Harbor of Joy Lutheran Church

March 2023

Newsletter

**A Word from Pastor Tim for March 2023**

Greetings! Grace and peace to you in our Lord Jesus Christ! Thank you for your caring spirit as you have voiced, sent and gave sympathy cards to us in the loss of our brother-in-law, Richard Ronnevik. His loss is heaven’s gain! We didn’t expect or see this coming, but we know that we will see him again in glory. The Harbor of joy Church family is so good at extending their love and caring to others who are dealing with broken bones, surgeries health concerns and even death. Let’s continue to be the salt and the light of the world as Jesus would want us to be.

We have had some exciting things happening her at Harbor of joy in the past month. Mark and Tammy Ebel were here on a Sunday morning in February after Tammy received a liver and kidney transplant in 2022. Thanks for the many prayers for Tammy and the family over the past year! Amy Johnson has come on board as another staff member who will be directing our Wednesday after school Joy Kids/Us and will be coordinating our Vacation Bible School this summer. We have about 9 people who have expressed an interest in becoming members of Harbor of Joy. Time will tell who will follow through and become members. There have been more new people coming to HOJ on Sunday’s. Having a Praise Band every Sunday in leading us in worship is a huge plus! The Women’s Bible study on Ruth (Tuesdays) and the life of Joseph on Thursday have been well attended. Thanks for your prayers as we move forward as a church!

By the time you read this, we will be having Lenten Services on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Our theme will be: “Old Testament Types As We See Jesus Going to the Cross.” We will be looking at different passages in the Old Testament that point to the cross in the New Testament. Lent isn’t about giving up something for 40 days. Lent is about appreciating what God has done for us in sending us His Son so we can have a personal relationship with Him. Lent helps us to see and understand Jesus Christ as the true Messiah. Who came and laid down His life for us so that we can be forgiven and assured of God’s great gift of salvation by faith! Let’s draw closer to Jesus in this Lenten season.

We will be bringing closure to the family of David Convy on Saturday, March 11, 2023. A memorial Service is planned for 10:30 a.m. here at Harbor of Joy. David was called home by our Lord on Friday, December 23, 2022. He was ready to go to Heaven and to be with Jesus. Jan was by his side the whole time. Dave’s smile and encouragement is missed! Pray for Jan and the family during this time of “letting go” and rejoicing that Dave is where he wanted to be – with Jesus!

We look forward to the hope of the resurrection and the promise of being reunited with those who have loved the Lord!

Blessings,

Pastor Tim

Minutes of the Harbor of Joy Lutheran Church Council

**February 7, 2023**

The Council Meeting of harbor of Joy Lutheran church was in person. Those in attendance: Pastor Tim, Kristi, Karen D., Steve, Jim, Dale, and Lyn.

Karen D. called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Secretary Report**:Lyn

Jan. minutes were approved with changes. Motion by Kristi second by Dale.

**Financial Report:** Kristi

Monthly harbor of Joy Financial Report was provided by Kristi. Jan. income $15,368.00 and expenses of $23,046.43. Financial Report was approved. Motion by Dale, second by Jim.

**Pastor’s Report:** Pastor Tim

Tim handed out a “Funeral information” sheet which has suggested prices for church services for funerals.

Tim will be holding membership classes for interested people.

**Board of Administration**

**Memorial Team:** Nothing new at this time. Lyn will ask Becky R if memorial fund could be used for collapsible flower stands.

**Staff Support:** Kristi: Nothing new at this time.

**Mission /Benevolence:** Will be meeting in Feb. to disperse money.

**Promotion/Media:** Nothing new at this time.

**Community Outreach and Activity Committee:** Ecumenical Services will start on Friday mornings.

**Parish Education for Youth:** Amy Johnson started full time Feb. 1.

**Adult Discipleship/Small Group:** Tuesday mornings, ladies study Ruth and Thursday lunch will be on life of Joseph.

**Prayer Team:** Nothing new at this time.

**Old Business:**

**Term limited positions:** Dale has completed his term limit. Dean’s current term is up, but may serve another term.

**Position that have no term limits:** Karen S. and Lyn.

**New Business:**

Lenten services start Feb. 22 with Ash Wednesday.

March 2st at 5:30 p.m. Board members will serve a meal prior to service. Service begins at 6:30 p.m.

If anyone is interested in having meal prior to Lent services thereafter, there will be a signup sheet in the kitchen. Easter is April 9th.

Motion passed to host Ecumenical Service Friday, March 17th at 9:30 a.m. Motion by Kristi 2nd by Steve.

Motion to allow Kristi Peck usage of the church Sat. May 20th for graduation, for Dan Winkowitsch to use in May sometime for a baby shower. Motion by Steve 2nd by Dale.

Closing prayer.

**Adjournment:**

Motion moved and approved. Next council Meeting is March 14th.

Devotions by Kristi

Respectfully Submitted, Lyn Creswell

Secretary

**JoyKids/Us**

It is so great to be back in the swing of things after the holiday season!  Right now we have 35-38 students attending Joy Kids and Joy Us each week!  We have been learning about the importance of prayer and talking to God and that God wants us to make kindness a lifestyle, not a single act.  The bible verses we have covered so far are:  Joshua 10, 1 Samuel 16, Psalm 29, Colossians 3:12 and Job 6:14. Looking ahead... I hope to plan some additional activities outside of the Joy Kids and Joy Us time as incentives for the students. I appreciate all of the support that everyone has given me through this transitional time, I feel very blessed. Also, I want to thank everyone that volunteers with the program, helped with the Christmas program, and for all the holiday cards and gifts that I received.

