

# Annual Celebration

Sunday, January 29  
10:45AM | Highlands Campus

Help us kick off the year  
at Bethel with our Annual  
Celebration Meeting!

Details at [bethelhudson.org](http://bethelhudson.org)  
\*No 11AM Worship



January  
2023  
Volume 8  
Issue 1

# BETHEL CONNECTIONS

## SENIOR ADULT LUNCHEON

Monday, January 16 | Noon  
Bethel Highlands Campus  
Cost: \$12

Join the Bethel pastors as they  
review the 'State of the Church'.  
Enjoy a catered lunch  
and special music from Bethel  
Highlands Preschool students!

Details and Registration  
at [bethelhudson.org](http://bethelhudson.org)  
Registration due January 10



## A GIFT FROM GOD

"Behold I am about to do a new thing" (Isaiah 43:19). This is a word for us as we begin the new year. Interim ministry is sometimes rather despairing. Transitions can be enlightening and encouraging but they can also be unsettling. Friends, you have a gifted staff and leader team here. We can be grateful for the leadership of Pastor John who retired this past Fall. There is great energy. The church is eager to seek out a bright future. There is not a day that goes by that Bethel is not alive with hope. Let's bear in mind that this is God's new thing for Bethel. It is important to keep our noses to the grindstone, and our ears to the spirit to define God's direction for the future.

When a staff member leaves the circle of leadership there is a gap that needs to be filled. There is an equilibrium process of adjustment that naturally happens. The book of Ecclesiastes says, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." Let's trust this, friends. God is at work here.



This month we begin our Interim projects. I have been meeting one on one with staff. We have also engaged teamwork activities with leaders. Now, this month of January, we will gather faith stories from within the many groups of the church. We will gather for Round Table, heart to heart, conversations. No one will tell you what to say. It is important to share your story, the highs and lows

Continued on page 2

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

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Please check  
for the latest updates  
regarding worship,  
classes, and events at:  
[bethelhudson.org](http://bethelhudson.org)

IN-PERSON WORSHIP AT BETHEL SUNDAYS AT 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00AM

SUNDAYS 8:00AM | TRADITIONAL SERVICE | BROADCAST ON  
WEVR RADIO | LIVESTREAMED ON BETHEL'S WEBSITE,  
FACEBOOK PAGE, & YOUTUBE CHANNEL

SUNDAYS 9:30AM | CONTEMPORARY SERVICE | LIVESTREAMED  
ON BETHEL'S WEBSITE, FACEBOOK PAGE, & YOUTUBE CHANNEL



Bethel Lutheran  
Church, Hudson, WI

[facebook.com/blchudson/](https://facebook.com/blchudson/)

 Stay Connected

**PASTORAL STAFF**

Randy Fett, Interim Senior Pastor  
Kris Kurzejeski, Adult Education Pastor  
Ladd Sonnenberg, Youth & Families Pastor  
Jeff Smith, Visitation Pastor

**YOUTH MINISTRY STAFF**

Jake Summerville, High School Ministry  
Cindy Halunen, Middle 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

**SUPPORT STAFF**

Gwen Cossin, Business Administrator  
Tammy Huberty, Administrative Assistant  
Kathy Jeska, Worship Support Coordinator  
Hannah Erickson, 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**

Missy Austreng, Director of Programming  
Allie Sulflow, Director of Business Operations  
Staff can be reached via email through  
[bethelHUDSON.org/about/staff](mailto:bethelHUDSON.org/about/staff)

**DOWNTOWN CAMPUS**

920 Third Street | Hudson, WI  
715.386.8821

**HIGHLANDS CAMPUS**

504 Frontage Road | Hudson, WI



**A NOTE FROM PASTOR RANDY**

Continued from page 1

of your experience. Elsewhere, in the newsletter, you will see the dates and times to join a round table gathering. Plan to attend one of these. The Transition Team will assist me in gathering your stories. We will summarize the reflections that you have shared. We will report back to you what we have heard. This is a first step to understanding and opening up to the Vision that God is laying out. I am contracted by your church, the church council, by Bethel, and called by God to do this specific work. Pray that reflections will be enlightening to this God Vision. Pray for the work of the Transition team.

Think about how Mary and Joseph approached Bethlehem when the time came for our Lord Jesus' birth. There was no room for them. The door was closed. The sign read "No Vacancy". People were not ready for this transitional season. Jesus bridged the gap between us and God. Wonder with me, what our world, our salvation, would have been like without this transition. Friends, let's name this time as a gift from God. God bless you, and Happy New Year!

