

Believe.
Belong.
Build Faith@Home.

Annual Report
Bethel Lutheran Church

2018

Fergus Falls | Battle Lake

"One Church. Two Locations."

bethellutheran.church





Fergus Falls Campus
702 W Alcott Ave
Fergus Falls, MN 56537



Bethel Lutheran Church

One Church. Two Locations.

(218) 736-5654 | bethellutheran.church | office@bethellutheran.church



Battle Lake Campus
112 W Main St
Battle Lake, MN 56515

Bethel Pastors & Directors

Pastor Allen Aase	<i>Pastor for Youth & College Ministries</i>	allen@bethellutheran.church
Pastor David Foss	<i>Lead Pastor</i>	pastordave@bethellutheran.church
Pastor Kevin Foss	<i>Battle Lake Campus Pastor</i>	pastorkevin@bethellutheran.church
Pastor Rich Iverson	<i>Pastor for Faith@Home Ministry</i>	pastorrich@bethellutheran.church
Pastor Ed Monson	<i>Visitation Pastor</i>	pastored@bethellutheran.church
Kate Haus	<i>Director of Operations</i>	kate@bethellutheran.church
Erika Lundberg	<i>Director of Worship Ministry</i>	erika@bethellutheran.church
Jenny Mathiesen	<i>Director of Children's Ministry</i>	jenny@bethellutheran.church
Tim Mathiesen	<i>Director of Communication & Connection</i>	tim@bethellutheran.church
Brad Pribbenow	<i>Battle Lake Campus Worship Leader</i>	bpribbenow@lbs.edu
Julie Gundersen	<i>Parish Nurse</i>	nurse@bethellutheran.church

Bethel Elder Board

John Austin	Allan Bjerkaas	Eric Ewan	Peter McKnight
Steve Moline	Richard Risbrudt	Loran Rogness	LaWayne Rogness
Daryl Synsteliien (<i>chair</i>)	Steve Tonneson	Dan Venberg	Doug Walvatne
Jim Wold			



facebook.com/mybethelfamily



[@mybethelnews](https://twitter.com/mybethelnews)



[@mybethelfamily](https://www.instagram.com/mybethelfamily)

For upcoming events, pick up an events brochure at the Connection Center or visit Bethel's website.

Bethel's Pastors & Directors



Pastor David Foss
Lead Pastor



Pastor Kevin Foss
Battle Lake Campus Pastor



Pastor Rich Iverson
Pastor for Faith@Home



Pastor Allen Aase
Pastor for Youth & College Ministry



Pastor Ed Monson
Visitation Pastor



Kate Haus
Director of Operations



Tim Mathiesen
Dir. of Communication & Connection



Jenny Mathiesen
Director of Children's Ministry



Erika Lundberg
Director of Worship



Brad Pribbenow
Battle Lake Campus Worship Leader

Mission:

Proclaim the message of Jesus Christ so that people come to faith in Jesus and live for Him.

Vision:

Believe.

a personally held faith in Jesus Christ

Belong.

a shared faith in Christian community

Build Faith@Home.

a heritage of faith in Christian homes



First, a word about this report...

This report can't possibly tell the whole story of what God has been up to at Bethel, nor does it attempt to. The story of 2018 is more than a written report can tell. The story is written in the fabric of our lives, shaped and influenced by the Gospel. Often churches are measured by the "3 B's": Bodies, Budget and Buildings. We don't believe this is the measure of a church at all.

These measurements ask,

"How many people were there?"

"Was giving sufficient to support the mission of the church?"

"Is our facility meeting the demands of ministry and projected to meet those needs in the future?"

Those are important questions and the answers are informative, but as the Gospel is given, its results are far reaching and somewhat defy measurement. Contained in this report you'll find lots of "3 B's" type of information.

Read it.

Pay attention to it.

But look deeper, see the activity of God among us and join us in giving him thanks.

"To God be the glory, great things he hath done."

Pastor David Foss
Lead Pastor



Jan.-April & July-Aug.
*Finishing the Book of Genesis
(Chapters 12-50)*



June
*Bethel's annual We Don't Talk
About That sermon series*



September-October
*Stories of those who encountered
Amazing Grace in Jesus*



From Your Elder Board

Greetings from the Elder Board! Looking over the past year, we are grateful to see how God has faithfully worked in the hearts and lives of the members of His church, bringing comfort, instruction, encouragement, and discipline through the Holy Spirit.

Bethel Church has been entrusted as stewards in the ministry of the gospel, and God is multiplying the opportunities to share that good news of Jesus Christ with our neighbors. In this past year, the Elder Board has considered at length the responsibility to lead in that stewardship with thoughtfulness and deliberation. To that end, we have developed and adopted a 5-year Strategic Ministry Plan to ensure a continually proactive and affirmative approach to embracing and acting upon the vision which the Lord puts before us.

