



# BETHELITE

JUNE 1, 2026: VOL 75, NO. 6

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## Faith for the Journey

The summer months have a way of inviting us onto the road. School years end, calendars shift, and many of us begin making plans for vacations, cabins, family reunions, or weekends away. Even for those staying close to home, summer carries a different rhythm. Windows open. Evening walks grow longer. Life feels a little less hurried.

It strikes me that much of faith, in the biblical story, happens this way, not in settled places, but in motion. Again and again, God meets people while they are on a journey. Abraham leaves home without knowing exactly where he is going. The Israelites wander through the wilderness. The disciples follow Jesus from town to town, learning as they go. Even after the resurrection, some of the most meaningful encounters happen on the road, as followers slowly realize Christ has been walking beside them all along.

Most of us know something about that kind of journey.

*(con't ...)*



Pastor Lauren Wrightsman



**BETHEL**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(con't from page 1...)

We carry responsibilities, worries, hopes for the future, grief that still catches us off guard, and questions we cannot always answer. We live in a world that encourages us to do more, hurry more, and carry more. Yet Jesus offers a different invitation: “Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”

That may be why the image of a road trip has felt meaningful to me this year. On any journey, what we carry matters. Some things help us move forward. Other things only weigh us down. There are moments when we need courage, patience, rest, wonder, and faith to continue on.

This summer at Bethel Lutheran Church, our worship life and “Devo’s to Go” devotional series will gently explore these themes through the image of faith as journey. More than anything, my hope is that we make space to notice where God is meeting us in the ordinary moments of life and to remember that we do not travel alone.

One of the gifts of the church is that we become fellow travelers for one another, sharing hope, encouragement, and grace along the way.

Wherever this summer takes you, I pray you find moments of rest, renewal, and joy on the journey.

*Grace and peace,*  
**Pastor Lauren Wrightsman**

## ROAD TRIP: Packing for the Journey of Faith:

### DEVO'S TO GO

**D**ear Friends and Members of  
Bethel Lutheran Church,

Summer invites us to move. To get out, to explore, to go somewhere - whether that’s across the country or just beyond our usual routines. There’s something about a road trip that opens us up: new sights, unexpected moments, and space to notice things we might otherwise miss.

*In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus is on the move too. Traveling from town to town, he teaches, heals, calls disciples, and meets people right where they are. Following Jesus is not a stationary life. It is a journey. And every journey requires some packing. Not just what we put in a suitcase, but what we carry in our hearts, our minds, and our spirits.*

Each week in this devotional, we’ll “pack” something for the journey: a posture, a practice, or a promise we need along the way. Some weeks, we may discover we’ve been carrying too much. Other weeks, we may realize we’ve left something important behind. Always, we will be reminded: God travels with us.

So, wherever you find yourself this summer - on vacation, at home, or somewhere in between- this is your invitation:

Slow down. Pay attention. Trust the journey.

*Peace to you,*  
**Pastor Lauren Wrightsman**  
**Pastor Dave Wrightsman**  
**Pastor Jeff Quinto**

## STEENSLAND HOUSE IS 130 YEARS OLD

Sun, June 14 | 10 am  
Steensland House



Bethel will celebrate the 130th birthday of our historic **Steensland House**. After the 9am worship, cake will be served in the Emmaus Room to mark the day. Halle Steensland, who had their family home built in 1896, would be 194 years old this June. Come and celebrate a unique part of Bethel’s Norwegian heritage.

## BETHEL CHURCH PICNIC

**Saturday, June 6**  
at Bethel Horizons

**J**oin us for the **Bethel Lutheran Church Congregational Picnic** and enjoy an evening of fellowship, dinner, worship, pie, and ice cream.

Guests are welcome beginning at 4:00 p.m., dinner will be served from 5:00–6:00 p.m., worship begins at 6:30 p.m. which includes blessing the Horizons’ summer staff, and pie and ice cream will be served at 7:30 p.m. Horizons golf carts will be available to transport from the parking lot if needed.

**Please Note: Regular 5 pm Saturday worship will be held at Bethel Horizons at 6:30 pm**

# Bethel Bible Series Anniversary Fundraiser



Pr Jeff Quinto & Pr Sivan Simamora

As the Bethel Bible Series enters its 65th Anniversary year, we invite the congregation of Bethel Lutheran Church to join us in celebrating God's faithfulness and the remarkable global ministry that has grown from right here at Bethel.

