



Harbor's Beacon

February 2019

*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

February 2019

Free From Frostbite

On a winter day, my children begged to go sledding. The temperature hovered near zero degrees Fahrenheit. Snowflakes raced by our windows. I thought it over and said yes, but asked them to bundle up, stay together, and come inside after fifteen minutes.

Out of love, I created those rules so my children could play freely without suffering frostbite. I think the author of Psalm 119 recognized the same good intent in God as he penned two consecutive verses that might seem contradictory: "I will always obey your law" and I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts"(vv44-45). How is it that the psalmist associated freedom with a spiritually law-abiding life?

Following God's wise instruction allows us to escape the consequences that come from choices we later wish we could undo. Without the weight of guilt or pain we are freer to enjoy our lives. God doesn't want to control us with dos and don'ts; rather, His guidelines show that He loves us.

While my kids were sledding, I watched them blast down the hill. I smiled at the sounds of their laughter and the sight of their pink cheeks. They were free within the boundaries I'd given them. This compelling paradox is present in our relationship with God—it leads us to say with the psalmist, "Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight." (vs 35)

Dear God, give me a lover for Your ways like the psalmist had. I want to worship You with the choices I make every day.

Obedience flows freely from a heart of love.

Church Council Communication Harbor of Joy Lutheran Church Council January 8, 2019

The Council Meeting of Harbor of Joy Lutheran Church was held on January 8, 2019. 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, Scott Berry, and Lynne Koelling. Members absent was Dean Ramsey. Devotions and prayer by Scott Berry.

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

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

Pastor Call Committee Report

- Call was issued to Dr. Kyle Fever on November 25th. Deadline is January 15, 2019

Property Committee

- Steve Letcher installed new TV in Sanctuary and mounted a new lock box on south door. Thanks so very much to Steve for these needed improvements!

Missions/Benevolence Team

- Dale announced that our Bible camp needs 6 picnic tables. Dale volunteered to make these tables and discussed that the cost for wood would be \$600-\$700. Kristi moved that we use funds from Mission fund for this project. Thank you Dale for this kind gesture.

Parish Education for Youth

- Joy youth groups resume February 6th.
- Christmas program was well attended and a success. Thanks to all who helped.

Adult Discipleship/Small groups

- Bible study group with leaders Patti Thayer and Patt Gehrels will start again January 15th and will meet every Tuesday at 9:30 in Fireside Room for six weeks. Please join us!

Prayer Team

- Please pray for call, unity, and guidance in this time of change.
- Special thanks to Patt Gehrels for the numerous prayer chain prayers. They keep our congregation not only close to God but close to each other.

Fellowship Team

- Dean will continue Wednesday night monthly suppers/special events.

Nursing Home Ministry

- Linda and Nancy will be starting a Heaven Bible Study at Accura Care Center as well as visiting and sharing God's love with the residents.

Worship Team

- **Worship Pulpit Supply Schedule *** as needed
- Jan. 6-Rod Quamback
- Jan. 13- John Jensen
- Jan. 20-Steve Meyer
- Jan. 27- Kyle Fever
- Feb. 3- John Pausley
- Feb. 10-John Jensen
- Feb. 17 Jeff Griffith
- Feb. 24- Rick Porter
- March 3- Mike Maffin

Lenten Services start March 6th on Ash Wednesday through Easter April 21st.

