



Harbor's Beacon

December 2018

*Anchored in the Word
Growing through Worship and Prayer
Sharing the Joy of God's Love for All*

*Harbor of Joy Lutheran Church
1204 L Ave.
Milford, Iowa*



Charly's 2 Cents

December 2018

When God Says NO

Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. John 6: 35
There are times when the one thing you want is the one thing you never get...

You pray and wait.

No answer.

You pray and wait.

May I ask a very important question? What if God says no?

What if the request is delayed or even denied? When God says no to you, how will you respond? If God says, "I've given you my grace, and that is enough," will you be content?

Content. That's the word. A state of heart in which you would be at peace if God gave you nothing more than he already has.

God rewards those who seek him. Not those who seek doctrine or religion or systems or creeds. Many settle for these lesser passions, but the reward goes to those who settle for nothing less than Jesus himself. And what is the reward? Nothing short of the heart of Jesus. "And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him." 2 Cor. 3:18

Can you think of a greater gift than to be like Jesus? Christ felt no guilt; God wants to banish yours. Jesus had no bad habits; God wants to remove yours. Jesus had no fear of death; God wants you to be fearless. Jesus had kindness for the diseased and mercy for the rebellious and courage for the challenges. God wants you to have the same...

He wants you to be just like Jesus.

Max Lucado

CHURCH COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

Harbor of Joy Lutheran Church Council

Church Council Communication
Harbor of Joy Lutheran Church Council
November 13, 2018

The Council Meeting of Harbor of Joy Lutheran Church was held on November 13, 2018.

President Denny Struck called the meeting to order at 7 pm. The following members were present: President Denny Struck, Vice President Barb Rohlf, Secretary Linda Johnson, Treasurer Karen Sunde, Financial Secretary Kristi Peck, and council members: Elmer Lubinus, Dale Gehrels, Members absent were Scott Berry, Adam Clausen, Lynne Koelling. Devotions and prayer by Linda Johnson.

The Secretary's minutes of the previous meeting approved as read.

Treasurer's report and Financial report were approved as read.

- Audit was completed.

Funeral expenses policy discussed. Future funerals HOJ will NOT order sandwiches. Family or funeral home will be ordering sandwiches in the future. People helping with funerals please note this change.

Pastor Call Committee Report

- 8+ resumes examined so far. Kyle Fever interviewed and Kevin Weeks will be Thursday. Committee recommends a special congregational meeting November 25 to issue a call to Kyle Fever. References will be complete and background check done.

Property Committee-(Dale, Elmer) Meet 3rd Sunday of the month

- Remodel: ADA bathrooms next phase. World map after that. Steve is getting bids on sound system upgrade.
- Parking lot resurfacing and painting done.
- Snow removal contracted with Mitch Burgin.

Thanks to Denny for doing safety inspection.

Missions/Benevolence Team: Adam, Jeff K, Dean, Carol B, Enid, Angie L,

- Discussed providing food for shut in's and needy for Christmas.
- Disbursements to other missions will be recommended in December.

Parish Education for Youth (Barb and Kristi)

- Trunk or Treat was well received with 8 trunks and 175-200 kids.

December 12th will be the Joy Kids, Joy Us Christmas celebration with supper at 5:15, program at 5:45. Patti has organized the kid's presentation. Donation of cookies with Chili and chicken noodle soup for the menu. Your help is requested and very much appreciated.

Adult Discipleship/Small groups-(Barb and Lynne)

Bible study group has ended after 6 weeks. It will start again in January. Thank you to leaders Patt Gehrels and Patty Thayer.

Prayer Team-(Denny and Scott)

Please pray for call committee and a successful call.

Fellowship Team- (Scott)

Dean will be continuing Wednesday night monthly suppers/special events.

