

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)

Randy Hammelman (2023)

Stacey Kahre, Vice President (2020)

Terry Perkins (2021)

Nancy Tilly, Secretary (2021)

Mark Sargent (2022)

Jan Spanger, Treasurer (2021)

Brandon Spanger (2023)

Ryan Johanningsmeier (2022)

(Indicates the time that the term is over)

FROM THE PASTORS STUDY

With the New Year upon us let us take a time of reflection on the old. As we reflect can we honestly say that we were pleased with the choices we made in the old year, especially those choices concerning our spiritual lives. We are fortunate to serve a God, who, when we humble bow down before Him, not only forgives us but also forgets our sins and transgressions. So, let us put the past in the past and press on into the future in 2020.

Paul writes in Colossians 3:24b that is the Lord Christ whom we serve. The choice is ours, whom will we serve in the New Year? The Lord Christ or our own desires. If we want to be pleasing to our God let us choose to serve Him. As believers let us strive to make 2020 a special year, a year unlike any other we have experienced. Choosing Christ above self is a guaranteed recipe for success.

In His Service,
Pastor Mike
James 5:1

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 Christians kept Christ in every day, would we need to continually remind ourselves and other to keep Him in Christmas. So, let’s treat 2020 like a new start. 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. Let’s lean on Him in this New Year and on His power and see how God uses us to impact this fallen world for Him.

Psalm 118:24

This is the day the Lord has made;
We will rejoice and be glad in it.

In His Love

Pastor Mike

Basement Bulletin Board schedule for 2020

January – Jan Spanger

February –

March & April (Lent and Easter) – Autumn Cone, Liberty
Lemberg, and Ramona Hammelman

June – VBS

July & August –

September – Preschool

October and November – Theresia Barrett

December –

Preschool

Christmas, Christmas, Christmas! December in our Pre-K class was all about Christmas. The children spent many hours practicing our Christmas program songs and motions and they did a wonderful job of singing and remembering their lines on program night. I was so proud of them! Our program songs went along perfectly with each week's Bible story as we walked through the story of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. The children were very excited when they realized that they were each playing a role in our program that was found in our Bible story. I believe that all of the repetition of hearing the story and practicing the program helped us focus on the true meaning of Christmas...Jesus, our Savior is born!

We also had fun making a special gift for our parents. The children used glue, food coloring, and glitter to coat the inside of a plastic mason jar. After a few days of drying the jars were a beautiful translucent dark blue with twinkling glitter stars. After adhering silhouette stickers of nativity figures to the outside of the jar, the students placed a battery powered flickering candle inside the jar to make a very pretty nativity decoration. The students were very anxious for their parents to see this special gift. Christmas parties were held on the last day before our Christmas break and everyone enjoyed the games, activities, and yummy treats.

December was also our month for mid-year assessments and our students are doing fantastic! There has been tremendous academic progress in our first four months. I am confident that our students are being well prepared for Kindergarten and are having great fun in the process.

Thank you all for your support of preschool program, and may you have a very blessed Christmas and New Year!

Mrs. Beth Carter

I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas. Thanks to all of our church family for your prayers and supporting our Preschool Christmas Program or giving us stickers, paper etc. Thanks to all who have helped us in any way so far this year. We are truly blessed.

December was a very fast month, with a lot of time learning our program songs. When we made our first trip upstairs after the church was decorated. One little boy was so excited that he "Exclaimed those trees are huge and would fit in my bedroom. I love their joy in little things. I am so proud of them and my heart filled with joy as they performed "Angels Say What"!!

Letters J K L were all based on Jesus, our king, and the little lamb that was so excited to follow the star to the manger. We know that Jesus is the best gift of all and we are happy to be a king's kid. We need the excitement for Jesus all year round, not just at Christmas. We read many stories about Jesus and his birth, and the kids can sure tell the story.

I passed out our Advent and the kids loved coming back every day ready to tell me how many more days till the special Birthday. I think they really enjoyed their daily chocolate kiss, but it got them looking at patterns and counting.

We thank the ladies of Generations for coming to help us shop for our special gifts for mom and dad. They have nice things and the kids love to tell them stories. We talked about how it is okay to keep secrets and hide presents this time of year. One little boy walked out and said "dad I can't tell you that I got you a flashlight. It is a surprise." He was too excited to keep a secret.

