

# 2016 A YEAR OF ADVENTURES

*Saint Croix*



BETHEL

CONNECT. GROW. SERVE.

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# BETHEL

CONNECT. GROW. SERVE.

2016 Annual Highlights  
[bethelhudson.org](http://bethelhudson.org)



# **2016 ANNUAL CELEBRATION**

## **AGENDA 1/29/16**

Gathering Music - New Song Band  
Call to Order - Krista Ottino  
Devotional - Pastor John Lestock  
Appointment of Parliamentarian - Karin Holt Bertilsson  
Appointment of Head Teller - Rob Brown  
Approval of 2015 Meeting Minutes - Marie Heikkila

### State of the Church

- 2016 Congregational President - Krista Ottino
- Senior Pastor - John Lestock
- Introduction of New Long Range Planning Team
- Introduction of New Call Committee
- Election of Council Members - Dan Theobald
- Election on New Bylaws
- Bethel Endowment Fund Update - Marla Wiste
- Bethel Highlands Preschool Report - Kari Jo Fore
- Benevolence Update - Lowell Enerson

### New Business

- Proposed Budget for 2017 - Ralph Van Keulen
- Capital Fund Update - Kelle Anderson
- Audit Committee - Pat Powers
- Recognition of Service - Erin Mason
- Questions?
- Other?

Hymn - Skip James  
Adjournment/Closing Prayer



# 2015 ANNUAL CELEBRATION MEETING MINUTES 1/31/2016

Music - New Song Band

Call to Order - Brian Johnson

Devotional - Pastor Alicia Hilding

Appointment of Parliamentarian - Chris Anderson

Appointment of Head Teller - Peter Harrison

## State of the Church

- 2015 Congregational President - Brian Johnson
- Senior Pastor - John Lestock
- Election of Council Members
  1. The following Council members were elected to serve 3-year terms: Pam Oman, Lowell Enerson, Deb Green, and Tim Beyer
  2. Krista Ottino will serve as our Congregational President, Erin Mason as Vice- President, Dennis Duerst will continue as Treasurer, Mike Bartels as Financial Officer ,and Marie Heikkila as Secretary.
- Bethel Endowment Fund Reports - Tim Deis
- Bethel Highlands Preschool Report - Kari Jo Fore

## Mission Reports:

- Pine Ridge Mission Report - Kim Kapaun, Kelsey McNamee
- Haiti Mission Report - Kathy Enerson

## Old Business : None

## New Business

- Fellowship Hall Update - Betty Hansen
- Benevolence Update - Ralph Van Keulen
- Proposed Budget for 2016 - Dennis Duerst
- Capital Fund Update - Bob Wall
- Video clip
- Youth Protection Policy - Dave Grambow
- Helping Hand Ministry - Kim Evers
- Audit Committee - Pat Powers
- Recognition of Service - Krista Ottino: Outgoing Council members were: Brian Johnson, Faye Luedke, Davin Miller, and Sonja Maki

## Hymn - Skip James

## Adjournment/Closing Prayer - Krista Ottino



# CONNECT

## PASTOR JOHN

## WORSHIP & MUSIC

## COMMUNICATIONS

## CLUBS

Young at Hearts  
Bethel Book Club  
Women of Bethel Clubs

## PASTORAL ACTS & MEMBERSHIP STATS

## BISHOP'S LETTER

## 2016 COMMUNICATIONS

In 2016, Bethel began the rebranding process which included: logo design, mission statement definition, website design and organization, print and electronic materials, marketing materials, brand standards, a communication plan as well as electronic communication classes.

The rebrand not only updates Bethel's print and electronic presence, but provides intentionally mission-focused, and organized platforms and communications.

In 2017, this process will continue with completing marketing materials and signage.

## ABOVE: YOUNG AT HEARTS

Bethel's senior club, Young at Hearts, toured the US Bank Stadium in 2016. This club attends tours, and activities that encourage connecting with Bethel friends.

"THE MENTAL  
HEALTH SERIES  
SHOWED ME  
HOW GOD BRINGS  
SO MANY PEOPLE  
TOGETHER."  
-ANNA JOHNSON



## SENIOR PASTOR REPORT

2016 has been a year of transition. It always throws a congregation off balance when a pastor leaves, and this year we lost two gifted and well-loved pastors! We were so sorry to see Pastors Ben and Alicia Hilding go to Alexandria, MN...yet we're happy for their new beginnings and new roles there.

Yet we were blessed to find Pastor Kris Kurzejeski as our Bridge Pastor and Pastor Kris has fit right in and served us so well here these past seven months. We were also privileged to welcome our new Pastor of Youth and Families, Ladd Sonnenberg (and family Sarah, and boys Ethan and Adam.) I want to thank our call committee that led Pastor Ladd here, but I also thank you, our congregation for your trust, calmness and faithfulness through this transition. We saw firsthand, God does provide and is the giver of great things for Bethel. This was also a year we added a second Wednesday Evening Lenten Service up at the Highlands Campus and saw great growth in worship attendance at those services.

It was a year to change leadership of our handbell choir. We said goodbye to Lonna Possehl after more than twenty years of service, yet welcomed Sonja McGill as our new director. We created a new part-time position of Director of Children's Ministries due to the

growing number of children in our Sunday school and Vacation Bible School.

We were able to launch a new and improved web-site for Bethel (Thanks especially to Missy Austreng and Erin Mason!) Put some branding standards in place, and added a much needed new phone system at both campuses. We were also able to make some more cosmetic improvements to both campuses to keep our buildings functional and looking fresh.

