



EUREKA BAPTIST CHURCH

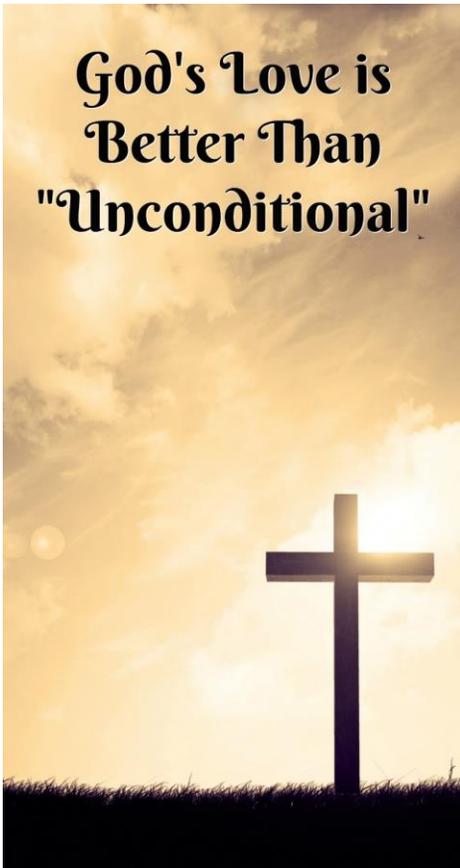
NEWSLETTER



Happy Valentine's Day

Thursday, February 14th

God's Love is Better Than "Unconditional"



Presidents Day

Monday February 18th



A Note from Pastor Seth

We are a church that is built on the plain reading of God's Word. We must aim to interpret all of Scripture with the same rigor and consistency. I am concerned that far too many biblical Christians who know better do not do this. I was recently at a pastor's retreat that overall was very encouraging. I was reminded of the role of the shepherd according to Scripture and encouraged not to be influenced by worldly ideas that easily invade churches. However, I was involved in a conversation that troubled me. The gentleman who was leading the retreat, who is a very wise shepherd, said something that missed the mark. We were talking about Genesis 1 and how to interpret it. He said he takes a figurative approach much like the faculty at the seminary where he teaches as an adjunct professor. I told him that I am a simple guy and I read Scripture plainly. If a passage is to be taken literally, I read it literally. If a passage is to be taken figuratively, I read it figuratively. To this he responded that the seminary that he teaches at "does not encourage this kind of thinking." He even went on to say that no professor at the seminary holds to a literal six day twenty-four hour interpretation of Genesis 1. As you might expect this left a sour taste in my mouth, as I believe Scripture is not being treated with the care it deserves. Let me explain why a figurative approach to Genesis 1 is problematic.

To understand what type of language, whether figurative or literal, is not rocket science. If I say, "It is raining cats and dogs" no one takes that literally. Everyone knows it is a figurative expression that describes the rain coming down hard. But when one states something literally it is quite obvious. If I say, "I am going to take my daughter on a walk", there is no picture attempting to convey a meaning. Rather, the meaning is plain: my daughter and I are going on a walk. Figurative language typically takes deeper thinking to understand than literal. Jesus uses both types of language in the gospels. Jesus used figurative language when he said, "I am the door" (John 10:9). No one is going to take that literally. Of course, Jesus is not a door; he is a human (and God). On the other hand, Jesus was literal when he said, "The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day" (Matthew 17:22-23). No biblical Christian takes this figuratively. Jesus states in plain terms his future death and bodily resurrection. However, more liberal interpreters insert their own meaning to this. They say that Jesus is referring to his spiritual resurrection and not a bodily one. What is taking place here is the insertion of what one wants and not what Jesus meant. To say bluntly, this is the abuse of Holy Scripture. No biblical Christian would stand for this understanding of Christ's resurrection.

But the problem is many biblical Christians are doing this very thing to Genesis 1. Genesis 1:1 famously says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Then for the next thirty verses Moses writes how God created the world and the universe in six days and rested on the seventh (Genesis 1:2-31). I remember reading this when I was young. It never crossed my mind that this would be anything but a literal understanding. To come up with any other interpretation it would take one much smarter than me to imagine something else. This is telling. If you talk to any common thinker and have them read Genesis 1 he or she will tell you that God created the universe in six days and rested on the seventh. Would God write the first chapter of the Bible where only one with a master's

