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# The Bentheim Bell Tower

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF BENTHEIM  
REFORMED CHURCH

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## From the Pastor's Desk

BY KRISTOFFER POPOVITCH

How are you doing keeping up with everything that is happening in the world today? It seems like every day there is something going on that is making national headlines. Whether it is the reports about the funding of the daycare centers in Minneapolis and the disrupted worship service at Cities Church in Saint Paul, Minnesota to the Indiana judge and his wife being shot in their home, it is a lot to take in.

If you have been keeping track, the world news has been quite busy as well. Greenland, the EU, and Russia....oh my!! While it is certainly good and even responsible to know what is happening around us, this may be what so many people have been experiencing - information overload.

It has been shown that media saturation does in fact have an impact on our well-being. Generally speaking, people are not neutral on many of these issues I mentioned above, so stress can be caused, as well as an increase in anxiety. This is not just an adult issue either, children hear and understand a lot more than we are aware of at times. Children too can be troubled by what they hear and see on the news.

So, I would like to make a suggestion. This could even be a New Year's resolution (it's not too late to start). Perhaps one way we as Christians combat this problem of information overload and media saturation is to turn off the news, stop surfing, and pick up our copy of the Word of God. I guarantee you will find Good News proclaimed that will lift your spirit 😊. A good plan is to focus on Jesus' promises and the wonderful encouragement He has spoken to His people. Try it! And if you think you read the Word a fair amount, try doing it some more 😊. You will not regret it.

Jesus has provided comforting words that we need not worry, He has overcome the world (John 16:33), and I get it - it can be difficult to just brush things off when we experience times of increased strife. However, Jesus is not telling us to ignore these things that are happening, rather be encouraged that in the end, the victory is His.

As Christians this is our hope. This is our joy! So let me encourage to you to remember what Jesus has told us; not to worry for all of these things that are unfolding before our eyes must take place before He returns (Matthew 24:6). No one knows the hour or the day when this will happen but we know that the Lord is in control. So let us find our rest in Him.

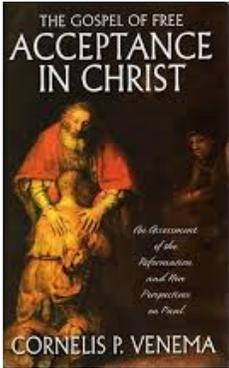


In Christ, Pastor Kris

# Book-of-the-Month

## *The Gospel of Free Acceptance in Christ* Cornelius Venema

In our Wednesday evening Bible study, over the last few months, we have talked quite a bit about how we are saved. As a church it may seem like we have talked about this quite a bit, but as Martin Luther said, we can never hear too much about grace- specifically grace ALONE.



Last month I recommended a book by Sinclair Ferguson which focuses on the theme of God's salvation that is free to us. So this month I would like to suggest a book that is a great compliment to Dr Ferguson's book: "The Gospel of Free Acceptance in Christ" by Cornelius Venema. The emphasis of this book points readers back to the heart of Christianity: that we are accepted by God not because of our performance, but because of Christ. It is clearly written and will cause anyone who picks this book up to pause and wonder at Christ's splendor because of His amazing work that He has done. I am certain you will agree Dr. Venema captures the heart of the Gospel and the message Christ gives His church.

## December 2025 Financial Report

### General Fund

Receipts needed per month per budget	\$44,238.23
Receipts: from offerings	\$96,353.64
Disbursements: for the month	\$49,363.09

### Building Fund

Receipts	\$4,080.00
Disbursements	\$4,504.75

### Mission Fund

Receipts needed per month per budget	\$6,916.67
Receipts	\$7,056.00
Disbursements	\$21,391.09

# Upcoming Events



**February 10: Women's Ministries Self Defense Class**

7 p.m.



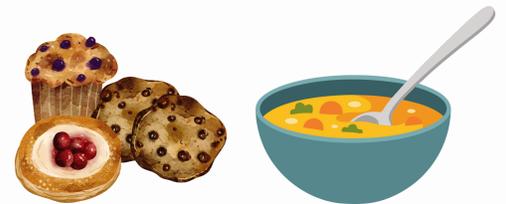
**February 15: Singing Crusaders**

5 p.m.



