



BETHELITE

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WELCOME PASTOR DAVE

M On Sunday, July 14, we are celebrating the arrival of our new Transition Associate Pastor (who assumes his position at Bethel beginning Monday, July 8) with a reception. It is Pastor David (Dave) Wrightsman! If that name sounds familiar, it is. Pastor Dave is the husband of Pastor Lauren Wrightsman, our Transition Lead Pastor since April 2, 2024.



Pastor David Wrightsman

We are blessed indeed to welcome Pastor Dave, whose skills, honed during 25 years of congregational experience, will make him a valuable addition to our pastoral team at Bethel. Please join the congregation in the Emmaus Room after the 9:00 AM service to meet Pastor Dave and welcome him to Bethel.

In anticipation of his arrival, Pastor Dave provided the following commentary.

What do you look forward to most about serving Bethel Lutheran Church?

As I begin my pastoral call at Bethel, I am looking forward to the opportunity to build meaningful relationships and am excited to walk alongside each person in their spiritual journey, learning from them and if asked, offering guidance, encouragement, and a listening ear. The prospect of working collaboratively with others in the creation of worship experiences, impactful outreach programs, and enriching educational opportunities energizes me. I am eager to witness and contribute to the personal and collective growth of our congregation, celebrating milestones and overcoming challenges together. Above all, I look forward to sharing in the joy, hope, and love that



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

define our communal life in faith in Jesus Christ. St Paul, in writing to the faithful at Corinth wrote, "... so, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation." That new creation is happening at Bethel in its ministry and mission.

You have been serving during these recent years as an Intentional Interim Pastor. How is this fulfilling to you? How long have you done this and what other ways have you served the Church?

Overall, I come to Bethel having served the wider church in the Twin Cities for the past 35 years in a variety of ways: as an urban youth worker, educator, community partnership builder, campus pastor, settled pastor and as interim pastor. It is this latest role, Intentional Interim Pastor, where I have focused the past 10 years. As I like to say, in all these places I make sure the doors are open, the lights are on, and the engine is running!

This means, with God's help, I have worked with congregations struggling to heal and find a renewed sense of mission and vitality, along with renewal in staff, programming, and facilities. By fostering a sense of unity and purpose, I enjoy helping congregations navigate uncertainty and maintain their spiritual vitality. The collective enthusiasm and renewed sense of mission that emerge during times of interim are profoundly gratifying to me.

Many within our congregation may not know that your father, Pastor Bruce Wrightsman, served as an Associate Pastor at Bethel



Arisen by Hannah Garrity

in the 60s. What do you remember of Bethel, if anything, from your early life?

I was born at Madison General Hospital and baptized at Bethel by my dad in 1965. We moved to Decorah, Iowa 2 years later when my father received his call to teach in the religion department at Luther College. About once a year or so my family would worship at Bethel as I was growing up and as my parents reconnected occasionally with friends. I always felt great joy worshipping in Bethel's sanctuary on those visits through the years... the preaching, music, friendliness of the community, and the outreach of the church left such a favorable impression on me. Additionally, I remember being a part of a Horizon's family canoe trip on the Kickapoo River sometime in the mid-70s. and I also recall visiting the Yahara Center with my dad a few times when he would help teach there or visit with Pastor Harley Swiggum.

It has been shared that you also have taught the Bethel Bible Series in your previous churches. Will you teach it again at Bethel?

Lauren and I took the Bethel Series training from my father in the early 2000s in the Twin Cities at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi, MN where she was serving as a pastor at that time. I have been teaching it ever since. Lauren and I also came to Bethel for a week in 2009 for

an Advanced Bethel Series training course led by Betty Mansfield and Robert Smith. We fondly remember the Unkalung Choir performing then! Little did we know what God had in store for us all these years later. Yes, I hope to teach it again at some point in the future!

How did you and Lauren meet?

While Lauren and I are both Luther College grads (me - 1988, Lauren- 1993), we did not meet at Luther College. Lauren and I first met when she was in the middle of her studies at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN and I was the youth director at Central Lutheran Church in downtown Minneapolis. In the mid-90s, Lauren brought a group of Confirmation students to tour Central Lutheran Church's beautiful sanctuary and I gave the tour. We quickly discovered that not only were we both in seminary but that we had many things in common: including that we both lived in Nottingham England at different times, loved history, and had a common love of camping, travel, and music.

