

PASTOR'S PAGE

The Speech

“Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be as wise as serpents and as innocent as doves. Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you over, do not be anxious about how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you”
(Matthew 10:16-20)

In my 2nd to last Pastor's page, I'm going to allude to my favorite sport... FOOTBALL!!!! - However, it's not about the Detroit Lions or about your Green Bay Packers. It is about a Kansas City Chief player. Ironically, both teams beat the current Super Bowl champs this year. This letter is about their place kicker, Harrison Butker, and his commencement speech at Benedictine College of Kansas. You can find his speech by going to YouTube and searching Harrison Butker commencement speech.

He used the phrase “leaning into your vocation” throughout his address. Martin Luther would have loved this phrase. Luther taught that the noble vocation was and is the Christian family. Through marriage (between a man and a woman) and children, the family brings stability to a culture and society. The opposite is also true when the fabric of the nuclear family unravels. The culture and society collapse upon itself. This is happening right before our eyes.

But this is nothing new: Sodom, Gomorrah, Egypt, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, the Greek city states (Sparta and Athens), and Rome all neglected the nuclear family. Once neglected these great civilizations crumbled. They fell under God's judgement. Marriage is a God created institution. It is part of society's DNA. Why? This union is divinely instituted. A nation's culture and society are sustained through the fabric of the family.

Butker's speech did not sit well with feminists and our nation's elite. They saw it as turning back the clock to the 1950's. The speech was too “Leave it to Beaver-Like!” Some women demanded the Chief's release him from the team. Others wanted the NFL to condemn his speech. And the NFL abridged them. Their statement was that his view on marriage and family is not the view of the NFL. Ironically 50 years ago it was. Out of fear, the corporate and political sphere have caved and will not support marriage and family. Though many, not all, who live in our ivory towers actually were a product of the nuclear family.

The real problem with Butker's speech was that he espoused his Christian faith. They have a problem with God. My opening Bible verse records Jesus' words: “For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you...” The evil of the world despises the things of God and what God has instituted. Butker's speech shined the light of truth upon our society and culture. And they don't like it. But I give credit to Harrison Butker for not backing down.

The Kansas City Chief's heiress, Gracie Hunt, appeared on a national morning program and supported Butker's commencement address: “I can only speak from my own experience, which is I had the most incredible Mom who had the ability to stay home and be with us as kids growing up,” Hunt said. “And I understand that there are many women out there who can't make that decision but for me in my life, I know it was really formative in shaping me and my siblings to be who we are...I really respect Harrison and his Christian faith and what he's accomplished on and off the field.”

Furthermore, Harrison's football jersey has outsold Patrick Mahomes' and Travis Kelsey's in all the woman sizes. Ironically, the NFL did not support Harrison, however; they sure did make a “pretty penny” off “The Speech!”

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Steele

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I write this, we just got through a tornado warning and now a severe thunder and lightning storm is rolling in. I hope everyone is staying safe tonight! Times like this put our faith to the test. Jesus reminds us in Luke 12:25, "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?" We should never fear or worry during times like this and trust in the Lord. I just saw Jesus say this to his disciples in "The Chosen" a couple episodes ago as well. Always a good reminder!

Speaking of "The Chosen", how many of you have watched the series? It's great to see the Bible stories we all know come to life and see a more human side of Jesus and his disciples. Sure, much of it is not from scripture, as they had to take artistic liberties to create a story line and dialog between the characters, but it really gives you a new perspective on what the lives of Jesus and his disciples might have been like back in those days. I would recommend watching this series, if you haven't already, as well as attending Pastor's Bible class, which is currently based on season 3 of this series. It's really a great show!

Keep July 28th marked on your calendars! We will be helping Pastor Steele celebrate his retirement after church that Sunday. We will be bringing back the Altona Supper Club to cater the meal in the basement after our church service. If you'd like to help plan the event, please contact me or Gina. In the meantime, I'm working on putting a call committee together and have been in touch with Pastor Kretschmar, who will be guiding us through the call process. The constitution states that the president and board of elders must be on the call committee, as well as a few other members that are chosen by that group. Pastor Kretschmar indicated that the first step will be to do a self-study on our church to determine our needs. I'll share more as we finish putting together the committee and meet with Pastor Kretschmar and Pastor Wille.

