



Ministry Report 2012

for the

Winter Congregational Meeting

February 3, 2013

Bethel

Lutheran Church & School

Bethel's Vision

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. Ephesians 3:16-17)

UPDATE FROM THE INTERIM LEAD PASTOR

Dear Bethel Family and Friends,

Although I've only been with you a short time it has been a joy getting to know the congregation. Not only have I received a warm welcome from all of you but I have been exceedingly blessed to work with Pastor Gabi, who is very gifted, and a wide array of talented and passionate staff. I am impressed by the investment you have made in Bethel Lutheran School, the amazing staff and teachers at BLS, and in the excellence of resources supporting worship, music and other creative programming. Last but not least, it has been a pleasure working with members who bring a spirit of openness, wisdom, skill, and professionalism to their leadership roles. Bethel is truly blessed!

In 2012, you completed the 2nd year of a three-year campaign called "Living our Faith" with the first two years emphasizing "Radical Hospitality" and "Loving Service (iServe)", as I understand it the emphasis for 2013 is "Community Building."

This Living Our Faith Campaign is part of a larger master plan created under Pastor Randy's leadership in 2010 (prior to the call of Pastor Gabi) that included the following primary goals with an over-arching charge to engage every participant at Bethel Church/School as a Mission Partner in order to accomplish the following strategic goals:

- Serve our multicultural community by collaborating with local churches and organizations on events, including the development of our satellite site for Asian-focused ministries.
- Create a strategic plan for faith development for every age group, from children through older adults, utilizing strong teachers and consistent Bible study programs.
- Organize more fun fellowship events as a way of welcoming visitors and new members, and engage all (multi-age) members.
- Connect visitors, new members and existing members to programs for mission and ministry by utilizing an Adult Ministry Coordinator.
- Increase the number of congregation-wide volunteer service projects.
- Offer more variety in our worship services using audio, video, and visual arts such as drama and movement.
- Expand communication to the congregation (i.e. using Facebook, email, and an improved web site).

Like the parable of the sower and the seed, you have cast seeds over the past few years seeing what will revitalize the congregation and bring about continued growth in Christ. As you read the following reports in light of these goals you will discover that some have taken root and flourished, some are just beginning to bud and some have fallen on hard ground.

The larger goal of identifying what energizes and motivates this congregation for ministry and the kind of leader you need to help you live out your mission is the task before us this year. The Call Committee, is just beginning to form and will be reaching out to members for input and guidance.

As they do their work, we will focus on "building community" by listening to one another, evaluating and celebrating what has been, learning what energizes us for the future, identifying the broken places in our world that need healing but most of all we will be dreaming together. As we do this, I trust God's Spirit will lead Bethel to the next chapter in its ministry where Jesus will be made visible to those who are seeking new life and the world will be healed and transformed by your witness.

In hope,



IN MEMORIAM

The Bethel family of faith has bid a final farewell to a number of very dear members who have been part of our community for a long time and proclaimed the message of God's saving grace in word and deed. We wish to remember them in this report, acknowledge their gifts to this community, and thank God for their faithful service.

Conrad Bracklein	Eleanor Durso	Marion Francis
Barbara Goldflam	Mal Mallory	Biruta McShane
Dorothy Meyer	Norman Prokey	Kristi Sackett
	Myron Sandberg	

WELCOME TO BETHEL

In 2012, we welcomed the following individuals and families s new members to our congregation:

Nora and Brian Hadding (children: Nicholas and Lauren), Kara Hermann (children: Jack and Kayla), Sue Lampkin, Randy Shattuck and Kathi Adams (children: Lauren and Aidan), and Dana Torgersen.

