

THE BETHEL BEACON

APRIL



“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven.” - Matthew 5:14 & 16

PASTOR:

Rev. Scott Summers

ASSISTANT FOR EDUCATION:

Kitt Mallin

ADDRESS:

Bethel Reformed Church
29557 Hickory Avenue
Aplington, IA 50604

PHONE NUMBER:

319-347-6219

EMAIL:

bethelreformed@iowatelecom.net

WEBSITE:

bethelreformedchurch.org

ELDERS:

Byron Johnson
Dave Schneiderman
Jimmy Meyer
Kevin Harms
Bob Schipper

DEACONS:

Chad Schipper
Kurt Wessels
Brian Jungling
Joel Kalkwarf

Mailing addresses for those serving in missions. Notes of encouragement, letters, and cards are very much appreciated.

Jon Behrends
Pardubicka 678
Chrudim, Czech Republic 537 01
Birthday: April 12



Jeff & Jodi McCauley and family
601 3rd Avenue
Parkersburg, IA 50665
319-208-7688

APRIL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

TAPE MINISTRY

- 1 - Alvin & Frances Schipper
- 8 - Bob & Eunice Schipper
- 15 - Keith & Virginia Kalkwarf
- 22 - Benton & Miriam Peters
- 29 - George & Lois Schipper

MINISTRY IN MUSIC

- 1 - Jim & Belva Schipper
- 8 - The Bethel Choir
- 15 - Tom & Grace Barter
- 22 - Kevin & Barb Harms
- 29 - The Sunbeams
The Children's Bell Choir

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

- 1 - Melissa Koop & Sophie Jungling
- 8 - Heidi Buseman & Alivia Thorn
- 15 - Karen & Aren Souhrada
- 22 - Amy & Morgan Sill
- 29 - Jen & Sidney Schneiderman

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS/CHAIRPERSONS:

- 1 - Group #5 (Gerald & Sandy Peters)
- 8 - Group #6 (Mark & Sue Haren)
- 15 - Group #7 (Mike & Wanda Hippen)
- 22 - Group #8 (Verlyn & Janie Schipper)
- 29 - Group #9 (Harold & Joan Behrends)

PRAISE TEAM/WORSHIP LEADER:

- 1 - #1 (Derek Harken)
- 8 - #2 (Jonathan Koop)
- 15 - #3 (Brian Jungling)
- 22 - #4 (Jimmy Meyer)
- 29 - #5 (Jen Schneiderman)

VALET PARKING TEAM:

- Harold Behrends
- Jim Schipper
- Dan Groeneveld
- Tyler Behrends
- Alex Johnson



MAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

TAPE MINISTRY

6 - Larry & Sharon Schipper
13 - Ted & Delores Jungling
20 - Harold & Ruth Buseman
27 - Lester & Martha Johnson

MINISTRY IN MUSIC

6 - Hank & Becky Jungling
13 - Tory & Jackie Klahren
20 - Dennis & Lynne Mulder
27 - Jason & Mavis Johnson

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

6 - Melissa & Zac Benning
13 - Kristi & Lexie Janssen
20 - Ann & Bailey Luebbbers
27 - Rachel Klooster & Tesha Johnson

PRAISE TEAM/WORSHIP LEADER:

6 - #6 (Pastor Scott)
13 - #1 (Derek Harken)
20 - #2 (Jonathan Koop)
27 - #3 (Brian Jungling)

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS/CHAIRPERSONS:

6 - #1 (Keith & Virginia Kalkwarf)
13 - #2 (Kendall & Lori Renken)
20 - #3 (Karen & Todd Souhrada)
27 - #4 (Grant & Pam Kampman)

VALET PARKING

TEAM:

