



## **Going out of our way**

In mid-2022, Mediterranean Shipping Company, a world leader in container transport, voluntarily changed its routes, on the advice of scientists, to protect large populations of blue whales off the Sri Lankan coast. Going out of its way 15 nautical miles has led to a whopping 95% drop in whale strikes.

Jesus counseled people to go out of their way for one another, especially for the vulnerable: “If anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.” Further, “whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water ... will by no means lose his reward” (Matthew 5:40-41; 10:42, ESV).

Paul likewise urged his listeners to voluntarily give up eating meat, even if they didn't believe in and weren't challenged by the idols to which it had been sacrificed, for the sake of new believers with weaker faith (Romans 14).

Faith calls us to go out of our way for the sake of others; sometimes a wealthy corporation opts to do the same. God's hand is at work in both, protecting vulnerable humans and nonhumans alike.

Content from Newsletter Newsletter February 2023

# Pastor's Notes

## The Messiah Restored

February 22, Ash Wednesday, begins the season of Lent. To help us focus on this upcoming season, ending with Good Friday and Easter, it is appropriate for us to focus on Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, through the lens of Psalm 22. The following is from the May, 2015 edition of *Tabletalk Magazine*.

Many of Jesus' disciples must have thought of Him when they read Psalm 22 aside from the fact that He quoted verse 1 from the cross (Matthew 27:46). Many images of desertion in the psalm became literal reality when our Lord was crucified. David complained of mockers who made fun of his belief that God would rescue him (Psalm 22:7-8), and many who viewed the crucifixion did the same for Jesus (Matthew 27:41-43). We find in Psalm 22:16 the image of David's foes piercing his hands and feet. While we do not read in the Old Testament of this happening to David, Christ had nails driven through His extremities (John 20:25). David endured such poverty during his suffering that he felt as if he were on the verge of surrendering even his clothing (Psalm 22:18), yet Jesus gave up His garments to gambling soldiers (Matthew 27:35). Psalm 22:14-15 features David's complaints about being on the run and existing so far from life that his mouth was drying out. Some of Christ's last words from the cross revealed a literal dryness: "I thirst" (John 19:28).

Such literal fulfillments of this psalm in Jesus' death help confirm that Jesus could pray this prayer with His whole heart in a way that David never could. The specific sufferings described in the psalm were not mere metaphors, but literal trials Jesus faced during His crucifixion. This was true of even the worst suffering of all—His forsakenness under the curse of the Father against sin. During all this pain and judgment, every one of us would have come to the point of doubting God's goodness, of sinning against the Lord in accusing Him of acting unfairly or unjustly. What is most incredible is that Christ never did any of this. Even as He expressed great woe at His forsakenness, He "continued entrusting himself to Him who judges justly" (1 Peter 2:23). His last words on the cross were not "woe is me, for I am forsaken," but "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" (Luke 23:46)

This is not surprising, for if Jesus could pray Psalm 22 with His whole heart, this includes the prayer of victory found in vv. 16–31 of the psalm. God's forsakenness of Christ as the representative of sinners on the cross was only temporary. Jesus knew that His Father would not hide His face from His Son forever but would finally answer His cry for help (v. 24). Christ was confident that He would be able to proclaim the goodness of God once again among His brothers (vv. 22–23). In His resurrection, all these were fulfilled. Christ's forsakenness as a man under the judgment of God could never be permanent. Jesus' humble submission to His father as a sacrifice of infinite worth meant that He could fully pay for our sin and thus exhaust the infinite divine wrath upon our sin. Moreover, the fact that He is personally sinless means that death, which is the punishment for sin, could not hold Him forever.

We celebrate His resurrection because it proves that He has saved us from our sin.

Pastor John

# Renae's Thoughts

How many of you have already given in to your New Year's Resolution? Maybe you were like me and decided to live a healthier life but then you noticed all the leftover holiday candy. You contemplate in your mind, should I or shouldn't I? What's one piece going to do? All of sudden that temptation is so strong that you just indulge in the candy. You just can't help yourself..

The problem here isn't the candy. It is the idea that I gave into temptation. How many other areas in our lives do we allow that temptation to control our words and actions? We might be asking ourselves: Just one lie won't matter that much.  
No one else will know.  
Everyone else is doing it.

You get the point right? Senior high discussed this topic of temptation. We all have done things that we regret, and sometimes it is really easy to look at someone else's mistakes to justify our own reasoning. Every single one of us are very, very close to the line of temptation.

1 Corinthians 10:12-13 reads, "So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."

Being a teenager can be super challenging but all of us will face temptations that will be very intense. Nobody ever said that being a Christian would be easy. We will all be tempted. Even Jesus was tempted by the Devil.

God wants to help us through those times when we are tempted. God gives us reminders of how to live to help us to fight those temptations. He gives us a conscience to remind us of the results of good and bad decisions. When we give into little temptations, like eating a piece of candy when we are watching what we eat, it may make it a little easier to give into larger temptations. It's even in those small moments that God wants to help us It's in those moments that He is giving you the 'get out of it' before that snowball starts down the hill. We do not want to get led into one small bad decision leading to another small bad decision, to another before the problem gets way too big.

