

First Presbyterian Church of Glidden

April 2013

Friends of Glidden Presbyterian Church,

It is with deep regret that I must inform all of you that, this past Friday, Jesus of Nazareth was executed for conspiracy against the Roman Empire. I know that this is a lot to process, and I wish that we had time to properly grieve his death, but there are a number of practical issues that must be dealt with first. Mary Magdalene and Joseph of Arimathea have graciously offered to cover the burial expenses, so thankfully those details have been taken care of. The true question is, "What do we do now?"

The death of our leader obviously has profound implications for the future of our little community of churchgoers. I too had expected Jesus to prove victorious against the corrupt political system and entrenched religious establishment, but now it is now clear just how foolish and naive those hopes were. No one person can save the world, not even Jesus.

Our dear friend, Albert Schweitzer eulogized him best when he said, "Jesus threw himself upon the wheel of history in an attempt to bring it to a halt, to bring this world to an end and usher in the Kingdom of God in its fullness and power; but the wheel continued to turn, and it crushed him. Even now, his mangled body hangs on that wheel as it turns."

Friends, the Wheel of History turns and if we do not move with it, we too will be crushed. It is with great sadness that I propose we bring to a halt our weekly meetings at the Presbyterian Church. If Jesus is dead, and the world unchanged, then there is simply no point in gathering. If Jesus did not have the power to save us, then why should we venerate him or his teachings? Jesus loved his neighbors as himself and they murdered him in response. Why should we even bother?

We will meet one last time to auction off the contents of the church building and determine a worthy cause to donate the proceeds. From now on, it's every person for themselves. God clearly only helps those who help themselves.

With great sorrow,
Former Pastor Brian

Great news! Jesus is ALIVE!!!

Disregard the previous letter. Jesus came back from the dead. I don't know how it happened, but he came back! He's alive again. Everything makes sense now. If death isn't the end of all things, then everything makes sense!

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Meet the Members MTM

This month features Roy and Marge Middaugh of 226 West 2nd Street in Glidden. Roy and Marge met several years ago when Roy went to work for his father at his gas station and found Marge waiting tables in an attached restaurant. These young kids, like many children of the late 1940's and 50's, had plenty of ambition but no wealth. They both had graduated from high school - Marge from Exira and Roy from Lewis high school. During his school years, Roy's father was in the construction business. This meant that Roy's family often had to move from job site to job site, and Roy attended a total of nine schools within a three year period. Eventually, he returned to Lewis to finish high school and, from there, went to work for his father at that fateful gas station.

Roy and Marge were married in a small country Lutheran church named Oakhill Church. However, just a year later, Roy left to serve for two years in the United States Marine Corps. When he returned, they settled into married life with Marge acting as housewife and Roy working construction. Roy worked construction for several years and became a very accomplished brick layer.

Early in their marriage, Marge and Roy became the happy parents of three wonderful children. These children have now grown and have families of their own. Their children are: a son Steven and his wife Nancy, a son Bruce and a daughter Rhonda Schroeder and her husband Barney. Roy & Marge have two grandchildren and four step grandchildren. In fact they let it be known that they have 10 great step grandchildren. In conversation one can tell that these grandparents are proud of all of their family.

We can't leave the discussion of family without mentioning two other important members

They speak highly of the local church family and Pastor Brian.

– Max their cocker spaniel dog is eight years old and has the run of the house. The dog knows that he is due a treat at 3:30 each day therefore he approaches Roy or Marge to remind them, lest they forget. Miss Katie is the family cat and is somewhat different. She is very friendly to Roy and Marge but when company comes into the house Miss Katie leaves, goes outdoors, climbs a tree, and stays there until the visitors depart. Only

then, will she come down out of the tree and re-enter the home. It is very evident that Roy and Marge are very attached to these special animals.

Reflecting upon their hobbies both enjoyed playing golf for 25-30 years. Each has achieved the rarest and highest achievement of golfing – hitting a hole-in-one. Unfortunately, golf for both Roy and Marge has now been limited since Roy has had three back surgeries. They still have hobbies as Marge dotes over her flowers while Roy spends some free time fishing in Canada, Louisiana and other far away places. As one drives by the Middaugh home it is to recognize the well manicured lawn, flowers and shrubs. Last year was a test for lawn care as rainfall was limited. Work outs at the recreational center are a part of their weekly routine plus attending coffees each day in the area.

