

THE BLADE

April 2017

"For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

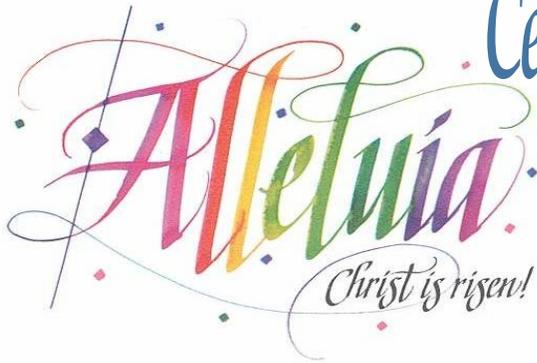
Hebrews 4:12



Bring a pot of soup, bread, or a vegetable/relish tray and join us for our last Lenten soup potluck!
April 5 @ 6:00pm



Join us for a Tenebrae service, with communion, candles, songs, and readings.
Thursday, April 13



Celebrate the Resurrection with Us!

Easter Sunday, April 16

9:00am Sunrise Worship

9:30am Brunch

10:30am Worship

Remember to Bring in Your Hy-Vee Receipts

Grocery, gasoline, and prescription receipts count. Our church receives a \$1000 check from Hy-Vee for \$150,000 in receipts. Please make sure the receipts are from the Brookings Hy-Vee Store only.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!

Goal: \$150,000

Received: \$60,244.80

Need: 89,755.20

Summer Sunday Schedule

June - August

9:30am Worship Service
Nursery care is available on first floor during Sunday School and Sunday Worship

Regular Sunday Schedule

September - May

9:00am Sunday School
10:30am Worship Service
11:30am Fellowship Hour
Lord's Supper—First Sunday of each month

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

9:00am - 12:00pm
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Friday

9:00am - 12:00pm



THE BLADE

Published Monthly
(June/July & December/January
Combined)

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Our vision is to see lives changed through joyful worship, supportive relationships, faith formation, and heartfelt service empowered by the mercy, grace, and love of Jesus Christ.

Prayer Families

Prayer is an important part of a Christian's life in the community of faith. As members of that community you are encouraged to pray for the people listed each week during your time of daily prayer. The families and individuals are selected at random.

April 2: Bob & Pat Fishback; Joel, Bonnie, Lynn, Paige, & Gayle Foster

April 9: Neal & Julie Foster; Elizabeth Fox; Betty Gehring

April 16: Troy, Rosa, Carol Ann, Tia, Jolena, & Malia Glaus; Eugene & JoAnne Goodale

April 23: Jon Greseth; Carol Glantz & Don Kleinjan

April 30: Bob & Jan Jones; Alice Hayes



If you would like our team of prayer volunteers to be praying for you or a loved one, contact Jan Jones at 692-5325, bjon@brookings.net, or any of the other prayer chain volunteers: Dolores Canaday, Lee Peterson, Karie Rottluff, Harold & Marge Poppen, Linda Barnett, Ann Spitzenberger, Susan Smith, Judy Smith, Bonnie Foster, and Melanie Shepherd.



Save the Date for VBS!

May 29 - June 2

If you would like to help at all please let someone on the CE Committee know!!

Session Grace Notes –

The complete Session minutes will be posted on the bulletin board.

Commissioned Ruling Elder Paul Penn moderated March's session meeting and has agreed to carry out Communion Services during our transition period.



Reports were reviewed and here are some highlights that you might find interesting:

- The Board of Deacons and Trustees are investigating how to make the door into the sanctuary on the East side (with the external ramp) a more welcoming entrance so that those with mobility needs will be able to get to the sanctuary more easily. If you have opinions or suggestions, please let a Deacon or Trustee know!
- The Transition team continues to meet each Monday to provide support to Melanie and address any issues that have come up. One thing that is missing when we do not have a pastor is someone who can quickly address minor issues and coordinate between various groups in the church. The transition team was formed to meet that need. If you know of something that the group should be aware of, please share with Jeanne Manzer, Dave Peterson, Delores Canaday, Donna Flint, or Melanie Shepherd.
- The Fellowship committee continues managing the coffee hour and the Lenten Potluck Soup suppers.
- The CE committee reports that Game Night for all members of the congregation will be on the first Sunday of each month at 6:00- starting in April. They also want to remind members that the Embry Fund can be used to help support summer camp for our children and youth and for adults or families to attend Synod School. More information about these two opportunities is available in the church office. The Easter Egg Hunt will take place on April 9th.
- The Mission and Finance committee continues to monitor spending and ensure that church finance records are responsibly maintained. Thanks to their careful work, the church stands in good financial condition.
- The Worship committee is considering arrangement of chancel furniture - if you have opinions- please share with members of that committee!
- The Pastor Nominating Committee reports that they have read about 50 applications and have chosen some good candidates, talked to references, and are now talking to the candidates on the short list. We feel very positive about the search. We have not shared much information about our work with you over these last few months, mainly because Presbyterian Policy is that the PNC maintains confidentiality, even from the church members. The work of the PNC can be very emotionally draining- excitement, followed by letdown, followed by more excitement, followed by letdown, etc. This kind of emotional rollercoaster shared with the congregation is only amplified and could become frustrating for everyone. Now that we are working with specific candidates, we must be even more vigilant to maintain confidentiality for those candidates currently serving a church. We ask for your prayers that God will lead the right person to us and that he won't take too long sending them!

