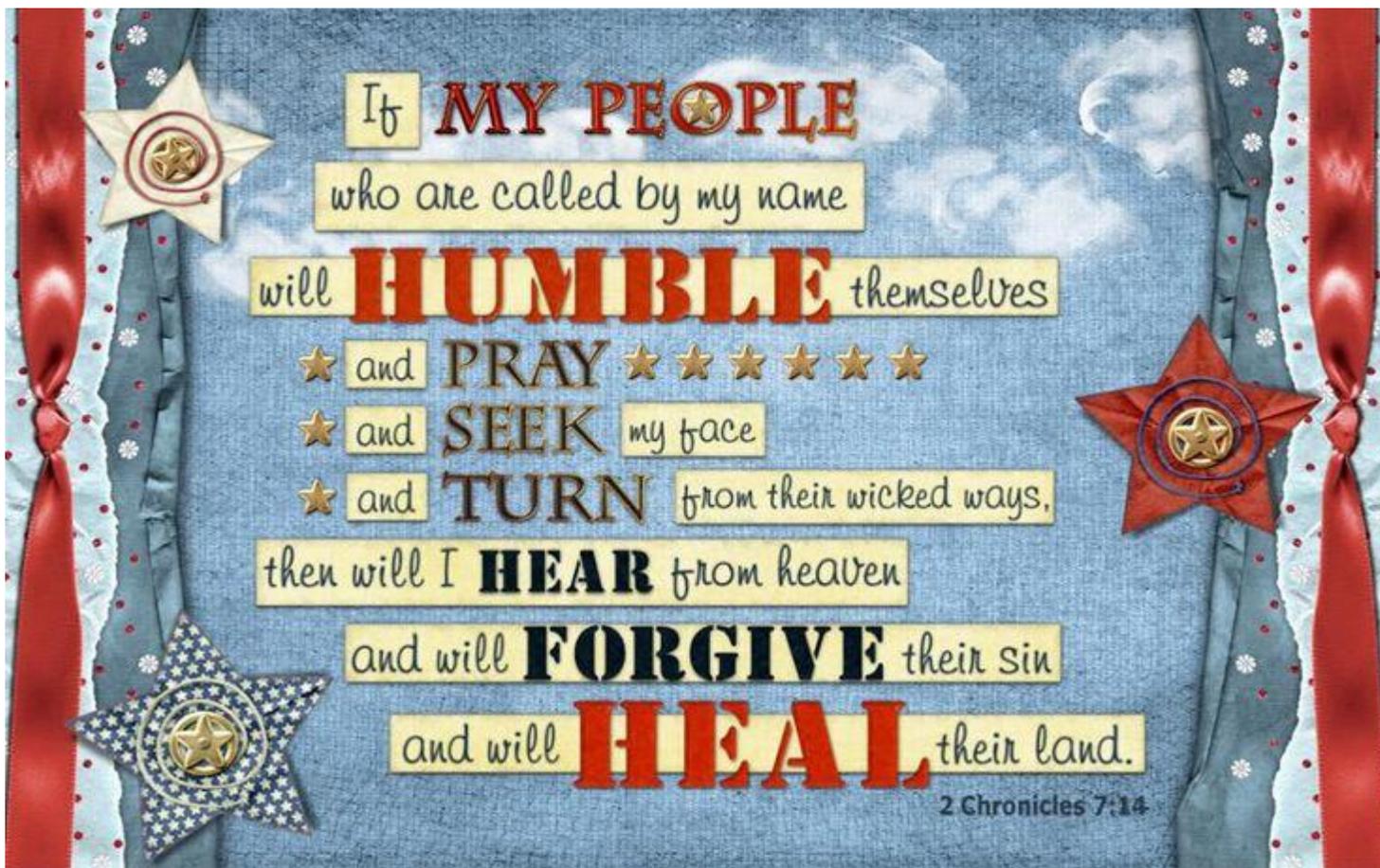




# EUREKA BAPTIST CHURCH

# NEWSLETTER



## Independence Day

Saturday,  
July 4

## Join us on Sundays!

Sundays  
9:00am  
Adult Sunday School  
10:00am  
Morning Service



## Quarterly Business Meeting

Sunday,  
July 19<sup>th</sup>  
After morning  
service



## **A Note from Pastor Seth**

On May 25th a white officer in Minneapolis killed an African American man by the name of George Floyd. The video has been seen all over the world by millions of people and everyone is rightly appalled. What happened to George Floyd was unjust and this officer should receive the measure of justice that is appropriate for the crime he committed. What followed later in Minneapolis were rioters who disrupted people's lives by destroying businesses and homes. The death of George Floyd and the destruction caused by the riots are two tragedies that we all witnessed. Right at the forefront of this is the issue of race. In this pastor's page I want to talk about how we need to think about race biblically. I have a major concern that people in the church are taking their cues from the culture and not Scripture and we see it from the response to this tragedy.

