

# the ANOINTING

Bethany Reformed Church Monthly Newsletter/March 2020



I would like to take the time to introduce you to my dog. He is a giant black lab weighing in at well over 100 pounds. His name is Captain Morgan Shot. I did not name him. He came to us with papers registered with this name.

Captain has issues. He likes to run. I mean run for miles. He enjoys marking his territory. He jumps into complete strangers' cars. One time on a very cold day he took off and jumped into the mailman's truck a half mile from home. He is crazy and runs all over town. I think Captain is looking for something. Maybe he thinks everyone is going hunting and he wants to join them. Perhaps he is a little distracted from the task at hand. He has been in the back of a police car several times. I have bailed him out of jail too.

Captain has taught me a valuable lesson. I get distracted and start taking off from the place I should stay. I look for things in all the wrong places. I chase after life like the Prodigal Son squandering my energy on trivial moments. I try to make my life about fleeting feelings when all I really need to do is just stay home where I belong.

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Pastor Al

Genesis 3:19

By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.



# March 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <b>9:30am Worship</b>	2	3 Luke Richardson	4 <b>Family Night 6-8pm</b>	5 Tanya Van De Stroet	6 Carrie Jackson Kris Jorgenson Mark & Melinda Kelderman Wilbur & Tillie Zeilstra	7 Allison Vande Vegte  Donna Strohfus  Deb Hippen-Schultz
8 <b>9:30am Worship</b> <b>Consistory Mtg 6pm</b>  Molly Windschill Rachel Niemeyer	9 <b>Food &amp; Friends Meal 5:30-7pm</b>  Angie Evans	10 Jerome Van De Stroet	11 <b>Family Night 6-8pm</b>  Don Jackson	12 Jami Paulson	13 Bob Van Roekel Makenzie Bierschbach Adison Evans Laura Heeringa Don & Carrie Jackson Adam & Heather Scher	14  Arnie Zomermaand
15 <b>9:30am Worship</b> <b>Bible Study 7pm</b>  Ean Zomer	16	17	18 <b>Family Night 6-8pm</b>  Gage Nelson	19	20  Paul Garbers  Axel Johnson	21  Canton Expo 8am-1pm
22 <b>9:30am Worship</b>  Bentyn Johnson	23	24	25 <b>Family Night 6-8pm</b>  Wyatt Dowling	26	27  <b>Biruk's Egg Project Fundraiser</b>	28  <b>Women's Retreat 10am-3pm.</b>  Abbi Welch
29 <b>9:30am Worship</b>	30 Ava Johnson Caden Baune  Bob & Pat Van Roekel	31 Caleb Van De Stroet Elijah Van De Stroet Leah Vande Vegte				

## BETHANY'S SERVANTS – MARCH 2020

### Greeters

- 1- Charlie & Pearl Hilt
- 8- Tim & Jill Devitt
- 15- Jerome & Tami Van De Stroet
- 22- Steven & Angela Baune
- 29- Don & Carrie Jackson

### Ushers

- 1- Bruce Van De Stroet & Rylan Richardson
- 8- Tadesse Van De Stroet & Davin Richardson
- 15- Biruk Van De Stroet & Gerrett Devitt
- 22- Craig & Jackson Wiersma
- 29- Kate Devitt & Briggs Jarman

### Nursery

- 1- Samantha Winter & Karly Jorgenson
- 8- Angie Wiersma & Emma Evans
- 15- Lynette Lems & Kaitlyn Wiersma
- 22- Angela Baune & Jordan Brown
- 29- Angie Evans & Berkley Jarman

### Sound Room/PowerPoint

- 1. Jerome Van De Stroet & Lorna Haverhals
- 8- Tim Lems & Jordan Van De Stroet
- 15- Leroy Feekes & Bubba Bierschbach
- 22- Chad Van Geest & Elijah Van De Stroet
- 29- Jerome Van De Stroet & Lorna Haverhals

### Praise Team

- 1. Kristi Robinson, Easton Robinson, Breanna Bierschbach, Tami Van De Stroet, Chad Evans
- 8- Melanie Van De Stroet, Kate Devitt, Angela Baune, Chad Van Geest
- 15- Brenda Van Zee, LaVonna Lems, Karren & Brad Peterson
- 22- Dee Brown, Nancy Feekes, Melanie Van De Stroet, Chad Evans
- 29- Praise Band

### Children & Worship

- 1- Tami Nelson  
Helpers: Jordan Brown & Gage Nelson
- 8- Jill Devitt  
Helpers: Rylan Richardson & Biruk Van De Stroet
- 15- Emily Jorgenson  
Helpers: Gerrett Devitt & Karly Jorgenson
- 22- Rachel Kelderman  
Helpers: Emma Evans & Jordan Van De Stroet
- 29- Kaitlyn Wiersma  
Helpers: Wyatt Jacobs & Jordan Brown



To stay lit up,  
you must stay  
plugged in!

