

Ebenezer Happenings



MAY 2024



The Monthly Newsletter of
Ebenezer Reformed Church
of Morrison, IL

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Ebenezer

Reformed Church

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Our Mission: Helping
people find & follow Jesus

Dear Friends of Ebenezer,

Last month's newsletter alerted you to something new that leadership would like to initiate this summer. The plan is to have as many of our church members and attenders as possible gather together for discussion and prayer with the elders and their assigned "care groups". Our membership list is split up into six groups which our elders are responsible to reach out and care for.

After further consideration, we've decided to combine elders together with their back-up elder, thereby reducing the number of "Care Group" gatherings this summer from six to three. The gatherings are scheduled as follows:

July 2 - Jan Renkes (Ottens-Smith)
& **Keith Hamstra** (Snyder-Vegter)

July 9 - Teresa Stout (Callihan-Harksen)
& **Barney Habben** (Hook-Orlowski)

July 30 - Martha Kophamer (Adolph-Bush)
& **Ken Jansma** (Vos-Zuidema)

Whichever elder corresponds with your last name grouping, that is the also the date to which you are requested to attend. If your assigned date does not fit into your summer schedule, you are invited to attend one of the other 2 meetings. The goal is to have EVERYONE attend (members, attenders, and friends) at least one of the scheduled gatherings. Each meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. and will meet in the fellowship hall for approximately one hour. There will be desserts, snacks and drinks provided.

The purpose of the meetings is to discuss our church vision, finances, and future association with the RCA. We will also open up for prayer requests and take time to inquire of your personal needs and concerns. Ultimately, we would like these gatherings to unite our hearts in prayer for our Ebenezer family as a whole.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or one of the elders.

A Joy to Serve You,

Pastor J. T. Bean

Sunday Worship - May 2024



5

Series: The Apostles' Creed (Part 14)
Sermon: **I Believe in the Holy Ghost**
Scripture: Acts 1:1-5; 8; 2:1-21
Speaker: Pastor J.T. Bean



12

Series: The Apostles' Creed (Part 15)
Sermon: **The Holy Catholic Church**
Scripture: Ephesians 1:15-23
Speaker: Pastor J.T. Bean



19

Series: The Apostles' Creed (Part 16)
Sermon: **The Communion of Saints**
Scripture: Hebrews 10:19-25
Speaker: Pastor J.T. Bean



26

Series: The Apostles' Creed (Part 17)
Sermon: **The Forgiveness of Sins**
Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35
Speaker: Pastor J.T. Bean

Coming up in June...

GRAD SUNDAY

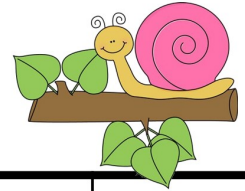
On Sunday, June 2, we would like to recognize all students graduating from jr. high, high school, or college. If you are graduating, or if you have a child or grandchild graduating at this time, please contact the church office and let us know the name, grade and school graduating from.

GARAGE SALE

The city-wide garage sale will be held (Fri-Sat) June 7-8. You may start bringing your donated items into Ebenezer and placing them in room 107 in the church basement. If you would like to volunteer to help sort, sell, cook or bake those days, all sales will be donated to the youth and camp ministry.



May 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Worship Every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. ↓			1 Women's Bible Study 1pm 	★ National Day of Prayer 2 Food Bank 9:45am Worship Team 5:15pm	3	4 Men's Bible Study 7:30am
5 Youth/Ed Cmt. 10:45am	6 Exec Team Mtg 9am Church Life Cmt 10am	7	8	9 Food Bank 9:45am O.M.E. Task Force 6pm	10	11 Men's Bible Study 7:30am
12 Mother's Day 	13 Elders 6pm Consistory 6:30pm	14 Mother-Daughter Banquet 6pm Program 7pm 	15 Ladies' Aid 1:30pm 	16 Food Bank 9:45am	17	18 Men's Bible Study 7:30am
19 Mid-High Class 10:45am	20	21	22	23 Food Bank 9:45am	24	25 Men's Bible Study 7:30am
26 Mid-High Class 10:45am	27 (Office Closed)	28	29 Church Staff Mtg. 10am	30 Food Bank 9:45am	31	

May Birthdays

5/3-Tyler Todd 5/6-Nina Damhoff 5/7-Emma Allison 5/8-Sophie Damhoff 5/9-Linda Hook
 5/11-Abby Bush, David Behrens 5/12-Bob Wiersema, Pat Stuart, Traci Heusinkveld
 5/13-Neva Baar 5/20-Derik Damhoff 5/21-Brayden Tichler, Joanne Barnes 5/23-Halen Patton
 5/24-Alice Bordner, Joyce Medema 5/28-Barb Geerts

* Please contact the church office to make sure your birthday is on our list.

