

December 2023



EUREKA BAPTIST CHURCH

# NEWSLETTER

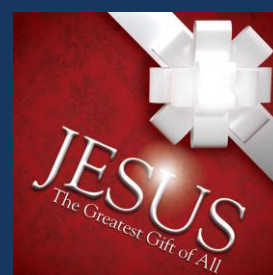


**Nativity Program**

Sunday  
December 17

**Pray for Israel**

Stand with Israel  
Every Day



**Christmas Service**

Sunday  
December 24



## A Note from Pastor Seth

As a child, I used to ride in the car with my father as we listened to oldies music. The station we listened to in the Twin Cities was Kool 108 where the station proclaimed in between songs, “Great times and Great oldies, Kool 108.” My father, a baby boomer, grew up with this genre of music and still enjoyed listening to some of the songs. Most of the songs were shallow, but one song came on every once in a while, that I could tell had a much richer meaning. It was a song written by Harry Chapin titled, *Cats in The Cradle*. The story behind this song is fascinating. Harry Chapin’s wife wrote a poem about fatherhood. What inspired her to write the poem was her soon to be born son and the reality that her husband worked long hours. She was concerned that this pattern of work would continue, and he would have no time for him. Chapin didn’t pay much attention to the poem at first, but once their son was born it greatly impacted him. This inspired him to put music to the poem and the hit *Cats in The Cradle* was born. Chapin wrote the song to remind him not to be an absent father, but one actively involved in his son’s life. Chapin tragically died in a car wreck at the young age of thirty-eight when his son was only nine years old.

The lyrics of the song grab the attention of fathers everywhere. Chapin tells the story not of a triumphant father but of a father who fails. He writes, “There were planes to catch, and bills to pay. He learned to walk while was away. And he was talking fore I knew it, and as he grew. He’d say, ‘I’m gonna be like you, Dad, you know I’m gonna be like you.’” Then Chapin sings the famous chorus, “Cats in the cradle and the silver spoon, little boy blue and the man in the moon. “When you coming home, dad?” “I don’t know when. But we’ll get together then. You know we’ll have a good time then.” Then he continues to tell the story of the child as he got older: “My son turned ten just the other day. He said, thanks for the ball, dad, come on let’s play. Can you teach me to throw, I said-a, not today. I got a lot to do, he said, that’s okay.” This tragic song tells the story of a father who never delivers on

his promises to spend time with his son. Eventually, the son grows up and the roles are reversed. It is no longer the son who wants to spend time with his father, but it is the father who wants to spend time with his son. It starts when his son is at college. The father asks his son, “When you coming home, son?” The son replies, “I don’t know when. But we’ll get together then, Dad. You know we’ll have a good time then.” Then the father retires and at this stage in life his son has a wife and children. The father calls his son and his son tells him he is again busy, and then Chapin writes the sobering words that the father exclaims, “As I hung up the phone, it occurred to me. He’d grown up just like me. My boy was just like me.”

The father described in Chapin’s song failed. It is a song that teaches not what to do, but what not to do. It is truly a song of warning. This father is depicted as an absent father who never built a connection with his son because he neglected to spend time with him. One of his most important responsibilities in life he neglected. He put work and lesser priorities over his family, and it influenced his son negatively. Just as the father was not committed to his son, so his son as an adult had no sense of fulfilling his obligation of being involved in his father’s life. A wise son makes his father proud (Proverbs 15:20), but this father didn’t set him up well, who turned out foolish just like he raised him to be, and what grief it brought him (Proverbs 17:25).

Fathers in Scripture are charged with a huge responsibility. The apostle Paul instructed them to “not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4).

King Solomon calls fathers to, “Train up a child in the way he should; even when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). The biblical call for a father is to develop a rich relationship with one’s children where Christ is at the center of it. Children must be taught their need for a Savior (John 3:16) and their need to live under His Lordship (Luke 9:23-24). For a father to teach his children the ways

**Eureka Baptist Church**  
2393 210th Avenue  
St. Croix Falls, WI 54024  
715-483-9464  
[www.eurekabapchurch.com](http://www.eurekabapchurch.com)  
Sunday Morning Service: 10:00am  
\*Kid's Church during Service  
Sunday School: 9:00am  
Wed Night Bible Study: 6:30pm  
Women's Friday Group: 9:30am

of the Lord he must be present. Many things will demand a father’s attention. Fathers tend to have lots on their plates from work, to household tasks, to enjoying hobbies, to spending time with their friends and more. But one thing that cannot be neglected is a father’s responsibility to spend time with his children. It has been said that the fastest years of life are the years when children are in the home. I remember at my wedding my father said this very thing at the reception. What he told the attendees is that morning he walked by the bedroom I slept in during my upbringing, and the days that I spent in that room were now past. It was a sad moment for him. But not because he wasn’t involved in my life, he very much was, but rather he realized that those precious years when father and son lived under the same roof were now past. The relationship is still there, but what changes is the time together.

