

SENIOR ADULT LUNCHEON

Monday, May 13 from Noon-1:30pm
Bethel Highlands Campus | Cost: \$15

Register at bethelhudson.org
Must register and submit
payment by Tuesday, May 7

April
2024
Volume 9
Issue 4

BETHEL CONNECTIONS

ARE WE READY?



As we write this, we find ourselves blown away that the Lenten season has wrapped up and we are entering into Holy Week and Easter. Some of you are reading this and we have already celebrated Easter. Yet probably all of us are thinking, where has time gone? How are we already here? This may cause some anxiety for us because we are not ready for what lies ahead of us, simply because we have not had enough time to just stop and think about what the next few months will bring. We know that is true here in the church. Lent and Holy Week are very busy times for the staff and pastors, and we all know that just because we have made it through a wonderful Lenten Season, Holy Week, and Easter (thanks to all of you) we still have a very busy spring with Wednesday Night Programming starting back up, the Women's Retreat, and planning for all the great things summer has in store for the church!

So, with all this written, we have to ask ourselves... "Are We Ready?" Are We Ready, for everything, known and unknown, that lies before us both in our own personal lives and the life of the church? Are We Ready for the excitements and the disappointments? Are We Ready for the obstacles and the opportunities? Are We Ready?

To answer this question, we have to ask an even more important question, "Where do we even begin?" Do we pull out our calendar and start scratching down all that is to come? Do we start by planning both family meetings and work meetings to talk about what is on everyone else's calendar and then try to figure out how we mesh them together, hoping and praying we don't miss anything?

To be honest, we have learned in our own lives and in the life of the church that the best thing to do is to set aside our calendars and our to-do lists. It is only then we can truly stop and get aligned with God, so we can get everything else in line. It is easy to look at our calendars and to do lists and get overwhelmed. It is easy to want to hide when looking at all the things, we aren't sure how they will turn out. It is for this reason we need to start by first focusing on God and remembering His words in Matthew 28:20, "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." These are the words Jesus spoke to His disciples who just experienced Jesus' death and resurrection. These are the words He spoke

BETHEL
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Hudson, WI 54016

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Please check
for the latest updates
regarding worship,
classes, and events at:
bethelhudson.org



IN-PERSON WORSHIP AT BETHEL

SUNDAYS 9:00AM | CONTEMPORARY SERVICE | HIGHLANDS CAMPUS

LIVESTREAMED ON BETHEL'S WEBSITE, FACEBOOK PAGE, & YOUTUBE CHANNEL

SUNDAYS 10:30AM | TRADITIONAL SERVICE | DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

LIVESTREAMED ON BETHEL'S WEBSITE, FACEBOOK PAGE, & YOUTUBE CHANNEL



Bethel Lutheran
Church, Hudson, WI

facebook.com/blchudson/

Stay Connected



PASTORAL STAFF

Kris Kurzejeski, Adult Ministries Pastor
Ladd Sonnenberg, Youth & Families Pastor

YOUTH MINISTRY STAFF

Cindy Halunen, Middle School Ministry
Matt Aubart, High School Ministry
Carole DeJardin, Children's Ministry
Marcie Andrews, Youth Ministry
Communication Director

MUSIC MINISTRY STAFF

Skip James, Traditional Music Director
Craig Koehnen, Contemporary Worship Director
Sonja McGill, Handbell Director

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Tammy Huberty, Administrative Assistant
Kathy Jeska, Worship Support Coordinator
Hannah Cobian, Communications Director
Koreen Theisen, Event Coordinator
John Lischewski, Donations Accountant
Patrick Willson, Media Technician

FACILITY & CUSTODIAL STAFF

Cory Wong, Facilities Manager
Will Jeska, Facilities Support Specialist

BETHEL HIGHLANDS PRESCHOOL,

Michelle Webb, Interim Director of
Programming
Leah Knutson, Interim Assitant Director

Staff can be reached via email through
bethelhudson.org/about/staff

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

920 Third Street | Hudson, WI
715.386.8821

HIGHLANDS CAMPUS

504 Frontage Road | Hudson, WI

to calm their fears and anxieties of what has been and what is about to come. Just as the disciples did not know what was next for Jesus or them, they were reminded that, no matter what, Jesus was and will be with them. In short, Jesus was telling His disciples (as well as us) that even though you don't know what tomorrow will bring, regardless of how well you plan, He will be with you, and wherever He is, there is life, there is hope, there is something good.