In 2012 we baptized the following children in the name of the triune God:

Jaxon Archer Dixon	Eleanor Kathleen Edstrom	Kayla Rae Hermann
Nolan Darrell Parady	Ella Jayne Burkhart	



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Dan Gaardsmoe, Financial Officer

Laurie Bryson, Dave Tribby, Jack Wedgewood, Finance Committee Members

Brett Deutscher, Stewardship Committee Chair

Kelly Johnson, Tony Stieber, Audit Committee Members

Fara Brock, Parish Administrator

Bethel begins year 3 of the "Living our Faith" campaign. The emphasis is on "*building greater community in Christ*" (using Pastor Randy's words). This means the focus is on us, the Bethel community, to ensure our faith experience at Bethel is the best it can be. It is divine coincidence that Bethel is in transition going through a call process. I mention this, because Bethel's financial health is a key part of this emphasis.

In January, the Finance Committee had a mid-year review of the Fiscal Year 2012 budget. The Committee projects the actual giving received by the end of the fiscal year (Aug '13) will be \$635,000. Over the past one and a half years our business administrator, Fara Brock, has been able to reduce most line item expenses. As a result of Fara's work and the mid-year budget review the Finance Committee projects the minimum expense budget to be \$700,000.

In the coming months you will be asked to renew your financial pledge to Bethel. I announce this now to give all of us time to reflect on our Bethel memories and to discern how that directs our response to consider an increase in our financial pledge to Bethel.

Thank you for your continued support of Bethel

Dan Gaardsmoe

Fiscal Officer

BETHEL MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS 2012

2012 MINISTRY THEME: iSERVE

In 2012 we journeyed together in *Loving Service* as Bethel launched its iServe campaign.

During this past year iServe:

- Highlighted ministries and members as they served others inside and outside of Bethel.
- Presented service opportunities throughout the year to help discover those that best fit one’s gifts and talents - including the annual Ministry Fair.
- Explored service in depth with our retreat speakers at this year’s Labor Day Retreat.
- Initiated the ongoing Bethel Video Ministry, which highlights ways in which Bethel members and friends serve others.



Jesus calls us to serve – not just for the sake of those we help but also for ourselves. Let your heart be transformed... how can YOU serve?

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.
 (Matthew 5:16)

SERVANT HEARTS OF THE MONTH

Each month in 2012 (with the exception of December when all eleven recipients were celebrated again), one ministry leader was featured in our bulletins, narthex, and eNewsletters. This gave our congregation the opportunity to get to know one another better, to learn from each other, and to be inspired by the faith and commitment of some among our outstanding leaders. These are the recipients of the 2012 Servant hearts of the Months awards:

January	Rick Westwick (mission outreach ministry)
February	Brian Schuette (worship and music ministry)
March	Steve Emmert (building and grounds ministry)
April	Marianne Nadell (youth ministry)
May	Patrice Sera (children’s ministry)
June	Dave Arnold (technology ministry)
July	Sharon Parady (congregational life ministry)
August	Hella Bluhm Stieber (church council) Minnie Sudarsanam (Bethel Lutheran School)
September	Kathy Arnold (education/discipleship ministry)
October	Joanne Stensaas (caring ministries)
November	Brett Deutscher (stewardship ministry)



**Thank you for having
the Heart of a Servant**

BETHEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Minnie Sudarsanam, School Board Chair

School Board Members: Jenny Edstrom, Kyle Fujimoto, Dan Gaardsmoe, Steve Klinger

Marion Abney, Principal

Enrollment Increase

- Current Enrollment: Preschool- 57 Elementary enrollment- 81 (an increase of 27%)
- Classes added: ½ day Jr. Kindergarten class, full day Kindergarten class
- Enrollment for 2013-2014 is underway (15% discount is offered to Bethel members)

Program Development

- iPads are in use in the elementary department for learning reinforcement
- Additional language development resources are planned for the preschool

Accreditation

- Will begin WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) Accreditation process

Strategic Planning

- Mission statement and goal planning is in development

Marketing

- Informational DVD is under construction

Facility Use Agreements for Income and Exposure

- FUSION Afterschool Program uses campus during the school year
- TechKnowHow will be renting a classroom this summer

