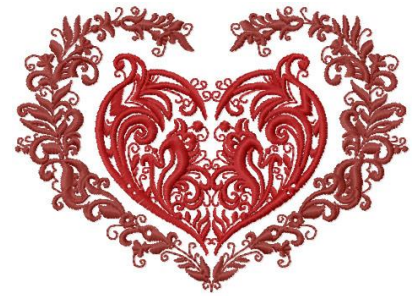


# Baptist Bugle



February 2020

First Baptist Church of Morris - Pastor Steve Larson

1650 West Route 6 - Morris, Illinois

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## Pastor's Ponderings –

*“We must do something about the cross, and one of only two things we can do – flee it or die upon it.” “It is easy to learn the doctrine of personal revival and victorious living; it is quite another thing to take our cross and plod on to the dark and bitter hill of self-renunciation.” A.W. Tozer*

Our focus today is two men that we see in the Gospels. Our focus is specifically in the Gospel of John, chapter 19:38-42. Verses 38-39 say, “Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate’s permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds.”

Matthew reports that Joseph was a rich man who buried Jesus in a new tomb that was meant for himself. Joseph made the tomb himself, cutting it out of the rock.

Mark tells us that Joseph was a prominent member of the Jewish Council. That he boldly went to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body. He bought some linen cloth and wrapped Jesus’ body in it. He placed Jesus’ body in the tomb and then rolled a stone against the entrance.

Luke says that Joseph was a good and upright man who had not consented to the rest of the Council’s decision or their action. Luke makes special note to say that no one had ever been laid in this tomb, Jesus was the first.

John describes Nicodemus as a Pharisee, a member of the Jewish Ruling Council. A man who recognized Jesus as a teacher who had come from God. Jesus calls Nicodemus “Israel’s Teacher”. Nicodemus earnestly wanted to know what was needed to see the kingdom of God, and have eternal life.

So why all the fear? Why all the sneaking around after dark? Why all the secrecy about being a disciple? Joseph was a good and upright man, a prominent member of the Jewish Council, waiting for the kingdom of God. Nicodemus accompanied Joseph in helping with

the burial and the preparations for burial according to the Jewish customs. Why be so secret about your allegiance and your devotion to Jesus?

And why make your allegiance public now? Jesus was dead! You would think you would want to let Jesus know while He was alive that you were a follower of His. What good does it do to go public with your devotion now? To be two very reluctant followers of Jesus, private in their devotion to Him for seemingly all of His public ministry. I suppose today we would call it a “Closet Christian”.

So what changed? Where did the new found boldness come from? And of all people, you now admit to Pilate that your allegiance is with Jesus!?

I know that we'll never know for sure what went on in these two men's hearts causing them to go so public with their devotion to Jesus. But of one thing I am sure, when a person truly comes face to face with Jesus on the cross, finally coming to grips with the reality that Jesus died for them, He died in their place and paid the price for all their sins, it changes the heart. These two men knew of Jesus, they were familiar with Him. They had even met Him and talked with Him. But their hearts were not truly changed until they came face to face with Jesus on the cross. At that point there was no more reluctance to follow Jesus.

How is it with you today? Is there a reluctance in your walk with Jesus? You may be very familiar with Jesus, having been in church all your life, but until you truly understand, and believe in your heart that Jesus died for you, you won't really change. In the church today, we have become so familiar with Jesus, that the message of the cross doesn't really affect us.

*A.W. Tozer writes, “One of the reasons we exhibit very little spiritual power is because we are unwilling to accept and experience the fellowship of the Savior's sufferings, which means acceptance of His cross.” What makes us think that we would ever be willing to take up our cross and follow Jesus, if we don't first fully believe that Jesus died on the cross for us?”*

May the message of the cross, and the absolute truth of the Gospel, ring ever true in your heart and in your life. That you would be changed completely, and live for Jesus fully.

Blessings to 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  
Are studying "*When to Walk Away*"  
All men are invited to join us!

