

BETHEL MATTERS

Volume 24 Issue 1 (January 2018)

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829 Grove Street, Marquette, MI 49855

Grow. Connect. Serve. Tell. In 2018

Inside This Issue

Annual Congregational Meeting

Today Elder Lynn Miller led our Men's Bible Study at the Coachlight on 1 Peter 2:4-12. Fifteen men were present for this wonderful study in God's Word that Lynn took us through. As I reflected on our study, I was reminded that this passage is the basis for our church mission statement. As we enter New Years, and think about what we are called to in 2018, now is a good time to be reminded of what our purpose as the church of Jesus Christ in Marquette is. Remember, Jesus' Great Commission is to *make disciples*, which we have defined as *becoming Christ-followers*. That's the over-arching goal. *Becoming* and *following* are actions. As Peter defines what that entails, he emphasizes four actions. They involve engaging in a process that makes us more and more like Jesus. Are we engaged in this process?

AWANA

Grow. *Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good,* 1 Peter 2:2-3. Notice Peter's priority is for us to grow up into salvation. This matches his very last words to the church: *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,* 2 Peter 3:18. Growing in grace and knowledge are the keys to a maturing faith. The Lord uses those keys to make us like Him which then leads naturally to the next actions. When our salvation is growing, we naturally want to do the things that Jesus has for us.

Sawyer Church Plant Update

Connect. *As you come to Him...you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house,* 1 Peter 2:4-5. Peter says when we come to Jesus, *the living stone*, He incorporates us into His Church as *living stones* in His *house*. Following Jesus is not a private matter only, but it includes being connected to other believers in deep fellowship in a local church. When a brick house is built, leftover bricks are left lying around. They are useless not attaining their purpose in making a house. That is what an unconnected believer is – not only useless, but not attaining Jesus' purpose for which He saved us. He intends us to be committed to connection.

Congratulations

From the Mailbox

Serve. *To be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God thru Jesus Christ,* 1 Peter 2:5. The Levites and priests alone served God at the Temple with physical sacrifices. Now that is open to every believer in the great truth called the **Priesthood of All Believers**. We are to discover our gifts and use them in serving the other believer-priests in Christ's Church. Each believer has a task, a place, and is needed. In this way the body grows and is built up.

Recipe Corner

Tell. *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light,* 1 Peter 2:9. Peter tells us we have a task to the outside world – *that you may proclaim*. Christianity is a telling religion. All it takes is for one generation to stop telling the good news and the Great Commission ends. Jesus won't let that happen, for He said, *I will build my church*, emphasis on will. He will not fail, but we have a role to play. And it is a happy role, despite that some are offended by our message, 1 Peter 2:7-8. For others believe and join us as *a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation*. No wonder it's called *marvelous*.

Hymn Sing Schedule

Your friend, growing, connecting, serving, telling,
Pastor Brian (:-)).

Phone Directory Information

From the Family Life Pastor:

Various Thoughts:

I want to begin with a big THANK YOU to all of the wonderful people here at Bethel. We have a VERY generous body of believers here at Bethel. We were blessed with gifts of words of love, encouragement and meals and financial gifts in October for the Pastor appreciation month, and then a very generous financial gift again in December. It is sometimes overwhelming to be blessed in these ways and thank you does not adequately express our gratitude for our church family!

Another thought:

I know that you are aware of this, but I want to express my thanks for the wonderful staff that we have here at Bethel. I feel honored to have the privilege of being able to work alongside a staff who are so dedicated and committed to serving Christ and helping the body to grow and mature in our spiritual walk. I am thankful for each one and the blessing that they are to me and my family.

More thoughts:

As we go into each year, we are never sure what is ahead. In the coming years we may have to make choices about things, like being politically correct or standing on the truth of God's Word and having to face consequences for choosing what you believe as a Christian. I choose to believe that Jesus Christ is who God's Word says that He is, He is part of the triune Godhead – God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit. In John 1:1-4 we read: ***“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning”. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life and that life was the light of men.”***

When we read this, we can see that the WORD is a person – it is God the Son! He was in heaven with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit when the world and mankind was created. He is God!! In John 1:14 – ***The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*** We just celebrated Christmas which is the season when we celebrate the Word – Jesus Christ – becoming flesh – He was seen and interacted with by many and as John says in the end of his gospel John 21:25– ***“Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that***

even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written”.