What the Bible teaches that God created every human in his own image (Genesis 1:26-27). This means is that every human reflects God in some ways and every human equally bears his image and therefore is equal in his sight. Now the term racism is an unhelpful term. A more biblical term is ethnic prejudice since every human is made up of the same race, the human race, and the Bible describes the diversity of humans as peoples or ethnic groups (Revelation 5:9). Ethnic prejudice has been a dark issue throughout human history. Many ethnic groups have suffered at the hands of another ethnic group that had more power. Ethnic prejudice happens because sin entered the world through Adam and Eve (Romans 5:12). There is no sugar coating the atrocities that have been committed from the animosity of one people to another. In the history of America the most significant ethnic prejudice has been arguably to the black population (one could also argue for Native Americans). This ethnic group was enslaved during the 18th and 19th centuries and up till the middle of the 20th century was treated like second-class citizen through segregation. This was clear ethnic prejudice and many blacks suffered. There is still of course ethnic prejudice today, but we need to process what is true prejudice and what is not. As you listen to what the culture in America says you will notice that the new definition of ethnic prejudice is that only whites can be racist, and the whites are the oppressors while the blacks and other

minority groups are the oppressed. This comes from the secular ideology of social Marxism. What Karl Marx taught is that some are the oppressors and some are the oppressed based on economics. An ethnic group that largely makes more is the oppressor while the ethnic group that largely makes less is the oppressed. This places the oppressor ethnic group as the guilty and the oppressed group as the victim. But this is not how the Bible describes the sin of ethnic prejudice. The Egyptians hated the Jews just because they were foreigners and the Jews hated the Samaritans because they thought they were all impure through their intermarriage with the Assyrians (Exodus 1:8-14; John 4:9). The Egyptians looked down on the Jews because they were different and the Jews generalized an entire ethnic group as morally inferior. It was not the content of each individual's character that was being judged as Martin Luther King Jr. once said, but a deep hatred of the entire ethnic group. But that correct understanding of racism has been intermingled with a new understanding. When George Floyd was wrongly killed by a white officer there were calls for white people everywhere to repent and do better. But no one pays for the sins of another.

The prophet Ezekiel told the rebellious people of Israel, "the soul who sins shall die" and Moses also wrote, "Fathers shall not be put to death because of their children, nor shall children be put to death because of their fathers. Each one shall be put to death for his own sin" (Ezekiel 18:4; Deuteronomy 24:16). All white men are not guilty because another white man killed a black man and all white men are not guilty because their ancestors enslaved African Americans. Yet this is being taught in churches everywhere and none of it agrees with Scripture. Now are some white men prejudice toward black people? Yes they are, and those who have this prejudice must repent. In fact, I have heard from black men that store managers or police have viewed them with suspicion. This is racism and it is important to acknowledge this as a common experience among the black population. When a black man or woman suffers in this way white Christians should have compassion on their fellow human who receives this maltreatment (Colossians 3:12). But it is important to understand that prejudice does not just happen from whites to blacks, but a common form of racism today is in fact toward the white population. This racism is that every white person

is morally guilty because they are white, but Scripture teaches that everyone is only guilty for their own sin and not the sinful actions of others. As Scripture teaches, "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" and "the wages of sin is death (Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23). Guilt is only assigned to individuals. Furthermore, in those cases in Scripture where God calls out the sins of a community the call to repent is still only to the guilty individuals and not the righteous (Ezekiel 14:12-16).

The great danger of this movement that has invaded the church is the true gospel is getting drowned out. If some people are permanently victims then they will have a hard time understanding that they are guilty before God because of their sin (Isaiah 53:6). If some people are permanently the oppressors then they have a guilt that cannot be wiped away, and yet Scripture teaches that, "There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). In addition, those ethnic groups that are considered victims by society are put in a position of blaming God since, "he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place" (Acts 17:26). Everyone belongs to their respective ethnic group because of God's providence and in his providence some have suffered more than others, and those who have suffered still need to see the greatest offense is their sin before a holy God.

So yes there is ethnic prejudice but the idea of systemic racism comes from the world and not the Bible. May we not fall for the Devil's lies (John 8:44) and realize that true ethnic prejudice is only solved through the gospel. As the apostle Paul wrote, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28). Secular ideas only divide as they put people in categories and stir racial tensions. We see that in our country and no earthly solution will change that. The only lasting solution is the gospel since it alone can bring change to the heart and unite ethnic groups who love the same God and are committed to pleasing him by loving their neighbor (Matthew 22:37-39).

