



Bethel Lutheran Church 2016 Year in Review



Introduction- Pr. Ben Bergren

2016 was a great year for Bethel! Contained within these pages are the reflections of those who are actively engaged in serving Jesus and living from the words He preached. Yes, I suppose this is technically called an "annual report" but more importantly it is evidence that this church is alive!

In the following pages, you will read about the loving work of the people of Bethel. I hope you are filled with joy as you see all the amazing things accomplished for God and in God's name.

On a personal note, it is a delight and honor to serve as your pastor. As I complete my second year at Bethel and begin my third, I am humbled by your hospitality, your devotion to Christ and each other, your willingness to grow spiritually, your generosity and your ability to respond to any need at a moment's notice.

As we enter another year, let us never forget that God is so good.

God bless you all,
Pr. Ben

Director of Finance and Human Resources- Fara Brock

Fiscal year 2016 was financially a great year for Bethel. I am happy to report that we:

- Successfully refinanced our mortgage at a lower interest rate and renegotiated our copier lease with dramatic savings
- Successfully transitioned the management of the Stelling site to Good Shepherd Christian Community
- Successfully moved our PBX phone service to Comcast with increased internet bandwidth and \$4,500 per year savings
- Sold a donated parcel of land in Siskiyou County for a profit of almost \$22,000
- Ended the fiscal year on August 31st with a net income of \$40,000; with \$85,000 donated to Benevolence and Outreach and with \$201,000 in unrestricted assets
- Ended the calendar year on December 31st with giving 9.4% above budget

I have the honor of working with an amazing group of Bethel volunteers who make a huge difference in smooth operations at Bethel. I am always impressed by their love for Bethel and the knowledge and wisdom they bring to these areas:

- Liz Tribby on managing office computers and member records
- Holly Lofgren on managing capital assets and depreciation schedules
- Brad Martinson on managing school computers and Bethel's internet and telephone infrastructure
- Dave Tribby on general fund budgeting and monthly reporting
- Eric Brown on budgeting and the Council financial dashboard
- Kathy Arnold on leading internal auditing of processes and records

As Bethel's Human Resource manager, I work closely with Bethel's principal, Dawn De Bois-Weber, and Pastor Ben on personnel issues. Bethel has about 50 employees so I am always learning to help keep Bethel compliant with California and Federal labor laws for small businesses. I also work closely with Bethel's benefits broker to offer competitive benefits to our employees. Notable projects in 2016 include:

- Updated Bethel's Employee Handbook for clarifications and the latest labor laws
- Brought 10 new employees on board for the school

- Increased Bethel's dental insurance benefit from \$1,000 to \$1,500 per person
- Enrolled 22 employees in Bethel sponsored medical benefits
- Moved short-term and long-term disability policies to a new carrier saving \$4,000/year

It is a blessing to support Bethel's program staff on HR issues and on funding quality and inclusive programming for Bethel ministries. I look forward to another productive and inspiring year with Bethel's amazing staff and volunteers.

Director of Adult Ministry- Patricia Myerholtz

Greg and I had our first date here at Bethel, we were married here 27 years ago, and just last week our first born daughter was married here, yes we LOVE Bethel. We feel very blessed to call Bethel our church home and family.

Seven years ago on Feb. 14th I was honored to be hired by Bethel to help direct the adult ministries here and what a wonderful journey it has been! But, this past year has been a year I will truly cherish.

Coming into work where everyone looks forward to seeing each other and the staff meetings are filled with laughter, joy, prayer, love of Jesus, and appreciation for one another I know is something I will never take for granted. Gods' presence is felt in everything we do and that is a wonderful feeling. There are over 60+ ministries Bethel supports and it takes not only a few very dedicated staff members to make sure those ministries thrive but also 90+ dedicated volunteers who have the most amazing serving hearts that Bethel is very blessed to have. As you go through these reports and the new ministry guide you will see on paper how God has called so many people to share in making

Bethel a great place to join in worship, fellowship, bible study, sharing the joy of a good book, blessing our pets, monthly speaker dinners, fun outings, celebrating the gift of the arts, serving and caring for others, hunting for eggs, and even eating chili together, yes we are blessed! I have also really enjoyed getting to watch our new members become active partners in our Bethel community and how they have been welcomed by so many, truly amazing to witness.

My job is such a joy because of the people I work with and because of the shared love you ALL have for Bethel and Jesus, and I thank you for that. I look forward to many more exciting adult ministry moments, and maybe someday my chili will make the top 3!

The Many Hats of Tom Hoegel

Hi Friends,

A couple years ago now, I had the honor of celebrating 30 years on staff at Bethel. The theme was "The Many Hats of Tom" and it reminded me of why I love to work here at Bethel. Ever since I was a young Leder Hosen wearing lad, I have felt the love and support of this community called Bethel. What a honor to spend the bulk of my adult life serving here as well. I get lot's of opportunities to see various faith communities in action and I am blessed to be a part of this one. Here are a few recent highlights in some of the hats I wear.

