

# Bethel *Beacon*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | BETHEL CHURCH, BRANDON

JULY 2024 – VOLUME 38



## Renaë's Thoughts

It's that time of year again when we are experiencing the warmth of summer and all that it has to offer. Many of you are thinking of days at the beach or fishing in the quietness in the middle of the lake. Others are maybe anticipating a break away from work and taking a much needed relaxing vacation. Whatever your plans for this summer, maybe, give yourself time to rest.

This time of year is filled with such amazing activities. We spend a lot of time outside enjoying the warmth of the sun. We head to the lake and find ourselves lost in the splashing of the waves against the shore or the side of the boat. We indulge ourselves at the local ice cream shops as we try to cool down from a day spent in the sun.

Summer indeed is filled with so many amazing activities and chances to hang out with family and friends. It is also a time when we can find ourselves getting more connected to Jesus. With all of the business of the season, we really need to stop and just take some time to spend with God.

Did you know that He is seeking you? He wants you to come to Him and just rest in His arms for a while. Rest, a word that so many of us don't take seriously. Isn't that what we should all be doing? Resting. Resting, by reading our Bible. Resting, by spending time talking to the God who loves us and has time for us.

This valuable time that we spend building a closer relationship with our God will fill us with peace and quietness. This time will allow us the rest that we so much are seeking. Time with God is so valuable and so worth investing in. It gives us what we so need. This time spending resting in His arms is something that will help us when we feel the business of life setting in. It will help us to exercise and get us in the habit of resting with the God who loves us so very much!!!

Renaë Lind  
Youth Director

## Pastor's Pen

As a Christian, have you ever been accused of being a legalist? This term is often misused in the church. For example, someone might label a individual a legalist because they are seen as being narrow-minded. The term legalism does not refer to narrow-mindedness, but it manifests itself in a myriad of ways.

Legalism involves detaching the law of God from its original context. It's a Christian being preoccupied with obeying rules and regulations, believing that Christianity is a series of do's and don'ts, a cold and deadly set of moral principles. This is one form of legalism, where one is concerned merely with the keeping of God's law as an end in itself.

Yes, God does care about our following His commandments, but there is more to the story that we dare not forget. God gave laws such as the Ten Commandments in the context of the covenant. First, God was gracious. He redeemed His people out of slavery in Egypt and entered a loving, family-like relationship with Israel. Only after that grace-based relationship was established did God begin to define the specific laws that are pleasing to Him. The essence of Christianity is God establishing a grace-filled relationship with His people. Only after this did He establish ethics as a way for the people to say, "Thanks." The legalist isolates the law from the God who gave the law. He is not interested in a relationship, nor is he seeking to obey God or honor Christ. He is only concerned with obeying rules that are devoid of any personal relationship. This leads to the second form of legalism—externalism. Externalism a rote, mechanical form of law-keeping. The legalist focuses only on obeying bare rules, destroying the broader context of God's love and redemption in which He gave His law in the first place. To understand externalism, we must remember that the New Testament distinguishes between the letter of the law (its outward form) and the spirit of the law. Externalism divorces the letter of the law from the spirit of the law. It obeys the letter but violates the spirit. There's only a subtle distinction between externalism and the one previously mentioned.

So how does one keep the letter of the law but violate its spirit? Suppose a man likes to drive his car at the minimum required speed irrespective of the conditions under which he is driving. If he is on an interstate and the minimum posted speed is forty miles per hour, he drives forty miles per hour and no less. He does this even during a snowstorm, when driving at this minimum required speed puts other people in danger because they have had the good sense to slow down and drive twenty miles an hour so as not to skid off the road or into someone else. The man who insists on a speed of forty miles per hour even under these conditions is driving his car to please himself alone. Although he appears to the external observer as one who is scrupulous in his civic obedience, his obedience is only external, and he doesn't care at all about what the law is all about. This second kind of legalism obeys the externals while the heart is far removed from any desire to honor God, the intent of His law, or His Christ.