## **Women's Afternoon Bible Study**

Wednesdays at 1:00 pm  
Are studying "*Book of James-Growing in the Christian 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  
Are studying "*The Armor of God*" by Priscilla Shirer  
All women are invited to come  
Please contact Colette Kirby at 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, February 2  
4:30 pm

Come gather together for prayer  
and praise!

We will be meeting in the  
old Adult Sunday School Room

## **Boards to Meet on Tuesday, Feb. 11**

3:00 pm - Board of Diaconates  
5:30 pm - Board of Christian Education  
5:30 pm - Board of Trustees



Do you know why we often close our prayers with the phrase “in Jesus’ name?”

Those words remind us that Jesus has opened the door to Heaven for us,  
and we can approach God only because of what He has done for us.

But this phrase isn’t a magic formula we add in order  
to make God answer our prayers.

God answers our prayers solely because of Christ.

God knows what is best for us. When you pray, therefore,  
seek God’s will. Thank God for the privilege of prayer,  
And make it part of your life everyday.

*“We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace.”*

Romans 5:1-2



## THE IMPORTANCE OF CONNECTION

Ever wonder how fathers help kids grow?

A few months ago, I was getting ready to leave work. Like most days, I called home to let my family know I was on my way. My thirteen-year-old daughter answered the phone. She excitedly said, “Dad, when you get home and walk into the house, I’m already going to be running and you’re going to catch me!” I really couldn’t picture what she meant, but her enthusiasm and excitement compelled me to just say, “Yes, that sounds great!”

After I parked the car and walked through the door, sure enough, she was coming at me full speed. I dropped what was in my hands and caught her. She said, “Dad, you did it!” as I held her in my arms.

I wasn’t entirely sure what had just happened, but clearly, I provided my daughter something important in that moment. I know that fathers help their kids grow in significant ways when they take the time to connect with them.

- Jonathan Hoover

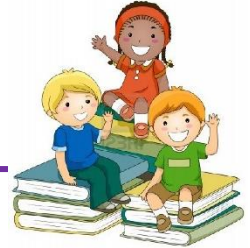


## Good News Club

Good News Club began Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> and will finish Thursday, April 30, 2020. Club is 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 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

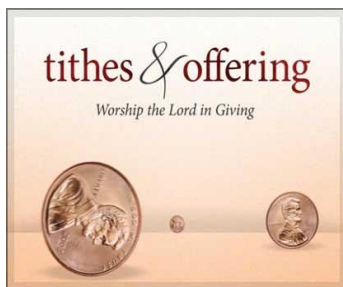


## UNIFIED GIVING

<u>Month</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Needed</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Received</u>
January	\$25,720.00	\$23,196.00

Church Mortgage Balance as of January 26, 2019 \$92,791.75

*Thank you for your generous and faithful giving!!!*



This past year \$100 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.



## JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL!

Sunday mornings  
9:30 am – 10:30 am

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Nursery – 3 years and under  
Preschool – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – Teacher Lisa Vaksdal  
3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – Teacher Kara Hill  
6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Teacher Diane Gagliardo  
9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade – Teachers Mark and Gayle Conrod  
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 8<sup>th</sup> grade**

We are very excited to have started an Awana Club here **at First Baptist Church!** Awana Club is held the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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...**

**February 2 – Welcome back!**  
**February 16 – Bring your favorite blanket**



**Youth Group**  
**Ages 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Saturday, Feb. 8  
11am – 4pm  
Area 1 Youth  
One Day Event  
At Blackhawk Baptist Camp

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Sunday, Feb. 9  
6:00pm  
Youth Group

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Sunday, Feb. 23  
6:00pm  
Dinner & a Movie  
“Coat of Many Colors”

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Questions –  
Call Leslie Meloun

### Nursery

We are looking for people who are willing to volunteer in the nursery during our church services and Sunday school. Please contact the church office if you are interested.



Friends become couriers of grace, conduits of heaven's grace.  
Those of us who need much grace come to treasure good friends.

