



Ministry Report 2015

for the

**Winter
Congregational
Meeting**

February 7, 2016

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)

January 31, 2016

Dear Family and Friends of Bethel,

Enclosed in this booklet is our Annual Ministry Report for the year 2015. However, this document is much more than a report on the state of Bethel's ministries and their accomplishments during the past year. We sincerely hope that these pages will warm your heart and help you see how God is on the move at Bethel Lutheran Church and beyond!

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a person remains in me and I in them, they will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). This report is a strong testimony to rich fruit growing the Bethel branch of Christ's church. You will see all the things that we have accomplished on behalf of the "master gardener" this past year. Our shared ministry flourishes, because there is a vine which gives us the strength and will to live beyond ourselves. Such living- "beyond ourselves" is in stark contrast to what our media promote and how our culture operates.

Ministry happens at Bethel because our community willingly responds to the love of God. There is great truth to the words, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Those who serve others in God's name have discovered this secret. It is never too late to get involved at Bethel!

2015 has also been a year of transitions. Pr. Ben joined our congregation in February and our long-time, beloved principal, Marion Abney retired in July. After much input and a nationwide search, we called Dawn De Bois-Weber to be the new principal at Bethel Lutheran School. Dawn subsequently has joined Bethel as a church member and is a pleasure to work with.

We thank you for the opportunity to serve as your pastors. Bethel is a blessing to those who call this their "church home." It is a blessing for us, too.

May God bless you and keep you,

Pr. Ben

and

Pr. Gabi

IN MEMORIAM

The Bethel family of faith has bid a final farewell to Arline Ness, a former long-term member who has proclaimed the message of God's saving grace in word and deed. We wish to remember them in this report, acknowledge her gifts to this community, and thank God for her faithful service.

BAPTISMS

In 2015 we baptized the following children in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: Timothy Boniface, Phineas Vieta, Margaret Edstrom, Camryn Armer, Devyn Armer, Leilani Hong, Maddox Dixon.

NEW MEMBERS

In 2015, we welcomed the following individuals as new members to our congregation via transfer from other congregations: Courtney Bassler; Ben , Rachel, and Carl Bergren; Frank & Mona Chan; Dawn DeBois-Weber; Sabryna Faridnia; Joel Heimback; Justin & Norah Hibbits; Larry & Hope Jow; Rachel Kalin; David & Teri Kuhlmann; Emily Lewis-Fuentes; Brian Parvizshahi; Diane Ritchie; William, Leah, and Phineas Vieta. We also reinstated the following former Bethel members: Carrie Kinkade-Adriano, and Thomas Joseph.



CONFIRMATIONS

In 2014, the following Bethel youth affirmed their baptismal faith promises : Franklin Podraza and Jacob Podraza.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

In 2015, the following children celebrated their First Communion: Jenell Laughlin and Devynn Deutscher

FIRST BIBLE CLASS

In 2015, the following children attended First Bible classes and received their first "big kid Bible": Rafi Fuentes and Nick Boniface



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Financial Officer: Eric Brown

Finance Committee Members: Nick Arnett, Laurie Bryson, Dave Tribby, Jack Wedgewood, Pr. Ben, Fara Brock

Stewardship Committee : Brett Deutscher, Scott Anderson

Audit Committee Members: Kathy Arnold, Kathryn Montano, Bill Westmore

Parish Administrator: Fara Brock

TREASURER HIGHLIGHTS

The fiscal year for 2015 (FY'15) ended in August without a deficit as projected. The final Net Income for FY'15 was \$6,700. Giving for FY'16 was projected to continue at the same level as 2015 with a total amount of \$625,000 for the year. After the first four months of FY'16, giving is more than \$6,100 above projections. This is an especially welcome result considering the large fundraising campaign to purchase a new bus.

The budget for FY'16 was passed at the August congregational meeting with a deficit of \$29,000. That amount is significantly smaller than it could have been due to a few cost saving initiatives by Pr. Ben and our business administrator Fara Brock. We will save nearly \$29,000 this year because of the refinanced mortgage and re-negotiated copier lease. If giving continues at a similar rate we should end the year with a much smaller deficit than anticipated.

STEWARDSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

A small percentage increase for the campaign in 2015 versus 2014. Promised \$430K, which represents about 2/3 of our total offerings annually.

It is notable that our bus campaign received over \$100K and that shows our members can and will donate more if they feel so moved.

A significant number of members do not make faith promises for whatever reason but we do enjoy about 1/3 of our offerings from this this group.

The 2016 Annual Stewardship campaign is around the corner and we look forward to sharing Bethel's mission with everyone and asking our members to give freely of their time, talent, and treasure.

Stewardship Data

	2015	2014	2013
Number of commitments returned	106	105	120
Including "Cannot commit now"	113	115	131
Total of commitments	\$430,218	\$424,042	\$480,580

New commitments FY' 16: 18 (increase: \$40,240)

Those who made commitments last year...

