

# Bethel Beacon

Monthly Newsletter/ Bethel Church, Brandon, WI

Volume 38 / October 2023

## *Pastor's Pen*

Leviticus 10:3 says: “Moses said to Aaron, ‘This is what the LORD has said: “Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified.’ And Aaron held his peace”.

Most Christians, if they are honest, would admit they struggle to reconcile the Old and New Testaments. A lack of knowledge about the riches in both Testaments leads some to see an irrational God of wrath revealed in the Old Testament and a gentle God of love revealed in the New. We do find much about the wrath of God in the Old Testament and much about His love in the new. The reverse is true as well for the Lord shows love in the Old Testament, for example in Deuteronomy 7:6-8, and He pours out His wrath in the New as seen in Romans 1:18. God’s wrath is not inconsistent with His love, for His love includes a love for what is righteous and just. Therefore, His justice—His love for what is right and true—demands that He punish the unrepentant. We see this principle illustrated Leviticus 10:1-3. Here, Aaron’s sons Nadab and Abihu did their priestly duties before their Creator in a manner He had not approved. This lapse in judgment proved deadly, for God killed them. To keep Aaron from complaining about the Lord’s actions and inviting divine wrath on his own head, Moses reminded Aaron that God’s priests may sanctify Him only in the manner He has ordained. Thus, Aaron saw the justice of the Lord’s wrath against his sons and held his peace. In 2 Samuel 6:5-11, Uzzah’s death for attempting to keep the ark of the covenant from falling off an ox cart, also shows God’s justice and holiness. He and the other priests had insufficient regard for the Lord because they were transporting the ark on a cart and not on their shoulders as God had commanded in Ex. 37:1-5 and 1 Chronicles 15:1-15. That was bad enough, but in trying to steady the ark to keep it from touching the ground, he assumed that his sinful hands were cleaner than the ground. His death was a reminder to Israel that no one can approach God irreverently and hope to survive. Considering all that the Bible says about the Lord’s holiness, the mystery is not why God is wrathful but why He endures sinners at all. His long-suffering is plainly the fruit of His grace, for He promised humanity in Genesis 2:16-17, only wrath for breaking His law. We must never ask God for what we deserve, for Uzzah, Nadab, and Abihu reveal that immediate death is the only thing we have merited.

Perhaps you see the doctrine of election unfair and deny it because you think fairness demands that we all can believe the gospel. Think about this, if no one desires God, if everyone has turned to his or her own way (Psalm 14:1-3; Romans 3:10-18), then who can believe? The “fair” thing for holy God to do is condemn us all to hell. It is only by grace that anyone is rescued from eternal damnation, so we should be grateful that the Lord is sovereign in salvation. Let us never fail to give Him thanks for choosing to redeem the undeserving—like you and me.

Pastor John

## *Renae's Thoughts*

In 1954, a small boy was found outside a hospital in Balrampur, India. Doctors were perplexed by his condition and, after many examinations, were unsure of how to treat him.

The boy had calloused knees and hands, as if he had spent most of his young life on all fours. He had hideously pointed teeth with cracks in his gums, suggesting that he had bitten into stone or very hard wood. He had scars on the back of his neck, suggesting that he had been dragged around by animals with sharp teeth. He spoke no discernible language and seemed unable to communicate with anyone. He had no name, so the hospital staff called him "Ramu".

Ramu showed no interest in other children and was especially frightened by adults. But one day, a hospital employee took Ramu and some other children for a visit to the zoo. The employee noticed that Ramu became extremely excited when he saw the wolf pen. Ramu called to the wolves and seemed to be able to communicate with them.

This led doctors to conduct an experiment. They found that Ramu lapped milk out of a glass rather than drinking it. He tore apart his food and chewed on meat bones for hours at a time. The doctors finally concluded that Ramu was a ghadya ka bacha, or wolf boy, who had grown up with the animals and, therefore, behaved more like a wolf than a human being.

Ramu wasn't actually a wolf boy, of course. He was a human being—a little boy like all little boys—"fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14) in the image of his heavenly Father. But he grew up with wolves and became just like one of them.

You may not have to worry about developing wolflike tendencies, but if you allow yourself to be surrounded by people who don't share your beliefs and priorities, you run the risk of becoming; just like them. 1st Corinthians 15:33 reminds us, "Bad company corrupts good character."

