



# Balaton United Methodist Church August Newsletter

**Hello My Little Sheepies** ..... here we are in August already! As I look back ... in some ways it seems that this unusual, crazy time of pandemic has just begun. It's hard to believe it has been six months already since all of this really began. As I record our sermon each week in the Sanctuary, I "SEE" and "HEAR" each of you ... (even as your photos have been taken down). I continue to spend some time walking the Sanctuary ... Praying over each person, in each spot, as well as those who aren't normally with us each week in person. Please know that each of you are *HELD* in my Prayers .. often.

These days, weeks, months ... have flown by! I say that to myself often ... *"I can't believe it's Friday already!"* People who study such things would say that "I/We" are in "Survival Mode". Or ... on "Auto-Pilot". I would agree. I thought That I was finally going to tackle some of these "piles and projects" of mine at both houses. The reality is .... *"I can't believe that it's Friday"* for another week already! And, I haven't got much extra done other than "Survival mode" – ya know?

Sure ... I have been able to do some fishing and a few other such things of Summer ... but the reality of things not normal is forever at the forefront. I am confident that we will get to the other side of all of this ,, eventually ... but I also know that we have to trust the science rather than the political division in order to come out of this stronger.

Throughout the New Testament ... especially in the Epistles (Letters) of the Apostle Paul ... we see him writing and visiting each Church often times in order to gently (and sometime not so gently which I LOVE about him) remind them that in order to grow, thrive, be healthy (body, mind, and Spirit) the divisions among them need to stop and working together for the advancement of the greater good ... which in this case was the advancement of the Kingdom of God here on earth ... spreading the Gospel to all peoples, all Nations, all Races ... ALL.

Some ... became WOWed by various leaders who didn't have their best interest at heart. They were unable to SEE clearly because of the smooth talk which really were empty promises. These various leaders did more harm than good in the long run. Paul called them out.

Paul used a checklist .... Here are a few:

- They are humble servants (Luke 22:26)
- They do not tolerate wrong doing. (Proverbs 16:12)
- They are honest and open. (Psalm 43:3)
- THEY PROTECT THEIR PEOPLE (Psalm 139:10)

#### **Contact Information**

Pastor Lori VonHoltum:

**Cell:** (507) 220-3557

**Parsonage:** (507)734-4101

**Church Office:** (507) 734-4811

**Email:** [pastorvonhohum@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorvonhohum@yahoo.com)

**Office Email:** [balatonumc@gmail.com](mailto:balatonumc@gmail.com)

**Church Website:**

<https://www.balatonumc.org>



They are merciful and compassionate (Isaiah 49:10)

They don't tempt people to do evil (1 Timothy 2:2)

They are knowledgeable and mindful (Matthew 15:14)

Their words are respectful (2 Timothy 2:16)

They are hardworking (Romans 12:8)

They are faithful leaders who are based on LOVE (Isaiah 16:5)

They lead by example (1 Peter 5:2-3)

Then in 2 Timothy 3:1-17 .... We get some good words about what and who to avoid .... "But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, reckless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness but denying its power. Avoid such people ...."

So do I think that we are in the "End Times"? I don't know .... NO ONE, not even JESUS himself knows that time or date ... he just gives us some tools to stay grounded, alert, ready ....

I have seen so many Conspiracy Theories floating around ... just be cautious. Do your search. Read your Bible. Pray.

The above list .... Of what and whom to avoid seems pretty valid. All we have to do is take a look at the incident that happened this past week in Marshall Walmart with the couple opposing the face mask mandate with Nazi swastika flags – a little too close to home.

All to say .... Just be cautious. Stay alert. Stay in the WORD of God above all else. I trust GOD .... And I trust Science (who do you think gave Scientists their gift?)

We will continue to worship on the Church Lawn outside (weather permitting) through August and then assess the numbers of virus spread. Please keep in mind that even many of our larger United Methodist Churches are not back inside their building to worship yet either.

