

# Stay Tuned to Bethel



A publication for viewers of

*Worship at Bethel*



## Get ready for Lent

Lutherans embrace paradoxes—like being both saints and sinners. This Lent, we're exploring the paradox of Christ, the Light of the World, being present in darkness. Darkness isn't the absence of God but often where God shows up in unexpected ways. Starting Ash Wednesday, March 5, we'll embark on a six-week Lenten journey (see below). Our Lent study book, *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, is available for \$10.

### Lent activities

- Sunday Forums, 10:30 am, will explore themes like light pollution and Paul's loss of sight on the road to Damascus.
- Daily devotions will focus on God's presence in darkness, written by Bethel members and staff, and emailed starting March 5.
- Book study: Pastor Lauren will lead discussions of *Learning to Walk in the Dark* on Mondays at 6:30 pm via Zoom and Wednesdays at noon and 7:30 pm following worship.



### Ash Wednesday Service

March 5: Noon and 6:30 pm

### Lenten Wednesday Worship

Wednesdays, March 12 - April 9  
6:30 pm (soup supper 5:30 pm)

### Easter Sunday

April 20

Small groups also are encouraged to study the book.

### Service projects

Sign up now or organize your own project, such as volunteering with Second Harvest.

### Bethel projects

Food Pantry Personal Care Collection, March 9 - April 13 and 5 Stations of the Cross Creation, April 19, 10 am - noon.

### Community projects

Luke House Dinner Service, March 16, 5 - 7 pm and Emerson School Clean-Up Day, April 12, 9 am - noon.

### Exciting news: Bethel Lutheran Church 10 am Worship at Bethel telecast

Bethel's 9:00 am service provides a rich and vibrant worship experience, and we're excited to bring this to our TV worship participants, instead of the 7:30 am service. Because of this shift, our edited worship service will now **air one week later, still at our regular time of 10:00 am on WKOW (Channel 27)**.

### Starting April 27, the Sunday after Easter

Attend Bethel in person for worship or watch live online at 9 am (Facebook or YouTube)

**Join the Livestream:** Be part of the experience in real time Sundays at 9:00 am through our website or streaming at <https://www.youtube.com/user/BethelLutheranTV/about>

**Catch the previous week's edited worship service** on WKOW (Channel 27) at 10 am

### 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

November 2024 – January 2025

Total contributions..... \$ 98,665

### A bequest was made to Bethel's Media Ministry by:

Allen G. Nicolaus Estate

### Non-member tele-cast viewers made general gifts:

Nancy Abraham  
Janet Ammentorp  
Linda Boettcher  
Gary & Sandra Bubenzer  
Mary Burtch

Judith Cherwinka  
Carol Ann Christie  
Christopher Chudik  
Donald & Christine Clark  
Mary Copenhagen  
James & Sally Davis  
Andrew & Deborah DiPiazza  
Marilyn Donaldson  
Beverly Eckel  
Scott Feldt  
Rosalie Foley  
Gregg & Jane Frazier  
Evangeline Goth

Marie Groskreutz  
Marlin & JoAnn Groskreutz  
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Faye Rasmussen  
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Gloria Schumacher  
Thomas & Helen Seipel  
Mary Stamm  
Judith Olson Sutton  
Leroy Sydow  
Judith Timmerman  
Barbara Tuttle  
Carla Wuebben  
Dwight & Bonnie Ziegler  
Eunice Zimmerman  
Anonymous

### Memorials were given by these non-members:

**In memory of Betty Nicka** by Doris Koster  
**In memory of Richard Hillestad** by Elizabeth Hillestad  
**In memory of Roger Loff** by Lois Loff  
**In memory of Donald Mayer** by Donald & Karen Mayer  
**In memory of Jerry, Vern, Anita, Ray, Helen, Larry, Terry** by the Belz family

## Bethel podcast: Walking with God

For some people, being Christian means belonging to a church. Certainly, being part of a vibrant faith community has merit. For others, being Christian means looking to the Bible for insight. In both cases there may be knowledge about God that leads to eternal life. However, in either case, something profound is missing. "Spiritual Christianity" is neither of these but a life changer.

Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." The heart is

where our desires reside. Being a spiritual Christian means aligning our desires with God's desires. The author C.S. Lewis states, "Christianity if false, is of no importance, and if true, is of infinite importance, the only thing it cannot be is moderately important." This was the basis for Pastor Jeff Quinto and member Pat Barry to discuss their faith walk in a podcast, "Walking with God." These discussions foster reflection and deepen your relationship with Christ.

