WHO ARE WE AT 141 YEARS OLD . . . ?

In one of his recent books, author John Ortberg makes an interesting observation about churches. He says new congregations that are just beginning have a strong sense of mission. They take seriously questions like: WHAT ARE WE HERE FOR? WHAT DOES GOD WANT US TO DO? WHAT CAN WE DO FOR OTHERS? New churches don’t worry much about survival because they realize they may not be around tomorrow!

But Ortberg goes on to note, the older a congregation grows, the less it shows interest in mission and the more it clings to survival. Older congregations become fixated on questions like: WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO TO SIMPLY STAY IN EXISTENCE? WHAT’S IN IT FOR US? They no longer “shoot for the moon” but are simply trying to keep their doors open. (It’s an interesting observation and contrast between the two, isn’t it?)

Here are some other questions that are just beginning have a strong sense of mission. They take seriously questions like: WHAT ARE WE HERE FOR? WHAT DOES GOD WANT US TO DO? WHAT CAN WE DO FOR OTHERS? New churches don’t worry much about survival because they realize they may not be around tomorrow!

But Ortberg goes on to note, the older a congregation grows, the less it shows interest in mission and the more it clings to survival. Older congregations become fixated on questions like: WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO TO SIMPLY STAY IN EXISTENCE? WHAT’S IN IT FOR US? They no longer “shoot for the moon” but are simply trying to keep their doors open. (It’s an interesting observation and contrast between the two, isn’t it?)

This year Bethel Lutheran Church of Hudson, Wisconsin hits its 142nd birthday! A lot of great ministry has been done at and through Bethel in the past 142 years. Yet as one of your pastors, I’m tempted to ask the “thousand dollar question”: AT THE AGE OF ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY TWO YEARS, ARE WE STILL COMMITTED TO OUR MISSION, OR ARE WE SIMPLY SURVIVING? DO WE EXIST TO SERVE OTHERS, OR JUST OURSELVES? What do you think? What would those outside our congregation say about what they see, or don’t see in us? What does our weekly calendar tell us about what, and who we are committed to? And what does our budget tell us about our priorities?

Now John Ortberg does suggest there are some exceptions to the rule! Some older churches do retain their mission and sense of ministry! But it is not easy! They have to be very intentional to stay on track. They have to keep reaffirming what they are about and who God created them to be. Ortberg also suggests, all members of an older congregation must stay involved to keep the mission and the vision alive! . . . Not just the pastors and staff, but also the council, committees, and members young and old.

In this, our 142nd year, I hope and pray we can retain our mission and what God put us here in Hudson to do: Sharing the Great news of Jesus Christ through our words and our deeds! In this year, 2015, I hope and pray we can continue to follow God’s purpose for us, and not succumb to the survival mode. Rather than the temptation to look inward, I hope we’ll be intentional to look beyond just ourselves to the needs of others in our community and the world. We’ll be talking more about our mission, and formulating a mission statement in this new year. I hope you will be part of this discussion with individuals, families, ministry groups, committees, and our church council. Your interest and involvement is crucial in seeing that we stay “on course” and keep working together well!

So congratulations Bethel, in this, our 142nd year! Let’s celebrate! (We have plenty of reason to!) But let’s also remember WHO we are, WHAT we are, and WHY we are here!

In God’s Great Love,
Pastor John LeStock
BETHEL’S VISION FOR MISSION
To WELCOME all people to know Jesus Christ and to come to faith in him. To provide the means for growth for Christian maturity, EQUIPPING people with the power of faith in Christ for everyday life. To challenge each member to take a personal share of God’s mission, SEND-ING them to bring Christ’s compassion, hope and joy into the world, our communities and homes.

