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BethelLutheranChurch.com

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**Rev. David Hill**  
Pastor

**Rev. Douglas Gast**  
Care Pastor  
Emeritus

**Holly Eldredge**  
Office Manager / AV

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**Christ-Centered**

*We affirm the authority of the Scriptures as the authoritative source and norm, "according to which all doctrines should and must be judged."*

**Mission-Driven**

*We believe that the mission of the Church is to preach the Gospel and to make disciples for Christ.*

**Traditionally-Grounded**

*We affirm the ecumenical creeds and the faithful witness of the Church across time and space.*

**Congregationally-Focused**

*We strive to be a church body that is organized to facilitate the ministries of local congregations in a posture of servant hood and a spirit of partnership, through the provision of resources, connections and information.*

**"To everything there is a season,  
a time for every purpose under heaven."**

**Ecclesiastes 3:1**

Dear Bethel Brothers and Sisters:

Bethel has witnessed much change for several seasons. Some has been painful, some joyful, all of it serving a purpose for our beloved congregation. We have faced shifts in leadership and been blessed with the addition of the farmhouse, Marilyn's Place and Legacy Christian Preschool. The Church Council wants you to know about some recent and upcoming changes.

Eddie Burks, our youth and family director, has chosen to seek other opportunities so has resigned effective July 16. We will miss him, Natosha and their family; we appreciate the work they did for the Lord at Bethel. While Council is eager to fill this critical position, we are doing due diligence to ensure that we know the needs for the youth program and find a strong fit for the person to steer it.

Mark Heckman's second term as Church Council president ends July 25. He worked tirelessly in that role and by his own admission is exhausted. He has resigned his council seat and returned to Florida for some rest with his family. He will be back later in the year.

Not a beat has been missed. As Vice President, I stepped in as president until elections are held on the 25th, and in a special meeting Thursday night, the Council approved Jill Duncan's nomination to fill the open council seat.

Our relationship with LCS is growing and activity is heating up in the Education Wing. Carpets and floors will be cleaned over the next two weeks, and then Legacy teachers will set up their classrooms. We encourage everyone to welcome these families at the LCS ice cream social, 4-8 p.m. Friday, July 28.

The Council has pledged to build Bethel and guide its future. Prudently building Bethel's resources means looking at its needs now and forecasting options for the future. In that vein, the Council will devote its July meeting to investigate launching a call for a senior pastor, a position that Pastor Dave has expressed interest in holding. Pastor Doug Schoelles, St. John's Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, will facilitate the discussion and make us aware of the call process in a time when the supply of available pastors is thin. Discussing a call does not mean we are losing the blessings of having Pastor Dave and Pastor Doug lead us. Nor does it mean we are ready to make a call. It simply means the Council wants to know its options for the future.

The Council welcomes your ideas, involvement and inquiries. We are humbled to work with you to grow disciples at Bethel. Please reach out to us.

Yours in Christ,

Mary Jo Mikulski  
[Bethel Council](#)

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*Our mission is to engage the curious, encourage the convinced, and empower the committed to be fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.*