

Tomah Chronicle

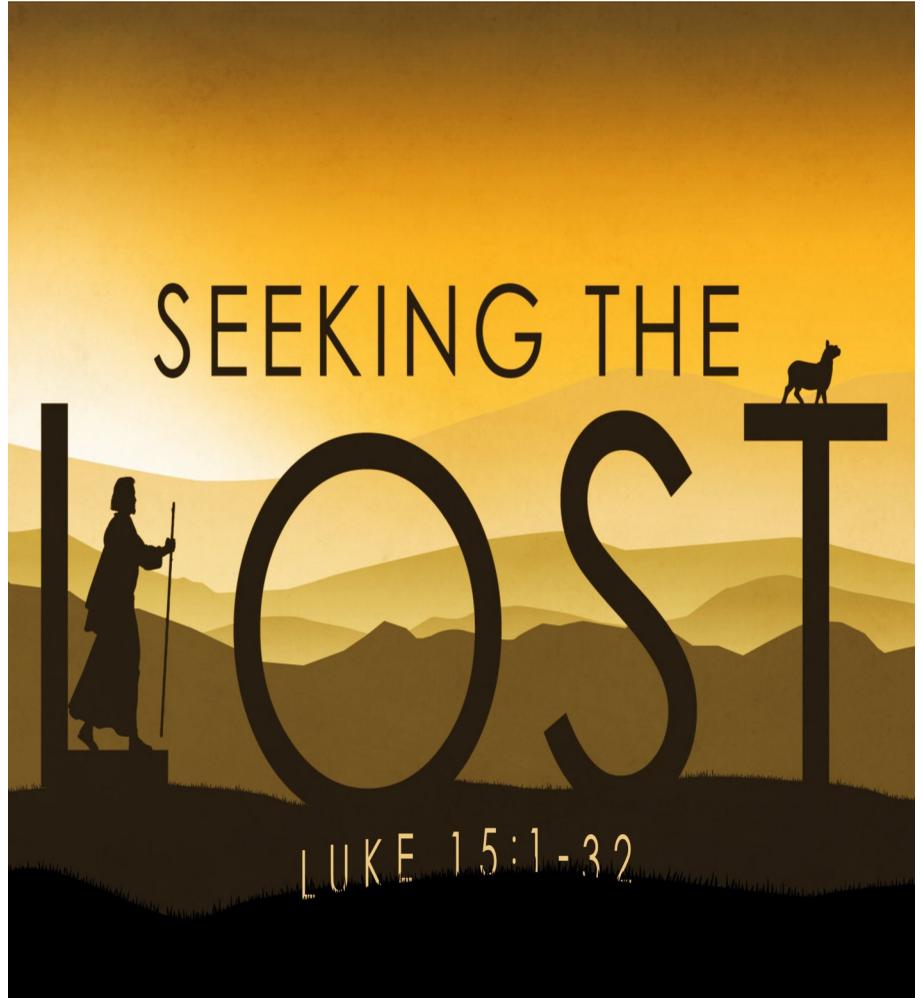
BAPTIST CHURCH

April 2024

VOL XXIX # IV

Inside this Issue

Pursue Happiness, Not Pleasure	2
Vote	3
Luke 15	4
Kid's Korner	5
TBA Calendar Athletic Banquet	6
April Calendar	7
Birthdays, Anniversaries & Missionaries of the Month	8



Theme for 2024

GROWING TOGETHER IN GRACE

PASTOR'S PEN

A word from the heart

Pastor Aaron Smith

Tomah Baptist Church

**PURSUE
HAPPINESS,
NOT
PLEASURE**

In the second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence it says the following:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

The very last phrase of that sentence says, “the pursuit of happiness.” I am convinced that everyone that has ever been alive or is currently living has felt the desire and longing to be happy in their lives. I am also convinced that many in life can experience the happiness that they desire to have. However, they often find that the happiness found is temporary and based upon what it is they do in life. Are you longing to be happy? Are you tired of pursuing something that seems to be impossible to obtain? What is the secret.

In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon writes in verses one to three of the second chapter, ***“I said in mine heart, go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also is vanity. 2 I said of laughter, It is mad: and of mirth, What doeth it? 3 I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life.”*** In verse one he says that he will “prove thee with mirth” or amusement and social merriment and that he will “enjoy pleasure” Only he finds it all at the end of the day to be fruitless, empty, and wanting more. We too, like Solomon, often discover that the moments of pleasure we are pursuing in a hope to experience happiness always seem to leave us empty and wanting more.

What is the answer to this dilemma that we face? Can we find and obtain a lifetime of happiness? Is it really possible? The answer is yes; it is possible to obtain a lifetime of happiness. The dilemma we face is difficult to navigate through at times, because we often find ourselves pursuing pleasure rather than pursuing happiness.

