

# Bethel Herald

**October 2022** Volume 23, Issue 8

Welcome to the digital version of the Bethel Herald. We hope you love the new layout and find it easy to read. Bethel is making a difference by going digital (saving on paper, ink, and postage) by moving to a digital Herald. All of the usual content that you are used to reading is here, just with a different look.



## Special Congregational Meeting October 23rd

- There will be a special congregational meeting on Sunday, October 23rd after worship (around 10am). There are two topics up for discussion. The council has been working at updating our constitution and bylaws. The last update of the constitution was over 20 years ago. The changes will require the congregation to vote, then synod approval followed by a second congregational vote during the annual meeting. Copies of the suggested updates will be available by October 12th and will also be sent electronically.
- The second topic is approval of the costs to make the parking lot back door fully handicap accessible. At this point, the outside door opens with the handicap push but the inner door is not accessible. The update would allow both doors to open with a push of the button.

## Lutheran Disaster Relief

In the past several months, many disasters made the news. Here are some of the biggest ones:

- In Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, Hurricane Fiona brought torrential rainfall and devastating flooding to the islands. Almost exactly five years after Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico is again experiencing an island-wide blackout and damaged buildings and infrastructure.
- In Alaska, the remnants of Typhoon Merbok have caused widespread flooding along the state's western coast. This was one of the worst storms in recent decades in Alaska, with strong waves and heavy rainfall damaging homes, seawalls, roads and other infrastructure.
- In Japan, Typhoon Nanmadol hit Kyushu, the country's southernmost main island. At least two people were killed and dozens more injured in the storm, which moved northward over Honshu. Wind gusts of over 145 mph and heavy rainfall caused at least one landslide and damaged homes and businesses.
- In Papua New Guinea, a 7.7 magnitude earthquake hit on Sep. 11, with ensuing aftershocks. At least three people died, and many buildings and roads were impacted.
- In Pakistan, the summer monsoon flooding is causing a widespread humanitarian crisis. The flooding has killed 1,500 people and up to 7 million people may be displaced.

These are just the disasters that made the biggest headlines. There are countless smaller disasters that don't make the news. With your gifts to the Lutheran Disaster Response general fund, we can respond to as many as possible – whenever and wherever they strike.

## From the Desk of Pastor Kim

Several of us gathered last week to watch the movie *Just Mercy*. Some also read the book in preparation for a discussion we had together on Sunday, September 25th. I would like to share with you some of the statistics and quotes we discussed. Come to the library and borrow the copy of the book, or rent the movie on Amazon Prime. There is lots more we can do and learn. Stay tuned to our next discussion.

### **Prisons - 1970 thru today**

\*From the 1970-s to 2014, the US prison population has increased from 300,000 to 2,300,000; the highest incarceration rate in the world. The United States has 5 percent of the world's population but nearly 25 percent of its prisoners.

\*One in every 15 babies born in 2001 is predicted to spend time in jail. One in 3 black males born in this century is predicted to be incarcerated.

\*The US has sent a quarter of a million children to adult prisons and jails, some are under the age of 12. The number of women in prison has increased 640% in the last 30 years.

\*Spending on jails and prisons by state and federal governments has risen from \$6.9 billion in 1980 to nearly \$80 billion in 2014. Private prison builders and prison service companies have spent millions of dollars to persuade state and local governments to create new crimes, impose harsher sentences, and keep more people locked up so that they can earn more profits.

\*Today, over 50% of prison and jail inmates in the US have a diagnosed mental illness, a rate nearly five times greater than that of the general adult population.

\*Since 1973, 166 people including Walter McMillian have been released from death row after evidence of their innocence was uncovered. 1 For every 9 people executed in the United States, one person has been exonerated.

### ***Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson**

"...the true measure of our commitment to justice, the character of our society, our commitment to the rule of law, fairness, and equality cannot be measured by how we treat the rich, the powerful, the privileged, and the respected among us. The true measure of our character is how we treat the poor, the disfavored, the accused, the incarcerated, and the condemned."

