

Welcome Sarah Harrold, Bethel's New Pastor



Sarah Harrold, a May 2009 graduate of Luther Seminary in St. Paul, has accepted the call to become Associate Pastor of Evangelism and Mission at Bethel Lutheran Church.

Sarah is a native of Nebraska, and a graduate of Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Her internship year took place at American Church in Berlin. Those who provided references reported

that she worked well with people of all ages and that she is a happy, intelligent, clever, talented and compassionate leader.

Sarah's ordination is tentatively planned for January 16, 2010 at Luther Seminary in St. Paul.

We expect to introduce Sarah to the Bethel Congregation on December 20. She will begin her work in Madison earlier the prior week.

The Bethel Call Committee consisted of Pastor Bill White, Jill Derr, Church Council president, and three members of the Executive Committee: Al Schultz, Ann Leon and Mike Lake.

Family Ministry Christmas Craft Brunch

Saturday, December 19, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
Good food, Christmas crafts, and fun activities; Cost \$5.00
Set-up: 8:30 am, to volunteer contact Susan, 608-257-3577

Christmas Pageant and Dinner

Pageant: Sun., December 20, 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary
Dinner: Advance Tickets, \$7.50 Adults; Kids under 13 free

Advent Wreath Prayer: Week 3

Light the first candle for **love**, the second candle for **peace**, and the third candle for **joy**.

Prayer: Dear God, we remember the joy that surrounded the shepherds at the news of Jesus' birth. Help us celebrate this joy by spreading the news to our family and friends. In Jesus' name, amen.

2010 Puerto Rico Partnership Trip

Plans for the tenth partnership trip take shape for February 8 to 14, 2010 (tentative dates).

Since 2000, members of Bethel Lutheran Church in Madison have traveled to Dorado, Puerto Rico for a week long mission trip to visit our partner church, Bethel Lutheran in Dorado. We often refer to this week as a partnership trip rather than a mission trip because of the true partnership in work, sharing, and worship that we feel with our host church.

Over the last nine years, over 160 different people have participated in this wonderful experience. Some participate multiple times, and they often have a similar response, "I went expecting to give my time and expertise, but I was the person who received. I received love and friendship from people who gave so much."

Bethel members travel to Puerto Rico in the dead of winter in hopes of getting a glimpse of the sun and look forward to the upcoming work projects because a lot of laughter and sharing is done while the work is being completed.

Bethel Dorado provides us such hospitality and friendship when we visit them, we are humbled by their gifts. In 2010, the Bethel Dorado choir plans to travel to Bethel Madison to share their musical talents with us.

If you are interested in the 2010 Puerto Rico Partnership Trip, contact Stacy Gahlman-Schroeder at 608-257-3577 x325 or stacyg@bethel-madison-org.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Thursday, December 24
Afternoon Family Worship: 3:00 & 4:30, 5:45 pm in Spanish
Candlelight Evening Worship: 7:15, 9:00, & 11:00 pm
with Communion at 9:00 & 11:00 pm

Christmas Morning Worship Service

Friday, December 25, 10:00 am





This article is my one chance at Advent and Christmas, as I do not write another article for the Bethelite until mid January. While I am not complaining about the schedule for the Bethelite or pining for more writing opportunities, I am a bit overwhelmed with the task. I realize that I do not need to talk about either seasons actually, as others consistently share insights about both seasons in the Bethelite. But since this is my favorite part of both the church year and the secular year, I feel compelled.

If you have heard any pastor ever talk about Advent, you have heard the word “waiting.” That is what we do in Advent - we wait for the coming of the Christ-child. We wait or await his coming, not by buying stuff, but by prayerfully reflecting on what Immanuel (God-with-us), truly means. Then, at Christmas, we celebrate the incredible gift of God being uniquely present with us in the person of his Son and we rejoice that we have such a loving creator.

