

## **Our Saviour's United Church of Christ**

**343 Scott St. Ripon, WI 54971**

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**Reverend Dr. Kevin Mundell**

**Reverend Harley Tretow, Pastor Emeritus**

### **From the Pastor's Desk**



**Have you ever done something that you knew was wrong? Have you when confronted about what was done wrong by someone you know, before they knew who did the wrong, you found yourself lying so that the person confronting you wouldn't think bad of you? Have you then found yourself creating a story in your head as to how it really wasn't your fault you did what you did but the result of someone else causing you to act the way you acted? Do any of these scenarios sound a bit too familiar?**

**A way to think about this is that you have a homework assignment that you start on shortly before bed and realize you need to devote more time than you want to so you cut corners, put bad answers and just don't finish the whole assignment. Or you are at work and are assigned a project that you don't really want to do so you put it off and then start it too late to do it correctly and to the fullest of your ability and instead do a bare minimum to get it done and turned in on time. Or, you see a project that needs to be done at home on your house, and don't or can't afford to hire a professional to do it, so you decide to do it yourself and as you get into the project you realize how much work it will really take to do it right and you don't want to invest that much work so you cut corners and get it done enough to work and hide it enough so people won't realize it wasn't done right.**

**All of these are acts of sin, or as the great reformation theologian Martin Luther put it, they are the essence of sin which is hiding from God. In each instant we are not giving one hundred percent of ourselves to the task at hand, we are not living up to the potential God has placed inside of us. We are hiding a part of our selves from both our self and from God. Luther sees this as part**

of our fall from God right away in Adam's response to God after he ate of the fruit with Eve and then hid from God who had to track them down in the garden. God asks them why they were hiding from God. Adam responds in Genesis 3:10 with, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

What haunts me is how easily I would have done what Adam did and instead of waiting for God, presenting myself and saying, "God, I have sinned, I am sorry, how do I make this right?" I would have done what Adam did and hidden. What is even worse is that Adam not only hides but then blames God for causing him to hide. This is the God who walks with Adam and Eve in the evenings in the garden because God enjoys their company. Now Adam says to God that God is too scary for him and as a result of God's scariness Adam sinned and hid from God.

Sadly, and I am guilty of this sin, Adam believed in his head that he was right in blaming God for his own sin. What Luther also reminds us is that this is what we do as a result of sin in our life and in the world, it is now sort of our nature to sin in this way. But in spite of our sin, the amazing thing about God's Grace is that God seeks us out in spite of our sin and in spite of our hiding from God and forgives us, empowering us to try again and again to live by faith in Jesus and the freedom he earned for us on the cross.

God's Grace is Sufficient

Rev. Dr. Kevin P. Mundell

### November: Prematurity Awareness Month:

An estimated 15 million babies around the world are born premature each year and more than one million of them do not survive their early birth. Although the United States has seen sustained improvement in its preterm birth rate, it has one of the highest rates of preterm birth of any industrialized country. November 17 will be recognized around the globe as the fourth annual World Prematurity Day. More information is available at [www.facebook.com/WorldPrematurityDay](http://www.facebook.com/WorldPrematurityDay), where families and volunteers can share stories and videos about babies born too soon. The page features an interactive world map showing the home place for each story told. Prematurity Awareness Month events are scheduled nationwide throughout November. Prominent buildings and landmarks in several

states, including the Empire State Building in New York City, will be shining in purple light to symbolize hope for a healthy start for more babies. There also will be professional education programs, as well as family events and gatherings. March of Dimes leads the fight for the health of all moms and babies.



Our Saviour's office hours will be: M-T=9-12 & 1-3 pm/ W=10-12 & 1-3 pm/ TH-F= 9-12 pm. Please call (920) 748-2544 if you need to make arrangements for the office to be open after hours.

**\*\*DEADLINE FOR December MESSENGER** - Please submit your events/articles electronically to the office by November 19th to [osuccripon@charter.net](mailto:osuccripon@charter.net). in word format only. Please, no PDF's. Replying by the deadline really helps...**Thank you!**

## **COMMITTEE NEWS**

### **ALTAR GUILD**

**ALTAR & ORGAN FLOWERS** - The Altar Guild would like to invite anyone in our congregation, to become a member of our group. If you are interested, please indicate this on your Time & Talent sheet for Stewardship Sunday, or you may contact Kathy Lang or Tammy Widlake if you have any questions. Sign up in the church office for Sunday altar or organ flowers in Memory of a loved one OR Celebration of an occasion. Altar flowers are \$25 and organ flowers are \$16. Checks should be payable to the Altar Guild. Please pick up your fresh flowers after the church service, on the day you want them on the altar. They will be available in the Altar Guild room. Thank you!

Looking Ahead...-Our next meeting will be Sunday, November 18th, at 10:15 in the Chapel Lounge.

