

Church News

May 2025

First Baptist Church

Pastor - Steve Larson

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Pastor's Ponderings -

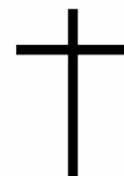
Do you like analogies? I was thinking of one as I was preparing for last week's sermon: Probably 40 years ago, I worked for a seed corn company. One of my responsibilities was to distribute seed corn and beans to all of my seed dealers in the spring of the year. One day as I was driving, I saw something that I have never forgotten. A big goose was walking towards the pond with what looked like an intention to go for a swim. Now that's no big deal you may say to yourself. The goose was doing what comes naturally to him. But this was a farm goose, not a wild goose, walking towards the family's farm pond with about twenty sheep following him. (Have you ever seen sheep swim...with a thick wool coat?) I often wondered how that turned out. Sheep will follow about anything once it gains their trust. *"All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him."* Isaiah 53:6 NASV

We've looked at the dangers of false teaching and the false teacher. It is all around us. We must not turn a deaf ear and a blind eye. We must be on our guard as discerning Christians. Jude 20 reminds us, *"But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit."* NASV Ephesians 5:15-16 says, *"Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil."* So how are we to walk then? Well, if God has called us to be sheep, then be a sheep, but don't follow the wrong master. As His sheep, we have no business following the goose to go for a swim. The farm pond is no place for us sheep; I don't care how good the goose can swim. Psalm 100:3 reminds us *"We are His people and the sheep of His pasture."* No matter how much the goose may try to teach us how to swim. It's never gonna be right for us. Ephesians 4:1 says, *"Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called."*

We must be on our guard. We must be careful how we walk and where we walk. We must be careful who and what we let teach us. Discerning all the while: Is what we are hearing lining up with what the Word of God says? If it doesn't line up, then maybe we're in the wrong pasture. Oh, and stay out of the farm pond, you'll sink like a rock!

Preaching Christ crucified, together with you, dear friends,
lifting high the Word of God, lift high the Cross

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 have begun a new study on Proverbs 31...We are looking forward to experiencing a personal sense of fulfillment only God can give.

Would love to have you join us as we navigate this scripture together!

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 6:30 pm

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

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



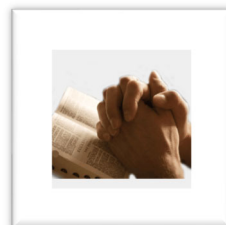
Boards to Meet on Tuesday, May 13

10:00am – Board of Deacons

5:30pm – Board of Christian Ed.

5:30pm – Board of Trustees

Congregational Prayer
Sunday, May 4
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 March | \$25,720.00 | \$27,923.00 |
| Received thru April 20 | \$25,720.00 | \$19,134.30 |

Thank you for your generous and faithful giving!!!

There is no fine print. A second shoe is not going to drop. God's promise has no hidden language. Let grace happen, for heaven's sake. No more performance for God, no more clamoring after God. Of all the things you must earn in life, God's unending affection is not one of them. You have it. Stretch yourself out in the hammock of grace. You can rest now.



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

May 4 - Awana meets at church
(Cookie Decorating)

May 18 - Awana meets at church

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

“As the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us.” Psalm 103:11-12 KJV

May Birthdays

1 Chris Day, Ardele Willis
2 Faye Chisler, Debbie Kusters, Brista Johnson
6 Ken Stulgis
7 Ben Paulson
9 Julie Applegate, Brittany Johnson
10 Kay Hemmersbach
11 Tim Wilkinson
13 Sue Hoaglund
16 Jacie Punke
18 Mary Motter
20 Dorothy Bricker
22 Amelia Hiney, Dixie Lund, Paul Warrick
25 Cindy West
26 Mike Meloun
27 Andrew Meloun
29 Bob Hill
31 Mike Gallagher

May Anniversaries

1 Steve and Denise Rylander
3 Mark and Lisa Vaksdal, Gary and Sarah Vershay
5 Abel and Megan Valdivia
24 Jim and Jennifer Goebel
29 Dave and Christi Punke





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



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 at 815-942-0812

2025
Class of

*“Blessed be the Lord, who daily
bears our burden, the God who
is our salvation. God is to us a
God of deliverances.”*