"Behold I am doing a new thing! Now it springs forth. It's bursting forth. See, it has already begun. Do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness, a road for my people to go home, and streams in the desert, rivers through the sunbaked earth. Even wild animals will say "Thank You"." – Isaiah 43:16-21

Pastor Randy

**BUILDING PROGRESS COMMITTEE SURVEY RESULTS**

Thank you to all who completed our building survey. We had 335 responses and the information provided will help us plan for our future building needs to support the advancement of our mission to Connect, Grow, and Serve. Complete Survey Results can be found online at [bethelHUDSON.org/bethel-news-and-updates/](http://bethelHUDSON.org/bethel-news-and-updates/)

**Proposed Next Steps:**

- Plan for and conduct small group discussions to explore feedback and options including programming and creative possibilities to fully utilize our existing facilities yet plan for future growth.
- Pause on any further expansion recommendations until new lead Pastor is hired and on board. Work with the interim pastor and church council on providing feedback received and incorporating future building planning into future lead Pastor's job description.
- Proceed with planning for short term Highlands renovation plan outside of a formal capital campaign. Invest in what we have before adding/expanding.

Thank you again for taking time to provide input. Your contribution helps to ensure alignment and transparency on potential future investments to support our Mission to Connect, Grow, and Serve!

Bethel Building Progress Committee Members: Pastor Ladd Sonnenberg, Pastor Kris Kurzejeski, James Johnson, Dawn Arnevik, Matt Wolf, Matt Aubart, Gwen Cossin, Missy Spinks-Austreng, Jeff Maki, Steve Weeks, Kelle Anderson, and Tim Rutten.



Bethel Pastors and staff wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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

**Youth**

**2022-2023 YOUTH PROGRAMMING**

Nursery during 9:30am worship

Classes for Sunday School through Confirmation. Details & Registration at [bethelHUDSON.org/youth](http://bethelHUDSON.org/youth)

**YOUTH MINISTRY Key Dates**

JAN 1	No Sunday School
JAN 3	College-Aged Dinner
JAN 4	Wednesday Programming Resumes - 6th & 7th Grade Faith Formation - 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation - High School Youth Group
JAN 8	Sunday School Camp Day!
JAN 13	6:00-11:00PM Middle School Lock-in
JAN 15	9:30AM 1st Grade Milestone Class
JAN 19-22	High School Youth Group Michigan Ski Trip
JAN 25	Faith & Family Night No Wednesday Classes
JAN 29	9:30AM 1st Grade Milestone Blessing

**Grades 6-8**

**Middle School LOCK-IN**

January 13 | 6-11pm  
Downtown

pizza | ga-ga | salvation  
laser tag | and more

Details & Registration at [bethelHUDSON.org](http://bethelHUDSON.org) or scan HERE

**Bethel's VBS 2023**  
K-5: July 17-21  
Preschool: July 24-27

**STELLAR**  
SHINE JESUS' LIGHT

**Registration Opens January 18!**

**Sunday School Camp Day!**  
Sunday, January 8  
During 9:30am Worship

Learn all about summer church camp before registration opens January 15!

**MIDDLE SCHOOL SKI TRIP**

FEBRUARY 10-12  
SPIRIT MOUNTAIN | DULUTH

DETAILS & REGISTRATION AT [BETHELHUDSON.ORG](http://BETHELHUDSON.ORG) OR SCAN HERE

MIDDLE SCHOOL 2023

**Mission Trip**

QUAD CITIES | JULY 5-8

Details & Registration at [bethelHUDSON.org](http://bethelHUDSON.org) or scan the QR code

High School Youth Group 2023 Mission Trip

**PROVIDENCE RHODE ISLAND**

June 23 - July 1

Details & Registration at [bethelHUDSON.org](http://bethelHUDSON.org) or scan the code

**COLLEGE-AGED DINNER**

Tuesday, January 3, 6pm  
Hosted by Jake Summerville

Whether you are a student, working or taking a gap-year, all are welcome!  
Details and location at [bethelHUDSON.org](http://bethelHUDSON.org)



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

**Dorcas Gathering:** January 12 | 9:30AM | Downtown Fellowship Hall

**Mary Gathering:** January 12 | 1:00PM | Downtown Fellowship Hall

**Ruth Gathering:** January 12 | 2:00PM | Downtown Lounge

**Naomi Gathering:** January 9 | 1:00PM | Bette Vandersteen's Home

**ABC (Adult Bible Class):** Mondays | 8:30AM | Via Zoom

ABC strives to promote an atmosphere where all feel welcome to join the discussion, there is no prep needed! During the one hour class, members discuss the Gospel reading found in the Christ in Our Home Devotional. Contact Karen at: [kypavlis@gmail.com](mailto:kypavlis@gmail.com) for information & the Zoom link.

