



Bethel *beacon*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BETHEL CHURCH , BRANDON, WI
JANUARY 2024 – VOLUME 38

Pastor's Notes

The world is not quiet. The world is raging with conflict. Wars, rumors of wars, economic uncertainty, social unrest, and global political controversy abound— as it has always been. There is nothing new under the sun. That there is conflict should not surprise us, but it often does. It especially surprises people in the world. As Christians, we know that conflict will always exist in this fallen world because this world is filled with fallen, sinful people—and sinful people have a tendency to sin and create conflict. So, why does conflict surprise so many? Many people expect that the world in its present state should be at peace, that everyone should just get along, and that everyone and every nation should coexist in perfect harmony at all times and in all circumstances no matter the differences in religious, sociocultural, ethical, or political views. People are naive.

People want peace even though it has rejected the Prince of Peace, and people cry for peace even though it has declared truth to be relative. People love to talk about peace, but in truth, they have no idea what real peace is or how it is achieved. Many people think that peace is based on compromise, but Christians know that authentic peace is based on truth—truth that is relentlessly stubborn, dogmatic, and unwavering. During the time of the Reformation, Martin Luther declared: “Peace if possible. Truth at all costs.” He spoke truth. As Christians, we know that we cannot have peace in spite of the truth and that true peace comes only because of the truth. Negotiated peace founded on compromised truth will only delay conflict, not eliminate it. History bears this truth repeatedly.

The only hope for true, lasting peace in this world is for people to be reconciled to the God of peace who gives peace to all who have been born from above by the Spirit of peace. For it is only when God has conquered a rebellious human heart—a heart that rages with conflict, anxiety, and despair—that that person will be at peace and be able to maintain the spirit of unity in the bond of peace in their hearts, homes, and churches as they await the return of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ.

So, do you know the Prince of Peace? If you do not know Him, there will be nothing new under the sun for you in 2024. Conflict, and not peace, will be your norm. May you know the peace, the Prince of Peace in 2024.

Pastor John

Renae's Thoughts

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Many of us feel uncomfortable talking to strangers. How much more awkward might it feel talking to God. We should be in prayer continually. But when we truly have a relationship with our Savior, just like with any other relationship in our lives, it needs to be a two-way conversation. We spend a lot of time lifting our prayers up but often we don't take the time to listen, to really listen to God responding back to our prayers.

It can be so challenging to hear God in our hearts. He has to speak pretty loud to be heard above all the ruckus in our lives. It's no wonder we can't hear him.

God speaks clearly in many people's hearts, and depending on where we're at, we do have the ability to understand him. Christians who really have a close relationship with God feel they need to turn off the or walk away from all the noise around them. When life is so loud and there's so much input, we can get disconnected from God because we can't hear him clearly.

We all need to get alone in the quiet with him. We need to be still and just listen. Being alone with God can relax you and it makes Him happy to be alone with you too.

We need to believe that he wants to speak to us. So many of us question if we are hearing the voice of God or if that is just our own imagination taking over our thoughts. God talks to us in many ways.

1. He is never going to make it too hard for you. If you're struggling to make choices He will speak to you but it will be something you can actually accomplish.
2. He does not want you to take the easy way out. Example: God is not going to tell someone to stay home from school when you did not study for their test. Natural consequences are sometimes how he lets us learn.
3. It is never going to contradict something Jesus said. God's voice is often personal. When in doubt, look it up.
4. It will make sense. God's voice brings clarity, not confusion. He knows what you're able to process and what you're not.
5. It will help, not hurt. God doesn't give advice that is more hurtful than helpful.
6. It brings peace. When you pray, you should feel comforted after a while, even if the situation is tense.
7. Sometimes the answer comes as something that we would have never thought of. It's like a revelation that makes us say, "Wow! I could surely NOT have thought of that!"
8. It Lasts. What God tells us tends to stick with us. Things that you imagine go away. God's word stays in our heart. It helps us in some way that we just can't forget.