We officially have a professional accountant service assisting with the treasurer duties now: RCM Consulting, LLC, out of Oostburg. I'd like to thank Tim Fibiger for filling in for Kelly after she stepped down, along with Derek Mackenzie and Todd Matte for helping Tim transition the banking access and treasurer duties over to our new service this past week. Tim will still serve as our treasurer in more of an advisory role and report to the council.

As we approach Memorial Day this weekend, we give thanks to the Lord for the brave men and women of our armed services who made the ultimate sacrifice to provide our country with the freedoms we have today.

Yours in Christ,
Andy Fibiger

MAY/JUNE CHARITY OF THE MONTH – Vernacular Video Mission International (VVMi)

Vernacular Video Mission International partners with individuals, congregations, and ministries that communicate the Gospel through multimedia in ethnic cultural communities (vernacular groups). Our intent is that these partnerships will bring people into a relationship with Jesus Christ, making an eternal difference in the lives of people of many cultures where God leads us throughout the world. We can help by giving our gifts to the May and June Charity of the Month. Our donations will be used to help purchase Bibles which have been translated and are printed in vernacular (heart) languages. Christian videos which have been dubbed into "heart" languages are also used to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Please be generous as you share in this important project.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6-3: Jack O'Keefe
6-4: Rachel O'Keefe
6-7: Lynn Luebke
6-8: Austin Madden
6-10: Victor Hazen
Pat Stangel



6-16: KaoKalia Yang
6-17: Betty Hahn
Eli Johnson
6-19: Barbara Kaepler
6-20: Nancy Froh

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES



6-2: David & Tamra O'Keefe
6-15: Jim & Mary Madden
6-17: Steve & Juanita Hazen
Todd & Dori Matte
6-20: Jeremy & Kelly Paltzer
6-22: Kevin & Sharon Werner
6-24: Lee & Barbara Gumm
6-26: Bob & Sandy Kuehlmann
6-30: John & Peggy Keller

God's blessings to all that are celebrating this month!

If we missed a member's birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office, and let us know.

BETHANY'S 2024 GRADUATES

Grace Matte – Grace is graduating from Howards Grove High School. She will be attending Iowa State University in the fall to study Architecture. It is a five-year program that allows her to become a licensed architect one year earlier under the guidance of a licensed architect. Grace received an Iowa State merit scholarship as well as the Plymouth Professional Businesswomen Organization scholarship.



Thomas Yang – Thomas is graduating from Sheboygan South High School. He will be attending the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the fall. He is also enrolled in the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) with a 100% tuition under the Wisconsin Army Reserve's Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP). After graduating from UW-Milwaukee, Thomas plans to go active duty as an Officer in the United States Army and serve his country. He is graduating with High Honors in the top 10% of his senior class. Thomas also received \$10,000 in scholarships from local sponsors. He would like to thank Bethany Lutheran Church for the spiritual support and helping him become a better person by serving our Lord Jesus Christ.

We will honor Grace and Thomas during our service on Sunday, June 2.

Congratulations Grace and Thomas!!



LADIES OF BETHANY

You are invited to a Luncheon that will be held at Bethany on Wednesday, June 19 at 12:00pm. Join us for an afternoon of food and fellowship. Please sign up on the sheet in the back of church or call the church office if you can attend. If you'd like to attend and need a ride, please contact the church office at 920-457-4681 or talk to Sue Prange or Diane Marotz. A small donation will be collected to cover the cost of the lunch.



