

# BALATON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



## 2019

NOTES FROM PASTOR LORI ~

### HESED LOVE

Sometimes .... Well, most times ... this 'ol newsletter seems to roll around rather quickly .. and oftentimes I am unsure of what I want to write or should write to all of you. I wonder, if the newsletter is read (either in hard copy or online) and so perhaps you can give me a "I read it" in so way or form so I know that the effort is not in vain. It seems that as of late .. I have A LOT of writing to do – weekly sermons, funeral liturgy/ homilies/ visitation prayer service, wedding flow/homilies (three coming up), hand written notes (Celebrated many graduations this past weekend), our monthly newsletter (calendar and article) .... And of course those written papers for Course of Study (started, but not getting overly far yet) .... And sometimes, the amount of written word seems to overwhelm me and I wonder if it matters.

Perhaps, sometimes, you wonder if it matters too? The things in which you do. Like ... if God hears our prayers? Or other things that might make you wonder if they matter in the scheme of things? Sometimes ... I wonder a bit what to write about ... and so this month I thought I might start by sharing about something we have discussed before ..... HESED LOVE.

I've talked about it, and preached about it .... Pronounced several ways – "HE-sed" ... He-SAD" depending on your source ... but the thing is ... the definition never changes. It simply means this steadfast, unwavering, never changing LOVE of God.

I have been thinking a lot about relationships lately. Births, Deaths, Baptisms, Weddings, Graduations, News about places we love closing (Nursing Homes), People displaced, our Farm Families in turmoil ..... sometimes .... "Uff-Dah" to say the least.

But this GOD of ours ..... Is steadfast through it all. A LOVE like none other which we are called to emulate as best as humanly possible. We have seen evidence these past weeks as we have prayed fervently for Parker, Malinda, Makala and their Family. Such an outpouring of love and support .... A true testament to this HESED LOVE of steadfastness. We continue to pray over them and share our resources as they continue to heal. Thank You, God for your steadfastness through this horrible accident and working through these young people to show us all what your love looks like .... Amen.

In Worship this month ... we continue to look at some PSALMS (Songs of Summer). I hope you are enjoying them. Today (June 2<sup>nd</sup>) is Psalm 147 We have a Baptism of Kiona Koenen. Her Mama, Daddy, Brother are pretty special to me. I can remember when her Mom LaRae was a teenager .... She would kick off her shoes in church, turn on the sound system, and SING!

#### Contact Information

Pastor Lori VonHoltum:

Cell: (507) 220-3557

Parsonage: (507)734-4101

Church Office (507) 734-4811

Email: [pastorvonholum@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorvonholum@yahoo.com)

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

Church Website:

<https://www.balatonumc.org>



It made me smile back then ... to see her so comfortable in church ... and bonus that she was singing to JESUS! So, in Psalm 147 .... We see a LOVE SONG to our God. If you could sing God a song ... what would be your words of praise to Him?

June 9<sup>th</sup> – is PENTECOST and we'll look at Acts chapter 2 for sure (Wear something Red for Holy Spirit) .... And I think we'll look at PSALM 62 with it. On Father's Day ... June 19<sup>th</sup> we look at PSALM 127 "ARROWS" (I'm excited about this one) .... June 23<sup>rd</sup> we Baptize two beautiful twin girls Leighton and Flynn long (Misten and Robb's Girls – always great to have our whole Schelhaas Family present .... I'm still thinking but considering PSALM 91 for this day ... June 30<sup>th</sup> is still brewing ... stay tuned.

Ashley Hunt will be serving as our Lay Delegate to Annual Conference with me in St. Cloud on June 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. I will be leaving town Monday June 17<sup>th</sup>, Ashley will join me Tuesday. Please pray over us ... our travel and time there. I added a Pre-Conference gathering with DS Fred this past week to take a look at some proposed legislation. One of the pieces of legislation is in response to the Special Session of General Conference vote on the Traditional Plan regarding human sexuality (which leaves the *UM Discipline* as stands. The proposed legislation (Item 100 as it is called) is specifically for us here in MN Annual Conference ... which in a nutshell says that we (Churches, Laity, Clergy) agree to "stay at the table together" .... Meaning don't make any hasty-rash decisions at this time .... Basically it means to ...

