

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: secretary@bethelchurch-indiana.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:

Justin French, President (2020)

Sam Miller (2019)

Stacey Kahre, Vice President (2020)

Terry Perkins (2021)

Pam Loheider, Secretary (2019)

Nancy Tilly (2021)

Virginia Koenig, Treasurer (2021)

Mark Sargent (2022)

Ryan Johanningsmeier (2022)

(Indicates the time that the term is over)

FROM THE PASTORS STUDY

What we do with the message of Jesus Christ is a question that believers must answer every day. There cannot be a onetime answer, but rather we must allow ourselves to be confronted with this question daily. We read from James 4:14, **“Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.”** James is telling the reader that life as we know on earth is just for a little while, while are life in Christ stands for all eternity and it is the duty of the believer to wring the most out of that life that is possible. In other words, the gospel is too important to be put off until a better time, but must be attended to today. What is God calling you to do for His Kingdom and what are you doing to answer that call? God is calling for His people to step out in faith and serve Him as never before. Are you willing to answer the call?

In His Service,
Pastor Mike
James 5:16

Youth Pastor

Vacation Bible School is one of my favorite things that the church does. I remember fondly my days as a kid in VBS. I recall the loving folks that made VBS a success. Now that I am an adult, I still love VBS. I love seeing the joy on their faces and hearing them sing with all their hearts. So, I am asking you to join me (and our other dedicated volunteers) to make VBS a success this year. VBS is going to look different for all of us this year. We were not able to get enough volunteers for our usual Monday – Friday VBS, so we will be doing a 1-day VBS this year on June 9th. It will be from 9am – 2pm. We will have 2 full sessions with lunch served in between. We already have some volunteers signed up, but we need more. Maybe you aren't free for the whole day, but you can come in for an hour and help serve lunch, please come we can use your help! Maybe you can only be here for a couple hours in the morning or afternoon, please come, we will find a spot for you! There is a detailed sign-up sheet on the youth bulletin board. We will also be having a short training meeting on Sunday May 13th in sanctuary at 5pm. I know that many of us, including myself, hate to see the week long VBS go to the wayside, but that is where we are. So, let's all come together and minister to these children that God has entrusted us with. Let's show them the love of Christ and how much Bethel Church loves their children and the children of our community.

In His Love,
Pastor Mike

Guild

Bethel Women's Guild meet on April 4th. A short business meeting was held, followed by each lady present showing and telling about a precious treasure they had. We enjoyed learning about some that were old, and some that they had for a short time.

Delicious refreshments were prepared by Reda Boberg and Bev Schuckman, who wasn't present, but had Vera Jones help Reda.

Our next meeting will be May 2 at 1:30 with Doris Brocksmith and Marilyn Koenig as hostesses. Program will be a surprise.

We have good books in our Guild Library for all to read. Come and enjoy.

Basement Bulletin Board schedule for 2018

May – Faithful Families

June – Vacation Bible School

July/August – Christian Generations

September – Preschool

October/November – Faithful Footprints

December – Mustard Seed

Preschool

It is hard to believe that I am already writing the May newsletter! This has been an amazing year at Bethel Preschool and I look forward to our final month that is sure to be filled with many more wonderful moments.

Last month we celebrated Easter and knowing that Jesus is Alive! We read many Easter stories and the children loved them. It didn't matter that they knew how the story would end – it excited them! I am so thankful that I get to see their love for Jesus! 😊 We

had wonderful Easter parties planned by the parents for both classes complete with Easter stories, crafts, games and egg hunts! Also in April, we learned about the letter W. The children loved the stories we read about Jonah and the whale. We read several different books and we seemed to learn something new to the story in each one! We made a fun craft with Jonah in the belly of the whale to display in the preschool hallway. They turned out so cute – it is so much fun seeing them become such independent workers!! We also learned about the letter B and had a fun day with balloons. We learned that an empty balloon represents us - on our own without God inside our hearts – all floppy and flat. We decided we could try to fill the balloon up with our own air – by telling others how good we were and trying to improve ourselves all on our own. But, then we decided that the things we are able to do on our own can never ever compare to what God can do. Hard as we try we can never lead a life that would honor and please God on our own. We decided the best thing we could do with a puffed up balloon would be to let it go and, boy, were we glad we did! That balloon flew off in all kinds of different directions being filled with only what we had to give. Then we brought out a balloon filled with helium to represent God. Oh my! That balloon was much better in so many ways! It was definitely more beautiful than the deflated empty balloon that represented us. It was more powerful and could even fly without wind – it could definitely go higher than we could ever go! We decided the helium in the balloon was kind of like having Jesus in our hearts – when our life is filled with God's power and God's strength we can do so much more than we ever could on our own! I feel so blessed to be able to share God's love with each one of Bethel's preschoolers and also to receive it in return. Each one of them blesses me as I see God's light shining through them!