As I sit here and write this, I am reminded that I am nearing the one year anniversary of me being hospitalized for Endocarditis. From December 19 through December 29, I was at UW Hospital. During that time, when the Church was moving from Advent to Christmas, I was laying in a hospital bed hoping that the little vegetative growth that was attached to a valve in my heart did not move at all. Fortunately it did not, but that experience has truly changed the way I have approached this holiday season (for all those who get upset with the use of “holiday” instead of Christmas, I use the word holiday because I am referring to the entire time from Thanksgiving to New Year’s Day, which of course includes, but is not limited to, Christmas).

I have still put up several thousand outdoor lights (my neighbor’s would be so disappointed if I hadn’t), I have been listening to Christmas music for well over a week, I have begun purchasing Christmas presents and I will soon be putting up our Christmas tree. All of that has been about the same as in past years. What has changed, I guess, is what I have been thinking about. For whatever reason, my mind quickly goes back to last year when I begin thinking about the holiday season. These memories do not really haunt me or frighten me, rather they remind me that life is fragile and each day is very precious. I guess those thoughts are not so different than what I said earlier about Advent and Christmas.

As we move through these wonderful seasons of Advent and Christmas - seasons full of wonder, beauty and awe - it is very easy to focus on that which is loud and flashy. We all fall into that trap from time to time and it is not the end of the world if we even get caught up in it a little bit, but there is so much more to these two seasons. There is the great reminder that in the midst of lives that are fragile, busy, frustrating, frightening, ordinary, awesome and so much more, God steps in. He does not break the door down, nor do trumpets declare his coming. God simply steps into our lives and walks with us. May you feel that amazing presence now and always.

Peace,
Pastor John Swanson

EDUCATION

Getting Ready For Sunday School

Story: John the Baptist

Biblical Text: Luke 3:1-18

Bible Point: We need to prepare for Jesus.

Key Bible Verse: *Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.* Luke 3:4b (NRSV)

Prayer: Dear God, you have promised to always be with us. You are faithful in shining a light when we’re lost. Thank you for always helping us, guiding us, and preparing us for what’s ahead. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Christmas Pageant and Dinner

Sunday, December 20 - 4:00 pm

All children in Bethel’s Sunday School will tell the Christmas story in narration, song, and drama on Sunday, December 20 at 4:00 pm in the sanctuary. From the songs sung by our preschool and Hosanna Center children, our mass elementary chorus and soloists, our Latino Children’s Choir to the 6th grade narration and kindergarten portrayal of the miracle birth, you will experience the joy of the shepherds that first Christmas.

And, what better way to end the evening than with a sumptuous feast prepared by Chef Steve, featuring smoked ribs, macaroni & cheese, salads, sides and dessert? Advanced Tickets are \$7.50/adult and free for kids under 13.

What's Happening

Circle of Love Christmas Sale

Sunday, December 13

Come to our annual Christmas Sale on Sunday morning, December 13, to support Bethel's program that is improving the dental care in the Borodyanka community and sponsors respite for their children. You will find Ukrainian handcrafts, handmade cookies and candies and the 2009 Circle of Love ornament. Past host families will also be available to chat informally about their experiences.

Contact Jacqui Shanda, Program Coordinator or Susan Straus, Host Family Coordinator at 257-3577.

Bethel Christian Men's Fellowship

Tuesday, December 15 - 10:30 am

Christian Men's Fellowship will meet on Tuesday, Dec 15 at 10:30am. Jack Westman will present "Reaching Out: The Story of the Mexican Partners and Canyon Scholars Program." Bethel members Ren and Grace Svanoë retired to Northern Mexico ten years ago. Jack will tell of the Svanoë's educational ministry to young Mexican students and of many local people and organizations.

Family Ministry Christmas Craft Brunch

Saturday, December 19

Don't forget to mark your calendars for Dec 19th Christmas Craft Brunch. We'll make fun crafts to keep or give away, have a wonderful brunch and watch the newest VeggieTales movie, Saint Nicholas, A Story of Joyful Giving!

For more information please contact Susan at familyministry@bethel-madison.org.

