



# Balaton United Methodist Church August 2021 Newsletter

**Hello Everyone –**

I hope that this finds you all doing well. It's hard to believe that we are in the last stretch of Summer ALREADY! August will just zip by quickly. I had a good couple weeks (Sundays) off. Thank You again to Sue for filling the Pulpit and leading worship two Sundays so I could have a break. I didn't get any of my "Projects" done, but I did spend time with people whom I love. I spent time at the Lake with my Parents, Time with the Grandkids, Velda and I took a day. Jim and I went out for Supper in Sioux Falls for our 35<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. The time (those years ... and time off .... Went quickly too!).

Jim and I took the two oldest Grandkids to the Rock County Fair in Luverne this week. Memories sure came flooding back when I was a kid and my Auntie Barbie would take me to the Fair, then as our Boys were growing up. It was just a great time with the kids. We enjoyed it, but ... WOW! We were both tired after (Ha!) FESTIVALS are fun ... but tiring too.

The people of Israel (Jewish) celebrate EIGHT FESTIVALS 1) Passover (Pesach) We are probably most familiar with this festival. The Feast of Salvation. We remember the Exodus & how God instructed the Israelites to put the "Blood of the Lamb " on the doorframe so he would "Passover" the house and spare them from death. In NT of course we remember Jesus as the sacrificial Lamb, we celebrate Maundy Thursday which was Passover night. 2) Unleavened Bread (Chag HaMotzi) - symbolizes a "Holy Walk" with God. We recall that the Jews were instructed to make unleavened bread on Passover because there was no time for it to rise. Jesus as the "Bread of Life " born in Bethlehem "House of Bread" 3) First Fruits (Reshit Katzir) Feast of acknowledging the fertility of the land. Spring – Easter. Rabbits, Eggs – Resurrection – NEW! 4) Pentecost (Shavuot) – late May or early June Jews offered a meat offering on this day. Marking the Summer Harvest. Jews baked 2 loaves of unleavened bread indicating that the Church is composed of both Jew and Gentile 5) Trumpets (Yom Teruah) – Did you know God enjoys trumpets! (grin) The ram was caught in a thicket by its horn as Isaac's life was spared. Joshua blew the horn when he conquered Jericho! In Leviticus 25:8-10, he specified its use in having trumpets "proclaim liberty throughout all of the land unto all the inhabitants thereof" – this quotation appears today on the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia. Trumpets are celebrated in religious history! 6) Atonment (Yom Kippur) – Highest of Holy days. Confession/Repentance 7) Tabernacles (Sukkot) – we might recall this as "The Festival of Booths" – recalling how God provided shelter in the wilderness for the Israelites. We see Jesus going to the Festival of Shelters in biblical text. This is when he said "I AM the Living Water" – I Love that story. 8) Sabbath Day (Shabbat) – considered the most important. Happens weekly. Jewish day of rest. Occurs sunset on Friday – sunset on Saturday (NO Workie). We remember that Jesus was taken down from the Cross and laid in the tomb quickly .... Because of the Shabbat.

I attended a Shabbat worship one time for Course of Study (on a Friday evening before sunset) it was probably one of the most beautiful, peaceful worships I have ever attended.

**Contact Information**

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All to say – FESTIVALS are meaningful, fun, religious or secular ... it's a great time to get together. I hope you found that interesting, and feel free to check into it more if you like.

WORSHIP – We are in the middle of a Sermon Series using clips from the Andy Griffith Show. We have had two sermons. If you missed them, they are on my FaceBook page, or the Website. We'll continue this through Labor Day weekend. I plan to start back with Narrative Lectionary Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>.

**JAM** – Yes ... plans are to be IN PERSON in September. Vicar Rick and I plan to meet with some of you soon to form a plan. Bev Swift will start up with her piano students again in September too.

**COFFEE** after Church will resume beginning September 12<sup>th</sup>. As will Ushering duties (Thanks to Lois for ushering All During the Pandemic.)

