



the ANOINTING

Bethany Reformed Church Monthly Newsletter/April 2021

Finding Significance in Repetition

Muscle memory is a huge part of development of athletes. We are told over and over by commentators that a particular athlete does certain sport specific moves over and over until that move becomes natural!

Our spiritual direction isn't much different. Every year we repeat the same disciplines. We start with Christmas and the birth of Jesus and end our year with the Resurrection. Often during this time, we cruise on autopilot going through the motions of a particular celebration without using the gift of memory. The challenge of today is to have some sort of emotional tie to our calendar year in the church.

A couple of suggestions for connecting our heart to our heads requires us to use our imagination. First pick a different window to look at what is being presented. How about a child in the crowd listening to Jesus teach? Try seeing what Jesus is teaching on from the perspective of a wealthy person who wants for nothing! How about a person who doesn't know where their next meal is coming from? Once you look at Jesus from another perspective you may very well find your way back to a passionate relationship with the living God and find a long-lost memory of who God is to humanity.

Second often when we read certain passages we tend to think on the level of right and wrong. This often leads us to ruts in which we get stuck in one way of thinking. How about reading scripture as truth? Thinking of scripture as truth over right and wrong will lead us to a greater understanding of who we are to God. Try John 3:16. God loves the world- truth. All people- truth. All creation- truth. Equally- truth. Because God loves the entire world, he sent his son. Whomever believes in Jesus has eternal life - truth. Well then imagine the possibility here! God has a pretty deep love for humanity!

Try it you might just enjoy it!

Blessings,
Pastor Al

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April 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Maundy Thursday Service 6:30PM Kassidy Robertson Maundy Thursday	2 Good Friday Service 6:30PM Jordan Van De Stroet Good Friday	3
4 9:30AM Worship Kylie Vande Vegte Easter Sunday	5 Everett Kelderman Kate Devitt	6 David and Dee Brown	7	8	9	10
11 9:30AM Worship Zach Richardson Dale Robertson Consistory Mtg 6PM	12	13 Tami Van De Stroet Angie Wiersma Tyler Rus Union Gospel Mission 7PM	14	15 Lorna Haverhals Rhonda Tiedemann	16	17 Gerrett Devitt Emily Wilcox
18 9:30AM Worship	19 Terry & Laura Dozark	20	21 Blakely Schroder	22	23 Rylan Richardson Madison Schiebout Ezra Hall	24 Kristi Vande Vegte
25 9:30AM Worship Dan Windschill Shania Scheidt	26 Brad Peterson	27 Joel Van De Stroet	28	29	30 Henrietta Tilstra Rachel Kelderman John & Lorna Haverhals	

<p align="center"><u>Praise Team</u></p> <p>4- Brenda Van Zee, Karren Peterson, Mel Van De Stroet, Angela Baune</p> <p>11- Kristi Robinson, Ashlyn Zomermaand, Kate Devitt, Emily Jorgenson</p> <p>18- Mel Van De Stroet, Rachel Kelderman, LaVonna Lems, Brad Peterson</p> <p>25- Praise Band</p>	<p align="center"><u>Sound Room/PowerPoint</u></p> <p>4- Tim Devitt and Gerrett Devitt</p> <p>11- Joe Kelderman and Elijah Van De Stroet</p> <p>18- Tim Lems and Jordan Van De Stroet</p> <p>25- Jerome Van De Stroet and Elijah Van De Stroet</p>	<p align="center"><u>Consistory Meeting April 11</u></p> <p>Anyone 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>Join us at the Union Gospel Mission on Tuesday, April 13, at 7PM. BRC is in charge of leading the evening service and we'd love to have you there! If you'd like to know more, please contact Lorna Haverhals.</p>	<p align="center"><u>Destiny Youth Ranch Summer Camp</u></p> <p>Destiny Youth Ranch runs day & overnight camps for girls and/or boys (ages 7-17), as well as family retreats, where you can learn more about God and horses in a quiet, small-town atmosphere! Visit www.destinyyouthranch.com to learn what camps are available for your child.</p>	<p align="center"><u>Inspiration Hills Summer Camp</u></p> <p>Visit www.inspirationhills.org to see what camps are available. Your child could attend Wilderness, Lodge, CHIPS, Day Camp, Guys Only, Girls Only, Journey, Grand, Family and more... Camps are filling up quickly so be sure to register today!</p>
<p align="center">CONGRATULATIONS!</p> <p>Congratulations to Alex Jorgenson on his engagement. Alex and his fiancé are planning a September 2021 wedding on the east coast. Alex is the son of Cory and Kris Jorgenson. His younger siblings are Emily, Karly and Mike. Alex is currently in the Army and stationed in Anchorage, Alaska.</p>	<p>The Action Group will be turning in a Savers run on 4/21/21. If you have items you would like to donate please do so by 4/18/21. See Kris Jorgenson with questions. Thank you!</p> <p align="center">SAVERS</p>	 <p>Thank you to the Adults who helped with GEMS and Future Leaders on Wednesday evenings! (GEMS and Future Leaders Groups are done for the year, but Action Group and RCYF will continue meeting.)</p>

REJOICE, Easter is almost Here!

Have you ever noticed that when we get closer to Christmas there's a special kind of excitement in the air? Whether it is because you are excited to receive gifts, the decorations or because you are excited for what Christmas is about. The same can be said for Easter. For some, there are still gifts, still excitement, and decorations. They both bring exciting news but what is more important, Christmas or Easter? Like the old saying "which came first the chicken or the egg? Well, we can't have one without the other.

In the Bible the words Easter and Christmas are not specifically mentioned, however, there are many verses that reflect the start of something new. If you read Matthew 28:1-20, the Bible tells the story of the two Mary's going to the tomb. While reading this chapter the words "Toward the dawn of the first day of the week" caught my attention. How amazing is this, that without Jesus' resurrection there would be no new beginning for us. Just like the words described it being a new day, a new beginning a new dawn. The same goes when you read the stories of Jesus' birth in Luke 2, the Bible even states that a host of angels appeared, praising God, a celebration of a new beginning. Until now, these 2 chapters had an impact, but not like it did this week.

Maybe the reason this stood out to me so much, is that in the last month the Action and RCYF groups made tie blankets for the homeless, in all there was 30 blankets the students made. What came to mind as we worked with the students was, what a wonderful way to begin a "new day" in someone's life. To receive a gift, a blessing they did not expect, they did not earn, just like we received the gift of the resurrection.

Have a Blessed New Easter!

Sincerely, Your BRC Youth Leaders

