



Bethel *beacon*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BETHEL CHURCH, BRANDON, WISCONSIN

MAY 2025 / VOLUME 39



Memorial Day started as an event to honor Union soldiers who had died during the American Civil War. It was inspired by the way people in the Southern states honored their dead. After World War I, it was extended to include all men and women who died in any war or military action.

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day. The current name for this day did not come into use until after World War II. Decoration Day and then Memorial Day used to be held on May 30, regardless of the day of the week, on which it fell. In 1968, the Uniform Holidays Bill was passed as part of a move to use federal holidays to create three-day weekends. This meant that from 1971, the Memorial Day holiday has been officially observed on the last Monday in May. However, it took a longer period for all American states to recognize the new date.

Renae's Thoughts

The young man said, "I'm here to help you, ma'am. Why don't you wait in the car where it's warm? By the way, my name is Bryan."

The elderly woman breathed a sigh of relief. There was no way she would have changed her own tire. Bryan had the spare tire on and the jack down in less than ten minutes. As he was tightening the lug nuts, the woman rolled down her window and began to talk to him. She told him that she was from St. Louis and was only just passing through.

She couldn't thank him enough for coming to her aid. Bryan just smiled as he closed her trunk. She asked him how much she owed him. Any price would have been all right with her. He'd already imagined some of the awful things that might have happened if Bryan hadn't stopped.

Bryan never thought twice about asking for money, even though he could have used some financial help. Changing a tire was not a job to him; it was a matter of helping someone in need.

He told the woman that if she really wanted to pay him back, the next time she saw someone who needed help, she could give that person the assistance they needed. "And when you do," he added, "think of me."

Bryan waited until the woman started her car and drove off. It had been a cold and depressing day but he felt good as he headed home.

A few miles down the road the woman saw a small diner. Though the place didn't look like much, she went in to grab a bite to eat and take the chill off before she made the last leg of her trip home.

Her waitress brought a clean towel for the woman to dry her wet hair. She had a sweet smile that even being on her feet all day couldn't erase. The woman noticed that the waitress was pregnant. She wondered how someone who seemingly had so little could be so generous and kind to a stranger.

Then the woman remembered Bryan. After she finished her meal, she gave the waitress a \$100 bill. While the waitress went to get change, the woman slipped quietly out the door.

When the waitress came back to the table, she noticed something written on a napkin. When she picked it up to read it, she noticed four \$100 bills that had been left underneath it.

There were tears in the waitress's eyes when she read what the woman had written: "You don't owe me anything. I've been there, too. Somebody nice helped me out, the way I'm helping you. If you really want to pay me back, here is what you do: don't let this chain of love end with you."

That night when the waitress got home from work and climbed into bed, she was thinking about the money and what the woman had written. How could the woman have known how much she and her husband needed that money?

With the baby due in a month, she knew how worried her husband was. As he lay sleeping next to her, she gave him a soft kiss and whispered softly, "Everything's going to be alright. I love you Bryan."

God blesses us whenever we are willing to bless others. Jesus is the supreme example of what it means to be a servant. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ. During the last supper Jesus showed us just one example of what a servant looks like when He washed the feet of His disciples. He humbled himself to serve others.

(Continued on the next page)

(Renaë's Thoughts, Continued)

We are called to serve others. Mark 10:45, "Jesus came to earth not to be served but to serve." We all need to follow Jesus' example. We should not consider ourselves above others and we are all called to serve. We should follow Jesus' example.

There are so many emotional and physical benefits when we serve. People are 3-10 times likely to be depressed when they focus on themselves. Focusing on others changes our attitude and our mood. It gives us a feeling of satisfaction and of worth. It gives us increased happiness and well being. It reduces loneliness.

We don't need a lot of money or have extra resources to help others. Sometimes just lending an extra hand for those in need, volunteering to teach our children in Sunday School, making a meal for a family in need, helping a neighbor mow the lawn, etc. There are so many ways we can serve others but we need to do it humbly and with no need of recognition. We should want to help others because when Jesus lives in our hearts we want to live a Christ-like life. We need to follow the perfect example Jesus set for all of us in serving others.

Renaë Lind
Youth Director

Story from "Hot Illustrations for Youth Talks" by Wayne Rice



A Mother's Day Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the blessings of children and families. Help us rely on you for guidance, patience and even-temperedness throughout our days.

