



Pastor's Pen

In 1 Corinthians 15:20-28, Paul considers some benefits of our Savior's resurrection, namely the defeat of death and His being raised to life as the first fruits of the resurrection of His people. Here we see the Christ as the conqueror of our enemies death and sin. Operating under the sovereignty of God, death is our foe. It is even God's foe as well, for He is the Lord of life. By our sin in Adam, we granted the right for death to claim us as part of the divine curse. By His righteous life, Christ destroyed any claim that death had over Him and those who are united to Him. Death threw its worst at our Lord, killing Him, but our Father was working in all that, using death as His instrument to pour out His wrath on our sin and raising Christ to life to prove that this wrath had been satisfied. By defeating the power of death, Jesus rendered it powerless over His people.

Thus, Jesus is the "first fruits of those who have fallen asleep" (v. 20). Jesus was raised from the dead for our justification, yes, but He was also raised for our own resurrection. In other words, because Christ was raised from the dead, we will be raised as well. One day, our physical bodies will be resurrected, and we will be glorified, just as Jesus was. We have been united to Christ, having died to sin, and that union means that we are also united to Him in the resurrection (Romans 6:5). Our bodies will not remain in the grave forever. At the last day, our spirits will be reunited with them to live forever in the new heavens and earth.

We must never downplay the glory and importance of our Lord's resurrection. Not only does it provide for His vindication, but it is also the foundation for our own resurrection and victory over death. We do look forward to being in the presence of God at our deaths, but our final hope is the resurrection in which our spirits will be reunited with perfected bodies and when we will forever experience the glorified state that the Lord intended for us from the very beginning.

Pastor John

Renae's Thoughts

April, a month known for its day of practical jokes. We all love a good joke because it creates laughter. Many of us need to laugh more.

The High School Youth Group talked about the importance of laughter. There is so much in our daily lives that is weighing us down but with laughter it can change our whole outlook. Laughter can take a gloomy day and make it sunny and bright.

There are so many benefits to laughter. It has spiritual, physical, and emotional benefits. Laughter has been said to be the best medicine. Laughter reduces stress, helps fight off depression and hurt, helps us to look at the positive side of life, and puts us in a really good mood. Laughter can fight off disease, lower high blood pressure, and can set you up to live longer.

Job 8:21: "He will once again fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouts of joy." Look at all the heartache and pain Job experienced but yet God said He would fill him with laughter and joy. God wants us to laugh. He wants us to have joy.

When you begin to fill your life with more laughter, you will start to see a change in so many areas of your life. When the world laughs at you, laugh with them.

Go and give it a try. Turn that frown upside down and then give a little laugh. Watch a good Christian comedian, turn on your favorite show that makes you laugh, or read some funny jokes. Once you've laughed a little, take a look at how you are feeling. You may be surprised that you feel better, your muscles are a little less tense, and you may even feel more relaxed, and even more energized.

G

od wants us to laugh and enjoy life. He gave us a beautiful smile and a voice of laughter to share with people. Let's use it to brighten not only our day but also others.

Renae Lind
Youth Director

Hope these will put a smile on your face.

1. How did Joseph make his coffee?

Ans: *Hebrewed it.*

2. What did Daniel tell his real estate agent?

Ans. "I'd prefer a house with no den."

Renae Lind, Youth Director

Consistory Information March 16, 2023 Meeting



- Youth Programming shared:
 - Adventures Club averaging 20 kids
 - New curriculum for the 23-24 season for 3K-adult
 - Last day of Sunday School May 14
 - Last week of youth group May 17
 - Car Hop Fry Brandon Park May 20
 - May 21 Senior Recognition 1 p.m.
 - VBS June 12-16 1:15-4:00 p.m.
 - Lifest June 6-9th
 - Mission trip to Benton Harbor, MI July 16-21
- Baptism request from Jesse & Alex Tipton for Holden on April 23.
- Public Profession of Faith of Brock Post on Mar. 26.
- Quote for electrical/light of the church
- New church sign has been approved
- Dakota Network askings 2% of the budget (1% to ARC)
- Five Love gift donations made in the past month
- Men's Ministry Account moved to National Exchange Bank & Trust
- Financial reports were approved
- Darren Hadeen will no longer be our Sound/video support.
- Pastor Bob Rosenberg of Emanuel Lutheran will be retiring. Final service Easter Sunday
- Free Maundy Thursday supper prior to the service served by the Mission Pillar
- Men's Ministry will be serving the Easter breakfast
- Men's Ministry Brat Fry Mar 17 & 18
- Care team updates on congregation members and friends of Bethel.