MARKS OF DISCIPLIPES
- Grow Spiritually 
  Ephesians 4:13
- Pray and Read Scripture Daily, Psalm 119:105
- Weekly Worship 
  Hebrews 10:23-25
- Serve in a Ministry at Bethel 
  Corinthians 12:4-13
- Serve in Outreach Beyond Bethel 
  Matthew 25:31-46
- Grow Toward a Tithe of My Financial Resources 
  2 Corinthians 8:12
- Encourage Spiritual Growth in Others Through Relationships 
  Mark 6:7

The Visitor (USPS 79) is published monthly by Bethel Lutheran Church, 920 Third Street, Hudson, WI 54016-1696. Periodicals Postage paid at Hudson, WI. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Visitor, 920 Third St., Hudson, WI 54016-1696. Publication deadline is the 15th of the month for the Visitor. Submissions should be emailed to Lori Conley at loriconley@bethelhudson.org or dropped off at the church office Downtown.

January 2015

BETHEL STAFF DIRECTORY

Church office: 715.386.8821
bethel@bethelhudson.org
www.bethelhudson.org

PASTORAL STAFF
Senior Pastor
John Leslock, ext. 22
jleslock@bethelhudson.org

Associate Pastor
Alicia Hilding, ext. 23
aghilding@bethelhudson.org

Pastor of Youth and Families
Ben Hilding, ext. 24
bhilding@bethelhudson.org

Visitation Pastor
Bob Bipes
pastorbob@bethelhudson.org

CHILDREN’S & YOUTH MINISTRY STAFF
Director of Faith Formation
Cindy Halunen, ext. 34
chhalunen@bethelhudson.org

Coordinator of Faith Milestones
Maisy Austreng
maisy@bethelhighlandspreschool.org

Youth Ministry Comm. Asst.
Maree Andrews
mrandrews@bethelhudson.org

SUPPORT STAFF
Business Administrator
Ralph Van Keulen, ext. 21
rvankeulen@bethelhudson.org

Administrative Assistant
Rita Fitzsimons, ext. 20

Events Coordinator
Jill Hilding, ext. 27
jhilding@bethelhudson.org

Communications Coordinator
Lon Coryell
lon@bethelhudson.org

Volunteer Coordinator
8 & 11 am
Kathy Jeska, 715.749.3525
kjeska@bethelhudson.org

Volunteer Coordinator, 9:30 am & 5:30 pm
Kris Sattlerline
ksattlerline@bethelhudson.org

Financial Accountant
Kristine Palacek, ext. 25
kristineb@bethelhudson.org

Financial Secretary
Cheri Moreffe, ext. 28
cherim@bethelhudson.org

Media Technician
Bill Jenkinson
bjenkinson@bethelhudson.org

LEAD NURSERY ATTENDANT
Bethel Highlands
Sarah Roach
Emily Starkevitz

MUSIC MINISTRY STAFF
Director
Layton “Skip” James
kplmstr1@mac.com

Contemporary Worship Dir.
Donna Posselt, ext. 21
eric.s.posselt@gmail.com

Bell Ensemble Director
Lonna Posselt, ext. 21
music@lonna@hotmail.com

BUILDING SUPPORT STAFF
Facilities Manager, Highlands
Bernie Kottmann, ext. 21

Custodian, Highlands
Chuck Lewis, ext. 21

Custodians, Downtown
Bryce Yanosh, ext. 21
Sharon Sippel, ext. 21

BETHEL HIGHLANDS PRESCHOOL
Kari Jo Fore, Director
715.381.8254, ext. 401

BETHEL STAFF DIRECTORY

Volunteer Coordinator, 9:30 am & 5:30 pm
Kris Sattlerline
ksattlerline@bethelhudson.org

Financial Accountant
Kristine Palacek, ext. 25
kristineb@bethelhudson.org

Financial Secretary
Cheri Moreffe, ext. 28
cherim@bethelhudson.org

Media Technician
Bill Jenkinson
bjenkinson@bethelhudson.org

LEAD NURSERY ATTENDANT
Bethel Highlands
Sarah Roach
Emily Starkevitz

MUSIC MINISTRY STAFF
Director
Layton “Skip” James
kplmstr1@mac.com

Contemporary Worship Dir.
Donna Posselt, ext. 21
eric.s.posselt@gmail.com

Bell Ensemble Director
Lonna Posselt, ext. 21
music@lonna@hotmail.com

BUILDING SUPPORT STAFF
Facilities Manager, Highlands
Bernie Kottmann, ext. 21

Custodian, Highlands
Chuck Lewis, ext. 21

Custodians, Downtown
Bryce Yanosh, ext. 21
Sharon Sippel, ext. 21

BETHEL HIGHLANDS PRESCHOOL
Kari Jo Fore, Director
715.381.8254, ext. 401

- Send address changes to The Visitor, 920 Third St., Hudson, WI 54016-1696. Publication deadline is the 15th of the month for the Visitor. Submissions should be emailed to Lori Conley at loriconley@bethelhudson.org or dropped off at the church office Downtown.

