

Bethel Lutheran Church

2019 Annual Report

Hospitality, Christ-Centered Community,
Spiritual Growth & Discipleship,
Generosity,
Responding to Needs

Dear Family and Friends of Bethel,

2019 was an exciting year at Bethel! We faced an unexpected challenge this year, as Pastor Ben Bergren announced in September that he had accepted a call to Community Lutheran Church in Las Vegas. Our wonderful staff and ministry leads and volunteers have gone above and beyond to keep our programs sailing full steam ahead through the fall! We have continued with vibrant worship, educational programs, fellowship, and service opportunities, which have nourished us physically and spiritually, and provided opportunities to share our gifts.

We also said goodbye to Bethel Lutheran School after 54 years. God's blessings to the children, parents and staff.

We wish the best for Spiritual Care Coordinator, Dave Denny, who accepted a call at Sunnyview Retirement Community.

We welcomed Interim Pastor Don Larson in December, and we are confident that even now God is preparing our next lead pastor to join us and is preparing our congregation for all that is ahead!

Joan Christensen
Council President

Baptisms

We baptized the following children: Corinna Jane Lewis, Grace Amelia Heerboth, Bruce Sang Baldwin, Lucas Alexander Lee, Hannah Rae Petrillo and Kira Jean Petrillo.

New Members

We welcomed new individuals to our congregation: Samuel Lee (by baptism), Kathleen Ashton, James Elliott, Pastor Don Larson, Lisa Laxson, Gale Merz, Nancy Merz, Larry Muller, Aleina Muller, Lars Muller, Marteen Muller.

Confirmations

The following Bethel youth affirmed their baptismal faith promises: Ryan Brown, Grant Edstrom, Jack Lingscheit, Malia Placencia, Kathleen Podraza, Phillip Weber, Erica Yeadon

First Communion Class

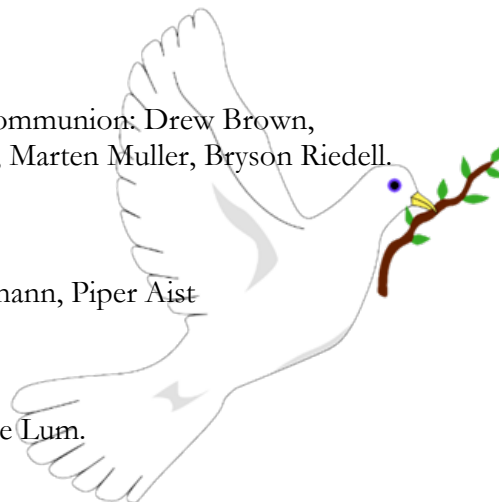
The following children celebrated their First Communion: Drew Brown, Cassidy Deutscher, Joceyln Keish, Lars Muller, Marten Muller, Bryson Riedell.

First Bible Distribution

Ella Burkhardt, Cassidy Deutscher, Kayla Hermann, Piper Aist

In Memoriam

We said goodbye to Susan Calhoun and Deirdre Lum.



Bethel Lutheran School – Patrice Sera and Doreen Baldwin



After much difficult deliberation, creative attempts at problem solving, financial support throughout the year from two anonymous donors, and financial advisement from the church council, it was decided that Bethel School could no longer financially continue. Over the last years, the school had declined from a K-8 program to a pre-school program. A difficult vote was taken on March 26, 2019 to conclude the school's efforts at the end of the school year in June 2019.

The director of the school in its last year made heroic efforts to correct the course of the school's enrollment adding many new students coupled with her positive leadership of the school program and chapels. Also, major efforts went into liquidating underused assets to raise cash, as well as removing the materials from the site after the closing.

A Legacy Celebration of the positive Christian, social and educational impact on the lives of many young people was held on June 16, 2019. Many alumni attended to celebrate the school. We thank our good, good Father for allowing us this opportunity to serve children and families for 54 years, as well as thanking teachers, staff and leaders who gave time and care into nurturing the school over the decades.



Director of Adult Ministry — Patricia Myerholtz



February 14th of this year will mark 10 years of my being given the gift of overseeing many of the great Bethel fellowship events and many of its ministries. Because of our amazing volunteers, we were able to do so many things that brought us all together. These events have had the gift of the presence of Jesus through them all and the joy of doing life together. Some of these events were: Chili Cook Off, Wednesday Speaker Series, receptions after concerts, Art Fair,

Thanksgiving dinner, pie feast, community egg hunt, donuts for dads, flowers for moms, Lent soup suppers, ministry leader gatherings, Out and About adventures, Ministry Fair, and more! I have been blessed to witness so many Bethel ministries bring joy to so many and to help in bringing us all together. Bethel members shared their talents in sewing, quilting, the love of reading, handy work, caring for others, being interested in many topics, exploring outings with fellow friends, learning more about the Bible, sharing their hugs and smiles on Sunday mornings, setting up our altar, and so much



more! Thank you to all the volunteers; your dedication went above and beyond; you all were what makes Bethel an amazing place to share the journey of life with.

