Maranatha Free Lutheran Church
101 Foundation Ave
PO Box 94
Glyndon, MN 56547-0094

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Glyndon:

Pastor Lloyd Quanbeck
Senior Pastor @ Glyndon

Pastor Ryan Tonneson
Associate Pastor of Youth, Young Adults & Families @ Glyndon

Glyndon Office: 218-498-2808
Fax 218-498-2129
mflc@maranathafreelutheran.com
www.maranathafreelutheran.com

Ulen:
Pastor Peter Ward
Pastor @ Ulen
Ulen Office: 218-596-8580

May 2024 Newsletter

… "where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." II Corinthians 3:17

Members of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

MAY 2024 @ ULEN

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9:00am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School	29 9:30-10:30am - Bone Builders	30	1	2 9:30-10:30am - Bone Builders	3	4
5 9:00am - Worship Service w/Communion 10:15am - Sunday School	6 9:30-10:30am - Bone Builders	7	8 9:00—11:00am - MOPS	9 9:30-10:30am - Bone Builders	10	11
12 9:00am - Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School 	13 9:30-10:30am - Bone Builders 7:00pm - WMF	14	15 10:00am - Quilting	16 9:30-10:30am - Bone Builders	17	18
19 9:00am -Worship Service 10:15am - Sunday School Picnic Lunch Church Council following	20 9:30-10:30am - Bone Builders	21	22	23 9:30-10:30am - Bone Builders	24	25
26 9:00am - Worship Service	27 	28	29	30 9:30-10:30am - Bone Builders	31	1

MAY 2024 @ GLYNDON

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9:30am - Worship Service 10:45am - Sunday School	29	30	1 5:00-6:30pm Supper 5:45pm Confirmation 6:30pm Kids Club 6:45pm Friendship Club 6:45pm Men's 33 Study 7:00pm Catechization 8:00pm Deacon Meeting	2 7:00pm Bible Study at Pat Johnson's home	3	4 7:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
5 8:00am - YMT mtg 9:30am - Worship Service w/ Communion 10:45am - Sunday School BAKE SALE	6	7	8 5:00-6:30pm Supper 6:30pm Kids Club 6:45pm Friendship Club 6:45pm Men's 33 Study 7:00pm SaltTeens 8:00pm Church Council	9 7:00pm Bible Study at Pat Johnson's home	10	11 7:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
12 9:30am - Worship Service 10:45am - Sunday School 	13	14 10:30am Morning WMF at church 6:00-7:30pm Trail Life	15 7:00pm SaltTeens	16 7:00pm Bible Study at Pat Johnson's home	17	18 7:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
19 **Senior Recognition Sunday** 9:30am - Worship Service 10:45am - Sunday School 11:30am - Potluck Meal	20	21 10:00am-3:00pm Quilting at the church 7:00pm Evening WMF at Pat Palloch's home	22	23 7:00pm Bible Study at Pat Johnson's home	24	25 7:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
26 9:30am - Worship Service	27 	28 6:00-7:30pm Trail Life	29 6:00pm SaltTeens Summer Kick-Off	30 7:00pm Bible Study at Pat Johnson's home	31	1 7:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Maranatha Free Lutheran Church
Glyndon, MN

Financial Snapshot - Maranatha Glyndon 31-Mar-24				
General Fund			**Current Month**	**Year to Date**
Contributions			$26,368.00	**$74,073**
Expenditures			-$26,814.00	**-$80,883**
Surplus / (Shortfall)				**$ (6,810)**

			3/31/2024	
GENERAL FUND INCOME			**$26,368**	
Deacons			-$17,690	
Education			-$150	
Finance			-$4,452	
Trustees			-$3,587	
Worship & Music			-$935	
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES			**-$26,814**	
Other Income (Rent, Interest, special fund transfers etc)			$48	
General Fund Balance Change			**-$398**	
Items paid in April			**-$643.23**	
GENERAL FUND BALANCE			**$48,932**	Target is $60,000

