

# THE BETHEL CONNECTION

April 21, 2021

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## From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Just a few thoughts about opportunities at Bethel.

Chances to do something, or opportunities, are precious and fleeting in our lives. God is the gracious arranger and scheduler of opportunities for those who will walk in the light of his Word and Spirit. I think we have some interesting and God given opportunities ahead of us here at Bethel.

**Waiting on the Lord.** Please continue to pray as the church Council meets this week regarding the next steps in our search for an Associate Pastor. We are trusting God together as a church family to know his direction. If our church leadership agrees to invite the Dodd's back to candidate, we will have further opportunity to pray, trust, dialogue and lean on God as we seek his will together. Proverbs 3:5-6

**Church Membership and Baptism.** These are important steps in the life and growth of a follower of Jesus. Baptism is that public identification with Jesus and his church. Jesus commanded such a public and clear gospel display. Membership is a promise of commitment to be a Christ follower with a specific group of Christians in accountability with that church's leadership and congregation.

A **Membership Matters** class will begin on Sunday May 2 and meet on the Sundays of May during the Sunday School hour. This class is designed to help potential members understand what membership looks like at Bethel. The last of the 4 classes is an interview time with the elders who then make a recommendation to the church family to receive new members. Please contact Pastor Don, an elder or the church office for more information or just show up on May 2<sup>nd</sup> in the room by the bell.

If you have interest in being baptized, you need to get our **Baptism at Bethel Bible Church** packet. This explains our view of baptism and what the process is at Bethel to be baptized. Please connect with Pastor Don, an elder or Kelly Hines (children) to get a copy and have someone answer your questions about it. As individuals are approved for baptism by the elders, we will schedule a time for baptisms.

Another opportunity for the next several weeks is to grow in our **Bible Reading Skills**. We are planning to use this season through the end of May in our Adult Sunday School to meet as a combined class in the Family Center around tables in smaller groups to learn and practice Bible reading skills. It will be a time of reading, sharing and praying in smaller settings while learning as a larger group. Our desire is to encourage and perhaps rekindle your love for reading your Bible. Come and encourage others while you read with them!

don

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*

*Proverbs 3:5-6*



LifeWise Academy is a released-time religious program that brings the Bible and a character-building curriculum to students during school hours.

YOU can help this program get started today by beginning to pray for the students, potential teachers, and volunteers to lead the program. Lifewise Academy, a 501c3 charitable organization is also taking donations for LifeWise Academy - **West Central**. How to donate? You can send a check to: LifeWise Treasurer, 15558 W 500 S, Francesville, IN 47946 or send an email to [francesvillein@lifewisecademy.com](mailto:francesvillein@lifewisecademy.com) for online giving instructions.

Feel free to contact Keith Schladenhauffen or Jessica Libey for more info!

## N NERY:

(What's missing? U R)

We are so thankful to have the opportunity to minister to our babies, toddlers, and their families at Bethel. We again have a need to offer two ages of nursery during church and a nursery during Sunday School. However, this takes A LOT of volunteers! If you aren't already serving, would you prayerfully consider how you might be able to serve in the nursery? The frequency (once a month/once a quarter/once a year), age (babies/toddlers), time (church/Sunday school) is up to you. Please talk to Kelly if you have any questions or would be willing to serve in this way.

### PRAYER CONCERNS:

- Please remember Cindy VanWienen and her family at the loss of her sister, Sherry Bell. Pray that God will continue to use Cindy mightily in her family! Pray for God's peace to surround them.
- MaryAnn Fritz: MaryAnn is recovering well from her hip surgery last week. Continue to pray for a complete healing and for patience in the healing process.
- Joie Grenner: Joie will be coming home from the hospital today. She will have another bone marrow biopsy on April 27. The doctors continue to be cautiously optimistic and are in the early stages of planning for her bone marrow transplant. Pray for the donor to stay healthy for this process!
- Alyssa Kreitl: Alyssa (daughter of Jeff & Susan Braun) has been diagnosed with a very rare form of slow-moving cancer. She is also pregnant. Pray for a healthy & joy-filled pregnancy and that the doctors will have wisdom in her treatment plans.
- Brad Garling: Continue in prayer for Brad as he continues with his treatments.
- Randy Hutton: Randy had a tumor removed from around his eye. He will be seeing an oncologist to determine the next steps. Thanks for praying for wisdom & discernment.
- Evan Hass: Evan is a close family friend of Matt & Tarrah Ledford. He is currently battling a severe case of Covid, on a ventilator and in an induced coma. Pray for the family, as they are not able to visit due to guidelines. Pray that Matt & Tarrah would be a blessing of Christ during this time.
- Connie Davis: Remember Connie as she is doing her chemotherapy. Pray for God's strength for her body.



Thanks for the prayers for our Women's Conference! We had some amazing teaching brought to us! It was a great time of fellowship & refreshment! We had a couple of technical glitches along the way, but God worked through all of that for us! If you were unable to attend and would still like to enjoy the teaching, please contact the church office so that we can set you up with a digital pass for all the teaching that we received.

### HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

- **Today, Wednesday April 21—Simple Supper @ 5:30 pm; Family Night classes @ 6:00 pm**
- **Saturday, April 24—Ladies Bible study @ 9:00 am**
- **Sunday, April 25—Worship service @ 9:15 am; Sunday School Hour @ 10:30 am**