What are your interests outside of work?

I really enjoy being with people, whether it is meeting people and/or deepening relationships with folks that I meet. I enjoy singing in the church or the community whenever I get the opportunity to do so. My reading and TV

watching usually center around history and crime drama/mysteries. I am fascinated by Holocaust history. I enjoy doing strength training, kickboxing, and hiking. I LOVE to travel with my wife and family!

Fun facts about you that we have not asked?

I have enjoyed leading retreats and summer camp experiences at Bible camps and look forward to being introduced to Bethel Horizons. In addition, I have also worked with Jewish, Christian, and Muslim leaders on interfaith dialogues and have enjoyed leading youth and adults into urban exploration regarding issues such as hunger, homelessness, racism and interfaith. I look forward to the exciting and surprising ways that we will celebrate Christ's ministry during this next chapter in Bethel's ministry. I look forward to meeting everyone!

Over the past few weeks we have received glowing comments highlighting Pastor Dave's abilities. Following are a few direct quotes from his parishioners.

"Pastor Dave is outgoing and develops strong interpersonal relationships with members. He is fun. As a strong leader he engages others to volunteer, respects their contribution, identifies their strength... (he) has the heart and compassion of a pastor, non-judgmental, and loves the people entrusted to his care by God."

"Ministry to the ill, hurting, homebound, and those in grief is critical to Pastor Dave's ministry. He has embraced sharing the ministry at our several nursing homes, visitation to our ill and homebound, and visiting those in hospital. He has counseled families preparing for funerals, and officiated at funerals in a respectful, caring manner with assurance of our gospel promises. His learning about their loved ones from their families is woven through the preaching, personalizing the service for the family and friends."

"Preaching and teaching are vital pillars of ministry, and Pastor Dave excels at both. He is articulate, and well-grounded theologically from the pulpit, but communicates with language, stories, and humor, that all can follow. His preaching is sound. I often find myself taking notes, and pondering his insights or questions from the text long after Sunday is past." 🌈

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The following update was given by members of the Call Committee at the June 8 and 9 worship services.

Pastor Lauren has been with us eight weeks and we want to give you an update on where we're at and where we're going with the call process. Our goal is to keep the congregation updated and engaged and most importantly, give you an opportunity to give us your thoughts and suggestions as we move forward. These eight weeks have been a time for Pastor Lauren to get to know Bethel, the staff, and all of us. It's been an exciting time and suffice it to say, we've just begun. Our most important job right now as Bethel members is to continue to build a relationship with Pastor Lauren. That's because this call process is unusual. Normally a congregation doesn't meet the new pastor until AFTER he or she has been called. But thanks to Bethel's Joint Council and the Bishop, we forged a path which allows us to decide if we're a good fit for one another BEFORE we call Pastor Lauren and BEFORE she accepts our call. This means all of us are an extension of the call committee -- it's not just the five of us who were elected in February. We all have a part to play. So –

- Thank you for wearing name tags.
- Thank you for attending or even hosting a "Meet and Greet."
- Thank you for taking a few extra moments before or after worship to introduce yourself to Lauren or re-introduce yourself to her.
- And thank you in advance for giving the Call Committee your feedback about whether Pastor Lauren and Bethel are a good fit for each other.

As Pastor Lauren and Bethel move forward, the Call Committee will be gathering feedback from her many outside references, from you and from Pastor Lauren. So don't be surprised if sometime this summer the Call Committee reaches out to ask you to share your thoughts and suggestions on where we're at. Also, as a reminder, Pastor David Wrightsman will start as our interim associate pastor on July 8th. He will be on a similar, but separate, transition track which we'll hear more about later this summer. Meanwhile, please reach out to us — our names are in the back of the bulletin. We're looking at end of the summer to gather all of the feedback so we can make a recommendation to the Council in September. We feel this is an exciting time of renewal here at Bethel and we want each of you to be a part of our work.

Thank You. 🌈

SAVE THE DATE FOR A SPECIAL SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER!