As we, individually and as a church, look towards what is next, not just with worship, or programming, but the calling of a new lead pastor, we like the disciples are reminded that we don't have to fear, but instead we can be excited, because God is with us and is going to do some amazing things. Just as He did after Jesus died, so too He will take our tomorrows and do something amazing. The question we need to ask now is "Are We Ready" to turn our eyes to God and see what amazing things He is about to do in our lives, because He is with us, and Bethel, until the end of time?

We pray that as you have said, "yes" for the past years to this question, you will continue to, along with the pastors and staff here at Bethel, say, "YES, "We Are Ready," because God is with us and for us!

Pastor Ladd Sonnenberg and Pastor Kris Kurzejeski

EARTH DAY AT BETHEL

Genesis: 2:9:15 "The Lord God took man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and care for it"

God gave us this good green earth full of awesome beauty and great abundance to live and prosper. It is our "Home Away from Home". He also gave us the responsibility to care for it, not just for ourselves, but for generations beyond. By caring for the earth, we care for others as God intended.



Earth day is about pausing to reflect on this great gift and responsibility and to give thanks and reverence to the sacred place we call home. At Bethel, we want to celebrate this day on Sunday, April 21st, 2024. We plan to have Earth-day events and activities for our Sunday School Class and our adult congregation will learn more about how God wants us to "Care". Please join us on this day to help celebrate!

Fun Facts about Earth Day:

Earth Day was first established in the United States on April 22, 1970, as an annual event and has grown to over 193 countries. It has inspired both national and international efforts for preserving our planet by keeping our water, air, and land clean in addition to efforts for preserving wildlife. To learn more about Earth Day, consider checking out their website: www.earthday.org

To further celebrate, consider attending a local fun and educational event at the University of River Falls, on April 20, 2024. To learn more, check-out: www.hope4creationrf.org/earthfest



WALK WITH US
AS WE GROW IN FAITH AS BETHEL MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS, MUSICIANS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS, AND BROTHERS & SISTERS IN CHRIST!

Visit Bethel's Facebook page to view more photos from recent events

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE
BETHELHUDSON.ORG
Facebook: FACEBOOK.COM/BLCHUDSON/
YouTube: YOUTUBE: BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH HUDSON WI
Instagram: INSTAGRAM: BETHELHUDSON
Email: BETHEL@BETHELHUDSON.ORG

2023-2024 YOUTH PROGRAMMING

New students are welcome anytime!

Details & Registration at bethelHUDSON.org/youth for Sunday School through 9th Grade Confirmation

Youth Ministry KEY DATES

- APR 3** **Wednesday Programming**
Resumes at Bethel Downtown for 6th-12th grades
- APR 7** **9:00AM**
5th Grade Faith Milestone Class during Sunday School
- APR 10** **6TH/7TH GRADE 3:45-6:45pm**
Service Project at Feed My Starving Children
- APR 14** **WALK FOR WATER**
Sunday School event
- APR 17** Faith & Family Night (no Wednesday Classes)
- APR 21** **9:00AM**
5th Grade Milestone Blessing Earth Day Celebration
- MAY 1** Final Night of 2023-24 Wednesday Programming (6th - 12th grades)
- MAY 5** **9:00AM**
Last Day of Sunday School
10:00AM
Bethel Palooza!

NOT YOUR TYPICAL SUMMER INTERNSHIP

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR BETHEL'S SUMMER YOUTH MINISTRY INTERNSHIP

Details & application at bethelHUDSON.org

Playtime

April Showers Birth-Age 3
Wear blue and play with bubbles and water!

