

Baptist Bugle

October 2019

First Baptist Church of Morris - Pastor Steve Larson

1650 West Route 6 - Morris, Illinois

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Pastor's Ponderings –

What does it mean to be set apart for Christ? When your life has been set apart for Christ, what does that look like? It's not the kind of question you can answer in 30 seconds because there's a lot to it.

And before we can be set apart for Christ, and His purpose, we must first be In Christ. To be in Christ means to be saved. We must repent of our sins and trust in Christ alone for salvation. Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for our sins and be the perfection on our behalf that God demands. Jesus satisfied the wrath of God that is on sin. And, the wrath of God that was on us before we were in Christ. But, once we are in Christ, we are covered in the blood of Jesus, Jesus becomes our covering. Jesus becomes our righteousness, we are made right because of what Jesus did for us, on our behalf, on the cross of cavalry. And therefore, we are able to come into His Presence and stand before a Holy God. Having had the wrath of God removed from us by the blood of Jesus, we now stand before God covered in Jesus' blood. We are clothed in the righteousness of Christ. Jesus is the perfection for us that God demands. Because the blood of Jesus, God's only son, cleanses us and purifies us from all sin.

Now once we are in Christ, what does it mean to be set apart for Christ? Well I guess a real quiet answer, if there is such a thing, would be to say that if you are set apart for Christ, you are all Christ's – you are all His. You belong to Him. As Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 6 – “You are not your own; you were bought with a price.” You see, when you came to Christ, and became in Christ, you then became all Christ's, All His, for His purpose. When you are in Christ, Jesus is your Savior. But! But, Jesus is also Lord of your life, not just the one who saves. Peter tells his readers in his first letter, the third chapter, “But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord.” When a person comes to Christ, there is a change in mind about who Jesus is and what He had done for us. This change of mind should lead to a change in how we live our lives. If there is no change in lifestyle after a person has come to Christ, then one must question whether or not that person has set apart Christ as Lord in their heart. Not that we're perfect, and yes we still sin. But we ask Jesus to forgive us for our sin. And we should want to sin less and less. We understand more and more that our sin is the reason Jesus had to die for us and shed His blood. With that knowledge and understanding growing in our hearts, can we continue to sin so boldly and still think that we set apart Christ as Lord? I really don't think so.

The word, and the work is called sanctification. When we set apart Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives and Lord of our hearts, we are wanting Him to change us. We are wanting to be changed to look more and more like Jesus, and less and less like us. The word and the work of sanctification is the process in which God is making us more and more into the image of Jesus. Because when we are in Christ, we are a new creation. The old way, the old life, the old person is gone. And we are to be being made more and more into the image of Christ. We are now set apart for Christ's purposes, and will to be done in our lives. We don't live like unbelievers anymore, that old creation that we used to be is done away with. We have been made new by Christ. But when we live in things, and indulge in things like unbelievers, we don't live like we have a heart set apart for Christ. We are in the world, but we are not of the world. We live and walk like Jesus our Lord and Savior. And our holiness comes from Christ. In Him we are holy. Not only should we be set apart for Christ in our lifestyle, but we should be set apart for Christ in order to spend time with Him. God desires an intimate relationship with us, we need to be set apart for the purpose of spending time alone with Him. Time spent seeking Him. Time spent in His Word, and time in prayer.

Finally, let me close with this. Referencing once again, Peter in his first letter, Chapter 3:15, "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." Why would anyone ask you about you? Well, because you're in Christ, you're different. (Not better than someone else, that isn't it.) But different. And it shows. There is a hope, and a peace, and an assurance that maybe they don't have, and it's appealing. And so they ask, "What's different about you?" or maybe they already know that you're a Christian and so they ask, "What is so special about this Jesus thing?" And you have an answer. A very clear, confident answer because you are very sure of the hope that is within you.

You are prepared to give such an answer because you've spent time with the Lord. You've spent time in prayer, time in His word, time seeking Him, and time getting to know Him. You know that God loves you and that He wants to have a deep, close relationship with you. And you are seeking to be more and more like Jesus every day and thus you have set apart Jesus Christ as Lord of your life, so thankful that He has saved you from the wrath of God and covered you in His blood. He changed your life and made you a new creation in Christ. And because of this, you are prepared to give an answer for the hope that you have, and therefore, showcase the Gospel of Jesus Christ. How can we do anything less than be set apart for Jesus? How can we do anything less than set apart Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives?