I pray many of you will feel called to be a part of this amazing experience in the sharing of Bethel's gifts with others. 2019 was a great year working with a fun, supportive, and loving staff. I am looking forward to the Bethel adventures 2020 will bless us with. I will never take for granted this wonderful opportunity to serve Jesus and how blessed I am to share this life's journey with you all!

Director of Children's Ministry & Nursery-Amanda Laughlin

2019 was full of service, growth and a big move. We used Dig In – the Bible in One Year in the spring of 2019 and then in the fall of 2019 we used Dig In – The Life of Jesus. In the fall of 2019, Kid Connection moved into our very own classrooms. The kids and teachers love our new space that we can all call our own. We also have class pets. We have two beta fish and one gecko who is named Leo. With the help of Robyn, these pets are doing well and bring joy to our



children. We have nine dedicated Kid Connection Teachers and have an average of 20 to 25 attendees every week. The teachers were very involved in decorating and making their classrooms special spaces for their Kid Connection kids. These amazing volunteers are Lauren Burch, Patrice Sera, Amanda Boniface, Alice Isaacson, Lynne Stasi, Amber Funsten, Carol Wheaton, Minnie Sudarsanam and Rachel Sudarsanam. Leah Vieta has been a wonderful support and help in the preschool classroom and especially was very helpful during our annual Christmas Program.

We also had several “All Kid Connection” Activities throughout the year, one of which is the “Seder Meal”, that was held on Palm Sunday and was led by Robyn Winegardner and supported by Susan Leavitt. Our program is blessed to have such amazing people who give their time to the children of Bethel and our community.

For the Winter – Spring 2019 offering, the kids chose to have their offering go to provide supplies for the Mission to Mexico trip that our very own Bethel youth were participating in, in the spring of 2019. The Bethel youth met with our Kid Connection kids on the last day of Kid Connection and showed pictures and talked about their trip. It was a great connection. In the fall of 2019, our Kid Connection children chose to have their offering go towards purchasing a farm for a family in need through ELCA Good Gifts. We are still presently collecting money to meet our goal of \$715.

Our Little Lights Choir was directed by Amanda Boniface, Lauren Burch and Amanda Laughlin. They memorized several pieces and sang before the Congregation.



Six children took part in the First Communion Class led by Pastor Ben. On Maundy Thursday, Amanda lead the class in baking communion bread where they took part in their first communion during the service.

First Bible Class was taught during Kid Connection class time in October. The students received either a First Bible in year one, or a monogrammed case in year two, or a monogrammed bookmark in year three. They received their First Bibles on Reformation Sunday during the second service.

Our fifth Annual “Take Out Church” was themed “The Travels of St. Paul”! There were St. Paul finger puppets that the children of our community and the young at heart could photograph on vacation or staycation. We also asked people to pick up stickers on their travels to put them on luggage placed in the Welcome Zone so that we could see where St. Paul traveled to this summer.



Our Annual Vacation Bible School took place on July 8th-12th. The theme was “Roar – Life is Wild – God is Good”. We had 70 campers, preschool through 6th grade and 50 amazing volunteers of all ages. Our VBS service project was an Operation Kid to Kid Mission Project. By using a “noisy” wagon, our campers and the congregation collected \$700, mostly in change.

Thank you to our amazing volunteers, who helped with sets, provided supplies, acted as crew leader, song leader, station leader and to those who prayed for us. You made our week possible! A special thanks to Kathy Arnold, Amanda Boniface and Robyn Winegardner who helped with preparations months before VBS. Thank you! The kids had a great time!

During the Season of Advent each Kid Connection Kid received a Secret Angel from a member of the congregation. That member prayed for them and later wrote them a note and the children received a little gift. The children love this tradition and look forward to it every year! Thank you to everyone who participated!

We performed our Annual Christmas Program on December 15th – “Our Savior’s Birth” – a sing-along. We had 18 children participate. Thank you to Amanda Boniface who helped with music and planning. Thank you also to the Kid Connection teachers, teens, young adult helpers and parents who helped with rehearsals and during the performance.



Sixth to Eighth Grade Confirmation – Robyn Winegardner & Susan Leavitt

Here we go with a few Confirmation Details:

Spring of 2019 was the conclusion of our study of the New Testament using *The Story* as our resource. On Pentecost Sunday seven confirmands affirmed the Baptismal Vows that their parents made for them as infants: Ryan Brown, Grant Edstrom, Jack Lingscheit, Malia Placencia, Kathleen Podraza, Phillip Weber and Erica Yeadon.

8th graders who will have their Affirmation of Baptism Service on May 31, 2020 at 10:45am are -Ashish Das, Devynn Deutscher, Noah Keish, Jenell Laughlin and Ben Schmitt.

