



BETHEL BEACON

Monthly Newsletter of Bethel Church, Brandon
February 2 Issue 38

Renaë's Thoughts

The California Gold Rush was an exciting time in American History but many men, women, and children sacrificed everything for the opportunity to "strike it rich."

There's a story about a man who left his wife and son in New England and headed to San Francisco to mine for gold. His plan was when he became successful, he would send for his family, but it took longer than he had expected. Finally, he had enough money, so he sent for them. His wife and son boarded a boat and sailed away. Not long after the boat set sail, people started yelling, "Fire! Fire!" as the ship became engulfed in flames. Not only was there the danger of fire, but the boat was carrying a shipment of gunpowder. Once the fire hit the gunpowder, destruction was inevitable. The crew hustled to get out the lifeboats but there weren't enough and they were too small to handle the passengers. Just as the last boat was pushing away, this mother begged the crew to take her and her son. But, there was no room-the boats were filled. She cried and pleaded until they agreed to take one more person.

Do you think this mother jumped into the boat and left her son to die? Of course not. As she hugged and kissed her boy before dropping him into the lifeboat, she said, "My boy, if you live to see your father, tell him that I died in your place."

This story is parallel to the sacrifice that God made in sending Jesus to die for us. He died in our place. He gave us Salvation. He gave us the chance for a new beginning.

When the senior high took a look at Salvation, we read also about Nicodemus. Nicodemus asked Jesus some questions about spiritual life. Jesus told Nicodemus he must be born again in order to enter the gates of Heaven. He needed to start with a change of heart. Nicodemus must have been stunned when he heard this. He was a great religious leader. Yet he was searching.

We may go to church, youth group, Sunday School, yet something inside of us might tells us that we are not really right with God,

Nicodemus fasted two days a week. He spent two hours in prayer every day, he tithed all his income, he worked hard on his religion but Jesus said that wasn't enough. He needed to be born again. Born from above. Why did Jesus say that to Nicodemus? Because Jesus could see the heart of Nicodemus. Nicodemus had covered himself with religion and yet not found the real thing. Fellowship with God.

(Continued on next page)

(Renaë's Thoughts Continued)

Troubles in this world, in this state, in this community come from the state our heart is in. Our hearts need to be changed. We often go against our conscience. The more we go against our conscience the more it will lead us astray.

We need to Love our God with our whole heart, with our whole soul, and with our whole mind.

John 14:6, "Jesus told him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.'"

This scripture reminds us that there is no other way to God than through Jesus.

What does that mean? How do we come to the Father?

In the Old Testament we read how the Jewish people tried to obey the law, and they couldn't do it. So they gave sacrifices to God, to gain His approval and cover their sin. Then God sent Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice for our sin. Because of His sacrifice, we will not suffer the eternal consequences of our sin, but we will receive an eternal reward for following God. All He asks of us is that we believe and confess Jesus as Lord and Savior.

We can't earn salvation-it's impossible. Because we follow the commandments and do what is right doesn't mean we earn eternal life. We can't be good enough or do enough good things-sin still separates us from God. God has provided the only solution to sin and separation from Himself and that is Jesus.

ABC of Salvation:

Admit you have sinned. Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Believe in Jesus Christ. 1 John 3:23, "And this is His commandment; that we should believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us this commandment.

Confess Christ publicly. Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

We need to accept this free gift of Salvation. We have one past but many futures. We can't change our pasts but we can determine destiny by choosing Jesus. We all have the opportunity to come to the Father God and accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

Our time is already in God's hands-our time on earth has already been set. No where in The Bible does it promise a tomorrow.

It's your choice-what and who do you choose? Entrust your life to Jesus Christ-believe in Him and His finished work on the cross. He paid the debt we could not pay and redeemed us from the power of sin and death.

Are you ready to choose salvation?

Renaë Lind



thank you

Thank you for all the birthday wishes, cards, gift cards, and all the other gifts. It was a wonderful day.

Lorraine VandeZande

Pastor's Pen

In Ephesians 5:22-33, God gives specific instructions for how husbands and wives are to relate to one another. At the same time, He also gives us a beautiful picture of the gospel and how Christian marriage reflects the relationship between Christ and His church.

