

 bethelchurch

# CHURCH PROFILE







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worship ▸ grow ▸ serve  
together

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# WELCOME





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Welcome!

Our church profile was designed to give Executive Pastor candidates a snapshot of Bethel Church. We hope this church profile will give you a good understanding of Bethel's mission and vision. The following pages will give more information in regards to our community, church life, ministry programs, staff, leadership, finances and facility.

We encourage you to prayerfully consider the Executive Pastor position at Bethel. If you feel compelled by the Holy Spirit's leading we would love to hear from you.

In Christ,  
Bethel Pastor Search Team

Kent Burghgraef, chair  
Tammy Hoogewerf  
Brad Kamstra  
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# MISSION



The **mission** of Bethel Church is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, so that His name be exalted through **discipling His people,** **reaching the lost,** and **sending to all nations.**

*Go and make disciples of all nations (Matt 28:19) so that God will be exalted among the nations (Psalm 46:10).*

-adopted in council August 2021



# VISION

Our vision for the future of Bethel, is that we focus on improvement in:

## Discipleship

- a. Discipling pathways  
Children's ministry, Thrive
- b. Fellowship Ministry  
Beloved, Restart dinners & Prime Timers,  
Evaluating new ministries
- c. Men's Ministry  
Work to begin in the new year

## Evangelism and Outreach

- a. Personal Evangelism Growth  
Messages and more.
- b. Community Outreach  
Welcome Network, more to come
- c. Reaching the Nations  
Mission Team revamped and renewing  
efforts in our world missions support

## Reaching the next generations

- a. Strong Youth Ministry  
Continuing to grow efforts
- b. Parenting Support  
Evaluating ministry opportunities
- c. Sunday morning experience  
Worship opportunities



# CHURCH LIFE

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At its core, Bethel Church displays the many connected, supportive, and generous families that make up the congregation. Bethel prides itself in being a caring, prayerful, and ministry-minded congregation. At Bethel, members love celebrating together. The family of Bethel supports one another during times of sorrow by sharing a listening ear, words of encouragement, prayer, preparation of food, and written cards. The members have a strong giving mentality and support both ministries within the church, and our local and global ministries. We strive to be a covenant community that worships, grows, and serves best when we do it together.

Our church believes that part of being a disciple of Jesus means worshiping the God who redeems us and calls us by name. Bethel Church strives for God-centered, Biblically sound, and inspirational worship. We combine faith-forming traditional hymns with Scripture-inspired praise songs. Bethel Church worships together on Sunday mornings which allows the disciples of Jesus to experience the presence of the Living God. Each Sunday, many congregation members use their gifts to worship God. Participants are seen or heard playing an instrument, singing with the praise team or choir, reading a litany, assisting in the sound booth or tech room, singing in the congregation, working as building security, greeting members and visitors, and aiding in children's ministries.

Being a disciple of Jesus is never over. The church encourages each believer to continue to learn and grow as followers of Christ. Members and visitors alike have opportunities to get involved in a variety of ministries to help them continue growing and encouraging the development of their spiritual gifts. Bethel offers opportunities for continued growth for members of all ages.

We plant the seed and expose our children to the love of Jesus at a young age. Children's love for Jesus is nurtured through a variety of programs including Bethel Kids for toddlers through first grade, Sunday school for second grade through sixth grade, Oasis for junior high and high schoolers, GEMS girls club, and Cadets boys club.

Bethel offers its adult opportunities to grow through programs like adult education classes, Bible studies, and other small groups focused on studying the Word. These, and other opportunities, help the family of Bethel to continue to grow in their knowledge and walk with God.

When it comes to serving together at Bethel, we look to the ultimate example of a servant, Jesus. Jesus came as a humble and sacrificial servant. His act of service was bringing broken humanity the good news. Being a disciple of Jesus involves sharing this good news through both word and deed. Our congregation joins to serve both local and global ministries as well as missionaries. We partner with churches in the broader Lansing community to engage in various building and service projects in neighborhoods near Bethel. Bethel and its members also sponsor and join service projects in other states and countries in need. Bethel regularly builds ramps for families close by in Lansing and regularly sends teams to repair and rebuild areas impacted by hurricanes and tornadoes. These service projects help us serve God's hurting children and also provides Bethel's congregation with an opportunity to unite different groups and ages through common purpose.