	Number	Last year's Commitment	Change in \$	Change in %
Increase	45	\$199,548	\$24,020	12%
Decrease	7	\$37,280	-\$10,240	-27%
Same	36	\$137,370		
Total	88	\$374,198	\$13,780	4%

BETHEL MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS 2014

2015 MINISTRY THEMES: LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE. SHARE JESUS.

In 2015 Bethel aligned its ministry goals, stewardship, adult education, and mission outreach programs under the motto *Love God. Love People. Share Jesus.*



DOROTHY MYERS AWARD

The recipient of Bethel’s 2014 Dorothy Myers Award, presented at the Winter Congregational Meeting in February 2015, was Greg Myerholtz, in recognition of his dedicated volunteer service in numerous aspects of our congregational life.

SERVANT HEARTS OF THE MONTH

Each month in 2015, one ministry leader was featured in our bulletins, narthex, and eNewsletter issues. 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. All of these individuals have been nominated by their peers as someone who went above and beyond in serving the Bethel community. Nominations can be placed in the nomination box in the entry. The following individuals have received Servant Heart of the month recognition in 2015.

- January** Judy Johnson *(for her service with quilting and the altar guild)*
- February** Mark Evashenk *(for his service as council president and many years in leading our deacons)*
- March** Sandie Hersh *(for her long-term service with the quilters and her help with special events and receptions)*
- April** Rick Bryson *(for his many years as usher, service in Stephen Ministry, décor on Easter and Christmas, and more)*
- May** Sue Jacobus *(for her many years of service with many Bethel events and leading the Art Fair Team for 5 years)*
- June** Dave Arnold *(for his many years as webmaster and AV tech on Sundays)*
- July** Eric Edstrom *(for his many years of service on the sound board and more)*
- August** Marianne Nadell *(for her many years of service as our youth ministry leader and more)*
- September** Roger and Vera Edstrom *(for their many years of service with ushering, quilting, men of Monday and more)*
- October** Nick Arnett *(for his service as our church council President and for his service as chaplain to San Jose Firefighters)*
- November** Lois Eid *(for her many years leading altar guild and being a part of quilters)*
- December** Bethel’s Volunteer Musicians *(Adam Klopfenstein, Brett Deutscher, Brian Schuette, Chris Hedgecock, Chris Trytten, Dana Torgenson, Elissa Barton, Eric Brown, Haven Johnson, Jamie Alens, Kara Hermann, Katlynn Hoegel, LeSonia Leimer, Liz Barton, Mary Ellen Deutscher, Matty VonSchriltz, Norita Hoegel, Phil Kelman, Rachel Bergren, Rhonda Nyberg, Shannon Ma, Tom Hoegel, Tom McAvoy)*

BETHEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL

School Board Chair: Minnie Sudarsanam

School Board Members: Nick Arnett, Eric Brown, Jenny Edstrom, Steve Klinger, Patrice Sera, Cathy Stahl, Robyn Winegardner, Pr. Ben Bergren

Principal: Dawn De Bois-Weber

Mission Statement

“Bethel Lutheran School is a Christian school whose mission is to actively engage students in a strong academic and enrichment curriculum with the goal of developing the fundamental skills and unique talents of each student. Our experienced staff, along with dynamic programs, encourage faith development, increased self-confidence, creative expression, and compassion for others.”

2015-2016 Annual Theme

“Go Above and Beyond with Christ!”

2015-16 Bible Verse

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” (Isaiah 40:31)

Enrollment Statistics

Current Total Enrollment: 152 (last year: 134)

Current Preschool: 74 (last year: 63)

Current Elementary: 78 (last year: 71)

Ethnicity:

Asian (non-Asian-Indian): 72%

Caucasian: 10%

Asian Indian: 7%

Hispanic: 1%

Mixed-Race: 10%

Religious Affiliation:

Christian: 65% (Bethel: 7 students)

None: 15%

No Information Given: 20%



Positive Enrollment Growth

- Our preschool enrollment has reached capacity at 74 preschoolers.
- Our Jr. Kindergarten reached capacity prior to the start of the school year.
- Interest in both our preschool and elementary continues to grow.

Marketing Ventures

- Established a mascot to assist with branding, the Bethel Eagles.
- Formed community partnerships between a public and private school to conduct joint academic and service projects (Parent Workshop 200 people).
- Community events, Trunk or Treat (200 people) and Chili Cook-Off
- Entered the school in a national competition; Scripps Spelling Bee. Due to this we were selected to be interviewed by Sharon Chin from KPIX Channel 5 and will be featured on the news.
- We welcome your recommendations on Yelp and personal referrals; including Bethel Alumni

Accreditation Update

This is the second year of our 3-year WASC accreditation process. Last year's accreditation goals were to increase cultural diversity in our leadership and update academic assessment strategies. This year's goals added implementing technology, instructional best practices and increasing student led service projects.

Mission Projects

Monthly Service Chapels

- Sent 75 pounds of candy to active military currently deployed overseas through Operation Gratitude
- Collected donations and made 250 bags of personal hygiene items for homeless (125 to Bethel, 25 to Bethel Parents to Distribute, 100 to the Refuge via St. Mark Lutheran)
- Made 18 fleece blankets to donate to the Rotating Men's Homeless Shelter
- Our chapel offerings have supported our Bolivian sponsor child, Darleen and purchased school supplies for children in need

Special Thanks to

- The Men of Monday for their dedication and efforts to repair and improve our campus.
- Brad Martinson and Liz Tribby for their work on our technology systems
- Quilters for their donation of quilts for the school auction
- Bethel church members for their financial support throughout the year

Participation Opportunities

- Pray for our staff, students and families
- Worship with us on Wednesdays at 9:00am and join a service chapel
- Volunteer in the classroom or school library
- Be a guest teacher, chaperone/drive for a fieldtrip, or maintain the school garden.



WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY

Ministry Leads: Tom McAvoy, Brian Schuette

Visual Arts Coordinator: Liz Barton

Lead Usher: Jeanine Woodell

Coordinator of Deacons & Lectors: Mark Evashenk

Altar Guild: Lois Eid

Altar Flowers Coordinator: Trish Cunningham

Sunday Coffee Ministry Coordinator: Tony Stieber

Children's Activity Bag Coordinator: Jill Burkhardt

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).

WORSHIP & MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS

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

- Adult Choir ("All Bethel Choir"), Handbell Choir ("A Joyful Noise"), and Children's Choir rehearse weekly and provide special music at scheduled worship services.
- The Worship Team meets and practices periodically to integrate musical expressions into worship.

In 2015, several specially-themed worship services (such as a Latin Mass in Lent, a special Palm Sunday service, and the family-focused Christmas Eve service, as well as creative use of multi-media elements) added unique worship experiences.

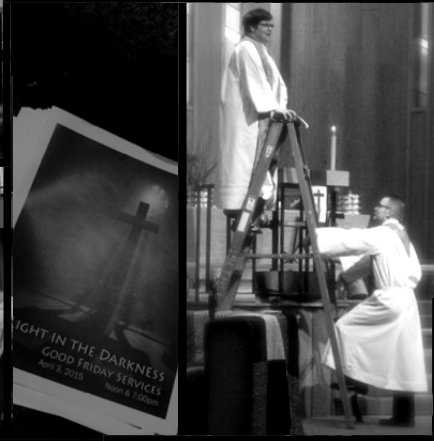
In addition to Bethel's own talents, our worship services are also enhanced by the contributions of guest choirs, in particular the New Life Band from Arusha, Tanzania, and the Mountain View High School Madrigals.

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.





WORSHIP & MUSIC MEMORIES



MISSION OUTREACH MINISTRY

Mission Outreach Committee: Lisa Onishi, Dale Jones, Lois Brouillette

First, we have some special people to thank for all their work this past year:

- **Angela Brown** – for delivering clothes to Immanuel Lutheran Church’s clothing closet in San Jose
- **The Evashenk family** for organizing Help One Child’s Christmas gift drive
- **The New Life Band** for bringing music to Bethel and hope to the youth of Tanzania
- **All the women of the Quilters** – for making beautiful quilts to donate to Lutheran World Relief, the Rotating Shelter, and the San Jose Family Shelter
- **Patrice Sera and family**– for organizing volunteers and breakfasts at the San Jose Family Shelter
- **Laura Shkouratoff** – for inspiring us by visiting Pastor Godbless and the New Life Band in Tanzania and sharing her journey through her blog and beautiful pictures
- **Robyn Winegardner** – for organizing and bringing the Silicon Valley Walk for Water to Bethel
- **The Women of the ELCA** under the leadership of Cindy Arnett for making fleece blankets for homeless people and pets
- **The Women of Wednesday and Bethel Youth** for volunteering at Second Harvest
- **Alice Isaacson** for coordinating Bethel volunteers and meals for the Faith in Action Silicon Valley Rotating Shelter during the month of May (Stelling Site)
- **All who represented Bethel at the San Francisco Pride Parade** as part of the Lutheran contingent, witnessing to God’s inclusive love for all people
- **Amanda Laughlin and the VBS participants** who collected money for Nepal earthquake victims
- **Bethel participants in the ELCA National Youth Gathering** who served the people of Detroit

What did we collectively do in 2015? A look back ...

- **Built homes in Tijuana, Mexico** for the families of Esperanza
- **Cleaned up** the (old) **Bethel bus**, **Calabazas Creek**, the Ecumenical Hunger Program’s **food closet and warehouse**, **O’Keefe Open Space Preserve**, **several sites in Detroit**, and **Mount Cross Camp** (during Labor Day Retreat)
- **Collected diapers** for Baby Basics in East Palo Alto, **Christmas gifts** for Help One Child, **clothes** for the clothing closet at Immanuel Lutheran, **and groceries and frozen turkeys** for the Lord’s Pantry
- **Cooked dinners** for the residents of the Rotating Shelter **and breakfasts** for residents of the San Jose Family Shelter
- **Created Christmas cards** for U.S. Service Members and Veterans, **Car Kits** for the homeless, and **Personal Care Kits** for people in Nepal
- **Housed 15 homeless men in May** at our Stelling site and provided meals for them
- **Filled emergency earthquake barrels** with water at Bethel
- **Gleaned vegetables and fruits at the farmer’s market** for West Valley Community Services
- **Provided backpacks and supplies for many students in need**, here at home with Help One Child and overseas with Lutheran World Relief
- **Raked and weeded the Bethel campus**
- **Renovated a home** on Palm Street in San Jose for a Habitat family
- **Shoveled dirt** for the Fountain Paver Area project
- **Walked** to solve the problems of hunger and water at **CROP Walk** and **Walk for Water** and to be present in God’s loving and gracious name at the **San Francisco Pride Parade**
- **Wrote letters** to Congress on behalf of issues concerning the hungry through Bread for the World
- **Participated in a nationwide ELCA “God’s Work. Our Hands” Sunday**, partnering with University Lutheran Church, Palo Alto
- **Supported many local and national faith-based organizations** through generous financial contributions

Thank you, Bethel congregation, for all you do in His service!



