

“It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.” (Deuteronomy 31:8, ESV)

A few weeks ago, Lisa and I returned home from an awesome vacation. We decided to travel to New England to celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary and Lisa’s 39th birthday (ignore the math). There were some amazing moments, like the sunset over Lake Champlain in Burlington, Vermont. There were also some disappointing moments, like when we climbed to the top of Cadillac Mountain at Acadia National Park in Maine, just before dawn, hoping to see a beautiful sunrise. But the weather didn’t cooperate. We just sat with a bunch of other people, watching the clouds get a little brighter.

On one day trip, we drove up winding mountain roads to the Von Trapp family lodge in Stowe, Vermont. The roads and the views were incredible. Another day, we sat on the rocky coast of Maine, looking out over the Atlantic Ocean. And on one beautiful afternoon, we stood on the top of Mount Royal with hundreds of people, looking down at the city of Montreal. Along the way we tasted real Vermont maple syrup on the farm, Maine lobster rolls from a roadside stand, and Tim Horton’s doughnuts on every street corner in Canada.

We took in some history as well. We visited Ethan Allen’s homestead, just north of Burlington. Then we went to his gravesite a few miles away. And we toured two state capitol buildings in Montpelier, Vermont, and Augusta, Maine. Apparently, Montpelier’s claim to fame is that it is the only state capital city that does not have a McDonald’s!

Along the way, we also saw some tragedy. When you travel thousands of miles on highways and interstates, you’re bound to see some accidents. We saw a bad one on the 401 freeway in Canada, just outside of Toronto. As we moved slowly along in the westbound lanes, we saw a wreck involving a truck and a car that had shut down all of the eastbound lanes. We don’t know what happened to the people who were in those vehicles, but it didn’t look good.

When we were finally back in Princeton, Lisa and I were both glad to be home. We loved the journey and we will carry the memories with us for the rest of our lives on this earth, but Dorothy was right when she said, “There’s no place like home.”

The whole trip reminded me of the journey of life. There are beautiful moments that we wish would last forever and there are disappointing moments that didn’t live up to expectations. There are twists and turns in life that take us to new places and introduce us to new people. There are quiet moments when we just sit alone and look at the calm water. We enjoy a meal here and a conversation there. We explore the history of a place while we write the pages of our own histories. And there are tragedies along the way for all of us. We deal with emotional pain and physical suffering and loved ones who leave us too soon.

But our God is with us for every step of that journey. Near the end of his life, Moses said to the people of Israel, “It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.” Whether we are celebrating the joys of life or dealing with the disappointments, God is with us. Whether we are sitting in a calm place or are surrounded by stressful activity, God is there. And when we are enduring the inevitable suffering that comes with life in this broken world, God is holding us in his arms and giving us the strength to go on.

And then, one day, when we come to the end of our road in this world, God will be waiting for us with open arms and a huge smile. He will say, "Well done, good and faithful servant." And he will welcome us home. Because this world is just the journey. Heaven is our home. And there really is no place like home. Amen and Amen.

Pastor Bill

P.S. Thank you so much for all of your cards and notes and kind words for the celebration of our 40th wedding anniversary. When our daughter Becky showed us the basket of cards from the members of all the churches where we have served, it was overwhelming. We have certainly been blessed to know so many wonderful people in this journey that we have been on together for the past four decades. God's blessings to all of you!

Pastor Bill and Lisa

Office Hours: 9-12 & 1-4 Mon. – Thurs.
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*Special announcements for the bulletin, or the screen, need to be to the office **by Thursday morning**. Call, leave a message, email, or drop off a note.*

OFFICE CLOSED
MONDAY, September 5, 2022

Newsletter deadline is the 20th day of the month

COUNCIL REPORT JULY 2022:

The agenda, June minutes, & financial reports were accepted as printed.

Pastor's Report – (June) regular monthly activities: worship services, calls, meetings, Bible studies/classes, appointments, 1 funeral for Harry Pierson. Coming up: Old Wheels Car Show, Wittenberg Door, vacation July 25-31 & August 8-17. Pastor Norm preaching July 31, Andy Schmeck preaching August 14.

