

# 2020 Annual Report



OUR MISSION IS TO ENGAGE THE CURIOUS, ENCOURAGE THE CONVINCED, AND  
EMPOWER THE COMMITTED TO BE FULLY DEVOTED DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST.

BETHEL'S MISSION STATEMENT

# Congregation Meeting Agenda

June 12-13, 2021

1. Call to Order (Saturday) Gay Hanson, President
2. Opening Prayer (Saturday) Pastor
3. Election of New Council Members  
*3-year terms: Rosalyn Demaree, Sandy Hanke, Mark Heckman, and Steve Horton*  
*2-year term: Sarah Manro*
4. Thank you for Outgoing Council Members  
*Kris Byerley (Care), Erin Eckert (Small Groups), Kim Forster (Worship & Music),  
Gay Hanson (Communications), and Rochelle Lemieux (Fellowship)*
5. Annual Report
6. Other Business
7. Closing Prayer (Sunday)

## Council Nominations

The Council Nominating Committee is pleased to nominate the following members for election to the 2021-2022 Bethel Church Council:

Rosalyn Demaree      Sandy Hanke      Mark Heckman      Steve Horton      Sarah Manro

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## Staff Reports

### Senior Pastor

Pastor Allen Schoonover

Gentlepeople of Bethel,

*Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,  
for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)*

### What a Year!

I am afraid I have run out of adjectives to try to describe 2020. What an amazing convergence of incredible events: the COVID pandemic, of course, but who can forget the wildfires in Australia last January or along the West Coast in the US last summer and fall? Or the death of Kobe Bryant and his daughter (along with 7 others in the helicopter in which they were flying)? Or the arrival of murder hornets? Or the impeachment of a sitting President? Or the largest one-day stock market crash in history? Or the social protests surrounding Black Lives Matter and the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor? Or the massive explosion last August in Beirut that killed at least 190 people? Or the months-long occupation of Federal buildings in Oregon by elements of the Antifa movement? Or the Presidential election and its immediate aftermath? Or (closer to home), the 55 families at Bethel who were touched by the death of a loved one – or in some cases, more than one?!

In any given year we could create a similar list. However, this one feels different, more intense, and our ability to cope (at least mine, anyway) seems acutely stressed. For some, our weekly recitation of our “We’ll Get Through This” affirmation may have seemed overdone or like something we could have stopped sooner. But it served as a valuable touchstone, grounding us in God’s promise to see us through. That’s what God promises throughout Scripture, but especially in Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians:

*We’ll get through this. It won’t be painless. It won’t be quick. But God will use this mess for good. In the meantime, don’t be foolish or naïve. But don’t despair either. With God’s help, we’ll get through this!*

God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength,  
but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that  
you may be able to endure it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

I am grateful for the leadership of our Council, Staff, and key ministry leaders this year – God used you to provide a way through the mess that was 2020! Together, your tireless work allowed us to do more than simply *endure* the strain of COVID; we were able to *thrive* during it.

Like many other congregations, ministry didn’t stop during the government’s stay at home order, as the stories and statistics on the following pages will reveal.



## Emerging from COVID

As case numbers and hospitalizations have declined and the percentage of the population who has been vaccinated increases, we are moving into a “new normal” season. We are approaching 80% of our typical pre-COVID weekend worship attendance (234 on 5/15-16 versus our 2019 annual average of 277). Sausage and Scripture and Women on Wednesday have both been meeting for more than a month. Our 4th Saturday Fellowship is gathering again after the Saturday night service. Thanks to Mary Jo Mikulski and her outstanding crew of volunteers, we will host the Rummage Sale on Father’s Day weekend. The Education Committee is busy organizing VBS for the last week of June. Kids Camp will happen during the Discipleship Hour all summer for children Preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and there are summer fellowship plans in the works for our Middle School and Senior High students. A church camping trip is being planned for September.

Last Fall, we took a leap of faith to approve a “stretch” budget that included support for both a full time Youth and Family Director (his predecessor had been half time) and the Associate Pastor position that had been vacant since May 2019. We did not make this decision lightly or quickly, and we know it caused some upset. We saw the need inside and outside our Bethel community, and God brought us two *wonderful* families – Eddie and Natosha Burks and their children, and Pastor Dave, Anna Marie, and Ryan Hill – to join us in ministry “for such a time as this.” We know it will take most of this year to absorb this additional cost, and we trust that between increased contributions and savings in the bank, God will provide the resources we need to cover these expenses.

## What’s Next?!

Our mission remains the same: **We are to engage the curious, encourage the convinced, and empower the committed to become fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ who make disciples!**

We have shown firsthand how we are a prevailing congregation. Like a sailboat that tacks with the wind to keep moving forward in the desired direction, Bethel has shown in its history how it has leaned into the Holy Spirit, harnessing it to be about God’s mission during challenging, even “stormy” seasons: forming shortly before the Civil War (1856), moving to Jackson Street during the Great Depression (1930), relocating to our current site (1995) and constructing most of the church building ourselves, thriving through housing crisis (2008-2009), and navigating the change in course from ELCA to NALC (2011-2012). Through it all, we have remained focused, keeping “the main thing the main thing” and serving as a mission outpost to Hamilton County and beyond. I look forward to seeing what God has in store for us this year!



Serving Jesus with you!

## The Year in Review

### Pastoral Acts

#### Baptisms

Latham, Izzy, Maddie Yochum  
Tucker Foreman  
Stacy and Karen Sample  
Wyatt Klaus  
Desmond Leonard

#### Weddings

Maddie Herr and Austin King\*

#### Funerals

Francis Morancey+	Janet Beeman+
June Brandvik+	Walt Shepherd
Joey Burrow	Karen Fladeland*+
Eileen Carlson*+	Karen Holleb*+
Karen Sample+	Joe Douglass
Barbara Olive	Nancy Schulenburg+
+ indicates Bethel member	*Pastor Doug officiated

#### Members Received

In addition to those received in Baptism above:

Sandy Hanke	Lara and Roger Kerry
Nora and Roy Kerry	Patty Ordower
Holly and Harold Seamon	

#### Members Removed

In addition to those who died above:

Debbie and Bill Nielsen	Linda and John Renick
Kent Zepick	

### Parish Visitation

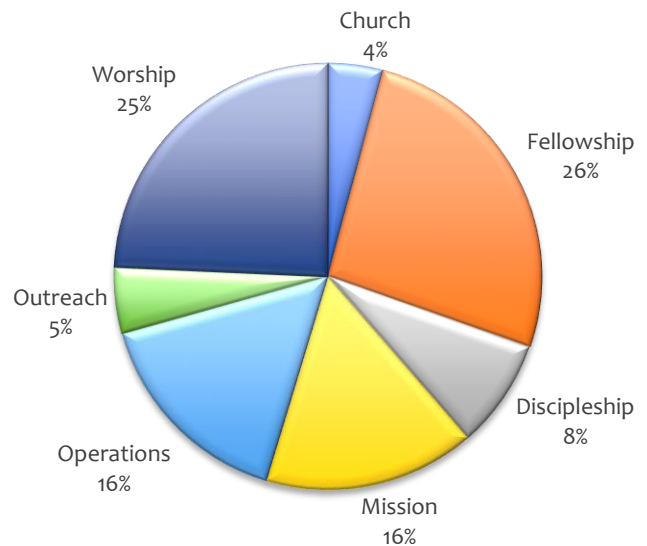
	Visits	Contacts
Members	91	241
Guests	21	46
<b>Totals</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>287</b>

**Visits** (by phone or in person) last at least 10 minutes.

**Contacts** (by phone or in person) last less than 10 minutes.

### My Stewardship of Time

This chart shows how I spent my time in ministry last year:



"Pastor's a genius at selecting the right people for the right jobs."