"The power of just mercy is that it belongs to the undeserving. It's when mercy is least expected that it's most potent—strong enough to break the cycle of victimization and victimhood, retribution and suffering."

"Capital punishment means 'them without the capital get the punishment.'"

"My work with the poor and the incarcerated has persuaded me that the opposite of poverty is not wealth; the opposite of poverty is justice."

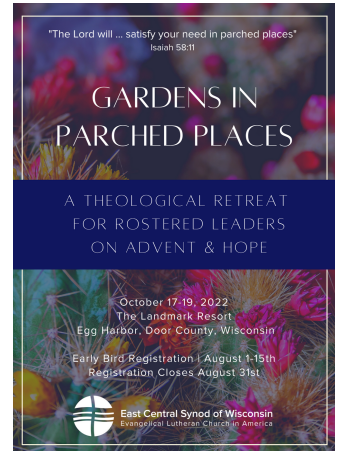
"Each of us is more than the worst thing we've ever done."

"The closer we get to mass incarceration and extreme levels of punishment, the more I believe it's necessary to recognize that we all need mercy, we all need justice, and—perhaps—we all need some measure of unmerited grace."

## Theological Conference

Pastor Kim will be attending the ECSW Theological Conference from October 17-19 in Door County. The theme this year is "Gardens in Parched Places." Leaders will deeply dwell in Isaiah texts for Advent and come away with practical resources for advent in our congregations, as well as time spent pondering hope in the midst of life and ministry.

Speakers are Rev. Dr. Ann Fritschel, recently retired old testament scholar from Wartburg Theological Seminary and Rev. Melissa Bills, campus pastor at Luther College.



## October 8th is Pastor Kim's 11th Ordination Anniversary

## Mission Opportunities

**Resurrection Food Pantry** Items always needed include: canned fruit & vegetables, baked beans, canned meals, Jello. They also are always in need of laundry soap.

**NEW Community Shelter** The NEW Community Shelter meal will be served in collaboration with Trinity and Resurrection churches on Sunday, October 9th. Six dozen bars/cookies are needed for this meal. Please sign up on the bulletin board.

## Red Cross Blood Drive

Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at Bethel October 3rd from 11am-4pm

*Kindness*  
is in your blood.



***Red Cross Blood Drive at Bethel***  
***Monday, October 3rd***  
***11am-4pm***

***For an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)***  
***or visit RedCrossBlood.org and***  
***use sponsor code: bethelgb***

***Walk-ins will be welcome!***

**American Red Cross**



# God's Work Our Hands

Dear Bethel community,

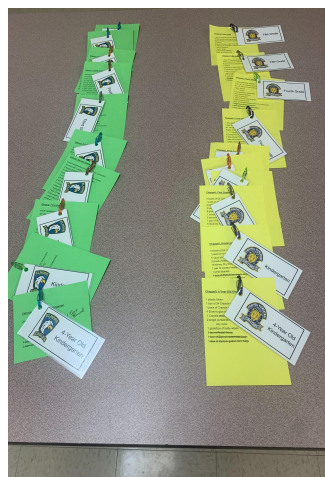
I wanted to take the time to express our sincere gratitude for the donation of the backpacks and school supplies. I want you to know that you made such an impact on the students that weren't able to afford those items. What you miss is their eyes lighting up when they received the resources. Thank you for thinking of us! -Sincerely, Kris Worden, Principal, Chappell



'We wanted to thank you so very much for the generous donation of backpacks, supplies and funds for our wonderful teachers. We will put it all to good use. Thank you! -Chappel School'



'Thank you so much for the generous donation of school supplies for our students at Elmore. Your donation helped students start the year off right with all they needed. -Sincerely, Your Elmore Community'