Many of us talk to God. Listening to him is a skill that many of us have to work on. We should never get discouraged because we need to remember that he ALWAYS hears us and really enjoys hearing from us. Talk to God like a real friend and then listen. Really listen to what He is telling you.



JANUARY

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1st Keegan DeBoer
Hank DeBoer
Josh Schliep
- 2nd Kyle VandeBrink
- 4th Jason & Tiffany Derksen
- 5th Samantha Belmer
- 7th Cameron DeBoer
- 8th Adrianna Wegner
Collins Farrell
- 9th Lorraine VandeZande (90)
Drew Henning
Wayne & Elaine Hiemstra
- 10th Pat Bronkhorst
Stan Harmsen
Kristin Jurjens
- 11th Seth Knox
- 12th Ed Montsma
Kinsley Huebschman
- 15th Cameron Hiemstra
- 17th Josie Slager
- 18th Torrie Grade
Tricia Weisnicht

- 19th Bob DeBoer
Pat VandeBerg
Jeff Henker
Jay Smit
Parker Leusink
Lexy Smit
Matthew Kastein
- 21st LaVerne Kok
Mason Coehoorn
- 22nd Jim Schmuhl
Nick Redeker
- 23rd Alex Tipton
Brian & Kari Youngwirth
- 24th Tate Kimble
Lukas Mulder
Mac Mattheis
- 26th Robert Coehoorn
- 27th Pam Beekman
- 28th Dustin Hiemstra
Mitch Vis
Charlie Farrell
Kaelyn Huebschman
Mark & Dianne Kastein
- 29th Wayne Hiemstra
- 30th Kim Miller
Madison Mulder

Thank you so much to all the Bethel Church members for all your support this year. All of your prayers and donations have helped immensely through this tough time. We appreciate everything you have done for us! There aren't enough words to describe how wonderful you all are!

-Eric and Katie Mulder

Volunteer Schedules

Lift

7th Harley Coehoorn
14th Ken Beekman
21st Ed Montsma
28th Floyd Smit

Sound

7th Harley Coehoorn
14th Merwin Kimble
21st Kelly VandeZande
28th Harley Coehoorn

Greeter

7th Torrie Grade
14th Jon Post
21st Ed Montsma
28th Lynn DeBoer

Liturgist

7th Sandy VandeZande
14th Karen Redeker
21st Jen Post
28th Amanda Hiemstra

Nursery

7th Sadie Newbury
14th Danica Riedeman
21st Lori Coehoorn
28th Mac Mattheis

Fellowship

7th Dan Brown
14th Jack Theyerl
21st Byron Navis
28th Brian Brown

DVD Delivery

7th Charlene Kamphuis
14th Shelly Hiemstra
21st Karen Redeker
28th Charlene Kamphuis

Children's Message

7th Danelle Smit
21st Amanda Hiemstra



Dec. 21, 2023 Consistory

- Communion dates for 2024 were approved.
- Elders Meeting Jan. 15, 2024.
- Three person have expressed interest in the accounting position. Hiring will be in 2024.
- Holiday giving has been generous this year.
- Pastor will accompany Dan Degner to the capitol for prayer for our government Jan. 23.
- There will be a sing up sheet for greeters & fellowship.
- Website & digital sign are being updated regularly.
- Mission Pillar will receive \$6,007.00 from cops for this year.
- "Sound of Freedom " movie will be shown at Bethel on Jan. 28 at 5:30 p.m.
- Jr high youth group participated in "Better to Give" program with great success.
- Youth groups had great Christmas parties.
- Discussion was held in regards to Pastoral/ Staff. Pastoral/Staff will take care of the hiring process of the accounting position.
- Next Consistory meeting Jan. 18, 2024