Feed & Read

Monday, December 21, Noon

Come to Feed and Read the third Monday of the month. We meet at noon, so bring a dish to share or your sack lunch and chew on the monthly discussions. The upcoming dates and books are:

December 21, *Freddy and Fredericka* (Prologue, Parts I & II) by Mark Helprin;

January 18, *Freddy and Fredericka* (Parts III, IV & Epilogue);

February 15, *Ash Wednesday* by Ethan Hawke.

The Daily Texts 2010

The Daily Texts 2010, a book of short Bible passages, suggested Bible readings, and prayers for each day of the year are available for \$6 at the receptionist's desk or in the library.

What's Happening

Bethel Singles

Sunday, December 13

"A community of singles at Bethel Lutheran Church sharing spiritual, social and service activities in a caring, welcoming environment."

Every Second Sunday Brunch - 10:15 am

On Dec 13, after the 9:15 am Service, meet by the "Ask Me" desk to go out to brunch. Cost: your meal.

Questions: call Sue at 608-241-3838.

Question Books for Kids from Bethel's Library

Why do people pray? What is a church? How does God listen? Where can I find God? Who taught frogs to hop?

Children are full of questions about everything that touches their lives, and these are a few of the questions answered in the picture book area of our Bethel library.

Here is a more complete listing of 'question' titles from our "E" collection:

Where can I find God? By Helen Doss;

What is love? By Sarah Eberle;

How does it feel to be old? By Norma Farber;

Does God hear my prayer? By August Gold;

Where does God live? By August Gold;

Who needs me? by Florence Heide;

Who taught frogs to hop? By Robert D. Ingham;

I wanted to know all about God by Virginia Kroll;

What is heaven like? By Beverly Lewis;

How does God listen? By Kay Lindahl;

Why don't we live together any more? By Robin Monroe;

What is a family? By Elaine Moore;

Who's a friend of the water-spurting whale? By Sanna Baker;

What color am I? By Loyal Nye;

What is a church? By Carolyn Nystrom; and

Why do people pray? By Jean Richards.

You are invited to visit the Bethel library and check out these books for family use. While you are there you may find books that also help to answer a variety of faith related questions that **you** have. We are a resource for the entire family!

In Honor and In Memory - November 2009

The following WORSHIP AT BETHEL TELECASTS

were sponsored during November 2009

Nov 8: In memory of Christine Barnes

by family and friends.

Nov 15: In loving memory of Margaret S. Schensky

by her daughter and son-in-law, Sharron & Thomas Wartinger.

Nov. 22: In loving memory of the mother of our children and grandma of our grandchildren, Claramae H. Sherry, who passed away on November 22, 2008 by Earl Sherry.

Nov. 29: In memory of Arden & Ethel Erdman

BETHEL HORIZONS CAMPERSHIP

In memory of C.J. Davis - We love him always.

by Jackie Lawrence.

In memory of Bob Gunderson

by Shirley Gunderson.

In honor of Pastor Duane Hanson

by JoAnn Six-Plesko.

In memory of Kathryn Helwig

by Dennis & Janet Helwig.

In honor of Howard Kulke

by Bruce & Rosemary Ehr.

In memory of Milton Lenz

by Shirley Just, Michael & Nanci Just, Curtis & Myrtle Knutson, Janet Markwart, Zelma Martin, Arlene Moberg

In memory of Von Martin

by Zelma Martin.

In honor of Carla Mollien

by Tom & Marian Osterberg.

In honor of Mary Savall

by Tom & Marian Osterberg.

In honor of Harold Siekert.

by Bruce & Rosemary Ehr.

In memory of Priscilla Suits

by Bill & Barbara Bahr, Robert Brightman, Charles Cerniglia Jr, Mary Lou Dzick, Michael Engelke, Brian & Kathy Graedel, Irene Hendrickson, Keith & Andrea Kelling, Janice Kuske, James & Joan Langdon, Harold & Donna Leek, Ardell & Audrey Olson, Byron & Jackie Reeves, Del & Vernice Schreier, Jim & Ann Stratton, Wyman Suits, Ron & Helen Suits.

