

day 28

Saturday, February 15 | 2025

## *The Bridge Youth Center*

### **Bible Reading: Romans 12:9-16; Philippians 2:1-4**

The Bridge cares deeply for each student that walks in their doors. They have a sincere love. They seek to walk alongside the students of this community, "Rejoicing with those who rejoice; mourning with those who mourn" (Rom. 12:15).

It is the goal of the Bridge to share the good news of Jesus Christ with these students. And they seek to gain a listening ear from these students by first radically showing them the love of Christ. To this they have done an incredible job.

Pray that The Bridge would continue to be a positive presence in our community. Pray that they would continue to love these students well. And pray that this would clear the path for a new relationship with Jesus. Pray that these students would find their lives forever changed because someone noticed them and someone shared the love of Jesus with them.

### **Journal Notes:**



# Bethel



day 22

Sunday, February 9 | 2025

## Unity of the Church

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### Bible Reading: John 17

Throughout the last 22 days we have prayed for Bethel Church, for Classis Zeeland, for the CRC, the global church and for Restoration Church. Why would we do this, because all of this is bigger than we are. God is a unifying being. He brings us all together. He has unified us to himself through Jesus. We were separated far from him in our sin. And Jesus paid for that sin and brought us back together. He unified us in him. All the work we do as a church isn't ultimately for us. It is for the classis, it isn't for the denomination. It is for God! He is the one who deserves all the glory!

In John 17 Jesus prays for all those who believe in him. And his prayer is that we might find complete unity in him. In verse 21 Jesus explains that the reason he wants unity in the church is, "so that the world may believe that you have sent me." We find the same idea in verse 23, "...so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

When we are united in the church and as believers across churches we give out a testimony of the goodness of God. Our lives then become a testimony of the love of God that we have received and that we put on display. Unity in the church makes Jesus' name known. Unity in the church is a testimony of the character of God.

Today, pray for unity. Pray that we would be united at Bethel. Pray that the global church can find unity. Not for our sake, but because it will give glory to God. Because it will put his love on display to the world.

day 27

Friday, February 14 | 2025

## Missionaries (Part 2) - Mark De Haan, Matt Beukema

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### Bible Reading: 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4, 11-12; Psalm 67

As mentioned yesterday, what a gift our missionaries are. Let's pray, "That by God's power he would bring to fruition their every desire for goodness and their every deed prompted by faith" (2 Thess. 1:11). May God do greater things through our missionaries and their agencies than they ever thought possible. "May all the people praise you, God. May the nations be glad and sing for joy" (Ps. 67:3-4).

Mark and Matt both are working to care for communities in their own way. Mark by providing easy access to water, and Matt by bringing economic development through mountain bike trails. Pray that God would bless this work, and that it would open doors for conversations about God and his everlasting love.

### Journal Notes:

**day 26**

Thursday, February 13 | 2025

*Missionaries (Part 1) - Tom & Kristin Buursma,  
Nancy Ten Broek, Brenda Vander Schuur*

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**Bible Reading: 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4, 11-12; Psalm 96**

Our missionaries are such a gift. The life of a missionary is not an easy one. It likely means being separated from your family. It means being in a different culture. It is not work that all of us could do. And it is for those reasons that we praise God that there have been some who have answered this call.

Pray this morning that God would bless their work. Pray that he would give them wisdom to navigate their particular cultures in order to best share the good news of Jesus. May they, "Say among the nations, 'the LORD reigns.'" (Ps. 96:10a). And may the nations come before God with bended knees proclaiming him as Lord and Savior!

**Journal Notes:**

**day 23**

Monday, February 10 | 2025

*Bethel - Future Leadership*

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**Bible Reading: Numbers 27:15-23**

Moses was an incredible leader for Israel. Sure, he had his faults, and he made his fair share of mistakes. But he was still a good leader. It was called up in one of the most crucial moments of Israel's history. He led the people out of slavery in Egypt and across the Red Sea.

But there comes a time where every leader needs to start passing the torch on to someone else. Moses prays to the Lord in Num. 27:16, "May the Lord, the God who gives breath to all living things, appoint someone over this community." Moses' prayer is for a successor. It is for the next generation to rise up.

We have had some good leaders at Bethel Church. We still have good leaders! But we also need new leaders. We need the next generation to step up. Pray that God might provide these leaders. Pray that he will bring us someone like Moses, Joshua, David, Peter, or Paul. Each of these leaders had specific gifts for specific moments. "May the Lord, the God who gives breath to all living things, appoint [the right leaders for this moment] over this community."

**Journal Notes:**

day 24

Tuesday, February 11 | 2025

## Bethel - Young Adults/Children

### Bible Reading: Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalm 78:1-8

Let's be honest we wouldn't have a relationship with Jesus if the previous generation were not faithful in testifying about the works of God. They have been faithful in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. It is now our turn for the next generation. Ps. 78:6-7 wants the next generation to know the good deeds of the Lord. Even those who have not been born yet. And that they will then share it with their kids.

I praise God for Bethel's heart for the next generation. Even though we might not have many youth, we still care deeply for the next generation. Pray today that God would give us clarity on what we can do to better reach the next generation. Life is not easy for our young today. There are so many voices shouting at our children. How can we be the calm voice that grabs their attention? How can we be the voice that says I care about you and I love you?

Pray too that God would help Bethel Church to grow in the area of youth. Pray that God would allow us to cross their paths and be the community that surrounds them as they grow and develop in faith and in life.

### Journal Notes:

day 25

Wednesday, February 12 | 2025

## Vision for the Church

### Bible Reading: Matthew 5:14-16; Acts 1:8

Light is such a powerful concept. It travels at such an incredible speed it is given its own term, the speed of light. It has the ability to bring warmth. Good lighting has the ability to change the feel of a room. It can also provide safety or hope when you are in a dark place. Light. We are called to be a light to the world.

There are many different ways that Bethel Church could live out our calling to be a light to the world. The question is which direction does God have for us? We know that we are called to be a witness to Zeeland, Michigan, and to the ends of the earth. We know that we are to share the love of God but how?

Pray that God would give us clarity to our vision as a church. Clarity so that we can pursue the gifts and opportunities that we have been uniquely given. There are a lot of good things that we could do, but we can't do them all. What would allow us to have the greatest impact for the kingdom of God?

**Challenge:** Continue to journal about the things God may be laying on your heart. Even if you are not sure if it is the right thing or not. Write it down and see if it is a consistent idea that God continues to bring to mind.

week 4

40 days of Prayer