

Ephesians 3:16-17

*I pray that,
according to the
riches of his glory,
he may grant that
you may be
strengthened in your
inner being with
power through his
Spirit, and that
Christ may dwell in
your hearts through
faith, as you are
being rooted and
grounded in love.*

Dear Bethel Members and Friends;

2011 has been a year of change! Yet, in the midst of all that has transpired over the past 12 months, God's presence and power has been revealed over and over again. Here are some of the key highlights:

- Out of the "Pastoral Challenge" of 2010 the congregation initiated the "Living Our Faith" campaign with the 2011 emphasis on "Radical Hospitality" and 2012 on "Loving Service."
- 2 Task Forces and 2 Committees were formed to implement the campaign (see below)
- New programs and ministries began through the process.
- We welcomed Patricia Myerholtz onto the staff as the new Adult Ministry Coordinator.
- We said "goodbye" to Interim Associate Pastor Lori Eickmann after a 15 month interim that helped set direction for Bethel's future and resulted in the calling our new Associate Pastor.
- We welcomed to Bethel the Reverend Doctor Gabriele "Gabi" Schroeder and her family into our ministry and work as Bethel's new Associate Pastor!
- We initiated "Fun with Faith" – a new ministry each Wednesday evening of fellowship, learning, and spiritual growth with strong participation from ALL parts of our congregation!
- Following the retirement of longtime Music Director Norita Hoegel whose influence touched all aspects of our worship life, we were pleased and excited to bring long-time member Clayton Johnson on staff to lead the 10:30 a.m. worship service as well as the Worship Team.
- We continued to wrestle with infrastructure issues:
 - Water main break to which the congregation and school responded by raising nearly \$49K for repairs.
 - Presently addressing several gas leaks being repaired or replaced throughout the facility.
 - Repaired our sanctuary projectors after a power-surge blew-out bulbs and damaged a couple of circuit boards.
- Continue to see growth in enrollment in the pre-school and the early grades of the school as the economy seems to be improving in our area of service.
- We continue to face the financial challenges of a struggling economy in the face of facility demands on our resources and the continued need to strengthen our ministry in this ever changing community.

2011 has been a busy time filled with new and positive change. 2012 looks to be a year of new growth and opportunity as we focus on ever new ways to serve our community and each other in the name of Jesus. Please renew your commitment to be a part of Bethel's future with your continued participation in our ministry and with your ongoing financial support. We are "Blessed to a blessing" in Jesus name!

AMEN

Pastor Randal J. Pabst

Lead Pastor

Ministry Report for the

Winter Congregational Meeting

February 5, 2012

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Dan Gaardsmoe, Financial Officer

So far, FY'12 is the year of repairs. There was the water pipe repair in the Fall. The gas line repairs in the Winter. The daily prayer is that there will be no more in the remaining months. A special thanks to Fara Brock who has spent much time and effort to reduce Bethel's expenses. A recent example is the CPA firm significantly reduced their fee based on Bethel's financial staff producing accurate reports.

FY'11: Giving to Bethel's general fund for the fiscal year that ended last August 31 came to \$ 744,579.53. This is 5.7% below the original budget of \$790k. Income from usage fees, interest, and other sources brought total church income to \$ 805,482.00. Church cash expenses, excluding fee-based events, were held to \$ 714,864.58, or 6.8% below the original budget. Fee-based events (such as Youth trips and the Labor Day retreat) cost \$ 5,767.87 more than fees paid to support them. Even though the planned giving goal was not met, by keeping control of expenses, Bethel ended FY'11 with a positive net cash for the year of \$ 29,694.28.

FY'12: The yearly budget passed at last August's congregation meeting calls for \$780K in cash expenses and \$790K in giving to the general fund. From September through December 2011, giving is less what was planned by \$ 27,134.24 (9%) while cash expenses are \$ 17,281.98 (5.6%) below budget. Giving in January is also below the planned giving amount, so the staff will continue watching expenses.

BETHEL MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS 2011

YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM 2011

- Theme for 2010-2011: "Balance"
- Theme for 2011-2012: "Now"

Youth Director: Tom Hoegel

Ministry Lead: Marianne Nadell

High School Youth Volunteers: Molly Schrey, Marianne Nadell, Mike Lorenzen, Rich Teed

Common Ground Sponsors: Katlynn Hoegel, Jillian Cosgrave, Adam Klopfenstein, Lexi Baker, Dan Dixon, Brett Deutscher, Brian Schuette, and a whole host of parent volunteers.

