

Church Office Hours- Weekdays: 8:30 am-2:30 pm

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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)
Jan Spanger, Treasurer (2021)	Mark Sargent (2022)
	Ryan Johanningsmeier (2022)

(Indicates the time that the term is over)

FROM THE PASTORS STUDY

In Philippians 4:4 we are commanded to rejoice in the Lord. This command is given twice in order that the reader might see who, rather than what needs to be rejoiced. Too many times in our culture today we rejoice in all the wrong things. We rejoice when our favorite athletic team wins, we rejoice at good news, a raise, and a job promotion but how often do we rejoice in the Lord? Why do we allow this to happen? Is it because we have put the Lord in a box, only to be opened whenever we need help? That appears to be the norm in our society today. Let's put God on the shelf and only bring Him down when we need Him. Society says that we might hurt someone's feeling if we allow Him to be prayed to in our schools, to have His commandments hung on the walls in our schools, etc.

Look where that thinking has led us to, a society that rejoices in things, usually the wrong things rather than rejoicing in the one true thing, the Lord. Isn't it time we take back what we have lost. Maybe a good starting point for this New Year will be rejoicing not things that rust away, but rather the Lord, who is the same yesterday, today, and forevermore.

Have a blessed 2019
Pastor Mike
James 5:1

Youth Pastor

How was your 2018? I know as a church family we shared in some joys and we shared in some sorrows, but a new year always seems to be a joyful time. A lot of us look at January 1st as a new start, and in many ways it is. Growing up in church, one of the most common New Year resolutions I heard was reading the Bible through in a year. So, let me ask you this: Have you ever read your Bible from cover to cover? If you haven't, trust me, you are not the only one! But I would encourage you to make 2019 that year. I don't tell you this because we should make this a box we check off and say we have done it, but because of the power we find in the pages of God's word. Power for everyday life and any situation. God's word empowers us to be who we, as Christians and the church, are called to be.

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path.

In His Love,
Pastor Mike

Guild

Bethel Guild met on December 5 for our Christmas lunch and program. We had a delicious luncheon and fellowship. We had a short business meeting and voted to give Bethel Preschool, Bethel Youth, Salvation Army, and N. K. Nurse's Fund Christmas Cheer. We made 20 cheer plates to be given to shut-ins.

The quilting ladies were in charge of the program. They read the Christmas scripture, sang several hymns and told of memories we had of Christmas, followed by prayer.

There will be no meeting in January.

February 6 at 1:30 will be our memorial program. Doris Brocksmith will be in charge of the service in memory of those who we lost in 2018. Hostesses will be Terri Miller and Sharon Kahre. We are to bring tooth brushes and toothpaste for Generations.

Lill Clinkenbeard

Capsule Sermons

~unknown

*What should not be heard by little ears should not be said by big mouth.

*The successful man is one who had the chance and took it.

*The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts.

*The best place to succeed is where you are with what you have.

*The only good in pretending is the fun we get out of fooling ourselves that we fool somebody.

*Remember how you spend your days is how you spend your life.

*Correction does much but encouragement does more.

*It's a funny thing about life. If you refuse to accept anything but the best, you often get it.

*Real difficulties can be overcome; it is only the imaginary ones that are unconquerable.

*Never let yesterday use up today.

*Don't talk so fast that you say things you haven't even thought of yet.

*A bend in the road is not the end of the road-unless you fail to make the turn.

Preschool

The Pre-K class spent the month of December practicing our Christmas program and learning that God sent Jesus to be our Emmanuel, God with us.

We know that Jesus loves us no matter what we don, and He is always with us. We also had a lot of fun making Christmas presents for our family. We enjoyed games, special treats, and exchanging gifts during our Christmas party.

We want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year!

Mrs. Carter

December was a fast, fun and very busy month. We continued with our letters and worked hard on our Christmas program songs. I am super proud of all the kids. They stayed on stage, sang or pretended to, with no tears. They all said their own names and told our version baby Jesus. He is always with us in our hearts if we invite Him in, we don't have to go looking very far. Thanks to all our Bethel family who came to watch and listen.

We thank the ladies with Generations who came to help us shop and wrap gifts for our parents. I told the kids it was alright to keep secrets this time of the year. One little preschooler walked out saying "Dad, I am not going to tell you I bought you gloves today". Most of the gifts were already opened before the trees were even up and decorated at home. The joy of a child at Christmas warms my heart.

Letters J, K and L are perfect this time of year as there are many things to talk about with each of those letters. We made baby Jesus ornaments out of envelopes and the kids thought it would never hang on the tree, but we find the perfect spot for Him on our tree. We loved reading "I'm a King's Kid: Yes I Am" and making our hats as we got to parade around the

room. We are happy Jesus is our King. Little Lamb lead us the manger in one of our stories. I had the kids make a fluffy lamb with cotton balls and lots of glue. Some decided it was just a sticky mess and didn't look like a lamb at all.

Most of us had fun playing with the light tables, play dough, and shaving cream. Although one little girl was quick to say the shaving cream was "disgusting". She didn't like her hands getting messy. One little boy shared that we played in sour cream...only a restaurant family would think you could play in sour cream. Most of the time, we love sensory play and seem to remember those things sometime more than the letter of the week. Little do they know, they learn a lot when they are playing.

