



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO

June/July 2018 Newsletter

Vacation Bible School

We had so much fun with last year's very first Oronoco VBS that we're doing it again ... but even MORE this time! This year's theme will be "Hero Central: Discovering Your Strength in God" ... because really, who **doesn't** want to be a super hero, right?! Here are the details:

Where: Presbyterian Church of Oronoco

When: July 16-20, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Ages: 4-12

Cost: \$15/person or \$30/family



We will be serving the kids dinner from 6:00-6:30 p.m., then enjoying some really fun programming after that. Registration is required, so check out www.oronocochurch.org/vbs for the registration link as well as more information.

We will be looking for volunteers to help and volunteers to provide some of our supplies later on, so be on the lookout for more details!



From the Pastor

The summer months are here. And despite all the contemporary country songs about relaxin' in the sun during the summertime, let's face it:

Summer
Is
BUSY!

Maybe it has something to do with the fact that, since we live in such a frigid climate, we become a little outdoor-activity crazed when the temperature finally (and sometimes reluctantly) climbs above 50° F.

Maybe it has something to do with being in *desperate* need of some serious sunshine and vitamin D to drive away the gloominess and greyness of those long winter months.

I'd venture to say it most definitely has something to do with the fact that we feel the need to pack as much as we possibly can into those few months when our kids/grandkids/nieces & nephews are out of school.

Maybe it even has something to do with holdover feelings from our own school days. Summer is supposed to be about vacation and fun and freedom and *doing*, right?

Sure.

But if we're not careful, we can let all of those wonderful plans and intentions become such a driving force that before we know it, summer's gone, and we're left standing and wondering, "Wait a minute ... what happened?"

So this summer, I encourage you to take some time to find your own peace wherever you can.

And yes, I am writing these words as a reminder to myself as well. With a brand new baby at home, t-ball and swimming lessons for Ian and Luke, a week-long vacation Bible school in the works, introducing the boys to camping, teaching two classes at Synod School this year, Oronoco's National Night Out, Gold Rush Days and the ways we're going to try to get more involved with that this year (stay tuned!), my in-laws' 45th wedding anniversary, and our yearly family trip up to the cabin for a week, I am just as

in need of this reminder for peace as everyone else. I promise!



There are all sorts of different ways that we can find our peace. Some people enjoy working outside in their gardens, feeling the dirt in their hands and watching their beautiful plants grow. Some love to curl up under a tree or in a comfortable deck chair or hammock with a good book. Some have a sport or a hobby that brings them enjoyment and peace: volleyball, golf, photography, geocaching, bicycling, etc. Some like to go for a walk, either alone or with a pet or with family and friends. And some people like to just sit in the quiet – inside or outside – and listen and breathe and simply *be*.

In his letter to the Christians in Rome, Paul says:

God's kingdom isn't about eating food and drinking but about righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever serves Christ this way pleases God and gets human approval. So let's strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up.

~ Romans 14:17-19

"Righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit" ... doesn't that sound refreshing? Like a cool glass of lemonade on a hot summer day?

There's nothing wrong with being busy when all the things that you're doing are bringing you joy – bringing you together with family and friends, keeping you active and healthy, giving you a chance to travel, and do wonderful things for God in the world. But when all of those things start to become chores instead of sources of joy, that's when we have to stop ... to breathe ... to find that peace again. Because God is good all the time!

Pastor Lisa

Pastor Out of Office

Pastor Lisa will be out of the office July 22-Aug. 5 for continuing education and vacation. She can be reached via her cell phone, email, or Facebook message during that time.

All Around the Campfire

We had so much fun with our campfire gatherings last summer that we're at it again this summer! One Sunday a month, we'll be gathering in the evening on the church lawn. There will be a campfire. There will be lawn games. There will be s'mores. This is a chance for us to spend some fun, relaxed, unstructured time together, and to invite people who may not be as comfortable coming through the church doors for the first time. Bring your neighbors and friends. Bring kids. Let's have fun!

- June 24: 5:30-8:00 p.m.
- July 22: 5:30-8:00 p.m.
- Aug. 26: 5:30-8:00 p.m.
- Sept. 23: 5:30-8:00 p.m.



Congratulations, Graduate!