Dennis Mulder
Dave Muller
Leroy Ostendorf



- 1 - Cortnee Alberts
Brady Frey
Sharon Schipper
- 2 - Harold Brouwer
- 3 - Jack Harken
- 4 - Renise Frey
- 5 - Diane Meyer
Aaron Mulder
- 7 - Molly Benning
Mile Rule
Jared Sill
- 8 - Grant Keller
- 9 - Jack Haren
- 10 - Brooklyn Schneiderman
- 11 - Esther Schipper
Todd Souhrada
- 12 - Jon Behrends
Christy (Schipper) Austin
Berneice Bangasser
- 13 - Janie Schipper
- 14 - Kristi Janssen
Trena Schipper
Audrey Heitland
- 15 - Ron Bast
Shane Bill
- 16 - Colton Harken
Taylor Behrends
- 18 - Brian Buseman
- 20 - Brent Frey
- 23 - Audrian Oldenburger
- 26 - Nicholas Oldenburger
- 28 - Bailee Alberts
- 29 - Kendall Renken
- 30 - Becky Jungling
Denton Uhlenhopp



APRIL

BIRTHDAYS ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 - Jim & Ann Luebbers
- 9 - Kendall & Lori Renken
- 14 - Justin & Leann Bolhuis
Gerald & Sandy Peters
- 19 - Duane & Sharon Buseman
- 25 - Scott & Cindy Summers
- 28 - Kim & Brenda Dix



If you are aware of any additions to the birthday or anniversary lists, please contact the administrative office.

BETHEL WOMEN'S CIRCLE UPDATE AND



ATTENTION LADIES:

Mark your calendar for the Bethel Women's Circle Spring Event which will be held Wednesday, April 11, beginning at 7 p.m. The First Reformed Church women will be our guests this evening. Our special guest speaker will be Kitt Mallin, artist and Director of Educational Ministries at Bethel.

A LITTLE EXTRA HELP

The Bethel Women's Circle provides meals to those who have just returned home from a hospital stay or to those moms and dads just coming home with a newborn to take care of. These can be times when just a "little extra" help could be needed. We would like to be the "little extra" help to you. If yourself or someone you know would like to have a meal (or two or three) brought to you, please call the church office at 319-347-6219 and leave a message. Someone will contact you for details. If we are aware of your situation, someone will be in contact with you.



**"Little children, let us not love in word or speech
but in deed and in truth."**

- I John 3:18

ATTENTION LADIES:

Mark your calendar and plan to come to Bethel to help with the Bethel Women's Circle Pie Fundraiser! We will bake the homemade pies that have been ordered on the morning of Saturday, March 31, beginning at 8 a.m. You will also have the opportunity to learn to make a pie crust! Sign up at the information table if you will be here to help bake these yummy pies!



NOTE: A few people are needed to help mix up some of the pie crusts on Friday night. If you would be able to help with this, please indicate this on the sign-up sheet as well.

LET THE WOMEN'S CIRCLE DO YOUR BAKING!

Let the Bethel Women's Circle bake your pies! The Bethel Women's Circle is offering fresh-baked pies for sale. The pies will be baked fresh on Saturday morning, March 31. Pies for sale include: Apple, Cherry, Pecan, Peaches & Cream, Strawberry-Rhubarb. You may order your pies by signing up at the information table. Pies will be available for pick-up on Saturday, March 31, beginning at 4 p.m. If you would like to order pies, please write your name on the sign-up sheet under the kind of pie that you would like to purchase. Please be sure to include the number of pies you are ordering. Payments can be made to the Bethel Women's

BETHEL PRAYER LIST

Our Bethel Church Family:

Leroy & Janice Ostendorf
Benton & Miriam Peters
Gerald & Sandy Peters
Jessie Peters
Josh & Lindsay Peters and family

Serving in Missions:

Jon Behrends
Pastor Tony Pichardo and the
Hispanic Ministry
The McCauley Family



"Devote yourselves to prayer,
being watchful and thankful."
Colossians 4:2



What are your **Spiritual Gifts**?

You can find out anytime just by taking about 20 minutes to complete a Spiritual Gifts Assessment. At www.bethelreformedchurch.org, in the Resources box on the left side of the home page you will find a link directly to the spiritual gifts assessment. Hand-written copies of the assessment are available in the administrative office. Regardless of which assessment you do, you are encouraged to bring the results to the church office so that they can be referred to when groups in the church are trying to recruit new members for their committees. Everyone is encouraged to consider serving on groups and committees using your gifts and talents from the Lord. That is why He gave us those gifts: That we may use them joyfully to serve Him and one another.

