

October
2020

Volume 5
Issue 10

BETHEL CONNECTIONS

Senior Box Lunch

With Musical Guests:
The Kadidlo-Hall Trio
And a greeting from
Bishop Laurie
Skow-Anderson

Monday,
October 5
12:15pm | \$10
Highlands Campus

To aid planning and reserve
your spot, please register by
Thursday, October 1

Details at bethelhudson.org



OFFERING OUR FIRST FRUITS

One of the sections of the Bible I have been reviewing recently, are the books of Ezra and Nehemiah.

I would guess these are probably some of the least known and least glamorous books of the Old Testament.

Here, the Hebrew people had finally been allowed to return to their homelands of Israel after 100 years of being held prisoners in the Babylonian Empire!

What they found upon returning was disappointing, to say the least! They had heard fond memories of the strength and beauty of their country, their capital city, as well as their famous temple, built by King Solomon. Yet, now it all lay in ruins!

It was at this point that men like Ezra and Nehemiah set about recruiting and enlisting other returning Hebrew families to help in the rebuilding of the wall, their capital city, and their once-magnificent temple. Their reconstruction was slow-going, however. Resources were limited, workers were few, and opponents to this building project were many! Worst of all, there was a real lack of enthusiasm and commitment from the people to

give it "their best shot" and get the job done well!

Finally, when it was obvious they were making very little progress and might never succeed, Nehemiah "laid it on the line" with people. Among other things, he bawled them out for caring more about their own households and comfort than they did for the temple of the Lord! (Nehemiah 11:28-39)

Continued on page 2



SUNDAYS 8AM | TRADITIONAL SERVICE | BROADCAST ON WEVR
RADIO AND LIVESTREAMED ON BETHEL'S FACEBOOK PAGE AND WEBSITE

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

Stay Connected



facebook.com/blchudson/



Bethel Lutheran
Church, Hudson, WI



PASTORAL STAFF

John Lestock, Senior Pastor
Ladd Sonnenberg, Youth & Families Pastor
Kris Kurzejeski, Adult Education Pastor
Bob Bipes, 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

Ralph Van Keulen, Business Administrator
Gwen Cossin, Business Administrator
Juli Hilding, Events Coordinator
Kathy Jeska, Volunteer Coordinator
Mary Finnegan, Communications Director
Bill Jenkinson, Media Technician
Katie Clymer, Financial Secretary

FACILITY & CUSTODIAL STAFF

Matt Aubart, Facilities Manager
Will Jeska
Paul Spott

BETHEL HIGHLANDS PRESCHOOL

Kari Jo Fore, Director
Cheri Monette, Office Manager

Staff can be reached via email through
bethel@bethel.org

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS

920 Third Street | Hudson, WI
715.386.8821

HIGHLANDS CAMPUS

504 Frontage Road | Hudson, WI



A NOTE FROM PASTOR JOHN

Continued from page 1

He suggested to the people, if they not only wanted to survive, but to thrive, they would have to offer God their "first fruits". God had made it very clear, he didn't want their left overs! They began to give to God FIRST, rather than keeping the best for themselves!

Their attitude of trying to get by with giving minimal amounts was not surprising. We all do that, don't we?

Of course, we expect God to give us "the best", or the "first fruits" of all God has to offer... "But please Lord, don't expect us to scrape "the best" off the top of all we have to give to you!"

Use your imagination and dream with me for just a minute: What might happen here at Bethel if we were all to rediscover the practice of "first fruits" giving?

Just think of the ministry we could have if we would all give God "the best" and "off the top" of our lives! . . .

- The first fruits of our TIME.... (say even five hours a week?)
- The first fruits of our TALENTS....(and what we do best?) and
- The first fruits of our INCOME....(if we all gave 10% we would never have to ask for dollars here at Bethel again!)

Think of the hungry people we could feed, the elderly we could respond to, the hurting we could counsel, the refugees we could house, the youth we could reach out to, etc.