Admin. Report – July attendance 87 with 64 website views.

Property - \$5000 to be paid to Endowment for the loan of the heating unit in the Education Wing, bid approved for Northern Ill. Seamless Roofing to repair/replace 2 flat roofs & peak of the bell tower for \$18,310, seeking bids for mini-split heating/ac units for Fellowship Hall, bid from Elmore Electric to run power to the brick sign, yard sprayed before VBS, heavy rain July 4th caused leak in Fellowship Hall, all pumps are working, pit was overwhelmed, air deflectors added to sanctuary ac vents, cabinets for north office ordered.

Service & Mission – Old Wheels review meeting, another Mobile Food Pantry cannot be scheduled this year, benevolence is current, Another Child collection complete & will be picked up July 29th, Our Table serving every other week & still waiting kitchen certification.

Outreach & Fellowship – may have speaker at some coffee fellowships this summer.

Youth – Record enrollment for VBS this year, many kids invited guests, many willing volunteers and generous donations. Fishing & Hot Dog event at Scruggs' August 21st, need new Sunday School Superintendent.

Worship – no meeting

Finance – June 30th income \$3300 less than expenses, but higher than 1 year ago.

Memorial - remainder of Peter Garramone's funds will be used Rally Day.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – AUGUST 7, 2022

A quorum of 43 met at 10:45am and approved the motion by Gail Ohlson, seconded by Gary Pierson to approve the bid of \$18,310 from Northern Illinois Seamless Roofing to repair/replace areas above the sanctuary to resolve our ceiling leaks. There were no nay votes.

COUNCIL REPORT AUGUST 9, 2022:

Agenda as amended, July minutes & Special Congregational Meeting minutes approved & financial reports accepted.

Pastor - (July) regular monthly activities: worship services, calls, meetings, Bible Studies/classes, appointments, vacation July 25-31. Other activities: Interview for LCMC certification of Pastor Ian Griffith, Greenfield Chapel service, 5 nights of VBS, VBS Ice Cream Social, VBS kids singing at worship. Special meeting 8/7, vacation 8/8-17, Andy Schmeck preaching, & Family Fishing night.

Admin. Report – July attendance 86 in person, 51 views.

Property – Ash tree in parsonage yard treated for disease, mice have been trapped recently in the building, ceiling plaster in sanctuary will be repaired this winter, electricity will be run to the brick sign, service men for our boiler left the company, we will follow them to their new employer, searching for a leaf bagger to attach to the church riding mower, cabinets for north office arrived, bushes in front of sanctuary need to be removed & replaced, still dealing with bats in the parsonage.

Service & Mission - no meeting, but Old Wheels' finances reported.

Outreach & Fellowship - Hannah Muehlschlegel scheduled to talk about Young Life Camp at Fellowship time August 21st.

Youth - VBS finances \$1600 spent, \$1000 was donated, enrollment 48, ave. 36 per night, 23 teaching staff & 8 kitchen staff. Sunday school recruiting teachers, ordered curriculum, June Ohlson Sunday School Superintendent, Family Fishing on Aug. 21, working on outside youth activities for 2022-23.

Worship - Currently no accompanist for Sunday, Dec. 25th.

Finance - Expenses exceeded income \$5143. Income is \$9000 above last year.

Rally Day - Sunday, Sept. 18, outdoor worship, Gary Swanson providing sound equipment, games for kids & adults, students meet teachers & potluck lunch.

Endowment - Thrivent Financial interest is 3.5%, money has been deposited there to take advantage of the higher interest rate. Federal Reserve increased interest .75%, may purchase Brokered Certificates of Deposit, 1 request for \$3000 scholarship funds for college at Cape Town, South Africa.

New Business - need for more lighter weight tables & staff appreciation discussion.

