



Bethel beacon

Bethel Church, Brandon, Wisconsin

February 2025

Volume 39

Renaë's Thoughts

Is it hard to be content with what you have when we see others have things we really want?

This was the question asked of our senior high students as we looked at the topic of Contentment.

We at one time or another have feelings of discontentment and feel we need something else...or need something better...or never have enough. If we look at the commercials on TV and the ads that flood social media, it pushes us to want the newest, best, or biggest new things. You dream about getting it, you plan how you can purchase it, or maybe you put in a lot of extra time at work so you can have it. Then one day you actually buy it. You are so pleased for a short time and then you realize that something better has come out and the vicious circle starts all over again.

Ecclesiastes 6:9, "Enjoy what you have rather than desiring what you don't have. Just dreaming about nice things is meaningless-like chasing the wind."

Chasing the wind = Discontentment.

Influencers and commercials are designed specifically to tap into our discontentment and keep us wanting more, more, more. Maybe we want a new car, a big vacation, better grades or a personal best in sports. There is nothing wrong with travel or good grades or looking nice. What makes this tricky is that often the things we desire aren't bad things.

We shouldn't want bad grades, horrible outcomes in sports, or a car that won't run. The Bible tells us that we should do our best, take care of our bodies, and set plans and goals for the future that line up with God's will. We should always strive to do our best. We are told there is wisdom in good planning, setting goals for the future, and working hard. (Continued

Renaë's Thoughts (Continued)

But are we chasing after the wrong things in life?

Here's a quick way to know if we're chasing the wrong stuff?

Are you anxious?

Stressed out?

Worried?

Sleepless?

Then it's something other than Jesus that you're after. You see chasing after Jesus and seeking him produces calm and peace. The world and its stuff cannot provide this. Anything other than Jesus is just stuff.

Matthew 6:33, "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need."

Chase after God things:

Love

Forgiveness

Generosity

Humility

When we chase after Jesus He will make sure that we have the things we need. Our lives will be filled with peace and calm. When we chase after earthly things that are not aligned with God's will, it leads us away from His perfect peace. Jesus doesn't want to deny us good things. In fact, He wants us to have what we need and our hearts' desires also but He wants us to also have peace.

Here are a few Keys to Contentment

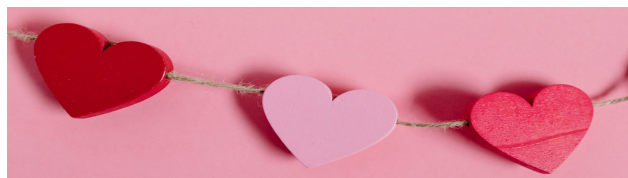
1. Rejoice
2. Refuse to resent
3. Remain in Him - that's where our needs are really met

Contentment in Him reveals a heart that is seeking Him and we are satisfied with the things He provides. God may use those goals you have set to glorify Him. Can you imagine if your goal setting is inline with what God is going to use you for?

He knows our now and He knows our future. Be content in Him. For He will never disappoint even when for a short time we are disappointed in not getting what we think we need.

Our true contentment comes in knowing Jesus. Jesus is all we NEED!

Renaë Lind, Youth Director





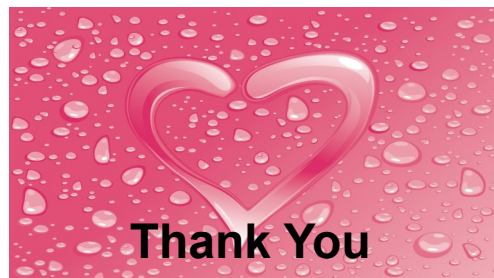
Sun., 2nd	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship-Communion 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages; Fellowship
Tue., 4th	8:30 a.m. Care Team Meeting 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study, Parsonage
Wed., 5th	9:10 a.m. 55+ Bible Study & Fellowship 6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:00 a.m. Choir Practice 7:30 a.m. Senior High Youth Group
Sun., 9th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages, Deacon's Meeting; Fellowship
Tue., 11th	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 12:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering Potluck & Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study, Parsonage
Wed., 12th	6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group
Sun., 16th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship Scott Ritzema-Love Fund Offering 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages, Fellowship 6:00 p.m. Men's Ministry
Mon., 17th	5:30-7:00 p.m. Adventure Club
Tue., 18th	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
Wed., 19th	9:10 a.m. 55+ Bible Study & Fellowship 6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group
Thu., 20th	9:00 a.m. Bethel Quilters 5:45 p.m. Executive Meeting 6:30 p.m. Consistory Meeting
Fri., 21st	9:00 a.m. Auditing
Sun., 23rd	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship-Love Fund Offering 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages, Deacon's Meeting; Fellowship
Mon., 24th	5:30-7:00 p.m. Adventure Club
Tue., 25th	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study, Parsonage
Wed., 26th	1:00 p.m. Dementia Care Group 6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:00 a.m. Choir Practice 7:30 a.m. Senior High Youth Group