Worship Team-(Lynne)

- Worship pulpit supply:
- Nov. 18-Rick Porter

- Nov. 25-Dan Winkowitsch
 - Dec. 2-John Jensen
 - Dec. 16-John Pausley
 - Dec. 23-Dan Winkowitsch
 - Dec. 24-Hymn sing with Bob
 - Dec. 30-Rick Porter
 - *No Thanksgiving service
- * Christmas musical December 9th, Easter musical April 21

New Business

- Discussion on repositioning flags. Council discussed comments from congregation that they cannot see the screens due to flags. Also discussed feelings that flags should not be higher than our US flag. Karen made the motion that we move the flags from the church and display one flag each month next to the mission bulletin board. Kristi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Next meeting is December 10, 2018, at 7pm. Devotion: Adam Clausen

The meeting closed with Lord's Prayer.

Linda Johnson, Secretary

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting Harbor of Joy Lutheran Church October 21,2018

Meeting was called to order by President Denny Struck following the church service. Pastor Tim opened with a prayer. Financial secretary Kristi Peck gave a yearly financial update and presentation of 2018 proposed budget. A motion was made by Walt Mier to pass the annual budget presented as a continuation from last year. Motion was seconded by Terry Dirks. Motion carried.

President Denny presented the letter of resignation from Pastor Tim Nappe for acceptance by the congregation. Kristi Peck passed the motion to accept the motion for retirement. Verne Hansen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

President Denny updated the congregation on the remodel update. He explained the plan to finish the remodeling at present.

He then shared with congregation the update on the calling process for a new pastor. Calling Committee will be the following: Chair leader: Terry Dirks Calling Committee: Steve Letcher, Dale Gehrels, Patti Griffiths, Norma Lubinus, Barbara Rohlf, Becky Roe, Denny Struck.

Pastor Perry Fruhling, LCMC District Coordinator, will give a seminar on transitioning to a new pastor and explain the calling process on Saturday, November 3rd. He will also give the sermon at HOJ on November 4th. President Denny explained to the congregation that we are ready for resumes and to begin looking for a new pastor for Harbor of Joy. He also explained that the council needs to approve what the calling committee confers. This will then be voted on by the congregation with a 2/3 approval for calling a new pastor.

Denny asked for any other business. Board of Administration asked for a motion for the \$2,000 amount be bumped up to \$5,000 without congregational approval so the property committee could go ahead with maintenance and repair as needed. Norma Lubinus made the motion and David Berg seconded the motion. Becky Roe brought up need of discussion on the council approving any amount of money other than maintenance expenses needing approval by council. Discussion was taken under advisement for council.

Jeff Kyle made the motion to adjourn meeting. Charly Hertel seconded the motion.

Motion carried. Respectfully submitted, Linda Johnson, Council Secretary

Special Congregational Meeting

November 25, 2018

A Special meeting was held following the church service on November 25, 2018. President Denny Struck explained to the Harbor of Joy congregation that we would be voting with a YES/NO written ballot for calling Dr. Kyle Fever to be pastor of our church.

Terry Dirks, Chair person for the Call Committee, gave a brief summary of Dr. Kyle Fever's resume and background. When asked why the committee decided to call this candidate, she replied that they all felt it was the "right fit" for our church because on his excitement, energy, ability to go where God calls him, experience with youth and past congregations, and love for this area.

We are happy to confirm that the congregational vote shared the same positive feelings as the call committee with 100% unanimous YES voting! Praise be to God!

Terry explained the ongoing process based on our voting. Dr. Kyle Fever will be called. He will have until January 15th, 2019 to decide. Please pray for the Lord's guidance in this decision for our church. The Call Committee will continue to interview during this waiting time period. If Dr. Kyle Fever accepts our call, then the HOJ Church Council will proceed with salary, work description, and guidelines. Thanks for your support and prayers.

Linda Johnson, HOJ Council Secretary

So now that the pavement is done and painted we are on to our next projects. We are continuing to monitor the low spots in the asphalt by the east door and on the south side of the building. Steve has been looking into updating the sound system and is working with Carey's in Spencer. We are also going to be making sure that one of our bathrooms is ADA compliant. Thanks to Kristi Peck for some information to hopefully make this easier! There is a new person doing snow removal this year, Mitch Burgin.