The days in June spent at Rock-N-Water Christian Camp on the American River were a highlight of our year, as always. We are grateful to Rob Lingscheit and Amanda Boniface for being our adult chaperones this year, (truth be told, they had a great time too).

The confirmands were quite an asset in helping with Vacation Bible School in July.

We kicked off our new Confirmation year at the Labor Day Retreat where our incoming 6th graders were invited to join and start building relationships with their 7th and 8th grade classmates. (10 schools for 14 confirmands). The 6th graders - AJ Aist, Jack Herman and Adam Lingscheit joined our 7th graders - Nick Boniface, Garrett Brown, Jessica Burkhart, William Edstrom, Lars Muller and Jacob Reidel and previously listed 8th graders.



Our Fall 2019 Sunday study was Luther's Small Catechism. We started with the Apostles Creed, the Sacraments, Reformation, Worship and 10 Commandments Intro.

Once a month we had a mini-Retreat. We met from 8:30am-1pm and included in our time together was worship, where we were acolytes, lectors and offering collectors. We spent time with Pastor Ben, assembled Activity Bags and prepared our lunches together. They were real Community Building Sundays.

Director of Youth Ministry, Audio/Visual & Facilities — Tom Hoegel

2019 has been another great year to be at Bethel. I am continually humbled and inspired to be part of this faith community. My joy is made complete working with all of you and seeing how God works in and through you. With the transition of Pastor Ben, and now Pastor Don journeying with us, it is inspiring to see the congregation step up in leading ministries. We also unveiled our new logo and vision statement, "Doing Life Together", and accompanying water bottles and pint glasses to support Bethel's Youth Ministry. What a great place to be! As I begin my 36th year of ministry with you all, I'm excited about Bethel's journey to become more relevant in our community. The following is a glimpse of some of the major teams I get to lead:



Youth Ministry

What an exciting year we just finished. We had great events and adventures with a highlight being Common Ground's presentation of "Native Tongue". We tackled the reality that as we become more divided, we are losing the ability to understand and respect the thoughts and words of those on "the other side." God gave us all a Native Tongue of love and only when we speak in that spirit will we be able to come together and move to places of healing..

This coming year brings another great Common Ground season. Our theme will be "Focus" and we are super excited to share this relevant message about drowning out the "noise" and being able to focus our sight and hearing.

Our Youth Ministry Challenge: We strive hard to be relevant and welcoming to all who join us in our events, outings and discussions. I'm excited by the gender diversity we are experiencing and know that God has a special place for Bethel's ministry to young people. We are also experiencing bridge years with the lower number of potential youths we have in our community of members and friends. While we have always worked hard to make our programs affordable and are taking extra measures to lower costs, it is still a challenge for many to participate. We don't want to over fundraise the congregation so in addition to the Easter Breakfast, we will be having a "1 to 99" Funding Campaign to support Common Ground and the Gathering.



Facilities Team

This ministry is a kick for me. I love working with people who love working. 😊 Some fun accomplishments include the official “Green Biz” Re-Certification by the City of Cupertino and Santa Clara County. We accomplished some significant projects and are ramping up for the year to come.

We were finally able to remove the compromised pine tree in the youth room courtyard, install fencing between our parking lot and the apartments, demo the patio cinder block wall and replace it with a modular redwood fence. A huge thanks goes out to Dan Volk, Mike Coleman and the Men of Monday for all they do to care for our facility. In addition to this work, I took on the facilities management of our new renter, Tulip Kids, and have enjoyed



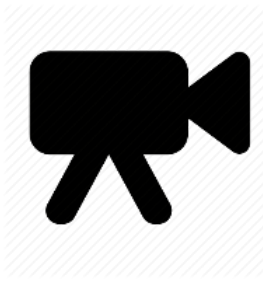
overseeing the renovation of some of our most tired areas around our facility. Noteworthy improvements include major facelifts to classrooms 5, 12, 13 & 14 including cabinetry, lighting, electrical upgrades, plumbing, painting, heater/HVAC repair, as well as roofing and painting the entire preschool building. We were also able to dedicate four of our classrooms to our children’s ministry and confirmation, plus a cubby for our Youth Adults. We also did a major purge of treasures (and non-treasures) that had been tucked away into almost every nook and cranny for over half a century. Thank you to Jenny Edstrom, Leslie Steen, and Robyn Winegardner and many other volunteers for finding homes for desks, computers, bookcases, school aids, books, crayons, games pencils, and many mementos.

