

Stay Tuned to Bethel



A publication for viewers of

Worship at Bethel



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Celebrating Bethel's 170th anniversary

170 years ago in 1855, 14 Norwegian immigrants gathered in Madison to form a church that would later become Bethel. They were pioneers, having left Norway by sailing ship before the first major migration in 1866. They followed the first organized immigrants from Norway who had come to America only 30 years prior in 1825.

By 1860, there were 29 Norwegian families in Madison. By 1870, Dane County was home to more than 6,000 Norwegian-born residents. The later settlers were welcomed into church communities started by those who came earlier. In Madison they came to the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church on the corner of Hamilton, Butler and East Johnson streets. In 1896, that church changed its name to Bethel Lutheran Church. On All Saints Sunday and throughout November, this church remembered our founders as we continue to celebrate our 170th anniversary.

The founders were encouraged to establish a church by Pastor Herman Preus who had been holding services in Madison since 1853 when he was 28 years old. No doubt Preus' encouragement fed the founders' longing for



community and the traditions and rituals of home. Plus, having left home and family behind in Norway, the settlers likely drew comfort from the tangible reminder that they hadn't left God there too. Preus wasn't officially called to serve the congregation until 1856 and then for only one year. But, he continued to serve until 1882.

In 1857, the congregation was incorporated and met at Grace Episcopal Church for the rental of \$3 per service. At a time when eggs were 6 cents a dozen, church members found the rental price too high. They also had to pay the pastor, something they didn't have to do in Norway where pastors were government employees and everyone was Lutheran by law.

In 1863, through a merger with another Norwegian congregation, Pastor Preus' flock was able to build the church on the corner of North Hamilton, Butler and East Johnson streets.



Christmas pagaent: Dec. 14, 9 am

Bethel children and youth present our annual Christmas pagaent during this special worship service.

Christmas Eve services Dec. 24: 3 pm jazz, 5 pm contemporary, 7 pm and 9 pm traditional, 10 pm on Channel 27

Bethel pastoral staff

Lauren Wrightsman, *Lead pastor* David Wrightsman, *Associate pastor*
Jeff Quinto, *Bethel Bible Series pastor in residence*

Gifts and memorials help share God's word

Gift / memorial summary

August – October 2025

Total contributions..... \$ 16,450

Non-member tele-cast viewers made general gifts:

Brian & Jennifer Baird
Mary Burtch
Fritz & Laurine Carstens
Carol Ann Christie
Andrew & Deborah DiPiazza

Beverly Eckel
Rosalie Foley
Evangeline Goth
Jay Hochmuth
Terri Iverson
Emily Jorenby
Eric Jorgenson
Audrey Kieffer
B.J. Kraemer
George & Sherry Lang

Doris Lohr
Ellen Martin
Stuart & Julie McConochie
Bruce McCoy
Suzanne McIntyre
W. Mertens
Floyd Munro
Jean & Donald Ness
Eleanor Neumann
William & Mary Reinke
Viola Richardson
Bonnie Schewe
Susan Schmoekel
Mary Stamm

Julie Syvrud
Hilda Voigt
Henry & Toni Walski
Rose Weber
Cindy Woodford
Dale & Al Wortley
Eunice Zimmerman

O'Hara, Kathleen & Donald Wuethrick

In memory of my parents, Joseph W. & Mary E. Steel by Roger Steel

In memory of William Tesnow by Scott Skaleski

A memorial was given by these non-members:

In memory of Burt Olson by Joyce & Benjamin Long, Daniel & Lynn

Winter clothing needed

The Madison Area Jail Ministry needs new or gently used winter coats and warm clothing for Dane County jail residents, both men and women, by Dec. 1. As the weather turns colder, there is a need for winter wear for those who were booked into jail in the summer and are released in the winter. Without donated clothing, jail residents leave in the clothes they came in with. Immediate needs:

- Winter coats: L to 4X
- Hats, scarves and gloves
- Pants, sweatpants/athletic pants: M to 3XL
- Shirts, sweaters and sweatshirts: M to 3XL
- Shoes and boots: all sizes



Bethel podcast: Walking with God

Join Bethel's Pastor Jeff Quinto and Bethel member Pat Barry for their podcast, "Walking with God," where they talk about their walk with Christ. Jeff and Pat discuss aspects of what it means to walk with and follow Christ.

"The impetus for the podcasts was a quote from C.S. Lewis: *Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, is of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important.* These short discussions can foster reflection and deepen your relationship with Christ."

Download the podcast app wherever you get your podcast or at <https://walkingwithgod.podbean.com/> and listen in.

Support Bethel's Media Ministry!

