



Harbor's Beacon

September 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

September 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~

Church Council Communications for Harbor of Joy Lutheran Church Council. August 13, 2019

The council meeting of Harbor of Joy Lutheran Church was held on August 13, 2019. President Denny Struck called the meeting to order at 7 pm. The following members were present: President Denny Struck, Secretary Linda Johnson, financial Secretary Kristi Peck, and council members Barb Rohlf, Dale Gehrels, Steve Moore, & Pastor Tim Voth. Members absent were Dean Ramsey, Scott Berry, Angie Lickhart, & Karen Sunde.

Pastor Report

- Confirmation class started on Sunday mornings at 11:00 following worship service. Pastor Tim Voth is leading 8 students and several observers using Luther's Small Catechism.
- Pastor likes the help with greeting and thanks the people that have been doing such a great job of welcoming people.
- Sept 8 is Mission Sunday with Louis and Jane Faulstich. They will speak about their mission with Wycliff Bible Translators so this will take the place of the sermon.
- LCMC convention is in Omaha Sept. 29-Oct. 2. Pastor and Sharon will leave after church on Sunday. Anyone else is invited to come along. We can have two delegates.
- Pastor and Sharon will be celebrating his sister and brother-in-law's 50th wedding anniversary and will be gone Aug. 28- Sept. 4th.

Property Committee

- ADA bathroom remodel approved at annual meeting with \$13,000 limit. Doors have been installed and plumbing starts soon. Discussion on importance of handrails for safety. (Tom Luers huge thanks for being)
- New sound system approved at the annual meeting with \$24,000 limit. Church computers will also be upgraded. (Steve Letcher) sound system is installed with \$22,000 used so far. We will need 2-3 computers and lockable desk. New speakers are now operable in fellowship, nursery, and fireside rooms. (Huge thanks to Steve Letcher!)
- Council agreed for Denny to donate the old sound boards to bible camp.
- Air conditioning update: We have four units running.
- Request to Property Team to open up north end of fellowship room to make more room and extend our usage of space. A motion was made to give Property Committee permission to open this part of the fellowship room with cleaning out and dispersing of unused items along with permission to fix the dividing doors between sanctuary and fellowship room.

Memorial Team

- Team will proceed with pew Bible recommendation. American Bible Society will be contacted for large print Bibles for each pew so we all have access to the same Bible and same pages for reading and referral.

Promotion/Media:

- Thank you to Barb for keeping us in the shopper with ads on worship dates.
- Barb discussed the importance of being in the Lakes News Shopper.
- Discussion on the importance of having a float or entry in next year's Pioneer Day parade. It is an excellent way of promoting our church. We need to get planning next spring on this.

Parish Education for Youth

- Vacation Bible School July 29-August 1st, "Roar Life is Wild-God is Good" was a huge hit with an average of 29 kids per night and 18 adults! We served over 186 meals. Huge thanks to Dena Struck for organizing this event and all of Marianne Sieffer's help in organizing food and helpers and decorating. Special thanks to all of YOU who helped and mad this such a success.

- A Hayride for the fall kickoff is being planned for September 22nd. (That date has been changed to the 21st) at Jack and Lynne Johnson's farm. Everyone invited... come join in the fun!

Adult Discipleship/Small Groups

- Bible study group with leaders Patti Thayer and Patt Gehrels will start up again this fall.
- Pastor Tim and Sharon are visiting people in their homes and getting to know all of us.
- Thursday noon sack lunch group is on again- "Lunch with the Bunch"

Prayer Team

- Pat Gehrels continues to lead our powerful prayer warriors. (Tuesday am prayer chain meets)

Fellowship Team

- Dean will continue Wednesday night monthly suppers/special events on 4th Wednesday at 6 pm.
- Hayride at Jack and Lynne's farm September 22 has been changed to Sept. 21st.

Old Business

- Pastor Tim gave a report that he had researched the LED signs and permits. He visited with our city engineer on Milford and found out there is a 5 foot high ordinance. Costs is \$350 for permit to get a sign and it can be a slow process of 2-3 months. Pastor will continue to research estimates.
- Angie and Pastor Tim met and discussed church landscaping plans. Pastor shared drawings of ideas for the front of our church. These will also be shared with Property Committee. Thank you for these exciting plans of beautification.

New Business

- Next meeting is September 10, 2019 at 7pm. Devotion: Pastor Tim.
The meeting closed with Lord's Prayer.
Linda Johnson, Secretary

NW IA women's Conference is Sat., Nov. 16th, 9:30– 3:00PM at Faith Community Church in Palmer, IA. Register on line: faithccpalmer.org or call 515-329-6367. Cost is \$30.00. Tickets go fast. There is a sign-up sheet in narthex for carpool.

Operation Christmas Child 2019

Thank you for the generous donations of school supplies!

We will be collecting personal hygiene items during the month of September. Suggested items to include in the shoebox for boys and girls ages 2-14 include: comb, brush, toothbrush and holder, wash cloth, bar soap and holder, band-aids, lip balm, nail clipper, stick deodorant, flashlight (solar powered or include batteries), reusable plastic containers such as a cup, water bottle, bowl, blunt-edged utensils.

The above items may be placed in the shopping cart located in the narthex. More information on this important outreach program can be found at: www.samaritanspurse.org.

