



Bethel

Love. Acceptance. Jesus Christ.

Profile



515 E. Main Avenue | Zeeland, Michigan 49464

Bethel is a small multi-generational church

on the east side of Zeeland, Michigan. In 2016, Bethel began the Renewal Lab at Calvin Seminary.

The process renewed a passion for the gospel, hospitality, and outreach. Our goal is to put the gospel as center of our worship and our ministries. We are intentional about making visitors feel welcome and loved during the service and in fellowship. Our passion for outreach stems from our call as God's people and our placement by God in this part of Zeeland.

Bethel Church is Seeking a Full-Time Pastor

The primary responsibility will be to preach the word and plan the morning service along with the worship team. He/she will also be responsible for leading an evening service, whether preaching or leading a Bible study. The pastor will also engage in pastoral care along with the pastoral care assistants. The pastor will provide leadership that enhances the health of our church and encourages us to make more and better disciples, helping us embrace and carry on our vision for Bethel Church.

Bethel's Vision:

A community rooted in the
love and **acceptance** of **Jesus Christ**
and ignited by the Holy Spirit to be growing in
and sharing our faith in Zeeland and beyond.

- Embraces Biblical/gospel preaching with different styles of presentation.
- Has a passion for prayer.
- Has compassion for those curious about the faith and willing to give leadership inside and outside the church. He/ she should work alongside others in outreach endeavors.
- Is interested and willing to work with all age groups. He/she should make an effort to get to know all members the first year.
- Is a team player who can work with the worship team and provide opportunities for members to be involved in worship. This includes the use of drama, dance, various types of music, prayer, and scripture reading.
- Is willing to work wholeheartedly with both genders as we have male and female elders and deacons.
- Supports and encourages Christian Education in church, home, and school.
- Is actively involved as a Kids Hope mentor.

If interested, please contact Brandon Compagner 616.566.4217 or e-mail search@bethelzeeland.org

Worship

Worship services at Bethel

follow the Reformed tradition in the order of worship; (call to worship, time of confession, assurance of pardon, prayer, message, offering, and singing). Our worship is designed with the intent of a dialog with God; we listen and then we respond. We are open to creative ways to make each part of worship meaningful, authentic, and God honoring. Our goal is to move from a worship service catered to the "churched" to a worship service catered to the "unchurched". The order of worship should not be confusing or misunderstood by visitors. The Gospel should be evident in the sermon and other parts of the service.

A worship team of 6 members help to plan weekly worship services along with the pastor. Members of the team are assigned one Sunday a month to help the pastor with the service. The team also meets regularly to plan special services and discuss matters concerning worship. We also have a Praise Team consisting of pianists, singers, guitars, and trumpet. Sometimes members of the congregation use their gifts to lead prayer, readings, and dramas.



Discipleship Ministries

Nursery (birth-age 3) (during morning worship)

Children's Worship

(ages 3-2nd grade) (during morning worship)

Church School (ages 4-highschool)

Topics/Discussion

on Sundays/Wednesdays (adults)

GEMS (girls - 1st-8th grade)

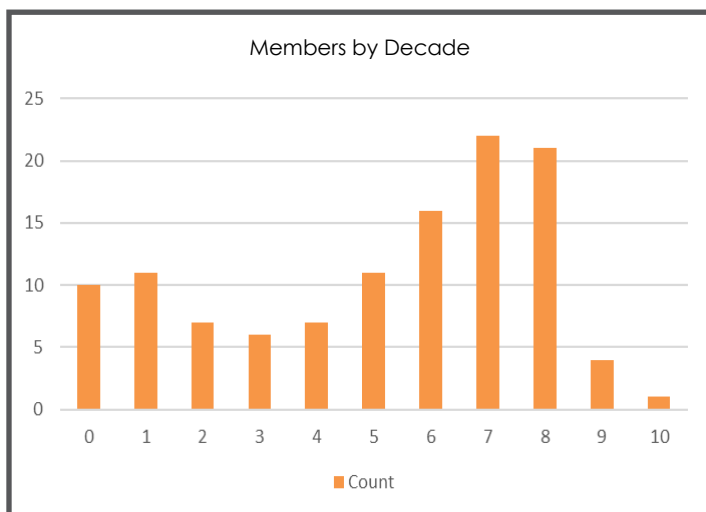
Cadets (boys - 1st-8th grade)

Youth Group (high school)

Life on Life Discipleship

Bible Study Groups

Church Demographics



Average Sunday Attendance: 80

Active Adult Professing Members: 101

Present Annual Budget: \$185,909

Last Year's Annual Budget: \$223,910

Percentage of Financial Obligation Met:

(last complete year reported)

- 100% Budget
- 40% Denominational Ministry Shares
- 100% Classical Ministry Shares

Bethel's church building is adequate for our ministries. (Church building with large narthex, large meeting room, kitchen, nursery, library, offices, children's worship room and 5 classrooms.) There is a **parsonage** next to the church and the **Pastor's study is located at the church.**

2012-2019 | **Pastor Dan Kinnas**
 2000-2011 | **Pastor Jack Vander Plate**
 1992-1999 | **Rev. Gerrit Veenstra**

Strengths and Gifts:

Bethel is a caring community where we feel like family.