*Get connected and start serving today!*

<p><b>Monthly Consistory Meeting</b>  <b>Sunday, March 8, 2020.</b></p> <p>Anyone who is seeking transfer of membership, profession of faith or baptism is welcome to come to the Elder's mtg at 6PM. The Deacon's will meet at 6:30PM and full consistory at 7PM.</p>	<p><b>Daylight Savings Time</b>  <b>Begins</b></p>  <p><b>Sunday, March 8, 2020</b></p>	 <p><i>Ladies Tea</i></p> <p><b>Wednesday, March 11, at 7:00pm</b>  <b>Hosted by the GEMS girls.</b>  <b>(Girls Everywhere Meeting the Savior)</b></p> <p><i>Sign-up sheet on back table.</i></p>
<p><b>Bible Study</b>  <b>Sunday, March 15,</b>  <b>at 7:00pm.</b></p> <p>Would you like to engage in meaningful discussion while studying God's word?  Accept an Open Invitation to study the Book of Romans with Pastor Al and other adults.</p> <p>Please try to read Romans 3:21-4:25 before our next gathering.</p>	<p><b>Join the Easter Choir!</b></p>  <p>An Easter Choir is being formed and will begin practicing Sunday, March 15, following the service. See Dee Brown if you have any questions.</p>	<p><b>Women's Retreat Saturday, March 28, 10AM – 3PM</b>  Be prepared to be drenched!</p> <p>Drenched in Blessings and God's Love!</p>  <p>Registration forms can be obtained at Bethany Reformed Church, by calling the church @605.987.5645, or by request through private messenger on the FaceBook page.</p>
<p>Family Night is scheduled to end <b>Wednesday, April 1.</b></p>  <p><b>BUT...</b></p>  <p>Plans for VBS are being made!  These dates would be  <b>Wednesday, April 22</b>  <b>Wednesday, April 29</b>  <b>Wednesday, May 6</b>  There will be No Summer Vacation Bible School offered this year.</p>		<p>Lent is a season of preparation for Christ's death and resurrection. Devotions are a great way to prepare your heart during this important season of reflection. The RCA offers new daily devotions during the season of Lent via email.</p> <p>Get Lent devotions sent to your inbox by signing up at  <a href="https://www.rca.org/resources/lent-devotions">https://www.rca.org/resources/lent-devotions</a></p>

## Food & Friends Meal

Monday, March 9, from 5:30-7:00pm

Bethany Reformed Church started Food & Friends as a Community Outreach Meal in 2018. The intentions were, and still are, to fill empty stomachs as well as build positive relationships and understanding among neighbors.

Since January 2018 the average number of people served at Food & Friends has grown from 70-75 guests to 100-110. What a Blessing it is to offer a warm meal to our friends and neighbors each month!



Due to the increased numbers, more people are needed to help serve. Please watch for the next sign-up sheet to come out and volunteer to help!  
\*Food & Friends is sponsored by the Deacon's Fund.

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I'm currently reading the book *How Happiness Happens* by Max Lucado. In the first chapter Max addresses finding joy.

One paragraph reads: "When the angels announced the arrival of the Messiah, they proclaimed "good news of great joy" (Luke 2:10), not "bad news of a great duty." Scripture has more than twenty-seven hundred passages that contain words like joy, happiness, gladness, merriment, pleasure, celebration, cheer, laughter, delight, jubilation, feasting, blessing, and exultation. Our joy never matters to God.

*If we are going to find the joy that comes through giving joy away, we need a plan. We need instruction. No wonder the Bible has so much to say about finding joy in the act of sharing it. The New Testament contains more than fifty "one another" statements, practical principles for making happiness happen. I've condensed them into a list of ten.*

1. Encourage one another (1 Thess. 5:11)
2. Bear with one another (Eph. 4:2)
3. Regard one another as more important (Phil. 2:4)
4. Greet one another (Rom. 16:16)
5. Pray for one another (James 5:16)
6. Serve one another (Gal. 5:13)
7. Accept one another (Rom. 15:7)
8. Admonish one another (Col. 3:16)
9. Forgive one another (Eph. 4:32)
10. Love one another (1 John 3:11)

*Let's open the door to each of these "one another" passages and embark on a happiness project. I'm thinking you will discover what the Bible teaches, and research affirms: doing good does good for the doer.*

*You and I indwell a lonely planet. Broken hearts populate every office building. Discouragement mummifies countless lives. The world is desperate, yes, desperate, for a cavalry of kindness. We cannot solve every problem in society, but we can bring smiles to a few faces. And who knows? If you brighten your corner of the world and I do the same in mine, a quiet revolution of joy might break out.*

If you're interested in borrowing the book *How Happiness Happens*, please let me know. I'd love to lend it to you!

*Jill Devitt*



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### **Someone Else's Pain by Ken Davis**

A man said to the dentist, "I'm in a big hurry. I have two buddies waiting for us to go deer hunting, so forget about the anesthetic. I don't have time for the gums to get numb. Just pull the tooth and be done with it! We have our deer feeders set to go off in thirty minutes. I don't have time to wait for the anesthetic to work!"

The dentist thought to himself, *Surely, this is a very brave man asking to have a tooth pulled without using anything to kill the pain.*

So, the dentist asked him, "Which tooth is it, sir?"

The man turned to his wife and said, "Open your mouth, honey, and show him."

My wife didn't think this joke was funny. But it does point out we are often insensitive to the pain someone else is experiencing but extremely sensitive when we are the one experiencing it. It is easy to watch other people and make a judgement about how they handle difficulty. Yet if we were in the same circumstance, we would likely weigh our judgement more carefully.

It becomes a different story when we put skin on it. Especially our own skin! So, when you see other people going through difficulty, open wide and think about how you would feel in that situation.

The author of Hebrews instructed Christians who were living under persecution to show love to each other.

*Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. (Hebrews 13:3)*

You won't need anesthetic to follow that advice, but you might need a good shot of God's grace.

Please open my eyes today, Lord. Help me see the pain of others and respond in love.