



Bloomer Baptist Church

To Know Christ and Make Him Known

2620 Duncan Rd., Bloomer, WI
54724

715-568-1979/1980

www.bloomerbaptistchurch.com

Pastor Eldon Carlson

Cell: 715-559-1979

Email: ecarlson@bloomer.net

Assistant/Youth Minister: Pat Conlin
youth@bloomerbaptistchurch.com

Office: Jessica Bowe

info@bloomerbaptistchurch.com

Pastor's Portion

I sat down with Tom and Mary Larson today. As we were talking the question came up, "what is heaven going to be like?" This Pastor's Portion will deal briefly with striving to answer that question.

To begin our study let's consider 1 Corinthians 2:9 (ESV) ⁹ *But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him."* That's a quote from a couple passages in Isaiah 64 & 65. I suspect heaven will be way beyond our wildest imagination. Let me give you a poor earthly illustration. If I look at a caterpillar not in my wildest dreams would I predict that one day that worm would become a beautiful butterfly. But something happens in that cocoon and out comes an insect capable of flying with the most magnificent colors. I suspect heaven will be like that on the basis of that verse. Let me continue.

Tears are mentioned 95 times in the Bible. Three times in Scripture (Isaiah 25:8; Rev 7:17 & Rev 21:4) God says he will wipe away all tears. Tears of sadness, regret, pain and frustration will all be gone. What a tender picture we have of God Almighty stooping down, with tears in his own eyes (John 11:35) wiping away all that sin and the Devil have done.

1 Corinthians 15 says the sting of death will be removed (15:55) and we—believers in Christ—will all be changed to be imperishable and immortal (15:53). The promise is that none of our efforts will be vain (15:58).

Heaven will be a place of rest. Hebrews speaks of it 10 times. Those of you sleep deprived—longing for a night's rest will be totally refreshed. Peace and joy will be ours (Romans 14:17).

Will we recognize loved ones? A resounding YES! is the answer. The disciples, after Jesus' resurrection—recognized him, talked with him, ate with him and touched him (John 20-21). He had amazing ability: fly (Acts 1:9); materialize through locked doors (John 20:19); intuitive know where to catch fish (John 21:6). Now there won't be marriage in heaven (Matthew 22:30) but the relationships will exceed the best and sweetest of spousal relationships. Heaven is already precious because most of us have sent loved ones there and they are waiting for us!!! Tom, Mary and I reflected on loved ones that will be standing at the gate. What a sweet thought!

The city streets will be paved with pure gold (Rev 21:21). Rick Gunderlach often speaks of this amazing truth—no black top, cement or bricks and mortar over there! There will be no need for the sun, moon or stars because God's glory will be so brilliant (Rev 21:23; 22:5). Our eyes will be refined in such a way that the brilliance will not blind us.

Jesus promised to make us a "mansion" (John 14:2 KJV). (I like that better than the NIV or ESV "room" which smacks of confinement). The guy that spoke the word in 6 days that created the universe with its glory has been 2,000 + years working on my dwelling place. Heaven will probably have a garage for my Allis Chalmers C. (I put that in just to see if you are reading this). Jessica Bowe says she is sure there will be DQ blizzards there—Butterfinger and Heath bar ones. In any event the place will be amazing.

By far the best part is seeing Jesus (1 John 3:1-3). That passage says he is the embodiment of God's lavish love for us. Can you imagine being loved that much. I love the story of Stephen's martyrdom recorded in Acts 7:56 that tells us that Jesus stood to welcome home the first martyr of the church age. The picture Diane Gotham painted in our worship center of Jesus engulfing the saint arriving in heaven sums it up. What joy to see our Savior.

Can you think of anything I have missed? Why not send me some of your Biblical study of heaven so I can share it with the Larson's. Let me know and I will add it to my short survey of heaven.

-Pastor Eldon Carlson

February 2017

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*"I suspect
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Sunday School

I finally have the list of those with perfect memory and attendance for the 1st quarter, Sept, Oct and Nov.

With perfect attendance and receiving a "Snow Amazing" chocolate Hug were Lillyanna Culver, Madison Bowe, Jenna Bronstad, Faith Bowe, Andrew Gotham, Connor Fossum, Jonathon Fossum, Shania Bronstad and Ian Shoebridge. Perfect memory, Lillyanna Culver, Logan Hammond, Fisher Beal, Olivia Culver, Madison Bowe, Whitney Gotham, Leif Lundgren, Jenna Bronstad, Gracie Culver, Faith Bowe, Andrew Gotham, Connor Fossum, Will Shoebridge, Neveah Beal, Joscelyn Wundrow, Shania Bronstad and Jonathon Fossum. They received a "You set the Bar for everyone else" granola bar.