Youth Director

My greatest passion has always been journeying alongside young people as they grapple with what it means to be a child of God, a global citizen, and a true neighbor to those around him. Our motto has long been "Love Like Jesus" and I am pumped each day we get to discover what that means. 2017 is going to be exciting. Along with the dozens of events, mission opportunities, and get togethers, we have two major programs coming: 1.) Our Common Ground Musical, "Begin Forever", with a tour to the Pacific Northwest sharing the encouragement of beginning the life intended with Jesus now! 2.) We will be taking part in the Western States Youth Gathering to be held at California

Lutheran University the end of June. We'll join over 600 other youth from around the west as we learn to "Dream Big!"

Facilities Team Leader

What a great challenge and privilege to serve Bethel in this role. My favorite parts are working with volunteers, including our awesome Men of Monday, to solve some of the physical problems we encounter in our buildings and grounds. A special highlight from the past year was completing the process to get "Green Biz" certified. We are the 1st Church and School to achieve this distinction in Cupertino and I am excited that we are leading the way being green stewards of our earth. Coming the beginning of 2017 is our Sanctuary Refresh project which will include carpeting, work on the planters, as well as some infrastructure issues. We will be all wrapped up by Palm Sunday! Out there on the back burner is completing the Wedgwood Walkway and addressing our Dear Old Torvend Hall. Stay tuned :-)

AV & Transportation

These are two other passions I have and I love getting the chance to work with some of the best volunteers ever. First, please let me know if you have a desire to be part of our Sanctuary AV. We can get you trained and part of the Sunday Morning Team in no time. Second, we have an Out & About event almost every month and this is a great way to invite friends into this awesome community as well as do some pretty cool stuff.

As we enter a year of many national and global transitions, with lots of anxiety, I encourage all of us to actively wage a war of love to the world around us. Our Lutheran theology gives great messages of hope for all as well as a needed kick in the pants for us share God's love to ALL. Bethel = House Of God. Let's use all of our gifts to point that way!



Children's ministry 2016- Amanda Laughlin

2016 was full of fun new and old traditions. In Kid Connection we continued to use the Curriculum "Living Inside Out" for ages 3 years old – 6th grade for winter/ spring 2016. A large group model with games, drama and music and then age appropriate small groups that dove deeper into the lesson. We have twelve volunteer teachers... Amanda Boniface, Lauren Hadding, Patrice Sera, Alice Isaacson, Lynne Stasi, Kristine Liu, Amber Myerholtz, Carol Wheaton, Jamie Laughlin, Brett Deutscher, Greg Steinke, Minnie Sudarsanam and our youth song leaders... winter/ spring 2016 Amelia and Abby Wheaton and fall of 2016 Abby Wheaton. We also have had "All Kid Connection Activities"... which include a "Seder Meal" and a "Pentecost Party", led by Robyn Winegardner. All of these volunteers are what makes our Kid Connection – Sunday school program happen. They give of their time to bless our children with the seeds that help them all to grow in their faith.

A new choir for ages 3 years old to first grade was started in the spring of 2016. This choir is called the "Little Lights" choir. It is directed by Amanda Boniface. Our "Children's Choir", grades 2nd – 6th is directed by Barb Larsen. Both choirs meet during the second service after the Children's Message.

We campaigned for help from the congregation to renovate our Bethel Nursery... thank you! We registered for new toys, books and supplies from Target and Babies R Us and had an amazing Nursery Shower. All decorations were planned and set up by Sue Jacobus and Patricia Myerholtz. All of the gifts were opened by children who have spent time in the nursery and they had a blast! We also asked for monetary donations to help to re-carpet, paint and add new cabinets to the nursery. Bethel members were very generous and also with the help of Men of Monday, the quilters and Tom Hoegel... the nursery was renovated and is a very welcoming place for our younger members and visitors.

Our second annual "Take Out Church", is a fun activity for families and the young at heart to take part in over the summer break. Our theme this year was ... "Be a Jesus loving Llama!" Chinese Food take out boxes were filled with.... Fortune cookies (with bible verse messages of just how we could be Jesus loving llamas), pay it forward challenges, llama post it notes, pens, M& M prayers and llama finger puppets. Everyone was asked to take their finger puppet llamas with them on vacation and take pictures. These pictures were collected and Pastor Ben created a movie of all of the llama's adventures. Pastor Ben and I have a lot of fun coming up with ideas to make this a fun summer project. This project is only one little example of just how supportive and involved he is in providing our children with programs that make our children feel and know that they are important. Stay tuned for this year's "Take Out Church"... we are very excited!

