



Bethel beacon

DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER OF BETHEL CHURCH, BRANDON,WI
VOLUME 38

Renaе's Thoughts

I have the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy down in my heart
Where?
Down in my heart,
Where?
Down in my heart!!!

This song reminds us where we need to find joy. In our hearts. This is the season of great joy because we are reminded of the beautiful gift God gave us in sending His son to earth.

When we feel the joy down deep in our hearts, we have a feeling like no other. Joy is so good for our hearts. It changes the way we look at the things around us. Joy makes everything bright, hopeful, and possible. Joy stems in accepting the true gift of Christmas, Jesus!

Stop and think of all the things that bring earthly joy into our lives, especially this Christmas season. Time with family and friends, watching the snowflakes fall on a quiet winter night, the singing of Christmas carols, and seeing Christmas lights as they twinkle on the frozen ground. These are wonderful but our real unending joy comes in knowing that we had a Savior born to us. A Savior that allows us an eternal home. A home filled with unspeakable joy.

When our hearts are filled with this great joy, it is undoubtedly a joy that can be seen by those around us. What a free and simple gift that we can share with others. We are commanded as Christians to go out and spread the good news just like the shepherds did on that Christmas night so long ago.

This Christmas season, take the opportunity to share the real joy that Christmas brings. A joy that lives deep within our heart. A joy that is meant to be shared. Jesus is true and unending joy.

Renaе Lind, Youth Director

Pastor's Pen

In Isaiah 9, the Holy Spirit describes God's people as living in desperate times. Israel is experiencing the gloom of anguish and distress. God's people are walking in darkness and dwell in a land of deep darkness. The word translated in Isaiah 9:2 as "deep darkness" is the same word translated in Psalm 23:4 as the "shadow of death." We know from Psalm 23 that it is a terrible thing to walk through the valley of the shadow of death. But the people described in Isaiah 9 are not merely passing through that awful place. These people have made the shadow of death their home (v. 1).

Maybe you feel you have taken up residence in the shadow of death. Some of you are battling ill health with no prospect of healing coming. Some of you are in a rocky marriage, and reconciliation seems impossible. Some of you are on the verge of throwing everything away, including your life. Even though you have faith, as shaky as that may be, that the Lord will see you safely through this deep darkness, it is hard for you to leave this awful place of despair which has become your new home. Remember, however, this: Christ is your Light. He will one day come to relieve your anguish and brighten your darkness, just as Isaiah foretold. He is your hope and your salvation. Isaiah 9:1-5 describes a coming Light that will do three things for the people of God.

First, this Light will turn shame into glory. All the locations described in Isaiah 9:1 are really just one region, the despised region of Galilee. We know from the New Testament that most of Israel looked down on Galilee and on the people who lived there. But when Jesus came, He transformed Galilee's shame into glory. Jesus first began to preach the good news of the kingdom in Galilee (Matthew 4:15-16), fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah 9:1.

Second, this coming Light will transform sorrow into joy. Isaiah prophesies that a great reversal of circumstances will take place. The people suffering anguish and loss due to death will instead begin to multiply, both in numbers and consequently in rejoicing (Isaiah 9:3).

Finally, the coming Light will transform their constant warfare into permanent peace. The coming Light will put an end to the power of His people's oppressors. The Light brings such a complete victory over enemies that warfare becomes a permanent thing of the past. And so, their implements of war become obsolete (Isaiah 9:4-5).

Jesus is the Light that Isaiah foretold. He fulfilled these promises by His perfect life, His sacrificial death, and His glorious resurrection. Jesus turned His disciples' sorrow into joy when He rose from the dead (John 16:20-22). He brought an end to our constant warfare against the powers of this world, triumphing over them by His cross (Col. 2:13-15).

When Christ comes again in glory, He will transform all our earthly shame into eternal glory, all our momentary sorrows into perpetual joy, and all our constant warfare into a permanent peace. Therefore, God's promises in Christ are enough to brighten even our darkest and gloomiest days here below. Keep your focus on Christ.

Pastor John



Sun., 1st	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School Fellowship
Tue., 3rd	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
Wed., 4th	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
Fri., 6th	6:00 p.m. Village Christmas Parade
Sun., 8th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting Sunday School Deacon's Meeting Fellowship 3:00 p.m. Caroling
Tue., 10th	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 12:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering Potluck & Fellowship
Wed., 11th	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., 15th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship- Community Offering 10:30 a.m. Sunday School, Fellowship 3:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Program "The Wish & Choir Cantata "This Is Christmas"
Tue., 17th	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 1:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
Wed., 18th	9:10 a.m. 55+ Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group
Thu., 19th	5:45 p.m. Executive Meeting 6:30 p.m. Consistory Meeting
Sun., 22nd	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship- Christmas Cantata NO Sunday School
Tue., 24th	4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
Wed., 25th	Offices Closed
Sun., 29th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School Deacon's Meeting Fellowship
Tue., 31st	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

World Premiere Concert Event- "When Christmas Comes" Choir Cantata; Sunday, December 15th at 2:00 p.m. @ Grace Lutheran Church, Ripon and 7:00 p.m. @ Immanuel UMC, Ripon.





