

JEREMY NOVAK

SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH TEAM – CO CHAIR



Greetings! My family and I have been attending Bethany since 2006. I have been married to Courtney for 18 years and we have three children – Sam (17), Lily (12) and Cael (10).

I grew up in a faith-based home where we went to Catholic mass every Sunday, however my Mom was not Catholic so I also attended a Baptist church on occasion with my maternal grandparents. In college at UW-La Crosse I was active in student ministry at the Newman Center. Through several seasons of not having an active faith after serving in student ministry, God pursued me as only He can. While attending a weekend faith retreat in central Minnesota on November 22, 1997 I accepted Jesus as my personal savior. It was at this retreat that I understood what it meant to have a relationship with Christ and accepting his saving grace, rather than being “religious” and focusing on a work’s-based faith while trying to earn God’s favor and grace through my actions.

My current faith walk/run/jog/crawl is an exciting journey with God that blesses me continually in many ways! I have actively served in various ministries at Bethany but currently am active as an Overseer and leading a Grow Group. One area of ministry that I have recently experienced a spiritual nudge for is Men’s ministry. If you are interested I would be glad to share two different ways God is guiding me in this area!

I am honored to be a part of the Senior Pastor Search Team to discover the man God is calling to be the next Senior Pastor at Bethany. We covet your prayers as we embark down this path and I encourage you to contact me with any questions that you have in regard to this search process.

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KIRK STOA

SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH TEAM – CO CHAIR



Greetings Bethany! I’ve been worshipping at Bethany for 8 years and have been fortunate to serve in various capacities over that time. I’m currently serving on the Overseer Board, leading a Grow Group, involved with the Connections ministry and I also lead a men’s Bible study. I’ve served Bethany previously on the Water Ski Team ministry and various roles in Children’s and Student ministry. I’ve been married to my wife Kari for 29 years and we have 5 children, 2 of which are married and have children, so we have 7 “kids” now and 4 grandchildren, all who currently live in the La Crosse area.

I grew up in a Christian home. My father was a pastor and my mother was a teacher and later a stay at home mom. I had a very good upbringing which included many hours during my youth attending church, was baptized as an infant, was part of a youth program, attended “districts-like” events and was even along for the ride at various men’s ministry events with my father. In hindsight, I see those all as positive influences

in my life, but they did not make me a Christian. In fact, I was doing a lot of religious things but was confused and mistaken as to what it really meant to be a Christian. As a result, when I left home for College, got married and had our first two children, I had very little to do with Christ or my faith life. I went through a period of brokenness during my late 20’s which resulted in a number of struggles in my marriage and finances and I had a lot of difficulty with anger. By God’s grace at the age of 30, when I was at a very low point in my life, I had my born-again experience and was transformed by the Holy Spirit. I began a personal relationship with Jesus and to this day continue to pursue that relationship. I desire to walk by faith and not by sight, looking for and learning how God wants to continually shape my perspective and character to be more and more like Jesus.

It is an honor to continue to serve the Bethany family as a co-chair on the Senior Pastor Search Team. God already knows who the next Senior Pastor of Bethany is and I’m excited to be a part of the process to lead the Bethany body to discover who God has in store for us!

If you have any thoughts or questions about the Senior Pastor Search, feel free to text, call or email me, or find me on a Sunday morning in 3rd Place. Email: kirkstoa@gmail.com Mobile: (608)-738-3499

TYLOR FISCHER

SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH TEAM



Hi! I have been attending Bethany for my entire life. My Wife Tiffany and I have been married for 10 years and have 3 Children, 5 year old Finley Rose, 3 year old Wyatt Beau, and 1 year old Mona Magnolia. I was raised here at Bethany and received Christ at a very young age. My parents, Tim and Mary Kaye Fischer have been very involved in Bethany my entire life and have set an excellent example on how to live a Godly life. I consider my 9th grade year at the Districts youth conference the moment that I truly comprehended and committed my whole life to Christ.

At Bethany my primarily involvement is in Worship Ministry, as a guitar player and Worship Leader as well as current involvement in Grow Groups. In the past I have lead grow groups and helped with different ministries around the church.

I am honored and humbled to serve in this capacity. Bethany has been on a amazing God lead path and I am excited to see the next chapter he is unfolding before us. I will prayerfully and thoughtfully approach this process and I am very excited to see Gods plan for the future of Bethany Church.

If you have any thoughts or questions about this process feel free to email me or grab my in 3rd Place Sometime.

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RYAN KENNEDY

SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH TEAM



Hi! I am married to Olivia Kennedy and we have three awesome little ones, Liam who is 3, Locke who is 2, and Briar who is 5 months old. My Wife and I have been married for 6 years. I came to know Christ through a Bethany outreach called Districts in 2002. I have been attending Bethany ever since.

I currently serve as a grow group leader, 9th-10th grade boys cell group leader, Sunday mornings for children's ministry, and as a greeter.

What an opportunity we have church to seek the Lord in His leading for our next senior pastor.

If you want to discuss the process of the search for the next senior pastor please contact me!

