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Address 5658 North Denver Avenue • Portland, Oregon 97217

July 2, 2019

Dear Friends,

As many of you are already aware, Bethel experienced significant water damage when a toilet overflowed on the evening of June 10, into the morning of June 11. The water impacted most of the east half of the Bethel building on the basement and main floors, sparing the kitchen and fellowship hall. All three restrooms in the building are out of service and we are relying on portable toilets. Clean-up and reconstruction are underway.

We are grateful for our friends at Peace Lutheran Church who have donated space in their building so that our Summer Camp, *#Summerfun*, can continue as planned. Our Sunday morning breakfast service to the community will continue as well since our kitchen was undamaged.

However, our contractors have been clear that full clean-up and restoration of our space will continue into the school year. After careful deliberation, we have regretfully come to the decision that we will not be able to offer After-School Care for the 2019-20 school year.

We appreciate that our after school program has been a cornerstone of our shared community. We did not come to this decision lightly. We know this closure will impact neighborhood children and families, our current childcare employees, and Bethel Lutheran's outreach to the community.

Although After-School care for the 2019-2020 school year will not be offered, there will be access to the Family Food Cart throughout the year. We will email you again with information on how you will be able to access the building and the food cart this summer and into the school year.

During this time of closure, the Bethel Neighborhood Youth Drop-In Center Board of Directors, Bethel Lutheran Church, and the community and families, will be engaged in a thorough examination of the structure and content of the After-School and Summer programs offered to the children of the community. We will be looking carefully at the structure of each program, the staffing required to offer quality and enriching care to our children, and a sustainable financial model for the future.

We look forward to tapping into the wisdom and insight of our entire community as we move forward. Please do contact us if you have questions. You may reach the Board by emailing the main Bethel address: bethellutheran@bethelpdx.org or by calling the Bethel main office, 503-285-4919. We will be in touch with ways you can be involved in our planning and visioning for the Center.

Sincerely,
Bethel Youth Neighborhood Drop-In Center Board

Ronda Bard, President
Mary Flood-Klein, Secretary
Amy Nielsen-Scott

Karen Anderson, Treasurer
PJ Bentley
Pastor Christine Core

