



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 2nd and 4th 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



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

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

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

October Event Schedule

1st	9:20 a.m. Prayer time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship-Bruce Wilterdink	Following the service: Fellowship Sunday School for all ages
	6:00 p.m. Church & Culture Discussion	
3rd	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering	
4th	4:30-7:00 p.m. Youth Soup Supper 6:00 p.m. Cake Auction 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m. Sr High Youth Group	
8th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship-Communion	Following the service: Fellowship Sunday School for all ages Executive & Deacons Meetings
	6:00 p.m. Romans Bible Study	
9th	5:30-7:00 p.m. Adventure Club	
10th	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 12:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering Potluck & Fellowship	
11th	9:00 a.m. Care Team 10:45 a.m. 55+ Fall Outing, Langford's Pub 6:00 p.m. Jr High Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m. Sr High Youth Group	
13th-15th	Junior High Silver Birch Retreat	
15th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship-Special Offering for Gideons	Following the service: Fellowship Sunday School for all ages
	6:00 p.m. Men's Ministry 6:30 p.m. Bestway Drivers Education Class	
16th	Beacon Items Due 5:30-7:00 p.m. Adventure Club	
17th	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 1:00 p.m. Senior Gathering	
18th	6:00 p.m. Jr High Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m. Sr High Youth Group	
19th	6:30 p.m. Consistory Meeting	
21st	9:00 a.m. Bethel Quilters	
22nd	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship	Following the service: Fellowship Sunday School for all ages
	6:00 p.m. Romans Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Bestway Drivers Education Class	
23rd	5:30-7:00 p.m. Adventure Club	
24th	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering	
25th	9:10 a.m. 55+ Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group	
29th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship	Following the service: Fellowship Sunday School for all ages Deacons Meeting
	6:00 p.m. Romans Bible Study	
31st	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering	

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

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
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



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Find us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram

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M, T, Th: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

W, F: 8 a.m. - Noon

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Custodians

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