

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:

Garland Richter, President

Joe Koenig, Vice President

Pam Loheider, Secretary

Dan Kixmiller, Treasurer

Justin French

Kevin Hammelman

Stacey Kahre

Sam Miller

Bill Resler

FROM THE PASTORS STUDY

Once again the Christmas season is here. We have gone through Thanksgiving and now look forward to Christmas and to what it means for believers in Jesus Christ. I still am in awe of a God who loved enough to allow His Son to be my substitute on Calvary's cross. So I take this season to reflect on God's loving kindness and mercy. To me Christmas is more than decorated trees, gifts and food. To me this is a season of reflection, a reflection on who I am and who God is. With the passing years I am finally finding myself setting the priorities straight, first God and His Son Jesus and then me. When I use this formula the season is more meaningful, fuller and richer.

I especially look forward to this Christmas as we will celebrate it on Sunday. The true meaning of the season becomes clearer for whatever reason. I especially want to invite you to share in this Christmas as the only service that day will be our traditional candlelight service on Christmas morning at 6:30. Come expecting a blessing this year and as it will be our only service that day we will set aside a time to give back to the Lord an offering from the bounty He has bestowed on us. Come join us Christmas morning as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

In His Service,
Pastor Mike
James 5:16

Basement Bulletin Board schedule for 2016

December – Mustard Seed

YOUTH PASTOR

I love Christmas music, but my favorite is an album titled “Do You Hear What I Hear” by Todd Agnew. The album is composed like a cantata, with the songs being told from the perspective of someone involved with the Biblical Christmas story. My favorite song is Joseph’s song entitled “This Is All I Have to Give”. The chorus of the song is as follows:

This is all I have to give,
you can share my home and bear my name, but this is not how you
should live,
the son of God has become the son of man - this is all I have to give.

I don’t know about you, but I can relate to those feelings. I often wonder why God has chosen me for certain things. It seems to me that there are people more capable, equipped, or talented than I am, so why me, God? And I’m sure Joseph asked the same questions. I can’t imagine the pressure of being the adopted father of the Messiah. But then I think of what God told Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:9 “And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” And He is telling us the same thing today. Maybe God didn’t chose Joseph or us because of our strengths, but maybe because of our weaknesses? Maybe God wants to use us to accomplish something we are not capable of, so that He will receive all the glory. So next time you feel overwhelmed, remember a poor carpenter who didn’t feel like the right person to raise the Messiah, but God chose him anyway. And maybe, just maybe, God chose him because of his weaknesses and not his strengths.

In HIS Love
Pastor Mike

GUILD

November 2, eleven ladies met for their regular meeting. After the business meeting, we each told about the good deed we did in October. All were very interesting.

Delicious refreshments were served by hostesses Shirley Bright and Shirley Brouhard.

Our December 7th meeting will be a luncheon at 11:30 (Bring a coverer dish). Have cookies at the Church by 9:30 for the Christmas cheer plates.

We wish you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Don't forget quilting ever Tuesday from 1 to 4. Also, we have good books to read in the library!

Lill Clinkenbeard

Sunday School

The Friendly Circle Class held their last class on October 30, 2016. We felt it wasn't fair to our faithful teachers to meet with so few members. We thank them for their fine lessons! They were Tambria Leonard, Maridell Sargent, Nancy Tilly and Chuck Borgmeier. We are joining the Christian Partners' class.

In doing some research to find out when the Friendly Circle Cass began, with the help of Dorothy Sams, our oldest active member, it was decided that it was in the 1950s. I was like several other ladies who left the Mother's and Others Class when it disbanded, and we joined the Friendly Circle group. It has always been a ladies class. Some of the early members were Merom Boberg, Neva Hagemeyer, Joey Held, Gertrude Catt, Stella Pieper, Ruth Bubenzer, Luella Linneweber, Ruth Brocksmith (Burton), Vera Dunkerly, Vi Horst, Ruth Richter, Betty Tilly, Dorothy Sams and Janet Tilly. If I missed some names, I'm sorry! I was basing my research on pictures in old directories.

We feel a sense of sadness that our class is no longer a part of Bethel Sunday School. God holds our future. We are just glad that Bethel still has a Sunday School!

I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS – MATTHEW 28:20

Doris Richter

Thank You

Dear Bethel Church,

We are so grateful for your willingness to donate chicken salad and offer the kids a soda ring toss game to help us raise money for the Ablaze Youth Conference.

We are extremely pleased and thankful for the amount of support and funding that we received during our fundraising event.

This helps us to offer an absolutely free fourth annual Ablaze Youth Conference to all the area youth. During the conference, our prayer and purpose is to help those attending to understand how much God loves everyone and wants to build a relationship with all who are willing. We want to make a difference.

