

City-wide church. Worldwide mission.

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BETHELITE

SEPTEMBER 1, 2024: VOL 73, NO.9

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WELCOME!

As we step into a new season at Bethel Lutheran Church, I want to extend a heartfelt “Welcome” to each of you. This simple word holds profound significance within our church community. It’s more than just a greeting; it’s an open door, and an invitation to belong.

When we say “Welcome,” we’re acknowledging that everyone has a place here, regardless of background, experiences, or where you are in your faith journey. Our church is a family, bound by the love of Christ. We come together from different walks of life, bringing with us our stories, struggles, and triumphs, all to form a tapestry of faith and fellowship.

“Welcome” also signifies our commitment to hospitality—a value deeply rooted in our Christian tradition. Hebrews 13:2 reminds us, “Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.” As we gather each week, whether it’s for worship, fellowship, or service, let us be mindful of how we can embody this spirit of welcome. Look for new faces, greet those you may not know, and make space for meaningful connections.

To our new members and visitors, we are thrilled you’re here! We hope you find this church to be a place of spiritual growth, comfort, and community. To our long-standing members, your continued presence is a testament to the enduring bonds we share.



Pastor Lauren Wrightsman

May this spirit of welcome resonate throughout our church and extend beyond our walls, touching the lives of all we encounter. Let us continue to be a place where everyone can feel at home, find purpose, and experience the love of Christ in a tangible way.

Welcome, dear friends, to this sacred space. May you find peace, joy, and a deep sense of belonging as we journey together in faith. Our doors and hearts are always open to you. Whether you've been with us for years or today is your first visit, know that you are valued, and we are so glad you're here. Let us continue to build a community where "Welcome" is more than a word—it's a way of life 🌈

ONE WORSHIP SUNDAY

Sunday September 22nd

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. 🌈



NOTICE OF SPECIAL BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday September 8th, at 10am

Main Sanctuary of
Bethel Lutheran Church

A Special Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday September 8th at 10:00 AM** in the main Bethel Lutheran Church Sanctuary (immediately after the 9:00 AM service), for the sole purpose of voting on the permanent call of Pastor Lauren Wrightsman.

The Bethel Lutheran Church Call Committee has formally recommended a permanent call of Pastor Lauren Wrightsman as the Senior (Lead) Pastor for Bethel Lutheran Church and based on that recommendation to the congregation, a special meeting is required to vote on that recommendation.

While for some congregation members, this time and date may be inconvenient, but please make every effort to attend in person to join in this historic special meeting.

Thank you.

Denis Vogel, Joint Council President
On behalf of the Bethel Lutheran Church Joint Council 🌈

WELCOME SUNDAY

Sunday September 15th

The fall season is an exciting time at Bethel Lutheran Church. Join us as we kick off our fall activities:

Worship at 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 am

Fall Festival: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
in the parking lot

- Face painting
- Inflatables
- Games
- Music
- Photo booth (kids are encouraged to wear their favorite football team's jersey)
- Giveaways for kids
- Picnic lunch (pulled pork, hotdogs, veggie hot dogs, beans, cole slaw and fruit)

Ministry Fair: 10:00 - 12 noon in the Commons (as you come in from the parking lot).

Information from all of our ministry teams will be available. Sign up to volunteer for an activity or event, or stop by to learn more about all that Bethel has to offer.

Please note: Parking in our lot will be limited on this Sunday, please park in the ramp and pick up a voucher. All activities are free, but cash donations are appreciated. 🌈

AN EVENING WITH DIANA BUTLER BASS

Thursday, September 26 at 7:00 pm

Many of us know Diana Butler Bass as the author of *FREEING JESUS*, her book that inspired Bethel's sermon and Sunday forum series two years ago. Written as memoir, Bass invited us to consider a life where Jesus grows with us as friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence – like Jesus did in Diana's life. What we may not know is that Diana Butler Bass, Ph.D., is an award-winning author of 11 books, speaker, inspiring preacher, and one of America's most trusted commentators on religion and contemporary spirituality.

She wrote *FREEING JESUS* to answer the most common question she's asked as she travels the country: How can you still be a Christian? As in *FREEING JESUS*, Diana gives people a way to think beyond the disillusionment that many have with religion, challenging conventional thinking



with her spiritual wisdom and smart theology, and helping them see themselves and God differently. She does this with intelligence, joy, and a good dose of humor. On Thursday, September 26 at 7 p.m., Bethel is bringing

Diana Butler Bass to Madison for our Fall Speaker Series. This election season is a time when conflict, anxiety and fear is stirred up. It's at this time when we especially need an intimate sense of the sacred that surrounds us. God is not 'up there' but here with us, calling us to join with God in resisting sharp divisions and healing a fractured world. Invite your friends and neighbors to hear Diana's words of practical encouragement for how God wants us to live with one another. The event is free and open to the public. 🌈

Chelssey Hewitt- Ministry Support Specialist

I'm Chelssey, the Full-Time Ministry Support Specialist at Bethel.

