

Church News

April 2025
First Baptist Church

Pastor - Steve Larson

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Pastor's Ponderings -

*"Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are".*

Easter is coming up later this month. It's kinda late this year, April 20th. But it is a great time of rejoicing as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Everybody is happy because it usually means spring is coming. But the celebration of Easter is all because of Good Friday. The willingness of Christ to go to the cross on our behalf. To step in and take our place and pay a price that we could never pay. He suffered and died and shed His blood, thus paying the price for our sins.

*"And when before the throne I stand in Him complete.
Jesus died my soul to save, My lips shall still repeat.
Jesus paid it all. All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain - He washed it white as snow."*

Drawing from the message of a couple old hymns and the Word of God, the message is clear. If I am saved today, then I have a Redeemer. If I have a Redeemer, then I have an owner. If I have an owner, then I don't own me.

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. Therefore honor God with your body." 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

It's not a bad thing to be owned by another. As long as your owner is your Redeemer, and your Redeemer is Jesus. The One who gave His all, to pay it all, in order to be your all in all.

And it is in this that we celebrate Easter.

Pastor Steve



OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY



Ladies Prayer Group
Wednesdays at 10:00am

Men's Group

Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm

We are studying the series "The Gospel According to Andy"

All men are invited to join us!

Questions?? - contact Stan Motter at 815-545-7441



Ladies Afternoon Bible Study

Wednesdays at 1:00 pm

We are studying through the **Book of 1 Corinthians**.

As we have studied all Paul's writing, we look forward to him outlining a foundation to encourage believers to pursue godly behavior in the world we live in.

Would love to have you join us as we apply the Bible to our lives!

Kim Enlow at 815-931-2533

Ladies Evening Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

We are studying a series called "Unoffendable",
by Brant Hansen.

We hope you will join us!

Colette Kirby at 815-942-9527



Single Moms Support Group

Meet the 1st and 3rd **Thursday** Evenings at 6:00 pm

If you are a single mom or know of one who would
enjoy meeting with others, please invite them to come with you!

Please contact Kristi Larson at 815-942-0812

*"Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message
is heard through the word of Christ."*

Romans 10:17



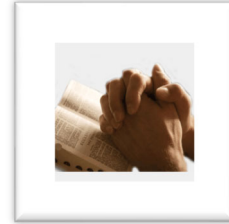
Boards to Meet on Tuesday, April 8

10:00am – Board of Deacons

5:30pm – Board of Christian Ed.

5:30pm – Board of Trustees

Congregational Prayer
Sunday, April 6
6:00 pm



Come gather together for prayer and praise!

UNIFIED GIVING

<u>Month</u>	<u>Monthly Amt. Needed</u>	<u>Monthly Amt Received</u>
Received thru February	\$25,720.00	\$29,647.86
Received thru March 16	\$25,720.00	\$14,544.00

Thank you for your generous and faithful giving!!!

We find it easier to trust the miracle of resurrection than the miracle of grace. We so fear failure that we create the image of perfection, lest heaven be even more disappointed in us than we are. The result? The weariest people on earth.

Stop it! Once and for all, enough of this frenzy.

“Your hearts should be strengthened by God’s grace, not by obeying rules.”

Hebrews 13:9 NCV



Awana Club

"Because Kids Matter to God"

**First Baptist Church
Ages 4 yrs.thru 7th grade**

Awana Club is held the 1st and 3rd Sunday
of each month at **4:00 - 5:15pm**
You may register by calling the
church office @ 815-942-0812

April 6 - Awana meets at church

April 13 - Awana meets at church
(Easter Event)

Questions -
call Cheryl Johnson or Kristi Larson
We are looking forward to seeing you!



ARE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IN NEED OF PRAYER?

First Baptist Church has a wonderful team of prayer warriors
who are willing to lift your requests to our heavenly Father.

Colette Kirby leads this ministry,
and you can email your prayer needs to her at –

colette.kirby@comcast.net

or text 815-954-9527

"For when I am weak, then I am strong."
2 Corinthians 12:10



Jesus does not say, *“Come to Me, all you who are perfect and sinless.”* Just the opposite.
“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

April Birthdays

1 Jim Hitchcock, Dave Punke
2 Cindy Binion
6 Marilyn Marshall
8 David Nold
11 Mark Conrod, Lynn Wisslead, Rhonda Nold
12 Betty Vining
16 Mark Schwalm
20 Lisa Cottingim
21 Monica Zavala
22 Bill Needham
23 Matthew Paulson
24 Keith Smith, Marie Walker
25 Zita Goebel
30 Marshall Ranz

April Anniversaries

5 Jim and Brenda Downey
8 Tim and Julie Applegate
19 Jerry and Pat Hunter





PLEASE JOIN US.....

