

**Greetings from Doris Bilitz, President**

Greetings, Bethel Park Family,

I trust this Newsletter finds you well and keeping warm. What a difference a month makes.....We have closed our cottages for the winter, the temperatures have dropped and the snow has started to fall. It always takes a while to adjust to this change. Although, we will not be going *physically* to Bethel Park for the next few months, I trust that you will "visit" regularly in your prayers. Please remember all of the Ministries that make Bethel Park the wonderful place that it is. Pray for the Kid's Camps, Youth Camp, Heritage Camp, Family Camp and our Retreat Weekends. Pray for your Board of Directors and the Staff of Bethel Park. 2015 promises to be a busy and exciting year. Please take a few minutes to read the reports below.

**Finance Report by Harald Drewitz, Treasurer**

We have many reasons to thank the Lord for this 2014 summer camp season. The least of these reasons is *not*, our reasonable financial position. Yes, of course we need to improve our revenue in order to sustain Bethel Park, particularly as Government Rules and Regulations become more stringent. I do suggest 2014 has been a year in which most cabin/cottage owners have become more aware of our financial challenges and are displaying ownership and willingness to do their part.

Although the year has not yet ended, it looks like our revenue, combination of donations and fees will be the same as 2013. In total, our costs have come down significantly. Although there are some swings in individual cost items, including electricity, facility and grounds, expenses along with Ministry costs, are lower than 2013. We are working diligently to keep our costs at or below our present levels.

A reminder that we are set up for Automatic Debit Withdrawals, Automatic Credit Card Withdrawals as well as Interac E-Transfers.

On behalf of the Board, I want to thank all those cabin owners that wanted a laundry facility at camp, for stepping up to the plate and with the help of one major donor, the new washroom will have a laundry room!

Having said all this, I just want to emphasize our main purpose for Bethel Park is for Ministry and spiritual growth events. Our fees do *not* cover any ministry costs, we rely totally on donations. As you know, Bethel Park is a community of like minded purposed Christians. We ALL need to do our part in donating to ministry, administration and special project costs to sustain Bethel Park for the next and more generations to come. More detail with respect to this paragraph will be mentioned in future newsletters.

**Spiritual Care Report by Paul Mittelstaedt**

Our speakers for the 2015 Camp Season have been confirmed.

**Victoria Day Long Weekend:** Worship & Speaker: Michael & Brigitte Krause

Please note that because of the washroom renovation, it was agreed that this weekend will only have a Sunday morning service, with a focus on dedicating the summer to God, it will include a prayer walk and other community building activities for our Bethel Park Community. More information will be coming in the Spring.

**German Heritage Camp:** Bethel Park Family Speakers

**Family Camp:**

**Dr. David Courey:** Continental Theological Seminary, Belgium (Sundays & Evenings)

**Rev. Peter Cusik:** Lead Pastor, St. Thomas Pentecostal Assembly (Morning Bible Teacher)

**Dan McCauley:** Musician, Williamsville, New York (Worship Leader)

**German Ministry Change:**

Bethel Park Camp has enjoyed a spirit of unity as it experienced transitions over the years. We thank God for this and we also recognize that the people who are committed to Bethel Park Camp are committed to build a community that honours God in every way. This summer during Family Camp we will no longer be offering German language ministry as we continue to work towards greater unity among the whole Bethel Park Camp family. No longer will there be a divided focus in the mornings, as all the adults will gather together, enjoying worship and bible teaching in the large tabernacle.

**Labour Day Weekend**

**Rev. Don Mann:** Global Worker, Pretoria, South Africa (Speaker)

**Rev. Eric Revie:** Senior Pastor, Glad Tidings Community Church, Blenheim (Worship)

**Ground, Building & Maintenance Report by John Kehl**

The coming year will again be a very busy one for our dedicated staff and volunteers providing building and grounds maintenance. Plans for the 2015 Washroom Renovation including Laundry facilities have been approved and work will begin as soon as feasibly possible in the Spring. Additional LED street lights are on order and will be installed this spring as well as the previous 10 LED lights that were approved in the 2014 budget. Locations of where to start the light replacement has not yet been decided.

