment to let all attending church feel welcome and know they matter to us. We are seeking friendly faces to serve as greeters and welcome desk hosts. We would love to have you join us! Contact Faith Kelley at [fkelly7@yahoo.com](mailto:fkelly7@yahoo.com) to learn more or volunteer. 🌈

## UPDATES FROM THE FOOD PANTRY

Thank you to those of you who have donated items, bags, time, and/or financial support to the Food Pantry. We experienced a 52% increase in people served in 2023 as compared to 2022, and your support is vital to the continued success of this outreach mission. It was wonderful to be able to cross off "Sorry, no chicken noodle soup or canned peas" from our whiteboard! We appreciate your use of our Wish Lists, available on the slat board outside the sanctuary. Since last February's spice drive was so successful and so appreciated by our pantry guests, our Wish List this month is for our most requested seasonings. Of course, we continue to accept items such as chicken noodle soup and canned peas from previous lists. Thank you again for your support and prayers! 🌈

## LOVED BY MANY

When I was in 10th grade, my English teacher asked us to write an essay based on three words—"It is cold".

I got busy writing as I thought I knew what it meant to be cold, living in northern Wisconsin and having to walk just over a mile from school to home each school day. Apparently, I convinced my teacher what it meant to be cold having received an A on the essay. I believe that it takes having a lived experience before one can authentically depict it.

Last Sunday at Bethel, two unhoused men were talking about how difficult it is to be cold. They were sleeping outside at night with blankets that were at first damp and then frozen. They were cold walking from one destination to another. Their fingertips were cold and discolored, their faces felt frozen, and their feet felt like chunks of ice as they walked. They could not afford to warm up in a restaurant or coffee shop because they could not afford to purchase a beverage or food item (restaurants do not allow people to warm up unless they are able to purchase something). They knew what it meant to be cold. This state of being cold was wearing

on them to the point where one of them felt suicidal and even had a plan. This gentleman was fortunate enough to talk to two members of Bethel's congregation who alerted another member and thus began a series of encounters that led to a change of heart and a change in his plans. This person was loved by eight people ... two who first listened to his plight, another person discerned the seriousness of his problems,

the next who stopped and gave a huge hug, another who again offered to listen and sympathize, three others who sat with this gentleman and his friend and shared coffee while problem solving, and another who offered to take their blankets home to wash and dry them. Each person who encountered these men

demonstrated God's love for others. Each person offered what he/she could as a gift from God and was able to help the men solve some of their problems and make different plans for their futures. The men left Bethel more uplifted and hopeful, knowing that others cared about them and that they were not alone to deal with their problems. This was an example of the meaningful words "God's work. Our hands." written on the many golden Bethel T-shirts! 🌈

FAITH  
HOPE  
LOVE

## A HUGE THANK YOU TO THE YOUTH GROUP

Bethel's Homeless Ministry wants to give a huge "Thank You" to Bethel's Youth Group for their efforts to organize a Giving Tree during the month of December. The Youth Group under the direction of Heather Moen decorated the Giving Tree and attached tags showing the items needed by the Homeless Ministry to meet the needs of the individuals that we serve. We also want to thank the many folks who provided gifts. The event was very successful with the following presents being received:

2 Bibles	35 pair of men's socks
7 sleeping bags	34 pair of women's socks
9 blankets	4 hand warmers 🌈
7 scarves	
13 winter hats	
10 pair of gloves	
3 backpacks	
58 pair of men's underwear	
50 pair of women's underwear	
20 pair of men's thermal underwear	
5 pair of women's thermal underwear	



## RUTH'S STORY

On their 3rd or 4th date, Pastor Duane took Ruth to Bethel Horizons for the first time. It was 1971 and the very first summer that Bethel Horizons welcomed campers. "Camp was so primitive back then. The kids slept in teepees or on a tarp under the stars, and the staff consisted of 2-3 counselors, a cook, a bus driver, and a few in-camp staff." Ruth shared.

Ruth recalls times when the water would dry up, and the staff would pile onto the bus on Saturdays for their weekly showers at the Governor Dodge State Park shower house. "We'd have enough water to eat and do the dishes for the week. The bathroom was a pit toilet." Ruth said with a smile.

