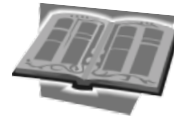


The Bluff Hall News

April 2024



Pastor's Thoughts

There is an important worldwide event happening during the summer of 2024, the Summer Olympics. There are many events I enjoy watching during the summer games, but one of my favorites is the team rowing events. Have you ever watched a rowing team race? It is amazing to watch as all the rowers lift their oars almost as if they were one well-oiled machine. The reality is that this kind of synchronism doesn't happen over night. The rowing teams must train and train regularly. On top of all their training, each rower must have the same goal and focus in mind. If one rower gets off pace they will pull their whole team down. Last month I wrote about being a member of the local church and compared it to being a part of a team. So, what is our team's shared goal and focus? Acts 2:42 give us a picture of the goal of the church.

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (ESV)

This passage reveals the four-fold purpose of the local church; let's look at each one of these a little more closely. The early church first gathered together to learn from the teaching of the apostles. For the church today this means that the study of the Bible, whether through weekly preaching, Bible study, or Sunday School classes, is the primary reason the church exists. The apostle Peter continued to follow Christ Jesus for he knew that his rabbi had "the words of eternal life" (John 6:68) The second aspect given is the importance of fellowship. The church is the place where all believers, from all walks of life can come together and find unity even in their diversity. There are numerous passages in the Epistles of the New Testament encouraging individuals in the church to care and serve one another; this is possible only when the body comes together in fellowship. Thirdly the church comes together to partake of the Lord's Supper. Just as Jesus instituted the Last Supper with the 12 disciples, the church follows this model by the "breaking of bread" together. Lastly the early church gathered to pray. This may indicate set prayers like the "Lord's Prayer", but it may also address praying for one another. Corporate prayer should have a place within the church of God.

Most churches come up with a statement to express these elements in their own words as the mission or vision of their church. At Bluff Hall our statement is "Growing in Christ - Sharing His Love". All four areas of the early churches' purpose fit under the first part of our statement. As a member of Bluff Hall are you growing in Christ? Are you involved with the mission of our church? Like a team of rowers, we are members of one body, we must all be striving to grow in our relationship with the Lord and encouraging one another as we go. If you attend somewhere else you might ask yourself what is my church's mission? Does it fit with the passage in Acts 2? Finally, how are you working towards your churches' mission? Stay tuned to next month's newsletter as I share about the second part of our mission statement.

To God be the Glory

Contact	Bluff Hall Evangelical Free Church	Church Office 217.656.4370	Pastor Richard Moore 217.656.3144 (H)
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Sunday Worship Service: 9:00 am Sunday School: 10:30



Prayer Needs



New, Recent, & Updated Requests:

- Ross Loos – Continued recovery
- Carolyn Kaiser – Continued recovery
- Rushville Industry community
- Brian Johnson – Ongoing treatment for cancer
- Danny Thomure – Starting cancer treatment
- Upcoming Elections in our country
- Rev Bob Cook and his wife Pat – Battling COVID
- Norma Hildebrand – Heart concerns
- Kenny Speckhart – Continued recovery
- Jim Woods – Healing and comfort
- Chris Blackmore – Cancer battle
- Darla Powers – Full recovery from transplant surgery
- Mel Loos – Continued recovery of strength
- Dee Cole – Recovery of strength and healing
- Patty Freberg – Cancer treatment
- Chad Glosemeyer – Needs kidney and liver transplant
- Myanmar missions – Ahdi & Puhsar going to Tibet soon
- Peace in Ukraine and Israel

Military:

Seth Miles, Henry Dodd, Ryan Mena, Dustin Speckhart, Blaine Brown, Gary Velasquez, Lucas Velasquez, Kason Spratt

Ongoing Requests:

- Ross & Sandy Loos
- Virginia Echternkamp
- Betty Speckhart
- Bob Cutforth – cataract surgery
- BJ Cutforth – Needs miraculous healing
- Ralph Venvertloh – Health
- Tim Davis – Continued health
- Janice Walbring – Health
- Myanmar Missions and Seminary
- Those in our community battling cancer.
- Those in our community grieving the loss of loved ones.
- Those who gave us our freedom.
- Our local, state and federal leadership

Praises:

- Congrats to Brittany and Reed at the birth of Elsie Jean on March 8th!
- Greg Grankee’s stage 4 cancer is gone
- Kristin Adams is out of the coma and improving
- Bill Mowen’s cataract surgeries went very well
- Praise for healing for Joe Nise!

If you have any prayers concerns, please let the prayer chain know by contacting Pastor Richard.