MISSION OUTREACH: QUILTS

Ministry Lead: Joann Weberg

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, Esperanza International, Bethel Lutheran School, Bethel Lutheran Church (Labor Day Retreat), First Emmanuel COME, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Habitat for Humanity, Heritage House, Palo Alto VA (for homeless vets), San Jose Family Shelter, Santa Clara Valley Medical Center ICN, South Hayward Parish, Faith in Action Silicon Valley Rotating Shelter (Stelling Site), Stonecroft Ministry, Sunny View Retirement Community. In addition, the quilters also contributed 111 backpacks to be used through the LWR.

Our quilters were able to produce a truly astounding number of quilts: a total number of 309 quilts (254 large and 55 small. Over the years, the group has made a impressive total of 3,723 quilts.



EVANGELISM/CARING MINISTRY

Ministry Lead: Joanne Stensaas

Pastor: Rev. Ben Bergren

Adult Ministry Coordinator: Patricia Myerholtz

Sunshine Team: Pastor Ben has been sending the birthday cards this past year. We have been thankful for the volunteers that have been doing them in the past: Joanne Stensaas, Barbara Misch, Sharon Parady.

Altar Flower Delivery: Every week there are about 4 different recipients that enjoy receiving part of the Sunday Altar flowers including many homebound Bethel members. We are thankful for the many volunteers who help to deliver them and the quilters who help if there is no volunteer signed up to deliver on a Sunday.

Visitor Follow-Up: Visitors worshipping at Bethel are being responded to by email or card within 48 hours. A record of when they visit is kept as well. These records have helped in developing the list for our new member classes.

PrayerBytes: This is a ministry, dreamed up and organized by Robyn Winegardner, in which individuals can opt into getting a daily email with a list of "byte" size prayer requests taken from the Sunday insert. This ministry hopes that Bethel's prayer list in this format makes it easier to handle and less overwhelming on a daily basis. This has helped members focus on and personalize their prayer time. To add someone to the Prayer List and PrayerBytes, contact Pr. Gabi.

Stephen Ministry/Caring Connections: Stephen Ministry/Caring Connections continues to meet the 2nd Monday of the month at 7pm in the Fireside Room. Pastor Ben is leading the group into the "Caring in the 21st" process. In this process names are given to the team so they can continue to connect with those members who maybe going through transitions in their lives and remind them that they are not alone. For example, new empty nesters, divorce, living alone, major health issues, newly married, recent losses, etc. This new process is being well received and running very well.

Prayer concerns are also shared. Relationships between Stephen Ministry caregivers and care receivers are pray fully considered and resources shared with confidentiality.

Goals for 2016

- Continue and expand the Caring Connection Ministry, ultimately to the whole congregation.
- Keep encouraging all worship participants to fill out the Caring Connection cards in the pews each Sunday.
- Encourage more members to participate in the PrayerBytes Network.
- Work towards the goal that all members would feel that the congregation cares about them personally.

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Children's Ministry Leads: Patrice Sera and Angela Brown

Children's Ministry Coordinator: Amanda Laughlin

3rd-6th Grade Group Leaders: Jill & Bob Burkhart



KID CONNECTION:

"Living Inside Out" Curriculum by Group Publishing

- We have an average of 30 kids who attend Kid Connection on a regular basis
- 12 teachers teach on a regular basis: Lauren Hadding, Lexi Dixon, Amanda Boniface, Kristine Liu, Alice Isaacson, Lynne Stasi, Greg Steinke, Minnie Sudarsanam, Brett Deutscher, Jamie Laughlin, Amber Myerholtz and Carol Wheaton Substitute teacher- Patrice Sera
- Fun and captivating large group Opening; led by Amelia and Abby Wheaton
- Offering goes to designated fund of the month

Kid Connection Christmas Program:

"Sing a Song of Christmas"

- Led by Amanda Laughlin
- Special help; Amanda Boniface, Amelia Wheaton, and Abby Wheaton
- 25 children participated (preschool – 6th grade)



Special Activities

- **"Take-Out-Church-** 50 pizza boxes with activities for families to take with them on Summer vacation, this included a Flat Jesus; for people to personalize and take pictures with
- **Secret Angels-** Each child in Kid Connection received a Secret Angel during the month of December. These Secret Angels were members of the congregation who prayed and wrote notes to each child.
- **Vacation Bible School 2015 – Everest** - Combined program with BLS Summer Camp
 - More than 80 participants (preschool – 6th grade)
 - 45 volunteers (middle school, highs school youth and adults) helped throughout the week
- **First Communion Class** (Spring): 2 children attended with their parents; led by Amanda Laughlin and Pastor Ben
- **First Bible Class** (Fall): 2 children attended with their parents; led by Amanda Laughlin and Pastor Ben
- **Nursery** : Great Team- Laverne Hayden (lead), Jorden Castanyon and Amber Myerholtz(substitute)
- **Easter Egg Hunt:** Some 200 children from our church, school, and the community-at-large participated
- **Trunk-or-Treat:** a first-time event, sponsored and promoted jointly by our church and school. It was a hit, featuring some 20 decorated car trunks and hundreds of children