Thanks to everyone on the property committee. Enjoy your Thanksgiving, we have much to be thankful for!

In Christ, Terry and the rest of the property committee

HARBOR OF JOY LIBRARY

What is heaven really going to be like?

What will we look like?

What will we do?

Won't heaven get boring after a while?

We all have questions about what heaven will be like, and after 25 years of extensive research, Randy Alcorn invites you to picture heaven the way scripture describes it—a bright, vibrant, and physical New Earth, free from sin, suffering and death, and brimming with God's presence. This book, **Heaven**, is found in the "New Books" section in the library.

Other new books we have received recently are:

Is this the End by David Jeremiah

The heavenly Man by Brother Yun

Deadline by Randy Alcorn

The Love Letter by Rachel Hauck

Finding Your Way Back to God by Dave and Jon Ferguson

Sophie's Dilemma by Lauraine Snelling

A Touch of Grace by Lauraine Snelling

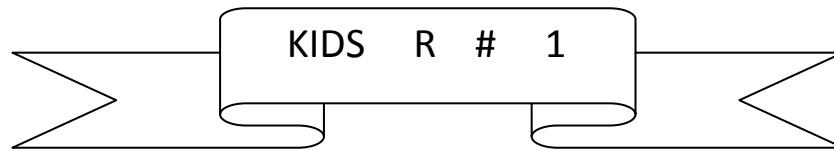
A Promise for Ellie by Lauraine Snelling

The library also has several Bible Studies that can be checked out for either personal use or for a small group study. Most of Bible Study boxes on the library shelves are empty, but the DVD's for the studies are in Charly's office, and she will sign them out to you.

Winter is here! Time to grab a good book or magazine and curl up for some relaxing time.

Thanks again to all who have donated books, magazines, movies, and CDs. Harbor of Joy has a wonderful library all due to your generosity.

Merry Christmas!



I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. 1 John 1:4

Spending time with the young people of our community on Wednesday afternoons is a privilege. Teaching them about Jesus makes it even sweeter! Our prayer as teachers, is that Christ will be known to them and will radically change their lives. Please join us in praying for these youngsters.

The Joy Kids (Kindergarten through 4th grade) are learning a different parable each week through activities and lessons.

The JoyUs students (5th through 8th grade) rotate through three teachers. They are learning about "Heaven" through Randy Alcorn's book, the Christian aspects of America's history through Toby Mac and Michael Tait's book "Under God", and third, they're learning some of Jesus' parables. These children have had the opportunity to go on a number of field trips this Fall also; the Milford nursing home, Kenue Park and an apple orchard.

Not only does Jesus speak to the students during our classes but He also impacts the leaders as we prepare and present the lessons. It is always remarkable how God touches each of us in so many ways

PARISH ED MINUTES—November 7, 2018, 5:15pm

Opened with prayer.

Five members present.

December 12th will be the last day of the Fall Joy Program with a Christmas program. Patti has prepared the program. Dinner will start 5:00-5:15 with program at approximately 5:30-5:45. There will be a dinner of chili soup, chicken noodle soup, crackers and vegetable trays. Cookies will be served after the program. Need donations of chili soup, chicken noodle soup, and 16 dozen cookies from the congregation. Dean will make an announcement in church on November 11th and prepare a sign-up sheet for donations.

Need treat bags. Dena will talk to Inga about her clients preparing treat bags.

Twelve kids and chaperones of JoyUs visited the nursing home on November 7th. They gave each person a cross and Our Daily Bread Devotional and sang songs. They took table decorations of fabric pumpkins which they had previously made.

Trunk or Treat was a great success. 8 trunks and 175-200 kids.