As we began the recent fall ministry season, the seating and parking limitations of the Fergus Falls campus significantly impacted our Sunday worship schedule. A committee has been established to analyze current

and future resource needs, and to recommend a plan for developing or acquiring the necessary resources for ministry in Fergus Falls. The Battle Lake campus continues to see fruitful ministry, and a second committee is also evaluating how we may secure sufficient resources to serve that community well into the future.

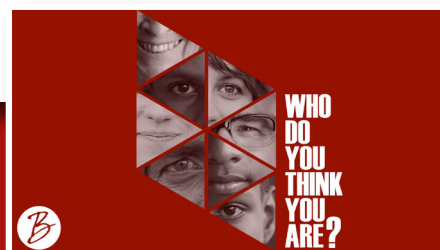
Thank you for how you share your individual gifts and talents to serve each other, and to function as members of the body of Christ. Thank you for praying for your Elder Board; pray that we will serve the church with wisdom, humility, and a heart of service to the body of Christ.

Warm regards,

Daryl Synsteliën, Chairman
Elder Board, Bethel Lutheran Church



November: Missions Week
*Bethel's mission to share Jesus
locally and globally*



November: Stewardship
*Bethel's annual Celebration of
Giving sermon series*



December
*Christmas @ Bethel
sermon series*

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BELIEVE

Average Weekly Attendance *Both Campuses*

803

2018

775

2017

764

2016

Special Services

Services	Attendance
Ash Wednesday	160 2017: 225
Maundy Thursday FF: 230 / BL: 60	290 2017: 290
Good Friday	275 2017: 300
Easter Sunday Both Campuses	1,210 2017: 1,249
Christmas Eve Both Campuses	1,513 2017: 1,453

Worship

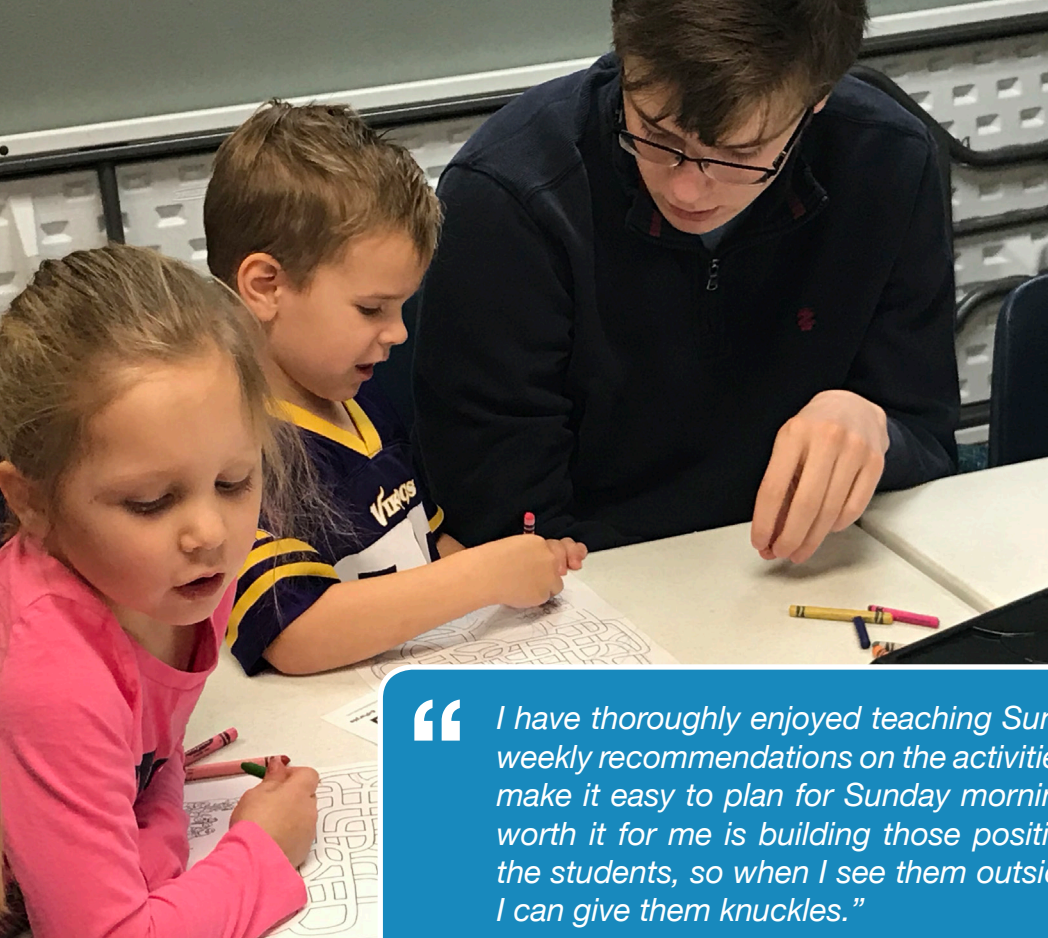
God's church gathering to worship Him is a beautiful, holy and awesome thing! We worship God because of who He is, and because He has loved us first. We worship the Lord because of His worthiness. He communes with us, comes near to us and delights in us. Isn't it such a privilege to gather weekly together, to worship our Lord and our Savior?

