

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

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Council members:

Bill Resler, President

John Spanger, Vice President

Pam Loheider, Secretary

Dan Kixmiller, Treasurer

Kevin Hammelman

Joe Koenig

Sam Miller

Garland Richter

Rowe Sargent

FROM THE PASTORS STUDY

Psalm 188:8 tells us that it is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust man. While this one verse has held true through the ages, I believe it has special meaning as we look to the New Year. What will 2016 have in store for us? Personally I can't see things getting better in our society, a society that has turned its back on God and His ways. How much longer will God allow us to go our own way before He sends His Son back for His church? I believe now is the time to make preparation for that return and our first steps should be returning to His word and all of the promise it holds for those who truly believe.

How do we begin those steps? Pick up the Word and become a student of it. Drop the remote and grab your Bible. I read that the average American watches on the average 5 hours of television daily. Can you imagine how much better off we would be if we spent those hours in the Word rather than in the world?

We have been given a choice in the matter, repent or rebel, follow or run, the choice is ours. It is time to seek after and take refuge in the One who has been and is and will continue to steadfast in His promises. Wishing you and yours a blessed 2016 in the Lord.

In His Service,
Pastor Mike
James 5:16

YOUTH PASTOR

Lamentations 3:22-23

*²²Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed,
Because His compassions fail not. ²³They are new
every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.*

New Year, new you. We hear things like this a lot around this time. We make resolutions every year and usually forget about them by February. I am thankful that God doesn't operate like we do. I am thankful that He is faithful. I am thankful that His mercy and grace never fail, even though I often do. I have never claimed to understand God's love, and quite frankly would be a little scared of anyone who says that they do, but I sure do enjoy it.

In His Love,
Pastor Mike

Basement Bulletin Board schedule for 2016

January/February – Assigned
March/April/May – Christian Generations
June – Bible School
July/August – Faithful Families
September – Preschool
October/November – Assigned
December – Mustard Seed

Preschool

We had a wonderful time at our Thanksgiving feast. It was so nice to eat with our friends from downstairs! Thanks to all of our parents who stayed and helped!

We spent much of the month of December preparing for our Christmas program. First I would like to thank everyone who helped prepare and make the Christmas program a success. Those who came to rehearsal on Friday and those who helped sit up and take down the stage, those who came and dressed. A special thank you to Pastor Mike DeCoursey and Pastor Mike Leydet for their time and being there for both programs, doing the narration and opening/closing prayers. I thought everything went great! I was so proud of all of the kids, they did a great job!

We did have some regular class time during December... We talked about the letter K! We talked about who our king is? It was great to hear the kids say "God is our king!" They had fun making kings hats and reading the story "I'm a king's kid."

We also talked about the letter J and the birth of our lord and savior Jesus Christ. I hope if the preschooler's didn't get anything else from the entire month of December they got from me that we celebrate Christmas because of the birth of Jesus and that is the true ultimate gift. We did a candy cane craft and talked about the red in the candy cane representing the blood that was shed for our sins and the white representing that our sins were washed away.

Last but not least we spent some time making our parents a gift. During the last week I had the opportunity to read the kids a very good book. The book was called "The Legend of The Christmas Cookie, Sharing the True Meaning of Christmas." The book was recently donated to the preschool by Nancy Tilly. The book told a story of a young boy named Jack, whose father was away working. Jack's mother had been saving every penny sent home by his father. One day Jack was surprised to come home and find his mother baking Christmas cookies and was disappointed when she told him that they were for the needy at church. She began to share with him that long ago people made cookies imprinted with Angels and shepherds to share the story of Jesus' birth. On Christmas morning she gave Jack a cookie for Christmas in the shape of an angel. Jack ended up giving his cookie to a needy man who had stopped by

asking for food. It was a very good book and I highly recommend it!!

We ended before Christmas break with our Christmas party and it was a great time! Thank you to all of the parents who helped out, the parties were a great success and lots of fun!

Mrs. Granderson

We had a fun-filled first half of our preschool year, full of blessings and wonderful memories at Bethel Preschool, and I am looking forward to all that God has in store for us in 2016!

Since my last newsletter, we had another visit from the ladies of Generations. This time they provided the Little Elves Workshop for the preschool classes. Each child was able to personally select a special gift for each parent. This is a neat opportunity for the children and I really appreciate the time these ladies put into this project for the kids.