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Seth

### **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

# Mission Missions reach

## **Shepard Family: Guadalajara**

With what we are all experiencing presently, asking someone how they are doing takes on a whole new level of meaning. That question sincerely asked is practically a ministry in itself these days, especially if we are ready to listen to the response.

So, you might wonder how we are carrying out ministry in the middle of quarantine. We are in the middle of week ten of either voluntary or required staying at home, and initially it was quite a change and challenge for our thinking. Obviously, we suspended all physical gatherings. But subsequently we have developed our Zoom account and begun to learn Zoom techniques. Between the two of us we have perhaps 8-10 Zoom meetings each week, so we do find ourselves a bit zapped from Zooming. But we have discovered, that one of the advantages is the ability to incorporate people from a distance. Last week one of our house churches included people from California, Canada, and Colima- a city three hours away, in addition to our normal folks.

### HOW'S IT GOING?- the ups and downs of virtual gatherings

Because people are stuck at home, there is a special feeling that comes with being able to see faces and hear voices in this virtual community setting. Of course, the disadvantage is the lack of physical proximity for reading body language, expressing effusive Latin American warmth and affection, and looking into one another's eyes as we listen attentively. On a practical front, weak internet connections, and learning how to actually connect in this way are two things that can be rather problematic. (Kind of like actually driving somewhere- car problems or traffic can complicate getting there) We are seeking to have personal interaction and spiritual body life taking place, whether by Zoom, Facebook, WhatsApp, or other media of choice.

### HOW'S IT GOING?- in the 'hood, and in the hearts

We have sensed an increase in spiritual interest, and openness to talking about spiritual things. Recently Ralph had a neighbor cross the street, with his mask in place, and open up a spiritual conversation, that resulted in sharing the gospel. Another neighbor, who along with his wife and daughter just moved in next to us, approached us to greet us and introduce himself. So, God is providing different types of connections. Ralph spends time with his Bible and the Lord alone, then time with his Bible and cell phone and the Lord, so as to send out texts to those the Lord brings to his mind.

### HOW'S IT GOING?- in Guadalajara

In part, because of the early response to the COVID situation by our state governor here in Jalisco, along with people's overall positive response to the measures set out, our city and state have had far fewer cases and deaths than much of Mexico. We thank the Lord for our governor's clear leadership and excellent communication. We are yet unaware of anyone we know in our personal network here who has contracted the virus. That may change, but we are grateful to the Lord for his protection.

### HOW'S IT GOING?- on the home front

To help offset some of the pressure of our situation here, the two of us have a little afternoon routine that includes working on a jigsaw puzzle together, and Ralph reading a Louis L'Amour short story while Ellen walks the living and dining rooms to get in her 10,000 steps for the day, which is quite a challenge when one is not to go outdoors much.

### HOW'S IT GOING?- from Jesus' perspective

It has been interesting to read Jesus' letters to the 7 churches in Revelations as we go through this COVID crisis. For most of us, how we normally carry out church has been put on standby. But form does not equal function. How we carry out church is less important, can vary, can be reinvented or restructured, as long as we keep our minds and hearts on what we are doing, and even more importantly, why we are doing it. Jesus did not speak to the forms in those 7 churches, but rather what was behind them: right motive- "you have lost your first love", right doctrine- "you tolerate...", and right heart- "you have kept my word and have not denied my name". This has left me wondering what Jesus would say to us about our ministry. As COVID especially brings out a little more truth about our what, how and why, we are seeking to truly honor Him.

Did you know, the song, "It Is Well With My Soul" was written by a successful Christian lawyer Heratio Spafford. His only son died at age four in 1871. In 1872, the great Chicago fire wiped out his vast estate, made from a successful legal career. In 1873 he sent his wife and four daughters over to Europe on a summer trip on the ill fated SS Ville du Havre. Since he had a lot of work to do, he planned to follow them later. The Ship sank and he lost his four daughters with the wife being the only survivor. She sent him a famous telegram which simply read, "SAVED ALONE....." On his return home, his law firm was burned down and the insurance company refused to pay him. They said "It's an act of God". He had no money to pay for his house and no work, he also lost his house. Then while sitting and thinking what's happening to him, being a spiritual person, he wrote a song - "Whatever, my Lord, You have taught me to say - It is well, it is well with my soul." My dear friend, a good attitude will determine your altitude.