Professional Development

- Student Support Team Training and Universal Behavior Plan Training

Emergency Preparedness

- Classroom security is being assessed

Staffing

- Partial salary restoration was given to those affected by the budget-mandated 5% pay cut in Oct. 2009
- Short term disability insurance was added as a benefit
- Hired preschool supervisor, librarian, extended care supervisor, Jr. Kindergarten & Kindergarten teachers

Annual Fund

- Funding goals are classroom carpeting, new technology, website redesign and scholarships

Open Board Positions

- Secretary

Thank you to Bethel Lutheran Church for your prayers and donations that have enabled our students to grow academically, emotionally, and spiritually through God's guidance and grace.



WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY

Tom McAvoy, Brian Schuette, Ministry Leads

Doreen Baldwin (Visual Arts Coordinator), Ed Fox (Lead Usher), Mark Evashenk (Coordinator of Deacons & Lectors),

Lois Eid (Altar Guild)

Worship & Music Staff: Melody Bast (organ), Marina Dolgonosov (Piano Accompanist), David Herberg (All Bethel Choir), Chris Hogan

(A Joyful Noise Bell Choir), Clayton Johnson (Contemporary Music Coordinator), Barbara Larsen (Seraph Choir, volunteer director)

Elise Holst (Media Shout Designer), Tom Hoegel (AV Coordinator),

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.

In 2012, a new on-line service planning tool (“Planning Center Online”) was introduced and has shown immediate benefits for this ministry.

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

MISSION OUTREACH MINISTRY

Dale Jones, Lois Brouillette, Ministry Leads

Committee Members: Jackie Jones, Deirdre Lum, Laurie Bryson

As a congregation, we became God’s hands, feet and heart in our community.

Here are the highlights of 2012:

- Weekly deliveries of food collected for the **Lord’s Pantry** at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in San Jose
- Weekly quilt sewing for **Lutheran World Relief** in the Fireside Room at Bethel
- Biweekly deliveries of clothes collected for Immanuel Lutheran Church’s **clothing closet** in San Jose
- Monthly dinners served at various churches in Cupertino for the **Rotating Men’s Shelter**
- Bimonthly breakfasts served at the **San Jose Family Shelter**
- **3 Service Worship Sundays** and one **Saturday Worship Service**
- **3 Habitat for Humanity** work days at Cleo Ave, Cupertino
- Two trips to **Mexico** to build homes for our brothers and sisters alongside **Esperanza** south of the border
- Two Turkey Drives for the **Lord’s Pantry**
- One food sorting day at **Second Harvest Food Bank**
- One South Bay **CROP Walk** for world hunger
- One **Sunnyvale FISH** Junque sale at St. John’s Lutheran
- One fabulous weekend with the **New Life Band** singing, dancing, worshipping, and eating together
- One month of hosting the **Faith In Action/Silicon Valley Rotating Shelter** at our Stelling site. Bethel members moved guests in, provided nightly dinners, and stocked the refrigerator with breakfast and lunch items.



MISSION OUTREACH: QUILTS

Joann Weberg, Ministry Lead

Another aspect of Bethel’s outreach ministry are the many quilts that our congregation is able to distribute to people in need — locally, nationally, and internationally. This year, for example, the receiving groups include: LWR, Bethel Esperanza Int. Mexico Outreach, Bethel Lutheran School, First Emmanuel Come, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Habitat for Humanity, Heritage House, Palo Alto Vets, Ronald McDonald House, San Jose Family Shelter, Santa Clara Medical Center ICN, South Hayward Parish, Silicon Valley Rotating Shelter, Stonecroft Ministry, Sunny View Retirement Community, Villages-Nondenominational Church. Our quilters were able to produce a total of 295 quilts (221 large and 74 small). Over the years, the group has made an impressive total of 2,785 quilts.



