

THE FIRST PRES

April 2007

First Presbyterian Church
Winnebago, Illinois

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Pastor's Note

“Jesus: Our Lamb of God”

In his gospel, John call's Jesus the “lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” If we are to fully understand and believe John's statement, we need to see what the requirements of the Passover Lamb are, and how Jesus fulfilled those requirements, thus showing that He is our Passover Lamb. Many of us do not fully understand John's statement and the requirements behind this assertion. If this is true of you then, allow me to draw out for you a comparison of the requirements and how Jesus met them.

The Passover lamb was chosen and marked for death (Ex. 12:3).
Jesus was chosen before the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8).

The Passover lamb was without spot or blemish (Ex. 12:5).
Pilate found no fault in Jesus (Luke 23:13).

The Passover lamb was roasted in fire [this speaks of God's judgment] (Ex. 12:8).
Jesus suffered God's judgment for sins not His own (Matt. 27:46).

No bones of the Passover lamb were to be broken (Ps. 34:20).
Soldiers did not have to break Jesus knees to speed up death (John 19:32-33).

The Passover lamb was killed at twilight (Ex. 12:6).
Jesus died about 3 p.m., while the sunlight failed (Luke 23:44-46).

The blood of the Passover lamb was placed on the sides and top of the door and the blood ran along the bottom of the door (Ex. 12:7).
Jesus bled from a crown of thorns, as well as nails in both outstretched arms and in His feet. Jesus said that He was the door (Matt. 27:29, 35 & John 10:9).

When Jesus' sacrifice was finished, people went into safety, awaited the final judgment, and then went on their journey to the Promised Land (Ex. 12:22, 31).
We enter into safety from God's judgment when we accept (by faith) Jesus as our sacrifice for sin, and we look forward to the promise of eternal life with Him as we wait for His return (Rom. 5:8-11).

Session Synopsis

March is one month of the year which almost without fail stirs us to feel a longing for spring time. With this stirring also comes the knowledge that the familiar events of spring are drawing near as well.

Adding to the routine matters addressed at every session board meeting, we listened as Mr. Bob Pressman informed us as to the current status of our church investment portfolio.

After reviewing several routine matters our discussion was directed largely at the oncoming events of Easter. We spent time planning communion, both for Maundy Thursday and Easter morning. Leading up to Easter morning, April 8th, Elder Judie Coots will give a Minute for Mission (share information) about "One Great Hour of Sharing".

Our clerk of session, Matt Mitchell, updated us on the status of our new "church web site and plans for updates in the future.

Like our sister churches across the Presbytery, we are now sending in the per capita monies which have been received. This is an ongoing process which takes place over several months.

Beginning next month, at our regular meeting, the session will begin a process of reviewing and possibly revising the job duties of our church committees. We begin with the Christian Education commission in April and will address a different commission each month.

Elder Jill Sunday gave an overview of her experience at our most recent Presbytery meeting in Oswego. Both she and Pastor Steve agreed it was very enjoyable and illuminating.

We the staff and session wish everyone a wonderful, warm, and spiritually uplifting Easter celebration. May Our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and draw you ever nearer to Himself.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Steve



February Church Budget

Beginning checking	\$14,256.67
Feb revenue:	\$9,522.15
year to date revenue:	\$22,555.09
Feb expenses:	\$9,266.01
year to date expenses:	\$22,412.09
end checking:	\$14,512.81

Worship Committee Meeting

The Worship Committee will have a meeting on Tuesday, April 3, 2007 at the church. We will be making plans for the next few months. Mark your calendars and plan on attending!



Junior & Senior High

Our high school youth group has been meeting every Wednesday night at 7PM since the beginning of February. We have enjoyed spending time together, making/eating pizza, playing goofy games and sharing in group discussions. Our group has grown to 5-6 youth and is looking forward to having more join us as schedules and desires allow. Also, we are preparing an Easter Sunrise service for our congregation and hope that many will share their Easter morning with us.

Our junior high group has also been meeting. In February, 12-13 kids had a great time playing a big variety of board games ending in prizes and awards. A hot dog dinner was served, too! They will be meeting again on Friday, March 23 (6:30-9:00PM) at the church for "Dinner and a Movie....".

Please feel free to join the high school group on Wednesdays at 7PM in the upper room for fun and fellowship with your friends. We are all looking forward to local camping trips, canoeing, and movie nights this summer!