Have a very Happy New Year. We pray for health and happiness for all.

Mrs. Beth Durall

THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone for the wonderful birthday greetings this year. Also, a special thanks to the Guild for the plate of cookies.

Shirley Miller

Bethel Church Council Minutes

December 9, 2019

The December meeting was opened by President Justin French and with prayer by Ryan Johanningsmeier.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mike DeCoursey told of hospital and nursing home visits to Marvin Deerhake, Etta Boberg, and Bill Resler. He spoke of meeting with confirmands and the success of their working in a committee to tell the Christmas Story from Scripture. He reminded members that the Choir Cantata will be presented during the service on December 15. He told of the fellowship experienced in the cutting of the Christmas trees.

Youth Pastor's Report: Pastor Mike Leydet told of the practices and plans for the Children's Christmas Program to be held on December 15. He recently took a week's vacation and worked a Men's Emmaus Walk. He led the youth in their annual decoration of the residents' doors at the Freelandville Community Home. The youth Chicken Noodle Dinner will be on January 5. The youth are excited to learn that Kanye West will be the headliner when they attend Strength to Stand in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. The youth has prepared nineteen food baskets to be delivered to families the week of December 15-20. Pastor Mike has officially started his last class toward his degree which he will complete in February.

Secretary's Report: The secretary's report written by Nancy Tilly was approved with two exceptions. The painting of the social room will be completed by the Archer's Small Group rather than the Faithful Families Class. Wabash Plumbing, not Homes Plumbing, has been contacted for a feasibility plan for a handicapped accessible bathroom in Bethel Hall.

Deacon's Report: Brandon Spanger reported an average attendance of 150 for November and the total offering of \$18,835.

Treasurer's Report: The report submitted by Jan Spanger was approved. She also told of a \$5000 anonymous donation given to the church to be used for missions. A donation from Glenn and Glatha McCord Hemme was received and Bethel Church thanks them for their generosity. A discussion of budgeted money for missions not yet used resulted in these Mission Allocations.

Mission Allocations: \$1000 each to be given to the Salvation Army, the Drug Court, the Lighthouse Mission, to North Knox Social Ministries, and Another Chance for Christ Ministry. \$250 will be given to Hope's Voice, a mission for abused women and children.

Elder's Report: Justin French reported that 109 congregants were served communion on the first Sunday of Advent. It was also noted that 23 plates of cookies and 2 fruit plates were prepared by the ladies of the Guild and taken to those ill and shut in. The council sent 20 Christmas devotionals and Christmas cards to those also.

Buildings and Grounds: Stacey Kahre reported that Mike Sinclair had repaired the dusk to dawn light in the back of the church. Brandon Spanger offered to repair the humidifier near the back stairs. Matthew Richter is interested in the plaster repair and painting of the sanctuary and will be submitting a bid. Terry Perkins has contacted Hendrixson Concrete and Construction for repair of the covering of the front steps and at Bethel Hall. Jules Mominee Studios, Inc. of Evansville has surveyed the needs of the refurbishing and repair of the stained-glass windows. The bid for the 8 windows detailed the process. So, as to not incur a large expense, the council will check to see if this work can be completed one window at a time. The eagle on the flag pole for the American flag has been replaced. Due to their work load, Wabash Plumbing has not yet been able to check on the feasibility of a plan for the handicap accessible bathroom.

Old Business: The website and logo, the mission vision and values are ongoing projects. Other old business items were covered in the **Buildings and Grounds** report.

New Business: The council is considering valet parking for those who might need such a service. If there is a need for this, contact

Pastor Mike DeCoursey at the church office. The Mustard Seed Class will again provide the meal for the January 26th Congregational Meeting. The Strate 40 acres was harvested by Charlie Buescher and a note of appreciation will be sent to him. A question about the wiring in the sanctuary was discussed. Mike Sinclair will be contacted to assess his interest in this project. Pastor Mike D. stressed that reports for the congregational meeting will be due early in January as Lesa will make those available by January 12th. Committees for 2020 were established and council members will contact those who are willing to serve. Christmas bonuses for those who serve Bethel were established also.