Special Funds	***Income***	***Expenses***	**Ending Balance**
Building Fund			$ 19,094
Building Improvement Fund	*1,000*		$ 4,696
Christmas Eve			$ -
Cookbook Sales for Missions			$ 245
Designated Donations			$ -
Good Samaritan Fund		*-70.91*	$ 2,105
Holiday Baskets			$ 1,442
Lent Offering	*1,486*		$ 2,166
Memorial Fund	*200*		$ 9,743
Men's Fellowship/Breakfast			$ 1,752
Men's Fraternity			$ -
Outreach Ministries			$ 166
Sunday Fellowship Fund			$ 469
Sunday School Missions	*5*		$ 375
Thanksgiving Offering			$ -
Trail Life	*360*	*-886.88*	$ 13
Vacation Bible School			$ -
VBS Blanket Project			$ 515
Wedding Fund			$ 500
Wednesday Suppers		*-67*	$ 2,464
World Missions Fund	*5*	*-2000*	$ 14,852
Youth Activities Fund	*511*	*-2*	$ 2,356
Youth FLY Fund	*1,275*	*-861*	$ 6,771
Special Funds Balance			**$ 69,725**
General Fund Balance			**$ 48,932**
CHECKBOOK BALANCE			**$ 118,637**
PETTY CASH BALANCE			**$ 20**

Detailed expense reports are available in the Glyndon office.
Questions can be directed to Kristine Quanbeck - Treasurer
treasurer@maranathafreelutheran.com
218-498-2808

May~ Happy Birthday!

Zachary Larson	May 01
Ben Schmitke	May 01
Kris Rasmussen	May 02
Sharon Christensen	May 05
Martha Sanger	May 05
Sawyer Lambert	May 06
Ryan Menholt	May 06
Helmer Gaukler	May 07
Craig Larson	May 07
Morgan (Okke) Herren	May 07
Caitlin Olek	May 07
William Tonneson	May 07
Logan Fischer	May 09
Jacob Skolness	May 09
Shirley Swenson	May 09
Noah Ebner	May 11
Luke Eggebraaten	May 11
Reuben Moseng	May 11
Gary Nelson	May 11
Jack Olek	May 11
Hilda Schneidermann	May 11
Calvin Oberg	May 12
Linda Besette	May 13
Grace Toms	May 13
Isaac Schlauderaff	May 14
Canaan Baer	May 16
Rhyse Menholt	May 17
Delores Welle	May 18
Laura Scheuring	May 19
Kyle Johnson	May 20
Sara Larson	May 20
Gloria Hadden	May 21
Matt Larson	May 22
James Trick	May 22
Brad Dunham	May 23
Kale Okeson	May 23
Laci Chromey	May 25
Nolan Dale	May 25
Diane Rosenfeldt	May 26
Marissa John	May 26
Dawsen Johnson	May 26
Dylan Eckert	May 27
Ron Larson	May 28
Kim Jensen	May 31
Gary Miller	May 31
Eileen Moseng	May 31
Ruth Stong	May 31

BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

May~ Happy Anniversary!

Raul & Maura Gonzalez	May 02
Jim & Ardis Johnson Haarstad	May 03
Tim & Stephanie Schlauderauff	May 07
Ordean & Bernadene Bentley	May 12
Todd & Rhonda Rasmussen	May 16
Kenton & Bonita Chromey	May 18
Pr Peter & Mary Ann Ward	May 24
Matthew & Amanda Larson	May 27
Hunter & Kaylie Macziewski	May 27

Military Personnel

Thankful for those who serve our country!

Kally Anderson, granddaughter of Vonnie Anderson
James Cortelyou, nephew of Art & Delores Welle
Levi Dahl, grandson of Harvey & Dianne Dahl
Cody Dravland, son of Todd & Sara Dravland
Trevor Dufault, son of Todd & Sara Dravland
Makaila England, niece of Joyce Johnson & Lila Ebner
Jonathan Eastvold, nephew of Joyce Johnson & Lila Ebner
Brody Erickson, grand nephew of Glennys Sivertson
Kyle Johnson, son-in-law of Gary & Debi Langerud
Layne Johnson, grandson of Ardis Johnson
Hunter Macziewski, son of Doug &Tiffany Macziewski
Sierra Northridge, member of Ulen congregation
Andrew Quanbeck, son of Pastor Lloyd & Jean
Josiah Quanbeck, son of Pastor Lloyd & Jean
Jakob Rolf, grandson of Jim & Mary Rolf
Ethen Vind, grandson of Art & Dolores Welle

