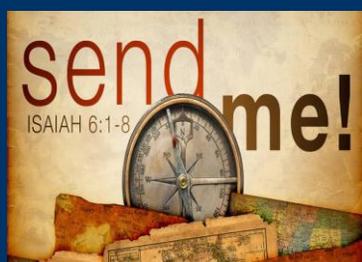


February 2020



EUREKA BAPTIST CHURCH

# NEWSLETTER

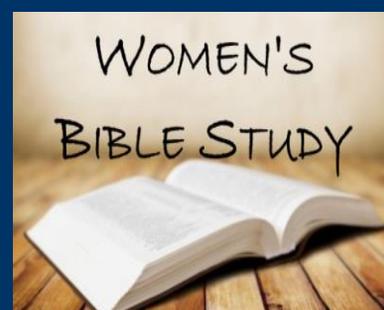


**Missionary Visit:  
Penney Family**

Sunday,  
February 2

**Happy  
Valentine's  
Day**

Friday,  
February 14



**Women's Bible  
Study**

Friday,  
February 14  
9:30am at  
church



## ***A Note from Pastor Seth***

Recently I delivered a biography on the life of Eric Liddell. He is well known for winning a gold medal in an event that was not his best, the 400 meters, in the 1924 Olympics. He ran the 400 because he refused to run his best event, the 100 meters, since the preliminary rounds were run on a Sunday. As a committed Christian he felt that Sunday was a day set aside for worship and rest and this conviction lead him not to compete. There was a movie made about him in 1981 known as Chariots of Fire that followed his story and showed his surprise win in the 400 meter race. After the Olympics, he admirably gave up running in his prime to go to the mission field in China. He left the royal treatment he received in Scotland to live a life of serving others in China. As I studied Liddell's life what struck me is how confident he was in who God made him to be. In Liddell's most famous quote he said, "I believe that God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast and when I run I feel his pleasure." Liddell knew that God made him a fast runner. He felt his pleasure while he ran and God gave him this platform to glorify him. In addition, Liddell certainly felt the pleasure of God as he went to mission field in China, knowing that this was the ministry God called him to. When I look at the life of Eric Liddell I see one who lived the life that God called him to live. It is a joy to read Christian lives of the past who ran their race well and have gone on to their reward (Hebrews 12:1).

I write this pastor's page to encourage each of us to do the same. The Bible calls each of us to give the best we have for God while we are here on earth. The wisdom of King Solomon tells us, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might" (Ecclesiastes 9:10). In this life we have an opportunity to make a difference. What is fascinating about life is there are no re-starts. We get one shot at this life and so what will our legacy be? Will it be a life of mediocrity where we squandered our time or will we live a life worth examining?

Jesus calls his followers to be influential in whatever sphere he has placed them. He said, "Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). The goal that God has for believers is not that they make a name for themselves. We should heed the counsel of John the Baptist that, "He must increase but I must decrease" (John 3:30). The goal is not to magnify ourselves but to magnify him. We know that we have lived a life well for the Lord when Christ is seen in our lives. Jesus tells us to let our light shine wherever he has put us and others will look on and be drawn to our legacy. This legacy is one of God's works being produced in a man or woman.

What is fascinating is that none of us have the same calling. This is so because all of us have different gifting. When the apostle Paul encouraged Timothy to run the race of faith well he told him to, "fulfill your ministry" (2 Timothy 4:5). Timothy had a specific ministry that God called him to and Paul instructed him by God's grace to carry it out. The calling to ministry is not for pastors and missionaries alone, but also to every Christian. My job as your pastor is to equip each of you for ministry (Ephesians 4:13). Then God plans for each of you to use the gifts and talents that God has given you to glorify him in your sphere of influence. As you do this your experience will be similar to that of Eric Liddell. Liddell felt the pleasure of God as he used his gift of running, and then his gifting that enabled him to be an excellent missionary that impacted many lives in China. The life that Jesus calls his disciples to is an abundant life (John 10:10). He has called each of us to a fulfilling life where God is praised as we influence others for Christ.