## October Birthdays

Denna Jepson	10/5	Dan Schraufnagel	10/15	Jodi Jonet	10/25
Elaine Klopstein	10/6	Paul Jerks	10/17	Mike Martin	10/25
Hayden Skrobel	10/8	Nicole Keckhaver	10/17	Linda Zettle	10/25
Stan Keckhaver	10/9	Colton Villiesse	10/17	Garret Carlson	10/27
Roland Christian	10/11	Kenneth Adams	10/18	Barbara Stoll	10/27
Layla Andrews	10/13	James Petzel	10/21	Josephine Andrews	10/28
Brooke Burmeister	10/13	Virgil Johnson	10/22	Bruce Brusewitz	10/29
James Stoll	10/13	Ralph Addison	10/24	Howie Schroeder	10/30

## October Anniversaries

Bruce & Kelly Brusewitz	10/1	11 yrs
Dar & Larry Schuurmans	10/1	34 yrs
Leon & Rose Dunst	10/5	38 yrs
Mark & Deborah Niemuth	10/7	43 yrs
Chris & Heidi Compton	10/14	6 yrs
Kim & Jeff Harkins	10/17	42 yrs
Carol & Jon Poppy	10/19	32 yrs



## Our Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Donna Nieft on the death of her husband, Herb (Herbert) Nieft. Herb died on Thursday, September 22nd. Herb's funeral was held here at Bethel on Wednesday, September 28th.

## Memorial and Gifts

Linda & Ray Wery  
Feed My Starving Children  
In Memory of Virginia Moes (her mother)

Linda Grunewald  
Feed My Starving Children  
In Memory of Virginia Moes

Todd & Sue Keckhaver  
Feed My Starving Children  
In Memory of Virginia Moes

Peggy Hansen  
Feed My Starving Children  
In Memory if Virginia Moes and Sue Kaye (Tom Kaye's mother)

Ralph Addison  
Music Arts Fund  
In Memory of Maureen Addison

Gift Advisory Committee: Terri Hilbert, Linda Grunewald, Tori Russett, Charlie Hilla, Paul Jerks, Doris Brack Council Rep), Todd Keckhaver (Treasurer), and Pastor Kim.

## Prayers

Adam	Kathy H	Liam & Wells (babies)
Ralph Addison	Nancy Johnson	Debra O'Connell
Gayle Anderson	Shirley Johnson	Caryl Peters
Berne Baer	CJ Johnston	Jon P
Elaine Barber	Debbie Kasulke	Kathy Towle
Dave DuFresne	Tom Kaye	Austin Tree
Rose Dunst	Joni Keckhaver	Sue Vaughn
Sandy & Dave Elbe	Roberta Krouth	Willow Van Vonderen

## Bible Studies

**Peace Study Group** will meet on Thursday, October 6th at 10 a.m. in the church lounge.

**Faith Study Group** will meet on Thursday, October 6th at 1 p.m. in the church lounge. Study: Sandi Tibbits | Hostess: Jane Andrews

**Joy Study Group** will meet on Tuesday, October 18th at 6:30 p.m. at Karen Hervas' home.

**BBB's** will meet on Tuesday, October 25th at 6:30 p.m. at Pegi BeDell's home.

**Beer & Theology** will meet on Monday, October 17th at 5:30pm at Tim Carlson's.

## Thank You

'I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and the cards I received. Thanks and Blessings.  
-Nancy Johnson'

## Racial Justice Training Saturday, October 15th

### Learning and Telling the Story: Deconstructing Racism

Join Pastor Kim and others from Bethel at a workshop on Saturday, October 15th at St John's in Ashwaubenon from 9am-4:30pm. The time will be grounded in the stories of participants, stories of the Bible, and stories from history. We will examine the construction and meaning of racism including in our state, provide tools to understand our own place within systems of oppression, and identify steps and opportunities to grow in both understanding and action as individuals and for congregational leadership. Please let Pastor Kim know if you would like to join.