SALTEENS

Bethany Bible Camp

Camp is open to kids in grades 3 through 12 (grade just completed) . They will have 3 sessions this summer:

June 14-18 - Elementary School Camp - Grades 3-5
Cost is $180 (church pays $90)

June 18-22 - Middle School Camp - Grades 6-9
Cost is $180 (church pays $90)

June 22-27 - High School Camp - Grades 10-12
Cost is $200 (church pays $100)

If interested in attending go to their website: *https://bethanybiblecamp.com/* - Select which camp under **CAMPS** tab for more information and to register.

- **ATTENTION 6th Graders!** Congrats on graduating from 6th grade! Now you're officially welcome to be a part of SaltTeens. Join us on our SaltTeens Summer Kick-off on **May 29th**! We'll have games, activities, food, and (of course) time in God's Word!

- The SaltTeens **Spring Bake Sale** is Sunday, **May 5th**! SaltTeens, please bring 2 dozen baked goods, packaged to sell. The Sale will take place in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour. All money raised will help get the SaltTeens to the 2025 FLY Convention in Estes Park, Colorado.

Dates: July 14-18, 2024

FLY BEYOND REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

FLY Beyond (July 14-18) is the national youth equipping conference for the AFLC. It combines preaching, teaching, apologetics, and worldview with a small group learning environment for a powerful week of spiritual growth. It's been called "the best kept secret in the AFLC." There is still time to register for this life-changing week. You pay the initial deposit, the church covers the rest. aflc.org/youth/fly-beyond/

Mark Your Calendars Now!

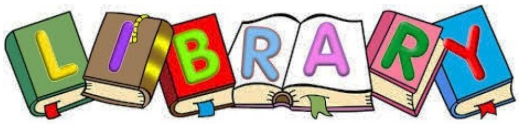
VBS is

July 22-26, 2024

9-Noon in Glyndon

6-8pm in Ulen

Volunteer Sign-up for Glyndon is in the narthex for you to add your name to!



Glyndon Library–
Book Suggestions for May

ADULT FICTION: "*Creed*" by Susan Moy. Warren is the 5th in the Minnesota Marshalls Series. It's the thrilling finale of the series, where the fate of a family and destiny of a kingdom hang in the balance.

ADULT FICTION: The 4th in the Leah's Garden Series by Lauraine Snelling: "*A Season of Harvest*". Can her dreams for the future - and a budding romance - survive the trouble that comes calling?

ADULT FICTION: It's 1844, two years before the Donner Party, the Stephens-Murphy-Townsend Company leaves Missouri for California. They enjoy a safe journey until a fierce snowstorm forces difficult decisions. "*One More River To Cross*" by Jane Kirkpatrick.

ADULT NON-FICTION: "*The Master Plan of Evangelism*" by Robert E. Coleman, was given out in church. If you didn't get a copy but would like to read it, we now have the book in our library.

Morgan (Okke) & Conner Herren
were married In a small ceremony
on February 3rd in Arizona!
Please join them to celebrate!
Saturday, May 11th open house
from 2-6pm at Hitterdal Community Hall
101 Viking Ave S, Hitterdal, MN

Puzzles & Games

Labyrinth

Trace a 33-word verse from Isaiah through this labyrinth of letters. No letter is used twice.

U	T	E	L	W	E	C	H	L	I	K	Y	L	E	T
S		L		O		O		E		E		R		T
R	E	A	J	N	E	M	Z	R	X	S	C	A	Z	H
Q		S		X		G		A		Z		D		E
F	G	O	L	R	S	I	N	S	X	L	A	H	S	Y
F		N		U		M		X		L		Q		F
G	O	T	W	O	M	W	S	A	E	B	X	W	T	H
E		F		Y		H		Q		Z		O		O
T	H	E	P	H	L	I	T	E	A	S	S	N	X	U
F		R		G		K		T		K		Z		G
Y	A	S	P	U	J	E	H	N	O	S	M	H	T	H
S		Q		O		Y		K		I		E		J
T	Q	D	T	H	H	S	I	W	E	R	Q	Y	A	R
H		R		A		L		O		C		K		E
E	L	O	L	L	B	E	O	L	X	S	A	D	E	R