Earth Day is coming up and we are looking forward to having Michelle Smith from the Knox County Solid Waste Department come in and talk to us about the importance of taking care of the Earth. It is always a fun day. 😊

We have also been getting ready for Mother's Day Tea and Graduation as both days are fast approaching. The children are working on songs and learning their memory verses. I am excited for them and humbled to be able to play a small part in the life of each one of them. I know God has great and wonderful things

planned for each of them and just like we learned at preschool - with God, like the helium in the balloon, we too can go far ... doing things that God will give us the power to do just like Philippians 4:13 tells us, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Love,
Mrs. Lemberg

We have spring fever and want to play outside, but Mother Nature still thinks it is winter. In all things, give thanks!! And yes sometimes, that is hard to do and hard to teach or live by. The kids have asked daily to just go outside for "just a little bit or even one minute." We continue to have great prayers, recite our Bible stories and grow spiritually. They are all sponges taking in all they can. I love to hear them and think about how much they have changed in a few short months.

We ended April with lots of good Easter stories from Palm Sunday to Jesus dying on the cross for all for us to Resurrection Sunday, singing Alleluia He is Alive. We talked about how Jesus gives us new live just like the caterpillar who thought his life was about over and suddenly changed into a beautiful new butterfly. We celebrated with our Easter parties, planned by the parents, and loved by the kids.

Letter U was fun as we made unicorns and pretended to live in a magical world. We also talked about how God is like a giant umbrella, always protecting us. If we are under His care, we are in good hands.

Letter V, we made a vase for someone special that we love. One little boy was quick to point out that it was hard to pick one special person when he loved so many people. He had a great point, I just didn't have enough time. We had a lesson on vegetables and how God thought to make them all different colors and taste good. Sometimes we have to try new things to see if we like them.

After reading Matthew 14:22-33, we found lots of things with W to talk about. The wind and waves didn't scare Jesus as he calmed them then walked on the water. We know we could never do that. Jesus is great was how one little girl put it after we discussed the

miracle!! We talked about how we always want to walk with Jesus by our side.

At the time of this writing, we only have 5 more weeks of school (that's only 10 days for us). They know when we get to the end of the alphabet, school is almost over. One little boy was very sad the other day when he said, "But what will I do all summer long"! I reassured he and his friends they would find lots to do. We will try and get do a lot of learning, praying and having fun as we gather together in our short time left of this school year.

Love in Christ,
Mrs. Beth Durall

Tuesday Night Small Group

To share some of our insights learned from our study of James

We wish to share just a glimpse of the joy we have had from our Tuesday night small group. After making ourselves comfortable with each other we have embarked on a bible study of the book of James as guided by Max Lucado. This book, always a delight, is yielding life-changing gems once again.

We would like to begin with Max Lucado's introduction to James:

“Here is a story James would have liked.

Francis of Assisi once invited an apprentice to go with him to a nearby village to preach. The young monk quickly agreed, sizing an opportunity to hear his teacher speak. When they arrived in the village, Francis began to visit with the people.

First he stopped in on the butcher. Next a visit to the cobbler. Then a short walk to the home of a woman who'd recently buried her husband. After that a stop at the school to chat with the teacher. This continued throughout the morning. After some time, Francis told his disciple it was time to return to the abbey.

The student didn't understand. “But we came to preach.” He reminded. “We haven't preached a sermon.”

“Haven't we?” Questioned the elder. “People have watched us, listened to us, responded to us. Every word we have spoken, every

deed we have done has been a sermon. We have preached all morning.”

James would have liked that. As far as he was concerned, Christianity was more action on Monday than worship on Sunday. “My brothers and sisters, if people say they have faith, but do nothing, their faith is worth nothing. Can faith like that save them?” (James 2:14 NCV)

His message is bare knuckled: his style is bare boned. Talk is cheap, he argues. Service is invaluable.

It’s not that works save the Christian, but that works make the Christian. In James’s book of logic, it only makes sense that we who have been given much should give much. Not just with words. But with our lives.

Or as St. Francis noted as saying. “Preach without ceasing. If you must use words.”

James would have liked that too.

We feel compelled by James’s call to service, as there seems to be a greater and greater need in our community. As this need for service grows, there are also frustrations shared by our leaders about how difficult it is to find volunteers to step forward. Our prayer is that our Bethel Church family will always answer Christ’s call to serve, to preach with action and to love unconditionally.

Archer Small Group

“The way to have a great marriage is by not focusing on marriage.”

Yes, our small group is studying how to have better marriages by not actually studying marriage! We are currently working through a video and book series called You and Me Forever by Frances and Lisa Chan. They are showing us that Jesus wants us to be so much more than simply husband and wife—our ultimate mission is to create disciples. By working together toward that goal we will become closer to each other, closer to Christ, and closer to a blessed eternity in heaven.