BUILDING HOPE
MEETING NEEDS
TRANSFORMING LIVES

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Ephesians 4:2

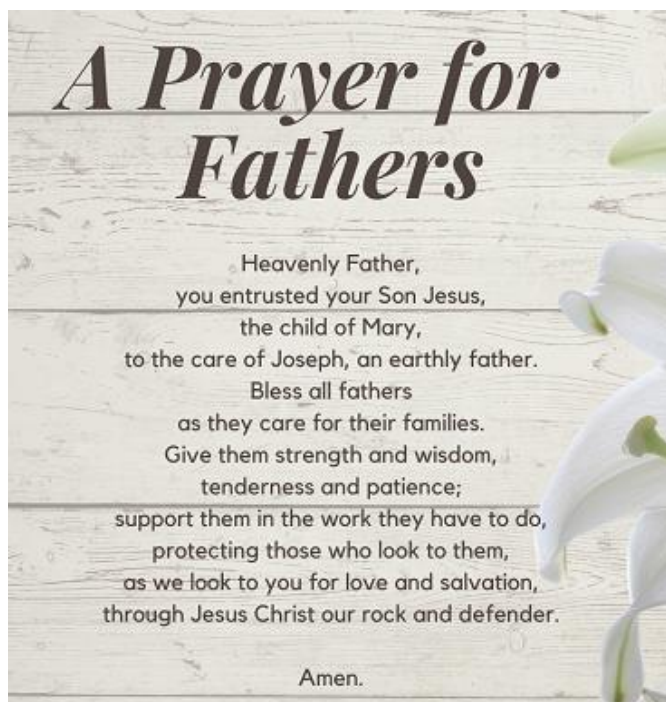
Calling All Christians!

"Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions." ~ 1 John 3:18

Did you know that we have received over **60** requests for furniture this year? Currently, we are only able to deliver furniture twice a month for a maximum number of 8 families each month. Our neighbors are now waiting until late August for furniture.

Do you want to be part of the solution and volunteer to serve on a furniture delivery team? We would like to create **4 teams of 4-6 people** who serve once a month so that we can deliver furniture each Saturday and reduce the waiting time for our neighbors. Contact us TODAY if you are willing to serve in this capacity.

Join the Love INC movement and put your love into action!



Father's Day is June 16
God's Blessings to all our Father's!

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THE MONTH OF JUNE 2024

Sunday, June 2
10:00 a.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Steve Hazen
Ushers: Fibigers
Altar Guild: Liz & Ken Buesing
Scripture Reader: Lee Gumm
Door Locker: Patrick Johnson
Streaming: Madison Fibiger

Sunday, June 9
10:00 a.m.

Elder: Lee Gumm
Ushers: Ray & Shirley Ottman
Altar Guild: Barb & Karl Kaeppler
Scripture Reader: Steve Hazen
Door Locker: Ken Thompson
Streaming: Steve Perry

Sunday, June 16
10:00 a.m.
w/ Holy Communion

Elder: Gerry Luebke
Ushers: Mattes
Altar Guild: Lynn & Gerry Luebke
Scripture Reader: Sharon Werner
Door Locker: Andy Fibiger
Streaming: Noah Fibiger

Sunday, June 23
10:00 a.m.

Elder: Shua Yang
Ushers: Dave & Sue Prange
Altar Guild: Gina & Madison Fibiger
Scripture Reader: Thomas Yang
Door Locker: Dan Fibiger
Streaming: Thomas Yang

Sunday, June 30
10:00 a.m.
w/ Holy Communion

Elder: Gerry Luebke
Ushers: Steve & Alaric Hazen
Altar Guild: Barb & Lee Gumm
Scripture Reader: Todd Matte
Door Locker: Diane Marotz
Streaming: Todd Matte

JUNE 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						01
02 10am Worship w/HC	03 6:30pm Elders	04 10am Bible Study	05 6:30pm Bible Study	06	07	08
09 10am Worship	10 6:15pm Finance 7pm Council	11 10am Bible Study	12 6:30pm Bible Study	13	14	15
16 10am Worship w/HC Father's Day	17	18	19 12pm Ladies Luncheon @ Bethany	20	21	22
23 10am Worship	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 10am Worship w/HC						