As we continue this new year, I invite you to pray with me. Pray for those who doubt and for those who have not yet come to know the Lord, that God's Spirit would work mightily in them and that they would know Jesus. Pray for courage for fellow believers, as we consider inviting friends, neighbors, and co-workers to worship. Pray for our elders and ministry leaders as we continue to grow and move where the Lord is leading Bethel Church. Pray with gratitude, for the endless variety of expressions of worship we have been given by God, and that we can worship him in freedom. Praise God for his grace and love toward us!



Erika Lundberg
Director of Worship Ministry





“ I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching Sunday School. Jenny’s weekly recommendations on the activities and the curriculum make it easy to plan for Sunday morning. What makes it all worth it for me is building those positive relationships with the students, so when I see them outside of Sunday School I can give them knuckles.”

- Ryan Johnson, 1st Grade Sunday School Teacher

Sunday School

Sunday mornings, during the school year, Christian education options for children through adults is provided at both campuses.

Average Weekly Attendance

Fergus Falls: 9:15 & 10:30 AM

Battle Lake: 9:15 AM

Children’s Sunday School

Ages 3 to Grade 6

2017: 189

Confirmation

Grades 7-8

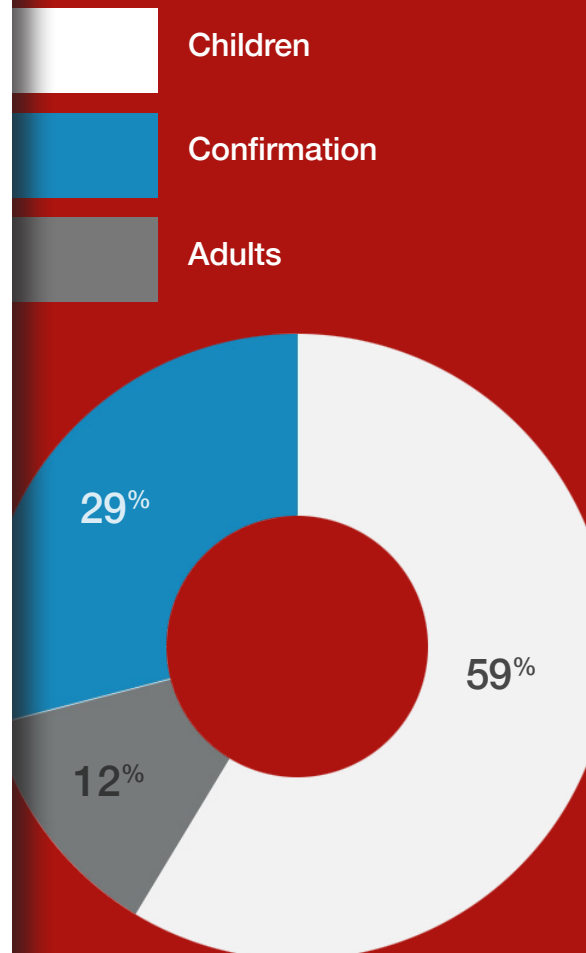
2017: 38

Adult Sunday School

High School/College Age & up

2017: 109

200
42
99



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Build Faith@Home.*

BELIEVE

Battle Lake

I have heard a number of stories this past year that involve Bethel family members ministering to one another in difficult situations. I get so energized as I watch and hear about Bethel people taking the initiative and doing ministry outside our walls...it's happening much more than we will ever know!

Pray that our mission temperature will continue to remain high as we declare and demonstrate the gospel of Jesus Christ both inside and outside the walls of Bethel! Pray also for God's guidance as we seek to determine the best way to address the facility challenges we face as we continue to grow. During the school year we average 123 in weekly attendance (up 6 from last year) and during this past summer we averaged 140.

I want to thank those of you who have been on this journey with us since the beginning. And I welcome those of you who have just come into our church family. Thanks for all you've done...it's a joy to serve the Lord along with you!


Pastor Kevin Foss
Battle Lake Campus Pastor



123

average weekly attendance
2017: 117

11

new weekly attenders in 2018
2017: 40

◀ **Wenonga Days**
Kids Carnival

2,000

estimated attendees

Spring 2018
19 ▶ 8
Started Finished

Fall 2018
8 ▶ 8
Started Finished

New

Baptisms **25**

Weddings **8**

New Members **17**

Confirmed **25**

Pictured right (Bethel Fergus Falls)

Alpha

Alpha Ministry

Alpha is an outreach tool that is free and open to everyone. No questions are out of bounds and participants are free to say as much or as little as they wish, giving them time and space to process the teachings of the Bible.

Alpha was offered in the spring and fall of 2018. It meets for ten weeks during each of those sessions.