Please keep the members of Session, Trustees, Deacons, and committees in your thoughts and prayers as we all work to support the church and its members.

Start Stirring Your Stuff!! - Anonymous

Every Fall I start stirring my "stuff!" There is closet stuff, drawer stuff, attic stuff, and basement stuff. I separate the good stuff from the bad stuff, then I stuff the bad stuff anywhere the stuff is not too crowded until I decide if I will need the bad stuff.

When the Lord calls me home, my children will want the good stuff, but the bad stuff, stuffed wherever there is room among all the other stuff, will be stuffed in bags and taken to the dump where all the other people's stuff has been taken.

Whenever we have company they always bring bags and bags of stuff. When I visit my son, he always moves his stuff so I will have room for my stuff! My daughter-in-law always clears a drawer of her stuff so I will have room for my stuff. Their stuff and my stuff...it would be so much easier to use their stuff and leave my stuff at home, with the rest of my stuff.

This Fall I had an extra closet built so I would have a place for all the stuff too good to throw away and too bad to keep with my good stuff. You may not have this problem, but I seem to spend a lot of time with stuff...food stuff, cleaning stuff, medicine stuff, clothes stuff, and outside stuff. Whatever would life be like if we didn't have all this stuff?

Now there is all that stuff we use to make us smell better than we do. There is the stuff to make our hair look good. Stuff to make us look younger. Stuff to make us healthier. Stuff to hold us in, and stuff to fill us out. There is stuff to read, stuff to play with, stuff to entertain us, and stuff to eat. We stuff ourselves with the food stuff.

Well, our lives are filled with stuff...good stuff, bad stuff, little stuff, big stuff, useful stuff, junky stuff, and everyone's stuff. Now, when we leave all our stuff and go to heaven, whatever happens to our stuff won't matter. We will still have the good stuff God has prepared for us in heaven!



Please join the Trustees for the Church Spring Cleanup/Fix Up!

WHEN: Saturday, April 22

TIME: 9am-12pm (or when finished)

Donuts, coffee, and juice will be provided; please join if you are available!!



Presbyterian Circle

The Women's Circle has been viewing the videos from the Beth Moore study "Jesus the One and Only." They have been educational, exciting, and right on target for our lives. We invite all the women of the congregation to join us on the third Tuesday at 9:30am in the center meeting room. The only qualification is to want to learn more about the Word of God and come to know our Lord Jesus Christ. Meetings are casual and our concern for each other is loving and sincere. There is always room around the table and plenty of coffee to share!

-Reminder: When doing your Spring cleaning and "stirring your stuff," if you have puzzles, games, books, etc. that your family has out grown or not using, consider putting them in the basket labeled "Domestic Abuse Shelter." Marge Poppen has been acting as our Mission Coordinator and she will deliver them to the shelter. If you have any questions about what is needed or can be donated, there is a list posted on the P.W. Bulletin board. We will take any donations listed at any time. Do not feel limited by the designation of the month for donation.

With God's Blessings and Love,
Dolores Canaday
Moderator



Deacons News

The elevator at the north end of our church is a stair-free entrance, that goes down to the church basement, or up to the second floor. It is easy and safe to use just follow these steps: Enter elevator and turn on the light, close the door and re-close both gates, push the button to your desired floor. Just make sure when you are finished for the day that the elevator is parked on the main floor and the light is shut off. Notice there are no keys needed anymore!

Our church is responsible for delivering 60-plus noon meals for **April 10-21**. There are three different routes to cover, so if you are available and willing, please consider signing up on the bulletin board. You may sign up for certain days or for the whole week which ever works best for you.