January 2015

Business Administrator, Ralph
- Annual Budget Discussion
  - The council discussed a draft of the budget for 2015
  - A motion was made by Mike N. and seconded by Julie to approve the preliminary 2015 Bethel General Fund Budget subject to final adjustments after the actual 2014 results are finalized
  - The council openly discussed questions related to the budget; Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote
- Capital Funds
  - $2,000 in Capital funds are being used to replace a failed heat exchanger in one of the furnaces at the Highlands Campus

FINANCIAL SECRETARY’S & TREASURERS REPORTS, Dennis
- Strong contributions to the Capital Fund
- Contributions to the General Fund are about flat with 2013. Expenses are near budgeted levels.
- Some may have chosen to focus contributions to the capital appeal rather than the General Fund, such that General Fund contributions are flat year-to-year.
- We have paid down $400,000 in mortgage principal through November and we expect to make another $100,000 principal payment in December
- Inter-fund account balance is at approximately $95,000

OLD BUSINESS

- Save the dates
  - Financial Peace University – January (9 weeks)
  - Inside Story of Christmas – December 10th
  - Sunday School Program – December 14th
  - Engedi Ribbon Cutting – December 17th
  - Community Concert – December 20th 7 PM at the Downtown Campus
  - Awakening Light (Bethel Music Groups) – December 21st 3 PM at the Downtown Campus
  - Annual Celebration – January 25th 4 PM at the Highlands Campus
  - Women’s Retreat – May 1st - 3rd
- Discussed feedback from members on the change with the 11:00 service moving to Highlands

NEW BUSINESS

- Secretary for January 12, 2015 Meeting
  - Krista has volunteered to fill in for this meeting
  - The position will be required for the next council year as well
- Mission Statement, Tasha
  - Meeting again on Wednesday December 10th
- Behavioral Covenants Tim, Julie, Mike B., Ralph, Pastor John
  - Met a couple of times as a sub-committee
  - Watched a video that was beneficial
  - Will bring to the council in the future to determine how to move forward
- Preparation for Annual Celebration
  - Each Committee must complete the review to be included in the Annual Report on or before December
  - Reports will be turned in to Lori Conley
  - Two Council Members on Nominating Committee
  - Darrel and Faye volunteered to serve on the nominating committee
  - Please forward any suggestions to the nominating committee
  - Information will be going to the members seeking volunteers and/or nominations from the
  - Possible Constitutional Change
  - Current council terms are 3 years at Bethel while many other councils have 4 year terms or longer
  - Should the council select the officers or should they be elected by the congregation?
  - What is best for Bethel going forward? Should this be looked at in the future?
- Parking Spaces at Highlands
  - The council discussed the need for additional handicap spaces for events. Other areas use ‘temporary’ signage for events
  - Reconfiguring front door access for easier and safer unloading of individuals in wheelchairs
  - A recommendation was made to have the Property Committee review this and make a recommendation

- The Visitor (USPS 79) is published monthly by Bethel Lutheran Church, 920 Third Street, Hudson, WI 54016-1696. Periodicals Postage paid at Hudson, WI. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Visitor, 920 Third St., Hudson, WI 54016-1696. Publication deadline is the 15th of the month for the Visitor. Submissions should be emailed to Lori Conley at loriconley@bethelhudson.org or dropped off at the church office Downtown.

