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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | BETHEL CHURCH, BRANDON, WI | DECEMBER 2022 VOLUME 37

Renae's Thoughts

The Two Brothers

There were once two brothers who lived on neighboring farms. One brother lived on one side of the hill with his wife and children. The other brother was not married; he lived alone on the opposite side of the hill.

It happened that one year both brothers had a plentiful harvest. As the married brother's barns started to fill with his abundant crops he started thinking of his brother. "God is so good," he said to himself. "Why does he bless me more than my brother? I have a loving wife and obedient children, but my brother is all alone." He decided to wait until dark, when his brother was sleeping, to sneak over the hill and carry some of his crops to his brother's fields. He'll never know the difference, he figured.

At the same time the unmarried brother sat alone in his house, thinking. "God is so good," he said. "But why has he blessed me so much? My brother has greater needs than I do; he has a wife and children to feed, and I have only myself to take care of." So he decided to wait until dark, then sneak into his brother's fields with as much of his crops as he could carry. He'll never know the difference, he reasoned.

So both brothers waited until dark. Then assuming the other brother to be asleep, each went to his own fields, loaded his shoulders high with grain, and turned toward his brother's farm. Each performed his task and returned to his home. The next day each brother was amazed to discover that he still had as much grain as the night before!

This went on for several nights, until one night they met each other as they carried their gifts over the crest of the hill. Suddenly, each man realized what had been happening-each had been thinking only of his brother and not of himself. And they dropped their loads there on the top of the hill and embraced, crying tears of joy and love.

This story of the two brothers shows how generosity brings joy and blessing into our life. God's generosity brings joy and blessings into each and everyone of our lives when He sent His son on that very glorious

Christmas night years ago. This joy still fills the world today. Giving each and every one of us the chance to accept this gift and the responsibility to share this joy with others.

Philemon 1:4-6, "Put your generosity to work, for in doing so you will come to an understanding of all the good things we can do for Christ."

Go to the world about Him and share the joy that only Jesus can bring.

Renae Lind

Youth Director

Story from Josh McDowell's one year book of Youth Devotions.

Pastor's Pen

Then Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed; be strong and of good courage, for thus the Lord will do to all your enemies against whom you fight." - Joshua 10:25

Well..., it's November and Thanksgiving. Soon, it will be December and Christmas. And people's lives are coming apart. I have been in ministry for over 20 years, and the story of November and December never changes—many people's lives, whether they are a Christian or not, seem to unravel.

I'm not sure why this phenomenon is so prevalent; I can only speculate. Perhaps it's the weather. These two months can have their pleasant moments, but most times, clouds and wind and cold dominate. Perhaps it's the same old trap into which most of us fall; these two holidays should be filled with joy and hope and gratitude, but most times, sadness and hopelessness and despair dominate. Perhaps we don't desire to live in reality during these months, preferring to live in Disneyland, believing that if we just ignore what is happening around us and wish upon a star, then maybe, just maybe, we can experience the utopia of television commercials and holiday shows.

If only we would remember to focus on God and His Christ, and not on our pain. If only we would remember to rely on the strength of God and His Christ, and not on our strength. If only we would remember the promises of God and His Christ to us, and not on the promises of world. If only we prayed.

The words that Joshua uses in the above verse are the exact words that God spoke to him in chapter 1 verse 9. See how much Joshua trusted God for keeping His promises! Because Joshua kept God's words in his heart, he was able to lead this numerous and stubborn nation. This humble leader gave God all the glory for all the victories that the people won. The Lord fought for His people. When Joshua prayed, God stopped the sun from going down for a whole day, so the people had time to defeat their enemies. In verse 14 of the same chapter, it states "... there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the Lord heeded the voice of a man; for the Lord fought for Israel." When you have faith for what you pray and it is in accord with God's will, He fights for you, even in November and December!

Joshua depended on God. He sought the Lord's advice. In turn, God rewarded his faith and dependence on Him. You too can be a Joshua! When you depend on Him, seeking His advice, He will show you which are the best decisions. He warns you of the consequences of your potential, unwise decisions. He multiplies blessings so that you always have more than enough. Choose to remember what God already did for you! "Be strong and of good courage" when going through hardships. Trust God to fight for you. The Lord always makes a way where there is no way, even in November and December!