When you look at your life, career, job or family life, what do you say? Do you praise God? Do you blame the devil? A good attitude towards God makes Him move on your behalf. Just sit down and say, "Today, God, it is well with my soul, I am thankful I had a peaceful sleep, I am thankful I am alive with possibilities, I am thankful I have a roof over me, I am thankful I have a job, I am thankful that I have Family and Friends. Above all, I am thankful that I have the Lord Jesus Christ on my side." Be blessed and don't be envious or shocked when others are prospering because you don't know what they have been through to get there (test, trials and tribulation) so thank God for what you have. "Little is much when God is in it. It Is Well With My Soul!" Touch someone's life with this message. If God is for us, who can be against us?

247 **It Is Well With My Soul**  
 H. G. SPAFFORD P. P. BLISS

GospelHymns.etsy.com

CHORUS

GospelHymns.etsy.com

## Monthly Events



Women's Bible Study  
 \*No Women's Study due to  
 July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday\*



Men's Breakfast  
 Saturday, July 11  
 8:00am



BILLY  
GRAHAM  
Evangelistic Association

Question:

I'm from another country and am visiting some of my relatives here who are in graduate school. I asked them what your festival on July 4 means, but they were not sure. Does it have something to do with your Christian religion?

Answer:

July 4th commemorates the day in 1776 that our nation declared itself to be an independent nation, and no longer a colony of England. On that date, a number of our leading citizens signed what is known as the Declaration of Independence, stating our determination to become a free country.

Our independence did not come easily; only after several difficult years of war would it finally be won. Nor were our first years as a nation free from problems and controversies (as is still true). But our forefathers were determined to establish a free and democratic system of government, and the Declaration of Independence (together with our Constitution and the Bill of Rights) became the foundation for this. They have stood the test of time, and on July 4th we give thanks for the wisdom and faith and courage of those leaders.

Although it is not a religious holiday like Christmas or Easter, for many Americans July 4th is a time to reflect on God's goodness to us as a nation. Molded into the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia (which proclaimed our independence) are these words from the Bible: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof" (Leviticus 25:10, KJV). Our legal system reflects our Judeo-Christian roots.

While we look with gratitude to the past on this July 4th, may we also look in faith to the future, and commit it and our lives to God and His will. The ancient words of the Psalmist are still true: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12).

## Weekly Events



Sunday School  
Sunday Mornings  
9:00am



Morning Service  
Sunday Mornings  
10:00am



Kids Church  
Sunday mornings during  
Morning Service

2020 Board Members

Deacons

Shaun Anderson  
Gordon Trombley

Elders

Mark Brooks

Trustees

Randy Clark  
Shaun Anderson

Deaconess

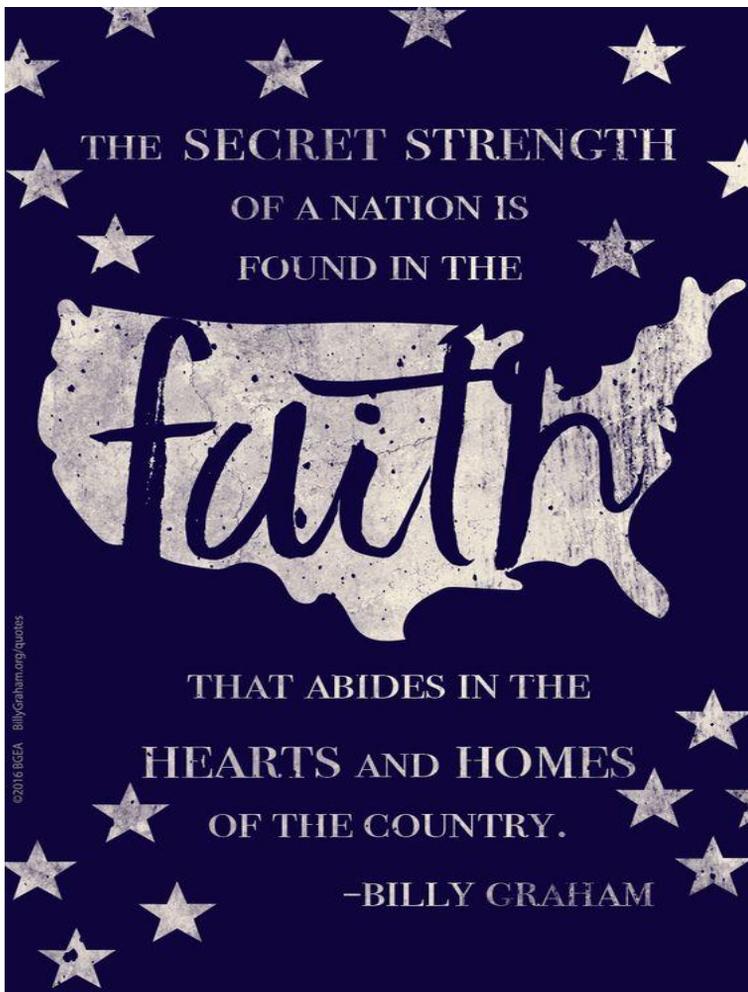
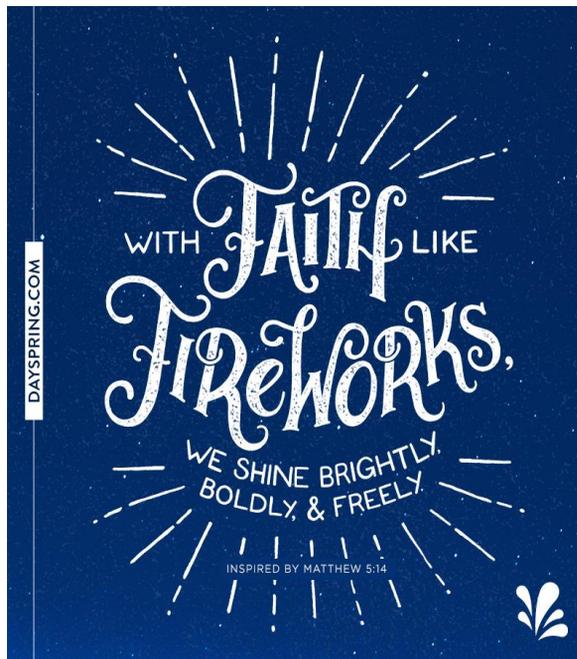
Barbara Trombley  
Amber Lindo  
Hansi Stridde  
Abby Swanson

