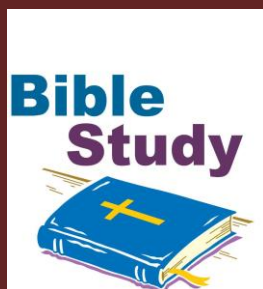


September 2020



EUREKA BAPTIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER



Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Wednesday,
September 9th
6:30pm
Matson Building

Leadership Meeting

Sunday,
September 13
After morning
service



River Road Ramble Yard Sale

Saturday, September 26
9:00am – 5:00pm
Free will offering event



A Note from Pastor Seth

It goes without saying that we have been living in turbulent times. In December we heard news that there was a virus spreading fast in China. Then it began to spread all around the world and in March hit America with full force. Early on we didn't know how serious the virus was. We know from world history that there have been pandemics that have caused mass death. At the end of World War I the Spanish flu killed about 100 million people. This is remarkable considering the fact that at this time in world history a little under two billion people lived on planet earth. This means that about two percent of the world population died from the Spanish flu. In March when the virus started people were rightly afraid. There are legitimate and illegitimate fears. If a major storm is coming the correct emotion is fear, but even then you cannot let fear overtake you as God's peace goes with you. But sometimes there are illegitimate fears. This would be like a healthy twenty-five year old who fears that he is going to have a heart attack. This is irrational and God can take away this fear as he takes away the legitimate one. But in March it was appropriate to have a legitimate fear about this virus. I preached a sermon on March 15th where I gave my reflections on the Coronavirus. One of the points I made from Scripture is that Jesus tells us not to be afraid. We cannot let fear rule us even if at times fear is the appropriate emotion.

Now let's fast forward to where we are now six months later. Is it legitimate to have a high level of fear about this virus? We know this virus pretty well. Here is what we know. This virus is serious, but it is only serious to a very small percentage of the population. The virus is serious to the elderly and those with underlying conditions. Over forty percent of the deaths have taken place in nursing homes. According to data from August 12 there have been 164,000 deaths (this is a high estimate) in America from Covid-19 and 5.15 million confirmed cases. One pastor in California looked at the stats and said you have a 99.99 percent chance in California of surviving the coronavirus. This number is pretty much the same everywhere else. In Polk County Wisconsin two people have died from Covid-19. Think about how many have died from automobile crashes already this year.

The number is more than two and yet we never think twice about getting into a vehicle. So in 1918 about two percent of the world died from the Spanish flu, the largest pandemic in modern history, but in 2020 Covid-19 deaths are a miniscule percentage; much less than one percent.

Now as I downplay the seriousness of this, I do not want to be misunderstood. This is not a virus that you want to get. My in-laws got it and in the case of my mother-in-law it was very serious. But she also has underlying conditions, so it is not surprising that it was serious. We are very grateful that the Lord pulled her through. But as we look at our society health and government officials have put in place measures like this is the Spanish flu of 1918; the virus that about two percent of the world died from. In fact the measures are more severe. Churches only shutdown for a month with the Spanish flu. In some states, governors have still yet to allow churches to gather. What we have seen is panic in many peoples eyes. The mass hysteria has made many in our world, our country and our community afraid. To some of you reading this I understand why you are taking extra precautions because you are high risk or you are frequently around those who are at risk. But the fact remains that to the vast majority of people this virus is not a legitimate threat.

Over the last six months we have clearly seen that some of our leaders have an agenda and others have been influenced by all the noise to push people to be afraid. But we should not fall into fear as these alarms continue to sound. To live in fear is no way to live. Fear robs you of your joy and peace, and it robs you of the life that God has called you to live. Every one of us is very susceptible to fear. We are a scared people. In the last six months we have seen this more than ever in our world. We have seen how easy it is for people to get very afraid even if the threat to one is astronomically small. Now not everyone is afraid of the virus, but even if you are not you do have fears in your life. The Bible has a word for everyone wherever you are at. The apostle Paul wrote, "Do not be anxious about anything" (Philippians 4:6). This is the cry of Scripture to all believers. Jesus says something similar in the Sermon on the Mount when he said, "Do not worry about your life" (Matthew 6:25). The Lord knows our days and

he wants us to live in the freedom we have in Christ (John 8:36). We are not to be in bondage to fear like the one who does not know God (Romans 6:17-18). In a time of mass hysteria believers should stand out from the rest of the world. May all Christians be used as a light to the world to show what true trust and true peace looks like (Matthew 5:14). This peace comes from nowhere but God alone (Philippians 4:7). The Lord has given our church an opportunity to show our faith. As fear continues to hang over our world, may we make a good use of our time and may God use us to point people to Christ, in whom alone true security comes.

