

Church Office Hours-

Weekdays: 8:30 am-2:30 pm

Office phone (812) 328-2358 Fax (812) 328-2357

Secretary: Lesa Houghland

E-mail address: bethel@wirelessilliana.com

Web-site: www.bethelchurch-indiana.com

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 (2017)

Justin French (2020)

Joe Koenig, Vice President (2018)

Kevin Hammelman (2018)

Pam Loheider, Secretary (2019)

Stacey Kahre (2020)

Dan Kixmiller, Treasurer (2017)

Sam Miller (2019)

Bill Resler (2017)

FROM THE PASTORS STUDY

How many times do we make New Year's resolutions with the best intention but never keep them. Resolutions such as more exercise, less eating, more personal time with family and loved ones, less television, and the list goes on and on. We blame our failure on such things as lack of willpower, lack of time, forgetfulness and etc. Perhaps the real reason is we just do not want to let go of certain areas of our lives. We want to be in control and not let go.

Maybe 2017 is the year that we let go and let God. Let Him have total dominion over every aspect of our lives, surrender to Him as we never have before. Let us make 2017 the year when we can say more of Him and less of me. As Jesus speaks to us from John 8:32, "you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free". Let us make this New Year unlike any other we have ever experienced by allowing Him to be the true Lord of our lives.

In His Service,
Pastor Mike
James 5:16

Basement Bulletin Board schedule for 2016

January/February – Assigned
March/April/May – Faithful Footprints
June – Vacation Bible School
July/August – Mission Committee
September – Preschool
October/November - Choir
December – Christian Partners

YOUTH PASTOR

Christmas day has come and gone and now we embark on the beginning of a new year. Over the past few years, I have heard “Let’s keep Christ in Christmas” quite a bit around Christmas time, and have even said it myself a few times. But I challenge you with this, if we, as Christian kept Christ in every day, would we need to continually remind ourselves and other to keep Him in Christmas. I’m not much for resolutions, frankly most of us don’t keep them, and I don’t really see the point. But we serve a God who is ever faithful and always true to His word. His grace and mercy flow with no end. So, let’s keep Christ in January 1st and March 19th and August 23rd. Because all our days belong to Him anyway.

Psalm 118:24

This is the day the Lord has made;

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

In His Love,
Pastor Mike

GUILD

Bethel Guild met for their Christmas lunch and program on December 7th. After a delicious lunch, we enjoyed the afternoon preschool boys and girls singing Christmas songs, followed by devotions and a short meeting. In the morning, we fixed 26 cheer plates and the ladies took them to the shut-ins, which we all enjoyed doing.

There will be no meeting in January, so read a good book and call a friend! Have a blessed New Year.

Lill Clinkenbeard

Thank You

We would like to thank our church family for all the prayers, cards, visits, food and well wishes we have received since Collin's accident. We are humbled and feel so blessed to be a part of such a wonderful church family.

Many thanks, and God bless.

Collin, Amy, Brennen, & Addie Tiek

A warm thank you to Karen and the Bethel Choir. Your Christmas Cantata was outstanding! Bethel is very blessed to have such a talented and committed group of members who continually give of their time to make our Christmas special.

Your presentation was spiritually moving and uplifting. Thanks again to all of you.

Joe & Virginia Koenig

North Knox Social Ministries (NKSM) would like to thank you for any and all donations your church as made, whether it is monetary, food, health and beauty products, or any volunteer help.

Here is a list of some of the things NKSM does throughout the year: we purchase food several times a year when we run low on

food on food to hand out at our food bank, which we gave food to 15,031 people and 1,765 families in our fiscal year which was 9/1/2015 through 8/30/2016. We have Christmas toy give away for children and we do a back to school back pack program, which this school year gave supplies for the classroom and their art supplies to 85 children. We also help each family that qualifies under the governmental guidelines with \$100 a year towards a utility or rent. We also help families with dental, eye, medical, and prescriptions. Every family we help has to qualify under the governmental guidelines.

We appreciate all the help you give.

Thank you,

Pam Allen, Co-President

Angie Grigsby, Co-President

Carrie Summers, Secretary

Sandra Yenne, Treasurer

All volunteers of NKSM

Preschool

I hope everyone has a very Blessed Merry Christmas. December is always so fun at preschool. I love telling about baby Jesus and all the events surrounding His Birth. We made a manger with an envelope and put Baby Jesus inside for an ornament. We used our foot print to make a manger and then a reindeer. The kids are always amazed what their footprint will become.

We welcomed the elf ladies from Generations that helped us each shop at "Bethel Store" for a special gift for our mom and dad. We thank them for volunteering their time and coming to visit us. I talked to the kids and explained to them that it is okay to keep secrets and not let mom or dad open their gift until they have their Christmas celebration at home. One little boy was quick to exclaim to his dad as they were leaving, "Hey Dad, I cannot tell you I got you gloves and you may open when Mrs. D says to and that could be forever." One little girl has her presents hidden in her room.

