

**Church Office Hours-**

**Weekdays:** 8:30 am-2:30 pm

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Bethel Christian Preschool (812) 328-6038

**Pastor Mike DeCoursey's office hours--Weekdays:** 9am-2pm

**Phone number:** (812) 887-3810

**Pastor Mike Leydet's office hours--Weekdays:** 9 am-2-pm

**Phone number:** (812) 840-0157

**Council members-**

Gordon Clinkenbeard, President

Bill Resler, Vice President

Mary Ann Miller, Secretary

Dan Kixmiller, Treasurer

Kevin Hammelman

Joe Koenig

Garland Richter

Rowe Sargent

John Spanger

**FROM THE PASTORS STUDY**

As I write this article, it is cold outside. Snow on the ground and wind chill factors in the single digits, what happened to fall, and when will spring be here? Like most people, I am hardly ever satisfied by the weather. Too hot or too cold, not enough rain or too much rain, never satisfied, are we?

But what about our love for God, too hot or too cold, we read from Matthew 24:12 that as lawlessness increases, so does the coldness of most people's heart increase. Not all, but most. Where do we fit into this verse? The lawlessness that Jesus speaks of here is sin and our reaction to sin as believers. We live in a world that has turned a blind eye towards sin. We say that doesn't affect me, so why should I be concerned about it. We totally ignore what the Word of God has to say, and in turn our hearts grow cold. That should scare us, but does it? Have we become so used to lawlessness and sin that we not only ignore sin, but even more alarming, we no longer recognize sin?

James 5:19 and 20 instruct us on how to deal with sin. I urge you to read that passage, not only read it but follow it. Then the church will be the church.

In His Service,  
Pastor Mike  
James 5:16

## **YOUTH PASTOR**

I would like to thank you all for your generous support of our youth programs. Thank you to those of you who were able to sponsor a youth for our January trip to the Strength to Stand conference in Pigeon Forge. Thank you to those of you who joined us for our fundraiser dinner. I was completely overwhelmed by the amount of money we were able to raise with the dinner. We deposited \$2,075 from our dinner. Your financial support of our youth programs is very much appreciated.

As big a part as finances can play in a ministry the most crucial part is prayer. So thank you for your prayers. Thank you for praying for our youth. Thank you for praying for me and my family. I would also like to thank everyone who has participated in our youth meetings. I could not do what we are doing with our youth alone. Thank you to those who come out on Sunday evenings and teach the elementary aged youth. Thank you to those who have provided snacks or a meal for our youth. If we as a church want to see our youth serve and mature as Christians, the best way to make that happen is for them to see adults living out their faith. So thank you for investing with our youth whether it is through your time, talent, or treasure it is appreciated more than I can tell you

In His Love,  
Pastor Mike

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# **Basement Bulletin Board schedule for 2014**

## **December – (Christmas) – Christian Partners**

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### **GUILD**

“Deep in our hearts, we hear the Christmas story. The miracle again my touch our lives with glory and Christmas with its message true, though ages old returns anew.”

Bethel Guild had a very interesting less on “Women of the Bible” by Doris Brocksmith for the November meeting. We voted to give money for the NK Backpack Project. Delicious refreshments were served by Reda Boberg and Doris Richter.

Our December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting will be a covered dish lunch at 11:30. Table service and drink will be furnished. Please bring cookies for our cheer plates by 9:30 am Wednesday. Program chairladies are Dorothy Spanger and Lill Clinkenbeard. Com and enjoy the beginning of the Christmas season.

Wishing everyone a Blessed Christmas.

Lill Clinkenbeard

### **Mission Committee**

Praise the Lord for the wonderful response we had to Operation Christmas Child!! Because of your generosity **130** children around the world will receive a box of love!! We exceeded our goal of 100 boxes. What a precious sight it was to see our children carrying the boxes down the aisle and then to hear Daniel Leydet pray such a sweet prayer over them. When the boxes arrive at the collection centers a book about Jesus will be added to each one in the appropriate language. The children will not only receive the “goodies” that you packed but they will also receive a book about Jesus! God will see that each box packed here at Bethel will go to the specific child He has in mind. What a great God we serve!! How

exciting to share in His work here on earth!! Thank you Bethel for responding to His call.

The Backpack program is up and going. Children are taking healthy snacks home on Fridays so that they have something to eat over the weekend. There is a box in Bethel Hall for donations. See Janet Clinkenbeard for more details. This is another opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

We will be starting a Vitamin/Tylenol drive in January. Dale & Jane are planning to return to the Dominican Republic on a medical mission team in March. Last year the support received from Bethel made a real difference in the lives of people living in extreme poverty and who receive no assistance from their government.

God is the giver of all good gifts and we can never out give Him. We have been blessed and in turn He asks us to bless others. As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving let's follow God's word from 2 Corinthians 9:7 "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." Thanksgiving blessings to all!