"Stay Steadfast" – stay in love with God and one another. Practice a HESED KIND OF LOVE .... Easy? NO. We might again ask ourselves "Does it matter in the long run?" YES. Because it shows the world who we are as United Methodists and as people of God. That we remain steadfast when the world does not.

We've had some "STUFF" lately .... That makes our footing slip a little. Turn to the one who keeps us upright ... always.

Don't hesitate to check in .... Via phone, text, social media, in person ... even in the midst of "Stuff" ... we'll make time.

Praying with and over you ....

*PASTOR LORI (PL)*



## **OPEN HOUSE BRIDAL SHOWER**

for

**Karly Ruppert, bride to be of  
Brandon Kirk**

**Saturday, June 22nd from 11:00 to 1:00**

at

**Bitton's Roadhouse in Garvin.**

**Registered at The Hut in Slayton and  
Zola.com.**

**Please bring a favorite recipe to share  
with the bride.**

## JUNE 2019 CALENDAR – PL

**Sunday June 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Baptism for Kiona Jordin Koenen during Worship



**Monday June 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Church Softball



**Friday June 7<sup>th</sup>** - Wedding Rehearsal for Edmundson/Miranowski (evening @ Shetek)

**Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>** - Wedding for Miranda Edmundson/Devin Miranowski  
- Russell Bandwagon Day Parade

**Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup>** - PENTECOST (Wear something RED – Holy Spirit!)

**Monday June 10<sup>th</sup>** - Church Softball

**Tuesday June 11<sup>th</sup>** - Shetek Day Camp (see JAM page)  
- UMW Day Apart at Fairfax UMC

**Wednesday June 12<sup>th</sup>** - PL at Hospice Meeting 9am-11am in Slayton

**Sunday June 16<sup>th</sup>** - Father's Day – "Blessing of the UMW Gowns" (NO COFFEE TODAY)

**Monday June 17<sup>th</sup>** - Church Softball (PL leave for St Cloud/Annual Conference)

**Tuesday June 18<sup>th</sup>** – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> (PL & Ashley Hunt at Annual Conference Session St. Cloud)

**Friday June 21<sup>st</sup>- Saturday June 22<sup>nd</sup>** - RISEFEST Christian Music Festival in Sheldon, IA

**Sunday June 23<sup>rd</sup>** - BAPTISM of Long Twins (Leighton &



Flynn)

**Monday June 24<sup>th</sup>** - Church Softball

**Tuesday June 25<sup>th</sup>** - PL has her Clergy Consultation with DS Fred (Mankato)

**Wednesday June 26<sup>th</sup>** - PL at HOSPICE 9am-11am in Slayton

**Balaton FUN FEST Thursday July 4<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Thursday July 4<sup>th</sup>** - Ruthton Parade

**Saturday July 6<sup>th</sup>** - Balaton Parade

**Sunday July 7<sup>th</sup>** - Balaton Community Worship (Chuck Anderson Preaching)

PL gone to Course of Study KC – Sunday July 7<sup>th</sup> – Friday July 12<sup>th</sup>

PL gone to KC to Graduation Tuesday July 16<sup>th</sup> – Friday July 19<sup>th</sup> (Graduation is tentatively scheduled for Thursday late afternoon July 18<sup>th</sup> but could change by a day)

**Saturday July 27<sup>th</sup>** - Tyler Parade

### **June Readers:**

June 2: Stacy Chandler

June 9: Stella Swanson

June 16:

June 23: Nancy Iversen

June 30: Penni Jandl



June 2: Nancy Iversen

June 9: Ruth Lehnhoff

June 16: UMW

June 23: Schelhaas Family/Baptism

June 30: Lois and Stella

## **Notes from Board Chair**

As I sit here trying to write this article, I do so with great sadness with the decisions that have been made by our city council members. It is just hard for me to wrap my head around that we will no longer have a nursing here very soon. I feel so very sad for the residents who have called this home for many years and now have to find somewhere else to live. I wonder if the council members have thought about all the stress this has put on residents family and staff. It is said God has a plan for all of us please Dear Lord show us what that is in this difficult time.