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

## Fund fact\$

If you're 70½ or older, an IRA is an excellent vehicle for charitable gifting – even edging out appreciated stock. No tax on the money going in, and when given directly to your church, non-taxable as a withdrawal too. This is called a qualified charitable distribution.

In the year you turn 70½, the IRS rule is that you must have turned that age to gift to charity from your IRA – but to simply take your RMD (required minimum distribution) can be

done anytime now in the year that you turn 70½ but must start being drawn by the time you turn age 73! (There is no RMD requirement for funds in a Roth IRA.)

For the year that you become eligible to withdraw funds, you have until April 1 of the following year to take your distribution but a reminder that then you'll have two IRA payouts in that year. It's a new year – start making plans now for meeting your generosity goals!

# Pastor Jeff recommends *Sitting Pretty*

I enjoyed Rebekah Taussig's *Sitting Pretty: The View from My Ordinary Resilient Disabled Body*. The book is engaging, thoughtful, funny and challenging. Taussig lives an active life from the vantage point of her wheelchair, having been paralyzed since the age of three. I found it meaningful to hear her take on how well-meaning people attempt to help her in ways that are often not helpful. One story I found particularly poignant was Taussig's description of a Christian woman in a coffee shop asking, "Could I pray for your healing to be able to walk?" Taussig, a teacher, had just wanted to be alone to grade papers when she was accosted by this woman. Her inference was that Taussig's defective condition desperately needed miraculous healing.

For me, the important takeaway from the book was the recognition, as Taussig states, "Like anyone else, disabled people are both capable and in need of some help." This is the better, more helpful, and more compassionate way to deal with people with disabilities. As she describes "kindness that actually feels like kindness," she writes, "The goal is not to avoid falling or needing help. The goal is to be seen, asked, heard, believed, valued as we are, allowed to exist in these exact bodies, invited to the party and encouraged to dance however we want to."

I pray that in the future, I will be able to discern between what helps and what hurts and value everyone, disabled or not, in a loving, caring and helpful way.

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## Support Bethel's Media Ministry this year!

*Worship at Bethel* reaches about 8,000 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 his 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](http://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.

### Sponsored telecasts

- ◆ **Nov. 3: In honor of their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary** by Jan & Ron Opelt
- ◆ **Nov. 17, Dec. 1 and 22, Jan. 5: An appreciative viewer of *Worship at Bethel*, when being at Bethel in person isn't possible**
- ◆ **Dec. 15: In loving memory of Roger Loff** by his wife Lois
- ◆ **Dec. 24: In memory of my wife Jan** by John Wischhoff
- ◆ **Jan. 12: The Bethel Endowment Foundation in honor and recognition of Bethel Lutheran Church's 170<sup>th</sup> year of proclaiming the Good News 1855-2025**
- ◆ **Jan. 19: In memory of Charles Thomley** by Jo Thomley
- ◆ **Jan. 26: In memory of Joseph Hoel** by Lorraine Hoel & family

## Media Ministry

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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](http://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 Sundays	First Reading	Second Reading	Gospel
March 2 ..... Transfiguration of Our Lord	Exod 34:29-35	2 Cor. 3:12-4:2	Luke 9:28-36
March 9 ..... 1 Lent	Deut. 26:1-11	Rom. 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13
March 16 ..... 2 Lent	Gen. 15:1-12, 17-18	Phil. 3:17-4:1	Luke 13:31-35
March 23 ..... 3 Lent	Isa. 55:1-9	1 Cor. 10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9
March 30 ..... 4 Lent	Josh. 5:9-12	2 Cor. 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
April 6 ..... 5 Lent	Isa. 43:16-21	Phil. 3:4b-14	John 12:1-8
April 13 ..... Palm Sunday	Isa. 4:9a	Phil. 2:5-11	Luke 22:14-23:56
April 20 ..... Easter Day	Acts 10:34-43	1 Cor. 15:19-26	Luke 24:1-12
April 27* ..... 2 Easter	Acts 5:27-32	Rev. 1:4-8	John 20:19-31
May 4 ..... 3 Easter	Acts 9:1-6	Rev. 5:11-14	John 21:1-19
May 11 ..... 4 Easter	Acts 11:1-18	Rev. 21:1-6	John 10:22-30
May 18 ..... 5 Easter	Acts 11:1-18	Rev. 21:1-6	John 13:31-35
May 25 ..... 6 Easter	Acts 16:9-15	Rev. 21:10, 22-22:5	Jphn 14:23-29