## **New Members Installed Sunday, October 30th**

Whether you have been coming as a visitor for years or just a few months, we want to welcome you to Bethel and install you in worship as new members. Becoming a member means that you are claiming Bethel as the place where you will worship, grow in faith, and serve with and among as together we reach out to our neighbors to share the love of God. If you are interested in becoming a member, please let Pastor Kim know. We will gather together on Sunday, October 16th at 10am so that Pastor Kim can answer any questions about Bethel.

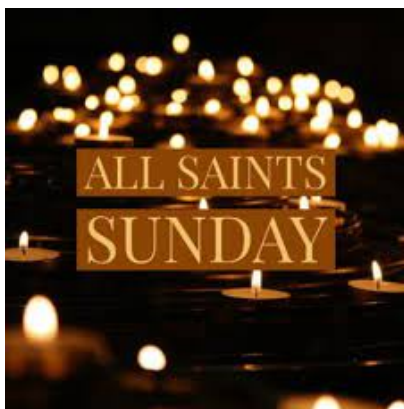
## **Trunk or Treat Monday, October 31st 4:00-5:30pm**

It is time to welcome ALL characters to the annual trick or trunk event at Bethel. Join others at Bethel as we decorate our car/van/truck trunks and get to know the neighbors around us as they bring their children to trick or treat among us. Lots of ideas can be found online. You can be as simple or elaborate as you want. It's a simple way to let the neighborhood know we care and have a safe way for the littles to celebrate the day. Costumes encouraged even if that means you come as you are!



## **Reformation Day, October 31st**

Sunday, October 31st is Reformation Day, the day Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, an act that propelled the reformation of the church. This is a day to celebrate. Wear red!



## **All Saints Sunday, November 6th**

We will be honoring the saints among us, those who have died or been baptized in the past year on Sunday, November 6th during worship. If you have loved one who has died or been baptized since November of last year, please share their name so they can be lifted up during a special part of the service. A sign-up sheet can soon be found in the hallway.



# **Congregation Council Minute HIGHLIGHTS**

**Monday, September 12, 2022**

(Awaiting approval at the October Church Council meeting)

**Present :** Doris Brack, Linda Grunewald, Charlie Hilla, Todd Keckhaver, Marilyn Meister,  
Gayle Peot, Linda Wery

**Excused:** Cindy Michalski, Paulette Pedersen

**Ex-Officio:** Pastor Kim Swenson    **Guest:** Bonnie Peterson

**Call to Order:** Charlie Hilla called the meeting to order at 6:30

**Dwelling in the Word:** Linda Wery led Dwelling in the Word with the passages John 11:35, John 5:24, Timothy 4:18 and Matthew 11:28 and then led the prayer.

## **REPORTS:**

**Secretary's Report:** Approved with the addition of Pastor Kim being excused from the meeting.

**Parish Accountant's Report:** Received as submitted.

**Pastor's Report:** Received as submitted.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Sue's Retirement Celebration:** Pastor Kim reported that Jesse Meister will be setting up for this on Thursday. Pastor Kim and Pegi BeDell will be doing the decorating. Pastor Kim will be blessing Sue on Sunday, September 18 in honor of her service as secretary at Bethel. There will be a brunch after the service in her honor.

**Worship Changes:** There will be church on Wednesday, October 5 and no service on Sunday, October 9. The Wednesday service will be recorded so those who are not able to attend on Sunday can view it online. Christmas services were discussed. There will be two services on Christmas Eve, 4:00 and 9:00 or 10:00 and no service on Christmas Day. The office will be open one day the last week of 2022 for anyone who wants to drop off end of year contributions.

**Budget 2023:** A committee will be formed to put together a proposed budget for 2023. Charlie Hilla, Todd Keckhaver, Linda Wery and Pastor Kim have agreed to be on the

committee and Pastor Kim will ask Dawn Schroeder if she will also help. All staff and committees will be asked for requests to provide pertinent information and requests pertaining to the budget. The congregational budget meeting will be December 4.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Bylaws/Constitution:** Pastor Kim and Bonnie Peterson presented the proposed revisions of the Bylaws/Constitution. A rough draft will be sent to council members to review and it will then be brought to the congregation for approval on October 23.