We want to extend a heartfelt congratulations to Rachel Rand who is graduating from Century High School this year. Hooray and God bless!! We will be honoring Rachel during worship on June 17 and with a reception with after worship. Congratulations, Rachel!

Church Clean-Up Sign-Up

Our spring cleaning list is up on the bulletin board. There are a number of tasks both inside and out that we would like taken care of, so if you can help with any of those, please add your name next to the task and cross it off when it's done. Thanks.

Mowing Sign-Up

The sign-up sheet for sharing in the lawn mowing duties is up on the bulletin board. If you can help, please sign up for the week you intend to mow. The church mower is in the shed. Talk to Ron Peterson-Rucker or Pastor Lisa if you need the shed key.

Summer sermon series: "Gifts of the Dark Woods"

Gifts of the Dark Woods: Seven Blessings for Soulful Sceptics is an incredibly book written by Dr. Eric Elnes, a pastor, author, and speaker who hosts an online community ("Darkwood Brew") "for an engaging exploration of Convergence Christianity." His book explores the different ways our experiences in the Dark Woods are not something to be feared but instead are gifts and ways to encounter God. The seven gifts/blessings that Dr. Elnes addresses are: the gifts of uncertainty, emptiness, being thunderstruck, getting lost, temptation, disappearing, and the gift of misfits. "This is a book for anyone who feels awkward in their search for God, who seeks to find holiness amid their holy mess, who prefers practicality to piety when it comes to finding their place in this world."

Throughout the summer, we will be tackling one of these gifts each Sunday – talking about what it is, where we find its presence and blessing in Scripture, and how we can embrace it instead of shying away from it in our own walks of faith.

In Our Prayers

Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice. Psalm 55:17

Karen Vallejo, Eunice Markham, Joan Swarthout, Joyce Rucker, the family of Ed Murray, and the Johnson family as they settle in and welcome the newest member into their family.

Baby Thanks



We want to thank all of you from the very bottoms of our hearts for all of the wonderful thoughts, prayer, and gifts you've given us for baby Julia. And a HUGE thank you to those who organized and planned the beautiful baby shower as well as all those attended. We are so enjoying and celebrating this beautiful baby God has blessed us with, and we cannot wait to share her with all of you. We are so grateful not only for your incredible generosity but also for the caring, compassionate people that you are - all of the check-ins, prayer, love, advice, and support that we've been given are truly touching. Thank you, thank you, thank you. We are so blessed to have you all in our lives as well. ~ Love, Pastor Lisa, Peter, Ian, Luke, and Julia Dianne

St. Paul Saints Game

A couple of years ago, we had a blast going to some MN Twins baseball games together. The Twins' schedule and pricing didn't line up very well this year, so we're going to try something new: a St. Paul Saints' game!!

Here are the details:

- **Fri., Aug. 3 @ 7:05 p.m.** (includes post-game fireworks!)
- **seats in the Infield Reserved section** (see <http://saintsbasketball.com/chs-field1/stadium-maps/> for more info)
- **tickets: \$20 adults, \$19 youth (14 & under)/seniors (65 & over)**

****Please sign up for your tickets by Sun., July 8! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.****



Synod School 2018



Give yourself the gift of . . .

Engaging worship for all ages
with spirited music and singing

Daily reflections on the theme,
"Dance Joyfully Where'er You May Be"

Interesting classes for children,
youth and adults of all ages

Nightly coffee houses, intergenerational games
& creative endeavors

Intentional community centered in hospitality,
healing and hope



July 22-27, 2018

Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa

Discover Synod School!

www.lakesandprairies.org/SynodSchool
800-328-1880, ext. 207

**Dance Joyfully
Where'er You May Be**

Readings for the Month of June

Sun., June 3 – *guest preacher, Rev. Kate Johnston*

Sun., June 10 – *guest preacher, Rev. Kate Johnston*

Sun., June 17 – Psalm 139; Matthew 14:22-30; 16:13-18a
Father's Day; Gifts of the Dark Woods #1

