



EUREKA BAPTIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

oh, how He Loves Us.



Marriage Bible Study

Monday February 7 7:00pm

Youth Group Event

Saturday February 12 More details soon



Ice Fishing

Saturday February 19 More details soon



A Note from Pastor Seth

If you can believe it, this February marks five years since my family and I joined the Eureka Baptist Church family. My first Sunday was February 12, 2017. When you start an endeavor, you do not know how it will turn out, but I can confidently say that my family and I have experienced enormous blessing with you over these last five years. Brianna, I, and the kids love it here. When I tell people on the outside about the people at Eureka Baptist I beam with joy. I love you and consider it such an honor to be your pastor. Now when we moved here in February 2017 Alethia was only three-and-a-half months old. Everyone remembers the cute, chubby baby Alethia was. Now she is five and has blossomed into a beautiful little girl. My son, Isaiah, officially joined the Eureka Baptist family on March 13, 2019, and now as he has grown he is running laps around the church on Sunday mornings. Bri and I have enjoyed seeing the other kids in the church grow as our kids have grown. For my family, Sunday is our favorite day of the week because we get to see our church family. Eureka is our home. What drew us here in the first place is that we loved the area and we saw a promising small nucleus of people that provided the opportunity to build something special. By his grace, these last five years we have seen him do wonderful things. It is clear that his blessing has indeed been over us. When a church is built around the Bible, God's blessing will be on it. Sometimes the fruit that comes from this is more visible than other times, but make no mistake about it, his blessing is always there when you build his way.

As the Lord said through the prophet Isaiah, "As the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:10-11). From day one we have made it our focus to preach and teach the Word, to bring the Bible to bear on our lives and live it out through his power. It has been our goal to go from a Sunday church to a church that does life together. We have seen this happen in our midst. Every year that goes by what we see is a closer-knit community. The church is supposed to be a family. But this is not always peoples experience with churches, but by God's grace Eureka Baptist has grown into a warm family. We are here to love one another by encouraging, helping, and challenging one another. This is what a church is supposed to be and by God's grace we are seeing this take place.

Many of you reading this were not here five years ago. We started with seventeen households and now that has more than doubled. We have not used any gimmicks during that time to grow the church, but rather our church is built on the Bible. We refuse to apologize for what the Bible says in a society that largely hates what it says. We refuse to apologize for what the Bible says at a time when some churches are embarrassed about some of the Bible's teachings. We are not afraid to be convicted by the Word and we are not afraid to offend those who need to be offended for their benefit. We know that understanding the Word of God in

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

full is what gives life. We live in an era where "conventional wisdom" rules the day in so many American churches, but we desire to be a pure church, a biblical church, where God looks on and is pleased with what he sees. We live in tumultuous times and there is no group of people I would rather go through this than with you. We are here to love the Lord more, love each other, help one another, and advance the gospel in our community. May we do this more and more in the weeks, months, and years ahead. This is our home. We want to be here for the long haul. Our family looks forward to serving Christ alongside you as we continue our journey together. Thank you for an enormous blessing to us!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Seth



Walk for LIFE 2022

We love because
He first loved us.

1 John 4:19

MissionReach

Penney Family

We promised to keep you updated about our future. When we last had news about it, you may remember that Dan's 18-month special assignment was to end on Dec 31, 2021. So, we had expected to know by the end of the year what Dan would be doing into the future. However, for various reasons a decision by WorldVenture's leadership kept getting put off.

Just before Dan left the office for his two-week Christmas vacation, he was told someone had been hired for the most likely role they had been considering him for. Instead, he was asked to remain in his current special assignment for another six months. Since we have been praying for clear direction, we felt that this news—unexpected as it was—is the clear direction we've been asking for, at least for another six months. So, Dan has agreed to continue in his temporary Finance liaison role through June 2022.

That's about all we know at this point. We would very much prefer to remain with WorldVenture, so to help you pray more specifically for us and our future, here is a fuller picture of the possibilities. There seem to be four possibilities come June:

WorldVenture offers Dan a salaried position, in which case we would go off support and free up your dollars for other mission projects or workers. Dan would be able to remain with WorldVenture, serving other missionaries on a long-term basis.

