

BETHELITE

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Learning to Walk in the Light Alleluia! Christ is risen!

On Easter morning, we celebrated with joy and triumph. But what comes next? What happens when the trumpets no longer sing out with Alleluias, the Easter flowers start to wilt, and Monday morning rolls around?

For the disciples, Easter didn't begin in celebration. It began in a locked room—shadows deep, fear thick in the air. That's where we find them in John 20:19–31. Hiding. Confused. Haunted by what had just happened. Unsure of what might come next.

And then—Jesus shows up.

Not with a lecture. Not with disappointment. But with peace. "Peace be with you," he says. Three times.

Jesus meets them where they are—in their fear, their uncertainty, their locked-in hearts—and brings exactly what they need: his presence, his peace, his light.

This is the gift of Easter. Not just an empty tomb, but a risen Savior who enters into every place of our lives and transforms them. Who breathes new life into us and sends us out with hope. "As the Father has sent me, so I send you," Jesus says. The light of resurrection isn't meant to stay in the tomb—or even in that upper room. It's meant to be carried out into the world.

And yet, it's not always easy to believe, is it? That's why Thomas's story matters so much. He needed to see for himself. And Jesus meets him, too. He doesn't shame him for his doubts; he invites him closer. That's the kind of God we worship—one who makes room for questions, who offers grace when faith comes slow, who calls us blessed when we dare to believe.



Pastor Lauren Wrightsman



This Easter season at Bethel, we are learning to walk in that light. Not because we have it all figured out—but because the Risen Christ keeps showing up. Speaking peace into our fear. Breathing hope into our weariness. Sending us out, not as perfect people, but as forgiven and faithful ones.

Let this Easter be more than a day. Let it be the start of a journey—from fear to faith, from locked doors to open hearts, from fear and doubt into the radiant, healing light of Christ.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen, indeed!

Lauren Wrightsman
Lead Pastor



ATTENDER TO MEMBER

Sunday, May 18
10:30am – 1 pm

Are you ready to deepen your faith journey? Join our "Attender to Member" classes at Bethel Lutheran Church! These sessions offer a welcoming space to learn about our mission, beliefs, and ministries while exploring membership in our faith community.

Whether you're new or a longtime attender, we'd love to have you. A light lunch will be served.

Registration is required. For details or to sign up, contact Chelssey at chelssey@bethel-madison.org or scan the QR code.



BETHEL CELEBRATES CONFIRMATION

Sunday, May 18
during 9am service

Please join in celebrating our confirmands, **Oliver Gaytan, Juliette LaMontagne, and Sam Wilkinson**, who will affirm their baptism during the 9:00 worship service.

These confirmands have completed confirmation instruction with the help and support of their families, faith community, and confirmation leaders: Amy Bowman, Phil Bramley, John Massey, Heather Moen and Sara Triggs. Their Confirmation Companions include Barb Kabe, Cathie Trevallee, and Mary Brennan.

A reception will be held after the 9:00 service to welcome our confirmands into the life of our Bethel community as young adults in the faith.