In memory of Elizabeth Wee

by Bill, Ruth, Sharon, Jim & Dave Munkwitz.

In memory of Ron White

by Carolyn White.

ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

In memory of Bob Ahrens

by Daniel & Rita Davies.

In memory of Sara Hanson

by Judi Czech & Becky Iwan, Jean Kasten.

In memory of Irene Hardie

by Phil & Mary Lou Dzick.

In memory of Milton Lenz

by Bradley & Barbara Armstrong, Bernice Kelly, Tom & Marian Osterberg.

In memory of James A. Mott

by Roger & Barbara Mott.

In memory of Velma Peterson

by Karl Peterson.

In memory of Priscilla Suits

by Myron Althaus, Shirley Hyke, Keith & Andrea Kelling, Elsie Olson, Ardyce Schroeder, Wyman Suits.

In memory of Anita Thorstad

by John & Lonnie Suttie.

In memory of Rev. Morris & Elizabeth Wee

by Martha Erickson, Mary Anne Marsden.

In memory of Elizabeth Wee

by John & Joan Hagen, William & Patricia Henke, Myra Johnson, Arlene Roeder, Mary Savall.

FOOD PANTRY

In recognition of the terrific work that Bob and Peggy Hoekenga do to lead the Food Pantry ministry

by Al & Wendy Schultz.

In honor of Bob Hoekenga's birthday

by Thomas & Susan Straub.

In memory of Anita Thorstad

by Lyle Gruen, Suzanne McCann.

In memory of Elizabeth Wee

by John & Barbara Gordon.

HOPE HOUSE

In appreciation of Rev. Bill & Sally White

by Nancy Van Dyke.

MEDIA MINISTRY

In memory of Christine Barnes

by Karl & Beverly Solberg.

In memory of Thora Gillette

by Wayne & Nancy Paulson, Richard & Donna Trolliet.

In honor of Margaret Glasrud's 90th birthday

by Donald & Linda Gjerdrom.

In memory of Alvin Klitzke

by Victorien Klitzke and family.

In memory of Milt Lenz

by Gerald & Janet Kulcinski.

In memory of Ernie Roeske

by Bob & Marilyn Cleveland.

In memory of Laura Slotty

(passed away in September at 107 years old)

by Ruth Evert.

In memory of Priscilla Suits

by Myrtle Alderson, Wally & Irene Backlund, Carrie & Norv Bernhardt, Betty Cerniglia, Kathleen, Sheila & Margaret Courtney, Ruth Creighton, Dorothy Dyreson, Tom & Melissa Hildebrandt, Keith & Andrea Kelling, Marge Krohn, Ray & Helen Kruse, Zelma Martin, Roger & Norma Mason, David and Mary Myhre, Roland & Jeanette Paul, Tom & Caye Pierce, Robert Rand, Betty Skowlund, Jean Steinhoff, Glenn Suits, Wyman Suits.

In memory of Elizabeth Wee

by Jeanette Pochebut.

OPERATING BUDGET

In memory of Harold Halstead

by Marlys Halstead.

In memory of Jill Wilson

by Dolores Gehm.

ORGAN FUND

In memory of Marilyn Cleveland's mother

by Donna Fox.

PETER MAYER CONCERT SUPPORT

In appreciation of Rev. Bill & Sally White

by Nancy Van Dyke.

Bethel Lutheran Church

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Duane E. Hanson, Bethel Horizons
Laura M. Sutherland, Care Ministry
Pedro M. Suárez, Latino Ministries
John O. Swanson, Confirmation/Visitation

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Contact Us

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What's Happening

Youth Concert - Mission Trip Fundraiser

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, January 30, 2010**.
Bethel's Sr. High will show their talents at a concert fund-
raiser for the 2010 Mission trip. Watch the Bethelite & bulle-
tins for more details!

