

Survey Results as of June 30, 2010 6:00am  
61 responses

Survey Question	Agree	Disagree	No Reply	Comment	
I attended the first Mission Profile event on June 8?	18	42	1		30%
STRENGTH: Bethel does well in the area of Worship.	56	4	1		92%
STRENGTH: Tending to our children, youth and school is an area in which Bethel does well.	50	11	0		82%
STRENGTH: The music ministry is a strength at Bethel.	52	9	0		85%
STRENGTH: Bethel does a good job when it comes to Preaching/Teaching and Bible Study.	35	24	2		57%
STRENGTH: Bethel does a good job serving the outside community.	39	21	1		64%
STRENGTHS: Is there another area of congregational life that you feel is an area of strength at Bethel?			44	17	
WEAKNESS: Bethel could improve on its ability to actively engage its members.	55	5	1		90%
WEAKNESS: Bethel could do better at welcoming guests and visitors.	48	13	0		79%
WEAKNESS: Is there another area of congregational life in which Bethel could do better?			30	31	
What do you hear God saying to this congregation as we consider the goals and mission of Bethel moving forward?			34	27	
What does it mean to you for Bethel to "move forward"?			29	32	

**STRENGTHS: Is there another area of congregational life that you feel is an area of strength at Bethel?**

The school.
Congregants seem to bond well with each other. There is a lot of history between certain members. This is both a strength and a weakness.
I think the groups available (i.e. quilters, men's group) are also strengths.
Confirmation classes led by Susan and Robyn are a strength.
The Stephen Ministry program is a positive thing at Bethel.
Integration across ministries - rather than silos operating independently.
Memorial services are Bethel at its very best.
The school
Acceptance and Inviting others to be a part of activities.
Pastors' abilities to help and counsel members. Very interested in member's lives and have good follow up on member personal issues.
The music ministry and the high school youth program are the two things that have held me and my family at Bethel during all the transitions we have had during the 17 years we have been members.
a possibility . . . do a paradigm shift as far as the "school" is concerned -- focus program on the pre-school/primary community . . . rather than the private/expensive K-5/6 school (which SUPPLANTS, not SUPPLEMENTS) the highly regarded CUSD program
I think preaching is generally a strength but that teaching is not
The youth group is very important to Bethel and the youth who participate.
Tanzania mission trips.
A little clarification on the "disagree" mark regarding strengths -  I think we have children, youth and school programs that are good and faith based, but I do not see members or the community taking advantage of the opportunities. We do not seem to have consistent attendance with Kid Connection, it also seems separate from Sunday worship.  Although we have very talented musicians and the music is good, it does not always seem like a ministry.  It does not appear that we have very many Bible Studies and there is little consistency on Adult Ed or Bible Studies Sunday mornings.
some of the small groups provide much support to their individual members
Sharing our gifts with the communities in Mexico and until recently, Tanzania
Diversity. But it isn't a strength if it isn't understood and managed well. Obviously, I am talking about diversity within the pale of orthodoxy; diversity within the 'nonessentials'. Heretics need apologetics, which is the hand-maiden of the Gospel.



**WEAKNESS: Is there another area of congregational life in which Bethel could do better?**

college age, young professionals could benefit from some TLC
Spending time reading the bible together, bible studies for people of every age group small groups. te pastors and leaders of the church need to press the importance of studying and reading the bible. more time in prayer would be good too. we need to do a lot more for our community, and i know we could... it doesn't take much to schedule a clean up day or some charity thing, we are horrible at showing up for those types of events...it seems like most of the people at bethel are sunday christians.. we need to be a congregation of everyday christians!
I often times do not get how we are supposed to take the messages, the vision, and the motivation given to us on Sunday morning and do something with it beyond just think about it. In my opinion, Bethel needs a Cruise Director whose job it is to engage with each member and ask them to put into action the gifts that God has given them. This Cruise Director would have a complete list of all activities and groups inside Bethel. They would perform a spiritual gifts assessment with all members on the roster, and they would help members select how they want to apply their gifts to either a ministry or some other active group inside Bethel.  In my opinion, no member should be allowed disengagement - Sunday morning only participation. A Cruise Director would help ensure this does not happen. I think everyone benefits from this approach. Bethel has a more active congregation. Congregants engage beyond Sunday morning and feel like they are more a part of ministry life.
I don't believe that the program for youth is necessarily strong. If one looks at the number of youth in our congregation (preschool-HS) how many are involved in activities at the church? Our VBS and Sunday School classes have had much lower participation over the past few years. The emphasis and budget avail. seems to be on the HS aged group. I would like to see youth given opportunities to serve the congregation - in areas other than music too.
Evangelism... more of a presence in the local community's events - an unintimidating way to meet new people and invite them to Bethel worship &/or events.
College/Young Adult Ministry
While the preaching is good, the educational program for adults is inadequate. It could be much stronger, with more people participating in Bible Study and other discussion opportunities. At times communication could be better, although the on-line updates are helpful. It seems that there are less youth involved than in recent years. How can we strengthen programs for children and youth, and how can we engage with the school more?
Communication. So many times the only way you get any information is via email. Many members don't get the emails. Even attending worship on a regular basis does not always get information you need or want. A great many people are left out.
the members who are not involved need to self-motivate. not sure if they need help with this or if it is a personal issue of not activating
I see other churches who use their facilities seven days a week - sheltering the homeless, handing out Harvest Food supplies, offering their facilities for AA meetings, etc. I am not sure Bethel does all these things but I think it's important to be a central point for filling needs of the community in a practical sense as well as spiritual sense.
No experienced leadership for the seniors.
Not enough volunteers for things getting done