Transitions in pastoral leadership take work and focus (and a lot of time and effort). But I would venture to say, very little of our mission and ministry suffered this year because so many of you stepped in and helped shoulder the work. Pastor Ladd and Kris have been great additions to our staff and our congregation and we look forward to what the future holds.

As we look ahead we have another call committee assembled to fill our Associate Pastor position (which will focus on Bible study, small groups, prayer ministry and adult education). We will also be launching a long-range planning committee for Bethel, helping us scheme, dream and pray for our facilities, our staffing, and our benevolence in the future.

Finally, we need to continue to pay off our mortgage from our capital accounts and campaign. We have just a little over \$1,000,000 to retire in debt, and then look ahead to the additional space we need for this growing and thriving ministry. God has been so good to us and we trust that goodness and those blessings will continue on into the months and years to come. I want to thank our talented and committed staff for all their great teamwork...and, I want to commend our hard working and faithful church council and committees here at Bethel for making this the kind of congregation people want to be a part of. Please continue to keep your commitment to our mission and ministry high, and pray that God will continue to touch lives, near and far, through this church that continues to show its love and service for Jesus Christ.

Your Brother in Faith,  
Pastor John Lestock



## CONNECTING OPPORTUNITIES

### THROUGH WORSHIP

The Music and Worship committee meets before and after special services to discuss feedback and assist with specific tasks when needed. The team members are: Laurie Palm, Pastor John, Ginger Spinks, Dick Trende, Skip James, Geri Keller, Katie Tackmann, Jim and Susie Caldwell, Jean Gronseth.

### THROUGH CLUBS

In 2016, a number of clubs met as a way to connect with other friends of Bethel. The Women of Bethel met monthly for quilting, hardanger, embroidery. The Bethel Book Club met monthly during the academic year. Bethel's seniors participated in tours and activities throughout the year, including the Luther exhibit, a play at the Guthrie, a St. Croix River boat ride and a tour of US Bank Stadium.

### THROUGH ADULT EDUCATION

The Adult Education Team (Scott Gunderson, Marie Heikkila, Pastor Kris Kurzejski, Kris Larson, Nan Lopatka, Sonja Maki, Steve Heilmann, Char Trende) hosted the following opportunities in 2016:

- Skip James on Music
- The Parables with Dr. Skinner
- Carter Center Talk
- Aaron Doering, Educator and Adventurer
- Mental Health in the St. Croix Valley (thanks to the Mental Health Sub-Committee: Cally Fuchs, Gene Goss, Anna Johnson, Kris Larson, Chuck Stene, Char Trende)

### THROUGH FOOD FEST

Under the leadership of Lori Jacobson, Jackie Hughdal, Betty Hansen, and Cid Phillips, this annual event raised \$20,389.79. After expenses (\$4,434.24), grants were awarded totally \$15,955.55.

# 2016 CONGREGATION STATISTICS

TOTAL 2016  
WORSHIP  
ATTENDANCE

**35,991**

SUNDAYS  
(152 services including Easter)

**26,327**

SATURDAYS  
(50 services)

**3,152**

WOW  
(7 services)

**239**

SPECIAL\*  
(27 services)

**6,273**

WORSHIP  
STATS

\* Special services include Lent, Holy Week, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's

BAPTISMS

**42**

CONFIRMATION

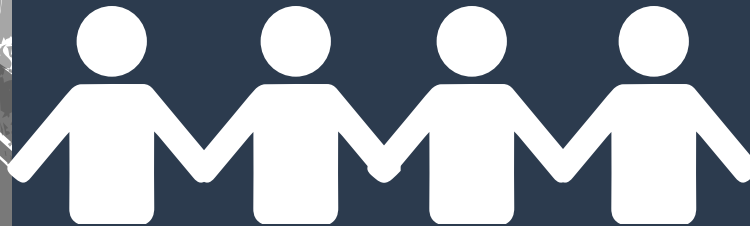
**57**

MARRIAGES

**7**

YEAR END MEMBERSHIP 12/31/16

**2,336**



NEW DISCIPLES

**80**

FUNERALS

**12**

PASTORAL ACTS &  
MEMBERSHIP STATS



## A LETTER FROM BISHOP RICK HOYME

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

"The world in front of you is nothing like the world behind you."

This is a quote from a book I am currently reading titled: "Canoeing the Mountains" by Tod Bolsinger.

It is a book directed to pastors and church leaders to help them navigate the changes that are necessary to take the church to places it has never been before. I chose this quote for this annual report because, this will be my third year using a nautical theme to help us all to look forward to a new year and plan the best we can to take on what the future may bring.

The title of the book comes from the journey of Lewis and Clark as they led their team into uncharted territory on what was called the Corps of Discovery Expedition. When they arrived at the Great Falls of Montana they realized that their expectation of canoeing the Northwest Passage all the way to the Pacific Ocean was not a reality. All that lay before their eyes was mountains, "the most terrible mountain we have ever beheld." To go forward, they must learn a new way. They must learn to canoe the mountains.

This is where we stand as a church; this is where our churches stand in our communities and country sides. We know what got us here, but we don't know how to move forward. "The world that is front of you is nothing like the world behind you."

But move forward Lewis and Clark and their team did...and they continue to inspire leaders over 200 years later!

And so can we move forward. And, so must we! 2017, and the years following will be years requiring leadership, risk, unknown, danger and more failure than success. They will be years when the Spirit will be needed more than any time in my lifetime. But they will be years of adventure and wonder. I believe that with all of my heart and soul.

I encourage all of our Pastors, Deacons and Synodically Authorized Ministers to challenge the lay leadership of their ministries to come together and learn...learn how to canoe the mountains: read books on leadership; scour the great leaders of scripture; take time for prayer and visioning. And stop relying totally on what got you here to take you where God wants you to go. You will stumble. You will get lost. You will be afraid. You will question. But you will keep moving.

