

March 2020



EUREKA BAPTIST CHURCH

# NEWSLETTER

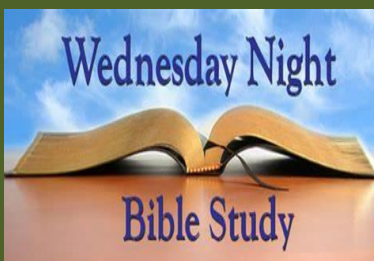


## Daylight Savings

Sunday,  
March 8

## Wednesday Night Bible Study

Join us on  
Wednesdays at  
6:30pm



## Happy St. Patrick's Day

Tuesday,  
March 17



## A Note from Pastor Seth

Over the last several hundred years there have been about six thousand shipwrecks on the Great Lakes, but there is one shipwreck that is remembered more than other. That is the Edmund Fitzgerald that sank on November 10, 1975. All twenty-nine of its crewmembers perished. This massive ship sank on the eastern part of Lake Superior from one of the biggest storms every recorded on North America's largest lake. God's power was experienced as winds were howling at one hundred mph and thirty-foot waves crashed against the ship. No one knows exactly how the ship sank, but its eerie remains lie five hundred feet below the surface about twenty miles north of Whitefish Point. One of the reasons this shipwreck is so well remembered is that Gordon Lightfoot wrote a song about it in 1976. In the song he asked this question, "Does anyone know where the love of God goes when the waves turn the minutes to hours?" Lightfoot asks the question that many ask when tragedy strikes: Where was God during the storm? If God is so loving how could he let a ship sink full of men who still had so much life to live? The finger is pointed to God's character. Recently Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers also pointed the finger at God. He was interviewed about his upbringing in a Christian home, the teaching that he now rejects. This is what Rodgers said about the love of God: "I don't know how you can believe in a God who wants to condemn most of the planet...what type of loving, sensitive, omnipresent, omnipotent being wants to condemn His beautiful creation to a fiery Hell at the end of all of this." Both Lightfoot and Rodgers are asking a similar question. Where is the love of God when people are taken too soon and where is the love of God when he sends people to hell forever?

How do we answer these questions? In order to answer these correctly we need to start in the right place. This is how you save yourself from making the major error of wrongly pointing the finger at the One who

deserves no blame but only praise. In order to think rightly on the love of God we need to understand who God is and who we are. God is holy. When God started his covenant people Israel he told about his character and what he expected from them. What he told them is, "You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy" (Leviticus 19:2). The problem with humanity is that we are not holy. Scripture teaches that "None is righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3:10). Later in that same passage we read that, "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). God in his holiness always does what is right. He is a just God. As Scripture teaches, "All his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he" (Deuteronomy 32:4). God is perfectly in his right to send people to hell forever. That is what a just God does to those who are guilty. Indeed, he will "render to each one according to his works" (Romans 2:6). But thankfully when we talk about the character of God Scripture does not stop there. One of the most precious teachings of Scripture is that God is gracious. The Lord tells us that he is, "a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love" (Exodus 34:6).

No one deserves to be forgiven but God has made a way for some to experience his love forever. The apostle Paul wrote, "In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace" (Ephesians 1:4-7). This is the story of life. God sends to hell those who deserve that penalty due their sin, but for other sinners he has lavished his grace upon them. God truly does love his people and the cross of Jesus Christ shows this. This is why the most famous verse in the Bible describes the love of God as him sending his Son to die for the sins of anyone who would believe in him (John 3:16).

What we can see from this is that every day that humanity lives is a day of experiencing the love of God. If we deserve judgment then why does God let people live their lives? The Lord takes care of not just the saved in this

life but also the unsaved as he remarkably causes the sun to shine and sends rain (Matthew 5:45). Young and old are able to say that they live under God's love and those who die before old age cannot say that God did not love them. He most certainly did. To live any amount of time is a gracious gift from him (Acts 17:25). Scripture describes God's loving care over everyone who lives (Psalm 145:15-16). All of this is gift from him. Job had the right perspective when tragedy struck his household. He did not blame God but rather he worshipped the Lord saying, "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21). The charge that Gordon Lightfoot and Aaron Rodgers direct at God about his love falls short when we realize who God is and who we are. If we live any length of time on this earth he has been good and if we experience God's grace in Christ he has been enormously kind to us by giving us life with him forever (John 17:3). Anyone who does not receive the love of God in Christ is the only one to blame, not God, since Jesus himself said, "whoever comes to me I will never cast out" (John 6:37). Those who reject Jesus do not want the love of God, but rather their own way (Philippians 3:19), and they will get what they deserve, and sadly that is forever missing out on the love of God. As Jesus so soberly states to those who refuse God's love, "I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness." This time the blame will be correctly assigned, and the sentence justly given.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Seth



**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

# Mission Missions reach



## New families

Several years back we began to pray for young couples for our ministry, both for our leadership team, as well as in the ministry in general, and God answered that prayer, though with some unexpected elements.