April 2 Palm Sunday

9:30 a.m. Worship

**April 6 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday
Service with communion**

April 7 Good Friday

1:00 p.m. Virtual Service

April 9 Easter Sunday

7:30 a.m. Sunrise Service

Breakfast following

9:30 Easter Worship



Farewell-On April 2, 2023, after service Please join us as we wish Pastor Bob & Toby Rosenberg a well and deserved retirement. Our church will have a luncheon served shortly after the service. Please RSVP before March 25th to jvoll2010@yahoo.com with a number if you plan to attend the lunch. Also, if you would like to donate money for a gift, please place it in an envelope with gift written on it, into the offering plate or give to a council member.

Thank you, and hope to see you there.
Emanuel Lutheran Church Council



Thank You!

Sincere thanks to this year's Senior Bible Study group for their generous gift to me. I again thoroughly enjoyed each one of you for your presence and participation. I always feel that we learn so much from each other during our times of fun, food, and fellowship and am looking forward to another study this fall.

Ken Margers

Bethel Church Family,

Thanks so much for thinking of me in any way during my recent illness and hospital stay. Thank you for all the many prayers. I am very thankful for my church family.

God Bless You All!

Connie Blank

On behalf of myself, my wife Shellie, and our four daughters, Aubrey, Lilly, Miranda, and Maraya, we would like to thank you for the generous monetary donation. Shellie spent 18 days in the hospital and had 2 surgeries to repair her ruptured colon due to a bout with Diverticulitis. She now has a long recovery at home. It meant so much to me to have my childhood church, where I was baptized and confirmed, bless us with this gift. So again, thank you to the entire congregation, the consistory, and Pastor Tilstra for this generous gift. God is good!

God's blessings,

Brian Hiemstra

Thank you for the check. It will go a long way in helping pay for medical bills that are coming in. I truly believe the prayers have helped in my recovery.

Nathan & Katie VandeSlunt

Thank you to everyone who supported the Brandon Community Red Cross Blood Drive on Tue., Mar. 14. We are pleased to announce that we had 57 complete units collected. Four 1st time donors and Amie Meenk reached the four gallon mark. Thanks to Ardis Redeker for assisting in the kitchen, Bethel Church for the use of the fellowship hall, and Jay Smit for set-up.

Upcoming drives:

Rosendale, May 16, 2023 1:00-6:00 p.m.

Brandon, July 18, 2023, 12:00-6:00 p.m.

Judith Henker & Sue VandeKolk, Co-coordinators

Thank you for the hockey blanket and praying for me when I broke my wrist. It helped me heal and now I will be able to play in our state tournament.

Colton Postotnik

Dear Bethel Reformed Care Team,

Thank you so much for the blanket. I am so grateful to have you guys thinking about me during this time of healing. This blanket pairs perfectly with my future profession. I can't wait to use it during the cold winter days and have it after my next procedure in March. Again, thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers.

Love,

Brooklynn Smit

Thank you all for your prayers, cards, flowers, and food when my sister passed away. God is good to take her home and out of her suffering.

Cheryl & Bert Leusink



1st	Bruce Belmer
2nd	Lexi Dahlke Larry & Janice Wellhouse
5th	Brian & Tanya Hansen
7th	Teresa Schmuhl Aaron Beekman
8th	Ann Mulder
11th	Lennis Hiemstra
116th	Elizabeth Schmuhl Owen Beekman
17th	Shelly Freiberg Sam Owens
18th	Betty DeBoer
19th	Les Hiemstra
20th	Nick Kamphuis Josh & Krista Schliepp
21st	Pastor John Tilstra Larry Wellhouse (85) Nancy VandeSlunt
22nd	Reed Redeker
24th	Jean TerBeest Coty Hiemstra Eric Mulder Rhett Huebschman
25th	Herb Beekman (80) Shyanne VandeBerg Rick Redeker Jeff & Jane Brown
27th	Nash Wiedeman Bill & Renae Lind
28th	Levi Phillips Cal Larson (80)
29th	Arlene VandeBerg Jeff & Bree Gunnink Steve & Karen Smit
30th	Zach DeBoer Angie Smit



