

# BETHEL MATTERS

Volume 22 Issue 9 (September 2016)

Published Monthly By: Bethel Baptist Church

829 Grove Street, Marquette, MI 49855

## Inside This Issue

Pig & Turkey  
Roast

Welcome Back  
NMU  
Dinner & Study

AWANA  
Information

ABF Activity  
\* Primetimers

Seniors'  
Garden Picnic

Everyday  
Evangelism

Bible Studies

### *The Question of the Need for Church Membership, part 2*

When I pastored in West Michigan we had Christians from Reformed or Christian Reformed backgrounds attending our church. Inevitably this created a problem for them because they had been sprinkled as infants but we required baptism by immersion for church membership. One solution would have been to attend the church without becoming members. The ones who decided our church was the one for them, instead chose to be immersed and became members. Membership was so important to them that it was inconceivable that they would attend a church where they were not members. They wrestled through the biblical issues of being immersed rather than not being members. Let's wrestle through in this article three Scriptural benefits of church membership every Christian needs to consider.

**Community.** Romans 12:5 says that *"we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another."* Because we are united to Christ and He lives within us, we also are united to each other in a spiritual relationship. In I Corinthians 12:25 Paul says *"that the members may have the same care for one another."* Peter says in I Peter 1:22 we are to treat each other with the loving care that exists in a family as brothers and sisters. The apostles are describing the community that exists between believers in a local church. The word "community" is from "common" meaning *"sharing common duties"*. The word common also means *"belonging to all."* (<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/common>) That's what Christian community is, belonging to all in shared relationship, privileges and duties. Surely membership says in a very strong way, *"I am in relationship"*, *"I belong"*. *"I share the common duties of this local church."*

**Commitment.** In I Corinthians 12:21-22 Paul says that *"The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you'. On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable."* Here Paul is clearly laying down that the church is interdependent and all believers are indispensable to one another. The metaphors of the church that we love so much are clearly corporate images: *the people of God*, I Peter 2:10; *the household of God*, I Timothy 3:15; *living stones*, I Peter 2:5; *the body of Christ*, Ephesians 4:12. The church as *"the household of God"* clearly applies to the local church because Paul lays down instruction for Timothy about *"how one ought to behave in the household of God."* It is clear that we not only need each other in the local church but we are to be committed to one another. Membership is part of that process that says that I am committed to my local church. I need it and it needs me. I am not partially in, but all in bearing the duties of belonging.

**Accountability.** Hebrews 13:17 says, *"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning for that would be of no advantage to you."* One of the important parts of membership is being accountable to one another and church leadership. It means we are willing to place ourselves under that authority of God-ordained leadership and stand corrected when it is necessary. Even the pastor himself is under the authority of the Elders who are in turn under the authority of the corporate members of the church who are under the authority of Jesus Christ. Apart from commitment to this authority structure in church membership, any attempt at corrective church discipline breaks down. A local church only has authority legally to discipline its members, not its non-members. If we believe we need accountability, then we need membership.

Your friend, in membership with you,  
Pastor Brian (-:-).

## From the Family Life Pastor:

### Various thoughts:

Can you believe it is Fall already! Wow, where did the summer go? We are happy to see our NMU students back, and for our recent graduates who will begin classes this week at NMU. I pray they all have a great year and that each one will get connected with one of the campus ministries.

### Another thought:

This is the time of year to get serious about being involved in a small group ministry. We have a few small groups that are meeting, and hoping to have some additional small groups start in the near future. I will be putting a sign-up interest sheet in the bulletin soon, so watch for one and get involved. If you have never been a part of a small group, you might wonder what it is all about – let me give you a brief understanding of the concept:

We here at Bethel are a church of around 300 (+/-) which is a pretty “large” church. It is hard to get connected and involved in such a large group, and many people feel that they would like to get better connections. That is why we have our ABFs, and they are designed to get us well connected and break the larger church down into a smaller “church”. The things that ABFs offer are:

- Fellowship – Studies show that the number one reason that adults come to “Sunday school” is for fellowship – relationships, getting to know one another better, and be known better
- Bible – The central focus of the ABF time should be on the study of the Bible, it is the place where we can learn to focus on personal application of the Word, and ABFs promote that
- Outreach – ABFs offer us an opportunity to reach out and get “fringe” people involved in our groups
- Pastoral care – Any time a group (church) gets larger than 70-80 people, some people will get missed. People feel left out or do not fit. Our ABFs are designed to help meet special needs so that no one feels left out or unneeded
- Ministry – the ABFs give us a chance to care about and for people within our groups. During ABF time, people can share burdens and be prayed for, if there is a physical need, people can step in to help and encourage

But some would like to get even more intimately connected with people who have similar interests, or are in a similar place as others. That is where small groups come into play.