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



MissionReach

Miron Family: Ireland

Hello, hello and happy summer to you all! A full moon or two has passed since our last update, so I knew it was time to fill you in on what's been happening. I'm sure many of you could use your own "family update" with the way life has been lately. I'll try to cover some of the questions we've been getting, and the main points of interest from the last 2 months.

Well, first things first, let's just get this out of the way: let's talk about Covid. Things have improved over here since our last update, as far as restrictions being lifted and our control of the virus goes. So that's great. Ireland as a whole have taken things pretty seriously and people have followed the guidelines pretty well for the most part. That, along with it being an island, has helped keep the spread down quite a bit. Numbers have started to go up a little bit recently so restrictions are still being taken seriously, and even threatening to tighten again.

So basically that looks like face masks being required in all shops, there's a max of 10 people that can meet in homes, social distancing of 2 meters, pubs that aren't primarily restaurants aren't open, no sports other than league stuff, things like that. There is still plenty of anxiety in people, both in the virus and in the economy. It's important to us to be a good witness as Christians and follows those as best we can. There is certainly a judgmental eye on people flaunting the rules, especially when they have an American accent. But, I don't know if you guys have noticed, it makes it hard to meet people.

I mean, you think about the ways that we originally planned to connect with people: the kid's school, at the pub, through sports, through social groups, through event gatherings, at the coffee shops, through church, having people over for tea and going into other peoples homes for tea, just doing regular life in the community. Those things haven't really been possible. And even as some things do open up, people are largely less willing to chat and meet with strangers. The Irish are not back to their normal hospitable selves. So it is certainly an unforeseen challenge. I realise it's probably pretty similar to how much of life is for a lot of you.

Next topic, how are the kids doing? It's one of those social experiments that none of us want our kids to be part of: How will kids handle and develop moving into a new country and culture during a pandemic? For starters, there is so much that we are thankful for. Ireland is a beautiful country so we have enjoyed going to parks as a family. The kids love the mountains and beaches even when its cold and raining. Aidan really enjoys finding and trying to pick up jellyfish. They've made some new friends with kids from the team, the church and our neighbors, which has helped them get through the summer.

As of right now school is supposed to start at the end of August, which we are very excited for. Aidan will be in first class, Norah in senior infants and Lucy will be in a short preschool program which they call a creche here. We are really praying that they are allowed to physically attend normally. Neither Sarah nor I have that homeschooling gift, so in our eyes it is certainly better for their development to get in school. But it's also a huge way to really get connected in the community and be seen as a more permanent member of Oranmore. There is a large number of young families in this area, so meeting parents through school is a huge way to build relationships. Two of Norah's friends here are in the same class as her so we are excited about that. Overall I think they're doing well, but not without its challenges. There's been a lot of nostalgic remembering of happy moments with the people they love back in Minnesota. One very common phrase for them we will often hear is, "Back in Minnesota when we did this or did that with these people. I miss Minnesota". Thank you for your prayers for them. Please keep praying for them.

Last update we talked about Galway City Baptist Church and asked for prayer with being able to meet again. And thankfully now we are. Ireland moved up their planned dates for easing restrictions so we've been able to meet as a church for the last month, which has been awesome. That is with restrictions in place of a max 50 people, so people alternate coming every other week. That's still with face masks on inside, but it has been great to meet people and start to get connected with the church body here. God made us to dwell in community and worship Him in community, so even with restrictions it's just good to get together and worship. We do meet in a school, so there are some questions as to how things will stay functioning once school starts, so you can definitely pray for that.





With rain on the way, our 2020 church picnic was held in the newly remodeled Matson Building. We are so thankful for everyone that helped with construction, painting and decorating. This building will be put to great use!!



Monthly Events



Women's Bible Study
Saturday, September 3
9:00am



Men's Breakfast
Saturday September 12
8:00am



The Johnson Family took a trip last month and visited the Stavkirke located of Washington Island, Wisconsin.