Nobody ever gives into temptation thinking that it won't become a big problem. Don't you think that is what the alcoholic, shoplifter, person who uses drugs first thought. One time won't hurt, a second time won't hurt, I'll stop after this one. Any addict will tell you that it started with just one.

I'm not saying that it will lead to severe addictions like drugs and alcohol. But look at all the areas in our lives that we may be tempted. It could be such a thing as gossiping about someone even though we know it is wrong. It might be lying about a situation at work so that you aren't blamed for it. You see, no matter where we are in life, we are tempted.

God has offered us a way out before the problem starts but He is not telling you it will be easy . It does require us to be honest with ourselves and God. It will require us to make some really tough decisions. It might even mean NOT following the crowd.

God is always there to help you through these times of temptation. He has put people in our lives that can help us. Our God will give us the strength and courage, if we just ask, to get us through those times of temptation.

Renae Lind, Youth Director

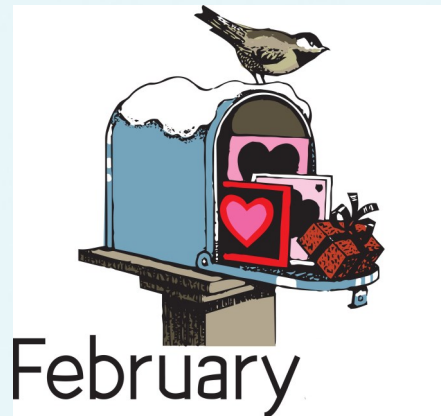


# February

Wed., 1st	8:15 a.m. Care Team Meeting 9:10 a.m. 55+ Bible Study & Fellowship 6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:45 p.m. Senior High Youth
Sun., 5th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship* Following the service: Executive Meeting Sunday school all ages Fellowship Adventures Club Meeting 6:00 p.m. Church & Culture Discussion
Tue., 7th	1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
Wed., 8th	6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:45 p.m. Senior High Youth
Fri., 10th	Men's Ministry Badger Hockey Game
Sun., 12th	8:30 a.m. Education Meeting 9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship* Following the service: Sunday School all ages Fellowship
Mon., 13th	Beacon Items Due
Tue., 14th	12:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering Potluck & Fellowship
Wed., 15th	9:10 a.m. 55+ Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:45 p.m. Senior High Youth Group
Thu., 16th	6:30 p.m. Consistory Meeting
Sat., 18th	9:00 a.m. –12:00 p.m. Bethel Quilters
Sun., 19th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship* Special Offering for the Love Fund Following the service: Sunday School all ages Fellowship
Tue., 21st	1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
Wed., 22nd	6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:45 p.m. Senior High Youth
24th-26th	Senior High Silver Birch Retreat
Sun., 26th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship* Communion Following the service: Congregational Meeting Sunday School 3 Yrs-8th grade
Tue., 28th	1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering



- 1st Gwen DeHaan  
Sophie Riedeman  
Arlin & Denise Hiemstra
- 2nd Orval Bronkhorst  
Landyn VandeBerg
- 3rd Creanna Henker  
Jacob Hiemstra  
Ashley Wiedeman
- 4th Walter Erickson  
Sharon Krohn
- 6th Keri Lauritsen
- 7th Carie Hood  
Andrew Navis  
Drew Pluim  
Brent Kastein  
Alissabeth Nolan
- 10th Madoc Slager  
Ryker Slager
- 12th Duane Kok (75)  
Derek Pluim
- 13th Ashley Wiedeman  
Devan Smit
- 14th Nancy DeBoer
- 15th Steve & Tricia Weisnicht
- 16th Toni Newbury  
Aubrey Smit
- 18th Trevin Henker  
Kyle Coehoorn
- 19th Peter Schmuhl  
Mark DeBoer  
Oaklee Hiemstra
- 20th Randi Turner  
Haley Rens
- 21st Sandy VandeZande
- 22nd Cade Slager
- 23rd Lennis & Kay Hiemstra
- 25th Joan Weisnicht (93)
- 26th Gary Mulder
- 27th Brian Grade  
Arlin Hiemstra
- 28th Torrie Grade  
Keith VandeBerg (75)
- 29th Nicole Beekman



**Lift**

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

**Sound**

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

**Greeter**

- 5th Brian Brown
- 12th Harley Coehoorn
- 19th Shaun Hiemstra
- 26th Ed Montsma

**Liturgy**

- 5th Sandy VandeZande
- 12th Karen Redeker
- 19th Jen Post
- 26th Amanda Hiemstra

**Fellowship**

- 5th Jared Hoinacki
- 12th Torrie Grade
- 19th Jon Post
- 26th Lynn DeBoer

**Nursery**

- 5th Lori Coehoorn
- 12th Mac Mattheis
- 19th Angela Arndt
- 26th Sophie Newbury

**DVD Delivery**

- 6th Karen Redeker
- 13th Shelly Hiemstra
- 20th Charlene Kamphuis
- 27th Karen Redeker



Thank You!