We are prone to focusing only on the commands given to the wife and husband in this passage. But don't miss all that God is saying about what Jesus accomplished through the cross. In Ephesians 5, we get a glimpse into the marital love that Jesus has for His bride, the church. The church isn't a pragmatic way to organize Christians for maximum effectiveness—it's far more. The church is the object of Jesus' intense focus and love. Listen to how the New Testament speaks about Jesus' love for the church:

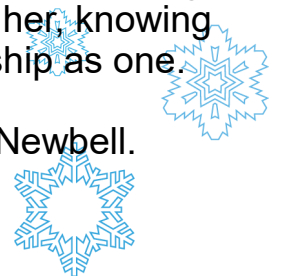
- ◆ Christ is the head of the church. He is the reason the church exists. Without Christ, there is no church (Col. 1:18).
- ◆ Jesus is the Savior of the church. His death made a way for people to approach God and we are now counted as brothers and sisters in Christ (Romans 12:5).
- ◆ Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her (Rom. 5:8). It's God's amazing demonstration of love for us.
- ◆ Jesus sanctifies and cleanses His bride, the church (1 John 1:9; Phil 1:9).
- ◆ Jesus stands in our place, intercedes for us, and will one day present His bride as spotless (Rom. 8:34; 1 Cor. 1:30; 1 John 3:2).
- ◆ Christ doesn't hate His body; He nourishes it (Eph. 5:29).

When you read those truths and realize they apply to you, doesn't it make your heart sing? It's amazing how much Jesus loves His people. And we know that these truths aren't in reference to just one select individual, but to the church as a whole—all people who have trusted in Jesus for their salvation. If Jesus loves the church this much, there's no doubt that we ought to love it as well. Understanding all that Jesus has done motivates me to press in to love and serve the body. Jesus was sinned against, so we will be as well. The difference is, Jesus never sinned. We, however, will sin against our fellow man and need the grace that Jesus has provided.

I've only been a member of a few different local churches since I became a Christian. Those churches came with their own unique joys and sorrows. But I know that I need the church and the church needs me. We are not called to walk out our faith alone. Paul gave us another picture of our mutual need for one another in 1 Corinthians 12:12-26. The church is one body with many parts, each part possessing an important role to play. But if we allow hurts and sin to divide the body, it simply won't function as it should. Because of sin, the church will always be a slightly dysfunctional family. But, by the grace of God, we can continually grow in love for one another. This kind of growth is only possible when we set our eyes on the cross of Christ and our resurrected King. Jesus' sacrifice enables us to love the broken church and contribute to her, knowing that one day He will come back for His bride, and we will perfectly worship as one.

Taken from the article, "When You Don't Love the Church," by Trillia J. Newbell. Tabletalk Magazine, September, 2020.

Pastor John



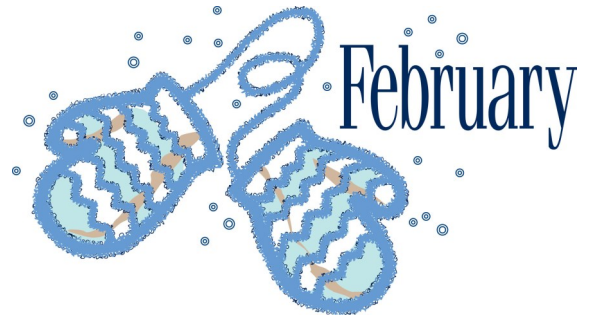


This Month's
ACTIVITIES

1st-6th	Pastor & Leesa Vacation
1st-7th	Jay & Danelle Smit Vacation
4th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship-Scott Ritzema Following the service: Sunday School for all ages Fellowship
6th	1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
7th	8:30 a.m. Care Team Meeting 6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group
10th	3:00 p.m. Badger Hockey Game
11th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship-Communion Following the service: Sunday School for all ages Fellowship Deacons Meeting
	6:00 p.m. Roman's Bible Study
13th	12:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering Potluck & Fellowship
14th	6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group
15th	8:30 a.m. Communications Pillar Meeting 5:45 p.m. Executive Meeting 6:30 p.m. Consistory Meeting
16th	5:30 p.m. Brandon Library Movie Night
18th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship Special Offering for Love Fund Following the service: Sunday School for all ages Fellowship
	6:00 p.m. Men's Ministry
19th	5:30-7:00 p.m. Adventure Club
20th	1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
21st	6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group
23rd-25th	Senior High Silver Birch Retreat
25th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship Following the service: Sunday School for all ages Fellowship Deacons Meeting
	6:00 p.m. Roman's Bible Study
26th	5:30-7:00 p.m. Adventure Club
27th	1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
28th	6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group