YOUTH MINISTRY

<i>Youth Ministry Leads:</i>	<i>Marianne Nadell, Mark Evashenk</i>
<i>High School Youth Volunteers:</i>	<i>Molly Schrey, Brett Deutscher, Rich Teed, Marianne Nadell, Leah Thomas</i>
<i>Common Ground Sponsors:</i>	<i>Brett Deutscher, Katlynn Hoegel, Jamie Jacobson, Adam Klopfenstein, Chris Larsen, Brian Schuette, Adam Klopfenstein, Marianne Nadell</i>
<i>Jr. High Youth Volunteer:</i>	<i>Molly Schrey, Leah Thomas, Jeannine Woddell</i>
<i>Confirmation, Affirmation of Baptism:</i>	<i>Robyn Winegardner, Susan Leavitt</i>
<i>Common Ground Director:</i>	<i>Katlynn Hoegel</i>
<i>Common Ground Assistant:</i>	<i>Christa Santos</i>
<i>Youth Director:</i>	<i>Tom Hoegel</i>
<i>Youth Assistants:</i>	<i>Spencer Choate and Emilie Schott (2014-15)</i> <i>Cameron Kurtz, Nick Hadding, Laura Shkouratoff, and Amelia Wheaton (2015-16)</i>

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 volunteers are Katlynn, Robyn, Susan, Marianne, and Molly. Along with this group are dozens of young adults and parents that give hundreds of hours. We could not do this without you :-)

"Grace Wins"

This year's youth and Common Ground theme is "Grace Wins." At the end of the day, God's Grace is what brings wholeness and peace. We commit to spread this healing message to peeps near and far. It also is the fuel we run on as we "Love Like Jesus."

"Rise Up"

The National Youth Gathering in Detroit was a life changing event of our group alongside 32,000 others from around the world. We sang, praised, worshiped, served, danced and had a blast! This summer we hope to visit the Cherokee Reservation in Oklahoma and participate with Pastor Ben at Leadership Lab. Don't worry, you'll have plenty of chances to support us getting there.





FEATURING THE SONGS OF

- JEREMY RIDDLE
- THE DIGITAL AGE
- ASHES REMAIN
- DANNY GOKEY
- FRANCIESKA BATTISTELLI
- UNSPOKEN
- MORIAH PETERS

COLTON DIXON • CITY HARBOR • JEREMY CAMP
 FOR KING AND COUNTRY • FAMILY FORCE FIVE
 SHAWN McDONALD • LE CRAIE • PHIL WICKHAM
 DAVID REMENDER BAND • EVERFOUND

COMMON GROUND TOUR 2018

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

7pm

www.lightinthedarkness.com



DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

Discipleship Ministry Lead: Kathy Arnold

Library Team Chair: Margaret Lund

Adult Ministry Coordinator: Patricia Myerholtz



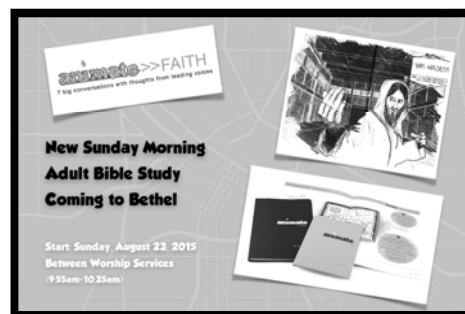
We are blessed to have a very special group of leaders.

Library Team	Margaret Lund
Martha Bible Study	Vera Edstrom
Men's Night Out	Sam Sudarsanam
New Member Classes	Pastor Ben Bergren, Pastor Gabriele Schroeder
Saturday Women's Bible Study	Natalie Rogerson
Fun with Faith	Kathy Arnold, Patricia Myerholtz, Pastor Gabriele Schroeder
Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study	Kathy Arnold, Pastor Gabriele Schroeder
Women of the ELCA (WELCA)	Cindy Arnett
Women of Wednesday	Kathryn Montano

Education and Discipleship is not just for Sunday mornings. This year, our classes and study groups read & discussed books, encyclicals, psalms, Lutheran Life and videos. Our Library team worked to improve access to materials that teach us to grow in Faith. The Women of the ELCA activities allowed us to apply our insights into tangible goods for others.

BETHEL WELCA

Leader: Cindy Arnett



Women's Health Retreat – January 31, 2015 – Nurse Barb Dehn and Dr. Mindy Pelz were our guest speakers for the day. We had two very well know and knowledgeable women from the health field to help educate and inform us on some of these issues we have concerns about. We discussed women's health issues, such as; menopause, pre-menopause, and diabetes prevention, food allergies, weight gain, and other health concerns. We served coffee, tea, and a healthy salad for lunch.