Our life is like a window that shuts a little bit each day. One day the window will completely shut and our earthly life will be over. It is sobering to realize that we will never get another chance to make our life count in this world for God. This is why the Bible teaches us to have a heart of wisdom and to number our days (Psalm 90:12). People remember Eric Liddell because he made his life count for Christ.

**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  
Sunday School: 9:00am  
Bible Study: Weds at 6:30pm

Obviously, none us will be worldly known, and that is more than fine. However, one of the reasons God saves us in Christ is that we would impact the lives of others how small or large that may be (Philippians 1:20-25). The important thing is that we are faithful where he has placed us. God is great and glorious and one of the ways he shows this to the world is through the lives of his servants who live well here. May we live lives that are used by God to inspire others to seek Christ in their lives. A life that draws others to God is a life well lived. As Liddell once said, "We are all missionaries wherever we go. We either draw people nearer to Christ or we repel them from him." May we be those who are used by God to bring praise to his great name while he has us here.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Seth



*Teach us to  
number our days,  
that we may gain  
a heart of wisdom.*  
Psalms 90:12

# Mission Missions reach

## Miron Family

Greetings everyone! I hope 2020 has been treating you all well and that your Seasonal Affective Disorder hasn't kicked in yet! We have returned from our WorldVenture conference and wanted to update you all on how it went and the direction that the Lord has been leading us in.

First off, thank you all so so much for your prayers! The Lord was faithful and really blessed us in our time with everybody there. For starters, it was such an encouragement to be at a conference with close to 300 missionaries and headquarters staff and hear their stories of how God directed them, redirected them and lead them through confusing times of waiting, but then to hear of His faithfulness through it all. It was also amazingly encouraging to hear how many of them have been praying for us throughout this whole season.

And of course it was a wonderful opportunity to have conversations with an array of WorldVenture teams from a bunch of countries in the Europe, Africa, Middle East area. It was sort of like speed dating for missionaries. We chatted with a lot of potential suiters, and we came away with a couple areas that we really felt were strong fits for our gifting and their needs. So this last week we have been planning our vision trip to these places so that we can fully get a feel for the contexts and then make a decision on where we feel God leading us! Exciting!

And throughout the last couple weeks, something else has been happening too. At the end of January we submitted our last appeal to Ireland's latest refusal, and it arrived in Dublin December 30th. As way of reminder, this was our last "hail mary pass" to get an approval while we further make steps towards the country where God might be leading us next. The evidence has been piling up that we really had no chance of obtaining a visa to Ireland anytime in the near future. After looking at everything, WorldVenture effectively decided Ireland was a closed door for the time being. This was so incredibly hard to do, but it was time to let go of Ireland, and follow Jesus wherever he was now calling.

Yeah... and then God did something we didn't expect. I mean, like, we really didn't expect... at all. You might want to sit down for this, and get your praise hands emojis ready. Okay, ready? Here it goes. Yesterday we received an email from Ireland's Immigration service...and... they have officially accepted our appeal to their decision, and they have given us our Pre-Clearance to Ireland!! Did you get that?! OUR APPLICATION TO IRELAND HAS BEEN ACCEPTED!!!



Yeah, that's right! We get to go to Ireland! Isn't God awesome?!? I mean, that door was shut and sealed. Like, a massive stone in front of the door to a tomb shut. Nobody was giving this thing a shot, outside of an act of God. And that's exactly what this was. Isn't He awesome!

So What's Next?

Well... now we get to move to Ireland! We don't have an exact date yet, but after talking with the field in Ireland we are thinking 6-8 weeks. We have to get re-ready to move, and its going to go fast. There is a considerable amount that goes into moving internationally, both to prepare on this end, and over in Ireland. And we are excited to get to it!

How can you pray?

