

# BETHEL MATTERS

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#### *Apologetics Has Two Sides. We Should All Be Experts in One, if Not Both.*

Most Christians know that Apologetics is the technical term for defending the Christian faith. The concept comes from 1 Peter 3:15: *But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.* “Defense” comes from the Greek word *apologia*. Clearly this text is saying that when people ask questions about why we have set our hope in Christ, we are to be prepared with ready answers. That is one aspect of Apologetics, being prepared to answer questions like: why I believe the Bible is true; why I believe Jesus rose from the dead; why I believe there is only one way to heaven? Some Christians are real experts at this. Dr. Norman Geisler, a former professor of mine, is a world-renowned authority in Apologetics. Few can match his skill in this area. His books are very helpful.

But there is another side to Apologetics, that those less skillful with verbal arguments, can still be experts at in defending the faith. In fact, this form of Apologetics must precede and be the basis for the first form. We can call this a “life-apologetic” in addition to an “answer-apologetic.” It is interesting that before Peter gets to the important and necessary “answer-apologetic,” he emphasizes the “life-apologetic” in 1 Peter 3:8-12. Look at just verses 8-9.

Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

Peter is clearly in v. 9 reflecting on Jesus’ teaching about how to respond to those who persecute us – *bless and curse not*, said Jesus. So, we are justified in seeing v. 8 as referring to our relationships primarily with believers, while v. 9 likely refers to our relationships with more hostile unbelievers (as vv. 13-17 go on to explain). Seeing this, Peter is certainly teaching that God wants us to live lives that are attractive so that people see the gospel at work in us. In fact, we can see two lessons emerging from verses 8-9 that are developed by Peter in the entire section of verses 8-17:

2. \* Among believers, create a community that models all the virtues of relationships at their best so that people will be attracted to it (v. 8).

\* \* Among nonbelievers, react in ways so unexpected that they will be surprised and attracted as to why we are so different when mistreated (v. 9 = the Golden Rule).

Charles Spurgeon once told his congregation that the best sermons are preached during the week by the people who came to hear him preach. He said that in the shops, in the offices, in the homes, etc., the most powerful sermons are preached every day to a watching world that cannot deny the power of the eternal gospel on display in Christians’ lives. Spurgeon was referring to the “life-apologetic.” Most Christians can trace their conversion to a trusted friend or relative whose respected testimony made the gospel believable. One of the believers who impacted me the most so respected his quiet, unassuming Christian uncle, that when his nephew heard the gospel it had credibility because of his uncle. That uncle was living the “life-apologetic,” and we should all be experts at it. The gospel is both seen and heard, and it takes both to win the lost.

Your friend, wanting to BE an apologetic,  
Pastor Brian (:~).

## From the Family Life Pastor:

### Thoughts:

Last month I spoke about the fact that I have been doing pulpit supply in a couple of other churches. This week I was asked about serving in another one here in Marquette that is without a pastor at this time.

While I am honored to be asked to speak at churches, it does create issues in that I am not here on Sundays to do the ministries that I am supposed to be doing. I appreciate the patience of all of the Bethel family and greatly thankful for those who have stepped up to the plate to help out here. Thank you!

### Another thought:

This week we had our first Sunday of doing the ABF Mix-Ups – we had 113 in attendance, which I was very excited to see – I estimated that we could have had an additional 25-30 who are regular attenders who could have been here – wow, that is so exciting. For those who do not remember, before we started the ABFs, we had our adult Sunday school time during service times. Our weekly average attendance had dropped to about 20 people on a Sunday, so this is just such an encouraging thing to have so many here trying to learn more from God’s Word.

Speaking of God’s Word, and of the Mix-ups, for those who don’t know yet, we are using a book put out by NavPress/Navigators titled “*Growing Strong in God’s Family*” and is based on Colossians 2:7 (I’ll start with 2:6) – ***“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness”***. Wonderful words of encouragement, and something that we certainly need to be doing in our lives - I started with verse 6, because the first step is to have “*Christ Jesus as Lord*” everything starts with that extremely important relationship. We must first make Christ our Savior and Lord, and then through the work of His Holy Spirit we can do the next steps:

- \* ***Continue to live in Him – that means to strive to be more and more like Him in the way we live our lives.***
- \* ***Next we are “rooted in Him” – we allow our Christian, life roots to grow deeper and deeper in relationship with Christ***
- \* ***Then we are “built up” which is done through the Word, through study with others and being willing to be humble enough to be taught and grow in the Word and relationship with Christ***
- \* ***As we do these things we find ourselves being “strengthened in the faith” as we have been***

*taught, many from childhood, but certainly from our spiritual infancy. We have to allow circumstances to strengthen our faith, not allow them to weaken or destroy our faith – and remember that **“faith comes from hearing the message and the message is heard through the Word of God”** (Romans 10:17 NIV)*

- \* ***And then, out of this relationship and growth in our spiritual lives, we are to be “overflowing with thankfulness” – it is what we will find ourselves just naturally doing as we draw closer and closer to Christian Maturity.***

I am thankful to Jane Noe who suggested this study to me, and pray that everyone will enjoy this opportunity to study with different groups.

A different thought:

Last night (May 21<sup>st</sup>) Ann and I were invited to a gathering of folks from CrossBridge Church in Ishpeming. This was held at their first regular meeting place, and was a celebration that they had almost reached their financial goal to start a building project to expand their current church building. It was such a wonderful thing to be there for that celebration, and to hear testimony after testimony of changed lives because of the ministry of that wonderful church and our friend and fellow pastor Kevin Mellhany and his wife Jodie. We were honored for our participation in this startup, but it was exciting to be reminded that God’s Word says that God is the one who Builds His church, we are just agents that He uses in the building process!

