

THE BLADE

May 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



Youth Rally 2017

"For we are His Masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus for good works." Ephesians 2:10 was the theme for the Presbyterian Church Youth Rally held April 1-2 in Pierre, SD. Lynn Foster, Allison Moerke, Emma Moerke, and Bonnie Foster attended along with over 125 youth and adults from across the state of South Dakota.

Lynn said "Youth Rally was a lot of fun. The leaders were very energetic about what we were

doing. Each activity was fun and I can't wait to go next year."

The weekend involved sessions with keynote speakers, large and small group discussions, a dance, a movie, bag skits, talent show, and ample time to meet and visit with new friends. Allison stated "I liked talking in my small group and coming up with our skit for the talent show. I also enjoyed seeing people from Camp Rimrock, as well as meeting new people."

Emma Moerke sums up her experience "This was my first year going to Youth Rally. My favorite thing about Youth Rally was meeting new people. I also liked the keynote speakers and their message relating to the theme."

Thank you to the church for supporting the youth attending Youth Rally. This is a great opportunity for the youth in our church to grow their faith, meet others from across the state, make new friends, and rekindle friendships from Camp Rimrock.



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: \$77,731.12

Need: \$72,268.88

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

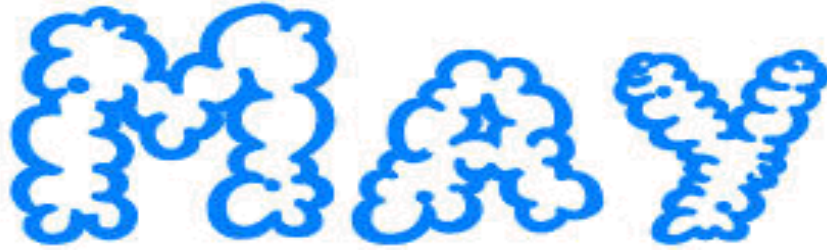
Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

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

Friday

9:00am - 12:00pm



THE BLADE

Published Monthly
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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.

May 7: Scott & Jennifer Hinricher & family; Dean & Sharon Hofland

May 14: Nelda Holden; Dennis Hopfinger & Carolyn Clague

May 21: Roger & Marvis Jenner; Carol Johnston

May 28: Marlys Kelsey; Alice Dempster; Barbara Borstad



If you would like our team of prayer volunteers to be praying for you or a loved one, contact Jan Jones at 692-5325, bobjon@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.

PER CAPITA

For 2017, the amount for per capita is \$28.80 per person. We ask your help in paying this for yourself and/or your family if you are able.



Monthly Financial Report

	2017	Jan	Feb	Mar	To Date
Income		14,314.28	17,884.12	11,913.21	44,111.61
Expense		13,816.46	9,206.75	10,281.58	33,304.79
Difference		497.82	8,677.37	1,631.63	10,806.82

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Volunteering at Vacation Bible School can be very fun and rewarding! A particular need is designing and creating decorations for the event. We have lots of supplies, but we need you... yes you... with the *artistic flair!* Please volunteer to help! Other volunteer jobs include leading the activities of Bible storytelling, crafts, or games. If you'd like to be a part of this, please contact a member of the Christian Education committee.



VBS will take place in the evenings May 29-June 2. We will have some postcards and door hangars in the church office for you to share with family, friends and people you know with kids. Please take some and help spread the news! For some children, this could be their first experience learning about Jesus in a fun way and seeing how He can have a positive impact in their life.

Donna Flint
Christian Education Committee



Summer Special Music

Are you interested in providing special music one or two Sunday services this summer?

You can sing, dance, or play an instrument.

All ages welcome!

If interested, contact Melanie in the church office!

presby@brookings.net

692-2416



Beginning

Sunday, June 4, 2016

Worship@

9:30am



Join us at the

Church Picnic!

Pentecost Picnic

Sunday, June 4

Stay tuned for

details!

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 of the month at 9:30 AM in the center meeting room to watch the video and join in a discussion. The only qualification is to want to learn more about the Word of God and to come to know our Lord Jesus Christ. Our meetings are casual, and our concern for each other is loving and sincere. There is always room around the table, and another cup of coffee in the coffee pot waiting.

The next meeting is May 16. We will view Session 6 of "Jesus the One and Only."

Do not forget May Fellowship day is May 5 at First United Methodist Church. It begins at 12:00 PM with a salad luncheon.

Thank you to all who helped serve for Roberta Bailey's funeral and lunch. Many hands make work so much easier.

Dolores Canaday
Circle Moderator



Deacon Ministry

Deacons News

Hello from all the Deacons! It is spring and time for new beginnings. How blessed we are and thankful for each new day. We never know what God has planned for us. With God's help the Deacons have been very busy and enjoying every minute.

