

Lutheran World Relief School Kits

The Ruth Gathering women are collecting school supplies for the LWR School Kits. Collection Dates: July 20 – September 30 at both campuses!

Details at bethelhudson.org/serve/global

 **BETHEL**
CONNECT. GROW. SERVE
920 Third Street
Hudson, WI 54016

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



July
2025
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BETHEL CONNECTIONS

LEANING TOWARD CHRIST IN A DIVIDED WORLD

As I write this, my heart is heavy with the news of the recent assassination and assassination attempt involving Minnesota lawmakers on June 14. It is tragic and heartbreaking—an act of targeted political violence that shakes our sense of community and safety. Like many of you, I am stunned and saddened. As Governor Walz rightly stated, “We are not a country that settles our differences at gunpoint.”

Whether these acts are becoming more common or more visible due to media coverage, they are a symptom of something deeply broken in our society. But even in this tragedy, there is an opportunity—a moment to pause and reflect on how we, as followers of Jesus, respond when we encounter political or ideological disagreement.

When we find ourselves disagreeing with others, how do we respond? Are we loving, or do we judge? Are we listening, or are we preparing our rebuttal? In his explanation of the Fifth Commandment, Martin Luther writes in the Small Catechism: “We are to fear and love God so that we do not hurt our neighbor in any way, but help them in all their physical needs.”

And in the Large Catechism, Luther digs deeper, calling us not only to refrain from violence or harmful speech, but to examine our hearts—challenging us not to harbor anger or hatred even inwardly.

I’ll be honest—this is hard for me. I love these teachings because they call us to the heart of God’s intent: love. But I also struggle with them because I fall short. I have thought unkind things about others who disagree with me. I have failed to love fully.

Still, I believe there’s a redemptive path forward—and it begins with curiosity. Behind every act of violence or hateful word is a person with a story. Understanding

Happy
**FOURTH
OF JULY**

In observance of Independence
Day, Bethel offices will be closed
on Friday, July 4.



Blessed is the nation whose God
is the Lord; and the people whom
He hath chosen for His own
inheritance.
– Psalm 33:12



Generation
to Generation
We will tell of
Your praise!
– Psalm 79:13

IN-PERSON WORSHIP AT BETHEL

SUNDAYS 9:00AM | CONTEMPORARY SERVICE | HIGHLANDS CAMPUS

LIVESTREAMED ON BETHEL’S WEBSITE AND YOUTUBE CHANNEL

SUNDAYS 10:30AM | TRADITIONAL SERVICE | DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

LIVESTREAMED ON BETHEL’S WEBSITE AND YOUTUBE CHANNEL



Bethel Lutheran
Church, Hudson, WI



facebook.com/blchudson/



Stay Connected

PASTORAL STAFF

Ladd Sonnenberg, Lead Pastor
Kris Kurzejeski, Executive Pastor

YOUTH MINISTRY STAFF

Matt Aubart, High School Ministry
Paul Deziel, Middle School Ministry
Carole DeJardin, Children's Ministry
Marcie Andrews, Youth Ministry
Communications Director

MUSIC MINISTRY STAFF

Skip James, Traditional Music Director
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Sonja McGill, Handbell Director

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Tammy Huberty, Administrative Assistant
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Matt Aubart, Care Ministry 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, Preschool Director
Leah Knutson, Preschool Assistant 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

someone's story doesn't excuse harmful behavior, but it helps us see the humanity behind the action. We aren't called to abandon our convictions; we are called to see people as God sees them—created in God's image and loved deeply.

This kind of understanding begins with the kinds of questions we ask. Open-ended questions—not the kind that are laced with traps or designed to “win” an argument, but ones that invite real dialogue. When we lead with curiosity and compassion, two things begin to happen:

1. People feel seen and valued. They come to understand that we care not just about their beliefs, but about them—and that's when they begin to see Jesus in us.
2. We create a more unified community. Not because we all agree, but because we are willing to listen. That kind of unity—rooted in humility and grace—can help us live more truly as a nation “under God.”

One of the things I treasure most about Bethel is our diversity—not just in age or background, but in our political views. We have people who sit on both sides of the aisle, and that's not just “okay”—it's good. Bethel doesn't lean left or right; we lean toward Christ.