Max Lucado

## Birthdays

- 1 David Alford
- 3 Jennifer Goebel
- 5 Doris Noll
- 6 Betsy Clay, Jordyn Leigh Gonnam, Mary Warrick
- 7 Jennifer Gonnam, Hannah Hitchcock
- 9 Bob Arnsdorff
- 12 Rhonda Hall
- 13 Brinley Swiggett
- 15 Nancy Foss
- 16 Helen Brehm, Tanya Downey, Patty Graves, Terry Wakeman
- 18 Jacob Meloun, Janice Thompson
- 19 Nancy Brian
- 20 Megan Valdivia
- 21 Ben Kelly, Jennifer Smith
- 22 Rosie Beal, Deb Bounds
- 26 Randal Ritke
- 28 Kiersten Clark, Maribeth Heggen, Patrick Zavala



## Anniversaries

- 1 Bill and Judy Needham
- 6 Ralph and Donna Binion
- 9 Bill and Linda Burden
- 18 Bob and Kim Marx
- 24 Robert and Nancy Krug



# FEBRUARY

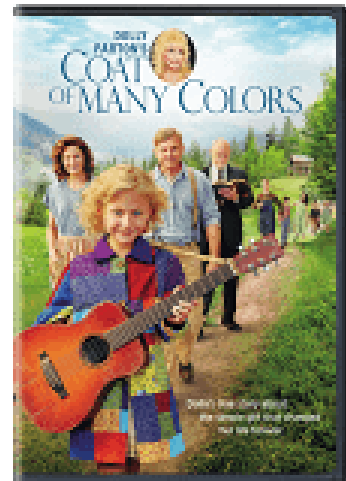
**Area I Youth**  
**2020 Mission Experience**  
**June 21-27, 2020**  
**Indianapolis, Indiana**  
**\$150/person**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Grade thru Age 21**

The Area 1 Youth will be partnering with Lynhurst Baptist Church in Indianapolis, Indiana for a variety of mission opportunities.  
Registration Form is due June 1, 2020  
Forms can be picked up in the church office  
Any questions, contact Colleen Miller or the church office

**Youth Group Dinner & Movie**  
**Sunday, February 23 at 6:00pm at the church**  
**“Coat of Many Colors”**

*In 1955 Tennessee, 9-year-old Dolly Parton (Alyvia Alyn Lind) and her family (Jennifer Nettles, Gerald McRaney) discover the healing power of faith and love while struggling to overcome tragedy.*

**Initial release:** December 10, 2015  
**Story by:** Dolly Parton



★★★★★ *“This is an excellent movie.....a must see!”*

“May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself  
and God our Father,  
Who loved us and by His grace  
gave us eternal encouragement and good hope,  
encourage your hearts  
and strengthen you  
in every good deed and word.”