The idea to construct a Stavkirke emerged in part because of the island's rich Scandinavian heritage. With a dream and a growing group of faithful volunteers the project began to raise funds in 1983.

The Stavkirke was envisioned as a unique setting for small worship services, gatherings, weddings and prayer and meditation. Stavkirke or Stav Churches are located throughout Europe, the greatest concentration of them in the Scandinavian lands. The construction of Stavkirke dates back to the introduction of Christianity to Norway in the 11th Century during the reign of St. Olav, King of Norway. Rather than using stone which many European churches used to construct their buildings, the Norwegians tapped into wood, a plentiful natural resource, and the native artisans' ability to craft it. The specialized architecture of the Stavkirke emerges out of the construction of Viking ships. With the large "stavs" or masts, the ribs of the rafters, the shipbuilding techniques of tongue and groove joinery, and dragon heads at the "prows" of the gabled roofs; the wooden structure breathes and lives like a Viking ship. The Washington Island Stavkirke was modeled after the Borgund Stavkirke constructed in 1150 near Laerdal, Sogn. That church was chosen since it is the best preserved and least altered example of this style of church architecture.

The traditional exterior walkways along the either side, called ambulatories, were designed to serve folks who, due to illness or other causes including poverty, were unable to enter within the church but here could still be ministered to. The areas also served as an 'armory' where Viking worshippers left their weapons before entering the church.



Pictured above: Borgund Stavkirke constructed in 1150 in Norway.



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

- We will probably be looking for some help with the Parsonage face lift this fall. Please help if you are able!
- Wednesday Evening Bible Study will start at 6:30pm on September 9th in the Matson Building.
- Sunday Sermons will continue to be shown on facebook live until further notice.
- Thank you to everyone that brings in flowers for Sunday morning service.
- Please keep Jordan and Hope in your prayers as they have both started college. We will keep you updated on how they are doing!
- There is a Leadership Meeting on Sunday, September 13th after morning service.
- **HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Lillie Lindo 9/16, and Hansi Stridde 9/28
- **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:** Kyle & Abby Swanson 9/3, Shaun & Rachael Anderson 9/14

Women's Friday Morning Bible Study Starting on September 11

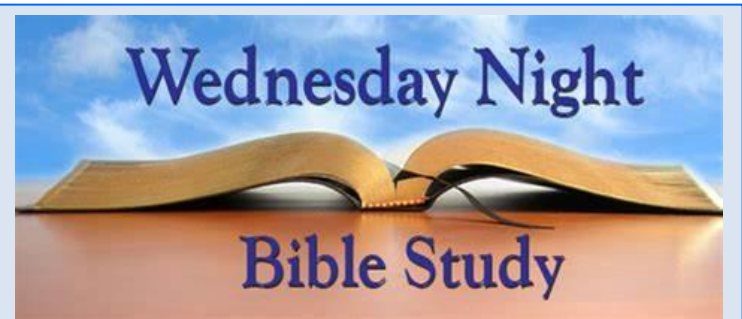
"Step into where God calls you and He is already there.
And where He is, there you find JOY!"



The book "Divine Conversations" by Kathy Schwanke will provide the basis for our study as we explore conversations God had with people in the Bible.

This ten-session study will meet in the Matson building and begin on Friday, September 11, at 9:30. It is video and discussion based.

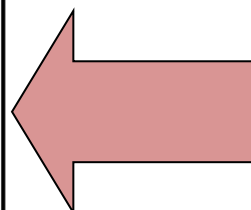
If you are available on Friday mornings, please prayerfully consider attending this Bible study. The Holy Spirit works mightily among us when we pore over His Word together!



Join us on Wednesday evenings starting
September 9th
6:30pm
Matson Building

YARD SALE

Eureka Baptist Church
Saturday, September 26th
9:00am – 5:00pm



River Road Ramble

Due to COVID, the RRR will look a bit different this year. We will not be having our usual pie social event. However, we will be having a yard sale. Please bring your items Thursday, Sept 24th through the early morning of Saturday, Sept 26th for the yard sale. This is a free will donation event.



Thank you to everyone that participated in the 5K for Life event!



Make to sure grab one!
The Old Country Church
By Mark Brooks





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

