

4th Sunday in Lent

8:50 a.m.

March 15, 2015

Welcome members, friends and visitors to our service this morning. We would ask you all to complete the friendship pad located in your pew. Thank you for your help. Welcome Packets for our visitors and guests are available at the Visitor Center.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Stainer

"God So Loved the World"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Out of darkness...

People: God called light.

Leader: Out of chaos...

People: God calls forth order.

Leader: Gathered in this place and made one in Christ,

People: Let us lift up our hearts and voices in prayer, song, and scripture.

Leader: Being empowered by the Spirit...

All: Let us worship God.

* HYMN 85

"What Wondrous Love is This"

* OPENING PRAYER

Triune God, giver of every good gift, you have showered us with uncountable blessings. Every day we enjoy the beauty of your creation and we are constantly renewed by your loving grace. For our short sighted selfishness, you have repaid us with abundant patience and love. For our pride, you have given your very own Son so that we might know life. But yet, caught between the many concerns of this life, we confess that we have forsaken you. Enamored by in the glitz of this world's treasures, we have become far too fascinated with what we can acquire or consume for enjoyment. Forgive us and heal us.

Create in us clean hearts and set us free from the chains of sin so that we might follow Jesus. Amen.

* GLORIA PATRI

CHILDREN'S TIME

Ellen Williams

HYMN 304

"Jesus Loves Me!"

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE 7th Grade Handbell Choir

"2-fold Amen"

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 3:17-21

(Page 1080 in the Pew Bibles)

ANTHEM

Chancel Choir

"Father Forgive Them"

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 23:26-27; 32-38

(Page 1046 in the Pew Bibles)

SERMON

Michael Gewecke

~~Unknown Forgiveness~~

Forgiveness for the Unknown

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH --From Patmos Abbey—The Order of Saint Columba

We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God, who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.

We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God, and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.

We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.

We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures, and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.

We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination, and that our path leads to a human

Members of the 7th Grade Handbell Choir are Cole Brumley, Jonah Eldridge, Zach Erickson, Noah Lammers, Emma Jenness, Emma Loveall, Brice Pratt, Kolby Richter, Logan Sill, Olivia Smith, Abby Stucker & Seattle Sweeney.

Sunday School Classes

10:15am

New Member Class ~Clint Loveall

Book Study Running with Horses by Eugene Peterson ~

John & Cindy Knabe

Autobiographies of Grace ~

Various Speakers

Easter Lilies

Again this year, the lilies will have even more meaning. The cost of a lily alone is \$10.25, or if you choose to help benefit the Spirit Lake Backpack Program, the cost will be \$15.00. So while we celebrate resurrection, we will also be ministering to those in need. Please call Cheri at the church office at 336-1649 to place your order, and please let us know if this is in memory of, or honoring someone. Thank you.

Lent Preaching Series

@The Cross #LastwordsofJesus

This Lent we will explore the seven things Jesus said from the cross. Each week we will look at one of the "last words" and try to hear Jesus' voice again in a new way. We hope you can make it for worship this Lenten season.

3/15 – Forgive them, they know not what they do

3/22 – My God, My God, why have you forsaken me

3/29 – Today you will be with me in paradise

4/1 – It is finished

WNF Youth Meal Partners

The CE committee would like you to consider volunteering to sit with students who are dining during WNF without their families. Recently we have seen a number of students who have been eating together without any adults with them and we would like to create opportunities for them to build relationships with adults in our congregation, demonstrate that we care about them, and show them that they are an important part of our church family. We are simply asking for three individuals or couples to volunteer to be meal partners for one month and commit to seek out tables of youth that don't have other adults present. If you are interested in volunteering for March or April please contact Cheri in the church office. ***If you can't volunteer for a month, we would like everyone to consider intentionally sitting with students, introducing yourself, and showing them that we are glad they are joining us as we grow in faith together.***

Church School Snacks

A sign-up sheet and **PEANUT/ NUT-FREE SNACK LIST** has been placed in the library window. Please take a snack list and sign up for your favorite date!! 5 dozen snacks and 2 large juice (not red) are needed in the Cantina for Church School by 9:45am each Sunday morning. This week our snacks were provided by the Beck family, next week will be the Howatt family.