Sunday Morning Worship Service - 8:00am
We offer a staffed Nursery

Sunday Morning Worship Service - 10:30 am
Sunday Morning Kid's Church (Pre-K and up)
during this Worship Service
we offer a staffed Nursery

Kid's Church

Every Sunday morning during the 10:30 am Worship Service Meets in our Library ... Sue Cheng (ages 4 yrs to 1st grade), Kristi Larson (ages 2nd to 5th grade) and Lisa Vaksdal (sub). This class offers a Bible lesson, craft and snack for the kids during the worship service. It gives the parents a chance to listen to the message and also the kids to receive a message as well. If your kids are too young for this class, we have a staffed Nursery that you may take them to at the same time. Kids are brought back to their parents before the main worship service is concluded. Come check us out!

Adult Bible Study

Sunday 9:15 am
Meets in the Sanctuary..... Claudette Swiggett
Looking forward to seeing you!



"Look to the LORD and His strength, seek His face always." 1 Chronicles 16:11

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:15 - 10:15 am

Pre-K thru 1st Grade ... Lisa Vaksdal
2nd thru 5th Grade ... Jen Goebel
Jr. High ... Mary Motter
High School ... Cathy Planeta



"Pray continually" 1 Thessalonians 5:17



GOOD NEWS CLUB
Ages 5 – 12 years old
Every Thursday at Saratoga School
January 23, 2025 – April 17, 2025
2:45 – 4:00 pm

The Good News Club team is looking for helpers. We will be meeting at Saratoga School every Thursday from 2:45 – 4:00 pm, January 23, 2025 – April 17, 2025.

We have a....

- Bible Story
- Verse memory game
- Singing
- Missionary story

at each meeting and pray many children come to know Jesus.

If you have any questions, you may contact Kristi Larson at 815-370-2395.

Jesus welcomed the children who flocked around Him:
*“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them,
for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these”* (Matthew 19:14).
Their openness, their enthusiasm, their trust – all these delighted Jesus.
A young child may not understand everything about God – but he or
she can understand something. A young child understands love,
and also understands what it means to obey someone. Don’t ignore
the children God brings across your path, but by your words and by
your example tell them about Jesus.

*“He called a little child and had him stand among them...
and He said... “whoever humbles himself like this little child is
the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”*
Matthew 18:2-4



Adopt-A-Highway Saturday, April 12, 2025

Spring is here and with it comes time to clean up our section of Saratoga Road from Route 6 to Old Stage Road. We will meet at the church at **8:00am** to pick up our supplies. Please bring your own gloves. We will supply safety vests and bags. Hope to see you there! Questions, call church office 815-942-0812.



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Saturday, May 10

11:30 – 1:45pm

Meet at the Church at 9:45am

Any questions, please contact Jen Goebel



Graduate Recognition Sunday

May 11

10:30am

Anyone graduating from Jr. High, High School or College
please contact the church office

2025 *Class of*

Word search Puzzle



EASTER SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday – April 13, 2025

Worship Services at 8:00 am and 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday – April 17, 2025

Worship Service at 7:00 pm w/Communion

“7 Last Words from the Cross”

Easter Sunday – April 20, 2025

Worship Services at 8:00 am and 10:30 am

Easter Breakfast

9:15 – 10:15 am

(hosted by Men of Action)

Please join us!

Any questions please contact church office at 815-942-0812

On that first Easter morning, something happened that had never happened before in the history of the human race – and would never happen again: someone came back from the dead, never to die again...

Jesus' resurrection also tells us that there is life beyond the grave. This world is not all there is; when we die, we continue to live – either in the place of utter darkness the Bible calls Hell or in the place of endless joy the Bible calls Heaven. And now Jesus has opened the way to Heaven for us, by His death and resurrection. Because Jesus rose from the dead, death has been defeated and Heaven awaits us.

“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.”

John 11:25-26

Crossword Puzzle



Board Positions 2025

Christian Education

Chairman - Cindy Binion

Vice-Chairman - Heather Wolsfeld

Secretary - Nancy Hiney

Board Member - Brenda Fronek

Deacons

Chairman - Bucky Phillips

Vice-Chairman - Jan Kresse

Secretary - Lisa Cottingim

Treasurer - Lisa Cottingim

Board Member - Laurie Wilkinson

Trustees

Chairman - Bob West

Vice-Chairman - Bill Needham

Secretary - Kay Hemmersbach

Board Member - John O'Brien

Board Member - Gary Bounds

Church Treasurer

Teresa Chapman