Men of Monday — Tom Cole

Our Team: Bill Weberg, Tom Cole, Roger Edstrom, Mike Rogerson, Mike Bruner, Victor Chinn, Mike Coleman and a few part timers. We enjoyed doing campus repair and maintenance such as carpentry, plumbing, electrical, HVAC, furniture repair, playground repair. We installed tv systems, washed solar panels, kitchen appliances and a myriad of small detail jobs. Rewards: Doing the Lord’s work at Bethel with a fine group of likeminded folks, having fun, chuckles, camaraderie and having coffee and snacks with the quilters when we finish the chores.

Peace M.O.M.

AV and Transportation Teams



We finally got our video streaming ministry up and running. We stream and archive every 10:45am service and have received great feedback from members and friends who join us remotely. If you have interest in sound, media, or video, please contact me because I'd love to tell you more. Regarding Transportation, we have had our bus for over four years now and we continue to support weekly youth ministry and monthly Out & About events. This ministry tool really helps us get our ministry outside our walls. Come join us. 😊

As I write this report, I am moved by the tentative nature of the world. Several years ago, Mary Alexander and I were having a discussion and she shared the following with me: She said, "I know the issue with the world these days, people are either like crystal or dynamite. They are either so fragile that they are ready to shatter or so frustrated that they are ready to explode." These words have stayed with me and I think are a great lens for us to view the world around us. I believe Bethel is a community that can, should, and often does include all. I am grateful to be a part of a staff that shares Jesus' love with the community called Bethel and beyond. Thanks for that blessing, Tom

Worship & Music — Brian Schuette

Bethel Worship Team — Clayton Johnson, Director of Contemporary Music

This year the Bethel Worship Team had 15 members who participated on a rotating basis. In addition to leading the 10:45 contemporary service, we also had the privilege of leading all the outdoor worship services during the summer. It is a great joy for us to be invited to perform with all the other talented musicians at Bethel in the Christmas concert, and this year was no exception. Bethel has a long history of innovative contemporary worship. We are privileged to be able to continue that tradition every Sunday and look forward to another year of worshipping together.

THANK YOU to the 2019 Bethel Worship Team for their dedication and talent: Liz Barton, Rachel Bergren, Mary Deutscher, Kara Hermann, Katlynn Hoegel, Tom Hoegel, Clayton Johnson, Phil Kelman, Adam Klopfenstein, Tom McAvoy, Brian Schuette, Aidan Shattuck, Randy Shattuck, Rachel Sudarsanam, Dana Torgersen.



Handbell Choir – Chris Hogan



A Joyful Noise Handbell Choir completed its 20th year in 2019. We had eight regulars and occasional guest ringer musicians. The choir performed once or twice a month, at both the traditional and contemporary services. We also participated in the Christmas concert both with our own piece and accompanying the choir and orchestra. A highlight for me this year was the performance of "Ye Jazzy Gentlemen" by Larry Sue at the Christmas concert, which was a significant stretch for the choir, both because of the difficulty of the material, and because we were covering so many bells with relatively few people.

Children's Choir — Barb Larsen

The Children's Choir got off to a good start this year. We have a little larger group that includes some older, more experienced singers so we will do some two-part anthems. I'm delighted that Krystal Curtiss is our accompanist again this year.

We sang two selections in the Christmas Concert, including an anthem that was a partner song with a Christmas carol. The singers enjoyed learning both parts, then experiencing the excitement of hearing how the two parts fit together while hanging onto their own line. Christmas Eve we were joined by the Little Lights choir for one of our anthems.

Mission Outreach – Mark Evashenk (calendar year 2019)

This ministry sought to motivate, equip and support the members of the congregation to address the social, economic, emotional and spiritual needs of the poor and oppressed and to persons in need.

The following is a list of activities during 2019:

Breakfast (prepare and serve) at San Jose Family Shelter one Sunday every other month

Layette bags (over 30 bags with diapers, bottles, blankets, sleepwear, baby wipes, shampoo) for Sacred Heart Community Services

Turkey Drive for Lord's Pantry / Gloria Dei (over 40 turkeys donated) Christmas Giving Tree for Help One Child (49 foster children each receiving 2 gifts of their choosing)

Advent Sunday giving for West Valley Community Services (socks, canned soup, cereal/granola bars, and quarters for laundry)





Calabazas Creek Clean Up

Swimsuits, Towels & Warm PJs for Help One Child summer campers

Clothing donation for low-income and homeless

Walk for Water

Mission to Mexico (youth and adult) with Esperanza to help build homes with families in Tijuana

I look forward to continuing our strong

service spirit and our continued partnership with West Valley Community Services.

Sacred Heart Community Center Donations — Marion Abney

Bethel supports Sacred Heart Community Center where donations are gladly received and appreciated. Bring items to our collection location behind the Bethel Information Counter in the church entry area. Thanks to those who teamed up to donate forty large bags of clothing, twelve bags of food, three comforters and one sleeping bag in 2019.