We finished with a great party and talked about that special birth of our King. We are thankful for Jesus and hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas. We will take a few days off and return next year.

Mrs. Durall

Thank You

I would like to thank the Guild for the delicious cookies they brought me. I received 75 cards, and I would like to thank everyone for the cards and phone calls for my 90th birthday. Each one was very much appreciated.

Shirley Miller

Bethel Church Council Minutes

December 10, 2018

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

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mike shared his monthly report which included visitation, helping with the Christmas cantata and the children's program practices, conducting a worship service at the

Freelandville Community Home, and teaching confirmation classes on Sunday morning. He reported that the confirmation classes are going well. There are seven confirmands.

Youth Pastor's Report: Pastor Mike Leydet reported that the youth packed twenty-three shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. They decorated doors at the Freelandville Community Home. He shared they will be making food boxes for Christmas. As of this date, they have twelve names on the list. He is helping with confirmation classes. Pastor Mike shared how much he enjoyed the mission trip to the Dominican Republic. He felt the team received many blessings as they worked and worshipped with the people from the Dominican.

Secretary's Report: It was approved after this correction was made. Mark Sargent shared the deacon's report at the November meeting, not Sam Miller.

Treasurer's Report: Approved as written. Jan Spanger shared that the church received \$1000 from the family of Gertrude Hagemeyer and \$500 from Glatha (McCord) Hemme.

Mission Allocations: Preschool - \$1000; Armor Bearers - \$500; and Guild - \$800.

Elder's Report: Pam Loheider reported that 109 were served communion on the first Sunday of Advent, December 2nd. The next communion will be January 6th, Epiphany Sunday. One visitation was made.

Deacon's Report: Mark Sargent reported the average attendance for November was 170, and the offering total was \$16,589.

Building and Grounds: Sam Miller reported that we are waiting to hear from Wolfe Construction about the back staircase.

Old Business: The following projects are ongoing:

- Beam in stairwell and back staircase
- Replacement of flat roof

- Condensation lines from AC behind the stage
- Light in balcony

New Business:

- Ashley Archer met with the council prior to the meeting to discuss the church's website and logo. Justin French listed some items to look for when searching for a digital media package. He suggested we make a list of things we need on the website, and then another list of things we would like to add. Ashley volunteered to chair a committee to update the current website and design a new logo. Pastor Mike Leydet offered his assistance. Ryan Johanningsmeier and Stacey Kahre volunteered to represent the council on the committee.
- Pastor Mike Leydet reported that the side door of the parsonage garage needs replaced since it will no longer close and cannot be repaired. Sam Miller made the motion, seconded by Pam Loheider, to replace the side door on the parsonage garage. Motion passed.
- Stacey Kahre and Ryan Johanningsmeier will draw up shelter house rental forms. These forms will be kept in the secretary's office. It was also noted that payment needs to be made at time of rental.
- Jane Tiek and Scott Page will be asked to assist Kevin Hammelman on the nominating committee to secure new council members for the upcoming year.
- Committee members for 2019 were discussed.
- The council will meet on January 7th to discuss the budget for 2019.

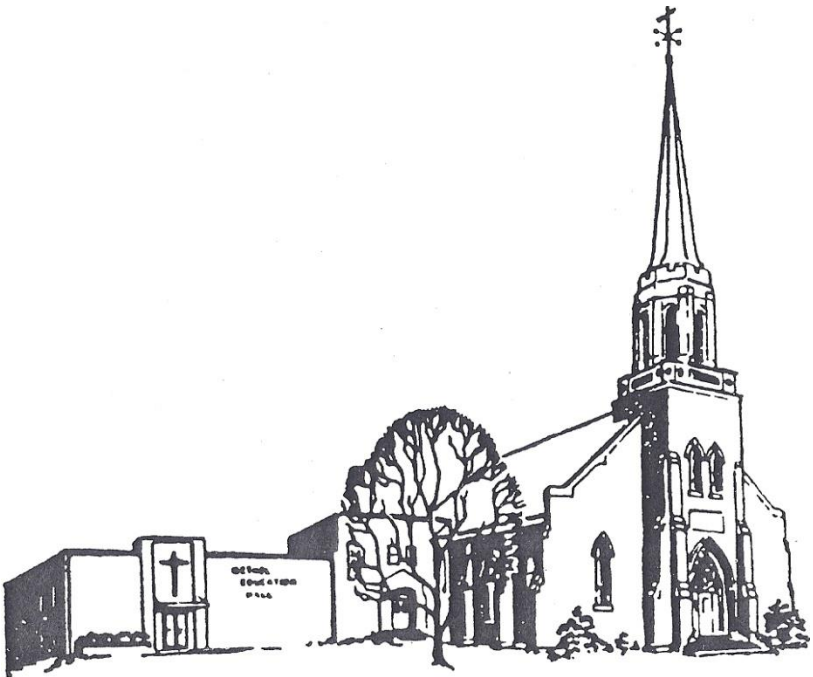
Upcoming Events:

December 14 – Preschool Christmas program at 7:00 p.m.
 December 16 – Christmas Cantata during worship service and Children's Christmas program at 7:00 p.m.
 December 25 – Christmas morning service at 6:30 a.m.
 January 6 – Communion, Epiphany Sunday
 January 7 – Council meeting to discuss budget for 2019
 January 14 – Council meeting

January 2019

Bethel

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Bethel Church

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