The group of attendees from the fall 2018 sessions are all part of a new Life Group that has been meeting since December!

“ We absolutely loved Alpha! It brought us to a completely new level in our faith. We have noticed a significant change in our marriage and in our home. We also built relationships with people and formed a Bible study group to continue the conversations that were started in Alpha.”

- Cody & Christine Hughes, Alpha Attendees

beginnings...



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BELONG

Volunteer Numbers

Numbers include both campuses

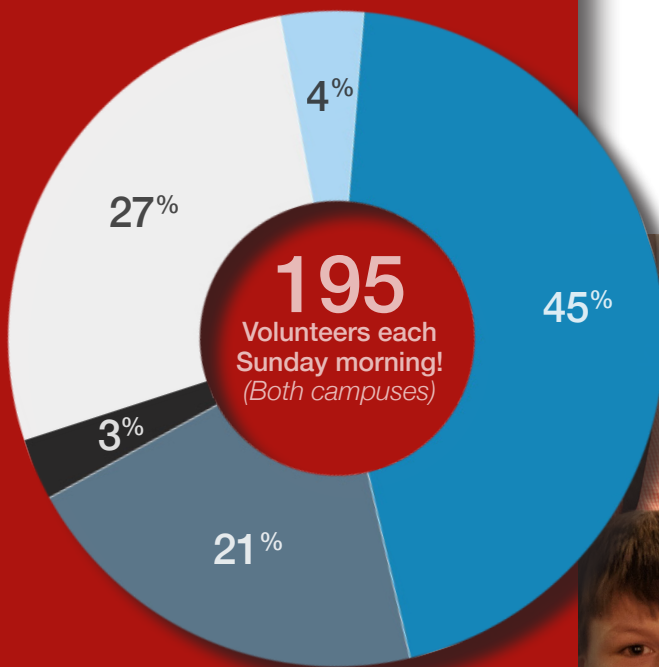
53 **First Impressions Team**
(ushers, greeters, connection center, coffee)

8 **Adult Christian Education**
(classroom leaders and teachers/facilitators)

88 **Children & Youth Sunday School**
(classroom leaders & helpers, teachers, etc.)

40 **Worship, Sound & Projection**
(musicians, choir, sound, recording, etc.)

6 **Nursery & Childcare**
(nursery leaders & helpers)



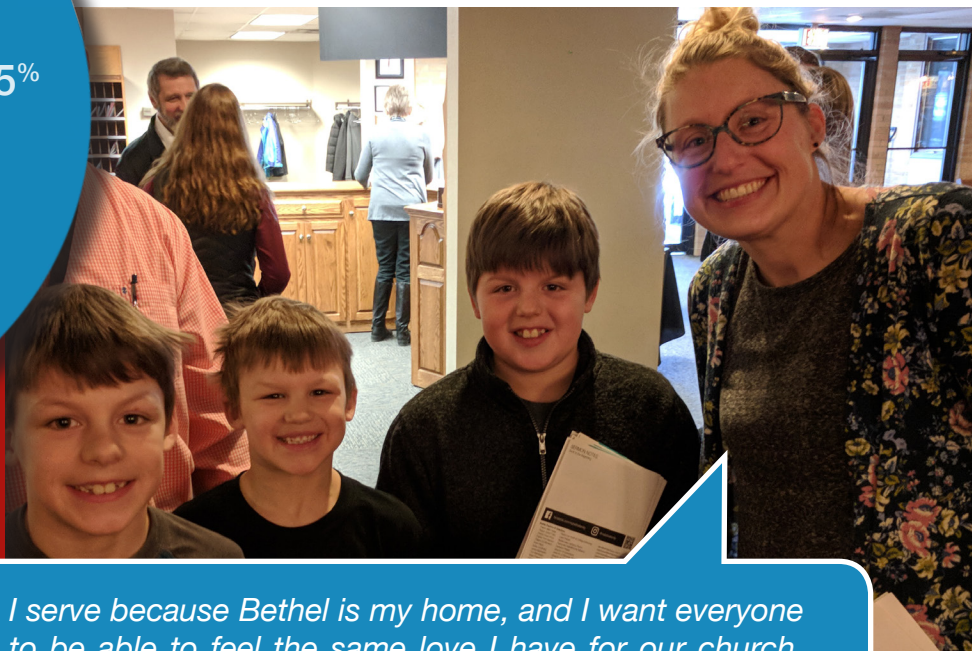
“With”

It always feels good to know you're part of something bigger than yourself. We find purpose and value in knowing that our actions and our lives are making an impact. Being part of Bethel Church means we are participating in Bethel's mission to “proclaim the message of Jesus Christ so that people come to faith in Jesus and live for Him.” Whether we are handing out bulletins, making coffee, teaching children about Jesus or leading a small group, we are serving **WITH** family and friends who are together reaching our neighbors with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

You **BELONG** as part of Bethel Church, and you're impacting the lives of our community...eternally.

