



# BEACON

⊕ Gema Baptist Church

*A circle of believers with Christ at the center.*

**[MAY 2017]**

## Our Church

I am very pleased to report that at our congregational meeting on April 23rd the members voted to pass the recommendation from the Deacon Board identifying the process we will use to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

What has not changed and I pray will never change is the commitment of our church make disciples. We have been doing that as a congregation for over 136 years. We have baptized over 1000 people who have publicly professed their faith in Jesus. We continue to add new members to our congregation; two at the last meeting in April and the Deacon Board will be recommending another two at the annual meeting in May.

What has changed is that we are making the process of discipleship explicit so that hopefully we can increase our effectiveness. Certainly disciples have been made here without an explicit process in place because we as a church take seriously the command of Jesus to make disciples of all nations. Individuals have taken it upon themselves to provide opportunities to help other believers and we have many programs that have helped people in their walk of faith. What has been lacking are clear sequential steps in the process so people know how to get involved in an appropriate way.

To help you know what we are doing and why we are doing it, I will be presenting a series entitled “Our Church” during the Month of May. This is

your opportunity to hear a more detailed explanation than I can provide in this article. We want every member and regular attender to know what our discipleship process is. We want every member and regular attender to make progress in following Jesus. We want every member and regular attender to help others make progress in following Jesus.

If you are included in “our church” then I want you to be fully aware of what we are doing, why we are doing it and the ways we are doing it. As your awareness grows, I pray you will be invested in “our church” to the full extent God wants you to be; for His glory.

In His Joy,

Pastor Rodney

## MAY SERMON SCHEDULE

### Our Church Series

- 7 “What Are We Doing Here?”
- 14 “Why Are We Doing It?”
- 21 “What Are Some Ways We Are Doing It?”
- 28 “The Costs and Benefits of Following Jesus”



# YOUTH MINISTRY



*So I was thinking...*

Do you know that this church is blessed? I know it comes from God and I am thankful, but I also believe it's because of you and those who have gone before you. Recently, with the notice of my resignation as a school counselor from the Phillips School District printed in the Price County Review, I have had numerous opportunities to tell others about the great things happening here. It usually starts with the question, "Where are you going?" I find that hard to answer because I'm not going anywhere. The next question is usually, "What will you be doing?" After I tell them that I will be working as the Youth Director for the Ogema Baptist Church the next question is always, "You mean you get paid?" That question is then always followed by, "How many youth could you possibly have at church?" This one is usually said with a little disbelief in their voice. That is when I get to tell them that we have 44 high school students on the attendance list as well as 26 middle school students (I'm not in charge of Kingdom Quest but I know sometimes there are around 60 elementary students here that night as well, so I tell them that too.). I love the reaction I get at this information, but it also makes me sad. Most people look at me in utter shock and comment, "We barely have any teenagers at our church." Some have even said they have none. While this shocks me, as I am used to the atmosphere and the numbers at our church, I am reminded that I did not grow up here. In fact, I grew up in a church with no kids. From 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to my 30's, I didn't have a single Christian friend. Growing up I didn't have a youth group to attend...no community. There were no chances to go on a mission trip and no adults, other than my parents, speaking life to me. I know what it's like to be part of a church with no kids and no community and I can promise you, it's unhealthy. And if I can forget that we have something unique going on here, I'm guessing you might too.

One of the upcoming events I am excited about taking our "youth community" on (and one I feel is also unique to our church) is this summer's Youth Missions trip to Duluth, Minnesota. Youth Missions is an opportunity for members of Ground Zero to experience life outside of their comfort zone. It also stretches their faith and helps them to grow. While anyone involved in Ground

Zero is invited, there is an application process. The reason for an application is that missions, whether service projects or evangelism projects, will require students to lean on God to understand the environment and the people we serve. They will also be exposed to situations they don't see everyday, some of which are heart wrenching. They will need a relationship with God (salvation) to deal with their own emotions and to process life outside of our Northern Wisconsin bubble.

My vision of mission trips is to expose students to communities that need Jesus Christ and to show them what God has already done in those communities by connecting with believers that live there. After all, when asked, Jesus replied that the two greatest commandments are, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and the greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-29). It doesn't tell us to go and put our ideas of life and happiness onto other people, it tells us to love. So, in order to love others you need to love the Lord first. While there are other requirements that need to be met to be part of a trip, this is the first and most important one.

I am excited to see what God has in store for us to learn in Duluth this summer and I'm sure there will be another article just about that trip, but in the meantime, please continue to pray for me, my family and our youth communities here at church. I do believe we (OBC) are planting seeds that will stretch farther than we can ever imagine.

*...until next time.*

Rebecca Anderson

## GRAD NIGHT

Wednesday, May 3



**Everyone is invited to celebrate OBC's Ground Zero graduates!**

**Come hear how Christ has impacted them and about their future plans.**

**The program starts at 7:00 with refreshments after.**

Ogema Baptist Church

# Vacation Bible School



Monday, June 5-  
Thursday, June 8  
12:30-3:30



For all kids ages 4-entering 6th grade  
Bible stories, fun songs, snacks, crafts, games!!

God gives us good gifts...  
Comfort, Patience, Peace, Love, Joy!