This is a story that I found in one of the Hot Illustration For Youth Talks books that I had on the shelf in my office. After reading it, I immediately started thinking of all the activities we have going in our church that allow us to be around people who have the same beliefs and priorities, from our Sunday School program, Adventures Club, Youth Groups, Men's Ministry, Book Club, choir, and the list goes on. These opportunities that we are given help us to communicate with each other and become strong in our faith walk. It also allows us a chance to have a group of people to fall back on when troubles come.

Humans are like wolves in the fact that we love being part of a pack. We as Christians should get around other Christians and form a strong pack. Being around others with the same beliefs we start learning from each other. We find the common bond of Jesus. When the pack is strong, others will want to join.

After working with our youth for a couple of years, I really feel that our youth activities that we offer are so very important. I don't say that because that's my job but rather I feel that students who grow up attending Sunday School and Youth Group together are stronger and more confident to stand up and protect each other when the evils of this earth are gnawing at them to make a wrong decision. As the saying goes, "We are better together."

Renae Lind, Youth Group Leader



## Choir Notes

Did you know singing will help strengthen your vocal cords? That is because the same muscles that control your singing voice also controls your speaking voice. So, while you may not be able to hit all the high or low notes, you'll be surprised how much your speaking voice will improve if you sing!

As we "mature," the joints of the larynx can become stiff, and its cartilage may calcify. The vocal cords may lose muscle tone, flexibility, and elasticity, and dry out. All these changes may weaken your voice. Obviously, a decline in your overall health can also affect your voice. (From Family Medicine, Dr. Milstein.)

I have encouraged our choir members to use some various vocal exercises (even though there was some scoffing.) This is why vocal exercises can be helpful. Not only for your singing voice, but also for your speaking voice. Some examples are:

Humming through a straw, starting at the bottom of your range and slide up to the top slowly and evenly.

Using the MMM sound, go up 5 notes and back down. Then go up a half step. Again, do this slowly and with full breath support.

Lip trills – YES – Lip trills loosen the lips and the vocal cords - using scale like tones.

Breath Control – Breathing supports the voice. Deep full breaths, using your diaphragm will help support the voice sound and deliver strong, even tone.

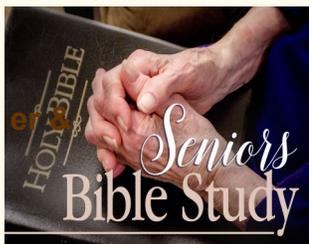
These exercises can be done in your car for 5-10 minutes a day or in the shower!

We would like to have more folks in choir. Don't let your age, young or mature, dictate whether or not to be in choir. If you love singing, join us. (I know there are some former choir members out there too.) We practice about three Wednesday evening each month, and sing (usually) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month. We will be starting the cantata practice in October. Please come and join us as we sing our praises to the Lord and serve Bethel.

*Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord, my soul. I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. Psalm 146: 1-2 NIV*

Blessings,

Leesa Tilstra



Our 55+ Bible Study for '23-'24 is: "Growing Old-Wiser" by Dale & Sandy Larsen. There are nine studies using both the Old & New Testament.

We plan to again meet on alternate Wed.. Mornings from approximately 9:00-10:30 a.m. beginning in late Oct. through late Feb. Come and Join us. (Oct. 25-Feb. 28)

Any questions please call :

Judy Henker-920-346-2966

Ken Margers-920-346-2468

## OCTOBER



1st Brian & Pam Beekman  
 2nd Matilda Arndt  
 Rhett Beekman  
 Mike Wegner  
 Jack & Deanna Theyerl  
 3rd Bill Post  
 Melody Coehoorn  
 Jim & Kaelyn Huebschman  
 Jay & Danelle Smit  
 4th Rosanne Bresser  
 Art VandeBerg  
 Dora Lee Coehoorn  
 5th Craig & Jody 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



I would like to thank Pastor John and the congregation for the cards and prayers after my knee surgery.

A special Thank You to the care team for making the blanket for me. It is appreciated. I am doing much better and hope to be out golfing this spring, thanks again!

Kyler Beltezore

Thank you for the love, prayers, cards, and expressions of sympathy received by me and my family following the loss of my daughter, Karen. Special thanks to Pastor John for his counsel and prayers in this season of Grief.