I pray that you are in Christ, that you know that you're saved. I pray that you know that you know that you're saved. I pray that you are growing in the Lord, being made more and more into the image of Jesus. I pray that in your hearts, you have set apart Jesus Christ as Lord.

Blessings to each one of you,

Pastor Steve

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!



Women's Afternoon Bible Study

Wednesdays at 1:00 pm

Are studying "*Embracing a Forever Kind of Purpose for our Seasons of Life*"

All women are invited to come

Please contact Helen Brehm at 815-942-6625



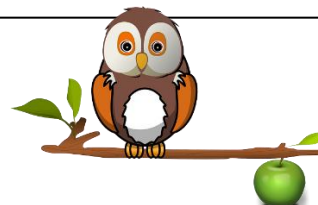
Women's Evening Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

All women are invited to come

Are studying "*The Armor of God*" by Priscilla Shirer on Sept. 4th

Please contact Colette Kirby at 815-942-9527



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, October 6
4:30 pm

Come gather together for prayer and praise!
We will be meeting in the
old Adult Sunday School Room



Looking for a volunteer willing to fill the
need of organizing people and food for
those that require a few meals brought to
them while recovering from surgery or illness.
Please call the church office at 815-942-0812



MOBILE MEALS
September 16 - 30

Thank you to all who helped
deliver Mobile Meals!

- George & Jan Kresse
- Steve & Denise Rylander
- Mark & Gayle Conrod
- Colette Kirby
- Carol Adair
- Bev Swiggett
- Kim Enlow
- Mary Motter
- Kay Hemmersbach
- Deb Gonnam
- Janet McCormack
- Jane Battersby

Boards to Meet on Tuesday, Oct. 8

- 5:30 pm - Board of Christian Education
- 5:30 pm - Board of Trustees
- 6:30 pm - Board of Diaconates

Morris Life Chain – Save the date!

Sunday, October 6, 3:15-4:30pm along Rt. 47

Meet at Life Church-118 E. Jefferson St. @ 3:15pm (Old Morris Theatre)

Morris Life Chain needs YOU! Participants of Life Chain join together one day each year, from churches all across the nation, **to pray** to end abortion in the U.S. and help bring awareness by holding approved, non-graphic signs.

Contact: Annie Rasmuson
ambarnard@gmail.com or 214-608-7446



“Stand with us for Life”

Good News Club

Good News Club will begin Thursday, October 3rd and finish Thursday, April 30, 2020. Club will be held every Thursday during the time period that school is in session a full day, 2:45-4:00pm.

We are excited to see what God has planned for this new school year and appreciate the prayers of our “Family of Faith” as God brings the kids! It’s our fervent hope and prayer that many will come to know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior and that they will be little missionaries in their homes, neighborhoods and school.



Staff for the 2019-2020 school year –
Carol Adair, Kara Paulson, Kristi Larson, Kay Hemmersbach,
Helen Brehm, Bella Aguilar and Paula Misek

Feed My Starving Children
Saturday, November 9
Save the date!



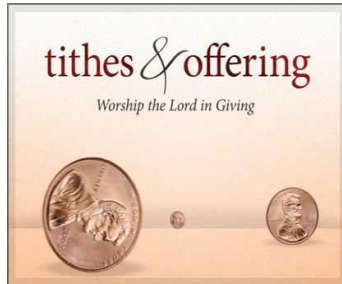
We will once again be volunteering at the “Feed My Starving Children” facility in Aurora.
This is the 6th year we have gone and it is
an amazing day of packing meals to feed the children around the world!
A sign-up sheet is on the table in the foyer!

UNIFIED GIVING

| <u>Month</u> | <u>Monthly Amt. Needed</u> | <u>Monthly Amt. Received</u> |
|--------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| September | \$25,720.00 | \$22,874.05 |

Church Mortgage Balance as of September 22, 2019 \$126,554.46

Thank you for your generous and faithful giving!!!



This past year \$11,005.00 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!