As most of you know I have had my gallbladder surgery and feeling much better, just hard not being able to do anything for two weeks. I go back on the 31st for my check up. I'm praying it will be good news so things can get back to normal. I thank my family for coming and doing my chores everyday, also Jess and Stella helping me to clean at Dr. Brown's office so very much appreciated. Thanks also for my dear friend Ruth for just letting me come and visit when she has other things to do. I am very grateful to have Gayle back home after spending a couple of weeks with her granddaughter up by the cities. Thanks also for Lori coming and visiting before my surgery and all of your prayers.

Mike and I attended some graduations this last weekend such a great group of young adults wish them the best of luck in the future. For parents also as they continue without them in their home everyday. For some it is the first one graduating and some the last child. It always hard to believe they have grown up so fast.

We have been lucky with all the rain we have not had any water in our church basement. It has helped to keep the gutters cleaned out, but at the same time very dangerous for our members to climb up there. We will having board meeting soon to make some decisions. Thanks to Greg and helpers for removing the old piano in the basement. He has also been working on different options for our floor. Thank you to Sam and Peggy for moving the big black planter out for me as I cannot lift it yet. Will try to get it planted soon.

We had to put our dog Jack to sleep he has been faithful companion for years-a very sad day for all of us. It is hard coming home and him not being there to greet us.

We all have to pray for sunshine so farmers can get in the fields.

Church softball ball starts June 3rd, Pastor Lori said Mike Metz is going to help us this year so grateful to him. That's all for this time.

**Lois**



## **UMW Communications~**

My grandkids have been singing "Rain Rain Go Away, Come Again Another Day". It seems that God has different plans for us. Today is a beauty - sunny day with temps in the 80's. What more should we ask for? "Thank you God".

May 19th was Recognition Sunday for our four graduates. The church presented them with a warm blanket. Our unit presented them with a devotion book, so they were wrapped in love and prayers from us.

June Unit Meeting will meet at the Church on Wednesday, June 12th at 1:30 p.m. Rose Wheeler is the hostess. Betty Leversedge will give the lesson. Also, we will be collecting \$5.00 for our bakeless bake sale.

June 11th will be our Southern Prairie District UMW Day Apart at the Fairfax UMC. The day will begin at 8:30 a.m. registration and coffee with Emma. Gathering time is 9:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Remember to bring paper products for the Emma Norton home.

June 16th we will have the blessing of the gowns during worship service. Thanks to the many who have been sewing them. It will be interesting to see how many we come up with. Health kits also will be taken to Annual Conference with Pastor Lori.

Remember to pick up your Upper Room devotional booklets. Our gift to you.

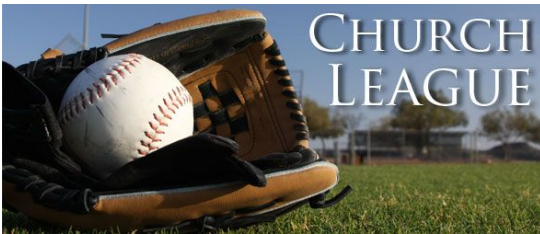
There are so many folks we need to pray for. Prayers are powerful. Everyday we can depend on God to show us someone in need.

Now that Spring has arrived, it is the season of a new beginning.

Can you believe we are already half through the year?

Our UMW continues to be very active and we enjoy every minute of it! Kind of like the dandelion's head when it dries into a puffball containing as many as 200 seed pods - We enjoy spreading the good news!