If you will take the time to read through the entire second chapter of Ecclesiastes, you will find that Solomon expresses the emptiness he discovered as he pursued the pleasure of entertainment. The pleasure of work was not enough for Solomon. The gaining of possessions was not enough for him either. Money and power was not enough. Education was not enough. What he found was that pleasure only produces a very temporary happiness and ends with feelings of emptiness, irritation, an intense desire to have more, and an opposition to reason. It led him to a place where he says in verse seventeen that he “hated life” due to the emptiness of pleasure.

If we are to be able to experience a lifetime of happiness and it isn't found by our pursuit of pleasure, how can we ever hope to find true happiness? It must be done God's way. Make sure to check out next month's Chronicle article as we conclude with the explanation on how we can obtain a lifetime of true lasting happiness in this life that will not leave you longing for more.



The month of April begins with a primary election on the 2nd, so I thought I would give a few random thoughts on elections and politics (oh my!). It is my personal conviction that voting is a Christian obligation. The institution of government was given to us by God Himself in Genesis, chapter 9. He has so ordered our world that no person can be born anywhere on this planet without immediately being a citizen of some nation. That is because He knows we need the accountability that comes from being under the authority of government. The history of mankind prior to Genesis, chapter 9 – the pre-flood world – makes this case decisively.

Romans 13:1-5 *Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.*

We are blessed to live in a country, and day and age, where we have a legitimate participation in selecting our governmental leaders. I fully recognize that there are reasons to doubt the extent to which we do, but the truth remains that we get to express our desires at the ballot box. This is a privilege that many have not had through history, and many on planet Earth do not have today. Even though I am often dismayed at the outcome of an election, I still thank God that He has given me this privilege. And, I believe it is more than a privilege; it is a responsibility and obligation. In my adult years, I believe that I have only missed voting in one election. Years ago, I got busy and totally forgot to vote in a primary election of some kind. It was not an important election on one level, but I still felt very bad when I realized that I had missed my opportunity.

I would greatly encourage you to participate in the process of selecting our leaders by exercising your right (and obligation) to vote. I believe that is one way we can honor our Lord. Once we have voted, we can then rely on Him to place the people He wants into office. We have His Word (Daniel 4:17,25,32 and 5:21) that no one holds any governmental office anywhere in the world outside of His having put them there. Whatever their own belief and bend may be, they ultimately accomplish His purpose in history!

-Pastor Don Root

Luke 15

Luke 19:10 “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

There are 3 lessons in Luke 15 where Jesus shows us who God is and how he feels about lost people. You can put yourself in each lesson. In the first lesson you take the place of the sheep and God is the shepherd. In the second lesson you are the coin and God is the widow. In the third lesson, you take the place of the lost son and God is the father. By reading through these 3 lessons we will find 5 different proofs of God’s love for us.

1. We Can Make Choices

We are not puppets to God. He could have created us that way. He could have made us so that we always do and say the right thing. But He does not want us to be forced into obedience. He wants us to make the right choices. He wants our love and obedience of our own free will. It is our choice to have a relationship with Him or to live apart from Him. If you want to live your life apart from God, then God will honor that. He cannot take you to heaven. Heaven is His Kingdom and you haven't chosen Him. Because you have not chosen Him God will let you go to Hell. G. K. Chesterton once remarked, "Hell is God's great compliment to the reality of human freedom and the dignity of human personality." By letting people go to hell God is saying to us, "You are significant. I take you seriously. Choose to reject Me - choose hell if you will. I will let you go."

2. We Have Value to Him

The value of something lost is always intensified. Your children are always precious to you. Can you imagine if one of them were lost? Would they not be the most important thing to be searching for? When one of your children is sick, are they not more tended to? When one is in pain or confused, do you not give them more time? We have a value to Him and when we are lost, in pain or confused. He feels it and seeks to find us a path out, if we just look to Him.

3. He Searches for You

If you have never accepted Christ He not only loves you, He is seeking for you. In 1981, a radio station reported a story about a stolen car. Police were staging an intense search for the vehicle and the driver. On the front seat of the stolen car sat a box of crackers that, unknown to the thief, were laced with poison. The car owner had intended to use the crackers as rat bait. Now the police and the owner of the car were more interested in finding the thief to save his life than to recover the car. When we run from God, we usually want to escape His punishment, but what we are doing is missing His rescue. That is why Jesus Christ came to earth. He said that He had come to "seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10)

4. He Welcomes You Home

He will welcome you home no matter how far you have gone away. He will love you, forgive you and accept you home. John 6:37 “All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”

