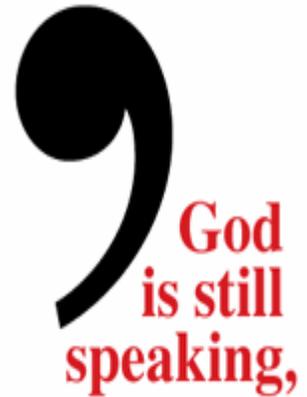


Old Stone Church - May 2021



Words From Wang – *We're Headed for the Promised Land*

It is written in Exodus 13:17-18 that *When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was the shorter route; for God thought, "If the people face war, they may change their minds and return to Egypt." So God led the people by the roundabout way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea.*

This passage offers several lessons for churches that are in transition like the Old Stone Church. The first lesson is on how this interim period can feel like we're wandering through the wilderness with a certain level of uncertainty as to where God is leading us. The second lesson is how we are dealing with the desire to want to go back to the way things were; or to take the easy route.

We also use this story to remind ourselves that, although Moses led the people through the wilderness to the "promised land," that Moses himself was unable to finish the journey with them and never actually entered the promised land with the people. That is the role of the interim minister; to guide churches through the wilderness and to help prepare them for the new thing that God is doing - but then to send them on their way.

So, for the next three years we will wander through the wilderness together and know that God is leading us to something like a promised land though most of don't know what it will look or feel like once we're ready to cross over (for more about this initiative please see the *Flames of the Spirit* article in this edition). This reality can be stressful but it can also be quite exciting as we consider some new ideas for doing ministry in this place. This month, we hope to take some necessary steps to begin the journey together. And I only ask that you be patient with the process, that you keep an open mind, and above all, I ask you to trust in the God who calls us to be the church.

Thank you all for your support and prayers through our initial time together. These first three months have flown by. I do think we've made an excellent start but now the real work begins. I, for one, am thrilled with the opportunities that await us for we are headed for the promised land. See ya' in church.

Pastor Bob

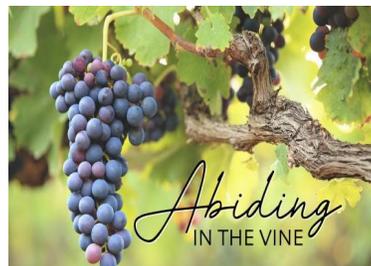
Worship Opportunities (May)

May 2: 5th Sunday after Easter

Scripture: John 15:1-8

Sermon Theme: *Abiding in the Vine*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served



May 9: 6th Sunday after Easter (Mother's Day)

Scripture: John 15:9-17

Sermon Theme: *Spiritual Labor and Delivery*



May 16: 7th Sunday after Easter

Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Sermon Theme: *No Bones About It*



May 23: Pentecost Sunday

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

Sermon Theme: *Flames of the Spirit*

(One worship service at 9:30 in the parking lot)



May 30: First Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8

Sermon Theme: *Holy to the Third Power*



June 6: Second Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Sermon Theme: *You're Not Getting Older You're Getting Better*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served



Spring Cleaning Event at Old Stone Church!

(Saturday May 15th, 9am with rain date reschedule for May 22nd)

Hello Everyone!

It is that time of year again... Bring your favorite gardening tools and clothes and join the Building & Grounds Team to help us spruce up our precious church grounds. We will have a mound of mulch to spread and likely some stubborn weeds and light trimming to do.

What a wonderful way to work along side of your fellow parishioners for a cause that is important to all of us!

For any questions, or to let us know you're able to help, please contact Jim Burdick at: wiscabin@yahoo.com or you can call Jim at: [815-988-1112](tel:815-988-1112)

But wait! There's more....

As part of the all church clean up day, we are offering an informal concert of Earth Day and creation themed songs by Pastor Bob (many of which are kid-friendly songs), as well as offering a craft for those kids and young at heart who may need a moment for creativity after (or before) some laboring.

Folks can come at 9:00 and join the effort to clean around the church property, meet us at the craft table for an easy Pentecost themed craft (we will be making "candles" for participation in our Pentecost Sunday service on the 23rd, (so the more of us who participate, the better!) or you can just show up about 11:00 and enjoy the concert with Pastor Bob.

As the entire day is weather dependent, we plan on holding the concert somewhere on the church grounds. There will be something for every one, so tell your friends and help us celebrate Earth Day every day!