***“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for your harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord...” (Jeremiah 29:11-14a)***

Jeremiah spoke those words to God’s chosen people during a really challenging time for them. He trusted in God to give him the words to say and, in His infinite wisdom, God led Jeremiah to say the right thing.

It’s been 6 months since Anna Marie and I arrived at our new house in Noblesville with our two cats, some clothes, some possessions, and an air mattress. Since then, we’ve experienced wonderful love and support—even during these difficult days of COVID. As we look to the future, like all of you, we wonder where the Lord will lead us. So, let’s consider Jeremiah’s words and trust that God will continue to lead us to feel encouraged and blessed as we continue to serve Him faithfully together.

**The following information should help inform you about what I’ve done since December 2020.**

#### **DECEMBER 2020**

8<sup>th</sup> My first day in the Church Office

9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> I assisted with Advent Services

5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup>, I attended & participated at all Christmas Services & Bible studies

- And preached at the 4 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service

11<sup>th</sup> I attended first Care Leaders Meeting

#### **JANUARY 2021**

2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> Attended & participated during Sunday services with regular preaching

5<sup>th</sup> Recorded first healing service with Pastor Al

6<sup>th</sup> Attended Education Team Meeting

- Gave a private Communion

8<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> Attended Care Team Meetings

9<sup>th</sup> Helped take down Christmas decorations

10<sup>th</sup> Minor Prophet Adult Bible Study

Installation Service

12<sup>th</sup> Mission Meeting

14<sup>th</sup> All Staff & Executive Council Meetings

19<sup>th</sup> Church Council Meeting

#### **INITIAL OBJECTIVES**

- Get acquainted with staff and daily operations of the church office
- Get familiar with the style and schedule of the worship services
- Get familiar with monthly church programming, meetings, etc.
- Get acquainted with Preschool Staff
- Get familiar with church buildings & properties
- Get acquainted with the family of Bethel.

## **FEBRUARY 2021**

6/7<sup>th</sup>, 13/14<sup>th</sup>, 20/21<sup>st</sup>, 27/28<sup>th</sup> Attended & participated during worship with regular preaching  
2<sup>nd</sup> Recorded 2<sup>nd</sup> healing service w/ Pastors Al & Doug  
4<sup>th</sup> Attended All Staff Meeting (Enneagram Session w/ Pastor Joe Freeman)  
7<sup>th</sup> Attended Kidz City Organizational Meeting with parents @ 10a.m.  
5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> Care Team Meetings  
14<sup>th</sup> Minor Prophet Study  
16<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting  
17<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday Service  
20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Preach 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

### **CONTINUE INITIAL OBJECTIVES**

- Continue to familiarize with daily operations of the church office.
- Continue to familiarize with the style and schedule of the worship services.
- Continue to familiarize with monthly church programming, meetings, etc.
- Continue to get acquainted with the family of Bethel.

### **PASTORAL CALLS**

- Because of COVID, I phone contacted members we hadn't seen in worship.
- As part of Care Team, helped make phone "Well Check" calls.

### **PASTORAL ACTIVITIES**

- Wrote articles and pages for church publications
- Prepared After Easter worship service series – **"OUR RESURRECTED LORD IS . . ."**

## **MARCH 2021**

6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> Attended & participated during worship services with regular preaching  
2<sup>nd</sup> Recorded 3<sup>rd</sup> healing service w/ Pastors Al  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> Attended & participated during Lenten Midweek Worship with Lay Speakers  
5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> Attended Care Ministry Leaders  
11<sup>th</sup> Attended Exec. Committee Meeting  
16<sup>th</sup> Attended Council Meeting

### **UP-COMING OBJECTIVES**

- Arrange meeting with Adult Education Planning Team in April.
- Finalized Easter Season Worship/Celebration Schedule and Services.
- Began reaching out to small groups for continued discipleship.
- Familiarize with area clergy, and with fire and police departments.
- Continue to get acquainted with more of the family of Bethel.

### **PASTORAL CALLS**

- Because of COVID, I phone contacted members we haven't seen in worship.
- Also, as part of Care Team, made phone "Well Check" calls.
- First hospital visits Barbara Erney & Kyle Smith

### **PASTORAL ACTIVITIES**

- Wrote an article regarding new Easter Season Series

## **APRIL**

1<sup>st</sup> Attended and participated during Maundy Thursday Worship  
2<sup>nd</sup> 12:15 (Stations of the Cross/Peace Trail Walk) & 7p.m. Good Friday Worship Services  
3<sup>rd</sup> Easter Egg Hunt



3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> (7, 8, 9:30, 11:11am), 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> - Saturday/Sunday Worship Services

7<sup>th</sup> First live healing service in a year!

2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> - Care Ministry Meetings

18<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> - Discovery Classes

13<sup>th</sup> Missions Meeting

15<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee

20<sup>th</sup> Church Council

**GOALS & OBJECTIVES:**

*In Progress:*

- Still need to familiarize with area clergy, and with fire and police departments.
- *More importantly*, continue acquaintance with the whole family of Bethel.
- Until COVID restrictions ease more, continue to phone members we haven't seen in worship.
- "Well Check" calls continue.
- Put together Spring 2021 Spiritual Formation Booklet

*Accomplished:*

- Began new Sunday adult study [Disciples of the Cross – Part 1].
- Began new Sundays after Easter Celebration Services on the 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>.
- Began putting together a new small group interested in fire arms fellowship.
- Wrote an article regarding new Easter Season Series
- Helped with some cleaning/reorganizing around the church building

**MAY**

1/2<sup>nd</sup>, 15/16<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup>, 29/30<sup>th</sup> Attended & participated in worship (8<sup>th</sup>- off & 9<sup>th</sup>- ill)

- 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> Recognition of Graduating Seniors & Confirmation

5<sup>th</sup> Attended & participated during healing service

6<sup>th</sup> Assisted Preschool with Mother's Day Tea

11<sup>th</sup> Staff 6 month Planning Meeting

13<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting

18<sup>th</sup> Church Council Meeting

20<sup>th</sup> End of the year celebration for Preschool

**GOALS & OBJECTIVES:**

*In Progress:*

- Continue new Sunday adult study [Disciples of the Cross – Part 1].
- Put together a new small group interested in fire arms fellowship.
- Begin putting together Annual Report for June Congregation Meeting
- Still need to familiarize with area clergy, and with fire and police departments.
- Continue acquaintance with the whole family of Bethel.
- Continue to phone members we haven't seen in worship.
- Continue "Well Check" calls.

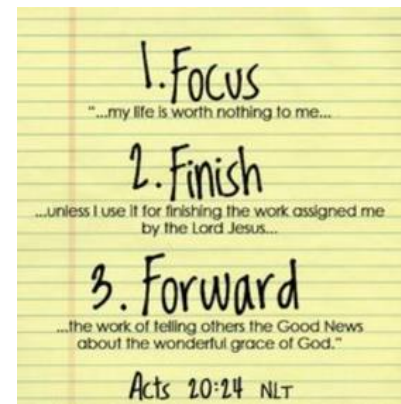
*Accomplished:*

- Put together Spring 2021 Spiritual Formation Booklet

*“But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.” Acts 20:24*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

You have heard me say it hundreds of times through the years . . . . “There are no coincidences.” I was sitting down to pen this report, and I knew I wanted to begin with a scripture. I had one in mind, but when I pulled up my Bible reference, the passage from Acts 20 was staring me in the face. It was like God was saying, “this is what I want you to use as your starting point.” This is classic Paul. He is on his final trip to Jerusalem and has gathered the elders from the Ephesus church to share what is deepest in his heart. He wants to remind them of the three things in which his entire life has been devoted. Focus. Finish. Forward. When I reflect on 2020, those three words sum up so much of the year for many of us. The year 2020 was dominated by the COVID pandemic. In fact, when I wrote this report last year we were just beginning to see how all-pervasive and long-lasting this virus was going to be. A year later, we are still suffering and dealing with the effects of this “stupid COVID”. We might be able to see the light at the end of the tunnel, but I know the residual effects will ripple out for a long time ahead.



