

## LAST WEEK

Sunday School 54  
Worship Attendance 93

*Your generosity empowers our collective work for  
God's kingdom purposes. Thanks!*

## OUR THANKS TO

**PASTORAL CARE THIS WEEK:** Barb Kauffman

### NURSERY:

**Today:** Barb Landes                      **Next week:** Tara Sanford

### GREETERS:

**Today:** Dennis & Sharon Showalter    **Next Week:** Chuck & Carol Buck

### SOUND OPERATOR:

**Today:** Todd Hostetler                      **Next week:** Larry Evans

### MEDIA OPERATOR:

**Today:** Savannah Hostetler                      **Next week:** Savannah Hostetler

Bethel Mennonite Church  
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**Pastor:** Dave Maurer ([pastor@bethelchurchwl.org](mailto:pastor@bethelchurchwl.org))  
**Office hours:** T & Th 9-11:30a; Wed & Fri 9:30-Noon & 1:30-4:30p  
**Youth Pastor:** Cheryl Shank ([youthpastor@bethelchurchwl.org](mailto:youthpastor@bethelchurchwl.org))  
**Office hours:** Tues & Fri 1-3PM  
**Administrative Assistant:** Tesa Jordan ([secretary@bethelchurchwl.org](mailto:secretary@bethelchurchwl.org))  
**Office Hours:** Wed & Fri 9am-5pm  
**Elders:** Carl Newcomer, Dick Lindemer  
**Pastoral Care Team:** Barb Landes, Barb Kauffman, Dick Lindemer  
Sharon Showalter, Carl Newcomer, Mark Thomas, Chuck Swartz  
**Tech Coordinator:** Todd Hostetler



# Bethel Mennonite Church

*"Jesus compels us to experience and extend the gracious rule of God  
by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

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## *Through the Bible in a Year – Esther Shalom Sunday*

### **Preparing**

By praying together                      Infant Nursery @ 8:45a.m.

### **Gathering**

Welcome & Call to Worship                      Barb Kauffman  
Prelude                      Pat Yoder  
Psalm 122 & Opening Prayer  
Gathering Hymns                      Carl Newcomer

### **Proclaiming**

Scripture- Esther 3:1-6  
**Message "Esther: Honor, Pride and the Quest for Shalom"**  
**Pastor Dave Maurer**

### **Praising**

With our offerings  
& Offertory                      Tesa Jordan  
With Choruses                      Annie Steiner and Team

### **Sharing**

Of our joys, requests, thanksgivings & responses  
Pastoral Prayer                      Pastor Dave Maurer

### **Sending**

Benediction                      Pastor Dave  
Sending hymn

*Celebrating 125 Years*

## THIS WEEK

### TODAY– Shalom Sunday

9:30 a.m. — Sunday School

10:40 a.m. —Worship Service w/ Pastor Dave Maurer speaking

12:00 Noon—Peace & Justice Sack Lunch Discussion on Israel & Palestine

1:00 p.m.—Youth & Mentors

### WEDNESDAY

12:00 – 2:00 p.m.—Mobile Meal Food Truck @ UMC

4:15 p.m.—Our Daily Bread

### NEXT SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. — Sunday School

10:40 a.m. — Worship Service Pulpit Exchange with Oak Grove

7:00 p.m. – Bring the Word! @ South Union

## LOOKING AHEAD

For Pastoral Care needs Sept. 25 & 26, contact Barb Landes. Next Sunday we will have a pulpit exchange with Oak Grove.

**Please finalize and submit your annual reports** to Tesa by **TODAY**.

**Youth & Mentors** will be traveling to the corn maze at Young's Jersey Dairy this afternoon, leaving Bethel at 1PM. Bring money for ice cream.

**Israel & Palestine Discussion** Peace and Justice Lunch invites you to a sack lunch after the service. We will eat together, watch the video, “With God on Our Side,” and discuss it together.

