

BETHEL MATTERS

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In This Issue

NEWS

CARDS

EVENTS

MAILBOX

BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES



USING THE GIFTS WE HAVE

BROCK YOUNGREN

Christmas is a time where we remember the gift that God gave to us in sending Christ to earth to live a perfect life and die a sinner's death (my death). As I reflect on the gift that God gave to us in His son, my mind wanders to the gifts that I have been given in general – the natural abilities, the spiritual gifts, and the physical blessings (things) that God has given to me. Paul addresses the use of gifts to some degree in his letters to Timothy.

Paul had a special mentoring relationship with Timothy, a relationship that spanned years and saw Timothy

move into a role of pastoring churches. In the midst of this relationship, Paul reminded Timothy to not neglect the gift that he had been given (1 Timothy 4:14) and then again to fan into flame the gift God had given to him (2 Timothy 1:6). Imagine if someone gave you your ideal headphones for Christmas. You took them, set them on your dresser, and never used them. That would be a waste, wouldn't it? Yes it would.

Similarly, Timothy had been given some gift or set of gifts and had not been using them, or at least not using them to the level that he should have been. Now,

these gifts were not just things that some person had given to him, these were specific gifts given to him by God for a purpose. He was to use them to lead churches, grow believers, and further the Kingdom of God.

While the example of Timothy is that he was not using the (presumably) spiritual gifts that he was given to the best of his ability, the same thing can be true of all the gifts that we have. God gives us many different gifts and we are to use them, to develop them, and to enjoy them. It was not by mistake that God made you particularly good at some particular thing; He did this so that He would be glorified through your using it. So use your gift. But don't just use it, find ways to build God's kingdom through using it. Get to know people through using your abilities and then share the truth of Christ with them.

In the spiritual sense, we are likewise to use our gifts to God's glory; we are to develop the gift; we are to enjoy the use of the gift. Paul outlines the gifts in Romans 12:6-8 as prophecy, service, teaching, exhorting/encouraging, giving, leadership, and mercy. If you don't know what your spiritual gift is, then let's spend some time to figure it out. It is incredibly important that we know what gifts God has given to us so that when we stand before Him, we can give account for how we used them to His glory.

We have been given a lot of gifts: Christ, natural abilities, spiritual gifts. Be thankful for them, use them, and glorify God through them.

ANGEL TREE

Thank you to all who brought gifts or contributed money, and delivered the gifts to our Angel Tree Children. We served 10 families and 24 children this year. You have made a difference for these children whose parent isn't able to share Christmas with them.

THANK YOU!



NEW MEMBERS

In December, we welcomed 4 new members into our church family! They are Heather Korpela, Mary Stunkard, Joann Van Hartesvelt, and Ruth Van Hartesvelt. Take a moment to welcome them! If you are interested in Membership or learning more about Bethel, contact Lynn Miller.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

We have received so many Christmas cards from friends and missionaries! Missionary Newsletters are posted on our website, and cards from friends are hanging in the foyer.



MERRY CHRISTMAS
love, the Conner family

PRAYER GATHERING

JANUARY 8 AT 7 P

Join us for our monthly prayer gathering at the church.



LIFT LADIES GAME NIGHT

JANUARY 13 AT 6 P

The ladies are invited to a game night at church! Bring your favorite games and finger snacks to share.

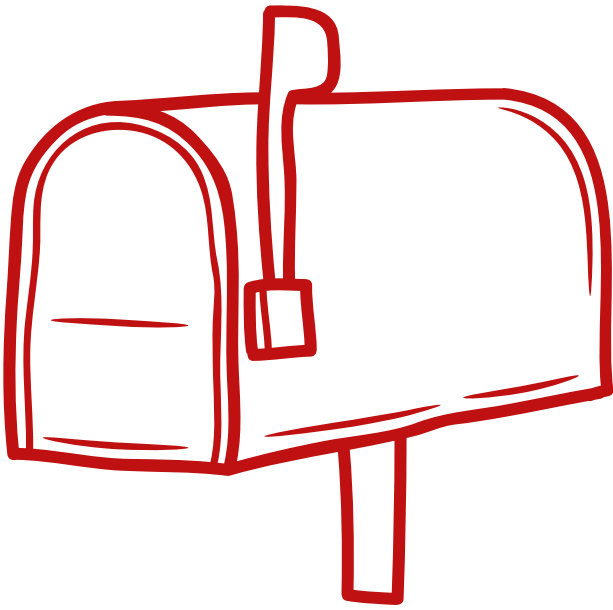


ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

JANUARY 22 AT 12:45

Join us for our Annual Business Meeting at the church following second service.





To all Bethel members,
Thank you very much for the gift card. It will be used very wisely. May we all remember the reason for the season!
Bette Cannon

Bethel Baptist Church,
Wishing you peace, hope, love, and joy - at Christmastime and always! Thank you for the gift card.
Love, Nola Carello

Dear Bethel Family,
It was pure joy to see the body of christ singing christmas carols out my front window on December 11! I cried the entire time but they were tears of joy and thankfulness! I use to enjoy doing that so much and often thought that might be me inside someday and here I am. You were all like special angels hearing you sing and the plate of cookies were great! Thank you so much! I love you all and miss you too!
In Christ's love, Janis Gilbertsen

I want to thank the carolers who came to my house and brought Christmas cookies. It was much appreciated.
-Bob Nelson

Many thanks to each one of you carollers who brought such a joyous spirit of gladness with you to our house on December 11 evening in celebration of our great Savior's birth. Some of you were young people, some older, and some in between. You were a great mix of individuals, all so willing to show your love and care for others and for your Savior in this beautiful way too-- and some of you even in festive attire! The cookies were delicious too and your prayer for us was much appreciated. Bethelites have done this for us for a number of years now. We feel so blessed by you all. Thanks again. Thanks also to those of you who went to others homes.
-Cliff and Eleanor

Thank you so much for your kindness & generosity in all that you've done for me this Christmas Season. I so appreciate your encouragement through these many years & still counting.
Love, Diane Case

Dear Bethel Family,
Thank you for the generous Christmas gift! We are so blessed by your support of our ministry and your encouragement. We thank God for placing us here in this family and allowing us to minister with you!
Love, Jon & Julie Motta

EVENTS

Prayer Gathering

Jan 8

7 P

Ladies' Game Night

Jan 13

6 P

Annual Business Meeting

Jan 22

12:45 P

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

10 Philip Nelson, Nick Valentia

11 Deshawn Lyons, Adlee Miron, Myah Staff

12 Chris & Laura Mauser A

13 Mary Fuller, Declan Hanson

16 Chris Anderson, Andy Griffin, Heather Mosher

17 Caleb Holsinger

20 Lucy Loewen

21 Carolyn Deyo

22 Nathan Loewen

23 Linda Carlson, Karla Salo

26 Gabriel Giroux, Laurie Short

28 Randy Yelle

31 Troy Steppke

January