Jr. High Youth Volunteers: Robin Winegardner, Susan Leavitt, Maggie Emmert, Jeanine Woodell, Carol Wheaton

2011 High School Major Events:

- Mission to Mexico
- Common Ground tour traveled north including Washington and Oregon states.
- Fellowship Events including:
 - ◇ Ice Skating/Caroling/Pizza Night
 - ◇ Discussions on both Sundays and Wednesdays
 - ◇ Fun with Faith dinners
- Service Projects:
 - ◇ Serving sandwiches to the homeless during January Service Worship

- ◇ Second Harvest Food Bank (approx. 4 times/year)
- ◇ Participated in protest in support of Cupertino High School in September
- Western States Gathering at California Lutheran University

2011 Jr. High School Major Events:

- Jr. High Rock-n-Waters (9 girls attended)
- Various “Wildside” events to include:
 - ◇ Movie Night
 - ◇ Bowling
 - ◇ Ice Skating/Caroling/Pizza Night
 - ◇ 9th grade retreat at Granite Bay
 - ◇ Confirmation Retreat at Bethel
 - ◇ Confirmed seven 9th graders on January 30

CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES

Amanda Boniface, Children’s Ministry Coordinator

Highlights of 2011

- Not 1, but 2 Ministry Leads – Corinne Devine and Patrice Sera
- Kid Connection
 - ◇ Average 30 children per week (preschool-6th grade)
 - ◇ 15 teachers – including several high school youth and 4 teachers new to Kid Connection)
 - ◇ John Boniface, Patrice Sera, Olga Samoylov, Minnie Sudarsunam, Josh Myerholtz, Amber Myerholtz, Alice Isaacson, Lynne Stasi, Erik Edstrom, Sheeja Das, Rick Westwick, Sonya Hanson, Amanda Laughlin, Jamie Laughlin, Carol Wheaton
 - ◇ Offering goes toward Bethel’s designated fund of the month
 - ◇ Christmas program – Tell Me the Story of Christmas
 - ◇ High energy opening led by Tyler Freckman
 - ◇ Vacation Bible School 2011: Pandamania
 - ◇ Combined program with BLS
 - ◇ 80 participants (preschool-6th grade)
 - ◇ 40+ junior high- adult volunteers throughout the week
- **Fun With Faith**
 - ◇ 5 adult volunteers – Angela Brown, Carol Wheaton, Jean Teed, Tyler Freckman, Rick Westwick
 - ◇ Using rotational model
 - ◇ Small class size

- Service Worship
 - ◊ Christmas cards for service men and women
 - ◊ Lutheran World Relief Baby Kits
- Nursery
 - ◊ Great team – Laverne Hayden, Lisa Read, Miranda Myerholtz
 - ◊ Updated policies and procedures for nursery

Planned Activities for 2012

- Family/Community Easter celebration – April 7th
- Support Congregational Life committee in coordinating family/community activities
- Cross-generational participation in worship service
- VBS 2012- Sky
 - ◊ July 9-13-2012
- Continue activities listed in “Highlights” section

Desired Support from the Congregation

- Volunteers
 - ◊ Fun with Faith teacher for the month of May
 - ◊ VBS 2012

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Dave Denny, Chair

The discipleship ministry underwent many changes in the past year. Building upon the foundation of the ELCA-sponsored Book of Faith programs, Bethel moved forward in response to its Pastoral Challenge by studying together the transformative book, *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, by Bishop Robert Schnase. We held classes on both Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings during Lent, focusing on the themes of radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity. Virtually every ministry at Bethel was touched by this study, with many individuals and whole ministries inspired to change habitual approaches from member-oriented programs to other-oriented outreach. This new vision has begun to transform Bethel Lutheran Church—from the language we use to discuss our faith, to the many ways in which we act upon it. One such innovation resulted in a new church-wide discipleship effort, the “Fun with Faith” initiative, which transformed Wednesday evenings at Bethel from the activities of a couple individual ministries into a multi-generational, meal-sharing, educational and devotional feast. Participants shared meals, worshipped, prayed, and learned together in such diverse classes as a Bible Study in the Book of Ephesians, parenting, Judaism, as well as community art projects that resulted in sparkling new Christmas tree decorations, among other things. Under new leadership in 2012, the discipleship ministry looks forward to continued growth opportunities for all Bethel members dedicated to being transformed by God’s Spirit into faithful followers of Jesus.

