

March 2021



EUREKA BAPTIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER



**Ice Fishing
Jamboree**

Saturday
March 20

**Leadership
Meeting**

Sunday
March 21



Palm Sunday

Sunday
March 28



A Note from Pastor Seth

In this pastor's page I want to talk about our place in this world and our witness to the unbelievers around us. For decades American churches have made it a goal to get people in the doors, even if this means compromising. This is also known as pragmatism, which means, "If it works, then do it." Churches have looked at what is fashionable in society and then inserted what is fashionable into their churches. This movement has paved the way for all the problems we see in the American church now. In the past couple of years we have seen more than ever churches willing to go along with the ways of the world. The most telling sign is the embrace of the social justice movement (Cultural Marxism) in many evangelical churches. If it is fashionable in the world, then to get the world to like us we need to be passionate about what the world is passionate. Now it is true that evangelism is still a focus of these churches, but aspects of Cultural Marxism is embraced to get a hearing with the secular crowd.

There are many evangelicals influenced by the world who are embarrassed of other Christians. I get the feeling that these Christians want to distance themselves from other Christians who voted for a very flawed candidate who put forth policies consistent with the Bible. One can see why this temptation to distance is so strong. In a recent clip Comedian Bill Maher pretty much said that the people who invaded the capitol on January 6th were those crazy evangelical Christians. I read an article written a few days later from an evangelical who was clearly embarrassed by his fellow evangelicals. What he was pretty much saying was, "We need to have more in common

with the world and we need to criticize what the world criticizes even if all the facts do not support their narrative. We need to gain a hearing with the world before we can share the message of Christ." Now it is possible for Christians to lose a hearing. If Christians value a political candidate at an excessive level, then Christians do lose their witness. The reality that Christ is our treasure should be most clearly seen from the lost world around us.

But while this has happened to some extent among evangelicals, an even sadder development has happened that is even more widespread. That is, the American church has a completely wrong understanding of what it means to be salt and light in this world (Matthew 5:16-17). The goal in evangelism is not to throw a bone to the world in order to gain a hearing. The goal in evangelism is to be one hundred percent committed to Christ, not compromising, and then the world looks on and notices the difference. When this happens, some will be drawn and others will not as the apostle Paul wrote, "We are the aroma of Christ...to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life" (2 Corinthians 2:15-16). Some unbelievers look at how different Christians are, seeing the purity and the full commitment to Christ, and some are drawn through this witness. May we not forget what the world thinks of Christians as Jesus said, "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you" (John 15:18).

The world had a negative view about Christians long before the 2016 and 2020 elections. But many compromised evangelicals seem to lose sight of this. For two thousand years Christians have been misrepresented by the world calling

Eureka Baptist Church

2393 210th Avenue

St. Croix Falls, WI 54024

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Sunday Morning Service: 10:00am

*Kid's Church during Service

Sunday School: 9:00am

them things they are not. In the early church Christians were called "cannibalists" because they ate the bread and wine that symbolized the body and blood of Christ. They were called "haters of mankind" because they did not worship the Roman gods and did not give Caesar supreme allegiance. They were called "misguided creatures" as mainstream society saw their faith as a fools hope. In 2021 America Christians are now being called "Christian Nationalists" with all the negative connotation that goes with it. But this present day mischaracterization of Christians is nothing new. Historically, Christians have often been wrongly tied to the worst of society and this is how persecution follows. The secular world begins to believe that Christians are a detriment to society rather than the blessing they truly are. But Christians should never change their ways to gain a hearing but rather stay the course. Jesus tells us not to throw pearls before pigs (Matthew 7:6), but rather to share the gospel with the house that is worthy (Matthew 10:13). In other words, share with the people who are receptive, with those who have not been deceived. God's design is that most of the time Christians will be the marginalized of society, but God views his people as those, "of whom the world was not worthy" (Hebrews 11:38). Some will see this, turn from their sins and put their trust in Christ, leaving this world behind, realizing that only in Christ is their life and joy forever (John 10:10; 16:22).

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Seth



MissionMissions:reach

Penney Family

What roles do you have? Ours seem to keep changing, sometimes predictably, more often not. But we're so glad to be grounded in the most important role we have: that of beloved children of a caring heavenly Father. We bask in that role no matter what happens to all the other roles we play.

A New Year, a New Role

Dan has officially begun a new role as Staff Accountant for Africa. This means he is responsible for the Finance department's technical support of all of WorldVenture's Africa missionaries. He gets to field any financial question or problem they have. To a large degree, this is what he came to headquarters to do, except that for the moment it is limited to missionaries in Africa, a context he knows well. He will remain in this role for the next six months, so as to learn it thoroughly. After that he expects to move on to supervising projects that will increase the effectiveness of WorldVenture workers all over the world.