WORSHIP – We continue on journeying through the Book of Acts until September. In-Home-Worship-Packets will continue as long as need be. I deliver about 17 each Saturday, and you can find them on the church website (Thanks Sue). You can also direct people to the website for video sermons and online giving.

J.A.M – We really need to wait and see what the current virus transmission looks like before we make plans. I will be visiting with various other J.A.M. programs in our District to see what they have planned (LeSuer,

SleepyEye, Pipestone) to name a few. As long as weather cooperates, I think we at the very least can do some parking lot gatherings.

I have been able to make a couple hospital visits – ONE visit per-day (meaning I can't go back inside the same day) COVID screening – questions and temp, and mask. I continue to attend biweekly Hospice Team meetings (in person – Slayton). All of my District/Conference meetings are via ZOOM (online). If you would like a visit, and comfortable meeting in person ... I am ok with that .. however, social distancing needs to be practiced ... and it's better to meet outside (church lawn in the shade or your lawn/driveway/porch).

Sue and I will be attending Annual Conference “Virtually” this month. Normally, we would have been onsite, in person – this year was to be held in Sioux Falls with the Dakota Conference back in June. I had such anticipation of y'all driving over to “Cheer me on” as I received my red scapular for graduation from Course of Study. I have the scapular .... And my picture and name will be posted online during Annual Conference LIVE on FaceBook ... I'll let you know when and how to access that. Jenny Kirk from the Balaton Press took some photos of me in my Scapular. I needed to submit one for Annual Conference. I should receive my actual graduation certificate soon from St Paul's School of Theology. I am waiting on that, and then Jenny will write up a little article about it. It just feels SO good to be finished! I can't even explain it!! Thank you for your love, support, and encouragement over these 12 years of journeying through that! It hasn't been easy, for sure, but learned so much and made lasting friendships along the way too.

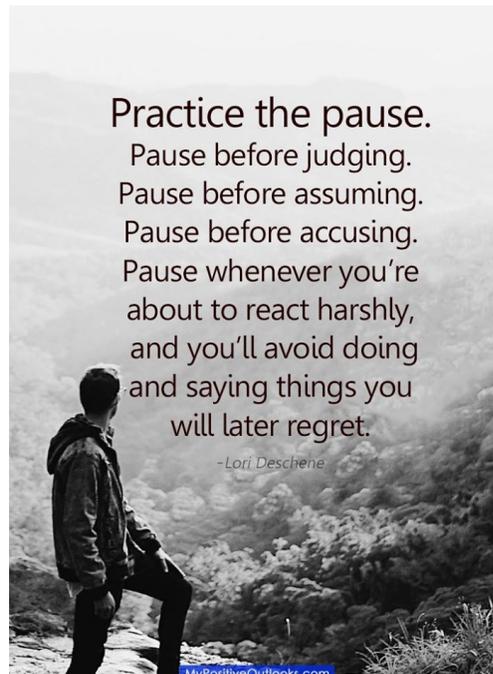
Well .. I have written a “BOOK” – Ha! I miss you! Thank You to those who have checked in, Face Booked, Texted, called just to say “HI”, Marco Poled (Sue and I do this often), Snail Mailed, etc.

Remember to pray for those who are ill, having procedures, and hearts that grieve. We already have quite a list of “Saints” come November.

Be God's Kids Out There ....

In Jesus,

**Pastor Lori (PL)**



## PL's Calendar~

**Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>** – COMMUNION

**Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Southern Prairie Pre-Conference Webinar for Annual Conference 6:30-8:30pm (ONLINE)  
Pastor Lori & Sue (Lay Delegate)

**Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>** – Hospice of Murray County Burger Fundraiser (Our House – Slayton) Outside in front of house.

**Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>** – Pastor Lori @ Hospice Team Meeting (in Person) Slayton 9am-10:30.

**Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup>** – Licensed Local Pastor Mentor Group (PL – Via ZOOM) 10:30am-11:45am.

**Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>** – Pastor Lori @ Hospice Team Meeting (in Person) Slayton 9am-10:30am.

**Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>** – Checking Online Connection for Annual Conference 7-8pm Procedural Orientation (ONLINE – PL & Sue)

**Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>** – Clergy Gathering (PL – ONLINE) 1:30pm-3:30pm)

**Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>** – Annual Conference Session (ONLINE) 9:30am-11:30am & 1:30pm-3:30pm (PL & Sue)

We will continue to worship Outside on the Church Lawn through the month of August (Weather Permitting) and re-evaluate the COVID-19 projections at that time. If you haven't been able to join us for worship on the lawn, we miss you! We have only been rained out once (last Sunday was a little too WET). Physical Distancing has been implemented, some mask, some do not. It's been a JOY for those of us attending.

### *A Note from Your Lay Leader~*

“God hasn't invited us into a disorderly, unkempt life but into something holy and beautiful – as beautiful on the inside as the outside.” 1 Thessalonians 4:7



The world sure seems disorderly right now and irritating at times! Makes me think of how pearls are formed inside the shell of an oyster as a defense mechanism when a threatening irritant gets in like a little grain of sand. Life events can irritate us. When we walk in faith, we use what we know as Christians as our defense mechanism to protect us from those irritations. I like that saying, “No grit, no pearl.” True grit will turn into beautiful layers on the inside and the outside when it is paired with faith. Be blessed, be safe and be God's faithful as we step into this last month of summer.

Happy August!

Blessings, Sue Skramstad

## Notes from our UMW:

### Hi Everyone!

**June Terhark, UMW President:** What a beautiful week this has been! IT makes pulling weeds almost fun! With the amount of rain we've had the weeds are pulling a little easier. (and lots of them)

Another thing I've been doing is making a baby quilt for my coming great grand baby! Grandson Chad and Linnea are expecting a baby due next week. We don't know boy or girl? But we are looking forward to a new little one! I don't know if big sister Maelinn is so excited! Any way the quilt will be ready for the baby and that will be great grandbaby #3 for me and I'm so happy and excited!

Other than that I'm just staying home! I do want to say "Thank you" to the UMW ladies for the money given for the bakeless bake sale and also for being willing to write a little for the newsletter. We may have to ask the ladies for a donation, because we will be unable to have our bake sale so we may have to ask for a donation so we can meet our financial obligations. We'll see what happens.

By the way UM Ladies people always mention how much they enjoy the letters you write for the newsletter! Thank you!! Your letters might just become part of the newsletter article from UMW from now on. Thanks again!

**Sue Skramstad:** Phil and I have been doing a lot of walking this past month. I feel like I've been given a gift back because a year ago I couldn't walk a block without limping. I give God thanks often during the steps of our walks. We enjoy looking at the yards, the flowers and gardens on our walks. People are truly getting down to earth and it's fun to see up close and in pictures on Facebook. We are enjoying the outdoor church services and seeing you all even if we can't hug and greet one another like we used to do. In time I pray that gift will be given back to us all. Be safe, keep yourself rooted in the Word, and try to find that place of peace. I am praying for you, for the UMW, the church and Pastor Lori. Find a blessing each day and give thanks.

**Nancy Iversen:** Whew, I'd say it's been a little warm lately. 90 plus degrees is too much for me. The rains have been nice and crops look like they are doing wonderful. Seems like you could watch them grow, they changed so fast. Hard to believe it's August 1<sup>st</sup> already. I know the college kids are getting ready to leave in a couple of weeks and now we wait to see what's going to take place for our schools here. J.A.M. is also up in the air until we learn what the schools will do, for sure.