We are a church that values connecting, growth, and service. We don't seek to be uniform in our thinking, but united in our purpose: to love as Jesus loves. As Jesus says in John 13:34: “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

Let us not withhold love or respect because of differences but love in the midst of them. That's what Christ calls us to do. That's what our world desperately needs.

In Christ,
Pastor Ladd Sonnenberg & Pastor Kris Kurzejeski



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

JOIN OUR TEAM

- **EXPENSE ACCOUNTANT**
- **BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR**
- **AV - SOUND/PROJECTION (PART-TIME)**

LEARN MORE AND APPLY ONLINE AT
BETHELHUDSON.ORG/ABOUT/CAREERS



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YOUTUBE: BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH HUDSON WI



INSTAGRAM: BETHELHUDSON



BETHEL@BETHELHUDSON.ORG



2024-2025 YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Programming for the current school year has wrapped up. The summer is full of opportunities for all ages! Registration for '25-'26 Sunday School through 9th Grade Confirmation will open this summer.

Youth Ministry KEY DATES

- JULY 8** VBS Volunteer Training 9-10:30AM - Highlands Children's Theater
- JULY 14-18** K-5 VBS 9:00AM - Noon - Highlands
- JULY 21-24** Preschool VBS 9-11:00AM - Highlands
- JULY 22** Middle School Grand Slam Event 11:00AM - 4:30PM leaving from and returning to Highlands

Nursery Birth - 3 Years

Returning regularly in September

During the summer there is space in the back of the Narthex with toys for children with wiggles who want to play. There are activity bags as well.

Bethel likes to see kids in worship!

If you have questions or nursery needs, contact Carole DeJardin (cdejardin@bethelhudson.org)

Thank you to all those who supported the 2025 High School Mission Trip to **COLORADO SPRINGS** with prayers and financial gifts. You helped the students make a difference in the world and their lives!



THANK YOU!

Thanks to all those who supported **PUSH Week - Bethel's 2025 Middle School Mission Trip** - with prayers and preparing meals. The 'trip' stayed local this year making a big impact on Hudson and surrounding communities.

Middle School Summer Fun at

Grand Slam

July 22, 11am - 4:30pm



Details & registration at bethelhudson.org

Students entering 6th-9th grades

Water Park Day!

Cascade Bay, Eagan
Wednesday, August 13
10am - 3:30pm



Details & registration at bethelhudson.org



2025-26 Youth Programming

It's almost time to register for 2025-26 Youth Programming including:

- Sunday School
- 6th & 7th Grade Faith Formation
- 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation
- Youth Ministry Volunteers

Watch for registration links going live mid-July.

Bethel offers a variety of options for you to grow in your faith with Bible Studies. Details at bethelhudson.org

Naomi Gathering: July 14 | 1:00pm | Janet Johnson's Home

Dorcas Gathering: Will not meet in July or August

Mary Gathering: Will not meet in July or August

Ruth Gathering: Will not meet in July or August

ABC Bible Study: Will not meet in July or August

ABC strives to promote an atmosphere where all feel welcome to join the discussion! Contact Karen at kypavlis@gmail.com for more information.

Men's Bible Study: Saturdays | 8:00AM | Downtown Campus, Engedi
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

ADULT LUNCHEON

Join us for a picnic style lunch at the park with games, fellowship, and prizes!

**MONDAY, AUGUST 11 AT WEITKAMP PARK
NOON - 1:30PM**

**DETAILS AND REGISTRATION
AT BETHELHUDSON.ORG**

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAYS 9AM OR 6PM
NOW - AUGUST
BETHEL DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

"Experiencing God" a Guided 12-Session Bible Reflection
Details & Registration online at bethelhudson.org

BETHEL QUILTING

Second Friday & Fourth Tuesday/month
*And the Fifth Tuesday/month if applicable

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Bethel Downtown Campus, Fellowship Hall

ACTIVITIES

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

Quilting

Friday, July 11 & Tuesdays, July 22 & 29
Downtown, Fellowship Hall | 9:00AM

Hardanger

Thursday, July 3
Downtown, Conference Room | 1:00PM

LIFE EVENTS

Weddings:

James Kroll & Katherine Reams, June 21, 2025
Bryan Sengbusch & Jessie Benson, June 28, 2025

Funerals:

Rebecca Nagel, June 7, 2025
Randy Karow, June 19, 2025
William "Bill" Jenkinson, June 29, 2025

Baptisms:

Mikaela Ann McLean, June 8, 2025



BETHEL BOOK CLUB

The list for 2025-26 club picks is now available! The book club meets on the first Wednesday/month at 1:00PM, September-June. All who love to read are welcome!