level education could properly interpret it? I think not. The Bible was written to ordinary people (Acts 4:13). Yes, there are difficult passages, but everyone through diligent study can understand most passages. Thinking through Genesis 1 carefully will not lead one to interpret the passage as each day representing billions of years, or the whole passage meant to communicate the sole meaning of God's goodness and wisdom. To be sure, Genesis 1 does communicate God's goodness and wisdom, but it also communicates so much more. Genesis 1 is the beginning of world history being described in detail. The Hebrew grammar is the same structure as all the other historical sections in the Old Testament. If we take none of those figuratively, then why would we take Genesis 1 that way? The biblical Christians who do this are sadly doing what liberal thinkers do to Jesus description of his death and resurrection. They insert a meaning they want and not what the author Moses intended. We do not know the depths of man's heart since only God knows that. But this sabotage of Genesis 1 is probably done to the effort to align Genesis 1 with secular scientists belief that the universe is billions of years old. We should never let the outside world cause us to interpret differently what the text of Scripture clearly says. We do not do this at Eureka Baptist since this would be to abuse Holy Scripture. Something we never want to do. We must aim to be those who, "do our best to present ourselves to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). Our aim is to read Scripture consistently from Genesis to Revelation. If the text is figurative we will think carefully what meaning the author is conveying, and if the text is literal we will not try to make the text say something it does not. May we read the text of Scripture in a way pleasing to the Lord, and may we not only understand, but also let God's truth "transform us into the same image from one degree of glory to another" (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Seth

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

— II Timothy 2:15 NIV

@PrimoBibleVerses

Eureka Baptist Church

2393 210th Avenue

St. Croix Falls, WI 54024

715-483-9464

www.eurekabapchurch.com

Sunday Morning Service: 10:00am

*Kid's Church during Service

Adult Sunday School: 9:00am

Bible Study: Wednesdays 6:30pm

MISSIONS



Stout Family: Macedonia

Spiritual Climate - Macedonia's Eastern Orthodox heritage gives many a false sense of Christian identity based on a complex system of rituals, saints, and religious holidays. This system often serves as a kind of vaccine, making people resistant to the life-giving gospel which is obscured or even absent in the traditional church. Many Macedonians go through religious motions while espousing the atheism pushed on them during communist rule.

Team Goals

2020 Vision

By the year 2020, SEND Macedonia hopes to:

Mobilize 1,000 prayer partners for our Muslim ministry, be joined by 20 new SEND missionaries, establish 5 new kingdom businesses, begin 4 new church plants, build 1 new church building.



Tokar Family: Ukraine

Happy New Year from Ukraine!

We're looking for some help teaching the English language! If interested in visiting Ukraine, please talk with Amber Lindo and she will connect you with our program!

Sledding at Skonewood

It was a cold day, but that didn't stop anyone from a day of fun at Skonewood! Games and food were served in the building when a warm up was needed. Thanks to everyone that helped out!



Monthly Events



Women's Bible Study
Saturday, February 2nd
9:00am



Men's Breakfast
Saturday, February 9th
8:00am



Women's Friday
Bible Study
2nd & 4th Fridays of month
9:30am
Joyful Morning Coffee House
Dresser, WI



A pot luck lunch and Annual Meeting following Morning Service on January 20th. Eureka Baptist Church has many wonderful things planned for 2019! Church Ministry Teams will be meeting in the spring. If you are interested in joining a team, please watch for the meeting schedule. Thanks to everyone at Eureka Baptist Church for making 2018 such a successful year! To God be the glory!



ANNUAL MEETING



Weekly Events



Adult Sunday School
Sunday Mornings
9:00am



Morning Service
Sunday Mornings
10:00am



Kids Church
Sunday mornings during
Morning Service



Bible Study
Wednesdays
6:30pm

2019 Board Members

Deacons

Shaun Anderson
Gordon Trombley

Elders

Mark Brooks
Rob Mickelson

Trustees

Randy Clark
Shaun Anderson

Deaconess

Barbara Trombley
Amber Lindo
Hansi Stridde
Abby Swanson

Secretary

Amber Lindo

Treasurers

Hansi Stridde
Abby Swanson

Church Announcements

There are still a few spots yet to fill on the **church cleaning list!** Please sign up if you're willing to help!

2019 Vacation Bible School preparations have started! Please talk with Barb Trombley to see where more help is needed! Everyone can be used at some point that week!

2019 Church Picnic and Baptism date has been set! Please mark your calendars for August 11 at Skonewood! If you are interested in being baptized, please talk with Pastor Seth.

Make sure you're included in our **weekly email News Blasts!** Lots of important information!

Church is hard.

