

# Baptist Bugle

June 2020

First Baptist Church of Morris

Pastor - Steve Larson

Youth Director - Leslie Meloun

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## Pastor's Ponderings –

Ya know what, we live in a dangerous world! “Tell me something I don’t already know”, right? But we really do; we live in a very dangerous world, and we are living in a particularly dangerous time. One of the things that make this such a dangerous time, is people whose thinking is dangerous, particularly people in positions of leadership. When people in leadership positions are not led by the Lord, it’s very easy for their thinking to become dangerous. Dangerous to themselves and others. Sometimes these people make laws, set policies, make rules, regulations, and consequences, that are based on worldly wisdom, not Godly wisdom. And yes, that is dangerous, many times even lacking in common sense. Sometimes it goes so far that the laws being made, the rules and regulations put in place, do not apply to the people making them, they only apply to the people being governed. Well, that’s not leadership, and it certainly is not Godly wisdom. It’s selfish ambition led by worldly wisdom. Ultimately, worldly wisdom cannot prosper, because it’s not anchored to Christ, it’s not built on the “Solid Rock”. (Matthew 7:24-25)

What happens when people deny the truth of God’s word, and in their own self-centeredness strive to lead others. Look with me at Romans 1:18-32, and notice here the progression of going from bad to worse, as Paul talks about in 2 Timothy 3:13.

Romans 1:18-32 – The very first thing we see when people deny or suppress the truth of God’s word, is that it leads to godlessness (vs. 18). Can you imagine a life devoid of God? These people are without excuse, because God has made Himself known to them through all that He has made (vs. 19-20). It’s not that they don’t know God, they are aware of Him. But they are unwilling to glorify God, or give Him thanks for all that He has done. And so, because of their unwillingness, their thinking becomes futile, ineffectual. (dangerous thinking). And in their foolishness, and their unwillingness to acknowledge God, their hearts become darkened. In their embracing of worldly wisdom, they become fools, even though they claim to be wise. So with their hearts darkened by foolishness, they worship what is created, and reject the Creator (vs. 21-23).

Because of this, God gives them over to whatever sinful desires are in their hearts. They decide they would rather live a lie, than accept the truth about God. So God lets them go their own way (vs. 24-25). God lets them chase after things that are shameful, and things that ought not to be done. They think it pointless to have anything to do with the Word of God. Because of this, God gives them over to a depraved mind (vs. 26-28). They become filled with every kind of wickedness. In their depraved minds, they even invent new ways of doing what slanders the truth, as they hate God in

their hearts. They lose all comprehension of sense, even willing to murder to get their way. Although they are aware of what God says about doing these things, they do them anyway. What's more, they give their full approval to others who do them as well (vs. 29-32).

Now, when these people desire to be in a position of leadership, you have a dangerous combination. If one's desire to lead is not under the leadership of Jesus Christ, there is potential for many problems.

Nothing threatens worldly wisdom and self-centered leadership like Godly wisdom and a Christ centered life style. A person who is under the authority and control of Jesus Christ, is one who is not easily led astray and controlled by the world. That dear friends, threatens selfish ambition and self-centered leadership. Think about it; the pot dispensaries, abortion clinics and the liquor stores can all be open, but churches are not allowed. They're all essential services, but churches aren't. I can go get groceries, I can go to Menards and I won't get arrested. But if I go back to church, I do so under the threat of fines and penalty, and possibly even being arrested or having the doors of the church locked. Meanwhile penitentiary inmates are released from prison. Are you gonna tell me that the church and the Christian doesn't threaten selfish ambition and self-centered leadership that is controlled by worldly wisdom?

So ok, what is the underlining motivation for all of this? Well here it is...we have a huge election coming up this November. How do we vote? Do we vote for candidates who stand strong on religious liberty, or do we vote for candidates who would take those freedoms away? Do we vote for people that stand on the constitution in support of it, or do we vote for those who would trample it into the ground? As we prepare for November are we praying against the things that would come against us as a nation? Because there are certainly spiritual forces of wickedness, dangerous thinking, and selfish ambition at work in our nation. John Adams wrote, "Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." Pray about how you will vote in November in the upcoming elections. Pray that you would vote wisely with Godly wisdom. Pray that God would once again bring revival to America. Pray that Almighty God will change the hearts, and if need be, turn back the hearts of those who in their own selfish ambitions and self-centered leadership, would seek to undermine our constitution and the values that are at the very foundation of what this great nation what built upon. Pray for America, pray for our nation. It's not too late to ask God to revive our hearts as a nation, to ask the Lord to bring revival to America. It's not too late; if God's people will pray.