Mt Cross Ministries — Holly Lofgren

Bethel held its annual Labor Day Retreat over Labteror Day weekend at Mt Cross camp. We had 10% more folks attending than last year and hope to grow that number further this year! Mt Cross hired two new camp directors: Reverend Sarah & Adam Erickson. It also announced a new 'repair and renovate fund' to help them out.

Walk Club – Teri Kuhlman

A very special thank you goes to Teri Kuhlman who coordinated several walks to support many charities. We wish her well on her next adventure.



CIC Ministries (Correctional Institutions Chaplaincy) — Chris Christensen

2019 was a big year of transition as we said goodbye to director Rev. Dave Robinson who has been with CIC for 34 years. During this time, we figured that Dave had:

- Talked in depth with over 32,000 inmates
- Put on over 5,000 worship services in Elmwood men's chapel
- Provided services to over 100,000 inmates
- Screened and delivered over 1,700 notices of death of a loved one to inmates

We are so pleased with how smoothly that transition has gone, in no small part due to the work of our new director Rev. Liz Milner.

Education & Discipleship — Kathy Arnold

Thank you to a very special group of leaders:



Library Team — Margaret Lund

Martha Circle — Vera Edstrom

Men's Night Out — David Nadell

New Member Classes — Pastor Ben Bergren

Summer Read — Pastor Ben Bergren

First Wednesday Speaker Series — Kathy Arnold, Pastor Ben Bergren, Patricia Myerholtz

Sunday Morning Adult Education — Kathy Arnold, Pastor Ben Bergren

Women of Wednesday — Kathryn Montano

Readers Anonymous — Joan Hill

Education and Discipleship studies came in many forms. This year, our classes and study groups read & discussed books, DVDs and movies. In addition, our **Library** team provided Christian books, CDs and DVDs for all ages and interests. Many thanks to the library committee: Margaret Lund, Debby Coleman, Karen Hanson, Natalie Rogerson.

There were 10 **First Wednesday Speaker Series** in 2019. The speakers were: Father Sebastian Carnazzo, Melkite Catholic Church; Jan Lindenthal, Midpen Housing; Bonhoeffer (2003 film); Rev Cindy McCalmont, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI); Josh Selo, West Valley Community Services; Dave Morely, Betty MacDonald, Alzheimer's Association; Andrew Fiala, PhD, Pacifism; Jamie Laughlin, Bethel's Pastoral Transition; The average attendance was 60. The catered dinners arranged by Patricia Myerholtz were wonderful.

The **Sunday Adult Education Classes** comprise a video followed by discussion. Thank you very much to Randy Shattuck for backfilling for Pastor Ben Bergren. This year's topics were: *How Happiness Happens* by Max Lucado, *The Call* by Adam Hamilton, *Unafraid* by Adam Hamilton, *All In* by Mark Batterson, *The Last Days of Jesus* by Mathew Williams, *Simon Peter* by Adam Hamilton. Approximately 35 attended each week.

There was also a **Summer Book Read** of *The Shack* by Wm. Paul Young

The **Martha Bible Study Circle** met in order to increase knowledge of the Bible and enjoy the fellowship of others. They met eight times during the year with a different person taken the leadership role.

The **Women of Wednesday** finished *Girls with Swords: How to Carry Your Cross Like a Hero* by Lisa Bevere, *The Seven: Hope from Jesus in the Book of Revelation* by René Schlaepfer, and *A Clash of Kingdoms: Paul Proclaims Jesus As Lord – Part 1 (That the World May Know vol 15)*. The average attendance was 8.

Readers Anonymous read many kinds of books ranging from mystery to nonfiction to just fun. The average attendance was six.

Men's Night Out discussed far ranging topics e.g., terrorism/hate, Ephesians and Philippians epistles, Christian apologetics of Ravi Zacharias, John Lennox. The average attendance was 5.

Congregational Life — Patricia Myerholtz and Sue Jacobus

The following lists only a few of the events held here at Bethel where many of the congregation volunteer and attend. These events help in bringing about community for our Bethel neighbors as well.



Egg Hunt:

The 8th annual community egg hunt was a great success! We filled over 3000 plastic eggs that were then divided into age appropriate egg hunts. This free event also included snacks and crafts. This event could not happen without our volunteers and we thank you!

Evergreens: for 55+

Evergreens met once a month for fellowship, devotions, lunch and activities. This past year Evergreens played bingo, filled school bags for kids around the world, painted pumpkins, did crafts, and more! Participants were Sue Jacobus, Debby Coleman, Betty Danielson, Carol Olson, Father Toma Farag, Anna Hoegel, Eleanor Incerpi, Betty Pohl, Lorain and Dave Sahlit, Merle Sandwisch, Patricia Myerholtz, Lois Eid, and the ministry leader Shirley Gross.



