

BETHEL BIBLE CHURCH**6966 West SR 14****Winamac, IN 46996**

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THE BETHEL CONNECTION

September 2, 2020**Parking Lot Paving Project**

For the past few months, the Deacons and Elders have been discussing and gathering quotes for paving the north parking lot on the church property. The Church Council at our August 12th meeting agreed to recommend to and seek approval from the congregation to proceed with paving and striping the parking lot. Here is the proposal along with a few more FAQ's.

What is the Council's proposal?

The Council recommends that a paving company be contracted to black top the north parking lot for no more than \$115,000. The funds for this project will come from current undesignated reserves. This includes grading, compacting, a base layer of binder asphalt, a surface layer of asphalt and striping for parking spaces. The Deacons have narrowed the selection of contractors to two and will make that decision based on when the work can be done and cost.

When will the church vote on the proposal?

Sunday, September 6th at 1030 AM there will be a brief business meeting in the sanctuary to answer any final questions and have a vote on the proposal. Absentee ballots can be obtained from the church office and will be distributed to those members in the parking lot who are not comfortable coming into the meeting.

How much does Bethel have in reserves?

In rounded numbers, as of August 6th, the balance sheet showed \$243,000 in total cash assets. The Finance Committee reports that about \$50,000 is designated toward equipment replacement, Helping Hands and various other smaller designated funds. The Committee also recommends having an emergency cushion of \$57,000 which is equal to about 2 months of our budget. That leaves an undesignated amount of \$136,000 in our reserve account from which this project would be funded. Designated donations are encouraged from our church family toward this project which would reduce the impact on our current reserves.

Will this impact other initiatives such as hiring an Associate Pastor?

No, adding an associate pastor, missions and other ministry plans are supported by the general fund budget which is dependent on the regular and generous giving of our church family.

Why did this project seem to come up so quickly?

While the Deacons and Elders have been discussing this and gathering quotes for several months, it does seem like 3 weeks is a short time to decide at the congregational level. Two factors that impact the timing are 1) the limited availability of the asphalt plant just down the road from Bethel and 2) trying to get the project done before the weather changes in the next few months. One of the lower bids is dependent on getting the asphalt from the facility set up near the church. That facility will not be available much longer. Another bid has stated that it may be next spring if we wait too long to decide.

Please be in prayer about this as we meet Sunday morning to affirm God's direction. Contact any of the Council members or the church office if you have questions.

Attention Ladies!!

Are you looking for a way to get connected with other ladies of BBC? We have a closed Facebook group set up, that will allow us to share what God is laying on our hearts, prayer requests, praises or just to encourage each other! We will also be using this to share different bible study opportunities coming up. You will need to be added to this group, it is not something that you can search for. If you are interested, please contact Jessica Libey (219.954.0064), Amy Miller (219.954.0152), Kelly Hines (765.210.1206) or Melody Perez (574.225.0288).

HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

- **Zoom Prayer meeting, Wednesday, September 2 @ 7:00 pm**
- **Sunday, September 6, service at 9:15 am, Junior Church & Nursery will be available**
- **Sunday, September 6, service at 11:15 am; Nursery will be available**
- **Drive-in option will be available at BOTH services**

No sign-ups are necessary as we will be offering the Drive-in option at both services. **By removing the blocked off rows of seating, we were able to increase the seating capacity in the sanctuary by another 20 chairs, while still keeping the rows 6 feet apart.** If seating is not available, you can participate in your vehicle by radio. We are still asking that you wear your mask into the service and mask when you are leaving the service, when social distancing is not attainable.

This Sunday at Bethel

We plan to celebrate the Lord's Supper at both the 9:15 and 11:15 services. Come with prepared hearts to renew and refresh our communion with Christ and each other.

A business meeting for members is scheduled for 10:30 AM to discuss and vote on the parking lot project. Plan to stay after or come early for this. The meeting will be broadcast to the parking lot.

Pastor Don plans to begin a preaching series through the book of Ruth entitled 'Seeing God's Hand.' In these difficult days, we need to be instructed and reminded that God is actively at work to accomplish His, at many times unseen, purposes and plans. What is God up to in your life and in our community these days? For this Sunday, read the 4 chapters of Ruth and ask God to enlarge your awareness and appreciation of His hand at work in your life.

Our Fall Family Night sessions will begin
September 23!

We will gather for classes on Wednesday
evenings from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.

We will share more details in the newsletter
next week.



We will be having a bridal shower for
Nicole (Krohn) Sears, Sunday,
September 13 at 2 PM. Nicole is
registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond.

Come celebrate with us!



What about the offering?

We encourage you to continue giving generously to the Lord's work here at Bethel. Here are some different options available :

- Mail
- Bank bill pay
- Online giving through the website
- Offering box is available at the back of the sanctuary.

Office Hours:

We will be in the office Monday ~ Wednesday from 10am-3pm,
while still working hours from home.