

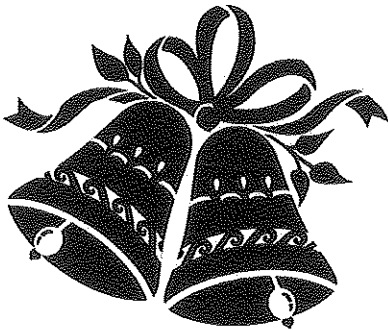
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*The
Chimes*

August Church News



The quotes that I will be using are from a book that Cathy and I have been reading, *THE RELENTLESS TENDERNESS OF JESUS*, by Brennan Manning. This is something that has helped me to understand more how Jesus loves us and understands us.

"An old Hasidic rabbi, Levi Yitzhak in the Ukraine, used to say that he discovered the meaning of love from a drunken peasant. Entering a tavern in the Polish countryside, he saw two peasants at a table, both gloriously in their cups. Each was protesting how much he loved the other, when Ivan said to Peter: 'Peter, tell me what hurts me?' Bleary-eyed, Peter looked at Ivan: 'How do I know that hurts you?' Ivan's answer was swift: 'If you don't know what hurts me, how can you say you love me?'"

"Several years ago, when a minister—friend of mine bottomed out, resigned his and church and abandoned his family, he fled to a logging camp in New England. One wintry afternoon as he sat shivering in his aluminum trailer, the portable electric heater suddenly quit and died. Cursing this latest evidence of a hostile universe, the minister shouted, 'God, I hate You!' then sank to his knees weeping. There in the bright darkness of faith, he heard Christ say, 'I know; it's okay.' Then this shattered man heard Jesus weeping with him. The minister stood up and started home."

When we talk about the compassion and love of Jesus, do we really understand just how far-reaching that love is? This kind of love that Scripture tells us Jesus has for His creation comes from the Greek word, *splangchnizomai*, which is a "deep, central and powerful emotion in Jesus that can only be described as a movement of the womb of God." The Greeks believed that our deepest emotions come from our bowels or our very innermost being. This is the way that Jesus loves us—from deep within Himself so that he feels our pain, our sorrow, our despair, and our grief. Because Jesus experienced all these feelings as the human (though Divine) being that He was on this earth, He knows us from inside out.

Splangchnizomai is translated as "deep compassion." Yet it is so much more than that. This is the gut-wrenching feeling that one feels in the pit of the stomach that moves us to take action on behalf of someone. This means that if we truly love another, then we know what hurts them. Jesus took the ultimate action of One Who loves when He yielded to His Father's will and went to the cross for us because He knows what hurts us!

Even if with the minister mentioned in the third paragraph we say "I hate You, God,"—"He knows, He cares, He sees, He's there. . .He hears, He moves, there's nothing that my Father wouldn't do, to prove to you and me how much He loves" (from the song "He Loves" sung by the Guardians). If we love as Jesus loves, as He commanded, then how can we show that love to others?

Thoughts from the desk of Pastor Joel

Announcements

TRUSTEE'S: Will meet on August 21, at 6:30 p.m. We will meet in the Rose Room

DIACONTE: TBA.

PEOPLE MOVER: We are again driving the Courtesy Carts at the county fair this year. We have been assigned two new six person carts and will be needing two drivers per shift. If you are interested contact Maury Daubs 815 262 8307.

PECATONICA FOOD PANTRY: The Northern Illinois Food Bank where we purchase food for the pantry has had limited items for the past few months. This means we have less to offer our patrons without getting additional donations or purchasing food at retail prices. Current "want list" items for the Pecatonica Community Food Pantry: frozen meat, pancake mix, syrup, cereal, canned carrots, peas, canned fruit, spaghetti sauce, mashed potatoes, juice, canned ravioli or pasta, beef stew, canned chicken, tuna, or ham. Items can be left at the Pecatonica Pharmacy or the Pecatonica Library. Thank you for your support!