EVANGELISM/CARING MINISTRY

Joanne Stensaas, Ministry Lead

Rev. Ken Bancroft, Pastor of Care & Visitation

Patricia Myerholtz, Adult Ministry Coordinator

Through this ministry we seek to build awareness and ownership of our Lord's command to "Love one another as I have loved you" and to nurture a climate that will enable our actions toward others to bear fruits of love. (I will address each subset and then add our goals for 2013.)

Altar Flower Delivery (Patricia Myerholtz)

- There has been a thankful and gracious response from those receiving the flowers.
- Volunteers are still needed to assist in flower delivery after the second service.

Hospitality/Welcome (Patricia Myerholtz)

- Last March confirmation students were utilized to welcome and usher. Hopefully this idea can be continued.

Stephen Ministry (Pastor Ken Bancroft)

- In 2012 Bethel's Stephen Ministry developed a program of informally reaching out to members and others just to help people know that their church cares about them and to help them keep in contact with their congregation. How far the contact goes depends on the response and on whether any need is shared. We have had good responses and some good relationships have developed through this out reach.
- Otherwise throughout 2012 we have presented Stephen Ministry as an integral part of the total caring ministry of Bethel. This will continue to be the emphasis.
- Four new Stephen Ministers were commissioned this past fall: Greg and Patricia Merholtz, Kathryn Montano, and Rick Bryson.



Outreach (Joanne Stensaas)

- The Easter Egg Hunt was a great success. At least 300 children attended. 100 bags and Bethel magnets as well as 1800 filled plastic eggs were handed out.
- *How to Be More Welcoming*: This class was offered during the last *Fun with Faith* session using the book "Our Ministry of Conversation" as a guide.
- *Feeding the Flock*: A temple talk to encourage caring ministry with an emphasis on Stephen Ministry was presented at both services in June. The goal was for the congregation to embrace accountability for more personal relationships and caring for one another. Sending birthday greetings to all Bethel members in the appropriate month is continuing.

Visitor Follow-up (Patricia Myerholtz)

- Emails are sent within 24 hours to all visitors welcoming them and including them in Bethel's E-News
- A Caring Station, equipped with cards, addresses and pens was set up in the Narthex for congregational members to use in contacting those missed or ill.
- Cards, phone calls and visits to those on the prayer list or from info from our visitation pastor are being encouraged. Stephen Ministry is taking the lead in this issue.

2013 Goals

- More participation with altar flower distribution is needed. A calendar/ sign-up sheet will be placed in the Narthex.
- We need to work on a new welcome gift for visitors. I coffee mug with the Bethel Logo has been suggested. Budget?
- Work on a promotional video for Stephen Ministry/Caring Ministry is in progress
- Ministry leads and Stephen Ministers have been encouraged to attend the "Listening For Depth of Understanding" workshop led by Pastor Carol.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY / YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Hannah Lutke, Michael Schrey, Ministry Leads

Bethel University was started this summer and made its debut at the ministry fair. We have a Facebook group where events and weekly meetings can be found. Members also post updates on how work and school are going. Our meetings have been at a variety of places and covered many topics of discussion. We have become pen pals with a class of sixth graders at Sanders Middle School in Arizona and we hope to continue doing so for the rest of the year. Bethel University has just returned from a service trip to Central City Lutheran Mission in San Bernardino where we did scraping and painting. While in L.A. we also visited the Home Girl Cafe and learned more about the ministry done there. For the future Bethel University wants to continue worshipping God through service and community.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Marianne Nadell, Mark Evashenk:

Ministry Leads

High School Youth Volunteers:

Molly Schrey, Brett Deutscher, Mike Lorenzen, Rich Teed, Marianne Nadell,

Common Ground Sponsors:

Brian Schuette, Jillian Cosgrave, Adam Klopfenstein, David Schrey,

Chris Larsen, Katlynn Hoegel, Jamie Jacobson

Jr. High Youth Volunteers:

