



“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it...But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.”

I Corinthians 12:27, 31

Dear Members and Friends of Bethel,

Yes, we are the “body of Christ!”

In 2008, being the “Body of Christ” was expressed well in our 50th Anniversary as we accepted a Masterplan as being “Partners with Jesus to make a difference.” We introduced 7 Initiatives to help us focus and revitalize our ministry. A quick review of the 7 are on the next page. How have we done?

Add to all of this our ongoing strong Ministry with Pastor Godbless Mamkwe in Tanzania with school children and AIDS orphans; our strong youth ministry for all ages; and the many other outreach and educational opportunities of this congregation, and it is fair to say Bethel is working hard to respond to God’s call to be the Body of Christ in this place.

In the midst of the challenges that are before us due to the uncertain economic conditions, there is still a great deal to be done! In 2009 we will begin a facilities review toward a major capital campaign sometime in 2010-2011.

And in the end, that “more excellent way” Paul is referring to is, of course, the way of LOVE – the Love of God as demonstrated in the life, death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In partnership with Jesus we will continue to make a difference in Jesus name!



Masterplan 7 Initiatives

Bethel School Initiative

Our preschool and elementary school remain vital as our single largest outreach ministry to our community! New Principal, Christine Stroud joined our staff in July and we moved ahead with strong enrollment, an excellent Staff & School Board, visioning for the future and began the ELEA Accreditation process.

Green Initiative

We added a new roof, new HVAC for the office area, upgrades to more efficient electrical systems, and new solar panels. We are experiencing savings above the projected amounts. In the last 3 years campus electrical usage has been reduced by 17% and for the church 23%. In two months the solar has been operating it has generated 3,400 kWh and saved the atmosphere from 4,200 lb. of CO₂.

Mission Partner Initiative

The LIFE SHAPE of UP, IN, OUT was introduced at the Labor Day Retreat and will continue to be central to how we grow our ministry. Pr. Rick is recruiting small group leaders as we move ahead in strengthening this focus for ALL aspects of our ministry!

Staffing Initiative

Over the past 12 months literally every staff position in the office has seen change and/or turnover with new employees in 4 of 7 positions in the office. Our restructuring is designed to better support the Masterplan.

Stelling Property Initiative

We are very close to completing a NEW joint ministry team with the Synod, ELCA and the Taiwan Lutheran Church to strengthen our partnership with Good Shepherd Christian Community. Pr. Joseph Chiu moves toward ordination and recognition by the ELCA as a Rostered Pastor. We received \$23,000 grant from Synod for property upgrades.

Worship Initiative

The change of Sunday Worship schedule has been a great success in strengthening our Worship life. With a realignment of some of the music positions and the addition of the new Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal we continue to strengthen worship!

Stewardship Initiative

The New Ministry Team is forming that will address: Present income needs related to the '08/'09 Budget; Faith Promise Card responses; making Stewardship an ongoing ministry that speaks to all aspects of our ministry; and ongoing weekly "Mission Minutes" during worship to keep the congregation aware of how your dollars and gifts are being used to further this ministry.

2008 Ministry Highlights

Children's Ministry

Kid Connection (Sunday school)

- In 2008, 70 children were enrolled with an average Sunday attendance of 38. 20 dedicated volunteers served as teachers, assistants and activity leads.
- Offerings for the 2008-2009 season are designated for the AIDS orphans in Tanzania. The Pajama Program (first mission project of the year) yielded 250 pairs of pajamas from the church and school.

GOTCHA (4th – 6th grade)

- Under the direction of Yvonne Loo and Anita Fields and has 24 regular participants. Events included glow-in-the-dark miniature golf, bowling, movie night, and laser tag.

Vacation Bible School

- During the 4th week of July 2008, 100 children attended our VBS program "Power Lab." BLS' summer camp also participated. The majority of children who attended were non-Bethel.
- 75 volunteers helping to prepare food, lead activities, lead groups, lead worship and much more.

Youth Ministry

- Jr. High *Wildside* (confirmation) touched the lives of 27 students and 5 adult mentors almost every Wednesday night as they prepare for their confirmation day. In June, 12 youth enjoyed an adventurous week at *Rock-n-Water* summer camp.
- *Sr. High Fellowship* continues to meet almost every Wednesday night for dinner and activities, and touched the lives of over 50 teenagers in 2008.
- *Common Ground* celebrated its 25th year of music drama ministry with tour of southern California in June (40 participants); April's *Mission to Mexico* (youth edition) continued our work

with Esperanza to build sustainable housing (20 participants); The *Western States Youth Gathering* in July featured musical leadership by Bethel's **House Band**, made up of 11 Bethel teens.

