

## LAST WEEK

Sunday School Attendance 48  
Worship Attendance 66

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

## OUR THANKS TO

**PASTORAL CARE THIS WEEK:** Dick Lindemer

### **GREETERS:**

**Today:** Jerry & Barb Landes      **Next Week:** Jerry & Barb Landes

### **MEDIA OPERATOR:**

**Today:** unfilled      **Next week:** unfilled

### **SOUND OPERATOR:**

**Today:** unfilled      **Next week:** Larry Evans

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**Transitional Pastor Consultant:** Duane Beck ([duaneebeck@gmail.com](mailto:duaneebeck@gmail.com))

**Office hours:** by appointment

**Interim Pastors:** Cheryl Shank ([youthpastor@bethelchurchwl.org](mailto:youthpastor@bethelchurchwl.org))

**Office hours:** M-F 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. by appointment

Chuck Swartz ([chuckandjeanie@gmail.com](mailto:chuckandjeanie@gmail.com))

**Office hours:** M-W, F 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Th 10 – Noon by appointment

**Administrative Assistant:** Tesa Jordan ([secretary@bethelchurchwl.org](mailto:secretary@bethelchurchwl.org))

**Office Hours:** Varied, by appointment

**Elders:** Steve Lapp, Barb Landes, Kathy Lehman, KJ Schrock, and Larry Evans

**Pastoral Care Team:** Barb Landes, Barb Kauffman, Dick Lindemer,



# Bethel Mennonite Church

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

Vol. 59

February 19, 2017

No. 8

### **Preparing**

By praying together      Infant Nursery @ 9:15a.m.

### **Gathering Led by Worship Leaders, Michelle Link**

Announcements

Song      Ellen Steiner

I will come to you in the Silence SS #49

Welcome & Call to Worship      Psalm 136

Prayer

### **Praising**

Praise Team      Ellen Steiner & Team

With our offerings & Offertory      Pat Yoder

### **Confession of Faith**

Michelle Link

### **Praising**

Congregational Singing      Carl Newcomer

### **Proclaiming**

Scripture      II Corinthians 12:7-9; Luke 1:29-38

**Message** “God’s Strength works in our Weakness”      Duane Beck

Communion and Pledge to Walk Together

Blessing and Goodbye to the Becks

### **Sharing, Led by Pastoral Care Team, Carl Newcomer**

Of our joys, requests, thanksgivings & responses

Pastoral Prayer

### **Sending**

Sending hymn

Carl Newcomer

Benediction

## THIS WEEK

### TODAY

**9:30 a.m.** —Sunday School

**10:40 a.m.** — Worship with Duane Beck

**12:00 p.m.**—Noon Potluck & Congregational Meeting

### TUESDAY

**9:15 a.m.**—Women’s Bible Study

**12 Noon**—Peace & Justice

**3:00 p.m.**—Bethel Homework Help

### WEDNESDAY

**4:15 p.m.**—Our Daily Bread

### NEXT SUNDAY

**9:30 a.m.** —Sunday School

**10:40 a.m.** — Worship with Cheryl Shank

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The transitional prayer team** is suggesting that the Bethel family makes personal Paul’s prayer from Ephesians 3:16-20. Pray that God may strengthen us with power through His spirit in our innermost being so that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith. Pray that we being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that we may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. May we give God the glory as He is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to His power that is at work within us. NIV

**Administrative Assistant Search** – With the resignation of our Administrative Assistant, we are beginning the process of looking for someone to fill this position beginning sometime in late February. If you have interest in exploring this possibility, please contact Dave Link as soon as possible.

**Budget basics and beyond:** Monday, Feb. 20 – 2 or 8 p.m. In this webinar, designed for pastors, church leaders and others interested in church budgets, we’ll discuss what congregations can do to get people excited about giving, what a church budget should do and the four basic church budget models. Presented by Beryl M. Jantzi, Stewardship Education Director. See the Everence website for details.

**From Peace & Justice Group:** Considering these uncertain times and the increased polarization in our country, the Peace and Justice Group invites you personalize Paul’s exhortation in Ephesians 6:10-18. Find strength in the Lord, in His mighty power. Put on all the armor God provides, so you can stand up to whatever evil throws your way. Be prepared. Fasten on the belt of truth; the garment of integrity; the gospel of peace, firmly on your feet; the great shield of faith; the helmet of salvation in your hand; and the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God. Prayer is essential. Pray in the power of the Spirit and pray for all God’s people.

**Welcoming Immigrant and Refugees as Neighbors.** Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) U.S. decries the executive actions on immigration enforcement taken this week by President Trump as well as actions on refugee resettlement expected later. In our society, rejection of the immigrant—“the other”—still runs deep. By building walls and turning away refugees we ignore Christ’s call to care for those in need and to love the newcomer. We encourage you to consider new ways you can [welcome](#) immigrants and refugees as neighbors in your community, and to make your voice heard by [contacting](#) the White House and your members of Congress. Pray with us for [hearts of love](#) toward one another.

