June 15, 2016 Mid-year Charge Conference meeting

Attendees: Kathy Behrendt, Don & Ardi Roberts, Linda Emerson, Judy Alich, Ken Alich, JoAnn Nelson, Shirley Draine, Linda Brausen, Shirley Tresselt, Dean M. Freer, Marilyn Ertel, Darlene Ashley, Lora Gregg, Lisa Brown, Jamie Gregg, Lukas Rich, Ambir Dawn Stalker, Francis Ertel, Joe Brausen, Joann Larson, Ron Larson, Rolland Eck, Vern Emerson, Tim Bomstad, Ellen Bomstad, Polly Tabbert, and Pastor Dave Brown.

6pm Potluck & dinning fellowship

6:32p Mid-year Charge Conference meeting called to order and facilitated by Pastor Dave Brown. Reviewed agenda, opening Prayer.

A) **Celebration** of Ministry 2015-2016: Pictorial collage of slides review of ministry activity, narrated by Pastor Dave, details of ministry activates communicated can be found on website under OUTREACH 2016 and OUTREACH 2015.

B) A word of **Encouragement** –See Pastor's letter

a) Continue to serve "signature" ministry at Hilltop Elm.
b) Worship attendance is holding steady averaging 58 persons.
c) Persons participating in various ministries and teams of our church is around 70% of worship attendance.
d) Finances; offerings and other financial resources continue in a good position to meet our expense obligations as well as fund ministry.
e) Boldness in church/facility vitality in sharing space Sunday morning with New Heights Community church.
f) Casting vision for the coming months is to invite new people to participate in our life of following Jesus and caring for one another. i.e. establish Facebook page to reach 20-40something members of IGH community.
g) 2015 to do list: better communication (weekly email newsletter & for non-email copy is mailed to homes weekly) Bible study (offered Aug to November) Re-model of upstairs bathrooms (nearly complete, paint remaining,) the kitchen a new stove & refrigerator (a task force is formed and investigating possibilities for kitchen upgrades)
h) Each in attendance provided an open-ended feedback sheet to cast vision for future ministry….

C) **Recognition** and **gratitude** for of Faithful Leadership Servants: Every congregation needs to transition to new leadership on a regular basis, typically MB has 60 people who regularly share in the worship and ministry of the church. As a church body we need to share in leadership opportunities: sharing responsibilities offers others to get engaged into the life of the church, changing leadership adds flexibility to the church of new ideas and thoughts.

(1) Trustees: Vern Emerson, Ardi Roberts, Al Ashley
(2) Endowment Team: Dean Freer
(3) Pastor Parish: Vern Emerson, Dick Larson, Shelby Gregg
(4) Administrative Council Chair: Jamie Gregg
(5) Worship Team co-leaders: Kathy Behrendt and Joann Larson
(6) Mission Outreach Evangelism (MOE) team leaders: Tim/Ellen Bomstad
(7) Lay Leader: Polly Tabbert
(8) Delegates to Annual Conference: Kathy Behrendt and Rolland Eck.

b) Testimony from Darlene Ashley on serving the Body of Christ. It's not about "me" and the need to be officially on an elected to serve position at church to serve the Church. What she's learning in daily Jesus calling her/me to serve…. Don't need to be an 'elected team member' to actively serve, follow the examples of our fellow Mt Bethel attendees/members of serving others in need.

D) **Election of Leaders for 2016-2017 –** See Nomination Team proposal

i) Note: Ministry area teams of MOE/Missions Outreach Evangelism and Worship only leadership is elected, team membership is OPEN to ALL willing and wanting to serve. –
ii) Note: names presented had some spelling inaccuracy, corrected in attached document.
iii) Note correction: Kitchen supplies coordinator is JoAnn Nelson, not Judy Alich.
iv) Note: Nomination Team proposal of SPPR class of 2019 Jackie Tschida, currently a non-member.

b) **Motion Made 2nd, Approved** (Linda Emerson, Kathy Behrendt,) Accept Nomination team's proposals for Ad Board Leadership, Work area Team Leaders, Trustee, Staff Pastor Parish, Endowment team members with note of Jackie Tschida per membership to serve SPPR.

c) **Motion Made 2nd, Approved** (Dean Freer, Lora Gregg) Addition of Shirley Tresselt to Nomination Team from floor for 2019 elected to serve class.

