



Bethel News

SEPTEMBER 2016

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Kickoff Sunday—September 11! Sunday School and café time will resume. Potluck lunch to celebrate!



Faith Story - Kate Farmen

My name is Kate Farmen. I have a wonderful husband, Jake. We have a 2 year old

daughter, Amelia, and one more on the way (hopefully, by the time you read this, she will be here!). Many of you know me as the Ministry Assistant at Bethel.

The biggest area that I struggle with in my walk with Christ is anxiety. Will God provide for me when I am in need? What is going to happen next? Will we have enough?

God's Word tells us 365 times not to be anxious or afraid. Time and time again His message to us is to rest in Him. He will provide. Trust in Him.

One passage that I keep returning to when I feel anxious or afraid of the future is in Matthew 6. Specifically, I like how my daughter's bible, The Jesus Storybook Bible, recalls the story. Jesus is teaching all kinds of people; young, old, sick, well, happy, sad, and worried people. It says that Jesus was filled with love for them and he talks to them.

"See those birds over there?' Jesus said. Everyone looked. Little sparrows were pecking at seeds along the stony path. 'Where do they get their food? Perhaps they have pantries all stocked up? Cabinets full of food?' Everyone laughed -who's ever seen a bird with a bag of groceries? 'No,' Jesus said. 'They don't need to worry about that. Because God knows what they need and he feeds them.'"

God knows what I need and He gives it to me.

About 7 months ago my nana passed away. A little more than a month before that, we

Robertson's Ramblings

Top 10 Reasons YOU Should Host a Block Party This September!

- 1.) It is fun to get to know your neighbors.
- 2.) It is an opportunity to make your neighborhood a better place to live! Seriously, it makes your neighborhood a better

place to live as people will know each other a little better.

- 3.) It is an excuse to knock on your neighbors door and meet them (even if they don't come to the block party).
- 4.) It is easy.... Put together a simple invitation

with the date, time, details (do they need to bring food, etc). go knock on your neighbors door give them the invitation, and than have the block party! It doesn't need to be anything fancy!

- 5.) It is an opportunity to begin to create

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Faith Story (continued from page 1)

found out we were pregnant with our second child and were thrilled to share the news with her. At the same time, I was pretty fearful. How will we make this work with two children? Our car is tiny! It can work, but it's going to be interesting!

The fear and anxiety kept creeping in. Then God decided to

show his provision to me (again).

Although I still miss my nana like crazy and struggle that she isn't here to see this new baby, God has chosen to provide for us through this situation.

Shortly after she died, we were offered exactly what we needed, exactly when we

needed it. A new car. It is far beyond what we would have ever been able to afford (which, in all honesty, was nothing). God choose to demonstrate in a big way His ability to provide to my family.

He certainly provides for me each day but sometimes it's nice to see, and remember, the big ways too.

Ministry Highlight— Small Groups

We will be launching small groups beginning the week of September 25th and we would love you to be involved! Why do we do small groups at Bethel? To equip God's people to become more like Jesus through praying, studying God's Word, and sharing life with one another. If you sign up to be a part of a small group you are signing up to meet with the same group of people for 8 weeks in the fall (or 6 if your group meets every other week). At the end of the 8 weeks your group, and everyone in your group, will have the opportunity to decide if they would like to continue together and do another 8 weeks in the spring. So you are not signing up for a lifelong

commitment, you are signing up for 8 weeks!

If you have never been a part of a small group you might be wondering what it is like to be in one. While every group is a little different generally speaking you can expect to gather with 8-14 other people in a home setting. You will likely share snacks (or maybe even a meal) together. You will spend time catching up on each other's week, spend time going through the Faith@Home discussion questions from the previous Sunday's sermon, you will share prayer requests and pray together. We would love for you to sign up to be a part of a small group this fall! It is a great opportunity to give it a try! Look for sign ups in the foyer at church

beginning September 4th! Also, if you would like more information about leading a small group contact pastor Josh Robertson or Bob Burke. Being a small group leader is not as intimidating as you might first think, and you are only committing to give it a try for 8 weeks!

We hope to see you become involved in small groups this fall at Bethel!

Small Groups
launch September
25!