It has been a year that we have had to focus on keeping the main thing, the main thing. We have done as much as possible to keep ministering and to keep connected as best we could. Yet, Lent, Holy Week, and Easter were very different last year as we went “virtual”. Live streaming, recording services, and zooming became daily operational procedures. It was a “new norm”, if you can call distancing, masking, and constant sanitizing normal. We resumed in-person worship and gatherings as soon as we felt it was safely possible. We worked hard to finish, as Paul said, “the work assigned to us by our Lord Jesus.” The Holy Spirit provided us the patience, perseverance, and inspiration to try new and innovative ways of sharing God’s story and God’s love. As we have relied on God’s presence in and through it all, we have displayed a resiliency and example that has been a beacon when the world has been darkest. Together we have done, what I think, is an amazing job of moving forward one small step at a time. Hopefully, we have the momentum to continue to move forward in our discipleship, our worship, our fellowship, our stewardship and our friendships.

Serving in a half time roll has had its challenges. Not because there is nothing to do, but just the opposite. There is more than enough to fill the time and then some. I give thanks that I was able to put together our fall stewardship series and to coordinate and script our Advent and Lenten midweek and weekend services. It is one of the things I truly enjoy. Because of COVID, calling

on and making visitations has been down to a minimum, so phone calls and cards have been the avenue of choice.

Since the Sunday after Easter last year, I have been serving quarter time as interim pastor at St James Lutheran in Greenfield. I have been warmly received there, and we have accomplished a lot in the midst of the COVID chaos. I was told that this would probably be a six to nine month assignment. I am now several months into my second year as filling pastoral vacancies has been at a standstill throughout the NALC. With no names submitted as of this writing, I am pretty certain I will be there for the near future.



Faith. Family. Friends. Three more “F” words that have taken on new and special meaning during this past year. It has truly been God who has and continues to get us through all the messes and stresses of this world. Not being able to get together physically, has reminded me how blessed we are when we can share our friendship in the same space and the same place. Every weekend (since just before Easter this year), I can feel the rising of spirits across the congregation. People are smiling again. People are engaged with one another again. People are relaxing, talking, learning and having fun again. We are all being blessed by the connections that God has woven into the fabric of the community we call Bethel again.

On a personal note, we at the Gast household have had highs and lows. On the side of the lows, I grieve the deaths of my dear friend, David Nee, and my father-in-law, Nick. They are sorely missed. But on the brighter side, we welcomed Gabriel, grandchild number 12, on my birthday! We are *only* separated by 70 years. On the first of May, you all surprised me with a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Your love, support, patience, grace, encouragement and appreciation have been the sustaining force that has seen myself and my family through the years. Bethel is truly a one of a kind church. Two weeks ago, at my cancer follow-up, my oncologist declared me cancer free for 5 years now. What a journey that has been and you were there through it all. I know your love and prayers make for what my doctor calls, “a walking miracle.” And just last week, we celebrated with our son Paul and his bride Gabby as they shared the covenant of their love at their wedding in Milwaukee.



Last year’s pastoral acts were pretty minimal. Funerals were very small gatherings, with no fellowship meals to follow. Until this past month, we hadn’t had even one baptism, and I think I officiated two weddings. However, after one of the weddings, this plaque was sitting on my office chair. It was a gift from the bride’s parents. It now hangs on our kitchen wall and is a daily reminder that God has truly blessed me with a beautiful, supportive wife and family, with decent health to live life fully and freely, and the will to humbly serve him as faithfully and gratefully as I can. I am blessed beyond measure to work alongside each and every member of the Bethel

staff. We truly enjoy our time together. I could go on, but I think you get the picture. Know that I feel truly blessed beyond measure by you, my Bethel friends and family. I echo the words shared by Apostle Paul with his friends at Philippi to each of you . . . “Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God.”

Amen and amen.

### *Youth and Family Ministry Director*

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*Eddie Burks*

I would first like to thank you all for this opportunity to serve here at Bethel Lutheran Church. My family and I arrived in Indiana Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. We made the transition while we were still in a pandemic, and God has shown Himself faithful.

Bethel was a big help in making our transition a success, and we will forever be grateful. I spent the first few months, honestly just listening and learning. I was listening to God and whoever else that could give me insight on how to better serve the youth at Bethel. I spent countless hours going through all the things that were in the office to see what was needed and what needed to be thrown out. I also spent a lot of time with John just learning the culture of Bethel. I was meeting with kids and parents and leaders in the church just trying to learn the community, church, and children/youth here at Bethel.

I spent time in prayer for the kids, their friends and family. I make sure I’m in the Word daily, so I can stay spiritually fit to be a better help to our youth.



I had the privilege of assisting in starting up Kidz City (a fun worship time for K-5). I helped form a youth band to lead worship from time to time. I played a part in starting Teen Talk (real teen issues real teen discussions).

A lot of fun and learning things are in place for the summer. We will meet during the summer for Sunday school as well as gather during the week for some food, fun and fellowship. We’re looking at doing a retreat of some sort towards the end of summer or a Back to School Bash. I am looking to host regular events to bring the kids out to connect with friends and, of course, their faith. I am hoping to open the teen center during the summer after the Rummage Sale, and we’re looking at bring Midweek back at some point.

My prayer and hope is that the youth at Bethel will be excited and on fire for Jesus Christ and become lifelong disciples.



John Patterson

Our team of Volunteers were forced to take a COVID break for a while, but are now back at their respective ministry areas and as always, doing an excellent job in and around the office. Bethel is truly blessed by these faithful servants. Welcome back!

The staff and ministry teams continue to count heavily on Suzy and Holly our Ministry Assistants, especially through COVID. Many thanks to them for helping the office run smoothly!



*Holly & Suzy gettin' it done in the office!*

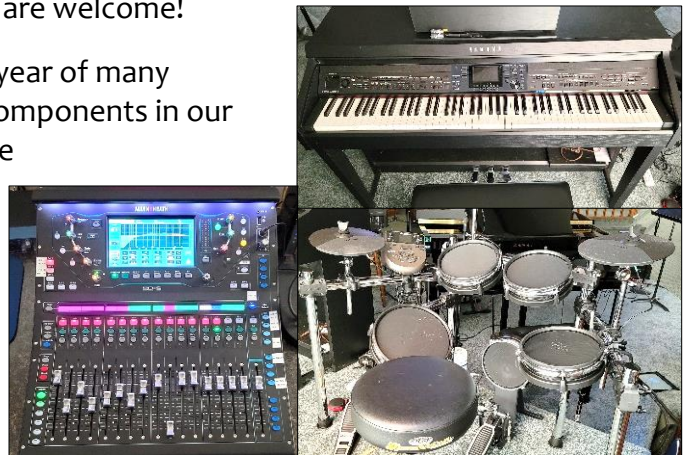


*Holly mixing sound, Gay running the video cameras & stream, Kevin & Nicole operating Sunday's worship screens.*

Many thanks to Bethel's Audio/Visual team for helping us get through COVID. They run the worship screens, mix the sound and control the video system each week. Our Sunday services are streamed live and available to watch/share on demand. We need to rebuild and grow the team once again to help lighten the load. If you're interested in joining the team, please stop by the AV corner to see how you can help, all are welcome!