E) Matters of **Membership**

i) Currently 116 Mount Bethel Church members
ii) To date in 2016 have lost one member to death: Annie Pfeiffer
iii) Average worship attendance is 56.7 a little less than average for 2015.
iv) Following are 2015 Church members who are inactive and generally unresponsive. Most have been on "inactive list" for at least two years. Each have been sent a letter of encouragement to return, to transfer membership or to withdraw.
v) Withdrawal by request: Pat Ashley
vi) Recommended for removal presentation: ~~Ben Bomstad, Isaac Bomstad, Darren Eck~~, Allen Gackstetter, Jennifer Gackstetter, Tommy Glenn, Dan Hamilton, Barb Hamilton, Jon Hamilton, List Rettler, Pat Short, Sara Zahn.
vii) Two years inactive Retaining membership: Jeff Lubich, Kyle Lubich, Mike Monjeau Sr., Janna Monjeau, Sandy Monjeau, Lindsey Monjeau- Oferosky, Tim Needham, Diane Needham, Gary Wallerich, Kris Wallerich. [added: Ben Bomstad, Isaac Bomstad, Darren Eck]
viii) Discussion

b) **Motion Made, 2nd, Approved** (Lora Gregg, Judy Alich) Recommend of Membership removal list as presented with exception of Ben Bomstad, Isaac Bomstad, Darren Eck to two years inactive, retaining membership classification

F) **Finance Report** by Finance Chari Linda Emerson, see detailed attached report. Expressed appreciation for generous giving. Finance team and church leadership effort is to be good stewards of offerings. Chair is investigating options, financial institutions sources for re-financing mortgage debt for balloon payment of $340,000 is due January 2017.

G) "In the Hopper" Matters

a) **Motion Made, 2nd, Approved** (Darlene Ashley, Dean Freer) Direct Trustees to re-finance mortgage.
b) A Team is gathering proposals of options for kitchen upgrade from 1960 standards to 21st century public health food serving standards.
c) Proposals of phases in Sanctuary upgrades: acoustics and video projection.

H) Team Reports see below. Team reports were included in 2016 Mount Bethel United Methodist Church Conference – Celebration of Ministry June 15, 2016. Potluck dinner 6p, 6:30p meeting.

I) **Motion Made, 2nd, Approved** (Darlene Ashley, Linda Brausen) Adjournment. 7:40p closing with prayer lead by Pastor Dave Brown

2016- 2017 Mid-Year Church Conference Minutes respectfully submitted, Polly Tabbert, Lay Leader
Included below:

- ✓ Pastor's Report
- ✓ Work Area Reports
- ✓ Financial Report
- ✓ Elected to Serve – Leadership and Team membership
- ✓ Authorization from District Superintendent, River Valley District, Clay Oglsbee to hold meeting.
- ✓ Slide presentation of 2015-2016 ministries.

Pastor's Report - David E. Brown

Grace and peace to members and friends of Mt Bethel UMC!

As I finish my third year of serving as your pastor, my heart is filled with gratitude for your faithfulness to Jesus, first of all, and for the way in which you live out that faith through Mt Bethel Church.

In 2015/2016, we have done some new things:

1. We experienced what it would be like to have another staff person as David Hodd served as an Eli project intern. We were all grateful for his ministry among us.
2. We held our first Neighbors Night Out in quite some time. About 25 neighbors joined us for refreshments and fun.
3. We held a Thanksgiving Eve service that was a general invite for the community.

4. We invited New Heights Community Church to share our building for worship and office.
5. We harvested 200 pounds from our garden for the food shelf.

We have also continued some effective ministries.

1. Ongoing care and appreciation for Hilltop teachers and staff.
2. Church 2 groups growing our discipleship and building relationships.
3. Worship themes for the big seasons of the church year, Advent and Lent.
4. Engagement in a variety of service projects resulting in mission.
5. Ongoing financial health due to generous giving.

Numbers don't always tell the whole story, but I would say that our worship attendance, after improving last year, is holding steady at about a 58 person/Sunday average. Individuals participating in the various ministries and teams of our church is probably around 70% of that worship attendance. As I understand our current finances we are holding our own and continue in a good position to meet our obligations as well as fund ministry.

We are blessed.

As we look to the new year, I believe there are three areas that we need to focus on.

1. Inviting new people to participate in our life of following Jesus. We are a great congregation and have a blessed life to share with our neighbors. We are all responsible for inviting others and we need to have a team of people focused on thinking of new ways to reach our neighbors.