January 2015
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES EXCERPTS, DECEMBER 8, 2014

Staff Reports

Senior Pastor, John Lestock

- We are still looking for an Administrative Assistant (hired Rita Fitzsimons beginning 1/5/15)
- Kathy Jeska and other volunteers have been a real blessing filling in

Thanksgiving service
- There was a very good turnout. Many stayed to share the pie after the service in the fellowship hall
- It was nice to have a ‘blended group’ from Downtown and Highlands

Healthy Congregation 3-Week Seminar Series Feedback
- The timing of the message on conflict was timed really well right after the elections
- Steele’s Concert and Billy McLaughlin/Simple Gift worship music support
- Positive feedback heard from members on both
- There were a number of visitors from the community for Steele’s Concert
- Looking into the possibility of having Billy McLaughlin/Simple Gifts for a concert next fall

Looking Ahead

- We are gearing up for Christmas
  - Services at 2:00 (family), 4:00 (traditional), 6:00 (New Song) at Highlands
  - Services at 8 & 10 Downtown

- Bethel will have a small group caroling on Wednesday December 17th
- Year end general fund appeals underway to make up for the current budget shortfall
- Funds have been allocated from both the Endowment Committee and Women of Bethel
- New Years Eve Service being planned

Associate Pastor, Alicia Hilding

Since we last met:
- Jacob Benoy and Karyn Wilgren were elected to the Synod Youth Board
- Engedi Dedication on Wednesday December 17th
- Next week is the Christmas Program
- Housing Allowance for each Pastor Ben and Pastor Alicia to be allocated at $1171.50 per month for the 2015 calendar year
- Bible Study Underway
- Bethel University Series continues in February
- Healing Ministries
- Small Groups are still underway
- Blue Christmas Service December 7th

Looking Ahead:

- Healing Ministries
- Financial Peace starting January 11th
- Beneficial for all ages
- Bethel University Series continues in February
- Professor Rev. Dr. Karoline Lewis, Luther Seminary on February 4th & 11th
- Women in the Bible
- Bible Study Underway – The Inside Story of Christmas
- Matthew 1 & 2
- Housing Allowance for each Pastor Ben and Pastor Alicia to be allocated at $1171.50 per month for the 2015 calendar year

Pastor of Youth and Families, Pastor Ben

- Next week is the Christmas Program – “A Christmas Window”
  - 9:30 Preschool; 11:00 K-5
- Engedi Dedication on Wednesday December 17th
- Youth-led Service at 7:00 PM with the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 7:30 PM
- A HUGE Thank You to everyone who has helped with time and resources for this effort
- Many, many hours were volunteered to make this a success
- Jacob Benoy and Karyn Wilgren were elected to the Synod Youth Board

POWER OF PRAYER


THOSE SERVING OR DEPLOYED: Jeffrey Berg, Charles Burns, Jordan Kein and Steven Moreus.

DECEMBER BAPTISMS: Brdy Oliver Taekmann, son of Aubrey & John Taekmann, and at the 11 service, Aria Shayne Gallagher, daughter of Anna and Mike Gallagher.

NEW MEMBERS/DISCIPLES

Are you interested in learning more about Bethel? Do you have questions regarding the church, our mission, our beliefs, our programs, or something else? Maybe you’ve already been attending Bethel and are interested in becoming a new member/disciple. If any of these descriptions fit you, please plan to enroll in our next session of New Disciple Classes. Dates are Tuesday, January 13th, Thursday, January 22nd, and Monday, January 26th. (We highly recommend that you attend all three sessions.) All sessions will be held in the children’s theater at the Highlands campus, from 6:45-8:15 pm. Free childcare will be provided.

New disciples will be received during worship on Sunday, February 1st.

Please send an email to jhilding@bethelhudson.org or call 715.386.8821 ext. 27 to enroll and also with any questions you may have concerning new members.

WELCOME, RITA!

It is a pleasure to announce the appointment of Rita Fitzsimons as Bethel’s new Administrative Assistant. Rita, her husband Jason and two children live just a few miles south of Hudson but within the River Falls school district. They are members of Ezeekiel Lutheran Church in River Falls. Rita’s most recent job was as administrator for the Loffler Companies’ Hudson office. She has years of experience organizing and scheduling activities in a fast-paced office environment and has worked extensively with corporate databases and the production of documents using Microsoft Publisher.