Tim Mathiesen

Director of Communication & Connection



“

I serve because Bethel is my home, and I want everyone to be able to feel the same love I have for our church. Being involved gives me one small way of feeling like I'm giving back. Bethel is making a difference everywhere.”

*- Tanya Kort, Children's Sunday School Teacher
(Pictured above, ushering with her sons)*

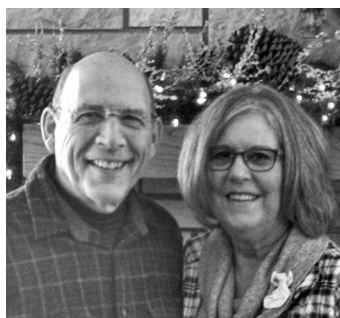
Membership in 2018

17 new members



Harley & Dianne Anderson
August 12th

Kevin & Doreen Anderson
April 15th



Bob & Leah Crabtree
August 12th

Dennis & Melissa Fronning
January 28th



Jonathan & Angela Hartman
January 28th

Akela Juhl
January 28th



LoAnn Martinson
January 28th

Christopher & Melissa Mortenson
April 15th



Dawn Saxton
August 12th

Mike & Mimi Wentzel
August 12th

Spiritual Gifts Survey

Fill out the survey and receive automated feedback about your spiritual gifts.

bethellutheran.church/gifts

FAITH@HOME

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Faith & Life

The embracing of our Faith@Home vision is a long process that shows itself in making small steps that bring big changes in how our faith is lived out in our lives. It is doing the hard work of worshipping together as a family when the temptation is to isolate ourselves from each other. It is having conversations with our kids about real life issues and how being a follower of Jesus impacts every area of our life. It is serving together as a family and embracing hospitality as a way to live out the gospel with our neighbors.

Pastor Rich

Pastor Rich Iverson
Associate Pastor of Faith@Home



“

God works through Bethel as it invests in all the various youth programs and activities. It's great to see how Bethel values our youth and to see the impact the church has on young people's lives.”

- Tyler Akerman, Bethel Battle Lake (Pictured above, middle family)

Family Service Event Hands2Help

Bethel is organizing opportunities for families to serve together. Bethel joined other groups at Inspiration Point Christian Camp & Retreat Center for their Hands2Help event and helped clean up the grounds in preparation for Summer Camp.

Date: May 5, 2018

Take-It-Home Event Family Blessing

It's always helpful to end the day on a positive note with our children and grandchildren. One way is by blessing them, using Scripture. During this “Take It Home” event, parents and grandparents learned about blessing their children each day. They practiced during the event and took home multiple blessings to use at home.

Date: May 6, 2018

2nd grade Bible Handoff

These services are a special moment when Bethel gets to live out our Faith@Home vision during our worship services. This simple ceremony gives parents the chance to present their child with a Bible and read Scripture together.

Dates: November 17 & 18, 2018



I've loved being involved in various small groups, which is essential for developing close friendships of mutual trust. And I've enjoyed being able to use my gifts in a way that not only helps my spiritual growth but gives me opportunities to encourage others."

- Joanne Austin

Small Groups

The following are the groups that were available through Bethel Church in 2018.

Life Groups

With a Faith@Home approach, these groups 1) eat together, 2) worship and study the Bible together and 3) participate in mission together.

Home Groups

Home Bible studies meet in various locations. These groups are usually long-term groups with short-term studies.

Men's Small Groups

Men's groups meet on a weekly basis to support, encourage, and keep each other accountable in their journey to become the men God has called them to be.

Women's Bible Studies

Women's Bible studies were offered in the spring (5 groups) and the fall (6 groups). These groups brought many women together to study the Bible and build relationships.

Small Groups give each of us an opportunity to grow deeper in our faith and in our relationship with others. God is working in each of our lives in different ways.

15 (Average attendance per group)

4 groups

12 (Avg. per group)

6 groups

10 (Avg. per group)

5 groups

9 (Avg. per group)

11 studies

Women@Bethel (Women's Ministry)

The Women's Ministry Team exists to provide women of Bethel with opportunities that equip and encourage them in their walk with the Lord. This year Women's Ministry has focused on a vision of "Connecting" women of all ages around conversation and activities, supporting and encouraging each other through relationships.

Women's Events in 2018



1



2



3



1 "A Mission Heart" (April 10)
80 women in attendance

2 "Hearts of Service" (Oct 9)
60 women in attendance

3 "Hearts of Celebration" (Dec 11)
50 women in attendance

FAITH@HOME



God has certainly been leading and guiding our Children's Ministry into brand new territory in 2018. The addition of a second hour of Sunday School at Bethel Fergus Falls has been one of the biggest and most exciting changes our ministry has ever seen! God has remained faithful in his leading by showing us over and over again how he was preparing for this in the hearts of his people long before we knew it was going to happen. With 25 new families joining our Sunday School program this year, we have 107 families sending their kids to the 9:15 AM hour and 55 families sending their kids to the 10:30 AM hour.