We have a passion for outreach and we try to see every opportunity as a platform for reaching out.

We are a multi-generational church which also gives the feeling of family.

Faith milestones throughout the life of our youth help encourage discipleship.

Bethel has a new and beautiful worship space.

Bethel is known in the community through our involvement in outreach including a playground, community garden plots, and ice rink.

We also feel that women in leadership is a strength.

We have a blended worship service which is centered on the gospel.

Bethel's core team has continued to work on renewal since going through the Renewal Lab. We know and understand that it is a never-ending process.

In what ways does your church participate in ecumenical activities?

- Vacation Bible School at a local trailer park
- Joint prayer services and worship services
- Blessing of the Buses (*a time of fellowship and prayer for the coming school year*)
- Kids Hope USA
- Support for Classical Ministries (*Parkview Home & The Bridge*)

Some Things to Improve on at Bethel:

- Dealing with change and moving forward with ideas.
- We need to be aware that we have opportunities for everyone (*all ages*) to be involved in.
- Visitors don't always see the potential of a small church, they just see the demographics.

Bethel's Passions:

Bethel has a passion for outreach and community support.
We encourage organizations and community people to use our facilities.
We actively search for the needs in our community.

We strive to organize and participate in authentic and intentional worship that is Biblical and gospel-centered.

Working with children in various ministries is a passion of Bethel.

We are working towards being BETHEL in our daily lives (B-bless E-eat T-talk H-heal E-engage L-listen)

What have been some interesting and challenging events in the life of Bethel? (during the last 3 years)

The Renewal process that we began 3 years ago, changing our morning worship service time from 9:30am to 10:00am, everything involved with our sanctuary remodel and beginning a Life-on-Life program.

Beliefs

At Bethel Christian Reformed Church, we believe the earth and everything in it was created by the one true God. The earth was perfect until sin entered in. Sin caused a separation between God and man, but God had a plan to save His people from that separation. God sent His son to die for each one of us. When we believe in His death and resurrection and repent of our sins, we are forgiven and have a place in heaven with God for eternity. Because we are forgiven we strive to live grateful lives. This gratitude is displayed in our desire to acknowledge God and God's will in everything we do. This love for God also drives us to serve Him and spread His love to the world around us. We also realize that we are still growing in our knowledge and faith.

As a local church we share the doctrine and beliefs of the Christian Reformed denomination. The local church gives support through ministry shares. Through the denomination the local churches can be in a partnership in "being the church" and can be more effective than one single church.

What are some cultural challenges facing Christians and the Christian church today?

- In a world that says everyone is right, Christians struggle with what we believe and why we believe.
- Christians are challenged with all the negative in social media.
- Standing firm in our beliefs and faith is challenging in our political world.
- Christians find sharing the gospel difficult in a world that lacks belief in the absolute truth.
- Christian churches face the challenge of the many other ways Christians can be fed rather than the local church (podcasts, video streaming, etc.)

Important Events in the History of Bethel Church

The Renewal lab has given a new life to Bethel. Through this process we have identified our vision as a church. We desire and strive to plan our worship, ministries, and outreach around this vision. This process has also given us an understanding of our purpose in Zeeland, Michigan.

Over the past 17 years Bethel has had **2 major church building projects**.

In 2000 Bethel added a large narthex, additional classrooms, a pastor's office, expanded library, and an administrative office. In 2017 Bethel remodeled the sanctuary, including sound and lighting.

Another important event was the **acceptance of women elders and deacons**.

Leadership

Bethel's council is made up of 9 people plus the pastor. There are 3 subgroups: Elders, Deacons, and Administrative that exist and meet for an hour before the full council meeting. The **Elders** are responsible for the spiritual health of the church and encourage individuals to grow spiritually. They discuss and handle education needs and pastoral care needs and any other needs pertaining to the spiritual and health needs of our members. The **Deacons** are responsible for the budget and the expenses of the church. They also encourage faithful stewardship. The **Admin team** works on the day to day life of the church ministries and the church building. Under the supervision of the council, much of the church's work is done by committees.