Rita will begin her full-time position on January 5th. Please stop by Bethel’s Downtown office and give her a warm Bethel welcome!
**LET WENDY’S DO THE COOKING JAN. 19**

On Monday, January 19th, 20% of the profits made at Wendy’s here in Hudson will support youth participating in ministry opportunities. Support both Wendy’s and Bethel by planning a night out! Invite your friends, family, and neighbors, to go out for dinner between 5-7 pm, Monday, January 19th. During those hours, youth from Bethel will be there to greet you and will draw regularly for door prizes. Great food, fellowship, and fun! If you have any questions or are a youth interested in serving, please contact Pastor Alicia at ahilde@bethelhudson.org.

### BETHEL BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION

Join readers to discuss *The King of Lies* by John Hart on Wednesday, January 7 at the Downtown campus from 1:30 pm. Our discussions are lively and interesting. Come even if you have not read or finished the selection.

### BELL ENSEMBLE

Rehearsals for the Bethel Bell Ensemble will resume on Thursday, January 8th.

### SENIOR ADULT LUNCHEON JAN. 12

Please plan to join our pastors, other staff members, as well as some of our congregational leaders for a special SENIOR ADULT LUNCHEON on MONDAY, JANUARY 12th. We’ll be in the fellowship hall at our Downtown campus from 12-1:30 pm. It will be another wonderful time with great food, wonderful fellowship, some memorable music as well as our annual State of the Church address. Please sign up in the office, in advance! (The cost is only $8.00, and yes, you can bring a friend!)

### COMING UP

**The King of Lies**

### BIBLE STUDY LEADERS

WELCA Bible study leaders will meet on Tuesday, January 6 at the Downtown campus.

**GREETERS**

1/4  Randy/Doreen Desl Bonnie Knutson, Susan Thoyer
1/11 Skip/Joanne Jessell Shelly Holzburton, Tam Lopatka
1/18 Peggy/Don Hale Norma/Dick Newberg
1/25 Inge Biever, Evelyn Christiansen Jenny/Margie Blikslo

**READERS**

1/4  Karen Pavlis Joselene Baker
1/11 Sandy Madsen Tasha Gunderson
1/18 Jeff Malis Chuck Boeder
1/25 Barb Roennigen Janet Lesstok

**COMMISSION ASSISTANTS**

1/4  Karen Pavlis, Barb Hagen Linda James, Chuck Boeder
1/11 No communion Tasha Gunderson, Linda James
1/18 Peggy Hale, Cindy Chopin Trina/Aaron Hilke
1/25 No communion Juli/Jacob Biercey

**ACOLYTES**

1/4  Doug/Christine Reznik, Brandon Kim Joe Murray, Megan Hamann
1/11 Maggi/Lea Lasonen, Kristin Fischer
1/18 Cameron Knoll, Daniel Moli Sam Paulson, Emma Jacobson
1/25 Ethan Kostynick, Petyon Moussie Ashton Randal, Elizabeth Hughes

**COOKIE CALLER**

1/4  Janet Gwoic Randy/Doreen Desl
1/11 Delpho Hanson June Wisdom
1/18 Dick Trende Cynthia Hunley
1/25 Darlene Berglund Patty Johnson

**COMMUNITY SERVERS**

1/4  Karen Pavlis, Barb Hagen Linda James, Chuck Boeder
1/11 No communion Tasha Gunderson, Linda James
1/18 Peggy Hale, Cindy Chopin Trina/Aaron Hilke
1/25 No communion Juli/Jacob Biercey

**PROJECTIONIST**

1/4  Dave Datt, Troy Forscher, Chuck Lewis, Mitch/Greta Lewis, Brent Mitchell
1/11 No communion Tasha Gunderson, Linda James

**HOSPITALITY/COFFEE**

WELCOME CENTER

1/1  Tim/Cindy Nelson family Kim Romness
1/2  Ruby/family Tracy Berglund
1/3  Jolee family Jane Berg
1/4  Brandt family Maitlene Weiss

**VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS**

Kim Soltenite—9:30 am & 11 am services: 715.749.3324 (ksoltenite@bethelhudson.org)
Kathy Jesko—8 am & 11 am services: 715.749.3324 (kjexko@bethelhudson.org)

**MANAGING PASTOR**

Pastor Alicia Malick, please be aware.