Secretary

Amber Lindo

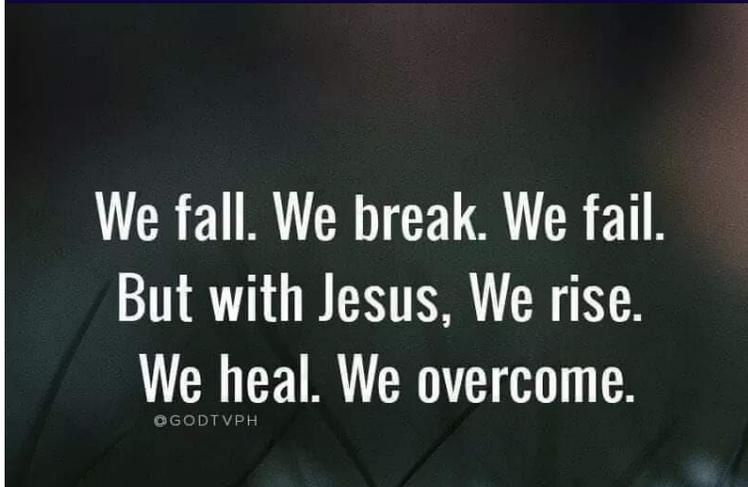
Treasurers

Hansi Stridde  
Abby Swanson



Church Announcements

- There will not be a Women's Bible Study this month because it falls on a holiday (July 4<sup>th</sup>).
- Quarterly Business Meeting will be Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup> after morning service.
- Sunday Sermons will continue to be shown on facebook live until further notice.
- **HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Susan Matson 7/3, Derek Jorgenson 7/11, Jaxon & Mason Stridde 7/15,
- HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:** Jeremy & Rachel Hall 7/23, Alvin & Susan Matson 7/24, Gordon & Barbara Trombley 7/31



COME TOGETHER  
*Options for Women* | TRI-COUNTY

**10TH** ANNUAL 5K FOR LIFE WALK/RUN

August 1, 2020

**FUN FAMILY EVENT!!**

- Kids 200 Meter Race
- Two Mile Walk
- 5K Run

**HOPE CHURCH OSCEOLA, WI**

REGISTRATION: CALL 715.755.2229 OR WEBSITE: OPTIONSTRICOUNTY.ORG



On June 20, Pastor Seth and his family woke up to see a bear exploring the outside of the Parsonage and around the church building. The bear rummaged through the garbage can a bit before crossing the road to visit the church and continue on his way to visit more of Eureka.



## TOGETHER

After months of online-only sermons, the church was finally able to meet physically on May 17<sup>th</sup>.



The children were so excited to see each other again! Below is one of the first Sundays that they were together for Children's Church.





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