Date	Mar 31 st	Apr 7 th	Apr 14 th	Apr 21 st	Apr 28 th	May 5 th
Children’s Message	Shannon	Katie	Mary	Penni	Shannon	Katie
Announcements & Prayer	Tim	Geoff	Tim	Bill	Geoff	Tim

Deacons for the month: Geoff and Trevor

Flowers: Katie, Debbie, Kristi & Diana



Bluff Hall Outreach Mission

If you would like support Bluff Hall Missions, please use the envelopes in the pew-backs and place in the offering plate at the back of church.

Please be in prayer for Ahdi and family during this time of upheaval in Myanmar.

Also if you have a neighbor or know someone that the church might be able to serve in our community, please let the Missions Team know. – Thank you!

Looking for a way to serve the Lord on Sunday?

We are always looking for people who can help lead the announcement/prayer times during Sunday service once a month or so. See Pastor Richard for more information.

Service Live Stream

For those who wish to remain at home or who are unable to join us check out our live stream. You can find our youtube channel by searching bluffhallefc at youtube.com or a link can be found on our website at bluffhallefc.org/sermons. 2



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Bible Study 6:30pm	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Quarterly Meeting 7pm	11	12	13
14	15	16 Spiritual Gifts 7pm	17 Deacon Meeting 7pm	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 Bible Study	<p>BLUFF HALL NOW HAS THE ABILITY TO ACCEPT ONLINE GIFTS If you would like to give online go to bluffhallefc.org/donate and click the link to fill out the giving form.</p>			

Happy Anniversary

Apr. 7 Bob & Susan Humphrey
 Apr. 20 Mel & Sharon Loos

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- Apr. 3 Greg Huber
- Apr. 5 Julie Dittmer
Sharon Loos
Judy Spratt
- Apr. 14 Ragan Mena
Melina Tedrow
- Apr. 8 April Miller
- Apr. 20 Jairyn Hinthorne
- Apr. 22 Jessica Warner
- Apr. 23 Ross Miller
- Apr. 24 Dustin Speckhart
- Apr. 28 Brielle Vincent
- Apr. 30 Susan Humphrey



Women's Fellowship News

Stay tuned for information about the May outing.

Mid-week Bible Study News

Tuesday, April 30 begins our next series entitled "News of the Hour" a study of the gospel of Mark. If you are interested please let Pastor Richard know so he can order you a book.

Church Chuckles

We would like to congratulate Tony and Renee on the birth of their 4th child this week.

Looking for Greeters at the 10:15 service. If you can stand to welcome our church family and guests for 45 minutes, please call the office.

Announcements

- Mid-week Bible Study Tuesday, April 2 at 6:30pm.
- Quarterly Meeting Wednesday, April 10 at 7pm.
- Spiritual Gifts class Tuesday, April 16 at 7pm.
- Deacon Meeting Wednesday, April 17 at 7pm.
- Mid-week Bible Study Tuesday, April 30.

Please check website for any updates.



May 19th – Sunday School Recognition

Sermons Online

Miss a Sunday? Want to listen to a message again? You're in luck!
Sermons can be found online through our website: bluffhallefc.org/sermons
Sunday's messages typically post on the following Tuesday.

Please pass along any information you have for the newsletter. It may be emailed or called-in to Pastor Richard. Thanks!



Bluff Hall Evangelical Free Church
951 North 400th Ave
Payson, IL 62360

Highlights of the March 20, 2024 Church Council Meeting

Treasurer Report: First quarter expenses to date are \$21,128.36 and income to date is \$22,846.59. Check book balance as of today is \$18,579.72. Money market account balance \$9,980.57, building fund balance is \$15,355.95 and Memorial Fund Balance is \$13,776.30. CD of \$75,000 earning 5%, will mature October 2024.

Leona noted that we have received the refund check for the overcharge of our workman's comp last year.

Dining Hall Committee: Needs to meet to finish policy and forms for use of the dining hall now that the suggested donation and damage deposit structure has been approved.

Sunday morning live stream of worship service was discussed. Pastor has been letting the church use his hotspot for streaming Sunday service and this was greatly appreciated. He recently had to change his Internet service. This means the church will need to look into an Internet service for continuing the live stream. Cost and availability of some Internet options were discussed, but more information is needed. Leona will check with Airwaves. Pastor Richard will look into other options. This will be discussed further at quarterly meeting.

Sound during Young Disciples message was brought up. It was agreed that it is still difficult to hear the Young Disciple's message. Pastor Richard will continue to make adjustments.

Next Council meeting will be June 19th at 7:00 p.m.



Family Fun Day



with a St. Patty's Day Twist