- The **Common Ground Reunion** held in March was a success with nearly 100 in attendance.
- The **Van Fundraising Campaign** raised over \$25,000 toward new group transportation.

Worship & Music Ministry

- In September Bethel moved to a two-service schedule to allow us to better focus our time, energy and resources and create the most vibrant worship possible, which includes a designated fellowship time between services to increase congregational unity.
- In September, Robert Cornejo handed off directing the Adult Choir to Lisa Cornejo. Lisa's charismatic personality, excellent directing skills and strong faith are a beautiful combination for this position.
- Congregation donations helped us introduce the new Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnbook.
- Carol Hooper ends her time as our Bell Choir Director (since 1997). At one time, Carol directed a Jr. High bell choir, and two adult choirs. Chris Hogan took over this position on January 1, 2009.

Bethel Lutheran School

- Welcomed new principal Christine Stroud in July.
- Enrollment is 157 total students
- Improvements include: 5 additions to the computer lab, "Smartboards" in two classrooms, enrichment assemblies, updated fire alarm systems, and individual emergency kits for all students and staff.
- Working closely with the ELEA to become an accredited institution.

Discipleship

Adult Education

- Our new worship schedule offers two Adult Education opportunities almost every Sunday morning. Adult forums included a wide range of teachers and topics including Six Steps to Deeper Discipleship, Tough Questions of Faith, the Letters of John, and reports from local mission groups.

Women's Ministry

- Five Bible Studies met regularly and gave an opportunity for spiritual growth. Special events

included the Spring Mother's Day Princess Tea and Fall Tanzania-inspired Thankoffering luncheon, Summer Bible Study Luncheon, and Tea & Cookie Exchange.

Men's Ministry

- Monthly Men's Night Out meetings included worship, study and fellowship.
- A group of men from Bethel attended the annual fall retreat at Mt. Hermon Conference Center.

The Evergreens (Senior Ministry)

- Met twice monthly for lunch, fellowship and a topical discussion designed to aid in "graceful aging." Kaye Kuhlmann retired as coordinator and Pr. Randy took over the coordination in the interim.

Stephen Ministry

- Stephen Ministry Training was conducted at Bethel for 10 students from different churches, including 3 from Bethel. Bethel now has a total of 16 Stephen Ministers who give their support to numerous individuals going through a crisis.

Endowment Team

- We were overjoyed to award two grants from the endowment fund in March, 2008: One to Bethel Lutheran School for cutting-edge reading comprehension materials and one to the Tanzania team to fly Pastor Godbless Mamkwe to the United States to teach about his work with AIDS orphans in Tanzania.
- Grant applications for 2009 will be accepted beginning in May and will be distributed in August.

Mission to Tanzania

- In June, 10 individuals journeyed to Tanzania to work at the Massae Girl's Lutheran Secondary School and visit our sister parish in Old Moshi. God blessed us with new insights, relationships and joy.
- Distributed over \$35,000 to better the lives of Tanzanian children, especially AIDS orphans and others caught in social unrest.

2008 Financial Report

January 13, 2009

In September 2006 Bethel revamped its financial system, changing from cash to accrual. In the past 18 months, there has been a complete turnover of the Bethel staff that deals with church and school finances. The past year, particularly since the departure of long-time Parish Administrator Joan Christensen in June, has been a time of transition and learning new roles. Our new Parish Administrator, Fara Brock, has worked diligently to assign financial tasks since she was hired in September, but as of mid-January we are still catching up on getting the financial reports in order. The staff is working with an outside CPA firm to complete a compilation of the last fiscal year (which ended August 31, 2008), a task they hope will be completed within a few weeks.

The current year's budget calls for \$895K in cash expenditures, including \$15K for unplanned emergencies and to build reserves. For the four months ending in December, Bethel received \$311K, which is about 3% behind where should be to fully support the budget. By the end of the fiscal year, we could find ourselves \$25K behind the budget; perhaps even more if the economic slowdown continues. Your leaders will continue to be vigilant in holding down expenses and ensuring the gifts we receive are used to glorify God with verve and potency.

– Dave Tribby
FINANCIAL OFFICER

Thank You

We thank the dedicated individuals (who have departed from Bethel's Staff in the past year) for their faithful service:

Kaye Kuhlmann
Marybarbara Zorio
Joan Christensen
Kathryn Montano
Robert Cornejo
David Sandwisch
Joe Theirs
Mary Fields
Carol Hooper

	BAPTIZED	CONFIRMED
Membership - end of '07	837	637
Received - Baptism	10	0
Received - Other	3	16
Removed - Death	7	7
Removed - Other	46	36
Membership - end of '08	797	610

For detailed information on Bethel's 2007 membership and financial data, visit
www.bethelcupertino.org