**Electric Stoves:** We have been advised by our electrician, that the electrical system at camp was not designed to include electrical stoves in the individual cabins. The demand factor is too great for our system. Because of this, we request that cabin owners **do not purchase and hook up electric stoves in their cabins**. Please keep this in mind when you are renovating or looking to replace an existing stove.

**Membership Report by Walter Nerling, Secretary**

Please welcome new 2014 Bethel Park Society Members:

Tom & Elli Fielker  
Jim & Heather Fifield  
Arthur & Gertrud Haeberle  
Mark & Donna Haug  
Monica Klein  
Elizabeth Kohler  
Rob & Karin Krepstakies  
Kathrine Mancini  
Reinhard & Linda Meier  
Rev. Eduard Nerling  
Denis & Liz Poncelet  
Rev. Ken Powell  
Mary Schwarz  
Paul & Debbie Sturzbecher

Congratulations on the following 2014 approved Cabin Transfers:

David & Nicole Demant - 8 Nazareth  
Kurt & Bonnie Evans - 17 Emmaus  
Michael & Monica Helbrecht - 12 Elim  
Colleen Latondress - 43 Damascus  
James & Rebecca Maaser - 5 Samaria  
Richard Mantej - 7 Temple  
Arthur & Heidi Matos - 12 Nazareth  
Fred & Renate Mielke - Trailer  
Michael & Rebecca O'Hara - 4 Samaria  
Rosemary Smith: 4 Ebenezer  
Ruth Woelfl: 5 Ebenezer

**Youth Camp Report by Simon Weresch**

It is hard to believe that the Bethel Park season has come and gone for another year. This year marked my 13<sup>th</sup> year of involvement as a leader at Bethel Park Youth Camp and I was honored to accept the position from the board as the new Youth Camp Director. As most know, Pastor Matt Schmid, previous director, has accepted the call to move to Ottawa. Pastor Matt's tireless commitment and passion for Youth Camp, and youth as a whole, will be a guiding light for all those involved in Youth Camp in years to come. This past year we had 132 students pass through the front gate of camp and take part of another life changing week. Every year youth camp seems to be growing both in students attending but more importantly, growth in how the students connect with God. We had a great staff team of committed counselors, leaders, night watch and kitchen staff that not only made this week possible but made it exceptional. Planning for the 2015 Bethel Park

Youth Camp week is already well underway. I encourage you to begin praying for our team as we plan for this upcoming year. It is the faithful prayers, support, and encouragement from many cabin owners and Bethel Park Camp supporters alike that truly provided us to see God's faithfulness during this past season.

## **Devotional by Ken Powell, Camp Pastor**

### **Stay Focused on Jesus**

Eagles are known for their excellent eyesight. Their eyesight is four times stronger than that of an average human. The Bald Eagle has the ability to focus on something like a rabbit that is up to three kilometers away.

Hebrews 12:2 encourages us to look unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. There are so many things that can happen in our day to day life that can distract us from focusing on God and His plans and purposes for our life.

The Eagle doesn't have many enemies but one major enemy of the Eagle is the Condor. The Eagle has as it were a second set of eyelids that act like sunglasses. The Eagle can fly right into the sun. In battle, the Condor will try to claw the eagle, but the eagle doesn't stay and fight, instead, he mounts up and begins to fly directly toward the sun. The Condor tries to catch the eagle but soon he is blinded by the sun and has to turn away and fall off.

Whenever our enemy Satan tries to get you down or "off focus" from where God wants you to be or from what He wants you to do, don't look to "the sun" but rather look to "the Son" Jesus

### ***Wishing you a Blessed Christmas with family and friends,***

#### ***Board of Directors,***

Doris Bilitz (President), Walter Nerling (Secretary), Harald Drewitz (Treasurer), John Kehl, David Kimmerle, Guenter Rittmeyer, Karl Medel, Paul Mittelstaedt, Arden Nerling, Frank Weresch, Jim Wright, Ron Baker,

***Camp Pastor:*** Ken Powell,

***Administration:*** Norma Scherer

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