Sometimes, that is all you can do, until the skills you need become more sure and the questions you ask begin to find answers.

And trust. Trust in God who brought the children of Israel to the land God had promised.

One of my favorite songs was written by Don Moen. It is titled "God Will Make a Way" and I type every one of these words from memory: "God will make a way, when there seems to be no way. He works in ways we cannot see, he will make a way for me. He will be my guide. Hold me closely to his side. With love and strength for each new day, he will make a way, he will make a way."

It is a song that sings to my soul when I stand at those places where the world in front of me is nothing like the world behind me. It is a song that sings when I must learn how to canoe the mountains.

It is a song for all of you as well. God WILL make a way. Now start paddling!

Bishop Rick Hoyme



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.



# GROW

## **PASTOR KRIS**

### **BIBLE STUDIES**

Men's Bible Studies  
Women of Bethel Studies  
ABC

### **PERSONAL GROWTH**

Journey Women's Retreat

## **WOMEN OF BETHEL BIBLE STUDIES**

In 2016, the Women of Bethel used the WELCA studies from the magazine *Gather* titled "When God's Not Fair" and "Waiting." There are four different gathering times each month that women can choose to attend.

## **2017 GROW OPPORTUNITIES**

Via de Cristo will take place at Bethel in 2017. Adult Confirmation is also offered in winter of 2017.

### **ABOVE**

Martin Luther made a guest appearance during worship in 2016. His message gave the congregation an opportunity to grow their knowledge of Luther and the Reformation.



## PASTOR KRIS 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

**BUT SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM AND HIS  
RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND ALL THESE THINGS WILL BE  
GIVEN TO YOU AS WELL. (MATTHEW 6:33)**

2016 Highlights from  
May-December from Pastor Kris  
Kurzejeski, Bethel's Bridge Pastor:

**Pastor Led Bible Study:** Led a  
6-month Bible study on the book of  
Matthew on Wednesday mornings  
with good attendance and  
participation.

**Monthly Leadership Training:**  
Continued for the Women of Bethel  
Bible Study Gatherings.

**Confirmation For Adults:** Bethel's  
2nd Adult confirmation class starts  
in January 2017 for 6 weeks.

Leading worship and conducting  
weddings and funerals have also  
been part of my responsibilities at  
Bethel.

Since being hired part-time as a  
Bridge Pastor at Bethel, I have  
also been involved with the Adult  
Education Committee and their  
planning and will participate in  
the 3rd Annual Women's Journey  
Retreat in 2017.

It has been my pleasure to step  
into this role at Bethel and to  
become engaged in the life of the  
Bethel community.



## JOURNEY'S CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT

**GROW IN GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. TO HIM BE THE GLORY BOTH NOW AND FOREVER! (2 PETER 3:18)**

The 2016 Journey team (Missy Austreng, Jennie Boeder, Shannon Donna, Pastor Alicial Hilding, Linda James, Amy Kell, Janet Lestock, Erin Mason, Molly Powers) planned and presented the 4th Annual Christian Women's Retreat in May. 96 participants came to grow in grace and knowledge, this year's theme.

Special musical guests were Amy Courts, Heather Moen and Torie Redpath. Dr. Karoline Lewis was the keynote speaker.

### **PEACEFUL, RELAXING, FULFILLING**

With each participant completing a feedback form, experiences were described as perfect, wonderful, renewing, empowering, inspiring.

The 2017 Women's Retreat will take place March 31-April 2 at Heartwood Retreat Center. With additional team members, this anticipated experience is being prepared for 100 women.

**"AMAZING! I LOOK FORWARD TO THIS RETREAT EACH YEAR!" -RETREAT PARTICIPANT**



# SERVE

## **ABOVE**

Food Fest workers

### **CHURCH**

Helping Hands  
Congregational Life  
Worship Assistant Volunteers  
Property & Columbarium  
Decorations

### **LOCAL**

HOME Meal  
Dorothy Day  
Grace Place  
Operation Help  
Salvation Army Giving Tree  
Red Cross Blood Drive  
Hudson Food Shelf  
Hudson Backpack Program  
Habitat for Humanity

### **GLOBAL**

Pine Ridge Indian Reservation  
Tanzania  
Haiti  
Feed My Starving Children  
Operation Christmas Child  
Lutheran World Relief Quilts  
Health Kits  
Equal Exchange Fair Trade Coffee  
School Supply Collections

### **CHURCH SERVING: HELPING HANDS MINISTRY**

In 2016, a variety of services for Bethel congregation members were completed by a number of Helping Hands volunteers. Some tasks completed were: moving patio furniture, transportation to church and appointments, senior check-ins, and moving equipment. Are you someone who could use an extra hand? Contact Kim Evers through [bethelhudson.org](http://bethelhudson.org) with your need in 2017.



# BETHEL PROPERTIES

## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Many small projects, such as painting, were completed at both campuses in 2016. The primary accomplishments for 2016.

### Downtown Campus:

- Kitchen painting and plaster repair including wallpaper stripping
- Drain and gutter work
- Engedi room handrails on the three stairwells, step covering repair on south stairway
- Renovated several offices and classrooms including adding permanent dividing walls, new ceilings, and painting
- Recarpeted upstairs north wing hallway, repaired walls, and painted
- Replaced the gas stove in the kitchen with an electric stove
- Replaced phone system
- Continued to upgrade the lighting systems replacing old lights with new energy efficient LED and fluorescent lights.