Lost & Found

Please be sure to check the lost and found collection in the office. If you or someone you know lost any jewelry items, please see Jackie in the administrative office.

KIDQUEST PRESCHOOL & DAYCARE

Help Kidquest continue their ministry to children by donating your used inkjet printer cartridges and electronics (digital cameras, MP3 players/ipods) (all data must be cleared and all necessary accessories, such as power cords, must be included), and Nintendo DS and Gameboys. This is a continuous fundraiser and there is always



Please Recycle! In the kitchen you may have noticed there are four recycling bins. They are labeled for paper, cardboard, glass & plastic, and cans. We ask that everyone do their part in recycling these kind of items in the kitchen. There are notes posted about the recycling. Before you throw it away, consider whether it can be recycled! Let's all do our part!



SAVE YOUR STAMPS! The Pleasant Prairie RCW collects used stamps and sells them to raise money for Christian ministries. Tear the stamps off the envelopes, put them in the box located in the administrative office and Trena Schipper will trim them to the proper size. It's that easy!



CAMP 4 KIDS

Lakeview Church Camp registration brochures have arrived! Your family can pick up the brochures at the information table.

CAMP 4 KIDS POP-CAN COLLECTION. Save your empty pop cans and bottles for Camp 4 Kids! A collection site is located at Greg's Taxidermy in Aplington. Pop cans and bottles can be dropped off any time and all funds raised will go to the Camp 4 Kids fund!



Sponsor-A-Camper for Camp 4 Kids! In the pew card slots, you will find envelopes provided by Camp 4 Kids. If you would like to make a donation to the church camp fund, you may do so at any time by putting your cash or check (payable to Camp 4 Kids) donations into an envelope and placing it in the offering plate or leaving it on the administrative office desk. All donations will go into the Camp 4 Kids fund to be used for camp fees. These funds will be shared between everyone going to camp, so please do not specify a child's name on the envelope. Additional envelopes are also available on the literature stand in the gathering area. **THANK YOU to those who have given through the Sponsor-A-Camper donation envelopes!**



What Do You See?

By Kitt Mallin

In the mid 1950's my grandmother worked for a Catholic hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota. In those days the administrative staff was mostly nuns. My Lutheran grandmother also found employment there. Being the outsider in terms of her faith, my grandma found herself being pressed daily by these nuns. This is not to criticize the Catholic faith, but these *particular* Catholic women found it sport to heckle my grandmother daily for her Protestant beliefs. One woman, Sister Mary, was particularly outspoken.

So it went on day after day..... "So you allow your pastors to marry? That's not right!" "You do *not* routinely attend confession? Why would that be?" "You do not embrace *seven* sacraments?" My Grandma, Gladys, was constantly on the defensive, having to support the practices of her faith with the assuredness of an educated clergyman which she was not. Nevertheless, faced with this daily criticism, she tried her best.

One morning Sister Mary blurted, while looking at the cross around my grandmother's neck, "You do not even have the Lord Jesus on your cross!" Gladys retorted sharply and in low tone, "That is because 'He Is Risen!'"

I remember Grandma telling me this story when I was teenager in the 1980's. Since then, as an artist and Christian, I often have reflected on the different representations of the Cross....what they represent what they mean, and how that may have come to be.

As a young exhibiting artist in the 90's, one of the things I noted was the interpretations of my artwork. Patrons would often comment on what the painting was "telling them." Most of the interpretations seemed to be out of left field. I didn't understand why people saw such far-out things in my art, but as I got older, I realized that each person was bringing their own life experience and/or baggage to the piece and was interpreting it within that context....And I, as the artist, used my own baggage to create it. Suffice it to say, life (God's art) shapes our thinking; and then marvelously, our thinking shapes our art.

So now I lay before you this thought....when you examine the Gospel depiction of the crucifixion, where do *your* eyes rest? And what issues inside of you give that scene *its* shape? Do you see suffering and death.... do you see punishment? Do you see the weight of human sin? Are you swept away by guilt and shame? Do you see yours or mankind's inadequacy, or your separation from God? If asked then to create a cross, what sort of cross would you create.... and why?