I give the kids an advent with Hershey Kisses on it and explain that they get one kiss a day starting December 1. When the kisses are gone, Jesus has a birthday the very next day. Every day, when we talk about how many days until the special Birthday, I ask how many kisses does each kid have left. I have heard several different answers, including none, my dog ate my kisses, or I forgot to eat one so then I had to eat 4. Sometimes, I find myself giggling at each and every preschooler.

We did have time to talk about letters J and K, which of course focused on Jesus and his love for each of us. We also read "Jonah and the Whale". We all think it is great to be a King's Kid.

We had a crazy non quiet rehearsal with the domino effect of one kid stating he had to go to the bathroom, we didn't sing, but rather pretended we have never practiced the songs in class, and several didn't even try to say their name. Come the big night of our performance, they all put a smile in my heart. NO one asked to go to the bathroom, everybody sang and or at least move our lips, we all stayed on the risers and everybody spoke in the microphone. Needless to say I was very proud of each and every one of them.

Thanks to all who helped in any way. You are greatly appreciated. Thanks to our Bethel Church family who came to watch. Thanks to all who continue to pray for us, donate books or stickers or just come in and say hi. We are truly blessed.

We enjoyed fun parties in honor of Jesus, as the parents had great activities and many fun things to keep us moving and busy.

Happy New Year to all of you.
Mrs. Durall



We have 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 2017!

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 program took place on the evening of December 9th to a very full audience. 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 thankful to have such a wonderful group of class parents who were able to arrange schedules so that both classes could meet on Friday morning for rehearsal and then come back that evening for the program. I am also grateful to our Bethel family who provided many helping hands leading up to, the day of and also on the evening of our program. It wouldn't have been possible without you!! What a night it was “On the Road to Bethlehem!”

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 loved reading "The Legend of the Candy Cane" and learning about all the ways the candy cane reminds us of Jesus! We were also able to make it outside a time or two and I was pleased to notice that Miss Jennifer 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 2016 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 2017!

Love,
Mrs. Lemberg

Enjoy! Enjoy!

Our Judeo-Christian faith was never meant to be grim. The Bible is filled with “good time,” and God does want his people to enjoy life. Can you identify these people?

1. “I will make merry before the Lord.”
2. “The sucking child shall play over the hole of the asp.”
3. “The streets. . . shall be full of boys and girls playing. . .”
4. “As he. . . drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing.”
5. “The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.”
6. “God has laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me.”
7. “Rejoice with those who rejoice.”
8. “A cheerful heart is a good medicine.”
9. “Blessed are you that weep now, for you shall laugh.”
10. “Is any cheerful? Let him sing praise.”

Answers:

1. David, 2 Samuel 6:21
2. Isaiah, 11:8
3. Zechariah, 8:5
4. Jesus, Luke 15:25
5. the Hebrew people, Exodus
6. Sarah, Genesis 21:6
7. Paul, Romans 12:15
8. Solomon, Proverbs 17:22
9. Jesus, Luke 6:21
10. James, 5:13

Seven Ups

1. **WAKE UP** – Decide to have a good day. “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...” (Proverbs 23:7); “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice” (Philippians 4:4).
2. **DRESS UP** – The best way to dress up is to put on a smile. A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks. “The Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart” (1 Sam. 16:7).
3. **BUTTON UP** – Say nice things and learn to listen. God gave us two ears and one mouth so He must have meant for us to do twice as much listening as talking. “He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life” (Prov. 13:3). “He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips” (Prov. 20:19). “Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end” (Prov. 19:20).
4. **STAND UP** – For what you believe in. Stand for something or you will fall for anything. “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith” (Gal. 6:9-10).
5. **LOOK UP** – To the Lord. “I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me” (Phil. 4:13).
6. **REACH UP** – For something higher. As Jiminy Cricket sings “High Hopes,” always try to better your self. “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Heb. 4:16).
7. **LIFT UP** – Your prayers. “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God” (Phil. 4:6).

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Lloyd & June Eppersimons:

Richard and Lois Bosecker

Frank and Lenora McCrary

Thomas and Linda Woods

In memory of Naomia Pepmeier:

The Buescher Family

Bethel Church Council Minutes December 12, 2016

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mike's report included conducting a Sunday service at the Freelandville Community Home, two funerals, hospital visits and home visits. Confirmation classes continue to go well. He attended the Bethel preschool program. He was pleased with the attendance, and felt it was a joy and blessing to all.

Youth Pastor's Report: Pastor Mike Leydet shared that he is busy with youth meetings and confirmation classes. The youth assembled seventeen shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. He attended the Bethel preschool program, and like Pastor Mike, felt it was a blessing.

Secretary's Report: It was approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: It was approved as written. The following mission allocations were approved: Distress Fund - \$500; Nurse's Fund - \$1000; Social Ministries - \$1000; and Helping His Hands - \$1000.

Building and Grounds: Anthis Heating and Cooling worked on the furnace. Bill Resler reported that the insurance company did pay out replacement cost for a new keyboard. Pastor Mike will check into keyboard prices. The old keyboard will be moved to either the choir room or the social room.

Deacon's Report: The average attendance for November was 186, and the offering totaled \$17,583.02.

