

# Bethel

## *beacon*

BETHEL CHURCH, BRANDON, WISCONSIN

MARCH 2025 – VOLUME 39



# Pastor's Pen

From time to time, I watch or listen to podcasts where the participants are discussing the history and philosophy of politicians in the federal government. It doesn't take long for anger and disgust to build within me, and sometimes, when I discover the philosophy and behavior of a politician that I respected is less than stellar, disappointment enters my being. When disappointment hits, I ask myself, "Why do my unfulfilled expectations about this individual create disappointment within me? What is my disappointment saying about me?"

There is nothing new under the sun with disappointment. All of us have been disappointed. The question before all of us is this; how do I as a Christian handle disappointment?

Disappointment often reveals what your heart is really worshiping (Matt. 6:21; Luke 6:43-47). It exposes you. When you deal with disappointment, it's too easy to focus on the circumstances around you and cast blame on others rather than looking at the battle in your own heart. Think for a moment about the last time you were disappointed (Prov. 13:12). Was the bulk of your thinking and energy focused on the wrong done, the unhelpful circumstances, or your own heart? The natural tendency of sin is to blame others and not to deal honestly with our own heart. (Matt. 7:3-5).

Here is where you need to turn to Christ for help. You can start with a few simple words: "Help me, Jesus! I can't deal with this on my own. I need You." Where you turn with your disappointment is key. Handling disappointment on your own will only lead to more disappointment and more frustration and more disillusionment and even despair. Run to the cross (2 Cor. 5:15-21)! Let Christ comfort you and offer a kind of satisfaction that can only be found in Him. In the shadow of the cross, your disappointment is confronted and handled.

Life does not go as we expect, because sin corrupts everything in our world and leaves us sad, confused, regretful, and disenchanting. If you naively expect things to go well and downplay the power of the sinful flesh, you're not being realistic about sin. You are likely to be disappointed. But if you demonstrate "sober judgment" (Rom. 12:3)—a humble perspective on yourself, a realistic view of your sin—you're less prone to be disappointed. Our lives run into the real world, with real problems, real frustrations, and real heartache, and we acknowledge what we knew all along—sin ruins everything (Rom. 3:23). The Spirit is working powerfully within you, but your flesh is doing everything it can to undermine your life (Gal. 5:16-18).

As we live on this side of glory, sin will make a mess of things. Unfortunately, when things go wrong, our vantage point can be narrowed to the tiny kingdom of ourselves, and we can't see beyond our disappointment. We get fixated on the horizontal (anger, pain, confusion, disappointment) and lose sight of the vertical—our relationship with God. But God says: "My child, look up and see! It's not always going to be this way. One day, sin and pain will be no more." When you're disappointed, look up! Look beyond the confines of your circumstances and remember heaven (Ps. 73:24-26). Don't lose sight of eternity. In heaven, there will be no more disappointment because you'll get to be with God.

So, if you are disappointed with the government, or disappointed with something or someone else in your life, remember to go to Christ. Let Him handle your disappointment. He is God.

Pastor John

# Renae's Thoughts

What's your attitude been lately?

Ephesians 4:31-32, "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Bitterness, rage, anger, slander...these are all forms of bad attitude. These are things that we all experience now and then. But we can not allow these attitudes to consume us. Why? Because Jesus didn't have these kinds of attitudes. Jesus was kind, compassionate, and forgiving.

We need to maintain a positive attitude because if we want to reflect God living in us, God is positive. When we are positive, it allows Him to work in our lives. When our thoughts are negative so are our words. Negative thoughts grow a negative attitude.

In order to maintain a positive attitude, we need to study His Word. The more we study His Word the more we realize the tremendous power there is in being positive in both our thoughts and words.

When we maintain a positive attitude, God takes the things the enemy means for our harm and He works them out for our good. When we can maintain a positive attitude, it not only takes the limits off of what God can do in and through us it also helps us to see our circumstances through God's perspective. When we look at it from God's perspective, we can enjoy our everyday lives because we know that God is in control and is going to use this situation for His good.