Worship at Bethel reaches about 6,000 people each week – people who may not otherwise hear God's Word. The Sunday service is edited and then televised. In Madison, the 30-minute broadcast is on WKOW channel 27 at 10 am on Sundays.

Your gift helps:

††† **Level 3** \$1,500
Picture and text shown at beginning and end of telecast.

†† **Level 2** \$1,000
Picture and text shown at beginning of telecast.

† **Level 1** \$500
Text shown at beginning of telecast.

All gifts are welcome



Please return the donation envelope provided with this newsletter. To support *Worship at Bethel*, Media Ministry checks may be made payable to *Bethel Lutheran Church* with *Media Ministry* indicated on the memo line. Or,

donate online at: www.bethel-madison.org/post/support-bethels-media-ministry.

Giving options include appreciated stock, qualified charitable distributions and monthly recurring gifts to help support this service of the word telecast. Call Alice Mowbray with questions or to learn more about giving options: 608-257-3577, Ext. 222.

We are grateful our parents have the opportunity to 'attend' worship from a distance. The telecast is something they look forward to each week.

They feel part of the congregation without being there.

Comment from a telecast viewer

Sponsored telecasts

- ◆ **Aug 3: In memory of Bonnie (Lerum) Bruce** by Paul Aspinwalle
- ◆ **Aug. 10: In honor of our 60th wedding anniversary** by Judy and Arlen Christenson
- ◆ **Aug. 17, Oct. 5: Xtra Years of Zest in gratitude for their 50 years of organized fellowship 1974-2024**
- ◆ **Aug. 24, Sept. 21: An appreciative viewer of *Worship at Bethel*, when being at Bethel in person isn't possible**
- ◆ **Aug. 31, Sept. 14, Oct. 12: The Bethel Endowment Foundation: in honor and recognition of Bethel Lutheran Church's 170th year of proclaiming the Good News 1855-2025**
- ◆ **Sept. 7: In honor of our 51st wedding anniversary** by Phil and Mary Lou Dzick
- ◆ **Sept. 28: In honor of Bethel Pastors** by an anonymous donor
- ◆ **Oct. 19: In memory of Bonnie (Lerum) Bruce and Wanda (Hamre) Lerum** by Paul Aspinwall

*When the weather is bad or I'm not feeling well, it's nice to have the option to worship from my home. Thank you to **Worship at Bethel.***

Comment from a telecast viewer

Media Ministry

312 Wisconsin Avenue • Madison, WI 53703-4106
bethel@bethel-madison.org • www.bethel-madison.org
608-257-3577



Tune in! Sunday telecast schedule

Madison 10:00 a.m. WKOW-TV 27

**Eau Claire, Green Bay, LaCrosse, Milwaukee,
Wausau / Rhinelander**

*Viewers: Although the telecast is no longer aired
in these areas, you will continue to receive this
publication.*

Get more Bethel news online: www.bethel-madison.org

Stay Tuned is a quarterly publication for viewers of Worship at Bethel.

Editor: Alice Mowbray, Bethel Lutheran Church

Design: Effective Communications

Bethel Lutheran Church calendar

2025-26 Sundays	First Reading	Second Reading	Gospel
Dec. 7	2 Advent Isa. 11:1-10	Rom. 15:4-13	Matt. 3:1-12
Dec. 14	3 Advent Isa. 35:1-10	James 5:7-10	Matt. 11:2-11
Dec. 21	4 Advent Isa. 7:10-16	Rom. 1:1-7	Matt. 1:18-25
Dec. 28	1 Christmas Isa. 63:7-9	Heb. 2:10-18	Matt. 2:13-23
Jan. 4	2 Christmas Jer. 31:7-16	Eph. 1:3-14	John 1:(1-9) 10-18
Jan. 11	Baptism of Our Lord Isa. 42:1-9	Acts 10:34-43	Matt. 3:13-17
Jan. 18	2 Epiphany Isa. 49:1-7	1 Cor. 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
Jan. 25	3 Epiphany Isa. 9:1-4	1 Cor. 1:10-18	Matt. 4:12-23
Feb. 1	4 Epiphany Micah 6:1-8	1 Cor. 1:18-31	Matt. 5:1-12
Feb. 8	5 Epiphany Isa. 58:1-9a	1 Cor. 2:1-12	Matt. 5:13-20
Feb. 15	Transfiguration of Our Lord Exod. 24:12-18	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matt. 17:1-9
Feb. 22	1 Lent Gen. 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Rom. 5:12-19	Matt. 4:1-11

The service telecast is one week delayed (from when it was live) and coordinated with the lectionary.

