



Bethel *beacon*

BETHEL CHURCH, BRANDON, WI

NOVEMBER 2025 VOLUME 39

Thank You!

The Tilstra family would like to thank each and every one of you for your love and compassion during our time of Pastor John's cancer and then his unexpected death. Your prayers, cards, phone calls, visits, meals, plant watering, lawn mowing, funeral service help, the lunch following the service and so many other blessings have been a source of strength and peace for our family and extended family. Pastor John's diagnosis of cancer was July 6 and in 9 weeks, God took him home. September 11th will always be a day of remembrance for our country and for the life of Pastor John. Yes, his illness went too fast and yet, God knew that day would come.

God gave us all the strength, the courage, the perseverance to face that day. God prepared us in ways we didn't know or understand. He gave us our loving family and friends. God gave our Elders and Deacons strength and wisdom to provide leadership during Pastor John's illness. He allowed our congregation to show us love and understanding. Our community reached out to us with prayers, phone calls and cards. God gave us compassionate and willing people to lead our Sunday Worship services and continues to provide for us each Sunday.

And yet, it is hard and it doesn't seem real. And it isn't just the Tilstra family that misses John, but the Bethel family as well. We are all grieving. It doesn't seem like Pastor John should be gone. That you can't walk into his office, sit down and talk. But even the hard days are full of God's love, His peace, His grace and His strength. Without God, we would not be able to move on and continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

So we ask that you "Don't Stop Praying!", don't stop encouraging one another, don't stop showing kindness to others, don't stop telling everyone about Jesus, don't stop sharing the Gospel. Let your family and friends KNOW the love of Jesus and His forgiveness is for them. We want everyone to have the blessed assurance of being with Jesus in heaven! This is part of Pastor John's legacy for Bethel Church and for the Brandon community.

Remember - "God's Got This"!

We are forever grateful to be part of this loving family of God here at Bethel Church. May the Lord continue to bless each and everyone of you and His church!

Forever In His Grip!

Leesa, John Jr. and Bekah

Renae's Thoughts

A couple of weeks ago, my daughter, Anna, asked what the youth group topic was going to be on. I told her it was about feeling "overwhelmed". Her reply was, "Is it for you or for the students?" My response was, "Yes."

It always amazes me how many times when I am choosing a lesson for the week that when preparing it I see how much that topic relates to something I really need to hear. At one time or another we have all felt overwhelmed. We feel the heaviness of all the activities and decisions that life has put on our plates.

Unfortunately, stress and anxiety is part of all of our lives, but it doesn't have to overtake our life. When we start to feel the pressures of life is when we need to run to God. The longer we try to handle it on our own the more it steals our joy.

Many times we can't change the situation that leaves us feeling overwhelmed, but we can decide what we will do as we walk through these situations in life. Here are just a few steps you can take to trade your stress and anxiety for God's peace.

First, identify what is causing your stress and anxiety. Look at what you can eliminate from your life and then focus on what's really important. Don't be a "yes" person. It is okay to say "no". You can't do it all. We need to give attention to the people and situations that matter and allow the other things to fall away.

Next, we have to realize we are not alone in how we feel. Feeling overwhelmed is never silly. Everyone gets and responds to the pressures of life differently. We all have triggers that can knock us over the edge. We are not expected to handle it on our own. We need to turn to God and rely on His strength to give us the peace that He offers.

We need to spend time in prayer asking God to remove the feelings of stress and give you peace. Life can hit us really hard sometimes. We can feel like the wind was knocked out of us. We need to run to God or we can run away from Him. There is no in between. God wants us to come to Him and hide in the safety of God's arms. Our God is so good and can rescue us from anything and everything that is weighing us down.

Here is a scripture verse that I shared with the senior high students. It is a good reminder for all of us.

Psalms 116:7, "Let my soul be at rest again, for the Lord has been good to me."