Upon reflection they said their parents did not spend time giving sage advice but rather demonstrated through their lives how to live by setting good examples. They both can recall their favorite teachers not because these teachers were so nice but rather because they learned a great deal from them.

Roy was in the construction business for twelve years, after his graduation from high school and stint in the military. After that he migrated to working at an architectural firm where he developed his skill in design, sales, job site inspection, supervision and other skills that kept

him busy for the next 23 years. Roy then spent five years managing Shriver Construction Co. in Jefferson, Iowa. Once the Middaugh children were well on their way to adolescence and college was looming in the near future Marge decided to re-enter the world of work outside the home. For the next 22 years Marge was employed at American Athletic Company in Jefferson, where she spent her work hours sewing trampolines and other varied types of athletic equipment.

They speak highly of the local church family and Pastor Brian. Local churches that serve the grass root members are where churches excel. Roy and Marge are ecumenical in their beliefs about churches.

Retirement has been good for the Middaugh's as they enjoy their free time, their family and friends, however, Roy still misses his work but realizes that life moves on.

During our conversation, Roy and Marge repeated that they felt that they had lived happy yet relatively uneventful lives. In many ways, such sentiments are simply evidence of doing things right. The Russian novelist, Leo Tolstoy, once wrote, "Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way". The Middaugh's are a happy family as they began with humble beginnings and have lived life to the fullest. That is the type of life that we all strive to achieve.

Camping Alert

With the chilly weather it is difficult to think about summer but it is just around the corner. With the beginning of warm weather comes the camping season and Presbyterians have a tremendous camp at Lake Okoboji. The camp location is some of the most valuable property on West Okoboji.

To receive the most value from this camp it needs to be utilized. So First Presbyterian is making a commitment. This year the church will reimburse

100% of youth registration for young members of our church. Also, the church will reimburse 50% of the registration for any youth who attends the Glidden school system and goes to the Presbyterian Camp at Lake Okoboji. High school students will not have a special camp at Okoboji this year because they are invited this year to our denomination's Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Purdue University.

If you are wondering why our church is supporting a venture such as this, we encourage you to go talk to someone who has attended camp. Our children will tell you of all of the fun times to be had on lake Okoboji, and many adults can recall how camp activities created lifetime memories. Pastor Brian even felt his first desire to serve in pastoral ministry while at camp – quite literally a life-changing experience. Memories of camp may be of meeting a special friend, a freak accident that caused some pain, or a fond memory of a special event. These memories cover all age groups of campers. Senior citizens, families, adults, adolescence and youth can all gain a positive experience by attending camp. One can even volunteer at the camp for a day or so to work on cleanup, repair or other activities.



The variety of events offered at our Presbyterian Camp also means that there is something for everyone. There's an introduction to camping weekend for pre-K through 3rd graders and

their parents, a camp for grandparents and K through 4th grade grandchildren, a multitude of camps for 3rd graders and up, family camp, a father/son fishing weekend, and more. The newly built Lakeview Lodge is also a retreat center that is available for weddings, family reunions, or simply a comfortable place to stay when visiting Okoboji.

We encourage all members to get involved and check out the Presbyterian Camp at Okoboji, Iowa on the web-site (<http://www.presbycamp.org>) and learn of various camps, cost, times and activities. Let's get up and go to camp and return home with memories that last a life time.

	2013 Ushers	2013 Acolytes
April	Russ & Lil Draves	Treynor Cose
May	Brad & Heather Mueggenberg	Cooper Mueggenberg

Finance/Stewardship Committee

April 2013

The finance and stewardship committee met to prioritize some of the pending needs of the church in 2013. The buildings and ground committee is working on improving the exterior of the church which will cost extra money this year. Their attention is focused on the leaking bell tower, the woodwork and Plexiglas protecting our stained-glass windows, and other maintenance items. The church budgeted \$5,000 for repairs throughout the year but the real cost of these repairs is expected to be closer to \$10,000. Please be aware of this change.