Elders Meeting, Nov. 18, 2024

- Motion to accept Reese Taylor Weisnicht for baptism was approved.
- 75+ Christmas dinner will be held Dec. 11.
- Communion Dec. 8 with communion for shut ins after the 8th.
- Congregational meeting Dec. 8th.
- Next meeting Jan. 13, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
- 8:00 p.m. Slates for Elder & Deacon approved to the Congregational meeting.

Consistory Meeting, November 21, 2024

- Pastor John updated on his recent attendance at the Midwest Network conference.
- Will check with Wake Up White Tail for fellowship.
- Proposed general & benevolent budgets were approved.
- Baptism request presented by Elders.
- Communion date changed to Dec. 8.
- Mission Pillar donations:
 - \$500 to Brandon Food pantry
 - Approved Haiti Tree
 - Mission crop for 2025 approved
- Care blankets were handed out to three individuals.
- Next meeting Dec. 19, 2024.

Lift

- 1st Rick Redeker
- 8th Bob Winkel
- 15th Floyd Smit
- 22nd Harley Coehoorn
- 29th Ken Beekman

Sound

- 1st Kelly VandeZande
- 8th Harley Coehoorn
- 15th Merwin Kimble
- 22nd Kelly VandeZande
- 29th Harley Coehoorn

Greeter

- 1st Jay Smit
- 8th Torrie Grade
- 15th Jon Post
- 22nd Ed Montsma
- 29th Lynn DeBoer

Children's Message

- 1st Amanda Hiemstra
- 15th Randi Turner

Liturgy

- 1st Shelly Hiemstra
- 8th Sandy VandeZande
- 15th Karen Redeker
- 22nd Jen Post
- 29th Amanda Hiemstra

Nursery

- 1st Danica Riedeman
- 8th Sadie Newbury
- 15th Rosanne Bresser
- 22nd Lori Coehoorn
- 29th Lena Arndt & Cameron Hiemstra

Fellowship

- 1st Merwin Kimble
- 8th Dan Brown
- 15th Jack Theyerl
- 22nd Byron Navis
- 29th Brian Brown

DVD Delivery

- 1st Rosanne Bresser
- 8th Jeanette Winkel
- 15th Shelly Hiemstra
- 22nd Karen Redeker
- 29th Charlene Kamphuis



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

14th Sara Kreuziger
15th Pam VandeBerg
Jamie VandeZande
17th Pat Beekman
DeeDee Bresser
Cole Theyerl
18th Larry Rens
Morgan Redeker
21st Beckett Tank
22nd Keegan Madigan
Karen Smit
26th Ken & Shirley Margers
27th Taylor Weisnicht
Ryker Tank
28th Dan Brown
29th Kian Beekman
Sally Kok
30th Keena Bos
31st Mitch Freiberg
Jaeden Grade
Mark Kastein
Ezra Vis
Dione Kimble

Thank you to all donors who came Tue., Nov. 19th to the Red Cross Blood Drive @ Bethel Church. Fifty-six units were collected. We had three first time donors! Thank you to Ardis Redeker for helping in the refreshment area and to Bethel Church for the use of the fellowship hall and Jay Smit for setting up. Up to 168 individual lives may be helped because you gave!

Upcoming Drives: Tue., Jan 14, 2025 1-6 p.m. Peace Lutheran, Rosendale

Tue., Mar. 11, 2025 12-6 p.m. Bethel Church, Brandon

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Judith Henker & Sue VandeKolk, co-coordinators



All Church Christmas Caroling
December 8, 2024
3:00 p.m.

Meet in the church parking lot
Pizza will be served in the fellowship
hall following.



December 24, 2024

4:00 p.m.

A time of song, worship and reflection
on Christmas and its true meaning.



The Children's Christmas Program, "The Wish", and Choir Cantata "This is Christmas" will be presented on Sunday, December 15 at 3:00 p.m. with fellowship following the program. The cantata "This is Christmas" will also be presented again on Sunday, December 22 at the 9:30 service.



Hope for Haiti Tree

Bethel is not doing Angel Tree gifts this year as we did the Operation Christmas Child boxes but you have another opportunity to share your Christmas giving spirit. Take a tag off the tree in the entry and provide a gift for our friends in Haiti, students at Emmah, and HYT - Help the Youth. These gifts include anything from a chicken for a Christmas meal, feeding a student for a month or tuition for a year among other gifts. Please have them back to the box in the narthex by **December 15th**. You can put the tag and donation in the envelope provided or donate online www.beautifulresponse.org. Please make checks payable to Beautiful Response.

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) 920-948-0289
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
Cheryl Leusink, Accountant

PASTORAL/STAFF

Lynn DeBoer, VP
Byron Navis, Deacon Chair
Dan Brown, Treasurer
Ed Montsma, Clerk
Deanna Theyerl
Mary Kimble

BUILDING

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

ELECTION/SELECTION

Lynn DeBoer
Ed Montsma
Torrie Grade
Jon Post
Dan Brown
Jack Theyerl
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
Rick DeBoer
Dan Brown

CARE TEAM

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

PULPIT SUPPLY

Lynn DeBoer
Ed Montsma, Clerk

EDUCATION PILLAR

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

COMMUNICATION PILLAR

Pastor John, Chr
Judi Post
Rena Lind
Jon Post
Nick Kamphuis

YOUTH GROUP SPONSORS

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

CARE ELDERS

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

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Find us on Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram

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Rena Lind, Youth Director

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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

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M - Th: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

F: 9 a.m. - Noon

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