Our Annual Vacation Bible School took place, July 11-15. The theme was "CAVE QUEST" – Following Jesus the Light of the World. We had 75 campers and 40 awesome volunteers who came all week to make this an incredibly memorable experience. For our service project, we collected money which went to "Sunnyvale Community Services" to help those who were displaced from their homes in Sunnyvale when their apartment complex caught on fire. Our VBS kids were neighbors helping neighbors... how cool is that?! Thank you to all of our amazing volunteers who helped prior and during this fantastic and joyous week!

We led an Advent Project in coloring! All ages were encouraged to color large posters that shared the story of Jesus' birth. These posters were available to color on Sunday mornings before, during and after the church services. It was a wonderful intergenerational event and they were displayed beautifully on the wall of the sanctuary for Christmas Eve services. I absolutely loved this activity and loved how people of all ages sat down, became mindful and created a beautiful way to share the story of Jesus' birth!

Our Kid Connection Kids shared the story of Jesus' birth when they performed "A Shepherd's Story" during the second service on Sunday, December 18th. I shared with them that they were the ones teaching that morning... they were the messengers. They took it very seriously and did an amazing job.

Last but not least... our Kid Connection Kids also collected a special offering during the Season of Advent. They collected money to purchase a llama for a farming family in South America. We were blessed when someone who wants to stay anonymous wanted to match our giving... so we were able to purchase two llamas. The children were so excited!

I can't help but look at a child and see Jesus' image. The love, curiosity, joy in the simple things... all of these attributes exude in our Bethel Children. I find that many times when I want to teach or show them something... I end up learning something myself. Thank you for your continued support of our Children's Ministry Program and helping me show our kiddos just how much they are loved by Jesus!



Bethel Choir- David Herberg

Time for a short Bible study! Consider these passages from Scripture:

1 Chronicles 16:9-23, Ps. 5:11, Ps. 9:11, Ps. 30:4, Ps. 32:11, Ps. 33:1-3, Ps. 47:6-7, Ps. 66:2, Ps. 68, Ps. 81, Ps. 96, Ps. 98, Ps. 147:1, Ps. 149:1, Is. 12:5, Is. 42:12, Is. 44:23, Jer 20:13, Jer 31:7, Zeph 3:14, Eph 5:19, Col 3:16

What do these passages have in common? They are all holy commandments for us to be singing. Not just to have singing around, or of the author describing his own response -- there's plenty of other Scripture conveying that sentiment. But rather direct instruction that all people should and must sing to the glory of God.

The All Bethel Choir responds to this call by presenting a prepared anthem each Sunday. Because we have an overlap in membership between the Joyful Noise Bell Choir, we tend to stay out of each other's way. But sometimes we join together for a song, and that is fun! The choir enjoyed singing for the special services too, including Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Thanksgiving (followed by pie; yum!). As in previous years, our Ash Wednesday anthem becomes our Lenten Theme Song, so to speak, and we reprise it as Communion preparation music for the rest of Lent. In the fall, our numbers were down a bit, due to family and travel schedules, but our

enthusiasm remained high. And yes, we are limited to attending just the first service due to scheduling and financial limitations.

The Advent and Christmas concert with orchestra is always well received. The choir works hard on it and the congregation responds well! The Worship Team and Joyful Noise Bell choir participate as well, and we did several collaborations between the groups. While the concert serves as a common showcase for all the homegrown musical talent we have here at Bethel, in the past we have also collaborated with other churches to present the same music at each other's places, building bridges and establishing friendships with Christians of another congregation.

And building bridges and fellowship is what Chorus Magnus is all about. Last June, we again joined Cupertino Chorus Magnus, singing with 5 other churches in celebration of our shared faith. I always get a powerful feeling of unity and closeness to God when all these Christians lay aside traditional differences and come together in common worship singing His praise. By now I should no longer be as surprised as I am each year! Each singer comes away with their own highlight -- for many it was Bethel's contribution *Face the Cross* -- and new friendships. The latest Chorus Magnus raised \$3800 in contributions, which was donated to West Valley Community Services for non-monetary aid to the needy in our own local community.

I'm grateful for the opportunity once a year to sing the liturgical components of the Lutheran worship service using the corresponding elements of the Latin mass. This has opened up to us a wealth of history's greatest music, and simultaneously demonstrates the constancy and faithfulness of God through out the centuries. In the past, we have performed the music of Schubert, Haydn, and Mozart.

In 2016 we introduced the most challenging work we have ever attempted, a setting of the same words in a contemporary African style. I believe this work celebrates the omnipresence and timelessness of God by combining the identical ancient text with music that is geographically diverse. This year we look forward to presenting music from our own California history, music composed right here centuries ago and nearly lost in the meantime: *Misa de Cataluña* was important in the early California Missions.

These special events all have another benefit that dovetails directly into our Hospitality Core Value. These exciting special events draw visitors from outside the Bethel family to participate in them. Each of these special projects have attracted singers who are members of other congregations, as well as the unchurched. Forming a welcoming and inspiring time together brings nonmembers into our campus and builds bridges to the community.