Another area the finance committee prioritized was the yearly mission emphasis. We identified the mission on which to focus and the months to focus on these missions. Following is a tentative list of priorities to be discussed at the next session meeting.

Month	Emphasis	Month	Emphasis
January	Holiday gift cert.	June	Okoboji Camp
Feb./Mar.	One Great Hour	July/Aug.	Peace Making
Apr./May	Pentecost	Nov./Dec.	Christmas Joy Off.

As the months proceed Pastor Brian and committee members will place emphasis on each of these priorities. We will use this guide to keep members informed of these special needs. These emphases are very much in line with past years.

As we think of our church we are asking members to consider their financial support of this church as the needs have increased and will continue as we meet our obligation to maintain the church building, continue the teachings of the word of our lord and remain a positive influence in our community.

This church has been blessed by gracious members who willingly support the mission of the church and we are so thankful to each and every member for that support.

May God's blessings pour down on each member throughout 2013.

Joint Christian Ed Sunday School Meeting

The committee met to review the parental surveys that had been circulated. They were all supportive of sharing Sunday School. Discussion circulated around needing teachers and the challenges of regular attendance of children. The following points were discussed:

- Sunday school for Pre-K and elementary school kids will be in the same place every semester
- Sunday school for Pre-K and elementary school kids will meet at the Presbyterian Church during the Fall semester
- Sunday school will continue through May 12th, then break for the summer
- Sunday school will resume on September 8th, for the Fall semester.
- We agreed to split the costs for Sunday school teaching materials
- We plan to meet again on Sunday, July 21st, at the Methodist Church

Lora Reeve, CE Chair



CLASS OF
2013

ZACHARY KENT MUEGGENBERG

GRADUATION PARTY-SATURDAY, MAY 4TH 2013-4:30-8:00 P.M.
130 W. 1ST STREET, GLIDDEN

Mark your calendars and come celebrate with Zach!

Building and Grounds Report

- We are still waiting for a bid to fix the roof.
- Communicating with the insurance company on compliance issues from the audit.

Bible Banter

A Pastor parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. So he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 100 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES."

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note. "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket, I'll lose my job. LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION."

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

2nd-Mark and Marlys Conner Anniversary

3rd-Erica Bowman

5th-Brad Mueggenberg

18th-Suzy Danner

18th-Keith Danner

21st-Pastor Brian

29th-Mark Conner



Stay in Contact

With all of the developments taking place in the world of communication it is difficult to keep in touch. Some folks have only landlines; others have only cell phone service while others have both. Additionally many members have email addresses plus have a United States Post Office mailing address.

To help us stay in touch, please help by providing us with your updated contact information. We would like your

Name

Address

Land telephone #

Cell Phone #

E-mail address

If you don't want part of your contact information to be made available to all members of the congregation, please let us know and we won't share it publicly. This information will only be used by members to contact other members or for Pastor contact.

We would like to gather this information by April 20th. Bring your information to church, send it to 309 Idaho Street or e-mail to Pastor Brian at Pastor@GliddenPresbyterianChurch.org

Parish Life Report

The Parish Life committee met March 20 and started plans for the upcoming year. So far, the committee will help celebrate graduations with a cake and refreshments after church on Sunday, May 12.

The next important event will be the all-church service and picnic at the City Park June 2. The committee will provide burgers, brats, and hotdogs with buns and condiments. All who join the service and picnic will be asked to bring their own table service, drinks, and covered dish to share.

G-R staff will receive the annual donuts on the first day of in August, and Thanksgiving Dinner is on the calendar in November.

More details for all events will follow closer to the appropriate dates. Other fun events may be added as needed.

Announcements:

***The Presbyterian Women will meet for lunch Wednesday, **April 10th** at 11:30am.

***Next Session Meeting **April 24th** at 7pm in the Church Basement

***Bible Study meets at 10:00am in the church basement on the last Wednesday of every month.

***Communion takes place on the first Sunday of each month.

*****May 12th** we will have a special service honoring our graduates along with cake and beverages following.

***Our annual church picnic and outdoor service will be **June 2nd** at the City Park.

Do you have anything you would like to add or see in the monthly newsletter?

***If so please contact Lindsey at lcose@schenkelbergimpco.com ***