UMW will be leading worship on Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup> with Sue Skramstad preaching. I'm off this day. I'll be in Waseca Friday-Saturday with Karla and Kathy (Caleb Erickson Memorial Day). You may have seen on the news that Gov. Walz approved legislation for a stretch of Highway 14 to be named "The Caleb Erickson Memorial Highway" in memory of Karla's Son killed in Afghanistan. The plan is to dedicate it during this event. On Sunday, I may be in Mankato. I'm mentoring a young woman going into ministry from Mankato Centenary UMC. I'm thinking this will be a good opportunity to worship with her, and then have lunch together – so far, that's the plan.

Stay tuned ... I'll update you as we go on happenings. That's all I've got for now. Enjoy the rest of your Summer ... I'm planning to do the same. Check in – with me and each other.

*In Jesus -*

**PL – Pastor Lori**

## **AUGUST CALENDAR 2021 - PL**

**Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup>** Holy Communion

**Monday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>** 10 Commandments Class with PL & Vicar Rick 6:30 @ UMC

**Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Tracy National Night Out (JAM to serve Sno-Cones)

**Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>** – PL at Hospice in Slayton 9am-Noon.

\*Visitation for Dean Bundy 5-7pm (Prayer Service @ 7pm) Balaton UMC

**Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup>** – Dean Bundy Funeral Service 10:30am Balaton UMC/Lunch at Community Center.

**Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup>** – PL -Wedding Rehearsal for Cody Nelson/Emily Minett (Evening)

**Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>** – PL Officiate Wedding Cody Nelson/Emily Minett



**Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>** – Worship 9am and Online

**Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>** – 6:30pm UMC 10 Commandments Class with Vicar Rick & PL

**Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>** – Worship 9am and Online

**Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>** – 6:30pm UMC 10 Commandments Class with Vicar Rick & PL

**Wednesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>** – PL at Hospice 9am-Noon



**Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Worship 9am and Online

**Tuesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>** – 6:30pm UMC 10 Commandments Class with Vicar Rick & PL

**Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>** – Worship 9am and Online (PL Gone – UMW and Sue leading worship)

Pastor Lori is in Waseca Friday August 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> for Caleb Erickson Memorial Event.

**Tuesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>** – 6:30pm UMC 10 Commandments Class with Vicar Rick & PL.

**SEPTEMBER 5<sup>th</sup>** (Labor Day Weekend) wrapping up MayBerry Sermon Series/Communion

**12<sup>th</sup>** Begin Narrative Lectionary and Coffee after worship

**19<sup>th</sup>** BAPTISM Collin Stibbe

**26<sup>th</sup>** Pastor Lori gone (Sue preaching) PL will be in Florida September 20<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>.



I would like to thank everyone for all of the prayers, well wishes, cards and calls! It means a lot to know that so many are thinking about us while we start our journey again to kick cancer's butt!! I am waiting on some genetic tests that are being done to decide on which chemos will be used to get rid of the cancer once and for all!! I will let everyone know when I will be starting my chemo. I pray that all will go as well as it did the first time! 🙏🙏  
Thank you all again for all of the thoughts and prayers!!

**Julie & Dale Wieme**

### Notes from Board Chair

Can you believe it is the first of August already, it seems time goes by so fast--seems like it was just spring and now it will soon be fall. School will soon be starting. RTR's new school will be ready for the students when the school year starts. I know they have had a couple of tours but didn't work for me either time. I am sure it will be beautiful. Whitney will be a Junior this year. Hard to believe she can be that old already. Jocelyn will be a fifth grader this year, she goes to Tracy.

Whitney, Jess, Jocelyn and I went to visit Jill in Mankato and go school shopping. It was a great weekend, just a nice relaxing weekend. Whitney was my driver there and back. Jill usually drives once we get there. She knows Mankato and we don't. The first night we went to Jake's Pizza -- it is the best pizza. We ordered two large pizzas and we managed to eat most of them. The place was packed but we got our food fast. Saturday we ate at Red Lobster and in the evening we went to Olive Garden. The food was excellent and so was the service. Both places were busy.