FEBRUARY

Birthdays and Anniversaries



1st Gwen DeHaan
Sophie Riedeman
Arlin & Denise Hiemstra

2nd Orval Bronkhorst
Landyn VandeBerg

3rd Creanna Henker
Jacob Hiemstra

4th Sharon Krohn

6th Keri Lauritsen

7th Carie Hood
Andrew Navis
Drew Pluim
Brent Kastein
Alissabeth Nolan

10th Madoc Slager
Ryker Slager

12th Duane Kok
Derek Pluim

13th Ashley Weideman
Devan Smit

14th Nancy DeBoer

15th Steve & Tricia Weisnicht

16th Toni Newbury
Aubrey Smit
Trevin Henker

18th Kyle Coehoorn

19th Holden Tipton
Peter Schmuhl
Mark DeBoer
Oaklee Hiemstra

20th Randi Turner
Haley Rens

21st Sandy VandeZande

22nd Cade Slager

23rd Lennis & Kay Hiemstra

25th Joan Weisnicht

26th Gary Mulder

27th Brian Grade
Arlin Hiemstra

28th Torrie Grade
Keith VandeBerg

29th Nicole Beekman

Schedules

Lift

4th Harley Coehoorn
11th Ken Beekman
18th Ed Montsma
25th Floyd Smit

Sound

4th Merwin Kimble
11th Kelly VandeZande
18th Harley Coehoorn
25th Merwin Kimble

Greeters

4th Dallas VandeSlunt
11th Merwin Kimble
18th Dan Brown
25th Jack Theyerl

Liturgist

4th Mark Kastein
11th Shelly Hiemstra
18th Sandy VandeZande
25th Karen Redeker

Nursery

4th Sadie Newbury
11th Lori Coehoorn
18th Mac Mattheis
25th Angela Arndt

Children's Message

4th Heather Wegner
18th Randi Turner

Fellowship

4th Jared Hoinacki
11th Jay Smit
18th Torrie Grade
25th Jon Post

DVD Delivery

4th Jeanette Winkel
11th Shelly Hiemstra
18th Karen Redeker
25th Charlene Kamphuis



Spring 2024 Adventures Club
Bethel Church of Brandon

For Students in 3K-5th Grade

When: February 19, 26, March 4, 11, 18

Time: 5:30-7:00 P.M.

Come learn about the fruits of the Spirit that will help you live a Godly life.



**CONSISTORY &
COMMITTEES**

Consistory January 18, 2024

- ◆ Greeter/fellowship volunteer list presented.
- ◆ Cancellation policy being reviewed.
- ◆ Members list being updated by Elders.
- ◆ Treasurers reports presented and approved.
- ◆ Next Communion Feb. 11, 2024.
- ◆ Ramanda Turner approved as Mission Pillar treasurer.
- ◆ Looking for a new sound vendor.
- ◆ Mission Pillar will provide \$50 per Sr High student going to Silver Birch in Feb.
- ◆ Trophies of Grace flyer handed out.
- ◆ New sponsors for Youth presented-Julie Brown, Brody Gerrits, and Ruby Flegner.
- ◆ New Sunday School subs presented-Dione Kimble, Sherri Laper, Nick Kamphuis, and Bill & Mason Lind.
- ◆ Pastoral & Staff will be meeting to go over the Job descriptions for Accountant and Secretary.
- ◆ Election/Selection members were added.
- ◆ Some Care Team members were removed and added.



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
Ed Montsma, Clerk
Byron Navis, Deacon Chr.
Dan Brown, Treasurer

TREASURERS

Dan Brown, Main Account
Randi Turner, Mission

PASTORAL/STAFF

Lynn DeBoer
Ed Montsma
Dan Brown
Byron Navis
Deanna Theyerl
Mary Kimble

BUILDING

Brian Brown Chr.
Jared Hoinacki
Karl Rens
Jay Smit
Byron Navis

ELECTION/SELECTION

Lynn DeBoer
Ed Montsma
Dan Brown
Jack Theyerl
Jon Post
Torrie Grade
Brian Brown
Jared Hoinacki

WORSHIP PILLAR

Jack Theyerl, Co-Chr.
Deanna Theyerl, Co-Chr.
Caleb Riedeman
Danica Riedeman
Leesa Tilstra
Gary Henker
Shelly Hiemstra
Dianne Kastein
Merwin Kimble

MISSION PILLAR

Ed Montsma, Chr.
Dallas VandeSlunt, Elder Rep.
Dione Kimble
Rick Redeker
Ron Mulder
Cathy Rens
Jon Post, Elder Rep
Rick DeBoer
Dan Brown

CARE TEAM

Sharon Bos, Chr.
Darlene Kamphuis
Ann Mulder
Jane Brown
Mary Ann Smit
Connie Blank
Sally Kok
Nancy DeBoer
Merwin Kimble, Elder Rep.

PULPIT SUPPLY

Lynn DeBoer
Ed Montsma

EDUCATION PILLAR

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

COMMUNICATIONS PILLAR

Pastor John, Chr.
Renae Lind
Judi Post
Nick Kamphuis
Jon Post, Elder Rep.

YOUTH GROUP SPONSORS

Dallas VandeSlunt
Nick Kamphuis
Kenna Freiberg
Anna Lind
Bill Lind
Dawson Drews
Julie Brown
Brody Gerrits
Ruby Flegner

CARE ELDERS

Les Hiemstra
Shelly Hiemstra
Linda Smit
Herb Beekman
Lynn DeBoer, Liaison



BETHEL CHURCH

Bethel Church

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www.bethelbrandon.org

Find us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram

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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