As director, I'm continually impressed and blessed by the continuous improvement of the singers. Their sight-reading of intricate melodies and rhythms often blows me away. With their skill and dedication, we are able to sing more and more interesting pieces, to the glory of God and the fun and sense of accomplishment to the singers.

The one thing that continues to disappoint me is the great number of wonderful singers we have in the congregation, who choose not to sing in the choir. If you are reading these words, know that they apply to you. As well as do the repeated Scriptural commands in today's Bible study. I hope you realize what an important ministry the choir is to the congregation and will join us for the next season.

I look forward to another musical year of Bethel music! With the upcoming California Mission *Misa de Cataluña*, the next Chorus Magnus, and every Sunday morning, I hope to inspire the congregation and exalt our Lord.



Bethel Worship Team- Clayton Johnson

This year the Bethel Worship Team had 20 members who participated on a rotating basis. We introduced 75 new songs to the congregation (I know, I didn't believe it myself). In addition to leading the 10:45 service, we also have the privilege of leading all the outdoor worship services during the summer. Every year it is a great joy for us to be invited to perform with all the other talented musicians at Bethel in the Christmas concert, and this year was no exception.

Sadly, we said goodbye to Chris Trytten this summer after almost 20 years on guitar. Chris permanently relocated to Southern California to be with his family. We miss him, but we are ALWAYS recruiting new members. If you sing or play an instrument, please think about joining us. We rehearse before church on Sunday mornings from 8:30-10:30.

THANK YOU to the 2016 Bethel Worship Team:

Jamie Alens
Liz Barton
Melody Bast
Rachel Bergren
Eric Brown
Mary Deutscher
Chris Hedgecock
Kara Hermann
Katlynn Hoegel
Tom Hoegel

Clayton Johnson
Haven Johnson
Phil Kelman
Adam Klopfenstein
Shannon Ma
Tom McAvoy
Brian Schuette
Randy Shattuck
Dana Torgersen
Chris Trytten

Peace and Joy,
Clayton Johnson
Director of Contemporary Music



Bethel Lutheran School Update- Dawn De Bois-Weber



The school has had a very productive year. Our current enrollment is 144 children. We updated our mission statement to be; *Bethel Lutheran School teaches children to be **active learners and Christian leaders** in a hands-on, safe and supportive environment.* We implemented a STEM & Science program for grades 2nd-4th. A highlight of this class was borrowing an electron microscope from Hitachi. The children were able to see objects magnified at 10 million times their normal size. On our Fall standardized test, all students placed on or above grade level in the areas of reading and mathematics. We hosted several community events with attendance ranging from 50-225 people. Some events included Paint & Pinot and Trunk or Treat. We put our faith in action by donating 50 pounds of candy to active military and a local food pantry. The children assembled and donated over 250 Ziploc bags of hygiene items and snacks to Our Daily Bread, a homeless program and replenished the bin in the foyer for Bethel families. Additionally, the 2nd-4th grade went to Our Daily Bread and washed fruit, set up tables and chairs and decorated to prepare for the meal service of 400 people.

Working at Bethel is an honor to continue the legacy that has been established. We have enrolled several children this year of former Bethel students. I pray God continues to use the staff and myself to inspire and teach the children to be Christian leaders.



Media and Publications- Elise Holst

The Media and Publications Ministry serves to support worship and strengthen community, by communicating hope and joy to the Bethel family in the form of images and text through Sunday morning bulletins, screen projections, weekly emailed Bethel information, daily emailed prayer bytes, as well as minor updates to the online Bethel calendar and other website information. I feel very grateful that I am given such a wide variety of projects that warm my heart! I hope that the work I do for the Bethel family brings joy to others, as it surely does to me! Here is a photo of one of my offices. Thank you!



Congregational Life Report 2016- Patricia Myerholtz and Sue Jacobus

The following lists only a few of the events held here at Bethel in which many of the congregation volunteer and attend. These events also help in bringing about community for our Bethel neighbors.

Egg Hunt:

This event has hundreds of people from all over the community attend in which over 3000 eggs were hunted, 4 craft areas were enjoyed and fish crackers and lemonade were passed out. This event takes about 10 volunteers who run set up beginning at 6am for the 10am to noon event and cleanup. The hunt was so busy that parking was hard to find and this year a parking leader will have to be used to make sure everyone stays safe and has fun. This event gets bigger every year and now is an event Bethel is known for in the community. Many families have expressed great gratitude that Bethel hosts such a wonderful, welcoming free event for 4 years now.

Evergreens: 55+

This group of about 15-18 attendees enjoys getting together every third Thurs. of the month to share devotion, prayer, lunch, and sometimes bingo or some other fun activity. There has been new additions to the group from time to time as well. A special thanks to Shirley Gross for her dedication to this ministry.