**WEDNESDAY STEAK NIGHT**

“LUMBERJACK”

Invite your friends, new and old, to share memorable music as well as our wonderful fellowship, some wonderful time with great food, and fun! Great food, fellowship, some memorable music as well as our annual State of the Church address. Please sign up in the office, in advance! (The cost is only $8.00, and yes, you can bring a friend!)

**SERNER ADULT LUNCHEON JAN. 12**

Please plan to join our pastors, other staff members, as well as some of our congregational leaders for a special SENIOR ADULT LUNCHEON on MONDAY, JANUARY 12th. We’ll be in the fellowship hall at our Downtown campus from 12-1:30 pm. It will be another wonderful time with great food, wonderful fellowship, some memorable music as well as our annual State of the Church address. Please sign up in the office, in advance! (The cost is only $8.00, and yes, you can bring a friend!)

**BETHEL BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION**

Join readers to discuss *The King of Lies* by John Hart on Wednesday, January 7 at the Downtown campus from 1:30 pm. Our discussions are lively and interesting. Come even if you have not read or finished the selection.

**BELL ENSEMBLE**

Rehearsals for the Bethel Bell Ensemble will resume on Thursday, January 8th.

### COMMUNITY SERVERS

1/4  Karen Pavlis, Barb Hagen Linda James, Chuck Boeder
1/11 No communion Tasha Gunderson, Linda James
1/18 Peggy Hale, Cindy Chopin Trina/Aaron Hilke
1/25 No communion Juli/Jacob Biercey

### PROJECTIONIST

1/4  Dave Datt, Troy Forscher, Chuck Lewis, Mitch/Greta Lewis, Brent Mitchell
1/11 No communion Tasha Gunderson, Linda James

### HOSPITALITY/COFFEE

WELCOME CENTER

1/1  Tim/Cindy Nelson family Kim Romness
1/2  Ruby/family Tracy Berglund
1/3  Jolee family Jane Berg
1/4  Brandt family Maitlene Weiss

**VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS**

Kim Soltenite—9:30 am & 11 am services: 715.749.3324 (ksoltenite@bethelhudson.org)
Kathy Jesko—8 am & 11 am services: 715.749.3324 (kjexko@bethelhudson.org)

**MANAGING PASTOR**

Pastor Alicia Malick, please be aware.
BEGINNING ANEW

The long nights, shorter days, holiday celebrations, and the transition from one year to the next year invites us to take time out, to listen deeply within, and to renew our life. The Christian faith teaches us that a new start is an endless possibility. Each day is a death to sin, a new day. A new start is provided by a personal encounter with the risen and living Jesus Christ. We are a new creation through the waters of Baptism. Bethel Healing Ministries would like to introduce you to the “The Wholeness Wheel”, a tool used to understand whole-person health.

The Bethel Healing Ministries Team wants to invite you to take a look at the Wholeness Wheel and consider one area that you may want to focus on as we turn a page to a new year.

MARTIN LUTHER SAID, “This life, therefore, is not godliness but the process of becoming godly, not health but getting well, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not now what we shall be, but we are on the way.” We can’t be “whole” in this life, but we can become acquainted with the wholeness to come by striving to live well in key aspects of our lives.

RESOURCES:
www.porticobenefits.org
A call to live well

http://www.ymcatwincities.org/locations/hudson_ymca/about/

https://www.facebook.com/HudsonHospitalClinic

THE WHOLENESS WHEEL

Engedi
On December 17 there was a ribbon cutting for Engedi which launched the official opening of the renovated youth room! Thanks to the countless hours from the dedicated volunteers who helped make this possible. And thanks to the generous financial contributions that have helped make it a truly welcoming space. The Bethel Engedi truly has become a place of refuge, safety and nourishment for the soul.