QUILTERS

Thursdays – 1:00pm
September 8 and 22
&
Prayer Shawl Group
Tuesday -10:00am
September 13 and 27

Prayer Shawl Ministry

There is a clipboard in the Prayer Shawl storage cabinet to record recipients. If you take a prayer shawl, please fill out the date, recipient, and your name.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The open dates coming up:
September 18, 25 & October 9, 16, 30
Please call the office if you would like to schedule one of the above Sundays

ALTAR GUILD

*September – Mary Ann Smith,
Lynn Holland
October – Karen May, Julia Cain,
Lani Swinford
November – June Ohlson, Cindy Pierson,
Laurie Anderson*

Thanks to all who sent me cards and for your prayers. -- Dianne Van Drew

COMMITTEE NIGHT

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
7:00PM

COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
3:30PM

CIRCLE NEWS

Rebekah Circle

Tuesday, September 20 - 9:00am

Lydia Circle

Tuesday, September 20- 6:00pm

THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who donated baked goods for our Lunch-In-The-Park Bake Sale on Friday, August 26th. \$345 was collected for charitable causes.
Thanks again, Karen May

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Elise Swinford & Kenneth Mecum Jr. 9/05
Bob & Susan Pierson 9/23
Mike & Sue Eggers 9/26

**Adult and Youth
Sunday School Classes**

begin September 25.
10:45 am

**SEPTEMBER
BIRTHDAYS**

Mickey Frazier 9/1
Lydia Gaster 9/2
Abby Shipp 9/3
David Ohlson 9/5
Jean Schoff 9/6
Susan Scruggs 9/07
Carolyn Mahon 9/8
Cheri Swanson 9/8
Gayle Little 9/10
Khloee Jaques 9/13
Lydia Kyle 9/14
Dave Little 9/15
Roger Munson 9/15
Caroline Ramirez 9/16
Dale Anderson 9/17
Beth Dieng 9/19
Lorraine Schmidt 9/19
Vada DiPietro 9/20
Dennis Miller 9/23
Ethan Thompson 9/23
Glen Allen 9/24
Bryan Busche 9/24
Justice Blythe 9/25
Jaxson Eggers 9/25
Bill Shields 9/25
Henry Sale 9/30

Rally Day/Outdoor Worship

September 18, 2022

Outdoor worship - 9:30am

Fellowship time - 10:45am

**Potluck Salad and Dessert Lunch
will be served at noon**

Fried chicken will be provided.

**Please come enjoy the day and bring a
salad or dessert plus your lawn chair.**

Please no hot dishes.

Family Fishing and Cookout

A total of 41 people attended.

The youth fished, went swimming and rode
kayaks, ate hot dogs & s'mores.

Everyone had a great time!

Thank you Scruggs' for allowing us to use
your place.

CHURCH GARAGE SALE

Dave & Bernice Schuetz are willing to
host a garage sale at their home to
raise funds for our Church Auction.
The dates set are September 15th &
16th. If you have things to contribute,
please contact Bernice at 815-878-
8695. Their address is: 567 W. Boyd
Ave., Princeton. Schuetz's are now
accepting items for the sale.

Lutheran World Relief

School Kit Items Needed

70 count notebooks

12" rulers

Pencil sharpeners

Ballpoint ink pens (no gel)

16-24 crayons

**If you have questions,
contact Karen May.**

ANNUAL CHURCH AUCTION

We need a couple of people to organize
the 2022 Annual Church Auction. Do
you have some ideas? If no one
volunteers, there may be no Auction.
Now's your chance. Stop by the office
and find out more.

WE WANT TO PRAY FOR YOU!

Prayer cards are back in the pews. Fill out any prayer request you have and we will pray for you weekly for 1 month. Circle to indicate if you want Pastor to pray for you on Sundays in church or request confidentiality.

We invite anyone to join us in prayer to come to church on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 to 2:00pm. Our only requirement is that you honor the confidentiality that we promise.

Pastor's Weekly Bible Study Classes

11:00am Wednesdays - Beginning Sept. 7th
6:00pm Thursdays - Beginning Sept. 8th

2022-23 CONFIRMATION CLASS

*This year's class will be meeting on
Wednesday evenings from 6 – 7:15pm
Beginning September 8th
For students 7th grade & higher
(This is a change from the printed calendar)*

Our Sympathy to Debbie Lindberg. Debbie's brother Ray Larson passed away after having heart surgery.

Pastor Norm will be here on October 16th. Can anyone host him & Karen the night of October 15th? Contact the office.