Pastor John

Consistory Information from November 17, 2022

- 1. The ARC is encouraging churches to join a network. Our consistory is looking to meet with a leader from the Dakota Network to discuss what it means to be in a network and answer questions about the Dakota Network.
- 2. Renae gave an update on the youth program.
- 3. A rough draft of the bylaws has been made available through either email or copies in the information center. The congregation is encouraged to review them and bring suggestions to the consistory.
- 4. Next Elders meeting will be January 16, 2023.
- 5. A new furnace has been installed that heats the kitchen, restrooms and the pastor's study. Maintenance was done on all furnaces.
- 6. The outdoor sign is over 50 percent paid and production has begun.
- 7. The security system installation will start on November 18.
- 8. Account Balances as of 10/31/2022:

General Fund Balance: \$77,092.16 Benevolent Fund Balance: \$15,946.52

Love Fund Balance: \$7,903.47 Building Fund Balance: \$5,412.88 Youth Fund Balance: \$12,303.83

Evangelism and Outreach Balance: \$33,646.67

- 9. December consistory will meet December 8th.
- 10. A defibrillator will be purchased.11. Mission crop income as \$20,138.

Church and Culture Group

Would you know how to defend our Constitution if you were challenged to do so? Most of us can't recall much of what we learned in school, and schools today teach very little about how our founding fathers established America's amazing system of governance that granted rule by the people and for the people. In recent years our constitution and God-given freedoms have been under constant attack and many of our fellow citizens are trying to up-end all that is established in the American republic.

The Church and Culture group has decided to take some steps to learn more about how the republic of the United States came to be, and how it is intended to be a system of checks and balances to maintain and guide our nation.

Please join us on the first Sunday of each month at 6 pm in the sanctuary's overflow area, as we refresh our knowledge of America's "miracle" Constitution and Declaration of

Independence, taught by the faculty of the renown Hillsdale College. We will meet the first Sunday of the month at 6:00 p.m.



1st	Ivan Coehoorn			
2nd	Eliza Bos			
3rd	Eugene DeBoer			
	Helen Hartgerink (94)			
4th	Carol Flegner			
	Kenna Freiberg			
	Calen Bos			
	Cowan Mulder			
	Samantha Hiemstra			
6th	Kyler Beltezore			
	Deron DeBoer			
7th	Renae Lind			
9th	Dawn Henning			
10th	Leo Nolan			
	Ken Beekman			
	Troy Newbury			
	Bailey VandeSlunt			
	Levi VandeBerg			
	Collin Weisnicht			
12th	Pat Beekman			
	Brooklynn Smit			
	Ryan Walker			
13th	lan Turner			
	Noah Hiemstra			
	Steve & Vanessa Slager (25)			
ME TOWNSTEEL				

14th	Sara Krueziger			
15th	Pam VandeBerg			
	Jamie VandeZande			
	Abby Luczak			
17th	DeeDee Bresser			
	Michelle Dickmeyer Postotnik			
	Cole Theyerl			
18th	Larry Rens			
	Morgan Redeker			
21st	Beckett Tank			
22nd	Keegan <mark>Mad</mark> igan			
	Karen Smit			
23rd	Annette Ebert			
26th	Ken & Shirley Margers			
27th	Taylor Weisnicht			
	Ryker Tank			
28th	Dan Brown			
29th	Sally Kok			
30th	Keena Bos			
31st	Mitch Freiberg			
	Jaeden Grade			
	Mark Kastein			
	Ezra Vis			
	Dione Kimble			

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Bethel would like to have a float in the Christmas Parade on Friday evening, December 9th to show our support to the community. The theme this year is the 80's. If you are willing to assist please let the office know. Evangelism/Outreach will cover expenses for materials and handouts. Thank you.

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



Sat., 3rd 2:00 p.m. Visitation and service for Dick Roeming 9:20 a.m. Prayer Time -Youth Room Sun., 4th 9:30 a.m. Worship* Communion Following the service: Executive Meeting Sunday School for all ages Fellowship 6:00 p.m. Church & Culture Discussion 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering Tue., 6th Wed., 7th 9:10 a.m. 55+ Bible Study & Fellowship 6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Choir/Cantata Practice 7:45 p.m. Senior High Youth Group 6:30 p.m. Consistory Meeting Thu., 8th 7:00 a.m.-3:00p.m. Fellowship hall & kitchen in use. Sat., 10th 9:20 a.m. Prayer Time -Youth Room Sun., 11th 9:30 a.m. Worship* Following the service: Deacons Meeting Sunday School for all ages Fellowship 3:00 p.m. Children's Program & Choir Cantata Pastor John on Vacation !2th-20th Mon., 12th Beacon Items Due Tue., 13th 12:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering Potluck/Fellowship Wed., 14th 6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:45 p.m. Senior High Youth Group 5:30 p.m. Library Movie Night at Bethel Thu., 16th 9:20 a.m. Prayer Time -Youth Room Sun., 18th 9:30 a.m. Worship* Greg Zonnefeld Community Offering Following the service: Sunday School all ages Fellowship 6:00 p.m. Men's Ministry Tue., 20th 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering 9:10 a.m. 55+ Bible Study & Fellowship Wed., 21st 6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:45 p.m. Senior High Youth Group Fri., 23rd Offices Closed 11:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Fellowship hall & kitchen in use 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service Sat., 24th 9:30 a.m. Choir Christmas Cantata Sun., 25th NO Sunday School Mon., 26th Offices Closed