We had three couples join our leadership team. The first couple felt God leading them to be a part of our team, but working in Puerto Vallarta. Another couple in their mid-twenties joined our leadership team in Guadalajara for 18 months before transitioning to join the other couple in Puerto Vallarta. A third couple was here for 18 months before running into severe health matters that forced their return stateside.

On the non-leadership level, we have enjoyed seeing a handful of young Mexican families come into the mix. At present several couples on our team, us included, are involved in discipling couples one-on-one, grounding them in the basic truths of the Christian life, helping them understand and implement God's principles and designs for marriage and raising children, and helping them navigate through different aspects of life. It is both challenging and rewarding, draining and filling, sleep-grabbing and uplifting. And in the long run, so worth it! Our goal is to see new generations who know, love, and serve Christ.

## New year & beginnings

We love the beginning of the year, with a gathering of our whole TEAM Mexico family, re-initiation of ministry rhythm, picking up again on personal connections, a renewed sense of vision. The other side, for the two of us, is the onslaught of allergy season which drains us (no pun intended), and means needing to sleep more to ward of weakness and sickness related to our breathing.

## New connections with neighbors

This last weekend we invited some of our neighbors over for an open house, building on the fact that Friday was Dia de la Amistad- friendship day. Our invitation was for them to come anytime between 5:00-8:00 Sunday afternoon, three hours, right? At 6:45 none of our neighbors had come, and we were mentally preparing for a bust. Right about 7:00 they started coming, and by 7:15 we had a nice gathering of nine people from three families, with a very lively time of getting to know one another, sharing anecdotes, listening and laughing, and making those personal connections. It was very gratifying. And yes, three hours, just not the three we had planned. It felt good to be instrumental in encouraging a sense of community, and we pray we will see some significant eternal returns from this time investment.

In the bigger picture, Ralph has begun some more specific training of our house church leaders, who need to know such things as topic selection and preparation; basic pastoral, disciple-making and counseling skills; small group dynamics; Gospel clarification and sharing; exercising spiritual authority; and good self-management. The goal is healthy development of present and future house church leaders.

We love serving the Lord here, and intensely appreciate your prayers, giving and friendship. For those who have asked or wondered, Ralph continues playing basketball and soccer. In all that we do here, we pray that God will manifest himself in our lives before others, so that many will come to know Him.

## Stout Family: Macedonia

1. We love our new place and feel blessed by the Lord. However, as January was quite polluted all over Skopje, Brian has struggled again with wheezing/coughing and some shallow breathing. Hopefully over time, things will clear up and as spring approaches. Pray for God's touch.
2. Praise the Lord for a great Father-Son Retreat in Mavrovo Macedonia. 4 men and 8 boys - see picture
3. Please pray into our new SEND Macedonia 2025 Goals (attached below) as we seek the Lord for more disciples, churches, workers for His glory!
4. Pray for Joy as she leaves Macedonia on February 22 for about 3 months and will be living in Zagreb, Croatia. Pray for all us with this transition.
5. Pray for wisdom in leading our SEND Macedonia Team well, with teammates in Skopje, Tvo, Albania, and US who will be joining our team



2 0 2 5  G O A L S	4 New Church Plants Started
	4 Existing Church Plants To Become Nationally Led Biblical Fellowships That Make Disciples
	25 Missionaries Mobilized For Macedonia (Long And Short Term)
	25 Professionals Becoming Members Of The Christian Professional Network And Involved In A Local Church
	50 Disciples Baptized And Involved In A Local Church

The parking lot filled rapidly on Sunday morning as members of the large church congregation filed into church. As usually happens in a church that size, each member had developed a certain comfort zone - a block of space within those four church walls that became theirs after the second or third sitting.