I recently returned to Madison with my family (pictured here on our most recent vacation) after seven years near Annapolis and Washington DC - I'm excited to be back with my roots. I provide essential administrative support to our pastors and ministry teams, handle scheduling, and manage the Realm application for our church's records and communication. I'm passionate about our community and look forward to supporting Bethel's mission and connecting with our vibrant congregation. 🌈



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMBERS!

Michael Bartch- Communications Manager

Hello my name is Michael Bartch and I am the new Communications Manager. I worked at Adaham Art Studios last year as Office Manager and I loved it - we are lucky to have such a wonderful resource. I look forward to being of service to the Bethel community and hope to help it grow and thrive. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns in the months ahead. 🌈



GOLFERS - PLAN NOW FOR THE CIRCLE OF LOVE BENEFIT (CIRCLE OF LOVE OUTING AT BHCC



Monday September 30th

The fun charitable golf outing will once again happen at beautiful Blackhawk Country Club. Mark your calendar now - and then get your foursome together! Watch this space - in weekly e news and the Sunday announcements page - for more sign up details as the date gets closer. Sharon and Greg Moses are again the golf organizers and Alice Mowbray will lead the fundraising aspect of the event, with lots of help from lots of participants! This year, the proceeds will be split between two important ministries of Bethel and benefit - the families of Ukraine who we know and love AND the 25th milestone anniversary next year of our mission partnership with Puerto Rico and Pr Ivette's church. 🌈



NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Saturday, October 19,
from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

We are excited to offer the next New Member Orientation on Saturday, October 19, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. This enriching session is designed to introduce newcomers to our church's vibrant ministries, explore our building, and share the profound history that shapes our community. Snacks and a light lunch will be provided.

We're thrilled to share that Pastor Dave Wrightsman will be joining us for this session, participating as both a leader and a guest. Whether new to Bethel or a long-time visitor who is considering membership, this is a fantastic opportunity to connect, learn, and engage with our church family.

To ensure we can accommodate everyone, please contact Chelssey@Bethel-Madison.org to register and to arrange for lunch and childcare, if needed. We look forward to welcoming you and helping you discover all that Bethel Lutheran Church has to offer! 🌈

To register, click the link in the Bethel Weekly Email or scan the following QR code



ANDY ROOT AT BETHEL: YOUTH MINISTRY FOR ALL OF US

Saturday, September 7th from
9am - 4pm

What's it going to take to get young people to come to church? If young people are our future, where are they?

Luther Seminary professor and practical theologian Andy Root will be at Bethel on Saturday, September 7 to lead a forum that explores and answers these questions. We're all invited - those of us around kids all the time and those who aren't. Because this challenge will only be met by all of us being all in.

Andrew (Andy) Root is the Olson Baalson Professor of Youth and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary in St. Paul where he teaches on the theology of ministry, youth ministry, and culture. He's a prolific author who's just finished a series on being church in our secular age that nails the reality of being Christian in today's world. He's in constant demand as a speaker in the U.S. and internationally. When someone asked us 'How in the world did you get him to come to Bethel?' we answered truthfully — we asked him.



YOUTH

Andy will lead a forum at Bethel on Saturday, September 7 from 9 - 4. You may sign up for the morning or full day. There is no cost to attend thanks to a grant from the Bethel Foundation. Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/3Y17mI8>. Andy will also lead the Sunday Forum at Bethel on September 8 at 10:30.

Questions that we'll explore with Andy include:

What is this cultural moment we're in and what are the implications for youth and youth ministry? What is youth ministry for? Why doesn't our experience growing up apply to kids today?

Because youth ministry doesn't exist in a vacuum, what are the implications for Christ's church? How has church become like the busy 'more is better' world around us?

Why is it so difficult to have faith today? How do we bring youth into faith? How do we talk about a living God who is with us in the world with youth who are searching for identity and meaning?

To Register:

Use the QR code to sign up for the morning or full day. There is no cost to attend thanks to a grant from the Bethel Foundation. 🌈



MINISTRY AT BETHEL



OUR YOUTH NEED US AND NOW IS THE TIME!