We are blessed with the most amazing people in our congregation and a joy to spend time with each of you. The Deacons do have a few problems we could use everyone's help with. When you or a loved one is ill, in the hospital, or have a change of address, please call the church office or your Deacon. We want to be there for you, to say a prayer, bring a meal, or hold your hand.

For those who have difficulty with the stairs, the elevator is working without the keys. It seems to be working without any difficulties getting people to their destinations. Please ask for assistance if you are unsure how to use the elevator.

We are trying to think of ideas and plans so the ramp and door to the sanctuary will be available. We do not want anyone's disabilities to keep them from attending church service. We really enjoy providing rides to church, whether for service, or a meeting. Please call the church office, or your Deacon if you need a ride. This is a pleasure not an inconvenience. The person you are asking for assistance is getting more from being able to help you than the help you are getting.

We want to thank all of those that helped with the delivering of the 60's plus meals. Your willingness to help makes this program run so smoothly and is much appreciated!

The month of May will bring spring flowers and the wonder of all God's creation. Enjoy and Happy Spring!

Respectfully Submitted By,
Ella Lane



Outstanding Senior Presbyterian Award

This year's Senior Presbyterian Award winner is Jan Jones and you might know her as someone who has experienced many challenges and opportunities that God has put in her path. She has travelled with a carnival, had a job interview during a tornado warning, and when she and Bob were expecting their first child they moved to an area where the nearest hospital was 65 miles away.

Confirmed as a Lutheran and married to a Methodist, Jan and Bob found a welcoming church home in the Presbyterian Church when living on the Pine Ridge reservation. Jan started her teaching career in Flandreau in the early 1960s and when Bob found a job teaching in Pine Ridge, they moved there "for just a short time". That short time turned into 22 years. During these years, they had two children, son Corwin and daughter Erika. They first attended the Presbyterian Church in Pine Ridge, SD, where everyone was welcomed and all people, native and non-native alike, were treated with respect and grace. When they moved to Martin SD, they became members of the Lindsey Memorial Church. She and Bob raised their children while Jan completed her Master's degree and worked in curriculum development, teaching college classes, and teaching the native children. Living on the reservation gave Jan an insight into some of the most challenging situations and the greatest joys. Jan embraced the opportunities of work and family and being present "right where God wanted her to be". She saw the many difficult things at Pine Ridge, including the heartbreak of broken families, addiction, and mental illness but also the joy of truly reaching children and inspiring a love of learning. Jan was successful in her teaching career but more importantly, she cherishes the connections that she made with the people.

After Bob and Jan decided to move closer to his parents, Bob got a job in Flandreau and Jan stayed with Erika, their daughter, in Martin, SD for a year while she finished out her senior year of high school. Jan applied for a job in Brookings and became the vice-principal of the Brookings Middle School, later the Mickelson Middle School. This is the job interview that took place during a tornado warning! The First Presbyterian Church was a natural choice for Bob and Jan. We know that currently Jan blesses us with her voice in the choir but she has served in just about every committee and church position at one time or another. She's been an Elder, Clerk of Session, Deacon, Trustee, PNC member, Personnel Committee member, PW moderator, Sunday School teacher, Worship Committee member, Outreach member, Bible Study leader, Nominating Committee member, and been involved with the jail ministry and nursing home ministries with Bob. On the Presbytery level she was on the Committee on Ministry. She said, "I think that's about it". Her favorite role now is grandmother to four grandsons and one granddaughter. Jan has a positive outlook and feels that "God has always been there and I have strength from that".

MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

Andrew L'Amour

May 2017 –

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:1-4 “When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”

Quote: “When you strip it of everything else, Pentecost stands for power and life. That's what came into the church when the Holy Spirit came down on the day of Pentecost.” — David Wilkerson

Men's Brotherhood Notes: **April Meeting** The Men's Brotherhood met on the 20th. Sara from the Brookings Domestic Abuse Shelter gave the program. **May Meeting**The regular monthly meeting is scheduled for May 18.

Prayer Concerns: Pray that we can be a light to the world through the powerful message of how we live our lives.

Action: Worship God through reflecting God's love through service to everyone.

I recall a sermon I heard once where the speaker performed a demonstration with a candle. We were meeting in a hall where there were no windows so when he instructed an usher to turn out the lights, the room became completely dark. One literally could not see their hand in front of their face. He then lit a tiny candle, similar to a birthday cake candle. It was a tiny light but suddenly as our eyes became used to the change we were able to make out more and more distinct shapes from the former darkness. That little light transformed the room from complete pitch-black darkness. We were able to see more clearly. While it did not make the room completely bright as the other lighting had, nevertheless it made a real distinct difference.