## **Preschool**

Shine Smiling Pumpkin!! We finished the month of October off learning we should always Share His Incredible News Everywhere. We learned that we are a lot like pumpkins because God picks each of us, washes us and takes out all the goop out from us. We want our light to always shine for him.

We had a great visit at the Freelandville Nursing Home. The kids did a good job singing our songs. I always enjoy seeing the interaction between the residents and preschoolers. We thank them for having us. We then celebrated with fun and busy parties.

We have had a fun month at preschool. We have had several discussions on Thanksgiving and how we should be thankful for everything. The Lord has blessed us with too many blessings to count, but a few things we are thankful for are our parents, toys, siblings, and pets--dogs, cats and hamsters, but most of all God. I am sure I have prayed for the same cat at least six times, and one little boy said "not again" when I asked what we needed to pray for one day. We know God hears our prayers and he doesn't care how

many times we say the same prayer as long as we continue to talk to Him.

Frogs remind us to Fully Rely on God and a great way to learn about letter F. The kids always think we can do magic when we use blue bingo daubers on yellow construction paper and get our green frog.

We also talked about how we should be fishers of men and made a cute fish. I learned that fishing with dad is fun according to one little boy while a little girl said "no thanks". She didn't think that sounded like any fun to her.

I love to read "David and Goliath" to the kids for G week. We talk about how we have to be strong and brave when life hands us big problems. We learn not to fight, like David, but to pray turn everything over to God.

Letter H was all about how our hands and heart belong to God and we need to show love in all we do. We talked about where we live and are glad God made the water for fish, the forest for deer, and houses for us. We also talked about how our homes are a blessing from God and we thank him. When one little girl learned that hippo also started with letter H, she wanted to know If I could get her to one to live in her home. I explained I didn't think I could do that and she said okay but will you still try.

Letter I we read a book about Isaac and made an ice cream craft. We talked about iguanas and igloo. That is a cool letter was how one little boy said it when he couldn't remember the letter of the week. We went to cooking school so we could listen and follow instructions to make an edible turkey. The preschoolers were amazed that my "icing" smelled a lot like peanut butter. I just can't fool them. One child went home and told mom, she shouldn't eat the turkey because it was glued together. Then later he told her that the glue was not real and he really didn't want her to get his turkey before he got the eat it. There is never a boring moment.

We look forward to finishing our Thanksgiving lessons with a "feast," reading more books and then going right into Christmas. We have been working hard on our songs for the big night when we tell of baby Jesus' Birth. Come and join us Friday, December 12 for our program.

In His Service,  
Mrs. Durall

I am amazed that the final month of 2014 is nearly here! The past month has been another busy one but the Bethel preschoolers wouldn't have it any other way – the busier, the better. ☺

We had so much fun dressing up for our visit to the Freelandville Community Home and for the Harvest Parties that had been planned by the children's parents. The kids all looked so cute in their costumes as we celebrated the day. They did a wonderful job singing and were so well-behaved. I had many nice compliments on them and it was such a joy to see the residents simply light up as the children paraded in to sing. Then back to preschool we went to enjoy our Harvest Parties filled with fun crafts, games, and yummy snacks!! The parents were all so creative and the kids love it when they see their parents or their friends' parents having so much fun. We had a beautiful day for our nature walk this year to go along with the wonderful book, "Leaf Man" by Lois Ehlert that we read during L Week. The kids loved the illustrations in the book as we journeyed with the Leaf Man and then had a great time collecting leaves and other items from nature to make our own "Leaf Man" or other favorite creature from the story. I hope you had a chance to see the Leaf Men displayed in the preschool hallway. The children worked very hard on them. At first glance, you might simply see leaves glued to paper but take a closer look and you will discover a leaf man, a turtle, a chicken, a cow or even a butterfly! ☺

We were so blessed to get to celebrate Veteran's Day by having Miss Nancy(Tilly) come and share with us stories about her Dad who was in France during WWI and about the first Armistice Day. The kids loved hearing the stories her Dad had shared with her and were especially excited to get to see his uniform and try on his hat! We then painted flags to celebrate our freedom and help to remind us to thank all of our past and present service men and women. It was a really special day!

I am looking forward to our Thanksgiving meal we will be having in each class. We have been talking a lot about the first Thanksgiving. The children were especially amazed to learn that the Pilgrim's homes consisted of only *one* room that

served as the kitchen, bedroom, dining room and family room. How hard that is to imagine! For our meal, the children will be helping prepare the food and tables in order to get ready for this day of thanks. They are very excited about this! We will all have to work together just like the Pilgrims and Indians did.

