Happy Valentine's Day!

Wednesday, February 14th

Palm Sunday
Sunday April 10
Morning Service 10:00am
Potluck Brunch following

Good Friday Service
Friday April 15
6:30pm

Easter Sunday
Sunday April 17
Fellowship Hour 9:00am
Easter Service 10:00am
A Note from Pastor Seth

We live in an area where on rare occasions a wolf can be spotted. The area of Wolf Creek got its name for a reason. Some local farmers have experienced the havoc that wolves cause with their cattle. When a wolf comes around no animal is safe. The animal that probably needs protection more than any other are sheep. It is the responsibility of shepherds to look after them. Of all predators’ shepherds fear wolves more than any other. Without the shepherd wolves will have a field day with the sheep. In Scripture believers are referred to as sheep and those who lead them in a local church are called shepherds or pastors. It is the responsibility of pastors to feed the sheep and to protect them from wolves (Titus 1:5). So, who are wolves according to Scripture? Wolves are described in two ways in the New Testament. During Jesus’ ministry, as he sent out his disciples, he warned them about opposition from the unbelieving world. He told them, “I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves” (Matthew 10:16). But there is also another wolf out there that is even more dangerous, and this is so because these wolves pose as shepherds but are really working for Satan. As Jesus preached The Sermon on the Mount he warned his listeners, “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves” (Matthew 7:15).

The apostle Paul echoed Jesus’ words during his ministry. Paul spent an extended period of time in Ephesus teaching the people “the whole counsel of God” (Acts 20:27), and now it was time for him to depart. But before he did, he warned them, “Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them” (Acts 20:29,30).

Paul makes it clear where these people come from; they come from inside the church. They graduate from evangelical seminars, are hired by churches, and somewhere along the way this person starts to show his true colors. Somewhere along the way he starts speaking “twisted things” (Acts 20:30). Instead of helping the flock the false shepherd harms the sheep, leading them away from the truth.

Right now in our world and country we see many “birth pains” (Matthew 24:8) that indicate Christ’s return is inching closer. There are many signs that Scripture gives concerning the end of days and one of those signs is the rise of false teachers. In Matthew 24 Jesus describes their increase before his return: “Many false prophets will arise and lead many astray” (Matthew 24:11). Scripture describes what these false teachers do: They “secretly bring in destructive heresies… and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed” (2 Peter 2:1-2). They will tell people what they want to hear and not what they need to hear as the apostle Paul wrote, “The time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths” (2 Timothy 4:3-4). False teachers know how to deceive people. They use Christian language to lead people astray to advance their own agenda. They might even confess true Christianity but out of the other side of their mouth reject it. This is why it is so important to have discernment during these days. As we see the world experiencing significant birth pains it is no surprise to see the rise of false teachers.

So how do you spot them in our day? False teachers belong to the world and therefore push the world’s agenda. False teachers are passionate about what the passing world is passionate about and the world approves of their teaching, but Jesus told us his followers would not be approved (John 15:18-19).
Hello, All You Wondrous Supporters!

May this update find you with ever warming weather as Winter begins its slow fade into Spring. This seemed like a fitting day to send an update, as today marks 2 years being in Ireland! Huzzah! I guess that means we are missionary toddlers? I don’t know, but God has sure grown us a lot this year and certainly proved Himself faithful. Ready for some updates? Let’s do it.

No more masks!
Yeah, you read that correctly. For the first time since we lived in this country, we are allowed to function in society without wearing masks! Essentially all Covid restrictions were lifted 3 weeks ago, and it is glorious. We are so very thankful.

The last two Sunday services have been mask free and no social distancing. Again, for the first time since we’ve been here. Who knows if restrictions will have to go back into place at some point, but we are grateful for it now!

Which means, we are now getting ready to partake in our very first St. Patrick’s Day festivities in Ireland! Crazy.

What’s the Ministry Craic?
Yeah, so nobody has ever said ‘What’s the ministry craic’, and I promise never to say it again. But ‘What’s the craic?’ Is the Irish saying for what’s the gossip, fun or happenings. So, you get it.

Life Group
Thank you so much for your prayers regarding our community group. Winter was a bit rough as Covid ripped through Ireland, so we had to pause meeting for a while. But we now have a steady rhythm of meeting and have really seen God bless it in several ways. There’s been about 17 of us (including kids) gathering for our meals together. This week’s meeting we’ll have at least 22. It has been our greatest joy to see authentic gospel-community forming; people become comfortable with each other, growing in love for one-another, opening up and sharing things in group they never have, and seeing everyone respond with love and encouragement in gospel truth.

Women’s Bible Study
Sarah has been leading a Bible study for the women in our group, as well as some additional friends of one of the ladies, which has been super encouraging. One of them mentioned after the last study, “I have been praying for something like this for the last 6 years. Thank you so much for doing this. This community has been such an answer to prayer.” Praise God. Those are the kind of comments that help keep you going.

Chaplaincy
I started up my chaplaincy role for the professional Soccer team here in Galway. I still don’t know what I’m doing, but God apparently does. I’ve had the opportunity to meet a few of the guys one-on-one over coffee, and each chat has been super encouraging. We’ve been able to talk about things like what we find our identity in, and how that affects how we handle the stresses of life. They’ve all been very open, receptive, and thankful for our time together.

Preaching and Speaking
Just continue to be thankful for opportunities to preach at our home church in Galway City, as well as two other small churches in the area, and opportunities to speak at the university here in Galway as well. It’s continually forming for me to learn to speak into this context, and it’s also been so encouraging to see God at work in people’s lives. It was particularly encouraging at the university where I met a couple Irish lads, both saved within the last year, and both feeling called into ministry. God is at work.