### Highlands Campus:

- Installed mixing valve system on the hot water supply and changed piping
- Repaired with trim boards the cracked wallboard in the corners of the Children's Theater. Future work to do similar repair in the main sanctuary
- Improved cooling in the dishwashing room
- Added a variable speed drive to the well pump
- Continued to upgrade the lighting systems. Substantial energy reduction is being seen in the Highlands facility
- Continued to have fall and spring cleanup as well as continued maintenance of the acreage at Highlands

Members of the committee include: Lowell Enerson, Sonja Maki, Pat Nolan, Roger Pavlis (Chair), Ralph Van Keulen, Dick Trende, Roger Ware, Dale Willi (until his passing), and Pastor John. Paul Spott plays a key role with this team.

## COLUMBARIUM

Bethel's Columbarium Committee's main task is to arrange flower boxes in the Memorial Garden and see to the care of them throughout the summer. Winter containers are also placed on either end of the Columbarium in the winter months.

Meetings with prospective niche purchasers is done with Pastor John or Ralph. If an inurnment occurs, Ralph handles the engraving for the face plate and arranges the opening and closing of the niche.

Pastor John, Ralph VanKeulen, Dick Trende, Sarah Olson, Ron Langness and Nancy Langness will slo see that the benches in the garden are restained in 2017.



## GLOBAL SERVING

### PINE RIDGE INDIAN RESERVATION

In October of 2016, John Lestock, Janet Lestock, Jim Orf, John Olson, Missy Lien, Sammi Lien, Jane Betz, Dianna Cohen, Brian Elliot, Cindy Nelson, and Renée Nelson traveled to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. This group met with various Lakota living on the reservation to learn about their history, culture, and religion firsthand and what is being done to preserve it. The group heard the problems they face on the reservation, how they affect the people living there, and what is being done to overcome the issues.

Thanks to the generosity of Bethel friends, the group played with children at Kid's Club and delivered quilts as well as school supplies to Wolf Creek School. Small service projects were worked on: Installed plastic over windows in the Fragel Rock neighborhood and organized kitchen cupboards in the OST Partnership for Housing offices.

### FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Bethel schedules groups to pack meals at Feed My Starving Children. In 2016, there were 5 Saturday sessions and 3 Wednesday evening youth sessions attended. There were also 7 other trips to FMSC made by a small numbers of volunteers outside of these scheduled times. The 2017 schedule is to serve once in the even numbered months. See scheduled dates at [bethelhudson.org](http://bethelhudson.org).

"I believe this trip has been a starting point for fueling my daughters' desires to support all of God's people."



## LOCAL SERVING

### HOME MEAL

Approximately 1500 meals were served through the HOME Meal in 2016. This ministry began in 2006 and has now served 24,000 meals.

Two meals per month are served at the Downtown Campus on the first and third Thursdays of the month. There are currently 6 churches involved from the Hudson area. (Trinity Lutheran, St Pat's Catholic, St. Pauls' Episcopal, Redeemer Lutheran, United Methodist, and Bethel).

From Bethel there are 12 -18 people that help out when it is Bethel's turn to host the meal. Chuck Lewis cooks almost all of the meals along with help from two faithful helpers from United Methodist. This ministry is starting its 12th year.

### SALVATION ARMY GIVING TREE

In 2016, Melissa Drew headed up the Salvation Army Giving Tree ministry. 147 tags for 12 kids, (2 different families) were supplied November 18-December 16.

Socks, underwear, books, shirts, bike helmet, volleyball, baseball glove, movies, gift cards to Family Fresh, Subway, Target, Walmart, Culvers were some of the gifts provided by Bethel participants.

For the 2017 year a third or fourth family will possibly be added.

"I couldn't believe the outpouring of love and giving of our congregation."



### **YOUTH MINISTRY**

Senior League (Grades 9-12)  
Confirmation (Grades 8 & 9)  
6th & 7th Grade Wednesday Night School  
Sunday School (3 year olds - 5th grade)  
Faith Milestones  
Vacation Bible School  
Summer Camp  
Vespers  
Nursery Care

### **BETHEL HIGHLANDS PRESCHOOL**

### **YOUTH MINISTRY STAFF**

Pastor Ladd Sonnenberg  
Jean Elliott, Director of High School Ministry  
Cindy Halunen, Director of Middle School Ministry  
Wendy Theobald, Director of Children's Ministry  
Missy Austreng, Faith Milestones Coordinator  
Marcie Andrews, Youth Ministry Communications Coordinator



# PASTOR LADD 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

The year 2016 was one of change in Youth and Family Ministries at Bethel. This summer, there were several staff changes including a shift in two positions: Jean Elliot's role was defined as Director of High School Ministry and Cindy Halunen's role became Director of Middle School Ministry. Also, Wendy Theobald became the new Director of Children's Ministry in June.

Pastor Ben Hilding took a call to Calvary Lutheran Church in Alexandria, MN as Faith for Life Pastor. We can't thank Pastor Ben enough for his service Bethel especially in Youth and Family ministries.

Bethel then called Pastor Ladd as the new Pastor of Youth and Family Ministries in September. Over the past 6 months the team has continued to grow in living out the mission to, Connect, Grow, and Serve.

In January 2017, WendyTheobald resigned from her position of Director of Children's Ministry to focus on her family. We are thankful to Wendy for her hard work developing our Sunday School Ministry.

That same month, to help with the growing need in the nursery, Brittany Handrahan started as the second nursery care provider to partner with Trina Hilke who was hired in 2016.

In 2017 the youth ministry team strives to enhance current programming and find new ways to better live out Bethel's mission. Presently the team is creating four vision teams to serve the four ministry areas of Sunday School, Middle School, High School, and Faith Milestones.