Blessings to you as we look to the Lord,

*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

Will begin studying a DVD series "*Perfect Ending - Why Your Eternal Future Matters Today*" by Dr. Robert Jeffress



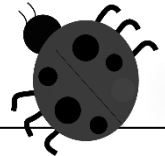
All women are invited to come  
Please contact Helen Brehm at 815-942-6625

## **Women's Evening Bible Study**

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

Have begun studying "*Better; Study of Hebrews*" by Jen Wilkin

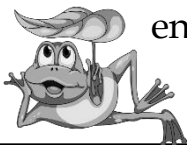
All women are invited to come  
Please contact Colette Kirby at 815-942-9527



## **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!





**NO Congregational Prayer**  
**Sunday, June 7**  
**4:30 pm**

*(We will not meet until the  
 "Shelter in Place" order is lifted)*

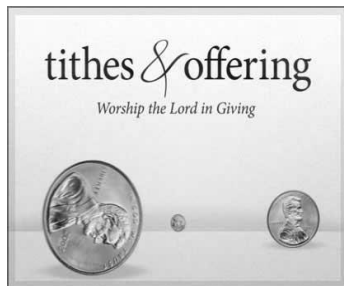
Boards to Meet on Tuesday, June 9  
 3:00 pm – Board of Diaconates  
 5:30 pm – Board of Christian Education  
 5:30 pm – Board of Trustees  
*Boards will continue to meet electronically until  
 the "Shelter in Place" order is lifted*

**UNIFIED GIVING**

<u>Month</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Needed</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Received</u>
May	\$25,720.00	\$*29,418.00

*"The Monthly Amt. Received is from offertory that has been mailed in."*  
 Church Mortgage Balance as of May 24, 2020 \$62,510.49

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



This past year \$2,941.00 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**  
*(temporarily suspended)*

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.

*"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. ~ Jeremiah 29:11*



## **JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL!**

**(temporarily not meeting)**

**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 Paulson**

**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**

## *Sunday School Matters....*

This month we would like to introduce you to Lisa Vaksdal. Lisa teaches Pre-School – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade. She is married to Mark and they have been married for 34 years. They are parents of one son, David who lives in Morris and a daughter, Ashley who is married to George Nunemaker. Their home is in Rochester, Minnesota. On April 21, 2020 they blessed Lisa and Mark with their first grandchild, Ezekiel Irwin. She is the Food Service Director at Morris High School. In the fall she will be starting her 17<sup>th</sup> year.

Lisa has been involved in children's ministries for over 30 years. Her heart lies with teaching our younger children. She feels that their innocence and willingness to learn has always been the best part. Lifetime relationships with her students have been made over the years. With this age group she gets many funny statements from them as they speak from their heart without the filter that we adults might add. Just listening to them share their week, plans coming up, etc at the beginning of each class is always fun!

It is hard to teach "deep" lessons with little ones, but they always discuss the importance of them knowing Jesus and knowing that Jesus loves them always. They talk about the importance and the blessings of the Ten Commandments a lot. She hopes that when she and their families "Train up a child in the way he should go..." that they will never depart from His love and their trust in Him.

We continue for now with the shelter in place order, we want to support parents in the daily Christian education of their children. Last month we encouraged parents to work with their family (young and old) on bible verse memory. The next 3 verses are listed along with last months for review. Since the regular school year is over, parents will have a little extra time to help their children hide these very important scriptures in their hearts.

## New Verses

1. **The value of memorizing God's words:** "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." Psalm 119:11
2. **We can give Him all of our cares and worries, because He cares:** "Cast all your worries on him because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7
3. **When we feel afraid:** "When I am afraid, I will trust in you." Psalm 56:3

## Verses for Review

4. **God's great love for us:** "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him will never perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." John 3:16-17
5. **Truth about sin:** "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23
6. **The greatest gift of God:** "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23



Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) also offers amazing downloadable materials that can help your child from ages 5-10 with these learning resources:

**Kids Draw the Bible – Helping Kids Get the Big Picture.** This is a 30 day devotional. This would be great to start because our curriculum once we start back up will be entitled "The Bible In One Year". So, it would definitely give them a head start!

**Do You Wonder Why?** This a downloadable pamphlet and video to begin to answer questions that are on everyone's mind: Why do so many bad things happen in the world? Why did God allow this to happen? How can I get through this terrible time?

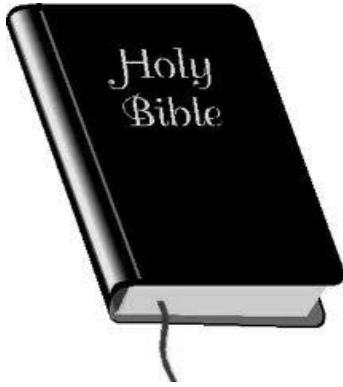
Their website is [cefonline.com](http://cefonline.com).