Tue., 27th

Senior Gathering



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE



4th Floyd Smit

11th Harley Coehoorn

18th Len Beekman

25th Ed Montsma

Sound

4th Harley Coehoorn

11th Merwin Kimble

18th Kelly VandeZande

25th Harley Coehoorn

Liturgy

4th Amanda Hiemstra

11th Mark Kastein

18th Shelly Hiemstra

25th Sandy VandeZande

Greeters

4th Les Hiemstra

11th Randy Pinnow

18th Harley Coehoorn

25th Shaun Hiemstra

Fellowship

4th Troy Newbury

11th Greg Smit

18th Nick Kamphuis

25th NO FELLOWSHIP

Nurserv

4th Angela Arndt

11th Sophie Newbury

18th Faaris Turner

25th Danica Riedeman

DVD Delivery

5th Charlene Kamphuis

12th Shelly Hiemstra

19th Karen Redeker

27th Charlene Kamphuis



Thank you for the beautiful blanket from the Care Team, prayers, and thoughts during my surgery & recovery.

Annette Hopp

"I'M SO GLAD I'M A PART OF THE FAMILY OF GOD..."

Thank you for all your our prayers, cards, calls, visits and gifts that I have received since my stroke and move.

Thank you to Jim & Charlene Kamphuis, Shelly Hiemstra for bringing me the DVD's of the service; John, Leesa and everyone else who has visited me. I am doing well, but I miss being able to see all of you at the Bethel Church services.

Joan Weisnicht

A huge thank you to everyone who came to donate at the American Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, Nov.15th. Our goal was 67 units and 71 units were collected. Audrey Weed reached 10 gallons. Thank you to Ardis Redeker for volunteering and to Jay Smit for setup and take down. Upcoming dates:

January 17, 2023, 2-6 p.m.

Peace Lutheran, Rosendale

March 14, 2023 12:00-6:00 p.m.

Bethel Church, Brandon

Thanks again!

Co-coordinators Judith Henker &

Sue Vande Kolk

Option 2A - Pylon w/16mm EMC 18" Desp 87" Width (84" Active Area) 41"Cabinet Height (36" Active Ama) SIG" Total Height 24" Brick Bane Existing Signage <<<< Color Specifications 8800 Burgundy Vinyl Painted Pole Cover Black Cabinet & Retainers

Preview of outdoor sign.



107 South Prairie Street,
Brandon, WI

DATE: Saturday, December 10, 2022

TIME: 9:00 AM — 2:00 PM



Children's Program

"Once Upon a Christmas Light"

Choir Cantata

"Unto Us a Child is Born"

Sunday, December 11, 2022

3:00 p.m.

Bethel Church
305 W Main St
Brandon, WI 53919



Consistory 2022

<u>Elders</u>		<u>Deacons</u>	
Les Hiemstra (22)	920-948-1942	Troy Newbury (22)	920-539-7048
Randy Pinnow (22)	920-904-7703	Greg Smit (22)	920-229-7159
Harley Coehoorn (23)	920-229-6953	Nick Kamphuis (23)	920-597-0048
Shaun Hiemstra (23)	262-308-9266	Randi Turner (23)	920-251-9697
Lynn DeBoer (24)	920-948-0380	Dan Brown (24)	920-204-2125
Ed Montsma (24)	920-948-5926	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 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

305 W Main St
Brandon, WI 53919
920-346-5810
www.bethelbrandon.org
Find us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram

John Tilstra, Pastor

pastor@bethelbrandon.org Office: 920-346-5810 Ext. 12 Home/Cell 815-238-8514

Renae 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

jasonssmit438@yahoo.com Jason Smit Home/Cell 920-858-1739 Danelle Smit Home/Cell 920-851-8624