

**July 2018**



**gema Baptist Church**

A circle of believers with Christ at the center.

# BEACON

**"Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."**

**Matthew 5:16**

## Growing in the Summer

Summer in the Northwoods will often afford us some opportunities that are harder to come by during the rest of the year. Our church schedule reflects the reality that most of what happens around here in the summer, happens outside of the church building. It's not that nothing is going on, just that the opportunities are different. I want to encourage you to take advantage of two types of growth opportunities that you may have this season.

First, we often have opportunities to grow relationships with others. Closer relationships usually need a quantity of time that is not always available throughout the year. Just this morning my wife and youngest daughter enjoyed a play date with another mom and her kids for several hours. Fishing, golfing, camping, canoeing, hiking, and shopping are possible ways to spend some quantity of time with people during summer. Even the church picnic this month is a great opportunity for quantity time.

Of course, it takes more than just quantity of time to grow a relationship. Be willing to listen to others. Learn about their experiences, opinions, likes and dislikes and what they think is important in life. Be willing to share your own experiences, especially your faith journey. You never know how something you say may be the key to someone else taking a step in their walk of faith. It may be that the investment you make this summer will pay eternal rewards.

Second, you may have opportunities to grow personally that you don't have the rest of the year. Summer has traditionally been a time for reading stuff that is easy and entertaining. Might I dare to suggest that you read something that will encourage and inspire you? I will soon be closer to 60 years old than 50 and I wish I had back all the time I wasted reading Tom Clancy novels for instance. I enjoyed it but it didn't make me better.

Get better, not just older.

Another way you could grow personally might be to enjoy some solitude. Get alone with God for some extended time. LEAVE YOUR PHONE OFF. Go old school with a notebook and pen; at least take them as a backup for when your device battery runs out! Don't worry about an agenda but you might find it helpful to make some notes to yourself to get your mind less cluttered so you are better able to listen to what your Heavenly Father might want to say. If you are a newbie to solitude and want a written guide, I can have some available.

Oftentimes we get to the end of summer and wonder where the time went. Maybe with some thought you can take advantage of some opportunities so that you will know where the time went and that it was time well spent.

In His Joy,  
Pastor Rodney



## JULY SERMON SCHEDULE

- 1 Luke 10:1-24**  
**"The Reason to Rejoice"**
- 8 Haiti Team Report**
- 15 Luke 10:25-37**  
**"The Right Question  
for the Wrong Reason"**
- 22 Special Missionary Guest Dr. Pat**
- 29 Luke 10:38-42**  
**"The One Thing"**



# YOUTH MINISTRY



So I was thinking...

what would it be like to live in a community trying to break the bonds of Satan? Over the next few weeks, you will probably hear many stories of our summer mission trip to Haiti. By now, if you have Facebook, you've seen a few hundred pictures as each team member shares their memories. But there is one story you might not hear too much about. It's not because it didn't touch our lives or wasn't important, but because it's really hard for us to grasp.

Haiti's number one religion is voodoo. And while it wasn't completely obvious that voodoo was there in the day to day living, it became very real to me when faced with a medical situation. One of the families that Lemuel ministers to and works with contacted Lemuel the last day we were there. Isla\*, a woman who attends church and believes in God, was very ill and had just been brought home from the hospital in Port au Prince. She was very discouraged and losing hope and they wondered if we would come and sing for her. They thought it would serve as an encouragement.

Before going to her home, Brad Brunsch shared with us that he met Isla on his first trip to Haiti. She told him that she had been praying for him to come and it had a huge impact on him. It was obvious how much the Brunsches and the rest of the Lemuel staff loved and cared for this woman. Without hesitation we went up to sing to her. We sang two songs and I cried through them both as I watched her in pain and heard our teens minister to her in song. When we were done some of the Lemuel staff prayed over her at the same time. (That's another story I would like to share some day.) We all left and Rick stayed behind to try and understand what was happening and offer any assistance if possible.