Through faith, vision, and determination, Horizons would grow in its mission of connecting those who visit, to the harmonies of God, self, others, and nature.

"Duane was the ultimate salesman and good at pulling things together," Ruth said. "If he didn't know something, he'd find the right person with particular talents to help Horizons grow and expand its programming. He brought in nurses and social workers to teach the counselors how to successfully and compassionately handle behavioral issues they may encounter with campers. He would find builders, masons, and woodworkers if a building needed to be built or repaired. He had a passion for experiential

learning and recruited gardeners, naturalists, and musicians to expand the programming at camp. This led to the ropes course focusing on team building and corporate games." Ruth said.

Ruth looks back at those early days and says she is most thankful that Horizons is "maintaining its mission to reach a diverse group of people young and old. The basic harmonies are still thought about, programmed, and experienced. Duane would be so excited about the diversity of programming." Ruth continued, "It's wonderful that so many more people are being drawn to Horizons. The trails are opening up the land while still protecting it. It's not being hurt but enjoyed. The arts program at Adamah has gone in a direction that Duane and Don Hunt could have only dreamed of. Duane would be so proud of the work and growth at Horizons."

"Horizons is what it is today because of so many people investing something of themselves," Ruth said.

As we begin the 55th year at Bethel Horizons, we are so grateful to this incredible community of support who have given so much of their time, talent, and treasure to ensure that Horizons continues to inspire and impact the next generation of campers and visitors. 🌈

## FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Friendship Club will be on hiatus for February 2024, as we wait for information about the church's plans on who/how to prepare meals for organizations and meals that the Church sponsors. Please stay tuned! Thank you.

- Judi Griffin 🌈

## XYZ EVENTS

Our valentine party is Friday, Feb. 16th at 10am in Borgwardt Hall. We will discover who our secret pal is, and exchange our \$5. Gift. Come join us for lunch and fellowship, even if you did not sign up for a secret pal. Our meeting year starts on Friday, March 22, at 9am.



## COLUMBARIUM Q & A

What is a Columbarium?  
A columbarium is a structure with niches to store urns containing cremated remains.

Where is Bethel's Columbarium located?  
Bethel's Columbarium is located adjacent to the sanctuary.

How many niches are there, and how many have been sold?

There are ninety niches, and thirty-eight have been sold.

What other options are available in the columbarium?

Our columbarium also has a memorial wall with plaques available for purchase to honor a loved one.

How do I get more information about the columbarium?

Brochures are available on the slat board outside the sanctuary. Call Bethel at 608.257.3577 to request an application for a niche or memorial plaque. 🌈





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## LOOKING AHEAD

### February 14

Ash Wednesday service 12:30pm  
Evening Vespers Service 6pm

### February 25

Jiji and Dandi Um violin-guitar duo  
Concert

### March 24

Madison Bach Musicians with Sarah  
Brailey Concert

### April 21

Earth Sunday - Guest preacher (TBD)  
in worship, 10:30 C4C forum, and  
possibly lunch

### April 28

10:30 C4C forum "Take Out the  
Trash" including the Dane County  
Trash Lab (27-foot trailer) on the  
parking lot, with activities for kids &  
adults

### May 4

10:00 Church in the Wild with  
earth-friendly lunch at Bethel  
Horizons

# BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

312 Wisconsin Avenue  
Madison, WI 53703

## DECEMBER 2023 YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Offerings	1,507,717	1,606,700	(98,983)
Miscellaneous revenue	203,496	234,096	(30,600)
Non-operating revenue	11,526	(750)	12,276
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,722,739</b>	<b>1,840,046</b>	<b>(117,307)</b>
<b>MINISTRY INVESTMENTS</b>			
Staff	1,161,695	1,379,024	(217,329)
Ministry & Resource Teams	384,358	344,450	39,908
Benevolence	29,858	28,000	1,858
Administration	103,566	88,150	15,416
Other	-	-	-
<b>Total Ministry Investments</b>	<b>1,679,477</b>	<b>1,839,624</b>	<b>(160,147)</b>
<b>Total Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>43,262</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>42,840</b>

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



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BethelLutheranTV

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

