

# BETHEL MATTERS

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## Inside This Issue

*Calvin, Spurgeon, Bonhoeffer & Lessons in Suffering*

The day before Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer was executed by his Nazi captors in WWII, he had led a worship service among the prisoners. Almost the moment he finished his final prayer the guards entered, led him out, and the next day he was hanged. Less than one week later the Allies arrived and liberated the prisoners. Bonhoeffer missed release from death by just a few days.

### Vacation Bible School wrap up

The natural question is why did God let that happen? Surely he could've enabled the Allied forces to arrive a few days sooner. The only reasonable answer from our limited viewpoint is that the impact of Bonhoeffer's legacy was more important than his longevity. Had he survived would his impact today as a martyr who stood against the Nazi regime be as great as if he had lived and continued his normal pastoral duties? Probably not. It was the quality of his life rather than the length of it that was most important to God. Clearly Bonhoeffer was okay with that as he had surrendered his life to the sovereign will of God.

### Outdoor Service, Baptisms, and Picnic Information

In the opening verses of James 1:1-4, the half-brother of Jesus gets right to the issue of trials and the will of God. Many lessons emerge, three of which are illustrated by great saints of the past similar to Bonhoeffer.

**One, trials are in God's plan – accept them.** John Calvin suffered greatly throughout his life. He was often so sick he lectured while lying in bed. He wrote,

### Hymn Sing

No one has rightly denied himself unless he has wholly resigned himself to the Lord and is willing to leave every detail to His good pleasure. If we put ourselves in such a frame of mind, then, whatever may happen to us, we shall never feel miserable or accuse God falsely because of our lot. (*Golden Booklet of the True Christian Life*, p. 44)

### Memorial Service

**Two, trials have God's purpose – spiritual maturity.** Charles Spurgeon agonized with painful Gout starting at age 35, suffered with Bright's kidney disease, and was so prone to depression he hoped all in his flock would be spared the depths to which he went in despair. He wrote,

### ABF Activities

I am afraid that all the grace that I have got out of my comfortable and easy times and happy hours, might almost lie on a penny. But the good that I have received from my sorrows, and pains, and griefs, is altogether incalculable. . . .Affliction is the best bit of furniture in my house. It is the best book in a minister's library. (*God's People Melted & Tried*, sermon)

### Women's Retreat Wrap Up

**Three, trials lead to God's outcome – Is that okay with me?** It was apparently okay with Bonhoeffer as he went calmly to his death confident in the will of God. It was also okay with Spurgeon who said about the criticism he bore that "*the pain it has cost me none can measure.*" But he also wrote,

### Quarterly Congregational Meeting

As long as I trace my pain to accident, my bereavement to mistake, my loss to another's wrong, my discomfort to an enemy, and so on, I am of the earth, earthy, and shall break my teeth with gravel stones; but when I rise to my God and see his hand at work, I grow calm, I have not a word of repining. (1873 sermon)

Your friend, in the Master's schoolhouse,  
Pastor Brian (:~:).

## **From the Family Life Pastor:**

### **Some thoughts for the month:**

This past week we had a great Vacation Bible School (VBS). I am so grateful to our staff who spent so much time to make it an outstanding experience for our children.

Becky Nelson along with her team of planners/workers spent months in preparation for this event. They began working on things back in around January so that when the VBS started it would be ready to go. It was such a wonderfully organized and prayerfully covered event, you could feel the Holy Spirit working in the lives of the leaders/helpers and children who were there.

Julie Motta did a wonderful job of leading the opening and closing events with such excitement and enthusiasm! Julie would recruit others to help her, but she must have spent an inordinate amount of time in preparation, memorizing songs, scripture and the who format. While she was doing all of that, she was also working on preparing for the Sunday morning worship service.

Pastor Brian who participated on Wednesday sharing the Gospel message with the children, several responded for salvation.

Chris Mauser was present, walking around, connecting with the kids, parents and others, being a real source of encouragement for many.

Ann Steede did a great job at the front table connecting the kids with groups and welcoming both children and parents as they arrived each day.

Ellen Oberg working in the office still had time to connect with many and encourage those who were present.

As a church, we are blessed with a wonderful staff who are committed to the body, give of their time, talents, gifts and model a Christian witness. Thank you staff!! 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 ***“We ask you, brothers to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work.”***

During the VBS, we had some wonderful stories of how God was blessing in ways well beyond the “lessons” of the day. If you haven’t heard of some of them, contact one of the staff people to hear what God was doing at Bethel all week.

## **On another subject:**

Our Adult Bible Fellowships (ABF) are going quite well. We have a good weekly turnout, and there are good things happening in each of the groups. It is great to see people connecting with one another in special ways.

If you are not part of an ABF, see me about one that might be a good match for you.

Acts 2:42 ***“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers”.***

### **One more:**

In a couple of weeks (July 17) we will be having out outdoor, baptism service. If you have met with me and plan on being baptized, let me know for sure. If you have not met with me, let me know your intentions so that we can make the proper preparations.