**ADA Door:** A congregational vote will also be taken at this time for approval of the costs (\$3,927) for the Handicap door.

### **Buildings & Grounds - Updates**

**Security System:** Pastor Kim reported the security system has been installed. She has it on her phone and a monitor is also located on the desk in the office.

**Water issues:** Todd Keckhaver reported he has received a quote of \$3,549 from Greenway for a catch basin on the SE side of the building to replace the current clogged catch basin, and to regrade the swale in the lawn on the NE portion of the building to drain water to the parking lot.

**Parsonage Tree:** Charlie Hilla reported that he has contacted Yesterday's Trees to take out the dead tree and stump at the parsonage. This should be done at the end of September or beginning of October.

**Administrative Assistant - Update:** Charlie Hilla reported there have been no new candidates. Pastor Kim reported that a few members have been helping out in the office. Dawn Schroeder has been putting in about 10 extra hours a week, Sally Caylor 3 hours and Roberta Krouth 6 hours.

**Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn at 8:38 p.m. Seconded. Closed with the Lord's Prayer

**Next meeting Monday, October 10th at 6:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Meister, Council Secretary

## Door System Security

As we continue to work toward keeping each other safe at Bethel, a new security lock has been installed on the back parking lot door. Next to the door on the brick wall, you will find a new camera and intercom box. When you come to Bethel, push the button for the office and a call will be sent to the person at the desk. They can then talk to you and unlock the door with a click so that you or anyone visiting can enter. This added security will be helpful as we hire a new administrative assistant.

Pastor Kim also has an application on her phone that can also receive the notice that someone is at the door. While we are still working on exactly how it works, the hope is that if you need to come to church after hours, Pastor Kim will be able to let you in remotely. This is new technology that the church has been blessed to be part of the trial so hiccups can be expected. The added security at the church at all times and the convenience of being able to do what you need to at the church when it is convenient for you should benefit our ministry together.

## Altar Update

Check out the transformation of the altar! Thank you to all who worked so very hard to provide such a beautiful and fresh look to the altar at Bethel!





## Sue's Celebration

A Thank You from Sue Keckhaver:

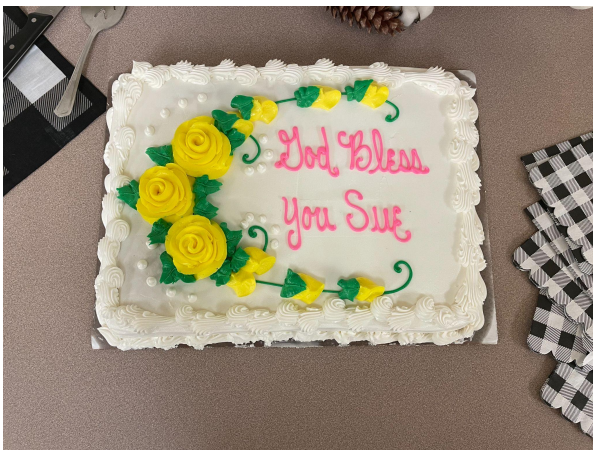
Dear Bethel Family,

Thank You! This just doesn't seem to truly express my thanks

for all the love you have shown: the celebration and

blessing, the special music from the choir, the brunch, the beautiful plaque, the monetary gift, and especially the kind words.