Fathers will never have that amount of time with their children again. Fathers, with children still under your roof, take this to heart. The time is ticking and soon your children will be out from under your roof. You don’t want to have regrets. Spend time with your children. Develop a rich relationship with them. Teach them the ways of the Lord. As you do this, by God’s grace, when they are old their God-honoring relationship with you will be one of their greatest treasures and what joy it will bring your heart. As you showed them what it means to follow Jesus, they will follow in your steps. Harry Chapin doesn’t appear to have been a believer, but his song, *Cats in The Cradle*, through God’s common grace, highlights the biblical call for fathers to prioritize their children in the midst of the demands of life. It has encouraged many to pursue biblical fatherhood whether they realize it or not. It certainly has encouraged me to give attention to my children with the fleeting time that I have.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Seth

# Mission Missions reach

## **Options on 8: Pregnancy Resource Center**

*This news that Planned Parenthood is resuming abortions in Wisconsin is so disheartening. The battle for life is far from over. In resuming abortions, Planned Parenthood is breaking our current law, which will likely trigger a lawsuit that will eventually go to our State Supreme Court. Since the last election brought in a liberal majority, Wisconsin would most likely become an abortion-provider state.*

*As a pregnancy resource center in our tri-county area, there is still so much work to do to protect the lives of unborn babies and their mothers. With your help, we will continue to provide support for women facing challenging pregnancies and protecting the lives of their preborn children.*

## **A Devastating Day for Preborn Children and Women in Wisconsin**

Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin has announced they are resuming abortion services in the state of Wisconsin.

In response, Gracie Skogman, Wisconsin Right to Life's legislative/PAC director, stated, "This is a devastating day for preborn children and women facing unexpected pregnancies in Wisconsin. Planned Parenthood is once again showing that they value profit over the lives of vulnerable women and children." Skogman continued, "Abortion is not healthcare, it takes the lives of innocent children and leaves many women with unspeakable pain and suffering."

"Planned Parenthood is more concerned about their bottom line and keeping abortion dollars in Wisconsin than finding a way to help women in unplanned pregnancies," shared Heather Weinger, Wisconsin Right to Life's executive director. "As we worked to ensure women were receiving resources to help during an unplanned pregnancy, Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin was finding ways to keep their profit margins up by taking the lives of preborn babies in Wisconsin."

Wisconsin Right to Life will continue to advocate for the full protection of preborn life, and full support for women facing unexpected or challenging pregnancies.

## **Tokar Family: Ukraine**

Our situation often feels unsustainable as we do our best to live life well here in Indiana, making sure we and our kids are integrated into the school, community and local church God has placed us in for this season, while at the same time our hearts are in Ukraine and we continue focusing our ministry efforts building and maintaining the relationships and partnerships necessary for continuing Ukraine relief efforts and supporting theological education.

War has required us to adapt our ministry model to fit the circumstances and evolving needs of the Ukrainian church and people. The needs are enormous, and we continue to see God working through humanitarian relief efforts and holistic outreach which includes moral injury and trauma care. So far, we have raised and distributed over 1.5 million dollars in support of these efforts, and lives are being changed.

We also see God's hand in the film we are producing with partnerships I have developed this year at Taylor University. We hope this long-form documentary, when released early next year, will raise awareness, change, perceptions, and inspire views to become more involved in what God is doing in Ukraine and around the world.



Thank you to everyone that participated in the Harvest Service!

### God's Gift to the World



There is a difference in presents and presence. The story is told of a little boy wishing for one thing at Christmastime—something from his Daddy who was serving in the military in Southeast Asia. Hearing a knock on the door, the little boy rushed to open it and there stood his father. He didn't ask, "Daddy, what did you bring me?" He threw his arms around the father's neck and said, "Oh Daddy, this is the best Christmas present I've ever had!" His father's presence.

We don't usually think of a person as a gift, but actually interpersonal relationships are the most valued and cherished gifts of all. The Bible teaches that God gave a Person as a gift to every one of us, and that Person is Jesus Christ.

Christmas is a time when people focus on folklore and gift giving, but Christmas is actually a glorious reality, not a myth, not a tradition, not a dream. It is a time of joy. What happened in Bethlehem that marvelous night became the link that bound a lost world to a loving God. From that manger came a Man who not only taught us a new way of life, but offered us eternal life in His presence. God loves us so much that He was willing to give His Son to a lost world, to redeem a people for His own.

*From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham*

## Events



Ladies' Christmas Dinner  
Saturday, December 2  
5:00pm



Men's Breakfast  
Saturday, December 9  
8:00am



Weekly  
4:30pm-6:00pm  
Every Sunday



Bible Study  
Wednesdays 6:30pm



**Saints** St. Croix Falls  
 Congratulations to Lucy Braund and the St. Croix Falls Volleyball Team!  
 2023 State Champs!