Having negative attitudes may not seem like a big deal, but we don't realize the effects your negative attitude has not only on you but the people around you. People are not usually drawn to a person who has a negative attitude. Negative only screams - stay away.

So how do we fix our negative attitude?

Change your focus. Focus on the right thing which is God. When we focus on God, we are not as likely to focus on the problem. A positive attitude is a result of focusing on God.

When challenges come, which they will, God wants us to acknowledge that He is far greater than our circumstance. We need to maintain a positive attitude because it is one of the most powerful ways we can show Christ living in us. Proverbs 23:7, "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he."

We have the choice of what kind of attitude we are going to have towards the situations in our lives. We can increase our joy by keeping our eyes on God instead of the "giants" in our lives. When we do this, things take on a whole new perspective and we can enjoy our lives while we positively trust Him to take care of our circumstances.

Putting God in control allows Him to take our problems and work them out for our good and leave us with a testimony of His power and goodness. You will not only find joy in life but you will be a blessing to those around you.

Renae Lind  
Youth Director

# M

# A

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Sun., 2nd	9:20 am. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School, Fellowship
Mon., 3rd	5:30-7:00 p.m. Adventure Club 6:00 p.m. Communication Pillar
Tue., 4th	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
Wed., 5th	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
Mar. 7 & 8	Men's Ministry Brat Fry
Sat., 8th	Daylight savings time, Spring Ahead
Sun., 9th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School all ages, Deacon's Meeting, Fellowship
Mon., 10th	5:30-7:00 p.m. Adventure Club
Tue., 11th	9:30 a.m. Care Team Meeting 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 12:00-6:00 p.m. Community Blood Drive
Wed., 12th	6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group
Sun., 16th	9:20 a.m. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting Sunday School all ages, Fellowship 6:00 p.m. Men's Ministry
Mon., 17th	5:30-7:00 p.m. Adventure Club 6:30 p.m. Elder's Meeting
Tue., 18th	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
Wed., 19th	55+ Bible Study & Fellowship 1:00-2:00 p.m. Dementia Care Group 6:00 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 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
Sun., 23rd	9:20 am. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship, Special Offering-Words of Hope 10:30 a.m. Sunday School, Fellowship
Tue., 25th	10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 1:00-3:00 p.m. Senior Gathering
Wed., 26th	6:0 p.m. Junior High Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice 7:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group
Sun., 30th	9:20 am. Prayer Time, Youth Room 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School, Fellowship, Deacon's Meeting



# MARCH

*birthdays & anniversaries*

2nd Craig Bresser  
Dale Henning  
3rd Kirstin Erickson  
Amaya Gosse  
Linda Smit  
RJ Jurjens  
4th Darlene Coehoorn  
5th Rhett Coehoorn  
Deanna Theyerl  
Gary & Ann TerBeest  
7th Jeff Miller  
8th Jeff Brown  
Steve Slager  
Linda Navis  
Griffin Vis  
Sharon VandeBerg  
Curt & Gwen DeHaan  
10th Brooks Bos  
11th Jennifer Redeker  
12th Melissa Lavota  
13th Sadie Kimble  
Colby Nolan  
Nick & Shannie Tank  
14th Dianne Kastein  
15th Jason Bos  
Colt Weideman  
Brian Lavota  
16th Addison Grade  
Izec Grade  
Savanna Newbury  
17th Rick DeBoer  
Rexford Madigan  
18th Lawson Phillips  
Dan & Darlene Coehoorn  
19th Holden Tipton  
Zach Wegner  
20th Ryan Arndt  
Kelly & Sandy VandeZande  
21st Ryan & Angela Arndt  
22nd Elsa DeHaan  
24th Danica Riedeman  
Heather Wegner  
26th Jane Brown  
Orrin Kimble  
27th Brian Brown  
Dan Redeker  
Millie Brunson  
Dallas VandeSlunt  
Art & Arlene VandeBerg  
29th Adam Brown  
Cody Farrell  
30th Reed Gunnink  
31st Danelle Smit



# MARCH

*schedules*

## Sound

2nd Harley Coehoorn  
9th Merwin Kimble  
16th Kelly VandeZande  
23rd Harley Coehoorn  
30th Merwin Kimble