1. Make sure that we are speaking to those who may be experiencing the "church scene" for the first time. How are we answering their questions about who God is and what it means to accept Christ as one's savior and how that can change their life. 2. Reach out to the young adults (20 something) that are so lacking in our church. Offer music opportunities and messages, and activities that will reach them. 3. Offer more consistent and organized activities for senior citizens.

Need a way to draw and welcome the pre/none-children young couples.

We have been members since 1977, so we have the opportunity to compare the Bethel of "today" to the one of "yesterday" ... at least as we remember it.

1. Today Bethel seems to be passive and complacent in many aspects of its ministry. While the ministry might be happening, it is simply not as active or forward leaning.  
2. The music programs of today, especially as offered during the first worship service, lack luster and participation.  
3. There was a time when one could call the church office for the answer to a question and the person answering the phone had an answer. Try that today. And please don't feel that the reason for the ignorance is because the activities of the church might be broader and more complex.  
4. We, the two of us, are beginning to feel detached from Bethel.  
Not sure that all of this is because Bethel has changed or that we have changed; or a combination of both... BUT it has happened.

More activities for middle age couples during weekends.

Getting out and serving the community as a congregation. Not just the 20-50 individuals who take part in mission outreach. The pastors should be leading the way on this by their actions.

"evangelism" . . . ?? Bethel's focus appears to be BLS . . . ergo MARKETING (parental specialist expertise available in the past) again, closely aligning Bethel Church with its successful silicon valley culture, targeting the affluent parents (who can afford to pay us, in addition to the state (taxes) to teach their children reading/writing/arithmetic . . . most of whom, in this area, happen to be Asian. . . and Bethel's CAN DO forefather's ethos . . . in taking care of our special little ones . . . can readily be expressed in silicon valley lingo as . . . WHATEVER IT TAKES . . . and then . . . turning to the magic of the computer . . . and tell the financial person . . . GO CRUNCH THE NUMBERS . . .

It would be nice to make better use of the screens at least at the second service. It's great when we have videos that are incorporated into the message, this has been done occasionally, I'd like to see more of this.  
Also, let's have more dramas. This is another effective way to add another dimension to worship. Again this happens occasionally, let's have them more frequently.

Confronting reality is a HUGE weakness at Bethel. The church is dying.

I think we have been striving to be more welcoming, but it is difficult to know who is in charge of different events or ministries and if new people are welcome. There seems to be a lack of communication. It seems like we have a number of people doing things (paid staff and volunteers) but no one seems to know who to go to for what information. It's hard to welcome someone new, if when they ask a question you're not sure how to find the answer.

Bethel could do a better job of welcoming new people (this includes current members) into "impacted" ministries such as the worship team, bible studies, etc.

Bethel could do better reaching out to and contacting members on the prayer list to see if the members need help or counsel from the pastors or staff. When we had a death in our family no one from Bethel contacted us.

More support of children's programs.  
More opportunities for our members to serve the community.  
Need to make the members feel more welcome.  
Need to bring the congregation together, old and young, families and singles, etc...

I think we do a good job at "general" in serving the community...We certainly have a lot on the books in that area, but it seems vague and far away. It may make US feel good to put in a day here or a weekend there, but it is not serving an ongoing or local purpose. Not do not reach the immediate community in a regular and meaningful way. We are not a place people turn to for help, but we are happy to 'help out occasionally' with OTHER organizations who people do turn to for help. We are not visible to our OWN LOCAL community as servants of Christ.

We could use more programs (or at least some social type of program) for the in-between youth (ie. 5th grade). Offering a first communion class is needed.

weekly adult Bible study.....maybe one a well known Bible study program and another using the books of the Bible as the group decided on which to study.

Perhaps more adult Bible studies, whether during the week or Sunday AM. Our present worship schedule makes that somewhat complicated. I liked the previous schedule of two years ago - WITHOUT the middle service. That would've made a large time period (9:45 - 11:00) that would be available for Bible studies and forums without competing with a worship service. And no presentation would have to be done twice.