Sunday, April 21 | 10-11am
Highlands - Meet in the Nursery
*No registration required *Older siblings welcome

For more details go to bethelHUDSON.org

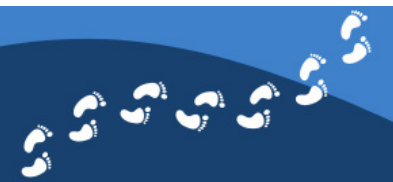


SUNDAY SCHOOL

April 14, 2024

Walk for Water

Details at bethelHUDSON.org



All year Sunday School students have been collecting their offering for Water Filtration in Milwaukee to provide safe drinking water to children in our state. On this day, students walk around Highlands to raise even more funds!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

April 21, 2024

Earth Day

Join us in a celebration of God's great creation!

BETHEL PALOOZA

Following Sunday School on May 5

Enjoy a **snack lunch** then be entertained with an all-ages show of **illusions, jokes & balloon animals!**

Details at bethelHUDSON.org

Dive into Bethel's 2024 Vacation Bible School

STUBA diving into friendship with God

K-5 July 15-19 9am - noon
Preschool July 22-25 9-11am

Details & Registration for Participants & Volunteers at bethelHUDSON.org or scan the codes.

K5 Participant	K5 Volunteer	Preschool Participant	Preschool Volunteer
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Bethel offers a variety of options for you to grow in your faith with Bible Studies. Details at bethelHUDSON.org

Naomi Gathering: April 8 | 1:00PM | Janet Gavic's Home

Dorcas Gathering: April 11 | 9:30AM | Downtown Fellowship Hall

Mary Gathering: April 11 | 1:00PM | Downtown Conference Room

Ruth Gathering: April 11 | 2:00PM | Downtown Lounge

ABC Bible Study: Mondays | 8:30AM | Via Zoom

ABC strives to promote an atmosphere where all feel welcome to join the discussion - there is no prep needed! Contact Karen at kypavlis@gmail.com for more information and the Zoom link

Men's Bible Study: Saturdays | 8:00AM | Highlands Campus

This group welcomes any man who would like to attend. Contact Aethan at hartav@comcast.net for the details.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast and Bible Study: Meet at Key's Cafe on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7:00AM. New members are always welcome. Contact Curt at: Truclarson1@gmail.com

Job Bible Study

Tuesdays, April 9th-30th at 6:00PM
Downtown Campus, Engedi
Register at bethelHUDSON.org or scan here!

New Member Class

Bethel Lutheran Church

Saturday, May 4 | 9am-Noon
Bethel Highlands Campus
Details and registration at bethelHUDSON.org or scan here!

HOME MEAL VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP POSITION OPEN!

THE H.O.M.E. COMMITTEE SERVES FREE MEALS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL AND TO-GO MEAL BOXES TO EVERYONE. VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS WELCOME!
DETAILS AT bethelHUDSON.org/SERVE/LOCAL

PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE WITH INTEREST IN THE VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP POSITION!

To stay up to date on Bethel events, check out our online calendar at bethelHUDSON.org/connect/events/calendar

ACTIVITIES

You are invited to be a part of the following activities to connect at Bethel!

Quilting

Friday, April 12 & Tuesdays, April 23 & 30
Downtown, Fellowship Hall | 9:00AM

Hardanger

Thursdays, April 4 & 18
Downtown, Conference Room | 1:00PM

LIFE EVENTS

Baptisms

Zoe Hokanson, March 17, 2024

Funerals

Georgia Adams, March 8, 2024

Duane "Pete" Peterson, March 23, 2024

Lorran Church, March 25, 2024

BETHEL BREWS & BROS

Men of Bethel,
Join us for snacks, local brews, and fellowship with friends!

Friday, April 19
Hop & Barrel, Hudson
5:00 - 7:00PM

GERALDINE BROOKS
AUTHOR OF PEOPLE OF THE BOOK AND MARCH
WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE

a Novel
HORSE

BETHEL BOOK CLUB

All who love to read and discuss books are welcome to join!

