



Bethel

Beacon

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | BETHEL CHURCH, BRANDON, WI | SEPTEMBER 2021 – VOLUME 37

Pastor's Pen

What is it like for you when you pray? Is it a battle? My guess is that prayer *is* a battle for you. In fact, you are constantly at war in the secret place of your being.

Matthew 6:6 states, "*When you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.*"

Notice what Jesus did not say, "Dream about your Father who is in the secret place," instead He said, "...*pray* to your Father who is in the secret place...." Prayer is an effort of your will. After you have entered your secret place and shut the door, the most difficult thing to do is to pray. You cannot seem to get your mind focused on God and prayer, because you find yourself fighting wandering thoughts. Your great battle in private prayer is overcoming this problem. You must learn to discipline your mind and concentrate on willful, deliberate prayer.

Though not necessary, it is often good to have a specially selected place for prayer. Once you get there, however, this plague of wandering thoughts begins, as you begin to think, "This needs to be done, and I have to do that today." Jesus says to "shut your door." Shutting your door here means having a secret stillness before God, deliberately shutting the door on your wandering thoughts, and remembering Him. God is in secret, and He sees you from "the secret place." He does not see you as other people do, or as you see yourself. When you truly live in "the secret place," it becomes impossible for you to doubt God. You become surer of Him than of anyone or anything else. Enter "the secret place," and you will find that God was right in the middle of your everyday circumstances all the time. Get into the habit of dealing with God about *everything*. Unless you learn to open the door of your life completely and let God in from your first waking moment of each new day, you will be working on the wrong level throughout the day. If you will swing the door of your life fully open, however, and "pray to your Father who is in the secret place," every public thing in your life will be marked with the lasting imprint of the presence of God.

Pastor John

Renae's Thoughts

So many times we wonder, "Do I really need to go to church?" or "Do I really need to attend a youth group?" Our calendars are filled to the brim with all sorts of activities and when it comes to Sunday morning it is so nice to slow down and just sit in our favorite chair, recline, sip on a cup of coffee and enjoy the church service from home.

We all have felt this feeling. Some of us more than others. But as I sit here and prepare for the upcoming fall church programming I wonder, "How many students will we have in Sunday School and Wednesday night youth groups?"

As parents, I understand the pressure put on us to keep our kids trained in the sports they so dearly love. We need to get them to extra practices and attend the weekend games so they can enjoy the game they so dearly love. Most parents struggle with finding that even balance between sports and church activities.

We all want our children to do well in their area of interest. We will do anything for them to achieve their very best, but as a Christian parent, should we not be training our students in the ways of our Lord and Savior? Just like an athlete spends many hours in the gym, field, or court to become their very best, should not our children be attending Sunday School, Adventures Club, and youth groups to get trained in their Christian walk? We should be preparing them for their biggest victory of all when they stand before Jesus and he welcomes them home with open arms. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Church is here to help them with their training. The church will help them understand the Bible, our life's game plan. The church is here to help strengthen their faith so that when they are faced with the huge competitor, Satan, they can defeat him with confidence and never waiver and walk away with a win. The church will be here to cheer for them and support them when times get tough. Our children need to know the importance the church has in their Christian training.

My prayer is that we all find the balance in our lives that allows us not only fulfill our earthly schedules but also put time aside to spend time in Christian training. Our reward will be so much more than a blue ribbon or a shiny trophy. Our reward will be the beautiful streets of gold in Heaven.

Renae Lind
Youth Director



EVANGELISM/OUTREACH

Thank you to all who donated bars for the MASA Outreach during the Air Adventure Event. Thank you to Deb Pinnow, Ardis Redeker, Renae and Anna Lind, and the Jon Post family for serving in the MASA tent. We received a huge thank you from the Oshkosh MASA chapter which is posted in the Information Center.

Thank you to Ron VandeBerg, Kelly VandeZande and Harley Coehoorn for driving in the Alto Fair parade to recognize our mentors. "Making Memories Never Grows Old" was our theme and Maynard Navis, Joan Weisnicht, Dick Roeming, and Ardis Redeker were honored.