New Part to an Old Role

Throughout that past year and a half in the US, Dan has continued to serve as Senegal Field Treasurer (a glorified name for bookkeeper). It's a job he enjoys for the most part, and no one else on the Senegal field had the time or inclination for it. Last month, that role took on an added dimension.

Obviously, now that we've decided not to return to ministry in Senegal, having Dan serve as the field's treasurer is not a viable long-term solution. Unfortunately, no one else on the team has the capacity to do the bookkeeping the way Dan has done it for the last eight years. In addition, it has been a dawning realization that the field needs to simplify its finances. The current financial structure—and so therefore the accounting to support it—is too complicated for a team that is much smaller than it once was and no longer has someone on the team with any accounting or bookkeeping experience.

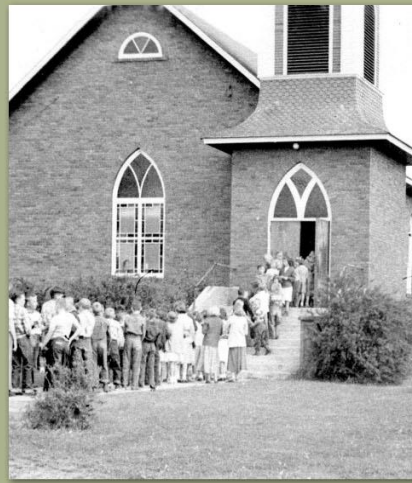
In light of this, Dan put together a presentation to explain what they need to do, and a plan to implement the changes. He gave this presentation via a Zoom meeting a couple of weeks ago.

Three things happened during and after the presentation that showed Dan that it was successful beyond his wildest hopes. First, the team demonstrated during the presentation that they clearly understood it by their insightful questions about some of the details. Second, every single person calmly accepted a significant amount of change in their personal financial practices (no one likes change, and we usually resist it, especially when the ideas are first introduced). And three, one of the least financially savvy people on the team responded a day or two later by emailing Dan with a plan for their part of the changes, asking questions that demonstrated understanding of the process, and then began executing that plan as soon as Dan answered their questions! Dan's presentation was obviously clear and simple enough.

Now the final step that Dan needs to do is develop a new bookkeeping system for the field that is simple enough for someone with no bookkeeping training or experience to use. He jumped into that process shortly after the presentation, and it, too, is going even more successfully than he had hoped.

Photos below: Christmas morning and celebrating Caleb's 21st birthday.





Monthly Events



Women's Bible Study
Saturday, March 6
9:00am



Men's Breakfast
Saturday, March 13
8:00am



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS 1953 Darlene Swanson teacher
 Back row: Judy Christensen, Hanson, Susan Je
 llell Christensen, Larry Jensen,
 Front row: Susan & Linda Davison, Bruce Matson, La
 Hanson, Cheryl Anderson, Danny Glasel



We are in the process of transferring old church slides to digital images. If you have any photographs or slides that we could make copies of, please contact Amber Lindo.



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

Elder

Mark Brooks

Trustees

Randy Clark
Shaun Anderson

Deaconess

Barbara Trombley
Amber Lindo
Hansi Stridde
Abby Swanson

Secretary

Amber Lindo

Treasurers

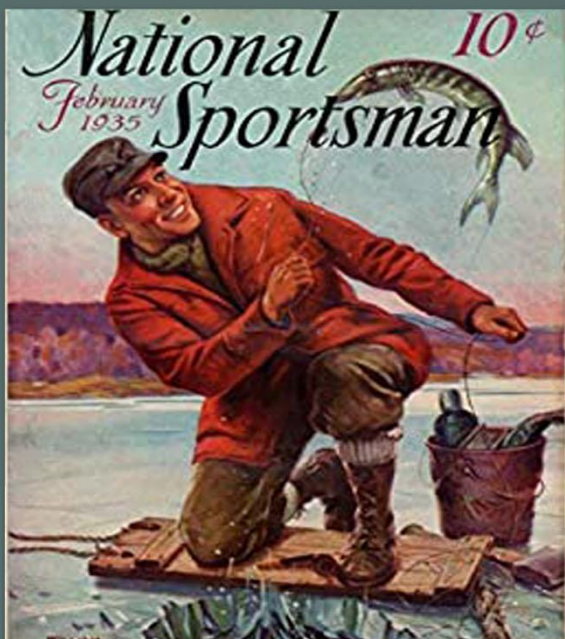
Hansi Stridde
Abby Swanson

Church Announcements

- **Women's Group** is meeting on Friday mornings in February at 9:30am in the Matson Building.
- Sunday Sermons will continue to be shown on **facebook live** until further notice.
- **Leadership Meeting** – Sunday, March 21st after morning service
- **Church Teams** will be meeting soon. If you are interested in joining a team, please talk with Pastor Seth.
- The **140th Anniversary** Committee will start meeting soon to plan this summer's event. Please talk with Amber Lindo if you'd like to help.
- If you would like to do a **special for morning service**, please talk with Lori Brooks.
- We will have a joint **Good Friday Service** with Trade River. Please watch for more information.
- **HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Isaiah Brickly 3/13, Josie Johnson 3/17, Sophie Lindo 3/19, Debi Swanson 3/28