There will be some changes in the rooms for Sunday School. The parents of young children will be meeting in the kitchen and the Financial class will be meeting in the Galilee room off the fireside.

-Julia

Coached By Christ

We have kicked off the new year with a lot of excitement in CBC. Clubbers are very excited about getting their cars ready for the Grand Prix. We had some issues with getting cars in time for the work night. We managed to find some cars and had the work night on the 24th. The Grand Prix is Feb. 1st and we are hoping that you will come and see all the fun and effort that was put into the cars.

A special thank you to the leaders that have helped out and filled in with CBC. CBC would not be successful without all the support that the church gives. Thank you for all of you who said, "yes" when asked to help out, for all of you who pray and all of you who give.

Coming up the next couple months we have Night of Hearts, Thgin Sdrawkcab, Measles Night and we finish the year with Store Night.

-The Fossum's

Sr. High Youth Group

Hi Church Family!

February is shaping up to be a fun month for the youth group. First, we've got a broomball game and time of sledding from 3:30-5:30 on Wednesday, Feb. 8th. We'll meet at the ice rink after school. If you can't get there right at 3:30, just get there when you can. There will be pizza afterwards. On Saturday, Feb. 11th is our annual Christie Mountain family ski trip. There are flyers for this in the fireside room. This is a great event for families, and runs from 4-10. We'll kick the night off with a group prayer in the chalet at 4, but then you can come and go as you please. The next night, Sunday the 12th is our Valentine's Day banquet. Bring your sweetie and come for a night of food, fun, and fellowship. The menu will be spaghetti and meatballs or chicken alfredo. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Yours in Christ,

Pat Conlin

Jr. Hi Youth Group

*Jr. Hi meets on Wednesday's from
6:30-8:00 p.m.*

Valentine's Banquet

Sunday, February 12th at 6:00 p.m.

The Youth group will once again be cooking up an Italian meal as a part of their missions trip fundraiser (free will offering). Please sign up so they can plan accordingly. Child Care will also be available.

Children's Church

2/5 - Jones

2/12 - Lyons

2/19 - Bowe

2/26 - Bruxvoort

February Weekly Cleaning

2/2 - Conlin & LaBudde

2/9 - McMenamain & Robey

2/16 - Harris & Rohrssen

2/23 - Hable & Jones

Nursery

2/5 - Misner/A Jacobson

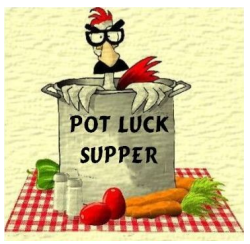
2/12 - Jones/Bruxvoort

2/19 - Brindle/Wundrow

2/26 - Engstrom/Shoebridge

SINKS

Monthly Potluck
will be Saturday,
February 4th at
5:00 p.m. at BBC

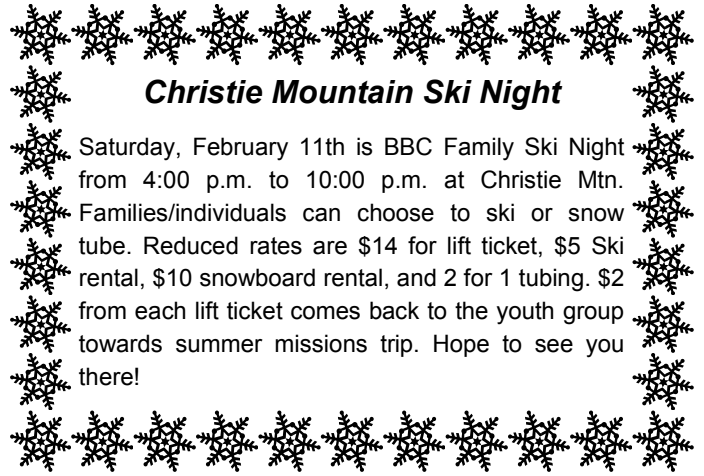


**Men's Renewal Breakfast at Main
St. Café**



Saturday, February
11th at 8:00 a.m.