Next meeting, **December 5, 2018 @ 5:15**

Operation Christmas Child News- On November 19th our 94 shoebox gifts were transported from the drop-off location in Spirit Lake to the processing center in Minneapolis. After the volunteers inspect each box they will be shipped to children around the world, many of whom have never received a gift! Imagine their joy as they open their box and discover the gifts we packed for them! Their life will be impacted even more as they learn about Jesus and make the decision to follow Him.

Thank you to everyone who donated items, packed shoeboxes or helped cover shipping and other project costs! We had a great turnout for the packing party, and had almost as much fun filling the boxes as the children will have when they open theirs!

We will learn at a later date where our boxes were shipped. Please pray that the children who receive our gifts will come to faith in Jesus and share the Good News with their family, friends and community. Also pray for the safety of the Operation Christmas Child volunteers who are serving in areas of the world where people may be hostile toward Christians.

God's Closet- We continue to collect the following items on an on-going basis:

Shoes, boots, sandals (single shoes too) for Soles 4 Souls

Eye glasses, sunglasses and glass cases

Pull tabs for Ronald McDonald houses

Box Tops for Education

Denim for Hope Haven rug looms

Toiletries (travel size) for our mission projects

Small Ink Cartridges

(Please note: The Campbell's soup label project has been discontinued so we are no longer collecting them.)

Food Pantry-Let's fill our shelves with non-perishable food items, paper products and toiletries! (Please check the expiration date on the items before donating.) Thank you for helping our neighbors who may need additional food for themselves and their family this winter.

Greetings folks,

Another week at mission Haiti is under my belt. Tomorrow, Sunday, I listen to a 3 hour church service in Creole. I hope I can stay awake. I am quite tired after the full week of intense hot humid work days. They seem to affect and tire me more than previous trips..... maybe I'm getting soft.

I have a full crew of 6 boys working on many different projects. They started in last Sunday like I never left. All are different skill level but I am pleased to now watch more and sit in the shade when I can. The older ones are teaching the younger ones so that is about as good as it gets! I placed out 4 tape measues so we are working on accuracy this trip

We are building for the new medical center along with the new teacher housing of which there are now 4 more staff hired. We have a full time Haitian doctor on site along with 3 Haitian nurses that live off site. In one month the clinic opens so I have to make seating for 80 to 100 folks.(lines are long here)

Today a little boy showed me his leg wound from a stray dog bite. It had festered for several weeks and only today did he come down the mountain for treatment. The foks here went into overdrive to get him help. It's humbling to see how the staff here loves on these kids. In another drama, an aunt beat a child with a stick on her face accusing her of stealing. Last night that child came and worked with her teacher here on homework. The gashes on her face are pretty bad but the love that was poured out on her here made her smile again. Even I had trouble with keeping it together. Our Haitian Director Paul, met with the family and had a difficult but tough talk with the Aunt.

A drama presented itself with a dying infant early in the week. The child was not eating and had become limp. Eyes just rolled back in her Eye sockets. The mission staff got her into the hospital about 30 miles away. They were so depressed when they arrived back figuring it was too late. If only the family would come down the mountain sooner for treatment. Today we learned the baby was still alive and was improving. God is Good

The team from Minneapolis (Afton) left for home today after a week of climbing the mountain to the school they have sponsored. They were in tears every evening as they shared what they learned, saw, and absorbed during each visit. For each it was their first visit to Haiti. As a church they are paying for classroom construction as well as sponsornng a student or two. Each were taken to their "childs" home to meet the family. Everyone of those team members struggled with words and emotions when explaining what their day was like. They were so grateful that they are involved as they could see the progress and life change that education provided these children.

I took Wednesday morning off for several hours and climbed up to our "senior" center. We have 7 men and 2 women now. I had to quick make two beds for new additions plus a cabinet for their stuff. Everything they brought with them in life is on the floor in a cardboard box. We made eggs and bacon plus a pancake w/ coffee. It was a Party! We played music, sang, danced, gave back and neck rubs, traded stories and just had a hoot of a time. And the view is incredible! To bad all but two are blind. Mission haiti has a pastor on site there to care for these souls. We have a cook on site for 15 days straight, then she gets a weekend off and goes home.

