

A person is seen from the side, holding the American flag high against a bright, hazy sunset sky. The flag's stars and stripes are clearly visible. The overall mood is patriotic and hopeful.

Bethel Beacon

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BETHEL CHURCH OF BRANDON, WI JULY 2021– VOLUME 37

Renaë's Thoughts

"The Lord is my light and my salvation-whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life-of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1

This was the theme verse of this year's Vacation Bible School. All week long we talked about those who were judged and stood punishment for standing up for their faith. We studied the stories of Gideon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, Elijah, and Jesus overturning the money tables.

We know that sometimes we all go through very hard times. Our faith may be challenged but if we stay true and faithful to His word He will help us through. No one ever said that being a Christian would be easy. Actually, it can be one of the hardest things we can go through. But just like the Bible stories in Vacation Bible School, our God is always there to walk us through the storms and protect us. We just need not fear and turn to Him for help.

We will never be thrown into a fiery furnace or need to be fed by the birds but some of the trials in our lives may make us feel scared and worried. Our God gives us the courage we need during these tough times all we need to do is ask for Him to guide us through. Our God is bigger than anything that comes our way.

Pastor's Pen

Since we are rapidly approaching Independence Day, July 4, I thought it appropriate to discuss the freedom we have in Christ. A.W. Tozer wrote a devotional entitled, "Too Much Liberty and Too Little Freedom" that explains what Christian freedom is and is not. Tozer writes:

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. Galatians 5:13

Freedom is priceless and where it is present almost any kind of life is enjoyable. When it is absent life can never be enjoyed; it can only be endured.

Though millions have died in freedom's defense and though her praise is in everyone's mouth, yet she has been tragically misunderstood by her advocates and sorely wounded in the house of her friends. I think the difficulty lies with our failure to distinguish freedom from liberty, which are indeed sisters but not identical twins.

Freedom is liberty within bounds: liberty to obey holy laws, liberty to keep the commandments of Christ, to serve mankind, to develop to the full all the latent possibilities within our redeemed natures. True Christian liberty never sets us free to indulge our lusts or to follow our fallen impulses.

The desire for unqualified freedom caused the fall of Lucifer and wrought the destruction of the angels that sinned. These sought freedom to do as they willed, and to get it they threw away the beautiful liberty that meant freedom to do the will of God. And the human race followed them in their tragic moral blunder.

Freedom in Christ is not for the purpose of indulging the sinful nature but to lovingly serve one another. Indulging the sinful nature only leads to enslavement to it—loss of freedom and liberty. How we exercise freedom forwards our growth in Christ or seriously impedes it.

Thank You, Lord, for freedom from the chains of sinful habits and freedom to serve You in serving Your people.

Summer School Lunches

Bethel will once again be offering sack lunches for students coming back from summer school July 7th-August 6th. We would appreciate any donations such as cookies, bars, (NO PEANUT BUTTER PLEASE), chips, fruit, or monetary donations. See either Gary or Judy Henker if you can help. Thank you

July Church Events

* Service streamed live on Facebook

- 1st-3rd Minnesota Mission Trip
1st-8th Pastor John & Leesa Vacation
4th 9:30 a.m. Worship Service*
Doug Shotsky, Alto Reformed
Following the Service:
Fellowship in the church entry
5th 2:30-3:30 p.m. Piano Lessons
5:30-8:30 p.m. Activities at First
Reformed, Friesland with fireworks at
dusk
6th 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
7th 9:00 a.m. Care Team Meeting
8th-11th Lifest
11th 9:30 a.m. Worship Service *
Following the Service:
Deacons Meeting
High School/Adult Study of Mark
Fellowship in the church entry
12th Beacon Items Due
2:30-3:30 p.m. Piano Lessons
13th 12:00 –3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
Potluck & Fellowship
14th 12:00 p.m. 80+ Summer Luncheon
18th 9:30 a.m. Worship Service*
Mission Trip Update
Special Offering-Benevolent Fund
Following the Service:
Congregational Meeting
Fellowship in the church entry
19th 2:30-3:30 p.m. Piano Lessons
20th 1:00-6:00 p.m. Community Blood Drive
21st 6:30 p.m. Elders Meeting
25th 9:30 a.m. Worship Service *
Following the Service:
Deacons Meeting
High School/Adult Study of Mark
Fellowship in the church entry
26th 2:30-3:30 p.m. Piano Lessons
27th 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering

July Schedules

Lift

- 4th Ken Beekman
11th Ed Montsma
18th Floyd Smit
25th Harley Coehoorn

Sound

- 4th Merwin Kimble
11th Kelly VandeZande
18th Harley Coehoorn
25th Merwin Kimble

Liturgy

- 4th Mark Kastein
11th Sandy VandeZande
18th Karen Redeker
25th Pastor John

Fellowship

- 4th Randy Pinnow
11th Harley Coehoorn
18th Troy Newbury
25th Robin Gunnink

Greeter

- 4th Nick Kamphuis
11th Randi Turner
18th Shaun Hiemstra
25th Craig Bresser

Nursery

- 4th Michelle Dickmeyer-Postotnik
11th Carley Madigan
18th Angela Arndt
25th Michelle Dickmeyer-Postotnik



Bethel Church

Thank you so much for the Welcome Basket you delivered to our new home. All of the 'goodies' were much appreciated and the baked goods were delicious! Your fellowship is another reminder of what a great community Brandon is. We are so blessed to call it home.

