



Harbor's Beacon

August 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

August 2019

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.—Psalm 46:1-2

The scenes seemed almost post-apocalyptic: To my right, the front of a clothing shop had been sheared off and the legs of a mannequin had been amputated, leaving her head and torso lying on the floor halfway across the room from her limbs. To my left, an apartment building had shed half the tiles on its façade. None of its windows were intact, and a bush was growing on the second floor where a chunk of wall had given way.

Street after street in the town of Huayang, in China’s Sichuan Province, testified to the shattering power unleashed here during the great and tragic earthquake of 2008. As I walked these abandoned roadways, many of them still piled with debris from that disaster, I thought of the families who had once made their homes here, the shopkeepers who had sold their wares here, the children who had lived and played and grown up amid this now-crumbling asphalt, brick and tile.

I saw a sign next to one pile of debris: Ruins generate hopes. It was an odd phrase. But then, while I don’t think this is exactly how the writer of the sign meant it, it occurred to me that this place, these buildings, these creations of man in their destroyed state did generate hope—by reminding me of what really matters.

Lord, no building code in the world can give us the security that we crave.

No mortar can hold the bricks in place with the surety that we want,

No human construct is capable of providing the framework that we need.

Only you can.

~Jeff Chu~

Harbor of Joy Lutheran Church Council Communication

July 9, 2019

The Council Meeting of Harbor of Joy Lutheran Church was held on July 9, 2019. President Denny Struck called the meeting to order at 7 pm. The following members were present: President Denny Struck, Vice President Dean Ramsey, Secretary Linda Johnson, Treasurer Karen Sunde, financial Secretary Kristi Peck, and Council members Dale Gehrels, Barb Rohlf, Scott Berry, Angie Lickhart, Steve Moore, and Pastor Tim Voth.

Devotions and prayer by Linda Johnson (Kristi & Angie)

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

Treasurer's report and financial report were approved as read. (Steve & Linda)

- Pastor Tim Voth is officially LCMC certified.
- Confirmation class has been formed and started. Pastor and 5 students meet every Sunday at 1pm. They will be studying Luther's Small Catechism. Parish Ed fund will pay for these materials. Confirmation will be next May.
- New member instruction and induction was discussed.
- Pastor talked about making the church "noticeable" to folds passing by. Pastor Tim and Angie would like to work together to plant some perennials and make the outside beautiful and colorful.

Property Committee

- ADA bathroom remodel approved at annual meeting with \$13,000 limit. Doors have been ordered and work will begin soon. (Tom Luers)
- * New Sound system approved at the annual meeting with \$24,000 limit. Church computers will also be upgraded. (Steve Letcher) Sound system starts July 22nd.
 - * Parking lot resolution-Blacktop Service contacted with pictures showing our puddles and low spots. Blacktop service has been contacted with pictures.
- * Jason Sargent and family removed a big tree east of parking lot and did some shrub trimming. Huge thanks to this family for DONATING their services to HOJ. Greatly appreciated.
- * Air conditioning units need checking and one needs repair. Protective posts with tape or paint.
- * Thanks to Dale Gehrels for installing a mirror in narthex.

Staff Support

Thanks from Bob and Charly for the gift of money for their extended duties while we were without a pastor for 9 months. Greatly appreciated.

Promotion/Media: (Barb)

- Thank you to Barb for keeping us in the shopper with ads on worship dates.

- Vacation Bible School promo will be put in shopper.
- Article introducing Pastor Tim Voth will be in Dickinson County paper. Also large digital advertising sign next to Subway to let people know that we have a new pastor and are welcoming them into our community has been posted. Keep an eye out for it as you pass.

Parish Education for Youth

- Vacation bible School will be July 29-August 1st, 5:30-7:30 pm. The theme is “Roar Life is Wild-God is Good!” Huge thanks to Dena Struck for organizing this event. Special thanks to all of YOU who signed up to help with Vacation Bible School.

Adult Discipleship/Small groups

- Bible study with leaders Patti Thayer and Patt Gehrels has finished but will start up again this fall.
- Thursday noon sack lunch group is on again-”Lunch with the Bunch.”

Prayer Team

- Patt Gehrels continues to lead our powerful prayer warriors.

Fellowship Team

- Dean will continue Wednesday night monthly suppers/special events on 4th Wednesday at 6 pm.
- Discussion on having people as “Greeters” on Sunday morning. Pastor Tim will talk to Charly and put something in the bulletin for people that are interested in greeting.
- Angie brought up the great idea of buying Bibles for the pews so we can all be reading from the same version and be able to use page numbers and have a uniform source for our congregation and visitors. Kristi looked up prices that would be 100 NIV large print Bibles at \$3.99 each. Angie made the motion that we purchase 100 Bibles with 3 per pew from the memorial fund with final approval from the Memorial Committee at their next meeting. Steve seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business

- Pastor Tim will look into info and prices for new digital signs out front of our church. He will also look into any city ordinances or any needed discussion.

New Business

- Next meeting is August 13, 2019 at 7pm. Devotion: Kristi

The meeting closed with Lord’s Prayer.