**February 17: Women's Ministries**

7 p.m.



**February 21: Soup/Dessert Cookoff and Bakeoff**

5 p.m.

Prizes will be awarded for the first place winners for best soup and best dessert. We hope to see you there!



**March 14: Youth Auction**

6:15 p.m.

## **February Meetings:**

February 3: Executive Committee Meeting

February 4: Committee Meetings

February 9: Elders & Consistory Meetings

# Max Tyler January Update

Grace, Mercy, and Peace to you, from God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

January has been a long month, not saying it was bad, but just long. I went through our Revelation class, that was insane. I hadn't read through the book before, but it was just incredible, I was blown away at every chapter. I am just finishing up my Church History class, and that has been very fun as well. There was so much that I didn't know about history, and I still feel like I don't know anything.

Work has been pretty good, I'm continuing the process of the kitchen remodeling for my boss. In addition to working, I am also volunteering at Waters Edge Pregnancy Center once a week, I'm helping with organizing, gopher work, and keeping the husbands/fathers occupied while the mother is getting a check-up.

Full classes start in 2 weeks, and I am really looking forward to it. Mondays will be Epistles 2, Wednesdays is Acts, Thursdays is Communicating Biblical Truths, and Fridays is the Prophets class. I am greatly looking forward to the Prophets class, so much so, that I am considering helping teach it next year, Lord willing I get accepted for the internship.

Even though January went by so slowly, the rest of the year went by incredibly fast. I can't believe I only have 3 months of school left. I applied for the 3rd year internship, and I am still waiting for a response. If I get it, I will be teaching up to 40% of a class, and maybe even working in student life. And if I get it I plan on staying up here for the summer, I found very good and cheap housing (the dorms), and I found a job that will pay more than what I was making this summer.

I also plan on setting up my missionary account through Global Outreach soon. That way, donations I receive will be able to go toward my school bill and cost of living.

Please continue to pray for me as well as ABI, pray for unity and peace. There were some unfortunate circumstances that arose this month, and we're still working through the pain of it. Not many pictures were taken this month, I will make sure to get more for February.



For previous updates, visit [www.bentheim.org/max](http://www.bentheim.org/max)

# Missionary of the Month:



# CarePortal

## CarePortal

**Bentheim CarePortal Leads:  
Jessica Hassevoort, Carie Hoeve,  
Renee Breuker**

**CarePortal is Care-Sharing technology that drives action for local children and families in crisis.**

In the midst of the complex Foster Care Crisis, CarePortal's role is to help mobilize action neighbor-to-neighbor; to connect vulnerable children and families with caring neighbors in their own community. For both prevention and protection, the ultimate goal is for children and families to build a meaningful connection that can lead to on-going supportive relationships.

In February Bentheim Reformed Church will be relaunching CarePortal to help meet the needs of our Hamilton community. There will be many ways for you, the congregation, to get involved and make a difference in your own backyard.

Are you looking for a way to make a positive impact in a child's life? You can make a difference - right here, right now - by responding to a need on CarePortal.

The platform instantly connects you to the urgent, real-time needs of vulnerable children and families living right in our community. Needs such as a bed, a car seat, rent assistance, and more can provide critical, immediate relief and restore a family back to a strong and healthy state.

### **What is a Response Team**

Response Teams are a feature in CarePortal that enables Churches to organize and build teams of responders. Response Teams can help churches create greater impact in their communities by having more options for people within the Church to rally together to respond to requests.

If you are interested in being on a response team please see Jessica Hassevoort, Renee Breuker, or Carie Hoeve.

### **How Care Portal Works**

Step 1 - Uncovering needs: A child or family in need requires help from a child-serving professional

Step 2 - Submitting needs: The child-serving professional vets and types needs into CarePortal

Step 3 - Sharing needs: CarePortal alerts nearby churches and community members to needs

Step 4 - Meeting needs: Churches and community members partner to ensure that the child and family is helped

### **Donating to Bentheim's CarePortal Fund**

When you donate to Bentheim's CarePortal fund your contribution goes directly toward helping meet specific needs for families in the Hamilton community. A collection will be taken during the morning service on February 15 for the BRC Careportal Fund.