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KAREN FOSS

SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH TEAM



Ron and I have been attending Bethany EFC since the middle 70's. I think our children were 4 & 6, so they grew up here and were part of all the children's programs. Ron and I used to do "children's church" and I also worked in "Space Cubs" on Wednesday nights. I've also been on a missions board and a bylaw committee and a deacon board.

I did not grow up in a Christian home so I am eternally grateful that God gave me a Christian neighbor in La Crescent (who attended Bethany) that reached out to me and my family. Because she "engaged", my entire family came to Christ through the preaching and children's programs at Bethany.

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ASHTON SPECKEEN

SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH TEAM



Hey there, My name is Ashton and I am honored to be serving again on the Senior Pastor Search Team. Bethany has been my church for about 25 years now. I have excitedly "jumped in" to fill several needs in ministries here at Bethany over the years. You've possibly seen me Wednesday nights at AWANA or Youth Group, helping out with the Water Ski Team, Sunday morning Children's Ministry, Resonate... But today I am primarily involved with two ministries. I am a lighting and graphics Tech on our Sunday morning Worship team, and a host in Young Adults Grow Groups.

I am 29 years old and unmarried, however, I consider myself to have some great family beyond the one I was born into. My parents are David and Dawn Speckeen, and my sisters are Brooke (married to Keagan) and Alexis. I'm also related to the Fischer families who attend Bethany, and I have a bunch of people I would call a "second family" within

the young adults grow groups. My relationship with Christ began when I was 4, but some milestones for my faith happened in 5th grade here at Bethany, in Wednesday night cell groups my senior year, and at Arrowhead Bible Camp's Discipleship Program.

I feel very blessed to be able to take part in the work that God is going to do in this search process, and in the years to come at Bethany. Please be in prayer for us. God will do great things through us for His Name's Sake, and for His glory, but we could use prayer for our work in the process.

Please feel free to reach out to with any thoughts, questions, or concerns. I would love to talk with you!

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LIZ RUSSELL

SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH TEAM



Hi, my name is Liz Russell and I'm so excited to be a part of bringing our next Senior Pastor to Bethany Free Church! My husband Mike and I have been married for 19 years and have 3 boys, 15 year old Derek, 12 year old Drew, and 9 year old Seth. We have been attending Bethany since 2005. I was raised having a Christian Faith but didn't truly accept the Lord as my personal Savior until 2004.

Over the years, I have been involved in a variety of ways at Bethany including serving in Sparks as a small group leader, helping out in the nursery and Children's Ministry on Sunday mornings and I'm currently excited to be joining the Student Mission group on their trip to serve in Jamaica this summer. I am also part of a Grow Group.

Being a part of the Senior Pastor Search Team is an honor and responsibility I don't take lightly. Through the journey over the coming months, we will need to be opening our hearts and minds to God's direction for our church. It is exciting for me to think that God already knows who Bethany's next Senior Pastor is, and know it will be a journey of prayerful obedience to find him.

We welcome any questions, comments or feedback about the process we are all in together, so please feel free to reach out if you wish.

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BRAD GERDES

SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH TEAM



I am married to Betsy and we have been members at Bethany since 1983. We have two adult daughters that grew up here at Bethany through the children's programs and student ministries. They both got married at Bethany and now each have two children under 4 years old, but now live in other parts of the Midwest.

I enjoy helping people at Bethany get connected and find a place to grow in Christ. I am currently serving Bethany on the Board of Overseers. This is now my third term over the last 25 years. I also serve as the Grow Group Ministry Leader and lead a Grow Group on Monday nights in Onalaska. I have been a leader in the Bethany Student Ministries Water Ski Team for 18 years. I recently completed my 4th year in serving in AWANA Sparks K-2nd grade program.

This is my third Pastoral Search team here at Bethany. I am excited to see how God is going to lead Bethany through our next senior pastor and see it as a privilege to be a part of the search team.

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WADE MOSES

SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH TEAM



My family and I started attending Bethany in 1999. I have been married to Cindy for almost 26 years and have two boys – Cody (24) and Austin (15).

I grew up in Dallas, TX in a faith-based home and attended Fellowship Bible Church, a non-denominational church that was started and shepherded by Gene Getz. Being raised in a Bible-teaching church and home gave me a great understanding of the Christian faith, but it wasn't until April 1986 during my junior year of high school that I realized that I needed Jesus as my personal savior. I accepted Him with all my heart and my life was radically changed.

Soon after Cindy and I were married, God called us to move to Missouri to help start up Camp Barnabas, a Christian summer camp for kids with special medical needs. A few years later we were called to the La Crosse area to lead the Bethany Student Ministries, which we did for about 8 years.

Bethany has been a wonderful family to us and it has been our pleasure to serve the body in several ministries over the years including Grow Groups, Youth Ministry, Children's Ministry, and Tech Ministry. Now, it is an honor to serve on the Senior Pastor Search Team and take part in God leading our church body through this pastoral change.

Please feel free to contact me with any thoughts or questions pertaining to the search.

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