Monthly Fleece Blanket Making – We have made over a hundred blankets this year. We meet monthly to make blankets for the homeless and needy, and we made approximately 5-8 blankets per month. The blankets were donated to: The San Francisco Night Ministry, Manna House in Oakhurst, Ca. San Jose Family Shelter, and a children's shelter in Santa Cruz.

I attended the 12th Biannual Sierra Pacific Synod WELCA convention in Oakhurst at the Eco Retreat Center as a representative for the Executive Board member for Church-Wide WELCA. We elected new board members for the Sierra Pacific Synod. I also attended a convention in Fort Dodge, Iowa, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin as a speaker, which I did a workshop on Awareness and Ways to Help Stop Human Trafficking. I served on the Committee for grants and scholarship where we donate funds to non-profit organizations that serve women and girl's needs.

BETHEL BUS CAMPAIGN

The Bethel Bus is Bethel's mobile ministry to the world.

In 2015, we said goodbye to our Krystal Coach bus. While it served us well and provided impromptu opportunities to meet new people along the road (like those who gave rides when we broke down), it was time to retire it from our demanding use.

With each challenge comes great opportunity. In the period of a little over 2 months, Bethel members and friends raised over \$100,000 towards the purchase of a new Grech coach. It has already been on the road numerous times and we look forward to lots of fellowship, service and opportunities to engage friends.

Like our facilities, it is more than just a bus. It is a ministry tool used to share the love of Jesus. This one just gets us a little farther outside our walls. Get on board, the bus is coming!



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

Ministry Lead: Sue Jacobus

Adult Ministry Coordinator: Patricia Myerholtz

Congregational Life had many wonderful events happen this past year. Highlights include:

Receptions: Successful receptions for Pastor Ben, Marion Abney, and Pastor Ken; a special thank you to Sue Jacobus and Sandie Hersh for their leading with these events.

Art Fair: "Come follow Me" God Walk. Participants enjoyed, food, a "road sign" walk lined by hand made signs, art displays, and fellowship. Great article in Cupertino Courier covering the event. Thank you Brad Martinson for the beautiful now permanent fountain and Sue Jacobus for her leadership and dedication with this event.

Community Easter Egg Hunt: Attendance remains consistently good. 3000 plastic eggs were filled and hunted for. Had snack stations, art and craft stations, and performances by Fusion kids led by Norita Hoegel. Thank you to all our volunteers!

Evergreens: 55+ group that meets on the 4th Thurs. of the month to enjoy devotions, fellowship, lunch, bingo and on some occasions outings with the Bethel Bus. Thank you to Shirley Gross for her dedications in connecting with the members.

Fun with Faith: Has been averaging about 25 for dinner and more for classes. The classes have included many bible studies, social justice issues, card making, and more! Thank you to the many volunteer teachers who make this happen. Thank you to Kathy Arnold and Pastor Gabi for their dedication to this ministry.

Annual Ministry Fair: Held last fall and included hands-on participation by the ministry leaders in personally connecting with those in attendance by asking for their signatures in hopes of winning \$50 for their ministry. The winners were the quilters and youth ministry. No tables were used this past year. The ministries each did a beautiful job making posters that were displayed that afternoon. This new approach was well received.

Ladies Night Out: All ladies of all ages have had some wonderful gatherings including movies at Hellas home, lunch at Aqui, and more. Thank you to Angela Brown for her dedication to this ministry.

Nativity Display: was low this year and will work on building participation for next year. Wish item: Nativity display for front lawn.

Out and About: continues to be able to have at least one event come together every month this past year. There were outings to wineries, Marine Mammal Center, Big Basin, San Jose Earthquakes, and more. Thank you to the leadership of Marianne Nadell, Jules Kurtz, Joel Heimbeck, Paul Baldwin, Molly Schrey, Patricia Myerholtz, and Tom Hoegel in this ministry. Thank you to all who gave money to help keep this ministry going!

Supper Club: The Supper Club ministry was able to begin again with the wonderful leadership of Janice Martinson. Four groups have been coming together once a month enjoying dinner together and fellowship.

Pet Blessing: Held August 15th with a BBQ and drop in pet blessing with raffle. Great community building event that was well received and will continue to grow.

Young Adult Group: An exciting new ministry for our collage age-late twenties year olds led by Courtney and Joel Heimbeck. Have held some gatherings like dinners and Sunday lunches. There are about 6-8 who have been able to attend the first of many of these events.



Labor Day Retreat: led by Molly Schrey, Liz Barton, and Tom Hoegel.

The theme for Bethel's 2015 Labor Day Retreat came from Matthew 22, 37-39: "Love God, Love People, Share Jesus". The 100 participants in this year's retreat were able to explore the theme during this 3-day church-wide event held, as usual, at Mt. Cross camp in Felton.

Bethel's own Tyler Freckmann was Saturday evening's speaker. He invited retreat goers to think about the three components of the theme through video interviews of Bethel members and interactive activities. Sunday's speaker was retired pastor and Stephen Ministers' coach from Twin Lakes church, Pete Shipper. He guided participants to explore the directive of "Love People" from a mental and spiritual health perspective. Pastor Ben wrapped up the weekend on Monday with an exploration of how we could bring this message back to Bethel.