We will be purchasing 3 new laptop computers for the use of the church. The sound system was well under budget. Another step off will also be built for the band and that will be included in the sound system budget. The bathrooms are almost complete! Flooring will be ordered soon! Thank you for your patience! We will be ordering new covers for the thermostats in the church. We need someone to volunteer to seal the flashing above the kitchen so that we can contain the leak that occurs in the spring. We are looking at replacing part if not all of the roof within 2-5 years. Tuck pointing is still on the list of things to do. Jason Sargent will be contacted to remove some of the trees around the building. There is nothing new to report on the parking lot other than we are looking into drainage issues. The property committee will be cleaning out the storage area near the fellowship area so that Joy Kids and Joy Us will have more room for their activities this fall! Please let us know if there is anything you have a concern with and we will be happy to discuss at our next meeting September 15, 2019.

In Christ,

Terry L. Dirks and the entire property committee!

The Women's of Joy Bible Study will be starting a new study beginning Tue., Sept. 24th at 9:00 AM. The Faithful is a 5-week study which will include DVD's, a study book, and great discussion. Through lives of ordinary people for His glory and the good of His people. Come and be encouraged to live bold, faithful lives in obedience to God. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Please indicate if you would like a study book (\$16). Everyone is invited to join our group, so bring a friend! Contact Patti Thayer or Patt Gehrels with any questions.

Harbor of Joy Library

More great books were donated to the library this month. Many thanks to everyone who helps to keep our church library stocked with Christian books, DVD's, CD's, devotionals, Bible Studies, magazines, etc.

Here are the new books we received:

Fiction:

Portrait of Vengeance by Carrie Stuart Parks

In Places Hidden by Tracie Peterson

Deception by Randy Alcorn

Dominion by Randy Alcorn (This completes the Ollie Chandler Series)

Lon Way Home by Charles Martin

Hostage by Don Brown

In search of Eden by Linda Nichols

Ezekiel's Shadow by David Ryan Long

River's Edge by Terri Blackstock

Dear Enemy by Jack Cavanaugh

The Enlightenment of Bees by Rachel Unden

Rule of Law by Randy Singer

Yada Prayer Group Gets Real by Neta Jackson

Yada Prayer Group Gets Decked Out by Neta Jackson

Yada Prayer Group Gets Caught by Neta Jackson (This completes the series)

Nonfiction:

Biographies:

The Boy on the Wooden Box by Leon Leyson

The Boy Who Came Back From Heaven by Kevin Malarkey

I Am Malala by Malala You Safzai

Christian Living

Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis

The Helper by Catherine Marshall

Life Is Tremendous by Charles Jones

Prophecy:

Earth's Last Empire by John Hagee

Current Events:

Culturally Incorrect by Rod Parsley

Bible:

God has Spoken by Mal Couch

Favorite Authors:

Me and My Big Mouth by Joyce Meyer

CD's:

The Marketing of Evil by David Kupelian

Slipsliding Away by D. James Kennedy

Spiritual Sight by D. James Kennedy

Devotions and DVD's by Dr. Don Bierle

**If you read a book from the church library that you would recommend, please let Patt Gehrels know and we will include in the next newsletter.

Here are a few of the recommendations for this month:

Fiction:

Under a Cloudless Sky by Chris Fabry

A Long Way Home by Charles Martin

The Zion Chronicles Series by Bodie and Brock Thoene

Christian Living:

Beyond Blessed by Robert Morris

If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat by John Ortberg

**Also, please remember to tell others of our Free Library and Prayer Request Box on the West side of the building. Anyone from the community can take a book and either return it when they have finished reading it, or keep it.

The Free Library was very busy this month, with about 23 books going out. The prayer Request Box is also a good ministry to the community. The requests are kept confidential and the box is locked. Please share this information with your friends and neighbors.

Again, thanks to all of you who donate and support the Harbor of Joy Library. We have many great resources for continuing your Christian walk with God, so please come and check it out.

Patt Gehrels.



Prayers Requests: Tim & Bev Nappe, Nancy Letcher, Rodney & Melinda on mission trip to Ghana

Praise God for: Our missionaries

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

- **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 Sept. 20th..**

- **September 17,** Board and Council Meeting, 7PM.

- **Choir starts Sept. 4th at 7pm**



The Babbling Brook Notes!

As we enter into fall and into the back to school mode. Let's make Philippians 2:13b our focal point, "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead." A ter" picture of a fixer upper house. We are in the process of writing a new chapter in the life of Harbor of Joy. Keep in mind that it is a process, where in time we will see new things and new people in the body life of the church. I'm excited to be here, and then to look after a year to see what God has done and doing in His Church (HOJ)! We are building on the foundation that has made HOJ what it is today and we continue to move ahead in reaching people and touching lives for God's Kingdome. The key is working together and putting others before ourselves. This spirit is already here at HOJ, so let's not get complacent or lose it. The word "straining: comes from the Greek word that is talking about a foot race. The runner's body is bent forward with his hand outstretched toward the goal or finish line. In other words there will be challenging times ahead that will test our patience and demand our energy. Don't worry, God will provide! There will be times when it won't be easy but in the end it will be worth it all.

Let's keep looking ahead together!

Blessings,

Pastor Tim