After Easter I often think: now what? From Advent, through Christmas, Lent, Holy Week and Easter we have followed the story of Jesus' ministry carefully. The life He led was a powerful message to our world during His lifetime. How much more that message is needed now. Like the candle lit in darkness slowly transforms the shadows to the perceivable, Christ's message of love has slowly transformed our world from one of darkness to tremendous potential.

Now after our hearing the message of Christ's life, death and resurrection it is time to get to work. After His resurrection he met with more than 500 of his disciples including the apostles as He was in that area for the next 40 days. It is recorded that He met with them, ate with them and I presume taught them more about His message of love, and helped prepare them for the coming of the Holy Spirit and the great commission. (Matthew 28:19-20)

I think we too often think that the story of Christ is just about Christ. While it is, it is also about us. He lived and died that all humanity might have life and have it to the full. (John 10:10). While the resurrection at Easter is extremely significant for us, we cannot ignore the powerful message of Pentecost. Pentecost is a celebration of the Holy Spirit becoming a part of our lives. This should not be overlooked. The transformation of the apostles on the day of Pentecost shows what a powerful impact the Holy Spirit can have in our lives.

With belief in a triune God, can we relegate to a role of lesser significance the arrival of another member of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit? I hope none of us do. Just like the little light in the darkened room brought illumination to it, the Holy Spirit gave a powerful illumination to the life of Jesus and His message. This is truly significant! Not just for us personally but especially for others. We are that light reflecting to the world the love of Christ. Not through coercion but just reflecting love for one another in every situation. Being living and loving sacrifices. The Holy Spirit gives us the power and strength to do this. Thanks be to God!





Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."
Ephesians 6:11-12

There are physical wars with guns and bombs, and there are spiritual wars that go on in the mind of a person. Sometimes the evil one wins for a time in the life of a new believer, but if that person is born again from above, he will return to the Lord. God is always ready to forgive us and start over. It is essential that the inmates who receive Christ into their lives are disciplined so they grow deep in the Lord. It is difficult to see the guys who get excited about the Lord for a time, then drift off with the worldly crowd. That frequently occurs when the men get settled into prison and some old friends from the world are all around them.

One of the men I visited with, and I believe is a Christian, was feeling the pull of the evil one. When I was visiting with him, I mentioned some things that are essential to the Christian faith. "There is only one Mediator between God and man, Christ Jesus. You must believe that Jesus is God in the flesh, and you can only be saved through the blood of Jesus." When I said that he said, "Funny you would mention that to me now because I am going through a spiritual battle. In fact when I woke up this morning the thought came to my mind that Jesus isn't God. I knew that was not right and now you confirm that truth to me."

Four years ago I worked with a young man who had just come into prison. He was trying to live the Christian life but strayed from it. Now after four years, he told me that he wanted to visit with me. He informed me that it was time to get right with the Lord again. His problem was that he had bitterness from his growing up years that kept him bound up and distant from God. I asked him if he wanted to give it to the Lord and he said he did. So in his own words he prayed a prayer of repentance.

Last week I was walking in the prison hallway when an inmate stopped me and wanted to ask me some questions. He told me that he has time in his cell to think about his past. He feels guilty about all the bad things he has done to people. He practices his religion but he still feels guilty and does not know how to get rid of the feeling of guilt. I explained the gospel to him and how he could have forgiveness if he would give his life to following Jesus. He told me that he would talk to me again later about this problem and thanked me for talking with him. I have passed this man in the hall many times over the years, and I believe the Lord is trying to get his attention. Pray for him, because the evil one will try to take the seed that was sown. I am truly blessed to have your support through your prayers and financial gifts! I hope you had a blessed Easter!

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

Susan's Saga



In the 23rd chapter of Luke's Gospel, Luke concludes the traumatic events of that awful Friday with a remarkable narrative. Everyone is reeling from the trauma of the crucifixion. Provision of a suitable place for the burial of the Lord came from an unlikely source. As the paragraph unfolds, Luke introduces a new character with "Behold..." indicating that the reader should take note, as something unexpected is about to happen. And Joseph of Arimathea comes on the scene. He was neither a relative nor an apostle nor a person from Galilee, yet he was compassionately willing to make his own rock-hewn tomb available for the corpse of a crucified person. With a touch of irony, Luke notes that not only was this instrument of mercy a devout Jew, but he also was part of the Council that had directly instigated the crucifixion.

As one commentator put it, Luke expends an extraordinary amount of detail to describe this person. He is careful to note that he is from the town of Arimathea, which is in Judea. This man is a blue-blooded Jew from the heartland, not one of those hailing from the fringes, where there was a mixed population, for example, Galilee.