- Please pray for our other team members, the Copelands and the Morters. They haven't heard back from Ireland yet, and we really REALLY want them to join us! Please also pray for the Davis family. They are not from WorldVenture, but they are in the same position as the rest of us and looking to serve in county Galway as well.
- Please pray for us as we pack up, tie up loose ends, get everything we need to in order, and make decisions, such as school transitions for the kids.
- Please pray for our kids, for us, and for all our relationships as we get ready to leave.
- Please pray we can get our support back up to 100% before we leave. We expected it to drop over the last few months, so it wasn't a surprise when it did. But WorldVenture requires that we are fully funded before we leave for the field. And right now I believe we are about 6% short.

Thank you Thank you Thank you!!!

You guys are the best partners ever! Thank you for your constant prayers! They were not wasted. Our good Father was listening, and in His perfect timing, He answered! He didn't have to answer this way, but He did. We feel so incredibly blessed beyond what we deserve. And it blows my mind knowing how many people have been praying for that specifically, that God would open the door to Ireland. And you know what? Praise God, He did. Thank you, everyone, for your prayers!

And thank you for your patient patient, patient support! This was a long season of waiting, and you were so gracious! Seriously, thank you. We thank you, and so does WorldVenture and our team in Ireland. You have embodied the Father's faithfulness. Thank you!!!



2020 Annual Meeting and Potluck



Jesus Loves The Little Children

### Monthly Events



Women's Bible Study  
Saturday, February 1  
9:00am



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



Prayer Meeting  
First Sunday of the Month  
6:30pm

### ***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!  
-Author Unknown

Submitted by Shaila Johnson

## Weekly Events



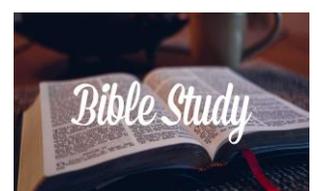
Sunday School  
Sunday Mornings  
9:00am



Morning Service  
Sunday Mornings  
10:00am



Kids Church  
Sunday mornings during  
Morning Service



Bible Study  
Wednesday Evenings  
6:30pm

2020 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

-Women's Friday Morning Women's Group will meet at 9:30am on February 14<sup>th</sup> at church.

-Weekly News Blast Emails are sent out with church information. If you are not getting these emails, please contact secretary, Amber Lindo – j.a.lindo@hotmail.com

-Thank you to Shaila Johnson for cleaning the church during the month of January!

-A 2020 cleaning schedule is posted on the back bulletin board. Please sign up!

-Men's Group will meet on Saturday, February at 8:00am

-Men's Retreat information will be out soon.

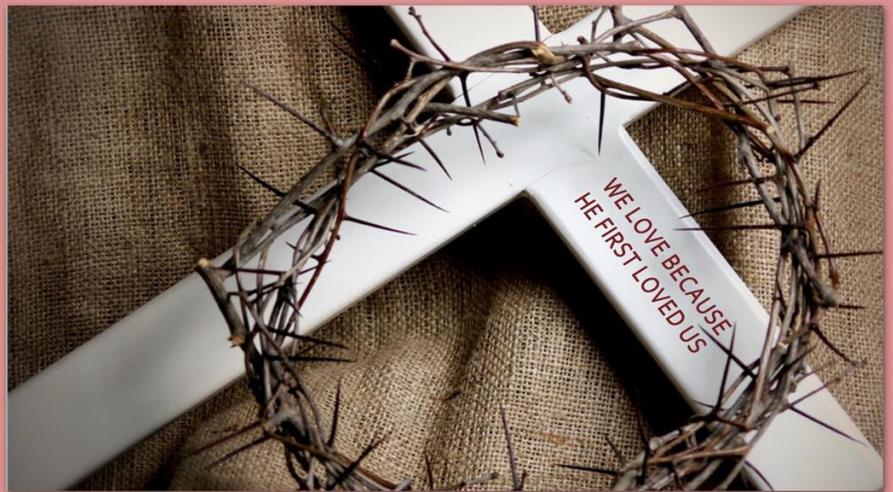
-Thank you to Patsy Anderson for putting all the Christmas decorations away!