* Also: If you are married, tell us your wedding anniversary.

Ladies Aid

Ladies Aid meets Wednesday, May 15 at 1:30 p.m. A special program on “Resthabe Nursing Home” will be presented by Karla Burns. Joan Zuidema is in charge of refreshments. Please join us for this informative meeting!

Women’s Bible Study

Please join us for a Bible Study the first Wednesday of each month at 1:30 pm in the Noah's Ark room. Our leader is Doris Bielema.

Men’s Bible Study

The Men’s Bible Study is open to young and old. We meet every Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your Bible. Coffee and donuts will be served.

Mid-High Bible Study

Our weekly class for middle-school and high-school age students. We meet in the Upper Room (3rd floor) for a time to talk, study the Bible and try to “stump the pastor” with Bible trivia questions.



Senior Baccalaureate

A baccalaureate service will be held for all high school graduating seniors on Sunday, May 19 at 2:00 p.m. at Morrison High School in the auditorium for all seniors and parents.

Prayer Concerns

- Pray for those who need restored health, healing, and encouragement: Ruth Rosenow, Linda Hook, Ron Wiersema, Jonelle Hook, Kathy Vander-laan, Keith Morine, Arlyn Zuidema, Velma Dean, Jenny Patton, Neva Baar, Joyce Medema, Fred Hadley, Barb Geerts, Betty Voss, Joanne Barnes, Elmer Huizenga, Diane Boelkins, Jeg Weets, Joyce Wilkins and the Hugg, Perry & Baker families. Pray also for those with special needs or unspoken prayer requests, as well as our shut-ins and nursing/assisted-living residents.

- Pray also for our military men serving in the U.S. Armed Forces:

Elijah Bean (Air Force)

Gregory Bush (Air Force)

Brevin Pruis (Navy)

Luke Wilkens (Marines)

Tyler Haan (Air Force)



- Pray for our missionaries: Andrew & Sophia Pitcher with Wycliffe bible translators, Roger & Sue Scheenstra in Africa, Ben & Kelita Johnson in Honduras, and Jeff & Chelsea Lampen to Germany.

- Prayer is available after each Sunday worship service. There is always an elder there to meet in the prayer room to pray about whatever concerns are on your heart.

- Contact the pastor or church office to put a prayer request on the email “prayer line”. Prayer requests will be sent out as soon as the pastor is able to do so.

May Meetings At-a-Glance

Thu May 2 - Worship Team 5:15pm

Sun May 5 - Youth/Ed. Cmt. 10:45am

Mon May 6 - Exec Team Mtg 9am
Church Life Mtg 10am

Thurs May 9 - O.M.E. Task Force 6pm

Mon May 13 - Elders/Deacons 6pm
Consistory 6:30pm

A Note from Deb Adolph:

"My sincere Thank You to the consistory on the unexpected gift you blessed me with. Also, thank you to all who have reached out to me recently, your calls, cards, texts, hugs & kind words mean more than you know. God Bless each of you." - Deb

Memory Verse of the Month

2 Timothy 1:7

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.



Nursery Schedule

May 5- Angie Tichler & Allison Weaver

May 12- Jackie & Alicen Wiersema

May 19- Shawn & Kevin Soenksen

May 26- Beth Milnes & Kinlee Prins

Sunday Greeters

May 5 - Marilyn Tichler

May 12 - Jane Haan

May 19 - Doris Bull

May 26 - Michelle Hook



Welcome Center

May 5 - Jon and Martha Kophamer

May 12 - Jack and Susan Bland

May 19 - Dave and Darlene Schipper

May 26 - Ken and Glenda Jansma



Fellowship Hour

May 5 - Ken & Glenda Jansma

May 12 - Church Life

May 19 - Arlyn & Marilyn Tichler

May 26 - Jack & Susan Bland



The church is in need of a flat screen smart TV for usage in the conference room. If anyone has one or would like to contribute to the purchase of the TV, please contact the church office.



VBS is coming soon!

Vacation Bible School for all our Morrison churches who want to participate is going to be held the week of Mon. June 24 through Fri. June 28. The VBS committee is in need of volunteers from each church to make this work. If anyone from our church would be willing to help during the week of June 24-28, it would be greatly appreciated. We need extra hands to supervise kids in each room with crafts, games and transitioning to each classroom. We are looking for at least two people but would love to have as many who love kids and would be willing to help! And if you are in high school, we could use you too! This year it will not be at the jr. high but will be held at Emmanuel Church from 6-8:15 p.m. Contact Jennie Gowan or Pastor J.T. to let them know you are interested in serving!