March 5 was Communion Sunday and henceforth homebound communion that afternoon. Pastor Paul Penn and Deacon Ella Lane served four of our members. April 2 is Communion Sunday; call the office if you would like to have communion served to you that afternoon.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Thompson

MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

Andrew L'Amour

Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'



Quote: "Smile at strangers and you just might change a life." – Steve Maraboli

Men's Brotherhood Notes: March.....On March 6 the church served at the Harvest Table. This event was coordinated by the Men's Brotherhood. On March 16, we had our regular monthly meeting. Representatives from Habitat for Humanity gave the program. April..... The monthly meeting will be April 20. May.....The monthly meeting will be May 18. if you have an idea for a program let Mike or Andrew know. Encourage anyone to come; bring a friend!

Prayer Concerns: Pray for those who are strangers to us that we become closer and we are no longer strangers to one another.

Action: Reach out, find ways to shorten the distance between all of us.

The Easter story is closely related to the story of the Passover which centers around the time when the Israelites were exiled in Egypt. The Israelites had gone down to Egypt at the request of their brother Joseph who was Pharaoh's right hand man during a time of drought in the land where they were living. This story of Joseph and the Israelites life in Egypt is a fascinating story. His exile and what happened to him before having his family brought down there for their safety and what subsequently happened to them is an exciting one. It is good background for the story of Moses. I encourage you to read it this time of year right through to when the Israelites depart and pass through the sea.

The Israelites' were all one big family, direct descendants of Jacob, or Israel as his name was changed to. When they first went down to Egypt they were a small group but over the period of about 400 years they grew to be a rather large group. At first welcomed because of Joseph and what he did for the Egyptians but later enslaved and treated poorly. Welcomed, then later despised. Strangers in a strange land.

The Bible mentions in several places about strangers and how they should be treated. Apparently, there must have been a lot of mistreatment of strangers in former times that God needed to spell it out that we should grant them good passage and respect. It is evident that God granted special consideration to strangers so much that they were included in Matthew 25 – the poor, hungry, homeless, those in prison, strangers.

Who are strangers? Generally, it was anyone outside the family or territory the people were living in. They could be from different linguistic, racial groups, or who had different cultural practices. How the ancient Israelites treated strangers often had warnings that if they mistreated them, God would bring down harsh judgment on Israel.

Israel was seen to be a blessing to all nations so how the stranger was treated was necessary for them to continue to be blessed by God. There were reminders to Israel also that the land belonged to God and that they too were strangers.

The story of the Good Samaritan is another prime example for us today, showing us the need to be hospitable and caring for someone, a stranger, who is in a situation needing aid. We must not allow indifference, fear or any other reason to get between us and being hospitable to the strangers. We are all strangers in the land and anyone in need should be considered as a brother or sister. Being hospitable is a way of fostering good will among all peoples and letting our light shine. We need to encourage reaching out and offering help to others and especially even more so in times of need. We are called to love one another with no limits or restrictions on who the "other" is. All thanks to God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.



"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation" II Corinthians 1:3-4

Sin has a way of affecting people all around us. Too many people today do not think about the affect of their sin on others. Satan's lie is, "It is my life and I can do what I want to do." What they are saying is, "It is all about me." I tell the men I counsel, "You were living by your feelings and that is what got you in prison." I have never had them disagree with me. Even when we sin God is there to help us up again.

Inmates have a hard time when a family member dies while they are in prison. I have had the opportunity to play the DVD of the funeral of an inmate's family member for him. Several years ago it was the funeral of his mother and lately it was the funeral of his brother. He wiped the tears away as he watched the video. I was thankful that I could comfort him. Both of his family members who died were strong Christians and they have the promise of eternal life with the Lord in heaven. I could bring him the comfort of knowing that his mother and brother are in heaven! Although he has still not committed his life to Christ, I believe that the prayers of his mother and brother for him live on.

One Sunday afternoon I was called to visit with an inmate whose mother had died. He told the staff he wanted to visit with a chaplain. This man is not living the Christian life but his mother was a strong Christian woman. His aunt informed me that while his mother was sick she would share Jesus with whoever would listen to her. This inmate told me that he started to stray from the Lord when he was fifteen. I was able to comfort him with the assurance that he will see his mother again if he would turn back to the Lord. The hope and comfort I could give him is only in Jesus! I pray that both of these men will realize that Jesus is their only hope and comfort not only in this life, but also in the life to come.

I often have the opportunity to visit with inmates in the hospital. A few weeks ago one of the men told me that when was he was given anesthesia, he felt like he was dying. He said that had scared him. He comes from a Christian family, and his cellmate is a Christian. He told me that he has just been putting off committing his life to Christ. I asked him if he was ready to turn from his sin and invite Christ to take over his life. He was ready and we prayed together to trust Christ as his Savior! It is amazing how God works in hearts to bring people to Himself. I believe it was the Lord Who had me there at the right time. It is all about Him!