We are looking forward to the Little Elves workshop that is put on by the wonderful Generations ladies. The children love getting the chance to “shop” for their very own special gift for mom and dad. Also, we have been busy working to get ready for the Christmas Program to be held on the evening of December 12. We are learning new songs and getting excited about this special evening! 😊

Blessings to you, our Bethel Church family, as we head into this month of joy and sharing to celebrate the love God shared with us through the birth of His son, Jesus Christ.

Love,  
Liberty Lemberg

We have been busy in Mrs. Granderson's class this month! We began the month by reviewing the letter F again. We talked about how God wants us to be fishers of men in all we do and made a fish with lots of scales on it in the shape of circles. We painted a frog that magically turned green and talked about fully relying on God.

During G week we talked about David and Goliath the giant. Me being tall, came in handy for explaining how big Goliath was. It was funny to hear some of the kids guess how tall I was, they guessed 11 foot 20 foot and one said well you're taller than my dad! They are too funny! Then I told them to imagine me with one of them standing on my shoulders and that is how tall Goliath was! They were pretty amazed. We talked about how once again all you need to do is pray to God when there is a problem and trust in him and he will be there to help out, you just have to trust. We painted our very own stones, which was a little messy but a lot of fun.

During G week we also began painting turkey hands on shirts, we are planning to wear them at our Thanksgiving feast.

We also had our Harvest party. We visited the Freelandville nursing home to sing for the guests and parade around in our costumes! I was so impressed with the way the kids sang at the nursing home, to be honest I was especially impressed with the boys because they aren't very motivated to sing at preschool. So when I saw them singing at the nursing home, I was impressed!! The kids seemed to really enjoy themselves and now we all have had our first preschool party!

We continue to talk about Thanksgiving and what it means to be thankful. We also are learning that we need to give thanks and praise to God for all things/people in our life. We made thankful turkeys which are on display in the hallway and I invite you to come and see them. It was very entertaining to hear some of the things the preschoolers are thankful for. This is such a fun age... they are so honest! Time is passing quickly and we have already begun practicing our Christmas songs. It is hard to believe our Christmas play will be here so soon! During this time of giving Thanks, I would like to say how thankful I am to have been given the opportunity to teach preschool at Bethel. I am truly thankful for the preschoolers and the relationships that have formed with other church members as a result of my teaching!

Mrs. Granderson

### **Thank You's**

A note of thanks . . . Kara and I had a wonderful 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and we want to say thanks for all the cards and letters.

Kara and Don Johanningsmeier



We would like to give our heartfelt thanks for a wonderful day. We need to express our gratitude to the Sunday School Department for the beautiful religious picture and wind chimes. Also, we want to thank Bethel Church for the adorable flowers, the cross necklaces, and the poem read by Maridell Sargent during Church.

We thank those who brought side dishes, desserts and the Church Council for furnishing the meat, rolls and drinks. We thank those who stayed and joined us for the delicious meal which made this a joyous day for us. Also wish to thank everyone for the nice gifts, gift certificates, cards and notes. You are all very special to us.

We feel so blessed to have served as Sunday School pianists for sixty years at Bethel.

Your thoughtfulness and kindness will always be remembered.

It's good to have such a caring Church family.

May God Bless each one of you.

In Christ's Love,  
Edith and Edna

## **MEMORIAL FUND**

*In memory of Betty Tilly:*

Guild:

*Jean Niedringhaus*

## **Bethel Church Council Minutes November 10, 2014**

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Mike's report included conducting a Sunday service at the Freelandville Community Home, teaching Confirmation classes, and weekly staff meetings and will be conducting a graveside service later in the week. He shared that new chairs had been purchased for his office.

**Youth Pastor's Report:** Pastor Mike Leydet shared that the weekly youth meetings are going well and that the Jr./Sr. High helped at God's Pantry in Oaktown. He also shared that their fall party was successful and enjoyed by all those who had attended. He expressed gratitude for all the support for their fund raiser dinner where \$2,075 was donated.

**Secretary's Report:** It was approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** It was approved as written. The following mission allocations were made: NK Social Ministries, \$500; Nurses' Fund, \$1,500; and, Gideon's, \$400.

**Deacons' Report:** The average attendance for October was 147, and the offering was \$17,046.58. Income included: Atlas Gas, \$483.79; Cemetery Income, \$385.89; Memorial Income, \$890.00; Mission Income, \$881.00; Youth Income, \$2,375; Investment Income, \$279.19; and, Miscellaneous Income, \$25.00.

**Elders' Report:** Proposed visits were discussed, and Mary Ann Miller reminded the council members to continue informing Pastor Mike or an elder if a visit is needed or requested.

**Old Business:** Rowe Sargent reported that the new windows for the custodian's house should be installed soon, and the Deacons will investigate adding rock to the cemetery driveway. Garland Richter shared that the stalls for the shelter house women's bathroom have arrived and will be installed by the Deacons soon. It was also reported that a heater for the shelter house has been purchased and will be installed by an electrician. Pastor Mike Leydet reported that Niehaus will be installing ceiling insulation in the bathrooms.