Pet Blessing

This is the 2nd year of the event (held in late summer) and it includes bringing your pet to be blessed and a bbq lunch. Those who attend enjoy the special one on one blessing and prayer time that Pastor Ben brings to this wonderful event. We have even had those from the community (non-members) join in.

Summer BBQ fun

This event celebrates the opening season of summer and gives the congregation a time to get together before many go their ways in the summer. This year we had a bbq, balloon toss, raffle, and good old fashioned fun.

Chili Cook Off

This past year's winner was Trish Cunningham. Over 20 chili's to vote on. There also was a kids coloring contest, music, and dessert to share. Over a hundred attended.

Speaker Series

Every first Wednesday of the month over 60 people attend a dinner and speaker in the fireside room. All who attend enjoy the fellowship and the chance to expand their horizons.

Celebration of the Arts: Theme: Light

This year we enjoyed a spaghetti dinner then performances by our talented musicians, poetry readings by Dave Denny, and our Bethel kids singing. Dessert followed under the beautiful lanterns made by our own community, it was delightful and beautiful. On Sunday, the Bethel community was able to enjoy the talents of many member's art work that was just astounding. A special thanks to Sue Jacobus for her dedication to this wonderful event.

Other events

Wedding renewal reception (Dawn DeBois Weber)

Wedding congratulations reception (Courtney and Joel Heimbuck)

Ministry Appreciation Day, Leadership Retreat Events, Donuts for Dads, Paint and Pino Night, Trunk or Treat, Fun with Faith (Mardi Gras), and other moments on Sundays that treats were shared and fun was had by all.



Quilters- Joann Weberg

In 2016 the Quilters completed 263 quilts. Lutheran World Relief received 126 along with 129 school bags. Our quilts have also gone to other groups: 10 to C.O.M.E, Gloria Dei 13, Heritage House 18, San Jose Family Shelter 32, Homeless Men's Ministry 15, Sunnyview Manor 2, Stonecroft Ministry 2, Esperanza International 7 and various Bethel groups 19.

We are celebrating our 20th year making Quilts. In all, our quilt donations total 3986 and 904 school bags. The December 23, 2016 edition of local Cupertino Courier highlighted the Quilters. We were also highlighted on the NBC news website in January 2017. Our group is always looking for new members and clean, gently-used sheets for backing and material. Every Monday morning between 9:15am and 12 noon approximately 22 women meet in the Fireside Room to quilt.



Blankets- Cindy Arnett

The Women of the ELCA - We met monthly and made blankets for the homeless, donated them to City Team Ministries, San Francisco night ministry, San Jose Family Shelter, Women's rotating shelters, homeless on the street, and made pet blankets for them as well.



Jail Chaplaincy Program- Chris Christensen

CIC (The Jail Chaplain program) continues to minister and serve in both the adult and juvenile detention facilities. In a year where 3 deputies were charged with an inmate murder and where the state continues to send some more hardened inmates back to local community jails, your prayers are greatly appreciated. Juvenile Hall is headed in a very different direction as the population has dropped substantially over the last decade as the courts try not to lock kids up as often or as long.

Chaplains and volunteers offered 2, 178 Christian services in adult facilities and 119 Christian services and 318 bible studies in Juvenile Hall last year.

Supper Clubs- Janice Martinson

Supper Groups are for food, fun and fellowship. Statistics for Spring 2016 Groups3 groups18 people - all 18 had participated in 2015 too1 group invited someone else to join them!! Statistics for Fall/Winter 2016 Groups3 groups16 people - 3 are new to Supper Clubs1 group invited someone else to join them! Develop new relationships! Get new recipes! Join a Supper Group at Bethel! Signups taken in Spring and late Summer. Contact: [Janice Martinson](#)



Out and About- The Out and About Team

The Out and About Ministry is in its 7th year and going strong!

Out and About is a great way to enjoy some of your favorite places, experience new ones all while connecting with others. We encourage you to invite family and friends to join in on the fun!

Committee members plan monthly fellowship events with input from the Bethel family. A variety of places and events are chosen to appeal to different ages and preferences.

2016 saw 13 events and nearly 300 participants. Many events in this past year were full and even had waiting lists.

2016 events included:

- Ano Nuevo State Park
- Disneyland, 5th Annual Brewery Tour: Alameda Island and Oakland
- Old Town Sacramento
- Yosemite
- Berry Picking at Gdzich Farms
- Make your own Adventure in Monterey
- Chardonnay cruise in Santa Cruz
- Fleet Week San Francisco
- Hearst Castle
- Niles Canyon Christmas Train
- Mt. Hermon Brass (concert)
- Skating and Caroling

With the new online registration platform, sign-up.com, we hope to streamline the process of signing up for events as well as communication with participants. Additionally, with the new Bethel Bus we now have comfortable, beautiful, and reliable transportation! We hope you join us this coming year for an Out and About event.