On Sunday, September 22nd - plan now to attend the One Worship that weekend, 8:30-10:00am, followed by Brunch in Borgwardt Hall - in order to celebrate the Bethel Endowment Foundation's 60th Anniversary, 1964-2024. (This one service will be the only worship service that weekend.) Special music, inspiring preaching by three pastors, engaging videos and much fellowship will help tell the story of how Bethel has been Blessed to be a Blessing over the decades. We are so thankful to God for all the faithful leaders who have come before us and continue among us now. Join us as a full church congregation to mark this significant milestone - put a star on your calendar now for 9.22.24. 🌈

BETHEL YOUTH GET THE INSIDE SCOOP WITH PASTOR LAUREN

Pastor Lauren has been at Bethel since early April and we've have had a great time getting to know one another. From informal drop-in greetings to in-person meet & greet sessions to Sunday morning fellowship, there have been many opportunities for interaction. Our own Bethel Youth Group recently caught up with Pastor Lauren to ask some of their own questions and it is guaranteed that these questions haven't been asked anywhere else! Check out their short 6-minute discussion here: <https://youtu.be/yRbFZCvI8Ko> Many thanks to Jim Drews for filming this interview. 🌈



SUMMER

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

Monday, July 29th - Thursday,
August 1st

VBC@Horizons is a cherished Bethel tradition. Kids aged 5-18 are welcome for a week of camp, faith formation, and fun. Your children or grandchildren will be transformed by a week spent living in Christian community at Bethel Horizons.

Vacation Bible Camp is hosted at Bethel Horizons in Dodgeville, Wisconsin on July 29 - August 1.

There are several ways to participate, depending on the age of your child.

Overnight Campers

Children aged 8-18 are invited to sleep over at camp Monday-Wednesday evenings. Participants can be dropped off and picked up from Bethel Horizons, or a bus will transport them from the Bethel Church parking lot on Monday morning and Thursday afternoon.

Children younger than 8 are allowed to sleep over at camp if they room with a parent, grandparent, or other family member. Adults are welcome to volunteer at VBC and attend with their child of any age.

Elementary aged overnight campers and families with children of all ages are lodged in the Prairie Center. Rooms accommodate up to 4 people, and have private bathrooms/showers.

Day Campers

Children aged 5-8 are welcome to attend day camp. The program starts at 9am and ends at 4:30pm each day. Lunch and snack are provided. Parents are responsible for transporting their children to and from camp each day.

Discovery Guides

Middle and High School youth are invited to participate in VBC as Discovery Guides.

They serve as helpers and mentors for younger children during the day programs. In the evening, they form their own troop of campers and have special youth programming.

Middle and High School youth are lodged in the Barn Retreat Center. Rooms house up to 5 people. There is a shared bathroom/shower for women, another for men, and one gender-neutral bathroom.

Pricing

Thanks to a generous grant from the Bethel Endowment Foundation, VBC pricing is as follows:

Overnight camp: \$150

Daycamp: \$115

Adult Volunteer: \$115

To Register:

Use the QR code to go to the Bethel Horizons website and then click on the words "Register

Here" and login or create a new account. You just need the special code **Bethel24** when it asks for the "GHR ID." This code will allow you to see VBC as an option to select for registration. 🌈



TIME IS HERE



BETHEL SPEAKER SERIES: DR. JACQUELINE BUSSIE

Wednesday, August 14th at 7:00pm at Bethel

Dr. Jacqueline Bussie is an award-winning author, professor, public theologian, and student of life in all its messy beauty, as well as a much sought after speaker and workshop facilitator. Her first book, *The Laughter of the Oppressed* won the national Trinity Prize. Her 2nd book, *Outlaw Christian: Finding Authentic Faith by Breaking the Rules* won the 2017 Gold Medal Illumination Award for Christian Living and received a coveted starred review from Publishers Weekly. Her 3rd and latest book, *Love Without Limits: Jesus' Radical Vision for a Love with No Exceptions*, won the Reader's Favorite Bronze Medal International



Book Award for Christian Living, the 2020 IAN Outstanding Religion Book of the Year Award, and the 3rdPlace IAN Non-Fiction Book of the Year Award. Also, Publisher's Weekly named *Love Without Limits* "a must-read for all Christians interested in inclusivity for their communities." An active servant-leader in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Jacqueline spent the last twenty years teaching religion to undergraduates at ELCA colleges and serving as the founding Director of the Forum on Faith and Life at Concordia College. Jacqueline's favorite things to do are dance, walk on the beach, read good books, ride in the front car

of roller coasters, spend time with friends, and travel to any place she's never been before. Every day she is amazed and grateful that gets to: 1) write and tell her story; 2) empower other people to write and tell theirs; and 3) accompany marvelous people like you on your journey of faith, hope, and healing. The women who attended last fall's ELCA Women's Gathering in Phoenix highly recommended Dr. Bussie 's presentation -- you'll laugh, you may tear-up, but you will be entertained and provoked to recognize and live a Spirit-filled life! This Speaker Series is provided thanks to a generous gift from the Bethel Endowment Foundation. Please join us at 7pm and bring your friends and neighbors. 🌈

