**Our Mission**

**Bringing all people into the LIFE, FAMILY, and PURPOSE of God.**

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**Our Purpose – Better Together**

We are excited to have *you* on the A-Team!

We are a healthy and growing local church that reaches both our communities and the nations around the world. Our hope is for anyone who comes to Bethany Church or interacts with one of its ministries to feel loved and valued. It takes a team to make that happen, and *you* are part of that team!

You are on a team making a difference and having an eternal impact. Everything you do to serve is valued and needed to fulfill our mission. Our hope is that you will love what you do to serve, and that you will find fulfillment and satisfaction in serving. We pray you continue to grow in your God-given gifts as you serve on the A-Team.

**Our Culture**

Culture is all around us. Our lives, our families, our cities, and even our church exhibit a certain culture. People have always looked at Bethany Church and been amazed at the culture of worship, serving, and the love that flows from them. Here is the culture we live by as we serve to fulfill our mission.

**1) We Love People —** “*Bringing all people . . .”*

Through the vision of our lead pastor, we seek to be a community of believers who are mobilized for God's kingdom and are serving others well. We do this for one reason: God *loves all people*, so we also must *love all people*. This is our guiding principle when it comes to loving all people: Everyone needs refreshing, so we exist to bring refreshing to people. We must always remember: ***People come first!*** We serve to bring all people to God.

**Proverbs 11:25 NLT:** *“The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.”*

***How we love people –******practical ways to bring refreshing***

1. **Smile!** **Show teeth!** **Trigger joy!** Smiles say “passion and victory.” Long faces say “sadness and defeat.”
2. **Be joyful!** Joy refreshes. Joy always wins. Joy is a magnet.
3. **Be a listener!** Listening refreshes.
4. **Be encouraging!** Faith-filled speech refreshes! Be encouraging with your tone and demeanor.
5. **Be a friend!** Friendship refreshes. Friendship brings people to church, and friendship causes people to stick.

**2) We Love God —** “ . . .*life . . .”*

All we do shows that we love our God. From the smiles on our faces, to our passion for connecting people in relationships, to cleaning the coffee bars before service, everything we do comes from the profound love we have for God the Father, Jesus His Son, and the Holy Spirit. Every part of our lives is an expression of our relationship with God. We love God and serve to bring all people into life.

**Romans 12:1 NLT**: *“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.”*

**Romans 12:1–2 MSG:** “*So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it.”*

***How we love God***

1. **Our devotion:** We should be committed in our personal daily devotion to the Lord. Our devotion is our fuel for serving.
2. **Our worship:** We worship God in action and in heart, and in spirit and truth. Our everyday life is an act of worship. Everything we do to serve is an act of worship.

**3. Our sacrifice:** We sacrifice time and energy for His cause, to fulfill the mission.

**3) We Love Our Church —** “. . .*family . . .”*

We love our church. Bethany is not a building, but a community of believers unified and passionate about the cause of Christ and the mission He has given to us through the leadership of our lead pastors. We serve with the heart of the *H.O.U.S.E.,* to be a connection piece in bringing all people into family.

**1 Peter 4:10 NLT:** *“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.”*

***How we love our church (H.O.U.S.E.)***

* **Honor:** Regardless of a person’s age, status, heritage, culture, demeanor, etc., we go above and beyond to honor each person we encounter. We honor our pastors, leaders, team members, and guests.
* **Ownership:** Your attitude should be, “This is my house, and I will make sure it is excellent every time I serve.” This is your house. It is the place where you grow spiritually, develop life relationships, pay your tithes, and serve. This is your church, and your serving should exhibit the same level of ownership regardless of your title or position.
* **Unity:** As we serve, we lay aside our preferences and align with our lead pastor and his vision. A team united is unstoppable!
* **Servanthood:** Servanthood is the heart of the A-Team. We serve with an overflow of love, using our God-given gifts.
* **Excellence:** In any way that we serve, we should overshoot the expectations of guests by making sure our outlook, actions, attitude, expressions, and overall presentation are crafted with excellence.

**4) We Love to Serve —** “. . . *purpose . . .*”

Serving is a privilege. It isn’t a job we have to do, but a lifestyle we get to live with gladness. Because our Savior served us, we, as His followers, will give ourselves freely to the service of His kingdom and His church. We have a passion to help people, encourage them, and show them the love of Christ through our actions. We find purpose in serving, and we serve to bring all people into purpose.

**John 13:15–17 NLT:** “*I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.”*

***How we love to serve***

1. **Be welcoming:** Let your attitude, words, and actions say “welcome home!” At Bethany, every person should feel loved and welcomed with open arms. This is their home away from home.
2. **Go the second mile:** Everything we do on the A-Team is done with intentionality, passion, and excellence. We will go the second mile to serve people beyond their expectations (see Matthew 5:41).
3. **Make lasting impact:** Every person who interacts with us should leave with a sense that they have been impacted by the love of Christ.