Lift

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

Sound

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

Liturgist

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

Greeters

2nd	Shaun Hiemstra
9th	Ed Montsma
16th	Nick Kamphuis
23rd	Dan Brown
30th	Brian Brown

Fellowship

2nd	Jon Post
9th	Lynn DeBoer
16th	Randi Turner
23rd	Jack Theyerl
30th	Jared Hoinacki

Nursery

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

DVD Delivery

2nd	Karen Redeker
9th	Charlene Kamphuis
16th	Shelly Hiemstra
23rd	Karen Redeker
30th	Charlene Kamphuis



Monthly Highlights



Sun., 2nd	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship* Following the service: Sunday School, all ages Executive Meeting Fellowship Farewell for Rev. Bob Rosenberg at Emanuel Lutheran
Mon., 3rd	6:00 p.m. Church & Culture Discussion
Tue., 4th	5:30-7:00 p.m. Adventure Club
Wed., 5th	1:00 p.m. Senior Gathering 6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:45 p.m. Senior High Youth Group
Thu., 6th	7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service with Communion
Fri., 7th	1:00 p.m. Virtual Good Friday Service
Sun., 9th	7:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service Breakfast following service 9:30 a.m. Easter Worship* Following the service: NO Sunday School
Mon., 10th	12:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
Tue., 11th	5:30-7:00 p.m. Adventure Club
Wed., 12th	12:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering Potluck & Fellowship 6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:45 p.m. Senior High Youth Group
14th & 15th	Women's Ministry/Design Team Brat Fry
Sun., 16th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 p.m. Worship* Special Offering Care Team Following the service: Sunday School, all ages Deacon's Meeting Fellowship
Mon., 17th	6:30 p.m. Bestway Drivers Ed Class Beacon Items Due
Tue., 18th	1:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
Wed., 19th	12:00 p.m. 75+ Spring Luncheon 6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:45 p.m. Senior High Youth Group
Thu., 20th	6:30 p.m. Consistory Meeting
Sun., 23rd	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship* Baptism Gideons Following the service: Sunday School, all ages Fellowship
25th-30th	6:30-8:30 p.m. Bestway Drivers Ed Class Pastor Conference
Tue., 25th	1:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
Wed., 26th	6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:45 p.m. Senior High Youth Group
Fri., 28th	5:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal
Sat., 29th	Wedding Weisnicht & Tilidetzke
Sun., 30th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship* Following the service: Sunday School, all ages Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Bestway Drivers Ed Class



Here is an update on what is happening in the Alliance of Reformed Churches. The following is the February 2023 update from Gary Hegstad, pastor at Delaware Reformed Church, Lennox, SD. He is the Dakota Network representative to the Alliance Governing Board.

Relationship with the Christian Reformed Church

The Alliance continues to move ahead in establishing an official relationship with the Christian Reformed Church. Their committee will recommend to their General Synod in June to approve the Alliance as a full communion partner. This is necessary so that the relationship of pastors who serve CRC congregations, who have been RCA, can transfer to the Alliance. Dan Ackerman of the Alliance staff and I have been invited to participate with their committee through a zoom meeting April 17.

Vacant Congregations

We recognize that many of our Alliance congregations are without an installed pastor. We are in contact with these congregations and are willing to assist them during their vacancy. We will help them as much as possible to secure a pastor. Please feel free to contact myself or a member of the Dakota Network Team regarding what your needs might even if you belong to another network.

Chaplain Endorsement

The Alliance is aware that some pastors who are chaplains in the military or in other ministry settings would like to be in the Alliance. The admin team of Dakota Network is in the early stages of discerning how we can receive endorsed chaplains. It will be a bit of a lengthy process, so please be patient.

Established or Developing Regional Networks of the Alliance

Dakota Network: Approximately 56 congregations are in this network with several others considering joining. Congregations are from ND, SD, MN, IA, WI and MI, at this time.