He is good and just. I took those adjectives as being descriptive of his character, until the commentator pointed out that this man was also a member of the Council – that is, the Sanhedrin – the very same body that had just viciously delivered the most innocent man in history to an unjust death. In sharp contrast to his cohorts, this man was not in agreement with their decision. Even out of such a virulent group bent on destroying Jesus, there came a ray of hope.

Not only was he markedly different, he was also brave and bold. He valiantly approached Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, to ask for Jesus' body.

As we revised the translation of this passage, the Mixtec co-translators were full of questions. Maybe Joseph just happened to see Pilate. I explained that as Pilate was the top Roman official of that province, Joseph would have had to have been intentional in approaching him.

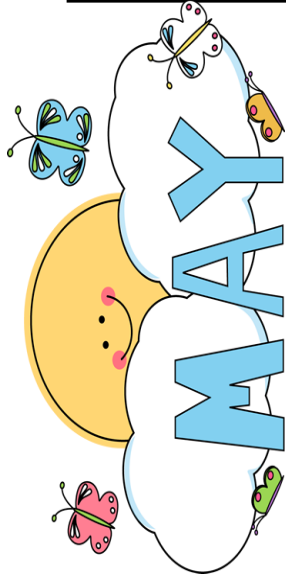
As the gravity of the situation dawned on them, one commented that Joseph had taken a big risk in approaching Pilate. By his action, he also demonstrated courage by going against the Council. It was daring of him to risk both the disfavor of the Sanhedrin and the ire of the Roman government.

A more sobering question they asked was, what if Joseph of Arimathea had not come forward? Several sources indicate that a crucified person might have been left unburied or been consigned to a pauper's grave.

By his pious act, Joseph was probably not aware that he was unwittingly fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah 53: 9. He most likely did not realize that the sepulchre was only a temporary holding space for this unique Person. It was astounding that a member of the Council would graciously provide his own tomb for the Lord. But the biggest surprise was just around the corner.....

Susan Huggins

Commentary referenced from [The New International Commentary on the New Testament: The Gospel of Luke](#); Joel B. Green; 1997; Eerdmans.



May Volunteers: Ushers: Bruce & Lori Westergaard
 Counters: Nelda Holden
 Sound: Robby Flint; Harold Poppen
 Bob Bartling
 Ginny Conger
 Elizabeth Fox

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7:00 Scouts BIRTHDAY: Samuel Schuurman	1 7:00 Scouts BIRTHDAY: Samuel Schuurman	2 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) 1:00 Outreach 6:30 Mission Finance BIRTHDAYS: Arvid Dills; Bonnie Foster; Lois Watson	3 BIRTHDAYS: Diane Anderson; John Peterson	4 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6:30 Committees	5 BIRTHDAY: Yossy Rottluff	6 BIRTHDAY: Yossy Rottluff
7 Regular Worship Greeters: Dean & Sharon Hofland 6:00 Game Night	8 7:00 Scouts	9 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) 6:30 Trustees	10 BIRTHDAY: Carolyn Moerke	11 9:30 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Session BIRTHDAY: Bruce Westergaard	12 BIRTHDAY: Bruce Westergaard	13 BIRTHDAY: Bruce Westergaard
14 MOTHER'S DAY Regular Worship Greeters: Dean & Sharon Hofland 6:00 Evening Bible Study BIRTHDAY: Trent Broksieck	15 7:00 Scouts BIRTHDAY: Skylar Hinricher	16 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) 9:30 Presbyterian Circle	17 BIRTHDAY: Carolyn Moerke	18 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Men's Brotherhood	19 ANNIVERSARY: Scott & Jennifer Hinricher	20 ANNIVERSARY: Scott & Jennifer Hinricher
21 Regular Worship Greeters: David & Louise Crain	22 7:00 Scouts	23 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House)	24 BIRTHDAY: Lori Westergaard	25 9:30 Women's Bible Study	26 11:30 Lunch Bunch @The Pheasant ANNIVERSARY: James & Roberta Bailey	27 BIRTHDAYS: Saige Hinricher; Adam Young ANNIVERSARY: Dean & Sharon Hofland
28 LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL Regular Worship Greeters: Dick & Donna Wilson 6:00 Evening Bible Study	29 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 Scouts ANNIVERSARY: Dave & Lucy Barkus; Bruce & Lori Westergaard	30 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House)	31 BIRTHDAY: Lori Westergaard			

The Blade

First Presbyterian Church

405 7th Avenue

Brookings, SD 57006-2018

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**THE
BLADE
IS
AVAILABLE
ELECTRONICALLY!**

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