Over the past several months we have consistently gathered on Sunday evenings to study God’s word, and with a lot of laughter, a few tears, and some really great food we have grown in our faith

together. We encourage anyone who is interested in joining or starting a small group to take that step. Contact one of us or a Pastor and we can help you get started!

Small Group

Our small group enjoys meeting on Sunday evenings at 6 PM. We begin and end each meeting with prayer and we have seen God move in amazing ways. We have shared joys and concerns- victories and defeats and God continues to grow us closer each time we meet. We completed the 1st study “Community” which taught us about small groups. We then studied an amazing teaching by Anne Graham Lotz (Billy Graham’s daughter) titled “In This Final Hour”. She certainly challenged us to look at our world today and recognize that the end is drawing near. I believe that each one of us felt convicted to be bold in our witness to those who are lost. We took a “road trip” to Terre Haute to see the movie “I Can Only Imagine”- an amazing movie of the unending grace of God. We shared buttered popcorn and a movie that made us realize the importance of grace and forgiveness. Lots of good conversation occurred as we travelled home.

We are currently in a study of the book of Titus by Chip Ingram. We were amazed to hear that another small group had chosen to do the exact same study. We are learning about good works that should be evident in the believer’s life. As we listen and discuss we are learning new perspectives. It is amazing how God uses each group member to bring some new insight, idea or question to challenge us, to stretch us and hopefully to make us more like Jesus!

None of us knew what to expect from our small group. We have learned to trust each other, to be open and honest with each other (even when it is hard). We really love our small group and feel that God has called each one of us to this particular group. We share a bond that goes beyond friendship- we have invited those in our group to see who we truly are: the good, the bad and even the ugly.

Tambria Leonard, Garland and Lisa Richter, Dale and Jane Tiek

SMALL GROUP

Our small group meets on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 at the Sprague's home and is led by Pastor Mike Leydet. We use RightNow Media for our studies and are currently going through a study of the book of Titus presented by Chip Inghram. We meet for study, prayer, fellowship, and, of course, food. It has amazed me how close we have all grown throughout these few months of small group meetings, and that is what small groups are all about! Growing closer to the Lord and in the process to each other. We can all use people in our corner, and small groups do just that. We bear on another's burdens because we are connected. Please consider one of the small groups that we have meeting. You don't have to wait until a particular study is over to join. Come get plugged in and see what you have been missing!

Memorial Fund

In memory of Gertrude Hagemeyer:

Randy & Theresia Barrett

Bethel Quilters

Chuck Borgmeier

John Brocksmith

Dan Buescher

Ed & Brenda Cummings

Barbara Gauger

Byron & Donna Harting

June Harting

Carol Johanningsmeier

Mike & Pam Loheider

Judith Koby Miller

Shirley Miller

Pat Moore

Earl & Theresa Pahmeier

Ruth Pahmeier

Bill & Darlene Resler

Maridell Sargent

Bill & Jean Schroeder & Family

Dorothy Spanger

Brad & Pam Summers

Herman & Nancy Tilly

Janet Tilly

Lois Wampler

Greg & Patti Weinheimer

Tom & Ruth Yochum

Bethel Church Council Minutes

April 9, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Justin French and opened with prayer by Terry Perkins.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mike's report included confirming the five confirmands and conducting the confirmation reunion on Palm Sunday. He conducted the Good Friday service with communion, and the Easter worship service at the Freelandville Community Home. He conducted one funeral and made hospital and home visits. He expressed his appreciation to Pastor Mike Leydet for preparing and delivering the sermon during the week of Karen's eye surgery.

Youth Pastor's Report: Pastor Mike Leydet and Renee served as group leaders at the youth ABLAZE conference held at North Knox Jr. & Sr. High School. He conducted the Maundy Thursday service. He expressed his appreciation for the church's support at Sargent's auction/youth fundraiser. Pastor Mike and 6 youth made the trip to Love Packages over Spring Break. The youth went to see the movie, "I Can Only Imagine" at Washington.

Secretary's Report: Approved as written

Treasurer's Report: Approved as written

Mission Allocations: The following were approved: Social Ministries - \$1000; Nurses' Fund - \$1000; and Prison Ministry - \$400.

Deacon's Report: Sam Miller reported the average attendance for March was 173, and the offering total was \$17,366.44.

Elder's Report: Pam Loheider reported communion was served to 49 at the Maundy Thursday service, 20 at the Good Friday service at the Community Home, and 221 at the Easter service. Pastor Mike and the elders are making plans for visitation.

Building and Grounds:

Sam Miller contacted Dale Tiek about giving an estimate on reconstructing the back staircase. Pastor Mike Leydet reported the double doors at the shelter house need repaired. He will contact DC Metals about repair. Pastor Mike reported there needs to be instructions on how to use the gas fireplace at the shelter house.

