

City-wide church. Worldwide ministry.



Jesus loves you. Walk with Him.

BETHELITE

OCTOBER 1, 2024: VOL 73, NO.10

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ANNUAL APPEAL 2025

Hope Grows Here!

As we journey through another year of mission and ministry, I am reminded of the powerful words from the prophet Jeremiah: “For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11). These words reflect not only God’s promise to God’s people but also the vision we hold for our church.

Our 2025 Annual Appeal “Hope Grows Here”, reminds us that through faith, commitment, and community, we are cultivating something beautiful—a hope-filled future for all who come through our doors.

In a world that often feels uncertain, it is easy to lose sight of the future God envisions for us. Yet, at Bethel Lutheran, we are reminded daily that God’s plans are to prosper us—to nurture not only our spiritual well-being but the health and vitality of our entire community. Our church is a beacon of hope for many, offering support to those in need, comfort to the hurting, and a place of refuge for all who seek God’s presence.

With your financial support, we can continue to expand our ministries, improve our outreach, and care for those who rely on the warmth and love of our congregation. From feeding the hungry and clothing the poor to providing spiritual formation and vibrant worship, your contribution makes a tangible difference in the lives of so many.



Pastor Lauren Wrightsman

Join us in weekly worship **October 5 - October 20th**, to participate in this year's Annual Appeal. We invite you to prayerfully consider how you can be part of God's plan for our future. Your gift, no matter the size, is a powerful expression of faith in the plans God has for our church and our community. Together, we can ensure that hope continues to grow, not only within the walls of our church but far beyond them.

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to our shared mission. With your help, we can move forward in faith, trusting in God's promise of hope and a future.

With blessings and gratitude,
Lauren Wrightsman
Lead Pastor 🌈

THIRD SUNDAYS TOGETHER

Bethel Youth and Adults, let's worship together on the third Sunday of each month at 9:00am. Youth will sit together at the front of the sanctuary. Join us after the service in the library to discuss our questions about the liturgy, Scripture and sermon from 10:00 - 11:00am. Let's explore together how faith matters in our real lives! (This will serve as the Confirmation Instruction lesson for the week.) 🌈



FALL BETHEL BIBLE SERIES CLASS

Join Pastor Dave for an eight month academic Old Testament class in this first of two school years using the famous Bethel Bible Series curriculum developed through Bethel Lutheran Church. The class meets most Thursdays from 9:30-11:30 am in the Fireside Lounge. Whether you have never been in a formal bible study before or have already taken the Bethel Series, all are welcome. Friends from outside Bethel are invited to join this class. The cost is \$75 which covers all costs related to the class. (See Pr. Dave if the cost keep you from registering).

To register scan the QR code



WEDNESDAY EVENING VESPERS

Oct 16 at 6 pm

Please join us for a contemplative evening worship service led by Bethel youth on the third Wednesday of every month from 6 - 6:30 pm. 🌈

BETHEL WORKS

Do you work from home? You are invited to join us in Bethel's co-working space for a change of scenery and a community of friends. The library is open for co-working every Thursday from 9:00-1:00. (Private consultation spaces are available as needed.) While you are here, enjoy a cup of coffee at Sacred Grounds, and participate in our other offerings:

- **Revelation Wellness Group Exercise Class**
9:30a -10:00 (Borgwardt Hall)
- **Contemplative Community Group Meditation**
11:30a -12:00 (Youth Room)

No registration for these two classes required, drop by anytime.

For more info contact Heather Rainwater Moen heather@bethel-madison.org 🌈

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Friday, November 22 and
Saturday November 23 at 7:00 pm

Festival Choir of Madison

Kicking off the holiday season early this year, join the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra and Festival Choir of Madison for a favorite holiday tradition. Written in just 24 days by George Frideric Handel, Messiah is considered the most performed classical piece of music worldwide. Although based on religious texts, the message remains universal, and Handel intended it to be performed in the concert hall. For this performance, the Orchestra and Choir are joined by soloists Sarah Lawrence, soprano; Sadie Cheslak, alto; Gene Stenger, tenor; and Timothy Jones, bass.