Labor Day Retreat- The Labor Day Retreat Planning Team

“Grace Wins” was the theme for Bethel’s 2016 Labor Day Retreat. Approximately 100 Bethel members and friends joined together for this year’s event held, as usual, at Mt. Cross camp in Felton. Participants were able to explore the theme with our retreat speaker, Pastor Sarah Sumner-Eisenbraun. Pastor Sarah is an associate and campus pastor at Salem Lutheran Church and School in Glendale, CA. Sarah has a passion for faith formation at all ages and stages and finding creative and innovative ways to communicate the power of God’s grace. This 3-day church-wide event included four sessions based on this year’s theme: Session 1 – Being Lutheran: What’s Grace Got To Do With It?, Worship Session 2 – Grace Wins: How Grace is Relevant Today, Session 3 – Grace as a Way of Life, and Session 4 – Making Bethel a Place of Grace.

Retreat participants also enjoyed the usual fun events such as the Olympics, Campfire, Variety Show and Polar Bear swim.

Committee members look forward to next year and invite others to be part of the planning committee.



The Stewardship Committee- Tres Hermanos (Scott Anderson, Brett Deutscher, Pr. Ben)

We continue to share with everyone that Stewardship is about all the gifts that God has given to us and encourage everyone to commit to sharing our talents, time, energy, and financial assets.

As part of our Stewardship campaign in 2016 we shared stories from members about how being part of our Bethel family has made a deep and lasting impact on their lives. We used the voices of others to articulate these personal statements. The Stewardship Committee looks forward to 2017.

The Endowment Fund Committee- Dave Larsen, John Lind and Margaret Lund

Did you know that Bethel has an Endowment Fund? This is a fund built from gifts and bequests, where the actual contributions cannot be spent: only the interest or other growth in the value of the fund can be spent. In this way, these contributions can have a permanent beneficial effect on the life of the church.

Bethel's Endowment Fund is called the "Outreach and Education Fund". It is currently about \$128,000 and is invested in a diversified, balanced investment fund administered by the ELCA Foundation. As it grows, distributions are made which are intended to be "visionary" rather than maintaining or supplementing the general budget of the church. As suggested by the name, these distributions are intended to be in the areas of Missions Outreach and Educational work here at Bethel, through the ELCA, or in other ways that seem appropriate.

The trustees of the Endowment Fund are Dave Larsen, John Lind and Margaret Lund. Contact any of us if you have any questions.

Men of Monday-

We've had a very busy year but will name just a few of the many efforts completed:

1. A six-day marathon to remove and replace all siding on Zoar Hall exterior. Mike Coleman's leadership and abilities inspired us to keep pushing on.
2. Installed a new garbage disposer and sink faucet as part of the Fireside Room remodel work.
3. Replaced 65 fluorescent lamps around the campus.
4. Replaced 16 fluorescent ballasts around campus.
5. Cleared debris from rain gutters and downspouts.
6. Repaired playground equipment, picnic tables, shade tarps, and basketball hoop.
7. Plumbing, painting, carpentry, electrical repairs, television installation, fence mending, lock repair and maintenance of air conditioning and heating.

We are rewarded with coffee and sweets from quilters at the end of the day. Great camaraderie for all!

Peace
M.O.M.

Maundy Thursday Breakfast and Communion- Eleanor Incerpi

The Maundy Thursday Breakfast consists of Ham and Cheese Strata, Fruit Cup and a Hot Cross Bun. Following the breakfast is holy communion. Pastor Ben resides over the service. The tables are set up in the shape of a cross.

The cost of the breakfast is \$6.00. Reservations can be made by email to [Eleanor Incerpi](mailto:Eleanor.Incerpi). Dates to remember April 13 at 9:30 a.m.



Servant Hearts for 2016

The members below were nominated by their peers. Thank you to all who go above and beyond in making Bethel a great place.

January-Ushers: Rob Cunningham, Pat Starrett, Patrick Ross, Elliot Hinely, Roger and Vera Edstrom, Larry Polyak, Jamie Laughlin, Paul Baldwin, Greg Abney, Mark Sandwisch, Merle Sandwisch, John Boniface, Dale Jones, Rick Bryson, Chris Freckman, Jean and Rich Teed, led by Jeanine Woodell.

February-Carol, Abbey, and Amelia Wheaton for their dedication to Kid Connection

March-Daniel Lofgren for his dedication to working the sound board on Sundays.

April-Ann Marie Kenitzer our present Church Council President, hand bell choir, and more

May-Phyllis Krest for her dedication to so many ministries including the Celebration of the Arts and Fun with Faith card classes

June-Jean Teed for her dedication to the usher ministry and Stephen Ministry.

July-Jamie Laughlin for his dedication to ushering and so much more.

August-Mike Coleman for all his work behind the scenes with work on the campus.