On a technical note, this has certainly been a year of many challenges including some of the electronic components in our audio-visual ministry. On a good note, they are all back up and working well. Each has been updated, repaired or replaced as needed. Bethel also received some wonderful new gifts: a new state of the art soundboard, a new keyboard, and a new electronic drum set, each completely donated. God is good!

Thanks to all who continue to support Bethel's ministries.



*Donated gifts to Bethel: new soundboard, new keyboard & new electronic drum set.*

## Safety-Security Committee

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Gay Hanson

The Safety-Security Committee assesses and recommends Bethel's safety and emergency plan procedures and needs. The group keeps the Bethel Emergency Plan updated and distributes it to Council and Staff. David Nee, with his Military Police and Postal Inspector Police background, put the plan together when it was required that Bethel have an Emergency Plan as part of having a food pantry on site. David also helped start the Safety-Security Committee. At the request of the Preschool Director and the General Manager, two additional speed bump locations were added to the parking lot to slow traffic on days when Preschool is in session and throughout the week. The group has been able to have another fire extinguisher installed in the back of the sanctuary,



get the floor vent in the sacristy repaired so it is no longer a trip hazard, and move some of the pews to give better access to the emergency exit in the front of the sanctuary. This year, the door/building security system was upgraded to include video; obsolete software was replaced by new internet-based software; emergency lockdown buttons were moved to accessible locations; and a list of people with door access cards for the building was updated.

### *Organist / Bell Choir Director*

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*Michelle Whitehead*

This year, our music area received a bit of an update.

- The digital Clavinova was replaced.
- The stage was reconfigured to better serve our musicians.
  - Instead of 4 separate levels, the stage was condensed to 2 levels with a step between.
  - This allows musicians to have more stage surface area during services.
  - Minimizes the amount of tear down and set up between each service.
- The stage area carpet was replaced.
- A digital drum kit was donated to Bethel.
  - This allows the drum kit to be plugged into the soundboard. And it will help with volume balance for the bands.



Handbell choir was able to play again for an abbreviated season (playing for a few weekends in Lent/Easter). Handbell choir will officially resume in the fall.

Bethel is always looking for singers and musicians. If you are interested in singing or playing an instrument (on your own or in a group), please let us know!

### *Preschool Director*

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*Laura Houser*

Bethel Lutheran Preschool is a Christian-based school open to any families that want their children (ages 18 months to four years) to have a Christian-based school experience in an attentive and loving environment. Classes are offered Tuesday – Friday from 9:00 - 1:00 with a Lunch Bunch and Parents Day Out on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

The Preschool Director is Laura Houser.

Jesus said, **“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”** Matthew 19:14

Our mission field normally has 4 classrooms throughout the week on the first floor of the Education Wing of Bethel Lutheran Church. This year we due to COVID we decided to reduce our

numbers to help mitigate as best we could. We had 3 classes this year with smaller numbers of students per class.

P.D.O. (Parent's Day Out Program) is our 18 months to 3 years old class. It meets Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Families select one to two of these days which work for them. This class begins at 9AM and ends at 1PM. Parents provide lunch for their child. This class has a 10 student cap per day with two teachers. This program had 7 students mixed across Tuesdays and Thursdays; this year we only utilized Tuesdays and Thursdays due to numbers and families' needs.

The Junior Class is our 3 to 4 year old class. It meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The class runs from 9AM to 11:30. Parents can send their child for the Lunch Bunch time as well. For this, they provide a lunch for their children and pick up is at 1PM. This year we did not have a Junior Class.

The Senior Class is our 4 to 5 year old class. It meets on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The class runs from 9AM to 11:30AM. There is a Lunch Bunch option for this class as well. Parents can select one, two or all three days; parents provide a lunch and pick up is at 1PM. This year we had 10 students and 2 teachers.

The S.M.A.S.H. Class (Science, Music, Art, Stories and Hodge Podge/Teacher's Choice) is for students 3 to 5 years of age. It is an enrichment class. It meets on Fridays and is from 9AM to 1PM. Parents provide a lunch for their child. This year we had 5 students and 2 teachers.

This is a preschool where students are introduced to God and education. Classes have chapel once a week. A chapel sheet is sent home with our students so their families can share in the stories their children are taught each week. We have a letter of the week as well. There is a great deal of our day is spent in play in the classrooms, the outdoor playground and on wet, rainy, cold or snowy days, we utilize the Round Cross Room upstairs and the preschool hallways. Our students get to have numerous hands-on experiences from making cookies, jam and pizzas, dressing up for themed days, Trick or Treating in our hallway with stations, walks on the Peace Trail. In the fall, we had our 1<sup>st</sup> U Paint Pottery Fundraiser. We were able to raise \$250 and those who purchased enjoyed their finished pieces. This year with numerous restriction due to COVID, we did not have a Christmas Program. We switched to a Christmas Cookies, Cocoa and Story Time but had to move to a virtual reading of *Santa and the Christ Child*.

In April, we had a Student Art Show and a Silent Auction to bless our Preschool. We were able to raise \$1547 with the Silent Auction alone and between the Pay & Go section and donations, we were able to raise another \$465.

In May, we normally have a Mother's Day Tea. We were able to have our Mother's Day Tea! Our Bethel 500 is slated for the 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> with rain dates scheduled in true Indiana fashion. The End of the Year Program/Senior Graduation Ceremony for our students is on the calendar for May 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7PM. Our school calendar year runs from September (the first Tuesday after Labor Day) to May (ending before Memorial Day).

We feel blessed to be entrusted with these little hearts and minds. It is our privilege to share His love and words with them.

If you have any questions about our ministry, please feel free to contact our Preschool Director Laura Houser at [laura@bethellutheracnchurch.com](mailto:laura@bethellutheracnchurch.com) or at 317-773-4315 ex 33



## Ministry Reports

### Care Ministry

Kris Byerley

Bethel's CARE Ministry is made up of several small groups who are involved in a variety of different activities which offer physical and emotional support to Bethel members as well as others outside of the congregation. Ministries include:

CARE TEAM – Coordinated by Kim Radant and Jill Duncan, the main roll of this group is monthly tele-care or personal contact with Bethel members who have short or long term physical and/or emotional needs. The team normally sponsors a grief workshop (usually around the holidays, although this did not happen in 2020), and Strength & Grace Devotional books for caregivers are distributed. In addition, cards and grief books are sent out to those who have recently lost a loved one.

CIRCLE OF SISTERS – Coordinated by Suzy Patterson, this is a group of women who do “God’s handiwork.” Activities they do include making and sending cards to members who have lost a loved one or just need encouragement. They make banners for baptisms and other special occasions. In the past, they have provided a “Ladies retreat” in May, worked the craft room at the annual rummage sale and have an annual craft sale in the fall. They are looking forward to getting back to these activities in 2021!

CREATIVE SPIRITS GROUP – Coordinated by Suzy Patterson and Cathy Crosley, this group crochets and knits lap blankets, cancer caps, baby items such as blankets and hats, and Prayer

shawls for those who are in need (this includes those attending the Healing Services). Some items are donated to hospitals and some are available for use within the congregation.

SONSHINE CLUB – the Sunshine Group offers meals to Bethel members who have been hospitalized, are homebound, or are overcoming overwhelming circumstances. This group normally remains busy throughout the year but had to take a hiatus due to COVID. However, as of March, they are back in action!

FUNERAL DINNERS – Previously coordinated by Lee Anne Burrow and Risë Helgemo, many people worked together to provide a post-funeral dinner or luncheon for bereaved family and friends at the beginning of 2020. The fellowship is greatly appreciated and should resume shortly now that things are beginning to get back to normal.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – Coordinated by Ellen Gill, volunteers take communion to members who are shut-ins or unable to attend services. This will resume again for many now that facilities are allowing visitation.

