

Jesus loves you. Walk with Him.

BETHELITE

MARCH 1, 2024: VOL 73, NO. 3

THIS ISSUE:

UPCOMING PASTOR COVERAGE

Page 2

CARING FOR CREATION SAVE THE DATES

Page 3

EASTER AT BETHEL MARCH 31

Page 4

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA MARCH 30

Page 5

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Page 6

FOOD SERVICE UPDATE

Page 7

SAVE THE DATES AND JANUARY FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Page 8

IT IS WITH EXTREME PLEASURE...

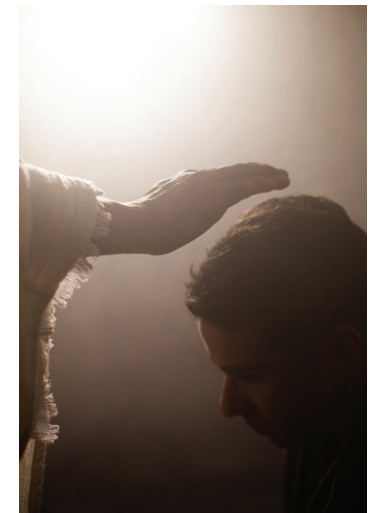
...that Bethel's Joint Council announces that a new lead pastor, Lauren Wrightsman will begin on April 1, 2024. In mid-summer Pastor David Wrightsman will join us as an associate pastor. Our prayers are with Lauren and David as they begin the process of joining and leading our congregation.

- Denis Vogel on behalf of the Joint Council

BLESSINGS IN THE LENTEN SEASON

Bethel Lutheran Church finds itself amidst a significant transition during the sacred season of Lent, as we prepare to welcome a new shepherd to guide us on our spiritual journey. Since the resignation of Mike Brown in July 2023, it has prompted reflections on the importance of change and adaptation for the future.

In the spirit of Lent, a season traditionally associated with reflection and renewal, we are embracing this transition with faith and hope. We observe that members are coming together to express gratitude for the past and to welcome the possibilities that lie ahead. Lent



Lent is the season for renewal

Easter Giving 2024

ONLINE FORM

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



All go to one place. All are from the dust, and to dust all return. - Ecclesiastes 3:20

leaders. Our Bethel members have stated that the anticipation of welcoming a new spiritual leader brings a sense of excitement and purpose to the community.

In the midst of change, Bethel Lutheran Church stands united in faith, looking forward to the future with hope and anticipation. As we journey through Lent, we are reminded that, just as the seasons change, so too does the landscape of our spiritual community. With open hearts and minds, we await the arrival of our new pastor, ready to embark on a new chapter in the rich tapestry of our faith. 🌈

school program. Emerson is preparing a list of cleaning, sorting and organizing projects for that morning. We'll begin at 9:00 AM and plan to be finished by Noon. Families with children can work together in this effort.

On Sunday, March 17th we will be setting up, serving and cleaning up for a meal at Luke House. We'll meet there at 4:45 PM and should be finished by 7:00 PM. The meal is served from 5:45 to 6:30. Older children can certainly work with other family members this evening. We are also hoping participants will bring two

dozen cookies or bars to help stock the Luke House dessert pantry.

Both of these give us an opportunity to serve others during this Lenten season. Please consider participating in one or both events. 🌈

serves as a poignant backdrop for this transition, offering a time of introspection, repentance, and preparation for the celebration of Easter.

Members of our congregation have seen and been a part of the search for a new pastor. It has been a prayerful process, guided by the Bethel Church Council, Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe of the synod of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin-ELCA, and other Bethel

LENTEN SERVICE PROJECTS

Bethel has scheduled two service projects members and families can help with during Lent.

Please contact John Shanda, J2Shanda@att.net or 608-575-3156 to sign up or to ask any questions.

On Saturday, March 2nd, we will have a Bethel Work Day at Emerson Elementary School. This is Bethel's partner in the new adopt-a-

Let us receive these blessings. Amen.

UPCOMING PASTOR COVERAGE

- M**arch 2/3 - Ken Schaub
- March 9/10 - Jeff Quinto
- March 16/17 - Ken Schaub
- March 23/24 Palm Sunday - Ken Schaub
- March 30/31 Easter Sunday - Ken Schaub 🌈



CATCH UP WITH CARING FOR CREATION

Did you miss Caring for Creation's outstanding January 21 forum on "Energy, Climate, the Inflation Reduction Act, and YOU"? Its name notwithstanding, the IRA is the U.S. government's single largest step to address climate change, yet few Americans understand how important it can be.