Chili Cook Off:

The 4th annual Chili Cook Off was won by Steve Emmert. Over 20 participants entered the event in hopes of winning and being placed on the Bethel Chili Cook Off plaque. Close to 100 attended this fun event and there was a kid coloring contest as well. This event was led by Patricia Myerholtz and Amanda Laughlin along with volunteers: Sue Jacobus and Greg Myerholtz.



Bethel Thanksgiving:

This event held a couple of weeks before Thanksgiving gives our Bethel family a chance to share a typical Thanksgiving meal together. Over 100 attended this festive event which includes a photo booth, crafts, and so much great food!! This event is led by Patricia Myerholtz with volunteer help from Amanda Laughlin, Sue Jacobus, Greg Myerholtz, Amber Myerholtz, Eric Funsten, Josh Myerholtz and Kenly Bicht.

Monthly Food Truck

We continued a Fellowship opportunity at Bethel by bringing in a food truck on the 2nd Sunday of the month from 10:30am-1:00pm in our back-parking lot. It was a casual, pay as you go, bring a friend to lunch, activity. No fuss, no mess, just good food with good conversation and space for kids.

We had five different months of great meals from: El Diferente Loncheria, Waffles Amore, Tastee Bytes, Lemongrass Lane, Crepe 'em Coming.

Labor Day Retreat — Molly Schrey

At this annual event, participants had a chance to attend speaker-led sessions and worship, participate in workshops, enjoy a variety of fun activities, socialize, or just relax amidst their beautiful surroundings.

Nate Maxwell-Doherty, Camp Director at Luther Glen Farm in Southern California, led our 3 speaker sessions and unpacked the theme *Doing Life Together*. In addition, we had mini workshops led by Tyler Freckmann, Molly Schrey, and Audubon Society member, Mary Wisnewski. Workshops had a nature theme and included Nature Appreciation, Bird Watching, Hiking, and a nature-inspired Escape the Room Game.

Participants enjoyed the tried and true events such as: Bethel Olympics, Variety Show (this year featuring Mr. Tyler's Neighborhood), Carnival, Polar Bear Swim, Campfire, and Morning Devotions.

For our two-day format of *Doing Life Together* we had

101 different folks came: 79 on Saturday, 88 on Sunday, 72 people attended both days

65 people spent the night at Mt Cross

At least 10 people rode the bus each day

27 were under 18

49 different households

The youngest was just under 3

The oldest, over 70

A few folks just came for Sunday worship



We would like to thank the following LDR members: Tom Hoegel, Ben Bergren, Patrice Sera, Chris Freckmann, Susan Leavitt, Rich Hahn, Holly Lofgren, Dave Lofgren, Kara Hermann, Tyler Freckmann, Rachel Sudarsanam, Brian Schuette, Frank Podraza, Jake Podraza, and Molly Schrey.

Supper Clubs – Janice Martinson

Supper Clubs - In 2019 seventeen people participated in Supper Clubs. Supper Club participants enjoyed the deeper fellowship that comes from doing life together in a small group.

Out 'n About — The Active Fellowship Ministry — Jules Kurtz, Molly Schrey

The Out and About Ministry is all about finding exciting activities, inviting people to join in, fellowship together, and share the glory to God while we explore and enjoy this wonderful world.



August – Johnny Key Classic
Watsonville Raceway

September – Chardonnay Sailing
Adventures

October – Sensorio: Field of Lights
Paso Robles



In the 10 years of this ministry, there have been a total of 91 events with over 2000 participants!

January – Ano Nuevo and Pescadero Ranch

February – Disneyland,

March – Annual St. Patty’s Day Brewery Tour

April – Jamestown Trains and Columbia

July – Muir Woods



November – Forestier: Underground Gardens

December – Winter Lodge Skating and Caroling

Thank you to the following Out & About Team members: Tom Hoegel, Marianne Nadell, Molly Schrey, Patricia Myerholtz, Paul Baldwin, Jules Kurtz, Dave Lofgren, and Adam Klopfenstein.

Greeters & Ushers — Patricia Myerholtz

Greeters: Greeters ministry is blessed to have wonderful volunteers who take the time fifteen minutes before each service to welcome all with their warm smiles and kind hearts. Thank you to those who volunteered: Doris Smith, Lloyd Darknell, Phyllis Gaffney, Jean Teed, Janice Martinson, Joanne Stensaas, Tillie Hinely, Mariann Jones, Bill Reichard, and Rod Brunngraber.



Ushers: Thank you to the following usher volunteers this past year: Pat Starrett, Elliot Hinely, Roger and Vera Edstrom, Larry Polyak, Jamie Laughlin, Paul Baldwin, Nick Boniface, John Boniface, Greg Abney, Greg Myerholtz, Mark and Merle Sandwisch, Rick Bryson, Chris Freckman, Greg Steinke, Alan Gu, Rod Brunngraber, David Nadell, Dianne and Jack Stauffer, Rob Lingscheit, and a great big THANK YOU to Lloyd Darknell and Doris Smith who usher EVERY Sunday at the first service. Bethel is very blessed to have them all. Sunday services are very appreciative of the work you all do to help the service run smoothly.