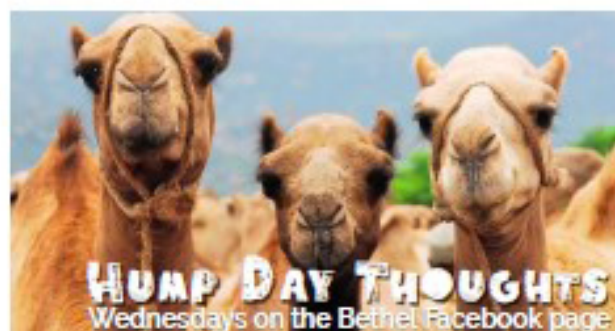
First fruits giving would not just make a difference in what we could DO... It would also make a difference in the people, and the congregation that we ARE!

To think, we could resist the temptation to give God our leftovers, and give God the top priority in our lives! What a great sense of commitment we could feel!

If you are not already practicing and living first fruits giving, will you please prayerfully consider making this type of attitude change? The impact will not only change your life, and your faith...but it will have a major impact on so many other lives as well!

Thank you so much for your consideration, friends!

All God's Blessings!
Pastor John Lestock



CONNECT
WITH US
ONLINE



BETHELHUDSON.ORG



[FACEBOOK.COM/BLCHUDSON/](https://www.facebook.com/BLCHUDSON/)



YOUTUBE: BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH HUDSON WI



INSTAGRAM: BETHELHUDSON



BETHEL@BETHELHUDSON.ORG



What has become a tradition, Bethel staff members get into the Halloween spirit while handing out hot chocolate to parents and treats to princesses, superheroes, and all sorts of trick or treaters who visit the 3rd Street area on Halloween (2019).

At the time of printing, Hudson's plans for Halloween this year have not been announced.



Scandinavian Food Fest

Due to the pandemic, this annual event will not be held Oct. 16 & 17.

By the time you read this newsletter, we normally would have already made 4000 meatballs, 1675 rounds of lefse, 120 dozen rosettes, and looking forward to workdays making fattigmon, sandbakkels and rullepolse.

This event was special for many reasons, for our community and fellowship of Bethel members.

What is in store for 2021? No answer for now.

— Lori Jacobson, 2019 SFF, Co-Chair



LIFE EVENTS

BAPTISMS

Stanley Earl Stensgaard, September 16

Emelia Mae Clark, September 27

Jackson Paluch, August 30

Paislee Jo Potocnik, September 27

WEDDINGS

Melissa Stagg & Brandon Free

September 5

BETHEL BREWS & BROS

Friday, October 16 | 5 - 7pm

Men of Bethel.
Grab your favorite beverage — you are invited to join to virtual
BBB via Zoom

Email Pastor Ladd at laddsb@bethelhudson.org for the link



Thank you to this month's guest writers for sharing thoughts and words of encouragement about life during this time of Covid19

Our family has learned to slow down during this Covid crisis. Although we greatly missed our favorite activities, extended family and friends, we have tried to see the silver lining in what was gifted to us in place of what we may have given up. We got back to appreciating the simple things in life: quality family time, nature, visiting grandparents, reading a good book, playing games, writing letters, relaxing and not being in a rush. Most of all, we grew to appreciate time; having time to be creative, complete projects or to just be. When the world rights itself, we hope to remember to be gracious for all the things we missed so much and to balance it with the gift of time.

- The Wilts



The saying "God works in mysterious ways" is more true to me now than it ever has been. At the beginning of the outbreak, I felt as though my entire life had been put on pause indefinitely. Thankfully, the fight portion of my fight or flight response swiftly kicked in. I had two new jobs within a couple weeks of being furloughed. I've also been fortunate to be a part of the New Song worship band. It's helped me regain some normalcy to this very different life around me. Recently, I got my job back working with children, they're so amazing to be around. I enjoy the simplicity of playing tag and keep away from the kids, is that so wrong? Having to balance my busy work schedule while still making time for my loved ones has been hard, but I feel that this time is meant to help us adapt to change more efficiently. Psalm 32:8 states, "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you". I truly believe that God makes everything happen for a reason; I see it in my everyday life with new information and lessons I learn that help me grow and be better for the future. Times are tough right now, but as long as we try to stay on a steady incline, it can only get better.