2. Caring for one another. We already do this, but some of us think it can be done better. Joann Larson has agreed to lead a team of people in making this happen.

3. Continued generosity. We still have a large debt for our size congregation. Some fear what would happen if we "lost" the preschool income. We are sometimes hampered in making any improvement because of funding. It would be great to get past that!

4. (I always have an extra point or two!) Greater participation by all our members and friends in carrying on the ministry of our church. Remember the church is not a building, the church is not a steeple…the church of Jesus Christ is a people…a people called by God to serve one another and to serve the neighborhood and world that we live in. It is how we follow Jesus.

I am glad to be your pastor and look forward to what the new year will bring.

Mission, Evangelism and Outreach (MOE) - Tim/Ellen Bomstad

a. Back to School Bash 8/22/2015
    a. $500 Donation for backpack purchase
    b. Collected school supplies
    c. Volunteers prepared for and worked the event
b. Bread is delivered to visitors
c. Cards are sent to members when sick, celebrating events or special birthdays.
d. Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) done each quarter, averaging 15 participants per packing session.
e. Hilltop Elementary Partnership
    a. Luncheon 9/1/15 11 am - 68 served; gift cards x 110
    b. Boxtops for Education, etc. collected & delivered
    c. 4/22/16 Earth Day cleanup with students; 2 classrooms (~50 kids) & 7 Mt Bethel volunteers
    d. 5/4/16 Awarded $400 grant from the Conference
    e. 6/10/16 end of year teacher thank you – Krispy treats and coffee
f. Member visitation
    a. Targeted to begin in July 2016
g. Missions supported
    a. Mary and Tom Holman - Wycliffe Bible Translators
    b. Indigenous Ministries Jon and Jim Cook
    c. Minnesota Annual Conference - FMSC
    d. Family needs in congregation
    e. Listening House of St. Paul, Inc.
    f. One Great Hour of Sharing
    g. Simley All Night Party
h. Love Offering
i. National Night Out, Night to Unite

a. 8/4/15 from 5:30-8:30 - >200 flyers delivered door to door
b. Hotdogs, chips and ice cream; bouncy castle and lawn games for the neighborhood gathering
c. Visit from police, fire and mayor

j. Neighbors Inc.
a. Delivered 554 pounds of food, 1,546 pounds of produce and $470 since June 2015.
i. Apple picking 1200 pounds picked from Nelson's Apple Farm to Neighbors food shelf
b. Walk to End Hunger 11/26/15: $1,086 pledges/cash; $350 direct to Neighbors; $475 matching funds for a total of $1,911.
c. Connecting Big Iron Classic Truck Show and Charity Drive to Neighbors' Love Your Children Christmas program- 2 pickups filled with 100s of toys delivered.
d. Donations for Christmas - 31 gift cards $340 value & 10 gift bags.
e. Food Fight - Burger cards - 15 - $25 cards sold

k. Operation Christmas Child
a. 64 boxes x $13 = $832 -- Actual $741 donations since some paid their shipping costs ($91)

l. Storm Camp
a. Storm Camp 7/12-19, 2015 - one Adult, 5 Kids participated & financially supported

m. Teen Challenge Choir – 1/10/16
a. 30 teen challenge member and staff; potluck for choir and congregation following service
b. Donation collected during service

As you can see this committee is very active throughout the year. We accomplished many projects for the betterment of many. Our church is a very generous congregation.

Understanding the needs of our congregation was made clearer to us in this past year.
A goal to work on would be for individuals to identify projects or missions they have a passion for and to do the planning, organization and implementation.

Endowment Team - Ken Alich

The Mount Bethel Endowment committee's Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is about 95% done, giving church members an opportunity to extend Christian caring in God's name, for those in need, many generations beyond our own.

We are now 1/3 funded towards phase 2, the actual distribution phase.

Thank you to all who helped create the Endowment document, and to those who have directed funds to help make caring for all God's children possible.

To find out more, contact Ken Alich or Pam Roesler, our church secretary.

Finance Team - Linda Emerson

I pray that in all we do, we are following the Methodist Book of Discipline.

The accomplishments in Finance are not really ministry. The addition of the Faith Income component on the budget appears to be working well. The transition from old method of bookkeeping to Quick Books was a gigantic project and has worked out very well. I found several banks that wouldn't even bother to look at us for a mortgage loan because we didn't have the Balance Sheets and Profit / Loss documents for the past 3 years. Having 1 1/2 years worth of data in the desired format was acceptable for only two financial institutions.