More involvement with other churches (not always Lutheran) and community in general to unite efforts to spread the love of Christ through outreach needs, events focusing on unity, speaker series, etc.

1. We need to become more diverse
2. Follow up with visitors/new members is not good
3. ministry to young adults, singles is needed

We could do a better job empowering leadership and ministry participation. Moving to a "Program Church" model is pretty important to our future congregational health.

Could do better at 'taking a stand' on some things (e.g., homosexuality & politics). And if the stand is "We, as a congregation, will not take a stand, but welcome all, regardless of persuasion, because our focus is on the Gospel of Christ.", then make THAT a stand. Also - apologetics.



**What do you hear God saying to this congregation as we consider the goals and mission of Bethel moving forward?**

Be strong and committed in this place and time. Lutherans still have a lot to offer the world and community.
We need to take a leap of faith and try something different. Perhaps have a worship service at night, to satisfy all of the youth. Consider hiring a youth PASTOR... someone young, motivational who can get the youth fired up about god. they truly lead the rest of the congregation. we need to be praying for our church and community more than we already do. I feel like so many people at bethel are looking for more, wanting more, but they are too comfortable to leave to go find it. so they stay here stagnant in their faith. God wants us to always be growing closer to him...so lets make a change and do something about it to get the people of our church fired up about our creator.
I believe we need something beyond Sunday morning to connect us all. We need some purpose, some mission, something that is not etherial or based on preservation of existing structures. I believe we need something beyond our walls - something practical that we can all believe in and support with our time, treasures, and talents.
A community of faith working together towards our goals and missions needs to involve all members.
Bethel needs to continue to be a place where everyone feels welcome, cared for, and supported, especially in times of trial... Programming is important but not at the expense of the sense of community.
I think that God thinks we are a solid congregation with many wonderful ministries, but that we can become stronger by engaging each member and each family. Imagine the energy, strength and possibilities if that came true!
Don't focus on divisive issues, but rather on celebrating God's/Jesus's love for each human being in an inclusive way that makes people want to be a part of our worship and community.
Build up the Sunday school. This has been on my heart for many years. Why can't we reach out and double or even triple the number of children in our Sunday School.
Get more folks involved Find a way to inspire.
To be a leader in the community and reach out to all those in need of help.
Considering the 'cost of living' today, I think we need to form a stronger foundation in Bethel so that we have a base to proceed into the future.
Check out Rev 2 and 3. See which message might be sent to Bethel. I think most likely it is Sardis (Rev 3.1-3) with a little of Laodicea (3.15) thrown in.
Continue to have an open environemnt, welcoming all people.
It's important to 'be who we are'. We should glorify God by embracing our passions and telling our stories. Our understanding of changing community demographics & ELCA policies should not solely influence our goals.  A fitting quote: Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, "Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous?" Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your pretending to be small doesn't serve the world. There's nothing enlightening about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We were born to manifest the glory of God that is within us...And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others. (Nelson Mandella)
Get out there and do something for the common good as a unified body of Christ.

no comment
don't just consider the former models and formats. Is there a new way (at least for Bethel) to be organized and structured to achieve its goals and stay within financial limits
Wake up.
It is important to have a clear vision and leadership, both from the pastors and staff and members of the congregation. It seems like we have been somewhat lost at where we are going, what is important and who is in charge.
Who do you think you are? Is that an accurate vision of who you actually are? Where am I (God) leading you?
We need to downsize. We need to take care of the small things before we move on to big programs. Are our children and families being served? Do we have ways for the young and the elderly to interact? Do our members take part in the worship presentation? Money is always as problem, maybe we need to scale back. Are we quiet enough to hear God's voice?
"Do SOMETHING" -- as in walk the walk and be highly visible as a vibrant Christian community within the larger community. "Do something significant and they will come..."
Get involved in a personal and meaningful way. An awakening to what is really important is needed. How to do this????? Leadership and evangelism with lots of prayers too .....we seem to be sheep without a shepherd.
Better educate our members to have knowledge of the diversity surrounding us in the community so as to be more sensitive to their heritage, educational background, social patterns, etc.
be open to new ideas/change
We need to engage our membership and inspire an infectious enthusiasm in our people to bring their friends and acquaintances to Bethel and then journey with them in ministry. It is time to act on many of the initiatives and goals. We can't afford to wait to move anymore. Our previous goal of at least one monthly "non-threatening" Bethel event is a great way to begin. We are also in need of dealing with Torvend Hall and the Preschool building as a matter of necessity as well as a physical boost to see ministry is moving forward.
Please!!! Stick to me and my Gospel!! Don't worry about what is popular or what 'puts people in the pews!' And don't fall prey to fads like "Emergent Church" thought and other things that water me down. I, and I alone, am THE way, THE truth, and THE light.

