

BETHEL BEACON

Pastor's Pen

October 31, 1517 is the date most historians mark as the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. The hallmark of the movement was the rediscovery of the doctrine of justification by faith. Unfortunately, many professing Christians today have a simplistic or an inaccurate understanding of justification, thanks in part to men throughout the ages who have complicated and obscured the doctrine. They have done so by blurring the lines between justification and sanctification, stripping Christians of assurance of their salvation by insisting that we cannot be certain of our justification until after the final judgment. You might ask, "Didn't the Reformation settle this matter?" The answer is yes—as did the Apostle Paul, Jesus Christ, the entirety of the New Testament, and the entirety of the Old Testament, most pointedly in Genesis 15:6: "And [Abraham] believed the LORD, and [the LORD] counted it to him as righteousness." Nevertheless, as men continue to meddle with the doctrine of justification, we will continue to stand firm on this doctrine by which the church stands or falls, reminding God's people of this precious doctrine so that we may rest assured in the promise of God that whoever believes in Christ will not perish but have everlasting life.

The doctrine of justification is indeed simple, though we must not have a simplistic understanding of it. We are of course not justified by believing the doctrine of justification—we are justified through faith alone—but if we do not understand the doctrine rightly, we remain hard pressed to fulfill the covenant that God has made with us for our salvation. Further, we know that we are justified by faith alone and that our faith does not remain alone but bears fruit—our good works demonstrate that our faith is indeed genuine, but they never serve as the basis for God's acceptance of us. Indeed, our justification isn't theoretical—our sanctification proves it.

According to Paul in Romans 1-3, if someone tries to be justified by the law, it is not simply by being a hearer of the law that he will be justified but only if he keeps the entirety of the law will God justify him in the end (Romans 2:12-16). Yet, we know that none of us is righteous and that none of us mere men can keep the entirety of the Law. But thanks be to God that we have been saved by grace alone through faith alone because of Christ alone. And make no mistake, we are indeed saved by works—Christ's perfect works in keeping the entirety of the Law, not by our own works. That is why we can sing that the amazing grace that saved us will also lead us home, all by the regenerating, sustaining, and sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor John

Renae's Thoughts

We are off and running. Sunday School and the Youth Groups have met and are well into the routine of meeting each week. As we began this new fall season curriculum we started with the topic of "Priorities".

Ephesians 5:15-17 reads, "Be very careful, then, how you live-not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is."

Have you ever had an event or an assignment that you needed to complete but you just didn't do it? Maybe life got in the way and maybe your priorities weren't exactly where they should have been. Did you have a hard time prioritizing what was and wasn't important?

We all need to look at how we spend our time. The average American spends 94.2 hours per month on social networks, phone, email, and watching television. That is almost 4 days a month centered on things that probably have no significant importance. Now ask yourself, how much time do you spend with God?

So many of us put so much time into activities, events, work, and social media that we do not have time to spend in prayer, reading the Bible, and going to church. We always think that we will find that time tomorrow, next week, next year or when we get older and slow down with our lives. But do we really ever?

We all love that instant gratification of winning the big game, not having to wait at the doctor's Office, or drive up window at your favorite restaurant, or just having fun hanging with our friends every chance we get. There is absolutely nothing wrong with that except when it is taking up more time than you have for our ultimate friend and Savior.

We need to prioritize what is important in our lives and find a balance. Where does God fit into our busy lives? We all need to learn better time management. We need to put God first. Then watch and see how different your day and priorities become. You may even find more time that you didn't even realize you had.

When we put God first in our lives, our focus changes. We find that there is so much more to life than instant gratification. We find ourselves looking at the goal of living life with our Savior. Our focus changes from instant gratification to our eternal reward.

Psalm 90:12 says, "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." We need to remember this verse. Our days here on earth are numbered. Some of us have more days than others. We need to use our time wisely and prioritize what we think is important and put that first.

Is Jesus number one in your life? Are you building a relationship with Him on a daily basis? If not, sit down and reprioritize your time and goals. You may even have to get up a little earlier just to make sure you have that one on one time with God. What is most important in your life? Instant gratifications or eternal glory.

Renae Lind
Youth Director

THANK YOU

We would like to thank Pastor John and the congregation for the cards, thoughts, and prayers after the loss of John's daughter, Faith. It is truly appreciated.

John and Shanna Peterson & family

Dear Bethel Church Friends.

Thank you so much for the wonderful welcome back treats. It was a great way to keep our energy up while preparing for students to come back. We appreciate you thinking of us and demonstrating your support. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity!

Heidi Owens & the RP & Brandon Staff

There are not enough ways to say thanks to the Bethel Church family for all the love shown to our family at the time of Mike's sudden passing. The prayers, calls, visits, cards and amount of food brought to our family was overwhelming. Thank you to Jay Smit and his crew for his extra efforts to accommodate the visitation at Bethel Church in addition to the Celebration Service and the supper. Thank you to the funeral lunch committee and all that helped by preparing and serving food for the meal. A special thank you to Pastor John for his visits and for the great tribute he did of Mike's life at the Celebration Service.