Trustees - Barb Mahovlich

The strength of the ministry of the Trustees is in the dedication of our church membership that support the projects necessary for the upkeep and improvement of our church building. For every project the Trustees has led this past year, we were so fortunate to have so many willing volunteers to accomplish our goals.

The projects this year included replacement of the lower level hallway carpeting, washing and waxing the lower level classrooms, cleaning out and re-organizing storage closets for greater efficiency, and annual spring cleaning (inside and out). Several of these projects were in support of the needs of our tenant, Amazing Beginnings Montessori Preschool. We have had several repair projects including the sanctuary furnace /air conditioner and a boiler replacement, and elevator inspection requirements. Fortunately, we had funds in our capital accounts to cover the furnace and the boiler was under warranty. Recently, we were able to weed the east terraced garden and add layers of mulch to protect the soil and plants in those gardens. Volunteers have gotten a good start on the vegetable

garden too. We have investigated the prospect of upgrading the church kitchen and the costs associated with making much needed improvements, along with improvements to the audio and visual equipment in the sanctuary.

We are very fortunate to have individuals who see and need for bettering our church and its appearance and function, and they are willing to dedicate their time and talents to researching to make improvements happen. It has been a very productive year and on behalf of the Trustees, our committee is blessed to be supported by so many in our church family in our vigilant efforts to be good stewards of the physical church, Mt. Bethel.

Lay Leader - Polly Tabbert

Whether we specifically identify it our not, Mt Bethel Church has two mission fields: those we already know and those we do not know yet. For those we know, regular attenders of Sunday worship have grown in practice, comfort and ease; to share our God moments in worship (those we already know) hopefully we are courageously sharing our God moments with those we meet outside of the Mt Bethel's sanctuary.

We demonstrated a bold step in growing in relationship God and others when we stepped forward and offered space to New Heights Community Church on Sunday mornings.

From Hilltop staff testimonies of gratitude written and conversations we are in Jesus name, making an impact with Hilltop Elementary staff members. Mt Bethel Church has made gains in growing a trust, with this community 'signature ministry'.

In addition to continuing to grow in relationship with our Hilltop Elm staff let's seek to grow in relationship with the homes around Mt Bethel Church campus and neighborhoods (invitations to worship & events, prayer needs). We hosted Night to Unite/National Night Out and removed the collection bins from the church campus, two actions appreciated by neighbors.

We ALL need to be in ministry. Praying is ministry. We need to pray (pray, not wish), and our prayers need to be big and bold for Mt Bethel making an impact in our community for Jesus. We need to act as the Holy Spirit guides, encourages us. God loves us much that he sent his Son to the world. Jesus' mission, CHANGE the world. We need to embrace that CHANGE is good and what God expects and asks of us. We need to practice a courageous faith sharing in Jesus name. We as a church also need to be accountable to re-connect with disconnected members. First, re-connect them to Jesus, and then re-connect them to the church, to worship and serve with us.

Worship Team – Co-chairs, Kathy Behrendt and Joann Larson

The worship team is strong in the area of planning and making the church seasons decor very nice as well as keeping the worship services meaningful. We take people's ideas and put them into action resulting in a lovely environment to enhance our worship services. Our team divides up duties such as communion preparation, lists for ushers and greeters, alter embellishments, and kitchen supplies.

We need to keep communications open among the teams and get feedback from the congregation; be open to suggestions that may include change; sometimes just seeking vision for the future of our congregation. Respectfully submitted,

Statement of Financial condition 5/31/2016 Linda Emerson, Chair of Finance

Income vs Expenses Jan-May	2016	2015	2014
General Ministry Fund	$ 542	(-$1595)	(-$2843)
Mortgage Fund	(-$1087	(-$1643)	$2824
TOTALS	(-$ 545)	(-$3238)	(-$ 19)
Investment Asset Accounts:			
Hanlon Investment Fund:	$80,868	$87,229	$104,375
Funds from parsonage sale; reserved for capital improvements only. Not to be used for on-going expenses.			
Vanguard Fund:	$45,358	$51,824	$52,850
Designated funds for organ, memorials, missions, building emergencies, etc.			
Edward Jones Endowment	$17,617	$6,177	$3,939

- We are currently in a comfortable position with our finances. Although we are showing a deficit, it is smaller than last year and it is not unusual for this time of the year. Fall, specifically Nov and Dec, are our best income months. At the end of May, we were at 41% of the year and had received 39% of our expected income.