**Gifts Discernment** Affirmation Ballots are due NEXT Sunday.

**Bring the Word!** Remember the days of the bench when a group of several preachers decided on Sunday morning which one of them would bring the message for the day? What would it look like today to have three pastors under 40 given a passage shortly before they are asked to give a 5-7 minute extemporaneous meditation to the congregation? Join us to find out! Pastors Matthew Williams, Alex Dye and Dave Maurer will be speaking on Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 7PM @ South Union.

**World Communion Sunday** is on October 4<sup>th</sup> and the annual business meeting will be Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Missional Discipleship Groups:** Pastor Dave shared about Life Transformation Groups in his sermons. Bethel, Oak Grove and South Union are partnering with Mennonite Mission Network to launch a cohort of groups in our area this fall. If you are interested in participating and/or facilitating such a group, please sign up in the foyer. Groups will launch on October 11th.

**A Great Time to Join!** Throughout this year, many of us have been participating in the Chronological Bible readings. On September 24<sup>th</sup>, we begin the New Testament readings which will conclude at the end of the year. If you have fallen behind in your readings, now is a great time to get a fresh start. If you haven't started yet, now is a great time to join us as we move into the home stretch. Contact the office if you need a reading guide.

**Through the Bible in a Year Reflection Questions:** as we journey through the Bible this year, here are a few questions to reflect upon in your reading. More may be found at Pastor Dave's blog (<http://thequest.blogspot.com/>). A complete list of daily readings is available from the office. **Sept 21-27:**

- In the final chapters of Nehemiah, we read of the return of the exiles to Jerusalem. How do you imagine this felt for those who had been exiled to return? What would be a modern parallel of this?
- In Nehemiah 12, we read of the dedication of Jerusalem's wall. This included purification of the people, the gates and the wall and two choirs. Why was this accomplishment so significant for the people? What did the wall represent to them? What do walls represent to us today and if the symbolism is different, how so?
- In Nehemiah 12, we read of the provisions for temple worship. This included contributions, first fruits, and tithes. What does this example have to say to us today in the use of our resources?

## PRAYER & PRAISE NOTES

- **Today is Peace Sunday.** Pray that materials created by Mennonite Mission Network's Peace and Justice Support Network will help Mennonite congregations speak out against the violence of racism within the church and in our societies throughout the coming year.
- **Pray for Syria**, for the 10.6 million refugees (about 50% of the population), and for those who remain.
- **Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem** in the midst of ongoing tensions between Palestinians and Israelis.

## Below are resources for further study about the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict.

The Stones Cry Out: the story of the Palestinian Christians - DVD

<http://www.middleeastbooks.com/products/the-stones-cry-out-the-story-of-the-palestinian-christians>

Steadfast Hope: the Palestinian quest for just peace – Study Guide

<http://www.israelpalestinemissionnetwork.org/main/study-resources/publications>

Kairos Palestine: a moment of truth –

- Document <http://www.kairospalestine.ps/content/kairos-document>
- Study Guide <http://kairosusa.org/study-guide/>

Zionism Unsettled: a congregational study guide

<http://www.israelpalestinemissionnetwork.org/main/study-resources/publications>

Under Vine and Fig Tree: Biblical theologies of land and the  
Palestinian-Israeli conflict

<http://www.cascadiapublishinghouse.com/uft/uftauth.htm>

Other resources from Menno PIN

<http://mennopin.org/2014/07/31/resources/>

## A Peace Sunday Responsive Reading

**Leader:** We gather to worship together.

**All:** Different people, different lives, different histories,

**Leader:** Yet all children of the same Parent,

**All:** Created lovingly by the Source of all life!

**Leader:** We gather to reconnect with one another.

**All:** Different people, different lives, different histories,

**Leader:** Yet all disciples of one Teacher,

**All:** Jesus, the Word made flesh, dwelling among us.

**Leader:** We gather with different joys and sorrows, different hopes  
and fears ...

**All:** Different people, different lives, different histories,

**Leader:** Yet one people with one God, one faith, one baptism.

**All:** Let us open ourselves to the presence of God at work in  
us, among us, and through us.