## Our Hope for the Future

Our hope for the future, as we move into a new chapter of ministry, is to leverage our caring and giving strengths to become better disciples of Jesus, to be more like Christ, and be the best we can be, while affirming our core values (dynamic worship, disciplined children/youth, and devoted fellowship), cultivating and nurturing the aspiration value of hospitality, and adapting to our new ministry context. Our desire is to improve our ability to enfold and disciple new and non-members in our midst, and to be more community minded by better serving our neighbors in the communities we live and work.

# COMMUNITY & CHURCH DEMOGRAPHICS

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## Location

Bethel Church is in Lansing, Illinois, a community about 25 miles south of Chicago Loop and within Cook County Illinois which also borders Indiana to the east. According to a 2020 census, Lansing's population comes to 26,700 residents and is the 79th largest city in Illinois and covers about 7.5 square miles. Lansing was established in 1893 and was originally made up of Dutch and German settlers but has become a diverse community. Lansing is currently declining at a rate of -0.79% annually.

## Lansing Statistical Demographics

- **Race:** White 48.35%  
African American 43.34%  
Other 4.16%  
Two or more races 2.64%  
Asian 0.91%  
Native American 0.60%
- **Age:** Median Age of 40.4,  
Female 40.9 years old  
Male 39.3 years old
- **Sex:** 55.83 % Female, 44.17 % Male
- **Marital Status:** 39.1% married
- **Housing:** Median house value is \$129,900. The rate of home ownership is 65.2 %. Median rental cost is \$1,004/ month.
- **Income:** Household Median \$53,940  
Families Median \$65,714  
Married Families \$86,875  
Non-Families \$38,253
- **Labor:** Employment 57.1%, Unemployment 11%.
- **Language:** 82.13% speak only English  
12.69% speak Spanish  
5.18% other



## Bethel Church

Our members come from about a 10–12-mile radius from South Holland, Illinois to Crown Point, Indiana. Approximately 43% live in Illinois while 57% live in Indiana. Nearly half of our members drive 10-20 minutes to church. Many of our members come from surrounding Illinois towns such as Lynwood, South Holland, and Calumet City as well as Indiana towns including Munster, Highland, Dyer, Schererville, St. John, Cedar Lake, and Crown Point. We have strong church support of and for our local Christian Schools with children attending four grammar schools, Lansing Christian, Calvin Christian, Crown Point Christian, and Highland Christian schools and our high school, Illiana Christian High School.

## Bethel Statistical Demographics

- **Race:** White 98%  
Other 2%.
- **Age:** 18-24 yrs. = 3%  
25-34 yrs. = 7%  
35-44 yrs. = 11%  
45-54 yrs. = 14%  
55-64 yrs. = 24%  
65+ = 41%  
(Summary 21% are 18-44 yrs., 79% are 45 yrs+.)
- **Age of Membership:**  
0-2 yrs. = 2%  
3-7 yrs. = 9%  
8-15 yrs. = 20%  
16 yrs. or more = 70%
- **Attendance:** Sunday average is 246 in person and 21 live stream, with 16 YouTube views.
- **Membership:** Currently 514 members.



# CHURCH MINISTRIES

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## Adult Bible Studies & Small Groups

### **Men's Bible Study:**

Thursdays at 7:30 am, September - April

### **Women's Bible Study:**

Mondays once a month at 7 pm, Mid-September - March

Tuesdays at 9:30, Mid-September - March

Wednesdays at 10 am, Mid-September - March

### **R & R** (Rest in God & Renew with Friends):

A Bible study designed for young women to grow deeper in God's Word.