Our volunteers at both campuses have been STELLAR in willingness to serve, following His lead and finding creative ways to remind kids again and again just how much they are loved by our ever-present, abundantly-gracious God.

Jenny

Jenny Mathiesen
Director of Children's Ministry

magnify

4th-6th graders Average weekly attendance:

49

The afternoon at *Magnify* (Fergus Falls campus) is filled with snacks, games, worship and small group Bible reading. *Magnify* cultivates an atmosphere where kids can ask questions. Along with these activities, the students are often given the opportunity to serve, whether it's cleaning up the sanctuary, stocking shelves at the food shelf or making blankets for the local pregnancy center.



Events

Average daily attendance

89

Preschool VBS
(Fergus Falls)
June 19-21

44

Sports Camp
(Battle Lake)
June 25-27

70

Sports Camp
(Fergus Falls)
July 1-3

29

Day Camp
(Battle Lake) *Pictured above*
July 30-August 2

162

Day Camp
(Fergus Falls)
August 6-9

480

Fall Family Fest.
(Fergus Falls)
October 31

275

Fall Family Fest.
(Battle Lake)
October 31



The heart of Bethel's youth ministry is our small groups. Through our small group ministry, our mission is for our students to begin/grow in a relationship with Jesus, grow closer to their small group members and develop a mentor relationship with their adult leader. Our students are in the same small group for up to six years and with the same leader for all of high school. As the students mature and develop trust with each other, we are noticing that real spiritual growth is occurring. Bethel is blessed to have so many adults (21) invest in the lives of our students for multiple years in Fergus Falls and Battle Lake!

Our college-age ministry is a weekly Bible study for Bethel students along with those living/working in Fergus Falls or attending the community college. This weekly contact is developing relationships and opportunity for spiritual growth during these critical years.

Allen "Big Al" Aase
Pastor for Youth & College Ministry

Youth & College Groups

The youth small groups meet during youth group on Wednesdays and the College Age Bible Study meets on Thursdays.

Average weekly attendance

25

Jr. High
(Fergus Falls)

80

Sr. High
(Fergus Falls)

40

Jr. & Sr. High
(Battle Lake)

10

College Age
(Fergus Falls)

It has also been a blessing to serve and invest in a church where others are investing in our family. What a joy it is having the church come alongside our family as we teach our kids about God's great love for us and how to live that out daily."

- Seth & Sarah Kinrade



Highlights

Sr. High Winter Weekend

(Inspiration Point Christian Camp + Retreat Center)

Confirmation Retreat

(Inspiration Point Christian Camp + Retreat Center)

Borderless Mission Trip

(Biennial Mission Trip with area Midwest Churches)

Pictured above (Lower)

Dominican Republic Mission Trip

(Hillcrest Academy's mission trip for High School seniors)

Pictured above ▲

Operation Christmas Child

(Weekend trip to Minneapolis Processing Center)

Pictured below ▼



OCC Results

Bethel: 449 boxes

Community: 1,780 boxes



FAITH@HOME



The mission of Bethel's Marriage Ministry is to encourage, equip and engage couples through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Bethel's Marriage Ministry offers marriage enrichment for ALL couples. Sponsored programs include date nights, marriage seminars and our marriage mentoring program.

Marriage Mentoring

Bethel's trained mentors provide skills to enrich ALL marriages. Couples meet for 1½ hours each week in the mentors' home for 6-10 weeks.

4 *mentor couples in 2018*

6 *couples mentored in 2018*

Marriage Class

Marriage Ministry hosted the "Grace Filled Marriage" study during the Sunday School hour at Bethel Fergus Falls during the fall 2018 season. *Pictured below.*



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Small Groups

Marriage Ministry organized two small groups in 2018, led by Jeff Horak and Debbie Kaminski.

10 *average attendance*



Date Night

A date night was organized in January of 2018 based on the teachings from *Love & Respect*. *Pictured above.*

55 *number in attendance*

Remembering Sandy

Sandy Edwards joined our Bethel staff as a Parish Nurse a few years back. Her involvement as a Parish Nurse was given with enthusiasm, proficiency and her loving care was received by all with gratefulness. She passed away in February of 2018 and is deeply missed by all of us.

She has left a warm testimony of her love for the Lord and her commitment to loving and caring for others. She also had a deep love and concern for her family. May we not forget her many deeds of kindness and her commitment to being used by the Lord for ministry.

- Pastor Ed Monson



Primetimer's Ministry

Bethel's Primetimer's Ministry is intended for all senior citizens. We enjoy guest speakers, great fellowship, a vast variety of tasty desserts, and music from many different sources. We always share a devotional, prayer time, nurse updates and are blessed by volunteers who do an amazing job of decorating. Monthly, with the exception of June, July and August, our own Alice Lunde produces a paper called the *Senior Folk Chronicle* that is written for the delight of our senior citizens.