**The Value of Our Prayer Team**

* Intercession can be defined as imperfect people standing in faith for other imperfect people before a perfect God. Because He’s a loving Father, we can approach His throne with confidence and boldness because we’re in relationship with Him and have been given authority to ask on behalf of others.
* The prayer team is an army of intercessors standing in the gap for our pastors and congregation.
* They prepare the spiritual atmosphere for our services.

**How We Approach Our Time of Serving in Prayer**

* Clean hands and a pure heart — Psalm 66:18 TLB: *“He would not have listened if I had not confessed my sins.”* Repent of any unforgiveness or bitterness hiding in your heart. Make sure your relationships are right before you come to prayer.
* Fear and reverence of the Lord — Proverbs 15:33 NLT: *“Fear of the Lord teaches wisdom; humility precedes honor.”* Isaiah 11:2 NLT: *“And the Spirit of the Lord will rest upon him—the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, and the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.”*
* Honor and submission to authority — If we’re submitted to authority, we’ll have authority! (See Matthew 8:9).
* Full of faith — Hebrews 11:6 TPT: *“And without faith living within us it would be impossible to please God. For we will come to God in faith knowing that he is real and that he rewards the faith of those who give all their passion and strength into seeking him.”*
* Whole armor of God/praying in the Spirit — Ephesians 6:18 NLT; see also verses 10–17: “*Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.”*
* Walk in love — 1 Corinthians 13:2 NLT: *“If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God’s secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn’t love others, I would be nothing.”*

**What We Ask For**

* For God’s love and perspective towards people (Hosea 1:7; 1 Timothy 2:4)
* For more faith (Galatians 5:6)
* For wisdom and discernment (James 1:5–7; Hebrews 5:14)
* To pray with confidence and authority (1 John 5:14–15; Luke 4:32)

**Praying During the Service**

Pray in the Spirit, in your prayer language. Pay close attention during the service, and try to keep free from distraction. This takes practice, so don’t get under condemnation if you forget the first few times. It’s okay to take notes, but make sure to continue to pray.

**How to Pray for our Services**

* Pray for people to desire to attend the services, and that every obstacle and excuse that the enemy would put in front of them would be removed.
* Pray that as people drive onto the property and enter the building, they would sense the peaceful presence of God. Pray they would not be intimidated or fearful, but would feel God’s love drawing them. Pray for us to have favor with each person as we welcome them as if they were already part of the family of God. Bind the spirit of offense that would operate against anyone to keep them from receiving all God has for them. Pray they and their children would feel welcome and at home in God’s presence.
* Pray for the worship team, and ask God for a powerful anointing to help people enter into worship. Pray all eyes would be on Jesus as each musician and singer lifts up His name. Pray for each person to participate in worship, regardless of their outward expression, and to respect and reverence the presence of God. Ask God to bring refreshing to His people as they worship Him.
* Pray over the tithes and offerings. Ask God to help us be cheerful givers as we bring the whole tithe into the storehouse. Ask God to bless and multiply the finances so we may fulfill the Great Commission.
* Ask the Holy Spirit to prepare the hearts of the hearers to receive the Word. Pray for humble hearts ready to hear and receive the truth of the Word as it is spoken through our pastor.
* Bind (*Merriam-Webster’s* definition: “to confine or restrain with or as if with chains”) the god of this world who has blinded the minds of the unbelievers and hindered them from receiving the truth. Pray for eyes to be opened, ears to hear, and hearts to obey and walk out what is preached.
* Take authority over seducing spirits and doctrines of demons; bind the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life. Command confusion to go; release truth and clear understanding. (Remember, you have authority if you’re under authority, as stated in Matthew 8:9.)
* Bind lying spirits and the spirit of antichrist that would try to deceive people and resist the Holy Spirit. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring about His purpose and plans. Bind every mind-blinding spirit and any wandering thoughts that would hinder people from clearly hearing the truth.
* Bind hindering and harassing spirits on assignment against our pastor. Ask God to be a wall of fire about him. Apply the blood of Jesus around him, and loose warring angels to protect and defend him. Ask God to protect his voice as he speaks.
* Pray for good success, humbly asking God to keep and deliver our pastor from the evil one. Pray against any distractions or attacks on his mind as he ministers. Pray that he would be focused and unhindered as he speaks the Word.
* Pray for the gifts of the Spirit to be in operation through our pastor. Ask God to give him boldness in speaking the Word without compromise. Pray that as the Word is preached, people’s hearts will be opened.
* As our pastor preaches, ask for God’s love to flow over the people. Pray that their hearts would be opened to the love of God and they would be drawn to Jesus for salvation. Ask the Holy Spirit to draw the lost, the backsliders, and the prodigals. Pray for them to have courage to acknowledge Jesus as their Savior.
* Bind distractions, sleepiness, and confusion as the service comes to a close, as well as the spirit of religion that would convince people not to make Jesus their Lord. Pray for people to be still and show respect for those making decisions for Christ, and pray for those who make a salvation decision to be truly converted.
* Pray for each new convert to follow through with water baptism, connect with the local church (whether ours or another), become a disciple of Christ, and grow strong in fellowship and faith.
* Seal the ministry time with the blood of Jesus. Forbid the enemy from stealing the Word from people’s hearts. Bind the cares of the world that would choke out the Word, and pray that people would not just be forgetful hearers, but doers of the Word. Pray they will apply the truth to their lives and walk it out daily.
* Pray for the pastor to experience great favor and blessing for his time ministering, protected from the enemy’s attacks on his mind and his family. Bind the backlash of the enemy against them. Believe God for much fruit to come from the preaching of the Word.
* Declare that people will never forget the life-changing words that were spoken. Declare they will be changed forever. May the Lord be magnified and glorified as souls are added to the kingdom!