HEALING SERVICES – Coordinated by the pastors, this service is offered the first Wednesday of every month focusing on those with physical and/or emotional hurts and sorrows. Like many other activities, it went virtual for most of 2020 but has since resumed.

PRAYER CHAIN – Coordinated by Trudy Kussow, people offered up in prayer via email notification. In the past, requests were mostly taken from each Sunday's prayer cards, but in 2020, this had to change to mostly email submissions.

CARE CALL & RESPONSE TEAM – Originally coordinated by Rochelle Lemieux, Kris Byerley and Pastor Al, this team – which is made up of both Bethel members and non-members – was created during the COVID-19 shutdown to provide both physical and spiritual assistance to Bethel members and others who may be in need. Calls were eventually made to members on an “as-needed” basis and eventually faded over to the CARE TEAM led by Kim and Jill.

LIFELINE SCREENING – A community outreach program where Bethel provides the physical location for this activity.

## *Care Team*

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*Jill Duncan and Kim Radant*

The Bethel Care Ministry Leaders meet weekly with the Pastors to review the Bethel prayer list and congregational care needs. The Care Ministry Team continued to meet in 2020, sometimes online. Members of the team, led by Pastor Al, continued visitation of members in nursing homes, shut-ins, and hospitalized members. The team also sent cards of prayer, encouragement, or sympathy as needed to members and extended family of Bethel members at the request of the Bethel members. With COVID-19 visiting and meeting restrictions, the Care Team used telephone calls and cards as a way of keeping in touch with Bethel members. In April, May and

June, the Care Team expanded to include Bethel volunteers who wanted to assist in phoning all Bethel members every one to two weeks to check-in with them and see if they had any prayer, grocery shopping, or other concerns with which the Care Team or pastors could help. The expanded group met via Zoom to discuss any member needs discovered during those calls.

The Sonshine Club, a group that takes meals to members who are ill or have had surgery, is now led by Valerie Kitko.

## *Christian Education*

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*Marci Burrow*

Bethel's Christian Education program is intended to provide everyone from preschool through adults with the basic tenants of a Christian life and knowledge of the Lutheran Church's beliefs and theology. Christian Education goes from 10:00-11:00 AM and consists of:

- Church Nursery provides care for children under three years old during 8:45 and 11:11 service. The Nursery attendants are Natosha Burks and a high school student.
- This year due to low numbers in attendance our Sunday school classes were split up differently than last year. We had preschool-Kindergarten, 1st- 3rd grade, and 4th-5th grade together. Next year we are hoping to move back to our previous classes of preschool, Kindergarten-1st grade, 2nd-3rd, and 4th-5th grade. During children's Sunday school, the goal is to engage and teach students about the word through skits, crafts, and interactive lessons. Sunday school gradually increases the depth at which we study the Bible and the Lutheran experience. We have set goals as to what each grade should know before they reach Confirmation. Average attendance is usually around 25 students. Sunday school, First Communion and Confirmation dates generally follow the school year.
- First Communion is generally for 4th – 5th graders and prepares the students in understanding the mystery of the conversion of the bread and wine into the body and blood of Jesus. This is a basic tenant of our faith.
- Confirmation is for 6th through 8th grade students and prepares our youth for an in-depth understanding of the Lutheran faith. Upon completion of Confirmation, they become adult members of our church.
- Adult Sunday School classes were “Heroic Determination” – a study of the books of Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, and Zechariah. “Ask the Question” – a safe place to bring your faith questions with lots of discussion, and “Always Be Prepared to Give an Answer” – ways to prepare yourself when asked with challenging questions about Christianity and your faith. This class was provided on zoom at 7:00 on Wednesday nights.
- Kidz City is now available for students Kindergarten- 5th grade at 8:45 and 11:11 service to go, worship, and learn about the gospel during the sermon. It keeps kids engaged while also allowing them time to worship with their parents during service.



- Vacation Bible School runs from June 27th- July 1st from 6:00-8:00PM. Here kids can be themselves, sing, do crafts, play games, and learn or strengthen their relationship with Jesus.
- Moving into the summer there is a children's summer program starting for Sunday school and high school students. It is called kids summer camp and it will be a study on the 12 disciples. Each week will be a different disciple along with crafts, skits, and games.
- Bethel Lutheran Preschool is a Christian-based school open to any families that want their children (ages 18 months to four years) to have a Christian-based school experience in an attentive and loving environment. Classes are offered Tuesday – Friday from 9:00 - 1:00 with a Lunch Bunch and Parents Day Out on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. For more information, please see the Preschool Director's report.

The fantastic Christian Education program that Bethel offers is due to the great staff and volunteers that we have. To continue to thrive and grow, we can always use more volunteers willing to give a few hours a week to promote Christian Education.



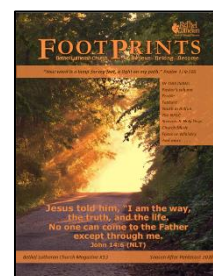
## Communications Ministry

Gay Hanson

Bethel Communications continues to use a variety of methods and venues to communicate with members of the congregation and with the community. We have regular publications, such as *FootPrints* and *Bethel Happenings* that are available in print as well as digital formats. The church has a website and a Facebook page, and this year we began live streaming.



*FootPrints* – Bethel's quarterly church magazine is now four years old. The magazine is produced with a wide variety of information, features, and profiles by a dedicated group of members and the pastors. Issues are published for Advent, Lent, Pentecost, and the Season After Pentecost. The team expanded this year with several new writers and proofreaders.





*Bethel Happenings* – this weekly source of news, events, and happenings is available in print and digitally.

MailChimp – email program that gives us a platform to send regular email updates and news to the congregation and other interested persons as well as keeping the Prayer Chain informed of prayer needs. Its analytics help staff to judge the effectiveness of email communications.

Calendar – the 2021 Bethel calendar provides information and dates for regular Bethel events and activities as well as holy days and church seasons.

Website – updated on a regular basis, the website provides an online location for general information, documents, connections to videos, and a way to introduce Bethel to the community and those looking for a church.

Videos – recorded by the Audio Visual team, worship service videos are live streamed to Facebook. Other videos, such as the one to celebrate Pastor Doug's 30 years of ministry at Bethel in May 2021, are posted to the Vimeo online hosting service. The Bethel website provides links to both.



Facebook – this social media platform provides a way for the congregation to get information and for members to interact with each other on a regular basis. Members of the congregation regularly post pictures and comments about the activities happening around Bethel. It is also where worship services are live streamed.

Announcement Sliders – informational sliders are produced for both the worship service announcement screens and the website. These sliders highlight various activities and events, provide information, and promote missions.

Snail mail – occasional letters from the pastors are still sent through the regular mail. Postcards for particular events or seasons are mailed.



Outside signs & banners – a number of informational signs, framed in cedar, convey information in a pleasing manner. Informational vinyl banners are posted out in front of the church that are visible from 206<sup>th</sup> Street and Cumberland Road and contain information on worship services, seasons, and/or events. Cloth and vinyl banners with seasonal themes are posted on the columns at the entrance to the church.

Realm software – we moved fully into a new online church management software called Realm.

## *Creative Spirits*

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*Suzy Patterson*

Bethel has a very special group of ladies (& maybe 1 guy) called Creative Spirits, co-led by Cathy Crosley and Suzy Patterson. We meet each month on the 1st Monday evening in the Education Building, 2nd floor. We are a welcoming group and would love to have others join us!

This group was started years ago as Bethel's Prayer Shawl group, led by Maria Haisma. Creative Spirits have expanded our projects to include Healing Stoles, baby blankets & hats in addition to the Prayer Shawls.

These shawls are for anyone to take to a loved one or friend in hospitals or home. We sew crocheted crosses on each of these shawls and pray over them before placing the finished shawls and stoles in the cabinet in the Chapel.