It is wonderful to get a break from the hot and humid weather, we are also thankful for the rain we had, our gauge showed 3/4 of an inch, not enough but better than nothing at all. Even with all the hot weather and very little rain, my garden is doing quite well. I have picked beans a couple times and they will have to be picked again. I pulled up all of my cabbage and have been harvesting broccoli. Pickles are starting also -- have about 10 jars so far. Potatoes are starting to dry up already. Peas are about ready to be pulled up. We have started butchering chickens after Sunday we will only have 40 left. It was just too hot to do them any sooner.

I hope we will be able to have church and school without wearing a mask. It doesn't sound good according to the news media. Sometimes you wonder what you can believe. The news media only lets you know what they want you to hear. Stella is doing quite well, after having 3 different procedures, in a matter of 5 days. She has one more procedure this Friday and then she will be done. Thanks for all the prayers for her. Mike or I usually go and check on her once a day.

It looks like Denise is having a great time on her mini vacation. Her and her sisters do this every year. Good for her. She is a hard worker and does a lot for our church.

Please keep Julie Wieme, and her Mom Shirley in your prayers. Keep our Pastors in your prayers also as they try and navigate through this Covid thing again. Was glad Pastor Lori was able to get away for a couple weeks. The services we had when she was gone were both excellent. Thanks Sue for doing all that you do also.

Well I guess it is time for bed tomorrow will be a busy day, hopefully the heat and humidity will stay away for a while, until next time.

*Lois*

### U.M.W. Update:

Hi Everyone from the U.M.W.



I hope all of you are doing well. We as a group are still going through a pretty inactive time.

The indoor picnic because of continual concerns of Covid 19 that we usually have in August will not be held this year. Sue wrote up a letter and sent it to the church groups we usually invite and informed them that we will not have the picnic this year but look forward to having it in 2022.

We had a meeting July 8th but due to other commitments Verlaine and I were the only two who made it to the meeting. We discussed things and enjoyed our lunch.

As we normally don't have a meeting in August because of the picnic we will not meet until September 9th at 1:30 downstairs in the church. Looking at the program book, serving is Sue Skramstad; devotions, Sue Skramstad and lesson, June. We'll hope for the best but of course it all depends on how things are going concerning Covid. Whether we meet or not our prayer chain is active and busy, so continue to let us know of your prayer concerns.

Please know we welcome anyone who would like to join us.

Take care and God Bless!

**U.M.W. President,  
June Terhark**



## A Note from Your Lay Leader

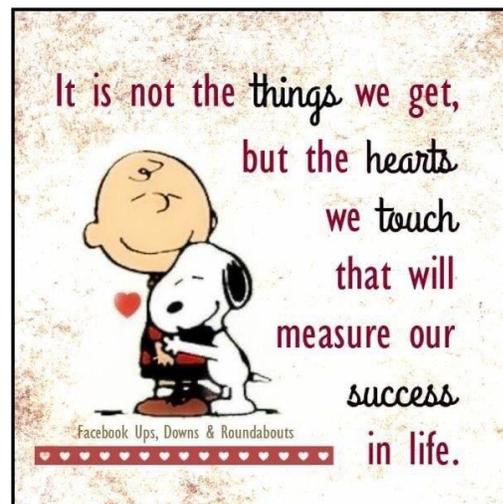


How are you spending time with the Lord this summer to grow in your faith? I've had many wonderful learning opportunities to strengthen my faith including attending the Annual Conference and going with Pastor Lori as she anointed someone very ill in the nursing home. This was an experience that moved me to tears as we experienced the Holy Spirit in that room as she lovingly shared the Word, giving this person comfort and the peace of Christ. She showed me by her actions how we must tend to the sick and the dying. I've been called back into my lay speaking. Our pastors here in SW MN are tired after these past 18 months of reinventing ministry due to covid-19. They need a break and I'm glad I've been able to answer the call for pulpit supply for several churches this summer.

