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Bethel Bible Church 6966 West SR 14 Winamac, IN 46996

## What Is Church Membership?

What are the businesses or organizations you have a membership with? Sam's Club? COSTCO? A local gym? Amazon? How do such memberships work? Usually there is a fee paid, which once paid, you get access to perks and discounts that others do not have access to. As good as these benefits of being a member are, this is NOT how church membership works. How is it different?

- **It is covenantal, not contractual** – our church has a covenant that summarizes what Scripture teaches on how Christians ought to relate to one another. Although you will not find the Bible explicitly commanding churches to have a church covenant, the New Testament implies that there is a mutual understanding Christians have within a local church of how they are to relate with one another and live out their faith (see Heb 10:23-25, 13:17-18). It is more than just an agreement to perform a particular service, after which the relationship ceases, such as is case with a contract.
- **It is relational, not transactional** – our church covenant calls us as members to relate in such a way that commends the gospel and makes much of Jesus Christ. Therefore, we are to practice the “one anothers” of Scripture for our growth and for God’s glory. It is not a mere exchange of goods and services such as in any transaction. It is not a “you scratch my back and I’ll scratch your back.” Rather, its “I’ve got your back and you have my back.”
- **It is sacrificial, not consumeristic** – our church covenant calls us as members to lay down our lives for one another. This fights against the cultural current of putting me at the center of the universe by asking “what can I get out of this?” Rather, it puts God at the center and we express that by loving one another. This is the path that Jesus blazed for us to walk. This is the mind we are to have in how we relate to one another (Phil 2:5).

This Sunday, we will have the opportunity to receive a number of brothers and sisters in Christ into membership. As we do this, we will “joyfully renew our covenant with each other.” Let’s do so with these thoughts in mind thanking God for the sweet fellowship we share with Him and with one another here at Bethel. Grace and peace,

Pastor Matt

Please plan to stay for the Sunday School Hour this coming week. Ryan Williamson, from Word of Life, also one of our supported Missionaries, will be giving us an update on his ministry.

### HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

Sunday, June 25: Worship Service @ 9:15 am highlighting the receiving of new members; Sunday School Hour @ 10:45 am with Ryan Williamson from Word of Life presenting an update

Wednesday, June 28: Youth group hangout at the McNabney home from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm



### **The King's Brass**

The Kings Brass will be coming back to Bethel Bible Church on Friday, July 28! There are some flyers available at church if you would like to post them where you work! As a result of having them perform for us at church, there is a need for housing for 8 men and a husband & wife. They will need housing for that Friday evening as well as breakfast the next morning. If you are willing to provide housing, please speak to Gary Gudeman @ 219-954-2862.

## **Save the Date!!**

**Thursday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, Youth Painting Day** at the church! Pastor Aaron needs help from the youth leaders and teens (grades 6-12) in order to paint the two rooms in the loft upstairs. He will get the paint and the materials, but he needs leaders and teens to help. Please let him know if you/they can come!

**Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, Youth Float Trip!** Using Riverside Rentals in Winamac, the youth team will be taking the teens (grades 6-12) on a float trip for the day. We'll meet at the river head in Winamac and have a catered lunch there from the Corner Deli at 11am. Then we'll get on the river for a few hours and go until 3pm. There will be a signup this Sunday on the bulletin board. Please sign up there if you plan on attending so we can know both for rental and food purposes.



**Join us Wednesday, July 19 for an Ice Cream Social at 6:00 pm! Come for the ice cream & fellowship, then stay for the Bethel Bible Church Annual Business Meeting at 7:00 pm.**

## **Postponed...**

**The originally scheduled Youth Family Bible Study for tonight has been postponed until late September. Pastor Aaron apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause.**

## **FYI....**

**There will be no newsletter next week. If you are able, head on out to the Pulaski County 4H Fair and support our kids with their endeavors!**

## **PRAYER**

- Pray for discipleship & growth at Bethel Bible Church.
- Pray for the church leadership, both current and those positions which will change with the upcoming business meeting.
- Pray that the BBC family would be salt and light—creating a hunger and thirst for the truth and illuminating the truth of the gospel.
- Continue in prayer for those in our church family who are not physically able to worship with us from week to week. Thank you for encouraging them as well with cards or phone calls!