Great is Thy faithfulness through all generations. Psalm 119:90

55+ FALL OUTING

Everyone 55+ is invited to our Fall Outing on Wednesday, October 6. We will be going to Sunset on the Water in Fond du Lac. The cost is \$15.00 including entree, beverage, tax, and tip. If you are interested we will meet at church, carpool, and collect your money at 10:30 a.m. Sign up will be available in the Information Center from September 13-27 or call the office to make your reservation.



EDUCATION TEAM

We have been blessed to partner with Vanessa Knuth to offer piano lessons at Bethel this past year. Unfortunately for us, we have recently learned that Vanessa is getting married and will be moving out of state. Since all six of the current piano students are interested in continuing lessons in the fall, we are actively searching for another experienced piano teacher. Please contact Judi at the church office if you know of a possible teacher and/or if you have questions about the lessons.

We look forward to Sunday School and Youth groups starting up in September with a mix of videos and lesson material for every age. Knowing who Jesus is and building a relationship with Him begins with the very young and continues through all of our lives and we at Bethel take very seriously our responsibility to help raise our children to know God. Especially in this day and age, it is critical that parents make Sunday School and Christian education on Wednesday evenings a priority for their children. To learn more, feel free to contact Judi in the church office or Renae Lind, Youth Director.

EMERGENCY/VOLUNTEER WORKERS RECOGNITION

Sunday, September 12, 2021, Bethel Church will be recognizing all those who work as Emergency and Volunteer Workers in our community. All those who are firefighters, police officers, medical personnel, and EMT/ Paramedics, are invited to our 9:30 a.m. service. If you know of anyone who works in these areas, please invite them to come and join us. There will be a potluck lunch following the service.

Thank You

- We would like to thank those who gave monetary donations and food items for the Summer School sack lunches. For the 21 days, 896 lunches were prepared for the who came back to Brandon.

Gary & Judy Henker

- Hello and Good Morning Bethel Church Community,

We just wanted to let you know we sincerely appreciate the prayers, blanket, meals, and donation that we have received from the Bethel community. It has been a difficult year for us and we truly feel so blessed to live in a community that is so willing to help us in our time of need. The support has been overwhelming and we can't thank you enough for your help in getting us through this. We will continue to pray and take this one day at a time. Thank you for everything you've done for us and this community.

Peace and Blessings,

The Schmuhl Family-Mike, Suzie, Mason, Brayden, Everley, & Brooks

- Bethel Care Team

Thank you all to much for praying for Parker during this time of healing. He is getting better every day, but having a long summer. Also, Thank you for the blanket that you made him!

Love, Parker, Carmen, Phil, & family

- Bethel & Youthworks,

Thank you for donating your time to Bayshore. You did a fabulous job on the gardening. Also, thank you for all the wonderful donated items for our residents Christmas presents. Thanks again. We are blessed.

Jeanne-Activity Director, Activity Staff, Residents of Bayshore, & Staff of Bayshore.

- Bethel,

Thank you for all the wonderful items you donated to help us in our lives. We greatly appreciate you caring about us and your kindness. Thank you again for your support and generosity. Life can be hard. You all blessed us.

Rehabilitation Group

- Thank you to all who sent cards, food, and prayers after my surgery. It is such an encouragement to know that others are praying for you. Thank you to Connie Blank for her visit and the Care Team for the beautiful blanket. Prayers would be appreciated as I continue to heal with some bumps in the road. So thankful for all the amazing health workers for their insight and wisdom.