If you have not attended the outdoor service, you are missing something very special, give it a try. We have several other churches who participate with us and it is a great time to connect with other believers from our community.

### **Another thought:**

If you have been following some of our longstanding prayer requests, you will have heard that God is moving in the lives and bodies of many believers. We Praise The Lord. We have seen God put cancer on hold or aside, and people who have had health issues getting better. We still have some people who are struggling with some health issues so please keep them in your prayers.

A reminder of what the scriptures say: James 5:14-15a ***“Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save him that is sick, and the Lord will raise him up”*** (Scripture from ASV) There is no special gifting of the Elders, and the oil represents the Holy Spirit. The only one who can bring healing is the Lord our God Himself.

In Christ  
Pastor Hank

## Discipleship Training

Summer is here and Bethel's discipleship program is underway with the Antioch School's First Principles Series! For more information on how you can be involved in future classes, please contact Chris Mauser via email at [christophermauser@gmail.com](mailto:christophermauser@gmail.com)

### Youth Events & Activities

#### Junior High Youth Group

6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

Sundays 5:30 - 7:00 PM

**Will not meet on July 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Questions: contact Jon or Julie Motta

#### Senior High Youth Group

9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Graders

Sundays 5:30 - 7:00 PM

**Will not meet on July 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Questions: contact Dan or Becky Nelson

Chris Mauser, Director of Youth Ministries

330-550-0141

[christopher.mauser@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.mauser@gmail.com)

Watch for **special activities** coming this summer for both **Senior & Junior High Youth Groups**.

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### Prayer Chain & Official Notices

[bethelemail@gmail.com](mailto: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 in the church office.

**QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING**  
**SUNDAY, JULY 10<sup>TH</sup>, 12:45 pm**

**Items for the August Issue of Bethel Matters are due in the office by Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>.**

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

Have you visited our Bethel Website?

Check it Out at:

[www.bethelmarquette.com](http://www.bethelmarquette.com)

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

### Happy July Birthday/Anniversary to:

1. Spencer Johnson, Edith Leppanen (1 yr)
2. Jeff & Kathy Millin (A), Jon Motta
4. Mary Wernholm, Pastor Brian & Ellen Oberg (A)
7. Jack Brown, Jerry & Debbie Napier (A)
8. Bill Brondyke, Joe Mackey
9. Mandy Erickson
11. Sandy Thomsen
13. John & Sandy Thomsen, Liz Nelson
15. Emily Thomsen, John & Kathy Morabito (A)
16. Jane Noe
17. Bob Wilkinson
18. Wesley DeGarmo Jr.
20. Pastor Hank Steede
22. Bill & Jan Brondyke (A)
23. Lana VanderSchaaf
25. Mike & Julie Leppanen (A)
26. Bill & Dianne Kosa (A), Pastor Brian Oberg
27. Chase Thomsen
28. Eric Smith & Susan Syria (A)
31. Roger Morrison

If your information is missing from the above list, please contact Ann or Ellen in the church office.

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## Congratulations to:

Steve & Maija Veihl on the June 11<sup>th</sup> birth of their daughter, Eloise Fern. She weighed in at 7 lbs, 4 ozs and was 20 inches long.

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## Bible Studies

### For Men

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

### For Women

The Tuesday evening and Thursday morning studies will begin again in the Fall.

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## Adult Bible Fellowships

Sundays at 10 AM

**Group #1 College - 29 years old**

Meets in Room #1 in Family Life Center  
Topical Studies

**Group #2 Ages 30-42**

Meets in Room #2 in Family Life Center  
Studying the Gospel of John

**Group #3 Ages 43-55**

Meets in Room #6 in Family Life Center  
Studying "Images of God"

**Group #4 Ages 56-69**

Meets in Room #3 in Family Life Center  
Studying the book of Ephesians

**Group #5 Ages 70+**

Meets in the Wheat Room  
Studying "Images of God"

**Newcomers Class**

Meets in the Church Library

## Primetimers Activity

### Pool Party

Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM

at Thomsen's

405 E. Crescent, MQT

Bring you swimsuit and a snack to pass.

Hotdogs and & beverages provided.



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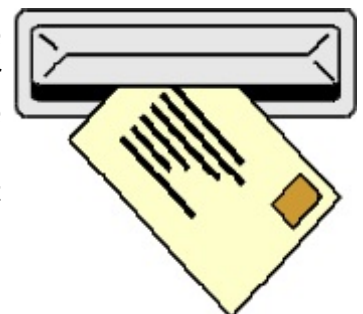
## Bible Camp Information

If you have a child/youth attending summer Bible camp this year and has earned a scholarship, please contact Ann or Ellen in the church office at least one week before they head to camp so that their scholarship money can be sent to either Lake Ellen Camp, UP Bible Camp, or Lake Lundgren Bible Camp.



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If you consider Bethel your home church, please periodically check your family mailbox in the church library. If you don't have one, please let Ann know in the church office.