Serving Him,

Lisa Rittmeyer, Joe Erb and

Cindy Benson

Youth Group Coordinators

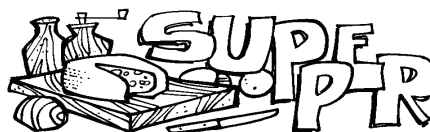
Newsletter Articles

Newsletter articles are due on April 19, 2007. You may email them to silla2@aeroinc.net.

Thank You

Thanks to everyone for your prayers, calls, cards, visits, gifts and the wonderful food. What a great church family. After being sick 1200 miles from home, it's great to be here. Thanks again.
In Christ,
Elaine Look

Thank you very much for the prayers, cards, telephone calls and visits during my recent surgery and recuperation.
Lynn Jansen



Soup Suppers

Three soup suppers were held before each Lenten services. Thank you to all the ladies who made soup, breads and desserts each time. The food and fellowship was enjoyed by many friends.

A donation of \$261.00 was received. This will go to One Great Hour of Sharing.

God Bless you all who participated in our suppers and Lenten services.

The Committee

Fellowship Supper Club

Fellowship Supper Club will be going to Rock Valley for the Agatha Christie play on Saturday, April 7th, at 2:00 PM.

Trustees

Our meeting for the evening consisted of three repair projects. The west heater in the fellowship hall had noisy bearings due to a clogged grease fill tube. The tube was clean and grease added to eliminate the bearing noise. Next, the copper tube steam vent that passes through the kitchen exit was cracked and had leaked water onto the kitchen floor. A new section of pipe was spliced in to repair the leak. The last project for the evening was cleaning and repairing the damage to the double refrigerator. The stainless steel sheet metal was reshaped back to its original form.

We took delivery of two new windows for one of the openings in the Sunday school addition. Arrangements will be made to install the windows in the next couple of weeks.

The pilot light in the kitchen oven next to the counter has still been giving us troubles. Lynn will be rebuilding the pilot light assembly within the next few weeks.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Rittmeyer

Memorial Committee

The Memorial Committee will meet at the church at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 5, 2007. If anyone has any suggestions for items to be purchased with Memorial Funds, please contact any committee member with your suggestion. Members are listed in the church phone directory.

Sue Jansen

Chairman

8th Grade Bibles

Parents or Grandparents of 8th graders would like to sponsor a Bible please contact Joe Erb.

RUMMAGE SALE

FIRST TEAM RUMMAGE SALE IS PLANNED FOR APRIL 26, 27 & 28. We will be running the sale Thursday, Friday and Saturday. We will set up after church Sunday, April 22. Everyone will be able to drop off their donations that week with Wednesday being the last drop off night. We are asking everyone that is going on the mission trip including their parents to help with the rummage sale. All items need to be sorted and priced before the start of the sale. We will also need volunteers to help with the sale. Please call me if you can help in any way. So start your spring cleaning and bring us what you don't need anymore. Traci Hohlfelder (963-6029)

Naomi Circle

Naomi Circle will meet on April 17, 2007. Dixie Leden is the hostess and Carol Meyers will have the devotions.

Mary Martha Circle

Mary Martha Circle will meet on April 12, 2007 with Avis Lind as the hostess. Faye reed will have the devotions.

Workcamp

First Team (Workcampers) are selling "shares" for their Workcamp mission trip to Neodesha, Kansas. Each share is \$10. You may purchase as many shares as you'd like. Shareholders will receive a postcard or letter from a camper during their camp week, and an invitation to join us for our Shareholder dinner where youth and adults will share their stories and pictures after a dinner served by the youth. See Barb Whitney for more information.

I would like to become a Workcamp Shareholder. I would like to buy _____ shares at \$10 a share for a total donation of \$_____. Please make checks payable to First TEAM.

Name _____

Address _____

Shareholders will receive a postcard or letter from a camper and an invitation to this year's shareholder dinner where campers will serve a meal, share their camp experiences and a slide show will be shown.

All proceeds will be used toward the mission trip to Neodesha, Kansas, where youth and adults will repair homes for elderly, disabled, and low income families.

Please return this form and your contribution to Barb Whitney or Craig Clausen.

First Team will sponsor a pancake brunch will be after worship on April 1st. A free will offering will be taken to help with their mission projects.

As you start your spring house cleaning, please start saving your sellable items for the First Team rummage sale. All proceeds will go towards the mission trip.

First Team members participated in "Souper Bowl of Caring" project after the worship service on Super Bowl Sunday. \$143 was collected and donated to the Rockford Rescue Mission. Thanks to all who participated