



Bethel

Beacon

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
BETHEL CHURCH, BRANDON, WISCONSIN |
AUGUST 2021 – VOLUME 37

Renaë's Thoughts

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10.

It sure is amazing how God works in people’s lives. I never thought of myself as a person to go out of my comfort zone to do mission work. Little did I know that He was going to use me and seven others in Duluth, MN.

Preparing for this trip did not come without anxiety and uncertainty. There were many times I really felt uncertain about what was going to happen and where he was going to use us. But his plan is always the right plan. He created the perfect working team and the perfect location to use our talents. When I say working team, boy did we work. When we were introduced to the task we were assigned to, we really did not think it could all be accomplished in just four days. God knew our hearts and our abilities. Not only did we get the landscaping done, we were able to fix and clean their water fountain, purchase a new flag, dig up some trees, and transplant some plants to make everything look new and fresh. We created relationships with some of the residents and workers there that we can honestly call friends. He blessed us more than we could ever have known.

God always knows what he is doing when he gives each and everyone of us a unique talent. He gives you these talents to use to further His kingdom. We need to use those gifts and not just sit on them. Keep your eyes and ears open and see where God is calling you to use your talents.

Pastor John's Pen

Seeking and Saving the Lost

“The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost” Luke 19:10.

Most of us will exert much effort to find something that we value or something that we love when it has been lost. If we are certain that our wedding ring fell down the kitchen drain, we will crawl under the sink, disassemble the pipes, and smell the sewer gas in order to rescue our beloved possession. We dog owners will spend hours searching for our missing pet. We will walk or drive through our neighborhood for hours looking for the lost animal. (Been there, done that). We sometimes post pictures of the missing dog on telephone poles, bulletin boards, and online message boards, promising a reward for the safe return of our hound.

Tragically, we seldom go to the same effort to find lost souls. Fear of rejection, the responsibilities of life, the seemingly overwhelming task of evangelizing, and other factors make it easy for us to become complacent, to leave others the task Jesus gave us of discipling the nations (Matt. 28:18–20). Our failures to engage in evangelism and missions are not generally motivated by malice, but by the deep self-centeredness that we possess. As long as sin abides in us and leads us to overlook the lost's need to know Jesus, evangelism will not happen. For some reason, we believe that if we erect a church building and attend regularly, the unbeliever will see Christian activity and take the initiative to come. To some degree, that does happen, but if we are not actively seeking out lost people in order to give them the message of salvation, we cannot be surprised when they do not show up at our doors.

We are called to imitate God in the task of missions and evangelism. We must show at least the same effort—indeed, greater effort—in finding the lost as we do in looking for lost pets or valuables. Aside from His glory, human beings are more important to our Creator than anything else. He has a passion to seek and to save the lost, for that is why Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to the earth (Luke 19:1–10). Moreover, Luke 15 shows us that there is great joy in heaven when one sinner repents. The Lord throws a “party,” whenever lost people are found—whenever they believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

God cares about the souls of His image bearers and so must we. Our friends, family, coworkers, neighbors, and acquaintances who do not know Christ will endure God's wrath forever if they do not trust Jesus before they die.

We, too, were once lost in sin before the Lord found us (Ephesians 2:11–12). And Christ found and saved us through the ministry of others, whether through our parents, a friend, attending church, or many other means. Let us seek God to use us to seek and save the lost. Let us pray that God would send lost people our way and that we would be ready to proclaim the gospel to them. Let us look for the lost among those whom we know so that we can share the gospel with them.

“That Thing”: Community Connection Update

Hello, friends of Bethel!

You may have heard of the group we started called “That Thing On Wednesday”. We just want you to know that we have moved our location to the Event Center at Pillar & Vine in Brandon, located at 347 S. Woodward St. Our dates have changed as well.

This move allows us to provide a space that is not only kid-friendly, with a playground, outdoor tables, a basketball hoop for older kids (or us adults as well!), but also provides a neutral location where people in the community with all backgrounds and needs can connect. We also have the use of a sound system, tv, and a large projector screen should we choose outreach that involves these tools. Oh, and of course, the kitchen! All of this in one convenient area. So what is this group all about?