Ed Monson
Pastor Ed Monson
Visitation Pastor

Primetimer's Events

Summer Outing
August 23

80 attended

Thanksgiving Dinner
(Pictured above) November 15

100 attended

Christmas Fest
December 18

80 attended

Stitch-a-Quilt Ministry

Japanese Outreach Ministry **\$300**
The Food Fund
Rock of Ages LB Church, Seattle, WA

Wycliffe (Dan & Diane Hintz) **\$300**
Printing the newly translated
Southern Quechua Bible

Ben & Sara Hosch **\$550**
Assist with unexpected medical expenses
prior to departure as missionaries

Ben & Sara Hosch **\$805**
Non budget expenses as they recently
arrived in Taiwan (Christmas offering)

Above all, love each other deeply...each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others faithfully...(1 Peter 4:8,10).

The vision of Bethel Stitch-a-Quilt is to support missions and related endeavors with prayer and monies received from hand quilted projects. Our group meets weekly September through April. The time provides sweet fellowship opportunities as together each of our individual stitches completes a quilt. The morning coffee break with unique treats and decorated table begins with singing, "This is the Day." Most importantly this is a time of shared devotionals and intentional prayers.

Deacon & Deaconess Ministry

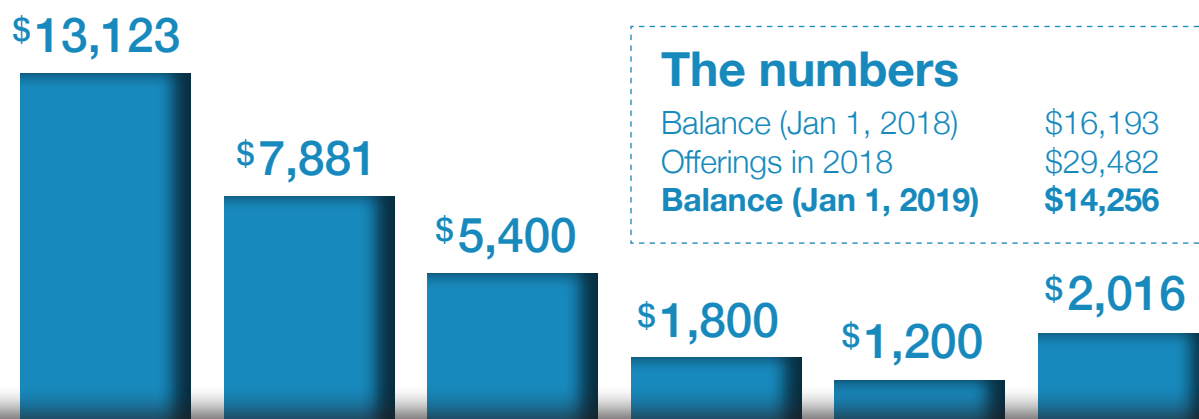
The Deacon/Deaconess Ministry Team reviews benevolence requests each month for individuals with emergency needs in our congregation and community. Our purpose is to assist the Pastors and Elders in the visitation of the sick, shut-ins and needy, and administer the congregation's benevolence program. A special thanks to Arlow Hushagen who will be leaving our ministry team for his dedicated service. A big thank you to our congregation. Your generosity has touched many hearts.

Examples of benevolence requests (average about 4 requests each month):

- Family of 8 (Dad just left the family with no help), city utilities to be disconnected.
- Single mom with one child. Mom works, but needs help with rent payment.
- Family of 5 needs help with rent. Dad is just getting back to work after health issues.

Activities of the Deacon & Deaconess Ministry Team

- Prepared elements for communion services
- Scheduled food shelf collection in March and November
- Visited 30 individuals on a regular basis each month in care facilities
- Distributed funds to help those in need (*see the numbers below*)



Distribution of Funds

Care for people of Bethel Church
(35 requests from within Bethel Church)

Care for needs of our community
(34 requests from Salvation Army)
**NOTE: all requests from our community go through the Salvation Army.*

Amount to local organizations
(Lake Region Recovery Home, A Place to Belong, Habitat for Humanity, Meals By Wheels, Some Place Safe, Jail, Inc., Food Shelf, Health Resources Center, and International Christian Literature)

Salvation Army Shepherd Network & Soup Kitchen

Matthew House
(A Christian based halfway house for men)

Other
(Christmas/Graduation gifts for seminarians, Radio Bible Class, administrative costs, etc.)



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry is the one-to-one lay caring ministry that takes place in congregations that use the Stephen Series system. Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.

18 individuals received care in 2018. As of December 31, 2018, 8 individuals were receiving care in the form of regularly scheduled visits with a Stephen Minister. Reasons for Stephen Ministry involvement included support for persons experiencing the death of a family member, life transitions, health crises, divorce, and a desire for personal growth. There were two individuals in 2018 who received care who do not consider Bethel their church home, but learned that Bethel had a Stephen Ministry program. Bethel also hosted the all-city Stephen Ministry gathering in September.