**Pastor Jonathan’s Prayer for Our Church**

* We agree with Pastor Jonathan for every Bethany believer to know the **truth**,and that Jesus would reveal Himself to them. We pray that they would have a radical encounter with Jesus and know Him, not as a religion, but as a person. We pray that they would encounter the truth of God’s Word, the truth about their marriage, their children, their business, and not be ignorant any longer. We pray for them to grow up in the knowledge of God and become spiritual adults. We pray that their spouse, their children, and their grandchildren would walk in truth. We pray that the world and its culture would not blind them, and that their eyes would be opened, the veil removed, and they would be ignorant no more.
* We agree with Pastor Jonathan for every person at Bethany to experience **freedom** in every way. We agree that spirits of depression, addiction, sadness, and discouragement will be broken in Jesus’ name. All addictions to nicotine, smoking, alcohol, pharmaceuticals, and pornography are broken in Jesus’ name. Let every person at Bethany be set free!
* We agree with Pastor Jonathan for all to walk in **healing**—healing from abuse, wounds of the past, the stain of shame, the pain of brokenness, and the pain of things done in the past. We pray that people walking in bitterness and in resentment would be healed. We pray for those who have walked through multiple divorces to be healed. We pray for our church to be healed emotionally. We agree for healing in our physical bodies, and that we would continue to see manifested healings and an open heaven where healing flows freely in our church. We pray for God to send signs and wonders to accompany the preaching of the Word, in accordance with Acts 4:30–31. Diabetes, skin conditions, pain in bodies from car accidents, kidney failure, eyesight and hearing problems, heart problems, cancer, etc.—all must be healed in Jesus’ name. We decree emotional, mental, and physical healing in Jesus’ name!
* We agree with Pastor Jonathan for our church to walk in **purpose**, that people would not be bound in confusion, but begin to follow the call of God on their lives, because He does have a call on each person in our church. We agree that they would be released in their gifts and find their assignments. We pray for no one to be held back by fear or timidity, but for all to step into their calling and purpose. We pray that their assignment would become clear, and that opportunities would open up for them to use their gifts. We pray that we would not be nominal Christians, but rather be salt and light.

*Father, may our church walk in truth. May our church experience deliverance. May our church experience healing. May our church walk in purpose. In Jesus’ name, it is done!*

**A-Team Volunteer Service Structure**

* Arrive one hour before service.
* Meet with your team and team leader.
* Attend the A-Team rally.
* Be in place 30 minutes before service.
* Recap with your team leader after service, as needed.

**Expectations**

* Be punctual.
* Be flexible.
* Be committed and dependable.
  + Communicate with your team leader if you will be late or absent.
* Be a recruiter and connect with people.
  + People can join the A-Team through *Next Steps* or an *ATeam Night*.
* Be an embodiment of the A-Team culture.

**Honor Code**

Bethany Church A-Team volunteers are encouraged to live a disciplined life that honors God and represents our core values. We ask that you make a commitment to:

* Pursue and grow in your love for Jesus and His church
* Have daily Bible reading and prayer
* Be a part of Christian fellowship (church services, B-Groups)
* Maintain regular church attendance
* Overcome any and all un-Christlike habits
* Mature in Christian character
* Refrain from sexual immorality (adultery, fornication, homosexuality, pornography)
* Refrain from illegal activities

Thank you for being on the team and making a difference!

You are bringing all people into the LIFE, FAMILY, and PURPOSE of God!