Youth - 2010 Whitewater Canoe Trip

Youth currently in Grades 9-12, mark your calendar for
July 25-30, 2010 for a Whitewater Canoe Trip in northern
Wisconsin. Total cost is \$250 with a deposit of \$50.00. Con-
tact Cory Hamilton at cory@bethel-madison.org for more
information.

Bethel Calendar † Dec 13-19, 2009 cont.

Dec 19 Saturday

8:00a Bible Study - *Library*
8:30a Craft Brunch Set-up - *Borgwardt Hall, Kitchen*
9:00a Christmas Pageant Rehearsal - *see posted room assignments*
Latino Yoga Class - Emmaus Room
10:00a Christmas Craft Brunch - *Borgwardt Hall, Game Room*
1:30p Instrumental Ensemble Practice - *Room 213*
5:00p **Worship Service** - *Pentecost Room*
5:30p Posadas - *Kitchen*

What's Happening

Christmas Craft Brunch

Volunteers Needed

Helpers are needed for our Christmas Craft Brunch on
Saturday, Dec 19th! We'll be setting up at 8:30 am for a
morning full of good food, Christmas crafts, and a ginger-
bread Nativity set for the kids to make.

Helpers are needed for kitchen, crafts, and more. Please
call Susan at 257-3577 or susans@bethel-madison.org.

Sunday Greeter Volunteers Needed

"Good Morning!"

Do you like to be welcomed as you enter church on Sunday
mornings? We want to expand our group of greeters, and
this is a very easy way to use your spiritual gifts to help
Bethel provide a welcoming spirit. You would commit to
arriving 20 minutes before the service you plan to attend.
If interested, please contact Sue or Jack Marking at
221-1931.

One-A-Week Club Blood Donors

During September and October, Bethel received credit for
45 units of blood given by 36 people. We still need 15
people who have not yet given in 2009. This would give
us a total of 100 donors. Contact Alinda Nelson
(850-9476) ajnelso1@wisc.edu.

Herb Brokering's Books Featured

Bethel Library, Sundays & Tuesdays, 9 am - Noon

Herb Brokering, author, writer of hymn lyrics, poet,
speaker and long-time friend of Bethel died on Nov 7.
Herb was a frequent visitor and leader to Bethel and Hori-
zons and led many of Bethel's pilgrimages to Eastern
Europe. Bethel's library staff has their collection of Bro-
kering books on a cart for you to check out. The library
hours are 9:00 – 12:00 on Sundays and Tuesdays and by
appointment



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 312 Wisconsin Ave., Madison, WI 53703-4106

Dated Material

Address Service Requested

Requested in home
 by December 12th

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Bethel Calendar † December 13-19, 2009

Dec 13 Third Sunday of Advent

- 6:45a Coffee Fellowship - *Fireside Gallery*
- 7:55a **Worship Service** - *Sanctuary*
- 8:30a Childcare available until 2:00 pm - *Nursery*
- Circle of Love Christmas Sale - *Parking Lot Foyer*
- Genesis Café - *Borgwardt Hall*
- Christmas Pageant Soloist Rehearsal - *Pentecost Room*
- 8:45a Library open until 11:45 am
- 9:15a **Worship Service** - *Sanctuary*
- Sunday School - *see posted room assignments*
- What Is Baptism - *Good Shepherd Chapel*
- 9:45a Band rehearsal for 10:45 Worship Service - *Choir Room*
- 10:15a Cherub Choir - *Room 202*
- Junior Youth Choir - *Pentecost Room*
- 10:30a God's Standard or Gold Standard - *Good Shepherd Chapel*
- ESL Classes - *Room 216B*
- Confirmation Homeroom Teachers Meeting - *Rooms 201*
- Prime Timers Meeting - *Room 101*
- 10:45a **Worship Service** - *Sanctuary*
- Junior Youth Handbells - *Room 219B*
- 11:00a Sunday School until noon - *Rooms 204, 210, and 212*
- 11:45a Latino Children's Choir - *Room 202*
- Noon Bethel Friends Luncheon - *Fireside Room*
- 12:30p **LA SANTA MISA / Worship Service** - *Sanctuary*
- 1:30p Refrigerio - *Borgwardt Hall*
- 5:00p High Hopes Rehearsal - *Borgwardt Hall*