**Betty Leversedge, President**



## 2019 SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE & TIME:	6/3	6/10	6/17	6/24	7/8
7:00 PM	1-3	5-2	5-3	4-1	2-4
8:00 PM	4-5	3-4	2-1	3-2	5-1
UMP	2	1	4	5	3

### TEAM REPRESENTATIVES:

1. VICTORY CHRISTIAN-- NICK SEATON 828-4139
2. TRINITY LUTHERAN-- TYLER BAUER 829-1217
3. SILLERUD LUTHERAN—JON SWENSON 689-1032
4. SKANDIA EVANGELICAL FREE—CHRIS DETERMAN 227-8223
5. BALATON METHODIST—JOSH CHANDLER 605-370-1271

**EACH TEAM IS REQUIRED TO PAY THE TEAMS FEES OF \$50.00 PLUS ANY OUTSTANDING DUES AT THE FIRST GAME TO COVER FIELD USER FEES, ELECTRICITY AND GAME BALLS OR THE TEAM WILL NOT PLAY IN THE TOURNAMENT.**

TEAMS LISTED FIRST ARE THE HOME TEAM

TEAMS LISTED TO UMP MUST SUPPLY THE SCORE KEEPER AND 2 UMPs FOR THE SCHEDULED GAMES. UMPs NEED TO KEEP THE GAME MOVING ALONG.

RAIN OUTS WILL NOT BE REPLAYED UNLESS IT IS A TOURNAMENT GAME. CHECK THE BALATON CHURCH SOFTBALL FACEBOOK PAGE FOR ANY CANCELLATIONS.





ALL PLAYERS SHOULD BE GIVEN A COPY OF THE RULES AND BE ACQUAINTED WITH THEM.

**CHURCH LEAGUE SOFTBALL RULES:**

1. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR TOBACCO PRODUCT WILL NOT BE ALLOWED AT ANYTIME.
2. TEAMS MUST PLAY AT LEAST 8 PEOPLE. TEAMS WITH LESS THAN 8 MUST FORFEIT THE GAME. TEAMS MAY DRAFT UP TO 3 MEMBERS FROM OTHER CHURCHES TO FIELD A TEAM. EACH TEAM MUST HAVE AT LEAST 2 GIRLS IN THE LINE-UP AT ALL TIMES OR THERE WILL BE AN OUT WHEN THE POSITION COMES UP TO BAT.
3. PLAYERS MUST BE 13 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PLAY.
4. DRAFTED PLAYERS MUST BAT AT THE BOTTOM OF THE ORDER AND ARE PLACED ON OPEN POSITION WITH SAFETY BEING THE UTMOST CONCERN.
5. DRAFTING IS NOT ALLOWED IF ENOUGH PLAYERS FROM YOUR TEAM ARE PRESENT FOR THE GAME. IF A MEMBER SHOWS UP WHILE THE GAME IS IN PROGRESS, THE DRAFTED PLAYER WILL BE ALLOWED TO FINISH THE INNING AND THEN BE SUBSTITUTED.
6. TEAMS MAY USE A DESIGNATED HITTER. DRAFTING IS NOT ALLOWED FOR TEAMS USING AN EXTRA HITTER.
7. EACH TEAM IS ENCOURAGED TO PLAY ALL PLAYERS AT LEAST 2 1/2 INNINGS.
8. NO TEAM ROSTER. ALL MEMBERS OF EACH REPRESENTED CHURCH ARE WELCOME TO PLAY.
9. PLAYERS MUST BELONG TO OR ATTEND THE CHURCH FOR WHICH THEY ARE PLAYING.
10. ALL REGULAR SEASON GAMES WILL LAST 7 INNINGS.
11. AFTER 5 INNINGS, A GAME IS OFFICIAL.
12. TEAMS MUST BE READY TO PLAY AT SCHEDULED TIMES. AFTER A 10 MINUTE WAIT, THE GAME WILL BE AN AUTOMATIC FORFEIT. LINE-UPS SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE SCORE KEEPER PRIOR TO THE TEAM TAKING THE FIELD AND BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE OPPOSING TEAM UPON REQUEST.
13. **NO STEEL SPIKES.** EVERYONE MUST HAVE FOOTWEAR--NO BAREFEET.
14. FIVE RUNS PER INNING EXCEPT FOR LAST INNING AND THEN 10 RUNS WILL BE ALLOWED. (INCLUDING EXTRA INNINGS)
15. EACH BATTER WILL GO UP TO BAT WITH A 1 AND 1 COUNT.
16. A MAXIMUM OF 2 SUBSTITUTIONS PER PLAYER UNLESS OF AN INJURY. RE-ENTERED PLAYERS MUST WAIT 10 AT BATS BEFORE BATTING AGAIN.
17. THE PITCHER MUST HAVE ONE FOOT ON THE RUBBER WHEN THE BALL IS RELEASED.
18. IF THE PITCHED BALL TOUCHES ANY PART OF THE CARPET, IT IS A STRIKE. IF THE BALL TOUCHES THE PLATE IT IS A BALL. BALL MUST EXCEED THE HEIGHT OF THE BATTER. HEIGHT OF BACKSTOP IS THE LIMIT.
19. 2ND FOUL BALL AFTER 2ND STRIKE IS AN OUT.
20. IT IS THE RUNNERS RESPONSIBILITY TO AVOID A COLLISION INTO A BASE OR PLATE.
21. IN ORDER TO SCORE, RUNNER MUST STEP ON THE PLATE NOT THE CARPET.
22. TOURNAMENT SEEDING WILL BE BASED ON REGULAR SEASON STANDINGS.
23. A TRAVELING TROPHY WILL BE AWARDED TO THE TOURNEY WINNER.
24. TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE TOURNAMENT, A PLAYER MUST HAVE PLAYED AT LEAST 1 REGULAR SEASON GAME FOR THEIR TEAM. IF A TEAM IS SHORT PLAYERS THEY MUST DRAFT FROM WITHIN THE LEAGUE. (MEANING SOMEONE WHO HAS PLAYED AT LEAST ONE GAME)
25. ALL RECRUITS MUST BE REPORTED TO UMP AND OTHER TEAM CAPTAIN.
26. ONLY COACH OR DESIGNATED CAPTAIN OF TEAM ARE ALLOWED TO SPEAK TO UMP ABOUT ANY DISPUTES.
27. ALL RULES AND/OR QUESTIONS MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE UMP IMMEDIATELY. UMP HAS FINAL SAY.
28. UMPIRES HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO REMOVE ANY PLAYER, OR MANAGER FROM THE FIELD WHO MAKES DISPARAGING OR INSULTING REMARKS TO OR ABOUT OPPOSING PLAYERS, OFFICIALS OR SPECTATORS.
29. ALL OTHER RULES - REFER TO ASA RULES