Bethel members get 25% off their tickets! Get yours today online by visiting wcoconcerts.org/bethelite, by calling 608-258-4141 or by visiting the Overture Center for the Arts box office and using code: BETHELITE.



Tickets will also be sold in the Emmaus room by Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra staff following services on October 13th and November 3rd.



All ticket sales are based on availability and on a first come, first served basis. Last year tickets nearly sold out, so advance reservations are recommended. 🌈

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMBERS!

Audrey Ferraro - Children's Choir Conductor

We welcome our new children's choir conductor, Audrey Ferraro. Audrey will be a senior at UW Madison this year, majoring in choral music education. Audrey has taught private piano and voice lessons for many years, and during her time at UW, she has worked in various capacities with several university choirs. As a music education major, Audrey has participated in numerous public school practicum placements. She has served as the president of local chapters of Sigma Alpha Iota national women's fraternity and the National Association of Music Educators. We are delighted that she will join us this year to give strong guidance to our children's music programs. 🌈



Amy Bowman - Middle School Leader

Amy is excited to share her love for God, His Word, and His Creation with Bethel's youth. She has been involved in youth groups, organized camps, and completed Biblical studies at Northeast Missouri Bible College. With experience as a special education paraprofessional and a faith-based horse camp instructor, Amy has been active in youth ministry for over six years. She is dedicated to supporting Bethel's youth and their families in faith formation. Amy is married to Matthew, a member of Bethel's worship team, and is the mother of four adult children. She also serves on Bethel Community Services Corporation's board. 🌈



Ken Sosinski - Handbell Choir Conductor

We are delighted to have Ken Sosinski as the new handbell choir conductor. Ken is no stranger to Bethel. For much of 2023 he served as an interim music director, and even now he sings often with the Bethel Choir. He is a musician with strong and varied church music experience. He will give valuable leadership to the handbell ensemble. 🌈



NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

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

We are excited to offer the next New Member Orientation. 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



CARING FOR CREATION FALL FORUM

Plastic, Plastic Everywhere (and what to do about it)

Sunday, Oct 13 and Oct 20
at 10:30 am

Our world is overflowing with plastic waste that is hard to recycle, clogging landfills, polluting waterways, and even entering our food. As stewards of God's creation, what can we do?

Join us on **October 13** for "Bethel and the Crisis in Trash," where C4C will launch a project to collect hard-to-recycle materials like toothpaste tubes, markers, K cups, and styrofoam. Supported by Bethel's Joint Council and Property Team, this effort will partner with First United Methodist Church's successful program. Todd Fansler will introduce the project, Kathy Gettrust will explain the collaboration, and Sigrid Knuti will demonstrate the recycling process with new bins at Bethel.

On **October 20**, we'll focus on plastic waste with "Getting Drastic About Plastic." Guest speaker Gabrielle de Gail, Sustainability Coordinator for Milwaukee Riverkeeper and Volunteer Coordinator for Plastic-Free MKE, will discuss how her organizations combat plastic pollution. She'll share tips on reducing personal plastic use and the dangers of single-use plastics. Gabrielle, with a degree in Conservation and Environmental Science, is passionate about environmental sustainability. 🌈



BETHEL BOOK WOMEN

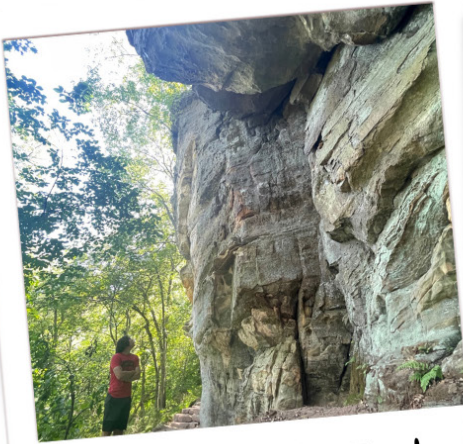
Come join our group! We are women who love to read and enjoy the fellowship of other readers. Our meetings are on the third Monday of the month (except January which is the 4th Monday) when we enjoy sharing our thoughts and insights on the selected titles.