Mondays once a month at 7 pm, September - April

### **BELOVED:**

A monthly gathering for women to come together to praise and worship God, be encouraged by a speaker, share our stories and pray.

Second Monday of the month at 7 pm, year-round

### **Crafty Ladies:**

Women who love to do crafts, handiwork and chat.

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 1pm

## Children/Youth Ministry

### **Cadets:**

For boys grades 3-8. Bible study, badge work, activities and projects.

2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month from 6:45 - 9:00 pm

### **GEMS:**

For girls grades 2-8. Bible study, badge work, activities and worship.

1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month from 6:45 - 8:45 pm

### **Bethel Oasis:**

For students grades 6th-12th. Empowering students to own their faith walk and what it means to have Christ as their priority.

1st & 3rd Sundays each month from 5:00 - 7:00 pm

### **Vacation Bible School (VBS):**

June (dates TBD)



## **Worship/Music**

### **Sunday Worship Service at 9:30 am**

In our worship, we focus on the grace of God in Jesus Christ and celebrate the new life we have in Him. Nursery is provided. Audio assistance and signing are available. Online service available at [www.bethelyoutube.org](http://www.bethelyoutube.org).

### **Sunday Bethel Kids**

Ages 3 years through 5th grade: Children experience a Bible story, singing, life application and activity. Children meet during the morning worship service.

## **Prayer Ministry**

### **Sunday Morning Prayer**

Meets to pray for the worship and ministry of Bethel and for specific prayer requests. Meets in the Prayer Chapel from 8:45 - 9:15 am.

### **Prayer Line**

Information about the sick, those in mourning and those rejoicing can be accessed by calling the prayer line at 708-802-0900.

### **Email Prayer Line**

This provides updates of items on the prayer line.

### **Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting**

Meets from 7:00 - 8:00 pm. If you wish to email a prayer request, send it to [prayer@discoverbethel.org](mailto:prayer@discoverbethel.org).

## **Music Opportunities**

### **Adult Choir**

Rehearsals are Sundays, 10:45 - 11:45 am. High school age and up are invited to join. (September - May)

### **Worship Team**

Worship teams assist in music leadership during the worship service.

### **Other Instruments**

A variety of instruments also participate as part of a worship team, for special music or accompanying the choir.

## **Special Ministries**

### **Bethel Christian Children's Home**

Providing meals, clothing, shelter, health care and a Christian education to the orphaned children of Kyananjula, Uganda.

### **Micro Pantry**

Located on the east side of our building, the micro pantry is always stocked with non-perishable food items, hygiene and baby care items, occasional fresh fruit or vegetables. It is accessible to our community 24/7.

### **Ongoing Service Projects**

Focusing on local needs.

### **Relief Service Projects**

Spring break: usually hurricane/tornado relief work. (delayed due to COVID)

## **Fellowship/Fundraiser Dinners**

Our church has several fundraiser dinners throughout the year for the various ministries.

# STAFF & LEADERSHIP



**SHAUN BUIKEMA**  
Lead Pastor



**DAN BLOESCH**  
Interim Pastor



**DEBBIE OHM**  
Director of Children's Ministry



**JUDI BYMA**  
Worship Coordinator



**TIM GROENEWOLD**  
Finance and Facility Director



**LOIS FENNEMA**  
Office Coordinator



**DAVE SCHURMAN**  
Custodian



**LEROY NOBLE**  
Custodian



**BETHEL CHURCH'S COUNCIL** consists of 13 elders and 12 deacons. Each member of the council serves a 3-year term and then they have a 2-year period where they are ineligible for a council position. The full council meets once per month and the elders and deacons also have a separate meeting with their respective groups once per month. The congregation is divided into groups based on their home address and each group has an elder/deacon team that oversees their needs.

