

Baptist Bugle

July 2020

First Baptist Church of Morris

Pastor - Steve Larson

Youth Director - Leslie Meloun

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Pastor's Ponderings –

The story is told of a little boy that was growing up in a very nice home in a quiet neighborhood. He lived there with his mom and dad. He had it good. He even had his Aunt and Uncle that lived right next door. He had a vivid imagination, he was very creative, and he loved adventures of every kind.

Well, as life would have it, one day the little boy was bored. And when boredom teams up with curiosity in a little boy, look out. He found a can of black paint and a paint brush in the garage. And then he had a great idea! He began to paint...on the driveway. A great big black X. It took up the whole driveway. And well, it had to be big, because if a helicopter was going to land, it had to be able to see where to land from way up high in the sky. He had seen this in a movie, which the helicopter always lands on the X. He was so thorough. He even went over it twice to make sure it was nice and big and bright. He was so proud of himself, he didn't even spill any paint. He stood back to admire his work. And then he sat down on the lawn to wait for the helicopter to land. He was sure they'd land on his driveway, because, well, because he had the best X ever!

About that time, his dad got home from work. And as he turned to pull into the driveway, he stopped cold. The little boy could see the look of horror on his dad's face, and he knew in an instant what he had done was wrong. He wasn't trying to do anything wrong, he was just trying to help the helicopters have a place to land. But now, seeing the look on his dad's face, he felt awful. He burst into tears, and went running into the house, and up to his room. Well, his dad pulled into the driveway as best he could, being very careful not to drive on the new, freshly painted "heliport". He gave himself a couple minutes and then went up to talk to his son. The little boy lay on his bed, crying. His dad sat down on the bed next to his little boy and said to him, "it's ok son, it's ok, I'll fix it". A little while later after the little boy had pulled himself together, he looked out his upstairs window to see his dad on his hands and knees with a brush and a bucket of soapy water scrubbing the driveway. And to his amazement the big black X was gone. He couldn't believe it, it was completely gone! He had to tell someone! So he ran downstairs and ran next door to tell his uncle. He was so excited that when he tried to tell his uncle the only words that would come out were, "I made a big mess!" "Oh", said his uncle, "well did ya clean it up?" "No", said the little boy, "I wasn't strong enough, but my dad was, he cleaned it all up!"

Isn't that just exactly how it is with us?! We get ourselves into such a mess. So much so that we can't fix it, we're not strong enough. We don't even know where to start. But our Heavenly Father does, and our Heavenly Father is strong enough. He knows **exactly** how to fix the mess.

Romans 5:8 says, *"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this; while we were still sinners, Christ died for us"*.

Whatever mess you may find yourself in the middle of today, whatever seems too overwhelming for you, **our Heavenly Father knows the way through it. Our Heavenly Father is strong enough, He can fix it. He can clean it up and remove the mess.**

Keeping our eyes on Jesus,

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

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



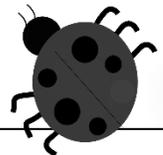
All women are invited to come
Please contact Helen Brehm at 815-942-6625

Women's Evening Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

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

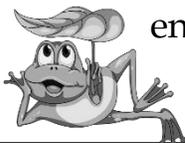
All women are invited to come
Please contact Colette Kirby at 815-942-9527



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, July 5
 4:30 pm

(We are still holding off meeting together)

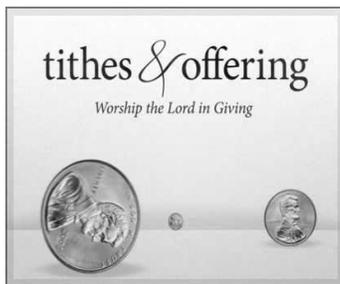
Boards to Meet on Tuesday, July 14
 3:00 pm – Board of Diaconates
 5:30 pm – Board of Christian Education
 5:30 pm – Board of Trustees
 Your Board Chairman will let you know for sure

UNIFIED GIVING

<u>Month</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Needed</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Received</u>
June	\$25,720.00	\$18,287.00

“The Monthly Amt. Received includes offertory that has been mailed in.”
 Church Mortgage Balance as of June 21, 2020 \$55,073.89

Thank you for your generous and faithful giving!!!



This past year \$3,066.00 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

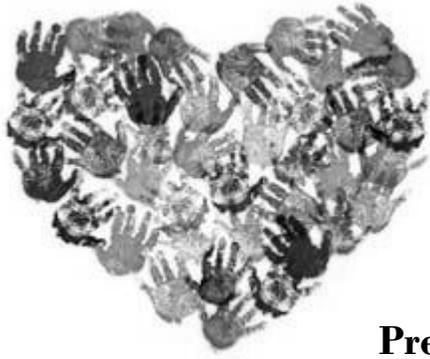
(temporarily suspended)

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

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

"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



This Is My Commandment

**This is My commandment
That you love one another
That your joy may be full.**

**That your joy may be full,
That your joy may be full.
This is My commandment
That you love one another
That your joy may be full.**



OUR YOUTH OUTREACH



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...