The book list for the year can be found on our website: <https://sites.google.com/view/bethel-book-women/home>. An archive of our book lists for each year since 1994 is also found there. Members have found growth and enrichment from reading and discussing books we would not have encountered outside the group.

Once a year, each member nominates three books from a variety of genres including fiction, non-fiction, biographies, classics, and religion. An anonymous vote is taken to select 12 books to make our reading list for that year. Members volunteer on a rotating basis to facilitate the discussion each month. We welcome interested women to attend our meetings whenever schedules allow as we enjoy having many voices contribute to the discussion.

We meet on the **third Monday of every month at Bethel at 7 pm** although winter meetings have been on zoom in recent years to avoid inclement weather. Meeting details will be a part of the weekly announcements. Please consider joining Bethel Book Women! Email for questions about Bethel Book Women: bethelbookwomen@gmail.com. 🌈

EVENTS AT BETHEL HORIZONS



Broken Rock Trail



Rock Ledge Cliff



Question Mark Pond

TRAILS & TASTING BETHEL HORIZONS

Saturday, October 5th - 1:00 to 5:00 pm

Come join in a full afternoon of hiking, biking, socializing and taking in the beauty and magic that is Bethel Horizons. The event is free. Donations are encouraged and appreciated (suggested donation is \$20/person). The money raised at this event will be put directly toward trail maintenance.

The event is designed for all ages and abilities with multiple options of varying levels of difficulty and distances available for hikers and mountain bikers. Come explore the beautiful cliffs, forests and valley! If so compelled, hikers can push to complete our "3 cliff challenge". Or simply meander around enjoying the landscape, atmosphere and joy.

Following the hike will be a gathering at the Prairie Center with live music and tasty food. Feel free to explore Bethel Horizons' main site and learn more about the various programs

offered. And, in case you didn't know, there is also a Bethel Horizons Gift Shop.

Adamah Art Studios will also be featuring a Mug Sale and Open House. The studio will feature hand-crafted mugs by local artists—come tour the studios and take home a mug!

You will be able to connect with old friends and potentially make some new ones while exploring the beauty of camp. We hope that being on the property with others will also excite you about the future ways in which you can be a part of Bethel Horizons! 🌈



BETHEL HORIZONS RETREAT FOR WOMEN

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. 🌈

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





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. 🍁



JOIN US FOR A THANKSGIVING OF TOGETHERNESS!

Monday, November 25, 6:30 pm

This Thanksgiving, let's gather in faith and gratitude at our **Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service!**

This special gathering unites churches from across Dane County celebrating our shared blessings with an uplifting evening of worship.

Following last year's incredible turnout of over 1,000 attendees, this year promises to be just as powerful. Experience a blend of Spanish and English worship led by diverse ministry leaders, as we lift our voices in thanks and showcase the strength of Madison's vibrant Christian community.

This event is not just a service; it's a celebration of unity for God's glory and our community's strength. Together, we'll share heartfelt thanks and foster connections among different denominations.

Everyone is welcome! Bring your family and friends as we unite with 20+ churches and congregations across Dane county. Let's honor God and rejoice in the spirit of Thanksgiving together!

We look forward to sharing this meaningful experience with you! 🍁

THE FINE ARTS TEAM HOSTS "Creative Expressions— Arts for All"

Explore our gallery and Sacred Grounds to experience art from 30 talented, diverse artists. A notebook for your messages to the artists is on the pedestal next to the gallery wall. Learn more about Arts for All WI, founded in 1985, which promotes personal growth, educational achievement, and inclusion through the arts for individuals with disabilities. Runs through October. Contact Kathy Engel-Hunt—kengelhunt@gmail.com for further information. 🍁



XYZ eXtra Years of Zest

Oct 11 - Birthday Bingo

Oct 25 - Meeting

Nov 22 - Bus trip to fireside for *Miracle on 34th Street*

Contact Sue Marking at 608-318-0090 or wmarking@msn.com for more information or to register. 🍁

BETHEL CONCERT SERIES

Select Sundays continue on October 13

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:

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.