We miss seeing all of our church family and look forward to meeting again for worship and Sunday School.

*Kay Hemmersbach and Mary Motter*  
*SS Superintendents*

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." ~ Isaiah 41:10

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## The B-I-B-L-E

The B-I-B-L-E  
yes that's the book for me  
I stand alone on the Word of God  
The B-I-B-L-E!

"The LORD will fight for you; you need only be still." ~ Exodus 14:14

## OUR YOUTH OUTREACH



**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...**

**June 7 – NO Awana**

**June 21 – NO Awana**

**Questions –**  
**Call Cheryl Johnson or Kristi Larson**



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


Sunday, June 14  
5:30 – 7:30 pm  
Meet at Church

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Sunday, June 28  
5:30 – 7:30 pm  
Meet at Church

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**Questions –**  
**Call Leslie Meloun**

 **A GRADUATION OPEN HOUSE – will be held for Andrew Meloun on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> from 3 - ? at 3655 Primrose Lane, in Morris. All are invited to attend! Please contact Leslie at 815-685-3673 with any questions.**



## Vacation Bible School

July 13-17

5:30 - 8:00 pm

Ages 4 yrs. thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade

**More information will be forthcoming!!**

*“Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, It will be done for him.*

*Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” ~ Mark 11:22-24*

## **Live Nativity - “Oh! Come Let Us Adore Him!”**

**December 11 & 12**

**TBD**

Plans are that we will go forward with this outreach.

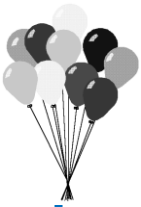
We will be making costumes, a stable needs to be built, signs need to be made and some will be purchased, publicity, food etc. The animals (including camels!), which are the majority of the cost, are already reserved and a deposit has been made.

Considering what the nation and our world is being faced with for the last few months, we feel that this will bring a hopeful message to the residents and visitors of our community at Christmas. We would like for you to remember this as you are led to make a donation for this outreach. If you donate, please designate it as “Live Nativity.”

This will be a church wide endeavor and we are looking forward to working together as we bring God’s message to a weary world!

**“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.” ~ Proverbs 3:5-6**





**NEIGHBORHOOD FEST**  
Saturday, August 1, 2020

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Unfortunately, due to the Governor's restrictions, we will have to **CANCEL** Neighborhood Fest this year.

If you have any questions, please call the church office.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

~ Romans 15:13



**JUNE MEMORY VERSE.....**



*"I have called you  
by name;  
you are Mine."*

~ Isaiah 43:1



**MOVING FORWARD...**

**WE ARE GOING BACK TO CHURCH!!**

One Service at 10:00 am

No more than 50 people in building for now  
(Over 50 people, you may sit in your car in parking lot  
and listen to service on FM 103.9)

No Sunday School

No Nursery available at this time

Please bring your mask and your own Bible  
Practice social distancing with chairs (if not family)  
Offering plates will be available at each door

There will be hand sanitizer throughout building  
Metal folding chairs that will be sanitized each week  
For now..someone will be at door scanning temperatures as you enter

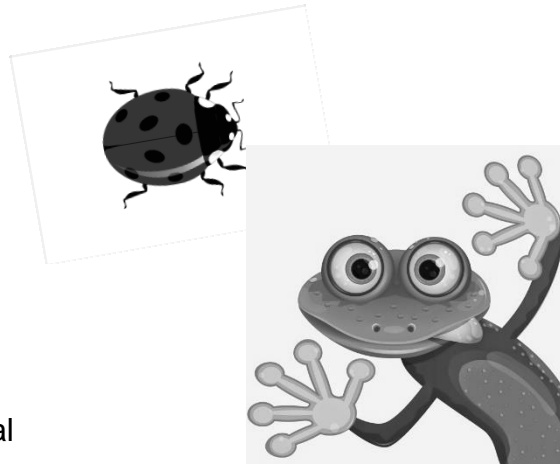


"The joy of the Lord is your strength."