Jesus said of Himself in John 14:6-7 ***“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*** It is imperative that we trust and believe in this for us to receive eternal life in heaven.

In this coming year, we will be bombarded with many “worldly” religions and ideals and we must be prepared to stand up against them.

This morning on the News it was reported that Rosie O'Donnell said that Sen. Paul Ryan would ***“Go straight to hell for what he did”*** (dealing with tax cuts, budget and health care – Franklin Graham was on Fox News and when asked about this, he shared a clear gospel presentation about how to receive salvation through Jesus Christ. As he concluded, he said that it was not too late for even Rosie O'Donnell “who doesn't decide who goes to heaven or hell” to turn to Jesus for salvation. One of the announcers said something about Graham not being serious, but Franklin made it clear that all have sinned and we must trust in Jesus for salvation!

In this New Year – 2018, we must make sure that we know the message, be willing to share it with a world that is going further and further away from God. It is not going to always be easy to boldly share our faith, but it is something that we must be willing to do because they will not hear it from those who are in the world. The world's message and God's Word are on opposite ends – We must choose to believe God and trust in His finished work on the cross. I choose to proclaim that loudly and as clearly as I can, and pray that in this coming year – He will be glorified in my life through words and deeds, more and more each day.

Thank you all and
God Bless you in this New Year!
Pastor Hank

Everyday Evangelism (E.E.)

A new semester of E.E. begins on Saturday, January 27th at 9:30 AM. Plan now to participate to become better equipped to share the good news of the Gospel. Questions: contact Eleanor Majer at 226-8597 or Pastor Brian at 228-7589.

Senior High Youth Group

9th - 12th Graders

Sundays 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Questions:

Chris Mauser, Director of Youth Ministries

1-330-550-0141

christopher.mauser@gmail.com

Happy January Birthday to:

- 1. Matthew Songer, Jassmin Erickson
- 5. Katherine Wilkinson
- 10. Philip Nelson, Nick Valentia
- 12. Chris & Laura Mauser (A)
- 13. Declan Hanson (2 yrs)
- 16. Chris Anderson
- 17. Bill Hoppel
- 18. Laura Norton
- 20. Lucy Loewen (2 yrs)
- 21. Carolyn Deyo
- 22. Nathan Loewen
- 23. Karla Salo
- 24. Dorothy Johnson
- 26. Laurie Songer Short
- 31. Troy Stepcke (50 yrs)

Congratulations To:

Miranda Norton for receiving a scholarship for an Internship at Disney beginning in January.

From the Mailbox:

Dear Bethel Family,
Thank you for the generous Christmas gift and for serving with me and supporting all of us on staff. Thank you for continuing to give your finances, love, and time. You faithfully live out our Mission statement to grow, connect, serve, and tell. We are also so thankful for the many prayers for Mackenzie's headaches and upcoming surgery as well as the gift from the Sunshine Fund for our first trip to Milwaukee in



Have you visited our Bethel Website?

Check it Out at:

www.bethelmarquette.com

Audio Sermons are posted weekly along with items of interest, Bethel Matters, Calendar, and Happenings.

Prayer Chain & Official Notices

bethelemail@gmail.com

If you have a prayer request or information that you want shared, please send that to the email address above. If you are not receiving email prayer requests or notices, please contact Ann or Ellen in the church office at 228-7589.

Items for the February 2018 Issue of Bethel Matters are due in the office by, Friday, January 19th

Items for the Happenings are due in the office by Wednesday noon.



Junior High Youth Group

6th - 8th Graders

Sundays 5:30 - 7:00 PM

September. We thank God for you and the privilege we have to be part of this special family.