**Women's Bible Study:** Thursday, January 5 & 19 | 9:30AM | Downtown Engedi Room

**Men's Bible Study:** Saturdays | 8:00AM | Via Zoom

This group welcomes any man who would like to attend. Contact Aethan at [hartav@comcast.net](mailto:hartav@comcast.net) for the Zoom 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](mailto:Truclarson1@gmail.com)

**BETHEL BOOK CLUB**

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

Wednesday, January 4 | 1:00PM  
Downtown Campus, Fellowship Hall  
'the stranger in the lifeboat' by Mitch Albom  
Details at [bethelHUDSON.org](http://bethelHUDSON.org)

DAVE RAMSEY'S

**FINANCIAL Peace UNIVERSITY**

YOUR MONEY MADE SIMPLE  
NINE-WEEK MONEY MANAGEMENT COURSE  
MONDAYS, BEGINNING JANUARY 30 | 6:30PM | HIGHLANDS  
CHILDCARE AVAILABLE | DETAILS AT [BETHELHUDSON.ORG](http://BETHELHUDSON.ORG)

PLEASE NOTE: CHILDCARE MUST BE REGISTERED BY JANUARY 9

**BETHEL WOMEN'S RETREAT**

- SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023 | BETHEL HIGHLANDS CAMPUS | HUDSON, WI
- KEYNOTE SPEAKER: LISA RIGGS, MS, RN, DIRECTOR OF CARDIOVASCULAR SURGICAL SERVICES AT ST. LUKE'S HEALTH SYSTEM IN KANSAS CITY, MO
- SPECIAL MUSIC BY TRACEY AND CALLA JENKINSON
- REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 15 AT [BETHELHUDSON.ORG](http://BETHELHUDSON.ORG)

**ACTIVITIES**

Women of Bethel invite you to be a part of the following activities:

**Quilting**

Friday, January 13 & Tuesdays, January 24 & 31  
Downtown, Fellowship Hall | 9:00AM

**Hardanger**

Thursday, January 5 & 19  
Downtown, Conference Room | 1:00PM

**LIFE EVENTS**

**Baptisms**

Beatriz Debin Jordan, December 4, 2022  
Lucas James Hoffman, December 11, 2022

**Funerals**

Mavis Siegel, December 15, 2022  
Harold Richey, December 28, 2022

**INTERIM PROJECT ROUNDTABLES**

All are welcome to join in deep listening conversation events with Interim Pastor Randy and team to share your faith story journey.

January 10 | 10AM | Downtown, Fellowship Hall  
January 19 | 2PM | Downtown, Engedi  
January 23 | 7PM | Downtown, Engedi

**BETHEL BREWS & BROS**

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

Friday, January 20  
Hop & Barrel, Hudson  
5:00 - 7:00PM



## CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION WITHIN EVERY SEASON



**Bethel**  
Creation Care

Holiday Greetings from Bethel Creation Care! The season of Christ's birth is joyous and festive, but we should be aware of the wastefulness that occurs during the holiday season. Americans throw away 25% more trash during the Thanksgiving to New Year's Holiday period than any other time of year. This amounts to 25 million tons of garbage. We would like to highlight ways to reduce this waste.

**-Wrapping paper accounts for 2.3 million pounds of waste per year.** Think of using something other than wrapping paper, such as reusable bags, dish towels, decorated plain brown paper, kid's drawings, newspaper, festive socks, tablecloths, just a ribbon, etc! If you do use wrapping paper, bags, and bows, carefully remove and reuse next year. If unsavable, wrapping paper can be recycled, unless heavily laminated or has metallic or plastic additives. Scrunch test= scrunch paper into a ball, if it stays in a ball, it's recyclable.

**-Reduce returns.** It is estimated that 13.3% of gifts are returned, which has significant transportation and repackaging costs. Many of these are not resold, but end up in landfills. Carefully consider gifts, is it something they'll love for sure, or would a gift card be better? Choose gifts with minimal or eco friendly packaging. Maybe a membership, park pass, tickets or gift certificate would create an unforgettable experience. Don't be afraid to be a regifter or swap presents.

**-Food waste is significant year round, but especially during the holidays.** Between 30-40% of the food supply goes to waste each year in the U.S. Getting a proper head count before preparing a meal cuts down on waste. Have "to go" containers ready to send leftovers home with guests. Up cycle leftovers into sandwiches, soups, and hot dishes.

**-Holiday decor.** Reuse holiday decor, buying quality items you'll want to use year after year. If you want to start fresh, thrift stores are a great way to get a "new" look and recycle your used items. DIY Christmas decor is also a great option, up cycling items you already have at home. Use LED holiday lights, which consume 80% less energy than traditional holiday lights, and last up to 25 times longer.