Also: We need supplies! Help by donating items from Wal-mart or Amazon.



**Wal-Mart
Wish List**



**Amazon
Wish List**



This is Sunday school for 4 year-olds through grade school. Kids will come to worship with their parents and be dismissed for S.S. after the Children's sermon.

😄 JUST FOR LAUGHS 😄





Missionary Spotlight

The Pitcher Family

Thank you for your prayers, Ebenezer! After spending a week in Cape Town, South Africa in March with around 60 Deaf leaders, pastors, and Bible translators from twelve African countries (South Africa, Lesotho, Eswatini, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, DRC, Uganda, and Kenya), we can report to you that the LORD is building a sign language Bible translation movement among the Deaf in southern Africa! Through daily devotions from SASL (South African Sign Language) Bible stories, worship, instruction on translating from written language into sign language, and meditations on characteristics of authentic Christian leadership (humility, discernment, perseverance, endurance, and submission), the participants grew in knowledge, maturity, zeal, and affection for one another. The spiritual atmosphere was so positive that this training workshop unexpectedly ended with eight baptisms (three who received Christ and five more who had never been baptized)! Specific prayer requests: (1) the project desperately needs to find a Deaf video editor to join the team (the position has been advertised and they are interviewing candidates, but haven't yet found a suitable one), (2) in the next few weeks my dossier will be presented to the credentialing committee for qualification as a Bible translation consultant. Please pray that I would be approved.

Annual Mother-Daughter Banquet

Tuesday, May 14

6:00 p.m.

Featuring Gayle Haas

A dramatic presentation

in character as

Corrie Ten Boom

* Call the church office for tickets.



Giving & Attendance

Here's an update on our numbers for the month of April:

Date	Attendance	Offering
April 7	130	\$4,322
April 14	111	\$8,094
April 21	130	\$5,107
April 28	110	\$7,805
	Avg. 120	Total: \$25,328

April Breakdown:

General Fund: \$24,991

Easter Offering (Samaritan's Purse): \$225

Easter Lilies: \$60

Fellowship: \$52

Tithe.ly (online giving): \$1,113

Total: \$26,441



Join the E-mail List

Stay informed of everything that's going on at Ebenezer: J.T. sends out a weekly **"Note From the Pastor"** as well as regular prayer chain emails as they come in to him. To get on the list, simply email Pastor J.T. and request to be added: ercpastorjt@gmail.com

Note & Disclaimer

All *Ebenezer Happenings* article submissions need to be received by the 20th day of each month to guarantee inclusion in the next edition. We apologize for any missing or inaccurate information within this newsletter. If there are additions or corrections to be made, please call the church office at (815) 772-2472 or e-mail Kendra Remrey at erc.kendra@gmail.com

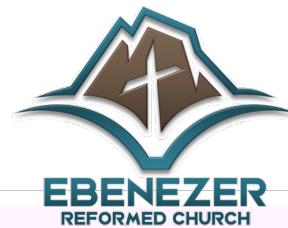


Keep up with current happenings, watch videos, and browse through photos and new posts.

Be sure to **"Like"** the Ebenezer Reformed Church Facebook page.

"Share" our posts to help spread the word about what's happening here.

Watch the Sunday morning Live-stream and post a comment to let us know who's watching and where you're watching from!



This newsletter is a publication of:

Ebenezer Reformed Church

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◆ **Kendra Remrey, Office Manager**

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Office hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.-1p.m.

Sunday Morning Worship:

Worship Celebration - 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hour - 10:45 a.m.

Youth Bible Study Hour - 10:45 a.m.

2024 Consistory

Elders: J. T. Bean, Barney Habben, Keith Hamstra, Ken Jansma, Martha Kophamer, Jan Renkes, Teresa Stout

Deacons: Marcia Blean, Scott Meurs, Jenny Patton, Pat Pessman, Dave Weber, Nancy Weber

2024 Executive Team

J.T. Bean (Pastor)
Ken Jansma (Vice President)
Marcia Blean (Deacons Chair)
Nancy Weber (Treasurer)
Martha Kophamer (Clerk)

April Consistory Meeting

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm. All were present except for excused Jen Patton.

Roof: Carlos Avila was present (Unannounced) to discuss the possible roof project. It was decided for Ken to talk to the insurance company and suggested Bob Wiersema talk to the company that put our current roof on 20+ years ago.

Devotions and Prayer: Pastor JT opened the meeting with devotions Romans 13:1-7 and prayer.

Where have we seen God at work at ERC? Many observations were shared: Live Stream and the interaction from the viewer, Easter Services, Woman Conference “Rooted in Christ” and pulpit supply of Carole Kent the following day, The speaker and attendance at the Father/Son Banquet, the high attendance at the Jr High level of After Shock, the recent weeks healthy offering giving’s.