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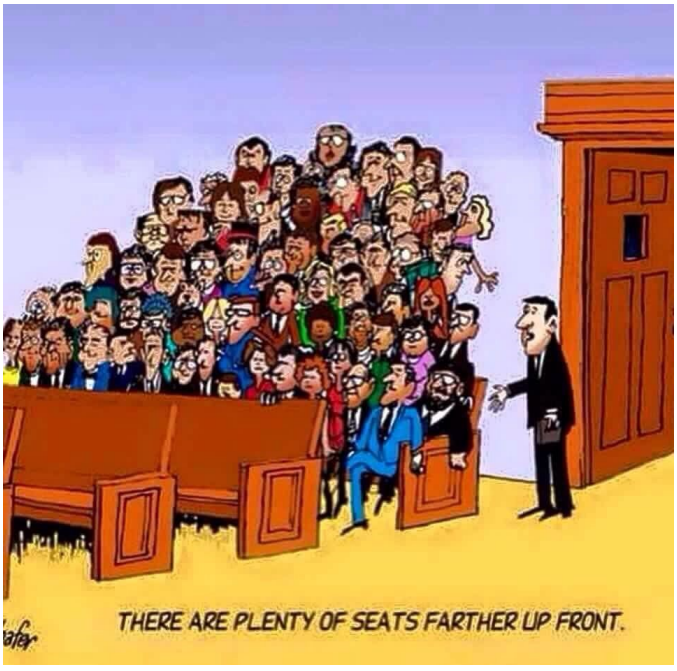


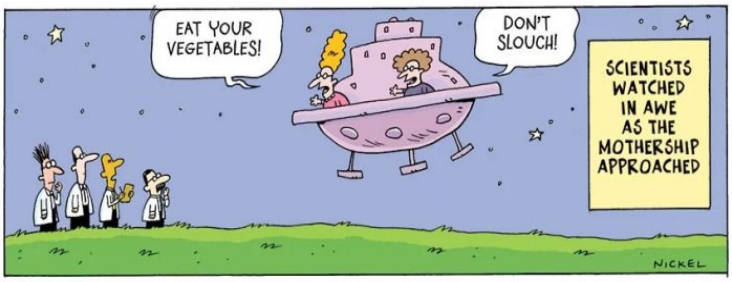
Matthew Word Search

There are 28 words in this puzzle and 28 chapters in Matthew. Guess what? Each of these is a key word of one of Matthew's chapters. As an extra game, figure out which word applies to which chapter.

R	S	W	Z	Y	D	M	M	X	W	Y	M	M	D	O	T	H	P
F	A	M	J	S	W	R	T	H	E	E	A	I	F	E	G	Z	V
Z	B	A	O	C	U	C	E	L	D	E	G	L	G	B	B	C	R
D	B	K	Q	G	Y	W	M	E	D	Q	I	L	S	A	A	T	U
E	A	E	G	D	U	J	P	U	I	V	R	S	L	P	Y	A	M
R	R	D	H	D	D	U	T	N	N	H	U	T	O	T	S	L	O
U	A	I	O	A	O	H	E	A	G	E	E	O	O	I	R	E	R
G	B	S	S	I	S	D	D	M	B	R	L	N	F	Z	O	N	S
I	U	C	A	L	A	R	G	M	A	O	D	E	D	E	T	T	O
F	M	I	N	Y	B	A	S	I	N	D	E	B	N	T	C	S	F
S	K	P	N	B	B	Y	O	S	Q	I	E	L	I	F	E	A	W
N	R	L	A	R	A	E	W	T	U	A	N	E	L	R	L	E	A
A	O	E	V	E	T	N	E	I	E	S	A	S	B	E	L	Y	R
R	O	S	C	A	H	I	R	A	T	X	F	S	H	E	O	F	S
T	S	Q	B	D	O	V	R	P	V	W	O	E	E	L	C	O	P
U	T	C	E	N	T	U	R	I	O	N	E	D	Z	Y	X	W	L
T	E	V	F	C	R	U	M	B	S	P	Y	M	H	W	A	B	B
A	R	D	V	N	O	T	T	U	L	G	E	S	V	L	T	R	R