As I look forward to my retirement, know that I take with me the wonderful memories of not only the celebration but of my years working in ministry with you. -God bless you all, Sue



## Service Schedule for October

	Assisting Minister	Altar Guild & Communion Assist	Usher	Video Tech
Sunday, Oct 2nd 9:00am	Doug Hanson	Linda Wery	Jerry Boettcher Michael Zastrow	Rick Johnson
Wed, Oct 5th 6:30pm	Doug Scholes	Peggy Hansen	Dick Schoen Doug Hanson	Yvonne Pamperin

Sunday, Oct 9th NO SERVICE

Sunday, Oct 16th 9:00am	Cindy Michalski	Terri Hilbert	Dave Hansen Todd Keckhaver	Sue Keckhever
Sunday, Oct 23rd 9:00am	Charlie Hilla	Sharon Hilla Charlie Hilla	Gayle Peot Jack Peot	Rick Johnson
Sunday, Oct 30th 9:00am	Linda Grunewald	Kathy Long Linda Grunewald	Rick Johnson Dar Schuurmans	Yvonne Pamperin

## Service Schedule for November

	Assisting Minister	Altar Guild & Communion Assist	Usher	Video Tech
Sunday, Nov 6th 9:00am	Cindy Michalski	Karen Vercauteren Linda Wery	Michael Zastrow Kay Zastrow	Doug Hanson
Sunday, Nov 13th 9:00am	Charlie Hilla	Sharon Hilla Charlie Hilla	Gayle Peot Jack Peot	Pegi BeDell
Sunday, Nov 20th 9:00am	Linda Grunewald	Peggy Hansen Linda Grunewald	Rick Johnson Dick Schoen	Sue Keckhaver

Tuesday, Nov 22nd  
6:30pm

Thanksgiving Service Sign-up in Hallway

Sunday, Nov 27th 9:00am	Sandi Tibbetts	Kathy Long Dar Schuurmans	Carl Andrews Jerry Boettcher	Pegi BeDell
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# October 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 2pm Stephanie Lindow & Ben Rodgers Wedding
2 8am Tone Chime Choir 9am Worship	3 11-4 Red Cross Blood Drive 7 Confo to FMSC	4 1:30 Budget Meeting	5 <b>6:30 Worship</b> 7:15 Choir	6 10m Peace 1pm Faith	7 ~ Pastor's Sabbath ~	8
9 No Worship	10 6:30 - Council Meeting	11	12 10:00 - Mission Sewing 7:00 Choir	13 9:30 Library Committee	14 ~ Pastor's Sabbath ~	15 9-4:30 Racial Equity Training
16 9am Worship 10am Tone Chime New Member & Build- ings and Grounds 11am NEW Shelter Meal	17 5:30 - Beer & Theology  Theological Conference	18 6:30 - Joy Study Group  Theological Conference	19 5pm Confirmation 7pm Choir  Theological Conference	20	21 ~ Pastor's Sabbath ~	22
23 8am Tone Chime Choir 9am Worship <b>10am Congregation Special Meeting</b>	24	25 6:30 - BBB's	26 7:00 Choir	27	28 ~ Pastor's Sabbath ~	29
30 <i>Reformation</i> 9am Worship 10am Tone Chime	31 4-5:30 - Trunk or Treat					



## Bethel Staff | Contact

Pastor:	Pr. Kim Swenson	494-3737
Administrative Assistant:	OPEN POSITION	494-3737
Youth Director:	Paul Jerks	621-3184
Custodian:	Jesse Meister	227-3452
Director of Music:	Diane Meinel	499-1527
Choir Director	Tori Russett	660-7544
Parish Accountant:	Dawn Schroeder	494-1728
Treasurer:	Linda Grunewald	265-8199
Congregation President:	Charlie Hilla	465-9655

**OUR VISION:** Growing In Faith Together, boldly inviting others to share in God's love.

**OUR MISSION:** By God's power, we will serve as Jesus' disciples, embracing traditions and growing ministries.

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church 1350 Bond St Green Bay, WI 54303

[bethelonbond@yahoo.com](mailto:bethelonbond@yahoo.com)

[Bethelonbond.org](http://Bethelonbond.org) | Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/bethelonbond> | 920-494-3737