Dione Kimble

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1st Greg Smit
2nd Curt Franke
Bret & Stephanie Henning
Jim & Charlene Kamphuis (55)
4th Greg & Angie Smit
5th Phil Laper
John & Ruth Navis (Missionary)
6th Jeff Gunnink
Vicki Luczak
Bill & Judi Post
7th Eric & Katie Mulder
8th Vanessa Slager
9th Hollyn Gunnink
10th Ally Redeker
11th Dan VandeBerg
12th Logan Smit
14th Jeff & Melissa Henker
15th Grady Vis
Ken & Linda Smit
19th Jodi Mulder
John Peterson
Kyle VandeZande
20th Doug & Kim Kamphuis
21st Judith Larson
Lena Arndt
Jimmy Huebschman
Rich & Gerri Buteyn
23rd Carley Madigan
Craig & Rosanne Bresser
Jon & Carla Gunnink
24th Steve Weisnicht
Ruth Navis (Missionary)
Logan Sauer
Dan & Ann Kastein
Lynn & Nancy DeBoer
25th Jen Post
26th Nicole Schmuhl
27th Jenni Post
28th Les & Shelly Hiemstra
29th Cole Arndt
Orrin & Dione Kimble
30th Jacob Rens

SEPTEMBER SCHEDULES

Lift

5th Ed Montsma
12th Floyd Smit
19th Harley Coehoorn
26th Ken Beekman

Sound

5th Merwin Kimble
12th Kelly VandeZande
19th Harley Coehoorn
26th Merwin Kimble

Liturgy

5th Karen Redeker
12th Jen Post
19th Amanda Hiemstra
26th Bert Leusink

Nursery

5th Angela Arndt
12th Sophie Newbury
19th Farris Turner
26th Lori Coehoorn

Fellowship

5th Craig Bresser
12th Rick Redeker
19th Randy Pinnow
26th Nick Kamphuis

Greeters

5th Randi Turner
12th Nick Kamphuis
19th Greg Smit
26th Shaun Hiemstra

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 1st 9:00 a.m. Care Team Meeting
- 5th 9:30 a.m. Worship Service*
Following the service:
Fellowship in the church entry
Study of The Gospel of Mark-Youth Room
- 6th Offices Closed
- 7th 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
- 8th 5:30-7:30 p.m. Girl Scout Registration (Fellowship Hall)
6:30 p.m. Executive Meeting
- 12th 9:30 a.m. Worship Service* Emergency Workers/Volunteer Recognition
Following the service:
Sunday School for 3 years old-8th grade
Fellowship in the church entry
Study of The Gospel of Mark-Youth Room
Deacons Meeting
12:00 p.m. Potluck Lunch
6:00 p.m. Church Culture Discussion Group
- 13th Judi Vacation
Beacon Items Due
6:30 p.m. Elders Meeting
- 14th 12:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering Potluck & Fellowship
- 15th 6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group
7:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group
- 16th 6:30 p.m. Consistory Meeting
- 17th 5:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal
- 18th 2:00 p.m. Hopp/Brown Wedding
- 19th 9:30 a.m. Worship Service* Special Offering for Sunday School
Following the service:
Sunday School for 3 years old-Adult
Fellowship in the church entry
6:00 p.m. Men's Ministry
- 21st 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
- 22nd 8:00 a.m. Communications Meeting
6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group
7:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group
- 26th 9:30 a.m. Worship Service*
Following the service:
Sunday School for 3 years old-Adult
Fellowship in the church entry
Deacons Meeting
- 27th Judi Vacation
- 28th 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
- 29th 4:30-7:30 p.m. Youth Soup Supper & Cake Auction

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

back 2 school prayer

Dear Lord, use my eyes to

see new friends.

Open my ears to

hear my teacher.

Open my mind to

learn new things.

Let my heart

remember you are near when I'm afraid.

Help me to

love others like you do.

I want to

shine your light so bright in my school.

Amen

August 2021

CHRIST FOR SÃO LUÍS

A MINISTRY TO SÃO LUÍS, MARANHÃO, BRAZIL

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Parque Pindorama
65041-192 São Luís, Maranhão Brazil
johngnavis@yahoo.com

Forwarding Agent: Sylvia Klomps
Pleasant Grove Church of Christ
4713 Co Rd 140 SE
Stewartville MN 55976

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Two months ago, I went from 17 studies to just 12. From there I dropped to only 7 studies. I am now at 17 studies again. It has its ups and downs. I had three studies cancelled in just one day. When the studies increase, I jump for joy and a lot of juggling has to go on. Lunch will have to move its time slot, at least for Monday.