When I heard that Luther Seminary Professor and youth culture expert, Andy Root, was coming to Bethel, I immediately cleared my calendar and signed up. While

this may not seem significant, committing to a day-long seminar is a complicated matter for a mom with an active teenager and busy career. In fact, scheduling challenges are becoming increasingly more apparent as our son prepares for high school this fall (how did that happen!?!?!).

While the school year hasn't even started, there is already a full slate of sports, clubs, and gatherings. In a few short weeks, we'll add classes and homework to the mix. It feels

like a whirlwind – and it's NOT slowing down. It is not surprising that our busy, scheduled lives are increasingly difficult to balance.

As I think about the year ahead, one thought continually comes to mind: **thank goodness for Bethel!** We joined Bethel before my son was born because we wanted him to grow up in a faith community. Sunday School, VBC, and the kid-friendly ministry events set a foundation in those early years. More recently, our youth group, confirmation program, and Bethel Horizons events provided a safe space for him to build connections with a group of friends outside of school. It has truly become a special faith community.

I am often told not to blink because the high school years go so fast. That is why we must act now. It's up to all of us to learn as much as we can about our youth and help them stay

connected to our faith community amidst all the other things vying for their time. The youth are our future and they are here NOW. I urge you to join me for **Youth Ministry for All of Us** on Saturday, September 7. Our youth need us and now is the time! 🌈





**SAVE THE DATE:
TRUNK OR TREAT**
Saturday, October 26th
at 3:00 pm

Get ready for a Spooktacular good time on Saturday, October 26th at 3:00 in Bethel's parking lot. Kids and Families will have food and Trunk or Treat fun outside (weather permitting) until 4:30 and then head indoors to the Fireside room to watch a movie together. Watch for more information to come! 🍁



**CONFIRMATION
COMPANIONS
NEEDED**

Make a difference in the faith life of a Bethel youth by becoming a Confirmation Companion. Companions accompany Bethel's Confirmands on their two-year journey of faith exploration. Companions will attend monthly "Third Sundays Together" worship and discussion groups from 9am -11am. You will also participate with your youth partner in sessions 3-4 times a year as we explore scripture and develop our faith statements. Requirements are curiosity and a willing spirit. No special biblical knowledge is required 🍁



**BETHEL HORIZONS
RETREAT FOR WOMEN**

"THE LABYRINTH, A SACRED WALK"

Friday, October 4th - Sunday, 6th

Please Join us for the 2024 Bethel Horizons Retreat for Women on Oct 4th - Oct 6th at Bethel Horizon's Adamah Retreat Center. **Pam Shellberg**, director of spiritual nourishment at Holy Wisdom Monastery, will lead us through a sacred journey on the ancient practice of walking a labyrinth. A Labyrinth is a circle with a meandering pathway to a purposeful center point, its one path leads you to both the center and exit. It can be seen as a metaphor for the journey of life we are all on. Through practice we can begin to see the deepest part of our Self and move back out into the world with a clearer understanding of who we are and who we want to become. Labyrinths can be dated back to around 4000 years ago and are often used now as a meditative contemplative practice. 🍁

Friday, October 4th

- **Anytime after 5:30 pm** : Arrival
- **6:00 pm** : Dinner
- **6:30 pm** : Life's Sacred Journey-Labyrinth Prep
- **7:15 pm - 8:15 pm** : Sacred Social-Time to relax and connect with others

Saturday, October 5th

- **8:15 am** : Breakfast
- **9:00 am** : Welcome
- **9:30 am** : The Labyrinth: A Sacred Walk
- **11:30 am**: Optional Activities: Yoga, Journaling, Art Activities, etc
- **1:00 pm** : Tasting and Trails

Optional Saturday Night Overnight

Sunday Oct 6th

- **8 - 8:45 am** : Breakfast
- **8:45 - 9:30 am** : Reflection/Goal Setting
- **10:00 am - 12:00 pm** : Free Time
- **12:00 pm**: Departure

COST:

Friday – Sunday: (2 nights with meals) \$150

Friday – Saturday: (1 night with meals) \$75

Saturday – Sunday: (1 night with meals) \$75

Saturday ONLY: \$30

Please contact Kelly Knueve at 608-219-7078 or kellyknueve@gmail.com for questions.