Grow Network: Fifteen congregations from CA, AZ, and WI comprise this network.

Harvest Network: Originally this network was named Rural Network, but they changed their name. Approximately twenty-five congregations MI, KY, and IL are considering being a part of this network.

Horizon Network: Presently this network in northwest IA has four congregations. The three congregations in Sioux Center and Faith Reformed in Rock Valley.

Kingdom and Spirit Network: Two congregations in CO and one in WI are forming this network.

Light of the Nations Network: Eighteen congregations in PA, NY, and NJ will form this network pending their release from their current RCA classis.

Michigan Catalyst Network: Twenty-six congregations are coming together in this network. This network includes the Grace of God International Mission Church in Grand Rapids. This is a Congolese immigrant church.

Pacific Northwest: Nine congregations from WA and ID are forming a network yet to be named. Three congregations in British Columbia, Canada have formed a legal entity in Canada. They will be legally different but will be in practical ministry with these Pacific northwest congregations.

In addition, there are many congregations who have not yet decided upon a network to join or may be considering forming an additional network.

Bylaws: The Alliance Governing Board updated and approved the bylaws of the Alliance. Please look at these on the Alliance web site. They are more complete and address several unanswered questions of the past

Ordination and Oversight Team: The Alliance Ordination and Oversight Team was formally approved. Presently it consists of the staff and four individuals: Rev. Mimi Carvajal (Koinonia Church, Fresno, CA), Rev. Jim Poit (Ottawa Reformed Church, West Olive MI), Rev. Seth Sundstrom (Dakota Staff), and Rev. Kevin Van Wyk (Alto Reformed, Waupun WI). Additional members will be added to this team. Staff person Rita Loyola chairs this team.

Finance Team: The Alliance Finance Team was formally approved. Presently this includes staff, Mr. Dale Ringerwole (Michigan), and Ron Fischer (Christ's Family Church, Davenport, IA). Others will formally be appointed to this team.

Emerging Networks: Each network will be comprised of at least ten member churches. At the discretion of the Board, a network may be recognized which does not meet the recommended number of churches if, in the Board's discretion, the network is sustainable. Each network shall have a leadership team led by a person in a primary leadership position. Each network shall be focused on encouraging, equipping, educating, and empowering the network churches to fulfill the Great Commission. Each network shall be bound by the Alliance's Organizational Convictions, and be accountable to the Board. **This is a significant difference than in the RCA. As most are aware, only a classis in the RCA can discipline unbiblical practices that occurs in the classis, but not in another classis. In the Alliance, there is a process in which a network can hold another network accountable for unbiblical practices.**

Upcoming Meetings/Conversations with Churches by Alliance Staff Tim Vink and Dan Ackerman:

- North Carolina: Tim and Dan will meet with 20-30 congregations of Evangelical and Reformed Churches who left the United Church of Christ in 2014.
- Ontario: Twenty-five to thirty people will meet with Dan regarding the Alliance.
- Iowa: Tim will be meeting with congregations in Iowa.
- Michigan: Dan will continue to be meeting with several congregations.
- Dan continues in conversation with a forming synod of congregations which presently are in the Dutch Reformed Church of South Africa. The formation of this synod is a first step for these congregations to leave this denomination. They are interested in being in communion with the Alliance after they leave.

Terms for Alliance Governing Board Members: Terms will be for three years. Nominations for representatives of regional networks will be submitted by the regional network admin teams. Final approval must come from the Alliance Governing Board. Number of members will be a minimum of five, and no more than 15. Three members may be "at large" members nominated and approved by the Board. Networks have the option as to whether to renominate their representative for a succeeding term of service when their term is complete.

First Gathering: The Alliance will host its first denomination gathering in Denver August 9-11, 2023. It will be focused on leadership (pastors, elder, and deacons) and spouses. More info will be coming.

Consistory 2023

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
Torrie 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.
Jon Post, Elder Rep
Dione Kimble
Rick Redeker
Randi Turner
Denise Hiemstra
Ron Mulder
Kay Hiemstra
Cathy Rens
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
Torrie 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, Liaison



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