## 2019 Balaton United Methodist Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:00 am Worship Baptism	3 Church Softball  Stacy Chandler B-day	4	5 Susan McBride B-day	6 Jada Swanson B-day	7 Wedding Rehearsal Edmundson/ Miranowski	8 Russell Band Wagon Days Wedding for Edmundson/ Miranowski JJ & Amy VonHoltum Anniv.
9 9:00 am Worship PENTECOST	10 Church Softball Dave & Pam Ray Anniv	11 Shetek Day Camp UMW Day Apart at Fairfax UMC	12 PL At Hospice Mtg 9-11, Slayton	13 Tyler Marron, Sydney Yearous B-days	14 FLAG DAY  Garry & Julie Lokken Anniv Lillie Benson B-day	15 Duane Mulder B-day
16 9:00 am Worship Blessing of Hospital Gowns 	17 Church Softball PL leaves for Annual Conference Lanny Iverson B-day	18 Annual Conference St. Cloud Crystal Leversedge- Marron B-day	19 Annual Conference St. Cloud	20 Annual Conference St. Cloud	21 RISEFEST-Sheldon, IA  Jamine Henn B-day	22 RISEFEST-Sheldon IA Amanda (Chandler) & Chris Maher Anniv.
23 9:00 am Worship Baptism	24 Church Softball Nancy Iveson B-day	25 PL Clergy Consultation w/DS Fred	26 PL @ Hospice 9-11 Slayton Linda Williams B-day	27	28	29
30 9:00 am Worship						

Balaton United Methodist Church

**Lori VonHoltum, Pastor**

220 2nd Street West

Balaton MN 56115

**Remember our Nursing Home Residents: Colonial Manor: Mert Holm and Neva Manguson**  
Remembering & praying for Brandon Swanson..... missing from his family since May 2008