Flames of the Spirit

We are happy to announce a three-year themed program for the Old Stone Church which we will roll out on Pentecost Sunday (May 23) during our outdoor worship service.

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. (Acts 2 :1-4)

It seems quite fitting that we begin this initiative on Pentecost Sunday, which is quite literally, the birthday of the Christian Church. The overarching theme for the program is *Flames of the Spirit* while each year will be assigned a sub-theme. Year two and three will be subsequently initiated on the Pentecost Sunday of each of those respective years. The following is a brief overview of the dedicated themes and the simple missions we hope to accomplish each year.

Year 1 (2021)

Roll out date: May 23 (Pentecost Sunday)

Theme: *Rekindling the Flame*

Mission: to respond to late/post-pandemic challenges with programs, events, fellowship, and worship services designed to rebuild a strong sense of community within our church membership.

Year 2 (2022)

Roll out date: June 5 (Pentecost Sunday)

Theme: *Hearts on Fire*

Mission: to build on the previous year and to consider ways to appeal to those in the community around us (to focus more on community outreach).

Year 3 (2023)

Roll out date: May 28 (Pentecost Sunday)

Theme: *Keep the Fires Burning*

Mission: to build on the past two years and continue with the game plan for maintaining our church vitality and presence in the community. To work toward a sustainable future with a vision that will help attract the right leader to guide us in the future. The search committee will be active for the duration of this year with the goal of searching out and calling a new pastor.

This program is an all-out, full church initiative. Each board, committee, and team (some yet to be formed) will have specific responsibilities and tasks to help facilitate a successful program. There will be no bystanders, only builders, pray-ers, and players. We hope each and every member and friend of the Old Stone Church will consider ways that they can contribute to the project, that our work may bear fruit in the days to come.



National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 6th 2021

Settlers Park

NOON

**“Lord pour out your love, life,
and liberty”**

2 Corinthians 3:17

70th Anniversary

**In the event of rain, service
will be held at
PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN
CHURCH
FREEPORT ROAD**



*National Day
of Prayer*

Pastoral Concerns and Prayer Requests

Just a reminder that Pastor Bob is always willing to respond to any situations that may arise where pastoral support and response is desired. Upcoming surgeries or procedures, a family crisis or loss, or anything else where the pastor could be involved or may be able to provide guidance, prayers, or support.

Also, when appropriate and with permission, these issues can be shared during prayers on Sunday mornings. Note: It is always best if information is shared "first person" so information is accurate and coming directly from the source. Your help in providing information is appreciated so please pass it on to the church office via phone or email, or even directly to Pastor Bob when convenient (pastorboboscrockton@gmail.com) or his cell (262-945-8475).

May Birthdays

- 2nd- Kevin Davies
- 11th- Gerri Harshbarger
- 12th- Kyle Middleton
- 21st- Maddelynn Wallace
- 24th- Dave Provance
- 25th- David Black
- 25th- Heather Bode
- 27th- Jodi James
- 27th- Will Wallace



May Anniversaries

- 3rd- Mike & Julie Bailor
- 20th- Tom & Patti Christenson
- 21st- Randy & Becky Stutzel
- 29th- Dan & Kadie Heron



May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Communion	3	4 Diaconate 7pm	5 Grief Group 10:30a	6 Pantry 9:15-11:15	7	8 Stateline Chargers 8:30-11:30am
9 Mother's Day	10 Condo Assn Mtg. 6-8pm	11 Council Mtg. 7pm	12	13 Pantry 9:15-11:15	14	15 Spring Clean-Up 9am
16	17	18	19 Grief Group 10:30a	20 Pantry 9:15-11:15	21	22 *Spring Clean-Up 9am (Rain Date)
23 Pentecost Sunday (Outside Service 9:30am)	24 4-H Mtg. 6-8pm	25	26	27 Pantry 9:15-11:15	28 Old Guys 8:30am	29
30	31					

Old Stone Church
 101 E. Union St
 Rockton, IL 61072
 (815) 624-6212
 Email: oldstonechurch@oldstonechurch.net
Oldstonechurch.net



Old Stone Church Staff:

Pastor Bob Wang: (262) 308-4180
Lindsey Lancaster: Office Administrator
Bob Estrada: Custodian

