

THE BETHEL CONNECTION

May 5, 2021

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Seeking the Lord Together at Bethel

Have you lost or misplaced anything lately? Depending on what was lost, there was probably some sense of frustration or anxiety as the search was going on. Car keys, an old family photo and a certain tool come to my mind as I review my recent frantic searches. At Bethel, we have not lost or misplaced anything, but we are on a diligent search for the leading and direction of God regarding extending an invitation for Matt Dodd to become our Associate Pastor. It is definitely a search that the entire church family should be involved with in some way. What does God want us to do?

Finding God's direction is what we have been on a search for since we began posting a Bethel job description on job boards a year ago. Now after many months of meetings, interviews, references, and prayerful interaction, we arrive at a congregational vote this Sunday morning that will answer the question, what does God want us to do? The search committee, elders and church council believe that we should extend a call to the Dodd's to serve at Bethel in this way. Now together as a church family we seek the Lord for a clear direction.

Seeking the Lord is used in the Bible often as a way of describing prayer. For example, in Psalm 34:3-4 we are invited to joyful praise because the Lord answered when he was sought. This portrays seeking the Lord as a well-worn path that has been beaten down many, many times while praying for God to help you.

*Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together!
I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.*

Jesus uses the concept of seeking to describe prayer that is determined to find something. That something includes all the good things that God has promised us . . . such as directing our paths and wisdom to make good decisions.

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? 11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! Matthew 7:7-8

Beat a path to our heavenly Father. Earnestly looking for God's help until it is found. That is what we are doing. Please set aside some time this week or connect with a friend or two from Bethel to seek the Lord about our decision this Sunday.

Remember, this Sunday, Matt Dodd will preach in the morning service. After the worship service there will be a time of refreshments and fellowship in the Family Center followed by our congregational meeting at 11 in the Sanctuary. Children will attend their usual classes for Sunday School. We are looking forward to a great time together as we honor our Mothers, enjoy the ministry of the word, and seek the Lord together about this important decision of calling a pastor.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

- **Neil Owens:** Neil went in for emergency surgery this morning, Wednesday, to remove a kidney stone. He is also scheduled for surgery on May 19 to repair an aneurism. Pray for steady hands for the doctors and for complete healing from the first surgery so that he is able to keep the next surgery as scheduled.
- Continue to remember those who have lost loved ones in recent days: Dorothy Hagen at the loss of her son John, Jan Good with the loss of her father Wes, Cindy VanWienen at the loss of her sister Sherry.
- **MaryAnn Fritz and Kathy Leman:** Both are recovering from hip surgeries. Pray for patience in the healing process.
- **Joie Grenner:** 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 Kreitz:** 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. Pray that God would guard her mind and grant her peace during this waiting season.
- **Brad Garling:** Continue in prayer for Brad as he continues with his treatments.
- **Randy Hutton:** Randy had a tumor removed from around his eye. Pray for him as he continues treatments.
- Pray that God would unite our hearts concerning the vote this weekend for Associate Pastor, for wise & discerning hearts. Pray for Matt & Vange as they travel from Louisville and for God to give them a sweet peace about the upcoming vote.

YOU'RE INVITED!

There is a National Day of Prayer event taking place at the Francesville Town Park on Thursday, May 6 from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Congrats to Ben & Veronica (Leman) Thompson on the birth of baby boy Ezra Brooks! Ezra was born on April 20, 2021 weighing in at 9 pounds and 21 ½ inches long! If you would like to send a card, here is the address:

Ben & Veronica Thompson
17816 Adams Circle
Omaha, NE 68135-3024



Update from Justin & Sarah Hutt;

Here is an excerpt from their latest newsletter:

It is hard to believe that it was two weeks ago that we learned that the president in Chad was killed. Since then a lot of has happened. Uncertainty has covered the country and its citizens. New government is scrambling to get set up. Rebels continue their threats. Deadly protests erupted throughout the city asking for the government to establish a different system. Chad is in a season of change.

Pray for Chad to find stability and unity. Pray for the church and believers in Chad to be a vehicle for good change. Pray for the doors for the gospel to remain open and vibrant for the season ahead.

Due to the heaviness of what happened in Chad and the uncertainty of what will happen, we decided to take two to three week holiday outside of Chad to rest and assess the situation. As a family, it has been a good to rest and reset. As a team, we've enjoyed some time together in a place that has cool breezes, baklava and less stress. We are reminded of precious presence of the Lord, "How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings." (Psalm 36:7)

Thank you for continuing to pray for Justin & Sarah during this turbulent season of change. If you would like to receive their regular updates, please contact the church office for more information.

Don't forget to sign-up to help with VBS this year! Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board.

July 12-16



HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

- **Today, Wednesday May 5—Simple Supper @ 5:30 pm; Family Night classes @ 6:00 pm**
- **Saturday, May 8—Ladies Bible study @ 9:00 am**
- **Sunday, May 9—Worship service @ 9:15 am; BBC members will meet for Q&A then take a vote concerning the Associate Pastor position**