On Sunday, June 7, 2026, at 10:30 AM in Good Shepherd Chapel, Pastor Jeff Quinto will offer a special presentation highlighting the history, mission, and future of the Bethel Bible Series. The presentation will include photographs and reflections from the recent "Steps of Moses" pilgrimage to Egypt and the Sinai, as well as inspiring stories from our recent Bethel Bible Series teaching mission in Indonesia.

In Indonesia, more than 240 pastors and church leaders from over 100 churches received an introduction to the Bethel Bible Series through three two-day seminars held in Semarang, Medan, and Nias Island. These gatherings demonstrated once again the hunger for serious biblical teaching and the power of God's Word to unite and strengthen the Church around the world.

The June 7 presentation also marks the beginning of our 65th Anniversary Season of Giving. During this season, we will celebrate what God has accomplished through the Bethel Bible Series over the past six and a half decades while also looking ahead to a bright future of expanded teaching, leadership development, and global outreach.

From its beginnings at Bethel Lutheran Church in Madison to ministries now reaching across the world, the Bethel Bible Series continues its mission "to lead church members in a disciplined study of the Scriptures in such a way that they encounter the Living Christ."

We hope you will join us as together we continue taking the Bible "to the ends of the earth."

## Update on Bethel Supports Ukraine



Since the February 24, 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, including the Borodyanka community which were our partners for the **Circle of Love Project** since 1996, Bethel has stepped up to continue support of the work of Lyudmila Boyko. Our efforts continue funding Dr. Ivan Bovsunofski's dental van working on the front lines of war, providing food and basics to the resettlement village established for war refugee families, and establishing a summer children's day camp providing food, therapy and outdoor activities.

**Below are two excerpts from correspondence with Lyudmila Boyko:**

*On the eve of the 40th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, we thank each of you from the bottom of our hearts for creating a NEW GENERATION OF UKRAINIAN YOUTH with your hearts, work, sacrifice and example! This is the strongest story of recovery in our community. All, without exception, the children who were in your family, whom you took care of for many years is a row – today they are successful and progressive!! We definitely attribute their success*

*stories to the love and care our children have received through the support of Bethel Lutheran Church, your community, and you and your family... And today, in the terrible times of this cruel war, you are with us, you help us survive the dark time of our lives. It is in our hearts and memories forever.*



**And on Facebook at the 40th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster:**

*Today, like millions of people in different parts of the world, my heart is overwhelmed by two polar feelings:*

*Deep mourning for those who have lost our country and people in connection with a huge tragedy – the catastrophe of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and deep gratitude to the people who have warmed our children and given them their long-standing support in times of despair and helplessness.*

*State of Wisconsin USA, Madison is the address that changed the fate of many families of our suffering Borodyanka and at the time Borodyanka District. Medical, dental, social and family support forever changed the lives of children in the heart care of Jacqui Shanda and many families united in the Bethel Lutheran Church of Wisconsin...*

*Today we are happy to continue responsible cooperation with our old and reliable friends and already, together combining opportunities and efforts to do everything possible to improve the quality of life and safety of people who face insurmountable challenges.*

*Thank you for being together.*

*A low bow to each and every one of you, dear friends, who are with us all the years.*

*Lyudmila Boyko*

**To donate funds for Bethel's mission, go to Bethel's website: Giving/Project Ukraine - Jacqui Shanda**



## Bethel Welcomes Deacon Einstein Gonzalaz and Summer Intern Stephanie Mickelson



Deacon Einstein Gonzalaz

Bethel Lutheran Church is delighted to welcome Deacon Einstein Gonzalez-Leon as our new full-time Deacon of Community Ministries, beginning June 1st.

In this role, Einstein will help lead **Bethel's Homeless Ministry and Food Pantry Ministry** by supporting daily operations, volunteers, and community partnerships while helping these ministries continue serving neighbors with compassion and dignity. He will also assist with worship leadership twice each month and serve on Bethel's Mission & Outreach Team.

Einstein brings more than ten years of ministry experience in congregations across Wisconsin, Florida, and Texas, with a focus on outreach, pastoral care, and connecting faith with service. He has worked alongside food pantry ministries, immigrants, refugees, and individuals experiencing homelessness, emphasizing accompaniment, listening, and creating welcoming spaces where people feel valued and supported.