WorldVenture offers Dan a "staff support" position, meaning that he would work in the home office as he does now, but his salary would continue to come from the generosity of you, our supporters. This does not seem to us to be long term solution, since the longer we remain US-based, the more our support dwindles. We could probably only do this for a couple more years, after which time Dan would have to seek a job outside WorldVenture.

WorldVenture works out some combination of the above, meaning that Dan would be paid some salary supplemented by some support. Depending on the balance of salary versus support, as well as how long our most persevering supporters remained with us, this might be long term solution, but that remains to be determined.

WorldVenture ends up having no role for Dan beyond June, in which case he would have to find another job, probably not in missions.

One thing we DO know: we cannot see the future. But God does, and we are calmly placing ourselves in his hands. We do ask, however, that you pray with us that we will know what decision to make when the proper time comes.



Rejoices:

SOOOO fun to have the entire family together again for Christmas.

Our container from Senegal finally arrived! Yay! Now our garage is stacked with boxes of stuff that we're trying to figure out where in the house to put it.

We had great responses from our neighbors to our Christmas gifts of "life cloth" table runners.

Many of you have asked about the recent wildfires in CO. They are far enough from us that neither we nor our house are in any danger.



JESUS IN VALENTINE'S DAY – THE LOVE OF GOD

Written by Autumn, Jesus in the Everyday

It's that time of year again. February. The month of love, as some may call it. Some women dream of chocolate and flowers and the perfect date, some dream of a renewed spark with a spouse, and some simply dread the idea of Valentine's Day and prefer to avoid it like the plague. Ohhh, the number of people who have mixed feelings about Valentine's Day. So where do the "red letters" of Jesus fall in line with this red and pink, Hallmark holiday?

First, I believe that it doesn't matter where you are on the mixed feelings spectrum of Valentine's Day. Why? Because EVERY SINGLE ONE OF US has a King that created us and LOVES us no matter what.

WHAT GOD THINKS ABOUT LOVE...

God has A LOT to say about love. The theme of "love" is mentioned in the Bible over 300 times. This gives us each the opportunity to learn about what love is and what it is supposed to look like.

As we dive into what God thinks about love, I think it is appropriate to start with this verse: "We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). Wow. To think that the reason we love our spouses, our family, our children, our friends is simply because Jesus loved us FIRST. We are loved first. Jesus first loved us.

And in Ephesians 3:17-19 it says "...I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God"

A love that surpasses knowledge. A love so wide and so long and so high and so deep that we cannot even understand it or comprehend it. You are loved by God. Take a moment and allow that to sink into your mind and heart. Thank the Lord for His unending love for you. The King of kings loves you. Instead of making much of our pain and our hurt that may have come from a loved one in the past, we must make much of the fact that Jesus loves us. And that will never change.

LOVE EACH OTHER...

After allowing that concept to saturate your soul, isn't it interesting that we often prefer the pursuit of love from other people or things, rather than the love that comes from God? Shouldn't God be enough? Now, I do believe that it is vital that we receive love from others and pursue them with that same love. After all, the Bible does command us to love others.

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you" (John 15:12).

Jesus loves us and fills up our hearts so that we can pour out love to others (yes, even the hard-to-love ones!). But we must allow ourselves to be loved by Christ in order to understand how to love others in the first place.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT LOVE...

As I think about many of the verses in the Bible that talk about love, these ones come to mind:

1 Corinthians 13:4-5: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs."

1 John 4:16: "And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them."

Monthly Events



Women's Bible Study
Saturday, February 5
9:00am



Men's Breakfast
Saturday, February 12
8:00am



Marriage Bible Study
Monday, February 7
7:00pm

Ephesians 4:2: “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”

1 Peter 4:8: “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.”

1 John 4:18: “There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.”

1 Corinthians 13:13: “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

Read these verses again. The Word of God is powerful. Read these scriptures out loud. Allow God’s TRUTH about love to permeate your mind and heart.