CHARO



Call Kafi 715.428.2282 or  
Brenda 715.767.5646  
for more information

RICO



## CHURCH WORK DAY

SATURDAY, MAY 6  
8A.M. UNTIL NOON

PROJECTS FOR ALL AGES

SPRING MAINTENANCE  
SEALING THE PLAYGROUND  
CLEANING PROJECTS  
SAFETY UPDATES IN THE NURSERY  
AND OTHER PROJECTS

YARD WORK  
CHAIR REPAIR  
WINDOWS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND JOIN THE CREW  
CARING FOR OBC'S BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

OBC is planning a

## 2017 PHOTO CHURCH DIRECTORY

Please save the dates for the photography sessions:

Friday, June 9, from 2:00—9:00

Saturday, June 10, from 9:00—4:00

There is no cost to OBC and no cost for family photography sessions. Each participating family will receive a free 8x10. You will not be pressured to order more photos, but packages will be available if you would like to order. Sign-up is coming soon!

We hope to have all families represented in the directory!

# Moms' Night Out

Sunday, May 7  
7:00-9:00 p.m.

Meeting at the  
Ogema Baptist Church



Project: Homemade cleaning solution using Essential Oils

Topic: "Clean Enough"  
Learn cleaning tips, strategies and secrets from Coralie Recob.

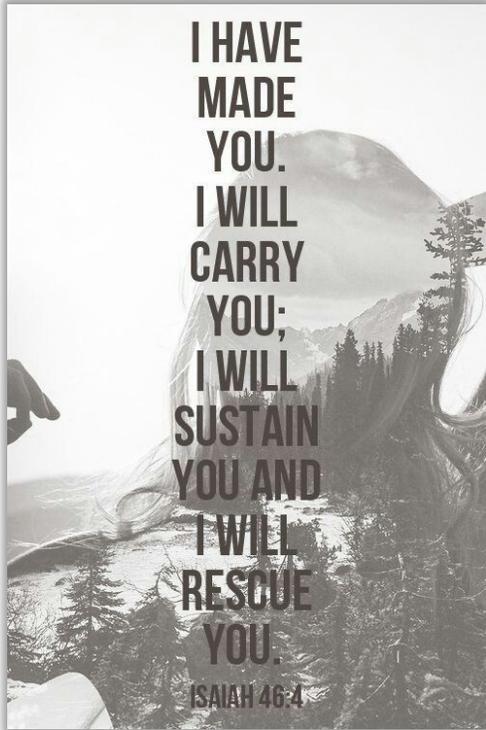
## May Birthdays

- 1 Kylee Scott
- 2 Jean Belan, Ellie Korwin-Kuczynski, Nolan Sarkkinen
- 3 Lee DeCleene
- 4 Bryan Blomberg, Leroy Gustafson
- 5 Jackson Isaacson, Iris Blomberg
- 6 Ann VanCamp
- 7 Roger Blomberg, Jordan Mann, Levi Runsick
- 8 Terry Belan, Frank Ulrich
- 9 Deane Bruner
- 10 Elena Blomberg, Ryan Page
- 11 Rebekah Price
- 13 Kathy Blomberg, Krista Blomberg
- 14 Kelly Stanford
- 15 Andrew Whitmire, Courtney Cook
- 16 Nathaniel Rhody
- 17 Tom Schaer, Christine Ziegler, Zoe Reissner
- 18 Bob Marschke, McKenna Isaacson
- 19 Denice Gustafson, Lloyd Hadden
- 20 Ellen Daniels
- 21 Cal Kraegenbrink, Jane Stelzer, Brian Pearson
- 22 Barb Brahmer
- 24 Loren Erickson, Garrett Novotny, Kinlee Wear
- 25 Nick Anderson, Esther Buzan, Craig Smith, Zack Swan
- 26 Heidi Mann, Jim Summers, Julie Swan, Kassie Erickson
- 27 Zach Isaacson, Dorothy Barr, Kristin Belan, Erica Sturm, Marti Leick, Lauren Mattson
- 28 Dean Gilge
- 29 Becca Jones, Hesston Meier
- 30 Lee Belan
- 31 Joren Lind

# OGEMA BAPTIST CHURCH

P.O. BOX 556, OGEMA, WI 54459 715.767.5157 [www.ogemabaptistchurch.org](http://www.ogemabaptistchurch.org)

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
OGEMA, WI  
54459  
PERMIT NO. 5



Please join us!

SUNDAY SCHOOL— 9:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP—10:15 AM

WEDNESDAY PRAYER MEETING—7:00 PM

## Missionary Spotlight

*Ryan & Heather Reissner*

*Forest Springs Camp—Westboro, WI*



2016 was another amazing year for us at Forest Springs. Camp served nearly 14,000 guests this year through our youth camps, family camps, adventure ministry, weekend retreats, outdoor education, dinner theater, and Community Days. We are still in awe of the way God uses Forest Springs to change lives for His glory! Generations continue to come through this camp to seek the loving arms of Christ! We are so humbled and excited to be a part of this ministry!

We thank you for your continued prayers and support for our family. We are **praising God** for many things this past year... 1) The numerous lives that have been transformed and souls that have been saved here at camp. 2) The young adults that God has blessed us with in our lives. We are so thankful to be pouring into this younger generation. 3) Our girls... Zoe is a freshman at UW-La Crosse, and Maia is a sophomore at Rib Lake High. They are both thriving and growing in their walk with Christ. 4) Ryan's dad went home to be with the Lord. We are so thankful that we know he is with his Father in heaven. **We ask for continued prayers** for ... 1) The many guests of camp who do not yet know the Lord... that we may be ready to share the gospel news boldly! 2) For our family... that we would all continue to be filled with a passion for Jesus! 3) That the Lord will continue to provide the financial needs for us to stay in ministry at Forest Springs. 4) For Ryan's mom as she continues to struggle with Alzheimer's. We ask for prayers as we seek for her best care.

Once again, thank you for your support and love. It is a blessing to be part of the Ogema Baptist family!