

Bethel beacon

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BETHEL CHURCH,
BRANDON, WI – DECEMBER 2025 – VOLUME 39



Christmas Prayer: The True Gift

Dear Lord,

You have brought us to Christmastime once more. Help us not to get lost in the glitter and the glow, but to see the true glory of the birth of Your only begotten Son. Keep our hearts from clinging too tightly to parties, presents and decorations, and turn our eyes instead to Christ — who bears Your very image and brings us Your message of love and hope.

In the glorious name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Thank You!

Thank you to the 52 people who came to donate at the Red Cross Blood Drive in Brandon, November 18. Alan Hills reached 12 gallons and Judith Henker 21 gallons. Thank you to Bethel Church, Jason Smit, and Donna Vanderbush for their assistance with the Blood Drive. Co-coordinators, Judith Henker & Sue Vande Kolk



Christmas is such a beautiful time of the year. We dream of a fire crackling in the fireplace, sitting by the Christmas tree as it lights up the room and the smell of Christmas cookies in the oven. Christmas truly is a magical time of year.

With all the beautiful visions and smells around us we need to stop and reflect on the real beauty of Christmas with the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. He truly is the greatest gift that any of us could ever receive.

So many times we are in such a hurry to get everything done for the holidays that we often feel stressed and worried. Are we going to get everything done in time? How am I going to pay for the gifts I want to purchase? Is there going to be enough time to spend with all the people I want to get back in touch with?

We just need to stop and relax and truly enjoy what this season is all about. All those activities are nice but when they are taking our vision off of the true meaning of Christmas we lose the importance of Christ birth.

Isaiah 9:6: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

God brought forth His very own Son for you. He was a gift to all of us. He gives us the peace that we all need. He should be our focus not only at Christmas time but each and every day. He is our greatest gift and we should be sharing that gift of Salvation with all those around us.

So this Christmas season take a deep breath, focus on our Savior and share this most beautiful gift that doesn't cost a thing. Make Him the center of your holidays and be filled with the peace that only Jesus can give.

May your holidays be filled with peace and joy in celebrating the birth of our Lord.

Renae Lind
Youth Director



DECEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries



| | |
|------|------------------------|
| 1st | Ivan Coehoorn |
| 2nd | Eliza Vis |
| 3rd | Eugene DeBoer |
| 4th | Carol Flegner |
| | Calen Bos |
| | Cowen Mulder |
| | Samantha Hiemstra |
| 6th | Kyler Beltezore |
| | Deron DeBoer |
| 7th | Renae Lind |
| 9th | Emilie Knox |
| | Dawn Henning |
| 10th | Leo Nolan |
| | Ken Beekman |
| | Troy Newbury |
| | Bailey VandeSlunt |
| | Levi VandeBerg |
| | Collin Weisnicht |
| 12th | Brooklynn Smit |
| | Ryan Walker |
| 13th | Ian Turner |
| | Noah Hiemstra |
| | Steve & Vanessa Slager |

| | |
|------|-----------------------|
| 14th | Sara Kreuziger |
| 15th | Pam VandeBerg |
| | Jamie VandeZande |
| | Abby Luczak |
| 17th | Pat Beekman |
| | DeeDee Bresser |
| | Michelle Ybarra |
| | Cole Theyerl |
| 18th | Larry Rens |
| 21st | Marissa Brown |
| | Beckett Tank |
| 22nd | Karen Smit |
| 26th | Ken & Shirley Margers |
| 27th | Taylor Weisnicht |
| | Ryker Tank |
| 28th | Dan Brown |
| 29th | Sally Kok |
| 30th | Keena Bos |
| 31st | Mitch Freiberg |
| | Jaeden Graden |
| | Mark Kastein |
| | Ezra Vis |
| | Dione Kimble |



December Church Events

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|------------------------|--|
| Mon., 1st | 6:00 p.m. Young Women's Bible Study |
| Tue., 2nd | 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering |
| Wed., 3rd | 9:10 a.m. 55+ Fellowship & 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 |
| Sun., 7th | 9:30 a.m. Worship-Barry Lang Communion 10:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting Sunday School 3 Years-12th grade, Fellowship 12:00-4:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use 6:00 p.m. Christmas Carol Sing, First Reformed, Waupun |
| Mon., 8th | 6:00 p.m. Young Women's Bible Study 6:00 p.m. 4-H Meeting with Heather Yunto |
| Tue., 9th | 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering |
| Wed., 10th | 12:00 p.m. 75+ Christmas Luncheon 6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Cantata/Choir Practice 7:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group |
| Sun., 14th | 9:30 a.m. Worship Ian Van Wyk 10:30 a.m. Deacon's Meeting, Sunday School all ages, Fellowship 3:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Program "Campfire Carols" Choir Cantata, "Christmas Presence" |
| Mon., 15th | Beacon Items Due 6:00 p.m. Young Women's Bible Study |
| Tue., 16th | 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting |
| Wed., 17th | 10:00 a.m. 55+ Bible Study & Potluck 6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth "Pay It Forward" 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m. Senior High Youth "Mystery Meal" |
| Thu., 18th | 6:00 p.m. Elder's Meeting 7:00 p.m. Consistory Meeting |
| Sun., 21st | 9:30 a.m. Worship-Choir Cantata "Christmas Presence" NO Sunday School or Fellowship |
| Wed., 24th | 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service |
| 25th & 26th | Offices Closed |
| Sun., 28th | 9:30 a.m. Worship Dan Degner Community Offering 10:30 p.m. Deacon's Meeting, Sunday School all ages, Fellowship |