**Moment for Ministry:  
Sunday, February 15  
during the morning service**

**Please see the mission bulletin  
board for more information  
regarding CarePortal**

# Nursery, Welcome, Hospitality Volunteer Schedules

Date	Nursery	Welcome	Hospitality
February 1	Ronda Lameris Jen Vander Kolk Sadie Schutter Claire Debo	Rick & Lisa Dirkse	Sheri Popovitch
February 8	Carolyn Dekker Renee Breuker Mallorie Koetsier Brinsey Hoeve	Carol Brower Jodi Mesbergen	Darla Groenheide
February 15	Kiel Patmos Andrea Mulder Marisa Patmos Chloe VanDyk	Bruce & Jill LaMar	Erma Eding Nancy Sal
February 22	Alyssa Schipper Brielle Groenheide Mia Brink Evelyn Busscher	Cris Walters Hannah Walters	Brielle Groenheide
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
March 29	Charity Walters Taylor Oosterink James McCleery Blake Lugten	Cris Walters Hannah Walters	Sandy Hoeve Paula Scholten

# February 2026

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Walk Out Worship &amp; God's Gang</li> <li>- Faith Builders &amp; Seekers</li> <li>- 6 pm: High School Ministry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6:30 pm: Executive Committee Meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 9 am: Women's Bible Study</li> <li>- 7 pm: Bible Study Fellowship</li> <li>- 7 pm: Committee Meetings</li> <li>- 7 pm: Women's Ministry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5:30 am: Men's Bible Study</li> <li>- 8:30 am: Quilting Ministry</li> <li>- 5 pm: Supper</li> <li>- 6 pm: Middle School Ministry</li> <li>- 6:15 pm: GEMS</li> <li>- 6:30 pm: All Church Bible Study</li> <li>- 6:30 pm: Church Made Simple</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 9 am: Coffee Break</li> <li>- Release Time Bible Club</li> <li>- 7 pm: Women's Bible Study</li> </ul>		7
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Walk Out Worship &amp; God's Gang</li> <li>- Faith Builders &amp; Seekers</li> <li>- All Gemmen's Class</li> <li>- 6:30 pm: Young Adults Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 6:15 pm: Elders' Meeting</li> <li>- 7:30 pm: Consistory Meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 9 am: Women's Bible Study</li> <li>- 7 pm: Bible Study Fellowship</li> <li>- 7 pm: Women's Ministry Self Defense Class</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5:30 am: Men's Bible Study</li> <li>- 5 pm: Supper</li> <li>- 6:15 pm: Middle School Ministry</li> <li>- 6:15 pm: Cadets</li> <li>- 6:30 pm: All Church Bible Study</li> <li>- 6:30 pm: Church Made Simple</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- High School Ministry Retreat</li> </ul>		14
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Walk Out Worship &amp; God's Gang</li> <li>- Faith Builders &amp; Seekers</li> <li>- 5 pm: Singing Crusaders</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 9 am: Women's Bible Study</li> <li>- 7 pm: Bible Study Fellowship</li> <li>- 7 pm: Women's Ministry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5:30 am: Men's Bible Study</li> <li>- 8:30 am: Quilting Ministry</li> <li>- 5 pm: Supper</li> <li>- 6:15 pm: Middle School Ministry</li> <li>- 6:15 pm: GEMS</li> <li>- Father/Daughter Night</li> <li>- 6:30 pm: All Church Bible Study</li> <li>- 6:30 pm: Church Made Simple</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 9 am: Coffee Break</li> <li>- 7 pm: Women's Bible Study</li> </ul>		21
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All Gemmen's Class</li> <li>- 6 pm: High School Ministry</li> <li>- 6:30 pm: Young Adults Group</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 9 am: Women's Bible Study</li> <li>- 7 pm: Bible Study Fellowship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5:30 am: Men's Bible Study</li> <li>- 5 pm: Supper</li> <li>- 6:15 pm: Middle School Ministry</li> <li>- 6:15 pm: Cadets</li> <li>- 6:30 pm: All Church Bible Study</li> <li>- 6:30 pm: Church Made Simple</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 7 pm: Women's Bible Study</li> </ul>		28