Elder's Report: Garland Richter reported that 127 were served communion on the first Sunday of Advent. The next communion is

scheduled for January 1st. It will be pew communion. Please notify Pastor Mike or a council member if you would like a home visit.

Old Business: Installation of the walls in the women's restroom at the shelter house was discussed. It was decided a date would be set after December 18th for installation.

New Business: The nominating committee of Maridell Sargent, John Spanger, Tim Miller, and Collin Tiek are in the process of getting elder, deacon, and treasurer candidates to be voted on at the annual meeting on January 29th. The deacons will meet at a later date to form next year's budget. Pastor Mike Leydet reported that he got prices from Rural King for the purchase of new chairs and storage racks. After discussion, it was decided to purchase 125 chairs and 3 storage racks for the social room. Committee members for 2017 were discussed.

Upcoming Events:

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

January 1st – Pew Communion

January 8th – Deadline for reports for annual meeting

January 29th – Annual meeting

Parish Records:

Births: Ellie Jo Hammelman was born on November 27, 2016. She weighed 7 lb. 12 oz., and was 21 inches long. She is the daughter of Josh and Bethany Hammelman.

Mia Marie Barrett was born on December 12, 2016. She weighed 7 lb. 12 oz., and was 19 ¾ inches long. She is the daughter of Logan and Kenzie Barrett.

Deaths: Helen Harbin, age 90, died on December 7, 2016. Burial was at Bethel Cemetery on December 10, 2016.

Edna Rinsch, age 75, died on December 7, 2016. Burial was at Bethel Cemetery on December 13, 2016.

Donald Clifford, age 88, died on December 15, 2016. Burial was at Bethel Cemetery on December 18.

Robert (Bob) Jones, age 91, died on December 22. Burial was at Bethel Cemetery on December 26.

Attendance:

Nov. 27 177
Dec. 4
Dec. 11 185
Dec. 18 132

Greeters:

Jan. 1 & 8 – Collin & Amy Tiek
Jan. 15 & 22 – Maridell Sargent/Krista Telligman
Jan. 29 & Feb. 5 – John & Marilyn Koenig

Ushers: Brooke & Jason Boyles

Nursery (Sunday School):

Jan. 1 Lana Dike/Cheryl Hagemeyer
8 Cheryl Hagemeyer/Lana Dike
15 Holly Spanger/Cheryl Hagemeyer
22 Diane Telligman/Carole Albrecht
29 Cheryl Hagemeyer/Lana Dike

Nursery Notes (Worship):

Jan. 1 Brenda Maddox/Brianna Page
8 Tracey and Hailley Kahre
15 Reeva and Ramona Hammelman
22 Theresia Barrett/Brittany Page
29 Debbie Telligman/Ashley Durall

Children's Church:

Jan. 1 Kate & Linda Hammelman/Ryan Johanningsmeier
8 Liberty Lemberg/Tracey Kahre
15 Cheryl Hagemeyer/Krista Telligman/Bonnie Organ
22 Melissa Schroeder/Emily Pirtle/Dale Tiek
29 No Children's Church

January Birthdays:

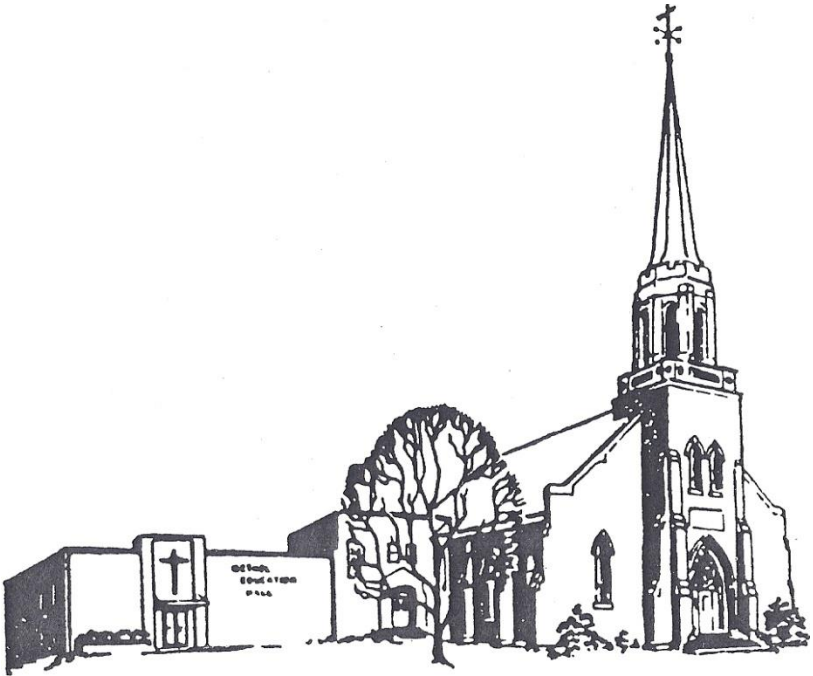
13 Don Johanningsmeier (87th)
17 Agnes Lee (87th)
19 Gertrude Hagemeyer (93rd)
24 Maridell Sargent (81st)

Chimes news will be due on January 16th.

January 2017

Bethel

Chimes



Bethel Church

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