- New Heights Community Church has begun worshiping in our building and they are paid up through June.
- When we did the budget, Pastor Dave encouraged us to add a line item of *Faith income*. The finance team chose to go with 5% of our budget. This is income that didn't fit elsewhere such as Easter offering; fundraiser income; loose plate; coffee donation; investment income, etc. New Heights cost sharing goes here since it was not an item on the 2016 budget. The total of our Faith Income line was $6375.30. 41% of that is $2614 and so far we have received $2787.
- The balloon is due on our mortgage in Jan, 2017. We hope to have a new document in place before Sept. If we are able to continue our current payment, we will have the loan paid off in about 10 years. $340,000 remains on the principal. ALL funds notated as gifts to the Mortgage fund go to paying off the mortgage… imagine what we will be able to do when we no longer have a $3500/month mortgage payment!
- Participation in the Fall Craft Sale, Gerten's Spring Plant sale, and ShopWithScrip continue to support the mission of Mt Bethel UMC.
- Giving options include

  Traditional giving using the giving envelopes or putting cash or a check in the offering plate
  *Bill Pay through your bank
  *Vanco on line payment – Funds deducted from your bank account, credit card, or debit card
  *If you want information on these programs, please contact Linda Emerson

Thank you for your generosity. We strive to be good stewards of your gifts to Mt Bethel.

Shop with SCRIP program Linda Emerson coordinator, 5/31/2016

The ShopWithScrip fundraiser started at Mount Bethel UMC in Oct 2012
Orders for new plastic cards are currently taken on the first Sunday of each month with delivery of the cards on the following Sunday. Beginning in the fall we order twice a month.
The current coordinators are:

- Linda Emerson – submits orders and collects data
- Judy Alich – receives the orders and prepares them for delivery
- Joann Larson – Sunday Scrip Store
- Bill Brausen – Sunday Scrip Store

Status of Account:	Jun 1, 2015-May 31,2016	since inception 10/2012
General Fund Donations	$1050.00	$4354.50
Endowment Donations	1602.00	$3553.50
Total	$2652.00	$7908.00
Inventory in the Scrip Store	$1336.00	

During this reporting period, 34 people have participated.

a. How it works:
   a. The people participating in the program purchase cards from the Scrip program for face value. They receive face value of the card. There are NO activation fees with any of these cards and there are NO expiration dates.
   b. The Scrip coordinators purchase the cards from Great Lakes Scrip or from a variety of other sites that sell discounted cards. The difference is kept by Mt Bethel UMC as the fundraiser portion. The rebate varies with retailer and ranges from 2% to 50%.
   c. An attempt is made to keep an accurate accounting of the rebate earned by each participant. It will be reported on your year-end statement. We have a letter of explanation from the IRS that states that the rebate earned is a tax-deductible item.

b. What can you order?
   a. Cards are available to order from more than 600 retailers. A limited amount and variety is available on Sunday morning at the Scrip Store. A complete list is available at www.shopwithscrip.com or contact Linda Emerson or Judy Alich

c. Use of Funds:
   a. Fifty percent of all earning will be given to the general fund.
   b. Fifty percent will be put in the Endowment fund after all Scrip program and Endowment expenses are taken out.

Elected to Serve:

2016 – 2017 Mt Bethel Church Administrative Board Leadership Team

Note: (year) "elected to serve" on Ad Council launched

Administrative Council Chair	Dan Glenn	(2016)
Vice – Chair		
Lay Leader	Judy Alich	(2016)
Lay Delegate	Jake Tabbert	(2016)
Secretary – Communications Coordinator	Polly Tabbert	(2016)
Membership Secretary	Pamela Roesler	(1996)
Staff/Pastor Parish Relations	Lora Gregg	(2016)
Church Treasurer	Pamela Roesler	(2003)
Financial Secretary	Darlene Ashley	(2014)
Finance Team Chair	Linda Emerson	(2014)
Mission, Outreach, Evangelism (MOE) team Chair	_____	(2016)
Board of Trustees Chair	Barb Mahovlich	(2014)
Worship Team Chair	Deb Schneider	(2016)
Member Care	Joann Larson	(2016)
At-Large Member	Vern Emerson	(2014)