These vision teams will ask the questions: 1) what is our purpose? and 2) how are we making sure we live out these purposes to the best of our ability?

The youth ministry team strives to be faithful to God's calling by helping the youth and their families connect with God, one another, and the world; grow in relationship with God and one another; and serve God by serving one another and the world.

God's words in Joshua 1:9 will guide us: "Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Thank you, friends of Bethel, for your prayers and support through all the changes in 2016. We look forward to God's plans in 2017!

God's Peace and Blessings,  
Pastor Ladd





# YOUTH MINISTRY BY THE NUMBERS - 2016

REGISTERED STUDENTS

**305** SUNDAY SCHOOL  
3 YEAR OLD-5TH GRADE

**275** WEDNESDAY NIGHT  
GRADES 6-12

**264** 2016 VACATION BIBLE  
SCHOOL

VOLUNTEERS

SUNDAY SCHOOL  
3 YEAR OLD-5TH GRADE **63**

WEDNESDAY NIGHT  
GRADES 6-12 **84**

2016 VACATION BIBLE  
SCHOOL **103**



# BETHEL HIGHLANDS PRESCHOOL 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2016, BHP kids participated in the Shoebox Gifts ministry through Samaritan's Purse. We set a goal of 13 boxes (one for each class). But our generous families supplied amazing shoeboxes for over FIFTY kids! The project really allowed us to focus on our social and emotional development goals as we understand ourselves and how we related to the world around us.

With the implementation of the new 4K program, we will have a lot of changes. Continuing our excellent quality programming, and creating a seamless transition will be our priority for 2017. The year has started with our efforts to clearly communicate the details to our families.

The church council and Bethel Highlands Preschool board voted to partner with the Hudson School District in the Community 4K program. BHP will hold two half day 4K classes, and two full day 4K+ classes. We are excited about this new adventure, and continue to have very positive support through our families. As these discussions were long and detailed, we were continuously reminded of the words in our mission statement "...to serve and support families of the greater Hudson community". 4K will give access to quality preschool to ALL children in Hudson, regardless of economic status.

It is always a highlight to know that we are retaining our teachers. The staff consists of Rachael Meier -Cable (9 years), Amy Betchwars (8 years), Emily Bakken (3 years), Alyssa Edholm (2 years), Michelle Kulzer (2 years), Cindy Smith (5 years), Mollie Hagman (2 years), Brenda Veeder (2 years), Kari Jo Fore (10 years). We expect to retain all of our teachers throughout the upcoming school year, providing our own BHP teachers in the Hudson 4K classrooms.

## BHP BY THE NUMBERS



STUDENTS  
ENROLLED:  
**137**



HALF-DAY  
CLASSES:  
**6**



FULL-DAY  
CLASSES:  
**7**



TEACHERS:  
**9**



# GIVE

## **GIVING TO BETHEL**

Endowment  
Benevolence  
Treasurer's Report  
Income Statement  
Balance Sheet  
Yearly Comparison  
Spending By Ministry

## **BETHEL ENDOWMENT IN 2016**

15 grants totaling \$9,925 were awarded from the 2 Bethel Endowment Funds in 2016. Grant monies went to help fund: Global Health Ministries, Our Neighbor's Place, Hudson Area Backpack Program, The SOURCE, Pine Ridge Mission Trip, Willow Creek Leadership Summit, Handbell Choir, Bethel Highlands Preschool, Praying Pelicans Mission, Music Fund, Promotional Video, Community Outreach, Music Fund, NW Synod, and Bethel Christian Women's Retreat.

As of 12/31/16, the fund balances were: Outreach Fund: \$44,094.61 and General Fund: \$192,650.31.

**ABOVE**  
High School Youth during the Cincinnati Urban Immersion trip.

Working with InFaith, a division of Thrivent Financial, the committee has simplified the endowment process by reducing the funds from 3 to 2. Funds are divided into two categories - supporting those in need outside of the Bethel Church and supporting those inside the Bethel Community.

The committee of Pastor John Lestock, Craig Spreiter, Tim Deis, Dan Theobald, Anne Wasmund, Marla Valentino-Wiste are working in 2017 to increase awareness of Endowment opportunities and how you can give including printed materials and electronic presence.

# 2016 BENEVOLENCE

Backpack Program	\$ 1,503
Bethel Highlands Preschool	1,000
Dorothy Day	2,863
ELCA Lutheran World Relief	2,142
ELCA World Hunger	6,222
ELCA/NWSynod	52,000
Feed My Starving Children	2,500
Funds for Leaders	1,048
Global Health Ministry (5 Alive)	1,365
Good Samaritan	4,450
Grace Place	834
Haiti/Praying Pelicans	2,500
HOME	600
Hudson Food Shelf	3,835
Hudson Senior Center	500
In Our Hands Ministry	500
Luther Point Camp	5,500
Lutheran Social Services	1,600
Miscellaneous	625
Mission Assistance	3,646
Operation Help	3,650
Pine Ridge	3,388
Project Newborn	100
Quilting Mission	750
Seminary Scholarship	3,500
Tanzania Cathedral/Partnership	11,125
Tanzania Student Scholarships	26,710
Transport for Christ	2,550
Women of the ELCA	400
World Mission Prayer League	2,000
Youth Assistance Fund Transfers	945

TOTALS BY YEAR	<u>\$ 150,351</u>
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- Benevolence gifts are made from the General, Memorial and Women of Bethel Funds.
- In addition, many Bethel volunteers provide their time, talent and private financial resources to these and other organizations.



# TREASURER'S REPORT

Bethel uses six funds to account for its transactions.