Amy Johnson

**Harbor of Joy Library**

The library has been blessed with many donated books within the last few months. Thank you to all who contributed to our growing library. We have a very impressive selection of materials, including Bible Studies, DVDs, CDs, fiction and nonfiction books. All the publications are Christian-based. All fiction books are located on the south wall of the library, and all non-fiction books are on the north wall. The non-fiction shelves are labeled according to the category of the book (Christian Living, Biographies, etc.) Occasionally, we receive duplicates of books. In that case, we put the duplicates in our Free Library located on the outside west wall of the building. Anyone in the community is welcome to take a book. We have also been giving duplicates to the new church in Estherville, so they can start their own library.

Following is a list of the new books.

We have been able to complete a few more of the Karen Kingsbury series.

Learning – Longing – Loving – Brush of Wings – In this Moment – When We Were Younger – Two Weeks – Forgiving Paris.

**Fiction**

Navy Families by Debbie Macomber

Christians in Alaska by Debbie Macomber

Navy Grooms by Debbie Macomber

Redeeming Love by Francine Rivers

When Crickets Cry by Charles Martin

**Non-Fiction**

Christian Living section:

Meeting God at a Dead End by Ron Mehl

If You Were God, Would You Choose You? By Rick Renner

Free Inside and Out by Marilyn Meberg and Luci Seindoll

One Life to Live by Kerry and Chris Shook

Rediscover Jesus by Matthew Kelly

Sabbath by Wayne Muller

When God Winks At You by Squire Rushnell

Faith Still Moves Mountains by Harris Faulkner

Overcoming Fear by Creflo Dollar

Right people Right Place Right Plan by Jentezen Franklin

Persevere With Power by Samuel Rodriguez

The Legacy Journey by Dave Ramsey

Prayer section:

The Power of praying for Your Adult Children by Stormie Omartian

Health and Healing section:

The Dieter’s prayer Book by Heather Koop

Shaman, Healer, Saga by Alberto Villoldo

**Prayers Requests:**

* Covid outbreak at Accura Care Center in Milford.
* Lisa, Julie Hansen’s sister, is having infusions every two weeks to reduce her cancerous tumor.
* Tammy Ebel is in Sioux Falls Hospital.

**Coming Events!**

**Men’s Breakfast** March 4th at Perkins in Milford at 7:30 a.m.

**JoyKids/Us every Wednesday** at 3:30 p.m. (no JoyKids on, March 15th)

**Lenten Services:** March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, April 6, & 7. Easter on April 9th. If someone has signed up to help provide a meal, the supper will be at 5:30 p.m. The Church Council is providing the meal for tonight, March 1.

**Lunch with the Bunch Bible Study,** Thursdays at noon with Pastor Tim.

**Prayer Group,** 9:30 a.m.in the Library. Everyone welcome to come and pray.

**Dave Convy memorial service** March 11th at 10:30 a.m.

**Daylight Saving Time** March 12. Spring ahead 1 hour.

**Council Meeting,** March 14**,** 7:00 p.m.

**Acts of Kindness for HOJ Widows!** Harbor of Joy wants to show that they care for the widows by helping them with hands-on Acts of Kindness, things that their husbands used to do or take care of when they were alive: replacing batteries in smoke detectors, opening the hood or gas cover for their vehicles, replacing furnace filters, oil changes, helping with taxes, lawn care, raking leaves, planting flowers, advice on what to do or who to call, etc… We need people to volunteer and be willing to take away the worries and fears that come in taking care of everyday life tasks. If you would like to help with your knowledge and hands, call the church office and let Charly know that you would like to be on the Acts of Kindness for Widows roster. Thanks.

Charly’s 2 cents

Always be prepared to give an answer for the hope that you have. 1 Peter 3: 15.

Last spring, the night before our lawn was to be aerated, a violent windstorm blew the seeds off our maple tree in one fell swoop. So when the aerating machine broke up the compacted soil by pulling small “cores” out of the ground, it planted hundreds of maple seeds in my yard. Just two short weeks later, I had the beginnings of a maple forest growing up through my lawn!

As I (frustratedly) surveyed the misplaced foliage, I was struck by the prolific abundance of new life a single tree had spawned. Each of the miniature trees became a picture for me of the new life in Christ that I – as merely one person – can share with others. We each will have countless opportunities to “give the reason for the hope that [we] have” (1 Peter 3:15) in the course of our lives.

When we “suffer for what is right” with the hope of Jesus (vs 14), it’s visible to those around us and might just become a point of curiosity to those who don’t yet know God personally. If we’re ready when they ask, then we man share the seed through which God brings forth new life. We don’t have to share it with everyone all at once – in some kind of spiritual windstorm. Rather, we gently and respectfully drop the seed of faith into a heart ready to receive it.

Who in your life is sharing or asking about the reason for your hope? What will you share with them?

Jesus, thank You for growing the seed of faith in my life. Help me to share the reason for my hope – You with those who ask and may they grow in their love for You.

~Our Daily Bread~