MISSION OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

Committee Members: Dale Jones, Lois Brouillette, Jackie Jones, Deirdre Lum, and Laurie Bryson

The Mission Outreach Ministry Team would like to thank everyone who participated in serving our community during 2011. Here is a snapshot of what we accomplished together:

- **assembling health kits for Lutheran World Relief** on October 16
- **collecting turkeys at the turkey drive for the Lord's Pantry** on Nov. 20th (60 turkeys donated),
- **collecting warm coats for CityTeam** on October 16 (more than 40 coats donated), and
- **collecting food for both the Lord's Pantry on a weekly basis and for West Valley Community Services** on October 16.
- **cooking breakfast at the San Jose Family Shelter** on February 20, April 17, June 19, August 21, October 16, and December 18, and
- **cooking lunch at CityTeam's Men's Recovery Center** on October 16,
- **sorting food at the Lord's Pantry** on Sunday Nov. 20th and Dec. 18th, and at Second Harvest Food Bank on May 7th
- **fundraising by walking in the CROP Walk** on April 3,
- **shopping at the Junque Sale for Sunnyvale FISH** by on Nov. 5th,
- **shopping at the African Craft Sale** on Sunday December 11 for the New Life Band (over \$1000.00 donated to construct the NLB school!),
- **building homes in Tijuana**, Mexico during the Youth Mission to Mexico April 16-20 and the Adult Mission to Mexico September. 29 - October 3; and
- **building homes in Morgan Hill** at the Habitat for Humanity work day on March 26th
- **writing letters to members of Congress** regarding Hunger Issues at Bread for the World Sunday on March 27,
- **raising community awareness** during the Habitat Walk Home on October 16,
- **visiting with older adults** at Sunny View Retirement Community on October 16,
- **working alongside our brothers and sisters at West Valley Presbyterian's Service Worship** on January 30, May 29, and July 31, and
- **cleaning up the yard at CityTeam's Heritage Home** on October 16.
- In 2012, we look forward to starting work on the **Habitat for Humanity All Faith House in Cupertino**. We welcome your ideas for the new year! Please contact any member of our committee to share your thoughts.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM

Co-Chairs: Tom McAvoy and Brian Schuette

The active engagement of each and every one of us in Sunday morning worship enriches our lives and the community we serve. Please consider the following:

- **Adult, Bell and Seraph choirs** rehearse weekly and provide special music at scheduled worship services.
- **Drama Ministry** and creative video add unique worship elements.
- **Music Support and the Worship Team** meets and practices periodically to integrate musical expressions into worship.

- **Thanks to all who also serve** to make the worship services vibrant: musicians, visual arts folks, audio/visual support, altar guild and flower delivery, activity bags, ushers, greeters, deacons, students, youth, staff and active worshippers.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE MINISTRY TEAM

Congregational life has been going strong and had a BUSY year.

NEW EVENTS

- **Fun with Faith Nights**—going strong with good participation and looking forward to its growth.
- **Octoberfest**—great family event that got many other ministries involved.
-

ONGOING EVENTS

- **Out and About**—outings are very popular and have been a great way for members to get to know one another.
- **Ministry Fair**—“opening doors” all ministries participated well and members enjoyed it.
- **Art Fair**—will do again this year and include more of the school participation.
- **4th of July**—continues to be a great outreach event.
- **LDR**—fun event that stayed on budget.
- **Women’s Retreat**—stayed on budget had over 60 participants. Looking forward to another event in the spring.
- **Evergreens**—continues on this year with the help of Shirley Gross. Averages about 20 attendees.
- **Readers Anonymous, Sunday at the Movies, Supper Clubs, White Breakfast**—continue to grow and will have more opportunity for promotion this year.
- **Sunday Coffee**—Tony Stieber continues to do great job leading this ministry. We are promoting who is hosting and look forward to promoting that everyone bring their own cups.
- **The Sheep project** was a wonderful success and even made it in the local paper!
- **The Chrismons** project was also a wonderful way for the members and even non members to connect and was enjoyed by all.

COMMUNICATION MINISTRY REPORT

Hella Bluhm-Stieber, Council Rep

Over the last year the communications team has mainly worked on updating and revising the Bethel Website. In addition, the communications officer has written “highlights from the council” for the weekly eNewsletter to keep the congregation informed of council matters.

The website committee has up to 15 members. Our emphasis is to make the current website more interesting for visitors and easy to use for current members. As part of this we looked at many other websites, created different designs, worked with the ministry coordinators to update all ministry descriptions, wrote new content, changed the organization of the website, and worked on technical issues. Over the last few months some of these changes have already been incorporated into the current website, e.g. a search button, a media shout slide show, and a Facebook link.