Altar Guild — Lois Eid & Judy Johnson

The Altar Guild prepared the altar for worship and Holy Communion which included setting-up communion service, altar linen maintenance, liturgical calendar coordination, and candle replenishment to mention just a few. Lois Eid and Judy Johnson are retiring in 2020. We thank them for their service. There is also a dedicated group of volunteers to be thanked: Lorraine Mencimer, Anna Hoegel, Karen Zettler, Anita Tysseland, Hope Jow, Karin Engelbauer, Erna Trogisch, Sandie Hersh, Janice Martinson, Debby Coleman, Sharon Parady, Dianne Stauffer, Lorene Westmore, and Linda Edwards. We thank them for their faithful service.

Sunday Coffee Hosts – Marion Abney

Our coffee hosts rose early Sunday mornings rain or shine to brew five steaming hot carafes of coffee and hot water along with set up and cleanup of our welcome cart. Our dedicated hosts include Kathi Adams, Connie and Scott Anderson, Vera and Roger Edstrom, Steve Emmert, Mark and Tori Evashenk, Ichiro Fujishiro, Ordetta Hovland, Lars and Judy Johnson, Sharon Parady, Natalie and Mike Rogerson, Carlos Rosa, Sam Sudarsanam, Bill and Joann Weberg, and Jack Wedgewood. Thanks also to our hosts who have provided sweet treats to serve with our coffee along with Lynne Stasi, Sohini Pakerla, and Melody Bast. We hope to provide a welcoming setting for all to join in conversation and friendship building.



Care Ministries — Joanne Stensaas

Caring Connection Ministry has had the blessing of being able to send out over 100 cards this past year to those who could use a word of encouragement, hope and love. This ministry met once a month to work to keep members connected whether through phone, e-mail, connecting on Sundays, visits, or cards. The ministry participants are available and trained to be a listening ear to anyone that needs it. A great big thank you to Rick Bryson for stepping up as care



visitation/call person while we had no pastor on staff. And a thank you to all who are in this ministry for working as a team to help any Bethel members during this time of transition. This group is led by Joanne Stensaas and all are welcome. Participants are Joanne Stensaas, Rick Bryson, Patricia Myerholtz, Tillie Hinely, Natalie Rogerson, Jean Teed, Phyllis Gaffney, Sharon Parady, Marianne Jones, Sam Sudarsanam, Minnie Sudarsanam, Robyn Winegardner, Tony Stieber, and Rachel Sudarsanam.

Director of Finance and Human Resources — Fara Brock

As Bethel's financial manager I oversaw church budgeting, deposits, stock donations, accounts payable, benevolence and special designated payments, payroll and financial reporting. I was responsible for the month-end and year-end financial close accounting processes and submitting monthly financial reports to the church Treasurer and Finance Committee. I updated reports for the church website including monthly Benevolence & Outreach giving and the monthly Church Financial Activity report. I provided the input for annual reviews by Bethel's Audit Committee as well as to an external CPA firm.

It's been a year of major financial transition with closing the preschool and adding the Tulip Kids lease. It was very difficult to say goodbye to the school, but fortunately the lease provides a stable income to the church and Tulip Kids made many classroom improvements that will benefit Bethel for many years to come.

Fiscal Year 2019 was a very good financial year for Bethel:

Total giving was 6% above budget and expenses were within 1% of budget. The net income was \$-7,000 which is \$32,000 above budget.

Bethel gave \$81,684 to the Synod and outside agencies as benevolence and special designated giving.

I am blessed to work with volunteers who work "behind the scenes" to keep Bethel running smoothly:

Liz Tribby who manages office IT and membership records

Dave Larsen, Bethel's Treasurer

The Finance Committee: Dave Tribby, Jack Wedgwood, Jaime Laughlin, Joan Christensen, and Ann Marie Kenitzer

Mark Evashenk who manages benevolence and special designated giving

Kathy Arnold, Audit Committee Chair

Holly Lofgren, Bethel Asset Coordinator

Brad Martinson who manages Bethel computers and internet and telephone infrastructure

Brian Schuette who optimizes Bethel's wireless network As Bethel's Human Resource manager, I worked to keep Bethel compliant with California and Federal labor laws and payroll tax laws for small businesses. I also managed Bethel's health, dental, and retirement accounts for our employees.

I look forward to another productive and inspiring year with Bethel's amazing staff and volunteers!