Choir Practices

**Choir began August 31 at 7:00pm
Please come and join us any
Wednesday night at 7:00.**

Congratulations

Mila Kloster – born 8/11/22

*Ethan & Jessica Kloster – parents
Tom & Marilynne Kloster – grandparents
Lynne Swanson and Tom & Jo Kloster –
great grandparents*

Spider David Deland – born 7/20/22

*Erin & Joey Deland – parents
Linda Bacon – grandparent*

Adelaide Mae Porter – born 8/18/22

*Chrissy & Chad Porter – parents
April & Rob Buchanan – grandparents*

Owen Malachi Saunders – born 8/26/22

*Ken & Alicia Saunders – parents
Steve & Sharon Saunders - grandparents*

Our Sympathy to the following families who have lost loved ones recently.

Ruth Eklof - passed August 3

Services - October 8, 11:00am

Visitation 10:30am before the service at First Lutheran

LaVerne "Woody" Woods - passed Aug. 16

Services - September 3, 11:00am

Visitation 9 - 11am before the service at First Lutheran

Richard "Dick" Mills - passed August 20

Services were held - August 29 at First Lutheran

Doris Blythe - passed August 28

Doris is the mother of Val Blythe
Services pending.

The "Our Daily Bread" fall devotionals are in the back of the sanctuary.

Christmas Decorating

We are looking for a person or group of people to head up Christmas decorating.

Christmas Carol Sing

This program is in need of a new organizer. If you love the Carol Singalong, would you be interested in forming a committee so it can continue?
Stop by the office for more information.

Continued prayers for: John Purvis (*health issues*), Brad Pearson (*nephew of Dale Fiste – stroke*), Chris Balensiefen (*cerebral spinal fluid leak*), Larry Nelson (*recovering broken hip*), Dianne Van Drew (*recovering broken hip*), Sandi Smith (*recovering eye surgery*), Nick Smith (*infection from surgery*), Melissa Smith (*health issues*), Melissa Castro (*health issues*), Jackie Pilcher (*knee replacement*), Ray Schoff (*shoulder surgery*).

Cancer patients: Matt Scruggs, Janette Dunn, Loren Cook, Steve Heward (son-in-law of Hank & Evelyn Sale), Steve “Pin” Johnson.

In case you wondered . . . during the worship service on August 7th, the lights above the altar and choir loft flickered. Our electrician explained that since it happened during the rain storm, and since we have 3 phase electrical service from the City, and since those lights affected were on dimmers, all of those factors came together to make those lights flicker momentarily. Everything is in good working order as far as we know.
The Property Committee

Explorer's Bible Study

2022-2023 classes starting soon

This year's study:

1 Timothy, 2 Timothy & Titus

2 meeting times / same study.

Wednesday Daytime group - from **9:30-11:00 a.m.**, begins Sept. 7. Christ Community Church, 1719 S. Euclid Ave, Princeton. Daytime group offers childcare. Call Sue Scruggs @815-875-1446

Thursday Nighttime group - from **7-8:30 p.m.**, begins Sept. 8. St. Matthews Church, 416 E. Dover Rd, Princeton. Call Teri Schlindwein @ 815-878-5604

Men and women are welcome to come, please bring your friends!

2022 LCMC ANNUAL GATHERING & CONVENTION

October 2 – 5, 2022

@ Hosanna Church

Lakeville, MN

If you think you would like to attend, please stop by the office and gather more information.

The new cabinets for the North office have arrived and been installed. We are waiting for additional electrical service to accommodate 2 work stations in that room. Stop in and peek.

Grief Share

For anyone grieving the loss of a loved one.

Evangelical Covenant Church
Mondays, August 29-November 28

1:00-3:00pm

Call 815-875-2124 for more information

Gardening Group
Thursday, September 1, 2022
5:30 pm

A gardening group will be starting at the Princeton Public Library. Indoor and outdoor gardening will be included. Speakers are going to be invited to come.

Spaghetti Supper

St. Matthews Church

Fellowship Hall

September 24, 2022

4:30pm to 7:00pm

\$8.00 per person

\$6.00 for children 12 and under

Carry Outs Available