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.

We Have a New Custodian

The Trustees have hired Monica Zavala as our new Custodian. We are looking forward to working together.

Welcome aboard Monica!



MIDDLE GROUP

Ages 20-50

We are looking for someone willing to take over the Middle Group, they meet once every quarter or so.

If anyone is interested, please contact the church office at

815-942-0812.





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 Kara Hill
6th – 8th Grade – Teacher Diane Gagliardo
9th – 12th Grade – Teacher Mary Motter
Adults – Teachers Jeff and Claudette Swiggett

“Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.” Proverbs 22:6



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.

Awana Club mtgs. this month...
Awana will meet on October 6th and 20th!

October 20 – Dress up Nite



Youth Group
Ages 5th – 12th Grade

Sunday, Oct. 13
6:00pm
Dinner and a Movie
at church

Sunday, Oct. 27
6:00pm
Pumpkin Carving/
cookout

Any questions, contact
Leslie Meloun



A child's laughter could simply be, one of the most beautiful sounds in the world...

October Birthdays

1 Lauren Emmons, Haley West
3 Kim Marx
4 Jim Adair
5 Samantha Swiggett, Tracey Steffes
6 Claudette Swiggett, Chris Phillips, Emily Larsen
8 Debbie Ritke
10 Peyton Chapman
11 Denise Johansen, Bob Udstuen, Ashlyn Punke, Dorothy Fannin
12 Rylie Linn
15 Gayle Conrod, Erin Lutz, Scott Henderson, Joan Olson
16 Gary Kuntz
17 Grace Alford, Sarah Lawrence, Rita Briley
18 Amanda Carlson
20 Jeff Carlson, Michael Clark
21 Tim Applegate, Nancy Krug
23 Deb Gonnam, Kaylee Cromer, Shirley Myre
24 Greg Kuntz
25 Haleigh Paterson
26 Shirley Love
28 Erica Duvick, Judy Hannu
29 David Bricker
30 Diane Alford, Jackson Shannon, Pat Hunter, Nikki Shannon



October Anniversaries

2 Todd and Debi Schultz
5 Rick and Linda Cunningham
6 Bob and Denise Johansen
9 Leroy and Kay Durbin
12 Bob and Cindy West, Patrick and Monica Zavala
15 Art and Joyce Lucas
18 Drew and Kayla Hamilton
24 Bob and Norma Arnsdorff, Johnny and Annette Calcote, Jake and Erica Duvick



October





CHECK OUT WHAT'S NEW IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY!

**You'll find the books in the "Check Out What's New" section,
located on the top shelf next to the book return basket.**

HAPPY READING!



**“LET LIVING
WATER
FLOW”**

-John 4:14-

This year’s World Mission Offering is themed around Jesus’ words to the woman at the well, “Whoever drinks of the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” (John 4:14, NIV)

Our thirst for more is much like the woman at the well. We desire to know our true purpose, and once our Creator meets that need and heals our brokenness, we cannot help but rush to spread the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ so that others can know Jesus as well. Like water, the most essential ingredient for life, the life-changing love of Christ is flowing and moving throughout the world, satisfying the thirst of those who seek him.

Please join me in praying for our global servants and in giving generously to the International Ministries World Mission Offering as the Lord Jesus leads you to give.

Gratefully,
Sharon Koh

**The 2019 World Mission Offering will be received during
October 13, 20 and 28
Envelopes are located in the foyer for your convenience in giving**



Pastor Appreciation Month

As we lift Pastor Steve and his family in prayer, might we remember to thank them for all they do; for their commitment to God and this church and the love they shower on us! We thank Pastor Steve for preaching God’s Word and his faithfulness in reflecting God’s love here in the church, in the community, the hospitals, the nursing homes, the police station and the fire department!! May God bless Pastor Steve and Kristi with renewed strength, health and rest for each day!

In Christ’s Love,
Your very thankful congregation



Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____



Autumn Word Search Puzzle



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

autumn
autumnal foliage
back to school
birds fly south
cornucopia
fall
Halloween
harvest

leaves change color
mellow fruitfulness
nights grow darker
picking apples
pumpkins
squirrels gather nuts
Thanksgiving
winter approaches