Our small groups can meet any day or evening, and preferably in homes. Small groups usually have a host(s) who welcome the group of a maximum of 8-12 people into their home. A teacher studies and prepares a lesson that can be shared with the group. Some groups will begin with a meal, others snacks. Some will sing a song, or just spend time fellowshiping with one another in a relaxed atmosphere, and then move to a study and prayer time. Your prayer time can become a very key time within your group as you get close with those in the group and feel that you can share very personal needs and know that you are prayed over there and throughout the week.

Some small groups meet weekly, others meet every other week. Again, there are similar components in small groups as there are in ABFs

- ▶ Fellowship
- ▶ Study of the Word
- ▶ Relationships
- ▶ Ministry
- ▶ Pastoral Care (don’t need a pastor in it)
- ▶ Outreach

The difference, these groups become more personally involved and deeper connections which help encourage us to walk closer and deeper with the Lord and to be more aware and concerned with the needs of others within the body of believers and even outside of the body.

I hope that you will all get serious about being involved in some form of small group, whether it is an ABF or small group that meets in a home. That includes all of you students as well!

Thank you all!  
God Bless you  
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 [christopher.mauser@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.mauser@gmail.com)

## Youth Events & Activities

### Junior High Youth Group

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

Sundays 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Questions: contact Dave Dahlstrom  
or Brian Steede

### Senior High Youth Group

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

Sundays 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Questions: contact Jon Motta

Chris Mauser, Director of Youth Ministries  
330-550-0141

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

**Watch for special activity notices &  
information through SLACK.**

\*\*\*\*\*

### 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 October Issue  
of Bethel Matters  
are due in the office  
by Monday, September 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 August Birthday/Anniversary to:

3. David Paul, Eric Smith
6. Malia Lacar
8. Alma Thomas
10. Gary Herriman, Dan Nelson
14. Kainoa Lacar, Mackenzie Motta
18. Bryce Lingle
19. Stan Taylor, Ellen Oberg
20. Linnea Songer
22. Rick Pawley
23. Laura Songer
24. Kaitlyn Riesland
25. Nehemiah Lacar, Brian & Cori Steede (A)
27. Laina Erickson
29. Brooke Loewen
30. Noah Deyo, Mike Ternus, Charlotte Thomsen

## Congratulations to:

**Kendyl Dahlstrom** for receiving the Paul W and Pearl K Goodman Music Scholarship for individual instrumental or voice instruction.

**Sam & Hannah Zick** on their August 20<sup>th</sup> wedding.

**Andy & Beth Larsen** on their August 27<sup>th</sup> wedding. The church family is invited to a local reception on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> from 2-5 PM at Bible Baptist Church, 615 S. North Lake Drive, Ishpeming. They are registered at Kohl's & Amazon.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Bible Studies

For Men

Tuesdays, 6:30 AM, Coachlight Restaurant

Questions: contact Pastor Hank 228-7589

## For Women

Tuesdays, 6:15 PM at church

“Jesus - the One and Only” by Beth Moore  
an 11 week study of the Gospel of Luke

Questions: contact Sarah Goupil at 250-6130

Thursdays, 9:30 AM at church

Questions: contact Bethy Jentoft at 458-9310

Childcare is provided, but we are in need  
of one more worker. If you are interested  
and available, contact Bethany.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Adult Bible Fellowships

Sundays at 10 AM

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

Meets in the church library  
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 “Daniel”

**Group #4 Ages 56-69**

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

**Group #5 Ages 70+**

Meets in the Wheat Room  
Studying “Daniel”

\*\*\*\*\*

## AWANA Information

Workers’ Meeting – Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>

First Club Night – Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>

AWANA meets on Mondays from 6:30 – 8:05 PM  
throughout the school year for grades K-6. If  
you are interested in working in AWANA and

have a 3&4 year old, we have a Cubbies program  
for them. Nursery care can be available for  
worker’s children if needed. If you are  
interested in helping in AWANA, please attend  
the workers’ meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. We  
also have a meal for workers and their children  
beginning at 5:30 PM. There is a small cost for  
the meal.

\*\*\*\*\*

From the Mailbox:



Dear Bethel,

Thank you so much for the card and  
gift. It has been great getting to know you over the  
years.

Adam Smith

\*\*\*\*\*

## Everyday Evangelism (EE)

Beginning Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>

6 p.m. at Bethel

Read what Melissa Brandt, an EE graduate from  
last semester, has to say about how EE has blessed  
her.

*“I am grateful for the experience of participating in  
Everyday Evangelism (EE) this past winter semester. I have  
been interested in going through EE since the program  
was first offered when I was growing up at Bethel. The  
first night, Pastor Brian role played the presentation and  
I just sat there thinking, “Wow! I want to learn how to do  
that!” I was in luck because that is precisely what EE does.  
It teaches each trainee a strategic and consistent way to  
communicate the Gospel. In the past, I have learned  
multiple approaches to sharing the Gospel, but never one  
that is so helpful and comprehensive.*

*Throughout the semester, I was able to assist in sharing  
the Gospel with multiple people. One evening, my group  
shared with four NMU students in their dorm room and all  
four prayed with us to accept and follow Christ. Another  
evening, I assisted in sharing with a girl who, to my  
surprise, also prayed to accept Christ. It was exciting and  
encouraging to see the power of the Gospel at work and*

to be a part of telling people about God's love and gift of salvation.