Lenten Bible Study

Easter Deconstructed

We often think of Lent as the story of what leads up to Jesus' resurrection, but what about what has happened since. Our Lenten study this year will take a look at some of the major themes of faith through the lens of church history. We will gather each week for a soup supper and fellowship, and then have a chance to think together about a particular theme that has been an important aspect of the Christian faith. Childcare will be provided and there is no cost, so please join us as we explore our beliefs and prepare for Easter together.

Lent is through March 29, with a soup supper at 4:30pm and Bible Study from 5:00-6:00pm.

Childcare will be provided in the nursery, please notify us with the number of children. There is a sign-up sheet for food in the Narthex. Each week we need three people to bring soup, one person to bring bread, one person to bring a veggie tray and two people to bring desserts. See you there!

3/15 – The B-I-B-L-E – Christians and the Good Book

3/22 – Joyful Noise? – Christian and the worship wars

3/29 – Whom shall I send? – Christian Missions

Attention all Women

Please plan to attend Presbyterian Women Projects Day on Thursday, March 19th from 9:30-noon in the Fellowship Hall. Morning coffee & treats will be provided. This is a fun morning to work on various projects with some great fellowship. If you haven't attended before, we would love to have you join us.

Wednesday Night Fellowship

Meal: Tacos

Meal Crew: Amy Bengel, Amy Webber, Erin Radcliffe, Sara Fisher, Angie Peterson, Shannon Farmer & Rachelle Gewecke

- 1) Wednesday Night Fellowship is for everyone, not just kids or families. Everyone is welcome.
- 2) Nursery will be provided as well as a Pre-K/T-K class.
- 3) **Dinner Time Change:** This year dinner will be served from **5:30pm to 6:00pm** so you can eat whenever you arrive.
- 4) Register Online at <http://fpcspiritlake.org/wnf>.

Schedule

5:30pm – Dinner begins and will be served until 6:00 (eat as you arrive)
6:00pm – Children and adult programming begins
6:45pm – Sr. High meal for those who come later
7:00pm – Dismissal
7:15pm - Sr. High Fellowship begins

Join a Meal Team

To sign up to serve with a group, please contact Cheri in the church office.

Adult Ed Classes

Caring for Elderly Loved Ones

~ Various Speakers

Parenting Adolescents ~ Clint Loveall

Second semester dues are due!!

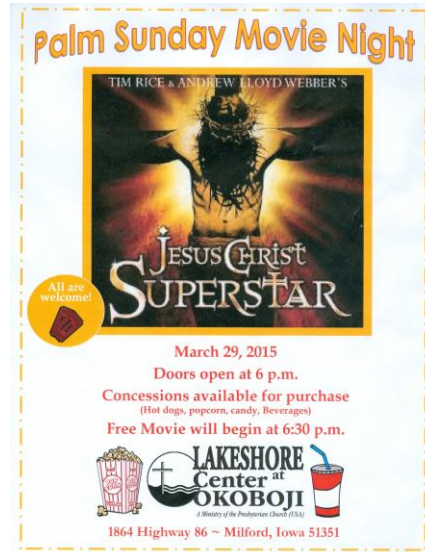
Lakeshore Center at Okoboji

Upcoming Events

March 27-28 ~ "Be Still" Sabbath Retreat

March 29 ~ Palm Sunday Movie Night

Check out the website for registration details at
www.lakeshorecenteratokoboji.org



Rides to and from church for this week is Kelly McKeever ~ (712)209-0303, next week will be Amy Stover ~ 336-9766.

Hospital Deacon: Kelly McKeever
Week of March 22

Reformed (1st) Service

Liturgist: Pam DenHerder

Video: Wes Farmer

Nursery: Kiley Anderson & Ashley Dreeszen

Coffee: Jerry & Dorothy Ingvall

Reforming (2nd) Service

Singers: Emily Andersen, Marissa Sill & Bart Duncan

Nursery: April Poolman

Sound: Kelly McKeever

Powerpoint: Emma Dau

Boy Scouts Pancake Breakfast

You are invited to join in celebrating the 71st Anniversary of Boy Scout Troop #168's Annual Pancake Breakfast. This will be held on Saturday, March 21st from 7:00am to 12:30pm at the VFW Memorial Hall in Spirit Lake. Tickets are \$7.00 and available at the door or from a member of Troop 168. Proceeds go to the Summer Camping Program.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 15