Hope everyone is staying healthy. We want to offer our condolences to Beva's family, Sam and Peggy and their families. Beva was a beautiful lady, so kind and so gentle and very independent. One Sunday, Lanny wanted to help her up the steps at church and she said "no, no, I'm just fine, I can do it". It was so sweet, he still watched her closely, tho. When we joined our little church, she told me right away that she was my Mom's first cousin, and we would chat often of the Furhmann family. I will miss her and her smile and hugs.

Lanny and I have been staying pretty close to home. Lanny doesn't have a lot of strength, so he tires very easily. He has lost more weight and I have to shake the sheets to find him, but thank God, he is there beside me when I do. We want to thank you all again for all the prayers and support you've given us during this difficult time. We will never forget how fortunate we are to have such a wonderful church family, couldn't ask for any better. Keeping Pastor Lori and everyone in our prayers, daily. Thank you, Pastor Lori, for doing all you do for all of us.

**Stella Swanson:** It's hard to believe how fast this summer and life goes by. I'm so thankful for my family and especially Lois for coming in morning and night to take my blood pressure, bringing food treats and taking me to the doctor. Mike comes in just about every afternoon and sometimes we play Yahtzee. I want to thank Pastor Lori and my church family for their prayers. After two and a half weeks I'm finally starting to feel better. I'm still going to have a couple more tests. I pray everyday for God to keep our country strong, otherwise we will lose it. Love & Prayers from my home to yours!  
Stella

**Verlane Ross, UMW Treasurer:** Greetings to All, we've been blessed with such good weather-plenty of sunshine and rain. I've been enjoying my garden and flowers and mowing my yard. We've had a good response by our UMW members on our bakeless bake sale, bringing in \$30.00 Our balance right now is \$670.29--of which \$200 is designated

for a memorial for Betty Leversedge. We have not had a meeting to discuss what to remember our dear Betty with. So that's something we need to be thinking about.

One of my grandson's has been visiting and helping get some things done. He has bought his grandpa's yamaha motorcycle and is enjoying it. Nice to have the company! I miss being in church, but am keeping up with reading the Bible in a year, my Upper Roon and DAily Bread and look forward to Pastor Lori dropping off the sermon for me. We are so blessed to have such a caring shepherd. Love in Jesus name! Verlane Ross.

**Rose Wheeler:** The search goes on--into the cupboards--drawers, closets and boxes--Lots of things I find I really wonder why I ever saved them. The question becomes--do I really need this--do I move this--do I hope one of my kids will want this and take it--do I donate this and let someone else enjoy this or last resort do we have a nice bonfire! I guess as a "depression baby" I learned to save everything in case later on you might need it. Never mind that you can't remember where you put "it" so it will be safe.

In searching and reading I came across this poem-Author Unknown which seems like my situation--so I must not quit until my mission is complete.