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17





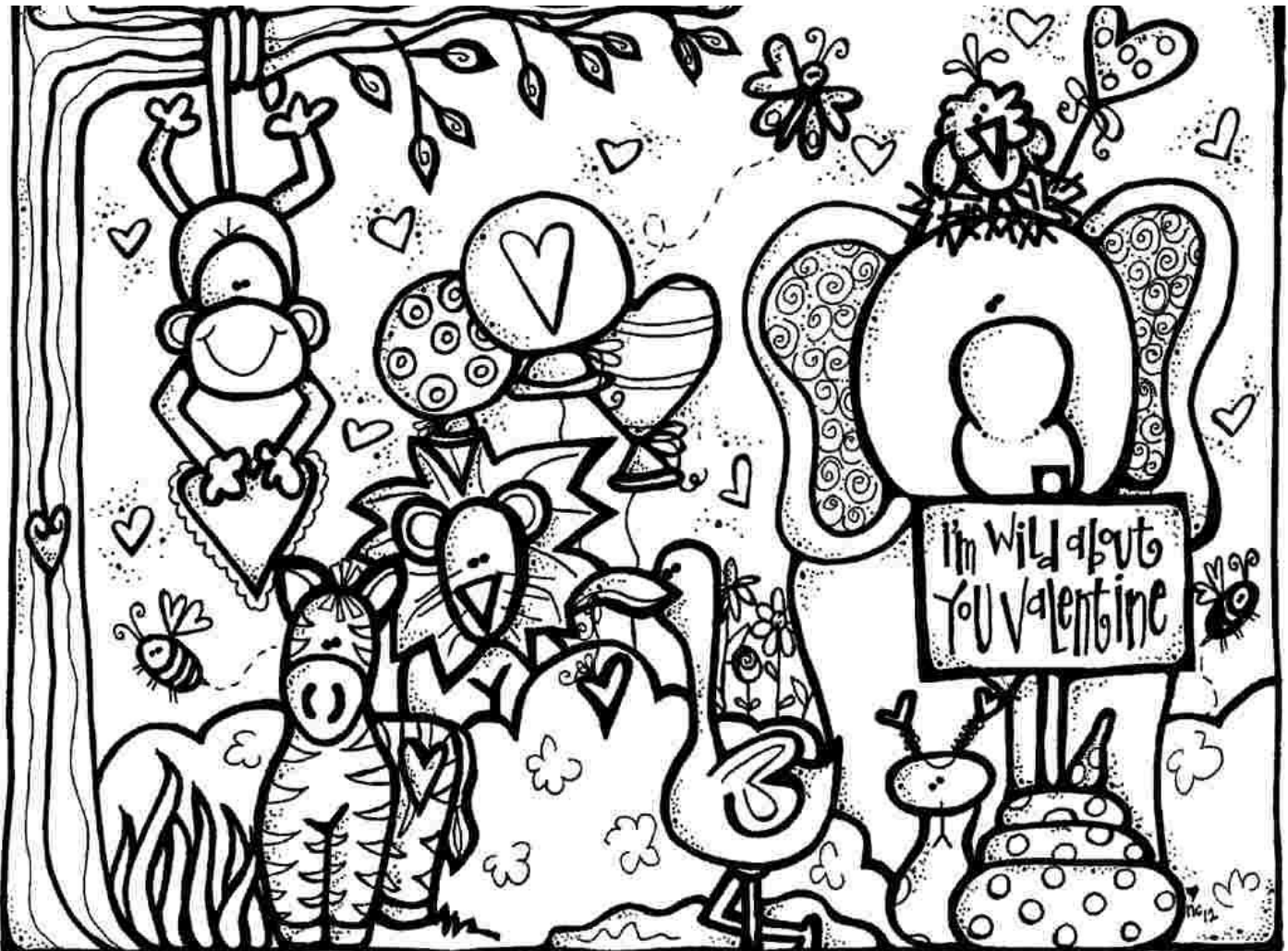
# HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

- Ball Gown
- Boyfriend
- Cards
- Chocolate
- Crush
- Date
- Diamond
- Fairy Tale
- Girlfriend
- Heart
- Love Song
- Pink
- Proposal
- Red
- Romantic
- Serenade
- Slow Dance
- Strawberry
- Sunset
- Tuxedo
- Valentine