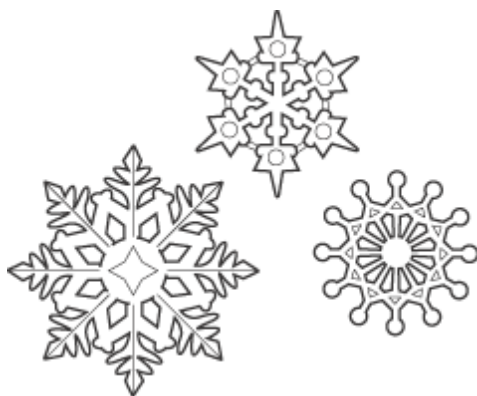
The meeting was closed with council members praying the Lord's Prayer together.

Coming Events:

January 5 – Youth Chicken and Noodle Dinner

January 13 – Next Council Meeting

January 26 – Annual Congregational Meeting



Parish Records

Rev. Marvin Deerhake, age 89, died on Wednesday, November 27, 2019. Burial was in New Knoxville, Ohio on Tuesday, December 3, 2019.

Etta Boberg, age 86, died on Sunday, December 15, 2019. Burial was in Bethel Cemetery on Saturday, December 21, 2019.

Attendance:

Nov. 24 117
Dec. 1 143
Dec. 8 140
Dec. 15 146

Greeters:

Jan. 5 – John & Marilyn Koenig
Jan. 12 & 19 – Stacey & Travis Kahre
Jan. 26 & Feb. 2 – Ed & Cheryl Hagemeyer

Ushers: Holly & Brandon Spanger

Nursery (Sunday School):

Jan. 5 Lana Dike/Cheryl Hagemeyer
12 Cheryl Hagemeyer/Diane Telligman
19 Holly Spanger/Cheryl Hagemeyer
26 Cheryl Hagemeyer/Carole Albrecht

Nursery Notes (Worship):

Jan. 5 Theresia Barrett/Shaylie Phegley
12 Autumn Cone/Brittany Page
19 Organ Family
26 Tracey Kahre/Hailley Moreland

Children's Church:

Jan. 5 Kate & Linda Hammelman/Ryan Johanningsmeier
12 Emma Miller/Hope Leydet/Jennifer Nettles, Tracey
Kahre
19 Rylee Hammelman/Janet Clinkenbeard
26 Melissa Schroeder/Emily Pirtle/Dale Tiek

January Birthdays:

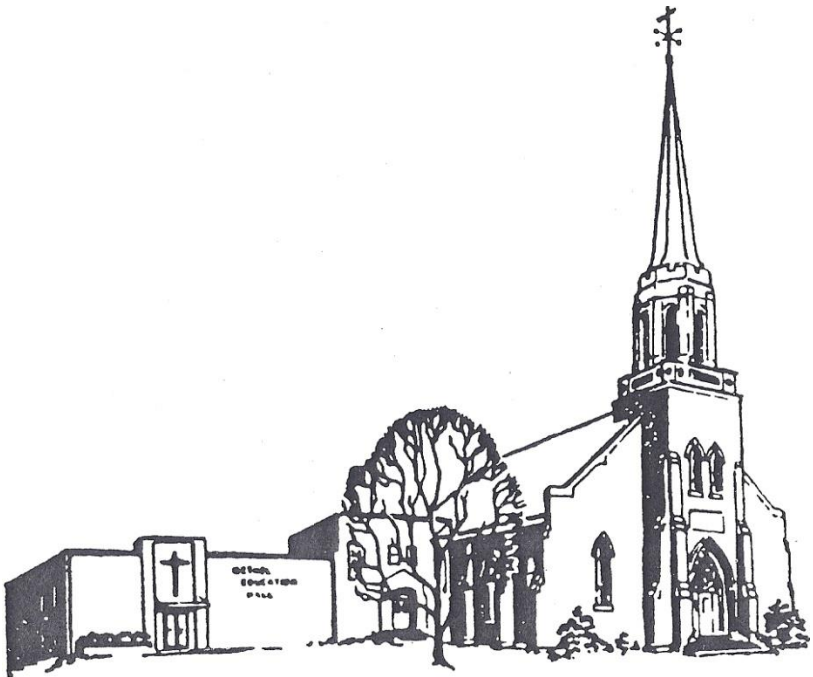
13 Don Johanningsmeier (90th)
24 Maridell Sargent (84th)
29 Shirley Brouhard (81st)

Chimes news will be due on January 20th.

January 2020

Bethel

Chimes



Bethel Church

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Dated Material - please deliver by January 2