

THE BETHEL CONNECTION

August 18, 2021

Lead Pastor: Don Whipple; whip1030@gmail.com; 765.404.6070
Associate Pastor: Matthew Dodd; mattcdodd@gmail.com ; 419.572.6842
Director of Kid's Ministries: Kelly Hines; bethelbiblekids@gmail.com; 765.210.1206
Ministry Assistant: Melody Perez; bbcwinamac@gmail.com; 574.225.0288
Bethel Bible Church 6966 West SR 14 Winamac, IN 46996

A Note From Kelly:

At Bethel, we have an amazing commitment to children's ministry. From birth, our kids and families are cared for by loving brothers and sisters in Christ. Not only are kids taught the Bible, but they're shown Christ's love in how volunteers care for them week in and week out. Did you know that on an average week at Bethel with Junior Church, Nursery, Sunday School, Mom2Mom, and Family Night, it takes a minimum of 27 volunteers just in children's ministry?!?! If you think about the size of Bethel in terms of adults (and some youth), it will become obvious that a small percentage of Bethel members are filling a large percentage of those childcare roles. I'm SO thankful for those currently serving, but I'd love to challenge the rest of you to get involved if you aren't. Could you give up a Wednesday morning once a month to serve at mom2mom? Could you commit to teaching the preschoolers on Wednesday night for a few months? Could you help in a Sunday School class? As you prayerfully consider how you can get involved in impacting the next generation for Christ, please reach out to me so I can be praying with you and together we can get all the spots filled that are needed to begin our ministries this fall.

Pray for the entire Leman family with the loss of Mike. Pray for Tina especially, that she would rely on God to give her the strength & endurance needed during this time. We are so thankful that she is home from the hospital! Pray that Tina would continue gaining strength daily.

Thank you for continuing to pray for Alyssa Kreitl. Alyssa is home and baby Magnolia continues to grow, weighing close to 6 pounds! Pray for Alyssa's body to continue gain strength!

Pray that we would train our children to run to God's Word, that we would model His Word in our own lives!

Kindergarten through 5th grade will start a new Sunday School year with a party this Sunday, August 22. Hope to see you there!



Happening this week:

Wednesday, August 18: Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm

Saturday, August 21—Elders Meeting @ 7:00 am

Sunday, August 22: Promotion Sunday for Sunday School, Church picnic at the Hines' home after church

Church Picnic at the Hines' Home

Plan now to join us for a great time of fellowship in a relaxed setting. Please bring a lawn chair, 2 dishes and a 2-liter drink.

Their address is 2444 East, 100 North, Winamac. Please contact the church office for more information.

Pastor Matt was given an interview from our local newsletter crew. Keep reading to find out more about his transition to Pulaski County and how you can encourage and pray for him and his family.



1. How's the transition to a new home, town and job going?

We are so grateful to be here at Bethel and we are slowly settling into the parsonage. We truly feel at home and welcomed by everyone. Thanks for your help in the process: praying, moving, watching kids, gift certificates, etc. The parsonage is spacious and beautiful; it will be a wonderful place for us to live and thrive. Thank you to all of those who spent many hours preparing it for us to move in.

The first week on staff has been a blessing to our family. I have enjoyed working in the office with Pastor Don, Melody, and Kelly. They have been super helpful in orientating me to ministry at Bethel. I look forward to working closely with them in the future. Also, I have had several opportunities to work with different people on our music, A/V and youth ministry teams. There are gifted members here who are passionate about ministering to others; therefore, I count it a privilege to serve alongside of each member of these teams. Of the many things we have experienced in the last week, one of the greatest things I saw was the way our church surrounded the Lemans family after Mike's homegoing. Praise God that He gives us each other as a church family to weep together in times of deep sorrow. Praise God there is a hope in sorrow because of the person and work of Christ! Let us continue to be agents of God's comfort to the Lemans.

2. You're expecting a baby! How's that going?

One big change after another! Yes, we are expecting our baby girl, Charity, to be born around September 8. We praise God for giving Vange a healthy pregnancy up to this point. At this stage of the pregnancy, she is living in discomfort and with ongoing tiredness. A number of church family members have helped by watching Josiah and Talia so she can rest. Thank you, thank you, thank you! We plan to have Charity in Ft. Wayne with the same practice we had Josiah and Talia.

3. Some have been praying for you as you wrapped things up in Louisville - how did that go?

God was so kind to give us closure in some significant relationships we had built during our stay in Louisville. Some of them were our seminary friends and church family there. Southern Seminary's hymn, *Soldiers of Christ in Truth Arrayed*, ends with this verse: "We meet to part, but part to meet, When earthly labors are complete, To join in yet more blest employ, In an eternal world of joy." God gave us sweet times of fellowship as we parted with those He allowed us to meet. We had cook-outs, times of prayer, and special outings to make final memories together. God also gave us opportunities to share the Gospel with some of our neighbors and co-workers in our final days in Louisville. We trust and pray that just as He brought us in their lives to sow seeds of the Gospel in their hearts, He will bring people to water and harvest, knowing that He alone is the one who gives the increase. Thank you for praying for us as we closed that chapter of our lives.

4. What are a few things we can be praying for you about?

Please pray for wisdom for me. I need God's wisdom to discern how to begin ministering here at Bethel. I want to start well and at a good pace. To use the analogy of running – this is a marathon not a 100-meter dash. So please pray that I would run with God's wisdom in God's strength for God's glory. Please pray for Vange in these final days of pregnancy that she would have joy in our great Savior and rest in His strength. Lastly, pray for us in our parenting journey as we adjust to parenting 3 children – that our home would be grounded in grace and aimed at pointing our children to Jesus.

-Pastor Matt