Love,
Jon and Julie Motta

Dear Bethel,
Thank you all for the beautiful flower arrangement. Also thank you for being such a great church family to our mother, Judy Place. She cherished each and everyone of you.

Thanks Again,
Place family

Bethel Church Family,
A big thank you to members of our Bethel family who came to our house in Skandia to serenade us with Christmas carols. It was beautiful! They left a plate of Christmas cookies too. God bless you for your thankfulness.

Thank you very much,
Bob & Alice Nelson

To All of You at Bethel,
Thank you so much for hosting our choir this semester. Your facility was perfect for our needs, and we feel blessed that you opened your doors to us. Your kindness is so greatly appreciated.

God's Blessings,
Lyric Singers of MACHE

Dear Bethel,
How wonderfully Jim and I have been touched by your cards, emails, and hugs following my Dad's sudden passing. How I smile when I think of the blessing of the Bethel family. You truly lifted my spirits at a very sad time. I am so thankful for you. Thank you as well for the beautiful poinsettia sent to my home. I thank God for each of you. He is good and worthy to be praised.

God Bless you all,
Jim & Gwen Timmons

Dear Pastors & Church Families,
May the splendor of the Christmas season fill your home with you. Thank you for your concerns and prayers.

In Christ,
Barbara Johnson

Dear Bethel,
My sincere appreciation for your thoughtfulness. The plant is beautiful.

Sandra Eatherton & Pam Roberts

Dear Bethel Family,
Thank you so much for thinking of us each Christmas and for the Christmas gift. We are so grateful for our Bethel family. May God richly bless you. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

In Christ,
Gwen & Jedidiah White

Dear Friends at Bethel,
I hope all is well with you all. Lydia & I want you to know how much we appreciate your over all prayers and support over all these years, making it possible for us to serve.

God's timing is so good. Lydia and I talked about buying a new printer that was on sale for \$100. We decided this would not be a time when we ought to buy this. Then we get home, and there was a check for \$100 from Bethel for us for Christmas. So we bought the printer, PTL! Thank you for the special Christmas gift.

May God bless you richly,
Dennis & Lydia Bowen
Ripe for Harvest

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Faith Promise Gift for Missions

At the Bethel missions conference on October 15, members and friends were given the opportunity to join two strategic missions efforts Bethel is pursuing:

One is a church plant on K. I. Sawyer led by the U.P. Churches of our Great Lakes District. The costs associated with this project are \$10,000.00 for next year (for one year of a 3 year church plant plan)

Two is a short term missions trip to Guatemala from Bethel to do evangelism and build housing units for widows and their children. The costs associated with this project are \$25,000.00 (\$17,000 +/- has been raised so far).

Continue to pray for both of these outreach projects and for the teams that have been assembled to get the Sawyer plant up and running and for those planning to go to Guatemala to help with this project.

Pastor Brian,
for the Outreach & Missions
Board

Sawyer Church Plant Update

Recent developments relating to the Sawyer Church Plant:

1. The pastor who will be leading this plant effort has been hired and has moved to the UP as of Dec. 3rd. Dave & Anne Hanson (no relation to former Pastor Dave Hanson) are now living near Iron Mountain. They will spend a few months there getting oriented with the leadership at Redemption Hill before they move to Sawyer. While they are in Iron Mountain they will be coming to Sawyer once or twice a week to build a core team and get better acquainted with the Sawyer community. We are excited about this development as it moves us one very important step closer to the establishment of a new church at Sawyer. Please pray for Dave and Anne's transition to the UP, their growing relationship with the leaders at Redemption Hill in Kingsford, and with us and others at Sawyer.
2. On Saturday October 28th, six men from Bethel participated in a work bee at Jeff Martin's house at Sawyer. Jeff, his wife Angie and their 4 young children are from UP Bible Camp and have been directing a variety of youth ministries in the Gwinn/Sawyer area for over a decade. They recently bought a house at Sawyer so they could be more involved with the community. The house needs extensive remodeling (think a total make-over). Since Jeff is doing much of the work himself there are lots of opportunities to come alongside and help. On the 28th, we helped Jeff make significant progress on several projects. Since then other Bethel men have volunteered their time and talent to speed the project along. Now the garage is up and the wiring is nearly done. As soon as the inspections are completed, it will be time to hang drywall and insulate. Every single effort, every bit of help means that the move-in date is closer. If you're interested in being part of this ongoing project, please contact us.