Wednesday, April 3 | 1:00PM
Downtown Fellowship Hall

This Month's Book:
Horse by Geraldine Brooks
Details at bethelHUDSON.org



WELCOME UKRAINE TEAM UPDATE

The second Ukraine couple, Alex Romanov and Vika Filipova (on the left) who arrived on October 22, 2023 and lived with Sandy & Curt Larson for 90 days, have both settled into good permanent jobs. They have recently rented and moved to the new Bela Rosa Apartments on Vine Street and Carmichael Road in Hudson. He works as an Internet installer, contracting with Xfinity and Vika is in the food service department at Health Partners Region Hospital in downtown St. Paul. Volunteers are giving her rides to work Monday - Friday. They are both very grateful to all the support from our Hudson community. Olga Andreeva and Bill Ebert have been major team members to make this work so well.

Lev Nyzhnikovskiy and Anastasia Zasikan, our first sponsored couple who arrived June 2023, lived with Ann Martinson, Bethel's Ukraine Team Lead, and have recently moved into the same apartment building as Alex and Vika. Their jobs are going well. Lev is also an Internet installer and Anastasia continues to do housework and paint nails. Our Welcome Ukraine fund at Bethel made it possible for Lev to transition from an unreliable company van for work to his own newer and reliable white club cab pickup truck which qualifies him for a 20% increase in salary!! Wow was he grateful also.

All four of them have continued to greatly improve their conversational English.



BETHEL HIGHLANDS PRESCHOOL

SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, MAY 11

COLOR fun run

Come out on a trek around the BHP property while getting colorful! The fun begins at 10:30am and includes:

**Color Fun Run • Food Trucks
Raffles • Activities**

Scan the QR code for
Details and registration.



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Volunteers are the backbone of our ministry at Bethel and include many from different ages and stages of life. Servants who are willing to share their time and gifts in multiple ways.



This month we recognize our amazing volunteer, Karen Jilek. Karen and her husband, Bernie, moved to Hudson, from Edina, 25 years ago. Their combined family includes two adult children: Leah and Jay, two grandsons and one granddaughter. Bernie passed away in 2019 after a short illness. Karen is retired from a career in accounting.

As a long-tenured Bethel member, Karen has stepped up in a variety of ways to volunteer. You may have seen her over the years counting money, serving communion, working the Scandinavian Food Fest and countless funerals. Karen is part of the Naomi Circle where she is secretary and mission action coordinator. She is also the treasurer for the Women of Bethel and has served on the finance committee. Expressing her faith this Lenten season, Karen wrote a devotion for the published booklet. And, with her background in finance, Karen has assisted Gwen Cossin in financial projects.

Karen has been an integral part of community volunteerism as well. She spent many years volunteering at Hudson Hospital in the housekeeping department, pharmacy and with the community gardens.

In her free time, Karen involves time with family and traveling to her Florida home. She enjoys playing golf with friends, and is a master gardener who loves to exercise her green thumb.

We commend you, Karen, and congratulate you for a job well done. We thank you for your joyful and humble heart for all the ways you serve God and others. You are a blessing to your Bethel family.

"Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."



2025 Tanzania Trip

June 28 - July 13, 2025
Approximate Cost: \$1700/person
Airfare: \$2500-\$3000/person

Informational Meeting:
Thursday, May 2nd at 6:30PM
Downtown Campus, Engedi



Please contact Mary Gerzmehle at mgerzmeh@hotmail.com with questions or interest in the Tanzania Mission Experience.



"VOLUNTEERING IS AT THE VERY CORE OF BEING A HUMAN."

No one has made it through life without someone else's help."

— Heather French Henry

Hudson Outreach Meals for Everyone

The H.O.M.E. committee serves FREE meals in the Fellowship Hall and to-go meal boxes to EVERYONE on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of this month.

Upcoming Meals:
Thursdays, April 4 & 18
5-6PM | Downtown Campus

Details at bethelHUDSON.org/serve/local

BLOOD DRIVE

**MONDAY,
APRIL 15**
Noon-6PM
Bethel Downtown Campus

Details & Registration at bethelHUDSON.org