

(Healthy Church Indicators Bethel Hudson 03 24 23 document)

Healthy Church Indicators

Compiled by Intentional Interim Pastor Randy Fett

Summary from Transition Team: These are the important things to see - Relevancy in Worship, Good Lutheran practice, Bible, Prayer, God-focused, Don't want to stray too far from Lutheranism, good sermons – good meaning – use scripture texts, missing opportunity with Preschool families – Is there a way to invite them?, short spurts with small groups.

Summary:

With a Grand Total Score of 178, Bethel finds itself in the top quarter with these Healthy Church Indicators, and scores in the highest 25% in terms of a healthy church rating. This is very affirming of the life, ministry, and mission of Bethel.

Lowest Categories, (Listed in order from the lowest score to least low)

12. Intentionality with non-believers 1.19
38. High commitment to outreach and evangelism 3.06
42. High “Love” quotient- hospitality to unchurched, inviting into member homes 3.07
33. A multiplication of holistic small groups applying the biblical message to daily life 3.125
30. Functional structures looking at meaningful vs demeaning leadership, worship that is at convenient times vs inconvenient times, and whether or not church programming is reaching the right audience. 3.19
35. Using life and spiritual gifts to serve non-Christians and evangelize 3.26
36. The church focusses on strategy to help reach new people 3.26
39. Strategy, teaching mechanism, and training program for disciples 3.28
37. Focus on people they are trying to reach 3.29
34. Small Groups of church do outreach 3.51

Highest Categories: (Listed in order with first one at the top)

1. Worship that is God-centered and vibrant 4.43

- 44. A thankful church 4.42
- 17. The church is led well 4.31
- 23. The preaching is practical 4.26
- 31. Inspiring, fun spirit filled worship 4.25
- 45. Accountability to God and to one another 4.24
- 40. Prayer is a big deal 4.22
- 6. Christ Centered; Strives to display and proclaim Christ (Is not self-centered) 4.22
- 8. Says “we can” and not “We can’t” 4.22
- 25. Preaching is gospel centered 4.22
- 7. A servant’s heart 4.216
- 41. Teaches about giving and generosity 4.21

Questions to consider in order to apply this learning

1. What are some areas of improvement for the church?
- one or two things observed from the study to improve the health of the church?
2. Ideas that might stimulate or reinvigorate the church in these areas?
3. One or two areas that you individually can work on and commit to in order to improve the health of your church?
4. What plans can you make? Give this some detail. How can you do this?
How will you follow up and through? Can you think of one or two people whom you can share this work and dream with? Who can hold you accountable for completing this?
5. One or two ideas that you might have to move your community of faith to the healthy church that you’d like it to be?

The Inventory

Rate yourself/ your church by these indicators.

1 = a very low rating, 5 = a very high rating

2. Constructive Conflict Resolution 3.51
3. Adaptable to and open to change 3.67
4. Okay to take risks at this church 3.59
5. Wise Administration 4.06
6. Collaborates and networks with other churches 3.61
7. Christ entered; Strives to display and proclaim Christ (Is not self-centered)
4.22
8. A servant's heart 4.216
9. Says "we can" and not "We can't" 4.22
10. Authentic, strong sense of community and social capital 3.77
11. Ministry that reaches out, (as well as in) 3.96
12. A clear outside focus 3.6
13. Intentionality with non-believers 1.19
14. Good communication 3.94
15. A balance between clergy authority and lay leadership 3.96
16. Leadership multiplication; Equipping and inviting to leadership 3.66
17. Clarity of identity and mission 3.84
18. The church is led well 4.31
19. Team Driven 4.01
20. The church has systems that empower people to use their gifts 3.68
21. The church is vision centered 3.96
22. The church immediately takes action, 3.65
23. The church is proactive vs reactive 3.82
24. The preaching is practical 4.26
25. Preaching is strong and biblical 4.16
26. Preaching is gospel centered 4.22
27. Believes in the Bible 3.65
28. Encourages people to attain their spiritual potential 4.16
29. Passion about their walk with Jesus 4.12
30. Exhibits joy and enthusiasm 3.98

31. Functional structures looking at meaningful vs demeaning leadership, worship that is at convenient times vs inconvenient times, and whether or not church programming is reaching the right audience. 3.19
32. Inspiring, fun spirit filled worship 4.25
33. Worship that is God-centered and vibrant 4.43
34. A multiplication of holistic small groups applying the biblical message to daily life 3.125
35. Small Groups of church do outreach 3.51
36. Using life and spiritual gifts to serve non-Christians and evangelize 3.26
37. The church focusses on strategy to help reach new people 3.26
38. Focus on people they are trying to reach 3.29
39. High commitment to outreach and evangelism 3.06
40. Strategy, teaching mechanism, and training program for disciples 3.28
41. Prayer is a big deal 4.22
42. Teaches about giving and generosity 4.21
43. High “Love” quotient- hospitality to unchurched, inviting into member homes 3.07
44. Authentic Christianity – loving relationships 4.06
45. A thankful church 4.42
46. Accountability to God and to one another 4.24
47. Need for and giving of forgiveness 4.06
48. Discuss tough topics while maintaining mutual respect 3.79

Total your numbers: 177.72 (178)

Key

A total of 47 = a very low rating, an unhealthy church

A total of 235 = a very high rating, a healthy church

A total of 117- 118 = somewhere in the middle – there is room to grow and improve to achieve excellent health

Q: What is your individual responsibility here as a church leader, as a staff member, or as a member of the church? What are one or two things that you can do to improve your health?

Q: How can you help your church stay healthy or become healthy?

Q: What are some ideas you might have that you would like to share with the church leadership and your community of faith for moving to the healthy church that you’d like it to be?