In addition to pondering that, ask yourself when you look at a crucifix if you see love? Do you see an impending Resurrection? Do you see restoration, provision, sufficiency, sonship? As awful as the cross was, do you, nevertheless, see the greatest victory this world has ever seen? What do eyes of faith see? And why do they *see* differently?

As we enter this Easter season, let us ask ourselves if our vision of the cross lines up with what our Lord intended. Hebrews 12:2 reads, "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the JOY that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Do you see everything that Jesus went to the cross *for*? If that isn't so, then where is that line of thought coming from?

PLEASANT PRAIRIE CLASSIS RCW

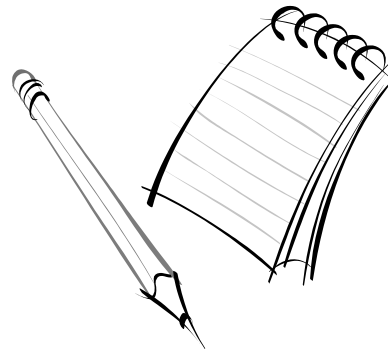
The Pleasant Prairie Classis women's group collects materials year-round to be used in Christian education around the world. Below is a list of the various materials that may be placed in the collection box in the administrative office. All donated material must be free of advertising and non-denominational.

- Bibles (from new to repairable condition)
- Bible Study books (commentaries, dictionaries, concordances, etc.)
- Daily Devotionals (all types, clean, unmarked condition)
- Decision magazines
- Greeting Cards (front, picture portion only)
- Pictures with a religious motif
- Tracts
- Library Books (various types, preferably with a religious message)
- Sunday School Lesson Materials, Teacher's Packets, Take-home/handout material**
(unused/unmarked, flat, clean, in good condition)
- Cassette tapes

CONSI STORY UPDATE

ACCOUNT BALANCES:

General Fund: \$2,228.86
Mission Fund: \$2,507.40
Property Fund: \$4,354.26
Memorial Fund: \$131,714.89
Bethel Savings: \$8,937.59



April 2012

What's Up with That?

Members and Friends of Bethel Church:

What's happening???? The Lord has truly blessed us. We have a lot of exciting things happening and being discussed within our ministry! Let me summarize a few major things you should know.

Our worship attendance has grown in past years, but it has leveled off recently. Many members sense a call from the Lord and a continued need to reach out to the seeking and lost. That may mean more growth. How can we make room to welcome others in? The current idea under discussion is to hold two Sunday morning worship services. About 50 people met recently to hear about that possibility. No vote was taken on this idea. More discussion and a lot of planning need to take place before Bethel could accomplish such a change. Hopefully, in the mean time, you have been blessed at worship by singing praise to the Lord with our wonderful Praise Teams, enjoyed some wonderful special music, and benefited from the pictures during the messages that have been provided by our assistant for education, Kitt Mallin.

Kitt was hired by the consistory after two town-hall meetings and straw-pole votes over the past couple of years indicated a large majority of folks favored such an addition to our staff. It was decided that the needs addressed by Kitt would include a.) assisting the Sunday School department with curriculum development, recruiting teachers, and finding workshops to encourage and equip our teachers, b.) assisting in the further development of the Kid Quest Catechism Club, c.) helping to reestablish the BLAST small group ministry, d.) working

with Bethel's Vacation Bible School directors to recruit workers for VBS. Please be aware that much of Kitt's work happens behind the scenes and involves a lot of phone calls and research to make things happen. Let me assure you that she has been working very diligently at her ministry responsibilities.