Thank you so much for your support and prayers.

In His love,
The Ablaze Board

Dear Bethel friends and family,

Thank you all very much for all of your kindness and support throughout Rowe's illness and death! All of your cards, food, hugs, phone calls, offers of help, generous donations and flowers, your work AND your prayers were very much appreciated! Karen's music, Joe Jamison's song, the Sheriff's honor guard and Pastor Mike's service would have touched Rowe's heart as they touched our hearts. AND thank you, dear Guild ladies, for your time and preparation of the delicious meal! Our New York and Indianapolis friends appreciated a great meal before starting their long trips home.

The plaque says that Bethel is a praying church. Indeed it is, and all of those prayers touched us, gave us strength, courage and comfort and were truly appreciated!! Praise God for your witness and your service! God bless you **all!**

Mark, Deanna, Patrick and Chris Sargent
Mike, Susan, Victoria and Cassandra Brocksmith
Maridell Sargent

Dear Bethel Friends and Family,

We are so honored to have the Christmas shoe boxes dedicated in Rowe's name! He was always so touched by the bright-eyed lively kids no matter what country we visited.

Thank you so much and God bless you all!

Maridell

– for the Brocksmith and Sargent families

Dear Bethel Church Council,

Please accept a heartfelt thanks from the Nurse's Fund for your very generous donation!

In October, the following checks were paid:

Casey's	\$ 105.00	– 9 people (gas vouchers-\$10 or \$25)
Duke	\$ 300.00	– 6 people
Mackey's	\$ 438.44	– 12 people
Bicknell Water	\$ 300.00	– 6 people
	\$1,188.44	

So far in November, the following check have been paid.

Duke	\$ 780.00	– 4 people (1 severe hardship case)
Mackey's	\$ 661.23	– 16 people
Bicknell Water	\$ 300.00	– 6 people
Casey's	\$ 45.00	– 3 people (gas vouchers)
	\$1,786.23	

You have touched the lives of many people! Thank you!
God bless you!!

The Nurse's Fund
Maridell Sargent

Preschool

Count your blessings! We decided our list is way too long to count. As I asked the preschoolers what they were thankful for, some had immediate responses like Mom, Dad, pets, french fries and God. Others couldn't think of anything at first then when they had time to ponder it over, they talked nonstop and said things like their favorite movie, toys, sisters when they are nice, Jesus, and many other things.

We were blessed to go to the Freelandville Nursing Home and parade around singing songs about Jesus. The kids did great and it's always nice to see the residents. We thank them for having us again this year. We ventured back to preschool for some great Halloween activities.

Letter F was fun as we listened to the Freelandville firefighter John Streeter and Bicknell Fire Chief Tom Houghland tell us about fire safety. We got to look at the truck and little cool things that they used to put out flames, we enjoyed being Junior Firefighters for a day. We thank them for taking time out of their busy schedule to spend the day with us.

God is great all the time is a good way to talk about letter G. We read "The Giant named Goliath." We learned that God is with us even when we face our biggest problems, and we should pray no matter where we are or what we are doing. We used peanut butter as our glue to put our dessert turkeys together...GOBBLE GOBBLE. One little boy was very serious as he said "I cannot have a knife." I quickly explained that a dull plastic butter knife is okay as long as an adult is helping him. After we finished, he was happy to shout " I did it all by myself."

Our hearts are happy when we invite Jesus to live there forever was how we started off with the letter H. We are glad we can use our hands to serve God. We talked about our house and how we all live in a warm home filled with love. We finished the month with our letter I as we talked about what the Indians did that first Thanksgiving. We also enjoyed ice painting and making our ice cream craft.

We have been blessed with great weather. We are thankful for the shelter house where we feel like we have class outside as the windows have been open and the sun shines in. We have had a picnic outside for our snacks and played at the ark and our playground several times. We wondered for several days what was going on "where our cars turn the corner" (the cemetery entrance.) We were thrilled to watch the workers from our window or up close on our walks. The kids started reporting the changes they saw at the waterfall everyday coming in. The first day the water was

running --I had very chatty preschoolers trying to tell me all about it at the same time. We all think it is beautiful and a nice addition.

We had a great Thanksgiving Feast after we cooked our own ham, washed vegetables, stirred our tea, and all the other things we could possibly do in the kitchen to help prepare our food. We got to make our own butter from heavy whipping cream. We were a little tired from shaking the jar, but thought it was neat to see the change from the liquid to the solid, butter. We had fun eating together and decided we had more than we really needed, "just like at mama's house".

