

# Bethel Beacon

Monthly Newsletter of Bethel Church, Brandon, WI

August 2022

## Can't pray? First rest!

Weariness can seriously hamper our attempts to pray, says Bonnie Gray, author of *Whispers of Rest*. "We are a generation who doesn't know how to express our souls to God, even though we drive ourselves exhausted, doing for Jesus." The solution, she says, is to stop and rest.

The stressed-out, despairing prophet in 1 Kings 19 is a prime example. "God knew Elijah needed physical rejuvenation first — in order to hear his gentle voice, whispering in a gentle breeze," Gray notes. Guarding against the depletion of spiritual, physical and emotional resources can improve our ability to hear God's voice, too. "When you find it's hard to pray, don't be afraid," says Gray. "You're standing at the very cusp of who God longs to connect with. The real you. Take the time to rest. You're worth it."



## Pastor's Pen

"As [Jesus] passed by, He saw a man blind from birth and His disciples asked Him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him'" John 9:1-3

Why do we experience sickness, deformities, and death? For the person who believes that this physical world is all there is and that it arose purely by chance would answer that these calamities exist merely because of biological happenstance. These things are here because that is how genes have evolved. They are not foreign invaders into the living realm; rather, they are part and parcel of the existing systems.

Scripture gives us a far different answer. Sickness, deformities, and death are, broadly speaking, the result of sin. When Adam fell, the world was cursed, and all these maladies are in some way manifestations of the curse. The world is not as it should be because sin infects the world, and all creation is groaning in anticipation of its release from this bondage to sin (Gen. 3:17-19; Rom. 8:18-25). Yet, although all suffering is a consequence of life in a fallen world, that does not mean that the one who suffers from a malady does so as a direct result of a specific sin. The book of Job, for example, will not let us draw that conclusion. That did not stop many first-century Jews (and modern-day believers), however, from concluding that the suffering of an individual must be due to his personal sin. We see this reflected in today's passage when the disciples ask Jesus whose sin caused the blindness of the man they encounter.

The disciples have a poor theology of sin and suffering, but unsurprisingly, Jesus does not. Blindness in this case is not a consequence of an individual's sin but an occasion for the works of God to be manifested. The man's blindness will create an opportunity for healing that will reveal the goodness of God and the identity of Jesus.

Nothing is more important than to do the works of the Lord. Jesus is particularly conscious of this, knowing that the time is short for doing these works, for He will not always be in the world (John 9:4-5). Here our Savior is not speaking absolutely, for after departing the world He, through His Spirit, will be present to empower His people to do the works of God (Acts 1:8). Rather, He is speaking of the coming ordeal of His crucifixion and the immediate aftermath before Pentecost when the disciples will not be ministering openly.

Jesus then does a work of God, healing the man by applying mud to his eyes and having him wash it off (John 9:6-7). We do not know why Jesus has him do this except to note that as the sovereign Creator, He has the right to heal by whatever means He chooses.

Since we cannot always pinpoint the causes of human suffering, we therefore, may not infer that a person who is suffering has committed a specific sin. Sometimes the suffering is related to a sin, but not always. In either case, our duty is to help the suffering person in whatever way we are able and in whatever way will provide true assistance.

Pastor John





## **Renae's Thoughts**

As many of us have been watching the tv, listening to the news, or talking with our friends about all the tragedies going on in our world, we wonder when is this all going to change? We become disgusted, angry, and confused on why all this is happening. I agree it can really get you down. We all wonder how we can change what is going on in the world we live in.

The Bible says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." Deuteronomy 6:5-7.

The verse above gives all of us a direction that we need to go as not only parents but as adults. Our youth are wandering along a dangerous path and so many have no direction. We as parents and as adults have a responsibility to give them direction.

Our youth and the youth around us are looking for someone to lead them. Isn't that our jobs as Christians? We should be showing our children the love we have for our God by being an example. We should be showing them the importance of having a relationship with our God by reading the Bible on a daily basis and talking with Him in prayer every chance we get. We need to let them know that there is a Lord and Savior that loves them. We need to get them to church and have the church help them give them the extra strength they need when times become too much for them to handle on their own.