- Calla Jenkinson





PSALMS

Join the Rev. Dr. Karl Jacobson
for this two-part study

7pm | October 7 and 14
Highlands Sanctuary (Socially Distanced)
and Streaming Live

Register at bethelhudson.org/grow



The Faith Corner with Pastor Kris
Facebook Page
is a place to connect
with one another,
talk about the Bible & faith

BIBLE STUDY GATHERINGS

Naomi Gathering: Monday, October 12 | 1pm | OUTSIDE
220 Iverson Circle Hudson.

Men's Bible Study: Saturday mornings | 8am | via Zoom.
They welcome any man who would like to attend. Contact
Aethan Hart at: hartav@comcast.net for the Zoom link.

BETHEL HIGHLANDS PRESCHOOL

It's a little different this year, but preschool is going strong!
Our students are ROCK STARS OF RESILIENCE! With new protocols
in place, things have changed a lot for some of our littlest kids. But
with the positive, clear, consistent messages from teachers and
staff this world is a bit easier to navigate together.

We remember that adults are constantly modeling responses,
attitudes, and behaviors.

BHP students enjoyed the first CHAPEL TIME in the outdoor
worship space, practicing our social distance while we learned the
words, songs, and rituals associated with preschool chapel. 3 and



4 year-olds are quick learners to know "The
to know "The Lord be with you" and respond
"and also with you". We sing "Be Still and Know
that I am God", to help us remember that our
bodies are still when we enter the special
place for worship so that we can focus on God. Next we light the candle to remember that Jesus is
the light of the world and is here with us, we use liturgical colors on our little altar and talk about the
seasons of the church. After the short Bible story we sing "Go now in peace" and close with a reminder
that Jesus loves us all the time, no matter what. When the leader says "Go in peace, serve the Lord", the
children respond "thanks be to God". It's a special time, and age appropriate for young children. We are
grateful for outdoor spaces that are perfect for worship.



Chapel Time

THANK YOU RALPH VAN KEULEN

Ralph Van Keulen, and his family have been members at Bethel for the past 25 years. For a number of
those years, Ralph served on our church council as treasurer. So when Bethel decided to bring on a
full-time Business Administrator position in 2013, and Ralph was taking early retirement from Imation,
he was a "natural" for the position!



Though he had expected to fully retire after five years, Ralph has stuck with us in this position for the
past seven years. In that time, he has grown the position and helped us raise the bar in so many areas
here at Bethel.

We are so thankful for Ralph's faithful service, and we are a
better and stronger congregation due to his hard and
conscientious work.

Though we will still see Ralph and his wife, Kathy around
Bethel as a member, he has now officially "handed the baton"
off to Gwen Cossin as our new full-time business administrator.
Please be sure to thank Ralph when you get a chance, and to
warmly welcome Gwen to our Bethel team.



American Red Cross Blood Drive at Bethel Monday, October 19 Downtown Campus Noon - 6pm

Sign up link at
bethelhudson.org/serve/local



give blood, give life



Making Masks Ministry

Bethel, in conjunction with HAMA (Hudson Area Ministerial Assoc.) is encouraging people to sew facemasks for those in need

Visit: bethelhudson.org/serve/local/ for more information, including a pattern



LAST YEAR, OVER
40 STUDENTS BENEFITED FROM
YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
TANZANIAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

ANY & ALL DONATIONS WILL HELP
STUDENTS IN THE IRINGA DIOCESE
OF THE ELCA LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF TANZANIA

VISIT: BETHELHUDSON.ORG/SERVE/
GLOBAL FOR INFORMATION ON HOW
YOU CAN HELP

*A donation of \$400 supports a student
for an entire year!



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

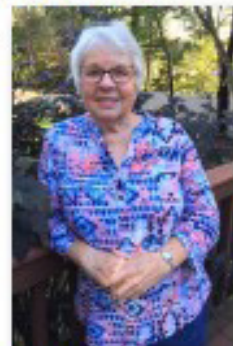
Volunteers are the backbone of our ministry at Bethel. There are so many people of so many ages who do so much to serve God and God's people.

This month we highlight Bobbe Henderson, a Bethel member since she moved here in 2012 to be close to her two daughters and families who were Bethel members. Most of her grandchildren are now grown, but the two youngest ones are in school in Menomonie.

