

Baptist Bugle



April 2019

First Baptist Church of Morris ~ Pastor Steve Larson

1650 West Route 6 ~ Morris, Illinois

Phone: 815-942-0812 ~ FAX: 815-942-2763 fbmorris@csky.net ~ www.fbmorris.org

Pastor's Ponderings –

As we enter April every year, and sometimes March, our focus turns to Easter. We think about the victory that is ours in Jesus because of the empty grave. We remember the cross and how Jesus suffered and died on the cross to pay the price for all of our sins. We consider the last words of Jesus from the cross in *John 19:30*, “*When He had received the drink, Jesus said, ‘It is finished.’ With that, He bowed His head and gave up His Spirit.*” To know the truth, in the fact that there is nothing we can do to improve upon or add to what Jesus has already done for us. Salvation is complete in Jesus Christ. My works and my efforts will not save me, nor will my works or my efforts be able to add to, or improve upon the finished work of Jesus on the cross at Calvary.

But let's consider today 3 things that led Jesus to the cross. *Luke 9:51* says, “*As the time approached for Him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.*”


#1 Jesus was absolutely insistent on His dependency upon His Heavenly Father. *John 8:28-29*, “*So Jesus said, when you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. The One who sent me is with me; He has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases Him.*”

#2 Jesus was absolutely insistent on being obedient to His Heavenly Father in all things. He demonstrated His faith in His Heavenly Father through His obedience to His Heavenly Father. After all, what is faith if it is not a total dependence on God, and a willingness to do His will? It is complete and total, humble obedience to God's will, ready to do whatever He call us to do. And by the way, I don't know that we always need more faith. The amount of faith is not nearly as important as the right kind of faith – faith in a God who has the power and the victory. Obedience is not something extra we do.

It's what we're called to do. It's who we're called to be – obedient servants just like Jesus was, and is. With obedience comes more faith. I think sometimes more faith doesn't come, because we're not being obedient in the ways that God already called us to walk in. And what God is saying is, "How will I give you more faith if you won't first walk in obedience to the things I have called you to walk in?" Honestly, I think this is a huge problem in the church today – a desire for much faith, but an unwillingness or a stubbornness to walk in obedience in the ways that God has shown us to walk in. Jesus walked in obedience to His Heavenly Father's every word.

#3 Jesus finished what He started. Jesus finished what His Heavenly Father started in Him. He didn't give up. He didn't lose hope. He didn't quit part way through. *John 4:31-34 reminds us, "Meanwhile His disciples urged Him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But He said to them, 'I have food to eat that you know nothing about.' Then the disciples said to each other, 'Could someone have brought Him food?' 'My food,' Jesus said, 'is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work.'"* The grave is empty as to say with such a loud voice, **IT IS FINISHED!** Jesus finished God's work. There is victory for us in Jesus.

HE IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN INDEED!!!



He is not here;

he has

Risen!

Luke 24:6

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY



Women of Prayer

Tuesdays at 2:00 pm

Men of Action

Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm

All men are invited to come!

Beginning new study "The Bible Walk Through" with Roger Safranek

Women's Afternoon Bible Study

Wednesdays at 1:00 pm

New Study - "Living in God's Will" *Book of Ruth*

All women are invited to come

Please contact Helen Brehm

815-942-6625



Women's Evening Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

Have you ever wondered how all the passages in the Bible fit together?
Join us for this new study to see how the Bible from Genesis to Revelation
connects into a seamless thread.

New Study - "Seamless"

By Angie Smith

All women are invited to come

Please contact Colette Kirby

815-942-9527



Single Moms' Group

Every Other Wednesday Evening at 5:30 pm

If you are a single mom or know of one who would
enjoy meeting with others, please invite them to come with you!



Congregational Prayer

Sunday, April 7

5:00 pm



Come gather together for prayer and praise!

April

We've all met people who seem to enjoy correcting others and telling them what is wrong with them. Sometimes it's done with an arrogant attitude-the kind that says "I'm better than you, and I know what's wrong with you." Sometimes it's done with an attitude of false humility: "I humbly hope I can help you become a better person." If you're like most of us, however, you probably don't care much for people like this, and (rightly or wrongly) you probably don't listen to their advice.

Instead of criticism, our goal should be to encourage and uplift. Instead of impressing others with ourselves, we want them to be impressed with Christ.

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs."

Ephesians 4:29



CPR Class

Certification/Re-Certification

Anyone interested in taking a "Friends & Family" class please contact Leslie Meloun.

Leslie is offering a class for any age that is interested.