2016 – 2017 Mt Bethel Church Elected to Serve Team Membership

Note: (year) "elected to serve" term expires

Finance Team

Linda Emerson	(2017) Chair
Darlene Ashley	(2017) Financial Sec.
Pamela Roesler	Treasurer
Judy Alich	Lay Leader
Lora Gregg	Chair/PPR
Barb Mahovlich	Chair/Trustees
Dan Glenn	Council Chair
Jake Tabbert	Lay Delegate

Staff Pastor Parish Relations: SPPR

Jill Lewis	(2017)
Jake Tabbert	(2017)
Lora Gregg	(2018) Chair
Clyde Cress	(2018)
*Jackie Tschida	(2019)
Cyndi Zahn	(2019)
Judy Alich, Lay Leader	(2019)

*per membership

Worship Team

Deb Schneider, Chair (2019)
Mentors
- Kathy Behrendt
- Joann Larson

Mark Zahn
Linda Brausen
Darlene Ashley
Usher Coordinator
- Dale Schmidt

Kitchen Supplies Coordinator
- JoAnn Nelson

Altar care: cloth & candles
- Ken & Caroline Willis

Audio/Video/Projection presentation
- Ken Alich
- Shelby Gregg

Music: Choir/piano/organ
- Jill Lewis
- Judy Alich

Communion Stewardship
- Frank & Connie Dorniden
- Craig & Maura Bonn

*All Mt Bethel attendees invited to participate in creative worship planning & implementation.

Board of Trustees

Barb Mahovlich	(2017)
Dan Tabbert	(2017)
Gary Wallerich	(2017)
Al Oferosky	(2018)
Sandy Larson	(2018)
Mark Roesler	(2018)
Jamie Gregg	(2019)
Joe Brausen	(2019)
Maura Bonn	(2019)

Endowment Team

Don Roberts	(2017)
Ken Alich	(2017) Chair
Craig Bonn	(2018)
David Eshelman	(2018)
Mark Zahn	(2019)
Rollie Eck	(2019)
Barb Mahovlich,	Trustee Chair
Pam Roesler,	Treasurer
Pastor David Brown	

Nominating Team

Pastor David Brown	
Linda Brausen	(2017)
Mark Zahn	(2018)
Judy Alich, Lay Leader	(2019)
Shirley Tresselt	(2019)

Outreach/Mission/Evangelism (MOE)

(Pastor Dave),	Chair
Deloris Hammer	Card Ministry
JoAnn Nelson	Neighbors Inc rep
Linda Brausen	FMSC coordinator
Polly Tabbert	Back to School Bash
Ellen/Tim Bomstad	OP Christmas shoeboxes
Kathy Behrendt	Community Garden
Don Roberts	
Judy Akemann	
Terry Akemann	
Carolyn Cress	
Ellen Kirchner	
Jean Kirkhus	

_____ IGH National Night Out (August)
_____ Apple Picking
_____ Fall Boutique & lunch

*All Mt Bethel attendees invited to participate in planning & implementation of Outreach, Mission Ministries & Evangelism.

Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
River Valley District

Bruce Ough, *Resident Bisho*
Clay Oglesbee, *District Superintender*

Date of Authorization: May 20, 2016

RE: AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT A CHURCH CONFERENCE

This letter will authorize the Elder named below to preside at a Charge Conference/Church Conference at **Inver Grove Heights: Mount Bethel UMC**. This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the 2012 *Book of Discipline* Paragraphs 246-251.

Date of Conference: Wednesday, June 15, 2016

Time of Meeting: 6:00 p.m.

Presiding Elder: Rev. David Brown

Agenda: 1) Election of church leadership and 2) review of the 2015-2016 ministry year

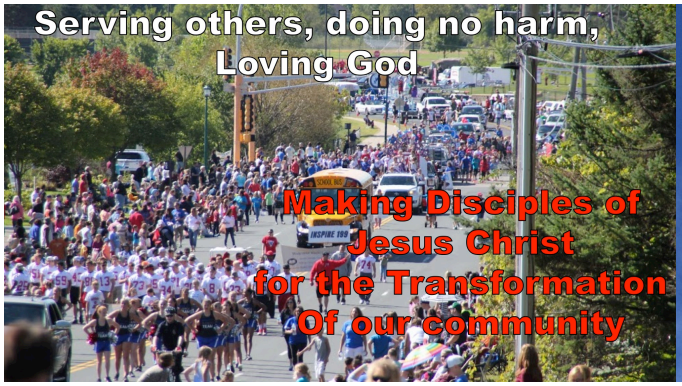
Please send a copy of the minutes from this meeting to the River Valley District Office at the address or email listed below. Thank you for your careful attention to this expression of ministry.