May you have time today to pause, be still, and to dream with God. What does He have for you in the days ahead? May you move the clutter out of the way and make room for Jesus to change your life and establish you in His purposes for you. May the constant flurried activity be replaced by memories of how God has come through for you and absolute clarity about the things He has for you in the future. Always remember, He is the greatest treasure of all.

Take the time to rest in His presence. There you will find peace.

Renae Lind
Youth Director



November

1st	Drew Gunnink Deb Pinnow Owen Miller	LIFT	2nd	Rick Redeker
2nd	Randy TerBeest Bill Lind		9th	Bob Winkel
3rd	Dan Kastein Anna Lind	SOUND	16th	Floyd Smit
4th	Jesse & Alex Tipton		23rd	Harley Coehoorn
5th	Parker Hiemstra Cheryl Leusink		30th	Ken Beekman
6th	Landen Bos	GREETER	2nd	Kelly VandeZande
8th	Brady Madigan Kaiden Beltezore Sydney Leusik Olivia Schliep		9th	Harley Coehoorn
9th	Floyd Smit Emily Leusink Elliot Mulder	NURSERY	16th	Merwin Kimble
10th	Malory Kastein Amy & Dan Redeker		23rd	Kelly VandeZande
11th	Michael Kastein Pat Schmuhl Stephanie Henning	LITURGIST	30th	Harley Coehoorn
12th	Jim Kamphuis Carmen Laper		2nd	Kelly VandeZande
13th	Jaeden Gosse Jeff & Kim Miller		9th	Byron Navis
15th	Bret Henning		16th	Brian Brown
16th	Chris & Ashley Weideman		23rd	Jared Hoinacki
18th	Tiffany Derksen		30th	Jay Smit
24th	Kendra Yunto		2nd	Cole Arndt
26th	Kathy Montsma		9th	Nariah Lind
27th	Jon Post Karl Rens John & Elizabeth Tilstra	FELLOWSHIP	16th	Sadie Newbury
28th	Jon Gunnink Kim Kamphuis		23rd	Lori Coehoorn
30th	Brian Madigan Bennett Slager Mel & Robin Gunnink		30th	Lena Arndt, Cameron Hiemstra
		DVD	2nd	Shelly Hiemstra
		DELIVERY	9th	Sandy VandeZande
			16th	Karen Redeker
			23rd	Jen Post
			30th	Amanda Hiemstra
			2nd	Jon Post
			9th	Shelly Hiemstra
			16th	Bob Winkel
			23rd	Dallas VandeSlunt
			30th	Merwin Kimble
		CHILDREN'S	2nd	Jeanette Winkel
		MESSAGE	9th	Shelly Hiemstra
			16h	Karen Redeker
			23rd	Rosanne Bresser
			30th	Jeanette Winkel
			2nd	Heather Wegner
			16th	Julie Brown

NOVEMBER

Sun., 2nd	9:20 a.m. Prayer time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship, Ian VanWyk 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages, Fellowship 4:00 p.m. High School Girls Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Bestway Driver's Ed Class
Mon., 3rd	5:30 p.m. Adventures Club 6:00 p.m. Young Women's Bible Study
Tue., 4th	1:00 p.m. Senior Gathering 6:30 p.m. Ruth Bible Study, Youth Room
Wed., 5th	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
6th & 7th	Judi Personal Days
Sun., 9th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship-Ray Tilstra 10:30 a.m. Deacon's Meeting, Sunday School for all ages, Fellowship 6:00 p.m. Bestway Driver's Ed Class
Mon., 10th	5:30 p.m. Adventures Club 6:00 p.m. Young Women's Bible Study
Tue., 11th	6:30 p.m. Ruth Bible Study, Youth Room
Wed., 12th	6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Room 7:00 p.m. Cantata/Choir Practice
14th & 15th	Midwest Network Conference
Sun., 16th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship-Bruce Wilterdink 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages, Fellowship 4:00 p.m. High School Girl's Bible Study
Mon., 17th	6:00 p.m. Young Women's Bible Study
Tue., 18th	1:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
Wed., 19th	8:00 a.m. Care Team Meeting 9:10 a.m. 55+ Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Junior High Building Bridges 7:00 p.m. Cantata/Choir Practice 7:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group
Thu., 20th	9:00 a.m. Bethel Quilters 6:00 p.m. Elder's Meeting 7:00 p.m. Consistory Meeting
Sat., 22nd	6:00 p.m. Praise & Worship Service
Sun., 23rd	9:20 a.m. Prayer time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship-Dave Van Buren, Thanksgiving Offering 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages, Fellowship
Mon., 24th	6:00 p.m. Young Women's Bible Study
Tue., 25th	1:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
Wed., 26th	7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Service
27th & 28th	Offices Closed
Sun., 30th	9:20 a.m. Prayer time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship-Todd Henker 10:30 p.m. Deacon's Meeting, Sunday School for all ages, Fellowship