It was as much a part of their church experience as the recliner was to the television at home. Some of the older members had been sitting in the same row on the same side for several decades. A team of oxen could not have moved them to the opposite side of the church.

One morning a stranger stood at the edge of the parking lot near a dumpster. As families parked cars and piled out, they noticed him rummaging through the trash. "Oh no! I don't believe it," whispered a lady to her husband. "That's all we need -- a bunch of homeless people milling around here."

One worried little girl tugged on her dad's sleeve. "But Daddy..."

Daddy was busy sizing up the bearded stranger, whose baggy, outdated trousers and faded flannel shirt had dusted too many park benches.

"Don't stare at him, honey," he whispered, and hurried her inside.

Soft music filled the high-ceiling sanctuary as churchgoers settled into their usual spots. The choir sang an opening chorus, "In His presence there is comfort ... in His presence there is peace..."

Sunlight suddenly flooded the center aisle. The double doors swung open and the homeless man, sloppy and stooped, headed toward the front.

"Oh no, it's him!" somebody muttered.

"What does he think he's doing, anyway?" snapped an incredulous usher.

The stranger set his bagful of dumpster treasures on the very first pew which had been upholstered in an expensive soft teal fabric just three months ago. The music stopped. And before anyone had a chance to react, he ambled up the stairs and stood behind the fine, handcrafted oak podium, where he faced a wide-eyed congregation.

The disheveled stranger spoke haltingly at first, in a low, clear voice. Unbuttoning and removing his top layer of clothing, he described Jesus, and the love He has for all people.



"Jesus possesses a sensitivity and love that far surpasses what any of us deserves."

Stepping out of the baggy old trousers, the stranger went on to describe a forgiveness that is available to each and every one of us...without strings attached.

"Unconditionally He loves us. Unconditionally He gave His very life for us. Unconditionally and forever, we can have the peace and assurance that no matter who we are, where we've come from, or how badly we may have mistreated others or ourselves, there is hope."

"In Jesus, there is always hope."

"You see, my friends, it is never too late to change," the man continued.

"He is the Author of change, and the Provider of forgiveness. He came to bring new meaning to 'life'."

Men and women squirmed as reality hit them like an electrical current. The stranger tugged at his knotted gray beard and removed it.

"I'm here to tell you that we are loved with a love far beyond human understanding, a love that enables us to accept and love others in return." Then tenderly he added, "Let's pray together."

That wise pastor - under the guise of a homeless "nobody" - did not preach a sermon that day, but every person left with plenty to think about.

## Monthly Events



Women's Bible Study  
Saturday, March 7  
9:00am



Men's Breakfast  
Saturday, March 14  
8:00am



Q: What is the shortest chapter in the Bible?  
A: Psalms 117

Q: What is the longest chapter in the Bible?  
A: Psalms 119

Q: Which chapter is in the center of the Bible?  
A: Psalms 118

Fact: There are 594 chapters before Psalms 118  
Fact: There are 594 chapters after Psalms 118  
Add these numbers up and you get 1188.

Q: What is the center verse in the Bible?  
A: Psalms 118:8

Q: Does this verse say something significant about God's perfect will for our lives?

The next time someone says they would like to find God's perfect will for their lives and that they want to be in the center of His will, just send them to the center of His Word!

Psalms 118:8  
"It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man."  
Now isn't that odd how this worked out (or was God in the center of it)?

When things get tough, always remember...  
Faith doesn't get you around trouble, it gets you through it !!

-Author Unknown

## When I say ..."I am a Christian"

When I say ... "I am a Christian"  
I'm not shouting, "I'm saved"  
I'm whispering, "I get lost!"  
"That is why I chose this way"

When I say ... "I am a Christian"  
I don't speak of this with pride  
I'm confessing that I stumble,  
and need someone to be my guide

When I say ... "I am a Christian"  
I'm not trying to be strong,  
I'm professing that I'm weak,  
and pray for strength to carry on

When I say ... "I am a Christian"  
I'm not bragging of success,  
I'm admitting that I've failed,  
and cannot ever pay the debt

When I say ... "I am a Christian"  
I'm not claiming to be perfect,  
my flaws are way too visible  
but God believes I'm worth it

When I say ... "I am a Christian"  
I still feel the sting of pain  
I have my share of heartaches  
which is why I seek His Name

When I say ... "I am a Christian"  
I do not wish to judge  
I have no authority,  
I only know I'm loved!