As always, I give thanks to those who have supported this work here. Be assured, change for the better is happening! Your prayers and help is evident! I see so much progress here since the earthquake of 2010.

ll, I haven't even had time to take a picture this week. Maybe next week. Until then, have a great fall and if you will, offer up a prayer or two for these kids or a senior here that have severe life struggles.

Blessings,
Richard

Just tried to wack a spider as I type this. The darn thing would have had to bend his legs to fit on a coffee cup saucer! I missed! Boy was he fast! But I did get one the other night when he scooted into my un shielded fan! Hit the wall nicely with a splat!

Oh, my 6" jointer (250 lbs or iron) made it here in one piece! It is so great to have this tool! Thanks Dan for the work you did to make it so useful here!

Scriptures for Every Day of Advent

1. Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.
-Isaiah 60:1
2. In the desert prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God! -Isaiah 40:3
3. A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. -Isaiah 11:1
4. "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." -Micah 5:2
5. "You heavens above, rain down my righteousness; let the clouds shower it down. Let the earth open wide, let salvation spring up, let righteousness flourish with it." -Isaiah 45:8
6. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. -Isaiah 40:4
7. In the last days, the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.
-Isaiah 2:2
8. "After me comes one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." -Mark 1:7-8
9. The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. -Isaiah 11:6
10. "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, and to proclaim a year of favor from the Lord." -Luke 4:18-19
11. "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John." -Luke 1:13
12. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. -Luke 2:9
13. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus."
-Luke 1:30-31
14. An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." -Matthew 1:20
15. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. -Luke 2:4

16. After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem. -Matthew 2:1
17. "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." -Matthew 2:2
18. Herod asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied. -Matthew 2:4-5
19. Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. -Luke 2:7
20. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. -Luke 2:8
21. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. -Isaiah 2:4
22. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."
-Luke 2:10
23. "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." -Luke 2:11
24. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. -John 1:14

Harbor of Joy Weekly Calendar

Dec 2018 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 9:30am - Sunday 10:45am - Education 6:30pm - Faith	26	27 10:30am - Prayers 1pm - Accura 2pm - Accura 2pm - Music	28 3:30pm - JoyKids/Us 7pm - AA Meeting 7pm - Choir practice	29 9:30am - choir	30 3pm - AA Meeting,	1 7:30am - Men's
2 9:30am - Sunday 10:45am - Education 6:30pm - Faith	3	4 10:30am - Prayers 1pm - Accura 2:30pm - Music	5 2pm - Music 3:30pm - JoyKids/Us 7pm - AA Meeting 7pm - Choir practice	6 9:30am - choir 2pm - Caregiver 2:30pm - Music	7 3pm - AA Meeting,	8 9am - Christmas
9 9:30am - Christmas 9:30am - Sunday 10:45am - Education 6:30pm - Faith	10	11 10:30am - Prayers 1pm - Accura 2:30pm - Music	12 2pm - Music 3:30pm - JoyKids/Us 7pm - AA Meeting	13 3pm - Music	14 3pm - AA Meeting,	15
16 9:30am - Sunday 10:45am - Education 6:30pm - Faith	17	18 10:30am - Prayers 1pm - Accura 2pm - Music	19 2:30pm - Music 3:30pm - JoyKids/Us 7pm - AA Meeting	20 3pm - Music	21 3pm - AA Meeting,	22
23 9:30am - Sunday 10:45am - Education 6:30pm - Faith	24	25 Office Closed--Merry	26 3:30pm - JoyKids/Us 7pm - AA Meeting	27 2pm - Accura	28 3pm - AA Meeting,	29
30 9:30am - Sunday 10:45am - Education 6:30pm - Faith	31	1 10:30am - Prayers 1pm - Accura	2 3:30pm - JoyKids/Us 7pm - AA Meeting	3	4 3pm - AA Meeting,	5 7:30am - Men's