My heart for unbelievers also grew during the EE semester and I began to pray intentionally for people in my life who did not know Christ. I saw God moving in my relationships and conversations. One day after work, I had the opportunity to share part of the Gospel with a co-worker who I had been praying for. Instead of hoping for an opportunity or avoiding the opportunity, I was able to share Truth in the moment because I was prepared with the knowledge of what to say. It was also much easier and less scary to share my faith when I had been practicing it each week. Looking for opportunities and actually sharing the Gospel became more of a habit than something I knew I should be doing. My faith and relationship with God also grew as I saw Him answering my prayers, planting seeds and drawing people to Himself.

I am looking forward to continuing my involvement with the EE program by serving as a trainer this fall. I really enjoy the accountability provided by meeting weekly to intentionally share the Gospel. If you haven't participated in EE, I strongly encourage you to prayerfully consider getting involved! There are so many people just waiting for someone to tell them about the Good News of Christ."

**Need I say more? Just Jesus COMMAND to go, tell, and teach was given over 2000 years ago and it is still meant for us. And He also said, that the fields are ripe but the laborers are few. (Matthew 9:37-38). He is still seeking laborers. Statistics state that only 5% of all Christians lead anyone to the Lord. EE can help equip you to obey this all-important command--not option--to go, tell, and teach.**

If you plan to participate in EE this semester, please contact Pastor Brian (228-7589) or Eleanor Maier (226-8597).

\*\*\*\*\*

**CAN YOU SPARE A DOLLAR A WEEK IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER?**

**Starting on September 4<sup>th</sup> a grocery basket will be located in the lobby so families and individuals can help fill the Salvation Army's Food Pantry. Last year with your generosity we donated 428 pounds of food to feed local families. Let's try for 1,000 pounds this year. Last year we designated each Sunday for a specific food to be brought. The response was great so let's do it again this year.**

**Week of:**

**September 4<sup>th</sup> - mac & cheese**

**September 11<sup>th</sup> - soup & crackers**

**September 18<sup>th</sup> - canned fruits or vegetables**

**September 25<sup>th</sup> - spaghetti noodles & sauce**

**Let's make this a family activity and have fun with it. If you are unable to bring a food designated, bring something of your choice.**



\*\*\*\*\*

**Primetimers' ABF  
Potluck**

John & Irene Janofski's Camp,  
Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>

Meet at the church at 4:00 if you want to  
car pool.

Bring a dish of food to share.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Seniors' Garden Picnic  
Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 5 PM**

All Seniors, or whatever you want to call yourself, are invited to attend. We want you to be able to spend the evening enjoying the beautiful gardens of Cliff & Eleanor Maier, 1903 Mildred, MQT. Please, bring a salad or dessert to share.

We are calling it a party/potluck because we want to have more couples or men. This is for all seniors.

## NMU Students

All NMU students are invited for dinner on Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at Matthew & Laura Songer's home, 2645 West Grove Street, MQT. We will be kicking off the fall Sunday evening dinner and Bible study as well. Invite your fellow students.

\* \* \* \* \*



## Annual Pig & Turkey Roast Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> 11:15 AM - 1:00 PM

### Menu:

Pig or Turkey on a Bun  
Potato Salad  
Coleslaw  
Baked Beans  
Bars  
Beverages

Our hope is that those who attend the first service & ABF will line up to eat at 11:15 AM so that the second service folks can eat at 12:30 PM.

There is no cost for the meal and no food items need to be brought.

To help out our Seniors, Rick & Cindy Pawley have put a list of local restaurants/businesses that give a discount to Seniors. Put this list in your wallet to have it handy when you are out. You will have to ask for the discount, the retailers will not offer it to you.

### Senior Citizen Discounts:

- \* Applebees - 10%
- \* Arby's - 50 cent drinks
- \* Avis & Budget Rent a Car - 25%
- \* Big Boy - Senior Breakfast \$5.59, punch card  
10 punches = \$4.50 off next meal
- \* Burger King - free soda or coffee
- \* Culver's - 10%
- \* Denny's - 15%
- \* Donckers - 10% off restaurant
- \* Econo Foods - 5% off on Wednesdays
- \* Huron Mountain Bread Company - 10%
- \* Jeffrey's - 10% (request it)
- \* KFC - 10%
- \* Kohl's - 15% on Wednesdays
- \* McDonald's - 33 cent off small drink
- \* Michael's - 10% off everyday
- \* Shopko - Discounts 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of month
- \* Subway - 10%
- \* Taco Bell - free small beverage
- \* Walgreen's - 20% 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of month
- \* Wendy's - free Value Size Drink

### Just a Reminder:

Children's Ministries are in need of school supplies:

glue sticks, washable markers  
crayons, scissors  
colored construction paper