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:15 pm. Do you have questions or concerns? Please join us at one of our meetings. There are 13 Sunday School students and 5 Confirmands presently enrolled. Sunday November 11th the Sunday School students will go shopping for "Harvest In Gathering".

Looking Ahead... Next Meeting-Monday November 19th at 6:15 pm.

### **SENIOR CHOIR**

Looking Ahead... Meetings are on Mondays at 7:15 pm.

### **EVANGELISM COMMITTEE**

**2018 FRIENDSHIP TIME:** Sign-up sheets are located outside of the office on the bulletin board.

Coffee and juice are supplied by the Evangelism Committee.

**WEBSITE:** When you have any committee information or news that you would like on the website, please e-mail it to [osuccripon@gmail.com](mailto:osuccripon@gmail.com) or hand it to Judy Lueck. We would like to have information easy to access for members and our website can be the source. Pictures will be published once permission from the people in the picture has been granted. Permission slips will be coming shortly. Thank you!

**UPPER ROOM** -The November/December issue is available for purchase in the East, North and South Narthex. They are \$1.00 each. Please put the money in the boxes located by these and not in the collection plate. Thanks for your help!

Looking Ahead... Next Meeting - November 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm

### **MISSIONS COMMITTEE**

**“OPERATION SHOEBOX for CHILDREN”**: Yes! The boxes are ready to hold your donations of socks, underwear, shoes, sandals, school supplies, toys, a personal note or photo of yourself/family, handmade crafts such as finger puppets, hairbows, or friendship bracelets & personal hygiene items, such as bar soap or washcloths! Find a detailed list in the East Narthex! Did you know that our church family kids fill their own boxes from our donations and they get excited doing so, especially with the holidays coming up? Remember this outreach as you go shopping!

**DO NOT INCLUDE: Candy; toothpaste; used or damaged items war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.**

Looking Ahead... Next Meeting - November 19<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm

### **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

**STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY** will be November 11<sup>th</sup>. We will sponsor the breakfast that day as well.

**Loose Coin Update:** We are still using the loose coins in the offering plate for special projects.

Here is a list of outreach initiatives:

January - Student Scholarships \$78.28

February - Solutions Center \$63.00

March - Pilgrim Camp \$104.00

April - K-9 Unit of Ripon \$92.00

May/June - Vacation Bible School

July-Shoe Box Project \$116.73

August - Back to School \$82.40

September - Diverse Options

October - Salvation Army

November - Ripon Food Pantry \$92

December- Anti-Crime Education of Ripon (ACE)

*Thanks for your continued support!*

### **\*\*FROM THE COUNCIL\*\***

**We are looking to appoint a Council person to fill a term beginning immediately for the rest of this year until the annual meeting in 2019. Anyone interested should speak to Jeremy Schouten or speak with a Council person.**

**“CAMP”ITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE:** We made a 3-year \$30,000 pledge to help our two church camps with building projects. We only need to raise \$1,186 to meet our pledge by the end of the year! Let’s cross the finish line in style!

**NEW SIGN FUND** - We have begun a “New Sign Fund” for the replacement of the Church sign between the West Narthex and parsonage, on the lawn in front of the Chapel. Our goal is to secure \$20,000 in donations before proceeding with the project. Our current offerings total \$339.39.

**PARISH NURSE:** We are working with SSM/Agnesian regarding the Parish Nurse program. They are advertising for our vacant position.

Looking Ahead... Next Meeting Monday- November 12th, 6:30 pm.

## **BLOSSOM SCHOOL!**

The Blossom school will be using the downstairs conference room and two rooms attached. Because our building is not locked during church office hours the school will need to lock off that section of the building during public school hours and there will be a buzzer to ring to access that space for the protection of the children. When the school is not in session the doors will be unlocked and the rooms available for church use and other organizations. At times we may be asked to lock our entrance doors due to safety issues and or drills that the children need to practice. In this event, please call the church office to be let in. We look forward to this opportunity to use our building to serve a need in the Ripon community.



## **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BREAKFAST NEWS:**

It is that time of the year again. School has started, football season is here, Sunday School is in session and with that it means it is time to have breakfast on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month. We are looking for church committees or groups of church members to be sponsors for breakfast. Anyone interested is to please contact Nancy Henning. This is always a great time for fellowship and food. And to see what will appear on the menu!

### **WILD WOMEN'S WINTER WEEKEND:**

Moon Beach has announced the dates for Women's Wild Winter Weekends. The dates are February 22-24, 2019 and March 1-3, 2019. The ladies from Our Saviour's have always gone the first weekend and so this year we will be at Moon Beach February 22-24, 2019. We hope all the women of Our Saviour's will consider attending this inspirational, relaxing, and fun weekend. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Schaub, Pat Gittens, Barb Schouten, or Kathy Schieler.