Praises
- Praise God for continued growth in our community group
- For the women’s Bible study
- For the openness and reception of the soccer lads I’ve chatted with so far
- Norah’s health. The doctor’s appointment you prayed for went well. She was officially diagnosed with Celiac Disease, which is a relief to have it finally documented by the doctors here. Now we are praying to get her into a dermatologist for rashes specific to Celiac.
- For Sarah legally being able to drive

Prayer Requests
- Please continue to pray for our community group. Especially that God would grow our love for one another, as we all learn what it looks like to do life with one another.
- Please pray I get further opportunities to meet with the lads from Galway United and those conversations would continue to be fruitful.
- Please pray for the women’s Bible study and that there would be opportunities to invite seekers to join.
- You can pray as well for potential ministry partners in the church plant. It was always the plan to plant with another couple able to do full-time ministry. We have been in very early conversations with another couple who are praying to that end.
Monthly Events

Women’s Bible Study
Saturday, April 2
9:00am

Men’s Breakfast
Saturday, April 9
8:00am

Marriage Bible Study
Monday, April 4
7:00pm

Despite the increased threats in Ukraine, the work of training ministers of the gospel at Ukrainian Evangelical Theological Seminary continues. From Hungary, I continue to teach two English courses and oversee the teaching of three others. Please keep praying for our resilient and committed seminary students and the work of UETS during this critical period.

World leaders are running out of superlatives to describe how ‘concerned’ they are...

Meanwhile, this is how our family in different parts of the country are living right now in their cellars and school basements. Nobody wanted this war but they said they are ready to fight with pitchforks, sticks, rocks, whatever they can find if necessary to stop the enemy!

Odesa residents covered the monument to the Duke de Richelieu with more than a thousand sacks of sand. Thus, people are trying to protect the monument erected in 1828 from possible destruction by Russian airstrikes. Photo by Nina Lysenko, Ukrinform. 9 March 2022.

Borodianka after the Russian shelling, Kyiv Oblast. Photo by Maks Levin. 3 March 2022.

It has begun. Strikes hitting military installations all over the country including the small town where much of our family lives. Amazingly we’ve been able to stay in touch so far. Pray for Ukraine to remain strong and that these evil plans would fail.

In addition to it, today we have again served communion to a group of Ukrainian soldiers. These moments are specially moving as partaking of the bread and wine in a field and under a real threat to life differs emotionally from a communion we have at our church buildings, though we remember the same death of Christ.

“When I am in such a situation when I need to serve the Lord’s Supper to the military, I always say to servicemen — whatever church they represent — that this is the body of Christ broken and His blood shed for them. They agree by saying ‘Amen’.

I believe that we are just the instrument in this kind of situation. And there is much bigger, invisible presence of God’s grace which can do something that we cannot do.”

(Full text of the interview is available at https://rb.gy/jugtco).
Weekly Events

**Sunday School**
Sunday Mornings
9:00am

**Morning Service**
Sunday Mornings
10:00am

**Fridays**
Matson Building
9:30am

**Kids Church**
Sunday mornings during Morning Service
Church Announcements

- There will be a **Kitchen Team** meeting on Sunday, April 3 after morning service.
- There will be Adult Sunday School and Kid’s Church on **Palm Sunday**. We will have a potluck brunch after the morning service. Please bring a dish to share.
- **Friday Women’s Group** will not be meeting on Good Friday, April 15th.
- Taylors Falls Baptist will join us at Eureka for **Good Friday Service** at 6:30pm. Refreshments will follow the service.
- There will not be Adult Sunday School or Kid’s Church on **Easter Sunday**. There will be a Fellowship Hour in the Matson Building at 9:00am. Easter Service will be at 10:00am.
- Help us clean the ditches of 210th Avenue! We will meet at church on Saturday, April 23 at 10:00am. Please wear bright clothing so you can easily be spotted. Pizza lunch will follow.
- **Quarterly Business Meeting** on Sunday, April 24 after morning service.
- Save the date! **Church Property Cleanup** on Saturday, May 21. **Church Picnic & Baptisms** at Skonewood on Sunday, August 28.
- **April Cleaning**: Keith & Julie Johnson
- Thank you to **Brianna Brickley** for cleaning the church in March and **Nick Fox** for shoveling!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**: Jordan Braund 4/3, Eric McKinley 4/6, Sierra Braund 4/10, Joan Lee 4/11, Sandy Clark 4/12, John Hahn 4/14, Heather Taylor 4/21, Hannah Braund 4/22

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Our Youth Group had a fun time trying to find disguised adults from church shopping at Walmart. When the Youth Group was able to find one, they had to yell out "Eureka!"

How many "Walmart shoppers" can you identify?
The ice storm in March did a lot of damage to one of the pine trees in the Parsonage yard. Thank you to the Jorgenson Family for helping take down the tree.

Above: “Enemies within the Church” Documentary

Men’s Breakfast had a full house in March. The overflow area was helpful.

Sunday, April 10
9:00am Adult Sunday School in the Matson Building
10:00am Morning Service
Brunch following morning service

Friday, April 15
6:30pm Good Friday Service
Refreshments following service

Sunday, April 17
9:00am Fellowship Hour
10:00am Easter Service
He is Risen
Eureka Baptist Church
2393 210th Avenue
St. Croix Falls, WI  54024