
The Bentheim Bell Tower

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BENTHEIM
REFORMED CHURCH



From the Pastor's Desk

BY KRISTOFFER POPOVITCH

On February 22, the United States men's hockey team won its first gold medal in 46 years after defeating Canada in Milan, Italy in the 2026 Winter Olympics. There were so many incredible highlights and stats that made this such an amazing win for the United States. One such highlight to mention is goalie Connor Hellebuyck recorded 41 saves in the final game, the most ever in a gold medal game. If you aren't a hockey fan, you will have to take my word for it, that is an 'unbelievable' performance.

If this wasn't exciting enough, the US women's hockey team also won the gold medal, defeating Canada just 3 days earlier. What a great Winter Olympics for our great nation, as there were a total of 33 medals won by our amazing athletes!! No doubt the commitment to the rigorous training schedule for months and even years in advance of the games prepared them for their performance on the world-stage.

The author of the book of Hebrews uses athletic competition as a great metaphor to teach us about living the Christian life. In 12:1 he says, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us." I'm encouraged when I read this verse. Mainly because the author recognizes that living the life of a Christian is like running a race and he says running the race of Christianity is hard work. It's not a light jog around the neighborhood, rather, it's a strenuous marathon that calls for us to be deeply focused and committed.

If you notice, the verse tells us to run with endurance - and in order to do so we need to be mindful of everything that could slow us down. Distractions and sin often get in our way of keeping our eyes fixed on the heavenly prize, so just like a good coach, we are told to lay them aside. What he was saying was, put away those things that get in our way. The idea is almost like boxing up our sins and shipping them off. We need to get rid of those distractions and move them out of sight. By the way, this needs to be a part of our daily training regime. That is some great coaching advice! (*continued...*)



(...continued) I'm sure the Olympic athletes needed to be reminded every once in a while of keeping their eyes fixed on the prize of winning the gold medal as well. I'm sure there were days they wanted to quit and give up because it became really difficult, just like we experience in the Christian race.

To counter the difficulty of the race, and to make sure we don't give up, the author of Hebrews in 12:2 instructs us to keep our eyes fixed on the 'gold' – the most excellent prize, when he says, "looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

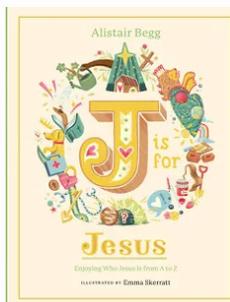
My friends, as you run the Christian race, anticipate it will be a struggle at times. However, this is when it is most important for us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith! I can assure you, as great as the Olympic victories were, Jesus is far greater than all the medals anyone can ever win!

In Christ,

Pastor Kris

Book-of-the-Month

J is for Jesus
Alistair Begg



In our time Alistair Begg is one of the finest preachers and theologians the church can find. He is relatable and very sound in his teaching. The fact that he is Gospel focused, has a great sense of humor, along with the fact he is easily understandable makes him a go-to for many people who seek to know God's Word better.

The good news is he has just written a book for children age 5 and up called *J is for Jesus*, which gives kids a foundational theology of who Jesus is. It has excellent pictures and uses each letter of the alphabet to help kids get to know who Jesus is and learn more about His character. It is a useful book for teaching your children more about our Lord and I would highly recommend it to any family!

**BACKYARD FELLOWSHIP IS COMING THIS
SUMMER!
STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS.**



Upcoming Events



March 4: Pinewood Derby

6:15 p.m. All are welcome to attend!



March 10: Prayer Day Service

5 p.m. at BRC



March 14: Youth Auction

6:15 p.m.



March 17: Women's Ministries

7 p.m.



March 22: Children's Ministry Sunday

9:30 a.m.

We will receive an offering for Children's Ministry.

March Meetings:

March 2: Executive Committee Meeting

March 3: Committee Meetings

March 9: Elders & Consistory Meetings

January 2025 Financial Report

General Fund

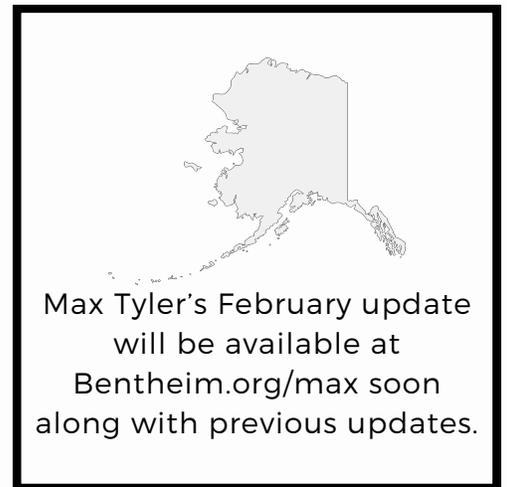
Receipts needed per month per budget	\$44,238.23
Receipts: from offerings	\$80,268.73
Disbursements: for the month	\$58,462.38