Catch up by watching the professional video recording of Scott Williams' and Kathy Kuntz's lively presentation of the IRA and how its incentives can help individuals and organi-

zations increase their energy efficiency and improve our environment. You can find it at youtu.be/gq7nO5SWALM

But wait! There's more! The Caring for Creation playlist on Bethel's YouTube Channel has over twenty videos of forums with distinguished guests, environmentally themed devotionals, and short topical videos - everything from wild-life to weather and from soil to science moms. You can find the Bethel YouTube channel by looking up BethelLutheranTV on YouTube. 🌈

CALLING ALL COUPLES IN A COMMITTED RELATIONSHIP!

Please join us at Bethel Lutheran Church all day Saturday and Sunday, July 20 and 21, 2024, for Getting the Love You Want, a transformational workshop that will deepen your connection, teach you powerful communication skills, and enhance trust, joy, and passion in your couplehood.

Led by Dr. Caroline Bernhardt-



Lanier, an advanced Imago clinical counselor and trainer, and her husband, Jason Bernhardt-Lanier. Both skilled workshop presenters engaging diverse couples worldwide.

Please email Caroline for more information cbl@imagocenterdc.com and Kathy Forde at kathy-forde1212@yahoo.com for questions. 🌈

SPRING CREATION-CARE EVENTS

Save the dates for a series of four special creation-care events, organized by Bethel's Caring for Creation group, Kids & Family Ministry, and Youth Ministries.

Sunday April 21 - Earth Sunday Worship and Forum

Pastor Joann Conroy returns to preach and to present a 10:30 Caring for Creation forum. Pastor Joann, who preached memorably at Bethel in November 2022, is president of the ELCA's American Indian and Alaska Native Lutheran Association and a member of the Oglala Lakota Sioux.

Sunday April 28 - Take Out the Trash!

9:00-12:00: Enjoy a short field trip to Bethel's parking lot to visit the Dane County Trash Lab - a 27-foot trailer filled with fun displays and activities for kids and adults.

10:30: Caring for Creation forum on reducing waste and better recycling with guest speaker Brian Johnson (Madison Recycling Coordinator).

The nursery and school-age childcare will be available until noon.

Wednesday May 1 - Healing the Creation Vespers

at 6:00 pm, led by Bethel youth.

Saturday May 4 - Church in the Wild at Bethel Horizons

at 10:00 am. Not just an outdoor church service, this will be an invitation to experience "the grace of wild things" (Wendell Berry) as we wander and worship in the wild. We'll conclude with Communion - led by our synod Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe - and an earth-friendly (and free!) lunch.





ADD THAT TOUCH OF SPECIAL TO OUR SANCTUARY

If you have a special event or anniversary upcoming, please consider including Bethel's congregation in your celebration by underwriting altar flowers for our Sunday worship. Your sponsorship of the worship flowers will be included in our bulletin and seen during the telecast of our services. These can be taken home with you following the 9am service (due to the use of the screen in the Sanctuary for the 11am service) so you will have a lovely reminder of your celebration along with providing this for Bethel.

Felly's is our provider of these arrangements and the cost for each is \$40; however, if you reserve a date you may opt for an arrangement or florist that differs. To ensure we have time to make the appropriate arrangements please provide all payments to Bethel the Wednesday prior to your targeted date for underwriting flowers. For those who would like to sponsor flowers for an upcoming Sunday, or would like more information, please speak with Kenny at the reception desk or give Bethel a call at (608)-257-3577. Thank you for considering this opportunity! 🌸



EASTER

As the buds of spring begin to blossom and the days grow longer, we are reminded that Easter is just around the corner. Easter is a time of joy, hope, and celebration for Christians around the world, and we eagerly anticipate the significance of this sacred season.

Easter, also known as Resurrection Sunday, holds a special place in the Lutheran calendar as we commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a time to reflect on the profound meaning of the empty tomb and the victory over sin and death that it represents. The message of Easter is one of hope and renewal, reminding us that through Christ, we are offered the gift of eternal life.

Holy Week is a time of intense spiritual significance, starting with Palm Sunday, where we commemorate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Maundy Thursday follows,

remembering the Last Supper, and Good Friday, reflecting on the solemnity of Christ's crucifixion. These days set the stage for the glorious culmination on Easter Sunday when we celebrate the resurrection with joyous worship services and heartfelt fellowship.

As we embrace the hope that Easter brings, let us also extend our love and compassion to those around us. Easter is a season of renewed faith, and it is our privilege to share the love of Christ with our neighbors, friends, and community.

May this Easter be a time of spiritual growth, joy, and gratitude for the incredible gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. Together, let us rejoice in the resurrection and the promise of new life.