Jeannine Woddell, Carol Wheaton

Confirmation, Affirmation of Baptism:

Robyn Winegardner, Susan Leavitt

Youth Director:

Tom Hoegel

Youth Assistants:

Mike Schrey, Hannah Lutke, Megan Choate, Tyler Freckmann (2011-12)

Josh Myerholtz, Jonathan Stolan, Amber Johnson (2012-13)

What a ride! Beginning in 6th grade through College, our youth are encouraged to "Love Like Jesus." While this may sound like just a catchy slogan, it is really a challenge to each of us to refrain the way we look at our place in the world. We encourage a balance of fellowship, service, learning and worship, all the while finding lots of room for joy and laughter.

Our Ministry Leads are Marianne and Mark, while our lead staff are Katlynn, Robyn, Susan, Carol, and Molly. Along with this group are dozens of young adults and parents that give hundreds of hours. We cannot do this without you :-)



"Crystal" or "Dynamite" + God = "Bring It"

This year's youth group theme is "Bring It!" After a stirring conversation with Mary Alexander, she just nailed it, when she said that everyone is so fragile these days, they are either like "crystal" (ready to shatter), or like "dynamite" (ready to explode). Well, that is exactly where God meets us in this world. He says to "Bring It" unto Him. Our challenge is to be Christ to those we encounter: "Love Like Jesus".

Citizens with the Saints

One grand highlight of this year's Sr High group was participating in the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA. A special thanks goes out to Marianne, Molly, Rich and Mike for journeying with our group. We are definitely Citizens with the Saints!

This past year's National Youth Gathering in New Orleans invited all of us to be fully present and engaged during our time there. That is exactly how it went down. Whether we were working in the city, attending workshops or the general sessions, or meeting some of the 37,000 who came from around the world, we sweat, we laughed, we cried and we were inspired as a community of Citizens with the Saints. A special thanks goes out to Marianne, Molly, Rich and Mike for preparing, praying, and journeying with our group.

Dorothy Meyer Award

Another highlight was when Tyler Freckmann accepted the "Dorothy Meyer Award" for outstanding service. This is the first time the award has gone to a Sr. High student. Way to go Tyler :-!

Make sure to keep your eyes and ears open as it unfolds this Common Ground season.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Corinne Devine, Patrice Sera, Children's Ministry Leads

Amanda Boniface, Children's Ministry Coordinator

(Amanda Laughlin, Temporary Children's Ministry Coordinator)

Kid Connection

- Average 30 children per week (preschool-6th grade)
- 12 teachers – including a couple high school youth and young adults -
- John Boniface, Patrice Sera, Kristine Lui , Caitlin Moor, Minnie Sudarsanam, Amber Myerholtz, Melanie Brouillette, Alice Isaacson, Lynne Stasi, Rick Westwick, Jamie Laughlin, and Carol Wheaton
- With 2 substitutes - Yvonne Loo, Trish Cunningham
- Fun and Captivating Kid Connection opening- Music and Skits- led by Rachel Sudarsanam, Josh Myerholtz and Caitlin Moor
- Offering goes toward Bethel's designated fund of the month



Christmas program – “Away in a Manger”

- About 20 children participated – (preschool – 6th grade)
- Led by Sonya Hanson and Amanda Laughlin

Vacation Bible School 2012 - Sky

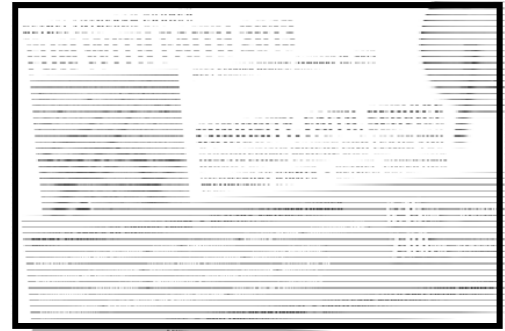
- Combined program with BLS
- More than 70 participants (preschool-6th grade)
- 45 - Junior high, High school and Adult volunteers throughout the week

Nursery

- Great team – Laverne Hayden, Miranda Myerholtz, and Amber Myerholtz
- The nursery was painted and updated (a special thanks to Liz Barton for her designing expertise and to Ed Fox and the Men of Monday for prepping and painting the room and installing new equipment).