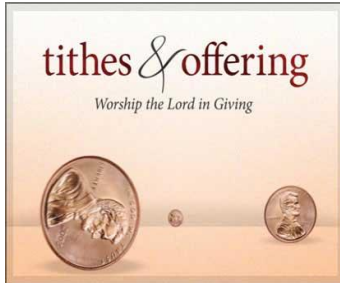
"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." (Jer. 29:13)

UNIFIED GIVING

<u>Month</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Needed</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Received</u>
March (4 Sundays)	\$25,720.00	\$24,302.00

Church Mortgage Balance as of March 24, 2019 \$176,368.40

Thank you for your generous and faithful giving!!!



This past year \$3,390.00 has been given to be applied to the 'principal only'! Anyone wishing to contribute toward lowering the principal should write 'apply to principal only' on their check. For accounting purposes, it would be appreciated if you would write a separate check if giving for 'principal only', rather than including it in your regular giving check. Thank you!

SOWL Food

Just to let you know, Judy Needham has taken over the SOWL Food Ministry!

Thank you Colette for filling in!

Please call the Judy if you are in need of meals following surgery or are ill at
815-922-1034.

JEWEL-OSCO FRESH DONATION

Jewel-Osco continues to donate fresh food each Sunday morning.

The donated fresh food is that which is dated and must be used.

We have a great need for volunteers to go to Jewel at 11am on Sunday mornings to pick up the food and bring it back to the church. If you are able to serve in this capacity once a month or so, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board near the library.

If you have any questions, please see Deb Ritke, our coordinator.



Boards to Meet on Tuesday, April 9

5:30 pm – Board of Christian Education

5:30 pm – Board of Trustees

6:30 pm – Board of Diaconates



Mobile Meals

April 16-30

Our church will be delivering Mobile Meals again in April. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the foyer at the church. If you have never delivered Mobile Meals before and have questions, please contact Chris in the church office at 815-942-0812.



Our Deepest Sympathy -

.....to the family of Virgil (Jay) Saenz. Jay passed away on Saturday, March 2. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

..... to the family of David Vincent. David passed away on Sunday, March 17. Our thoughts and prayers are with Martha Stephenson, his sister, and the rest of their family.

The following note was received -

Dear First Baptist Church Family,

A big thank you for all the prayers and thoughts the past months that I have gone thru this cancer journey!

The gift basket from the church was wonderful! Packed with great things and great reading!

And all the meals were delicious! It was great to have that extra help in not needing to worry about cooking!

It is comforting to know there is a church family that will hold you up in prayer!

A big step...I have completed chemo! Now on to radiation!

Thank you to everyone again! God will do all things in His time!

In Christ,

Nancy Brian

God has His seven wonders.

The first is the wonder of God's love. The Almighty God, the Creator of the whole universe, love you and is interested in you as if you were the only person who ever lived. Even when we sin against Him, He still wants to put His arms around us and say, "I love you."

The second is the wonder of God coming to live among us.

God became a man - and that man was Jesus.

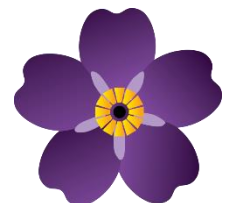
The third is the wonder of the Cross. Jesus died for you and for me. Far more than His excruciatingly painful physical death, He suffered

Spiritually when God laid on Him your sins and mine.

"Because Your love is better than life, my lips will glorify You.

I will praise You as long as I live."

Psalm 63:3-4





Join Us For Sunday School

Sunday mornings

9:30 am – 10:30 am

Nursery – 3 years and under

Preschool – 2nd Grade, Teacher Lisa Vaksdal

3rd – 5th Grade, Teacher Kayla Hamilton

6th – 8th Grade, Teacher Diane Gagliardo

9th – 12th Grade, Teacher Mary Motter

Adults – Teachers, Jeff and Claudette Swiggett



“A Night with the Stars”

of First Baptist Church

What: A fund raiser for the youth of the church, while helping members of the church to complete small tasks for a starting bid of \$5.00. The youth will host a night starting with an auction, followed by fellowship and fun!

When: April 20th at 4:00pm ~ ?

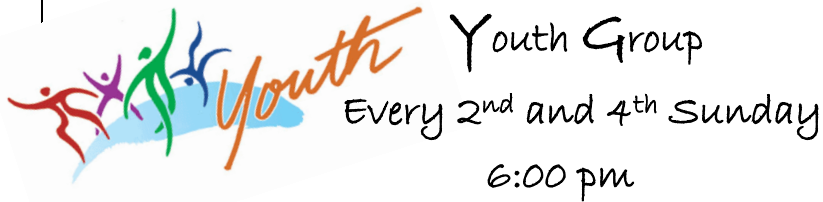
Where: First Baptist Church of Morris

Who is invited: EVERYONE!

We will have finger foods, appetizers and desserts for tips, also

Donation cards will be available prior to the auction

Any questions, contact Leslie Meloun



Every 2nd and 4th Sunday
6:00 pm

Details of Events will be posted as they are scheduled!