I hope this poem will inspire each of you--keep on keeping on! Rose Wheeler

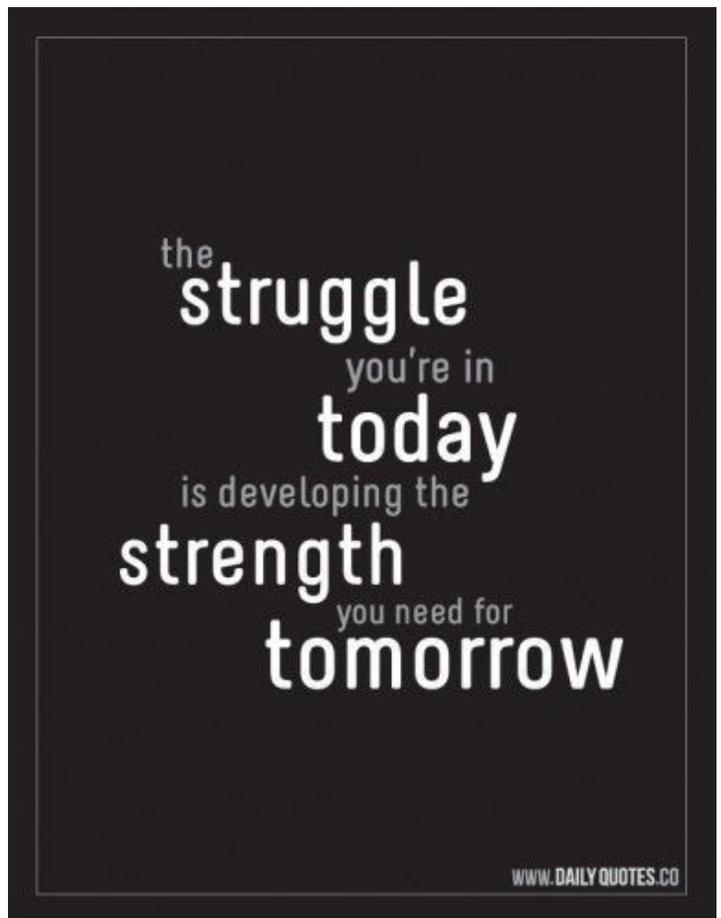
### **When Things Go Wrong**

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,  
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,  
When the funds are low and the debts are high,  
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,  
When care is pressing you down a bit---  
Rest if you must, but don't you quit

Life is queer with it's twists anf turns,  
As every one of us sometimes learns,  
And many a fellow turns about  
When he might have won had he stuck it out.  
Don't give up though the pace seems slow--  
You may succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer than  
It seems to a faint and faltering man;  
Often the struggler has given up  
When might have captured the victor's cup;  
And he learned too late when the night came down,  
How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out--  
The silver tint in the clouds of doubt,  
And you never can tell how close you are,  
It might be near when it seems afar;  
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit-  
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.



**Phyllis Swanson:** This has nothing to do with United Methodist Women, just something I would like to share. I am reading the book "Under God" written by Toby Mac and Michael Taet (copyright 2004).

This book is a collection of short stories (2 or 3 pages) about our heritage. From early were pilgrims, slavery, government, Native Americans and KKK. God and prayer was so very important as they made decisions affecting our lives. Many things were done right, but a lot of things were done wrong.

I quote from authors—"without exception, throughout history God's people turned to God praying for divine intervention. God heard, answered and did what was needed. America is in a great spiritual battle between the very force of heaven and hell. We need to pray that our nation will be released from disobeying God's law" This book was printed in 2004.

I question if our nation has become better or worse! It is not hopeless. God has a plan. His original plan will come to pass. "One nation, under God."

A great book with so much to think about. We can learn from history.

Reading books--all kinds from fiction, mystery and history is how I spend too many hours! My favorite pastime!

Missing everyone! Phyllis Swanson

**June Contin'd:** I love that we are having Sunday worship outside. It gives us a chance to hear the message and just enjoy the peace and quiet of being outside.

Until next time!

Take care & God Bless!

President, June Terhark

I can do  
ALL THINGS  
through  
CHRIST  
Who  
STRENGTHENS  
ME Phil 4:13

## J.A.M.

Hey Jammers, hoping you are having a good summer even with this COVID-19 going on. I'm sure you are all wondering what school will be like this September, just remember we have to trust God and know that he is beside us everyday no matter what we are going through. We are not sure what J.A.M. is going to look like either this fall. We will be having it on Wednesday nights, but we don't know how just yet. Be patient with us and when we figure it all out, you will be the first to know.



We handed out JAM bags to the families this summer, if you did not get a bag, please contact Denise or myself and we will help you get yours. In the bag were some fun things including a painted rock or two that we wanted for you to take someplace you were going this summer and leave. It had our name on it and we thought it would be fun to see the places we might hear from when they found the rock. Plus, other goodies of all kinds were in the bag. We hope you enjoyed your bag.

Pastor Lori has been doing our Sunday worship service online every week, and the past month she has been having outdoor services on Sunday morning in the church yard. How fun! She is just one great Shepherd to all of us. Don't forget to tell her thank you for all she does for us.