## Lift

2nd Bob Winkel  
9th Floyd Smit  
16th Harley Coehoorn  
23rd Ken Beekman  
30th Ed Montsma

## Greeter

2nd Byron Navis  
9th Brian Brown  
16th Jared Hoinacki  
23rd Jay Smit  
30th Torrie Grade

## Liturgy

2nd Sandy VandeZande  
9th Karen Redeker  
16th Amanda Hiemstra  
23rd Jen Post  
30th Mark Kastein

## Children's Message

2nd Amanda Hiemstra  
16th Heather Wegner

## Nursery

2nd Sadie Newbury  
9th Lori Coehoorn  
16th Lena Arndt &  
Cameron Hiemstra  
23rd Mac Mattheis  
30th Rosanne Bresser

## Fellowship

2nd Torrie Grade  
9th Bob Winkel  
16th Dallas VandeSlunt  
23rd Merwin Kimble  
30th Nic Mattheis

## DVD Delivery

2nd Karen Redeker  
9th Charlene Kamphuis  
16th Rosanne Bresser  
23rd Jeanette Winkel  
30th Shelly Hiemstra



### **Consistory Meeting February 20, 2025**

- Information is being obtained about the purchase of the Christian Home after being sold to Complete Care.
- Audit of the financials of all accounts of Bethel Church will be performed Feb. 21 and Congregational financial meeting will be held March 16.
- Graduate recognition will be held on May 4 at the 9:30 a.m. service.
- April's Consistory date has been changed to April 10 due to Maundy Thursday on April 17.
- The deacons have looked into adding more security cameras to the church and a bid has been received from Gappa at a cost of \$16,974.00. A total of 8 additional cameras will be installed.
- The sound system update is still being looked into.
- Mission Pillar is looking into a Mission trip to Alaska in 2026.
- Information was given on creating a list of areas where new members of Bethel could volunteer. An insert was created for the bulletin and an article was created for the Beacon.
- Next meeting March 20, 2025

## **OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AT BETHEL**

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

Are you new to Bethel? Do you ever wonder ways you can serve at Bethel? The following is a list of different ways you can serve.

We have four pillars where you can serve: Worship, Mission, Education, and Communication.

The following are other ways to serve:

- Care Team
- Funeral lunches (bring a salad or bars)
- Care Elders (visit shut-ins)
- Deliver DVD's
- Sing in the choir
- Operate the audio/video center (we will train)
- Help with dramas
- Help operate the lift for our handicap members
- Do liturgy
- Do children's sermons
- Help in the nursery
- Help with decorating the church
- Quilting ministry
- Bible studies
- Men's ministry
- Serving as elder or deacon

There are ways to help with the youth of our church and community:

- Be a youth sponsor for our junior and senior high groups
- Help with Daily Vacation Bible School
- Help with Adventures Club
- Be a Sunday school teacher

There will be a plastic box located in the information center. Fill out a form with your name and area you would like to serve Bethel.

If you have any questions you can contact the church office or any consistory member.

## 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  
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

### MISSION PILLAR

Ed Montsma, Chr.  
Dallas VandeSlunt, Elder Rep  
Dione Kimble  
Ron Mulder  
Cathy Rens  
Rick DeBoer  
Dan Brown  
Bob Winkel

### 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  
Jon 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**

305 W Main St  
Brandon, WI 53919  
920-346-5810

[www.bethelbrandon.org](http://www.bethelbrandon.org)  
Find us on Facebook,  
Twitter, & Instagram

**John Tilstra, Pastor**

[pastor@bethelbrandon.org](mailto:pastor@bethelbrandon.org)  
Office: 920-346-5810 Ext. 12  
Cell 815-238-8514

**Rena 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  
Cell 920-960-2852

**Judi Post, Secretary**

[secretary@bethelbrandon.org](mailto: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](mailto:leusinkcl@gmail.com)  
920-597-0636

**Custodians**

[jasonssmit438@yahoo.com](mailto:jasonssmit438@yahoo.com)  
**Jason Smit** Cell 920-858-1739  
**Danelle Smit** Cell 920-851-8624