Nehemiah 8:10

## June Birthdays

- 1 Cathy Planeta
- 3 Ryan Battersby, Carla O'Brien
- 7 Linda Poppleton
- 13 June Thompson
- 14 Joyce Lucas, Christi Punke
- 15 Jay Chisler, Hope Downey, Regina Littral
- 16 Kara Paulson, Rick Enlow
- 21 Gary Vershay
- 22 Penny Goins, Dave Johnson, Dan Wilkinson
- 23 Owen Duvick, Rodney Ellis, Carrington Herman, Jerry Planeta, Lisa Taylor
- 25 Mara Punke
- 26 Aiden Carlson
- 28 Norma Arnsdorff
- 30 Brenda Downey



## June Anniversaries

- 1 Dave and Paula Misek
- 3 Michael and Leslie Meloun
- 9 Ed and Jeane Robertson, Stephen and Shannon Motter
- 14 Greg and Cheryle Larson
- 16 Paul and Donna Livingston
- 17 Rodney and Ronda Clark
- 23 Jim and Deb Gonnam
- 29 Gary and Deb Bounds, Herman and Lynn Wisslead
- 30 George and Jan Kresse



Be still, and know that I am God.  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth!"  
~ Psalm 46:10

June

# Feed My Starving Children

August 22, 2020

11:30am - 1:30pm

We will once again be volunteering at the  
“Feed My Starving Children” facility in Aurora.  
This is the 6<sup>th</sup> year we have gone, and it is  
an amazing day of packing meals to  
feed children around the world!

Any questions, contact Jen Goebel

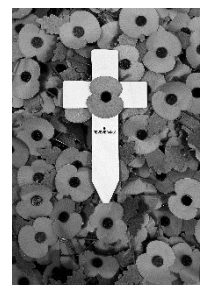


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## MEMORIAL SUNDAY REMEMBRANCE

### IN LOVING MEMORY -

Russell and Ethel Battersby, Sr.  
Beth Carlson  
James “Marvin” Fannin  
Jeffrey Gonnam  
Jesse and Gwendolyn Gonnam  
George Hall  
Wayne and Lenora Hodgson  
Vince Hodgson  
Louis and Elsie Brown  
Mel and Jessie Green  
John L. and Gertrude Hill  
Merwin and Louise Hill  
Herb and Dorothy Ranz  
Tee McCorkle  
Ashley Platt  
Kim Platt  
Becky Solej  
Bob Warrick  
Elmer Willis  
Harry and Mary Willis  
Harry Willis, Sr.  
Harry Willis, Jr.



# GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY



We will be recognizing all of our 2020 Graduates  
College, High School and Junior High  
as soon as the  
"Shelter in Place" order  
has been lifted

Watch for the date!!!

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## 2020 GRADUATES

### College

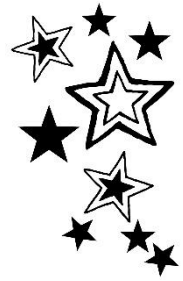
Haley West

### High School

Robbie Baggett  
Albert Castelluccio  
Amelia Hiney  
Hannah Hitchcock  
Meganne Johnson  
Andrew Meloun  
Mara Punke  
Kevin Sennott  
Kaden Linn

### Jr. High

Aiden Carlson  
Taylor Marx  
Brian Saenz



# Congratulations



## IS HE WORTHY?

Words and music by Andrew Peterson and Ben Shive

Do you feel the world is broken? (we do)  
Do you feel the shadows deepen? (we do)  
But do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through? (we do)  
Do you wish that you could see it all made new? (we do)

Is all creation groaning? (it is)  
Is a new creation coming? (it is)  
Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? (it is)  
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (it is)

*Is anyone worthy?  
Is anyone whole?  
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?  
The Lion of Judah  
Who conquered the grave,  
He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave.  
Is He worthy?  
Is He worthy  
Of all blessing and honor and glory?  
Is He worthy of this?  
He is.*

Does the Father truly love us? (He does)  
Does the Spirit move among us? (He does)  
And does Jesus, our Messiah, hold forever those He loves?  
He does.  
Does our God intend to dwell again with us?  
He does.

*Is anyone worthy?  
Is anyone whole?  
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?  
The Lion of Judah  
Who conquered the grave,  
He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave.  
From ev'ry people and tribe,  
Ev'ry nation and tongue,  
He has made us a kingdom and priests to God to reign with the Son.  
Is He worthy?  
Is He worthy  
Of all blessing and honor and glory?  
Is He worthy?  
Is He worthy?  
Is He worthy of this?  
He is.  
He is.  
Is He worthy?  
Is He worthy?  
He is worthy, He is!*

## 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!

### TAP CODE

By Col. Carlyle "Smitty" Harris and Sara W. Berry

Tap Code is the untold story of ex-Vietnam POW Colonel Carlyle "Smitty" Harris, who brought hope, strength, and the love of God to his fellow American POWs by secretly reviving a long-unused military communication code. It became a lifeline to hundreds of military prisoners suffering from torture and abuse and helped them come home with honor, their wills unbroken.