So, we will be in touch, soon, and we will all see how our J.A.M. is going to be a little different this year, but we are still strong and we still want to praise God with our singing, dancing and learning more about Him. Enjoy what is left of your summer and remember however you learn this year in school, give it your all and learn well. Be God's Kids out there is what Pastor Lori would tell us.

*Bye for now!*

*Nancy Iversen*

## **Words from the Board Chair~**

Well it is time for a newsletter again. Time sure does go by fast. We have had some very hot weather. Thankfully it has cooled off or at least the humidity has gone down, thank goodness. The early mornings have been so beautiful, just very calm and nice. This morning there was one star out in the east. It was cool, I have never seen that before, it was about 5:45. It has been a busy couple of weeks.

Gardening is starting to get very busy. I have been freezing beans and broccoli. Now the pickles are starting to produce as well as the tomatoes. The kohlrabi have been so good, I have already cut my cabbage. I got them harvested before they cracked open. I have been able to stay ahead of the weeds this year. The rains have helped. It makes them easier to pull. After that last rain it was pretty muddy out there but after a couple of days it has dried up. The nice thing for me is if things get to mature I can feed them to the cattle they like them. My potatoes are starting to dry up also. Onions are doing good also. When you drive around the country the farmers' crops look so beautiful. We had a plane spraying beans and he went right over our house. It freaked me out to watch him. I know I wouldn't be able to ride with him.

It has been nice to worship outside and we have been very lucky except for last Sunday. I have been working on getting the church sanitized but still working on it. I have the basement scrubbed and waxed, got the tables moved to the other side so now I can finish. We had water coming not bad but it is still coming in back by the ladies bathroom. When we got tables moved you could see where it had run in up in the front of the basement also, on the east side so I suppose the eaves are full again. Some of the bulbs were burnt out so I had them replaced with LED bulbs which are supposed to be more efficient and last longer.

Prayers for Sam and Peggy at the loss of her Mom I just want to give her a big hug but we can't do that either, but hopefully someday we will be able to do

Prayers for Stella and Betty as they continue to deal with health issues. I am doing ok but still not a 100%. We will be waiting to see what the schools do for the fall semester, prayers for teacher students and parents. I hope they will be able to spend some time in the classroom. It is so important when they are starting a new grade. Well I guess that is all for now.

**Until next month!**

**Lois**



## 2020 Balaton United Methodist Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00 Worship- Communion Rick McMath, Allison Chandler B-days Dave & Peggy Bundy Anniv	3 Brandon & Karly Kirk Anniv	4 Hospice of Murray County Burger Feed	5 PL @ Hospice meeting 9-10:30	6 Local Pastor Mentor 10:30-11:45  John Ross, Elaine Knochenmus B-days Brian & Annette Swanson Anniv	7  	8 Don Ewing B-day Kathy & Dennis Mitchell Anniv
9 9:00 am Worship Lois Swanson B-day	10	11 	12	13 Kyle Stibbe B-day	14 Leah & Derek Ohme Anniv	15 Jase Wieme, Holden Cusher & Tabor Hoek B-days
16 9:00 am Worship	17	18	19	20 PL's B-day	21 Joel Marron B-day	22 Leah Ohme, Megan Ray & Bruce Schelhaas B-days
23 9:00 am Worship Eli Henn B-day	24	25	26 	27 Randy & Becky Schreier Anniv	28 Dan Taveirne B-day	29 Annual Conference Session (online) Oakley Lustfield B-day
30 9:00 am Worship	31 Mariah & Wes Jennings Anniv					

## The One Year Bible - August Readings

\*Here is an audio link if you are interested in following along that way: [One Year Bible - Audio](#)