Chicken Scratch NY



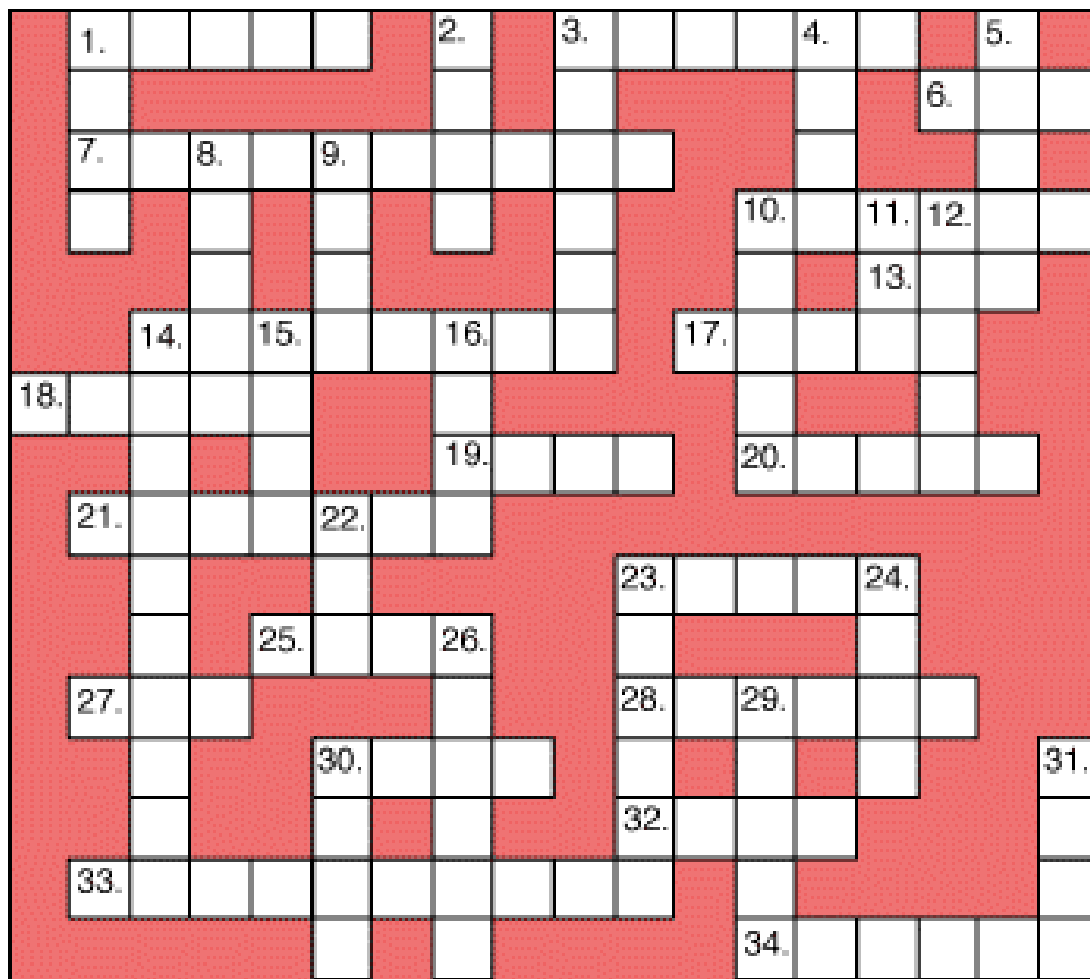
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 E Z N K L P H P B T N F R G Y S C Z  
 R O M A N T I C Y U Y O F I T F F E  
 L A S O P O R P Y X L P J R K G V D  
 L X S K V S J K P E B M A L K P X I  
 Z Z C D A T E Q H D E W K F Q J M A  
 A E B H Y Q Q Y I O B W S R G C Q M  
 B C A L O F W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





*Love  
conquers  
all...*

# Valentine's Crossword



## Across:

1. Opposite of boys
3. Valentine colour
6. \_\_\_\_ goes there?
7. St. \_\_\_\_\_ Day
10. The targets of Cupid's arrows
13. This little piggy is one
14. Valentine month
17. Tolls paid
18. \_\_\_\_\_ change, pocket money
19. Sign above door
20. Donald's girlfriend
21. Crayon maker
23. He shoots love arrows

25. Short form for animal doctors

27. Valentine's colour
28. Cupid shoots these
30. Valentine colour
32. Choose
33. Sweet valentine gifts
34. \_\_\_\_\_ admirer

## Down:

1. Bestow
2. \_\_\_\_\_ the bottle
3. Attractive
4. Frilly trim
5. Valentine colour
8. Mickey \_\_\_\_\_ Minnie
9. Close to
10. Listened

11. Past tense of eat
12. Red flowers
14. February \_\_\_\_ is Valentine's
15. \_\_\_\_ valentine.
16. Length x width
22. Single, \_\_, 2, 3, ...
23. Winners
24. Opposite of up
26. First day of the week
29. Speed contests
30. Scheme
31. Pepper \_\_\_\_\_ candy