“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

His word is ALIVE and ACTIVE. How wonderful is that?! I love that verse. It makes me feel closer to God. Like he is sitting next to me and reading those words to me. Specifically, TO ME. That I may hear what He wants me to hear for that day. That it would be a reminder to me to ask the Holy Spirit to renew my mind and heart in how I think about love every day.

VALENTINE’S DAY ACCORDING TO GOD...

Don’t let the enemy confuse you regarding love. Love is not merely an array of quaint messages on folded pieces of paper sold for \$5.99 each. Love is not “two dozen, assorted kinds/flavors...dinner for two.” Sure, these are expressions of love, but in and of themselves, they are NOT love.

Without a deep, affectionate understanding of the love Jesus has for us, the cards, flowers, chocolates, and dinners are, well, just that...cards, flowers, chocolates and dinners. They are simply things that can remind us of joyful memories, or at times not-so-good ones. But with Jesus, all of those things take on new meaning. They are not simply sensual gestures of love that asks, “what’s in it for me, and how do you make me feel.” But instead it is a love that says, “I’m in this for you, because Jesus is as well,” “I love you because He first loved me – and that will never change.”

BE GOD’S VALENTINE...

In other words, Valentine’s Day must begin and end with Jesus for it to have any real substance worth cherishing at all. And if the LORD is our Valentine – our love and affection – then the celebration of this day is a beautiful thing, whether you’re single, married, dating, or long to be or not. You’re celebrating Jesus. Don’t let the cultural thermometer of your current relationship or lack of one define something that comes not from the world, but from above. It’s of our Father in Heaven that David penned these words in Psalm 16:11 NIV – “You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.”

This is the truth about love. Even if you have heard it all before, remember that God’s Word is living and breathing and He may be speaking to you in a new way through these same old scriptures that you have read one hundred times before.

Be full in Christ’s love today and on this coming Valentine’s Day. Be encouraged. Grasp how wide and long and high and deep the love of God is for YOU. A love that surpasses knowledge. I don’t know about you, but I don’t think Hallmark will ever come close to expressing love in a Valentine’s Day card the incredible way the Bible does.

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

2022 Board Members

Deacons

Shaun Anderson
Gordon Trombley

Elder

Mark Brooks

Trustees

Eric McKinley
Shaun Anderson

Deaconess

Barbara Trombley
Lori Brooks
Hansi Stridde
Abby Swanson

Secretary

Amber Lindo

Treasurers

Hansi Stridde
Abby Swanson

Church Announcements

- Thank you to **Madison Jorgenson** for cleaning the church in January. Thank you to **Derek Jorgenson** for shoveling snow in January.

- Please bring a **favorite dessert** to share on Sunday, February 6th. We will have a fellowship time in the basement after morning service. Please bring cut and ready to serve.

- Save the date! **Ice Fishing** will be Saturday, February 19

- **February Cleaning:** Nancy Hahn

- **February Snow Shovel:** Mark Brooks

- Join us for **Marriage Bible Study** on Monday, February 7th at 7:00pm

- If you are interested in **church membership**, please talk with Pastor Seth or Mark Brooks

- No **Women's Friday Group** on February 11th

- There will be a **Youth Group Event** on Saturday, February 12

- There is a sheet posted on the refrigerator in the church kitchen. Please use this to jot down any **items that the church needs**. Do not email Hansi Fox with items needed. Please write them on the list.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Lucy Braund 2/6, Betty Jensen 2/7, Julianna Johnson 2/7, Barb Trombley 2/9, Jeremiah Taylor 2/23



Congratulations to
Terry & Joan Lee on your retirement!

Ukraine and Russia seem to be edging closer and closer to war. If this happens, there will be a lot of lives lost on both sides. The American embassy has sent non-essential personnel home as the danger escalates. Pray for Russia's President Vladimir Putin and for Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, that God will work in their hearts and they will find a way to resolution without a devastating conflict. These decisions can have dire consequences. I have had the privilege of preaching the Gospel in Russia and Ukraine, and we have Christian friends inside both countries. Let's pray for peace and for God's hand of mercy. – Franklin Graham



Please also keep Josh Tokar and his family in your prayers. They are missionaries in Ukraine that Eureka Baptist Church supports financially and in prayer.