Planned Activities for 2013

- Amanda Boniface will return from Maternity leave on Sunday, March 3rd
- First Communion classes will be held on Sunday, March 3rd and Sunday, March 10th
- Vacation Bible School- July 2013 – Kingdom Rock



DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

Kathy Arnold, Discipleship Ministry Lead

Patricia Myerholtz, Adult Ministry Coordinator

Our Growing in Faith Ministry addresses the part of our mission statement that states “Grow and Equip one another as devoted followers of Jesus Christ”. Several member-led groups achieve this by meeting monthly or weekly to deepen their knowledge of the Bible and Lutheranism by reading Lutheran magazines, study books and videos. They are: Women of Wednesday, Saturday Women’s Bible Study, and Martha Bible Study. These groups have been studying God’s word for years and welcome anyone would like to join.

The new addition to the Growing in Faith Ministry is the Wednesday evening Fun with Faith series. Begun in the Fall 2011, Fun with Faith was set up to have a light supper followed by a one hour class. A session included a class each in “Bible Study”, “Faith & Justice”, “Life Skills”, and “The Arts”. In addition, there were classes for Confirmation, High School (Common Ground) and Elementary school. In the Fall 2012, the sessions were adjusted to focus on adults as there were too many competing priorities for the youth. However, the Common Ground youth attend as many of the Fun with Faith events as their schedule permits. I would like to thank the Bethel Church Members and Staff for the many great ideas for classes and for volunteering to facilitate them.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

Sharon Parady, Ministry Lead

Patricia Myerholtz, Adult Ministry Coordinator

- **Art Fair.** This year’s “Fish Project” was done by over 90 participants, the event is growing every year and there is great school participation for this event. Sue Jacobus does a great job leading this event.
- **Egg Hunt** was held here at Bethel for the first time and was a great success with hundreds attending from all over the community.
- **Evergreens** continues to be strong with the help of Shirley Gross helping with communication and ideas for its meetings.
- **4th of July** had over 300 in attendance and included a chili cookoff and many other family events.
- **Labor Day Retreat** was a wonderful weekend led by both Molly Schrey and Liz Barton. A Retreat For All Ages - Come for the weekend or come for a day! Bethel’s annual Labor Day Retreat at Mt. Cross is our largest off-site church-wide event and has been a Bethel tradition for the past 53 years. Each September approximately 130 Bethel members and friends attend some portion of the Labor Day Retreat – that’s approximately 1/3 of our active membership. In addition to inspiring speakers and worship, there are many favorite weekend events including:

Carnival	Campfire	Olympics	Kid’s activities
Variety hour	Polar Bear Swim	Open swim time	Hikes/games/sports and more!

- **Ministry Fair** used the i-serve theme with the use of decorated life size “aprons” as promotional tool to highlight the many different ministries and there was food galore.
- **Out and About** has at least one new attendee at each outing and even included a school family on the USS Hornet outing!



- **Readers Anonymous** has met once a month to select and discuss a book from any genre. The next title is published two or three weeks ahead of the next meeting.
- **Sunday Afternoon at the Movies** being led by Carol Olson met every 2nd Sunday from Oct. to June. There are usually 6-8 participating and both current and older movies are shown along with popcorn and sodas to eat.
- **Supper Club** led by Laurie Bryson had 30 people participate for a time of fellowship, sharing good food, and fun at least once a month. This is not only for couples it is for anyone wanting to meet new people or strengthen existing friendships.
- **Family Fellowship** events lead by Corrine Devine and Patrice Sera have been well received and include: Family Movie Night, Marty Night, Advent Wreath Making, and Christmas Party.