To register, click the link in the Bethel Weekly Email or scan the following QR code



REGISTER NOW FOR FALL KIDS PROGRAMS

Programs kick off on September 15th

The link to the 2024-25 Kids and Family Ministry programs registration is ready! Programs kick off on September 15th and will include special blessings during the 9:00am worship service and the Fall Festival immediately after the worship service with food, music and fun outdoor games. You won't want to miss it! There are a few program changes this year so note the items in italics when reading the info section in the online registration form which will get your kids registered for Sunday School and/or Child Care and/or Kids Choir. Please help us with a smooth launch and enough staff/volunteers by signing up **by Aug 30th.** 🌈

To register, click the link in the Bethel Weekly Email or scan the following QR code



Contact paula@bethel-madison.org for program questions or chelssey@bethel-madison.org for registration questions.

PUERTO RICO 2025

March 11-18, 2025

Can you believe this mission started 25 years ago next year? The date is set for March 11-18, 2025. Pastor Ivette is working on a celebration much like she planned for the 20-year anniversary - you don't want to miss it! If you are interested in going on the mission trip or maybe you just want to see the island and attend the celebration, we would love to have you! ALL are welcome. Please contact Phil Ingwell, Jr. at 608-535-0777 or Pingwell60@gmail.com if you have any questions or just want to be kept informed. 🌈

BETHEL CONCERT SERIES

Select Sunday dates beginning September 29

This fall, the Bethel Concert Series consists of four events sponsored by the Endowment Foundation. **All events are at 2:00 pm.** You are most cordially invited to attend. Please spread the good word about these musical opportunities: September 29: Stephen Self, Director of Music, will present an organ recital of works spanning three centuries--from Johann Sebastian Bach to new works by American composers.

September 29: Stephen Self, Director of Music, will present an organ recital of works spanning three centuries--from Johann Sebastian Bach to new works by American composers.

October 13: The four section leaders from our adult choir, all professional vocalists, will present a delightful afternoon of vocal music of all types, from opera to Broadway

October 27: Our adult choir will present Fauré's Requiem in anticipation of All Saints' Sunday. The choir will be joined by a small orchestra of strings, winds, and organ.

November 10: The Sunset Trio of piano, violin and cello will present an afternoon of chamber music. 🌈

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. 🌈

MEMORIALS IN HONOR & IN MEMORY

April, May, and June

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

BETHEL GARDENS & LANDSCAPE

In memory of Laura Vogel's mother by Donna Ulteig

CHOIR GIFTS & MEMORIALS

In memory of Eloise J. Davis by William & Debra Davis

In memory of Carol Kalscheur by Jack & Sue Marking

EASTER

In memory of Ferne E. Johnson by Brian & April Meiller

ENDOWMENT MEMORIALS

In memory of Bob Vandehy, Jill Derr's dad by Brad & Barb Armstrong

In memory of Bonnie Bruce by Brad & Barb Armstrong, Kevin Gould & Nancy Baillies, Kent & Helen Karberg, Donna Ulteig

In memory of Carol Kalscheur by Lois Seymour

In memory of Dennis Dokken by Joan Gilbertson

In memory of Doug & Judi Haag by Brad & Barb Armstrong

In memory of Laura Vogel's mother by Tom & Jill Derr, Bill & Alice Mowbray

FOOD PANTRY

In memory of Augie (Gus) Pieper by XYZ

In memory of Charles Stark by wife, Sandy Stark and friends

In memory of Chas Bertun by Eric & Mary Bertun

In honor of all the Food Pantry

Volunteers by Nancy Beck

In memory of Lyle Gruen by Lotus Griffin

GENERAL MEMORIALS

In memory of Bonnie Bruce by Kathy Gettrust

In memory of Lyle Gruen by Donna Ulteig

In memory of Howard & Jean Hodel by Tricia Hodel

In memory of Kerstan Johnson by Jim & Sharon Burton, Tom & Joan Conlin,

Mary Connor, Scott Hottman, Ross & Judy Zanto, and his family

In memory of Roger Mayer by his son - James Mayer, Carol Murphy

HOMELESS SUPPORT

In memory of Bonnie Bruce by Sharon Zannacker

MEDIA MEMORIALS

The following telecasts were sponsored during April thru June in 2024:

Apr 21: In memory of Dr. Eugene and Olive Nordby by Medical Colleagues and friends.

June 23: In memory of Carol N. Kalscheur. Carol saw good in all people, love in music, and faith in God. Think of her as you let faith and music lift your soul. Given by her family and friends.