Church is hard for the person walking through the doors, afraid of judgment. Church is hard for the pastor's family, under the microscope of an entire body.

Church is hard for the prodigal soul returning home, broken and battered by the world.

Church is hard for the girl who looks like she has it all together, but doesn't.

Church is hard for the couple who fought the entire ride to service.

Church is hard for the single mom, surrounded by couples holding hands, and seemingly perfect families.

Church is hard for the widow and widower with no invitation to lunch after service.

Church is hard for the deacon with an estranged child.

Church is hard for the person singing worship songs, overwhelmed by the weight of the lyrics.

Church is hard for the man insecure in his role as a leader.

Church is hard for the wife who longs to be led by a righteous man.

Church is hard for the nursery volunteer who desperately longs for a baby to love.

Church is hard for the single woman and single man, praying God brings them a mate.

Church is hard for the teenage girl, wearing a scarlet letter, ashamed of her mistakes.

Church is hard for the sinners.

Church is hard for me.

It's hard because on the outside it all looks shiny and perfect. Sunday best in behavior and dress.

However, underneath those layers, you find a body of imperfect people, carnal souls, selfish motives.

But, here is the beauty of church—

Church isn't a building, mentality, or expectation.

Church is a body.

Church is a group of sinners, saved by grace, living in fellowship as saints.

Church is a body of believers bound as brothers and sisters by an eternal love.

Church is a holy ground where sinners stand as equals before the Throne of Grace.

Church is a refuge for broken hearts and a training ground for mighty warriors.

Church is a converging of confrontation and invitation. Where sin is confronted and hearts are invited to seek restoration.

Church is a lesson in faith and trust.

Church is a bearer of burdens and a giver of hope.

Church is a family. A family coming together, setting aside differences, forgetting past mistakes, rejoicing in the smallest of victories.

Church, the body, and the circle of sinners-turned-saints, is where He resides, and if we ask, He is faithful to come.

So even on the hard days at church—

The days when I am at odds with a friend, When I've fought with my husband because we're late once again. When I've walked in bearing burdens heavier than my heart can handle, yet masking the pain with a smile on my face. When I've worn a scarlet letter, under the microscope. When I've longed for a baby to hold, or fought tears as the lyrics were sung. When I've walked back in, afraid and broken, after walking away.

I'll remember, He has never failed to meet me there.

Church is a body, a family, a place to love God and love others through our struggles!"

~Arianna Freelen

Submitted by Barbara Trombley

A Look Back... 1981



Superintendent, Floyd Jackson; Assistant Superintendent, Bud Jensen.



Row 1: Christina Olsen, Cheryl Olsen. Row 2: Mark Jensen, Jolene Anderson, Shannon Anderson, Michelle Jensen. Row 3: Susan Matson, Marilyn Jensen, Ruth Shepard, Millie Hanson, Dennis Schmidt.

YOUNG ADULT CLASS



Row 1: Rev. Ralph Shepard, Leonard Olsen, Marsha Olsen. Row 2: Brian Matson, Jenny Shepard, Cindy Swenson, Jill Christensen. Row 3: Larry Jensen, Patricia Jensen, Randy Swenson

Happy Birthday!!

Julianna Johnson 2/7

Betty Jensen 2/7

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

Attributes of God's Indwelling Love

...Initiating...

♡ ...being...the first Word...thinking of us...creating an earthly home for us.

♡ ...with His own hands, designing a body for us...fearfully and wonderfully made for us...in which to dwell.

...Rescuing...

♡ ...from self-destruction (sin)

♡ ...from wiles of the devil...and enemies of God

♡ ...being a father to the fatherless...and helper of those who have no help

♡ ...being our shepherd...protector... and defender

...Leading...

♡ ...showing the Way

♡ ...illuminating the best path to take

...Teaching...

♡ ...equipping...with information

♡ ...encouraging...by revealing blessings gained by following...the Truth of God's Word

♡ ...warning...regarding pitfalls...snares of the enemy

...Reminding...

♡ ...bringing to mind...everything we need from His Word to make the best decisions

♡ ...recalling...lessons learned from past experiences

...Comforting...

♡ ...expressing compassion...showing...

through Words and actions...that carry a message of supernatural love

♡ ...motivating...to supply what is needed to find peace and comfort in times of affliction

♡ ...staying especially close...near at hand...during difficult times

...Forgiving...

♡ ...and forgetting...in order to encourage to overcome and go on to experience victory

Such is the nature of the amazing indwelling Holy Spirit of God!!

♡♡♡

-by Kay Graves



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