We are grateful for the gifts, experience, and heart for ministry that Einstein brings to Bethel. Please join us in warmly welcoming Deacon Einstein Alberto Gonzalez-Leon to our congregation and community.



Stephanie Mickelson

Bethel Lutheran Church is pleased to welcome **Stephanie Mickelson as our Summer Communications & Hospitality Intern.**

Stephanie is a recent graduate of the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where she earned degrees in Wildlife Ecology and Life Sciences Communication, along with certificates in History and American Indian & Indigenous Studies.

This summer, Stephanie will be working approximately 20 hours each week supporting Bethel's communications and hospitality ministries. She will assist with communications, welcoming guests and visitors, Sunday morning hospitality, and helping share the story of Bethel's ministry both within the congregation and throughout the wider community.

In addition to her work at Bethel, Stephanie will also be serving this summer at Bethel Horizons in Environmental Education.

We are grateful for the gifts, energy, and creativity Stephanie brings to this role and look forward to the many ways she will contribute to the life of Bethel this summer. Please join us in warmly welcoming Stephanie to our community!

## Food Pantry Wish List

Our food pantry is seeking donations to support our community. We are specifically looking for the following items:

- Chicken noodle soup
- Canned peas
- Canned chili or pasta meals
- Dish soap
- Toothpaste

Donations can be dropped off in the blue barrel near the reception desk. Additional note: we are no longer collection egg cartons.

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.

Best regards,  
Food Pantry Team

## Homeless Ministry SOS

At the **Homeless Ministry**, we are in urgent need of clothing and essential items to continue serving those in need. Since the beginning of the year, we have provided more than 5,600 clothing items, along with sleeping bags, blankets, and backpacks. While we are grateful for the many donations received, our shelves are becoming bare.

We welcome nearly all types of men's and women's clothing, including shoes, pants, shirts, underwear, hoodies, sweatshirts, light-weight coats, belts, and caps in all sizes. We also need blankets, towels, washcloths, backpacks, rolling suitcases, and duffel bags. **If you are holding a garage sale, please consider donating unsold items to the ministry.** Donations may be dropped off at the reception desk or brought to the Pentecost Room during ministry hours on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Thank you for your support!

## Elizabeth Tuttle: Selected Works 1977-Present

Meet Artist/  
Opening Reception  
June 14 / 10 am  
Hallway Gallery



This exhibition at Bethel Lutheran spans 50 years of artmaking. I began working with fiber art while in graduate school at UW–Madison in the 1970s. After exploring many textile techniques, I chose crochet for its simplicity, using sewing threads blended to create subtle color gradations. During this time, I also created small pastel studies for my crocheted works.

From the late 1970s through the 1980s, my fiber art appeared in national and international exhibitions. I also designed crocheted and beaded jewelry during the height of the “Art to Wear” movement, with work featured in galleries and museum shops across the United States.

In the early 2000s, discarded wool sweaters inspired a series of geometric compositions exploring color and space. Nature has always informed my work, and living on Madison’s Northside led me back to pastels in the 2010s, painting landscapes drawn from direct experience.

In the 2020s, a fascination with fallen and fractured trees inspired a pastel series exhibited at the Overture Center galleries in 2024. Stills that were shown in the Overture Center galleries in 2024.

Contact: [elizabethtuttleart.com](http://elizabethtuttleart.com)

## Two Bethel Music Series Events in July!

### PIANO TRIO

Featuring works by  
Beethoven, Suk  
and Ravel

Sunday, July 5  
2 pm - free event!  
in the Sanctuary



A piano trio that is familiar to Bethel will present an afternoon concern. The trio consists of **Wes Luke, violin**, **Alex Chambers-Ozasky, cello**; and **Stephen Self, piano**. The repertoire will include some of the masterworks for the piano trio ensemble. The concert will open with Beethoven's "Ghost" Trio, so-named because of its haunting middle movement. The second work on the program will be a short poignant elegy by the great Czech composer and violinist, Josef Suk. And the concluding work on the program will be one of the greatest such works of the twentieth century, Maurice Ravel's Trio. The Ravel trio features all the signature features of this great French composer and ends with a blazing finale.