Elder's Meeting

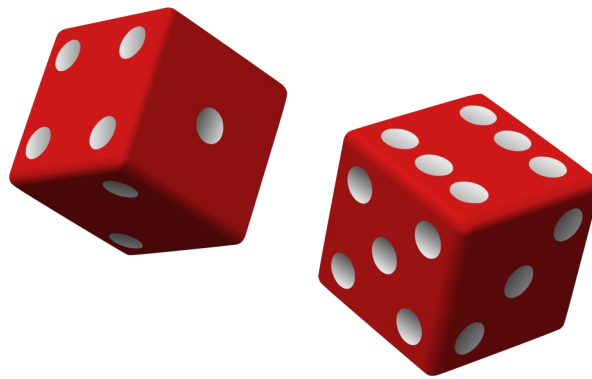
October 16, 2025. 6:00 p.m.

- Communion being served to shut ins
- Blankets for those in need through the Care Team
- 55+ outing a success
- Communion dates set for 2026
- Installation/Ordination of Elders & Deacons January 4, 2026.
- Two Elders going to the Midwest Network Meeting November 14 & 15.

Consistory Meeting

October 16, 2025, 7:00 p.m.

- Congregational meeting, December 7, 2025
- Praise & Worship Service, November 22, 2025
- Thanksgiving Eve Service, November 26, 7:00 p.m.
- Christmas Eve Service, John Tilstra
- November 16, packing Christmas boxes
- General & Benevolent Fund Budgets approved
- Rhonda Johnson, who we were previously supporting, has retired. Looking for future areas to support.
- Slates for elders and deacons are filling up.



Mark your calendars

Building Bridges Night

November 19 from 6:00-7:30

A night filled with Bunco, refreshments and most importantly a chance to get to know the Junior High Youth Group.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Laconia Elementary Veterans Day Program



Tuesday, November 11, 2025

Laconia Elementary School Gymnasium

**Veterans and their families, please join us early at 8:30 am to enjoy
some snacks and coffee**

**Community is cordially invited to attend the Skydiver entrance
at approximately 9:30 am by the Softball Diamond by the
Elementary School**

Program starts at 9:45 am in the gymnasium

**Donations Accepted at National Exchange Bank & Trust Under
Rosendale VFW Post 10195**

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

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

TREASURERS

Brian Brown, Main Account
Randi Turner, Mission
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

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
Kelly VandeZande

MISSION PILLAR

Ed Montsma, Chr.
Dallas VandeSlunt, Elder Rep
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.

EDUCATION PILLAR

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

COMMUNICATION PILLAR

Judi Post
Renae Lind
Jon Post
Nick Kamphuis
Nic Mattheis

YOUTH GROUP SPONSORS

Dallas VandeSlunt
Nick Kamphuis
Alissa Barthuly
Anna Lind
Bill Lind
Julie Brown
Alex Tipton
Jesse Tipton
Carrie VandeSlunt

CARE ELDERS

Les Hiemstra
Shelly Hiemstra
Linda Smit
Herb Beekman



Bethel Church

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Find us on Facebook,
Twitter, & Instagram

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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

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F: 9 a.m. - Noon

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Danelle Smit Cell 920-851-8624