Word List

Baptize
Barabbas
Blessed
Blind fools
Centurion
Crumbs
Daily bread
Eye of a needle
Freely
Glutton
Herodias
Hosanna
Immanuel
Judge
Maji
Make disciples
Millstone
Rooster
Rumors of wars
Sabbath
Sower
Talents
Tax collectors
Tempted
Transfigured
Vineyard
Wedding banquet
Yeast



Labyrinth Answer:
"Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord. Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be whiter than snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." (Isaiah 1:18)

WOMEN OF THE AFLC

WMF NOTES

(Women's Missionary Federation)

Glyndon Morning

Morning WMF met April 9, 2024, with 11 ladies present.

Dianne Wolla opened with prayer and led our Bible study on Philippians 2:1-11.

President Joan Pake opened the business meeting with prayer. Secretary and Treasurer reports were read and approved.

Old Business:

~ Alaska Mission - their wish list is posted. Discussion around focus of ordering cleaning supplies or food. It was agreed to order food. Anne Manderud will take of this.

~ WMF Day at Annual Conference - Wednesday, June 12 is Women's Day. Discussion was held, if you wish to go you need to pre-register on the WMF website. No discussion on whether a carload will go or not.

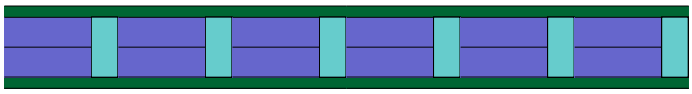
New Business:

~ Home Missions - A motion made and approved to give $100.

~ Northwestern Bank in Dilworth will have a shredding truck at the bank. Decision to shred MWF Morning papers over 7 years old.

Meeting concluded with prayer requests.

Respectfully submitted by Delores Welle, Secretary



Glyndon Evening

Evening WMF met on April 16, 2024. Coco hosted and led our Bible study at church. There were 8 lovely ladies .

Janet Boe opened our meeting in prayer. Secretary and Treasurer reports were given and approved.

Old Business:
~ Approved moneys were given to family in need.

New Business:
~ $50.00 was given to World Missions.

Prayer requests were given and prayed over.

Respectfully submitted by Coco Geray, Secretary

Ulen

Our Ulen WMF met Monday, April 8, 2024 at 7:00pm with 7 ladies present. Bernadene led our Bible study.

Following our study MaryAnn W opened our business meeting with the reading of our Secretary's report. MaryAnn S. made a motion to accept as read, Debi second, motion carried. Our Treasurer's report was read with the attention to the youth funds still being in the treasury and that the money will be used for VBS expenses. Naomi made a motion to accept, MaryAnn S second, motion carried.

Old Business:

MaryAnn W as well as Dianne thanked for the donations to the Food pantry collected during March. MaryAnn also thanked everyone who served suppers during Lent as well as the Easter breakfast.

New Business:

Our project offering of $75 this month goes to Home Missions.

Confirmation will be held on April 21st for Caleb Klemetson. Baptism for Zayn Hilde will be April 28th .

Looking ahead to VBS which will be the week of July 22nd -26th . May is the Valley's Largest Baby Shower for The Women's Care Center and it was decided to support this important need again. A collection basket will be set out for those wishing to donate.

Our meeting was adjourned and we closed with several prayer requests and the Lord's prayer.

Bernadene served a delicious lunch.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Zillmer, Secretary

SERVING GROUP 2~ Glyndon

Ladies of Serving Group 2 - We continue to be responsible for **serving the months of May & June**. Please take time to check the date or dates that you would be willing to serve goodies after church on Sunday mornings and sign up on the sign-up sheet in the kitchen.
We will also be responsible for serving other events that come up—lunches, special events, and funerals. Thank you for your willingness to serve our Lord & our church family—it is much appreciated. If you have any questions, contact Lori Pender. Thank you.