- General Fund - The main operating account for all regular giving and expenses
- Capital Fund - All capital appeal giving goes to this fund. Fund expenses include mortgage debt service, capital appeal fundraising costs, and investments in certain long-life capital items
- Memorial Fund - Tracks giving intended for specific non-budgeted purposes such as memorials or special fundraising for missions
- Preschool Fund - Used exclusively for fees and expenses related to Bethel Highlands Preschool
- Columbarium Fund - Tracks revenue and expenses exclusively related to Bethel's Columbarium and Memorial Gardens located at the Highlands campus
- Women of Bethel Fund - Tracks revenue from the Scandinavian Food Fest, Circle donations, and WOB benevolence payments

The church prepares its financial statements on an accrual basis in order to appropriately match revenue and expenses. Reserve accounts are used to identify funds designated for a specific purpose.

## Long Term Indebtedness

- Bethel's only financial debt is a mortgage provided by Thrivent Financial. This 25 year mortgage began in April 2007. The current interest rate is 3.5% fixed through April of 2021. The loan's maturity date is April 15, 2032.
- April 2017 will mark the end of the three year fulfillment phase of the Making Greater Strides capital appeal. That appeal generated pledges of about \$1,700,000 to be used for debt service and modest capital spending on our facilities. Capital contributions of \$361,100 were received in 2016. Approximately 94.6% of Making Greater Strides pledged dollars have been fulfilled as of December 31, 2016.

- Bethel has been repaying its mortgage much faster than required by the terms of our loan. The required debt service payments during 2016 were \$138,800. However, Bethel made payments totaling \$393,400. As a result, total loan principal dropped by \$349,426 during 2016.
- If authorized by the Church Council, contributions to Bethel's capital appeal may be used to pay for major long-life facility repairs or investments at either of our two campuses. The following capital repairs and investments were made and paid for in 2016: At the Highlands campus: \$1,700 for installation of a variable frequency drive to extend the well pump's expected useful life. At the Downtown campus: a total of \$6,100 for educational wing carpet, a new commercial electric stove, and rain gutter enhancements.
- Looking forward, we do not anticipate making larger than required loan payments during 2017 because the current three year Making Greater Strides capital appeal will end in April 2017. Mortgage payments will be made for up to 18 months using funds remaining from that appeal. A modest capital appeal will eventually be needed to completely eliminate our debt. While no new capital appeal will occur this coming year, members are encouraged to continue making capital contributions to reduce mortgage indebtedness.

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# TREASURER'S REPORT CONTINUED

- Mortgage transactions from 2014 through projected 2017 are summarized as follows:

	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Projected
<b>January 1st Mortgage Balance</b>	\$ 2,349,819	\$ 1,834,408	\$ 1,398,969	\$ 1,049,543
Loan Interest	101,568	84,565	44,006	35,671
Loan Payments Made	616,979	520,004	393,432	108,288
<b>December 31st Mortgage Balance</b>	<b>\$ 1,834,408</b>	<b>\$ 1,398,969</b>	<b>\$ 1,049,543</b>	<b>\$ 976,926</b>
<b>Reduction in Loan Balance by Year</b>	<b>\$ (515,411)</b>	<b>\$ (435,439)</b>	<b>\$ (349,426)</b>	<b>\$ (72,617)</b>

## 2016 Financial Statements

2016 was another positive financial year for Bethel. Donations were slightly above both prior year and budget, and expenses were below forecast. The resulting modest surplus made it possible to add funds to Bethel's emergency/special projects balance sheet reserve which provides a safety cushion in case of an unexpected large expense. The emergency reserve balance is \$90,000 which equals slightly less than one month's operating expenses.

Church Community Builder software is used to track member contributions and QuickBooks software is used for financial reporting purposes. Internal controls, including appropriate segregation of duties, are maintained to provide reasonable assurance against inappropriate activity. Bethel maintains an "open book" policy relating to its finances such that any member is welcome to view financial detail upon request. Please feel free to contact me or members of Bethel's office staff.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dennis Duerst, Treasurer

# 2016 INCOME STATEMENT

	General Fund	Capital Fund	Memorial Fund	Preschool Fund	Columbarium Fund	Women of Bethel Fund	Total All Bethel Funds
<b>Income</b>							
OFFERINGS	1,215,035	360,103	5,566				1,580,704
PROGRAM INCOME	136,026	1,000	2,742		20	1,072	140,860
MEMORIAL FUND INCOME			52,841				52,841
WOMEN OF BETHEL INCOME						25,333	25,333
COLUMBARIUM INCOME					4,700		4,700
PRESCHOOL				427,403			427,403
<b>TOTAL OFFERINGS &amp; FEES</b>	<b>\$ 1,351,061</b>	<b>\$ 361,103</b>	<b>\$ 61,149</b>	<b>\$ 427,403</b>	<b>\$ 4,720</b>	<b>\$ 26,405</b>	<b>\$ 2,231,841</b>
<b>Expense</b>							
MISSION & BENEVOLENCE	89,044		52,125			12,637	153,806
PASTORAL MINISTRY	255,109						255,109
STAFF COMPENSATION	520,570						520,570
WORSHIP & OFFICE SUPPLIES	59,101	13	71				59,185
UTILITIES	47,325						47,325
FACILITY SUPPLIES	78,104	1,687	5,821			339	85,951
INSURANCE & MISC	31,032						31,032
YOUTH MINISTRY	63,251						63,251
ADULT EVENTS	23,073					144	23,217
ADULT EDUCATION	22,714						22,714
PROPERTY	9,461	2,190					11,651
COMMUNICATIONS	3,554						3,554
IT, NETWORK & PHONES	52,208						52,208
MUSIC	7,399						7,399
CONTINUING EDUCATION	8,928						8,928
BUS & VAN	2,533						2,533
CAPITAL REPAIRS		3,900					3,900
DEBT SERVICE		393,432					393,432
MEMORIAL/MISSION EXPENSE			1,775			932	2,707
COLUMBARIUM EXPENSES					468		468
WOB SCANDINAVIAN FF EXPENSE						4,623	4,623
PRESCHOOL SALARIES				326,287			326,287
PRESCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE				30,156			30,156
PRESCHOOL CLASSROOM				15,041			15,041
PRESCHOOL OPERATIONAL				60,188			60,188
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 1,273,406</b>	<b>\$ 401,222</b>	<b>\$ 59,792</b>	<b>\$ 431,672</b>	<b>\$ 468</b>	<b>\$ 18,675</b>	<b>\$ 2,185,235</b>
ORDINARY INCOME	77,655	-40,119	1,357	-4,269	4,252	7,730	46,606
EMERGENCY/PROJECT RESERVE	57,000						57,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 20,655</b>	<b>\$ (40,119)</b>	<b>\$ 1,357</b>	<b>\$ (4,269)</b>	<b>\$ 4,252</b>	<b>\$ 7,730</b>	<b>\$ (10,394)</b>