New Business

- Discussion on using teams for kitchen help vs. signing up in kitchen. Some people are saying they liked it when they were responsible for a certain month and knew when it was their month they would be serving. It would help with funerals to share the responsibility and have each group in charge. Others say they are happy to help if they get a call. We welcome your opinions on what seems to be the most effective for all concerned. Council will make this decision after a bit more discussion with congregation members. Please let us know your ideas. Thanks!
- Annual meeting will be April 28th. Remember this is the meeting we need your written annual reports from each committee. Thank you.
- Next meeting is February 12, 2019 at 7pm. Devotion: Dean
The meeting closed with Lord's prayer.
Linda Johnson Secretary

The property committee met Sunday January 20th. There was a short video that I wanted to show the committee on how to make our church more friendly to those with handicaps, but I could not get the video to work. I explained that there were some very easy things to do like move the tables further apart so that wheelchairs could get through and there is a handicap type doorbell that they could ring when they need help entering the building. We are looking at making the men's bathroom handicap accessible and looking at how to that the most cost effective way. The sound system was also discussed and we have a couple of bids for updating the system to wireless. It will be about \$20,000 to upgrade. Also discussed were landscaping plans around the building, possible future kitchen remodel and tuck-pointing. We want to thank Steve Letcher for digging out the main water valve to the church and for installing a new key "vault".

In Christ,
Terry Dirks

After meeting this afternoon January 28th it was decided to call Dr. Kyle Fever and let him know that we are still looking for a pastor. We are looking at three other candidates at this time. Emails have been sent and we look forward to what God has planned for us here at Harbor of Joy!

In Christ,
Terry Dirks
Committee Chair

HARBOR OF JOY LIBRARY

The following is the list of new books that have been donated to the church library this past month.

Fiction

The House at Saltwater Point by Colleen Coble

The First Love by Beverly Lewis

Nonfiction

Christian Living– Coming of Age by David Anderson

Biography- *Handcrafted by Clint Harp*

Church- *The Church From Age to Age by Edward Engelbrecht*

Bible- *The Big Book of New Testament Q & A by Michael Eschelbach*

Neighborhood Outreach by Group Publishing

The Lost World of the Flood by Tremper Longman III & John Walton

The Lost World of Genesis On by John Walton

The Lost World of Adam and Eve by John Walton

Many thanks to all who donated these books.. The library operates totally on the generosity of the church members, and every book, magazine, Bible Study, DVD, & CD we receive is greatly appreciated! We just ask that all materials be of Christian content.

Blessings for 2019

Harbor of Joy Library



The Joy Youth programs, Joy Kids for Elementary students and JoyUs for Middle Schoolers, resumes Wednesday, February 6th. The Joy Kids will be learning about missionaries during this Spring session; what missionaries are, how we can be missionaries here at home, who some of the New Testament missionaries were and about some missionaries since Biblical times. The JoyUs students will continue with the lessons started in the Fall; Parables, Heaven and Christianity in American History.

Wednesday, January 30th a number of 6th and 7th graders attended the No Apologies event at the Regional Event Center in Spencer. This is an annual, high energy, engaging experience for teenagers that encourages them to abstain from sexual activity until marriage. The students that attended last year were excited to be part of the evening again this year.

Harbor of Joy has been blessed with 52 children who attend our JoyKids and JoyUs programs. We provide snacks, Bible lessons, music, games, and crafts. We also encourage them to pray for family, friends, our country, the situations they face every day, and also to pray for Harbor of Joy. Yes, these children are praying for our church and our congregation. These children desperately need a cover of prayer to protect them everyday as they enter into the spiritual war zone. Our Prayer Sponsor Program is in need of some adults in our church who would sponsor two or more children. Your job? We ask you to pray for the children daily. If you would like to meet "your" kids, you are welcome to come any Wednesday afternoon (beginning Feb 6th) at 3:30 and we can arrange an introduction. They get very excited when they hear someone is praying for them. We currently have 11 children who are still in need of a sponsor. Please consider being involved in this important prayer ministry. Contact Patt Gehrels if you are interested.



Prayers: Harbor Of Joy, Those who share pulpit supply, Joyce, friend of Carolyn Rossie has cancer, Enid Creswell, Jill Olger, battling Cancer. Chuck & Donna Tielbur, Richard Hildebrand, Joyce Hildebrand's brother is in hospice at his home in Wisconsin, Dena Struck, Kristina, Deb Hayenga's daughter, Tim's dad, Dorothy Cherry and her brother, John McDowell, Dean Ramsey, Dave Sorenson, Karen Dokken's neighbor, Sympathies to the Harris Family and also the Kyle family.