September- Adam Klopfenstein for his dedication to the music worship team

October- Amanda Boniface for her dedication to Kid Connection, Little Lights Choir and more!

November-Chris Christensen for his service in youth chaplaincy and more.

December- Patrice Sera for her dedication to San Jose Family Shelter Breakfasts

Greeters Ministry

Bethel now has an official greeters team that was formed in October.

You will see these members wearing welcome name badges on Sundays. The core value of "hospitality" shines through them. Consider signing up to be a greeter this year! See Patricia Myerholtz for details!

2016/17 Greeters:

Phyllis Gaffney

Jean Teed

Mona Chan

Janice Martinson

Tillie Hinely

Joanne Stensaas

Marion Abney

San Jose Family Shelter Ministry- Patrice Sera

The residents continue to appreciate Bethel's support. We have a relatively small teams of regular volunteers, it would be nice to add a few more regulars. Please consider helping out! Anyone is welcome (14yrs. & up).

New Member Class

The following attended a 2 hour class in which we were able to learn about each other and enjoy a lunch and answer questions. See list below! Please note that there are also many more families where the date of the class has not worked with their schedule yet- so we look forward to adding them to the Bethel family in the near future.

In January of this year (2017) we were blessed to have the following join the Bethel family:

Chris Jones

Sam Lee, Emily Lee, and Landon Lee

Lisa Ohashi

Paula Delgado

Peter Heerboth, Amanda Heerboth

Laurel Euler
Estela Ohashi

Mission Outreach- Lois Brouillette

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered in 2016: to cook breakfast at the San Jose Family Shelter, to build a home for Habitat for Humanity, to sew a quilt for Lutheran World Relief, to work on an iServe project, to make dinner for men of the Rotating Shelter, to walk for clean water, and to donate turkeys for the Turkey Drive, food for the Lord's Pantry and West Valley Community Services, gifts for the Help One Child Giving Tree, and clothes for low-income and homeless people in San Jose. You've made a **huge** impact on the less fortunate in our community.

Special thanks to all the leaders, without whom this work would not get done:

- ~ Patrice Sera and family, for coordinating volunteers, grocery shopping, and cooking breakfasts at the San Jose Family Shelter
- ~ Alice Isaacson, for coordinating volunteers, dinners, and shelter for the Men's Rotating Shelter
- ~ Angela Brown, for delivering donated clothes to the clothes closet at Immanuel Lutheran Church
- ~ Chris Christensen, for his continued work at CIC Ministries
- ~ Robyn Winegardner, for coordinating Bethel volunteers for Walk for Water at St. Timothy's
- ~ Brad Martinson, for his long-term work at the Junque Sale
- ~ Mark and Tori Evashenk for coordinating the Help One Child Giving Tree
- ~ Cindy Arnett, Scott and Connie Anderson, Hella Bluhm-Stieber, Patricia Myerholtz, Lisa Onishi, and Joann Stensaas for leading i-Serve projects
- ~ Elise Holst, for all her help with publicizing these events in the bulletin and e-newsletter

It's been a privilege to work with you on Mission Outreach.



Prayer Bytes- Robyn Winegardner

61 members and friends of Bethel get an e-mail sent to them each morning at 1am. It contains about 7 prayer requests from Sunday's bulletin. Prayers for healing, Prayers of concern, Prayers of support, Prayers of Thanksgiving and Sympathy. Prayers for members and friends, our nation and the world at large.

It came out of a need to take the desire to continue to pray for folks after the worship service and the challenge of being overwhelmed by such an extensive list. Three years later 61 folks are still sending up daily God shout-outs. Anyone can become a subscriber, just contact Patricia Myerholtz or Liz Tribby and you can get an e-mail too. Anyone's prayer request can be put on the Prayer Bytes list, just contact Pastor Ben or Patricia Myerholtz.

Confirmation- Robyn Winegardner and Susan Leavitt

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...and so, so much more for 6th, 7th and 8th graders at Bethel

Altar Flower Dedication- Trish Cunningham

I would like to let everyone know that the calendar continues to fill in, with some weeks just one dedication, while others there are 3, but on average there are two dedications. The flower chart in the entry seems to help keep this ministry visual and the struggle to get the slots filled initially in the new year seems to have eased. Anyone can sponsor altar flowers! I continue to enjoy this ministry and to serve the Bethel Community in this way.

Altar Flower Delivery

This past year we have delivered flowers most Sundays to those who were in the hospital or whom we know needed some "sunshine". A special thank you to those who took the time to deliver 3+ vases of flowers on a Sunday after worship. Some members who have helped are: Corrine and Megan Devine, the Das family, Sharon Parady, Sudarsanam Family, Phyllis Gaffney, Tillie and Elliot Hinely and the **QUILTERS** who take the time on Monday to make vase and also deliver the flowers.