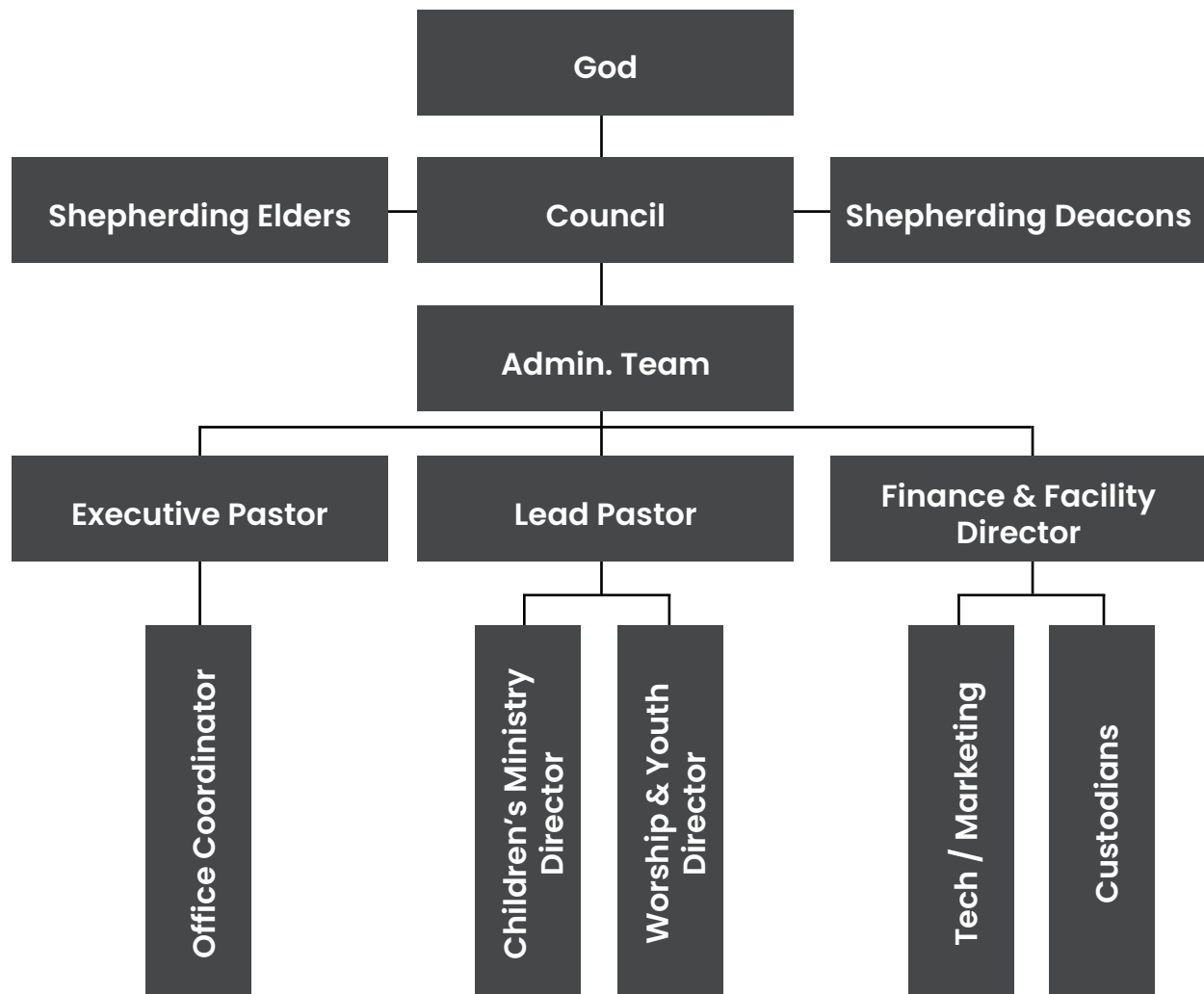
**Elders:**

Dean Bosman  
 Kent Burghgraef  
 Bill Byma  
 Warren DeJong  
 Ken Haan  
 Tim Lagestee\*  
 Paul Lindemulder\*  
 Steve Smit  
 Larry Van Drunen\*  
 Arie VanEk  
 Don Zirbel

