Happy Valentine’s Day!

Wednesday, February 14th

Saturday, August 4
Options for Women 5K

Family Night
Fri, August 17
6:30pm

Sunday
August 19
Church Picnic
And Baptisms
Skonewood Christian Retreat
The great dilemma that humanity faces in this world is how to become right with a holy God. As we know from Scripture all of us are sinners in need of a Savior (Romans 3:23). Jesus is that savior (John 3:16). If we need someone to save us it only follows that we can contribute nothing in order to be reconciled to God. Yet, over and over again, movements under the guise of Christianity say that we need to contribute something to earn favor with the Lord. I heard one pastor correctly say that the default mode of sinful humanity is to believe they need to contribute something to earn God’s favor.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.  
John 3:16

Proponents of this false teaching say that yes Christ paid for our sins, but we need to contribute also to completely justify us before God. But this fly’s in the face of the clear teaching of Scripture. The apostle Paul wrote that, “by works of the law no human being will be justified in his (God’s) sight” (Romans 3:20). The grounds of Admission into heaven cannot be on the basis of human works. As Paul writes, “If Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness” (Romans 4:2-3). Paul is making the point that if Abraham became right with God through works he would have something to boast about, but if he is saved by grace through faith alone he does not. God gets the glory in salvation, not man. God will not allow his glory to be minimized (Romans 11:36).

Not only does a works based system of salvation rob God of his glory, but it also indicates that Christ’s work on the cross was not sufficient to earn our full salvation. The author of Hebrews writes that, “He (Christ) has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself” (Hebrews 9:26). The apostle Peter wrote that, “Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God” (1 Peter 3:18). There is no mention in Scripture of our contribution being necessary to bring us into a relationship with God. We are justified before God and are forever at peace with him through Christ and Christ alone (Philippians 3:9). His finished redemptive work is sufficient to earn our full salvation. Anyone who says that we contribute to earn eternal favor with God has plunged into heresy and it must be rejected. I mentioned earlier that we are saved by grace through faith alone. Some might argue that faith is a work? But in fact, faith is the opposite of a work. What faith says is “I cannot do it. I need to depend on someone else to do it for me. This is the clear teaching of Scripture and so we must understand faith in this way (Romans 4:5). Salvation truly is God’s grace alone (Ephesians 2:8).

After saying all of this an important point needs to be made. What place does works have in the Christian faith? We already established that works contribute nothing to one’s salvation. But do works mean anything? Yes, they do!

They are very important. One thing we have to remember is that God’s big plan is to make us holy forever. The Bible says that nothing unclean will ever enter the eternal state on the new earth (Revelation 21:27). This means that people will forever do only good and never anything sinful. So in this life God has a plan for us to put to death the deeds of our sinful earthly bodies (Romans 8:13). We are commanded not to gratify the desires of our sinful nature (Galatians 5:16). This is known in theological terms as sanctification. You and the Holy Spirit work as a team to make you holy (Romans 8:13; Galatians 5:16). Over time, what happens is that you look less like who you were when you were in bondage to sin, and you start to reflect more and more God’s holiness. God cares very much about our works. The Bible says that we were saved to be made into people (through the Holy Spirit) who perform good works (Ephesians 2:10). The Lord cares so much about our works that in the end we will be judged by our works (Romans 2:6-11). Any unbeliever will have no works of faith and will therefore be thrown into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:12-15). The believer will have works of faith that were produced by the Holy Spirit and this will prove that he or she was justified (counted righteous in Christ) at conversion You can see the role of works. They are significant because they prove our salvation and they bring us down the road of holiness where one day we will be entirely holy when we meet Jesus face to face (1 John 3:2). The Bible teaches very clearly that we are saved by grace through faith alone. If you come across someone who teaches something different go to the text and show them the crystal clarity with which the Bible speaks on this all-important topic.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Seth
The Tokar Family was able to visit us on July 15th for an update on how their mission work is going in Ukraine. Josh teaches the English language at a Seminary in Ukraine to students preparing to serve in ministry across the former Soviet world and beyond. After some changes to the program, students are now able to move from the beginner program to accomplished in about 3 years. The more confident students are with the English language, the more motivated they become. Thank you, Tokar Family, for the work you are doing!

A pot luck meal was served after Morning Service.

Interested in being Baptized on August 19th? Please talk with Pastor Seth.

Far left: Early 1900 Eureka Baptist Church baptism.