July 5 –Awana Meeting at Church

July 19 –Awana Meeting at Church

Questions –
Call Cheryl Johnson or Kristi Larson



Youth Group
Ages 5th – 12th Grade

Sunday, July 12

6-8 pm

Mtg. Place - TBD

Sunday, July 26

6-8 pm

Mtg. Place - TBD

Questions –
Call Leslie Meloun



VBS 2020 update

Instead of our normal VBS program, God has led us to change our direction this year. We will be sending each of the kids a “simple daily devotional” that we will encourage them to do each day.

Upon completion, they will receive a prize!

We are praying that they will each learn to love and read God’s Word for themselves this summer!

Please let us know if you know of a child that you would like to enroll in this program! Also if you have a child who doesn’t have a Bible, contact Kristi Larson/Lisa Vaksdal or the church office.

We pray that God will bless your summer!!!
CHECK OUT THE LIBRARY PAGE!

WHAT: Live Nativity - "Oh! Come Let Us Adore Him!"

WHEN: December 11 & 12

TIME: 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

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 6th year we have gone, and it is an amazing day of packing meals to feed children around the world!

Any questions, contact Jen Goebel



JULY MEMORY VERSE.....



“Every word of God
proves true.”

Proverbs 30:5

MOVING FORWARD...

WE HAVE BEGUN SUNDAY SERVICES AT CHURCH!!

One Service at 10:00 am

We will be meeting inside the building

You may also sit in your car in the parking lot
and listen to the service on FM 103.9)

NO Sunday School at this time

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 available throughout the building
The Church will continue to be sanitized each week

**On occasion, we may try to put together an outdoor service, weather permitting.
We will notify all of you ahead of time, via the church's Facebook page.*



“I don’t think this milk is good,” Mom told Billy.
“Maybe it needs to go to church,” he replied.





"The joy of the Lord is your strength."

Nehemiah 8:10

July Birthdays

1 Marilou Warrick, Jim Downey
2 Mike Bricker
3 Barry Summers
5 Myah Hitchcock, Avah Hitchcock, Xavier Zavala
7 Bonnie Joneson
8 Carol Adair
9 Jeff Swiggett, Harry Kusters, Carson Shannon
10 Marilyn Thrawl, Marta Nelson
12 Kristen Day, Rowan Carlson
13 Diane Gagliardo
15 Hunter Herman, Tyler Downey
16 Cheryle Larson, Carley Steiner
18 Bridget Schwalm
19 Addison Shannon
23 Bill Burden, George Kresse, Ralph Binion
24 Jacob Paulson
27 Cheryl Johnson, Ronda Clark, Jack Nissen
30 Todd Schultz
31 Jerry Hunter



July Anniversaries

3 Jim and Bev Swiggett
6 Mark and Gayle Conrod
15 Duane and Laurie McComas
20 Gene and Dorothy Bricker
21 David and Rhonda Nold
27 Doug and Colette McCaleb
29 Keith and Nancy Hiney



Does the Bible Address Equality?

When examining the Bible, there are many stories where one can spot moments of inequity. Some of the most obvious are examples of conquest, when a stronger people group takes over another and brings its hierarchy with it. Much of this is the by-product of earthly divisions, and a human tendency to want to focus on and reinforce what divides people, rather than what they have in common.

When discussing issues of racial and gender equality, it can be easy to carry on the conversation in those parameters. However, that is not how God sees people. The Apostle Paul wrote, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28). God sees all the individuals in His creation as unique, but equal.

No physical or financial trait changes the way God sees that person, treats that person, and loves that person. God did not create a different patriarch for the different races. All peoples come from Adam, and he is the Father of the human race. Nor did God create women to be subordinate to men. Instead, Eve was Adam’s helper. “Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him’” (Genesis 2:18). The Lord sees people in the context of eternity, rather than temporary, earthly statuses.

However, the Bible is not silent on the inequality that exists. Some verses that address this topic include:

Proverbs 17:5 “Whoever mocks the poor insults his Maker; he who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished.”

Leviticus 19:34 “You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.”

Numbers 15:6 “One law and one rule shall be for you and for the stranger who sojourns with you.”

Philemon 1:15-16 “For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.”

Galatians 5:6 “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.”

Does the Bible Talk about Race?