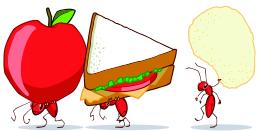
I spent some time talking with the staff and learned that Isla's husband pulled her out of the hospital against medical advice because he didn't believe it was working. Her husband had then left to try and find something else that would. Meaning he was looking for a voodoo treatment. I learned that many beliefs and customs of voodoo still have a hold on the people in Haiti. Some of these customs and beliefs are so ingrained as part of their culture that they don't even realize it comes from voodoo. It's just a remedy that has been passed down from generation to generation. In fact, families who no longer follow voodoo still believe some of the medical practices are legitimate. The staff at Lemuel has had to stand by and watch people die because the families believed they had a "spiritual" sickness and refused to seek medical help. It breaks their heart to see how Satan has blinded and shackled so many in their community, even many who have been coming to church for years, like Isla. Because of these past beliefs and practices, they end up having a hard time trusting God when they get sick. This issue is made even more difficult because everyone else around the church-going people tell them that it's a curse that only the witchdoctor can treat. The lack of honest, affordable and reliable medical care intensifies this problem.

This incident reminded me of the Israelites in the Old Testament. I have often given them a hard time for not being able to trust God when He was right there with them. It's hard to understand how, after experiencing God's presence in so many great, powerful and personal ways, they could still disobey and worship the gods of other nations. Watching and listening to what was happening with Isla made me realize just how hard it was for the Israelites. I've been able to understand a little before this because I, too, choose my own way or put an idol like TV or personal comfort above God, but I have never had the kind of spiritual challenge the way Isla and the people of Haiti endure or like the Israelites must have endured. Like Isla, they were doing their best to trust in God, but they had past traditions, faulty customs and people all around them telling them God wasn't enough. It's no wonder they failed. It's also no wonder we still fail. While we may not go looking to voodoo to make us well, we often grasp on to things to make our world or lives better. Instead, we should continue to look to God for answers and to trust in His timing. My prayer for the people of Haiti, specifically the community around Lemuel is that they will see that the Lord is God and there is no other. (1 Kings 8:60)

...until next time, Rebecca Anderson

\*Name changed for privacy reasons.





# Sunday, July 22 Church Picnic

9:00 am Sunday School at church  
10:15 am Worship at church with Dr. Pat

12:30 pm Picnic Lunch  
at Dan & Chris Blomberg's

(W2565 Hultman Lake Rd, Ogemaw)



Followed by Outdoor Activities

2:00 pm Baptismal Service



Grab your friends and  
come out for an afternoon of  
fun, food, and fellowship!

"The fellowship of God is delightful beyond all telling. He communes with His redeemed ones in an easy, uninhibited fellowship that is restful and healing to the soul. What He is today we shall find Him tomorrow and the next day and the next year. He is quick to overlook imperfections when He knows we meant to do His will. He loves us for ourselves and values our love. He remembers our frame and knows that we are dust. He may sometimes chasten us, it is true, but even this He does with a smile, the proud tender smile of a Father Who is bursting with pleasure over an imperfect but promising son who is coming every day to look more and more like the One Whose child he is. God is the sum of all patience and the essence of kindly good will. We please Him most, not by frantically trying to make ourselves good, but by throwing ourselves into His arms with all our imperfections, and believing that He understands everything and loves us still."

by A. W. Tozer, 1955, *The Root of Righteousness*



## OBC Lifest Group

You are welcome to join a group of OBC families & friends going to the Lifest Christian Music Festival in Oshkosh, WI, July 12–15.



Enjoy camping, good food, fellowship and music!

If you are interested or have questions, contact Roger Blomberg (715-922-0187) or Loren Erickson (715-820-2429).

## Titus 2

Women of all ages, please join us for evenings of encouragement and testimonies this summer! We will meet twice each month, every other Tuesday.

5:30 pm at Pattie Swan's (W3054 Ring School Rd.) for extra time to visit and share life

6:30 pm at Janet Blomberg's (W2990 Ring School Rd.) for our featured testimony, followed by visiting & refreshments



Sharing their stories this month:

July 10th - Danielle Blomberg  
July 24th - Melinda Price



**God is both willing and eager to draw us closer to Himself, comfort us with His presence, and encourage us with His Word.**

"You have shown me the way of life, and You will give me wonderful joy in Your presence." Acts 2:28 NLT