We have started working on our Christmas songs and the joy we share as we tell the good news. Please come and listen to our Christmas Program, Friday, December 9 at 7 pm. I am ready to share the birth of Jesus and all the fun crafts about Him and read many great stories to the preschoolers. Jesus is the reason for the season.

Mrs. Durall

I am amazed that the final month of 2016 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 were also thrilled to have the firetruck visit us for a day during Fire Safety and Prevention Week. We loved having Fireman John (Streeter) and Fire Chief Tom (Houghland) come in and talk to us about fire safety and what number we would call if we ever had an emergency. They gave each child a goody bag with a fire safety pamphlet, a fire hat, and a sticker. We then got to go outside to see

the fire truck! We walked all around the outside and got to ask all kinds of questions about the different parts of the truck then we got to see the ladder and some of the controllers and we were able to check out and even try on some of their gear! Thank you so much to Fireman John and Fire Chief Tom for spending the day with us. I really appreciate everyone from our local fire departments who took the time to talk to our kids at Bethel as well as the North Knox Primary school during Fire Safety and Prevention Week.

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! We then painted flags to celebrate our freedom and help to remind us to thank all of past and present service men and women. It was a really special day!

We really enjoyed our Thanksgiving Feast! The kids loved getting to dress up like turkeys and help cook our meal. Just like the Pilgrim and Indians, they all worked together to help roll turkey slices, chop carrots, snap green beans, mix up corn bread and of course we couldn't forget the pumpkin pie! I must say they are really good cooks! The children all sat down together and said a prayer and then each child thanked God for someone or something special to them. It is always so sweet to hear their thoughts and prayers!

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 9th. 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

Memorial Fund

In memory of Patsie Odell:

Marcia Rinsch

Mission Committee

“Glory be to God! By HIS mighty power at work within us, HE is able to accomplish infinitely more than we could ever dare to ask or dream.” Ephesians 3:20. We set a goal of 100 shoeboxes and God, using His faithful servants, provided 127! What a joy it was to see our children (the future church) carry the boxes to the foot of the cross. This year we decided to dedicate our shoeboxes to the memory of Rowe Sargent. He and Maridell had the privilege of seeing the shoeboxes distributed to children in Albania several years ago. Thank you to all who filled a shoebox with love so that 127 children may experience the love of Jesus. We hope you were blessed as you packed and prayed over the items you placed in the shoebox. Lives are truly changed when we give to the Lord.

In December and January, we will once again collect vitamins for Nurses on a Mission. In March of this year, over 20 student nurses and nurses (and a carpenter) will head to Santo Domingo to do 4 days of medical clinics in impoverished villages. This year we would like to collect **PRENATAL** vitamins and **CHILDREN’S** vitamins- no gummies please. The people of the DR are so very appreciative of receiving a 30-day supply of vitamins. This is another way that we can share the love of Jesus with those in need.

Bethel Church has always had a heart for missions and we are so very thankful for that. God calls us to share and to bless others.

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,

and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” 2
Corinthians 9:6. You have sown generously and we know that God
will see that you reap generously. Thank you!

The Mission Committee

Bethel Church Council Minutes

November 14, 2016

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Mike’s report included conducting a Sunday service at the Freelandville Community Home, three funerals, and hospital visits. The first Sunday of Advent is November 27th. The confirmands will be in charge of the readings, lighting of candles, and prayers during Advent. The Preschool Christmas program will be Friday, December 9th. The Christmas cantata will be Sunday, December 18th.

Youth Pastor’s Report: Pastor Mike Leydet reported that he has started a Bethel Facebook page, and he has received positive feedback. He took the youth to Fields of Faith at Vincennes. He was very pleased with the response to Bethel’s first Trunk or Treat. There were twenty decorated trunks. He appreciated all those who came out for this event, and for all those decorating a trunk and/or bringing desserts or other food items. He plans to make this an annual event. He expressed his appreciation for Bethel’s support of the youth fund raiser dinner. The free will offering totaled approximately \$1300. He is working on updating the church’s current website.

Secretary’s Report: It was approved as written.

Treasurer’s Report: It was approved as written. The following mission allocations were approved: Nurse’s Fund - \$2500 and Social Ministries - \$1500.

Building and Grounds: The floor tiles to the Preschool entrance, educational building hallway, and several Sunday School classrooms need replaced. Bill Resler will check into estimates for replacement.

Deacon’s Report: The average attendance for October was 151, and the offering totaled \$21,533.66.

Elder’s Report: Garland Richter reported that the next communion will be the first Sunday of Advent, November 27th. It will be pew

communion. Please notify Pastor Mike or a council member if you would like a home visit.