ORGAN: As of July 26 we have received \$14,215.00 in donations of the total of \$15,563.00 for the organ restoration

REMINDER: All contributions for the CHIMES newsletter are due to the Office by the 3rd Friday of every month.

MONTHLY SUMMARY

Monthly Budget \$6,731.92

June

January -June

General Fund	Income \$4,105.60
	Expense \$ 4,974.23

\$32,339.60

\$47,464.91

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

8- Bev Hilton

15-Scott & Peggy Whitney

15- Jackie Cunningham

21- Ron & Alice Craven

16-Tim Hilton,

17-Tari Woods

18- Lily Jean Ernst

25-Pam Keast, Cora Sue Hirschuber

31- Austin Kendell

Board of Trustees Meeting
June 20, 2024
Seward Congregational Church

This meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Peggy Whitney.

Present were Peggy, Effie Hoppe, Brenda Van Hauen, Nancy Kirby, Maury Daubs, and Pastor Joel Hicke. Absent were Matt Cowman and Char Remer.

An opening prayer was led by Pastor Joel Hicke.

The minutes from the May meeting were read by Joel. Effie made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Brenda seconded the motion, and it carried.

Finance reports were given by Effie, Brenda, and Maury. Nancy made a motion to accept these reports; Peggy seconded; and the motion carried. Dan Hazzard will not be coming to talk about investments due to a conflict of interest.

Pastor's report was given and discussed. See report.

Old Business

The deck is being worked on as time permits. Peggy has contacted Paul Shippy regarding helping as needed. Organ: Doty Electric installed a disconnect for the organ in the basement by the motor and installed the correct breaker size to protect the motor.

New Business

Insurance report: Gary Brewer from Church Mutual was here to do an inspection. He seemed please with the way he found things. Do not have a detailed report from him at this time. We do need to ask people about voluntary background checks—those who have positions in the church already and those who would have positions in the future.

Sound system: the Bose speaker is not working because of a broken line somewhere. Connor from SVL said that we really don't need it and in his opinion we should not worry about it. We are using only 9 of 32 channels on the control board in the Crow's Nest. Since the computer up there is old, perhaps Craig would be able to add some memory to it.

We need to review our Not for Profit status with the State for tax exempt purposes and make sure this is up-to-date.

Maury brought up some compensation for Domynic Hicke for the help he has provided in the Crow's Nest during the summer. This will be included each month. He knows to put his name on the calendar.