The Marco Polo app provided me with a unique opportunity to connect with our District Superintendent Fred Vanderwerf. We've had some conversations about the need for pastors and pastoral support here in rural Minnesota. He's generous with his compliments for women in ministry and most especially about Pastor Lori, Pastor Velda and Pastor Ethanie saying "they get" ministry in rural Minnesota and speak the love language of their congregations which is much different from Twin Cities ministry. They are all good at outreach and that's why they excel in ministry. He called our Pastor Lori phenomenal saying she has been incredibly effective at building up leaders. He called her a trusted leader in this conference. I must tell you my buttons were bursting with pride. Pastor Lori takes her calling seriously. She faithfully serves this church in so many visible ways and does so many things behind the scenes that many of us do not know about. Her plate is full. She is God's faithful servant, and He is using her to do mighty good works throughout the Southern Prairie District as she mentors to new pastors, builds up her colleagues, serves on committees, leads J.A.M., participates ecumenically with the other Balaton churches and their pastors, provides outreach to the unchurched, blesses up those that aren't "hers by membership" doing funerals, weddings and baptisms, faithfully serves as Hospice Chaplain helping many transition from this life into their heavenly one and says yes and yes and yes to her call to ministry. Jesus didn't go after the faithful, he sought out the lost, the tax collectors, sinners, the unlikeable and those that didn't know God. Jesus is still going after the lost and building up the faithful to spread the Word. I hope you know how very blessed we are to have Pastor Lori accept another year of call for our small but mighty church. Please take time to thank her for her faithful service and bless her up in your prayers. Remember the words of John Wesley, "*Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.*" Asking for the Lord to bless you as you walk in faith and share your story. Be safe out there and stay prayed up.

In Christ,

**Sue Skramstad**





**Elaine Knochenmus's  
90th Birthday Party**

Please join us at Balaton Bay  
Golf Course  
to celebrate Elaine on  
Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>  
from 1:30-3:30

We will be having an  
Open House Party.  
Come and go as you can.

We are so excited to celebrate  
this incredible lady.

Gifts aren't necessary.  
Your presence is a gift!



# AUGUST

## 2021 Balaton Methodist Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 Worship-Holy Communion	2 10 Commandments Class, 6:30 UMC  Rick McMath, Allison Chandler B-days Dave & Peggy Bundy Anniv	3 Tracy National Night Out-JAM Sno-cones  Brandon & Karly Kirk Anniv	4 PL @ Hospice 9-12 Visitation for Dean Bundy 5-7 @ BUMC Prayer Service 7:00	5 Dean Bundy Funeral 10:30 BUMC/Lunch Community Center	6 Wedding Rehearsal Cody Nelson/Emily Minnett (Evening)  John Ross, Elaine Knochenmus B-days Brian & Annette Swanson Anniv	7 Emily Minnett & Cody Nelson Wedding, PL Officiating
8 9:00 Worship  Don Ewing B-day Kathy & Dennis Mitchell Anniv	9  Lois Swanson B-day	10 10 Commandments Class, 6:30 UMC  Gayle Kaup B-day	11   COUNTY FAIR	12  13 Kyle Stibbe B-day	14  Leah & Derek Ohme Anniv	
15 9:00 Worship  Jase Wieme, Holden Cusher & Tabor Hoek B-days	16  Eli Henn B-day	17 10 Commandments Class, 6:30 UMC	18 PL @ Hospice 9-12	19  20 PL's B-day	21  Joel Marron B-day	
22 9:00 Worship  Lean Ohme, Megan Ray & Bruce Schelhaas B-days	23  Eli Henn B-day	24 10 Commandments Class, 6:30 UMC	25  	26  27 PL gone-Caleb Erickson Memorial Event Waseca Randy & Becky Schreier Anniv	28 PL gone-Caleb Erickson Memorial Event Waseca  Dan Taveirne B-day	
29 9:00 Worship-UMW & Sue leading PL Gone-Waseca Oakley Lustfield B-day	30  Mariah & Wes Jennings Anniv	31 10 Commandments Class, 6:30 UMC				

Balaton United Methodist Church  
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**Remember our Nursing Home/Care Center Residents:**

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

**Ebenezer Ridges Care Center - Phyllis Rasmussen**

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