



Bethel *beacon*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | BETHEL CHURCH,
BRANDON, WI |
JANUARY 2025 – VOLUME 39

Renae's Thoughts

Revelations 3:20, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock."

Jesus goes from heart to heart, asking if he might enter. Every so often, he is welcomed. Someone throws open the door of his or her heart and invites him to stay. And to that person Jesus gives this great promise...' In my father's house there are many rooms....' What a delightful promise he makes us! We make room for him in our hearts and He makes room for us in his house.

This is a devotional that I just read lately. It really makes us aware of how much God wants us to open the door he has offered us. When we hear our own doorbell ring or hear someone knocking, don't we go running to let that person in. That's exactly what God wants us to do.

When we let God into our heart, it is so comforting to know that there is a room for us in His house. We just need to follow His voice and His teachings. Can you imagine that we all have the same opportunity to open the door and let Him in and so many would rather not. So many reject Him and keep their door closed to the greatest guest that you could ever invite in.

Our Heavenly Father is inviting us to be with Him. What a wonderful reception we will have when we meet Him when we get home. When He stands at the door of and knocks, let Him in. Let the door your heart fly open and invite Him in.

Renae Lind
Youth Director

Pastor's Pen

Are you a perfectionist? If you are, then this month's article by Thomas Brewer from the October 2018 edition of *Tabletalk Magazine* will speak to you. I have added my own thought at the end of the article.

Mistakes don't feel good. The sharp pain of regret after a mistake is a terrible feeling. The fear of making a mistake is terrible, too. "I'm afraid I've made a mistake." How often have we said that to ourselves? How often have we made not just one mistake, but several? How we wish we could avoid our mistakes and the constant fear of making them! We can try to avoid them, but they happen nonetheless, and the fear remains. To avoid mistakes, we try to be mistake-less, or perfect. Yet, inevitably, we fail again, and we feel ashamed. The root of perfectionism is this fear—the fear of shame. Shame is the painful feeling that there's something wrong with us. The truth is, deep down, we know there's something wrong with us. That's why we try to hide it. We are like Adam and Eve in the garden, knowing something isn't right, and so we sew fig leaves for ourselves, but fig leaves make for poor clothing.

Trying to hide our shame is one way to deal with it. That's what Adam and Eve did. They hid their shame with fig leaves, and then they hid among the trees. They were perfectionists. Perfectionism is striving in our own strength to make everything right so that our shame is concealed. There are other ways to deal with shame, though. There's also the way of Cain, who broke out in anger and killed his brother, Abel. This is the way of open rebellion. Many Christian parents would prefer to have children who are perfectionists rather than children who are openly rebellious, but the shame of not measuring up is still there, and oftentimes, the effects of a perfectionistic attitude last longer than the effects of open rebellion. Just look at the story of the prodigal son. He embraced open rebellion, only to return home repentant to his father. Yet the older brother remained a perfectionist. "Why did you kill the fattened calf for him?" The older brother thought he had done everything right. He thought he had hidden his shame rather well. The older brother's real question was, "Don't I measure up?"

To clarify: perfectionism isn't simply striving to do well. Striving to do well is good, worthwhile, and commendable. The Bible calls us to it (Col. 3:23). If that's what we're doing, we're not worried about what other people think, and we're not judging ourselves for our poor performance. For example, if we're learning to play the guitar, we simply keep practicing getting better. Perfectionism only arises when there is shame involved. How do we try to preserve ourselves from shame? Through control. Control allows us to adjust our environment so that everything is in its right place—at least, according to us. If Cain could have controlled God, he would have made sure that God accepted his sacrifice and not Abel's. Cain, however, couldn't control God. How frustrating! If things are outside of our control, we can't ensure our shame is hidden. Things inevitably go awry, and our flaws are exposed. We're met with shame again. We're reminded that we can't fix things. We can't hide. Adam and Eve, though they sewed fig leaves and hid from God, were eventually found out. God came walking in the cool of the evening, and He asked, "Where are you?" Adam responded, "I was afraid." Similarly, our own perfectionism, despite our best efforts, leaves us scared and ashamed.

