



Bethel Mennonite Church

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Newsletter

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FELLOWSHIP & PIZZA

Thank you to our pizza makers!
Pictured are Dave Maurer, Mark Kauffman & Todd Hostetler at the oven, Beth Maurer making dough, and Kim Lehman & Rae Maurer making the pizzas.



BRING THE WORD II: Saturday evening three brave guys said, "Yeah, I'll preach for 5 minutes on a verse drawn from a hat!" Members submitted a verse and the guys each drew one out. They got 5 minutes to give their impromptu take on the verse. Duane Beck, Dave Maurer and Chris Thornburg participated. **BETHEL'S GOT TALENT!** Sunday afternoon brought a vast array of talented Bethelites to



the stage for a nearly 3 hour show! The Bethel Ensemble sang hymns from historical hymnals, and Harry Graber sang and recited poetry. **JOSEPH HELFRICH** closed our weekend with a beautiful intimate concert blending stories and songs together .



Announcements:

- **Help Needed: Camp Luz is hosting its Fall Work Day on Saturday November 7** beginning around 8am, stay as long as you are able. Lunch is provided, please RSVP so we have enough lunch and the right projects prepared.
- **The Next Red Cross Blood Drive will be held January 29th** from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Our donations have been down the last two blood drives. Please make an effort to donate, and to invite friends and family to do so as well. Last blood drive netted 12 units.
- **Community Movie Night is Nov. 20th at 6:30 pm...** we're on a Star Wars run...Return of the Jedi will be shown!

West Liberty Native Grason Atha Presents Book Reading at Bethel

In 1952 the West Liberty Community marked Grayson Atha for the ministry. Now, after 68 years, he has written a book about his experiences and has dedicated it to the people of West Liberty. The book, titled *The Clergy Dance: The Making of a Minister*, will be published in January.

Grayson would like to read sections of the book, which outline his faith journey, to members of the community. Those attending the reading, will have the opportunity to reflect and give further insights which may enhance the book. The reading is open to all who would like to attend.

The reading will take place on November 15th at 7:00 p.m. at the Bethel Mennonite Church.



October Projects Raise \$1645 by Barb Kauffman

Thanks for your generous response to our October special projects: MCC and their work in helping to alleviate the many challenges facing the Syrian people, and Backpacks for

Central American Refugees, who have been released from detention centers, as they travel in the US to join family.

Your MCC donations in October totaled \$600 and the Backpack Ministry totaled \$1045.



Bethel Oak Grove Mennonite Women

by Donna Lehman

This group met 2 times since the last newsletter (Sept./ Oct.) It's going to be an interesting year because the theme for the year is "SPARK"—Igniting your God-given Creativity. So we will be looking into different aspects of that.

Our September devotional on that theme with Kyle VanOsdol giving insight was "God is the Original Artist"—and if we don't accept that, we've got big problems. In October, Barb Kauffman reflected on "A Way of Living Life", being creative in the ways to look at life and solve problems.

In September we brought sack lunches—but had Klondike bars for dessert; and in October we had a delicious baked potato bar with hostesses Jeanette Hostetler, Miriam Lapp and Nellie Lindemer. Last initials A-K brought very good desserts.

November 10, 2015 we will be having a taco soup luncheon with last name initials L-R to bring desserts. You are welcome to this time together; especially if you have those initials!

Work completed: 3 comforters, 28 school kit bags sewn and 18 filled; 15 health kit bags sewn and 11 filled. 1000 labels sent to Hopi Mission School, AZ. South side fellowship room drapery also repaired.

Contact Information:

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<http://www.bethelchurchwl.org/>

Pastor: Dave Maurer
Youth Pastor: Cheryl Shank
Administrative Assistant: Tesa Jordan
Next Newsletter Deadline: Dec. 20, 2015

“Recapping Bethel’s DNA Revisited”

by Pastor Dave Maurer

We have now completed our celebration of our Quasiquicentennial (125 years). Thank you to all those who assisted in making this happen throughout the year and especially in our culmination weekend Oct. 23-25. In particular, I wish to thank Tesa for all that she did to make the weekend a reality.

It was a wonderful gathering of fellowshiping, reminiscing, and laughing together. I was especially appreciative of Pastor Duane Beck’s presence and his insightful and timely words about Bethel’s DNA. For those who weren’t there or didn’t get our DNA chromosomes jotted down, you can watch the full message on www.wbtl.tv. But here’s a recap...