Psalm 68:19-20 NASB



Name: _____ Date: _____

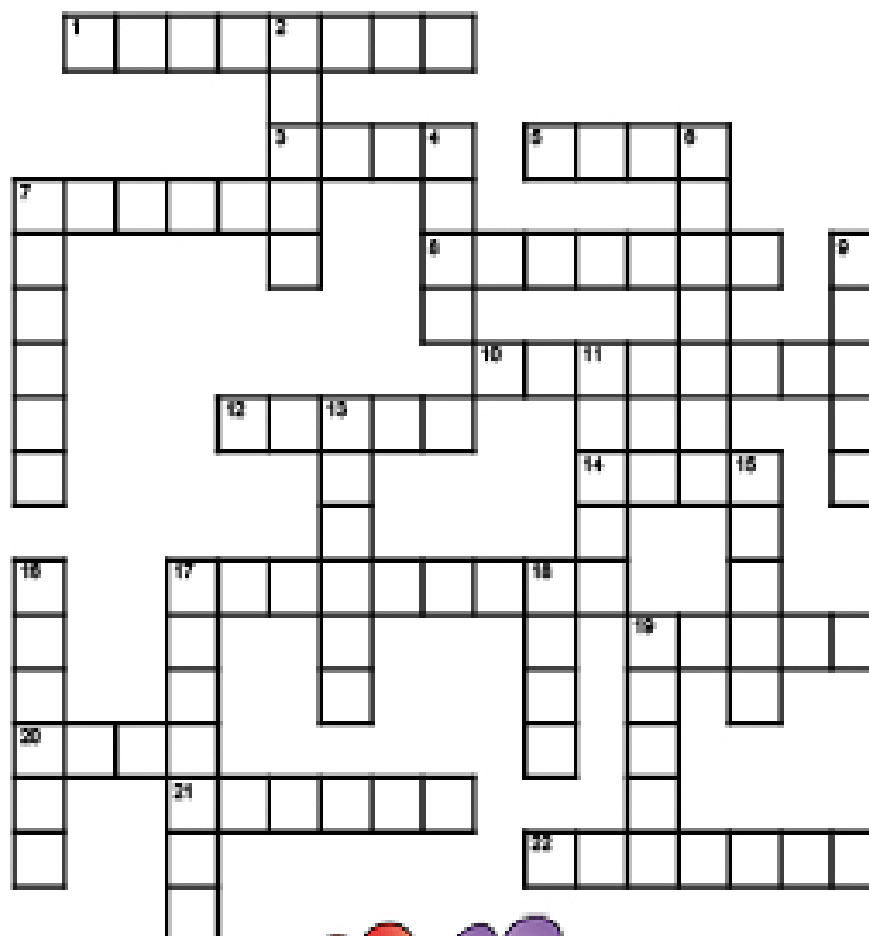
Spring is Here!

Across

1. It warms and brightens everything.
3. Warm up from a freeze.
5. They make honey.
7. Meal in the park.
8. Colorful arc in the sky.
10. It keeps the rain off you.
12. The color of spring grass.
14. Where a bird lives.
17. An adult caterpillar.
19. A baby chicken.
20. What chicks hatch from.
21. It comes after winter.
22. Red insect with black spots.

Down

2. Come out of an egg.
4. Wiggly creature that lives in the ground.
6. Short rainfalls.
7. Small pool of rain.
9. What the lawn is made of.
11. Another name for a rabbit.
13. A spring holiday.
15. Holland is famous for this flower.
16. Just a little wind.
17. Flower on a tree.
18. It is green and on a plant.
19. It might hide the sun.



Word Bank: Bees, Blossom, Breeze, Bunny, Butterfly, Chick, Cloud, Easter, Eggs, Grass, Green, Hatch, Ladybug, Leaf, Nest, Picnic, Puddle, Rainbow, Showers, Spring, Sunshine, Thaw, Tulip, Umbrella, Worm



National Day of Prayer
Thursday, May 1, 2025

Please be in prayer for our nation!

Memorial Sunday
May 25, 2025



If you would like to give a gift in memory of a loved one or friend,
you may cut out the Memorial Card here
and mail it to the church or put it in the offering plate.

Please return your card by May 20.

These names will be included
in a special bulletin insert on Memorial Sunday.

First Baptist Church
Memorial Card

Name _____

Address _____

In Memory of

Please direct this gift to:

_____ Building Fund

_____ Memorial Fund



WORD SEARCH

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

APRIL

BLOOM

BREEZE

BUNNY

BUTTERFLY

CHICK

IMPROVE

EASTER

FLOWERS

GALOSHES

GREEN

GRASS

GROW

JUNE

LAMB

MARCH

MAY

NEST

PUDDLES

RABBIT

RAIN

RAINBOW

RAINCOAT

SHOWERS

SPRING

SPROUT

SUNSHINE

TADPOLE

TULIP

UMBRELLA

WINDY

WORM



Vacation Bible School 2025
First Baptist Church
June 16 – 20
5:30 – 7:00 pm
Ages Pre-K thru 5th Grade

Marvel at Jesus, Live for His Glory

Our 2025 Answers VBS is an Old West themed VBS adventure that will teach kids about who JESUS is as that will teach kids about who [Jesus](#) is as they marvel at his birth, childhood, ministry, death and resurrection, and coming return. It's all about Jesus and the call for kids to live for his glory.

Kids will find answers to the questions:

- What amazing events surrounded the King's birth?
- Was there ever a person born who was more important than Jesus?
- What was Jesus like as a child?
- Is Jesus God or man—or both?
- What astonishing things occurred during Jesus' ministry and how much power does he have?
- How was Jesus' death and resurrection like no other?
- Could Jesus experience pain and sadness?
- What should we be doing while we wait for the King to return?
- Is Jesus going to be a man forever?

**It's a wild ride designed to help kids better know Jesus,
what He did for them, and how we should respond.**
Please call the church office to register at 815-942-0812

May 11, 2025





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