Jewish Missionary Trevor Rubenstein visited Eureka Baptist Church.



Joint Thanksgiving Service with Taylors Falls Baptist Church



## 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

## 2023 Board Members

### Deacons

Shaun Anderson  
Jason Taylor

### Elders

Mark Brooks  
Keith Johnson

### Associate/Youth Pastor

Doug Schmidt

### Trustees

Eric McKinley  
Shaun Anderson

### Deaconess

Barbara Trombley  
Lori Brooks  
Hansi Fox  
Abby Swanson

### Secretary

Amber Lindo

### Treasurers

Hansi Fox  
Abby Swanson

## Church Announcements

- Thank you to all that attended the **Thanksgiving Service!**
  - **Youth Group** will meet every Sunday in December.
  - All children that would like to participate or help with the **Nativity Program**, please join us to practice during the morning service.
  - Alan Walker has been teaching "**Biblical Creationism**" Join us for Sunday School every Sunday at 9:00am.
  - Pastor Seth is now a regular contributor on **truthscript.com** – Be sure to visit often to read all the great articles!
  - If you have any items to add to the **December Newsletter**, please have them to Amber by November 21st.
  - We have a new and improved **weekly email update system**. If you do not receive weekly updates and would like to, please let Amber know. [jeffamberlindo@gmail.com](mailto:jeffamberlindo@gmail.com)
  - **Wednesday Evening Bible Study** is meeting weekly at 6:30pm. Bible Study will not meet 12/27.
  - **Baptisms** are being planned for December 10. If you are interested in baptism, please talk with Pastor Seth.
  - The Leadership Team is in the process of reviewing **2024 Team Budgets**. When available, the final copy will be posted at church.
  - Thank you to **Patsy Anderson** for decorating the church! It is beautiful!
  - A reminder **not to park** near the town fuel tank or in front of the salt shed.
  - **Cookies/Treats** will be served on 12/24 at 9:00am. If you'd like to contribute, please bring them ready to serve.
  - **Mama Bear Apologetics** study will continue to meet on Sundays at 4:30pm. They will not meet on 12/31.
- HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Pastor Seth Brickley 12/3, Jeff Lindo 12/7, Zariah Braund 12/11, Brianna Brickley 12/14, Keith Johnson 12/15, Shaun Anderson 12/20, Levi Tomlinson 12/27, Patsy Anderson 12/30  
**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:** Brad & Anne Miklya 12/31

## Cross at the front of the Church...



The stained glass cross that is lit up at the front of the Church holds a great deal of history for Eureka Baptist. In 1893, a Church was built 2 miles north of Eureka with beautiful stained glass windows. When the new Church building was built in 1922, the windows were carefully removed from the old building and used for the new building. In 2013, the time came for the windows to be replaced. A cross was made from the stained glass and put at the front of the Church. You've heard the phrase, "If these walls could talk"... well, rephrase that a bit to "If that stained glass could talk." What stories it could tell! Think of the many that wept at funerals...the many that smiled at weddings...the many that whispered at Prayer Meetings...the many that giggled during children's programs...the many that jumped for joy at VBS...the many that were tested at Church services...and the many that surrendered their lives to Christ.



**Children's Nativity Program**  
Sunday, December 17  
During Morning Service



**Christmas Service**  
Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
9:00am Cookies/Treats 10:00am Christmas Service



# CHURCH LIBRARY *News*

Featured Book  
**Israel, the Church, and the Middle East**  
Editors: Darrell L. Bock and Mitch Glaser

Even though this book was written in 2018, it is extremely relevant today. All Christians will find in this book useful resources to develop a biblical view of the Middle East conflict.

The relationship between the church and Israel has been the source of passionate debate among Christians throughout much of church history. In recent years the traditional pro-Israel stance of evangelicals has come under fire by those who support the Palestinian cause.

*Israel, the Church, and the Middle East* challenges the drift of the modern church toward replacement theology, showing that God retains a plan and purpose for the Jewish people. The contributors also address a number of the divisive issues raised by authors critical both of Israel and of those who affirm Israel's right to the land. The book explores issues such as God's plan and purpose for the Jewish people as well as the wider effects of the conflict, such as the growing antipathy within the church toward the evangelization of the Jewish people.

Julie Johnson  
Eureka Baptist Church Librarian



### Children's Church Graduation

Mason Stridde, Jaxon Stridde and Eli Anderson have graduated from Children's Church and will now take Sermon Notes during Morning Service. Congratulations!



Children's Church wrapped up our study of the Old Testament by rebuilding a portion of the wall around Jerusalem, as described in Nehemiah.



Showing off some blaze orange for opening weekend of deer hunting!

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