When the human authors of the Bible wrote their sections across hundreds of years, they did not have the same language for race, racism, and equity that exists today. They used different language, instead referring to people groups, cultural behaviors, and religion to indicate what ethnicity they were discussing.

Several large sections of the Old Testament contain genealogical records which follow certain families, some of which would go on to be the foundations of ethnic identities. This first split occurred after Cain killed his brother Abel. The Bible records what happened to Cain:

“Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. When he built a city, he called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch” (Genesis 3:17).

A brief genealogy of several descendants of Cain follows, and then it mentions Adam and Eve’s new son, Seth; “To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of the Lord” (Genesis 3:26). Though Seth and Cain were brothers, the Bible treats their descendants differently, emphasizing how the descendants of Cain mastered livestock, instruments, as well as iron and bronze, contrasting how Seth and his people called on the Lord. They are treated as different people groups because of their emphasis on God and their culture, rather than race.

On occasions where the Bible does discuss individuals of different races, their race is less important than their relationship to God. David had men of other nationalities in his court, including the loyal soldier Uriah the Hittite who David had killed to cover up his sin with Bathsheeba. The Hittites as a people did not have God’s favor, because they sinned against Him, and the Bible says God drove them out of the land (Exodus 34:11).

Though Uriah was not an Israelite, God held David accountable for this death. Justice had to be dealt equally, regardless of ethnic identity. David’s sin against Uriah and Bathsheeba is considered the greatest blot on his character. He repented, and received forgiveness, but God expected justice.

In the New Testament, one of the first Gentiles saved was an Ethiopian eunuch, “And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship...Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, ‘See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?’” (Acts 8:27, 35-36).

The eunuch had come to worship the Lord, was studying Isaiah, and accepted Jesus as Lord. His race was not important, other than to identify him. What really mattered was his love for God.

How Should Christians Respond to Inequality?

The Lord calls His people to love Himself and to love others – to see the world as He sees it. Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 22:37-40).

When Christians see inequality in the world, the first step is to make sure they react accordingly. Reach out in love and bring attention to behavior that is not Christ-like, especially if the individual or group committing the act of inequality claims to be Christian.

Another important response is to share the Gospel. The Lord Jesus can transform a heart in a way that people cannot. The Holy Spirit can convict the racist, the sexist, and any other form of hatred. Sharing the Gospel so the Holy Spirit can transform that person is important. It is sometimes appropriate to join movements for social change, as long as that movement’s goals and tactics are inline with Biblical principles.

Ultimately, inequality will not be eliminated until Jesus Christ returns and reigns, and it will not exist in the new heaven and the new earth. One of the most beautiful pictures in the Book of Revelation is this:

“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’” (Revelation 7:9-10).

In heaven, there will be countless multitudes of people, equal before God, united in love. There will be no more tears, sorrow, pain, or inequality.

Sources

Dunn, James D.G. and John William Rogerson. *Eerdmans Commentary on the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2003.

Kreitzer, Mark. *The Concept of Ethnicity in the Bible A Theological Analysis*. New York: Edward Mellen Press, 2008.

Walvoord, John F. and Roy B. Zuck. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Old Testament and New Testament*. United States of America: Victor Books, 1987.

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!

The Prince Warriors, The Complete Series *by Priscilla Shirer*

The battle is real. As brothers, Xavier and Evan are used to battling each other. But now, they're discovering that there is a much bigger battle going on all around them and that it's their turn to fight. The Prince Warriors is an epic, fiction, adventure trilogy that brings to life the invisible struggle ensuing in the spiritual realm and uncovers some of the truths from Ephesians 6:10-18. For ages 8-12 years old.



ALSO NEW IN THE KID'S LIBRARY SECTION.....

Go on Five exciting adventures with a real life dinosaur researcher!! He also shares his passion for the Gospel and creation! (All ages)

ABC'S OF GOD'S PLAN (3DVD's)

Beginning with creation all the way through God's plan of salvation and His finished work in our world!!

THE ANSWERS BOOKS

8 Books answering kids questions about God. It may answer some adult questions too!!
(Ages 5-11)

I REALLY WANT ANSWERS

3 well-illustrated, scientifically accurate, fun to read books that inspire a love for the gospel and science! (Ages 4-12)

THE DOOR OF SALVATION

Only one door to be saved from the flood and one door to personal salvation!
(Ages 4-10)

This has been a time of high stress and great anxiety. Of course, our children have been impacted as well. How can we help them rise above negative emotions?

ANSWER:

Negativity is contagious; it is like a drop of black ink in a jar of clear water. Within a few minutes the whole jar is murky and contaminated. Yet with a positive attitude, you can teach your children to rise above frustration, unhappiness and anger. When I think of optimism, I think of the following characteristics.