Can you imagine what a difference this could make? We need to bring back the importance of family. We need to bring back the value of having a church family for support and love. We need to give our youth a direction that will lead them back to God.

When everything is falling apart, we can give our children hope. We can show them where to go and what to do when they feel distraught and worried. We need to lead by example. Our youth are looking, looking for something better. Let us be the ones that help them find the better by leading them to Jesus. As the scripture says, "Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." Let us instill the value of having a personal relationship with God.

We all want to see a change. Let's be the change and bring God back in the center of all of our lives and show the youth around us the importance of having a relationship with Our Lord and Savior. It will be amazing to see the results when God is put back where He belongs.

Renae Lind, Youth Director



## **Mission Pillar Information**



Pregnancy Help Center

**Interested in joining our volunteer staff?** Currently we are in need of:

- Special Events Coordinator
- Receptionist
- Join the Clean Team-Mondays 8:30- 10:00 twice a month
- Mentoring

Contact the Charis office at (920)933-5589.

### **Help Defend Life**

Donations needed for:

- Cash for car seats (approx. \$250.00 ea.)
- New Bibles
- Donations towards book studies
- \$20 Gas Cards

Consider honoring a loved one through a memorial or honor gift

Need more info? - Contact Dione Kimble 920-948-3210

## **Worship in the Park**

Sunday, August 7 at 9:30 a.m., we will be worshipping in the Brandon Park under the Hydrant.

Following the service there will be a potluck lunch with meat, buns, beverage, and table service being furnished by Bethel. Please bring a side dish to pass and lawn chairs.

## **Community Blood Drive at Bethel**

Another successful Red Cross Blood Drive in Brandon! 68 units were collected on July 19th. Gallon marks were reached by Karla Schmuhl (8); Rick Redeker (10), and Judith Henker (18).

Thank you to: All who came to donate; Bethel Church for use of the facility; Brandon BP for the ice cream cone coupons; Ardis Redeker for volunteering; Jay Smit for set-up and take down.

Future dates: September 12 1-6 p.m.

Peace Lutheran, Rosendale

November 15 12-6 p.m.

Bethel Church, Brandon

Coordinators: Judith Henker &

Sue Vande Kolk



# August

2nd	1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
3rd	8:30 a.m. Care Team Meeting
5th & 6th	CWC Slow Pitch Tournament, Brandon Park
Sun., 7th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time in the Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship in the Brandon Park Following the Service: Potluck in the Park
9th-12th	Renae Vacation
Tue., 9th	1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering Potluck
10th & 11th	Offices Closed– You can contact staff through mobile phone numbers in case of emergencies.
Sun., 14th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time in the Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship* Following the service: Executive Meeting Fellowship
15th	Beacon Items Due
Tue., 16th	12:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
Thur., 18th	6:30 p.m. Consistory Meeting
Sun. 21st	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time in the Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship* Communion Special Offering-Bible League John Navis & Chaplain Derek VandeSlunt Following the service: Fellowship
Tue., 23rd	1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
Sun., 28th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time in the Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship* Following the service: Fellowship
Tue. 30th	1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering

## Lift

7th	Ed Montsma
14th	Floyd Smit
21st	Harley Coehoorn
28th	Ken Beekman

## Sound

7th	Merwin Kimble
14th	Kelly VandeZande
21st	Harley Coehoorn
28th	Merwin Kimble

## Greeters

7th	Greg Smit
14th	Nick Kamphuis
21st	Randi Turner
28th	Dan Brown

## Liturgist

7th	Mark Kastein
14th	Shelly Hiemstra
21st	Sandy VandeZande
28th	Karen Redeker

## Fellowship

7th	Randy Pinnow
14th	Harley Coehoorn
21st	Shaun Hiemstra
28th	Lynn DeBoer

## Nursery

7th	Carly Madigan
14th	Mac Mattheis
21st	Rosanne Bresser
28th	Angela Arndt

## DVD Delivery

8th	Charlene Kamphuis
15th	Shelly Hiemstra
22nd	Danica Riedeman
29th	Charlene Kamphuis