I don't want to tell my kids how to be a Christian. I want to show them.

I don't want to tell them how to love Jesus. I want to show them.

I don't want to tell them how to keep the faith even when life kicks you when you're down, and you can't seem to get back up. I want to show them.

I don't want to tell them what it means to love your neighbor. I want to show them.

I don't want to tell them how to pray. I want to show them.

I don't want to tell them to not be ashamed of their faith. I want to show them.

I don't want to tell them that grace is everything. I want to show them.

I don't want to tell them that they're going to fail, that they're going to fall, that they're going to fall short, that they're going to make mistakes.

I want to show them. And then I want to show them that despite those failures and shortcomings, the God of the universe is still there. And that same as always, He will extend forgiveness, grace, and love.

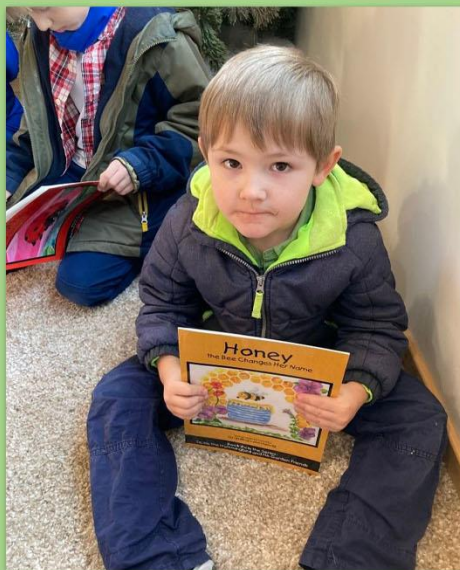
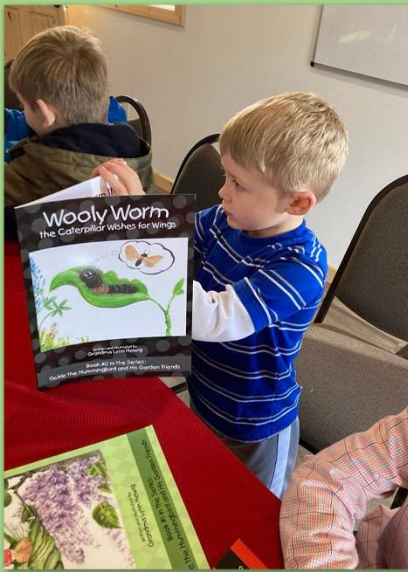
By Caitlin Henderson



Congratulations

Nick & Hansi
Fox

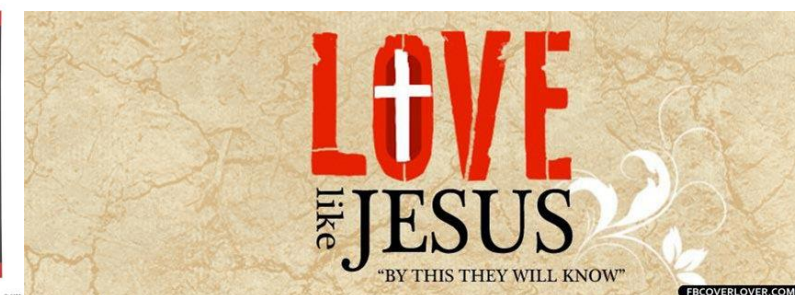
New in the Church Library



We have recently been gifted the four books in the children's series Tickle the Hummingbird and His Garden Friends, written and illustrated by a former pastor's wife, Lynn Helwig. These delightful books weave important life lessons and nature facts into fun stories.

"We hold our time at Eureka dear to our hearts and are thankful the Lord blessed us with 17 years at the church and community," Lynn wrote in a note accompanying her generous donation. She added, "We watch the church's website for familiar faces and news of Eureka Baptist. It is such a thrill to see so many who were in Awana, VBS, Camp and Youth Group while we ministered there, raising their own children up to learn and know Jesus."

Greetings to the church from Lynn and Karl!





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