## BETHEL HIGHLANDS PRESCHOOL

### A NEW LOGO – 15 YEARS IN THE MAKING!

BHP launches our new logo that represents our mission and values! Think faith, nature, play, innovation, community, and sustainability. Our new multi-colored tree also represents the diversity of God-given gifts, abilities, and cultures of each child. Overlapping circles illustrate our collaborative approach with team, families, community, into this brand and see our program to continue to grow and touch the lives of children!



**BETHEL HIGHLANDS PRESCHOOL**

### 2023-2024 REGISTRATION DATES SET

Online registration will follow this schedule:

Saturday, 2/4- Current Families

Sunday, 2/5- Returning Families

Thursday, 2/9- Bethel Members

Saturday, 2/11- All Registrants

Visit [bethelhighlandspreschool.org](http://bethelhighlandspreschool.org) for more details and for all class offerings!

### NEW FAMILY PROGRAM OPEN HOUSE

On Tuesday, January 17, plan to attend an open house at BHP between 5:30pm- 6:30pm. You can meet the teachers and learn what happens inside the classrooms. At 6pm, there will be a presentation to learn more about our program

### PLANT & FLOWER SALE 1/15-1/31!

Pre-order your hanging baskets, perennials, and flowering shrubs through our sale with Farrill's Sunrise Nursery! BHP will receive a generous portion of sales through this sale to help fund classroom needs. You can order online at [bethelhighlandspreschool.org](http://bethelhighlandspreschool.org) and in person at the Senior Luncheon on 1/16. Orders can be picked up at Farrill's April 29 (May 6 rain date).



### BHP PLANT & FLOWER SALE

January 15-31

A fundraiser with Farrill's Sunrise Nursery  
Order at [bethelhighlandspreschool.org](http://bethelhighlandspreschool.org)



## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



Volunteers at Bethel are those who comprise many ages and stages of life, who do so much to serve God and others with a generous heart and humble spirit.

We feature Vern Nagel this month as our remarkable volunteer of the month. Vern and his wife, Becky, have been members at Bethel for approximately eight years and live in Hudson. The couple's family includes an adult daughter, four grandchildren and great grandchildren. Their son passed away in 2015. And, Vern and Becky celebrated 61 years of marriage this year.

Vern is retired from corporate America, serving as a CFO; a career that moved his family to various places in the Midwest. Both Vern and Becky are originally from Northwest Iowa. In the mid 1990s, they purchased land in New Richmond/Hammond area and later donated 205 acres which has become the Nagel Wildlife Management Area, known for its trails and habitat for anyone to enjoy.

Some may not know the face behind the project, but Vern is the guy who heads up the team making the faith chests for baptisms. He states his goal was to build 100 chests and currently in his garage sits the hundredth. He will now allow his team to take the lead while he assists them. A skilled woodworker, Vern has also made prayer crosses — most notable for the women's retreat. For this he crafted over 100 crosses. He has also served on the endowment committee, helped with the Scandinavian Food Fest and been a VBS greeter.

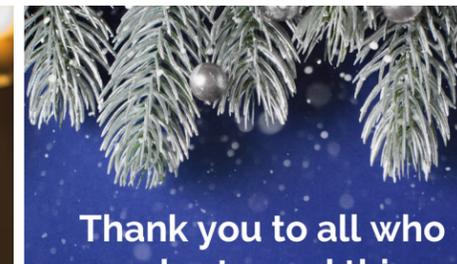
Vern has served a variety of ways over the years in the places he's lived by being on school boards, investing much time to the wildlife management land, and being a town board supervisor.

It's because of volunteers like Vern serving with a joyful heart that Bethel thrives in countless ways. Thank you, Vern, for your generous gifts and talents. You are a treasure and inspiring example of an outstanding volunteer.

"Well done, you good and faithful servant".



Thank you to all who helped Bethel achieve the 2022 budget goals. Your strong giving helps Bethel continue to Connect, Serve, and Grow!



Thank you to all who volunteered this Christmas Season! Your help and support behind the scenes at Bethel is noticed and appreciated by all!

## EQUAL EXCHANGE

FAIRLY TRADED ORGANIC COFFEE, TEA, AND COCOA

Available on Sunday, January 8 after the 8AM and 9:30AM Services. Details at [bethelhudson.org](http://bethelhudson.org)

## 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 each month. Volunteers always welcome!

Upcoming Meals: Thursday, January 5 & 19 5-6PM | Downtown Campus

Details at [bethelhudson.org/serve/local](http://bethelhudson.org/serve/local)

Interested in volunteer opportunities at Bethel? Please contact Kathy at [kjeska@bethelhudson.org](mailto:kjeska@bethelhudson.org)!