We pray that our children will love you, worship you and serve you with their God-given gifts. Grant us the wisdom to know how to influence them to live godly lives. Prevent us from provoking our children to anger and from manipulating or nagging them.

Fill our households with abiding love and respect. And help us all be united in purpose to do your will. In the name of Christ our Lord.

April 10, 2025 Consistory Meeting

- Pastor John will be attending the Midwest Network Retreat, April 28-30.
- Holy Week Services were shared.
- Service for National Day of Prayer will be held at 7:00 p.m. May 1, 2025.
- Next Elders meeting May 12, 2025.
- Next Consistory meeting May 15, 2025.



1st Miles Turner
Floyd & Mary Ann Smit
2nd Mary Ann Smit
Brady Theyerl
5th Rich Buteyn
6th Alex Zabel
7th RJ & Kristin Jurgens
9th Bryanna Smit
Byron & Linda Navis
10th Sophie Newbury
Cody & Michelle Farrell
11th Briggs Hiemstra
Breanna Sauer
13th Denise Hiemstra
14th Evyn VandeBerg
Robert & Lori Coehoorn
Ian & Randi Turner
15th Judi Post
Doug Kamphuis
Jersi Laper
16th Josh Erdahl
Terra Mattheis

18th Allison Ward
Carter Farrell
Noah & Bekah Hiemstra
20th Darlene Kamphuis
Keeton Grade
21st Rick Pluim
Pam Sauer
22nd Byron Navis
John Tilstra
LaRae Vander Plas
Farris Turner
Mark & Brittany DeBoer
23rd Kevin Kamphuis
Randy TerBeest
24th Shaun Hiemstra
25th Maci Grade
Olivia Miller
26th Merwin & Mary Kimble
27th Bree Gunnink
Izley Stanzyk
28th Karl & Cathy Rens
29th Jack Hoinacki
Alisa Zabel
20th Helen Little

To the Care Team-And They Really do

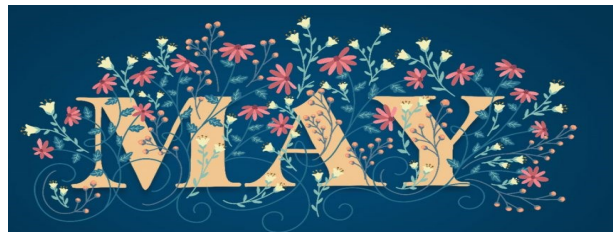
The day started off gloomy and the sky is grey. I need to mow the lawn, but it might have to stay. I'm headed to the post office to get more bills to pay. And when I get home, Judy informs, there's a lunch at church today.

Sharon greets each one of us with a friendly hello, and invites us to mingle. Lunch is almost ready to go. I wonder what Mer and the girls have prepared today. They sure do treat us warmly as they pass the first plate our way. There's more potatoes and vegetables than we can eat. Then comes the sweet treat. Dessert, just what I need. Oh well, I guess I'll just take more insulin, that's all.

Once again God's cooking angels have made this special day, with warm smiles and great food, what more can I say.

So thanks from all of us, we appreciate all you do and may God truly bless each one of you.

Created by Gary Henker and shared at the 75+ Spring Luncheon



Thu., 1st	7:00p.m. National Day of Prayer Service
Fri., 2nd	5:30 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal
Sat., 3rd	Hoinacki/Schram Wedding
Sun., 4th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship-Senior Recognition 10:30 p.m. Sunday School, Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Bestway Drivers Ed Class
Tue., 6th	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
Wed., 7th	6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group
May 8-9	Renaë Unavailable
Sun., 11th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship– New G’s 10:30 a.m. Deacon’s Meeting, Sunday School, Fellowship 4:00 p.m. High School Girls Bible Study
Mon., 12th	6:30 p.m. Elder’s Meeting
Tue., 13th	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 12:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering Potluck & Fellowship
Wed., 14th	6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group
Thu., 15th	5:45 p.m. Executive Meeting 6:30 p.m. Consistory Meeting
May 16-23	Cheryl Vacation
Sat., 17th	4:30-7:30 p.m. Youth Car Hop Fry/Car Show
Sun., 18th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School, Fellowship 6:00 p.m. Men’s Ministry
Tue. 20th	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
Wed., 21st	7:00 p.m. Choir Practice
Sun., 25th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship-Special Offering for Charis 10:30 a.m. Deacon’s Meeting, Sunday School, Fellowship 4:00 p.m. High School Girls Bible Study
Mon., 26th	Offices Closed
Tue., 27th	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering



Sound

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

Lift

- 4th Ken Beekman
- 11th Ed Montsma
- 18th Rick Redeker
- 25th Bob Winkel

Greeter

- 4th Merwin Kimble
- 11th Nic Mattheis
- 18th Kelly VandeZande
- 25th Byron Navis

Liturgy

- 4th **No Liturgist**
- 11th Mark Kastein
- 18th Shelly Hiemstra
- 25th Sandy VandeZande

Nursery

- 4th Mac Mattheis
- 11th Rosanne Bresser
- 18th Danica Riedeman
- 25th Cole Arndt & Nariah Lind

Children's Message

- 4th Amanda Hiemstra
- 18th Randi Turner

Fellowship

- 4th Jay Smit
- 11th Torrie Grade
- 18th Jon Post
- 25th Shelly Hiemstra

DVD Delivery

- 4th Jeanette Winkel
- 11th Karen Redeker
- 18th Charlene Kamphuis
- 25th Rosanne Bresser



Fishing Camp-Men's Ministry is once again hosting a fishing camp at Camp Luther, Three Lakes, WI. The dates are May 31-June 1. Cost is \$50.00 per person. Deadline for registration is May 18. If you have questions contact Ed Montsma.



Thank you for the gifts given to us at James' baptism. A special thanks to the quilters for the beautiful quilt.

Dan, Marissa and James Brown

Bethel Church,

Thank you so much for allowing us to get married at Bethel Church. I haven't ever dreamed of anywhere else to get married. This is my home church, and where my parents and both sisters got married. Bethel means so much to me and now it will forever be a witness to our love.

Thank you again for opening up the church to us. We are blessed with this amazing community.

Matt & Adrianna (Wegner) Norton

Consistory 2025

Elders

Torrie Grade (25)	920-948-7419
Jon Post (25)	920-960-1402
Merwin Kimble (26)	920-517-1042
Dallas VandeSlunt (26)	920-229-2337
Shelly Hiemstra (27)	920-948-3548
Bob Winkel (27)	920-382-5120

Deacons

Brian Brown (25)	920-204-2663
Jared Hoinacki (25)	920-948-0289
Byron Navis (26)	920-597-0203
Jay Smit (26)	920-858-1739
Nic Mattheis (27)	920-904-1337
Kelly VandeZande (27)	920-346-2100

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

John Tilstra, President
Jon Post, VP
Torrie Grade, Clerk
Byron Navis, Deacon Chr.
Brian Brown, Main Treasurer

TREASURERS

Brian Brown, Main Account
Cheryl Leusink, Accountant

PASTORAL/STAFF

Jon Post, VP
Byron Navis, Deacon Chr
Brian Brown, Main Treasurer
Torrie Grade, Clerk
Deanna Theyerl
Mary Kimble

BUILDING

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

ELECTION/SELECTION

Torrie Grade
Jon Post
Brian Brown
Jared Hoinacki
Merwin Kimble
Byron Navis
Dallas VandeSlunt
Jay Smit

WORSHIP PILLAR

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

MISSION PILLAR

Ed Montsma, Chr.
Dallas VandeSlunt, Elder Rep
Randi Turner, Treasurer
Dione Kimble
Ron Mulder
Cathy Rens
Rick DeBoer
Dan Brown

CARE TEAM

Sharon Bos, Chr.
Sally Kok
Ann Mulder
Mary Ann Smit
Connie Blank
Nancy DeBoer
Ann Zabel
Merwin Kimble, Elder Rep.

PULPIT SUPPLY

Jon Post, VP
Torrie Grade, Clerk

EDUCATION PILLAR

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

COMMUNICATION PILLAR

Pastor John
Judi Post
Renae Lind
Jon Post
Nick Kamphuis
Nic Mattheis

YOUTH GROUP SPONSORS

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

CARE ELDERS

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



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

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

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

Cheryl Leusink, Accountant

leusinkcl@gmail.com

920-597-0636

Custodians

jasonssmit438@yahoo.com

Jason Smit Cell 920-858-1739

Danelle Smit Cell 920-851-8624