The Pharisees were externalist. In Matthew 12:9-14, they confronted Jesus over healing on the Sabbath day. They were concerned only with the letter of the law and avoiding anything that might look like work to them. These teachers missed the spirit of the law, which was directed against ordinary labor that is not required to maintain life and not against efforts to heal the sick. The third type of legalism adds our own rules to God's law and treats them as divine. It is the most common and deadly form of legalism. Jesus rebuked the Pharisees at this very point, saying, "You teach human traditions as if they were the word of God." We have no right to heap up restrictions on people where He has no stated restriction.

Each church has a right to set its own policies in certain areas. For example, the Bible says nothing about beverages in the church's sanctuary, but a church has every right to regulate such things. But when we use these human policies to bind the conscience in an ultimate way and make such policies a determination of one's salvation, we enter dangerously into territory that is God's alone.

Many people, (even those in the church) think that the essence of Christianity is following the right rules, even rules that are extra-biblical. For example, the Bible doesn't say that we can't play cards or have a glass of wine with dinner. We can't make these matters the external test of authentic Christianity. That would be a deadly violation of the gospel because it would substitute human tradition for the real fruits of the Spirit. We come perilously close to blasphemy by misrepresenting Christ in this way. Where God has given liberty, we should never enslave people with man-made rules. We must be careful to fight this form of legalism.

The gospel calls men and women to repentance, holiness, and godliness. Because of this, the world finds the gospel offensive. Woe to us, however, if we add unnecessarily to that offense by combining the true nature of Christianity with legalism, distorting the gospel. Because Christianity is concerned with morality, righteousness, and ethics, we can easily make that subtle move from a passionate concern for godly morality into legalism if we are not careful.



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

1st Ron & Ann Mulder  
2nd Mitchell Kastein  
Brock Post  
Laurie Walker  
3rd Kathy Owens  
5th Chris Navis  
6th Kate Doris  
Cade Brunsdon  
Graham Brunsdon  
7th Danielle Hiemstra  
Jim Kuik  
8th Maria Navis (Missionary)  
9th Doug Kok  
10th Billy Block  
Tenley Riedeman  
Harley Coehoorn  
Camden Smit  
Jaxon VandeSlunt  
Carson VandeSlunt  
Katie Mulder  
11th Annette Ebert  
13th Tim Kamphuis  
14th Dan Beekman  
Keegan Madigan  
Ron VandeBerg  
Grant Brown  
Gary & Vicky Mulder

16th Dan Coehoorn  
17th Lydia Brown  
Gary Henker  
18th Cayla Sauer  
19th Adam Smit  
Mark & Linda Sippel  
20th Matt & Samantha Giese  
21st Dave & Shelly Freiberg  
Jim & Donna Schmuhl  
22nd Jason Derksen  
23rd Ron Mulder  
Kylie Sippel  
25th Nick Mattheis  
26th Elaine Hiemstra  
Ryan & Laurie Walker  
27th Amelia Arndt  
Rylee Lavota  
Kohen VandeZande  
29th Samantha Giese  
Cash Farrell  
Nick Tank  
Mark Sippel  
30th Sam Hiemstra  
Shirley Margers  
Lynn DeBoer



Mon., 1st	6:00 p.m. Communications Pillar Meeting
Tue., 2nd	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
Wed., 3rd	Secretary Personal Day
Thu., 4th	Offices closed
4th-7th	Pastor Vacation
Sun., 7th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship-Al Venhuizen Following the service: Fellowship
Mon., 8th	6:30 p.m. Elders Meeting
Tue., 9th	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 12:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering & Potluck
Wed., 10th	12:00 p.m. 75+ Summer Luncheon
11th-14th	Lifest
13th-20th	Kentucky Mission Trip
Sun., 14th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship-Andy Lickel, Intervarsity Ministry Following the service: Fellowship Deacons Meeting
Tue., 16th	12:00-6:00 p.m. Community Blood Drive
Sat., 20th	Serving MASA Meal at EAA
Sun., 21st	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship MASA Speaker-David Tesser Special Offering-Benevolent Fund Following the service: Fellowship 6:00 p.m. Men's Ministry
Mon., 22nd	August Beacon Items Due
Tue., 23rd	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
Sun., 28th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship Following the service: Fellowship Deacons Meeting
Tue., 30th	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering



**Lift**

- 7th Harley Coehoorn
- 14th Ken Beekman
- 21st Ed Montsma
- 28th Rick Redeker

**Sound**

- 7th Kelly VandeZande
- 14th Harley Coehoorn
- 21st Merwin Kimble
- 28th Kelly VandeZande

**Greeters**

- 7th Ed Montsma
- 14th Lynn DeBoer
- 21st Dallas VandeSlunt
- 28th Merwin Kimble

**Nursery**

- 7th Danica Riedeman
- 14th Sadie Newbury
- 21st Rosanne Bresser
- 28th Lori Coehoorn

**Liturgist**

- 7th Karen Redeker
- 14th Jen Post
- 21st Amanda Hiemstra
- 28th Mark Kastein

**Fellowship**

- 7th Byron Navis
- 14th Brian Brown
- 21st Jared Hoinacki
- 28th Jay Smit

**DVD Delivery**

- 7th Charlene Kamphuis
- 14th Rosanne Bresser
- 21st Jeanette Winkel
- 28th Shelly Hiemstra

Thank you to Bethel Church family for all your prayers, caring thoughts, and concerns in the past seven months.

Thank you to Pastor John and care elders for their visits.

Keith & Sharon Krohn

We really appreciate the kindness and the loving gift that was given too us. Joy and I were really surprised and happy to have such a loving church. The reason I cannot write is because my coordination from my head surgery doesn't allow me to write and straighten up yet. I got out of the hospital one day (June 16) ago and I've been in and out of hospitals three of them for the past 20 days. I'm not sure that I'm finished yet. I may have to go back to the neurosurgeon as a few things aren't quite right. I am happy, love God, and am thankful for such a great church.

Thank you

Judy & Joy Larsen



## Spring & Summer Communication of Cancellations

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.

### Special Elder's Meeting June 20, 2024

- Request for membership transfer for Kenna Freiberg to Emmanuel Reformed, Waupun approved.

### Consistory Meeting June 20, 2024

- Child Safety Policy approved by Nolan Insurance
- School board will be contacted in regards to Wednesday evening activities.
- Endowment Fund closed and funds forwarded to the Mission Pillar.
- The Tribute Quartet will be presenting a concert on Nov. 24 in the evening.
- One pew will be removed from back of the sanctuary.
- Repairs continue on the south wall of the narthex.
- Love fund donation was given to Judy Larsen.
- New laptop was purchased for the Financial position.
- Communication Pillar meeting on July 1.
- VBS was a success.
- Election/Selection committee will be asking for volunteers on June 30.
- Care Team summer luncheon will be held July 10.
- Nancy VandeSlunt is under Hospice care.
- Stan Harmsen is at the Christian Home.

## 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 Rep.  
Dione Kimble  
Ron Mulder  
Cathy Rens  
Jon Post  
Rick DeBoer  
Dan Brown  
Randi Turner, Treas.

### 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 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

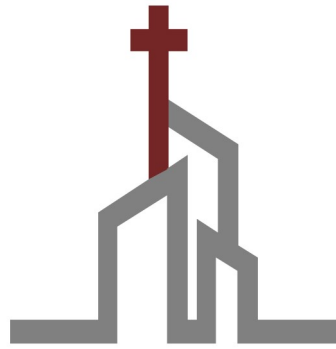
Pastor John, Chr.  
Renae Lind  
Judi Post  
Nick Kamphuis  
Jon Post, Elder Rep.

### 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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Find us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram

### **John Tilstra, Pastor**

[pastor@bethelbrandon.org](mailto:pastor@bethelbrandon.org)

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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

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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