

Year-End Giving to God's Mission at Bethel

Thank you for your continued support for God's Mission at Bethel. Together we get to see God at work. Listen to the conversations around the congregation and you'll hear stories of God's work:



- lonely people finding community in the Church,
 - youth growing in their faith,
 - people realizing God can use them as His servants, and
 - the wider community seeing the generosity of God.
- If you are able, in response to God's love and what He has given you, please consider an End of the Year Gift. Our giving deficit remains over \$30,000 for 2018, meaning our offerings fell short of our agreed upon budget. While we have savings to cover those costs, those savings are meant to help us across the upcoming years. Our Offerings are our gifts to God in response to His Word and His Gospel, including our tithes (10% of earnings set aside for the Lord) and offerings (over-and-above gifts to the Church). The offerings Bethel receives go to support the work of the Church—here at Bethel, in our community, and regionally, nationally, and internationally through the missions which we support through our budget. For the congregation, our budget covers salaries, the property, and ministry needs. May God bless you and our congregation as we enter 2019, The Church Council and Board of Elders

Wednesday Women's Bible Study

There will NOT be Bible study on January 2, it will be on January 9. Bible study will start at 9:30 a.m. followed by Christmas tree removal at 10:30 a.m.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Today, December 30th.....no Sunday School.
Have a very Happy New Year!

Please remember to fill out the attendance cards on the lapboards at services.

2019 Altar Flower Sign Up The new flower sign up sheets are up for 2019. The vases of fresh flowers placed on the altar every week are made possible by Bethel Members who sign up on the flower chart calendar (located on the wall to the right of Pastor's office). Church members may share birthdays, anniversaries, or remember loved ones through the gift of altar flowers. We ask a minimum donation of \$25 for each floral arrangement. Please place the donation in the collection plate, and clearly mark the envelope "Altar Flowers" or give donation to the Office. After 2nd service you may take your flowers home to enjoy or leave them and the Altar Guild will give them to Kathy Schwartz to take to shut-ins for their enjoyment.



Lutheran Church Extension Fund Over the past 40 years, our investors have made it possible for LCEF to support the work of tens of thousands of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod individuals and ministries through loans and ministry support services. To meet future loan demand and help support growing ministry opportunities, we need to raise an additional \$100 million. Which is why we invite you to a special, limited-time investment opportunity: our 40-month 40th anniversary note at 4%. \$500 minimum to open, \$40,000 maximum per note. If interested go to LCEF.org to get an application.

Building Observations If you observe something at Bethel that requires attention, kindly let Linda Gifford, Bethel's Property Coordinator know. You can send an email or leave her a note under the office door. A phone call to the office will also work.

Children's activity bags are on the backside of the Hub.

Bethel Website: www.bethelgurnee.org **Office:** 847-244-9647 **Preschool:** 847-244-9672 **Email:** office@bethelgurnee.org

Pastor Ben Squires Cell: 224-419-5519 / pastor@bethelgurnee.org

Katrina Johns - Equipping Coordinator Direct line: 224-623-0800 / katrina@bethelgurnee.org

Linda Gifford - Disciple Care and Property Coordinator linda@bethelgurnee.org

Lisa Schwarz - Office Manager lisa@bethelgurnee.org

Donna Stutzman - Preschool Director preschool@bethelgurnee.org

VBS Update The Board of Christian Education would like to add to the information that has been shared with you in regards to the changes to our Vacation Bible School format. During the last four years, our Bethel VBS has experienced challenges, especially a lack of available adult volunteers. We must have enough adult volunteers to provide a safe environment for our children. We were blessed to find creative ways to use our adult volunteers so that our children could have that wonderful Christ-filled, safe experience, but that is becoming increasingly difficult to do. After four years of thoughtful research, weighing pros and cons, discussion and much prayer, the Bethel BOCE decided to go to a 3-day weekend format for the 2019 VBS program. We hope that this new schedule will allow for more adult volunteer participation, as it will not conflict with as many work schedules. There are many possibilities of what this can look like and how it could be implemented. The BOCE is assembling a team of 6-8 people who would be willing to codirect this new venture. There are a couple of veteran people who are willing to work on the team. HOWEVER, we cannot go forward with the 2019 VBS until this key team of people is in place. The team needs to be in place by the end of January in order to be ready for the summer of 2019. Please consider serving our Bethel family on this team. Contact Carla Thompson, BOCE chairperson, (carlajothompson@gmail.com) or Katrina Johns, Equipping Coordinator, for more information about this opportunity. Also, please pray for our Board of Christian Education as we work to meet the needs and provide education opportunities for our Bethel family.



Snail Mail Station One way in which to encourage others in our “Life Together” in Christ is to send them a handwritten note. We’ve supplied the cards and envelopes. You write the note, and then the Bethel staff will make sure to address it and get it in the mail. The station is located outside the church office.



This Week’s Calendar

Monday, December 31

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, January 2

No Women’s Bible Study

Friday, January 4 Pastor & Katrina’s Day Off

Saturday, January 5 Pastor & Katrina’s Day Off

Sunday, January 6

8:00 a.m.—Communion in Gym

9:00 a.m.—Fellowship

9:30 a.m.—Sunday School & Bible Study

10:45 a.m.—Communion in Sanctuary

VERBAL ANNOUNCEMENTS for Sunday morning need to be submitted to Katrina Johns by Thursday morning.

Worship Schedule

Sunday 8AM & 10:45PM

Communion

1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9AM—3PM

Friday 9AM - 12PM

Last Week’s Attendance

Sunday 8:00 AM—99, 10:45 AM—85

Sunday School—83

Serving Next Week

Sunday 8:00AM

Elders:

Mike Bandman

Comm/Asst. Elder:

OPEN

Acolytes:

Kelsi Mulley, Griffin Pavletic

Lay Readers:

Diane Boehm, Madeline Adams

Ushers:

John Kozlik, Christie Kozlik

Greeters:

Mason Family,
Messmer Family

Fellowship:

Heidlauf

Dec. Altar Guild:

Kathy Schwartz

Dec. Counters:

Dave Ross

Sunday 10:45AM

Randy Gifford

Dave Ziegler

Jacob Chudy, Annika Chudy

Ellen Dalrymple, Deb Pelletiere

Lance Rasmussen, Scott Gutzke

The Adams Family,

The Blasko Family

Sheila Bunnell

Cheryl Ross