Please Notify church office of any shut-ins or anyone ill who would appreciate a visit.

- **Gratitude and Praise:** We can still worship the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
First Sat. of the month: **Men's Breakfast** at Perkins at 7:30 AM.
- **Every Tuesday is Nursing Home Ministry** with Nancy Letcher and Linda Johnson
- **2nd Sunday of each month:** Legion Breakfast at the Legion
- **2nd & 4th Thursday nights of every month** is Community Table dinners. 5:30-7:00PM at Bible Conference Community Center. No cost to you. Everyone welcome.
- **3rd Sunday of every month property Committee meets after church in Library**
- **Every Tuesday Prayer Group at 10:30 AM**
- **All communications for newsletter are due on Jan. 25th .**
- **Feb. 12th,** Board And Council Meeting

Please sign up for Sunday morning snacks and coffee.

Tuesday Bible Study at 9:30 in Fireside Room

- JoyKids/Us, at 3:30 PM every Wednesday. Will resume **Feb. 6th**
- **Choir resumes Feb. 6th at 7pm.**

Pulpit supply for 2019

Feb. 3 John Pausley

Feb.10 John Jensen

Feb. 17 Pastor Jeff Griffith

Feb. 24 Pastor Rick Porter

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.)

NO APOLOGIES, Wed. Jan. 30 2019 in Spencer at the Clay County Regional Events Center! 6:30pm-8:15pm.

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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.

January 7th – 16th MOST Ministries (Mission Opportunities Short Term) joined forces with Next Life Foundation in Tanzania, East Africa to teach the tailoring students how to make feminine hygiene kits. I was welcomed to the country by the sun rising behind Mount Kilimanjaro as I descended onto the runway around 6am on the 3rd. Lyn arrived that evening and we had much work to do before the team arrived! We did take time to visit one tailoring shop that three of our alumni had set up! What joy that brought to us!

The team arrived on the 7th and hit the ground running! The tailoring students got very good at sewing the slippery waterproof PUL (Polyurethane Laminate) material that they had never worked with before. Everyone worked very hard to accomplish our goal of #150 kits! But the more satisfying result of the trip was the relationships developed between the Americans and the students. The first day during our lunch time, my co-founder (Tanzanian son), Laurence, picked a student to go to a team member, give them a hug and take their seat, in order to inter-mix us wuzungu (Swahili for Westerners) with the students. They were very uncomfortable hugging us. By the end of our time at Next Life, everyone was freely hugging everyone! After the team left, I asked one of our Muslim students about having the team there and she said the first day was a little intimidating and she didn't quite know what to think but after that, it was a very good experience! We are all God's children. He has predestined each of us to be in His Kingdom. So, I believe, it's up to us to tell those around us about Christ and let the Holy Spirit take it from there. I pray I will see all our students in Heaven!

While the team was on safari, Lyn, Laurence and I had more "work" to get done...I had a lengthy list to accomplish! We were able to visit another alumni tailoring shop. What a thrill to see these young ladies who didn't have the formal education to succeed and a lot of strikes against them, providing for themselves. I had to praise God for being a channel he has been able to use. Harbor of Joy has been so instrumental to the success of Next Life Foundation. When I came home with this "crazy" idea to start a vocational training center on the other side of the world 6 years ago, you gave me the support to keep plugging along to make it a reality! Thank you for believing with me that God will use me so that He can be glorified! I definitely have to lean on Him every step of the way – what do I know about East Africa, besides what He teaches me along the way!?! Mungu akubariki sana! (Swahili for God bless you greatly!) -Patti Griffiths

Harbor of Joy Weekly Calendar

Feb 2019 (Central Time - Chicago)

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