Trumpeter  
Jean Laurenz

Sunday, July 19  
2 pm - free event!  
in the Sanctuary

Bethel welcomes **Jean Laurenz**, Associate Professor of Trumpet at UW Madison. She will present a program of music for trumpet accompanied by organ and piano. She will be assisted by Carston King-Fournier, Assistant Professor of Trombone at UW Whitewater. The program will be a delightful excursion into trumpet music of several centuries, and recent works for trumpet, trombone, and piano.

*Special thanks to the Bethel Endowment Foundation for their support of this concert series.*

### Concerts on the Square

Wednesdays, June 24,  
July 1 & July 22  
7 pm

Join us for **Concerts on the Square** this summer. Bring your own chairs and look for the Bethel sign across from US Bank Plaza (the 'glass bank').



### CIRCLE OF LOVE GOLF OUTING

Monday, Sep 28  
Blackhawk Country Club

### Save the Date!

Golf season is here. Plan now for the Circle of Love golf outing.

*Make your plans to golf or support financially, or both!*

# REALM CONNECT

**YOUR FEEDBACK HELPS  
SHAPE WHAT COMES NEXT**

Thank you to everyone who has already shared feedback, questions, and ideas regarding **Realm Connect**. Your input has been incredibly helpful as we continue developing how Bethel uses Realm to support communication, connection, and ministry life.

One of the clearest themes we have heard so far is interest in:

- Continued improvements and updates to the **Groups feature**
- More learning opportunities around **online giving and recurring gifts**
- Better understanding of how to use the **News-feed** to stay informed about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and ministry updates

Bethel Lutheran Church



This feedback is helping guide our planning as we continue building a Realm experience that is useful, accessible, and meaningful for the entire Bethel community.

To continue these conversations, upcoming **Realm Listening Sessions** and Help Hours will be held in **Room 120 on:**

**June 14 | 8:00 – 11:00 am**

**July 12 | 8:00 – 11:00 am**

These sessions are intentionally informal with no set agenda. Please feel free to “pop in” to share feedback, ask questions, learn more about Realm features, or receive assistance updating your account.

As always, continued feedback is welcome and encouraged. Your participation helps shape how Bethel will continue using this amazing tool moving forward.

Please also remember to log in regularly and verify that your profile information and communication preferences are current. Accurate information helps Bethel communicate effectively and ensures you stay informed in the ways you prefer.

*If you have questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact me anytime at [Chelsey@Bethel-Madison.org](mailto:Chelsey@Bethel-Madison.org). I'm always happy to help.*



## CHAT N' CHEW

**Tuesday, June 23**

**6- 8 pm**

**at the Young's**

Celebrate summer at Bethel's “Chat n' Chew” gathering! Bring a favorite dish and recipe to share. Enjoy a relaxed evening of food, fellowship, and new recipe ideas. The host provides beverages and table settings—just bring your dish and recipes.

*For further information or reservations visit Realm or contact Mrna Kay Young or Carrie Bernhardt at church on Sundays. You may also email [connections@bethel-madison.org](mailto:connections@bethel-madison.org).*

## Bethel 2026 Confirmation



Congratulations to Bethel's recent confirmands: **Harry Gaytan, Arya Knoflicek, Liam Louther, Savannah Scheib, Madison Schneider, and Lukas Trine**. Confirmation is an important milestone in the life of faith, and we give thanks for these young people and the dedication they have shown through worship, study, service, prayer, and participation in the life of the church. Over the years, they have grown not only in knowledge of Scripture and faith, but also in their connection to the Bethel community and one another. As a congregation, we rejoice in their affirmation of baptism and celebrate the unique gifts each of them brings to the church and the world. We are deeply grateful for the families, mentors, teachers, and friends who have encouraged and supported them along the way. May God continue to guide, strengthen, and inspire these confirmands as they continue to grow in faith, compassion, and service in the years ahead.

**New!**  
**Living the Message**  
**Bible Study**  
**Begins this Fall**



Everyone is invited to consider taking the **Living the Message Bible Study Class** being offered over the next two years. Living the Message is the Bethel Bible Series plus added material such as history and theology. Starting in the fall, the approaching school year (Sept 2026 - April 2027) will be dedicated to the Old Testament. The New Testament will be offered the following school year finishing in the spring of 2028. (No classes in the summer).

The class will meet on Thursday mornings from 9:30-11:30 am, starting on September 24, 2026.