Linda Johnson, Secretary

Harbor of Joy Library

The library has several new books this month:

Fiction

The Last Sin Eater by Francine Rivers

The Atonement Child by Francine Rivers

A Moment of Weakness by Karen Kingsbury (Forever Faithful Series)

Halfway to Forever by Karen Kingsbury (This completes the Forever Faithful Series)

Nicolae by Tim LaHaye & Jerry Jenkins (The Left Behind Series)

Apollyn by Tim LaHaye & Jerry Jenkins (This completes the Left Behind Series)

Light in Zion by Bodie and Brock Thoene (This completes the Lion Chronicles Series)

American Omens by Travis Thrasher

Under a Cloudless Sky by Chris Fabry

The Valley of the Dry Bones by Jerry Jenkins

Non-fiction

50 Things You Need to Know About Heaven by Dr. John Hart (Christian Living)

The Case for Miracles by Lee Strobel (Bible)

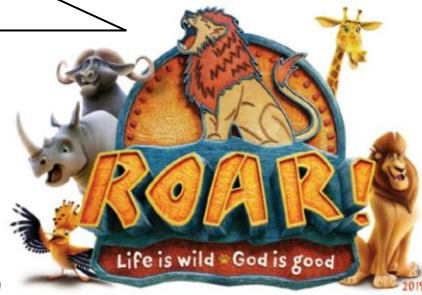
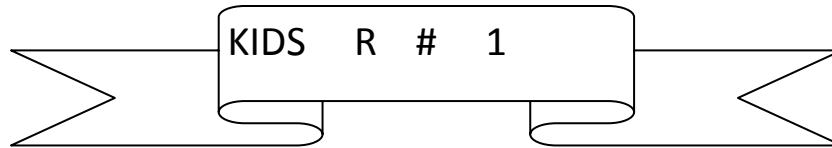
Beyond Blessed by Robert Morris (Christian Living)

The women's Bible Study Group is taking a break until September, but for those who would like to do a Bible Study on their own or with a few friends, the library has several studies (including ones for the guys). If you would like to do one of the DVD studies, they are in the office and Charly can help you check them out.

Also, remember our Children's Library (south end of the hallway), upstairs.

Thank you to all who have donated books. We have a wonderful selection to choose from, and we hope you will come have a look, and check out a book.

HOJ Library.



VBS 2019—Life is Wild—God is Good!

July 29-August 1; 5:30-7:30

Food, Bible Stories, Crafts, Songs, Games and FUN!!

Everyone welcome—Be part of the Fun!

5:30—5:45 Skit (DVD) & Bible Story

5:45—6:15 Hungry Herd Café

6:15—6:25 Kid Vid Cinema (DVD)

6:25—6:45 Buddy Video & Sing (DVD)

6:45—7:05 Imagination Station (Crafts & Coloring)

7:05—7:25 Stampede Sports

Close with Prayer

Day 1—When life is unfair—God is Good

Bible Story: The Israelites are slaves for the Egyptians (Exodus 1; 5; 6)

Key Verse: “The Lord is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes.” (Nahum 1:7)

Day 2—When life is scary—God is Good

Bible Story: God sends plagues on Egypt. (Exodus 7:14-12:32)

Key Verse: “Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid for you are close beside me.” (Psalm 23:4)

Day 3—When life changes—God is Good

Bible Story: The Israelites enter the wilderness. (Exodus 14-17)

Key Verse: “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.” (Psalm 106:1)

Day 4—When life is good—God is Good

Bible Story: The Israelites build a memorial to remember God’s goodness.

(Joshua 3-4)

Key Verse: “Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious” (Nehemiah 4:14)



Prayers Requests:

Kids going to camp this summer.

Wayne Sunde, doctoring for back pain.

Chuck Tielbur, is recuperating at home.

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

- **Praise God for:** Steve Letcher assisting Carey's Electronics on our new sound system. Marianne Siefer and kitchen crew and decorating. Deana for coordinating teachers, and helpers. Tom Luers assisting with new bathroom doors.
- **Every Tuesday is Nursing Home Ministry** with Nancy Letcher and Linda Johnson.
- **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 August 23rd..**
- **August 13th,** Board And Council Meeting, 7PM

Christmas in July? Not exactly, but it is time to start thinking about collecting items for our Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts. Begin by looking around your home for extra items you might have such as pens, pencils, erasers, note pads, bars of soap, toothbrushes, combs, brushes, gently used stuffed animals or toys or anything that would be appropriate for children ages 2-14. You may place the items on the wire shelving in Charly's old office. Thank you for helping us get started on this important outreach project that reaches children all over the world and shares the Good News of Jesus our Savior. We will fill boxes in early November.

Camp goings on—Ingham/Okoboji Check bulletin board in Narthex.

Okoboji Bible Conference starts Saturday, August 3rd at 7:15 pm. Grab a booklet and plan to attend.



Pastor Tim's Thoughts...

In my first newsletter article last month I spoke about “changes” and “trust”. There are always adjustments when a new pastor comes and trust needs to be earned between the congregation and the pastor if the ministry of the church is to go forward. I’m still in the “honeymoon stage” and I know that this will change along the way. I always keep in mind that God has called me to serve and shepherd Harbor of Joy Lutheran Church. I continue to learn more about the people in the church and some of the “nuts and bolts” about what has taken place in the past and how things are done presently. Pray for me as we seek the Lord’s guidance and direction together for the future.

It’s only been two months and I’m still here! It is a joy to serve the Lord with you. I thank the Lord for the leadership of this church and how all the committees function together. I am especially thankful for Charly’s and Bob Floss’ servant hearts to the Lord on a daily basis.

I have been making progress in visiting people in the church during the week. My goal is to visit everyone, so if you haven’t heard or see me, it’s just a matter of time. I have been leading a Thursday Noon “Lunch with a Bunch” at the church, started a Fast Track Confirmation class with 7 students on Sundays following the worship service and I have made some hospital and home visits. More involvement will take place as time goes on with VBS, worship service at Accura Healthcare Center in Milford and youth and adult opportunities this fall. We’re not funning on all cylinders yet but we will get there. There are more ideas and changes coming both inside and outside on the church property in the weeks ahead. Let’s not just have the name “Harbor of Joy”, let’s BE a harbor of joy for all who come to church and where we go throughout the week!

Blessings,

Pastor Tim