Finance & Stewardship — Scott Anderson & Brett Deutscher

The stewardship committee consisted of Scott, Brett, Lisa Onishi and Pastor Ben. We focused our messages to the congregation in June, with June 16 being our Faith Promise / Commitment Sunday. In 2019, we challenged the congregation to Practice Being Generous by giving them \$1 bills during the service and asking them to report back with what they did to be generous with that dollar in their community. We received a variety of expected and unexpected responses, as members pooled resources or were very creative with their giving. We felt the congregation continued to live out our core value of generosity with both financial resources and time serving our community.

Planning for our Stewardship campaign started in April, and Faith Promise card follow up with members continued through July, with a final report generated by Liz Tribby in late August. The report showed another solid year of Faith Promises, as almost 100 promise cards were turned in. We are thankful that nearly 50% of the collected faith promises stepped up their commitments for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. This mature level of generosity helps guide Bethel leadership toward responsible budget decisions each year. Thank you for your generous giving of time and talents!



Nominating Committee — Hella Bluhm-Stieber

The Nominating Committee works with council president and pastor to recruit qualified candidates for open council positions and to advise ministries to fill their open positions. I alerted the council president, Pr. Ben and president-elect about council positions that might be opening or that needed to be reaffirmed for another term. We had several short meetings or e-mail exchanges to talk about open positions and possible candidates. Members of the nominating committee recruited a candidate for the audit committee, and another one for the endowment fund. Members of the nominating committee are currently working on recruitment of a candidate for president-elect and member-at-large. The other members of the committee are: Jack Wedgwood, Scott Anderson.

Technology & Administration

Prayer Bytes — Robyn Winegardner

Prayer Bytes at Bethel give folks a chance to join 64 people who choose to receive an email each morning with some of the prayer requests of the Bethel community. On the average it is between 6 and 8 prayers and includes members, former members, and friends of Bethel. Anyone can subscribe or unsubscribe at any time. Just contact Patricia Myerholtz, Liz Tribby, or Robyn Winegardner and you'll be all set. Also, if you have a Prayer request, just contact Patricia Myerholtz or Robyn Winegardner to get your request moving.

Technology Support — Liz Tribby

Moved computers around to accommodate all the staff changes and office moves. Updated QuickBooks to the new version. Replaced our last Windows 7 computer – all office computers are now on Windows 10. Set up a computer for Pastor Don. Dee Peterson has retired as the data entry person for the Sunday offerings – thank you to her for many years of faithful service.

Thanks to all the offering counters for their service – there is still one opening for first Sunday of the month after the second service.

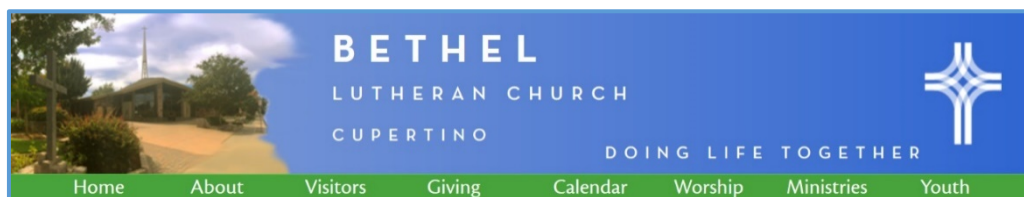
Web Ministry — Dave Arnold

We maintain a web site for Bethel Lutheran Church at <https://www.bethelcupertino.org/>. This provides a comprehensive and current view of the activities at Bethel for visitors and members alike. It is Bethel's virtual front door to the community. The most popular pages are the home page, the church calendar and the sermons page, where we provide a podcast and audio recording of each week's message.

A copy of the weekly eNewsletter that Elise Holst emails via Constant Contact to subscribers is also posted on the web site. Users can sign up to attend certain church events online via Signup.com.

Starting in September, we provided video live streaming of our 10:45 services on our YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/user/BethelCupertino>. YouTube reported 60 user views per month on our video channel.

Pastor Ben hired Studio X to design a new Bethel logo and I integrated it into our website banner. The



design included a new font, Neutraface Text, and I licensed a webfont version of it. You can find a catalog of downloadable logo images in various colors and formats on our Documents page on the Bethel website.

There were several bug fixes required this year, including one caused by our web hosting service, Bluehost. They upgraded our server this year to give us faster service, but this also caused our PrayerBytes script to break. I worked with their tech support to fix this.

We joined the Google My Business program to manage our own Business Profile. It is a mini web page located on the right-hand side of a search results page and provides information about the top result of the Google search. We added photos and events with a focus on attracting visitors to Bethel. For example, we promoted the Christmas Concert here.

Google Search reported that www.bethelcupertino.org appeared 300 times a day in search result pages and typically received 10 clicks from those pages.

Google Analytics reported that the number of unique visitors to our home page was nearly 400 per month. About 33% of these were mobile users.



Doing Life Together



2020 Thank you to Kathy Arnold, Elise Holst, Patricia Myerholtz, Liz Tribby, Dave Arnold and all Ministry Leads who contributed to our Congregational report