

# Bethel Church Weather Cancellation Policy January 2021

Weather is unpredictable and may change rapidly. Bethel makes every attempt to maintain our ministry through inclement weather while considering the safety of those we serve. We are guided by the following policy:

## **Summer:**

**Tornado watch:** (conditions are favorable for a tornado)

- If a tornado watch is posted or remains in effect one (1) hour or less before the start of an activity, the activity is automatically cancelled.
- If a tornado watch goes into effect while an activity is in progress, the activity may continue at the discretion of the leaders at church. Adult participants may leave and parents may come and remove their children from the activity.

**Tornado warning:** (a tornado has been spotted)

- If a tornado warning is in effect prior to the start of an activity, the activity is cancelled.
- If a tornado warning goes into effect while an activity is in progress, the activity will be suspended.
- If weather conditions permit, participants may go home. Any persons not able to go home must move to the basement of the sanctuary building. The Southern classrooms and Nursery are our designated Tornado shelters.
- If weather conditions do not permit safe travel, all persons must move to the basement of the sanctuary building. If there is any question about the application of these guidelines to a specific situation, the leader(s) of the affected ministry and or pastor, will make the final decision.

## **Winter:**

**Weekday / programs:**

- If Zeeland Public Schools are closed for the day, weekday night programs may or may not be cancelled, depending on weather and road conditions as the day progresses.
- If students are sent home early from Zeeland Public Schools, weekday night programs are automatically cancelled.
- In cases of inclement weather, a decision regarding cancellation will be made 2 hours before the scheduled start time, this includes Saturday events. The cancellation of classes, meetings, rehearsals, etc. will be at the discretion of that program leader. Leaders, please provide a means for participants to contact you and have the contacts of your program participants.

**Sunday services:**

1. When storms are predicted for Sunday, the Administrative Council chair, janitor, pastor and our snow removal crew will communicate via email or text of the possibility of the morning cancellation on Saturday before 10:00pm. Sunday morning communication will begin by 7:00am.
2. On Sunday morning, in the event of inclement weather, the Administrative Council chair, janitor, pastor and our snow removal crew, weighing the advice of our local meteorologists, and State Police, will make a decision to cancel the morning service by 8:00am.

## **How winter cancellations will be communicated:**

We will make every effort to send out notifications by 9:00am or 4:00pm, before the morning service and evening gathering. Please check these sources before leaving for church when appropriate.

- Watch WOOD TV8 and/or WZZM 13 for cancellation notices.
- Check the prayer line for cancellation information.
- The Bethel website **[bethelchurchzeeland.org](http://bethelchurchzeeland.org)** will be updated.
- You will most likely receive an email if you have registered an email with the church office.

## **Winter notes:**

- Weekday / Saturday program cancellations may or may not be communicated depending on what is scheduled at church with the exception of congregation programs. Your safety is important, even if church is not cancelled and you feel coming to church would be risky for your circumstances – please stay home.