Retreat participants also enjoyed the usual fun events such as the Olympics, Campfire, Variety Show and Polar Bear swim.

Committee members look forward to next year and invite others to be part of the planning committee.

MEN OF MONDAY

Ministry Leads: Tom Cole

M.o.M. continued to support repair and maintenance of all campus facilities. External and internal "fixit" efforts are ongoing. We try to respond to teacher and staff needs. We feel our work has saved Bethel large sums on repairs. This in turn allows more financial help to other areas. Mike Bruner recently joined our team--a welcome event. Vern Bollesen still provides occasional help when visiting. we welcome folks any time they wish to see our service.

1. Supported Fireside Room remodeling.
2. Installed new faucet and garbage disposal unit at fireside.
3. Replaced flourescent lamp-Zoar #29.
4. Installed some retainer brackets for folding curtains in Fireside Room.
5. Lubricated sticky door at power room.
6. Installed nylon feet on 12 chairs- 6 for narthex and 6 for Fireside Room
7. Cleared some building materials from Fireside Room hallway.
8. Removed wainscoating rail from one wall of me/ed room.
9. Brought plex-iglass podium to Fireside Room
10. Moved wooden podium to Torvend Hall.
11. Mounted a large bulletin board in music/ed hallway.
12. Tightened cabinet door hinges—Fireside Room.
13. Repaired exit door hinges - Fireside Room.
14. Replaced plastic foot caps on 12 folding chairs in fireside Room.
15. Repaired door stops on 5 doors.
16. Repaired loose vertical vinyl siding on exterior of chancel wall.
17. Shoveled away tree debris from office roof drains and downspouts (see request #1 below).
18. Replaced bad library thermostat.
19. Picked up trash around campus.
20. Found some damaged solar panels above office roof. Vern Bollesen will call contractor for repair.
21. Installed shelves in quilter closet.

2 requests:

1. Get a professional tree trimmer to prune messy branches littering roof tops of sanctuary building and Zoar Hall which also reduce sun onto the solar panels (this is an ongoing problem!!!!)
2. Buy or build an equipment storage unit near existing sheds to clear facility office of fire and hazard materials.

FROM THE FACILITIES SUPERVISOR

Facilities Supervisor (part-time): Tom Hoegel

Here are some highlights from the facilities world but, before I give you specifics I want to let you know how I view the facilities and grounds at Bethel. All of our efforts are not simply for the sake of our place being pretty or technologically advanced. It is all to invite more people to experience the love of Christ anew. There are people around you everyday that need to hear that news. It might be a stranger who has never set foot in a church, it might be a co-worker or neighbor who is struggling, or it might be a person who has left the church community for whatever reason. We have a beautiful facility and an awesome promise of love and acceptance from Christ. Let's make sure we share.

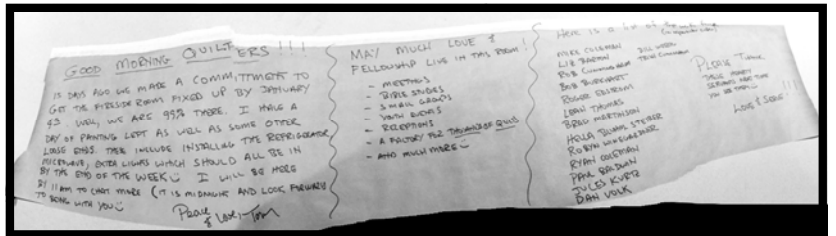
Some of the facility specifics from this past year include:

- Continuation of the BLC Annual Fund Brick Project
- Completion of the Narthex Welcome Project
- Supporting the Men of Monday ministry
- Remodeling the Zoar Hall bathrooms
- Remodeling the Fireside Room
- Installing fountain in the outdoor worship area
- Begining major facilities projects (roof, siding, paint, sewer lines, HVAC, pruning, etc)
- Church/School Workdays
- General Cleanup



Projects for the coming year:

- Complete the major facilities projects from 2015
- Major lock repairs
- Video security for the campus
- Install the "Wedgewood Walkway" (Jack J)
- Investigate electric car charging stations
- Begin Sanctuary carpet discussion



Well, I think that should do it for now. If you want details or if you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please get a hold of me. Once again, we are blessed with an awesome campus and we want it to provide a fertile place to share God's love with all who come here.

TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY

Ministry Leads: Liz Tribby, Brad Martinson

Web Master: Dave Arnold

Bethel Wireless Networking Taskforce: Liz Tribby, Brad Martinson, Kumar Dasari

The wireless internet rollout continued this year on the Bethel campus. We finished upgrading all of the access points to a more reliable version. We also changed internet providers, greatly increasing the speed of the internet on campus.

In the office, we purchased and installed 1 new PC and one new Apple laptop. Plans for 2016 include updating all of our Windows 7 computers to Windows 10 while the upgrade is still free.

Bethel is introducing a new format for our church web site, a few pages at a time. We are using a new graphic design and menu that are easier to use on mobile devices with smaller screens. 25% of our web site sessions are from mobile devices. It also looks much nicer on whatever platform is being used – check it out (www.bethelcupertino.org) and let us know what you think.