8:15am-Prayer in the Chapel

8:50am-Reformed (1st) Service

10:00am-Coffee and fellowship

10:10am-Sunday School

10:15am-Adult Ed Classes

11:15am-Reforming (2nd) Service

4:30pm-Lenten Bible Study

Monday, March 16

9:00am-PW Sewing

5:15pm-Stewardship Comm Mtg

Tuesday, March 17

1:30pm-Women's Bible Study

7:00pm-Session Meeting

Wednesday, March 18

5:30pm-WNF

7:00pm-Handbell practice

7:15pm-High School

8:00pm-Chancel Choir practice

Thursday, March 19

9:00am-Men's Bible Study

9:30am-PW Projects Day

7:00pm-2nd Service Rehearsal

Friday, March 20

7:00pm-7th & 8th Grade Movie Night in the High School Room

Sunday, March 22

8:15am-Prayer in the Chapel

8:50am-Reformed (1st) Service

10:00am-Coffee and fellowship
10:10am-Sunday School
10:15am-Adult Ed Classes
11:15am-Reforming (2nd) Service
2:00pm-Worship Service at Hilltop
4:30pm-Lenten Bible Study

Each week we remember First Pres families in prayer, this week please pray for

Sheila Bowers
4313 Lakeshore Dr., Okoboji

Marilyn Lippon
1819 23rd St., Spirit Lake

Please pray for our members and friends of this church family who are facing various health concerns: Maddie DeWitt, Chris Koehler, Nicole Hintz, Ethan Burk, Jody Ferguson, Shane Feist, Grant Vietor, Dick Morris, Judy Arens, Jose Reedy, Jacob Connell, Mary Smith, Anita Stockdale, Ardyce Rush, Marian Tadlock, Jamie Nebelsick, Jim Hauck, Barb Hanisch, Amy Webber, Jack & Peg Luhning, Jodie Dennis, Miles Butterworth, Jay Anderson, Bill Estes, Kay Monson, Brock Tuntland, Lois Roghair, Marv & Barb Rohlf, Kathy Huitink, Mitch Peterson, Deb Petersen, Sharon Caskey, Paul & Sheri Donnenwerth, Pat Dalton, Brian Jones, Donna VanHolland, Gene Kuehn, Dave Bartels, Kathy Hoppe, Connie Hoppe, Larry Smith, Marge Schneidawind, Ron Jenkins, Esther Haburn, Jen Watts, Tom Gruber, Bernice Steele, Marj Struthers

Please pray for our members and friends who serve in the Armed Forces: Staff SGT **Jamie Lewis**, 1st LT **Whitney Lewis**, 2612 SE 8th St., Moore, OK 73160; SSG **Frederick, Jesse**, 73 Funk St., Ft. Leonardwood, MO 65473, **Billy Joe Travis**, Sioux City Navy Recruiting Office, Sioux City, IA, **Ryan Mackey**, 829th EN CO, 519th MP BN, APO AE 09342, **Kyle Klaassen**, PFC, 49 Ann St., Milford, IA 51351, SPC **Orvis Nygaard**, Laramie, WY

Missionaries

Bruce Ahlberg, YWAM
6ta Avenida Norte #33
Antigua, Guatemala

brutcho@hotmail.com

Bruce is completing 8 years of ministry in Guatemala. The needs are great for many of the families serving them through education, building homes, providing medicine and medical care, food and clothing but most importantly sharing the gospel and teaching the word of God. The YWAM staff will be adding 4-5 new members in the near future.

One of the needs is for more housing for staff, teams and students attending the Discipleship Training School (DTS). Bruce is investigating purchasing lots next to the base with the possibility of building a facility to meet their growing needs. This will be a venture of faith but also an opportunity for anyone who wants to help with the construction to put their

skills to work. (Our church helped build one of these houses a few years ago.)

Dr. Barbara Nagy was appointed in 2004 to serve in Malawi as a specialist in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at Nkhoma Hospital, an institution of the Church of Central African Presbyterian, Nkhoma Synod. She supervises care and teaching in both the male and female wards. The predominant illnesses in Malawi are malaria, pneumonia, anemia, malnutrition, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. The average life expectancy is thirty five years. We started supporting Dr. Nagy in 2010.