Elders and deacons have become more involved in pastoral visiting the past couple of years, especially with our shut-ins. That is because in the Reformed Church, the spiritual and material needs of the congregation are the responsibility of the consistory, which includes elders, deacons, and pastor. Please welcome a visit by our consistory members if you are contacted for that purpose. They really care and want to do what they can for Christ and His Church. We changed our way of nominating consistory, NOT to keep the congregation out of the selection process and NOT because past consistory members were unable to do their tasks. Additionally, all past consistory members have taken their responsibilities seriously. We changed to a nomination committee because we ARE attempting to be biblically faithful in allowing all people to minister with their spiritual gifts. Consistory members are being asked to serve as liaisons between consistory and various church ministries. With that in mind, we try to select consistory members with gifts that match the needed service on a ministry team. For instance, if a consistory member is needed in a certain term to serve as the worship liaison, we might try to match someone who has spiritual gifts in exhortation, encouragement, music, and leadership. The nomination committee is supplied with the spiritual gifts of Bethel's members and attempts to carefully select nominees based on the above idea.

The Vision Team is working in conjunction with the consistory to discern what God has in mind for Bethel's future. Everything the Vision Team proposes ultimately goes through the consistory. Following

are some ideas currently under consideration. We are short on education space. Should we put dividers in the basement? Should we add on more rooms to our current facility? Should we do both? If we grow by another 100 members, should we hire another full-time staff person? If so, what should be their ministry role at Bethel? What if, Lord willing, we grow to 400 members: Should we then add a third service and even more staff? Would we ever get to the point where we would add a multi-purpose room? Yes, all of these things are going through some people's minds already. Why? Because that's what leaders do and leadership is a spiritual gift. Some folks at Bethel believe God wants His Church to keep growing and to keep making disciples. If that happens, numerical growth may occur. And if it does, we need to have some idea how we will handle it when it occurs. On the other hand, if/since God desires that we reach out, which may involve growth, then we should plan to reach out intentionally.

As far as my work as pastor is concerned, my desire is to offer a class on what people's spiritual gifts are and how to use them. I also hope to offer another workshop on welcoming guests to our Sunday morning gatherings. A workshop called "God's Storytellers" is also a future possibility. This workshop teaches us to give away our faith. Why would Bethel offer such events? Because God wants us to reach out to the lost who He loves, as well as reaching within to those we already love (Remember the parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin?).

One more issue needs to be addressed because there seems to be a misunderstanding about this. I can assure you that your consistory members, both today and in the past, have always cared about each member and about Bethel's well-being as a congregation. When the need arises, we want to be there for you! Consistory

members are always looking out for what is best for Bethel, even when they have differing ideas! Looking out for Bethel's well-being is what consistory is elected by the congregation to do. The consistory represents the congregation. They are leaders who look after the spiritual and material care of the congregation. They are to do what they believe best for the congregation, guided by prayer and God's word. We may not always agree with them, but not everyone agrees about everything all the time. Also, we must remember that the Reformed Church government is not a democracy; it is a representative government, which means we don't vote on every single issue, although our representatives may vote in representing us. Besides that, a majority can be just as wrong as a minority on a given issue. Even when a church votes on a pastor, the consistory makes the final determination to offer a call, not the majority of the voting members. Now that doesn't mean we should never vote on important measures and changes being considered. However, if I read Numbers 14:1-10 correctly, God's people would have gone back to Egypt if Moses had followed the majority vote. But the people were simply afraid and didn't know where God was taking them through the leadership of Moses. Nevertheless, the Lord wanted His people to go into the Promised Land, and He would help them defeat the Canaanites if Israel would trust the Lord! Read Numbers 14:1-10 and see if that isn't the case. The minority leaders eventually moved the people forward. What's up with that?! This reference simply shows that God doesn't necessarily lead by a majority vote. Rather, it is HIS WILL that we must follow, "nothing more, nothing less, nothing else." So, PLEASE: let's all be in earnest prayer as to where GOD wills for us to go. Let's also pray for those faithfully seeking to lead us there. Blessings,
Scott



The Vision of Bethel Reformed Church is to be:

A thriving family
Excited and prepared to
Build up one another and
Bring the Good News of Christ to everyone.

The Mission of Bethel Reformed Church is to:

Provide opportunities for spiritual growth to both children and adults.
Develop individuals' spiritual gifts, talents, and leadership abilities.
Reach out to the under-churched with the good news of Jesus Christ.