



# Bethel *beacon*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | BETHEL CHURCH, BRANDON, WI | MAY

## Pastor's Pen

The Jews of Jesus' day believed that when the Messiah came, he would come as the "Prince of Peace," bringing political freedom and material prosperity (Isaiah 9:6-7; Zechariah 9:10). Moreover, Jesus taught His disciples that peacemakers were indeed blessed (Matthew 5:9) and told them to offer greetings of peace as they entered a home (Matthew 10:12-13). Perhaps some were even aware that He was to bring "peace on earth" (Luke 2:14). Yet, Jesus also said; "I have not come to bring peace, but a sword." (Matthew 10:34).

Jesus did not deny that peace would result from His work. He inaugurated the rule and reign of the kingdom of God; it is characterized by lasting peace, resulting in the destruction of God's enemies, eradication of sin and its effects, and the presence of the salvation of God. But the road to this peace is not marked with tranquility but is filled with division and conflict. This is what is meant by the term "sword." Luke's account makes this even more explicit as "sword" is replaced with "division" (Luke 12:51). Division is inevitable because Jesus and His kingdom message demand a response. While some welcome Jesus, many reject Him and His message, sometimes with passionate zeal. Conflict is expected because with Jesus comes a new kingdom, for the old kingdom never wants to die. That's why the prince of this world is not idle, as we see every day in the news.

While the way of the cross is far from easy or worry-free, Jesus reminds His disciples that by losing they gain, and by dying they will live.

Jesus explained the severity of this conflict with a reference to Micah 7:6. One sign of sinfulness in the time of King Ahaz was that the people of Israel no longer trusted one another, even their own families. (Does this sound familiar?) The situation in Micah pointed to Jesus' own day when families were strained to the breaking point by Jesus and His message. We see this even today, perhaps in your own family, as many face separation and division from family because of their faith in Jesus.

Yet Jesus calls upon His disciples to persevere. He prepared them for inevitable rejection and hostility. The response of the world to Jesus and His message of peace was anything but peaceful, and we who are His disciples today should not expect anything different. While the way of the cross is far from easy or worry-free, Jesus reminds His disciples that by losing they gain, and by dying they will live.

Pastor John

# Renae's Thoughts

Have you ever seen someone risk everything for the hope of saving their or someone else's? Almost every movie we see today involves someone risking their life to save the world.

In Joshua 2:-14 We read about a prostitute named Rahab. Rahab put her own life on the line to save two spies that were checking out the city of Jericho for Joshua. Who could have ever thought that a prostitute would have played such an important place in God's plan for Jericho?

In her conversation with the spies Rahab declared her faith, saying, "The LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below" (Joshua 2:11). Rahab not only saved the spies lives but also that of her family She acted out her faith.

Rahab is an example of someone who not only believed in God, she backed up her faith with her actions. Her faith in God and her willingness to risk it all for that faith resulted in her salvation. She was counted as righteous even though she wasn't one of God's chosen people-all because she backed up her faith with her actions.

James 2:25-26, "In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

The same thing happens when we place our faith in God. When we act on our faith, the result is salvation. He will come through for you!

This scripture makes it clear: without actions, faith is dead.

You will always act according to what you believe. Do you want to know what you really believe? Don't just listen to the words that come out of your mouth. You can talk, talk, talk. You can talk all you want but what are your actions saying?

Rahab's story makes it clear-when you back up your faith with your actions, you and the people in our world are led to salvation. They are led by your example.

Active faith results in salvation.

Titus 2:11-12, For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.

God's grace helps us to live in such a way that our faith and our actions lineup. It's God's grace that brings salvation to all people.

God wants to work with you to see more people come to faith in Him and salvation. Let God's grace give you the power to live out your faith. Put your faith into action and watch how God is going to use you.

Renae Lind, Youth Director

## Spring & Summer Communication of Cancellations

We have solidified a communication process in the event of a cancellation of a church-related activity. It is important to note that church activities are always cancelled in the event there is a tornado watch or tornado warning. We will communicate cancellations on Sunny 97.7 (including website), WBAY Channel 2 (including closing listings), our Facebook page (and Youth Group Facebook Group if appropriate), and website home page. A churchwide email. We ask that if you know of anyone who might not receive cancellation information you would contact them and let them know. We are hopeful that at least one of these options will work for all members, regular attendees, and visitors of Bethel Church in the event of a cancellation.