Men's Night Out Bible Study- Sam Sudarsanam

The Men's Night Out Bible study group was blessed to meet on a monthly basis to study the Gospel of Mark during 2016, support each other, and pray together. We had a lively conversations about other religions and how we can profess our Christian faith in the secular world. All men are invited to join us on the first Monday of the month to study the scriptures and have a great fellowship.

Mt. Cross Ministries- Holly Lofgren

Mt Cross Ministries, our Lutheran camp in Felton had another year of inviting people to come and be renewed in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Bethel once again held its Labor Day Retreat at Mt Cross with over 100 people participating. Many took advantage of the bus service by day tripping to Mt Cross on Saturday or Sunday, but the most popular program for church families was staying on site for the weekend. Members also participated by sending their children to summer camp at Mt Cross.

Webmaster- Dave Arnold

We converted Bethel's website to a responsive page design that is more friendly to mobile devices. In December, we had over 400 unique visitors to the home page, of which about 20% were from mobile devices.

In 2016, we uploaded 2500 files totaling 1 gigabyte of fresh content, including:

- * web pages
- * prayer bytes
- * eNewsletter

Caring Connection/Stephen Ministry

This ministry meets every 2nd Monday in the library and discusses how they can care for and stay connected with those members who may be going through transitions in their lives and may need some reassurance that they are being prayed for and that we as a Bethel community are there for them if they want the help. The group also goes over reports (that have been generated from the Sunday Connection Cards) that help to see if members have been unable to attend. The group then tries to connect with them and see how they are doing. If you have any questions about this amazing ministry you can ask the following members:

Joanne Stensaas
Rick Bryson
Patricia Myerholtz
Tillie Hinely
Natalie Rogerson
Lynne Stasi
Jean Teed
Judy Van Gastel
Bill Westmore
Sharon Parady
Marianne Jones
Sam Sudarsanam
Minnie Sudarsanam
Tony Stieber
Robyn Winegardner
Pastor Ben

The Library Committee- Ministry lead: Margaret Lund

Members: Debby Coleman, Karen Hanson, Barbara Misch, Natalie Rogerson,

The Bethel Library equips our congregation to grow their faith by managing over 3,000 books, DVDs and CDs. During the year, 112 new items were added to the collection, many having been donated. Over 200 check-outs were recorded. The annual (and last!) Used Book Sale was held in the Spring. The goal remains to see an increased use of our fine Library.

Faith in Action Rotating Shelter- Alice Isaacson

Bethel is a host church and consortium member of the Faith in Action Silicon Valley Rotating Shelter (faithinactionsv.org). The rotating shelter moves from one host church to another each month and houses up to 15 homeless men. During our month of hosting (typically in May), Bethel provides a secure area for the men to sleep and store their belongings, hot dinners, and groceries for the men to make their breakfasts and lunches. When other churches host the rotating shelter, Bethel provides a hot dinner on the third Sunday of each month. Our church members have been very generous with their time to provide dinners, do laundry, grocery shop for food supplies, and provide hosts to greet the men as they arrive at our shelter. In past years, we have housed the men at our Stelling location; in 2017, we anticipate housing the men at our Finch site. If you are interested with providing a shelter meal each month or helping with our shelter hosting in May, please contact [Alice Isaacson](#).

Young Adult Ministry Report- Courtney and Joel Heimbuck

The Young Adult Ministry has celebrated its first year of ministry this summer, led by Courtney and Joel Heimbuck. In the ELCA, young adults are between the ages of post-high school 18 year olds to age 30. Bethel's young adult group is a post high school group for ages 18-35.

Each month, the young adults gather for worship and get together after worship for fellowship with a lunch near church. We average about four to six people for our lunches, with our biggest being eight attendees.

In the spring, the young adults met at homes in the area for Bible studies led by a member of the group or Pastor Ben. The Bible study resource we used was the ELCA's *Faith Lens*, a real-time reflection paired with scripture.

This past winter, the 21+ young adults had its second annual wine tasting. Fun was had by all. We have also developed a specific email address for young adults and a Google group, as a way to connect with everyone.

As 2017 begins some of the goals for this year are to continue our outreach to our young adult community, continue with our spring Bible studies and monthly fellowship lunches, and collaborate with other Lutheran young adult communities in the South Bay for bigger events like service projects or other events.

This ministry could not be a success within its first year without the help of the Bethel community. We thank you for your support. We'd also like to thank Pastor Ben, Adult Ministry Coordinator Patricia Myerholtz for their ministry guidance, and Elise Holst, Dave Arnold and Marianne Nadell for their communication expertise in spreading the word about the Young Adult ministry to our community.

If you know of a young adult who might be interested in receiving email updates of what is happening with the Bethel Young Adult Group, please share with them the Google Group (<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/bethel-cupertino-young-adults>) or our email (bethelcupertino.youngadults@gmail.com) to be added to the mailing list.