**New Business:** It was decided that the Christmas trees will be cut December 6, put into place December 8, and decorated December 11, prior to Bethel Preschool's Christmas program on December 12. Pastor Mike shared that

the old materials have been removed from the church office building basement, and he will do a walk-through in the church to note areas needing attention. Garland Richter reported that he has hopefully remedied the cause of the sewer gas odor in the church office. A nominating committee was appointed to assist John Koenig and Scott Page in securing elder and deacon candidates to be voted on at the annual meeting in January, 2015. Dan Kixmiller shared that he had updated the facility insurance policy to include the increased value of the shelter house.

**Upcoming Events:**

November 30 – First Sunday of Advent (Pew communion)



**ABC Project  
“A Bench For Caps”**

Faithful Footprints class is collecting plastic caps in order to get recycled plastic benches for the play areas at Bethel. Please help us.

Acceptable caps are: plastic drink bottle caps (paper liners are ok), lids from food containers like coffee cans, peanut butter jars, butter tubs, lids from spray cans, caps from liquid laundry detergent containers.

There is a box in Bethel Hall to collect the lids.

## **Parish Records:**

**Deaths:** Ruth Sager, age 92, died November 6, 2014. Burial was at Bethel Cemetery on November 13, 2014.

Wendell Stoelting, age 90, died on November 13, 2014. Burial was at Bethel Cemetery on November 16, 2014.

### **Attendance:**

Oct. 26     150  
Nov. 2     181  
Nov. 9     157  
Nov. 16    149

### **Greeters:**

Dec. 7 and 14 – Collin and Amy Tiek  
Dec. 21 and 28 – Rowe and Maridell Sargent

**Ushers: Mark and Deanna Sargent**

### **Nursery (Sunday School):**

Dec.     7     Lana Dike/Mary Ann Miller  
          14     Cheryl Hagemeyer/Kate Hammelman  
          21     Krista Telligman/Nancy Rinsch  
          28     Diane Telligman/Carol Albrecht

### **Nursery Notes (Worship):**

Dec.     7     Beth Durall/Deb Telligman  
          14     Cally Miller/Ashley Durall  
          21     Tracey and Hailley Kahre  
          28     Brenda Maddox/Kelci Anderson

### **Children's Church:**

Dec.     7     Ryan Johanningsmeier/Jesse Organ/Hallie Durall  
          14     Cally Miller/Liberty Lemberg  
          21     Micah Morgan/Cheryl Hagemeyer/Krista Telligman  
          28     Brenda Maddox/Jenny Clinkenbeard

### **December birthdays:**

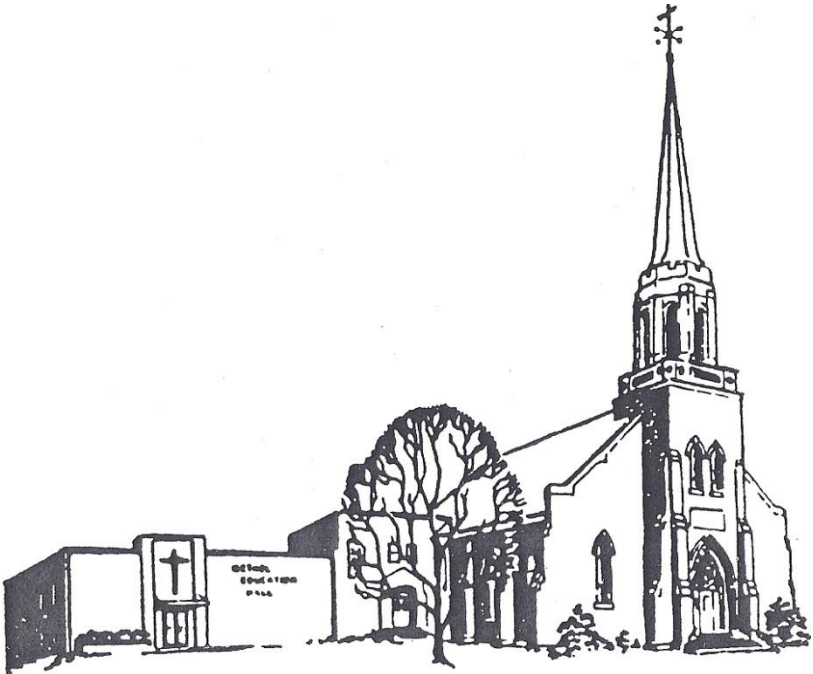
Dec.     3     Ruth Brocksmith (91<sup>st</sup>)  
          30     Jack Brouhard (81<sup>st</sup>)

*Chimes news will be due on January 19th.*

*December 2014*

*Bethel*

*Chimes*



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