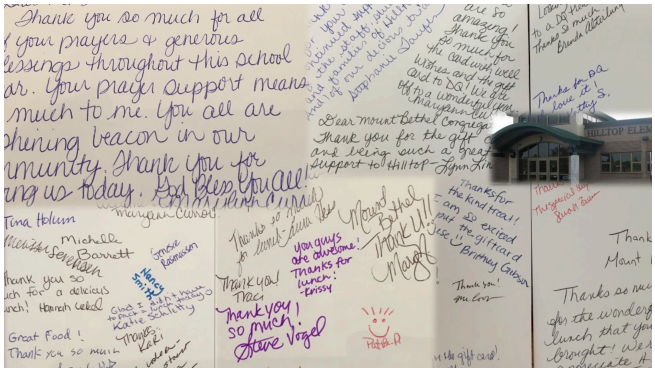
May God's Spirit guide and bless the decisions you make, which can help your congregation live out our Gospel Imperatives: to *Reach New People and Cultivate Spiritual Vitality...in our United Methodist churches.*

Your Servant in Christ,

Clay D Oglesbee

Clay D. Oglesbee
District Superintendent, River Valley District
Minnesota Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church
Cell: 507-251-9283
Clay.oglesbee@minnesotaumc.org





small Groups Life Study Support small Groups Life Study Support small Groups Life Study Support

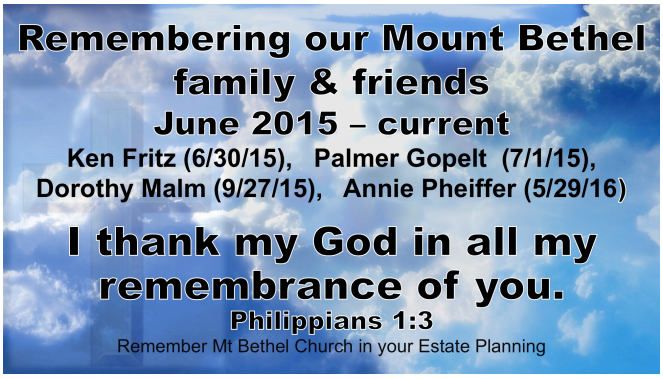
Church 2

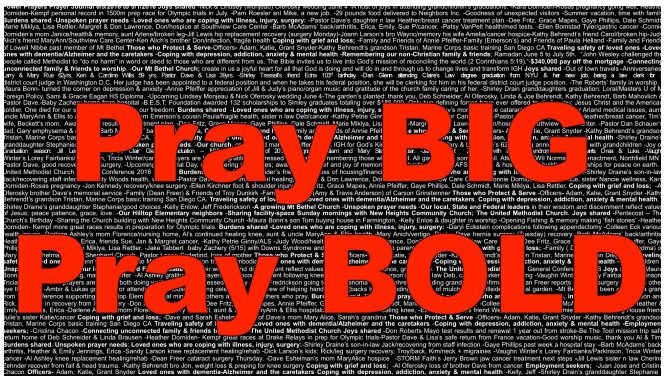
Met monthly, (September 2015 thru January 2016) **in 5 homes where 35+ shared a meal, conversation, scripture & prayer.**
Thank you for hosting: Shirley Drain, Jill Lewis, The Brausen's, The Gregg's & Tabbert/Wentkiewicz