**Deacons:**

Bob Bartlett  
 Dave DeBoer  
 Jim DeVries\*  
 Glen DeYoung  
 Kevin Haan  
 Dan Hoogewerf\*  
 David Huitsing  
 Mike LaReau  
 Dave Nelson  
 Doug Rozendal\*  
 Noah VanDrunen

\*Admin Council



# FINANCES & FACILITY

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## Present annual budget in 2022

Ministry Fund:	\$806,984.00
Building Fund:	\$ 125,00.00
Ministry Shares:	\$ 65,000.00
Mission Fund:	\$ 60,700.00
Christian Education:	\$ 43,798.00
Offering for outside causes:	\$ 37,190.00

## 2021 Budget

Ministry Fund:	\$832,349.00
Building Fund:	\$125,000.00
Ministry Shares:	\$ 75,000.00
Mission Fund:	\$ 62,950.00





Bethel Church was built in 1992 with an addition completed in spring of 2002. The property consists of 12.8 acres with a 49,500 sq. ft building. It has over 35 classrooms and meetings rooms, a Family Life Center which can seat 250 people for all sorts of events, a seminar room that is a little more formal, 2 courtyards, and an office suite. The sanctuary can seat 900 people.





# CHURCH HISTORY





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Bethel Church was formed in 1958 due to crowded conditions in the Lansing Christian Reformed Churches of Oak Glen and First Lansing, and the Munster Christian Reformed Church in Munster, Indiana. The first worship service was held on March 16, 1958 in the chapel of Illiana Christian High School which, at the time, was also in Lansing. The new church was officially organized on June 9, 1958, with a charter membership of 73 families and nine individuals. The first pastor was called in 1959. A parsonage was purchased and construction began on the first church building on 186th Street. This building was dedicated in 1961 with 92 families making up the membership. Bethel's passion for educating the youth and participation in missions originated here.

From the beginning Bethel experienced growth. Within the first 10 years Bethel almost doubled in size. Since the congregation was young, in ministry years and members' ages, internal growth caused Bethel to outgrow the sanctuary and a 200-seat addition was added in 1977. Soon after, two morning services were held to accommodate the members. Continued growth pointed to the need for an additional pastor. In the late 1980s, the position of associate pastor was created and team ministry began.

This continued until 1990 when another congregation offered to buy the 186th Street property. Seeing an opportunity to continue to grow, Bethel purchased new acreage three miles away on Glenwood-Lansing Road. While the new building was under construction, worship services were held at Lansing's public high school and Lynwood Christian Reformed Church. This continued for two years and proved to be a challenging period for Bethel. Dedicated members came together and donated time, energy, expertise, goods, and money to build the new church. The outpouring of gifts resulted in a building dedicated to God's glory, and a worship home for 265 families, nearly 1,060 members.

Additional paid positions were added to reflect this growth and to take advantage of the new facility including a director of youth education, a music coordinator, a children's ministry director, and a technical director. The facility was also experiencing overcrowding and an expansion was approved for large meeting rooms, classrooms, seminar room, office suite, and extended family life center in 2001.

Shortly after this expansion, families started moving south and east into Indiana. As a result, families, particularly young families, began transferring to other churches closer to their homes with more contemporary worship styles. Bethel began to evaluate the traditional worship style and it was decided to change to a more blended style of worship. This resulted in a mild contemporary mix of praise songs and traditional psalms and hymns. More people became involved in worship serving the Lord with praise teams and instruments.

Today Bethel Church continues to experience change as Lansing and the surrounding communities change, and families continue to move to Indiana and transfer to congregations closer to their homes. As a result of these changes, Bethel has decided to maintain two full time pastors with Pastor Shaun Buikema serving as the Lead Pastor focused on worship and youth ministries and is seeking an Executive Pastor to focus on administration, adult ministries, evangelism and missions.

Bethel started small, grew to be very large, and now holds worship services on Sunday for about 250 a week. Through all the changes, God's blessings are evident. Bethel continues to be a caring, generous, mission-minded, singing, and praying church, where God's word is preached faithfully.





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