Middle Group

Ages 20-50

We are looking for someone willing to take over the Middle Group, they only meet once every quarter or so. If anyone is interested, please contact the office at 815-942-0812.

MIDDLE GROUP

Feed My Starving Children

Saturday, May 11

Save the date!

We will once again be volunteering at the "Feed My Starving Children" facility in Aurora.

This is the 5th year we have gone and it is an amazing day of packing meals to feed children around the world!

A sign-up sheet is on the table in the foyer!!



First Baptist Church

April 14-21

Sunday, April 14 – Palm Sunday Services at 8:00 & 10:45am

Thursday, April 18 – Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00pm

Friday, April 19 – Good Friday (No Service)

Sunday, April 21 – Easter Sunday Services 8:00 & 10:45am

Men Serving Breakfast between Services

Easter Children's "Skittles Easter Story" at 10:00am



April Birthdays

- 1 Charles Clark, Jim Hitchcock, Dave Punke
- 2 Gerry Carlson
- 4 Linda Burden
- 5 Patricia Neal
- 6 Renee Gretencord, Marilyn Marshall, Dan Severson
- 8 Coley Beal, J.J. Gonnam
- 11 Mark Conrod, Lynn Wisslead, Rhonda Nold
- 12 Betty Vining
- 14 Nancy McKinney
- 16 Mark Schwalm, Caleb VandenBos, Nolan Walker
- 18 Melinda Rieland
- 20 Emmett Joneson, Lisa Cottingim
- 21 Andrew Ciesla, Shanon Matuszewski, Kylie Severson
- 22 Chris Lutz, Bill Needham
- 23 Chris Hawk, Matthew Paulson
- 24 Jim Gonnam, Keith Smith, Marie Walker
- 25 Zita Goebel
- 26 April Mrowczynski, Kathy Walcott
- 30 Marshall Ranz, Jeane Robertson



April Anniversaries

- 5 Jim and Brenda Downey
- 8 Tim and Julie Applegate
- 17 Paul and Roberta Carlson
- 19 Rodney and Denise Ellis, Jerry and Pat Hunter
- 20 Dick and Deb Polanshek

Happy
Anniversary

Adopt-a-Highway

Saturday, April 13

Your help is needed for this important ministry!

We meet at the church at 8:00am

to pick up our supplies and then go to our designated area for highway clean-up...

Saratoga Road from Route 6 to Old Stage Road

Name: _____

Date: _____

BIBLE EASTER WORD SEARCH



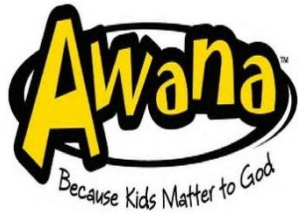
K C T E K A M S R H T O A Q T L T J T S H P
L G D A B H C I A A O Z F S S P C X E U Z I
M A G P K K R M E P A W E S A A A B Z N M L
Q R M C M R U O S O B U E Q I C V A T D P A
Q O U B Q M C N C S L N C H U Y R I R A E T
F P F G F A I O R T O G N W F A J I O Y K E
P P W Q A R F F I L O O V R Q W T S F R G D
C A Z X H Y I C S E D L X E S S T T R I Y Y
R A S Y J F X Y E S N M S T N R B J E H C U
L L L S D Z I R N G O L G O T H A E W I L E
N R I V O R O E G O T D U M C R O S S G L Y
I G G C A V N N L P N Q X B Z A J U H H O Q
S Z K M J R E E V R I B L E F Q Z S V P L M
G Z N Z W G Y R S J T G R Y E D F D H R O O
R O B E R O M A N S K S O N O F G O D I X Z
T S Q B E N A I L S Y U H N Z M B A L E S V
P J B T H R E E D A Y S N S N G H G K S L N
N C F A N G E L S W S Z G W Q V C N M T D B

ROMANS
RISEN
SACRIFICE
THREE DAYS
ANGELS
SAVIOR

GOLGOTHA
BLOOD
SIMON OF CYRENE
JESUS
ROBE
LAMB

SON OF GOD
TOMB
APOSTLES
CALVARY
CROSS
NAILS

MARY
CRUCIFIXION
PILATE
HIGH PRIEST
PASSOVER
SUNDAY



Awana Club
First Baptist Church
Ages 4 yrs. to 8th grade

We are very excited to have started an Awana Club here **at First Baptist Church!** Awana Club is held the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at **6:00 – 7:15pm** You may register by calling the church office @ 815-942-0812 Registration is required so we can order the materials needed –



Children's "Skittles Easter Story"

Easter, Sunday 21

10:00 am

The children will hunt for eggs
in the Sanctuary

Lisa Vaksdal and Kayla Hamilton
will tell the story and read a poem
found in each egg!



Youth Group
Sunday, April 28
1-4 pm

Starved Rock Hike
(depends on weather)

Will keep you updated!