Mon. 1st	Offices Closed
Tue., 2nd	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 1:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
Wed., 3rd	9:10 a.m. 55+ Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth 7:30 p.m. Senior High Youth
Sun., 7th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School Fellowship
Tue., 9th	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 12:00 p.m. Senior Gathering Potluck & Fellowship
Wed., 10th	8:30 a.m. Care Team Meeting 6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m. Senior High Youth
Sun., 14th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Deacons Meeting Sunday School Fellowship 6:00 p.m. Roman's Bible Study
Mon., 15th	Beacon Items Due 6:30 p.m. Elders Meeting
Tue., 16th	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 1:00 p.m. Senior Gathering

Wed., 17th	9:10 a.m. 55+ Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m. Senior High Youth
Thu., 18th	9:00 a.m. Bethel Quilters 5:45 p.m. Executive Meeting 6:30 p.m. Consistory Meeting
Fri., 19th	5:00 p.m. Brandon Library Mvie Night
Sun., 21st	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship Special Offering—Food Pantries 10:30 a.m. Sunday School Fellowship 6:00 p.m. Men's Ministry
Tue., 23rd	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 1:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
Wed., 24th	6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m. Senior High Youth
Sun., 28th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Deacons Meeting Sunday School Fellowship 5:30 p.m. Movie Night "Sound of Freedom"
Tue., 30th	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 1:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
Wed., 31st	9:10 a.m. 55+ Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth 7:30 p.m. Senior High Youth



Choir News

“I will sing of steadfast love and justice; to you, O Lord, I will make music.” Psalm 101:1

Thank you, Bethel Choir, for your time, your talent, and your dedication to praising God in His sanctuary! The cantata “Breath of Heaven,” was a wonderful performance showing the compassionate heart of Mary and her posture of servanthood. You, also, have the heart of a servant.

As we begin 2024, I pray everyone will continue to sing. Singing is calming, which produces physiological benefits, but joining a singing group brings people together. It provides better cognitive function and brings joy. And that joy praises God!

All are welcome to come and join us. Choir practices on Wednesday’s at 7:00 and sing the second and fourth Sundays of the month.

Practice dates for January are: January 10, January 17 & January 24.

Have a blessed New Year!

Leesa



**Lorraine
Vande Zande
is turning 90!**

Come help us celebrate

Sunday, January 7th

from 2 -4

at the Wesley Center

Cake & ice cream will be served

Wesley Center

114 S Forest St, Waupun

No presents, please

Consistory 2024

Elders

Lynn DeBoer (24) 920-948-0380
Ed Montsma (24) 920-948-4578
Torrie Grade (25) 920-948-7419
Jon Post (25) 920-960-1402
Merwin Kimble (26) 920-517-1042
Dallas VandeSlunt (26) 920-229-2337

Deacons

Dan Brown (24) 920-204-2125
Jack Theyerl (24) 920-979-3918
Brian Brown (25) 920-204-2663
Jared Hoinacki (25) 920-948-0289
Byron Navis (26) 920-597-0203
Jay Smit (26) 920-858-1739

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

John Tilstra, President
Lynn DeBoer, VP
, Clerk
, Deacon Chr.
, Treasurer

TREASURERS

Randi Turner, Main Account
Dan Brown, Mission

PASTORAL/STAFF

Lynn DeBoer
, Deacon Chair
, Treasurer
, Clerk
Kelly VandeZande
Mary Kimble

BUILDING

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

ELECTION/SELECTION

WORSHIP PILLAR

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

MISSION PILLAR

Ed Montsma, Chr.
Jon Post, Elder Rep
Dione Kimble
Rick Redeker
Deacon
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
, Elder Rep.

EDUCATION PILLAR

Gerri Buteyn, Chr.
, Deacon
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
, Liaison

PULPIT SUPPLY

Lynn DeBoer
, Clerk



BETHEL CHURCH

Bethel Church

305 W Main St

Brandon, WI 53919

920-346-5810

www.bethelbrandon.org

Find us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram

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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