High School Graduates

Savannah Brown
Harley Dale
Dallas Jensen
Joshua Koehler
Isaiah Quanbeck
Laci Chromey
Cianna Gilbert
Landon Johnson
Bailey Murack
Autumn Schlauderaff

Ulen High School Graduates

Izzy Klemetson

Senior Recognition Sunday

is May 19th

at both Glyndon and Ulen

Graduation Open Houses

Isaiah Quanbeck, Saturday, May 11th, 11am-2pm at their home, 4166 41st Ave S, Moorhead, MN

Bailey Murack, Saturday, May 18th, 1-4pm at their home, 7022 9th St N, Moorhead, MN

Savannah Brown, Saturday, May 25th, 11am-3pm at 508 4th Ave NE, Dilworth, MN

Harley Dale, Monday, May 27th, 3-7pm at their home, 3538 130th Ave N, Moorhead, MN

Josh Koehler, Saturday, June 1st, 1-4pm at their home, 1238 5th St N, Fargo, ND

Dallas Jensen, Saturday, June 1st, 2-6pm at Lindenwood Park, Fargo, ND

We're so proud of you!

Portrait of a Mother

A mother can be almost any size or age, but she will not admit to anything over thirty. She has soft hands and smells good. A mother likes new dresses, music, a clean house, her children's kisses, an automatic washer and Daddy. A mother does not like having her children sick, muddy feet, temper tantrums, loud noise, or bad report cards. She can read A thermometer (much TO THE AMAZEMENT OF Daddy) and like magic, can kiss a hurt away. She can also bake good cakes and pies, but likes to see her children eat vegetables. A mother can stuff a fat baby into a snowsuit in seconds and can kiss little faces and make them smile. She is underpaid, has long hours, and gets very little rest. She worries too much about her children. And no matter how old they are, she still likes to think of them as her little babies. A mother is the guardian angel of the family, the queen, the tender hand of love. She is the best friend anyone ever has. A mother is love.

- Author Unknown -

God has blessed us with an amazing church family...after our shop fire, some brought food and several brought muscles and willingness to help with clean-up and many more prayed for us, thank you! During my bout with pneumonia, many of you prayed and blessed with food, flowers, cards, texts, calls, and the list goes on...you are so very much appreciated. We thank God for the many wonderful people at Maranatha.

~ Rick & Anne Manderud

On Memorial Day

On Memorial Day it is with pride
We honor those who fought and died.
For our great country they bravely fought
Keeping our freedom is what they sought.

We must remember the lives they gave
For now as they slumber in the grave
It's important still and is always right
To thank them for their heroic fight.

Author Unknown

Maranatha Free Lutheran Church – Glyndon Council Meeting
April 10th, 2024 8:00pm

Present: Cliff Langerud, Mary Langerud, Brittany Pender, Glenn Urlacher, Todd Rasmussen, Bruce Smith, Pastor Lloyd Quanbeck, Pastor Ryan Tonneson and Alyssa Johnson

Cliff opened the meeting with devotion and prayer.

Secretary's report of March meeting minutes was read by Alyssa. No corrections nor additions to the Secretary's report. Stand approved as read.

Treasurer's report was given by Todd. Reported March 2024 income as $26,368 and expenses of $26,814. General fund balance $48,932 (target $60K). No corrections nor additions to the Treasurer's report. Stand approved as read.

Board Reports:

Finance -Todd
~ Review Insurance

Trustees – No update

Worship & Music –Mary
~ Movie night 4/14 at 6:30: "Letters to God". Will serve trail mix and popcorn
~ 5/19 Senior Recognition Sunday - 10 Seniors
~ Difficult to hear blessing during Communion when near piano; tried piped in hymns during communion. Prefer piano, will continue with piano during communion

Education – Brittany
~ VBS 7/22-7/26, 9:00-12:00pm. Team approved, will be split with Ulen again this summer
~ 5/19: Will have potluck for Senior Recognition Sunday and last day of Sunday School
~ Lori and Brittany met with UC Hope to look at partnering for an activity

Deacons – Glenn
~ Deacon Bible study monthly

Pastor Report – Pastor Lloyd
~ Wilderness camp weekend in August, dates TBD
~ Planning summer schedule
~ Working to add Deacons to visits
~ Catechization 5/1
~ Funeral – Shelly Wright

Pastor Report – Pastor Ryan
~ Attended D6 Family Conference – Florida
~ Planning for summer – VBS, Fly Beyond, Boundary Waters
~ Trail Life troop meeting, 20 registered boys

Old Business: None

New Business:
~ Scheduled June Congregational meeting: June 23rd, 11am
~ Building getting older, discussion on adding an emergency fund. Discuss at June Congregational meeting

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Glenn, seconded by Bruce; motion carried.