Pictured left: Recent photos of some of the children during Kid's Church.



Ice Fishing Jamboree

Saturday, March 20

9:00am Ice Fishing

1:00pm Fish Fry

Big Lake

Shaun & Rachael Anderson's Home

2043 230th Street, St. Croix Falls

Join us!

*Please bring a side dish to share for the Fish Fry

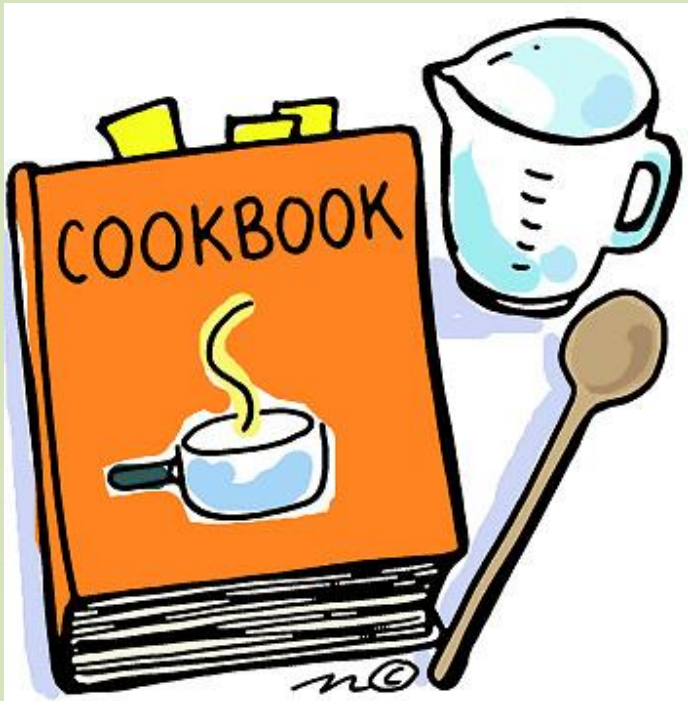
Pictured below is fisherman Eli Anderson with some recent trophies



BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES
IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!

HOSANNA *in*
the **HIGHEST!**

M A T T H E W 2 1 : 9



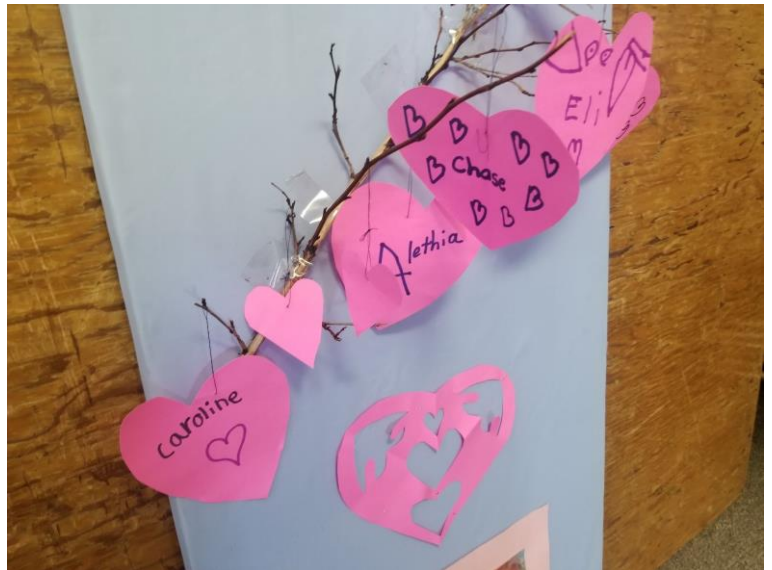
Eureka Baptist Church is celebrating 140 years!!

Our church will be putting together a cookbook to sell for this event. Please add any recipes you'd like to share (the more the better) by the end of March. If you have any issues, talk with Hansi and she'll be glad to help.

typensave.com

eurekabaptistchurch
password: recipe

We're looking for LOTS of your favorite recipes! Please add as many as you'd like.





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