5. He Celebrates Your Restoration

Luke 15:7 *I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.*

Luke 15:10 *Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.*

Luke 15:23-24 *And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.*



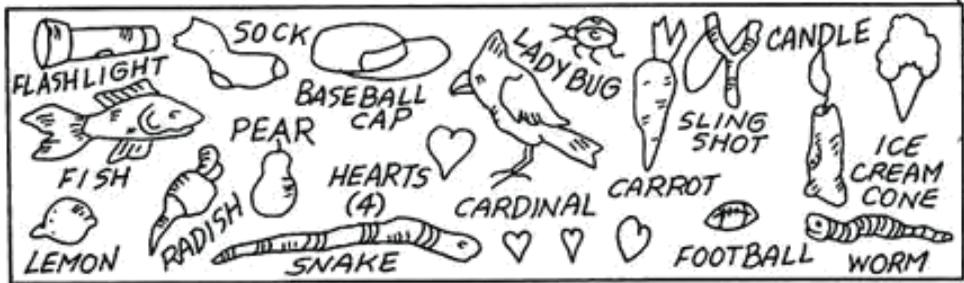
Hooray!
The lost
sheep is
found!



**The Lost
Sheep**

Luke 15:1-7

Can you
find all
the hidden
items?





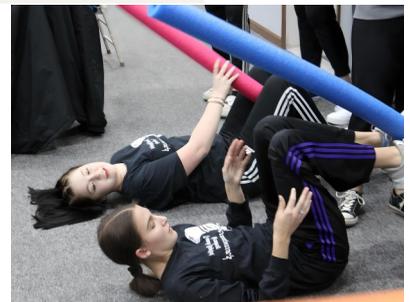
April 1st– 5th Spring Break

April 9th Spring Program 6:30 pm

April 17th Field Trip to the Children’s Museum

April 28th TBA Teen Choir @ Galesville

Athletic Banquet Tuesday, March 26th, 2024



April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Offices Closed	2	3 All Church Prayer	4	5 Women's Retreat	6
Building Fund Offering Singspiration Coffee Fellowship	8	9 Deacons All Day Mtg	10	11	12	13
14 PM Missionary Tim Smith	15	16	17 Business Meeting	18	19	20 Teen Olympics
21 PM - Zoom Missionary Duane Ott	22	23	24	25	26	27 Spring Cleaning
28 The Lord's Supper PM	29	30				

April 7th

AM-Building Fund Offering

PM- Singspiration, Galesville Teen Choir, Coffee Fellowship

Print Ministry

Tuesdays 3:00-6:00
Wednesdays 10:00-2:00

Thursday

Noon Prayer
Calling- 6:45 pm
Friday- RU 7:00

Sunday School- 9:30
Morning Service-10:30
Evening Service-6:00

Wed Bible Study, - 6:30 pm
Teens 6th- 12th, Soldiers for Christ K-5th

TBA
Events are found on
Page 6

Tomah

BAPTIST CHURCH

Growing Together in Grace

1701 Hollister Ave. Tomah, WI 54660

Connect With Us:

Phone: 608-372-2071

info@tomahbaptistchurch.com

www.tomahbaptistchurch.com

Facebook.com/tomahbaptistchurch

Pastor Aaron Smith, Sr. Pastor
Donald I. Root, Assistant Pastor

Birthdays

4th Adam Buehner

5th Jean Wright

6th Joan Winters

6th Adam Ewert

8th Lydia Oyefeso

14th Mary Ellen Likely

14th Richard Kingsbury

16th Ruth-Anne Otto

16th Cassie Vanderhoff

17th Linda Slater

20th Tara Woodman

22nd Hannah Hill

23rd Heather Hershey

24th Kendra Weigen

25th Elijah Fike

26th Brian James

26th Andrew Furan

27th Jayden James

Anniversaries

14th Gary & Debby Connell



“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15

April Missionaries

Les & Jenny Hill missionaries to Dublin, Ireland. They offer Christ honoring music in all the services, a message from the Word of God to meet spiritual needs, an evangelistic effort to reach out to those in need of a relationship with Jesus Christ and a place where your family can grow spiritually in their relationship with Jesus Christ

Prayer Requests:

- Outreach ` Church Growth ` Building Repairs
- Web-Site: lucanchurch.com

Omega Ministries was established in January of 2000 as a way to provide temporary financial support for new fundamental Baptist pastors. While we support a few men in the United States, the main emphasis is upon foreign national pastors and missionaries who are planting churches on the foreign field.

Prayer Requests:

- Calling of national pastors—Training of national pastors
- Web-Site: wyldewood.org

Terry & Sarah Rushing Wings as Eagles-They assist pastors and local churches in their Great Commission goals by flying local church mission teams to the field, helping missionaries and pastors with evangelism and physical construction of church buildings, maintaining & rebuilding aircraft used by missionaries, introducing young men to the need for missionary pilots and mechanics, promoting aviation ministry in remote regions of the world and helping to train young men, delivering Bibles, Christian literature, and humanitarian supplies to outposts in Mexico, the West Indies, Central America, the Canadian wilderness, and Africa

Prayer Requests:

Pilots, Meet the Needs of Others