The Healing Stoles are given to anyone at our monthly Healing Service who have not received a stole previously. We sew a lovely love charm on each of these.

One of our faithful members of the Healing Service, Rochelle Lemieux, was so moved by this service that she donated the money for us to purchase the needed yarn to make these stoles.

We've had people tell us of the comfort and enjoyment they have received wearing these shawls and stoles. Some even take them into the hospital with them.

Our group enjoys getting together crocheting or knitting these items of love. We share different patterns with each other and even teach a different stitch. Sometimes a glass of wine adds to our enjoyment! And that's NO yarn! All done in love!!

[When I'm not crocheting, I am enjoying my time working in the office with Holly Eldredge, my job-share co-worker!!]

## *Eucharistic Ministry*

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*Ellen Gill*

Eucharistic Ministry is an outreach of Bethel to members and relatives of the church who are unable to share Communion with us, due to being shut in at home, a hospital or a care facility. In this long-standing ministry, volunteers trained by a Pastor and the Eucharistic Ministry coordinator, take consecrated Communion kits from our altar to recipients every month.

The Eucharistic minister and the recipient share not only bread and wine, they share prayer and fellowship, as well as Scripture. Family members or friends who are present are invited to receive Communion as well. Volunteers and communicants are often able to develop close, long-term relationships through this ministry.

Like many programs, the Eucharistic Ministry was suspended during COVID but is starting up again.

Evangelism takes flexibility and teamwork! The pastors and key volunteers reach out to first time worship guests by calling, writing notes, and our delicious “cookie ministry” where members deliver a plate of cookies/treats within 24 hours to those we identify as first-time guests each week. (This has been on hold for most of the past year due to COVID, but we are getting back into doing this.) The Goal is multiple gentle “touches” that convey our warm welcome and thanks for their visit.

We also introduced new online “hosts” for those people who have found our live streamed services during this COVID season. These hosts act like our greeters do at in-person worship: welcoming individuals to the service, sharing the peace, asking for prayers, and providing a direct link to the connect page of our website where links for attendance, prayer requests, and general information about the church is located.

We were able to have our Trunk or Treat this past October outside, and it was a beautiful day with 12-15 decorated trunks, a hay ride, and a surprise basket as a giveaway. Participation was great even with the COVID guidelines to keep everyone safe. We also were able to have our annual Easter Egg Hunt, and while it was during spring break, we had a good sized attendance. It was very nice to get back into our new normal with these events.

We were able to offer a couple Discovery classes in the past year. It was nice to see some new members added to our congregation. We look forward to offering more classes this summer/fall.

We are looking for a few people who are interested in partnering up with us on the Evangelism team helping us to reach out to our community.

Please continue to reach out to the Evangelism team if you have questions, concerns, or prayers.

## Fellowship Ministry

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Rochelle Lemieux

Fellowship Coordinated the Monthly 4th Saturday Worship and Picnic/Pizza Events inside during the Fall months up until COVID. Once the weather warmed up this event continued to happen during COVID monthly outside at the Shelter with families bringing their own food and drinks. We continue to meet Monthly.

Saturday nights after Services we go out to eat at various restaurants. These were canceled during COVID and have resumed again in April 2021.

The Conner Prairie’s *Symphony on the Prairie* event was cancelled due to COVID and will resume in 2021 during the mid-summer. This event is a picnic event where we meet and enjoy the Symphony together.

Fellowship Coordinated the Advent and Lent dinners. Each week on Wednesday night at 6pm, we served meals one hour before the Services. Lent and Advent dinners were canceled during COVID. These dinners will resume in 2021.

Sunday Coffee Fellowship was held weekly serving coffee, refreshments and breakfast pastries and snacks. This weekly event was canceled during COVID and has resumed since March 2021 serving store bought individually packaged snacks.

Catalyst Rooted in Faith is a new group that is for age 21-30. They met in person outside at the Shelter for bonfires and then met weekly on Zoom during COVID. They are resuming in person meetings in June 2021.

The Fellowship and Care Ministry continues to have a Call Care Team that calls members who have not returned to in-person Worship.

The Church Campout was canceled in 2020 due to COVID and is resuming in late summer 2021.

The Chili Cook-off was canceled due to COVID and will resume this year in the Fall.

Fellowship Events also include Movie Nights, Christmas Concerts, and planned Celebrations after Services. These were all canceled during COVID and have resumed in 2021. Watch for updates on all our events in the Weekly Newsletter and during Pastor Announcements before Services.

We are open to any suggestions you have for Fellowship events.

## *Finance Ministry*

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*Linc Schneider*

2020 finances are found in the Finance report on pages 30-31 as it once again was a year blessed even through the challenges of COVID-19. We began to track on-line giving as this rose 16% from the start of COVID until the Fall of 2020. We received a PPE loan to assist us through the challenges of COVID and yet even without the PPE loan considered, we were still a positive \$13k at year end. We have been blessed as God has found a way through a year of difficulty. It has been a pleasure to serve as the Finance Chair of such a loving, generous and humble congregation.

## *Food and Baby Pantry Ministry*

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*Sandy Hanke*

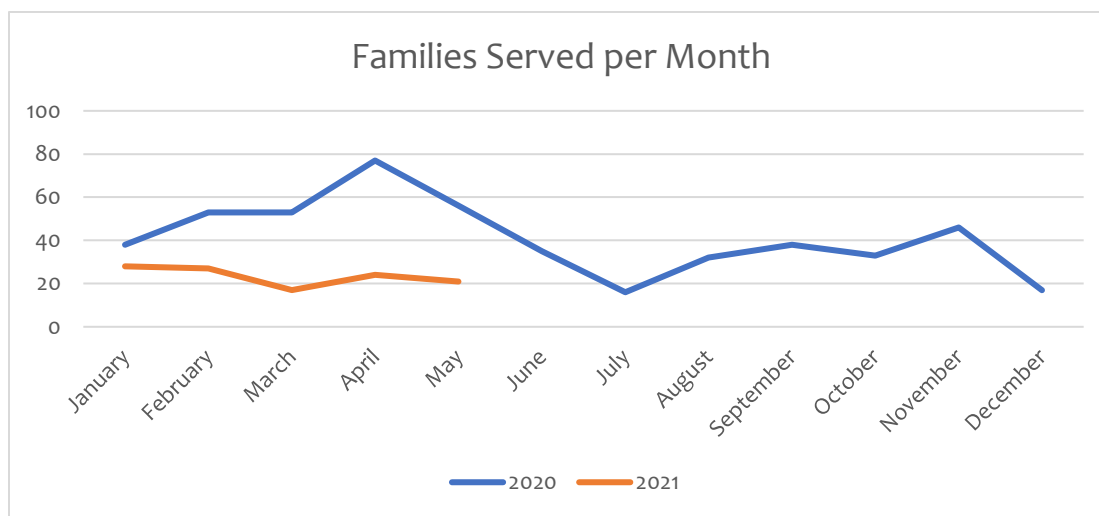
The food pantry remained open during the COVID-19 pandemic. Volunteers were at a minimum, but with the help of a faithful few, we were usually staffed with three people per shift. We have been able to maintain a good variety of food and health care products. We continue to receive products from Midwest Food Pantry and Hamilton County Food Bank. Every Monday during the summer, I pick up fresh produce donated by the Farmers Market at Ivy Tech.

I found out we were the only pantry requiring referrals so we no longer ask for them. Clientele only need to show a bill with their name and current address in Hamilton County to receive food.



Neither of our Food Banks require reports on poundage of food given out. This was a requirement when we received food from Gleaners so we have quit weighing food. This makes the time to get a client in and out of the pantry much faster. Since we no longer weigh the food we can now manage with 2 volunteers instead of three.