**-HAPPY BIRTHDAY:**

Julianna Johnson (2/7) and Betty Jensen (2/7)

I always thought love was shaped like a 

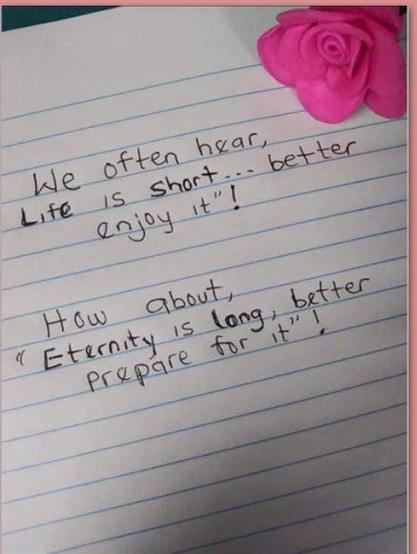
But it's actually like a



I'M NOT THE CHRISTIAN WHO THINKS I'M BETTER THAN ANYONE. I'M THE CHRISTIAN WHO IS THANKFUL JESUS DIED TO SAVE A SINNER LIKE ME.



IT WAS LOVE NOT NAILS THAT KEPT JESUS ON THE CROSS.



Missionary Visit  
Penney Family: Senegal

Dan Penney will be visiting us on Sunday, February 2. He will be presenting during the Sunday School hour and giving a brief presentation during morning service. Potluck to follow.





Q. What grows when fed, but dies when watered?

A. Fire

I sit beside our fireplace and regard the glowing embers, so appreciated on a cold winter morning. I consider how, as a fire requires tending, so do our souls. Adding wood causes the fire to grow. In a similar way, spending time in the Word causes us to grow spiritually.

The logs are wrapped in flame. Invisible heat waves shimmered. I picked up my Bible and am warmed from within.

*Submitted by Barbara Trombley*

### God's Box of Chocolates--A Valentine's Day Devotional

by LauraLee Shaw

Everywhere I look near Valentine's Day, there's chocolate: boxes of chocolate in all the stores, chocolate on tv promising to be the only love you need, chocolate girl scout cookies--CHOCOLATE! I even saw chocolate Altoid breath mints in the grocery checkout aisle the other day! I think that's what led me to remember the famous quote from Forrest Gump: "Life is like a box of chocolates...you never know what you're gonna get." (I even remembered it with his accent.)

In reality, that phrase can be true in many ways. We wake up every morning completely unsure of what the day may hold for us. We've made our plans. Sometimes they even happen the way we make them. But we never know for sure, do we?

The days that come with caramel in the middle are my favorite. The ones with the strawberry goo are just so so--but the ones with coconut--YUCK! I'd rather go back to bed. Then there's the days where tragedy or difficult times come out of nowhere, and the chocolate sits in the pantry untouched...there's no sweetness to be had in those moments, it seems.

God knows that life as it pertains to circumstances is uncertain for us. That's why He comforts us and reminds us so many times that He is our constant companion, our steadfast friend, our consistently loving God and Savior. He doesn't keep promises the way we do:

You see, no matter what chocolate we are "in the middle of" right now, He is there--with the certainty of His promise today as well as His hope of heaven in the future. Listen to how the verse above continues to encourage us:

I love the visual picture of grabbing on to Him with both hands as He runs ahead of me to the Father. That makes me able to get up today and praise Him for whatever comes my way. This faith, this confidence, this hope is our unbreakable spiritual lifeline--HIS love for us no matter what, when, how or why. Let's binge on His priceless box of chocolates today...the sweetest and most satisfying of them all.

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!

Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Psalm 34:8





Eureka Baptist Church  
2393 210th Avenue  
St. Croix Falls, WI 54024