Derek, Jillian & Lincoln Chitwood

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

1st	Ron & Ann Mulder	14th	Ron VandeBerg
2nd	Brock Post Laurie Walker		Kasidee Hansen
3rd	Kathy Owens		Dan Beekman
5th	Chris Navis	16th	Keegan Madigan
6th	Graham Brunsdon Cade Brunsdon Kate Doris	17th	Dan Coehoorn
7th	Dick Roeming (86) Jim Kuik (84)	18th	Gary Henker
8th	Maria Navis (Missionary) Kurt & Karen Franke		Vickie Navis(86) Cayla Sauer
9th	Doug Kok	21st	Jim & Donna Schmuhl Dave & Shelly Freiberg
10th	Camden Smit Jaxon VandeSlunt Carson VandeSlunt Harley Coehoorn Katie Mulder	22nd	Jason Derksen
11th	Glenn & Annette Ebert	23rd	Ron Mulder
12th	Maynard & Vickie Navis	26th	Elaine Hiemstra Ryan & Laurie Walker
13th	Tim Kamphuis	27th	Rylee Lavota
		28th	Beth Venard Kohen VandeZande
		29th	Nick Tank Cash Farrell
		30th	Shirley Margers Sam Hiemstra Henry VandeZande (89)
		31st	Lynn DeBoer

Congregational Meeting

On July 18, following the morning worship service, the membership of Bethel will meet to discuss leaving the Reformed Church in America and joining the Alliance of Reformed Churches. All members are encouraged to be at this meeting so all voices can be heard. Hard copies of the ARC welcome packet will be available in the information center this Sunday. Electronic copies have already been sent via e-mail. Pray for God's leading in this matter BEFORE you come to the meeting.

Nursery Restart

We are once again looking at restarting to have nursery attendants available for Sunday worship services. There is a signup sheet in the Information Center for those who might be interested in sharing in this ministry.

Consistory 2021

Elders

Craig Bresser (21) 920-960-9419
Rick Redeker (21) 920-517-3483
Randy Pinnow (22) 920-904-7703
Harley Coehoorn (23) 920-229-6953
Shaun Hiemstra (23) 262-308-9266

Deacons

Robin Gunnink (21) 920-597-1000
Caleb Riedeman (21) 920-579-0512
Troy Newbury (22) 920-539-7048
Greg Smit (22) 920-229-7159
Nick Kamphuis (23) 920-597-0048
Randi Turner (23) 920-251-9697

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

John Tilstra, President
Rick Redeker, VP
Shaun Hiemstra, Clerk
Caleb Riedeman, Deacon Chr.
Greg Smit, Treasurer

TREASURERS

Greg Smit, Main Account
Robin Gunnink, Mission

PASTORAL/STAFF

Rick Redeker
Caleb Riedeman
Greg Smit
Shaun Hiemstra
David Venard
Mary Kimble

BUILDING

Troy Newbury, Chr.
Karl Rens
Phil Laper
Mike Bos
Byron Navis

ELECTION/SELECTION

Craig Bresser
Dallas VandeSlunt

PULPIT SUPPLY

Rick Redeker
Shaun Hiemstra

WORSHIP PILLAR

Caleb Riedeman, Co-Chr.
Danica Riedeman, Co-Chr.
Kathy Beekman
Leesa Tilstra
Randi Turner
Shelly Hiemstra
Dianne Kastein
Deanna Theyerl

MISSION/OUTREACH PILLAR

Dione Kimble, Chr.
Rick Redeker
Robin Gunnink
Randy Pinnow
Denise Hiemstra
Ron Mulder
Kay Hiemstra
Cathy Rens
Ed Montsma
Jon Post
Rick DeBoer

CARE TEAM

Betty DeBoer, Chr.
Sharon Bos
Shirley Margers
Carol Flegner
Darlene Kamphuis
Dave Venard
Jane Brown
Mary Ann Smit
Connie Blank

EDUCATION PILLAR

Gerri Buteyn, Chr.
Nick Kamphuis
Jenni Post
Lori Coehoorn
Kim Miller
Shelly Freiberg
Angela Arndt
Rena Lind

COMMUNICATIONS PILLAR

Angela Arndt, Co-Chr.
Jenni Post, Co-Chr.
LaRae Vander Plas
Danelle Smit
Greg Smit
Craig Bresser

YOUTH GROUP SPONSORS

Dallas VandeSlunt
Nick Kamphuis
Lexie Dahlke
Kenna Freiberg
Anna Lind
Bill Lind
Chase Hoinacki

CARE ELDERS

Les Hiemstra
Shelly Hiemstra
Linda Smit
Herb Beekman