Pastor Ryan closed meeting in prayer

Respectfully submitted by Alyssa Johnson

"HIS WORD DOES NOT RETURN EMPTY" | ISAIAH 55:11

2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

JUNE 12-15 | FLBCS CAMPUS | PLYMOUTH, MN

Conference Registration is now open!

The 2024 AFLC Annual Conference will be June 12-15 on the FLBCS Campus in Plymouth, MN.

Please go to the website below to register for the 62nd Annual Conference. Registration closes on May 29, 2024. Walk-up registration is available for conference, youth, VBS, and Nursery. For more information regarding Annual Conference registration, go to *https://www.aflc.org/about-us/conferences/* for the links to register for the conference, meals & childcare, and WMF Day.

Maranatha News

MAY 2024

From Pastor Peter...

In the 1994 movie Forrest Gump, the main character Forrest, played by Tom Hanks, is deployed by the US Army to Viet Nam to join the fight. All during his time in Viet Nam, he faithfully wrote back home to his childhood sweetheart Jenny, waiting for her to respond. Later, while in the hospital, recovering from a gunshot wound, he heard his name shouted at Mail Call. He was handed a large stack of envelopes, assuming them to be the anticipated letters from Jenny. To his disappointment, the mail was his own letters written to Jenny, returned… unopened…unread. It is hard to imagine the heart's pain of letters to someone you love never accepted or read? It would be understandable if God were now saying, "Welcome to My world", as His love letter to man, the Bible goes unread and neglected.

God speaks to man. The primary responsibility of the church is to see that God's Word is disseminated. This is called the ministry of the Word. That is the work incumbent upon the church, to attend to the Word of God, that it be preached, taught, and distributed around the world. It is a ministry of the church to be valued and guarded. It should be her passion. Recorded in Acts 6:2-4, we read of the apostles' concern that they themselves not become distracted away from the ministry of the Word.

There are many areas of ministry in the church that are important and necessary as was the case the apostles were presented with in the caring for widows. While that important need had to be provided, still, it was not to detract the apostles from the ministry of the Word. Like the apostles, the pastor, and the spiritual leaders of the church (not just the current council members) must be watchful that the ministry of the Word is not neglected. Most likely, we are not as attentive to that ministry as we should be.

Even still, besides all the efforts to send forth the Word of God, there is the other matter of its reception. This is where it gets personal. The ministry of the Word has the power to extend far beyond the walls of the sanctuary. The Word reaches into the homes and lives of the individuals who are part of the fellowship of a congregation. Where there is fellowship with the Holy Spirit, there is a longing for God's love letter, to hear of what He has to say to His child. To hear it and to live it.

Psalm 119 is a testimony of the ministry of the Word in the life of the psalmist at a very personal level. This is not something unique to him. In his hymn, Thy Word Is Like a Garden, Edwin Hodder compares God's Word "like a garden Lord with flowers bright and fair…" and as "a deep, deep mine and jewels rich and fair." Psalm 119 provides a glimpse of the relationship any one of God's children can have with Him in His Word. While most of us may not be able to express our appreciation of the Word in our lives like the psalmist, we share in its powerful work.

How is it that the psalmist or anyone would come to love God's Word? When a person has come to love the Author. This is the outcome of a growing personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Someone with little longing to read the Word of God and to have their lives impacted by God's letter, should be concerned with a low appetite for the Word.

Unlike Forrest's letters to Jenny were returned to him without achieving his purpose, God's Word does not return to Him without first having accomplished the purpose for which He has sent it (Isaiah 55:11), to tell man the sinner of the one true hope in Jesus Christ. "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14 The church has the privilege of spreading this to a hurting world.

Pastor Peter