\$7 buffet



Christie Mountain Ski Night

Saturday, February 11th is BBC Family Ski Night from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Christie Mtn. Families/individuals can choose to ski or snow tube. Reduced rates are \$14 for lift ticket, \$5 Ski rental, \$10 snowboard rental, and 2 for 1 tubing. \$2 from each lift ticket comes back to the youth group towards summer missions trip. Hope to see you there!

What are your spiritual gifts? BBC would love to help you use them! Volunteers are always welcome for soundboard, PowerPoint, children's church, nursery, office jobs and more. Contact Jessica or Pat if we can help you find a spot to use your gifts!

NO REGRETS Men's Conference @ Valleybrook Church

February 4, 2017

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

\$25 per ticket (includes lunch)

Registration form available at valleybrookchurch.org

Valleybrook Church - 412 S Barstow St, Eau Claire

Contact Tim Jacobson if interested!

Daily Bible Reading by Genre

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 2/1- Psalms 12-14 | 2/10- Isaiah 29-33 | 2/20- Genesis 28-31 |
| 2/2- Job 9-10 | 2/11- Romans 11-12 | 2/21- Judges 12-16 |
| 2/3- Isaiah 23-28 | 2/12- Matthew 17-19 | 2/22- Psalms 21-23 |
| 2/4- Romans 9-10 | 2/13- Genesis 24-27 | 2/23- Job 15-16 |
| 2/5- Matthew 14-16 | 2/14- Judges 7-11 | 2/24- Isaiah 40-44 |
| 2/6- Genesis 20-23 | 2/15- Psalms 18-20 | 2/25- Romans 15-16 |
| 2/7- Judges 1-6 | 2/16- Job 13-14 | 2/26- Matthew 23-25 |
| 2/8- Psalms 15-17 | 2/17- Isaiah 34-39 | 2/27- Genesis 32-35 |
| 2/9- Job 11-12 | 2/18- Romans 13-14 | 2/28- Judges 17-21 |
| | 2/19- Matthew 20-22 | |

Dear Bloomer Baptist Church,

Listed below are events that led the Deacons to move forward with the process to call a new pastor.

- Some time ago a confidential offer was made by a benefactor to Pastor Carlson that encouraged him to begin thinking about transitioning into retirement.
- Pastor shared his thoughts about his future and over time-we talked about them in deacon meetings. Again, confidentiality was important, but we felt we needed to think and plan for the future.
- Pastor Eldon forwarded articles and reading materials to the deacons, encouraging us to begin to understand the complexity and importance of understanding how transitioning to a new pastor can happen in churches.
- A 'fleece' was put out to see if the 'call' process should move forward. Very tentative feelers went out to known individuals who are familiar with Bloomer and who have excellent credentials & experience. Pastor sent out a letter and Tim Jacobson made a follow-up phone call to each of them. No promises of any kind, no commitments, no offers were made or implied. It was just to see if there might be someone interested in becoming a candidate for Senior Pastor at Bloomer Baptist and if so, we would then start the process. We understood this could be sensitive and we all felt we needed to maintain confidentiality. Eventually, we would be accepting resumes from all interested individuals.
- The deacons also wanted to be proactive and 3 of us visited with Pat Phinney, executive director of Conservative Baptist North Central in Minneapolis to explore what our conference recommends as we looked to the future leadership change. We received the church 'Placement Manual' from CBNC. We also tentatively scheduled Pat Phinney to come to Bloomer for consultation. Our intent was to make sure we did 'do diligence' and to ensure we proceed wisely, with wisdom and discernment.
- An individual indicated an interest in the Pastor position on Dec 4th. This started the process.
- On December 7th at a deacon meeting, it was moved, 2nd & passed to form the Pulpit committee and begin the process. Pastor Eldon indicated he would announce his retirement. Confidentiality would be maintained until that announcement was made.
- Dec 10th the deacons met with Pat Phinney for discussion and advice on how best to proceed.
- On December 14th at a deacon meeting, preliminary investigations were started to look at church profile, community profile, pastor profile, interview questions, church survey, history, etc. The retirement announcement date of January 15th was decided upon; the date for our BBC quarterly meeting. Pastor Eldon would make the announcement. Pulpit responsibilities were assigned – Tim Jacobson-chair, Duane Shoebridge-vice chair, Pat Conlin-secretary
- On January 15th Pastor Eldon & Sue Carlson announced their intention to retire.

Please read the bulletin for continuing announcements and updates. Please pray that God would give all of us wisdom and discernment to bring the man He has chosen, to become Pastor at Bloomer Baptist Church.

Respectfully yours,

Tim Jacobson