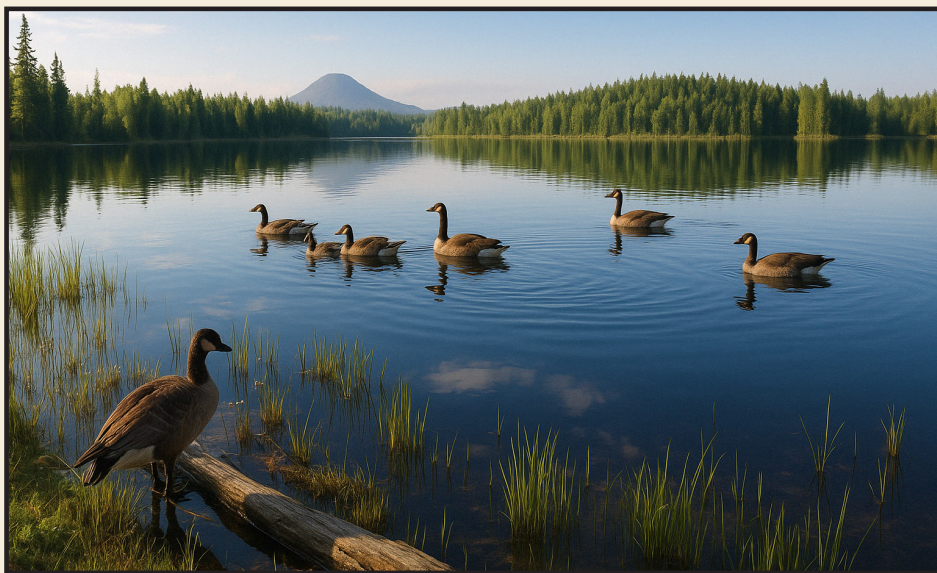


HORIZONS @ BETHEL

SUNDAY, MAY 4
8:30–11 am
IN SACRED GROUNDS

You're invited to connect with friends from our cherished camp, Bethel Horizons, right here at Bethel Lutheran Church! At Horizons, we believe people flourish when living in harmony with God, Self, Others, and Nature—a truth that has shaped lives for over 50 years. Discover the magic of camp through a live animal exhibit, pottery demonstration, and classic Summer Camp-style games and activities. Sign up for a camp, a class, or our bike-a-thon—and don't forget to browse Horizons merch from our canteen!

There is something for everyone at [Horizons@Bethel!](https://www.bethelmadison.org/horizons)



CARING FOR CREATION SPRING FORUMS

10:30 am

Good Shepherd Chapel

May 4: Sustain Dane's Mission in Action: Food Waste & Sustainability

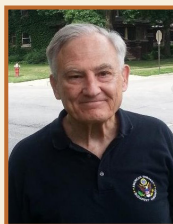


As Program Manager for Sustain Dane, **Samantha Worden fosters learning, connection, and**

collaboration through programs such as the Sustainable Breakfast Series, All Around Dane County, volunteer initiatives, and fund development. With experience as a hydroponic farmer and a passion for food sustainability and circular economies, she is committed to inspiring action.

May 18: Climate Change Revisited: Warnings & Retreat

2024 saw unprecedented climate-related storms, floods, fires and droughts. Global temperatures soar past previous targets while international action commitments are disappointing. **Clean energy deployment advances too slowly to turn greenhouse gas emissions downward while the new U.S. administration scales back climate action.**



International-energy analyst David Knuti will join automotive research scientist Todd Fansler for a lively conversation about where we are going and what might be done.



Be sure to join us after 9:00 service on Sundays in May.

C4C PRESENTS: Recycling Fiction and Fact

2024 Recycling Fiction: Coffee Pods (K-cups, etc.) are easily recycled.
Recycling Fact: Most recycling centers (including Madison) send coffee pods to a landfill. Every year, nationwide, 56 billion coffee pods and capsules end up in a landfill where they take hundreds of years to decompose.

Good news –Bethel collects coffee pods and sends them to TerraCycle to be turned into raw material for new products.

Bad news –TerraCycle isn't free. Each K-cup costs Bethel 32 cents to recycle!

Better news – Cleaned K-cups only cost 6 cents to recycle. Gizmos like the Medelco Recycle A Cup Cutter (about \$10 for two at Amazon and other retailers) easily remove the filter and grounds from K-cups for clean recycling. Join C4C's May 4 forum (10:30 in the Good Shepherd Chapel) to see a demo and win a sample.

Ultimately, the best way to minimize coffee pod waste is to ditch coffee-pod machines altogether. Drip, cold-brew, and French-press coffeemakers are better for the environment, better for your wallet since pods cost way more per cup than ground or whole-bean coffee, and better to taste because the grounds steep longer.



MMOCA'S SPRING GALLERY NIGHT AT BETHEL

"IMAGES OF DREAMS"

May 16 | 5 - 8 pm with Artist Talk
in Good Shepherd Chapel at 7pm

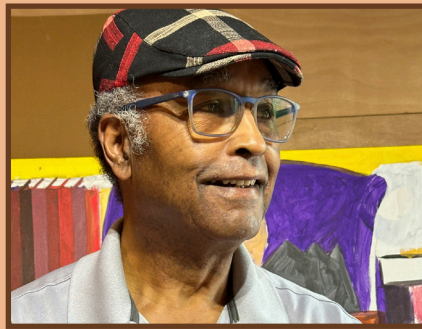
Gallery Night is a long-time Madison arts tradition that showcases the city's vibrant arts community. Organized by MMoCA, Gallery Night offers art lovers and art novices alike an opportunity to enjoy a wide variety of exhibitions, opening receptions, special events, and demonstrations at venues throughout the city. During Gallery Night, dozens of venues open their doors to invite the public in to see and shop for original artwork.

Come to enjoy our Bethel Art and the art of Jerry Butler, refreshments will be available.