Left: Baptism of Betty Jensen, Eureka Baptist Church.
Monthly Events

Women’s Bible Study
Saturday, August 4th
Options for Women 5K

Men’s Breakfast
Saturday, August 11th
8:00am

Family Night
Friday, August 17th
6:30pm
2018 Vacation Bible School

VBS was held Sunday, July 8th through Thursday, July 12th. The week was such a success. Despite the hot temperatures, kids from all over joined us each night to learn about the lasting forgiveness that only Christ can give! Thank you to everyone that helped! A wonderful meal was served every night – thank you to all those that worked in the kitchen! Thank you to the teachers and helpers! We even had teenagers every night helping round up the kids! Pie and ice cream were served the last night after a VBS program.
2018 Board Members

Deacons
Shaun Anderson
Gordon Trombley

Trustees
Randy Clark
Jeremiah Johnson
Shaun Anderson

Deaconess
Barbara Trombley
Amber Lindo
Hansi Stridde
Abby Swanson

Secretary
Amber Lindo

Treasurers
Hansi Stridde
Abby Swanson

Church Announcements

Church Picnic
Sunday, August 19th
After Morning Service
Skonewood Christian Retreat
2104 260th Avenue, Cushing WI 54006

Join us for the last Family Fun Night of the Summer!
Friday, August 17th
6:30pm

Holding Fast
Let us fix our eyes on Jesus. Hebrews 12:2

How can a dog sense when his master is planning an outing? On ordinary mornings, when I am getting ready for work, Rudy, my white German shepherd, retreats to his mat and mopes, head on paws, tail flat, eyes lacking sparkle. But if I, without any fuss or fanfare, begin to gather things for a hike or a trip to the park, he is alert, up, and ever present, tail waving like a flag, doing everything in his power to assure he will not be left behind. Sticking close, he trots beside me as I make preparations. He presses his warm body against my legs, making his presence felt. Nothing distracts him, not even an enticing rabbit. As soon as the back door of the station wagon opens, up he will leap, ecstatic to be included. For Rudy, it is so simple. He is single-minded in his desire to go on an adventure with his master. He does not care where we are headed, only knows he wants to be onboard. He trusts I will choose what is good and acceptable and perfect. What an example this dog sets as to how I should live my Christian life! Would that I always kept my eyes fixed on the Master; never distracted by the world, but content in His presence, holding fast to Him, remembering that God’s plans for my life are good and acceptable and perfect. Thank you, Rudy, I think, as I treat my old white dog to a scratch behind the ears, for reminding me “...you are to hold fast to the LORD your God.” (Joshua 23:8)

Submitted by Barbara Trombley

 Sunday, August 19th after Church Picnic. Skonewood Christian Retreat. If interested in joining others being baptized that day, please speak with Pastor Seth.

The Garage Sale that we had last year during River Road Ramble was a big success! If you have any items that you’d like to donate toward this year’s sale, you can leave them in the Annex Building!

Options for Women TRI-COUNTY 5K

WHEN: Saturday, August 4
WHERE: Hope Evangelical Free Church 933 - 248th Street Osceola, WI
START TIME: 9:00 AM
REGISTRATION BEGINS: 8:00 AM
To pre-register go to: optionstricounty.org or call 715.775.2229

Runners and Walkers of ALL ages encouraged to take part!
All proceeds benefit Options for Women | TRI-COUNTY Osceola, WI

*TEAM TROMBLEY*
Hi! We are the Miron Family. I (Will) was born and raised in St. Croix Falls and my wife Sarah and I both graduated from St. Croix Falls High School. Sarah and I and our kids Aidan, Norah and Lucy now live in Cottage Grove, Minnesota and are being called to serve long-term as missionaries to Ireland. Why Ireland? Ireland is the least reached of any English-speaking country, with less than 1% evangelical. The Roman Catholic church in Ireland is dying, and there are little to no gospel-preaching churches for people to turn to. In August 2017, we were appointed by our missions agency, WorldVenture, and now we are in the process of being sent out as Church Planters to Galway, Ireland by our home church, Christ Redeemer Church. Christ Redeemer is a church plant from Bethlehem Baptist Church. We depart once we have the full amount of prayer and financial partners to get us there and sustain us there. We are currently at 57% of our needed monthly commitments, and our prayer is to be fully funded by the end of the year and on the field by early 2019. Thank you all for your interest in what the Lord is doing in Ireland, if you want to learn more about our mission or how you can partner with us, you can search our names on worldventure.com or check out our blog at irelandbeglad.org

Psalm 107:8
Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man!

Happy Birthday!!
Alvin Matson 8/6
Amber Lindo 8/10
Abby Swanson 8/22
Rachael Anderson 8/22
Jacob Lindo 8/24

Do we have your birthday and anniversary? We'd love to pray for you on your special day! Please email your information to Amber!
Ja.lindo@hotmail.com

Rob Mickelson filled in for Pastor Seth Brickley on July 1st.
Thank you, Rob!