Being able to laugh

A good sense of humor can lighten the tensest situation. Children need to see that you can have fun and be joyful. Laughter makes everything a little better.

Looking for the positives

We are surrounded by positives, but sometimes we have to make a point of looking for them. If we look for the negatives, we'll easily find them. Yet focusing on the positives is like standing in the sunshine.

Counting your blessings

Learning to be thankful and expressing thankfulness reminds you that things are frequently better than you think. When your children see you being grateful, they will begin to appreciate all that they have as well.

Children need an example to follow. They need to see you modeling what a healthy spouse, parent, friend, neighbor, adult and Christian looks like. If you don't set a positive example, there are plenty of people who will set a negative one for your kids.

Your children are too precious to risk letting peers or strangers show them the way. Optimism can be learned, and it's best learned when children see it in their parents.

Adapted from *20 (Surprisingly Simple) Rules and Tools for a Great Family* by Dr. Steve Stephens

Tough Questions from Kids.....

Why do people get sick when God is watching over them?

Answer:

Sickness was not part of God's original plan for us. Sin brought sickness into the world. God does not promise us that He will keep all pain and sickness away from us, although He does promise to always be with us. But this life is not all there is. In heaven, God will end all sickness.

“BUT DAD SAID IT WAS OK...”



My husband, Evan, and I have always differed in how we parent our children. Even our play styles revealed a contrast. When our kids were little, I cooed. I built blanket forts and dragged armloads of books inside, where we read and giggled. Evan’s style was to walk in the door, grab a toddler and throw her in the air with a “Whoooooop!”

At times, I’ve bristled at Evan’s choices. He’d let the kids go down the street to play with neighbors that I didn’t know as well as I wanted. He also saw nothing wrong with buying a trampoline for the backyard, while I could foresee nothing but emergency room visits and lawsuits.

One night we were at dinner when the trampoline subject came up.

“Please, Mom! Dad say it’s OK!” I looked at Evan. We’d had many, many conversations on this subject.

“When did you say it was OK?” I said in a tone that sounded like a hiss. He didn’t miss the glare in my eyes. From my perspective, he was being irresponsible. And because that’s what I thought, my actions became less than respectful.

Our parenting choices show us who we are. Our personalities. Our original family issues. Our differences. So how do we understand, accept and work on these differences? Every conflict is unique, but Evan and I learned two principles to guide our parenting disagreements: “Different doesn’t mean wrong” and “We are better together.”

Listening to another point of view and considering it stretches our understanding of each other. A young mom returns from an errand to see that her husband has put the baby’s outfit on backward. Picking up the baby, she says, “This outfit buttons up the front!”

Puzzled, the dad checks for the tag and finds it on the side with the buttons, so he thinks that’s the “back”. The outfit actually looks fine either way. Although there is usually a right way to put on most clothing, in this case, having different perspectives did not have any long-term consequences for the baby. So no harm done.

Overall, children actually benefit from being exposed to different parenting perspectives. From these different styles of parenting, kids learn to try various options when learning new skills.

-- Elisa Morgan

Welcome Home

by Max Lucado

I came home one night to find the place unusually quiet. Molly was gone.

She'd slipped out unnoticed. The search began immediately. Within an hour we knew that she was far, far from home. Now, if you don't like pets, what I'm about to say is going to sound strange. If you do like pets, you will understand.

You'll understand why we walked up and down the street, calling her name. You'll understand why I drove around the neighborhood at 10:30 P.M. You'll understand why I put up a poster in the convenience store and convened the family for a **prayer**. (Honestly, I did.) You'll understand why I sent e-mails to the staff, asking for prayers, and to her breeder, asking for advice. And you'll understand why we were ready to toss the confetti and party when she showed up.

Here is what happened. The next morning Denalyn was on her way home from taking the girls to school when she saw the trash truck. She asked the workers to keep an eye out for Molly and then hurried home to host a moms' prayer group. Soon after the ladies arrived, the trash truck pulled into our driveway, a worker opened the door, and out bounded our dog. She had been found.

When Denalyn called to tell me the news, I could barely hear her voice. It was Mardi Gras in the kitchen. The ladies were celebrating the return of Molly.

This story pops with symbolism. The master leaving his house, searching for the lost. Victories in the midst of prayer. Great things coming out of trash. But most of all: the celebration at the coming home. That's something else you have in common with Molly—a party at your homecoming.

Those you love will shout. Those you know will applaud. But all the noise will cease when he cups your chin and says, "Welcome home." And with scarred hand he'll wipe every tear from your eye. And you will dwell in the house of your Lord—forever.

From Traveling Light

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