

# Family Ministry Newsletter

Bethany United Methodist Church

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"Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find"

## Letter from the Editor

What would we do without our cell phone? How do you think we would handle not having it for 1 day? I know that Kayla feels lost without hers. She's constantly texting friends and making sure she doesn't miss anything. Mine is attached at the hip. I feel like if I don't have it on me I might miss an important call from someone or a family member from Michigan might be trying to get a hold of me. Now think about what you would do without Jesus? How do you think you could handle things without him for just 1 day? How would you feel if you think you may have missed something he has "called" you to do to serve him. Would you be lost without him? The following e-mail I received seems so real. It certainly makes you stop and think of where you put your priorities.

### **Cell phone vs. Bible**

Ever wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone? What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets? What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?  
What if we used it to receive messages from the text?  
What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?  
What if we gave it to Kids as gifts?  
What if we used it when we traveled?  
What if we used it in case of emergency?  
This is something to make you go....hmm...where is my Bible? Oh, and one more thing. Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill. And no dropped calls!  
Trust in the Lord and \*ASAP (Always Say A Prayer)  
It's fascinating isn't it? The things we think are so important have no meaning if it has nothing to do with God. "Call" on Jesus today and ask him into your heart. I bet he'll answer on the first ring.

In God's love,  
Kelly Ness

## Upcoming Events

### **April 11th**— Easter Egg Hunt

10am-11:30am

Preschool thru 5th grade

Contact: Kelly Ness

### **April 12th**—Easter Breakfast

provided by Sr. High

Contact: Randy Erickson or

Lisa Sikkink

### **April 26th**— Last day of

Sunday school

\* Parent training session

9:45 am

Contact: Lynn Salley or

Lori Oliphant

### **May 3rd**—2nd Annual Bethany

Spring Carnival

## In this Issue:

---

Letter from the Editor 1

---

Upcoming Events 1

---

Communicating with your kids 2

---

## Bible Fun Fact

The Bible is the most shoplifted book in the world. That should tell you something!!



“Go and bring people to faith and freedom in Jesus Christ”



## Parent's Corner



## Listening: Children & Youth

### Children

It is equally important for us to listen to our children as it is first necessary to understand how they communicate. How better to do that than to listen to them.

Make eye contact with your child when he/she is speaking

Touch his arm to show that he has your full attention

Repeat back what he said for clarification

Taking a step back from each situation and truly listening to the child may help him feel validated and assist in the ability to problem solve.

Developing listening skills is an important step in parenting.

A parent who is a good listener will help a child develop problem solving skills.

### Youth

Communication is the cornerstone of our relationship with teens.

Communication helps teens:

- Feel cared for and loved
- Believe they matter and are important to
- Feel safe and not alone with their worries
- Learn how to tell what they feel and need
- Learn how to talk openly

Here are a few great pointers on how we can do better as parents with communicating with our teens:

- Be available
- Don't let the TV, telephone, or other things distract or interrupt
- Eat dinner together as often as possible
- Be a good listener first and foremost
- Watch your tone and word choice when responding
- If your teen comes to you, recognize and thank him/her for trusting you to listen.
- Encourage teens to express their feelings
- Resist the urge to lecture or nag
- Be ready to hear opinions you may not agree with
- Ask questions about their ideas for solutions
- Don't always give answers
- If you are wrong...admit it!!

As a parent, just relax, take a few deep breaths, wait 5 minutes before you talk to your teen if you are angry, and most of all pray!!