Deacon’s report: Deacons continue to tweak offering collection is done.

Elders Report Martha: April 15, 2024 minutes were shared. (See Elders minutes.)

Finance-Nancy: M/S to eliminate the library line item and move those funds to the operating fund (they are minimal and rarely used). M/S to approve the current report (after some discussion). M/S to approve the upgrade of the phone system to eleviTy. After the one time set up fee, our monthly expenses will be about half of what they are now. This will allow new things such as Pastor JT and Kendra can answer the phones from anywhere in the building and would not need to be at their desks. Our current voicemail is not working so this will be a much-improved service. Pastor JT distributed a pie chart and graph of 2024 givings. We are starting the year off in a positive direction!

Property: Marcia Blean gave an update of the finished bathroom refresh on the Sanctuary level and stated the men’s bathroom on the lower floor will be getting a fresh coat of paint and new flooring. These are all being paid with memorial money. Deb Adolph has stepped down from our custodian after 9+ years. We want to thank her for her years of service!

Insurance: Ken approached the subject of not carrying insurance on the building as the fee is getting so expensive and many companies no longer will insure big old buildings. He will talk to our insurance company about this and also about the roof.

Church Life-Ken: No report.

Endowment: Ken reported the last quarter has seen a nice increase in value, but the last few days may have deflated that some.

Worship/Music-Scott: The Easter services went well for the most part. Already planning next year. Men’s choir will sing on Mother’s Day. We will honor our deceased military on Memorial Day. We will recognize our graduates on June 2. We need a new amp (estimated cost is \$700 and would like a new drum set (for the hopeful youth band and others). Estimated cost is \$2,000. It was suggested they approach the Endowment Committee to request funds to cover these expenses.

Youth/Education-Jan Renkes: They are looking into books to hand out to our graduates. They have discussed “Camp bags” for those going to camp, summer activities, the garage sale and a car wash fundraiser for camping expenses with hopes the kids will help out with these things. There is an AS wrap up meeting April 16. Jennie Gowan is our VBS representative.

Assistance/Memorial: Dave Weber: A large amount of our Memorial Money has been used to upgrade some bathrooms. We received a donation designated for youth and that money has been transferred to that account.

Sacraments/Communion: Barney see Elders minutes.

O.M.E. Task force-Teresa Stout: They have met and had lots of discussion about our Care District gatherings and future fall activities. Mother Daughter Banquet is the next event coming up and the speaker will be Corrie Ten Boom-a Dutch survivor of the Holocaust. All ladies are invited.

Approve Minutes: M/S to approve March 2024 minutes. MC.

Old Business: Pastor JT brought up the Care District gathering in July. We will have specific topics to cover in prayer but will include anything anyone attending would like covered.

New Business: Pastor distributed a Book of Church Order survey we need to complete. We will do this via email. A draft of a church letter to send to people attending, but not members informing them of ways they can get involved if they choose. All thought it was a good idea. (Thank you, Marcia and JT, for putting this together.) We discussed doing a Stewardship Program in the fall to make budget planning easier. Pat Pessman gave an update on the Schultz family and thanked us for covering them with prayers and to please continue to do so. Jennifer had sent her homemade cinnamon rolls and bread bites to sample. If you ever want to order some, let Pat know and she will give you her contact information.

Next meeting: May 13, 2024. Ken Jansma is assigned to prayer.

Adjournment: M/S to adjourn post prayer. MC.

Closing Prayer: Scott Meurs closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted:

Martha Kophamer, Clerk

April Elders Meeting Minutes

Devotions and Prayer: Pastor JT opened the meeting at 6:08pm with scripture Romans 13: 1-7, discussion and prayer.

Attendance: All elders were present.

Constitutional Questions: The constitutional question was asked followed by discussion.

Grieving Members in need of care: Discussion occurred.

Care Districts: Discussion about our summer Care District Prayer Gatherings. Tentative dates are all Tuesdays: July 2,9,16,23,30 and August 6. More planning to come.

Prayer Room: Reminder to cover your assigned Sundays or find a replacement.

Communion: 18 Home communions were done during Holy Week. Those who attended the Maudy Thursday service (about 15) at Emmanuel also were served.

Approve Minutes from previous month's meeting: Motion and made and seconded to approve March 2024 minutes.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made and seconded to adjourn after closing prayer.

Closing Prayer: Teresa Stout closed in prayer.

Next meeting and Closing Prayer assignment: Next Elders meeting will be May 6. Keith is assigned to prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Kophamer, Clerk