### August 1st

2 Chronicles 30:1-31:21  
Romans 15:1-22  
Psalm 25:1-15  
Proverbs 20:13-15

### August 2nd

2 Chronicles 32:1-33:13  
Romans 15:23-16:9  
Psalm 25:16-22  
Proverbs 20:16-18

### August 3rd

2 Chronicles 33:14-34:33  
Romans 16:10-27  
Psalm 26:1-12  
Proverbs 20:19

### August 4th

2 Chronicles 35:1-36:23  
1 Corinthians 1:1-17  
Psalm 27:1-6  
Proverbs 20:20-21

### August 5th

Ezra 1:1-2:70  
1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5  
Psalm 27:7-14  
Proverbs 20:22-23

### August 6th

Ezra 3:1-4:23  
1 Corinthians 2:6-3:4  
Psalm 28:1-9  
Proverbs 20:24-25

### August 7th

Ezra 4:24-6:22  
1 Corinthians 3:5-23  
Psalm 29:1-11  
Proverbs 20:26-27

### August 8th

Ezra 7:1-8:20  
1 Corinthians 4:1-21  
Psalm 30:1-12  
Proverbs 20:28-30

### August 9th

Ezra 8:21-9:15  
1 Corinthians 5:1-13  
Psalm 31:1-8  
Proverbs 21:1-2

### August 10th

Ezra 10:1-44  
1 Corinthians 6:1-20  
Psalm 31:9-18  
Proverbs 21:3

### August 11th

Nehemiah 1:1-3:14  
1 Corinthians 7:1-24  
Psalm 31:19-24  
Proverbs 21:4

### August 12th

Nehemiah 3:15-5:13  
1 Corinthians 7:25-40  
Psalm 32:1-11  
Proverbs 21:5-7

### August 13th

Nehemiah 5:14-7:73  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
Psalm 33:1-11  
Proverbs 21:8-10

### August 14th

Nehemiah 7:73-9:21  
1 Corinthians 9:1-18  
Psalm 33:12-22  
Proverbs 21:11-12

### August 15th

Nehemiah 9:22-10:39  
1 Corinthians 9:19-10:13  
Psalm 34:1-10  
Proverbs 21:13

### August 16th

Nehemiah 11:1-12:26  
1 Corinthians 10:14-33  
Psalm 34:11-22  
Proverbs 21:14-16

### August 17th

Nehemiah 12:27-13:31  
1 Corinthians 11:1-16  
Psalm 35:1-16  
Proverbs 21:17-18

### August 18th

Esther 1:1-3:15  
1 Corinthians 11:17-34  
Psalm 35:17-28  
Proverbs 21:19-20

### August 19th

Esther 4:1-7:10  
1 Corinthians 12:1-26  
Psalm 36:1-12  
Proverbs 21:21-22

### August 20th

Esther 8:1-10:3  
1 Corinthians 12:27-13:13  
Psalm 37:1-11  
Proverbs 21:23-24

### August 21st

Job 1:1-3:26  
1 Corinthians 14:1-17  
Psalm 37:12-29  
Proverbs 21:25-26

### August 22nd

Job 4:1-7:21  
1 Corinthians 14:18-40  
Psalm 37:30-40  
Proverbs 21:27

### August 23rd

Job 8:1-11:20  
1 Corinthians 15:1-28  
Psalm 38:1-22  
Proverbs 21:28-29

### August 24th

Job 12:1-15:35  
1 Corinthians 15:29-58  
Psalm 39:1-13  
Proverbs 21:30-31

### August 25th

Job 16:1-19:29  
1 Corinthians 16:1-24  
Psalm 40:1-10  
Proverbs 22:1

### August 26th

Job 20:1-22:30  
2 Corinthians 1:1-11  
Psalm 40:11-17  
Proverbs 22:2-4

### August 27th

Job 23:1-27:23  
2 Corinthians 1:12-2:11  
Psalm 41:1-13  
Proverbs 22:5-6

### August 28th

Job 28:1-30:31  
2 Corinthians 2:12-17  
Psalm 42:1-11  
Proverbs 22:7

### August 29th

Job 31:1-33:33  
2 Corinthians 3:1-18  
Psalm 43:1-5  
Proverbs 22:8-9

### August 30th

Job 34:1-36:33  
2 Corinthians 4:1-12  
Psalm 44:1-8  
Proverbs 22:10-12

### August 31st

Job 37:1-39:30  
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:10  
Psalm 44:9-26  
Proverbs 22:13



