

Baptist Bugle

March 2020

First Baptist Church of Morris - Pastor Steve Larson

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Pastor's Ponderings –

Hey, let's go for a walk today, shall we? Let's go for a walk on the road to Emmaus. It's the same day that Jesus rose from the dead. Two people are walking and talking about all that happened over the last few days in Jerusalem. They're confused, upset, broken hearted, and among other things, feeling very let down. The account is found in Luke 24:13-35. As far as they were concerned, all of their hopes and dreams were over because Jesus had died on a cross. He'd been crucified. So, "that's the end of that", as they say.

Verse 15 tells us that, "*As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus Himself came up and walked along with them.*" And verse 16 says, "*but they were kept from recognizing Him.*" Strange! Why could they not recognize Jesus? There may have been multiple reasons, but certainly part of it had to be that they'd already made up their minds to what the truth was. Jesus was dead, He'd been crucified, so that's the end of that. And obviously Jesus was not dead, He had risen from the dead. And now He's walking right alongside of them, and talking to them, but they're missing it completely. Why? Again, because they've already made up their minds that Jesus is dead. They actually tell Jesus, they don't know it, but they actually tell Jesus, to His face, that He's dead. Look at verses 20 and 21; they tell Jesus, "*The chief priests and our rulers handed Him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified Him; but we had hoped that He was the one who was going to redeem Israel.*"

What kept them from seeing the truth? It was their minds. They'd already made up their minds that Jesus could not be the Messiah, because if He had been He would never have let Himself be killed. The mind is a beautiful thing. Our minds are a gift from the Lord. But our minds can get us into trouble when we trust them, more than the Word of God. Our minds get us into trouble when we are led by our minds more than being led by the Holy Spirit.

How much do we fail to recognize? How much of what is true do we miss, simply because we already have our minds made up to what the truth is? Even before the truth has presented itself. How many times do our eyes and our ears tell us what the truth is, and our minds receive it. Instead of listening for the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit does speak, we already have it settled in our minds as to what the truth is. How much truth do we willingly forego because we would rather trust our minds, than trust the Holy Spirit?

Do we hold on to doubt, or fear, or anger, or unbelief, more that we wait for the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth? Would we rather listen to someone's gossip than listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit? Sometimes the truth can be staring us right in the face, perhaps, "come up and walk right alongside of us," as it were, and we don't recognize it because we've already made up our minds as to what the truth is. And listen; when confidence in our mind takes precedent over what the truth really is, we're in trouble.

So how does Jesus deal with these two, and their slowness to believe? He points to the Scriptures (where truth is always found). Jesus used Old Testament Scriptures that clearly taught, verse 6 *"the Messiah must suffer these things and then enter His glory."* Verse 7 says, *"And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself."* The Living Word spoke the Word to them. Is it any wonder that, in verse 32, *"their hearts were burning within them as He talked with them on the road and opened the Scriptures to them."* Too often we lose "the burn" because we get too caught up in ourselves. We get caught up in ourselves when we hold on to worry, grief, pride, envy, forgiveness, unbelief, bitterness, anger, fear, and doubt. We let our minds tell us it's better to hold on to these things, than it is to hold on to Jesus. Our mind tells us it's better to be led by these things, than to be led by the Holy Spirit. Our mind tells us it's better to stand on these things, and place our confidence in these things, than it is to stand upon and place our confidence in God's Word. Proverbs 28:26 *"Those who trust in their own insight are foolish, but anyone who walks in wisdom is safe."* The two on the road to Emmaus had their minds made up as to what the truth was because of what their eyes had seen in Jerusalem, and what others had said. Instead of remembering (and holding on to) what the Scriptures said about Jesus.

How good it is to Watch Jesus, in His love and His mercy, in His patience and His grace, draw them back into the light of the truth, and into His presence, using the truth of the Word of God. Their eyes were re-opened and their hearts were renewed. The Holy Spirit's desire is to do that in every one of us every day as we trust His Word, and set our minds on Christ.

Colossians 3:1-2 says *"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."*

I love you all. Thank you for your partnership in the ministry God has placed before us. Press on!

Blessings,
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
Have begun studying "*Better; Study of Hebrews*" by Jen Wilkin
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, March 1

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, March 10

3:00 pm - Board of Diaconates

5:30 pm - Board of Christian Education

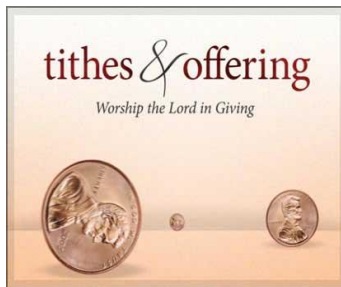
5:30 pm - Board of Trustees

UNIFIED GIVING

<u>Month</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Needed</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Received</u>
February	\$25,720.00	\$25,093.01

Church Mortgage Balance as of February 29, 2019 \$85,827.52

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.

"Teach me Your way, O Lord; lead me in a straight path."

