



Bethel beacon

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | BETHEL CHURCH
DECEMBER 2023 – VOLUME 37

Pastor's Pen

Have you ever placed yourself on the plains of Bethlehem the night Jesus was born? Those plains held one of the most spectacular sound-and-light shows in human history. All heaven broke loose. Luke tells us in his gospel, chapter 2 verses 8-14, that angels disturbed what was an uneventful night for the shepherds with light and music and the proclamation that the Messiah, the long-awaited Savior of the Jews was born. The light emanating from the heavenly host was not a reflection of the moon, but the glory of God. It was God's glory that shone, signifying His divine mode of being. It was the divine splendor that shrouded the heavenly messengers, a visible divine radiance.

When the shepherds shook in fear, they were admonished by the angel: "Do not be afraid, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord".

All of us long for a savior of some type. We look for someone or something that will solve our problems, ease our pain, or grant the most elusive goal of all, happiness. From the pursuit of success in business to the discovery of a perfect mate or friend, we make our search.

Even in our preoccupation with sports we show a hope for a savior. As a sports season ends with far more losers than winners, we hear the cry from cities across the land—"Wait till next year!" Then comes the new crop of players, rookies or free agents, and the fans pin their hopes and dreams on the new kids who will bring glory to the team. The new kid, the new client, the new machine, the news that will arrive in tomorrow's mail—all are invested with more hope than any creature can possibly deliver.

The burst of light that flooded the fields of Bethlehem announced the advent of a Savior who was able to do the task.

The newborn Savior is called "Christ the Lord." To the astonished shepherds these titles were pregnant with meaning. This Savior is the Christ, the long-awaited Messiah of Israel. Every Jew remembered the promise of God that someday the Messiah, the Lord's anointed, would come to deliver Israel. This Messiah-Savior is also Lord. He not only will save His people, but He will be their King, their Sovereign.

The angel declares that this Savior-Messiah-Lord is born "unto you." He is born for you! The divine announcement is not an oracle of judgment but the declaration of a gift. The newborn King is born for each one of us. Are you willing to receive this gift for your salvation?

Pastor John

Renae's Thoughts

How many of us have used or heard others use the word "salty" to describe someone's mood at the time. This slang term when used this way usually refers to being upset or bitter. Do we even know where that word or phrase originated from? Most of the students thought that it may have come about in the 50's. Little did they know that Jesus actually came up with this phrase.

Matthew 5:13, "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet."

Jesus is telling us we need to be salty but by His Definition. We are called to be the salt and light of the world. We should be showing others what the true meaning of being a Christian is. Christians are called to season (or enhance) our surroundings by obedience and faith in Christ. We are also called to preserve the world, using our love to counter the evil that exists and keep it from spoiling others.

Our influence is critical!!! We need to have a deep down, heart filled desire to show others the love of Jesus. This kind of influence comes from the inside out and affects all of our thoughts, actions, and words. It's letting the Holy Spirit in and allowing Him to work through us.

We can not let the world around us take our saltiness away. If we do not die to our own desires daily, we lose that saltiness that influences the world around us. Allowing the Holy Spirit to live in us, we have the power to influence the world for Christ. We all need to have a personal relationship with the God of the universe. We are called to be the salt and light of the world. Don't become bland about your life with God but be this incredible seasoning of salt that can be used to make a difference.

Renae Lind, Youth Director



CHURCH SCHEDULE

Sun., 3rd	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship –Communion	Following the service: Congregational Meeting Sunday School for 3k-12th
	12:00-4:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use 6:00 p.m. Roman's Bible Study	
Tue., 5th	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering	
Wed., 6th	9:10 a.m. 55+ Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Cantata & Choir Practice 7:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group	
Sat., 9th	9:00-12:00 p.m. Bethel Quilters	
Sun., 10th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship	Following the service: Deacons Meeting Sunday School for all ages Fellowship
	6:00 p.m. Roman's Bible Study	
Mon., 11th	Beacon Items Due	
Tue., 12th	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 12:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering Potluck & Fellowship	
Wed., 13th	12:00 p.m. 75+ Christmas Luncheon	
Sun., 17th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship: Special Offering-Community	Following the service Sunday School for all ages Fellowship
	3:00 p.m. Children's Program & Cantata "Breath of Heaven"	
Tue., 19th	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering	
Wed., 20th	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	
Thu., 21st	5:45 p.m. Executive Meeting 6:30 p.m. Consistory Meeting	
Sun., 24th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship– Choir Cantata "Breath of Heaven"	
	NO Sunday School or Fellowship 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service	
25th & 26th	Offices Closed	
Sun., 31st	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship	Following the service: Deacons Meeting Sunday School for all ages Fellowship