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  
 Charlie Blank  
 Duane & Sally Kok  
 22nd Judith Henker  
 Ed & Kathy Montsma  
 23rd Robin Gunnink  
 25th Mel Gunnink  
 Emilee Henker  
 Bert Leusink  
 Corey & Lori Dahlke  
 26th Amy Redeker  
 27th Ken Smit  
 Dan & Pam VandeBerg  
 28th Kevin Beekman  
 31st Jordan Kastein  
 Jared Kok  
 Melanie Brunsdon

# Elders/Consistory

## August 17, 2023 Consistory Minutes

- New Sunday School “Answers to Genesis”
- Soup Supper/Cake Auction Oct. 4
- Silver Birch Jr. High Oct. 13-15
- Persecution Night Oct. 25
- Kuiks, Winkels, and Knoxs joining as Covenant Partners
- Adelynn Knox to be baptized
- New LED lights installed
- Getting new quotes to replace windows on the south wall of the entry
- Discussion on stored information in the church safe deposit box at Nat'l Exchange Bank
- Emergency Workers Recognition at the Sept. 10 service
- Children's messages will be given on the Sunday opposite the choir
- Updating of the website is being done by Jon & Brock Post
- Book of Romans Bible study is being held.
- Oct. 11, 55+ Fall Outing at Langford's Pub
- Next meeting September 21, 2023

## September 18, 2023 Elders

- Brian & Julie requested baptism for Lydia Mary. Baptism will be held on Oct. 22.
- Annette Hopp is added to the shut in list.
- Communion On Oct. 8.

## September 21, 2023 Consistory

- Pastor John was officially ordained into the ARC 9/21/2023
- Congregational Meeting, Dec. 3, 2023
- Safe deposit will not be renewed.
- Sunday School will be receiving updated technology.
- Mission Trip for 2024 to Appalachian Mountains, Kentucky (7/14-7/20, 2024)

# October Volunteer Schedules

## Lift

- 1st Ed Montsma
- 8th Floyd Smit
- 15th Harley Coehoorn
- 22nd Ken Beekman
- 29th Ed Montsma

## Sound

- 1st Merwin Kimble
- 8th Kelly VandeZande
- 15th Harley Coehoorn
- 22nd Merwin Kimble
- 29th Kelly VandeZande

## Greeters

- 1st Nick Kamphuis
- 8th Dan Brown
- 15th Brian Brown
- 22nd Harley Coehoorn
- 29th Shaun Hiemstra

## Fellowship

- 1st Randi Turner
- 8th Jack Theyerl
- 15th Jared Hoinacki
- 22nd Torrie Grade
- 29th Jon Post

## Liturgy

- 1st Mark Kastein
- 8th Shelly Hiemstra
- 15th Sandy VandeZande
- 22nd Karen Redeker
- 29th Jen Post

## Nursery

- 1st Mac Mattheis
- 8th Angela Arndt
- 15th Sophie Newbury
- 22nd Rosanne Bresser
- 29th Danica Riedeman

## DVD Delivery

- 1st Shelly Hiemstra
- 8th Karen Redeker
- 15th Charlene Kamphuis
- 22nd Shelly Hiemstra
- 29th Karen Redeker

## Children's Message

- 1st Sadie Newbury
- 15th Heather Wegner
- 29th Danelle Smit



## 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) 920-204-2663  
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  
Sally Kok  
Carol Flegner  
Darlene Kamphuis  
Ann Mulder  
Jane Brown  
Mary Ann Smit  
Connie Blank  
Harley Coehoorn, Elder Rep.

### EDUCATION PILLAR

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

### COMMUNICATION PILLAR

Pastor John, Interim Chr  
Judi Post  
Renae Lind

### YOUTH GROUP SPONSORS

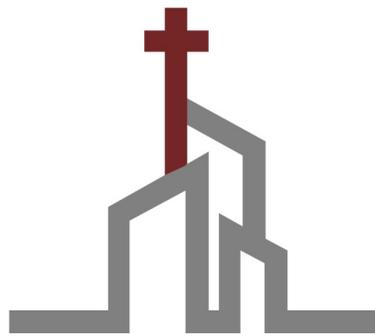
Dallas VandeSlunt  
Nick Kamphuis  
Kenna Freiberg  
Anna Lind  
Bill Lind  
Dawson Drews

### CARE ELDERS

Les Hiemstra  
Shelly Hiemstra  
Linda Smit  
Herb Beekman  
Shaun Hiemstra, Liaison

### PULPIT SUPPLY

Lynn DeBoer  
Shaun Hiemstra



## **BETHEL CHURCH**

### **Bethel Church**

305 W Main St

Brandon, WI 53919

920-346-5810

[www.bethelbrandon.org](http://www.bethelbrandon.org)

Find us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram

### **John Tilstra, Pastor**

[pastor@bethelbrandon.org](mailto:pastor@bethelbrandon.org)

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

M - Th: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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