# 12/31/2016 BALANCE SHEET

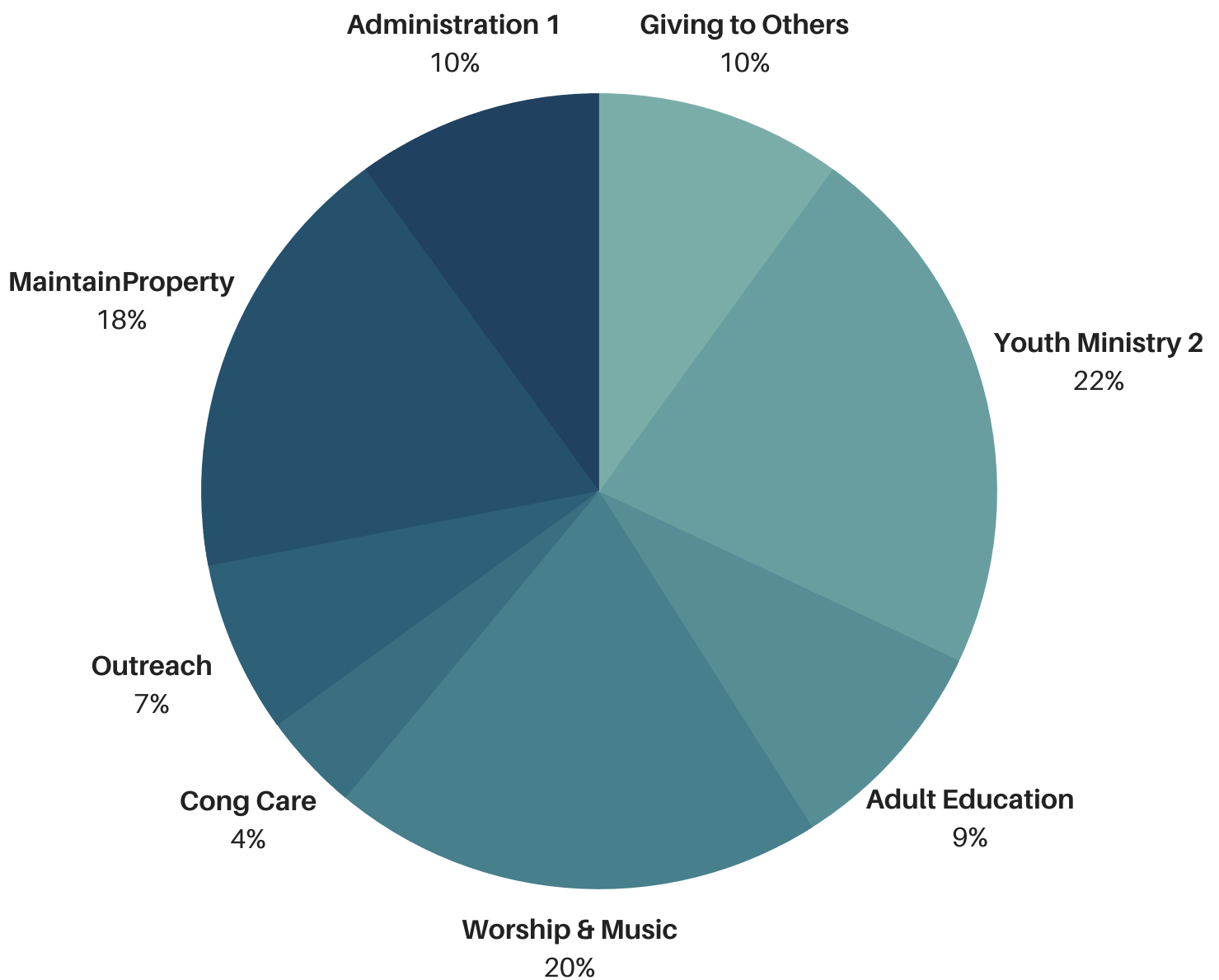
	General Fund	Capital Fund	Memorial Fund	Preschool Fund	Columbarium Fund	WOB Fund	Total All Bethel Funds
<b>ASSETS</b>							
TOTAL ASSETS (100% CHECKING)	<u>\$ 220,213</u>	<u>\$ 137,819</u>	<u>\$ 118,162</u>	<u>\$ 108,159</u>	<u>\$ 15,202</u>	<u>\$ 22,190</u>	<u>\$ 621,745</u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>							
<b>LIABILITIES</b>							
Prepaid Pledge Reserve	25,646	-	-	-	-	-	25,646
Accrued Liabilities	16,950	-	-	-	-	-	16,950
Emergency Reserve	90,000	-	-	-	-	-	90,000
Backpack Program Reserve	699	-	-	-	-	-	699
Guest Speaker Reserve	-	-	2,000	-	-	-	2,000
Journey Women's Retreat Reserve	1,283	-	-	-	-	-	1,283
Continuing Education Reserve	4,542	-	2,200	-	-	-	6,742
Bus & Van Reserve	-	-	16,795	-	-	-	16,795
Youth Assistance Reserve	-	-	10,725	-	-	-	10,725
Pastor Projects MF Reserve	-	-	8,567	-	-	-	8,567
Memorial Reserves (to be designated)	-	-	54,217	-	-	-	54,217
Bells & Chimes Reserve	-	-	1,977	-	-	-	1,977
BHP Scholarship Reserve	-	-	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
Good Samaritan Assistance	8,405	-	-	-	-	-	8,405
Haiti Trip Cost Reserve	-	-	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
LWR Reserve	-	-	1,189	-	-	-	1,189
Pine Ridge Reserve	-	-	2,768	-	-	-	2,768
Seminary Reserve	1,500	-	-	-	-	-	1,500
Tanzania Cathedral Reserve	-	-	4,428	-	-	-	4,428
Tanzania Scholarship Reserve	-	-	11,575	-	-	-	11,575
Total WOB Circle Reserves	-	-	-	-	-	2,682	2,682
Miscellaneous Reserves	2,626	-	477	-	-	-	3,103
Totz Event Reserves	8,930	-	-	-	-	-	8,930
Student Account Reserves	9,438	-	-	-	-	-	9,438
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<u>170,019</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>117,917</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,682</u>	<u>292,618</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>							
Opening Balance Equity	29,537	177,938	(1,112)	110,427	10,950	11,779	339,520
Net Income	20,657	(40,119)	1,357	(4,269)	4,252	7,730	(10,392)
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<u>50,194</u>	<u>137,819</u>	<u>245</u>	<u>106,159</u>	<u>15,202</u>	<u>19,509</u>	<u>329,128</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u>220,213</u>	<u>137,819</u>	<u>118,163</u>	<u>108,159</u>	<u>15,202</u>	<u>22,190</u>	<u>621,745</u>