This new life without Mike is challenging in many ways and we truly appreciate the love and support from our family and friends at Bethel Church as we face each new day.

Sincerely,

Sharon Bos

Jason and Jen Bos

Jenna and Mitch Vis

And 10 wonderful grandchildren

THANK YOU to Bethel congregation for their prayers, calls, texts, cards, and gifts following my surgery and radiation treatments. Thanks to those who offered transportation for my treatments. Bethel truly is a caring family! Please pray for healing and positive test results. Scripture has been a comfort - "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." Romans 12:12

Dione Kimble

BETHEL SR. CHOIR NEWS

"The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."
Zephaniah 3:17

Bethel Sr. Choir is underway, and it is good to be back. I am honored to be able to continue the tradition of having a church choir! So many churches no longer have choirs.

Singing is good for your body and your mind! Here are some benefits of singing in choir as found in research from the University of Oxford and Healthline.

Music exercises the brain and the body. It improves breathing, lung function, posture and muscle tension.

Music relieves stress and stimulates the immune response. It sustains a healthy immune system by reducing the stress hormone, cortisol, and increase levels of immunoglobulin, an antibody your body secretes to help you fend off infections.

Singing and listening to music has been shown to be an effective pain relief. Singing releases endorphins which also promote positive feelings.

Group singing helps strengthen feelings of togetherness and belonging.

Singing stimulates our cognitive thinking and memory. Singing has been found to help those with dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

Singing improves our sense of happiness and well being and makes you feel more positive.

So, singing in choir, provides an inclusive and cost-effective way to improve your life! All good reasons to join Bethel's Sr. Choir! We meet 2-3 Wednesdays a month in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm and we sing on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. Cantata practice will begin on October 12. If you can't sing all the time, then join us for the cantata. We will be performing the cantata Sunday, December 11 and again Sunday, December 25 – Christmas morning! Please join us and feel better!

Blessings,

Leesa Tilstra, Choir Director

Election/Selection

The Election/Selection Committee is currently searching for persons to serve as deacons and elders in the upcoming year. If you have not already been contacted, and would like to serve on the Consistory, or have any questions about serving, please see Dan Brown or Les Hiemstra.

YES-It's time to think about ordering your Christmas cards! Order forms can be found in the Information Center or in the fellowship hall by the card rack.
Orders need to be placed by Sunday, November 20th. Questions talk to Judy Henker (920-346-2966). Pay for your order to Judy.

55+ Bible Study is Coming

If you are 55 or older and interested in joining others in learning more from God's Word; come the morning of Wednesday, October 12th to the church fellowship hall. Fellowship begins at 9:10 a.m. and the meeting/study starts at 9:30 a. m. This years study will be Colossians & Philemon. We meet every other Wednesday into March. Any questions, talk to Ken Margers (920)346-2468 or Judy Henker (920)346-2966. (If you have your 3 ring binder from last year, please bring it with you.)

October Schedules

Lift

2nd Ed Montsma
9th Floyd Smit
16th Harley Coehoorn
23rd Ken Beekman
30th Ed Montsma

Sound

2nd Harley Coehoorn
9th Merwin Kimble
16th Kelly VandeZande
23rd Harley Coehoorn
30th Merwin Kimble

Liturgist

2nd Sandy VandeZande
9th Karen Redeker
16th Jen Post
23rd Amanda Hiemstra
30th Mark Kastein

Nursery

2nd Mac Mattheis
9th Rosanne Bresser
16th Angela Arndt
23rd Sophie Newbury
30th Farris Turner

Greeter

2nd Shaun Hiemstra
9th Lynn DeBoer
16th Ed Montsma
23rd Troy Newbury
30th Greg Smit

Fellowship

2nd Randi Turner
9th Dan Brown
16th Jack Theyerl
23rd Les Hiemstra
30th Randy Pinnow

DVD Delivery

2nd Charlene Kamphuis
9th Shelly Hiemstra
16th Danica Riedeman
23rd Charlene Kamphuis
30th Shelly Hiemstra