“LIVING OUR FAITH” CAMPAIGN

Patricia Myerholtz (Welcome Zone Task Force leader)

Tasks Accomplished:

- Had temporary signs up to let new comers know where church entrances are.
- Bulletin boards were cleaned and updated. Now have system in place to try to keep them current.
- Sunshine Team was developed out of these meetings.
- Name Tag Sundays were being done at least once a month.

Task yet to be done:

- -Work on ways to get more members involved in greeting.
- -Maybe having a class using methods from the book "Five Practices of a Fruitful Congregation" by Robert Schnase.
- -Think of more "out of the box" ideas on being more welcoming.
- -Meet on a more regular schedule--set up goals and timeline.

Members of this task force are: Patrice Sera, Kathryn Montano, Rick Bryson, Jean Teed, Sharon Parady, Josh Myerholtz

MEN OF MONDAY

Tom Cole, Chair

- Support to contractor:
 - Replaced Torvend dishwasher pre-heater unit.
 - Replaced Fireside water dispenser.
 - Repaired Torvend garbage disposal valve.
- Replaced Torvend dishwasher anti-syphon valve.
- Repaired and painted Zoar Hall deteriorated wall siding.
- Washed solar panels and had one bad module replaced by contractor.
- Decommissioned Torvend faulty boiler system.
- Frequently cleaned roofs and cleared rain gutters around campus.
- Repaired sagging fences near play yard
- Repaired many door locks, latches and weather-stripping around campus.
- Replaced many lamps and ballast assemblies around campus.
- Trimmed tree branches and shrubs around campus.
- Replaced faulty module in sound mixer, and lamps in video projectors.
- Repaired BBQ storage cabinet doors and roof.
- Repaired picnic tables in playground area.
- Fabricated material for "Ministry Door" presentation.
- Numerous small "Fixit" issues all year long.

CARING MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

- Stephen Ministry has been doing a great job promoting their ministry. They have participated in the *Octoberfest* and ministry fair and continue to be promoted in the bulletins.
 - Thanks to Stephen Ministry and Tillie Hinely new “Care Notes” are available for ALL ages.
 - There are going to be 4 new Stephen Ministry members available to the congregation this spring.
- The “sunshine team” was developed and is going strong in helping to send cards to members reminding them that Bethel is here for them. Thank you to Kathryn Montano for her help with this.

- There were many meal deliveries organized for those who just had babies or had someone sick in the family and the volunteer list is growing for this ministry.

There were many memorial services where volunteers stepped in to make things happen.

For 2012:

Looking forward to bringing more awareness to Stephen Ministry and continuing with the caring ministries of cards being sent, meals being delivered, and more opportunities for Evangelism/caring ministries to expand.

BETHEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Positive Enrollment Trend. Our preschool enrollment reached its maximum capacity in 2011. An early strong surge in applications and enrollments for the 2012-2013 school year is encouraging!

Program Development. Additions to our strong academic and enrichment program are:

- “Step Up to Writing”, a comprehensive elementary grade writing development program
- Gym program for our preschoolers
- “Handwriting Without Tears” extended down to preschool from elementary
- New performing arts opportunities throughout the year directed by Norita Hoegel
- Chess club, piano lessons, “Mad Science” and computer class in extended care program
- Bethel Invitational Track Meet returns to Cupertino High School

Campus Improvements. New water and gas pipes were installed due to age related malfunctions. Garden boxes were built by Boy Scout Troop 400. Jonathan Tung built a new playground dramatic play stage for an eagle scout project. Artificial grass turf was installed on our playground field as a response to poor viability of natural grass.

Caring and Sharing. Our students learn from an early age the importance of sharing the love of Jesus with local and international organizations. Projects accomplished this past year included:

- Malaria nets for Africa
- Water well for Africa through Lutheran World Relief
- Pajama drive for area shelters
- “One for Books” community donations through Scholastic Book Fair
- Sponsoring our godchild, Darlin, through “*Ninos con Valor*”
- Purchasing pillows and books for the San Jose Family Shelter

Strategic Planning. School board is conducting a careful analysis of our current school conditions and community needs to set a vision for the future. Work has begun on a mission statement that accurately reflects the nature and purpose of our school.

Annual Fund continues to support our growth and development. A new brochure details the necessity for donors and gives validity to this fund as we reach out to corporate donors.

Thank you to the Bethel Lutheran Church for your prayerful and financial support that has enabled this ministry to share the love of Christ with our students and their families.

School Board Members:

Joan Christensen, *Chair* Pastor Randy Pabst Marion Abney, *Principal*
 Jenny Edstrom, Kyle Fujimoto, Dan Gaardsmoe, Shandi Holder, Vonny Kleveland, Minnie Sudarsanam