1st Gwen DeHaan
 Sophie Riedeman
 Arlin & Denise Hiemstra
 2nd Thomas Erdahl
 Orval Bronkhorst
 Landyn VandeBerg
 3rd Creanna Henker
 Jacob Hiemstra
 4th Walter Erickson
 Sharon Krohn
 5th Carson Marchant
 6th Keri Lauritsen
 7th Carie Hood
 Andrew Navis
 Drew Pluim
 Brent Kastein
 Alissabeth Nolan
 10th Madoc Slager
 Ryker Slager
 12th Duane Kok
 Derek Pluim
 13th Ashley Weideman
 Devan Smit
 14th Nancy DeBoer
 15th Steve & Tricia Weisnicht
 16th Toni Newbury
 Aubrey Smit
 18th Trevin Henker
 Kyle Coehoorn
 19th Holden Tipton
 Peter Schmuhl
 Mark DeBoer
 Oaklee Hiemstra
 20th Randi Turner
 Haley Rens
 21st Sandy VandeZande
 22nd Cade Slager
 23rd Lennis & Kay Hiemstra
 25th Joan Weisnicht
 26th Garry Mulder
 27th Brian Grade
 Arlin Hiemstra
 28th Torrie (David) Grade
 Keith VandeBerg
 29th Nicole Beekman

Sound
 2nd Kelly VandeZande
 9th Harley Coehoorn
 16th Merwin Kimble
 23rd Kelly VandeZande
Lift
 2nd Harley Coehoorn
 9th Ken Beekman
 16th Ed Montsma
 23rd Rick Redeker
Greeter
 2nd Dallas Vandeslunt
 9th Merwin Kimble
 16th Nic Mattheis
 23rd Kelly VandeZande
Liturgy
 2nd Jen Post
 9th Amanda Hiemstra
 16th Mark Kastein
 23rd Shelly Hiemstra
Nursery
 2nd Lori Coehoorn
 9th Lena Arndt & Cameron Hiemstra
 16th Mac Mattheis
 23rd Cole Arndt & Nariah Lind
Children's Message
 2nd Danica Riedeman
 16th Randi Turner
Fellowship
 2nd Jared Hoinacki
 9th Jay Smit
 16th Torrie Grade
 23rd Jon Post
DVD Delivery
 2nd Charlene Kamphuis
 9th Mailed
 16th Jeanette Winkel
 23rd Shelly Hiemstra

Haiti Update



God continues to do good things in Haiti and you are a big part of what is happening.

1. Paschal is home with his family! (Paschal is a dear friend who was wrongly imprisoned last summer.) After 6 long months of imprisonment he was released just before Christmas. It is a long story, but the authorities in Haiti were trying to get to a gang leader and criminal in Haiti through Paschal. It was all a horrible mistake. Because of the unsanitary conditions in the prison Paschal had a check up and several blood tests before he returned to his family. They found God had kept him healthy, and said with vitamins and good food he should return to health and strength. All who love him are praising God!

2. The students received their chickens for Christmas! Thank you to all who helped make it happen.

3. As we close out 2024 our tuition payments are up to date and we have enough for the next trimester of elementary and secondary education. Great job, to all who helped us reach this goal! THANK YOU!!

4. We will be able to send some money for the food at Emmah, the school where we feed 400 students a day. This is a miracle every time it happens!