After much hard work, and a lot of excitement our preschool Christmas programs took place on December 13th to very full audiences. What a joy it was to have so many preschoolers that we were able to present two programs this year! The children were so excited and did such a great job! It is so fun to see them all dressed up – what beautiful little girls and handsome little boys! I am so grateful to our Bethel family who provided many helping hands leading up to, the day of and also on the evening of our programs. It wouldn't have been possible without you!!

During the week following the program the children worked hard making a special Christmas gift to take home for their parents. It was fun to watch them put so much thought into what their parents would like! Each child was also given a very special gift to take home from their prayer partners. The kids were excited to receive such a special gift. Thank you mission committee and prayer partners for all you do for our preschoolers!

The children love to read Christmas stories and talk about Jesus' birthday. We colored a Christmas tree and talked about how the evergreen tree represents the everlasting life that we can have through Jesus and that when we look at the star on top of our Christmas tree, we are reminded of the bright shining star that led the wise men to Jesus on that very special night. We also loved

reading "The Legend of the Candy Cane" and learning about all the ways the candy cane reminds us of Jesus! The weather was still pretty nice so we were able to make it outside a few times and I was pleased to notice that Miss Nicole and I were not needed as much to help zip coats. The children are becoming more independent as they learn to zip coats and work cooperatively during center time. I am so proud of each one of them.

We finished 2015 with our Christmas Parties! What an eventful day it was as we played games, shared snacks, did crafts and exchanged gifts! The parents did a great job planning a fun-filled day for their children and their classmates and it was a perfect send off to our Christmas vacation.

Thank you to so many of you who supported the preschool this past month whether it was through a kind comment, volunteering your time or including us in your prayers. I'm sure the children would join me in wishing each one of you a happy and healthy year in 2016!

Love,
Mrs. Lemberg

December is one of my favorite months to teach preschool, but it is also the month that goes by the fastest. There is so much to talk about and do, but just not a lot of time to get it all in.

We had the Generations Ladies come and take us shopping to pick out a gift for our mom and dad. I talked that this time of year it's okay to keep secrets and that the gifts should go home under the tree until the giving gifts happens at home. One little boy was quick to announce as soon as he saw dad "I don't want to tell you that I have a gift that scraps the window because it is a big secret." Several gifts were opened before going to bed that night. The kids were just so excited that they could not contain their emotions. We thank all the ladies at Generations who came to help us!!

We started the month of with the letter J. We talked about the best gift of all and that is JESUS. We read many stories about his birth and all the events surrounding Christmas. We

made an envelope into a manger to lay baby Jesus and hang on our tree as an ornament. We had great excitement as we prepared for our big night. We were happy to "Celebrate Christmas" and tell our version of baby Jesus. It makes a big difference the night of our program when there are other kids (the MWF classes) singing with us that we have not seen before. As the sheep entered, one little boy shouted "hey where did those rabbits come from?" It was really cute and funny. I was very proud of each and every preschool!! Thanks to all who helped in any way, or came to watch us perform. We are blessed with a amazing church family.

We did take a day to talk about Jonah and how he didn't listen to God. We learned that we need to always keep our ears open to God and His word. We decided the belly of a whale is not where we ever want to be. One little girl was afraid there would not be any milk to drink in the whale's belly. We painted, colored and cut all in one day for the same craft and one little girl was quick to point out, "that took a lot of work, could we just do a paper next time instead."

We talked about how each one of us is a King's Kid no matter how tall or small we are. We are happy to shout Jesus is my king during K week. I passed out 24 kisses for our count down to the special day. The kids were to eat one a day and not give any away because it would mess up our advent. Dec 3, one little boy said he only had 5 left. I asked what happened to them, he replied, "I just kept eating and forgot." Last week when we talked, several still had the right number of kisses left to finish the countdown.

Letter L was all about the Little Lamb that followed the star to Bethlehem. We know that every creature and all people need to follow Jesus no matter what. We talked about how we love others and need to share that special Love of Jesus. I love to hear the children repeat the story of why we celebrate Christmas.

We made something special for our mom and dad for a Christmas gift. We took their foot print on a plate and painted the manger. This time when taking a gift home, we talked

about where we could hide it until we celebrated at home. I told the kids, if mom or dad keep asking questions about what was in the gift, maybe we could hide the present under our bed. I know the kids listen more than I give them credit for when I hear stories that the present is under the kids bed at home in fear of peeking parents. We also used our foot print to make the cutest reindeer. The kids never know what we will paint with or what we will make.