We introduced a new email-based service: Prayer Bytes. Our weekly prayer list is split into seven daily emails to subscribers. We have 60 current subscribers.

In 2016 we will continue our transition to Constant Contact to manage our eNewsletter mailings and other mass emails. Constant Contact will give us an easier way to manage our mailing list and make sure we are following all the rules for mass emails.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2015 CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Nick Arnett (President), Ann Marie Kenitzer (President Elect), Mary Thomas (Communications Officer), Eric Brown (Financial Officer), Minnie Sudarsanam (School Board Chair), Marianne Nadell (Ministry Liaison), Scott Anderson (HR Advisor), Leah Thomas (Youth Member-at-Large), Dave Tribby (Member-at-Large), Robyn Winegardner (Member-at-Large)

January

- Thanked the Call Committee for their work in successfully identifying a candidate for congregation to call to serve as lead pastor
- Appreciated additional giving by congregation
- Refined agenda for Congregational Meeting
- Sought input from outgoing members regarding need to revise position descriptions
- Held regular annual vote to approve allocating a portion of Pr. Gabi's salary as a housing allowance

February

- Welcomed new council members: Marianne Nadell and Pr. Ben
- Attempts to erect Verizon cell tower on property rejected by City of Cupertino
- Approved annual fund appeal for BLS mid-March
- Appointed Dave Larsen as Endowment Trustee (pending election by congregation)
- Authorized Mark Evashenk to sign checks until President Elect position filled

March

- Approved topic of changes to our communion process at next Congregational Forum
- Approved changing format of AV Ministry to align with that of other ministries
- Search for new BLS principal in progress
- Approved adding Pr. Ben as signer on imprest account
- Approved allocating portion of Pr. Ben's salary as a housing allowance
- Approved purchase of new chairs and kiosk and to refurbish the welcome center using up to \$2500 from Church contingency fund

April

- Thaned Liz Barton and her team for developing a beautiful and meaningful sanctuary setting during Easter
- Warmly welcomed new members to Bethel: Emily & Rafi Lewis; Justin, Nora, & Clara Hibbits; Terri & Dave Kuhlmann; Sabryna Faridnia,; Brian Parvizshashi; and Ben, Rachel & Carl Bergren
- Approved using funds from the New & Renewing Ministry for trial of direct mailing to new residents within two mile radius of Bethel
- Affirmed title change for Pastor Gabi to Pastor of Worship and Discipleship

May

- Welcomed Scott Anderson as HR Advisor.
- Scheduled a congregational forum on 6/21 between worship services.
- Search for BLS Principal continues.

June

- Thanks to Brett Deutscher & Scott Anderson for a great Stewardship campaign
- Our last iServe Sunday was the most productive in Bethel's history – thanks to all who joyfully participated!
- Reviewed preliminary budget for FY 2016
- Approved process for Bethel's Administrator and Fiscal Officer to wire donation to Tanzania through Heritage Bank & Commerce
- Approved exploration of options related to repairing engine or replacing Bethel Bus

July (no in-person meeting)

- Approved the appointment of Dawn Debois Weber as principal of Bethel Lutheran School (e-mail vote)

August

- Approved refinance of Bethel's mortgage (using ELCA Mission Investment Fund); savings of over \$2000 monthly
- Authorized change on imprest and OPO checking accounts for new BLS principal
- Approved budget for FY 2016 (to be presented to congregation)
- Approved amendment to constitution by-laws regarding communion practice at Bethel (for congregation approval)
- Noted that Bethel is potentially liable regarding independent classes held on premises that are not covered by our insurance
- Noted current bus is not viable to keep due to repeated breakdown and inability to comply with new emission laws; authorized presentation of this topic at congregation meeting

September

- Approved motion to authorize contract with real estate agent to sell Weed property
- Approved changes to constitution from ELCA
- Approved fund raising campaign for new bus purchase (pending congregation approval)
- Approved holding a special congregational meeting to discuss purchase of new bus and of urgent repairs (Zoar, storm drain, tree trimming)
- Authorized payment for most urgent repairs from church contingency fund (to be repaid from capital campaign)
- Authorized opening an account with Mission Investment Fund (required for refinancing)
- Authorized Ann Marie Kenitzer as check signer; removed Mark Evashenk from this function

October

- Appreciated the payment of Zoar funds by Bethel Lutheran School
- Discussed possible 1-2 day service trip to Lake County to provide assistance to victims of recent fires in area
- Noted that the Synod will sell the Stelling site, which will reduce Bethel's workload (property management) but also income as reimbursement for these functions
- Noted approval of Bethel Lutheran School budget by school board

November

- Held open discussion in approaches to grow Bethel's future. Discussed ideas to open and welcome those in the area, particularly with new development in the area.
- Discussed pros and cons of exploring change to Bethel's 'no alcohol' policy.
- reviewed Bethel's insurance coverage

December

- Approved verbiage of continuing resolution to refine AV Ministry description within constitution
- Voiced appreciation of increased giving at Bethel
- Discussed implications of Bethel's Core Values report (data obtained from congregation in August)



God's work.
Our hands.



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