MEN OF MONDAY

Tom Cole, August Colandrea, Ministry Leads

Ed Fox, Facilities Supervisor

Saul Inda, Custodian

- **Family Fellowship** events lead by Corrine Devine and Patrice Sera have been well received and include: Family Movie Night, Marty Night, Advent Wreath Making, and Christmas Party.

Repairs

- Removal of the Torvend Hall boiler
- Lighting and lamps
- Sewers and drains
- Kitchen refrigerator
- Copy room water heater
- Electrical wiring and switches
- Windows and doors
- Air conditioning and filters

Remodeling (Torvend Hall)

- Classrooms
- Kitchen cupboards
- Painting

Landscaping (Campus-Wide)

- Trimming of trees and shrubs
- Lawn sprinklers
- Clearing rain gutters and roofs
- Repair of fence at parking lot
- General trash pick-up

TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY

Liz Tribby, Brad Martinson, Ministry Leads

Dave Arnold, Web Master

Vern Bollesen (chair), Hella Bluhm-Stieber, Karen Fox, Elise Holst, Chris Larsen, Liz Tribby, Web Committee

Internet access on the Bethel campus was dramatically upgraded in 2012. Reliability and bandwidth were an ongoing problem and it was going to get worse as Bethel School added wireless laptops and iPads and more people expected to connect with their smart phones. We changed providers to get significantly more bandwidth, and with donated equipment and funds, we upgraded the network hardware with new routers, switches and 14 access points throughout the campus. Installation of the new wireless network in the sanctuary building has been completed. We are still working out performance issues in Zoar Hall. Torvend Hall will be completed soon, including new outdoor wireless access capability for outdoor worship. When the work is completed, we will be able to manage all the wireless networks from one location. Thank you to Kumar Dasari, who led the project and obtained donations of most of the hardware we needed. Thank you to Brad Martinson, who along with Kumar did all the wire-pulling and attic crawling. Thanks to Laurie Beckett for coordinating the school side and to Marion Abney and Fara Brock for their support. And thanks to the congregation for providing the additional money we needed to purchase the wireless access points.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Liz Barton (Member-at-Large), Hella Bluhm-Stieber (President Elect), Dan Gaardsmoe (Financial Officer), Donna Kuester (HR Advisor), Hannah Lutke (Youth Member-at-Large), N. N. (Communications Officer), Molly Schrey (Ministry Liaison), Mary Thomas (Member-at-Large), Bill Weberg (Project Facilitator), Rick Westwick (President).

Highlights from the Council Meetings in 2012

- The council discussed to add a youth representative to the council. The council voted to present a continuing resolution to the congregation at the winter meeting.
- There was a leadership retreat for council members, ministry leads, and committees on Sunday, March 25, after the 10:30am service at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in San Francisco, whose members visited us recently during their retreat. The council discussed the results from the Leadership Retreat in great detail and identified the following two priorities for the next year: to be more invitational and to enhance community building.
- The council talked about different possibilities to add online giving to our website to make it easier for people to make donations.
- iServe is the second part of the "Living Our Faith campaign" and is our theme for this year. Please get ready to sign up for many loving service opportunities and to get your iServe t-shirt!
- The council decided to follow the recommendation from Mission Outreach to host the Silicon Valley Rotating Shelter at the Stelling Site during May, since there was an excellent response to assist with this endeavor from the congregation.
- The council approved a request from the website committee to post the approved minutes from previous council meetings on the Bethel website, once confidential content has been removed.
- The council followed the recommendation of the Mission Outreach Committee to adopt Calabazas Park, which will involve doing four cleanups per year and fits in nicely with our Service Worship Sundays..
- The council is working on recruiting an interim pastor, simultaneously to creating a call committee, in order to search for a new lead pastor for Bethel.