Old Business:

- Ryan Johanningsmeier gave an update on sound system upgrades. Alvis Music has been contacted. They will check out the church's current sound system and see what options we have.
- Justin French reported that he and Mark Sargent met with Kevin Hammelman and Garland Richter about cemetery mapping. All agree that mapping needs to be updated. Ryan Johanningsmeier researched Find Grave.com. He will follow up with more information on that program.
- Pastor Mike has contacted Cort Bilskie about removing the two soft maples.
- J.P. Sprague presented a written report from Hendrixson Concrete & Construction on an estimate for stairway repair. He explained the report and answered questions. Ryan Johanningsmeier made the motion, seconded by Terry Perkins, to submit HC&C's estimate to the congregation at a congregational meeting on April 29th. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Pastor Mike Leydet will purchase all-weather floor mats and a portable folding step for the church van. Money will come from the van fund.
- It was approved for the Special Gift's committee to purchase banners for the sanctuary.
- It was noted signs are needed to direct visitors to the offices now located in the church. Pastor Mike will take care of this.
- Vacation Bible School was discussed. Pastor Mike Leydet will post sign-up sheets in Bethel Hall.
- Paperwork on the van needs to be completed.

Upcoming Events:

April 12 – Staff Appreciation Dinner

May 11 – Preschool Mother's Day Tea

May 18 – Preschool Graduation

Parish Records:

Deaths: Gertrude Hagemeyer, 94, died on March 28, 2018. Burial was in Bethel Cemetery on April 3, 2018.

Attendance:

Mar. 25 207
Apr. 1 287
Apr. 8 159
Apr. 15 169

Greeters:

May 6 & 13 – Frank & Lenora McCrary
May 20 & 27 – Gordon & Janet Clinkenbeard

Ushers: Garland & Lisa Richter

Nursery (Sunday School):

May 6 Lana Dike/Cheryl Hagemeyer
 13 Cheryl Hagemeyer/Lana Dike
 20 Carole Albrecht/Cheryl Hagemeyer
 27 Diane Telligman/Holly Spanger

Nursery Notes (Worship):

May 6 Theresia Barrett/Jenny Clinkenbeard
 13 Hammelman Family
 20 Beth Durrall/Brenda Maddox
 27 Hailley and Tracey Kahre

Children's Church:

May 6 Kate & Linda Hammelman/Ryan Johanningsmeier
 13 Tambria Leonard/Tracey Kahre
 20 Liberty Lemberg/Bonnie Organ/Janet Clinkenbeard
 27 Melissa Schroeder/Emily Pirtle/Dale Tiek

May Birthdays:

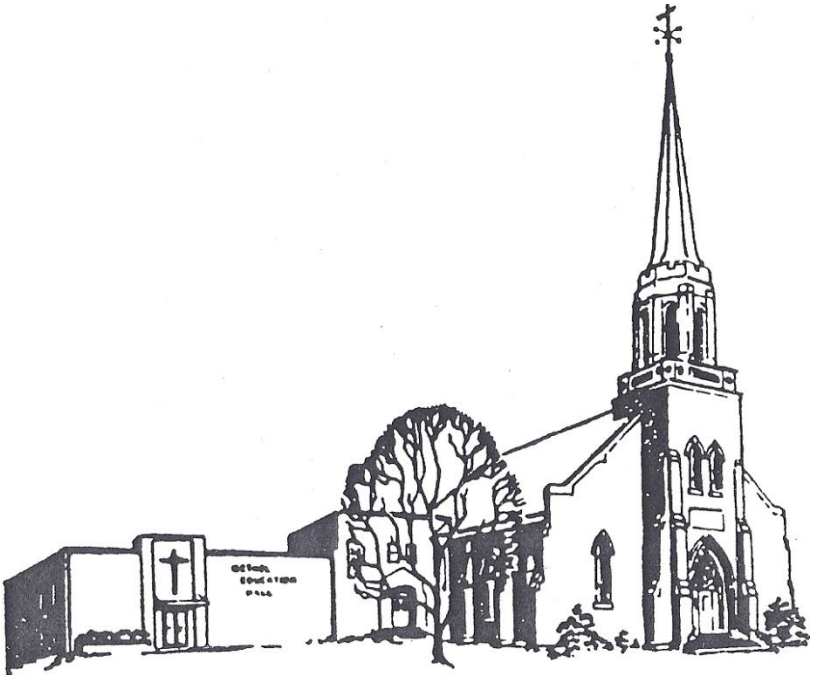
3 Earl Linneweber (90th)
15 Mary Deerhake (86th)
26 Ruth Richter (95th)
26 Cleo Kirchoff (81st)

Chimes news will be due on May 21st.

May 2018

Bethel

Chimes



Bethel Church

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