Up until now we opened the doors at Bethel one Wednesday evening per month for anyone looking to grow and connect in our area. We have discussed various topics, have been vulnerable in opening up to each other, and met one another where our growth needs have been. Examples of topics we have discussed have been on healing generational trauma, internal family systems and breaking those cycles, anger and its message to us, and developing greater emotional intelligence.

We would like to continue doing this- meeting the growth needs within our community- while also making meaningful, healthy connections. After having a wonderful conversation with Damian from Pillar & Vine, he graciously offered for us to utilize his Event Center, and suggested meeting more than once each month while mixing up those days we meet to hopefully give people more options and availability to come.

We decided that this was a great idea, and by meeting twice each month, we can keep our connections more consistent, continue to have structured topics to discuss, and also just have unstructured hang out time for adults of all ages. This includes parents of young children. There is plenty for the kids to do while the adults snack and socialize, and it's also a safe place for teens to find connections as well while their parents do their thing. A little half court game of basketball anyone?!

Look, the truth is, there is a disconnect between families in many small communities. Why does Brandon and the surrounding area have to be part of this status quo? We're trying to eliminate the barriers that might prevent some of us from turning off the remote for one night, maybe from feeling lonely and misunderstood, or maybe to just take a break from those challenging bouts of depression and just get together for an hour or so with others. The kids will be taken care of, their needs can be met here, we'll grow together, laugh together, come up with some ideas of things to do together, help each other along the way to becoming our best selves, and maybe- just maybe- not feel so alone and distanced from our own neighbor!

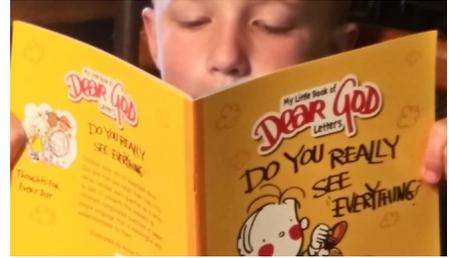
Our next get together will be on Wednesday, July 28th from 6p-7:15-ish at the Event Center. Snacks, laughs, things to do for the kids, and things to talk about will be provided. Keep a lookout for an upcoming Facebook event post. And maybe bring a squirt gun- those are fun, too!

With Loving Connection,
Holly Mulder

EVANGELISM/OUTREACH HAPPENINGS



Thank you to all who donated newborn essentials to Bethel's mission with Charis Pregnancy Center in Fond du Lac. It was much appreciated. Donations are always accepted at www.charisfdl.com.



Evangelism/Outreach purchased "Dear God" books to hand out to the Bible School participants.



The Mission Trip was successful and donations were appreciated. Renae presented a video of this at a recent service.



Bethel served a meal to around 100 pilots and missionaries in aviation prior to Airventure in the Mission Aviation Tent on July 24th at the EAA grounds. Pictures will be included in the next Beacon. Thank you once again for donations of food.

Summer Baseball Fun

Come cheer on the Bethel Church of Brandon softball team at the 25th Annual CWC Church Co-Ed Slow-Pitch Softball Tournament on August 6-7 at McCune Park and Edgewood Church in Waupun. Exact game times are yet to be determined. Concessions will be available throughout the tournament, including hamburgers, brats, ice cream snacks, soda and assorted candy.

The Central Wisconsin Christian Athletic Booster Club is sponsoring the tournament.

August Church Events

- 1st 9:30 a.m. Worship Service*
Following the service:
Fellowship in the church entry
Study of Mark in the Youth Room
- 2nd 2:30-3:30 p.m. Piano Lessons
- 3rd 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
- 4th 9:00 a.m. Care Team Meeting
6:30 p.m. Executive Meeting
- 5th-10th Pastor John & Leesa Vacation
- 8th 9:30 a.m. Worship Service*
Guest Al Venhuisen
Following the service:
Fellowship in the church entry
Study of Mark in the Youth Room
- 9th 2:30-3:30 p.m. Piano Lessons
- 10th 12:00 p.m. Senior Gathering Potluck & Fellowship
- 10th-16th Renae Vacation
- 11th-12th Alto Fair
- 12th Judi Vacation
- 15th 9:30 a.m. Worship Service* Communion
Special Offering for the Bible League
Following the service:
Fellowship in the church entry
Study of Mark in the Youth Room
- 16th Beacon Items Due
2:30-3:30 p.m. Piano Lessons
- 17th 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
- 19th 6:30 p.m. Consistory Meeting
- 22nd 9:30 a.m. Worship Service*
Following the service:
Fellowship in the church entry
Study of Mark in the Youth Room
- 23rd 2:30-3:30 p.m. Piano Lessons
- 24th 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
- 25th 8:00 a.m. Communications Meeting
- 29th 9:30 a.m. Worship Service*
Following the service:
Fellowship in the church entry
Study of Mark in the Youth Room
- 30th 2:30-3:30 p.m. Piano Lessons
- 31st 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering

* Indicates Worship Services are live on Facebook at Bethel Church of Brandon

AUGUST SCHEDULES

Lift

- 1st Ken Beekman
8th Ed Montsma
15th Floyd Smit
22nd Harley Coehoorn
29th Ken Beekman

Sound

- 1st Kelly VandeZande
8th Harley Coehoorn
15th Merwin Kimble
22nd Kelly VandeZande
29th Harley Coehoorn

Liturgy

- 1st Jen Post
8th Amanda Hiemstra
15th Bert Leusink
22nd Mark Kastein
29th Sandy VandeZande

Nursery

- 1st Michelle Dickmeyer- Postotnik
8th Mac Mattheis
15th Angela Arndt
22nd Farris Turner
29th Rosanne & Deidre Bresser

Fellowship

- 1st Caleb Riedeman
8th Troy Newbury
15th Greg Smit
22nd Shaun Hiemstra
29th Randi Turner

Greeters

- 1st Rick Redeker
8th Randy Pinnow
15th Harley Coehoorn
22nd Nick Kamphuis
29th Robin Gunnink

Birthdays & Anniversaries

1st	Mason Lind
2nd	Connie Blank Gerri Buteyn Curt DeHaan
3rd	Willa Weideman
4th	Linda Sippel Ardis Redeker (85)
5th	Avry Henning
6th	Mary Kimble
7th	Keith Krohn
8th	John Vander Plas Bruce & Marilyn Belmer
9th	Gerrit Mulder Amanda Hiemstra Rick & Karen Redeker
13th	Michelle Farrell Tim Wellhouse
15th	Logan Gunnink Ann Zabel Dan & Emily Beekman
16th	Ken Margers Carla Gunnink
18th	Merwin Kimble Harley Block
18th	Blaise Post Austin & Sammi Hiemstra
19th	Brian & Lori Madigan
20th	Pat & Teresa Schmuhl Phil & Carmen Laper
21st	Heidi Stanzyke David Venard Troy & Toni Newbury
22nd	Charlene Kamphuis
24th	Ken Kuik Brian & Torrie Grade
25th	David Grade Orval & Pat Bronkhorst (60) Dale & Dawn Henning
26th	Shannie Tank Steve Beekman Jon & Jenni Post
28th	Brian Hansen
29th	Alivia Jurjens Rosemary Pike
30th	Marilyn Belmer (80)
31st	Shelly Hiemstra Parker Laper Sharon Bos

Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, July 18, 2021, the congregation of Bethel Church voted to leave the Reformed Church in America, and then voted to join the Alliance of Reformed Churches. The Consistory, based on these votes, took official action on Wednesday, July 21, 2021, to begin the processes of withdrawing from the RCA and joining the ARC.

The Alliance of Reformed Churches is a new organization of former RCA churches who desire to keep the creeds and confessions that have been foundational for Reformed churches since the Protestant Reformation, yet change the way the church is organized so as to hold each church and pastor accountable and to help each church and pastor move forward in mission.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Joan Weisnicht and Sharon Krohn for sharing their beautiful flowers with us in the sanctuary. If anyone had garden flowers they would like to share with us, please contact Angela Arndt at 920-979-3424.

Thank you donors: 66 units were collected on July 20 with 1 gallon reached by Janine Ransey and Tomi Knuth. Thank you to the Brandon BP Store for donating ice cream cone coupons, Bethel Church of use of the fellowship hall, Mary Ann Smit for volunteering and Jay smit for set-up and takedown.

Next drive: September 14, 2021 Rosendale
November 16, 2021—Brandon
Judith Henker, Chr.

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
Renae 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