## Vacation Bible School Wrap Up



### Attendance Numbers:

Monday - 70 kids, 62 volunteer workers  
Tuesday - 80 kids, 67 volunteer workers  
Wednesday - 78 kids, 71 volunteer workers  
Thursday - 75 kids, 60 volunteer workers  
Friday - 76 kids, 60 volunteer workers

AMAZING!! VBS this year was AMAZING!! The numbers were all great—we had 85 kids total for the week, 78 volunteers throughout the week (46 adult and 32 youth) and there were 11 kids who had a conversation with an EE counselor—8 of those prayed to accept Jesus as their Savior!! But beyond the numbers, the week was amazing because of amazing people, amazing kids and an AWESOME God!

More than half of the kids who came to VBS are not from Bethel. Many of them come from other area churches but they come because they love coming to our VBS! I asked my two youngest what their favorite part of VBS was. They said, “Snacks... no,... games... no,... crafts... EVERYTHING!” VBS is a great time for the kids but they also learned important truths that we pray will stay with them as they grow in their understanding of the Lord.

We had a TON of volunteers and it was so exciting to see how much fun they had together! We are blessed at Bethel to have such an amazing group of people who are willing help VBS be successful both organizationally and spiritually. My favorite part of VBS is watching group leaders talk with the kids in their group—about life and about spiritual things.

THANK YOU!!! To all of you who had a part—those of you who prayed for VBS, those that helped prepare and clean up, those who were able to come for a day or two and those that were there all week long!! You are all a blessing!

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### **From the Mailbox:**



Dear Bethel,

*Thank you for the beautiful plant given to our family in memory of our Mother, Helen Ray. We appreciate your kindness and the many expressions of sympathy shared with us. A big thank you to all who helped with the memorial service and a special thanks to my friends who organized and served the lunch.*

*Jan Brondyke*

Dear Bethel Family,

*I am so thankful to be a part of such a wonderful church family. You open your hearts to those in need. Thanks to each one of you who so lovingly gave to the Care Clinic Life Walk and to those who walked and raised their own pledges. The dollars you gave will be changed into blessings to little babies and their families.*

*With a Grateful Heart,*

*Jean Johnson*

*I would like to thank all the faithful prayer warriors at Bethel for your prayer support during my recent surgery and continuing recovery. PTL for you. God is so good and definitely answers prayer! I would also like to thank my Bethel family for the beautiful flowers and vase I received when I was a patient at Bellin Hospital in Green Bay. I received many cards which were always uplifting and a pleasant surprise. Once again, my sincere thanks to you all.*

*Shirley Furr*

Dear Friends at Bethel,

*Thank you for your prayers and generous support to help advance God's work around the world. We are back in Marquette. We had a wonderful time experiencing the Dutch culture and watching God work in our interactions with the Dutch students. We have stories to tell! We enjoyed meeting many kind & friendly people and we enjoyed seeing our team of students*

grow in their passion to reach the lost. See you soon.

Love,  
Dave & Susan Michels  
U.P. CRU

## **Bethel Women's Retreat Wrap Up**

Many women expressed how they so enjoyed the Bethel Women's Retreat weekend. One thank you note summed up the fun, fellowship, ad worship. "...love and warmth shown through the ambiance of table decorations, wonderful meals served with flair, to the fun games, activities, crafts, water color painting and morning hikes." "Most important was drawing even closer to our Savior in learning about His perfect love for each of us." "The highlight was the time spent in reflection and Communion. I will never forget this weekend. The sweet fellowship with all the ladies was amazing." Oh, and finally, "Zip lining was a blast!!"

What a ministry where Bethel women can build relationships, serve one another, and share our love for Christ! We are already looking forward to the retreat next year.

## **Memorial Service for Shirley Hoppel August 4, 2016 Bethel Baptist Church**

Shirley grew up at Bethel and after graduation from high school, attended Wheaton College where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She taught in the Art Department at Wheaton Academy.

She and Bill married and moved to the Washington DC area. Shirley designed and built their home on the Potomac River where had a successful art school for 15 years. After Shirley & Bill's children went off to college, her interests turned to architecture and graduated with a Master of Architecture degree. Shirley's master thesis was a proposed development of Marquette's waterfront. She worked part time for a local architectural firm while designing and building their summer home on Lake Superior in Shelter Bay. Bill and Shirley then began attending Bethel again.

## **ABF Activity**

**Half-timers at Pastor Hank & Ann's  
114 Parkwood Lane  
Negaunee Township**

**August 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Picnic, Swimming, Fishing**

**Watch for specific information in your  
ABF class.**

**Hymn Sing  
Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, 6 PM  
at Bethel**



# Outdoor Service, Baptisms, & Picnic

Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup> - Presque Isle

Service at 10 AM  
Band Shell



Baptisms at 11:30 AM  
in Lake Superior

**Picnic to follow - Pavillion**  
(this year, no one will be able  
to eat until after the baptisms)

**Please bring:**  
**last names A-K a dessert**  
**last names L-Z a large salad**  
**lawn chair**

**Brats, hotdogs, chicken strips, buns, &  
beverages will be provided.**