# august

*"Even the smallest seeds of kindness can begin to break the worst kind of brokenness."*

-ANN VOSKAMP

## #BETHEGIFT

- AUG 1** Plan one special thing for a special someone this month.
- AUG 2** Print off at least one fun photo stuck in your phone – and mail some out to the friends who are in them!
- AUG 3** Make a fresh batch of lemonade/iced tea/anything and deliver it to your neighbors.
- AUG 4** Ask "How can I help?" as many times as possible today.
- AUG 5** Leave a note of encouragement in an unlikely place today!
- AUG 6** Connect with someone grieving. Just let them know you're there.
- AUG 7** Leave the biggest tip you can afford – and write your waiter/waitress a thank you note. You never know how it might make their day.
- AUG 8** Take note of any upcoming birthdays that might be coming this month...and stick a "Happy Birthday" well-wishing in the mail. Everyone loves to be remembered.
- AUG 9** Give blood today – #BeTheGIFT and give the gift of life.
- AUG 10** Help one person today with a job or chore that's theirs, not yours.
- AUG 11** Smile at as many people as possible!
- AUG 12** Order a pizza and have it delivered to a unit at your local hospital – thank all the nurses and doctors who are working so hard today to save lives.
- AUG 13** Flower-blitz a neighbor's porch... leave a potted plant or a bouquet, ring the doorbell, and RUN!
- AUG 14** Text 3 people an encouraging verse that says they are loved.
- AUG 15** Take 20 minutes with someone you love—ask them questions and just listen.
- AUG 16** Surprise someone today with their favorite candy or snack.
- AUG 17** Take 10 extra minutes to clean an unusually forgotten area really well.
- AUG 18** Reach out across dividing lines and say "Hi" to a friend who might be a little different than you.
- AUG 19** #BeTheGIFT at home – and surprise someone with breakfast in bed.
- AUG 20** Go through your closet and downsize your clothes...deliver to a shelter near you!
- AUG 21** Do one thing out of our comfort zone for someone.
- AUG 22** Find a book you've read and loved—and share it with someone you think will love it too.
- AUG 23** Begin to plan/organize a fundraiser for an organization dear to your heart.
- AUG 24** Help and invest in your community somehow today! Visit a pet shelter, a nonprofit, a community garden, etc.
- AUG 25** Share a book, a quote, a verse with someone today. Just a few words in some way – because we speak words that make souls stronger.
- AUG 26** Call an elderly woman who has made an impact on your life, and thank her for the gift that she is.
- AUG 27** Make a list today of ways that you can bless your family, your friends, and your community in the everyday things that you do.
- AUG 28** Meet a new neighbor today – knock on the door of someone you don't know...just to say hi!
- AUG 29** Learn something new today – and reach out to teach someone too!
- AUG 30** Forgive someone today – and reach out to say you care.
- AUG 31** Visit the library, and sticky note bomb a stack of books with short, encouraging notes.

LOVE  
*Lives given*

#BeTheGIFT

[www.bethegiftbook.com](http://www.bethegiftbook.com) | [www.annvoskamp.com](http://www.annvoskamp.com) | #TheBrokenWay



Balaton United Methodist Church

**Lori VonHoltum, Pastor**

220 2nd Street West

Balaton MN 56115

**Remember our Nursing Home Residents: Prairie View Senior Living-Tracy: Mert Holm**

**Avera Morningside Heights Care Center-Marshall: Neva Manguson**

Remembering & praying for Brandon Swanson..... missing from his family since May 2008