We ended with great parties planned by the parents. The kids love it when they get to introduce mom or dad for the class, and I appreciated their willingness to help.

Praying we all keep the excitement of Christmas the whole year through. We will be back in preschool action after the first of the year.

Happy New Year to all.

Beth Durall

Memorial Fund

In memory of Tina Buescher:

Jerry and Susie Cardinal

Thank You

Dear Bethel Family,

How wonderful to be part of a fantastic church family. Thank you to Pastor Mike for his visit and prayers, and to everyone who sent cards and prayers. Please continue to keep us in your prayers. This journey will be long, but we know with God all things are possible.

Also, thank you to the Guild for the fruit tray.

We know that God has us in his care, and that with God all things are possible.

Theresia Barrett

Bethel Family,

Thank you for the continued prayers, support, and warm thoughts for our family at this difficult time.

Also, thank you for the delicious food following the funeral service.

We are so blessed to have a strong church family to lean on for strength at this time.

The family of Tina L. Buescher

Dallas and I would like to thank the Guild for the delicious Christmas treats, the cards for my birthday, and the cards for our anniversary.

They were all greatly appreciated.

Dallas and Shirley Miller

Thank you for the lovely cards I received on my birthday. It is so nice to have a caring church family.

I miss all of you.

Ruth Brocksmith

I would like to thank the Women's Guild for the delicious plate of Christmas cookies and their visit.

Thank you to Marv and Jan Richter for the poinsettia and having prayer with me.

Also thank you to Pastor Mike and Elder John Spanger for their visit and uplifting prayer.

Thank you to our church family for your continued support and prayers.

God bless you all.

Monica Russell

A special thank you to Wilber and Reda Boberg for the Christmas trees in the sanctuary this Christmas season!

GUILD

Bethel Guild met for their Christmas luncheon on December 2nd, and 32 ladies enjoyed the day. The quilting ladies were in charge of the afternoon program which was enjoyed by all. We prepared 23 cookie cheer plates, y fruit plates and sent 10 Christmas cards.

We won't meet in January, and our February meeting will be the 3rd for our memorial service for deceased ladies in 2015. Doris Richter will be in charge of the service. Sharon Kahre and Terri Miller will be the hostesses. Please bring toothpaste and tooth brushes for NKSM.

Lill Clinkenbeard

Bethel Church Council Minutes

December 14, 2015

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mike's report included conducting a service at the Freelandville Community Home, hospital visits, and home visits. He reported that Confirmation classes are going well. He attended both preschool programs and felt that they were a blessing to all.

Youth Pastor's Report: Pastor Mike Leydet continues to attend sporting events and other activities at NKHS. He shared that youth meetings are going well, and they assembled several shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. They decorated five doors at the Freelandville Community Home and enjoyed interacting with the residents. Pastor Mike conducted an informational meeting with parents about the Strength to Stand conference the youth will attend in January. He narrated the Christmas programs for the preschool.

Secretary's Report: It was approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: It was approved as written. The following mission allocation was approved: International Mission: \$1000. The January mission team will give this money directly to the orphanage in the Dominican Republic.

Buildings and Grounds: Pastor Mike purchased six tables for the social room. The handrail on the back stairs leading to the social room is loose. The speaker in the nursery is not working. The carpet on the stairs in the preschool is loose.

Deacon's Report: The average attendance for November was 163. The offering for the month of November totaled \$22,018.24.

Elder's Report: John Spanger reported that 125 were served communion on the first Sunday of Advent. A visitation schedule was discussed for the upcoming month. Please notify a council member or Pastor Mike if you are interested in a home visit. The next communion is scheduled for January 3rd. It will be pew communion.

Old Business: The council will meet at a later date to form next year's budget. The nominating committee consisting of Mary Ann Miller, Gordon Clinkenbeard, Bruce Miller, Dennis Kahre, and Debbie Telligman are in the process of getting elder and deacon candidates to be voted on at the annual meeting on January 31st.

New Business: Garland Richter made the motion, seconded by Sam Miller, and passed unanimously to include purchasing a new lawn mower in the budget for next year. Committee members for 2016 and improvements for the upcoming year were discussed.