Blessings to you and your loved ones this Easter season! 🌸

HOLY COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

April 20th at 9:00am

Everyone is invited to communion instruction including a morning of fun, study, and food. Bethel members of all ages are encouraged to attend this intergenerational event. Age-appropriate activities are offered for upper elementary children, confirmands, and adults. Those gathered on Saturday morning will learn about the history and mystery of Holy Communion, tour the sacristy, have craft time, and share a snack and enjoy a brunch together.

Please also include 9 AM worship on Sunday, April 21st, in your plans on this important

weekend. As the communion instruction participants will have the opportunity to process into worship with the Holy Communion banner (with their names on it) and be blessed by Pastor Lauren.

Children who have participated in communion instruction will not attend Sunday school that morning, but will sit with their families for the entire worship service. Please email Paula at paula@bethel-madison.org or call Paula at 608-257-3577 x330 to register so that we can plan for you, Saturday, April 20th, 9:00 am - noon in Borgwardt Hall. 🌸

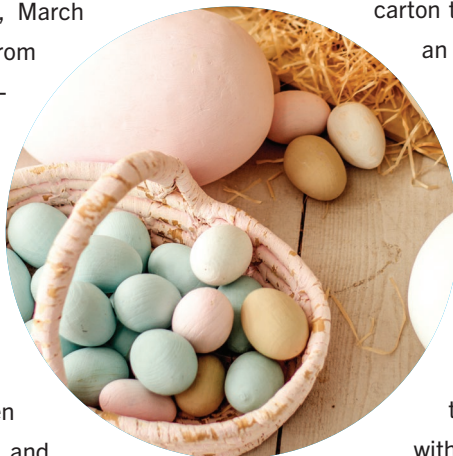
AT BETHEL



EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

March 30th at 10:00am

Hop on in for some Family Fun! Please join us on Saturday, March 30th in Borgwardt Hall, from 10am-12pm for a hopping good time at our second Annual Easter Eggstravaganza for Kids & Families! We are asking each child 6th grade and under to bring in a cardboard egg carton. They can then stop by our craft center and decorate this carton to their heart's content before going egg hunting. Once the



carton is full of eggs, they can show their full carton to our prize booth and receive an Easter pail full of goodies to take home.

Other fun activities include face painting, enter-to-win drawings, crafts, and fun booth prizes! Families can enjoy a continental breakfast and join in the fun by taking some family pictures with the big celebrity—the Easter Bunny—at one of the photo booths. We can't wait to see you there! 🌈

BETHEL ZOOM RESERVATIONS

If you are using Bethel's Zoom account for a meeting, please reserve the time with Kenny at the Welcome Desk as we are limited to having one Zoom meeting at a time on the same account. You can contact him at recep@bethel-madison.org. 🌈



MEMORIALIZING BETHEL MEMBERS WITHIN OUR ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

This year, we celebrate 60 years of Bethel's Endowment Foundation. Begun in 1964, with a gift of \$100,000 from former Governor Rennebohm, seed money to create a unique asset at Bethel to last in perpetuity. Since that time, Bethel has memorialized each member who has died with a monetary gift from the church in each of their names established within the endowment fund. We say exactly this, in each of the semi-annual newsletters – Foundation Life, as a preface to the listing of deceased in the prior six months. It's a longstanding, special tradition – and creates a lasting linkage from the church where all of these people were members, to the foundation, where their name and memory is now held in perpetuity. The gifts are added to the general fund from which the grants are given each year. If a named memorial fund were to reach \$50,000 in gifts given, it can then be separated out for specific grants given from it. We encourage family and friends to add to these memorials, or offer general contributions. 🌈



HOMELESS MINISTRY MEAL ASSISTANCE

2023 was a very busy year at Bethel's Homeless Ministry. At the beginning of the year we were serving about 60 guests each day that the ministry was open. By the end of the year that number had increased to 90 guests per day. One of the important aspects of the program is the delicious and nutritious hot meals that we are able to provide each Tuesday and Thursday noon. During 2023 we were very fortunate to have most of the Thursday meals provided for free by a wonderful donor. She made the meals in her house and delivered

them to Bethel. Unfortunately, she is not able to continue to provide meals this year. As you may expect, that has left us with a significant budget problem. We are looking for individuals or groups who would like to sponsor meals or prepare meals. If you or your group would like to sponsor a meal, financial contributions can be sent to the church office and should be designated for Homeless Ministry Meals. If you would like to prepare a meal, please contact Bev Thom at (608) 576-7245 or Paul Nehm at (608) 228-3311. Your generosity is much appreciated. 🌈

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION - coming up in late April

If you or someone you know is interested in joining Bethel – please know that our next orientation is set for Saturday, April 27th 9-1 in Good Shepherd Chapel. And guess what? – there is intel that Pr Lauren Wrightsman plans to be a part of this session, both as a participant and as a leader. We are stepping into a new next phase of Bethel Lutheran Church, and if you're new to Bethel, or a fence sitter in terms of becoming a member, now is the right time. Plan now to attend this informative half day

gathering. Should you have questions, or simply just want to register – please let Alice Mowbray know, either by email alicem@bethel-madison.org or office phone, 608.257.3577 x222, so that we can plan for lunch and for childcare, as needed.