Scan here to view the book list or visit bethelhudson.org



SAVE THE DATE SCANDINAVIAN FOOD FEST

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18
10AM - 2PM
BETHEL HIGHLANDS CAMPUS**

grow

BLESSINGS ABOUND AT BETHEL

Dear Bethel Members & Friends,

As we approach the summer months, we are delighted to share some wonderful news about the financial health of our church. Thanks to your generous and faithful giving, Bethel is in a strong financial position through May 2025. Offerings have met 100% of our budgeted goals—what a blessing!

Your ongoing support, especially from those who participate in regular giving through ACH agreements, has made a remarkable difference. Whether you're at the cabin, traveling, or spending time with loved ones this summer, your sustained gifts help ensure that our ministries continue to thrive. We are deeply grateful for your commitment and generosity.

Because of this positive momentum, we are excited to announce a shift in our staffing plans. Previously, we were considering an interim faith formation pastor. Now, with our healthy cash flow and your continued support, we are expanding our search to a part-time ongoing role, with the hope that it will grow into a full-time position in the future. This is an exciting step forward for our faith formation ministry!

Behind the scenes, our finance committee has been hard at work. We have taken steps to consolidate some of our banking into higher interest-bearing accounts and have invested in additional certificates of deposit to take advantage of better interest rates. We have also been working with our Interim Business Administrators to streamline the financial function, better document procedures, and recruit new financial staff. These efforts help us steward your gifts wisely and ensure a strong foundation for future ministry.

As we celebrate these blessings, let us remember the words of Scripture:
"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." —2 Corinthians 9:7

Thank you for your generosity, your faith, and your partnership in ministry. Together, we are building a vibrant future for all generations at Bethel.

With gratitude,
Amanda Linehan
Financial Secretary, on behalf of the Finance Committee

Bethel Highlands Preschool

Now Enrolling for Fall 2025! Full-Day Preschool for 3- and 4-Year-Olds

Are you searching for a high-quality, family-oriented preschool that values play as the foundation for learning? Look no further than Bethel Highlands Preschool—where curiosity, creativity, and connection come to life.

We offer: A play-based curriculum that supports whole-child development, daily opportunities for outdoor exploration and nature play, small class sizes with a warm, family-friendly atmosphere, and full-day programs for both 3- and 4-year-olds

Let your child thrive in a nurturing environment that balances imaginative play with nature-rich experiences.

Spots are limited—schedule your tour today at bhphudson.org



2025-2026
Registration now open

www.bhphudson.org bhp@bethelHUDSON.org

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

GIVE TO THE HUDSON FOOD CUPBOARD

**COLLECTION DATES: JULY 1-27
BOTH BETHEL CAMPUSES**

BETHEL'S THEME: "LET'S HAVE LUNCH!"

ITEMS:

- CANNED MEAT (TUNA, SPAM, CHICKEN)
- CHUNKY SOUPS
- PEANUT BUTTER
- CANNED MEALS (BEEF-A-RONI, SPAGHETTI O'S)

Can we borrow your Christmas Tree?

Loan your artificial Christmas tree to help us decorate for VBS!

Contact Carole DeJardin to arrange a drop-off time.
(cedjardin@bethelHUDSON.org)

Can we borrow your plastic Deer Target?

Loan your archery target to help create a wildlife scene for VBS!

Contact Carole DeJardin to arrange a drop-off time.
(cedjardin@bethelHUDSON.org)

Donate your empty ice cream buckets

The Scandinavian Food Fest has many uses for plastic buckets. Please bring buckets to the Downtown Bethel Campus during office hours.

Pine Ridge School Supply Drive

Bethel is collecting NEW school supplies for Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Collection starts July 20th Bethel Downtown and Highlands Campuses!

Details at bethelHUDSON.org/serve/global

HOME Meal

Gathering & Fellowship

**1st & 3rd Thursday/month
July 3 & 17
5-6PM
Bethel Downtown**

Free home cooked meal served to all!

Volunteers always welcome. Visit bethelHUDSON.org/serve/local to learn more.



THANK YOU!

to all who donated baseball and softball items. Your used gear is now being used at the Pine Ridge Reservation for their team to practice and play with. Your generosity is much