

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Schaller, Iowa  
April 28, 2024

10:00 A. M.  
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Rev. Michael Sydnor

**PRELUDE**

Janice Ploeger, Organist

**CANDLELIGHTING**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Elder

Elder: Beloved, let us love one another.

People: We love because God first loved us.<sup>1</sup>

Elder: Let us worship God!

**\*HYMN**

**“Fairest Lord Jesus”**

**#88**

**INVOCATION** (Please be seated)

**Pastor**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)**

**Elder**

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our failure to be what you created us to be. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. By your loving mercy, help us to live in your light and abide in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.<sup>2</sup> (Time of silent prayer) Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**Pastor**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

**#623**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

**First Reading: Acts 8:26-40**

**Pastor**

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.” Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked. “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.” The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Leader: The Word of the Lord:

People: Thanks be to God.

<sup>1</sup> Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 335). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

<sup>2</sup> Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 21). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

## Gospel Lesson: John 15:1-8

Elder

15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

## CHILDRENS TIME

**HYMN** “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation” #276

**SERMON** “You Belong!”

## \*APOSTLE’S CREED

## MINUTE FOR MISSION

## SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayers of Intercession

The Lord’s Prayer

Congregational Response #421 (Verse 1)

## PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY #625

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN “I Need Thee Every Hour” #428

## NEW JOYS & CONCERNS:

The Arlene Miller Family  
The Cetha Gail (Kestel) Henrich Family  
(Tina Frank's Cousin)  
The Randle Lewis Family  
Polly Jansen (Health)

## CONTINUING JOYS AND CONCERNS:

Our Pastor  
Our Church  
Our School  
Purple Gang  
Carol Grundmeier  
(Breast Cancer)  
Dennis Grundmeier  
(Breast Cancer)  
Rich Jorgensen  
(Dementia)  
Richard Morgan  
Father of Cindy Myrice  
Mark Diersen  
Dexter Meseck  
Steve Schaefer  
Velma Woodke  
Joe Van Buskirk  
Shari O'Bannon  
Doug O'Bannon & Family  
Joyce Deloach  
Shelly Fenner  
Ken Fells Jr.  
Dennis Pfrimmer & Family  
George & Darlene Franzkowiak  
Malia Meyer

## PRAYER FOR CHURCHES

**Sunday, April 28, 2024**

Churches Searching for Pastors

**Sunday, May 5, 2024**

First, Ringsted and Rev. Suzanne Wobig

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION SONG "Freely, Freely" (V. 1) #447

\*EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES

\*POSTLUDE

(\*Those who are able please stand.)

### 2024 PER CAPITA

2024 Per Capita amount is \$53.95. It is a very important way we can contribute to the operation and mission of the Presbyterian Church. Session encourages all members to contribute. Please mark your check "Per Capita".

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### April 2024

28 Sunday (Senior Recognition Sunday)

9:00 am	Sunday School Classes
10:00 am	In-Person Worship Service in Sanctuary
11:00 am	Special Coffee Fellowship following the worship service

Rev. Michael will be on vacation April 29<sup>th</sup> thru May 5<sup>th</sup>.

### May 2024

05 Sunday (Rev. Duane Queen Pulpit Supply)

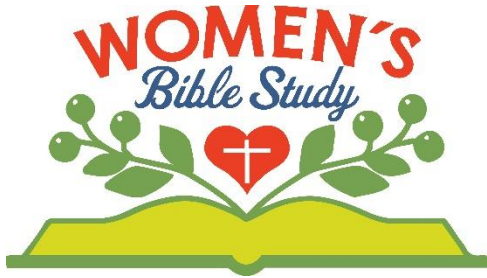
9:00 am	Sunday School Classes
10:00 am	In-Person Worship Service in Sanctuary

08 Wednesday

6:00 pm	Ladies Bible Study
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## SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> will be Senior Recognition Sunday following the morning worship service with a special Coffee Fellowship hosted by the Christian Growth Committee. Hope all can attend to recognize and congratulate our outgoing Senior, Courtney Pyle.



## LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Ladies Bible Study will be meeting on Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> and May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. We will not be meeting during the summer.

## Early Community Food Pantry

We welcome your needed food, toiletries, and cash donations throughout the entire year. Please check the expiration of food donations before bringing them in. Please, no glass containers.

## BIRTHDAY WISHES:

Gerrit VanDenTop (April 27<sup>th</sup>)

Beth Bailey (May 4<sup>th</sup>)

Marilyn King (May 12<sup>th</sup>)

Dorothy Ploeger (May 15<sup>th</sup>)

Dee Gosch (May 17<sup>th</sup>)

Theresa Bailey (May 22<sup>nd</sup>)

Lauren Franken (May 29<sup>th</sup>)



## YOU COULD LIVE AT THE LAKES THIS SUMMER!

We are looking for camp counselors, lifeguards, musicians, program staff, and support staff. We run a 10 week summer

camp season and starting pay is \$300/week plus room and board. BVU students may be eligible for an additional \$2,000 in tuition grants! Internship credit may be possible, too.