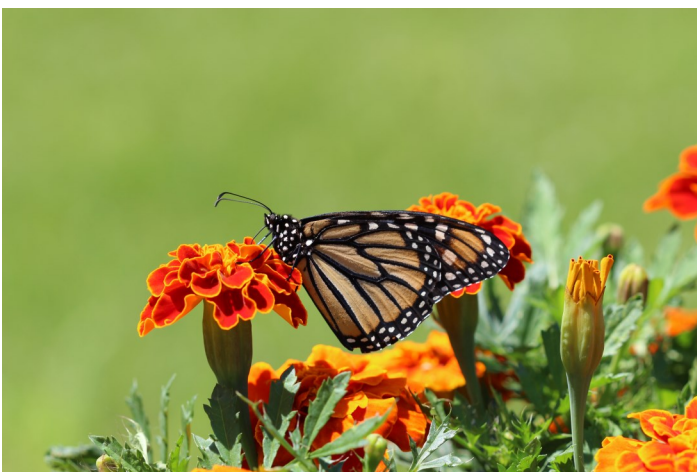
**REMINDER:** If school is cancelled due to weather, youth church activities will also be cancelled.



**CONSISTORY &  
COMMITTEES**

### April 18, 2024 Consistory Meeting

- Child and Youth Safety Policy Committee appointed.
- Covenant Partners class will be scheduled.
- Nation Day of Prayer observation.
- May Consistory meeting will be on May 13, 2024 @ 6:45 p.m..
- Communion date June 9, 2024.
- May Elders meeting will be held May 13 @ 5:30 p.m.
- Caleb & Danica Riedeman requested baptism for Coltyn Scott.
- Keeton Grade & Camden Smit will make Profession of Faith.
- Changes are being made to the website for it to be more user friendly.
- Go & Tell Ministries will be at Bethel on June 23, 2024.
- Cheryl Leusink has been approved to be the Financial Accountant.







Thursday, May 2, 2024 is the National Day of Prayer.

Bethel Church sanctuary will be open at 8:00 a.m. and throughout the day for you to come and have a time of personal prayer for all that is on your heart.

We will have a prayer service at 7:00 p.m. that evening. Please invite friends and family to this time when we can have a time of prayer.



*Enjoy a blast from the past!*

*Car Hop Fry with Old Car & Motorcycle Show*

May 18, 2024

4:30-7:30 p.m.

50s Diner Type Menu

**Address:**

Brandon Park

150 N. West Street

Brandon, WI

Sponsored by:

Senior High Youth Group  
Of Bethel Church of Brandon

If you would like to display your car/motorcycle please bring them to the park by 3:00 that day. Prizes will be awarded to the top three cars and motorcycles.



|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Wed., 1st  | 6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group<br>7:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group  |
| Sun., 5th  | 9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room<br>9:30 a.m. Worship– Graduate Recognition<br>Following the service:<br>Sunday School, all ages<br>Fellowship                         |
| Tue., 7th  | 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting<br>1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering   |
| Wed., 8th  | 6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group<br>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice<br>7:30 p.m. Senior High youth Group  |
| Sun., 12th | 9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room<br>9:30 a.m. Worship– Graduate Recognition<br>Following the service:<br>Last Sunday School, 3K-12th<br>Deacon’s Meeting<br>Fellowship |
| Mon., 13th | 5:30 p.m. Elder’s Meeting<br>6:45 p.m. Consistory Meeting   |
| Tue., 14th | 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting<br>12:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Potluck & Fellowship   |
| Wed., 15th | 6:00 p.m. Last Junior High Youth Group<br>7:30 p.m. Last Senior High Youth Group  |
| Thu., 16th | 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Bethel Quilters  |
| Sat., 18th | Tilstra/Hiemstra Wedding<br>4:30-7:30 p.m. Car Hop Fry  |
| Sun., 19th | 9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room<br>9:30 a.m. Worship: Special Offering—Charis<br>Following the service:<br>Sunday School, Adult<br>Fellowship                         |
| Mon., 20th | 6:00 p.m. Men’s Ministry  |
| Mon., 20th | 8:30 a.m. Care Team Meeting   |
| Tue., 21st | 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting<br>1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering   |
| Sun., 26th | 9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room<br>9:30 a.m. Worship<br>Following the service:<br>Deacon’s Meeting<br>Sunday School, Adult<br>Fellowship                              |
| Mon., 27th | 2:00 p.m. Laconia Graduation<br>Offices Closed  |
| Tue., 28th | 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting<br>1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering   |