MEMORIALS:

In memory of Bonnie Bruce by Tom Anderson

In memory of Carol Kalscheur by Steve Anderson, Ed & Judy Borke, Patrick Crowley, Paul Eastwood, Michael & Laura Fuller, Judi Griffin, Bruce Halverson, Jeffrey Hughey, James Johnson, David Kalscheur, Sandra Kaufmann, Vel Marquardt, Martin Micke, Darlene Olson, Keith Osterman, Barbara Pulvermacher, Mark Sieger, The Rodell Group LLC (TRG), Thomas Zickert

In memory of Honorable Dr. Eugene Nordby by Sue Simpson

In memory of Julie Eyers by Bill & Alice Mowbray

MUSIC MEMORIALS

In memory of Dennis Dokken, my brother by Bonnie Sanfield

In memory of Dennis Dokken by Arlen & Judy Christenson, Carol Clarke, Layne & Pamela Close, Ronald & Maria Dokken, Terry & Gloria Dokken, Donna Fox, James & Barbara Freeman, Robert & Gina Gessler, Judi Griffin, James & Nancy Herritz, William & Dorothy Imhoff, Phillip & Betty Ingwell, Alinda & Robert Nelson, Mark & Jeri Reynolds, Mark & Julia Schellpfeffer, Bill Wiedenbeck

In memory of Carol Kalscheur by Dave & Jan Primus, Bev Stephen

In memory of Charles Stark by Phil & Mary Lou Dzick, his wife - Sandy Stark and friends

BETHEL HORIZONS

BIKE-A-THON

In memory of Bob Barnes - Bethel Member 1941-2004, teacher Bethel Series, Board of Horizons, Usher over 40 years by his children and grandchildren

In honor of Phil & Mary Lou Dzick by Gary & Sue Wolslegel

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Charles Stark by Phil & Mary Lou Dzick, his wife - Sandy Stark and friends

In memory of Rebecca Jorgensen by Judi Griffin, John Marty, Dave & Jan Primus, Carolyn Wright

PASTOR HANSON FUND

In memory of Bonnie Bruce by Bill Wiedenbeck

In memory of Becky Jorgensen by Bill Wiedenbeck

In memory of Pastor Hanson by Butch & Joanne Jensen

Parish Records

BAPTISMS

Jace Daniel Caple – 3-3-2024
William Howard Penn III – 5-18-2024
Barrett Charles Hurley – 6-2-2024
Sloane Taylor Riese – 6-2-2024

NEW MEMBERS (5-19-24):

Kathy Gettrust
Deanna & Jim Larson
Carol Meldman
Chris St. Clair
Cathy & John Steinhauer
Lorie Wagner
Pastor Lauren Wrightsman

DEATHS

Mary Lou Bennett – 5-30-2024
John Clauder – 4-6-2024
Dennis Dokken – 4-4-2024
Dawn Western Hastings – 6-10-2024
John Spaeni – 5-22-2024

Give Memorials online at bethel-madison.org/giveonline (select 'other - special' then use the optional memo line to add your memorial or honorarium. Or mail memorials to Dona Meyer at Bethel Lutheran Church, 312 Wisconsin Ave, Madison, WI 5370



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LOOKING AHEAD

September 7, 9am - 4pm

Andy Root at Bethel

September 8, 10am

Special Bethel Lutheran Church
Congregational Meeting and Vote

September 15

Welcome Sunday

September 22, 8:30-10am

One Worship Weekend

September 26, 7pm

An Evening With Diana Butler Bass

September 30

Benefit CIRCLE OF LOVE Golf Outing

October 4 - 6

Bethel Horizons Retreat for Women 🌈

FUND FACTS

1 Everyone has three versions of themselves – What people think of us; what we think of ourselves/who we want to be; who we actually are. We are at peace when who we want to be and who we are overlap. This is the most important secret to happiness in life. (How does your charitable giving enter in to this?)

2 A bequest or designated gift in your will, or a non-probate transfer vehicle, like a Transfer on Death Deed – are great ways for you to leave significant eventual charitable gifts that costs you nothing now. TOD's are most suitable for an investment fund, bank account, CD or life insurance policy. 🌈

BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

312 Wisconsin Avenue
Madison, WI 53703

JULY 2024 YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

July 2024 year-to-date financials results			
	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
REVENUES			
Offerings	843,798	921,959	(78,161)
Miscellaneous revenue	309,592	231,202	78,390
Non-operating revenue	15,833	4,666	11,167
Total Revenue	1,169,223	1,157,827	11,396
MINISTRY INVESTMENTS			
Staff	679,707	822,062	(142,355)
Ministry & Resource Teams	275,578	260,846	14,732
Benevolence	17,633	16,334	1,299
Administration	48,134	57,894	(9,760)
Total Ministry Investments	1,021,052	1,157,136	(136,084)
Total Net Income (Loss)	148,172	690	147,480

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



bethel_madison



Bethel.Lutheran.Madison.WI



BethelLutheranTV

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