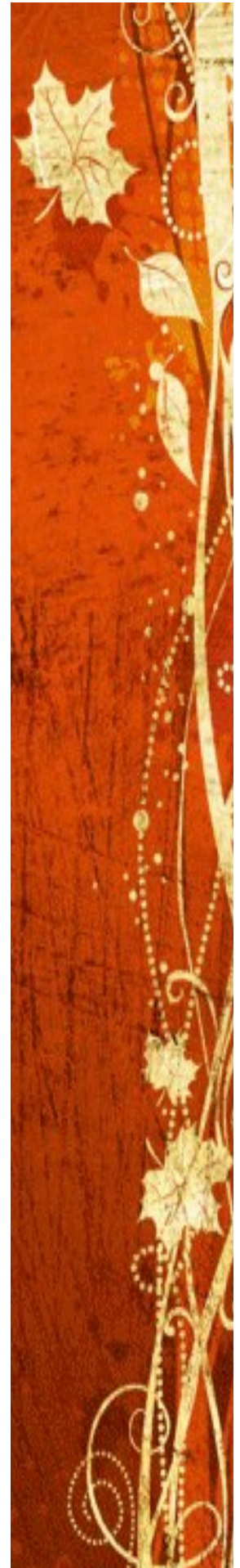


OCTOBER

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

1st Brian & Pam Beekman
 2nd Matilda Arndt
 Rhett Beekman
 Mike Wegner
 Jack & Deanna Theyerl
 3rd Bill Post
 Melody Coehoorn
 Jimmy & Kaelyn Huebschman
 Jay & Danelle Smit
 4th Rosanne Bresser
 Art VandeBerg (88)
 Doralee Coehoorn
 5th Craig & Jodi Mulder
 6th Donna Schmuhl
 Owen Hansen
 8th Justin Beekman
 Dave Freiberg
 9th Grayden Riedeman
 Mike & Kathy Owens
 10th David Bresser
 Bekah Tilstra
 Kay Hiemstra
 Allen Coehoorn
 Pat Bronkhorst
 11th Lisa Kamphuis
 12th Danielle Schmuhl
 Kyle & Jamie VandeZande

13th Janet DeBoer
 14th Cathy Rens
 Justin & Nicole Beekman
 Brian & Melissa Lavota
 17th Levin VandeBerg
 18th Karen Redeker
 20th Scott VandeBerg
 David 'Charlie' Blank
 Duane & Sally Kok
 21st John Luczak III
 22nd Judith Henker
 Ed & Kathy Montsma
 23rd Robin Gunnink
 Glen & Darlene Kamphuis
 25th Mel Gunnink
 Emilee Henker
 Bert Leusink
 Corey & Lori Dahlke
 26th Amy Redeker
 27th Ken Smit
 Brian Youngwirth
 Dan & Pam VandeBerg
 28th Kevin Beekman
 31st Jordan Kastein
 Jared Kok
 Melanie Brunsdon



OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sun., 2nd	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time in the Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship* Communion Following the service: Sunday School for all ages Fellowship
Mon., 3rd	6:00 p.m. Church & Culture Discussion
Tue., 4th	5:30-7:00 p.m. Adventures Club
Wed., 5th	1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering 11:30 a.m. 55+ Outing 6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Choir 7:45 p.m. Senior High Youth Group
Sun., 9th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time in the Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship* Following the service: Executive Meeting Sunday School for all ages Fellowship
Mon., 10th	6:00 p.m. Church & Culture Discussion
Tue., 11th	5:30-7:00 p.m. Adventures Club
Wed., 12th	12:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering Potluck & Fellowship 9:10 a.m. 55+ Fellowship & Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Choir 7:45 p.m. Senior High Youth Group
Thu., 13th	6:00 p.m. Romans Bible Study
Fri., 14th	Wedding Rehearsal
Sat., 15th	Wedding of Nick Kuik & Hannah Albright
Sun., 16th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time in the Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship* Special Offering Gideons Following the service: Sunday School for all ages Fellowship
Mon., 17th	6:00 p.m. Men's Ministry 6:30 p.m. Bestway Drivers Ed Class Beacon Items Due 5:30-7:00 p.m. Adventures Club 6:30 p.m. Elders Meeting
Tue., 18th	1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
Wed., 19th	6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Choir 7:45 p.m. Senior High Youth Group
Thu., 20th	6:30 p.m. Consistory
Sat., 22nd	8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Bethel Quilters
Sun., 23rd	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time in the Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship* Following the service: Executive Meeting Sunday School for all ages Fellowship
Mon., 24th	6:00 p.m. Church & Culture Discussion
Tue., 25th	6:30 p.m. Bestway Drivers Ed Class
Wed., 26th	5:30-7:00 p.m. Adventures Club 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering 9:10 a.m. 55+ Fellowship & Bible Study 6:00p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:45p.m. Senior High Youth Group
Thu., 27th	6:30p.m. Romans Bible Study
Sun., 30th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time in the Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship* Special Offering Sarmatians Purse: Ukraine Following the service: Sunday School for all ages Fellowship 6:00 p.m. Church & Culture Discussion

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
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

Ed Montsma, Chr.
Dione Kimble
Rick Redeker
Randi Turner
Randy Pinnow
Denise Hiemstra
Ron Mulder
Kay Hiemstra
Cathy Rens
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 ELDER

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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Home/Cell 815-238-8514

Renaë Lind, Youth Director

youthministry@bethelbrandon.org
Office: 920-346-5810 Ext. 16
M, T, Th: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
W, F: 8 a.m. - Noon
Home/Cell 920-960-2852

Judi Post, Secretary

secretary@bethelbrandon.org
Office 920-346-5810 Ext. 10
M - Th: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
F: 9 a.m. - Noon
Cell 920-979-3908

Custodians

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Danelle Smit Home/Cell 920-851-8624