Ongoing Opportunities:

1. Prayer. Every ministry always needs prayer and the Sawyer Church plant is no different. There are lots of ways to pray. Here are some examples:
 - a. A critical first step to establishing a core team is to identify mature Christians who already have a desire to see God have an impact on the Sawyer community. We believe there are people whom God has already been preparing, people who know the needs, people who have a burden for the community. We are praying that God will help us find these people to see if they are willing to join us in the establishment of this

- b. new ministry.
 - b. Neighborhoods. Drive or walk through some of the neighborhoods at Sawyer praying for the residents.
 - c. Youth. Pray for the youth who spend time at the community center and at youth programs Jeff & Angie direct.
 - d. Sawyer School. Pray for the Sawyer elementary school, adopt one of the grades, kindergarten - 5th or adopt one of the teachers or staff people to pray specifically for.
 - e. Martins. Pray for Jeff & Angie Martin and the youth ministries that they serve.
 - f. On Wednesday, Dec. 13th, Alex Tunnecliff and Dave Hanson met with pastors here in Marquette to share more of the vision and strategy for Sawyer.
2. A back up van driver is needed on Monday nights to transport kids to and from the youth group meeting at Victory Lutheran. This is not a need every Monday night, only whenever a substitute driver is needed.
 3. For more details or take a more active role in any of these opportunities, please contact Jim or Laura Ferris at 249-3667, 360-8517 or jlferriso6@charter.net

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Bible Studies

For Men

Tuesdays, 6:30 AM, Coachlight Restaurant
Questions: contact Pastor Hank 228-7589

College Age Dinner and Study

Sundays at 1 PM

at Songer's (2645 Grove St., MQT)

Alternate Location

at Maier's (1903 Mildred, MQT)

"Through the Bible in 24 Hours"

by Chuck Missler

There will be 24 sessions going through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

Questions; contact Dr. Songer at 906-360-8688

Annual Congregational Meeting
January 28th at 11:30 AM

(All Staff and Board Chair
Annual Reports
are due by Sunday, January 7th.)

The proposed budget and ballot
will be posted by January 14th.

There will be one combined service
on January 28th at 10 AM.

Please mark your calendar.

AWANA for grades K-6

Monday's at 5:30 PM
Worker's Meal at church

Monday's at 6:30 PM
Grades K-6

Monthly Schedule

January 8th - Grand Prix cars go on sale
(Grand Prix Race is Feb. 26th)

January 15th - Theme Night (wear PJs)

January 22nd - regular club night

January 29th - regular club night

Cubbies (3&4 year olds for workers kids)

Questions: contact Commander Brian Steede at
475-9406 or bsteede10@gmail.com

For Your Information:

* Hymn Sing Schedule for 2018:

April 29th at 6 PM

July 29th at 6 PM

September 30th at 6 PM

December 30th at 6 PM

* 2018 Phone Directory

A new phone directory will be coming out soon, please be sure to let the church office know if you have moved recently or changed phone numbers or email addresses. It will first be out for you to proof your information, then copies will be ready for distribution. We like to keep our information up to date. Thank you.

Recipe Corner:



Japanese Chicken

(brought to Primetimers Christmas Party)

2 pounds of boneless chicken (cut into pieces)

* Melt a stick of butter in a large frying pan.

* Dip chicken in eggs, then flour. Put in pan & brown.

* Make sauce while chicken is browning.

Sauce:

3 T. soy sauce ½ c. apple cider vinegar

3 T. water ½ tsp salt

1 c. sugar

* Put chicken in 9x13 pan & cover with sauce.

* Bake at 350° for 30 minutes. **Enjoy!**

- Sue Sharrett