Psalm 27:11



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 Paulson
6th – 8th Grade – Teacher Diane Gagliardo
9th – 12th Grade – Teachers Mark and Gayle Conrod
Adults – Teachers Jeff and Claudette Swiggett**

Sunday School Matters...

We welcome Kara Paulson as our teacher for the 3-5 grade class. Kara is married to Jim and the mother of 3 adult sons, Jake, Ben and Matt. She has a heart for the Lord and especially loves working with this age group.

We recently held a teacher meeting and are excited to be the new Sunday School Superintendents. We encourage parents, grandparents, and friends to join our Sunday school classes and bring their children, grandchildren and friends. While the children are in their classes please feel free to join the adult class, who are studying the “Book of Isaiah”, with Jeff and Claudette Swiggett. You may also relax and chat with friends in the fellowship area and enjoy a breakfast treat. We have wonderful dedicated teachers who want to bring the message of God’s love and salvation to young and old and everyone in between!

During the Sunday school period an offering is taken weekly for Hanna, our Compassion International child that we sponsor. Hanna lives in Ethiopia.

We will keep you up to date on what’s happening in our Sunday school each month.

Kay Hemmersbach and Mary Motter

*“Start children off on the way they should go,
and even when they are old they will not turn from it..”
Proverbs 22:6*

OUR YOUTH PROGRAMS



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...

March 1 – Bring a friend!
March 15 – “Who is St. Patrick?”
March 29

Questions –
Call Cheryl Johnson or Kristi Larson



Youth Group
Ages 5th – 12th Grade

Sunday, March 8
No Meeting

Sunday, March 22
6:00pm
Dinner & a Movie
“Finding Nemo”

Saturday, March 28
TBD
Casting Crowns
& Matthew West
Olivet University

Questions –
Call Leslie Meloun

“Little Johnny was crying on his way home from church. His father repeatedly asked him what was wrong. Johnny finally replied, “The pastor said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, but I want to stay with you guys!”



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 Bonnie Glerup
2 Sondra Rankin
3 Max Aitkenhead, Tiffany Clark, Elizabeth Johnson, Earlene Stulgis, Katie Whalen
6 Paul Livingston
9 Sam Motter, Alli Schwiesow
11 Laurie Wilkinson
12 David Findlay, Jim Paulson, Bryn Taylor
13 Lynn Cox, Brian Gagliardo, Joe Hemmersbach
14 Seth Larson, Doreen Taylor
15 Jan Kresse, Bucky Phillips, Dan Scott
18 Tana Snyder
19 Jay Gonnam, Kaitlyn Kokemiller
20 Mike Matuszewski
21 Donna Binion, Peggy Laing
22 Kelli Diaz
24 Jane Battersby
25 Matt Spangler
26 Gretchen Goebel, Shannon Motter
28 Melanie Cunningham, Chris Zierman
30 Kayla Hamilton, James Sellers
31 Doris Lanning, John O'Brien, Alyssa Schultz

Anniversaries

2 Bob and Mary Hill
7 Tracey and Alicia Steffes
12 Marty and Shirley Myre
15 Jeff and Claudette Swiggett
16 Chris and Erin Lutz, Terry and Mary Warrick
17 Emmett and Bonnie Joneson
19 John and Carla O'Brien
21 Keith and Jennifer Smith
24 Michael and Tiffany Clark





American Baptist Home Mission Societies
SINCE 1824

America for Christ Offering
March 15, 22, and 29

“...You shall
LOVE your
NEIGHBOR
as YOURSELF.”
Matthew 22:39

Impacting and Transforming Lives
Across America and Puerto Rico:
The Love Thy Neighbor Campaign
www.abhms.org/afc

There will be envelopes on the table in the foyer for your convenience.

Precious Miracle

I ask that you let your light shine through me as it does
in a tortoiseshell beetle, so that everything I do and say
brightens the faces of those around me.

Let me be a window to a better world.

Make me as selfless and heroic as the paper wasp, for
like it I am here to serve others – the health and well-being
of my family and friends is more important than my own.

Above all, I pray you grant me the vision of a dragonfly, that

I might see my place in the universe for what it truly is:

a tiny but precious miracle.

Area I Youth
2020 Mission Experience
June 21-27, 2020
Indianapolis, Indiana
\$150/person
7th 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, March 22 at 6:00pm at the church
“Finding Nemo”

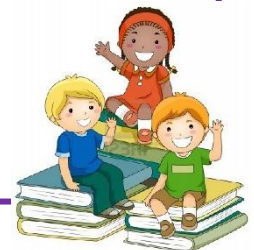


Good News Club

Good News Club began Thursday, October 3rd 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



IT'S A
Baby Shower



For: **Baby Boy Nunemaker**

Date & Time: **March 7 at 1:00pm**

Place: **First Baptist Church**

Hosted by/RSVP: **Ashley's Family**
815-685-8622 (Lisa Vaksdal)

Registered at: **Amazon**



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.



Don't forget
to
turn your
clocks ahead
on Saturday night
March 7th !!!





Spring

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

BUDS
DAFFODILS
FLOWERS
GRASS
RAIN

RAINBOW
SEEDS
SPRING
TULIPS
UMBRELLA