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF KIT DRIVE

Stories of war, poverty, natural disaster, or refugee migration may be tugging at your heart as you follow the news. “How can one person or family help people with such huge problems” is often our first response. But our faith in Jesus calls us to help our neighbor and care for the “least of these”. Lutheran World Relief partners with groups around the world who know how to get aid to the people who need it. Bethel is holding a drive for personal care, school, baby, and fabric kits this summer. We invite individuals, families, and small groups to contribute with either specific items that make up the kits or with money. Kit contents can be found at www.lwr.org and in a letter that will be sent to the entire congregation in July. In addition, Bethel’s contributions to LWR will include dozens of quilts that have been assembled, sewn, and tied by the blanket workshop group. The kits and quilts will be shipped to the LWR Minneapolis warehouse in mid-September. Bethel shoppers will purchase kit items for those who don’t like to shop, and we also welcome partial kits. Two hundred bags for the school kits have been provided this year. So look for sales this summer. Or you can donate by check to Bethel Lutheran Church with Lutheran World Relief on the memo line. 🌈

BETHEL’S LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILT MINISTRY AND ART SHOW

July 2-August 31, Gallery Hallway

Imagine the comfort that comes with a hug when someone is in a time of deepest need. Through a simple combination of fabric and thread, Bethel’s Blanket Workshop reaches out to those in need around the world, not wrapping them in their arms, but wrapping them in the work of their hands through a Mission Quilt. This group started in 1969 and has assembled almost 9,800 quilts to date. This ongoing mission has long relied on generous donations of fabric and other materials to create quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Last year the Blanket Workshop shipped out 130 quilts.

Workshop volunteers meet bimonthly in the Mission Room on a schedule posted in the church bulletin and share in fellowship with one another while working to tie quilts.

Mission Quilts can be used for a variety of uses at their destinations. They can be used for warmth, as part of a tent, as a mat for the

ground, as a room divider or as a poncho. Quilts have also been repurposed as wedding dresses and have been used to bury a loved one.

Bethel’s Mission Quilts will be shipped out in September to a warehouse where they will be processed and then sent overseas to the areas where they are most needed. Using tracking data we know our quilts have been distributed in Angola, Burkina Faso, Ukraine, Mauritania, Georgia and Serbia.

A selection of Mission Quilts will be on display in the Gallery Hallway from July 2 through August 31. You are invited to attend a reception on July 14th from 10:30 am until noon when Bethel’s workshop volunteers will be available in the Gallery Hallway to answer questions about the quilt display and Bethel’s Blanket Workshop.

SUMMER FAMILY PICNIC & PLAY IN THE PARK

Sunday, August 11th after the 9:00am service

Calling all families! Let’s meet at the playground in James Madison Park after the 9:00 service on Sunday, August 11th. Relax and connect with other families and church members including Pastors Lauren and Dave at this intergenerational event. We’ll provide a picnic lunch and fizzy water, bubbles, and a few yard games. Bring your friends, lawn

chairs, blankets, bug spray, sunscreen and yard games you’d like to share. We’ll plan to wrap up by noon though families can stay as long as you like. Watch for a request in a future Bethel weekly to RSVP so we can plan for food. Reach out to Paula@bethel-madison.org, 608-257-3577 x330 if you have questions. 🌈

GETTING THE LOVE YOU WANT WORKSHOP

July 20 - 21

For whom? All Bethel couples in a committed relationship

When? Saturday, July 20, 9am to 7pm, and Sunday, July 21, 9am to 6pm

Where? Bethel Lutheran Church

How much? New prices! \$200 per couple (Bethel members) \$250 per couple (Non-Bethel members)

Why should I attend? This fun, lively, experiential workshop will help you turn conflict into opportunities for healing and growth. You will explore anew your formative history to understand its impact on your daily lives and gain compassion for your partner's story. You will leave the weekend with fresh insights, new skills, energy and hope to restore the

commitment and romance in your relationship.