Words from Jerry Butler:

"Fannie Lou Hamer was first to say, 'I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired'. She used this phrase to express her exasperation and the lack of understanding during the civil rights movement. Often, recalling my dreams and the images I find, I seek understanding and meaning behind the actions in our society, and I am bothered by my dreams. Often, I find myself dreaming as though looking through a view finder seeking equity in this new morality. In this body of works yet unresolved, I am juxtaposing dreams from the past with emerging dreams. Freedom of expression is difficult when you've been oppressed, right? "

"My art is grounded in the idea that the creative act replicates the process that ensures human sustainability. As an artist, I search my ancestry. I also look for descendants of the disenfranchised as I seek to illuminate the inequities of now. My works interrogate distractions meant to obscure injustice. My aesthetic interprets cultural values and sensibilities. My methods and materials highlight the marginalization that exposes the exploitation of the disenfranchised yet again magnifying social and economic disparities."



"My art addresses the human capacity to re-engineer self-reflective change toward a desired outcome of choice. This ability to change beliefs, or habits are, however, among the most difficult things we can do as humans. I attempt in my art to expose issues that challenge our ability to reengineer positive change toward continued human development."

For more information on
MMOCA Gallery Night scan
QR code or visit [mmoca.org/
event/gallery-night](http://mmoca.org/event/gallery-night):



Mr. Butler's art will be on display May through June in the Hallway Art Gallery. Jerry returns as our featured artist with his new exhibit entitled "Images from Dreams." The Bethel Fine Arts Committee welcomes you to view and experience his wonderful mixed media collages.



Jerry's art is also at
Watrous Gallery: [www.
wisconsinacademy.org/
gallery/jerry-butler-
echoes-arc](http://www.wisconsinacademy.org/gallery/jerry-butler-echoes-arc)



BETHEL CONCERT SERIES

Sunday, June 1
2 pm in the Sanctuary

Violinist Wes Luke and cellist Alex Chambers-Ozasky will join pianist Stephen Self in several masterworks for piano-violin-cello trio (commonly referred to as "piano trio"). The program will commence with a famous trio by Haydn, sometimes labelled the "**Gypsy Trio**," because its last movement seems to have been inspired by melodies Haydn heard performed by folk musicians.



and this masterwork is replete with rich melodic writing, but it also reveals a virtuosic side to Schubert's instrumental style. All three instruments engage in virtuosic playing, all within an opulent Romantic style.

The program is free of charge. Please join us and bring friends to this outstanding event. The Bethel Concert Series thanks the Bethel Endowment Foundation for their generous support.



Following that, the trio will play one of Rachmaninoff's great works for small ensemble, the **Trio élégiaque No. 1**. This beautiful work shows Rachmaninoff's lyrical and rich harmonic style, complete with melodies that seem to have been inspired by Russian folk music.

The final work on the program will be one of the most famous works in the repertoire, Franz Schubert's **Trio No. 2 for Piano, Violin and Cello**. Schubert is particularly known for his lyrical song melodies,



CHURCH IN THE WILD

Saturday, May 10
10:00 – 1 pm
Vermont Lutheran Church

**9886 Vermont Church Rd,
Black Earth**

Our day will begin with a short reflective worship followed by plenty of time to wander the beautiful **Legacy Prairie and Woodland at Vermont Lutheran Church**. We will re-gather for a time of sharing and to celebrate Holy Communion.

Participants are invited to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy on the grounds. There will also be opportunities to learn about and connect with individuals and organizations engaged in work and ministry related to caring for God's creation.

This unique worship experience is open to all ages and abilities. Mobility help is available for those who need it so that all can immerse themselves in the awesomeness of God's creation.

Church in the Wild is sponsored by our South Central Wisconsin Synod's Caring for Creation team.

For more information and to RSVP, scan the QR code:



ST STEPHEN'S JUBILATION CHOIR PRESENTS:

"JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT"



Sunday, June 17

7pm | at Bethel Lutheran Church

Jubilation is a church youth choir consisting of 40 seventh through twelfth grade students from Bloomington, MN. Each summer, they tour a new area of the country performing "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

This year marks their 36th tour and the choir's 48th year in existence now under the direction of Ashlie Keith. Jubilation has a strong tradition at St. Stephen Lutheran Church and some of its members began singing at church at the age of three. Each year our congregation watches as new youth take on lead roles and add new twists to the show.

Past tours have taken them to over 43 states, Canada, and parts of Europe. Each year they return with wonderful stories and life experiences.



A New Ministry of Connections at Bethel

Eating, socializing, learning: how good can it get? You are invited to enjoy all three by joining the new "CHAT N' CHEW" group. Men, women, and teens—all generations, are all invited to gather once a month in a home to share a dish and recipe around a specially selected theme. Come to one or come to all!

The events will be from 6-8 the fourth TUESDAY of the month, usually in the residence of the month's host.