Senior League—Grades 9-12
Each Wednesday, Senior League begins with a 7 pm worship in the Downtown sanctuary, followed by an activity at 7:30. All Senior League nights will conclude by 9 pm at the Downtown campus. On January 28, we will work at Feed My Starving Children from 8–9:30 pm. That night Senior League will begin with worship at 7 and we will return by 10 pm.

Montana Ski Trip
Grades 9-12
Bethel youth and chaperones will travel to Montana for three days of skiing and fellowship at Bridger Bowl and Big Sky. The trip will be from Friday, January 16 - Tuesday, January 20. There is a Mandatory Ski Trip Meeting Wednesday, January 7th at 7:30 pm in the fellowship hall of Bethel Downtown. Parents are encouraged to come. Please pray for safe travels and a rejuvenation of mind, body and spirit!

Engedi
On December 17 there was a ribbon cutting for Engedi which launched the official opening of the renovated youth room! Thanks to the countless hours from the dedicated volunteers who helped make this possible. And thanks to the generous financial contributions that have helped make it a truly welcoming space. The Bethel Engedi truly has become a place of refuge, safety and nourishment for the soul.

Senior League—Grades 9-12
Each Wednesday, Senior League begins with a 7 pm worship in the Downtown sanctuary, followed by an activity at 7:30. All Senior League nights will conclude by 9 pm at the Downtown campus. On January 28, we will work at Feed My Starving Children from 8–9:30 pm. That night Senior League will begin with worship at 7 and we will return by 10 pm.

Montana Ski Trip
Grades 9-12
Bethel youth and chaperones will travel to Montana for three days of skiing and fellowship at Bridger Bowl and Big Sky. The trip will be from Friday, January 16 - Tuesday, January 20. There is a Mandatory Ski Trip Meeting Wednesday, January 7th at 7:30 pm in the fellowship hall of Bethel Downtown. Parents are encouraged to come. Please pray for safe travels and a rejuvenation of mind, body and spirit!
ADULT EDUCATION, SMALL GROUPS, & PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Alicia at 715.386.8821, ext. 23 or ahilding@bethelhudson.org, or visit the Adult Ministry page at www.bethelhudson.org to see a full listing of these ministry opportunities!!

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

CAROLYN SHURB, COORDINATOR

Join readers to discuss *The King of Lies* by John Hart on Wednesday, January 7 at the Downtown campus from 1-3 pm. Our discussions are lively and interesting; come even if you have not read or finished the selection.

WHAT DOES A HEALTHY CONGREGATION LOOK LIKE? . . . ARE WE ONE? . . . WHY IS THIS SO IMPORTANT?

Join Pastor John, and some of our congregational leaders, for a reflective and thought-provoking look and discussion on what makes for keeping a church congregation healthy. (Why is it, sometimes churches can be the most unhealthy and toxic places? What are the pitfalls to avoid? Why is it so important to nip dysfunction when it raises its ugly head? How do we safeguard against being sidetracked from our mission of sharing the love of God with all?) We'll also be using some video resources in this two-week session on Wednesdays, January 7th and 14th. We'll meet in the children's theater at the Highlands campus from 7-8:15 pm. It will be fun, interesting and your ideas and input are encouraged!

NEW SMALL GROUP FOR 20/30-SOMETHINGS

A new small group (including free dinner!) will be starting on Monday nights in January for 20/30-Somethings. Our first gathering will be on Monday, January 19th at Bethel's Highlands campus in the children's theater. We'll share dinner, watch a brief video and have some discussion together. Friends and neighbors are welcome!

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION DATES FOR FALL 2015 ARE COMING UP!

- February 14th at 8:00 currently enrolled students, 9:00 returning families (siblings of current or previous students)
- February 21st at 8:00 Bethel Church members, 9:00 general public
- Doors will NOT open until 7:00 am.
- Registration forms and tuition rates will be available after January 5th

To set up a tour or for questions, contact Kari Jo Fore at karijo@bethelhighlandspreschool.org OR at 715.381.8254, ext 401

Our nationally accredited program is unrivaled, with consistent and experienced staff, exceptional materials, and a comprehensive curriculum. Don't miss your opportunity to give your child a great start in a faith-based program.