Call or text 712-320-3313 with questions, email Sara Sutter ([director@ilovelakeshore.org](mailto:director@ilovelakeshore.org)) or apply online under the summer camp tab at [www.ilovelakeshore.org](http://www.ilovelakeshore.org)

## LAKESHORE CENTER AT OKOBOJI! SUMMER CAMPS

Welcome to the Summer of 2024! We are excited to explore our theme, "Linked by Love." We see God's love in close friends and family. As we seek to create and strengthen life-giving relationships, we remember that such love flows from God, links us all together, and for that we give thanks. We hope you can join the fun!

Registration is available online at our website: [www.ilovelakeshore.org](http://www.ilovelakeshore.org) Ask Rev. Michael or anyone on Session about church scholarships to help pay for some of your camp registration fees.

(See Summer Camp Schedule in the single sheet insert)

# LAKESHORE CENTER



SUMMER

CAMP

2024

JUNE

June 2-7 Work Groups (5-12 grade & adults)  
~ \$250/youth & \$100/adult

June 10-13 Day Camp (K-4 grade) ~ \$50/day

June 16-20 Hike, Bike & Paddle (3-8 grade) ~ \$500

June 16-20 Make & Bake (3-8 grade) ~ \$500

June 21-23 All Camp Reunion Weekend ~ cost varies

June 23-26 Blast Camp (2-5 grade) ~ \$325

June 27-30 Creative Camp (5-12 grade) ~ \$375



# LAKESHORE CENTER



SUMMER

CAMP

2024

JULY

July 3-6 Family Camp ~ youth \$150 / adult \$200

July 6 Fun Day Camp ~ \$50

July 7-9 Splash & Dash (1-4 grade) ~ \$200

July 14-17 Middle School Campference ~ \$350

July 20-21 Super Duper Sleepover ~ \$100

July 21-26 Team Challenge Camp (5-12 grade) ~ \$500

July 26-28 Sheep & Shepherd (grades K-4 w / adult) ~ \$150/person

July 28-31 Last Hurrah Family Camp ~ youth \$150 / adult \$200



Synod School is a learning and personal enrichment experience for people of all ages that seeks to create an environment of hospitality, healing, and hope. The week is designed for laity and clergy, and individuals and families with classes and activities for adults, youth, and children.

2024 is the 70th year of Synod School in Iowa. We have many great events planned for this

week! People will come from all over the country with their friends and families to share in this week of worship, study, play, and life together. It is an opportunity to learn something new, to continue conversations begun by keynote speakers with others over meals or a board game, to share talents of creativity and music, to worship without being in charge, to be energized for service, and to enjoy not having to cook for a week.

2024 Synod School Theme: More Than We Can Imagine

“Now to God who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to the power that is at work within us, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen” Eph. 3-20-21

The group that gathered to plan for the first Synod School event seventy years ago could not have imagined what brings us to Synod School in 2024. It has become more than they could have imagined! Multi-generation families, tie dye, more classes proposed than we have room for, “the best week of the entire year”....

As we look to the future of the Church, what will it look like? What innovations are already happening? What is yet to come? As we think about the lives of the young people in our lives, what will their futures be? What innovations will renew their lives and ministries? God is already doing things we cannot even imagine. What a difference can that make in our lives and ministries?

Registration has begun! We hope you can join us! There are Synod School books on the table in the entryway.

## **WHAT IF????????????????**

**What if God couldn't take the time to bless us today because we couldn't take the time to thank Him yesterday?**

**What if God decided to stop leading us tomorrow because we didn't follow Him today?**

**What if we never saw another flower bloom because we grumbled when God sent the Rain?**

**What if God didn't walk with us today because we failed to recognize it as His day?**

**What if God took away the Bible tomorrow because we would not read it today?**

**What if God took away His message because we failed to listen to the messenger?**

**What if God didn't send His only begotten Son because He wanted us to be prepared to pay the price for sin?**

**What if the door of the church was closed because we did not open the door of our hearts?**

**What if God stopped loving and caring for us because we failed to love and care for others?**

**What if God would not hear us today because we would not listen to him?**

**What if God answered our prayers the way we answer His call to service?**

**What if God met our needs the way we give Him our lives?**

**Think about the judgment we would have to face if all the above What if questions were to become reality.**

**Christian Clipping**

## **THE FARMER'S PRAYER**

**Oh bless this farm, dear Lord above,  
And keep it in thy care.  
Surround it with Thy tender love  
That all might richly fare.  
Lord, shield our farm from sleet and snow  
With Thine Almighty hand;  
Grant it Thy strength when strong winds blow,  
That firmly it might stand.  
In the Spring, Lord, send the rain  
To make the seedlings grow,  
Then bid the sun, "Now shine again,  
Ripen harvest 'fore the snow".  
Bless all the cows, the calves, the steers,  
Which are the farmer's wealth;  
May they all thrive throughout the years  
Producing in good health.  
Guard those out working in the field  
With tractors, balers, plows  
As they gather in earth's yield  
To fill the cribs and mows.  
Bless both this farmer and his wife;  
Be Thou our strength and guide.  
Stand by us all our earthly life  
As we work side by side.  
May all our children, when they've grown,  
Recall the rustic charm,  
The peace within our country home,  
The good life on the farm.  
Then, gracious Father, would you please  
Prepare a special space  
For humble farmer such as these  
In heaven's glorious place?**

**Dianne Gutzman**