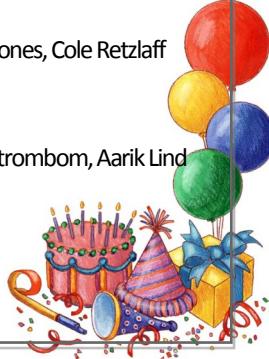
"Blessed are those ... who walk in the light of Your presence, O Lord. They rejoice in Your name all day long ... for You are their glory and strength." Psalm 89:15-17a NIV



## July Birthdays

- 1 John & Lori DeCleene, Dave Blomberg, Norma Swan
- 2 Jon Carlson, Cole Mann, Pastor Rodney Price, Teagan Mariette
- 3 Jason Davis, Gene Grapa, Denae Walcisak
- 4 Toni Bruner, Susan Freiboth
- 5 Hugh Hueckman
- 6 Samantha Polzin, Jeremy Lukes, Gage Anderson
- 7 Dave Elleman, Reese Isaacson, Pamela Thomas
- 8 Jean Conrad, Dick Wohler, Audrey Hueckman
- 9 Nick Schubring, Hunter Gedde
- 10 Jacob Donahoe, Katherine Bauer, Megan Winter, Duane Scott
- 11 Nick Adams, Arely Espinoza
- 12 Bill Leick, Jerry Shoup
- 13 Levi Haskins, Sarah Karluk
- 14 August Donahoe, Dave Mattson, Jim Bauer
- 15 Levi Rhody, Jennifer Sarkkinen, Kristina Gedde, Jori Storvik
- 16 Karen Blomberg, Nathan VanCamp, Sabrina Gustafson
- 17 Kay Marschke
- 18 Logan Sarkkinen, Mitch Retzlaff
- 19 Dale Haskins, Bradley Johnson, Ryder Jones, Cole Retzlaff
- 20 Lonnie Carlson
- 21 Dan Swan
- 22 James Carlson, Angela Kislewski, Rick Strombom, Aarik Lind
- 23 Lena Berg
- 24 Jimmy Oleson, Molly Adams
- 25 Karis Wear, Fletcher Walcisak

**Happy Birthday!**



Please contact us if:

- You or someone in your family has an address change
  - You no longer want to be on our Beacon mailing list
  - You would rather receive your Beacon by email
- Email: [info@ogemabaptistchurch.org](mailto:info@ogemabaptistchurch.org)

# OGEMA BAPTIST CHURCH

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Whatever your age or stage in life,  
YOU are WELCOME here!

*"SHINE like STARS in the universe  
as you HOLD OUT the WORD of LIFE."*

Philippians 2:15b-16a

Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 am  
Sunday Worship - 10:15 am  
Wednesday Adult Prayer Meeting - 7:00 pm



## Missionary Spotlight

*Tirah Meier*

This summer, Tirah Meier is serving God with *Real Impact Missions* and *Souled Out International* on three short-term mission trips. June 8–15 she worked in New York City, June 24–29 she will be in Myrtle Beach, SC, and July 9–15 she will be in Cleveland, OH, and Buffalo, NY.



Tirah and her teammates will be reaching out to people of all races and cultures, showing God's love and grace, and learning to make evangelism part of their life and not just a mindset for mission trips. Serving will include relief work projects, homeless shelters, soup kitchens, street ministry, clothing distribution, and lots of sharing the gospel.

"Please pray for my mental and physical health, to keep me strong and encouraged. To let me continue to hear God's leading and truth. For safe travels to and from the locations, and safety while I am there. Most importantly for me to be completely present while I am serving, and for my words and actions to touch hearts."

- Short term missionaries from OBC  
*Sara & Alicia Donahoe*

Mother and daughter team Sara and Alicia Donahoe are leaving July 10 to serve God for a month at *Santisuk English School* (SES) in Thailand. SES is located in Bangkok, a city of nearly 8 million people. Thailand is 95% Buddhist, 4% Muslim, and less than 1% Christian, so it is a huge mission field. SES is part of our church conference's worldwide ministry.

While at SES, Sara and Alicia will each teach two 2-hour English classes four days a week, mostly to college students and other young adults. The rest of their time will be spent building friendships with their Thai students with the goal of sharing their faith with them.

"Our travel date is rapidly approaching, and we would really appreciate your prayers for safety in this very big and busy foreign city, health, travel connections, and that our words and actions will be a clear and attractive picture of Jesus."