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH

Bethel will continue to have community nights from 5-7 pm at Wendy's each third Monday evening of the month between January and May. This is a great opportunity for youth to raise money for their youth account to help pay for church trips and events. There are five Wendy's Nights left of the school year: January 19th, February 16th, March 16th, April 20th, and May 18th. If you would like to sign up to work at one of these nights, please email Pastor Alicia at ahilding@bethelhudson.org. The spots will be filled on a first come, first serve basis.
What is FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY?

We all need a plan for our money.

Financial Peace University (FPU) is that plan! It teaches God’s ways of handling money. Through video teaching, class discussions and interactive small group activities, FPU presents biblical, practical steps to get from where you are to where you’ve dreamed you could be. This plan will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more! FPU classes meet for around an hour and a half each week for nine weeks.

In just nine lessons, you’ll learn to take control of your money, invest for the future, and give like never before. Don’t worry! You won’t be asked to share any personal financial information during the class.

Classes will be held weekly at 4 pm from Sunday, January 11th—Sunday, March 8th in the Highlands children’s theater. Mark your calendars!

For more information or any questions, please contact Kelly & Kevin Carrier (Bethel’s Financial Peace Facilitators) at kcarrier2000@msn.com. To sign up and pay for your class, visit www.daveramsey.com, click on Classes, then scroll down to Find a Class. You will see Bethel’s class listing and you can register/pay online. If you would prefer not to register online, please email Pastor Alicia (ahilding@bethelhudson.org) or call her (715-386-8821, ext. 23) to register.
ANNUAL MEETING & CELEBRATION!
SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

Please plan to join us on Sunday, January 25 at 4 pm for our Annual Meeting & Celebration in the sanctuary at the Highlands campus. There will be entertainment for the kids in the children’s theater and childcare will be available for infants and preschoolers, while parents are in the meeting. Everyone is invited to stay for a tasty light supper following the meeting. Please remember to bring along your Annual Report (available in mid-January at either welcome center). Your presence, your voice and your vote are important!

JEARLYN STEELE RETURNS TO BETHEL HIGHLANDS CAMPUS

All are welcome to remember the life, ministry and impact of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the church, our country and the world at Bethel’s Highlands campus on Sunday, January 18th. There will be two combined services on Sunday: 9:30 and 11 am, BOTH at the Highlands campus. (No 8 am Downtown service and no Saturday Gathering worship service.) Jearlyn Steele (of the Steele Family Singers) will join us in worship as a special musical guest!
MILESTONES MINISTRY

JANUARY FAITH MILESTONE
KINDERGARTEN AND 1ST GRADE, BEGINNERS BIBLE

On Sundays, January 11 and 18, Kindergarten and 1st grade students will meet in Classroom 1 at Bethel Highlands during Sunday school time. These children will explore questions like, “What is the Bible? What does it mean the Word of God? Is it true?” in preparation for their celebration.

Faith Milestone Sunday will be celebrated on January 25 with a Bible presentation during the 9:30 am Highlands worship service.

UPCOMING MILESTONES
- January - Beginner’s Bible, Kindergarten & 1st Grade
- February - The Lord’s Prayer, 1st Grade
- March – First Communion
- April - Apostle’s Creed, 5th Grade
- Confirmation, 9th Grade
- May 24 - Senior-led Worship, 12th Grade

EDUCATION UPDATES
- Sunday school, Wednesday Night classes and confirmation will resume the week of Jan. 4.
- Sunday school - Jesus as a Kid
- 6th Grade Wednesday Night - Does God still create miracles today?
- 7th Grade Wednesday Night - Sorting through religion, churches and Christianity
- 8th Grade Confirmation - classes resume
- 9th Grade Confirmation - classes resume

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2015: EVEREST!

Get ready to "Conquer Challenges with God’s Might Power!" Mark your calendar for VBS 2015 from July 27 - August 1 (note the date change from previous years). If you would like to help with the planning, please contact Cindy Halunen (chalunen@bethelhudson.org). Watch for more details in the coming months!