With SNAP (food stamps) amounts being increased, unemployment supplement added and stimulus checks from the government, our numbers are way down compared to last year but every pantry has the same issue.



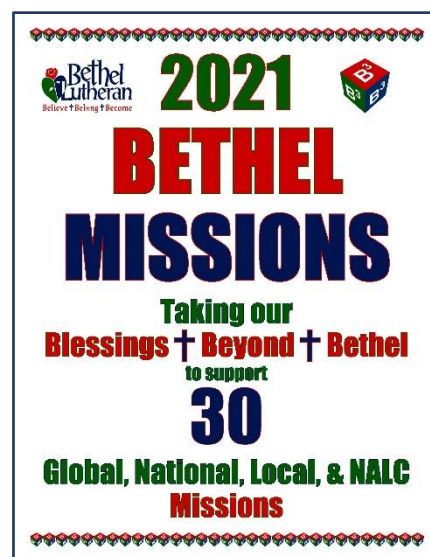
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Total
2020	38	53	53	77	56	35	16	32	38	33	46	17	494
2021	28	27	17	24	21								117

## Missions Ministry

Maddie King

Starting in 2020 and continuing into 2021 Bethel has supported 30 missions. The way we support these missions are through prayer, funding, and time. Our missions are on a local, national, and global level, as well as support of the North American Lutheran Church. (NALC)

Locally, Bethel's missions include collecting backpacks and supplies, giving blood, food & baby pantry, Book and a Reading Buddy, Rummage sale, Fish Fry, and NALC Disaster Response, as well as Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets. At Christmas Bethel also provides gifts from the Angel tree for those in senior living. We also are partnered with Wreaths Across America. This past year we also took a few days to support foster families through Respite Ranch. Other missions are SERVE Noblesville, Lutheran Military Veterans, Fight Hunger through Kroger rewards, and



Creative Spirits, who crochet healing stoles, prayer shawls, baby hats, booties, and blankets for preemies.

At the national level, Bethel has supported start-up churches through prayer and funding. We also have partners who we have supported for several years which include: Ministeria Su Luz in Miami, FL; Living Faith Lutheran in Wabash, IN; and Servants of Christ NALC in Robins, IA. Pastor Eddie of Ministeria Su Luz preached at Bethel in 2020.

Globally, Bethel has a mission partner in Senbete, Ethiopia; along with its synod, the North Central Ethiopia Synod. (NCES). This year we donated money to the Senbete. Their nation is in great crisis and still in lock down due to COVID. We have a goal to get Gobena here to Bethel for a visit in 2021/2022. Operation Christmas Child is assembling boxes to send out to children all over the world who do not receive Christmas gifts. The East European Mission Network (EEMN) is an international relational network. They help people and churches in former communist nations. Bethel helps fund clean water in places around the world through Water Mission.

## *Property Ministry*

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*Jeff Reising*

The year like no other! Property certainly had one of those, and that's not even taking into account the difficulties associated with COVID.

Bethel Lutheran, the facility and property, has been around for a while now. That's a great thing. That's a great thing to show that we are a thriving congregation. The flip side to that is that our facility has been showing a bit of its age, too. One big step we made last year was to put a new top on the building. Over \$120,000 was raised to remove and shingle the entire roof. Additional work included cleaning the steeple, which was a site to behold watching the construction workers scale it to power wash and shine it up. It's a beautiful upgrade to the property and will last another 15-20 years.

At about the time the roof finished, the work began in earnest on the Columbarium Garden Project. A select few folks made substantial donations to get this project rolling, and by the time it was finished, nearly \$100,000 was raised to completely fund the work without a dime coming out of church operations. David Nee's passing and Jane's passion for seeing this project through, along with a small group of volunteers saw this become reality. This project will benefit the church for a lifetime. It really does help Bethel provide a forever home for all members. The gardens look beautiful this spring and as the plant materials mature, it will become a peaceful, special place for Bethel Lutheran. The Columbarium Committee always welcomes donations. There are a few wish list items we would like to do, but our charge is to do so without using operation budget funds and maintain a perpetual fund in the unlikely event they would need to be moved.

If \$220,000 dollars being used for the two projects above wasn't enough, 2021 brings another aging piece of the facility that will need our attention. The geothermal system that heats and cools the original building has begun to scream for attention. The air handlers in the mezzanine

(7 of them) are all past the point of normal life expectancy. We are currently working on a plan for attacking this project later this year. This is just another example of the need for us to be forward thinking in our planning, budgeting, stewardship and support of keeping Bethel in tip top shape.

We also resealed and painted the parking lot, which was a \$15,000 item that needs to be repeated every two to three years.

Transparency is important, understanding the needs of the facility inside and out are important, because everything that we do seems to have a significant price tag to it. Just know that we are constantly working to maintain Bethel at the highest level we can and your support, both financially and through your volunteer hours is critical to this effort. If you want to know more or want to get involved in keeping Bethel beautiful and operating smoothly, please reach out to me.

Blessings to each of you.

### *Small Groups Ministry*

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*Erin Eckert*

Due to COVID, Small Groups were on hold for the majority of the year.

Small Groups provide an opportunity for people, both members and non-Bethel members, to gather together based on an area of common interest. In these groups the focus is to share in this common interest while meeting and getting to know one other. In doing so, inspiring and encouraging one another in one's faith walk. Bethel provides many opportunities for one to get involved as well as welcoming new interest groups to start up at any time. All groups are always open for more people to join at any time throughout the year. Here is a list of our current groups:

*Bethel Bikers* Coordinated by Pastor Doug [pastordoug@bethellutheranchurch.com](mailto:pastordoug@bethellutheranchurch.com)

Open to anyone who enjoys riding on two wheels. Typically beginning on Sundays April-October for a local hour to hour and a half ride. Ending with a meal out and fellowship. Anyone is welcome to join for a ride and/or just dinner.

*Circle of Sisters* Coordinated by Suzy Patterson [suzy@bethellutheranchurch.com](mailto:suzy@bethellutheranchurch.com)

Meets the first Thursday of the month at 5:30pm. Creates and sends cards to those who aren't able to come to church, puts on a women's retreat and sponsors a craft sale with partial receipts benefitting Bethel.

*Co-Ed Softball* Coordinated by Steve Morlock [rtw9498@gmail.com](mailto:rtw9498@gmail.com)

Co-ed team that plays on Friday nights in the Morse Beach softball league. The season starts in late April/early May and runs into early July.

*Creative Spirits* Coordinated by Suzy Patterson/Cathy Crosley [suzy@bethellutheranchurch.com](mailto:suzy@bethellutheranchurch.com)

Meets the 1st Monday of the month 6:30pm. Crocheting and Knitting prayer shawls, healing stole and baby blankets.

*Garage Night* Coordinated by Tom Foreman [tom.foreman@beckshybrids.com](mailto:tom.foreman@beckshybrids.com)

For anyone who loves to turn a wrench. You do not have to have something to work on but just want to get your hands dirty OR if you have tons to work on but are short on hands, reach out. Recurring open invitation on Thursday nights from 7:30pm-10:00pm. (Meetings to resume TBD.)

*Horse Enthusiasts* Coordinated by Tim Wuwert [want2race3@comcast.net](mailto:want2race3@comcast.net)

Have you ever met a horse? Want to see one up close? Want to get on a horse? Do you have a horse of your own? Want to learn about horses? This group is for anyone who is interested in riding horses with others or just wants to learn more about horses.

*Ladies Craft Night* Coordinated by Marcia Lienemann [marcialienemann@yahoo.com](mailto:marcialienemann@yahoo.com)

First Saturday of the month 6:00pm-12pm. Bring a snack to share and any craft you are working on. Will occasionally work on the same craft together.