Sun., June 24 – John 5:1-15; 1 Corinthians 13:8-13
Gifts of the Dark Woods #2

July Scripture Readings

Sun., July 1 – Psalm 81:6-16; Matthew 16:24-28
Gifts of the Dark Woods #3

Sun., July 8 – Job 36:26-37:7; Matthew 4:35-41
Gifts of the Dark Woods #4

Sun., July 15 – 1 Samuel 3:1-10; Luke 15:1-10
Gifts of the Dark Woods #5

Sun., July 22 – *guest preacher*

Sun., July 29 – *guest preacher*

Clearwater Forest Summer Camps



THE FUN HAS BEGUN! Camp has started! Bring on the games! Boating! Hikes! High ropes! Worship! Laughter! Fun! Triumphs! Songs! Skits! Adventure! And it is not too late for you to be a part of it all! Experiences for campers, grades 3rd-recent graduates are still open. Check out www.clearwaterforest.org or give the office a call at 218-678-2325 to find out which camps are still open. Don't let the opportunity to see what God can do in a child's life slip through your fingers – register them today! Remember, we are offering a \$25 gift certificate to the store for campers who refer a friend!

Never been to Clearwater Forest? Are you a little nervous about having your child away for the week? Ask around the congregation to find out what it is all about, come up for Friends and Family Day (June 10th) or call 218-678-2325 with questions.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Presbyterian Church members:



You are invited to the wedding of
Karen Vallejo and Rick Lohmann

September 29, 2018
3:00p.m. East Park
East 6th Street
Zumbrota, MN



Reception and dance to follow at the Guilty Goose
(You may want to bring a chair)

Birthdays for the Month of June

6/6 Rachel Rand
Michael Rand
6/7 Dianne Pinney
6/9 Kay Erdahl
6/28 Cindy Tiedeman



Church Staff

Organist: Katha Johnson
Secretary: Sue Johnson
Custodian: Sue Johnson
Pastor: Rev. Lisa Johnson

Presbyterian Leadership Team

Kim Stanton, Treasurer
Kay Erdahl, Asst. Treasurer
Mike Rand, Clerk of Session
Ron Peterson Rucker, Ruling Elder
Ellen Warner, Ruling Elder
Janice Ostrom, Ruling Elder
Mike Rand, Ruling Elder
Linda Sorensen, Ruling Elder
Lance Sorensen, Ruling Elder
Ellen Simon, Deacon
Joanne Schenck, Deacon
Karen Peterson Rucker, Deacon
Jenny Rand, Deacon
Gail Rucker, Deacon

People of the Church

Janice Ostrom, Co-Moderator
Jenny Rand, Co Moderator

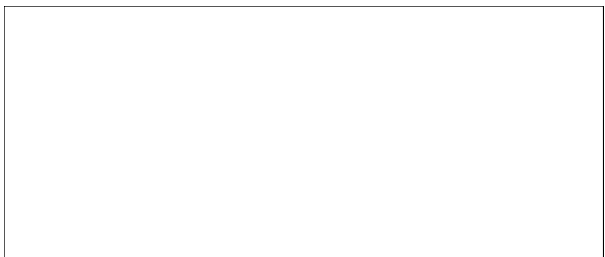
Dorothy Day Dinner a Success!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Dorothy Day House Dinner on May 23rd. The residents were served a delicious dinner of BBQ Pork Sandwiches, Cheesy Potatoes, Cole Slaw, Veggie Salad, Cookies, Brownies, and Ice Cream! They were so appreciative and the ice cream was a big hit as it was a warm, muggy day. Thanks to Jenny Rand for making the delicious BBQ pork, Joanne Schenck for the cookies, Ellen Simon for the veggie salad and brownies. Also, a big thank you to Ron and Karen Peterson-Rucker for helping serve and for thinking of the ice cream! The POC is blessed to have such a great team of volunteers. The next DDH dinner is scheduled for September 26th. Please be thinking about how you can help make it a great dinner for the residents.

Secretary's Office Hours

Tuesday 10:00-1:00
Thursday 10:00-1:00
Office Phone (507)367-4711
Email address: oronocopc@bevcomm.net

Presbyterian Church of Oronoco
PO Box 118
Oronoco, MN 55960
(507) 367-4711



**Check out our website at
oronocochurch.org**



**Worship is held at 10:00 each Sunday
Communion is on the first Sunday of each month**



Reverend Lisa Johnson- Contact Information
Cell Phone (507) 995-7310 E-mail address: pastorlisaj@gmail.com
Pastor Lisa's Office Hours: Mondays 1-4:00 p.m.
Pastor Lisa's blog: pastorlisaj.wordpress.com