What do you like about fall? Perhaps you like to anticipate new opportunities, new friendships, new challenges, the start of school and classes, fall colors, football, harvest season.... to name just a few. At Bethel we look forward to Fall to restart our ministry year. Planning has been a focus for the leadership team and ministry teams during the previous months of planning and praying.

Welcome... Fall is the time to welcome new students and returning students. Is the time to welcome visitors. It is a time to welcome those returning from vacations, mis-

sions trips, and summer projects. It is also a time to welcome new opportunity. In the coming weeks you will hear much about the opportunities for growth, connection, service, and prayer at Bethel.

Growth... There are opportunities to learn for all ages. On Sunday mornings at 9 am classes are offered for all ages: preschool, elementary, youth, and adult. During the week check out opportunities for men, women, youth, children and families.

Connection... In September, Life Groups begin again and give the oppor-

tunity for growing connections with others in the church and growing together in understanding of God's Word and His calling on us to serve our community and one another. We also have the privilege to connect with those coming new to Bethel.

Service... We have already begun to serve with our project of gift bags for the middle school teachers and staff. The fall brings additional opportunities to strengthen our service as a response to the good news of the gospel in our lives. In August, volunteers donated over 168 hours of labor in painting and cleanup. We are grateful to Candy and Craig Osvog, Gary and Joyce Carlson, and Susie

Keenaghan for leading this clean-up, painting, and fix-up effort. Look for opportunities to serve the Lord at Bethel and in our community.

Prayer... As a community of faith we have the opportunity to come together to pray. This summer Pastor Josh led us through a study of prayers in Scripture, enriching our understanding of the importance, power and beauty of praying individually and together. The Elder Team at Bethel invites you to fully participate in the life of Bethel and is praying that God will use our Fall for His Glory and purposes.

Robertson's Ramblings (continued from page 1)

relationships in your neighborhood in hopes to continue some of those relationships and be given opportunities to proclaim the Gospel in your actions and in your words.

6.) Your neighbors will love that you took initiative to do this! They want to know their neighbors more too, but just don't know how to go about it.

7.) It will make it less awkward when you are in the middle of making cookies and you don't have any butter if you at least know the names of your neigh-

bors when you go ask them for a stick of butter! :))

8.) It makes future conversations with neighbors more natural (aka... less awkward) and that is a good thing.

9.) It lines up with Scripture as we are called to love our neighbor!

10.) All the cool people are doing it!*

So if you are ready to host a block party indicate it on your connection card in your bulletin so we know and can be praying for

you! Also, we would love to hear how your block party goes (even send us a picture)!

*The definition of cool is very subjective and it might not be fully true that all the cool people are doing it, but why take the chance of being left out!



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Exalting His Name...

Equipping His People...

Evangelizing His World...

Upcoming Events

9/7 MOPS (Day and Night) Starts

9/10 Men's Breakfast

9/11 Kickoff Sunday

9/15 Women's Bible Study Begins

9/18 Women's Garden Party

Missions Focus - John & Shelly Gilmore



John, Shelly, and Elia Gilmore were in the Brookings area for about a month before returning to Giessen, Germany spending time with Shelly's parents, Bob and Donna Burke, and siblings. They have come to the end of a year-long home-assignment with Agape Europe which is affiliated

with CRU, formally Campus Crusade for Christ. The Gilmores serve in various roles with this ministry. John works with about 1,000 Agape Europe staff members in financial management. Shelly serves as a Leadership Development Team Leader helping staff in Western Europe where she interacts with about 100 team leaders across the area.

This couple also reaches out to students in their area by providing a pasta night every other Friday night. Shelly said, "People know who God is

by the way we love one another." Some ways they tell others about Jesus are by personally engaging with people, connecting with neighbors, and having folks in. There are Family Life Conferences and the MyStory.me site that are ways of outreach too.

Something new that has happened since the Gilmores left Germany is the refugees that have come to Europe. The Gilmores will use a website and app that has resources and suggestions to help people engage with refugees. This includes a video giving 30 tips

on relating to Muslims, but is useful for anyone interacting with someone from a different culture. Leaders need to be ready for the coming changes of the world.

Pray for the Gilmores as they transition back to Germany. Elia will begin kindergarten when they return. When asked if they were nervous about returning on September 4, Shelly responded, "Why would I be scared, it's where the Lord wants us to be."