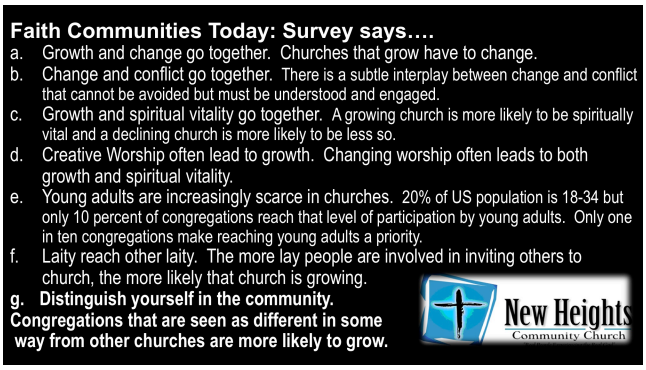
Make plans to attend our
Fall Boutique
Saturday, October 24th
9am - 3pm
Lunch served 11a - 1pm
NELSON'S APPLE FARM
November –
We are gathering food for Neighbors Food Shelf
1200 lbs picked for Neighbors Food shelf
Thank you for helping us fill the grocery cart for our neighbors
THE WALK TO END HUNGER IS COMING
Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26th at Wall of America
You are invited to a "free"
Estate & Will Seminar
Sunday, Sept 13th
Potluck meal
11:30a-12:45pm
FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN
Serving together
TEAM Mount Bethel UMC
1086 and 105lbs to
FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN
Serving together
6-7:30pm
THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE
Wednesday, Nov 25th 6:30pm

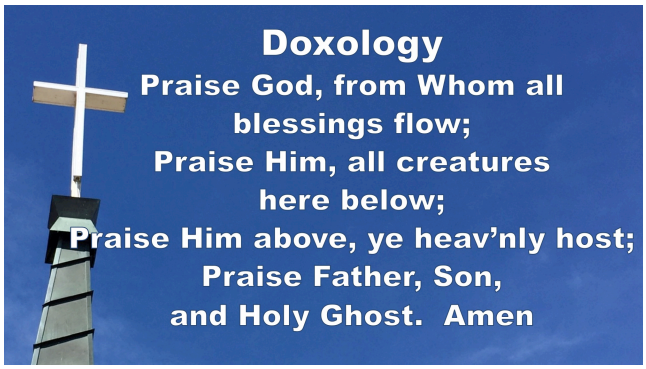
Make plans to attend our 10am Worship January 10th
Minnesota
TEEN CHALLENGE
Choir
Special Love offering and potluck meal following worship. Invite friends too.
Grace
6pm Wednesday's Lent
Soup supper ... and ...
"oh, to tell you my story
is to tell of Him."
by community members.
When we give to
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
we help build a safe, healthy learning environment for preschoolers in refugee camps.
UMCOR
Living Generously
Your gift to the 2016 Love Offering for Mission supports:
Refugee Response (services & health kits)
International Child Care: Dominican Republic
Volunteers in Mission Scholarships

Pastor Dave's Sermon series from Philippians
THE PURSUIT OF JOY
Grace - The Gospel – Hope – Unity - Hun
Partnership – Perseverance – Peace
Sunday's 10am live worship
Pastor Dave's October Sermon Series
"Fill The Jars!"
2Kings 4:1-6 and Luke 6:37-38
What we Have
Ask for a lot!
Fill the Jars!
Measure by Measure!
Worship with us... Sundays 10am
Our November Sermon series
Saints
Seek to know God
Current Sermon Series
Mary our example...
Grace
Luke 1 & 2
in Waiting, in the presence of Christ,
in Action, in Fulfillment
Our Sermon Series
One Cross at a time.
Trust in God's timing.
Rely on God's promises.
Wait for God's answers.
Rejoice in God's goodness.
Believe in God's miracles.
Rest in God's presence.
Sharing the Road, the Meal, the Word.


Remembering our Mount Bethel family & friends
June 2015 – current
Ken Fritz (6/30/15), Palmer Gopelt (7/1/15),
Dorothy Malm (9/27/15), Annie Pheiffer (5/29/16)
I thank my God in all my remembrance of you.
Philippians 1:3
Remember Mt Bethel Church in your Estate Planning


Pray BIG
Pray BOLD


Faith Communities Today: Survey says....
a. Growth and change go together. Churches that grow have to change.
b. Change and conflict go together. There is a subtle interplay between change and conflict that cannot be avoided but must be understood and engaged.
c. Growth and spiritual vitality go together. A growing church is more likely to be spiritually vital and a declining church is more likely to be less so.
d. Creative Worship often lead to growth. Changing worship often leads to both growth and spiritual vitality.
e. Young adults are increasingly scarce in churches. 20% of US population is 18-34 but only 10 percent of congregations reach that level of participation by young adults. Only one in ten congregations make reaching young adults a priority.
f. Laity reach other laity. The more lay people are involved in inviting others to church, the more likely that church is growing.
g. Distinguish yourself in the community.
Congregations that are seen as different in some way from other churches are more likely to grow.
New Heights
Community Church


Doxology
Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son,
and Holy Ghost. Amen