For right now Monday will be an exciting day. At eight o'clock I have my first study of the day, then comes the second at 9:30. Then there is a Greek grammar study at 3 in the afternoon followed by another study at 4:30 and another at 6 o'clock. Finally the last study for the day is at 7pm followed by the Prayer Meeting. When I mentioned the good news, the first thing I heard was: "And your Parkinson"? Well, we will just have to see how it goes. And there is a good chance that there will be another study for Monday.

Tuesday has nothing. For now, that is. People have said that I need to pace it. I need to put some of the studies on another day. But to reach people, you have to do it on their time and not your own time.

On Wednesday, I have three studies in the morning starting at 7am. Then there is my last of the day at 6pm. On Thursday, I only have the church meeting at 7 in the evening. I have three studies starting at 4:30 in the evening and generally, I get home at about 9:00. On Saturday there is the Youth Group which has 13 to 16 people and a study after that. The study after the youth group is very irregular. Finally, there is church on Sunday with Sunday school.

These studies cover a variety subjects. Three studies have to do with Greek. One is a brand new study of the Greek Grammar with Vitoria. Another is with Ranney who started some years ago but stopped when we went on one of our furloughs. The last one is an advanced Greek studying the book of Mark in Greek but speaking in English.

Four studies are in the book of Acts. One is in Galatians. One is in Ephesians. One is in 1 Corinthians. One is in the book of Exodus. And another is in the book of 1 Chronicles. And there is also in Ecclesiastes. And with all the talk about the virus and the end of the work, I also have two studies in the book of Revelation. And I just remembered. I have a study in Hebrews and in Judges.

The Chronicles study and Exodus study are brand new. I have never done one of them before, so I have plenty to prepare for. I have a total of 22 people studying with me.

Besides my studies, Edvan has a study and Silvestre has a couple of studies. Ruth has the women's meeting. Yesterday, with the two meetings we had a total 25 people.

The government has eased up on the prohibitions. The youth will have a one night meeting on the 7th of this month. It will start right after the regular youth group meeting. I will be there. They are vaccinating people of all ages right now. And it appears that the schools will go back to normal.

Pray that the members of the church will go to work. That may appear to be a constant request but it is what our Lord wants. Pray that we can make the best of each and every opportunity.

Love, John, Ruth, Caleb and Maria

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

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Greg Smit, Main Account
Robin Gunnink, Mission

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Caleb Riedeman
Greg Smit
Shaun Hiemstra
David Venard
Mary Kimble

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

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Craig Bresser
Dallas VandeSlunt

PULPIT SUPPLY

Rick Redeker
Shaun Hiemstra

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

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Rick Redeker
Robin Gunnink
Randy Pinnow
Denise Hiemstra
Ron Mulder
Kay Hiemstra
Cathy Rens
Ed Montsma
Jon Post
Rick DeBoer

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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
Jen Post

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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

**The Mission of Bethel Church
is to bring the Word of God to the
world so all who believe can be saved.**

Bethel Church

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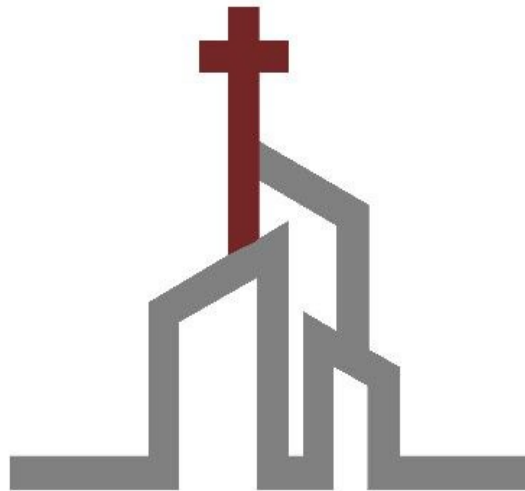
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BETHEL CHURCH