# MAY



|      |   |
|------|---|
| 1st  | Miles Turner<br>Floyd & Mary Ann Smit                                       |
| 2nd  | Mary Ann Smit<br>Brady Theyerl  |
| 5th  | Rich Buteyn   |
| 6th  | Alex Zabel  |
| 7th  | RJ & Kristin Jurjens  |
| 9th  | Byron & Linda Navis<br>Bryanna Smit   |
| 10th | Cody & Michelle Farrell<br>Sophie Newbury                                   |
| 11th | Briggs Hiemstra<br>Briana Sauer   |
| 13th | Denise Hiemstra   |
| 14th | Evyn VandeBerg<br>Ian & Randi Turner<br>Robert & Lori Coehoorn              |
| 15th | Judi Post<br>Doug Kamphuis<br>Jersi Laper                                   |
| 16th | Derek Whelan<br>Terra Mattheis  |
| 18th | Allison Ward<br>Carter Farrell  |
| 20th | Darlene Kamphuis<br>Keeton Grade  |
| 21st | Rick Pluim<br>Pam Sauer   |
| 22nd | Byron Navis<br>LaRae Vander Plas<br>Faaris Turner<br>Mark & Brittany DeBoer |
| 23rd | Kevin Kamphuis<br>Randy TerBeest  |
| 24th | Shaun Hiemstra  |
| 25th | Maci Grade<br>Olivia Miller   |
| 26th | Merwin & Mary Kimble  |
| 27th | Bree Gunnink<br>Izley Stanczyk  |
| 28th | Karl & Cathy Rens   |
| 29th | Alisa Zabel   |
| 30th | Helen Little (95)   |

# MAY



## Lift

|      |                 |
|------|-----------------|
| 5th  | Rick Redeker    |
| 12th | Bob Winkel      |
| 19th | Floyd Smit      |
| 26th | Harley Coehoorn |

## Sound

|      |                  |
|------|------------------|
| 5th  | Kelly VandeZande |
| 12th | Harley Coehoorn  |
| 19th | Merwin Kimble    |
| 26th | Kelly VandeZande |

## Greeters

|      |               |
|------|---------------|
| 5th  | Merwin Kimble |
| 12th | Dan Brown     |
| 19th | Jack Theyerl  |
| 26th | Byron Navis   |

## Fellowship

|      |              |
|------|--------------|
| 5th  | Jay Smit     |
| 12th | Torrie Grade |
| 19th | Jon Post     |
| 26th | Ed Montsma   |

## Liturgy

|      |                  |
|------|------------------|
| 5th  | Shelly Hiemstra  |
| 12th | Sandy VandeZande |
| 19th | Karen Redeker    |
| 26th | Jen Post         |

## Nursery

|      |                 |
|------|-----------------|
| 5th  | Danica Riedeman |
| 12th | Lori Coehoorn   |
| 19th | Mac Mattheis    |
| 26th | Angela Arndt    |

## DVD Delivery

|      |                 |
|------|-----------------|
| 5th  | Rosanne Bresser |
| 12th | Jeanette Winkel |
| 19th | Shelly Hiemstra |
| 26th | Karen Redeker   |

## Children's Message

|      |                 |
|------|-----------------|
| 5th  | Randi Turner    |
| 19th | Amanda Hiemstra |

## 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) 920-517-8073  
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  
Randi Turner, Treas.  
Dione Kimble  
Ron Mulder  
Cathy Rens  
Jon Post  
Rick DeBoer  
Dan Brown

### CARE TEAM

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

### 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

### 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**

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

### **Renae 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