Bethel’s DNA consists of,

- Longing for Spiritual Growth
- Living Faith Daily in Dependence upon God
- Hospitality
- Witness
- Leadership
- Naming and Affirming spiritual gifts in one another.
- Unity

It is the DNA that guides us and shapes who we are as a people. Obviously, Christ remains our center, the word of God serves as nourishment and a guide, and the Holy Spirit empowers us. But along with that, Bethel’s DNA is made up of at least these things. This is important for us to be aware of at all times. It is essential for a congregation to be aware of and continue to reinforce these during a time of transition such as Bethel is entering into.

In times of change and transition, fear and anxiety can influence people’s thinking and choices. Yet, our God is not a God of fear and when we are following God we have nothing to be anxious about. God has a plan moving forward and it is for us to get on board with that plan and aid in bringing about its fruition. This is why Pastor Duane’s blessing was so significant.

He ended his sermon by offering the following blessing:

“I pray that out of the riches of God’s glory, you may be strengthened in your inner being with power from the Holy Spirit. That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend with all the saints what is the height and depth and length and width and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge. Now to Him who by the power at work among us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than what we could ask or imagine, to God be glory in this church and to generations and in Christ. And all God’s People Said Amen.” May it be so.



Former Bethel Pastor Duane Beck returns to the pulpit for a special message.

November is Mission Month

by Kim Lehman

November is Mission Month, and during the month, money received in the offering with the designation of Mission Month will be divided between the following 4 programs:

- Mennonite Mission Network
- MCC
- Kingdom Investment International
- Adriel Chaplaincy



Loose Change Sundays will be Nov. 15 & Nov. 22 and will go to the Gideons. Look for marked containers to donate your loose change.

Nov 1st Marisa Smucker Mennonite Mission Network and Mark Mellum of Gideon International will offer Mission Moments. NO NOON MEAL

Nov 8th Rachel Kauffman “Co-workers in God’s Service” NOON MEAL: Our Daily Bread

Nov. 15th Jean Paul Tiedrebeogo Kingdom International NOON MEAL : Rice and Beans

Nov. 22nd Reed Jones and the Adriel Bell Choir NOON MEAL: Our Daily Bread

Updates on the happenings of the Youth Group

Cheryl Shank



This late summer and fall we have been busy with 'work projects' for different people in the congregation.

We cleaned out gutters for Barrett's and Shumaker's; winterized Mary Ann King's garden, walked through Dick Lindemer's soybean field to

cut down some stray corn stalks and 'mares tail' weeds. We have two more projects that are on our radar to get done before cold weather sets in.

Thank-you for thinking of us and asking us to do these tasks, as we are in the process of raising money for next summer's mission trip. I am in contact with the MDS office about working at one of their sites in June. I will keep you up-to-date as I receive more information. They mentioned that it would be nice to have some men along who have building experience.... So, if you might be able to join the group, look for updates. -Cheryl Shank (and the youth group)

Pizza Oven Serves as Outreach

This fall we hosted a special pizza night for the children of Adriel School. The girls came first as a group, and then the boys. They each got to custom make their own 'personal pizza' and chef Dave fired them in the oven. While the girls enjoyed mostly talking and visiting after eating, the boys shot hoops, and played on the playground. The thank yous we received back affirmed that a good time was had by all!



Consider Alternative Gift Giving This Christmas

by Barb Kauffman

As we anticipate celebrating Christmas, our thoughts turn to Jesus, the true gift of our celebration. How do we pass on this gift to others?

Consider gift giving alternatives through Mennonite Church agencies or other relief organizations. Catalogs are available in the foyer of the church as well as info listed here to help you plan your gift giving possibilities.

MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) www.mcc.org/
Christmas Gift cards available.

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL www.heifer.org/catalog
Gift cards available with gift of \$10.00 or more.

MEDA (Mennonite Economic Development Associates) www.giftsolutions.org

MMN (Mennonite Mission Network) www.MennoniteMission.net/GiftCatalog
Gift cards available.

Blessings as you celebrate the gift of Jesus with others this Christmas.



Noteworthy Dates

November Birthdays	8 – Silas Maurer
1 – Hayden Hostetler	10 – Dave Maurer
1 – Samuel Evans	16 – Kathy Graber
4 – Pat Zook	17 – Jeannette Hostetler
5 – Sandy Rabenstein	22 – Ken Shank
8 – Molly Thornburg	22 – Phyllis Smith
	24 – Katie King
	30 – Kathy Lehman

November Anniversaries

Nov. 10, 1957 – Sam & Mary Lou Plank
Nov. 28, 1970 – Paul & Sally Harshbarger
Nov. 28, 1998 – Dennis & Tara Sanford