*Ministry of Mothers Sharing Group (M.O.M.S.)* Coordinated by Erin Eckert/Jaime Zimmerman [erineckert@gmail.com](mailto:erineckert@gmail.com) or [coachschutte@yahoo.com](mailto:coachschutte@yahoo.com)

Thursday mornings 9:15am weekly & the 2nd/4th Wednesday evening of month 6:30pm. We discuss various topics, provide encouragement and support in parenting. Host Seasonal Family events, philanthropic events and coordinate social outings. You are welcome to bring your children with you to the meetings!

## *Stewardship Ministry*

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Tom Foreman

Over the past year, we all had NEW things to think about. Who could have predicted what 2020 would look like? Uncertainty was prevalent on many fronts. For a family, business, or organization, we tend to get more focused on minimizing perceived risk when stressed.

We can reduce perceived risk in many ways: drive more cautiously, eat healthier, watch our spending, and share God's love with more people. Do all of those really reduce our risk, or are most of them just our own attempt to control outcomes? Over the past year, we missed some opportunities to maintain perfect focus on our one true mission: share God's love with more people. In a year that our country and community were seeking a savior more directly than ever, our path to welcome those in need had obstructions. Thankfully, we serve a God that teaches us grace. God speaks to our hearts, shows us opportunity, and extends grace so we may glorify Him by extending grace to others.

Being good stewards means taking our limited resources of time, talent, testimony, and treasure and using them in a way that not only glorifies God but leads more people to His holy salvation. For the year ahead, how can we do better at utilizing the resources of time, talent, testimony, and treasure to bring more people in need to God? My personal ask of the congregation: do not tolerate obstructions and actively seek paths that put Bethel's resources to work. Invest your

time, talent, and testimony to hold church council accountable, engage with feedback, and help identify HOW we do better at sharing God's love. Thank you for your grace as we aim to learn from 2020 and actively engage in providing a fast lane to God for everyone who seeks Him.

## *Worship and Music Ministry*

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Kim Forster

### **Altar Guild, the Eucharistic Ministry teams, the Usher teams, and the Acolytes**

Altar Guild, the Eucharistic Ministry teams, the Usher teams, and the Acolyte groups work before, during, and after the services at Bethel. The cleanup crew that has been going through the church after each service sanitizing the common areas, deserve a special thank you from me and all of Bethel!

Worship and Music had a very busy year. The live and recorded music streaming of the church services was completed by the Communications Ministry group and the sound board staff. The staff and Pastors were able to get the weekly services to the congregation through the internet and the web page. The Saturday Night Music and Sunday Morning Praise Band recorded music for on-line viewers during the shutdown of the church.

### **Equipment Repairs**

The two systems computer systems that run the pipe organ were not functioning together, so the system was repaired. This was done in time to have the organ functioning for Christmas 2020.

### **Stage Remodeling**

New MyMix boxes that are used with the in-ear monitors by the musicians were updated and some equipment was replaced. Some of the wedge monitors that are used by the vocalists were replaced too.

### **Equipment Purchased and Sound Board Updates**

A new Clavinova was purchased in March of 2021 for use during the Church services. The old Clavinova will be used for practicing and rehearsing.

A new Drum Kit, this is an electronic drum set, was donated for use during worship services in the sanctuary. The Drum Kit will play through the sound board.

Remodeling of the stage with new carpeting was completed in late winter 2021. The stage configuration has permitted more flexibility for hand bells, vocalists, and the musicians during the Saturday Night and Sunday morning services. New microphones for the pastors and vocalists were purchased. A new sound board was purchased to replace the 10-year-old board. Installation of the board began in Mid-April 2021 and will be completed with the assistance of Mr. Logan Wells. Training of Bethel staff and members that want to use the sound board will be completed before access to the board will be given.



In August, Gary and Valerie Kitko, along with tremendous help from Kris Byerley, continued to meet with the Middle School/High School group on Wednesdays out at the pavilion until it became too cold to meet outside. During this time GOD brought us Mr. Eddie Burks to take the Youth Director position, and he has been a true blessing here at Bethel! Like most, many of our planned activities and normal projects never came to fruition so there is not as much to summarize as there usually is. We got through it, it wasn't easy, and it wasn't pleasant, but thanks be to GOD for shaking what can be shaken so that the things that cannot be shaken stand out and shine through all of this confusion.

## 2020 Financial Report

### General Fund Income and Expense Statement

INCOME / CONTRIBUTIONS	Actual 2020	Budget 2020	Difference
OTHER INCOME	\$27,028.49	\$18,176.00	\$8,852.49
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIPTS	812,011.77	705,396	106,615.77
INTEREST INCOME	2,175.33	0.00	2,175.33
MISSIONS RECEIPTS	-30,000.00	-30,000	0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$811,215.59</b>	<b>\$693,572.00</b>	<b>\$117,643.59</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
YOUTH EXPENSES	1,990.36	3,000.00	-1,009.64
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EXPENSES	7,749.86	14,250.00	-6,500.14
COUNCIL ADMIN EXPENSES	8,629.12	7,795.00	834.12
MORTGAGE EXPENSES	78,541.26	72,000.00	6,541.26
OFFICE & SUPPLIES EXPENSES	49,860.46	32,780.00	17,080.46
PASTORAL EXPENSES	2,335.67	4,650.00	-2,314.33
SALARY & BENEFITS EXPENSES	352,318.97	383,884.00	-31,565.03
PROPERTY EXPENSES	67,947.04	58,250.00	9,697.04
UTILITIES EXPENSES	51,564.39	55,580.00	-4,015.61
WORSHIP & MUSIC EXPENSES	11,722.65	9,810.00	1,912.65
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$632,659.78</b>	<b>\$641,999.00</b>	<b>-\$9,339.22</b>
EXCESS INCOME\EXPENSES	\$178,555.81	\$51,573.00	\$126,982.81
Less Principal Payment	\$98,788.74	\$98,788.74	\$0.00
<b>NET INCOME / EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$79,767.07</b>	<b>-\$47,215.74</b>	<b>\$126,982.81</b>

	General	Building	Youth	Pantry	Designated	Missions	Preschool	Columbarium
Fund Balances	\$220,828.58	\$176,248.45	\$13,888.94	\$10,820.27	\$44,076.46	\$58,018.82	\$27,213.86	\$40,233.83

*All figures above are as of 12/31/2020*

## 2020 Parochial Report

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Baptized Members	691	686*	1513	1494	1458
Confirmed Members	603	590*	1378	1364	1328
Average Attendance	270/174**	274	300	334	328
Average Online Views	146#				

*\*This large drop from 2018 to 2019 is attributed to a one-time “cleaning of the rolls” that occurred as we moved to a new church management software. This move revealed many “members” who had not participated in our ministry for more than 2 years. Some had moved while others simply stopped attending. Those remaining in the area have been contacted by the pastors and attempts will be made to reintegrate them into our ministry.*

*\*\*COVID year - first number is average for pre-pandemic/second number is average during pandemic.*

*# COVID year – average online views during pandemic.*

MEMBERS ADDED IN 2020		MEMBERS REMOVED IN 2020	
Infant Baptism	6	Death	6
Adult Baptism	2	Transfer	5
Confirmation	14	Other	
Transfer	0		
Affirmation of Faith	8		
Total	32	Total	13

GIVING BEYOND BETHEL	
NALC Benevolence	1,450
District Benevolence	8,510
Local / National Partnerships	4,649
International Mission	14,684
Total	29,293

*Excerpts from our report to the NALC in 2021*



## **Bethel Lutheran Church**

*A Ministry of the North American Lutheran Church*

20650 Cumberland Road + Noblesville, IN 46062

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