Building Fund

Receipts	\$4,050.00
Disbursements	\$3,367.60

Mission Fund

Receipts needed per month per budget	\$6,916.67
Receipts	\$4,150.00
Disbursements	\$9,824.43

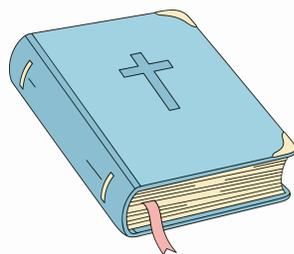


Children's Ministry



Children's Ministry Sunday will be on March 21. We will have a passing of the plate offering for the Children's Ministry fund as well that morning.

Children's Ministry is growing! We are looking for the right person to help on our team 8 to 10 hours a week. If you are interested, please see Kim Brower, Jon Patmos, or Craig Jipping. We would like to schedule a time to meet with you!



Bible Memory Program is off to a good start. Please feel free to reach out to Kiel Patmos, Ashley Meyer, or Kim Brower at any time with a verse your child has memorized. Someone will be available near Kim's office on the Family Sundays as well.

Pinewood Derby is scheduled for March 4. Anyone is welcome to attend. We will be welcoming our 4th and 5th grade GEMS girls as well this year.





Student Ministries



BY HELEN DERKS

This year our youth group attended our Winter Retreats at Cran-Hill. The Middle School retreat took place January 9-11, and the High School retreat followed on February 13-15.

Each year, Winter Retreat is such a meaningful and beneficial experience for our students. It provides an opportunity to unplug from the distractions of everyday life. Technology can easily demand our attention—I know how quickly it can pull us away from what truly deserves our focus and redirect it to our phones. One of the things I appreciate most about Cran-Hill is that they handle the logistics—activities, worship band, and speaker—so our leaders can focus fully on our students. It allows us to spend intentional time getting to know each one better and to witness their relationships with the Lord grow.

The theme for both retreats was The Game of Life.

For Middle School, we focused on the life of Joseph. We followed his journey and saw how he acknowledged God in every circumstance. Joseph was a man committed to pleasing God, and even in the hardest seasons of his life, he recognized God's goodness because his focus remained on Him.

For High School, the focus was on pursuing the abundant life. Students were challenged with this question: "Are you pursuing greatness of the world, or are you pursuing greatness in Christ?" On Saturday night, we walked through the story of the prodigal son and reflected on how different our Father's love is from any love we experience in this world. Students were encouraged to redirect their desires—to set their minds on the things of God rather than the things of this world.

We had an incredible time at both retreats. God is truly at work in the lives of our students here at Bentheim. Thank you for your continued prayers and support of our youth ministry—it makes a difference.



Missionary of the Month: Berg Church, Bentheim Mission Church

A connection between Berg Church and Bentheim Reformed Church has been facilitated by Pastor Sacha Walicord and pursued by both churches through consistory and pastors. As part of the Confessing Evangelical Reformed Church the Berg Church has close connections with reformed churches in Michigan and partnerships with Puritan Seminary. It is exciting to see how God is working Globally to build His Kingdom. Berg Church and Bentheim Reformed Church have a vast shared history. We are excited to create a lasting connection with one another and spread the love of the Lord!

Moment 4 Ministry on March 1: Kyle Lampen will be giving a Berg Church update to the congregation during the morning service.

Bentheim, Germany - Mission Church Pledge Card: Bentheim Reformed Church will be supporting Berg Church in Bentheim, Germany through pledges. Pledge card envelopes will be available starting in March. You will be able to make a one-time gift or set up a recurring gift. Pledge Cards envelopes are available at the information center or through Renee Breuker in the office. Pledges can also be set up online via the church website. Please use the QR code below to easily access the link.

Elder, Stefan Haan, from Berg Church will be visiting our church on Tuesday, June 2 with his family while they are in the states for a visit. He will be meeting with Pastor Kris, Renee Breuker (Director of Missions), and some of our consistory during their visit.