Carol S. Wimmer

## 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

Elder

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

-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 the Anderson Family for cleaning the church during the month of February!

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

-Men’s Retreat information will be out soon.

-Easter Information: Palm Sunday (4/5) there will be a brunch after morning service. Good Friday Service (4/10) will be at 6:30pm. Easter Service (4/12) will be at 10:00am. If you would like to contribute to any of these services, please talk with Pastor Seth by March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:**

Isaiah Brickley (3/13), Josie Johnson (3/17), Sophie Lindo (3/19), Debi Swanson (3/28)

**Women’s Bible Study**

Date	Lesson: Verse
March 13	One: Philippians 4:8
March 27	Two: Matthew 6:34
April 17	Three: Philippians 3:13-14
May 8	Four: Romans 8:28
May 22	Five: Jeremiah 29:11
June 12	Six: Romans 11:33
June 26	Tying it all together

*Loving God with All Your Mind*

By Elizabeth George

\*If you have any questions about Women’s Bible Study, please talk with Barb Trombley.



Easter Flower Orders are due to Shaila Johnson by Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Flower order forms are available at church.



Missionary Dan Penney visited Eureka Baptist Church in February to update us on the work being done in Senegal. A potluck lunch was held after morning service.





Mason Stridde is the 5 year old son of Hansi Stridde. He and his twin brother, Jaxon, are in preschool at St. Croix Falls Elementary.

Q: How far away is Heaven?

A: "Up to the sky"

Q: Why does Jesus love the little children?

A: "because they trust Him and love Him."

Q: Why do you go to church?

A: "To learn all about Jesus"

Q: What is the Bible?

A: "A book that tells us about Jesus"

Q: Who wrote the Bible?

A: "Jesus wrote the Bible to give us stories"

Q: Why does God make some people tall and some people short?

A: "because he makes everyone just right"

Q: What is your favorite part of coming to church?

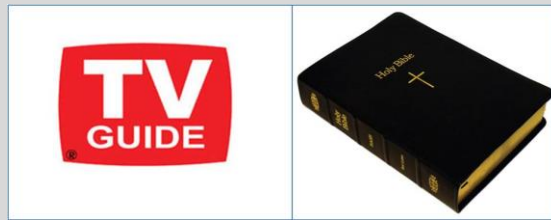
A: "My favorite part is church parties (pot lucks) Shaila's pudding cups are my favorite"

Q: Why did God make mountains so big?

A: "Because he did, so everyone can climb up them"

Q: What is one food that you wish God did not create?

A: "Umm ... pickles and ... just pickles because they are green and yucky!"



## A SIGN OF THE TIMES

They lie on the table, side by side The Holy Bible and the TV Guide.  
One is well worn, but cherished with pride (Not the Bible, but the TV Guide)  
One is used daily to help folks decide. (Not the Bible: it's the TV Guide.)  
As the pages are turned, what shall they see Oh, what does it matter?...turn on the TV.  
Then confusion reigns, they can't all agree on what they shall watch on the old TV.  
So they open the book in which they confide (No, not the Bible.....it's the TV Guide.)  
The Word of God is seldom read. Maybe a verse e'er they fall into bed.  
Exhausted and sleepy and tired as can be... not from reading the Bible-from watching TV.  
So then back to the table, side by side, lay the Holy Bible and the TV Guide.  
No time for prayer....no time for the Word. The plan of salvation is seldom heard.  
But forgiveness of sin so full and free is found in the Bible.....NOT on TV!

## Questions

I asked God to take away my pain. God said, No. It is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up.  
I asked God to make my handicapped child whole. God said, No. Her spirit was whole, her body was only temporary.  
I asked God to grant me patience. God said, No. Patience is a by-product of tribulations. It isn't granted, it is earned.  
I asked God to give me happiness. God said, No. I give you blessings. Happiness is up to you.  
I asked God to spare me pain. God said, No. Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me.  
I asked God to make my spirit grow. God said, No. You must grow on your own, but I will prune you to make you fruitful.  
I asked for all things that I might enjoy life. God said, No. I will give you life so that you may enjoy all things.  
I ask God to help me LOVE others, as much as he loves me. God said... Ahhhh, finally you have the idea.



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2393 210th Avenue  
St. Croix Falls, WI 54024