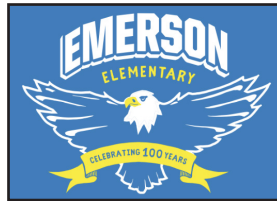
November 10: The Sunset Trio of piano, violin and cello will present an afternoon of chamber music. 🎨



BETHEL PARTNERS AGAIN WITH EMERSON SCHOOL

Bethel's Adopt-a-School leadership team has met with Emerson Elementary School leaders to plan support for the 2024-2025 school year. Emerson's student body is diverse both socioeconomically and racially, with about 10% of K-5 students coming from families newly resettled in Madison. Last year, Bethel members provided boots, clothing, and funds for playground equipment, spent a Lenten workday on cleaning and organizing, offered breakfasts for teacher appreciation, and provided an air-conditioned space for staff meetings. Emerson greatly appreciates this support.

We are now seeking volunteers for a more personal connection with students or



classrooms. If you can spare one or two hours a week, you could work with English Language Learners, tutor in reading or math (Schools of Hope curriculum), or assist in the classroom. No teaching experience is required, and both men and women are encouraged to volunteer.

If you are interested in helping or want to join our email list for other volunteer opportunities at Emerson, please contact Kris Fansler at krisfansler@gmail.com. 🎨

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. 🎨



EXPERIENTIAL FACILITATION 101 WORKSHOP

December 2 - 4 at Bethel Horizons

Looking to enhance your ministry's impact through experiential learning? Join us for Experiential Facilitation 101 at Bethel Horizons, a hands-on workshop designed to help leaders in Children, Youth, and Family Ministry create transformative, faith-filled experiences. You'll gain tools to better facilitate group activities, connect with your community, and foster deeper spiritual growth. 🎨

Registration is open now!

Spaces are limited.

Scan QR:



THANK YOU BETHEL FOR A SUCCESSFUL LWR DRIVE

Saturday, September 14, a team of Lutheran World Relief volunteers brought 239 school kits, 151 personal care kits, 45 baby care kits, 12 fabric kits, and 157 quilts to an empty boxcar at the Johnson Street rail yards to be shipped to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in Minneapolis. Thank you, Bethel congregation, for your generous support of this ministry of caring for those in need. We also received enough in donations to cover the shipping charge of \$1600. Thanks also go to Mary Anne Smith, Patty Saxe, Betty Pohlman, Cris Gjerde, Jeanne Moren, and Kris Fansler, your 2024 LWR Coordinators. We are indeed "Blessed to Be a Blessing." 🎨



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LOOKING AHEAD

October 16

Wednesday Vespers

October 13 & 27, November 10

Bethel Concert Series

October 26

Trunk or Treat

November 22 & 23

Handel's Messiah

November 25

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

December 2 - 4

Experiential Facilitation 101

Workshop

FUND FACTS

1 Some Bethel households practice bundling charitable gifts by doubling their donation in one year to maximize deductions, then taking the standard deduction the following year. Bethel manages this by treating the extra amount as a prepaid donation for the next year.

2 "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:20-21). Actions reflect priorities—how you spend your time and money reveals your true motivations. What would a stranger learn about you from your checkbook? 🌈

AUGUST 2024 YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIALS

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
REVENUES			
Offerings	924,172	1,053,666	(129,494)
Miscellaneous revenue	387,904	264,234	123,670
Non-operating revenue	17,821	5,334	12,487
Total Revenue	1,329,897	1,323,234	6,663
MINISTRY INVESTMENTS			
Staff	798,593	939,500	(140,907)
Ministry & Resource Teams	291,087	298,110	(7,023)
Benevolence	19,717	18,666	1,051
Administration	53,226	66,168	(12,942)
Total Ministry Investments	1,162,623	1,322,444	(159,821)
Total Net Income (Loss)	167,275	789	166,484

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