# August

1st Mason Lind  
2nd Connie Blank  
Gerri Buteyn  
Jacob Kamphuis  
Curt DeHaan  
3rd Willa Wiedeman  
4th Linda Sippel  
Ardis Redeker (86)  
5th Avry Henning  
6th Mary Kimble  
7th Keith Krohn  
Jayden Redeker  
8th John Vander Plas  
Bruce & Marilyn Belmer  
9th Amanda Hiemstra  
Kelly VandeZande  
Gerrit Mulder  
Rick & Karen Redeker  
10th Noriah Lind  
13th Tim Wellhouse  
Michelle Farrell  
14th Nick & Jennifer Redeker

15th Logan Gunnink  
Ann Zabel  
Dan & Emily Beekman  
Olivia Mattheis  
16th Carla Gunnink  
Ken Margers  
18th Harley Jo Block  
Merwin Kimble  
Blaise Post  
Kari Youngwirth  
Tony & Pam Sauer  
Austin & Sammi Hiemstra  
19th Brian & Lori Madigan  
20th Kyle Leusink  
Phil & Carmen Laper  
Pat & Teresa Schmuhl  
21st Heidi Stanczyk  
Dave Venard  
Troy & Toni Newbury  
22nd Charlene Kamphuis  
Steve Little  
24th Ken Kuik  
Brian & Torrie Grade  
25th David Grade  
Orval & Pat Bronkhorst  
Dale & Dawn Henning  
Scott & Lori VandeBerg  
26th Shannie Tank  
Steve Beekman  
Jon & Jenni Post  
28th Brian Hansen  
Mike & Heather Wegner  
29th Rosemary Pike  
Alivia Jurjens  
30th Marilyn Belmer  
31st Sharon Bos  
Shelly Hiemstra  
Parker Laper



## Consistory 2022

### Elders

Les Hiemstra (22)	920-948-1942
Randy Pinnow (22)	920-904-7703
Harley Coehoorn (23)	920-229-6953
Shaun Hiemstra (23)	262-308-9266
Lynn DeBoer (24)	920-948-0380
Ed Montsma (24)	920-948-5926

### Deacons

Troy Newbury (22)	920-539-7048
Greg Smit (22)	920-229-7159
Nick Kamphuis (23)	920-597-0048
Randi Turner (23)	920-251-9697
Dan Brown (24)	920-204-2125
Jack Theyerl (24)	920-979-3918

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

John Tilstra, President  
Lynn DeBoer, VP  
Shaun Hiemstra, Clerk  
Nick Kamphuis, Deacon Chr.  
Greg Smit, Treasurer

### TREASURERS

Greg Smit, Main Account  
Randi Turner, Mission

### PASTORAL/STAFF

Lynn DeBoer  
Nick Kamphuis  
Greg Smit  
Shaun Hiemstra  
Kelly VandeZande  
Mary Kimble

### BUILDING

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

### ELECTION/SELECTION

Dan Brown  
Les Hiemstra

### PULPIT SUPPLY

Lynn DeBoer  
Shaun Hiemstra

### WORSHIP PILLAR

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

### MISSION/OUTREACH PILLAR

Dione Kimble, Chr.  
Rick Redeker  
Randi Turner  
Randy Pinnow  
Denise Hiemstra  
Ron Mulder  
Kay Hiemstra  
Cathy Rens  
Ed Montsma  
Jon Post  
Rick DeBoer  
Dan Brown

### CARE TEAM

Betty DeBoer, Chr.  
Sharon Bos  
Shirley Margers  
Carol Flegner  
Darlene Kamphuis  
Ann Mulder  
Jane Brown  
Mary Ann Smit  
Connie Blank  
Les Hiemstra, Elder Rep.

### EDUCATION PILLAR

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

### COMMUNICATIONS PILLAR

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

### YOUTH GROUP SPONSORS

Dallas VandeSlunt  
Nick Kamphuis  
Kenna Freiberg  
Anna Lind  
Bill Lind  
Chase Hoinacki  
Kylie Lichtenwald  
Dawson Drews

### CARE ELDERS

Les Hiemstra  
Shelly Hiemstra  
Linda Smit  
Herb Beekman





# BETHEL CHURCH

**Bethel Church**

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Find us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram

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**Danelle Smit** Home/Cell 920-851-8624