



LaCrosse Baptist Church Newsletter

October - December 2021

<http://www.lacrossebaptist.org>

The Pastor's Corner

In 2 Samuel 7:28, David expresses, in an emotional way, his tribute and thankfulness to God for his family and for all of God's kindness toward him. Following his tribute to God, David asks for God's continued outpour of blessings. The Christian writer Lee McGlone expressed in everyday terms a commentary of David's prayer as he penned these beautiful words which ties in so well with beginning the new year;

Father, as we begin the cycle of years again,
Let each day belong to you.
Let us look forward and not backward.
May grace see us through.
Grant peace in our hearts,
And courage your will to do.
Give us gentle and kind spirits.
May grace see us through.
In these days of terror and fear,
We stand on your Word that is True.
Your strength our comfort still.
Your grace sure to see us through. Amen

These words spoke to me in that it reminds me that I need Him every moment. That every day and every circumstance should be dedicated to Him. I am reminded of the words of Luke 9:62 which says "And Jesus said unto him, No man having put his hands to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the Kingdom of God." He wants us to keep pressing forward as we seek to be the best for Him. Central to what I gleaned from these words are that in order for us to experience true peace, we need strength and courage each day as we stand on His unchanging word. May we also have a spirit of gentleness and kindness and as we seek to be Christlike in all we do.

Thank you so much for being an outward focused congregation. I'm so grateful for all the efforts that have been put forth with our community lunches, the concert in early December, the Christmas caroling, and the continuing visitation for those in our church and those in the community. I believe we have good momentum going into the New Year. We look forward to and plan for our outreach and community lunches. We will continue to explore and seek ways we can share the love of Jesus into our community. Please watch for dates of events as the Holy Spirit leads our planning.

As We Serve Together,
Pastor Howard Adams

Samaritans's Purse, Operation Christmas Child, Shoebox Ministry. So how did we do? LaCrosse Baptist Church put together 20 boxes! "Well", you may say, "that's not very many." And you would be right, but every little bit helps, it really does! It is not how much we give, (we are a small church after all), but that we are obedient to God's Word. And when you take all the Christian churches all over the world together, there were more that 9.7 million gift boxes collected in 2021.



The end result is what is important, the children who receive the boxes. According to information from Samaritan's Purse web site, Christians are making a real difference in the lives of people we will never meet. Remember, we are called by Christ to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19) and through Operation Christmas Child more than 12.5 million boys and girls have made a decision to follow Christ. As a result of this ever-expanding witness, new churches are starting and communities are being transformed! Every shoebox matters because we never know how God will use one of our 20 boxes to change a life, influence a community or even save a soul.

Music Concert

On Saturday, December 4th, we had a Southern Gospel Music group perform for us, The Combs Family from Baldwin Florida. This is a family group consisting of the dad, Junior; son, Wes; and daughters



Jessica and Alisha. Wes was not with the group, he was involved in another Christ centered project, but the rest of the family put on a very good performance. They have someone write their music so it is original and not just performing other people's music. The music is up tempo and modern but with a solid Christian message. The only regret is we would liked to have a larger crowd. They were great and maybe we can have them back sometime in the future.



Church/Community Lunch

During this quarter we have had several opportunities to share a meal together. This is more important than you may realize.

First, eating together is an act of fellowship between church members and guests. It's not just eating because you're hungry, it is a time sharing experiences and events in each others lives. Eating a meal together connects us all, it brings us closer and, we are after all, a Church Family.

Second, it is a gift from one to another. When each person spends time putting together a scrumptious casserole, a fabulous side dish, or a decadent dessert, it is a gift from each person to all who are gathered together.

Third, when we invite guests it becomes God's call to feed the hungry, to take care of one another and food is of primary importance. It is a way for us to share God's blessings to us and share them with others.



In the Bible the act of eating meals plays a significant role in the gospels. It's important to note that Jesus shared meals with all sorts of people. There are even scholars who refer to this trend as Jesus "eating His way through the gospels." When Jesus shared meals with people, it gave him the opportunity to enter the lives of the people with whom He was eating. Many of the meals that Jesus is recorded eating in the gospels are also accompanied by times of teaching, healing or other miraculous work. In short, we see that there is power in the time that we share meals with others. We too have the power to use our eating time to connect and share with those around us.

I will also say this ... we have some of the best cooks anywhere. Every time we gather, God has always provided plenty to eat and delicious beyond compare. Over the years I have always been astounded by how God has blessed us through the times we spend having Fellowship meals together. God Bless you all and ... pass the potatoes ... Cake too? yummm!!!

WHAT'S COMING UP

Baptism - Russ Pucker will be Baptized after the Sunday Morning Service on January 9th. We will have lunch following to celebrate the occasion. Please bring a covered dish to share.

Shoebox Mission - The church is going to try something a little different in preparation for next year's Shoebox Mission. With Christmas already a busy season, making and gathering the items needed for the Shoeboxes just adds more stress. Starting in January Gerry will announce the items needed and a list will be placed in the Sanctuary. He will do this for each month and in November all we will have to do is assemble the items in the boxes. For January Wash Clothes or Hand Towels are needed. Contact Gerry if you have any questions. Efficient and a lot less stress, how Cool is that!

Church Council - Will meet January 9th at 4:00 pm

Business Meetings - Will usually be the 3rd Sunday following the Morning Worship Services but this can change. Check with Pastor Howard if you have any questions. 805-445-4135 or email him at brohoward712@aol.com.

Community Lunches - These are held on a Sunday right after the Sunday sermon. The exact date for these lunches changes according to church events and such, so if you have any questions please call Pastor Howard Adams at 805-445-4135 or email him at brohoward712@aol.com.