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**What does it mean to you for Bethel to “move forward”?**

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| To be and respond to the community as an active participant/partner, witness and source of support/encouragement in the lives of its members and its neighbors (in the global sense) in our rapidly changing world                                                                                                                                |
| it means, maybe ill begin to feeeel something during a service. We are far from perfect, moving forward is better than standing still!!                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Find a vision that the majority of the congregants believe in and are passionate about - create a plan to achieve that vision - execute the plan with all of the vigor and energy that God gives us - find joy on the journey.                                                                                                                    |
| I'd like to see a bigger emphasis on families and offering opportunities for groups to gather together (group dinners, community building events). Building a strong Bethel community will allow Bethel to have opportunities to continue to reach the outside community, have programs that appeal to it's members and a vibrant growing church. |
| 'Moving forward' includes CHANGES sometimes, which is hard/uncomfortable for some, but yet necessary if we want to continue to grow as a community of faith.                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| To figure out what minstry and mission God is calling this congregation to engage with. What does it mean to be in mission in Silicon Valley in an ethnically diverse neighborhood?                                                                                                                                                               |

We have a tradition of great preachers at Bethel, and I'd like to see our next pastor have strong skills in preaching. Also, I'd like to have someone come on board with strong people skills to help bring our community together.

Celebrate our differences as facets of God's creation and strengths that all bring to the family of God. We can do rousing hymns on the organ, we can rock contemporary music, we can bring our different perspectives to Bible study. I feel like we're getting stuck in trying to "solve" the differences and am afraid we're headed for a schism.

Build on the foundation of what we do well, add new ministries and make all [members and guests] feel welcome and needed within our congregation

To share the Gospel with our neighbors  
Find a way to reach more of our members and help them help others  
Not shrink in membership: maybe grow a bit

To become more visible in the community and participate in as many inter-denominational activities as possible.

I would like to see more people become more engaged with what we do at Bethel and would really like to see average attendance increase or at least get back up to what it was a few years ago.

"Moving forward" is indeed a wonderful goal. But we must have the foundation as well as the goals of our leaders to get us moving.

I would like to hear the pastors speak to how we can use the scriptures for the week in a practical way in our life. I want to learn how to become more like Christ and less like me in practical terms. I want to learn how God wants me to act, as His child. I want to learn how to be a good Christian today, under the circumstances I face in my daily life, which isn't much different than the next person.

Bethel, in all aspects of its ministry, needs to stop being so ambivalent and become, without being judgmental, more definitive in taking positions and establishing expectations and in working towards outcomes/goals. This should be a guiding principle in every minute of the day.

To maintain and grow membership while bringing the word of God into the present and how it is part of our lives now.

Move forward in studying God's Word more in depth in the Sunday morning sermons.

I love my Bethel friends . . . and the traditional service and its music focus . . . e.g., the choir . . . order of service . . . liturgy (not necessarily that prescribed by new hymnal) and quietness . . . peace . . . beauty of the altar and paraments . . . the sanctuary . . . the building . . . true, it's just stuff . . . old fashioned . . . in "need" of change . . . i.e., The (universal) Lord's Prayer . . . to relevant to who ??? us . . . them . . . the universe . . . people . . . ??

moving "forward" . . . staying on the cutting edge of change . . . ??

thank you for being here . . . for me.

Let's actually put some effort into making changes and improvements. We need to make it happen, not just talk about it!

We need to remember that everyone's voice should be heard and people need to get involved if they feel they have input for something.

The old ways aren't working. Radical reform is necessary but I am not hopeful.

To move forward means to correct mistakes we have made and learn from them. Improve on what we do not do so well and continue to be open and grow in areas that we do well.

It means finding a new pastor to fill Pastor Rick's position.

We need to build a community. We need to come together as a congregation. There are so many demands/drains on our congregation that I believe we sometimes miss the little things that would bring us together and make us stronger. Cut back and look at the core. Its not how big you are but how you serve.

Moving forward means to reach out to the current climate of the community and the future climate... as churches nationwide decline, people are not feeling connected to organized religion. We need to provide something BESIDES worship to draw in this crowd...

See above

Be open to changes in "the way we've always done things." Look for ways that God can use me in, or outside of, the church.

The issues of communication to the congregation and welcoming visitors have been around for many years. Solutions have been tried, but not sustained. If these can be addressed, Bethel can move forward to find other ways to strengthen the body.

To embrace the momentum in our diverse environment so as to energize us to be "in the world" but not necessarily "of the world."

try new things

Learning from the past and trusting God will be honored as we move forward. We need to settle on Bethel's place in the community around us and do what God has called us to. This includes evaluating our potential for ministry to the 20 year olds. We also need to figure out what we are doing at Stelling and then do it.

Get deeper into bible study, the Glory of God, and set more focus on basic doctrines/teaching of reformation theology.

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