5. 2024 marks our tenth year of working with Help the Youth and Mission: Love Haiti. Together we have graduated 44 students from professional school. (accounting, education, administration, lab technician, pharmacy, hotel management, mechanics, electrician, nursing, etc.) These students are currently working or are praying for the day when things in Haiti improve and job opportunities open. In the meantime 23 more students are in professional school and 157 students are still working their way through elementary and secondary school. There is still HOPE in Haiti, because they know God has not forgotten them.

6. Haitian Christians are still teaching us what it means to believe and remain faithful. Their faith is amazing and they continue to disciple our students and their village. Just ask any of our people who have traveled down to meet them.

We pray that your heart will be filled with joy as you know that your heart is aligned with the heart of God as you give to the poorest of these, our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Holly Schut

We would like to thank everyone for their kind words, visits, food, and prayers in the passing of our father. He truly loved his Bethel family. Your kindness to him when he was able to attend services was so appreciated and made him feel so welcomed. Special thanks to Pastor John for his many visits to dad at Prairie Ridge and for his beautiful message at his funeral. We appreciate you so much.

Thank you to the funeral committee for the delicious meal and to all of those who brought food for the funeral. We'd also like to thank Ken and Linda Smit, Lorraine VandeZande, Harley Coehoorn, and any others who took time to visit dad during his time at Prairie Ridge.

We are rejoicing that dad is in heaven and free of his earthly struggles.

The Family of Maynard Navis

Renaë & Bethel Youth

Thanks so much for thinking of us and for the donation to help with hurricane repair and clean up. We are grateful for you and for your gift and your promise to pray for us. Blessings in Christ always and in every good way.

Pastor Bill Bengston & the Congregation of the Rolling Hills Community Church Family

I would like to thank everyone for the many beautiful cards that I received during my most recent hospitalization. The many, many prayers that were lifted up, and words of encouragement were very humbling. Life can bring you unexpected curves but the one constant that got me through was knowing that Jesus was right beside me through it all.

Dianne Kastein



Dementia Caregivers Support Group

Elders, January 13, 2025

- Looking for more volunteers as Care Elders
- Communion shut-ins are attended to by Pastor John & Harley Coehoorn
- Communion schedule was updated
- A list of volunteer opportunities at Bethel is being prepared

Consistory, January 16, 2025

- Pillar assignments were reviewed
- Summer camp was discussed and Camp Calvin, Waupaca was accepted
- Two bids were collected for the basement carpet
- Audit commit is being set up
- Response to the wildfires in California was addressed.
- Men's Ministry Brat Fry will be held on March 7
- Pastor will be gone on January 26 & February 16.
- Care team meeting has a date set to

Are you caring for a loved one experiencing memory loss or dementia? If you find yourself in need of support and connection with others who truly understand the challenges you face daily, we invite you to join us for Memory Makers: A dual support group for family caregivers and their loved ones here at Bethel.

While you engage with our compassionate support group, your loved one will be participating in fun and stimulating games hosted by our caring volunteers, designed to brighten their day and stimulate their minds. Please see the flyer in the back of the church for more details.

Please contact Carley Madigan to register or if you have any questions (920-960-3281) or carleymadigan0@gmail.com). We also welcome anyone interested in volunteering to help in this meaningful effort. Our first gathering will be February 26th from 1 to 2pm. Also March 19th & April 30th. We hope you can join us!



ATTENTION PARENTS OF CAMPERS

The Bethel Consistory approved having children from Bethel going to Camp Calvin in Waupaca. We do not have a cost at the present time. There are churches from our area that have also decided to send their children, 4th-9th grade the week of June 15-20, to this camp and we are looking at possible combined transportation with them. The Mission Pillar is also looking at paying a portion of the cost. If you would rather send your child/ren to Camp Manitoqua, you may also do so but you would be responsible to get them there. The church will not cover the cost of sending your children to both camps. We would only cover one. We have Manitoqua brochures available in the secretary's office.

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
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, Chr.
Jared Hoinacki
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
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

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

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Rena Lind, Youth Director

youthministry@bethelbrandon.org
Office: 920-346-5810 Ext. 16
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W, F: 8 a.m. - Noon
Cell 920-960-2852

Judi Post, Secretary

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Danelle Smit Cell 920-851-8624