Happy Valentine’s Day!

Wednesday, February 14th

Women’s Saturday Bible Study
Saturday August 6

Praying for Schools, Students and Teachers
Schools are starting back up soon. Please be praying!

Church Picnic
Sunday August 28

With men it is impossible, but not with God:
FOR ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.
Mark 10:27
This past month a dear member of our church family, Alvin Matson, went to be with the Lord. He was so loved by everyone in our church. I only knew Alvin the last five-and-a-half-years of his life but during that time I discovered what a great man he was. One of the ways I could tell was by how the people who knew him for many years held him in the highest regard. Everyone at Eureka Baptist admired Alvin, and over the last five-and-a-half years I too came to admire him. When you look at Alvin’s life he was a seemingly ordinary man. Many would look at his life and come to the conclusion that it was an ordinary life without much standing out. In many ways his life was simple. He never lived too far from the place he was born. He was a farmer, which in many ways is an unglamorous profession. He got married, raised his kids and then died at a good old age. But when you look at Alvin’s life it was not ordinary, but extraordinary. When you look at the ninety-three years that he lived in this world one word comes to mind and that word is faithfulness. It was a simple life of faithfulness in every area.

The Lord is pleased with this life as the apostle Paul wrote for God’s people to, “Aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one” (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12) and His people are to “lead peaceful and quiet lives, godly and dignified in every way” (1 Timothy 2:2). These two passages describe well Alvin’s life. He was born in 1929 and he of course went to the same church that his parents, Matt Peter and Sarah Matson went to. Remarkably, he remained at Eureka Baptist his whole life! His last Sunday with us was on May 8th. Since that Sunday he was not well enough to come and we sure missed seeing him week after week. It is remarkable to think that Alvin spent his entire life in one church as we live in a day when people have no problem jumping from church to church.

Alvin not only regularly attended Sunday morning service, and other church activities; he was also in leadership for many, many years. He served as a Deacon and Sunday school Superintendent. I remember him telling me about his days working with the youth in the church and how he enjoyed it. He was also wise with money and one of those who put this church in a great place financially, keeping it out of debt during the leanest years. Some of you were around twelve years ago when the church was down to fifteen people and they talked seriously about closing, but Alvin, Susan, and a few other faithful members decided to keep the church going to see what God would do. During the last ten years of Alvin’s life he saw this old church steadily grow, and by the grace of God Eureka Baptist keeps getting stronger and stronger. It is neat that God kept Alvin alive to see this. Without Alvin and a few others this church would have closed. He did not give up when things got hard and what a blessing for him to have seen the recent growth at the church that he poured his heart into all these years. To honor Alvin and Susan, four years ago we named the newly remodeled Annex, The Matson Building, showing our appreciation to them for their many years of faithful service. He was not only a faithful churchman he was also a faithful husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. Alvin and Susan were married just short of seventy-four years! Once again, this longevity will make ones jaw drop. They were married at eighteen and raised four children and from those marriage between Alvin and Susan is a marriage that any other marriage would be wise to follow. You know a marriage is strong when a man and wife are so closely connected that it is hard to imagine one without the other. You can see God’s one flesh design with Alvin and Susan. As the Lord says, “A man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh” (Genesis 2:24). It is hard to think of a marriage that better showed this one flesh relationship that the Lord intends for a marriage to be. You cannot talk about Alvin without talking about Susan and you cannot talk about Susan without talking about Alvin. The two were faithful to each other till the end and Alvin as the head in this marriage led and served his wife remarkably.

When we all look at Alvin’s life what we see is a life of faithfulness. On Monday July 18th, Alvin left this world and entered the presence of the Lord. He is there because of the grace he received in Jesus Christ. Jesus died for Alvin and throughout his life He made Alvin more and more like Him. God was pleased with him and his life displayed greatness, not because it was glamorous in the world eyes, but because Alvin did what God told him to do. He lived out his faith day after day, and now he is receiving his reward. His race is done but ours is not. May we follow Alvin’s example as he followed Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1) and “run with endurance the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1).

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Seth
The Tokar family (above) and Miron family (below) were able to visit Eureka Baptist Church in July and give us updates. The Tokar family is serving in Ukraine and the Miron family is serving in Ireland.
Monthly Events

Women’s Bible Study
Saturday, August 6
9:00am

Men’s Breakfast
Saturday, August 13
8:00am

Marriage Bible Study
No study this month
Will resume in September
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

VBS was a huge success!
Thank you so much to everyone that helped
make it such a great week!
Alvin Matson 1929 - 2022

Alvin Warren Matson of Centuria, Wisconsin, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on July 18, 2022, at the age of 92.

Alvin was born August 6, 1929, to Matt Peter and Sarah (Jensen) Matson at the family farm in Eureka Township, Wisconsin. He took responsibility for his parent's farm at age 14.

On July 24, 1948, he married Susan Johnson. They lived at the family farm until 1959. After living briefly in St. Croix Falls and Atlas, the family moved to a farm near Centuria in 1963, where he resided until his death. Over the years, Alvin worked for Minar & Minar in St. Croix Falls and also had his own tractor repair business. Even at age 92, he was involved in the field work and with machinery repair.

Alvin attended Eureka Baptist Church his entire life, accepting the Lord when he was a teenager, and served faithfully in various ways including as Sunday School Superintendent and Deacon.

Alvin was preceded in death by his parents, brother Lloyd Matson, sisters Ardell Molitor and Beatrice Merrill, and son Bruce Matson.

Alvin is survived by his wife Susan Matson and their children Valerie (Larry) Hanson, Brian (Ruth) Matson, Jolene (Rich) Polosky, daughter-in-law Carol Matson, nine grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, many other family and friends.

I want to thank each one who participated in the service for Alvin. Pastor, for his meaningful sermon, the musicians, those who sent cards, flowers, and words of comfort, those who helped in the kitchen, my wonderful family, and caring church family.

I know Alvin is rejoicing in heaven, and we will be together again. —Susan Matson
Skonewood Christian Retreat
Sunday, August 28
After morning service

*We will also be doing baptisms at Skonewood. If you are interested in being baptized, please talk with Pastor Seth or Elders Mark Brooks and Keith Johnson.

Congrats to some of the church youth that had success at the Polk County Fair!

Derek Jorgenson
Doug Olson
Lindo Owen

Church Elder:
Keith Johnson