## YEARLY COMPARISON GENERAL FUND

	2015 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	2016 ACTUAL	% CHANGE 2016 vs 2015	2017 BUDGET	% CHANGE 2017 vs 2016
<b>INCOME</b>						
Weekly Offerings	\$ 1,103,865	\$ 1,126,771	\$ 1,133,752	2.7%	\$ 1,167,960	3.0%
Seasonal Offerings	65,730	66,673	81,283	23.7%	83,315	2.5%
Program Income	160,117	122,968	136,026	-15.0%	136,244	0.2%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 1,329,712</b>	<b>\$ 1,316,412</b>	<b>\$ 1,351,061</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>\$ 1,387,518</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>						
Missions/Benevolence*	77,935	83,749	89,044	14.3%	91,728	3.0%
Pastoral Ministry	270,457	269,615	255,109	-5.7%	316,005	23.9%
Staff Compensation	474,629	530,718	520,570	9.7%	580,073	11.4%
Worship & Office Supplies	64,298	60,529	59,100	-8.1%	60,255	2.0%
Utilities	51,211	60,800	47,325	-7.6%	55,900	18.1%
Facility Supplies	53,826	51,861	78,104	45.1%	57,605	-26.2%
Insurance & Miscellaneous	32,118	32,810	31,032	-3.4%	29,536	-4.8%
Youth Ministry	99,512	75,407	63,251	-36.4%	85,214	34.7%
Adult Events	24,140	24,792	23,073	-4.4%	24,862	7.8%
Adult Education	20,426	22,100	22,714	11.2%	22,738	0.1%
Property	6,756	8,500	9,461	40.0%	6,804	-28.1%
Communications	3,194	3,820	3,554	11.3%	3,728	4.9%
IT Network, Phones	56,879	48,765	52,208	-8.2%	43,678	-16.3%
Music	7,459	7,420	7,399	-0.8%	7,500	1.4%
Continuing Education	14,081	11,600	8,928	-36.6%	9,150	2.5%
Bus & Van	9,398	6,834	2,532	-73.1%	2,585	2.1%
Emergency/Project Reserve	33,000	-	57,000	72.7%	-	
<b>Total Uses of Funds</b>	<b>\$ 1,299,319</b>	<b>\$ 1,299,320</b>	<b>\$ 1,330,404</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>\$ 1,397,361</b>	<b>5.0%</b>
NET CHANGE IN GENERAL FUND	\$ 30,394	\$ 17,092	\$ 20,657		\$ (9,843)	
GENERAL FUND BEG BALANCE	\$ (857)	\$ 29,537	\$ 29,537		\$ 50,194	
GENERAL FUND END BALANCE	<b>\$ 29,537</b>	<b>\$ 46,629</b>	<b>\$ 50,194</b>	<b>69.9%</b>	<b>\$ 40,351</b>	

\*Includes benevolence gifts paid only through the General Fund. Gifts are also made from the Memorial and Women of Bethel funds.

# 2017 SPENDING BY MINISTRY





## PHOTO STORIES

FRONT COVER: VBS 2016 students and small group leader at Cave Quest; Women connecting at the annual Christian Women's Retreat; Bethel Chorale members preparing to share their gift of music at Palm Sunday worship

BACK COVER: Confirmation Sunday; Lefse Preparation; Wednesday Nigh School fun; Pastor John leading games at VBS



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