Respectfully submitted, Joel Hicke

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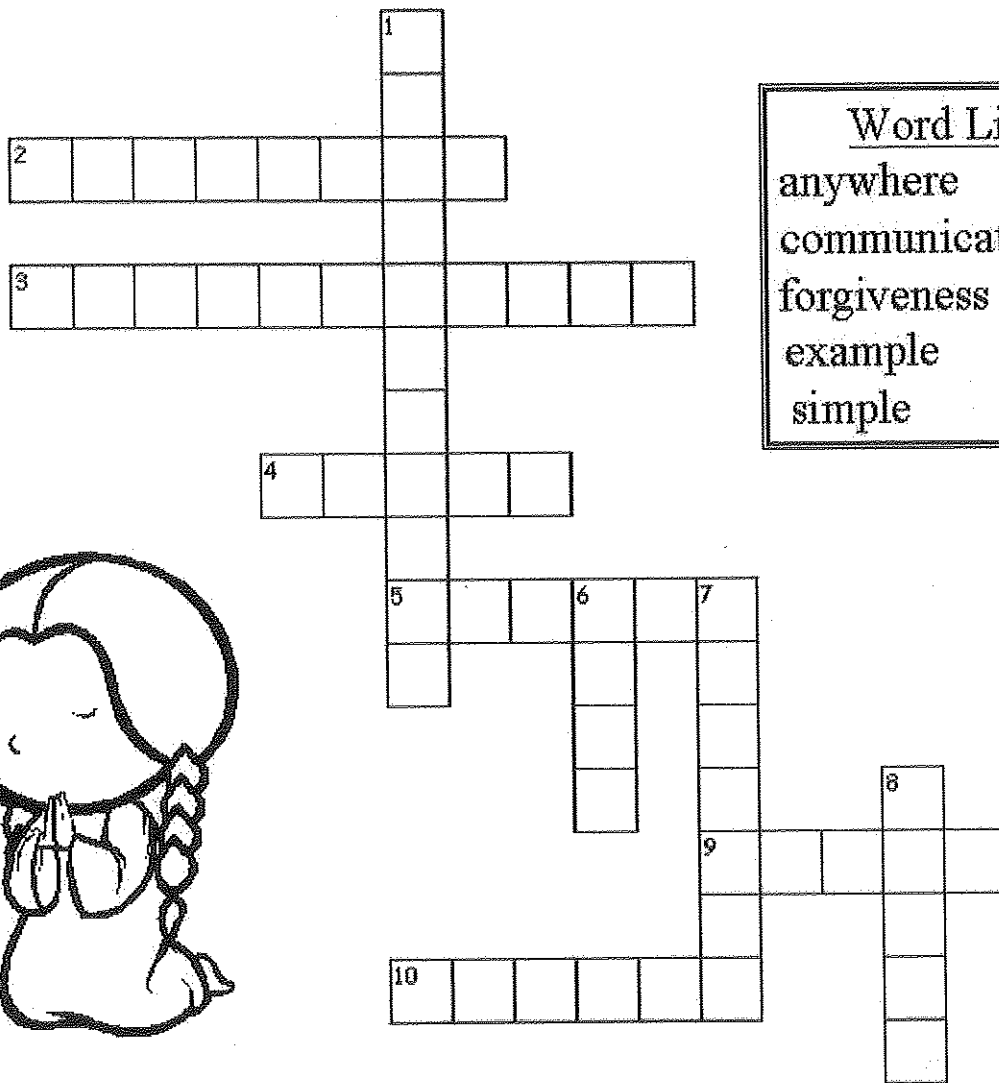
August 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Trustees 6:30 p.m.	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Would you like a friend who loves you no matter what? Someone who is always with you? Someone who is powerful, good and kind? God is like that and He loves you! He wants to be part of your life. He wants you to be part of His family.

God is so powerful that He created the world out of nothing. He made the water, plants, animals and everything in the universe. Did you know that there are billions of stars in the sky? God made them all! The Bible says, "He [God] determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name" (Psalm 147:4).

Lord's Prayer Crossword



Across

2. We can pray anytime and _____.
3. Prayer is the special way we _____ with God.
4. We fold these out of respect and to avoid distraction when we pray.
5. Instead of using fancy words when we pray it's best to keep it this.
9. Praying has a lot of this because God can do anything.
10. Include this in your prayer to God because he deserves to hear it.

Down

1. An important part of prayer is to ask for this.
6. God wants us to do this all the time. When things are good and bad.
7. The Lord's Prayer is an _____ so we can know how to pray.
8. God always _____ us when we pray.



If you have Jesus as your Savior, you don't have to be afraid of Satan. God is greater than Satan is. Trust God. He will help you turn away from sin. You can choose not to sin because of the strength of the Lord Jesus. He is living in you and will help you.

If you do choose to sin, it makes God sad. It keeps you from talking to Him the way you should. As soon as you know you have sinned, tell God about it. Admit that you were wrong. Ask God to help you stop doing the wrong thing.

d p o g f t t z p v s

 [•]

t j o t u p h p e

b t l i j n u p

i f m q z p v e p

 [•]

s j h i u

Use the code below to solve the Bible puzzle above.

b = a	f = e	j = i	n = m	r = q	v = u	z = y
c = b	g = f	k = j	o = n	s = r	w = v	a = z
d = c	h = g	l = k	p = o	t = s	x = w	
e = d	i = h	m = l	q = p	u = t	y = x	