Here is what you do: Contact the host or hostess by Monday night preceding the TUESDAY event to reserve a spot. Declare your dish preference aligning with the theme of the month. Arrive by 6 pm with your contribution and copies of your recipe. We will enjoy time together, good food and new ideas. Each month will be a surprise group and guaranteed fun!

Tuesday, May 27
SALADS at Nancy Wiebe's

Tuesday, June 24
COMFORT FOOD at the Gjerde's

Tuesday, July 22
TBD at John and Jacquie Shanda's

For further information or reservations scan QR code or contact Carrie Bernhardt on Sundays or at connections@bethel-madison.org.





ANNUAL PICNIC AND 40TH ANNUAL BIKE-A-THON & DRIVE June 7 at BETHEL HORIZONS

ANNUAL PICNIC 5PM (NEW TIME)

It's that time of year when we drive through the rolling hills on our way to Bethel Horizons to gather together for our annual picnic. We invite you to join us for good food, fun and fellowship! You will be surrounded by over 500 acres of beautiful nature where you can connect with God, yourself and others. Gator rides will be available for those needing a bit of help in traversing the grounds. Ask any Horizons staff for assistance throughout the picnic.

Location: Bethel Horizons
4651 County Road ZZ
Dodgeville, WI

Schedule:

5pm - Dinner

6pm - Worship and Blessing of the Summer Staff

7pm - Pie and Ice Cream

Cash donations to support the cost of food are greatly appreciated

If you plan to attend and would like to bring a pie, please let Sue Rogers know by emailing bethel@bethel-madison.org or reach out to her on Sundays.

BIKE-A-THON 10AM – 2PM

Join us for what will be the 40th Annual Bethel Horizons Bike-A-Thon & Drive! Participants and volunteers come together to raise money for, and raise awareness about the Adventure & Environmental Education Programs at Bethel Horizons, all while building community along the way!

The Bethel Horizons Bike-A-Thon & Drive rides the Military Ridge State Trail between Mount Horeb and Barneveld and back or Mount Horeb and Ridgeway and back, giving the option of a short ride, a long ride or anything in between. The ride is supported with rest stops along the way and a lunch/snack pack will be provided at Barneveld Lutheran Church between 10am and 2pm.

To register, scan the QR code:



SAVE THE DATE! FRIENDSHIP CLUB PICNIC Friday, June 27 at Lakeview Park

The New Horizons Swing Band will be performing. Appetizers at 5:30, followed by Steve Nelson's delicious brats, hamburgers, buns, baked beans, fruit salad, and strawberry cake. The cost of the meal is to be determined.

Our permanent reservation list is in effect. If you have to cancel after the deadline of Tuesday June 27th at noon, the week of Friendship Club, once the reservation goes in, you will be responsible for paying for your meal, to ensure that costs are covered. Former members will be contacted by Judi Griffin or Connie Dreger. If you have any questions, email bethel@bethel-madison.org.

Looking forward to
a wonderful gathering!

*Lakeview Park, 6300 Mendota
Avenue, Middleton off Allen Blvd.*

NO PARKING ON THE GRASS!



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BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

312 Wisconsin Avenue
Madison, WI 53703



LOOKING AHEAD

June 1 | 10:30 am
Bethel Concert Series

June 7 | Bethel Horizons
Annual Picnic/Bike-a-thon

June 17 | 7 pm
Joseph & the Amazing
Technicolor Dreamcoat

June 27 | 5:30 pm
Friendship Club Picnic

FUND FACTS

After tax season—or anytime—it's revealing to review your income and see where it went. If someone looked at your checkbook, what would it say about your priorities? **Don't just say what matters to you—show it in how you spend your time and money.**

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21). We all have three selves: how others see us, how we see ourselves, and who we really are. True happiness comes when who we are and who we want to be align. How does your giving reflect that?

Text to give is really simple and flexible – 73256 is the number to which you text BLC and then you'll be prompted just one time to link a debit or credit card to this for payment. You have the choice to make this recurring or not. A receipt will be sent electronically, and it will be included on your contribution statement from Bethel.

MARCH 2025 YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIALS

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
REVENUES			
Offerings	417,784	406,500	11,284
Miscellaneous revenue	219,436	109,405	110,031
Non-operating revenue	7,192	4,875	2,317
Total Revenue	644,412	520,780	123,632
MINISTRY INVESTMENTS			
Staff	372,947	377,891	(4,944)
Ministry & Resource Teams	88,154	110,706	(22,552)
Benevolence	14,750	11,250	3,500
Administration	23,565	20,476	3,089
Total Ministry Investments	499,416	520,323	(20,907)
Total Net Income (Loss)	144,996	457	144,539

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