Back when most human beings were farmers, we were highly dependent upon the seasons and the soil for our well-being. Adam knew this from the time he left the garden. The sense that we were out of control was strong. Only 3 percent of the world's population lived in urban areas in 1800. Today, more than half of the world's population lives in cities. That percentage is even higher in developed countries. As a result, most of us no longer depend so directly on the fluctuations of the seasons to survive. We just run down to the supermarket to pick up a meal. This is because of the advance of technology. Technology has allowed us to control our environment more and more. We can now keep food stable for years through freezing or canning. We can call anyone we want at any time because of cell phones. We can heal a variety of diseases, so our life expectancy has grown by leaps and bounds, and Google is always at our fingertips in the case that we don't know something.

Pastor's Pen, Continued

As a result of all the advances of modern technology, we're apt to think that we really do control our world. We've developed the technology to far surpass fig leaves, after all. We now have polyester blends, organic cotton, and smart wool. We can control so many things. Sometimes this illusion of control can lull us into a false sense of security, but at the same time, we also realize that we're not in control more times than we might care to admit. Sometimes we're surprised by our lack of control. Perhaps our children simply won't sit still, or they do kid things, but we expect them to do adult things. We hit slow traffic on our way to work or an appointment, and we're late. More shocking things can happen to us. Perhaps we discover our spouse has committed adultery, or we receive a diagnosis of cancer. These moments of perplexing "out-of-controlness" hit us with stunning force. We realize we aren't perfect, our lives aren't perfect, and neither are the lives of those around us. In moments like these, it's like we're back in the garden, and we've just realized how naked we really are. We feel ashamed and helpless.

We're born naked and helpless. We're vulnerable creatures. Our very bodies are vulnerable—we have no shell or coat of fur to cover our soft bodies. Our physical, psychological, spiritual, and financial vulnerability is a scary thing to think about. We don't control the seasons. We don't control our job security. We don't control when we will live or when we will die.

Yet, every new year, we believe we can resolve to be in control, only to discover again that we cannot control anything; we discover we can barely control ourselves. It is said that nearly one in six human beings is on a psychiatric drug such as antidepressants or sedatives. We are finite, weak creatures who are stunningly, irrevocably, and utterly out of control.

It is at that moment, that we turn to the One who is in control; the One who commands us to give up our feeble attempt to control anything and everything and surrender to His control in our lives.

If you resolve anything this year, resolve to surrender to Jesus Christ every moment of your life. He has dealt with your shame, your perfectionism, and your feeble attempt at control. He desires to control you for your good and for His glory.

Pastor John Tilstra

HELP WANTED

Looking for some help for the drama on Maundy Thursday service April 17, 2025.

NEEDS: One Male speaking part

Two Females speaking parts

A number of males non speaking *Can be High School age.

If interested talk to Gary Henker or call 920-346-2966.



JANUARY

birthdays & anniversaries

1st Keegan DeBoer
 Hank DeBoer
 Olivia Owens
 Josh Schliep

2nd Kyle VandeBrink

3rd Coltyn Riedeman

4th Jason & Tiffany Derksen

7th Cameron DeBoer

8th Adrianna Wegner
 Collins Farrell

9th Lorraine VandeZande
 Michael Mulder
 Drew Henning
 Wayne & Elaine Hiemstra

10th Pat Bronkhorst
 Stan Harmsen
 Kirstin Jurjens

11th Seth Knox

12th Ed Montsma
 Kinsley Huebschman

15th Cameron Hiemstra

17th Josie Slager

18th Torrie Grade
 Tricia Weisnicht
 Jay Smit

19th Bob DeBoer
 Pat VandeBerg
 Jeff Henker
 Parker Leusink
 Lexy Smit
 Matt Kastein

20th Heidi Owens

21st LaVerne Kok
 Mason Coehoorn

22nd Jim Schmuhl
 Nick Redeker

23rd Alex Tipton
 Brian & Kari Youngwirth

24th Mac Mattheis

26th Robert Coehoorn

27th Pam Beekman

28th Dustin Hiemstra
 Mitch Vis
 Charlie Farrell
 Kaelyn Huebschman
 Mark & Dianne Kastein

29th Wayne Hiemstra
 Anthony Martinek III

30th Melissa Hoinacki
 Kim Miller
 Madison Mulder





Due to cancellation of the Consistory meeting of December 19, there are no minutes at this time.



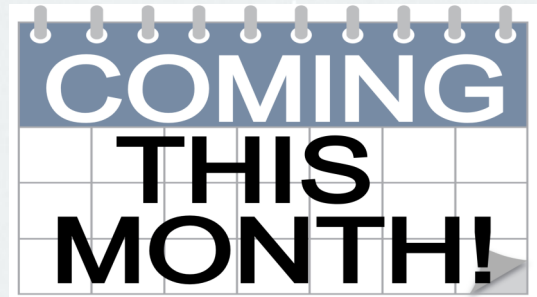
7:00 p.m.