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|---------------------------|------|----------------------|
| LIFT | 7th | Ed Montsma |
| | 14th | Rick Redeker |
| | 21st | Bob Winkel |
| | 28th | Floyd Smit |
| SOUND | 7th | Merwin Kimble |
| | 14th | Kelly VandeZande |
| | 21st | Harley Coehoorn |
| | 28th | Merwin Kimble |
| NURSERY | 7th | Mac Mattheis |
| | 14th | Rosanne Bresser |
| | 21st | Danica Riedeman |
| | 28th | Cole Arndt |
| LITURGY | 7th | Mark Kastein |
| | 14th | Shelly Hiemstra |
| | 21st | Sandy VandeZande |
| | 28th | Karen Redeker |
| GREETER | 7th | Torrie Grade |
| | 14th | Jon Post |
| | 21st | Shelly Hiemstra |
| | 28th | Bob Winkel |
| FELLOWSHIP | 7th | Nic Mattheis |
| | 14th | Kelly VandeZande |
| | 21st | NO FELLOWSHIP |
| | 28th | Brian Brown |
| CHILDREN'S MESSAGE | 7th | Danica Riedeman |
| | 21st | Amanda Hiemstra |
| DVD DELIVERY | 7th | Shelly Hiemstra |
| | 14th | Karen Redeker |
| | 21st | Rosanne Bresser |
| | 28th | Jeanette Winkel |

Lighting its candles each Sunday is a treasured tradition during the four weeks of Advent.

Each part of the wreath carries symbolic meaning:

- **The wreath:** Its circular shape represents the everlasting love of God, having no beginning or end. The green symbolizes eternal life.
- **The four candles:** Mark the four weeks of Advent. One tradition says that each candle also represents 1,000 years, totaling 4,000 years from Adam and Eve to Christ's birth.
- **Purple candles:** in ancient times, was expensive and was considered the color of royalty and kings. On Christmas, Christ is proclaimed King of Kings. Purple also symbolizes humility and penitence. The first purple candle represents Hope; the second, Peace; and the final purple candle, Love.
- **Blue candles:** Blue is another color often used as a symbol of royalty. Some churches use blue candles to symbolize the night sky and the anticipation of the announcement of Christ's birth. Blue also symbolizes the beginning of a new creation as in the waters of Genesis 1.
- **The pink candle:** Lit on the third Sunday, it represents Joy and marks the halfway point of Advent.
- **The white candle:** The large white candle in the center is the Christ candle. Its light symbolizes Christ the Savior — "the light of the world."

The beauty and brightness from the glow of all five candles is a reminder that Christ's life was the light for all earth's people — "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5, NRSV).

The Advent wreath is more than just greenery and candles—it's a symbol of watchfulness and growing joy as Christmas draws near.

Thank you

Dear Bethel Church Family,

Our family would like to extend our deepest gratitude for the love, support, and many prayers you have shared with us during the challenging season we experienced this past summer. Your kind words, thoughtful messages, and faithful prayers were a true source of comfort and strength. Through every challenge, we have felt the presence of God's peace - carried by the compassion of this wonderful church family. We are so thankful for each of you and for the way you have surrounded us with care and encouragement.

We're also grateful to share that Jorge has returned to work full time over the past two weeks! While there is still a hill to climb and continued healing ahead, we've seen tremendous progress and continue to feel God's grace every step of the way.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for standing with us in faith and reminding us that we are never alone in our struggles. May God bless each of you abundantly for your kindness and love.

With sincere appreciation and love,

The Rivas Family

Jessica, Jorge, and Mia

Katie & Sharon



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
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
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.

PULPIT SUPPLY

Jon Post, VP
Torrie Grade, Clerk

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
Shelly Hiemstra, Liaison



Bethel Church

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Find us on Facebook,
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youthministry@bethelbrandon.org

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M, T, Th: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

W, F: 8 a.m. - Noon

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Judi Post, Secretary

secretary@bethelbrandon.org

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