



# The Baptist Bulletin

July 2024

## Contact Us:

**First Baptist Church**  
1002 Ave C  
Gothenburg, NE 69138  
308-537-3881  
[gothenburgbapist@msn.com](mailto:gothenburgbapist@msn.com)

**Pastor Dan Urman**  
308-650-2035  
[daniel\\_e\\_urman@yahoo.com](mailto:daniel_e_urman@yahoo.com)

**Facebook page:**  
Gothenburg First Baptist Church

**Web site:**  
[gothenburgbaptist.org](http://gothenburgbaptist.org)

**Prayer Requests:**  
Our Nation & Leaders

**Church Family & Community**

**Ministries:**  
Bible studies  
Youth Gathering  
Awana Sparks  
Moms in Prayer

## Church Membership: Is it Valid?

For the 21st Century, western-minded Church, the question of church membership has been a hot button topic. This is a subject that I have been asked more times than I can recall since I have served in ministry. Is church membership biblical is a great starting point to begin the conversation of the validity of church membership.

This question has caused many a fight in churches and especially in church plants, which I have had the privilege of being a part of as well. The answer to this question is yes, church membership is biblical. So, the next question: how can you prove church membership is biblical?

There is not a one place in the Bible in which lays out the model of a church fully. There is not a place which shares an authorized hymn book or song list. There is not a place where you will find the titles for different positions within the Church. But there is the formation of leadership which lays out a framework for membership.

Titus 1:5-16 states the qualifications of an elder and the expectation of how the leaders of the church will be. This is a reality check for those who feel called to serve the church in leadership. This is a calling in which the elder must fully submit to the authority of the Lord and those he will serve with. Found within the book of James is a great reminder of this truth. James 3:1 states, "Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness." Why? Because the leaders who teach are going to be held accountable for everything they teach. We know the qualifications and the standard from this passage, but you can still ask, how does this speak to church membership?

Hebrews 13:17 reads, "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you." There are leaders that are called directly by the Lord for the local church members to submit to. This is an uncomfortable verse because we all know a pastor who has hurt others; either accidentally or on purpose. The church elder that sacrificed the people he was called to care for on the altar of his own pride is not honoring the Lord or serving the congregation he was entrusted with. Our hurts don't change the validity and authority of this passage however. A pastor called by the Lord will be one who is watching over the congregation and will give an account for each person who sits under his teaching.

Each passage of Scripture above has centered around the truth of authority and submission. The Word of God clearly commands Christians to sit under the authority of the elder body of a local church. They will not be perfect, but they will be accountable to the Lord for every decision and every action they make. If there wasn't church membership, then who is the Christian submitting to? Why would there be elders who are called to lead others?

(continued on page 3)

## Missionary of the Month ~ Zach & Sara Prieb (Ethnos360)

At the Ethnos360 Missionary Training campus in Roach, MO, our building and maintenance team are in the final stages of the big remodeling job of the campus guest house that we have been working on since the building flooded this late January. We have been blessed over the last few months to have more volunteer teams than we ever have in the past to help with this and many other jobs to help keep the campus functioning well. After the guesthouse, we will be transitioning to getting the housing ready for the new students who will be coming in August. (See before & after)



Our team (Building, Grounds, & Maintenance) will be losing its fifth member since January for various reasons. This has definitely put more of a strain on the rest of us as we have to take up the slack from a previously well functioning team. Please pray for strength as we continue to work to maintain the campus. Also, please pray that the Lord will bring more missionaries, those who will serve abroad as well as those who want to help stateside.

We will be taking a much anticipated trip this late August back to Manado, Indonesia. We are looking forward to connecting with our Indonesian coworkers and we will be going to “aunt” Julie’s wedding. We see this trip also as a bit of a closure for our family for the time we served there as we never were able to say our goodbyes when we couldn’t get back into the country. Please pray that the rest of the plans and funds will come together throughout the next few weeks and that we will have a heart ready for any of God’s plans that we will need to realign with.

Our girls have decided to take Indonesian as their foreign language for high school and they are also interested in career missions so this should be an exciting trip for them as it has been over three years since they’ve lived there. Please pray that the Lord will use this time for us to encourage our coworkers in the Lord and strengthen the long distant relationship we still have with some of them.



**Financial Report ~ ~ ~**

Budget for the Year: \$172,415.00

Fiscal Year ends 2/28/25

Offerings Received for 4 months:  
\$ 40,892.65Expenditures Paid for 4 months:  
\$ 52,810.63**Birthdays ~ ~ ~**

July 1	Dee Painter
July 4	Fran Linegar
July 6	Kelli Beck
July 8	Hildur Malm
July 10	Doris Nelson
July 13	Dawn Urman
July 15	Will Mercer
July 18	Phil Kuhlman
July 26	Karman Keith
July 31	Marsha Weeks

**Anniversaries ~ ~ ~**

July 17	Larry & Connie Schweitzer
July 19	Ryan & Karman Keith
July 23	Phil & Bertha Kuhlman
July 28	Eddie & Regie Fruit

(continued from page 1)

According to the Bible, we are meant to be together and meet together (Hebrews 10:24-25). By faith, we become universal members of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27). As I shared through the passages above, we are called to committed fellowship locally for our own protection, edification, correction, maturation, and simply for the glory of God.

When we are members of the a local body of Christ we are making a full commitment to that church. Stating that we want to be in fellowship, that we will sit in submission to the leadership, that we will work through the hard things that come up, that we will celebrate the victories, that we will mourn together, and that we will seek to live together for the glory of God. Being a member of the local church is something that comes with privileges, responsibilities, and obedience. I have so much more I would like to write in this article, but I will end it here due to this already being a longer article. If you would like to discuss anything about membership further or if you would like to talk about becoming a member, I would love to have a conversation with you.

**Greeters ~ ~ ~**

1st week	Jim Flesch / Alissa Urman
2nd week	Marsha Weeks / Joyce Sabin
3rd week	Kim Crisman / Kelli Beck
4th week	Val Parsons / Connie Sitorius

(See Marsha Weeks to volunteer)

**Nursery ~ ~ ~**

July 7	Connie Schweitzer
July 14	Dawn Urman
July 21	Kelly Peterson
July 28	Cor Peterson
Aug 4	Jody Nelson

(See Kelly Peterson to volunteer)





*One of the devil's snares is so to occupy us with the past and the future as to weaken us for the present.     Unknown*

## MONTHLY SCHEDULE

July 1      Management Finance—730  
July 1      Elder Board meeting—8 pm  
July 7      Christian Ed meeting—12pm  
July 8-13   Pastor on Vacation  
July 21     Worship Watchcare meeting  
July 28     Fellowship Outreach meeting

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sun.      Worship Service—9:45 am  
            Sunday School—11:00 am  
            Youth Gathering—6:00 pm  
  
Wed.      Men's Bible Study—6 am at Hospital  
  
Thurs     Prayer meeting—5:15 pm



**VBS 2024**