Pillar & Vine Event Center

Pizza will be available.

Bring snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, games, etc.

Open to ages 1-99+ years.



SOUND

- 5th Merwin Kimble
- 12th Kelly VandeZande
- 19th Harley Coehoorn
- 26th Merwin Kimble

LIFT

- 5th Ed Montsma
- 12th Rick Redeker
- 19th Bob Winkel
- 26th Floyd Smit

GREETER

- 5th Torrie Grade
- 12th Jon Post
- 19th Shelly Hiemstra
- 26th Bob Winkel

LITURGY

- 5th Mark Kastein
- 12th Shelly Hiemstra
- 19th Sandy VandeZande
- 26th Karen Redeker

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

- 5th Heather Wegner
- 19th Julie Brown

NURSERY

- 5th Mac Mattheis
- 12th Cole Arndt & Nariah Lind
- 19th Danica Riedeman
- 26th Sadie Newbury

FELLOWSHIP

- 5th Nic Mattheis
- 12th Kelly VandeZande
- 19th Byron Navis
- 26th Brian Brown

DVD DELIVERY

- 5th Rosanne Bresser (Mailed)
- 12th Jeanette Winkel
- 19th Shelly Hiemstra
- 26th Karen Redeker



JANUARY

Wed. 1st	Offices closed
Sun., 5th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m./ Sunday School for all ages
Tue., 7th	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
Wed., 8th	9:10 a.m. 55+ Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:00 a.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group
Sun., 12th	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
Mon., 13th	6:30 p.m. Elder's Meeting
Tue., 14th	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 12:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering Potluck & Fellowship
Wed., 15th	6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group
Thu., 16th	9:00 a.m. Bethel Quilters 5:45 p.m. Executive Meeting 6:30 p.m. Consistory Meeting
Sun., 19th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages Fellowship
Tue., 21st	6:00 p.m. Men's Ministry 8:30 a.m. Care Team 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
Wed., 22nd	9:10 a.m. 55+ Bible Study & Fellowship 6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group
Jan. 23-27	Pastor Vacation
Sun., 26th	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., 28th	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
Wed., 29th	6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group

Consistory & Committees 2025

Elders

Torrie Grade (25)
Jon Post (25)
Merwin Kimble (26)
Dallas VandeSlunt (26)
Shelly Hiemstra (27)
Bob Winkel (27)

920-948-7419
920-960-1402
920-517-1042
920-229-2337
920-948-3548
920-382-5120

Deacons

Brian Brown (25) 920-204-2663
Jared Hoinacki (25) 920-517-8073
Byron Navis (26) 920-597-0203
Jay Smit (26) 920-858-1739
Nic Mattheis (27) 920-004-1337
Kelly VandeZande (27) 920-346-2100

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

John Tilstra, President
, VP
, Clerk
Byron Navis, Deacon Chr.
, Treasurer

TREASURERS

, Main Account
Randi Turner, Mission
Cheryl Leusink, Accountant

PASTORAL/STAFF

VP
Clerk
Treasurer
Byron Navis, Deacon Chr.
Deanna Theyerl
Mary Kimble

BUILDING

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

ELECTION/SELECTION

Jon Post
Torrie Grade
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
Shelly Hiemstra
Dianne Kastein
Gary Henker

MISSION PILLAR

Ed Montsma, Chr.
Dallas VandeSlunt, Elder Rep
Randi Turner, Treasurer
Dione Kimble
Jon Post
Ron Mulder
Cathy Rens
Rick DeBoer
Dan Brown

CARE TEAM

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

PULPIT SUPPLY

VP
Clerk

EDUCATION PILLAR

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

COMMUNICATION PILLAR

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

YOUTH SPONSORS

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
, Liaison

Bethel Church

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www.bethelbrandon.org

Find us on Facebook, Twitter, & Instagram

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Cell 815-238-8514

Rena Lind, Youth Director

youthministry@bethelbrandon.org

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

Office 920-346-5810 Ext. 10

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

F: 9 a.m. - Noon

Cell 920-979-3908

Cheryl Leusink, Accountant

leusinkcl@gmail.com

920-597-0636