Upcoming Events:

December 25 – Christmas morning church service – 6:30 a.m.

January 3 – Pew Communion

January 31 – Annual meeting

A Ellison die cut machine was donated to the Preschool.

It cuts upper case letters and numbers. The blade isn't real sharp, but the edges can be touched up with a pair of scissors, if need be.

This has been place in the Sunday School office and is for anyone to use.

ANNUAL MEETING



The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 31st. Please have your reports in to the office by January 10th.

Parish Records:

Births: Randy and Ramona Hammelman welcomed daughter, Rylee Gene Hammelman on November 18th. She weighed 9 lb. 4 oz., and was 22 inches long. She is also welcomed by brother, Reece, and sisters, Reeva, Rylee, and Reagan.

Attendance:

Nov. 22 144
 Nov. 29 167
 Dec. 6 164
 Dec. 13 179
 Dec. 20 194

Greeters:

Jan. 3 & 10 – Rowe & Maridell Sargent
 Jan. 17 & 24 – John & Marilyn Koenig
 Jan. 31 & Feb. 7 – Ed & Cheryl Hagemeyer

Ushers: Kevin and Linda Hammelman

Nursery (Sunday School):

Jan. 3 Cheryl Hagemeyer/Krista Telligman
 10 Cheryl Hagemeyer/Lana Dike
 17 Cheryl Hagemeyer/Holly Spanger
 24 Diane Telligman/Carole Albrecht
 31 Cheryl Hagemeyer/Lana Dike

Nursery Notes (Worship):

Jan. 3 Tiffany Granderson/Rylee Hammelman
 10 Bonnie Organ/Reeva Hammelman
 17 Cally Miller/Brianna Page
 24 Kelci Johanningsmeier/Ashley Durall
 31 Hailley and Tracey Kahre

Children's Church:

Jan. 3 Ryan Johanningsmeier/Jesse Organ/Hallie Durall
 10 Tracey Kahre/Liberty Lemberg
 17 Bonnie organ/Cheryl Hagemeyer/Krista Telligman
 24 Dale Tiek/Tiffany Granderson
 31 No Children's Church

January birthdays:

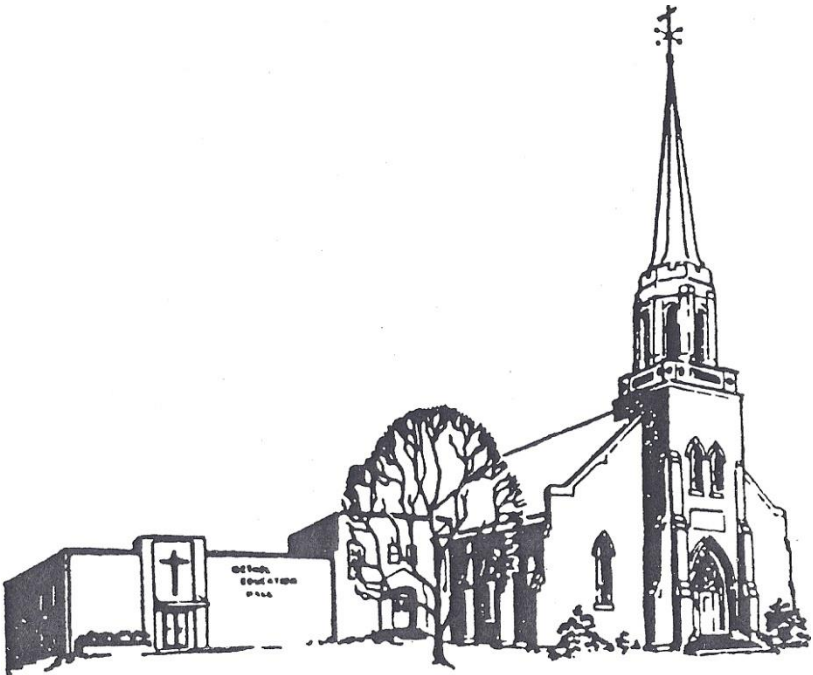
Jan. 13 Don Johanningsmeier (86th)
 17 Agnes Lee (86th)
 19 Gertrude Hagemeyer (92nd)
 24 Maridell Sargent (80th)

Chimes news will be due on January 18th.

January 2016

Bethel

Chimes



Bethel Church

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Address Service Requested
Dated Material - please deliver by January 2