Dec 14 Monday

- 8:30a Friendship Pad Volunteers - *Room 104*
- 6:30p Latino Senior High Youth - *Youth Room*
- 7:00p Bethel Series Intensive NT - *Good Shepherd Chapel*

Dec 15 Tuesday

- 9:00a Library open until noon
- 10:30a Christian Men's Fellowship - *Borgwardt Hall*
- Homeless Spiritual Support Group - *Good Shepherd Chapel*
- 12:30p Beth Keyes Circle - *Fireside Gallery*
- Homeless Book Group - *Good Shepherd Chapel*
- Southdale After School - *Pentecost Room & Fireside Gallery*
- 5:00p Grupo Latino Practica de Musica - *Pentecost Room*
- Women's Choir - *Sanctuary and Balcony*
- 6:30p Creative Worship Singers - *Choir Room*
- Advanced Computer Class - *Pentecost Room*
- 6:45p Separated & Divorce Group - *Good Shepherd Chapel, Libr, 101*
- 7:00p Church Council - *Room 201*
- Conversational Norwegian Class - *Library Media Room*
- 7:15p Bethel Horizon's Board Meeting - *Room 205*
- 7:45p Band rehearsal for 10:45 Worship Service - *Sanctuary*

Dec 16 Wednesday

- 9:30a **Midweek Chapel** - *Good Shepherd Chapel*
- 5:30p Bethel Ringers - *Room 202*
- Posadas - *Kitchen*
- 6:30p Hot Topics - *Youth Room*
- 7:00p Bridges Circle - *Room 100*
- 8:00p Senior Youth Ensemble - *Choir Room*

Dec 17 Thursday

- 7:00a Current Christian Concerns - *Library Media Room*
- 3:30p Southdale After School - *Pentecost Room & Fireside Gallery*
- 5:30p Christmas TV Recording - *Choir Room, Sanctuary, Balcony*
- Posadas - *Kitchen*
- 6:30p Stephen Minister Supervising Visits - *Room 200, 201*
- 7:00p Bethel Choir TV Recording - *Sanctuary and Balcony*

Dec 18 Friday

- 7:00a Men's Book Study - *Borgwardt Hall*
 - 8:30a Christmas Pageant Set-up - *Sanctuary*
 - 9:30a XYZ - *multiple rooms*
 - 5:30p Posadas - *Kitchen*
 - 6:00p Couples Club Set-up - *Borgwardt Hall, Pentecost Room*
- (Calendar continued inside for December 19 - Saturday)

Today's statewide telecast is given in memory of
 Les Glasrud by Margaret and family.
 Worship at Bethel Telecast Information

Madison WKOW-TV 27 **Green Bay*** WISN-TV 32
 10:00 am WKOW-TV 27 8:30 am WACY-TV 32

Eau Claire* WJMN-TV 18 **Milwaukee-Cable 15*** WISN-TV 12
 9:00 am WQOW-TV 18 9:30 am WFPX-TV 15

La Crosse* WISN-TV 19 **Mausau*** WISN-TV 55
 9:00 am WXOW-TV 19 9:00 am WFXS-TV 55

*Telecast delayed one week.
 Telecast also available at <http://betheliv.bethel-madison.org>

Zephaniah 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6
 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18

Worship Schedule
 Second Sunday of Advent
 December 13, 2009

Saturday 5:00 † Pastor Bill White
 Sunday 7:55, 9:15 † Pastor Bill White
 Sunday 10:45 † Pastor Laura Sutherland
 Sunday 12:30 pm † Spanish
 Padre Pedro Suárez