Prayer Requests

- Praise God for all events and activities He richly blessed in recent months.
- Praise God for new church members and growing community
- Pray for their pastor Paul Koch to be strengthened and encouraged as he boldly preaches the gospel and shepherds the flock.
- Pray for wisdom in distributing responsibilities, as much work still rests on few shoulders.
- Pray for lasting fruit from our evangelistic outreach—that many hearts would open to Christ.



Nursery, Welcome, Hospitality Volunteer Schedules

Date	Nursery	Welcome	Hospitality
March 1	Annie McCleery Hannah Walters Sutton Geurink Ava Lengkeek	Dan & Jodi Geurink	Meghan Walters
March 8	Kelly Eding Brea Zoerhof Taryn Schurman Morgan Koetsier	Dan & Dawn Hoffman	Shawn Hulst
March 15	Jodi Geurink Michelle Geurink Ellery Lampen Chloe VanDyk	Keith & Ann Walters	Hannah Walters
March 22	Nicole Blauwkamp Averie Brower Joelle Debo Bristol Hoeve	Sandy Hoeve Jodi Mesbergen	Tom Overhiser
April 5	Kylee Geurink Cherish Nyboer Kelsey Geurink Hannah VanDyk	Mike & Lisa Lugten	Sheri Popovitch
April 12	Carie Hoeve Leah Walters Taylor Patmos Oliver McCleery	Bruce & Jill LaMar	Darla Groenheide
April 19	Kiel Patmos Laura Lengkeek Rylan Schutter Evie Boeve	Rick & Lisa Dirkse	Erma Eding Nancy Sal
April 26	Gail Schutter Amanda Schurman Bethany Kalmink Claire Debo	Dan & Dawn Hoffman	Brielle Groenheide

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 - Walk Out Worship - Faith Builders & Seekers - 6 pm: High School Ministry	2 - 6:30 pm: Executive Committee Meeting	3 - 9 am: Women's Bible Study - 7 pm: Bible Study Fellowship - 7 pm: Committee Meetings	4 - 5:30 am: Men's Bible Study - 8:30 am: Quilting Ministry - 5 pm: Supper - 5:30 pm: Discippling Class - 6 pm: Middle School Ministry - 6:15 pm: Pinewood Derby - 6:15 pm: GEMS - 6:30 pm: All Church Bible Study - 6:30 pm: Church Made Simple	5 - 9 am: Coffee Break - Release Time Bible Club - 7 pm: Women's Bible Study	6	7
8 - Walk Out Worship & God's Gang - Faith Builders & Seekers - 6 pm: High School Ministry Dinner with Consistory - 6:30 pm: Young Adults Group	9 - 6:15 pm: Elders' Meeting - 7:30 pm: Consistory Meeting	10 - 9 am: Women's Bible Study - 7 pm: Bible Study Fellowship - 7 pm: Prayer Day Service	11 - 5:30 am: Men's Bible Study - 5 pm: Supper - 5:30 pm: Discippling Class - 6:15 pm: Middle School Ministry - 6:15 pm: Cadets - 6:30 pm: All Church Bible Study - 6:30 pm: Church Made Simple	12 - 6:30 pm: Systematic Theology Class - 7 pm: Women's Bible Study	13	14 - 5 pm: Dinner - 6:15 pm: Youth Group Auction
15 - Walk Out Worship & God's Gang - Faith Builders & Seekers - AI Gemmen's Class - 6 pm: High School Ministry	16	17 - 9 am: Women's Bible Study - 7 pm: Bible Study Fellowship - 7 pm: Women's Ministry	18 - 5:30 am: Men's Bible Study - 8:30 am: Quilting Ministry - 5 pm: Supper - 6:15 pm: Middle School Ministry vs. Consistory Dodgeball - 6:15 pm: GEMS - 6:30 pm: Church Made Simple	19 - 9 am: Coffee Break - 7 pm: Women's Bible Study	20	21
22 - 9:30 am: Children's Ministry Sunday - 6 pm: High School Ministry - 6:50 pm: Young Adults Group	23	24 - 7 pm: Bible Study Fellowship	25 - 5:30 am: Men's Bible Study - 5 pm: Supper - 6:15 pm: Middle School Ministry - 6:15 pm: Cadets - 6:30 pm: Church Made Simple	26 - 6:30 pm: Systematic Theology Class	27	28
29 - The Lord's Supper - AI Gemmen's Class - 6 pm: High School Ministry	30	31 - 7 pm: Bible Study Fellowship				