Who are the leaders? Caroline and Jason Bernhardt-Lanier, experienced workshop presenters. Caroline has a PhD in counseling and is a certified Imago therapist and clinical instructor with the Imago International Training Institute. Jason is an executive director for the global Spiritual Changemaker Initiative with a background in strength-based coaching and organizational leadership. Jason and Caroline are celebrating 30+ years together.

For more info, please contact Caroline at cbl@imagocenterdc.com, and Kathy with questions at kathyforde1212@yahoo.com. Sign up through Realm or through Kenny at the Welcome Desk at 608.257.3577. 🌈

SACRED GROUNDS WEEKDAY USE

Bethel Lutheran Church strives to be a community that is welcoming to all people. We meet and greet each other in weekend worship, engage in conversation in Bible studies, come together in community groups, and serve on teams that serve people of all backgrounds, ages, and stages of life.

Bethel Lutheran Church is one of the few churches in the downtown area that still has an open-door policy during the work week and welcomes all people who are seeking assistance or pastoral care.

We are a welcoming congregation, but also have a responsibility to provide a safe environment for our staff, members, and guests.

Effective June 3, 2024, Bethel's Joint Council

addressed some of our weekday security concerns by making Sacred Grounds unavailable for public use to outside groups or individuals during the weekdays. Groups, both internal and external, are welcome to meet at Bethel Lutheran Church by reserving rooms through the church office.

Bethel has a Security Task Force that is working on providing a long-term solution to address security concerns alongside our wish to remain an open and welcoming congregation.

If you have any questions, please contact Alice Mowbray at alicem@bethel-madison.org. 🌈

FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry is in need of paper and plastic bags again, so please consider dropping your extra ones off in the blue barrel by the reception desk or in the bagging area of the Food Pantry. We appreciate your help! This month's Wish List includes ketchup, mustard, ranch dressing, salt and pepper, canned peas, and dish soap. Copies of the Wish List are available on the slat board outside the sanctuary. Thank you very much for your support! 🌈

HOMELESS MINISTRY FOOD UPDATE

Would you or your small group such as your Circle, like to provide a nutritious lunch for Bethel's homeless guests this summer? Several of Bethel's congregants have expressed an interest in or have already provided a noon meal for those who attend Bethel's Homeless Ministry on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We have approximately 90 + people who cross our threshold each day that we are open and usually we provide a nutritious lunch for 75-80 guests. If you or your friends would like to partake in this endeavor, please contact Kenny at the reception desk or Bev Thom at (608)576-7245. Our guests regularly express their gratitude for the food they receive at Bethel. God's blessings as you consider this opportunity. 🌈

CUSHIONS IN THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY

Cushions have been purchased and are in the back of the sanctuary. These are meant to aid those with back issues who find it difficult to sit in the wooden pews without some support. 🌈



LOOKING AHEAD

July 14

Pastor Dave Wrightsman reception

July 20-21

Getting the Love You Want Workshop

July 29-August 1

Vacation Bible Camp

August 11

Summer Family Picnic & Play

August 14 7pm

Dr. Jacqueline Bussie Speaker Series

September 15

Fall Festival

September 22 8:30-10am

One Worship Weekend



FUND FACTS

1 Gifting directly from your IRA to Bethel, if you are 70 1/2 or older, avoids taxable income and fulfills your required distribution starting at age 73. IRAs left to your family can incur substantial taxes, making it less advantageous as an inheritance asset.

2 Bethel has 360 households who have pledged support for their church this year. Thank you! Generosity is not about how much you give but rather an attitude and the direction of your heart. Last year in total, 659 households gave support to Bethel's operating plan.



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LUTHERAN CHURCH

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MAY 2024 YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
REVENUES			
Offerings	610,367	658,541	(48,174))
Miscellaneous revenue	133,152	165,147	(31,995)
Non-operating revenue	10,578	3,334	7,244
Total Revenue	754,097	827,022	(72,925)
MINISTRY INVESTMENTS			
Staff	465,006	587,187	(122,181)
Ministry & Resource Teams	193,563	156,876	36,687
Benevolence	12,907	11,333	1,574
Administration	32,174	41,256	(9,082)
Other	-	-	-
Total Ministry Investments	703,650	796,652	(93,002)
Total Net Income (Loss)	50,448	30,370	20,077

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 - Casual