Even if you have taken the Bethel Bible Series previously, you are encouraged to take Living the Message. Also, even if you are gone part of the winter away from Bethel, we can work with you to make this happen for you! Members and non-members are invited to register. Registration will begin this summer. Questions? Please talk to Pr. Dave (dave@bethel-madison.org)



*Pictured above are some of the 23 students who completed the two year study of the bible in April.*



## ADULT VBS

June 23 - 25

**Dottie's Ranch**  
**Oregon, WI**

Get ready for Bethel's first ever **Adult Vacation Bible School at Dottie's Ranch**, located off the beaten path near Oregon, WI. Sign up for one, two or all three days on Realm or at the signup table on Sunday May 31, June 7 and 14. The fee is \$25 per day, including lunch. There is a maximum of 24 participants each day.

Our theme for the three days is bread (and wine) -- bread in the Bible and bread in our lives. Each day Pastor Lauren will lead Bible study and Jill Enerson ("Auntie Jill") will give us a baking lesson. There will also be free time to explore the adjacent DNR prairie, take a walk or relax on the large patio.

Dottie's Ranch is a lodge with all the modern amenities including a "chef's kitchen." It's located on a small piece of privately owned land surrounded by the 1,096-acre state owned Hook Lake Bog - Grass Lake Wildlife Area.

Note: Participants must be able to walk up and down a flight of stairs.

*Sign up for one, two or all three days as your schedule permits on Realm or at the signup table on Sunday May 31, June 7 and 14.*



## Vacation Bible Camp

Aug 3 - 6  
**Bethel Horizons**

**VBC@Horizons** is a cherished Bethel tradition. Kids through age 18 are welcome for a week of camp, faith formation, and fun. Your children or grandchildren will be transformed by a week spent living in Christian community at Bethel Horizons. Adults are welcome, bring the whole family!

- Children ages 5 and up can attend day camp without an adult.
- Children ages 8-18 can attend overnight camp without an adult.

*To Register click on the QR code to go to the Bethel Horizons website and then click on the words "Register Here" and login or create a new account. You just need the special code Bethel26 when it asks for the "GHR ID." This code will allow you to see VBC as an option to select for registration.*



## Vacation Bible Camp Jr.

Aug 4  
**Bethel Horizons**

New this year, **VBC Jr** for kids and parents birth-5yr. Childcare staff will lead programming for the whole family. You also have the option to spend the night, bring grandparents or go 'rogue' and do your own thing.

Scan QR code to register:





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# BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

312 Wisconsin Avenue  
Madison, WI 53703



## LOOKING AHEAD

**Sun, July 5**

Concert Series: Piano Trio

**Sun, July 19**

Concert Series:

Trumpeter Jean Laurenz

**August 3 - 6**

Vacation Bible Camp

**August 4**

Vacation Bible Camp Jr.

## FUND FACT\$

Here is a simple yet significant way to give: A non-probate transfer vehicle, like a TOD/POD (transfer or paid on death) deed is a great way for you to leave significant eventual charitable gifts that costs you nothing now. These are most suitable for an investment account, bank account, CD (certificate of deposit) or life insurance policy. Use of your beneficiary designation to name Bethel is another easy way to plan your legacy gift.

Did you know that when you give via your credit or debit card, the transaction costs are 3.6% of the gift – while if you give via ACH, or a bank check, the cost charged is just .6%.

God's desire is for a cheerful giver we read in 2 Corinthians 9:7 – not reluctantly or out of guilt, but that we know the joy that comes from giving.

## APRIL 2026 YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIALS

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Offerings	560,130	564,766	(4,636)
Miscellaneous revenue	58,493	150,224	(91,731)
Non-operating revenue	7,668	7,500	168
Total Revenue	626,292	722,490	(96,199)
<b>MINISTRY INVESTMENTS</b>			
Staff	481,425	533,240	(51,815)
Ministry & Resource Teams	145,837	143,638	2,199
Benevolence	19,717	16,733	2,984
Administration	33,991	28,603	5,388
Total Ministry Investments	680,970	722,217	(41,244)
<b>Total Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(54,678)</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>(54,955)</b>

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



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BethelLutheranTV

**Worship Times:** Sunday at 7:30am & 9am - Traditional  
Saturday at 5pm - Casual/Jazz

