



# LaCrosse Baptist Church Newsletter

## July-September 2020

<http://www.lacrossebaptist.org>

**From the Pastor's heart: Psalm 33: 12,13 says,**

**V-12;** "Blessed is nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom He hath chosen for His own inheritance. **13** The Lord looketh from heaven; He beholdeth all the sons of men."

What precious, valuable and powerful words these are. As His chosen people we can take great comfort in knowing no matter what crisis, challenges or trials may come we have a very caring, loving and compassionate heavenly father who, like the description of the great preacher Charles Spurgeon once describing God's intimate, personal touch as "stooping from His throne."

As we reflect on the last 5 months we are filled with delight, joy and a great sense of His leading and providing. He continues to lead through gathering together and, through the Holy Spirit's revealing and empowering. As we think about Him stooping down from His throne we are given a glimpse into experiencing Him. First, He is observing the steps we take, decisions we make and the many things affecting us. He hears our cries, our laughter and our groanings and distresses as we call out to Him. And He is reaching out with His loving touch through His uplifting, inspiring and encouraging movements in our lives.

Thank you for praying, serving and believing in the Mission field of La Crosse Baptist church. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Blessings  
Pastor Howard Adams

### **Baptism of Gerry Forbes**

On Sunday, September 27th Gerry Forbes was baptized, for the third time! It's not that the first two times didn't work but this is the only time he has had a Baptism by immersion and he felt God was calling him to do it one more time. The heater wasn't working and the water was cold, but that did not stop Pastor Adams or Gerry. A baptism is always a beautiful event and we pray for Gerry's continued blessings from the Lord.



### **Worship in the days of Corvid 19 by Don Loftus**

Here we are, 3 months after the last newsletter and we are still in the midsts of the Corvid 19 Pandemic. I really didn't think we would still be affected like we are. The Country has had to adjust to new restrictions as we are mandated by the government, at various levels, to put on masks, social distance and refrain from gathering together ... even to go to church!

Our church has tried to follow all mandates and did suspend gathering together in our Church for a while. We did worship at home using Facebook to put out God's Word and that helped but we missed seeing our church family in person. After a while we were allowed to gather in our church sanctuary again but still had to do what we could to reduce the spreading of the virus. We stopped using the Hymnals to keep the virus from being spread by touching the books and instead put the words to the songs on the large screen TV. We also

blocked every other pew to help keep people further apart. We provided And yes, we use masks! So, will we still be talking about Corvid 19 in the next newsletter. I hope not, but either way, I know the Lord is with me and together, with Him, we will over come.

### **Church Outreach**

LaCrosse continues a long tradition of reaching out and connecting with the community. On September 19th there were several members gathered in the fellowship hall for prayer and then discussed a strategy for visiting that morning. We divided into two teams and made contact with several as well as promoting our upcoming Call to Pray day. Glory to God for the willingness and commitment of his people. The church is looking forward to many days of reaching and connecting with our community.

### **WHAT'S COMING UP** - always check the bulletin for updates

**Church Council** - Meets the 2nd Sunday of each month at 4:30 pm

**Business Meeting** - Sunday following the Morning Worship Services

**Call to Prayer** - our church will be hosting a Call to Pray observance on October 17th, starting at 11am. Prayer will be offered for First Responders, Local Churches, Elections, the Military, Covid-19, Schools, Families and Local and National Leaders. The LaCrosse community and all churches in the LaCrosse area are invited. There will be a light lunch following the prayer time. For more information and if you plan to attend please contact Pastor Howard Adams at 850-445-4135

Please invite friend and neighbors to the event. Here is the church address so they can put it in their Smart Phone or GPS device - **LaCrosse Baptist church, 5700 203 Place, LaCrosse Florida 32658**

### **Samaritan's Purse "Operation Christmas Child" Shoebox Ministry - *A Shoebox from God!***

Our church participates in this program each year because it is such an outstanding ministry for children all around the world. Gerry Forbes has volunteered to organize our efforts this year and we are grateful for his assistance. He reports that we have three age groups, both boys and girls, that we will prepare boxes for: 2-4 years old, 5-9 and 10-14. These boxes will be distributed by missionaries all over the world, along with the Word of God. Gerry can explain what type of items can and can't go into the boxes, and this is very important, so check with him before you go buy stuff. You can reach him at 352-485-2011

We have boxes at the church that you can come pickup and, if you can't do a shoebox, the church is taking donations to help with shipping, which costs \$9.00 per box. All the boxes need to be returned and ready for delivery by early November

This is really an outstanding ministry and brings many children to the Lord. You can put a smile on the face of a child come Christmas time. It takes so little time and expense on our behalf to help advance God's Kingdom all over the world and bring some "Joy To The World" this Christmas. Please contact Gerry if you have any questions - 352-485-2011. May God bless and keep you!

## **Thanksgiving Dinners**

Each year the Church gathers up items to give needy families in our area a good Thanksgiving dinner. For the past several years we have been getting the names of families in need from the city of LaCrosse, but this year we would like the congregation to suggest families they know are in need. Even if you don't know of someone ask friend and neighbors if they know of someone who is having difficulty, especially since the Covid 19 pandemic has affected so many. Please let Pastor Howard know if you have information on a family in need. That way we can start planning now for distribution in mid November.

## **Christmas Season**

We don't have anything planned this year ... yet! Since we don't have any children attending right now it would be difficult to have a children's Christmas Play. Put your thinking cap on and let's see what we can come up with. Hopefully by December the virus restrictions will be gone and we can do something for the community or have a Church Christmas Dinner. I feel 10 pounds heavier just thinking about it!

## **Next year? *From Don Loftus, Editor***

Since the next newsletter won't come out until January and what ever events we come up with will be over, I just want to say now, what a wonderful church family we have. We may be small but we are a loving church that cares for one another and tries to share the love of Jesus with people. Also, Pastor Howard and his wife have been a real Godsend to us as and they have just fit right in. They are such good people.

Please remember, God is in all things. The election will be over and the after effects of it will still be rocking the political world no matter who wins, and Corvid 20, 21 and 22 may be on the way along with the flu, and the world, as always, will be chaotic. But our fate is sealed with God in Heaven and we have no need to fear.

John 14:27 - "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

Amen and may God Bless you all!