Old Business: The bathroom walls in the women's restroom at the shelter house need to be installed. Once the sanctuary door has been moved to Dale Tiek's shop, Garland Richter volunteered to prime, paint, and stain the door.

New Business: Due to the closing of Old National Bank in Bicknell, a motion was made by Bill Resler, seconded by Joe Koenig, and passed unanimously to move Bethel's bank accounts from Old National Bank to Regions Bank.

Pastor Mike reported that the keyboard is not working properly due to a possible power surge. He contacted a Yamaha representative, and they no longer make the part needed for this model. Bill Resler will contact the insurance company. Pastor Mike will inquire on prices of a new keyboard.

Pastor Mike Leydet would like for the youth to put together food boxes for Christmas. He asked if the church would be willing to pay for the cost of the food. A motion was made by Pam Loheider, seconded by Justin French, and passed unanimously for the church to pay for the cost of the food for the food boxes.

In other new business, plans were made to start a shepherding program. Pastor Mike and Pastor Mike Leydet will begin making lists for this program. Pastor Mike reported that Lesa is experiencing internet problems. Bill Resler volunteered to check into this. It was decided that the Christmas trees will be cut on Saturday, December 3rd, and put into place on Monday, December 5th, prior to Bethel's Preschool Christmas program on Friday, December 9th.

Upcoming Events:

November 27th – First Sunday of Advent (pew communion)

December 9th – Preschool Christmas program

December 18th – Christmas

Parish Records:

Cora Elizabeth Hurt, daughter of Amy and Justin Hurt was born on November 7, 2016. She weighed 9 lbs. and was 21 ½ inches long.

Attendance:

Oct. 23 178
Oct. 30 152
Nov. 6 205
Nov. 13 197
Nov. 20 165

Greeters:

Dec. 4 & Dec. 11 – Clay & Brandy Williams
Dec. 18 & 25 – Jerry Lee & Kate Hammelman

Ushers: Brooke & Jason Boyles

Nursery (Sunday School):

Dec. 4 Lana Dike/Mary Ann Miller
11 Cheryl Hagemeyer/Lana Dike
18 Krista Telligman/Cheryl Hagemeyer
25

Nursery Notes (Worship):

Dec. 4 Jesse Organ/Ashley Durall
11 Beth Durall/Tori French
18 Stacy Page and Jenny Clinkenbeard
25 Happy Birthday Jesus! See you all at 6:30 am service

Children's Church:

Dec. 4 Kate & Linda Hammelman/Ashley & Randy Archer
11 Liberty Lemberg/Cally Miller
18 Cheryl Hagemeyer/Krista Telligman/Micah Morgan
25

December birthdays:

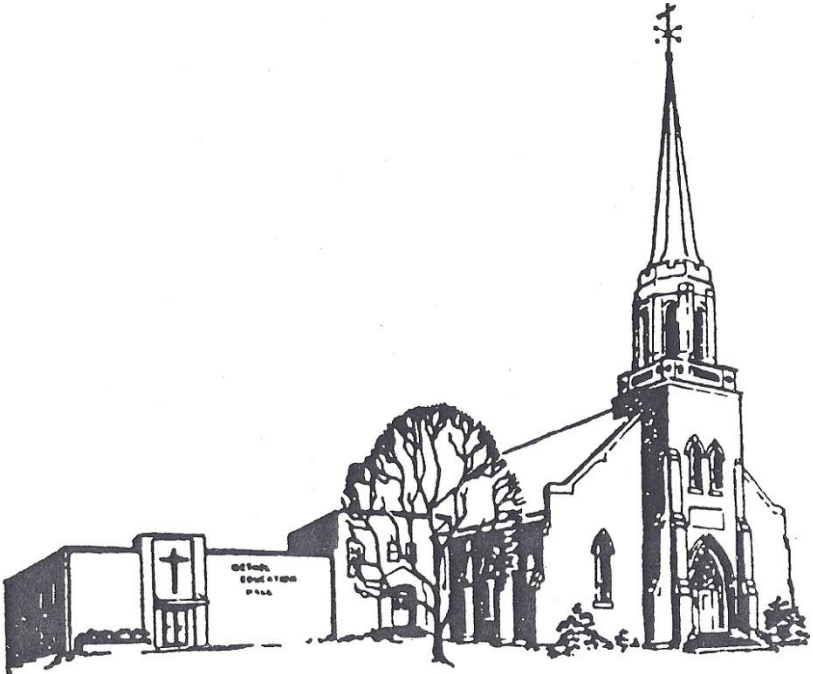
30 Jack Brouhard (83rd)

Chimes news will be due on December 19th.

December 2016

Bethel

Chimes



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Freelandville, Indiana

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