It is a joy to work with these men because some of them realize that they deserve God's judgment. Instead God gives them mercy, just like He has done for you and me!

Thank you all for your prayer support and your financially support. May God bless all of you richly!

In Christ,
Harlan Moss

Your gifts are appreciated and tax deductible. The checks can be made out to and sent to: South Dakota Prison Chaplain's Association (SDPCA), P.O. Box 90509, Sioux Falls, SD 57109-0509. **Please designate my name in the memo section of your check.** My phone: 605-940-4220 email address: hpmoss1@yahoo.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!



ELEMENTARY CAMP - RIMROCK

June 11-16, 2017 (COMPLETED grades 3-5)

MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP - RIMROCK

June 18-24, 2017 (COMPLETED grades 6-8)

HIGH SCHOOL CAMP - RIMROCK

June 25- July 1, 2017 (COMPLETED grades 9-12)

YOU & ME CAMP - RIMROCK

July 6-9, 2017 (child with adult partner)

If you are interested in any of the camps please stop in the office to pick up a brochure or you can visit <http://pioneerrimrock.camp>

Synod School 2017



Let Justice Flow

Why do they Keep returning to Synod School?

- Christian fellowship
- Inspiring worship and song
- Growth in knowledge and faith
- Personal and spiritual renewal
- Fun for families and singles of all ages

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July 23-28, 2017

Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa

Discover Synod School!

www.lakesandprairies.org/SynodSchool

800-328-1880, ext. 207



April Volunteers:

Ushers: Robby Flint; Linda Barnett **Counters: Dave Peterson**

Sound: Alan & Adam Young **Dee Watson**

Bruce Westergaard **Henrietta Gohring**

2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regular Worship Greeters: Dave & Lee Peterson (North) 6:00 Game Night BIRTHDAY: Gayle Foster	7:00 Scouts	9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) 1:00 Outreach 6:30 Mission Finance BIRTHDAYS: Roger Jenner & Richard Smith	6:00 Lenten Soup Potluck	9:30 Women's Bible Study 6:30 Committees	BIRTHDAY: Nona Marshall	BIRTHDAY: Jennifer Hinricher
PALM SUNDAY Regular Worship Greeter: Jeanne Manzer (North) 1:00 PresbyKids & Youth Meet @Church 2:00 Easter Egg Hunt/Party 6:00 Small Group Bible Study BIRTHDAY: Ramsie Jo Hinricher	7:00 Scouts	9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) 6:30 Trustees BIRTHDAY: Lee Peterson	BLADE ARTICLES DUE	9:30 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service BIRTHDAY: Ann Spitzzenberger	GOOD FRIDAY OFFICE CLOSED BIRTHDAY: Dee Watson	ANNIVERSARY: Lynn & Diane Riedesel
EASTER SUNDAY Greeter: John Peterson (North) 9:00 Sunrise Service 9:30 Breakfast 10:30 Regular Worship	OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 Scouts BIRTHDAY: Pat Fishback	9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) 9:30 Presbyterian Circle 6:00 Session	ANNIVERSARY: John & Robin Eich	9:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Men's Brotherhood	9:00 Spring Cleanup @Church	9:00 Spring Cleanup @Church
Regular Worship Greeters: Skip & Sharon Webster (North) 6:00 Small Group Bible Study	7:00 Scouts	9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House)	9:30 Women's Bible Study BIRTHDAY: Cal Vaudrey ANNIVERSARY: Larry & Diane Anderson	9:30 Women's Bible Study BIRTHDAY: Cal Vaudrey ANNIVERSARY: Larry & Diane Anderson	12:00 Lunch Bunch @The Pheasant	12:00 Lunch Bunch @The Pheasant
Regular Worship Greeters: Scott & Jennifer Hinricher & family (North) 6:00 Small Group Bible Study	7:00 Scouts	9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House)	9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House)	9:30 Women's Bible Study BIRTHDAY: Cal Vaudrey ANNIVERSARY: Larry & Diane Anderson	12:00 Lunch Bunch @The Pheasant	9:00 Spring Cleanup @Church

The Blade

First Presbyterian Church

405 7th Avenue

Brookings, SD 57006-2018

Return Service Requested



Christ
is
Risen!

**THE
BLADE
IS
AVAILABLE
ELECTRONICALLY!**

If you are interested in receiving the newsletter by email instead of by post mail, contact the church office at presby@brookings.net or 692-2416.