In Christ’s love,  
Pastor Hank

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 or Ellen in the church office at 228-7589.

Items for the June Issue  
of Bethel Matters  
are due in the office  
by, Monday, June 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.

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## Youth Events & Activities

**Junior High Youth Group**  
6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Graders  
Sundays 5:30 - 7:00 PM

**Senior High Youth Group**  
9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Graders  
Sundays 5:30 - 7:00 PM

### Questions:

Chris Mauser, Director of Youth Ministries  
1-330-550-0141  
[christopher.mauser@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.mauser@gmail.com)

## Happy June Birthday/Anniversary to:

1. Ray Hedberg, Kenn & Tracy Hruska (A)
3. Jim Timmons, Edith Jentoft
4. Eric Jentoft
5. Lynn & Imgard Miller (A)
8. Dick & Montie Motta
9. Eleanor Maier
10. Julie Motta, Eloise Veihl (1 yr)
12. Cori Steede, Ethan Lingle, Dave & Alma Thomas (A)
14. Irene Janofski
17. Don Wernholm
18. Marj Brown
20. Ann Steede, Bob & Alice Nelson (A)
21. Matthew & Laura Songer (A)
22. Matthew Tireman, Dave & Irma Powers (A), Bill & Sarah Johnson (A)
25. James Glover
26. Bill Johnson, Dan & Laurie Short (A), Dennis & Judy Caldwell (A)
27. Ed & Carolyn Deyo (A)
28. Pastor Hank & Ann Steede
29. Jim & Gwen Timmons (A)
30. Raylee Perko, Chris Mauser

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## Congratulations To:

**Emily Nelson** for qualifying for the UP Track Finals.

**Holly Glover** and **Alee Spagnotti** on their high school graduation.

**Allyson Kytta**, **Luke Pell** on their recent graduation from NMU and **Ester Buhl** on her recent graduation from MTU.

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## Bible Studies

### For Men

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

### For Ladies

Studies will begin again in the fall.

## Summer Mix-Ups:

This summer we will again be having our Adult Bible Fellowship (ABF) mix-ups. For those who are not familiar, we will randomly mix up all of the current ABFs into mixed groups. These classes will include people from Junior High up through our oldest members.

We have five (5) men who are facilitating and five (5) men who are substitute facilitators for the classes. The study is **“Growing Strong In God’s Family”**. Each family will receive a copy of the book and will be asked to work on it during the week as a family, and then come prepared to discuss the lessons on Sunday.

This can be and is a lot of fun, and will be even more fun and good for spiritual growth if everyone works to be prepared.

The mix-ups will began on May 21<sup>st</sup> and will end on August 13<sup>th</sup>. If you aren’t involved, you can still join a group. Contact Pastor Hank or if he isn’t available, just pick a group.

Questions, contact Pastor Hank at 228-7589.

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## Vacation Bible School 2017

Monday - Saturday

June 19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> 9 AM - 12 N

Exploring the coolest Book on the planet.

### VBS Needs

Prayer Support

Volunteer Workers

White or Blue Tablecloths (97 cents at Walmart)

- Bags of white cotton balls
- Quilt Batting
- Scrapbook Paper
- Colorful 3/8 inch wide ribbon
- Glue dots
- Washable markers
- Paper snowflakes
- Oreo Cookies
- Bananas
- Pretzel Sticks
- Green & Red Grapes

Please bring all craft donations to Becky’s office across from the nursery and food donations to the kitchen on Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup>.

Questions: call Bethany at 458-9310

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## Youth Sunday

June 4<sup>th</sup>

8:30 and 11:15 AM

Our youth will be leading this special service and we will be honoring our two 2017 high school graduates. You won’t want to miss this special service. This is a huge **ENCOURAGEMENT** to our young people.



Holly Glover

Alee Spagnotti

The church family is invited to a Graduation Open House for

**Holly Glover**

Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2-5 PM

in the Fellowship Hall at Bethel.

## Summer Camp

If are planning to attend either UP Bible Camp, Lake Ellen Bible Camp or Lake Lundgren Bible Camp and have earned a scholarship through AWANA, please let Ann know in the church office so the scholarship funds can be sent to the appropriate camp.

### UP Bible Camp

(906) 346-6165  
www.upbiblecamp.org

### Lake Ellen Camp

(906) 542-3529  
www.lakeellencamp.com

### Lake Lundgren Bible Camp

(715) 324-5457  
www.llbc.org

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### Recipe Corner:

#### Five Cup Salad

1 cup mandarin oranges - 11 oz can  
1 cup pineapple chunks  
1 cup miniature marshmallows  
1 cup flaked coconut  
1 cup sour cream

Drain fruit. Combine all ingredients and refrigerate overnight. Keeps well. Serves 5-6. It is easy to prepare and very tasty.

- Jan Brondyke



Outdoor Service, Baptisms, & Picnic

Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>

Presque Isle Park



10:00 AM

Worship Service  
at the Band Shell

11:30 AM

Baptisms  
in Lake Superior



12:00 Noon

Picnic  
at the  
Pavilion

Please bring:

Last Names A-R bring a salad

Last Names S-Z bring a dessert

Provided:

brats/hotdogs/chicken strips

buns, condiments

plates, plastic ware, beverages