**We are bringing back our birthday meals!** On Sunday, March 5th, those of you who have birthdays in January, February, and March are invited to a potluck meal after church. Please bring a dish for the potluck.

## PRAYER & PRAISE NOTES

- **Pray for the family of Sara Ellen Stxltzfus**, who passed on Wednesday. Her service will take place Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. with lunch to follow in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Pray for Harry Grxber**, recovering from shoulder surgery.
- **David and Rebekka Stutzman** serve in post-Christian Germany through Mennonite Mission Network, South German Mennonite Conference, and Virginia Mennonite Missions. Pray for them as they join people on their life journeys and find relevant ways of being the church.
- **Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas** Bethel College’s peacebuilding institute, KIPCOR, is hosting a film this afternoon about the militarization of America’s police force, followed by conversation with law enforcement officials and community activists. Pray for respectful dialogue and mutual learning.

## Partnering with Mennonite Central Committee

Mennonite Central committee (MCC) is asking that we partner with them to help scores of people rebuild their lives. Over the next 4 Sundays, thru March 5<sup>th</sup>, monetary donations can be designated for the following needs:

\$30.00 will supply food for a family for 1 month

\$60.00 will provide basic supplies for families in need

\$200.00 will pay for shelter materials

Other MCC projects:

~ Building small businesses to teach new skills and increase income

~ Building wells, dams, and irrigation systems to bring clean water to communities

~ Working for peace in communities torn by war and conflict

~ Distributing school supplies, training teachers, and tutoring students

~ Encouraging the donations of the various kits and/or comforters

~ Support for food programs

~ Monetary donations in any amount...for "as needed"

Contributions may be made through the Bethel church offering (designate MCC on the memo line or envelope).

## Pledge to Walk Together

*[Please give this thought and prayer in preparation of signing this pledge next Sunday, 2/19.]*

We have chosen a way forward, as a church body. Any adventure has risks, produces excitement and anxiety. None of us know exactly where the path will take us, but we are not alone. Jesus Christ is the head of this church, and as his followers we seek to RePresent Jesus each day.

The steps along this path are to: 1) Deepen our Relationship with Jesus; 2) Be a Caring Community; and 3) Engage in local mission.

The way forward depends on each of us working together for the common good. We have each been given gifts to do the work of Christ's ministry and build up the body of Christ.

With God's help and the Holy Spirit's presence, I will do what I can to 1) Deepen my Relationship with Jesus; 2) Be a Caring Community; and 3) Engage in God's local Mission. I will join with others in this body of Christ to more fully RePresent Jesus.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Blessing and Goodbye

Leader: We take this time to bless you, Duane & Lois, giving thanks for your life and ministry with us during this important transition phase between pastors.

Duane & Lois: Thank you for welcoming us back to be with you. You furnished a home for us, but more importantly you welcomed us into your hearts and lives.

Leader: Duane, in these nine months you have led many meetings, preached over 20 sermons, and enjoyed nine potlucks! You particularly challenged us to make our relationship with Jesus a meaningful daily experience.

**People:** *Thanks be to God for bringing the word and presence of Jesus among us.*

Leader: Thank you for reminding us to look for God's presence among us. You recognized our gifts and affirmed the ways we are salt and light in our community.

**People:** *Thanks be to the Holy Spirit for using our gifts to serve one another and minister to our neighbors.*

Leader: Duane, you helped us repent of our criticism, find joy in encouragement and peace in reconciliation. You have challenged us to seek to understand and love one another when we disagree and reach out to others who are different from ourselves.

**People:** *Thanks be to God who welcomes all of us into the kingdom.*

Leader: Lois, you have had your own ministry among us. We especially think of your gifts of listening, prayer, hospitality, friendship, and unconditional acceptance. Your welcoming spirit and genuine compassion for others have touched us.

**People:** *Thanks be to God for the gift of prayer and hospitality.*

Leader: You have each touched our lives in specific ways. Your influence and faith example will continue to grow within us, impacting our lives and relationships with others.

**People:** *Duane, we thank you and release you to no longer be our Transition Pastor.*

Duane: On Wednesday, I will no longer be your Transition Pastor, but I will be available as a consultant to your leaders. I give my blessing to Cheryl and Chuck as they step into pastoral leadership and serve with the Elders and other leaders of this church as partners in ministry. Commit yourselves to pray regularly for Bethel's leaders and one another.

Leader: We are grateful for those who have stepped into transition leadership roles and for all who serve in so many ways in this body and in the world. May we walk closer to Jesus and to each other, and bear the fruit through our lives. As followers of Christ, let us bless one another with this song.

Lois and Duane lead: *The Lord lift you up; the Lord take your hand. The Lord lead you forth and cause you to stand, secure in God's word, seeking God's face, abounding in love, abiding in grace.*