Number of
care-receivers
in 2018

18

Number of new
care-givers
trained in 2018

5

Number of
active care-givers
at the end of 2018

13

“ *I have asked the Lord to break my heart for what breaks His. There is much pain in this world and Bethel Church is a beacon pointing others to the only One who brings healing and restoration.* ”

- Melissa Fronning

Bethel Library

The church library supports the ministry of Bethel Church by making available Christian materials that are encouraging to our patrons in their Christian walk. There is a variety of quality materials for all ages available to you, so stop by anytime.

rightnow MEDIA

RightNow Media is another resource available to our congregation. An online streaming service, RightNow Media provides thousands of Bible studies, children's shows and training material for anyone who considers Bethel their church home!

Learn more at bethellutheran.church/rightnowmedia

Purchased



50 Books



3 DVDs

Rented



1,135 Books



136 DVDs

MISSIONS

The Bagirmi People

Nearly ten years ago, Bethel started the journey of adopting the Bagirmi people with the goal of seeing a church planted among them. Over the past year, many exciting things have happened, bringing us closer and closer to making our vision a reality.

Nathanael and Carrie Szobody have returned from France after the birth of their fifth child, Clement. Nathanael spent the first two weeks of December helping to facilitate a “storying project” which serves to teach traditional story tellers from four different ethnic groups (including the Bagirmi) five different stories from the life of Joseph. These stories were then recorded onto digital media (micro-SD cards) for distribution.



Above: Szobody Family with newborn Clement

In November of 2018, classes officially started at “**Gethsemane de Meube,**” a primary school for children in Boudamasa (pictured below). The school was requested directly by the village chief and local leadership. Not only was the local public school not functioning, but the literacy rate among the Bagirmi people remains extremely low (around 20%). Education is a felt need by the Bagirmi people, and they are looking to our missionaries for help.

The vision for this school is to offer a place where learning, hard work and spiritual growth serve the larger community. Both students and parents will have opportunity to learn not only reading and writing, but also hands-on skills. **Terach** serves as the director/teacher of Gethsemane de Meube and has moved his family to Boudamasa (pictured right with students). Since there is only one teacher, the number of students has been limited to 52. There is already a long waiting list.



Above: Director/Teacher Terach with the Bagirmi students

Kay Asche is continuing with her study of Chadian Arabic and is also starting to study some of the Bagirmi language. She, along with her team and LBIM leadership, are in the process of determining her settlement into a Bagirmi community for ongoing language learning and ministry. She has been invited and encouraged by the Bagirmi chief of Boudamasa to settle there and she is prayerfully considering this as it would allow her to work alongside

Nathanael and Carrie and their Chadian colleagues.

Amine and Talitha are our Chadian Lutheran Brethren missionary partners serving among the Bagirmi. Amine (pictured, left, with Chief Idris) is assisting Terach with teaching at the school and is establishing a great respect with the local Bagirmi population. Talitha is making inroads into the community as well.



Pictured Left: Amine with Boudamasa Chief Idris



Spend Less. Give More.
Love All. Worship Fully.
A Christmas Eve Offering

The 2018 Advent Conspiracy offering was collected at all Christmas Eve services at both campuses. All offering went to help start a Bagirmi school in the village of Boudamasa.

\$23,671



Next Homes of Hope Mission Trip April 15-22, 2019

The trip will include a *Homes of Hope* house build and a focus on continuing to build relationships with the local churches by partnering with them in outreach ministry.

Homes of Hope / Ensenada

For the last twelve years, Bethel has been sending teams to build homes for those in need through *Homes of Hope* by Youth With A Mission (YWAM). Lives have been changed in the process, both in Ensenada and at Bethel Church, but we're only there for a week, and the local churches stay and continue the long-term ministry.

Bethel and several local Ensenada churches have developed a meaningful relationship. The plan is to continue building these relationships alongside future *Homes of Hope* house builds, and look for opportunities to partner with these churches in ministry, to witness God at work, and to learn from them. This partnership is a two-way relationship, positively influencing both sides.

April 2018 Trip Overview



The mission team built a house for a family in need in two days, so the team had the opportunity to spend a majority of their time building relationships with the local pastors! There were many signs during this latest trip that the investment in these relationships is making an impact. The churches in Ensenada are teaching Bethel about faith and ministry in ways we never expected.



Pastor Lazaro's church was sided and the team met church leaders and heard ministry plans over lunch.



The team was blessed by participating in the first worship service on Pastor Ricardo's church's new land!

October 2018 Trip Overview



The team of seven from Bethel built a home for a family in need and spent the rest of the time with the local churches. During their time with each church, the team experienced street evangelism and a powerful worship service on Sunday morning. Several people came to faith during those few days. The team is asking, "How would these ministries look in our communities?"



Evangelism in the streets with Pastor Lazaro's congregation.



People receiving Christ as their Savior on Sunday morning at Pastor Ricardo's church.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

- *Acts 1:8*

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