1st Ivan Coehoorn
 2nd Eliza Bos
 3rd Eugene DeBoer
 Helen Hartgerink
 4th Carol Flegner
 Kenna Freiberg
 Calen Bos
 Cowan Mulder
 Samantha Hiemstra
 6th Kyler Beltezore
 Deron DeBoer
 7th Renae Lind
 9th Emilie Knox
 Dawn Henning
 10th Leo Nolan
 Ken Beekman
 Troy Newbury
 Bailey VandeSlunt
 Levi VandeBerg
 Collin Weisnicht
 12th Brooklynn Smit
 Ryan Walker
 13th Ian Turner
 Noah Hiemstra
 Steve & Vanessa Slager
 14th Sara Krueziger
 15th Pam VandeBerg
 Jamie VandeZande
 Abby Luczak
 Pat Beekman
 17th Pat Beekman
 DeeDee Bresser
 Michelle Dickmeyer
 Cole Theyerl
 18th Larry Rens
 Morgan Redeker
 21st Beckett Tank
 22nd Keegan Madigan
 Karen Smit
 23rd Annette Ebert
 26th Ken & Shirley Margers
 27th Taylor Weisnicht
 Ryker Tank
 28th Dan Brown
 29th Kian Beekman
 Sally Kok
 20th Keena Bos
 31st Mitch Freiberg
 Jaeden Grade
 Mark Kastein
 Ezra Vis
 Dione Kimble

Lift

3rd Floyd Smit
 10th Harley Coehoorn
 17th Ken Beekman
 24th Ed Montsma
 31st Floyd Smit

Sound

3rd Merwin Kimble
 10th Kelly VandeZande
 17th Harley Coehoorn
 24th Merwin Kimble
 31st Kelly VandeZande

Liturgy

3rd Karen Redeker
 10th Jen Post
 17th Amanda Hiemstra
 24th Mark Kastein
 31st Shelly Hiemstra

Greeter

3rd Harley Coehoorn
 10th Shaun Hiemstra
 17th Ed Montsma
 24th Nick Kamphuis
 31st Dan Brown

Fellowship

3rd Torrie Grade
 10th Jon Post
 17th Lynn DeBoer
 24th No Fellowship
 31st Jack Theyerl

Nursery

3rd Rosanne Bresser
 10th Danica Riedeman
 17th Lori Coehoorn
 24th Mac Mattheis
 31st Angela Arndt

DVD Delivery

3rd & 24th Shelly Hiemstra
 10th & 31st Karen Redeker
 17th Charlene Kamphuis

Children's Message

3rd Heather Wegner
 12th Sadie Newbury

Coming Events

Congregational Meeting

We will be meeting on December 3 following the morning service for our semi-annual Congregational meeting with the intent of approving the 2024 Budgets and the selection of the new Consistory members.

75+ Christmas Luncheon

75+ persons to a Christmas luncheon on December 13, 2023 at 12:00p.m. at Bethel Church for a time of food & Fellowship.

Christmas Eve Service

We will have a service at 4:00 p.m. on December 24th.



Choir Cantata

"Breath of Heaven"

December 17, 2023 3:00 p.m.

Children's Christmas Program

"Christmas Road Trip"

will be held on the 17th also.

Fellowship will follow the December 17th program.

December 24, 2023 9:30 a.m.

Elders & Consistory Report

Thank You

Elders Meeting, November 14, 2023

- Current Slates for elders & Deacon 2024:
Elders: Shelly Hiemstra, Merwin Kimble,
Dallas VandeSlunt, Bob Winkel
Deacons: Byron Navis, Jay Smit,
Steve Slager
- Communion will be served December 3,
2023.
- Congregational meeting will be held Decem-
ber 3, 2023 following the service.
- Next Meeting January 15, 2024

Consistory Meeting, November 16, 2023

- Update on Pastor's attendance at the Mid-
west Network conference.
- Organizational meeting for new consistory will
be December 3rd following the service.
- Fresh Start (YFC) is now headed by Jerry
Screnock and we will continue to support that
group.
- Endowment Fund was discussed with Sharon
Bos.
- Pastoral & Staff will be interviewing persons
who have expressed interest in the account-
ing position.
- Mission trip for next summer has been final-
ized.
- Care team has set December 13th for the
75+ Christmas luncheon.
- Next meeting December 21, 2023.

Thank you to all the donors who came to
the November 14th Red Cross Blood
Drive in Brandon. We collected 57 units.
Cindy Sheskey completed 13 gallons.
Thank you to Ardis Redeker for volun-
teering, Connie Blank for furnishing bars,
Bethel Church for the use of the fellow-
ship hall, and Bob Basler for putting up
posters in Rosendale.

January 15, 2024—1:00-6:0 p.m. Peace
Lutheran Church, Rosendale

March 19, 2024—12:00-6:00 p.m. Bethel
Church, Brandon

Wishing you all a Blessed thanksgiving,
Merry Christmas, and Blessed New Year!

Judith Henker and Sue VandeKolk,
Co-coordinators

Dear Bethel Congregation,

I want to thank you for your kindness,
thoughts, and prayers during my recov-
ery from heart surgery. Your gift of
\$500.00 was totally unexpected but
greatly appreciated. The blanket is very
comfortable and is used quite often on
movie nights.

My follow-up appointments have con-
firmed the valve repair surgery was a
success and the leakage has stopped. I
recently completed cardiac rehab which
was the last step in this process. After
everything I went through, I now feel
100% back to normal and can do every-
thing I did prior to surgery.

Thank you again for all you have done.

Jon Gunnink

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

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



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

Renaë 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