Before coming to Hudson, Bobbe worked as a nurse, a director of an assisted living center, and last as a nursing assistant teacher. At Bethel she's been on a worship team, on the personnel committee and church council, and volunteers in the office. She hopes activities at Bethel can soon resume because she has found it the friendliest, most welcoming church she's belonged to.

Thank you for all you do Bobbe! Bethel Lutheran Church would not be the congregation it is today without people like Bobbe sharing their time, gifts, talents and experience. We are so thankful to Bobbe for being here and making a difference here at Bethel!

"Well done, you good and faithful servant!"



Stay Local

Go Local

Serve Local

*Thank you!
Thanks to all those who volunteered, donated
and did good deeds for others. You made a
difference in our community. Keep it going!*



Diaper donations are still needed and welcomed!
Bring them to Bethel Downtown and
we will deliver them to Operation HELP.

*Thank You
For Your Generosity!*

Bethel members contributed over \$5500 to the special offering for our friends in Iowa and on the Gulf coast who were devastated by hurricanes*

Your donations will be distributed by LWR/LDR

*Hurricane Laura on the gulf and an inland hurricane (derecho) in Iowa

Hudson Outreach Meals for Everyone The H.O.M.E. meal committee and Bethel have been partnering with local restaurants to provide meal vouchers for those in need on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. For updates, please visit: bethelhudson.org/serve/local/

Faith Milestones

-OCTOBER-

3rd Grade

- Student Study Bible
- Class October 20
- Celebrated in worship Sunday, October 25, 9:30am

6th Grade

- Luther's Small Catechism
- Class October 7
- Celebrated in worship Sunday, October 25, 9:30am

10th Grade

- Rite of Confirmation, Saturday, October 17
- Celebrated in worship Sunday, October 18, 9:30am

Go to bethelhudson.org for class times



3 year-olds received and blessed their bibles at the last outdoor worship service

Rite of Confirmation

Saturday, October 17

Confirmation Services by Small Group

Sunday, October 18

Honored in Worship

This year, to help make confirmation meaningful and enable us to gather safely, Confirmation will not be held during regular worship services. Instead, each small group will have a designated time on October 17 where students can invite 2-3 family members to join them.

Congratulate these students on this important milestone!



FALL ACTIVITIES

EDUCATION UPDATES

Classes have started for Sunday School, 6th & 7th Grade Faith Formation and 8th & 9th Grade Confirmation!

Sunday School (age 3- 5th Grade) — Sundays online following 9:30am worship

6th & 7th Grade — Wednesdays at 5pm at Highlands & online via Zoom

8th & 9th Grade — Wednesdays at 6:30pm at Highlands & online via Zoom
Registration remains open on the Bethel website — it's never too late to register!



High School
YOUTH GROUP

Wednesdays | 7pm
Bethel Highlands
music devotions, socially distanced fun

COLLEGE STUDENTS

keep in touch

Share your contact information with Bethel's College Ministry to be connected for:

- Zoom Bible Study
- Monthly Podcasts
- College Care Packages
- and more!

To get connected with Bethel's College Ministry go to bethelhudson.org



selfie scavenger hunt

Get ready for a weekly selfie challenge! Winners will be awarded each week by voting on Facebook. Submit photos all 4 weeks and be entered into a prize drawing!



For details go to bethelhudson.org

BINGO NIGHT!

Coming in November
Watch for dates & details soon!



Please note, In this time of Covid19, news changes rapidly. Please check the Bethel website: bethelhudson.org, the Bethel facebook page: facebook.com/blchudson/ for updates about upcoming worship services, meetings, gatherings, and events.

Outdoor Worship



Senior Box Lunch



Thank you to all who
attended one (or all)
of Bethel's outdoor
services in recent
months — Before
the snow flies,
Let's gather again
in October!

LIVE, OUTDOOR WORSHIP
AT BETHEL:
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4
HIGHLANDS CAMPUS
EAST LAWN | 9:30AM

Visit: bethelhudson.org
for more information

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Hudson, WI
54016
Permit #79

During
these uncertain
times, please
check the latest
updates regarding
worship, classes
and events at:
bethelhudson.org