Thank you for all the birthday wishes and cards and acts of kindness shown me on my 89th birthday.

Lorraine VandeZande



### **Calling List**

We are looking into how to get information to persons in regards to weather cancellations and other events at Bethel. We are setting up a call list for those who would like to receive a call with this information. Please sign up in the Information Center or contact the church office if you would like to receive a call. Please include your phone number.



### **ADVENTURES CLUB**

Do you love to work with young children and walk beside them as they learn about our God? Then we have a great opportunity for you. Adventures Club is just around the corner and we need your help. We will be starting on Mon., Mar. 5-Apr. 10 from 5:30 p.m.- 7:00 p.m. If interested please contact Renae Lind. We will have a short informational meeting on Feb. 5 following the morning service.

### **BADGER HOCKEY GAME**

The Men's Ministry is inviting men to attend a Badger hockey game on Friday, Feb. 10. There is a sign up sheet in the information center if you would like to go. The cost is \$10 and there are still 17 tickets still available.

### **EDUCATION MEETING**

We will be having an Education Meeting on Feb. 12 at 8:30 a.m. (before the morning service) to discuss a few events that are coming up. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending.

### **WOMEN'S RETREAT!**

Fri., Feb. 3rd from 6:30-8:30 pm and Sat., Feb. 4th from 8-noon at Emmanuel Church Waupun. This FREE event will consist of Corporate Worship, Biblical Messages, Personal Testimonies and Intimate Prayer, all based on the theme, "Dying to Live" Luke 9:23. Any questions, contact Gwen at 920-960-1908. Lord, have Your way in us!

## Consistory 2022

### Elders

Harley Coehoorn (23) 920-229-6953  
Shaun Hiemstra (23) 262-308-9266  
Lynn DeBoer (24) 920-948-0380  
Ed Montsma (24) 920-948-4578  
Torrrie Grade (25) 920-948-7419  
Jon Post (25) 920-960-1402

### Deacons

Nick Kamphuis (23) 920-597-0048  
Randi Turner (23) 920-251-9697  
Dan Brown (24) 920-204-2125  
Jack Theyerl (24) 920-979-3918  
Brian Brown (25) 920-204-2125  
Jared Hoinacki (25) 920-948-0289

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

### TREASURERS

Randi Turner, Main Account  
Dan Brown, Mission

### PASTORAL/STAFF

Lynn DeBoer  
Nick Kamphuis  
Randi Turner  
Shaun Hiemstra  
Kelly VandeZande  
Mary Kimble

### BUILDING

Dan Brown, Chr.  
Brian Brown  
Jared Hoinacki  
Karl Rens  
Phil Laper  
Byron Navis

### ELECTION/SELECTION

Harley Coehoorn  
Shaun Hiemstra  
Lynn DeBoer  
Ed Montsma  
Nick Kamphuis  
Randi Turner  
Dan Brown  
Jack Theyerl

### WORSHIP PILLAR

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

### MISSION PILLAR

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

### CARE TEAM

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

### PULPIT SUPPLY

Lynn DeBoer  
Shaun Hiemstra

### EDUCATION PILLAR

Gerri Buteyn, Chr.  
Nick Kamphuis  
Jenni Post  
Lori Coehoorn  
Angela Arndt  
Renae Lind  
Jen Post  
Jon Post  
Torrrie Grade

### COMMUNICATION PILLAR

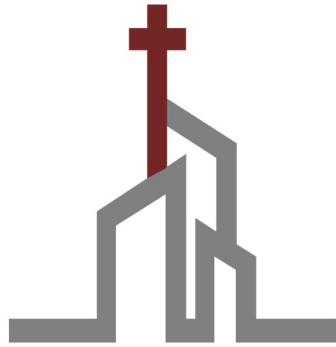
Pastor John, Interim Chr.  
Angela Arndt  
Jenni Post.  
LaRae Vander Plas  
Greg Smit  
Judi Post

### YOUTH GROUP SPONSORS

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

### CARE ELDERS

Les Hiemstra  
Shelly Hiemstra  
Linda Smit  
Herb Beekman  
Shaun Hiemstra Con. Liaison



## **BETHEL CHURCH**

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920-346-5810

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Find us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram

### **John Tilstra, Pastor**

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Office: 920-346-5810 Ext. 12

Home/Cell 815-238-8514

### **Renaë Lind, Youth Director**

[youthministry@bethelbrandon.org](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@bethelbrandon.org)

Office 920-346-5810 Ext. 10

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F: 9 a.m. - Noon

Cell 920-979-3908

### **Custodians**

[jasonssmit438@yahoo.com](mailto:jasonssmit438@yahoo.com)

**Jason Smit** Home/Cell 920-858-1739

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