During this season of Lent, as we look to the light and hope of Easter Sunday, add this consideration to your prayers. We look forward to having you more intentionally in our midst! 🌈



CHEF CENA'S STORY

Space in the Universe

“I was a loud, weird, curly-haired girl who did not have many friends in my small town.”

Cena shared about her 13-year-old self. “My mom was a cook at Bethel Horizons, and I was able to tag along with her to work. I loved hanging out at camp because I learned I deserved to do all the activities I thought girls were not allowed to do, such as hiking, rock climbing, and starting fires.”

Cena felt accepted at Horizons. She said, “It was the first time I was popular! People saw and accepted me as my honest self, and I was finally able to take off my mask. Camp was the first place I got the opportunity to experience multiple cultures and see how people come together even when they have different upbringings. The community Bethel Horizons cultivates is a community of love.”

Cena was again validated for being her authentic self when she was hand-picked from a group of thirty Leaders in Training to be a Junior Counselor the week after her camp leadership experience. Cena’s authenticity and unique leadership style led her to be hired as a Junior Counselor by Eric Knueve the following summer. Back then, he was the Program Director under Pastor Duane Hanson. “It’s kinda funny how all these years later, it would be Eric, now Horizons Executive Director, who would hire me again for

my dream job.”

As the Executive Chef of Bethel Horizons, Chef Cena now reflects fondly on all of her camp experiences. Bethel Horizons became Cena’s safe place, and it gave her permission to take up space in the universe. Her uniqueness gave her power. Instead of shunning who she is, the summer camp community nurtured her. This acceptance fostered her journey to accept herself fully and gave her the confidence she deserved.

“I feel comfortable with myself, which resonates with our staff and retreat guests. People open up to me and share their own really human stuff. I think it is because I am not afraid of being vulnerable.”

We usually think of our younger campers when we think about camp’s impact. Cena’s story is so beautiful because those campers grow up and continue sharing the qualities camp instilled in them at such an impressionable age. We thank all of those who support Bethel Horizons for continuing to make sure that the next generation of leaders continues to grow and develop in the mission of connecting to the harmonies of God, self, others, and nature.



FOOD SERVICE UPDATE

As many of you know, Steve Nelson is moving into retirement. We wish him well after many years of faithful service to Bethel. Once Pr. Lauren arrives, Bethel can then determine a new path forward for food service, incorporating her best practice experience. In the meantime, a list of caterers is being developed that may assist you in planning an event if food will be served. We can still share good food, conversations, stories and laughter as we connect our community in fellowship. With God’s help, the people of Bethel will continue to be nourished in body and spirit! 🌈

XYZ EVENTS

March 22nd is first meeting; 9am Borgwardt Hall. Chapel, Usual activities and lunch Sunday, April 7th bus trip to Beaver Dam to see musical play. Contact Sue at wmarking@msn.com to sign up. 🌈

COMMUNITY 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 to learn more or volunteer. 🌈

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BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

312 Wisconsin Avenue
Madison, WI 53703



LOOKING AHEAD

April 5 - 7

Spring at Horizons

April 21

Earth Sunday - Pastor Joann Conroy in worship, 10:30 C4C forum, and possibly lunch

April 27

New Member Orientation

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 1

Healing the Creation Vespers Service

May 4

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

July 2 - 5

Summer at Horizons

July 2 - 5

Getting the Love You Want Workshop

July 29 - August 1

Vacation Bible Camp 

JANUARY 2024 YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
REVENUES			
Offerings	130,070	131,709	(1,639)
Miscellaneous revenue	31,522	33,028	(1,506)
Non-operating revenue	1,877	666	1,211
Total Revenue	163,469	165,403	(1,934)
MINISTRY INVESTMENTS			
Staff	77,306	117,437	(40,131)
Ministry & Resource Teams	28,370	32,626	(4,256)
Benevolence	2,583	2,333	250
Administration	9,104	8,269	835
Other	-	-	-
Total Ministry Investments	117,363	160,665	(43,302)
Total Net Income (Loss)	46,106	4,738	41,368

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; 11am - Contemporary
Saturday at 5pm - Acoustic Casual

