



March 17, 2024

“I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5

Congratulations Pastor Carri!

The BSW family is celebrating today. Pastor Carri Johnson passed her ordination interview with the District Board of Ministerial Development on Wednesday and is now scheduled to be ordained on Saturday June 8, 2024 at district conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Pastor Carri will be graduating from Wesley Seminary on Saturday, April 27, 2024 with a Master's of Divinity Degree.

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Message notes for March 17, 2024

Jesus says in the Gospel of John ... I am the bread of life (the one who satisfies the soul) ... I am the light of the world (who reveals truth and goodness) ... I am the door (into God's flock) ... I am the good shepherd (who lays down his life for the sheep) ... I am the resurrection and the life (master over death and the grave) ... I am the way, the truth, and the life (just follow Jesus).

We continue with the events of the night of the Last Supper, the hours before Jesus would die on the cross. John uses five chapters to retell the events of about five hours in the life of Jesus. Today we study John 15:1-11.

Jesus says that he is the vine and we are to abide in him. The Father is the vinedresser who works in our lives through the vine Jesus. The word "abide" means to continue, remain, and/or endure. The story of Ruth and Naomi illustrates how someone abides with another (Ruth 1:1-16).

This teaching from Jesus says that abiding = thriving. When we abide in Jesus the vine, we thrive as followers of Christ or children of God. We thrive in five ways:

- 1) We are pruned for growth
- 2) We bear fruit, much fruit
- 3) There is power in our prayers
- 4) We know the love of Father, Son, and Spirit
- 5) Our joy is made full

This Week at BSW

This Week's Micro-Church Schedule:

Sunday morning at Wood County Jail (Pastor Lonnie)

Wednesday morning at Waterford (Pastor Milt)

Wednesday afternoon at Arborwood Lodge (Pastor Jim)

On Monday (3-18) - Ladies Study Groups at 1:30 and 6 pm.

On Tuesday (3-19) and Friday (3-22) – The Shepherd's Loft clothing ministry is open from 9:30 until noon. Volunteers need to work with the donated shoes.

On Tuesday (3-19) – Bible Study (I Peter) in the Shepherd's Loft 11:15 am until noon with Pastor Milt.

On Wednesday (3-20) – Underground youth leaders meeting at 6 pm in the Family Center.

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Lent at BSW

Make your Lenten season more meaningful this year by following along with our pastors as they share devotions and a spiritual habit for you to practice each week. This week Pastor Seth Dykstra will lead us.

Our Holy Week Schedule:

Thursday, March 28th at 6 pm ... “The Last Supper” service with the serving of Holy Communion.

Friday, March 29th at Noon ... “At the Cross” prayer vigil.

Friday, March 29th at 6 pm ... “At the Tomb” reflections.

Sunday, March 31st at 10 am ... Resurrection Celebration. He is Risen!

BSW Youth News

BSW Youth Group Now Has a Name:

The students have spoken - Our youth group is officially called, "BSW Underground"!

If you are 6th-12th grade, don't miss out on BSW Underground. We meet the first Wednesday night of each month from 6:30-8:00 "underground" (BSW Family Center door opens at 6:00). Our times together are packed full of relevant biblical teaching, worship, light snacks, and games designed to grow us closer to God and each other.

By The Numbers

Celebrating new life in Christ:

For the 2023-24 Church year (June 1, 2023, until May 31, 2024):

Those confessing Christ as Savior and Lord: 26

Those recommitting their life to Christ: 6

Those being baptized: 4

Call-to-Ministry: 2

Week 41 of the Church Year	March 10 through March 16, 2024
Sanctuary Attendance	92
Micro-Church Attendance	24 (two sites)
Live Stream Raw	16
Adjusted Live-Stream Reporting (X 1.7)	27
Total Footprint	143

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Supporting BSW: There are four ways that you can support BSW with your tithes and offerings.

- 1) Securely online at bakerstwesleyan.org using the “support BSW” tab on the right-hand side of the homepage.
- 2) In the jar provided in the sanctuary on the tech booth.
- 3) By mail to Baker Street Wesleyan Church, 640 Baker St. Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, 54494. Attn: Treasurer.
- 4) Donation of stock and securities to our Edward Jones account.

Week 41 of the Church Year	March 10 through March 16, 2024
Total Tithes and Offerings last Sunday	\$ 2,170
Month to Date	\$ 6,551
Year to Date	\$ 120,850
Earmarked Giving	\$ 3,902 Zambia
\$ 1,496 Middle School Retreat	\$ 320 Wish list
\$ 1,087 Women’s Conference	\$ 5,141 Warehouse Ministry
\$ 2,333 Christmas Benevolence	\$ 3,000 Staff Education Gift
\$ 100 Christmas Shoeboxes	\$ 168 Sanctuary AV Improvements

Shepherd’s Loft Clothing Mission:

The Shepherd’s Loft Clothing Mission is open to the public on Tuesday and Friday mornings for patrons to receive free clothes, shoes, and linens. Please call 715-421-5335 to schedule your 30-minute appointment for 9:30 am, 10 am, 10:30 am, or 11 am.

Leadership Team 2023-24:

Local Board of Administration as elected at the Local Church Conference
on Tuesday, June 20, 2023

Chairperson: Rev. Milt Van Natta, Senior Pastor

Treasurer: Jamie Mlsna

Secretary: Diane Jackson

Members-at-Large: Kat Esser, Mike Hamilton, Judy Henke, Jonathon
Johnson, Kevin Lien (Vice-Chair)

Please pray with Pastor Milt for the students he is currently teaching for
Kingswood University. Pentateuch class: Honey-Lee, Jennifer, Josie,
and Bree. Inductive Bible Study class: Jesse, Phil, Austin, Cory, Kayla,
and Elianne. Spiritual Formation class (Unit One): Karen, Kalyn, and
Jessica. Spiritual Formation class (Unit Two): Joey, Kristine, Randy,
Lorrie, Lauri-Anne, and Susan.

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Your BSW Staff Team

Lead Pastor/Teaching Pastor: Rev. Milt Van Natta

PastorMilt@BSWfamily.com

Next Generations Director/Music Leader: Pastor Seth Dykstra

PastorSeth@BSWfamily.com

Assistant Pastor of Discipleship/Zambia: Pastor Carri Johnson

PastorJohnson@BSWfamily.com

Assistant Pastor of Spiritual Care/Prayer Chain: Rev. Jim Leston

PastorJim@BSWfamily.com

Jail Ministry Missionary: Rev. Lonnie Selje

Cot-Bearing Prayer Guide for Governmental Leaders

Monday: Wisconsin Senate and Assembly

Senator Jeff Smith (Senate District 31) and Assembly persons Jodi Emerson (Assembly district 91), Treig Pronschinske (92), and Warren Petryk (93).

Senator Brad Pfaff (Senate District 32) and Assembly persons Steve Doyle (94), Jill Billings (95), and Loren Oldenburg (96).

Senator Chris Kapenga (Senate District 33) and Assembly persons Scott Allen (97), Adam Neylon (98), and Cindi Duchow (99).

Tuesday: Illinois Congressional Delegation

Senators: Richard Durbin and Tammy Duckworth

Representatives: Jonathan Jackson (1), Robin Kelly (2), Delia Ramirez (3), Jesus Garcia (4), Mike Quigley (5), Sean Casten (6), Danny Davis (7), and Raja Krishnamoorthi (8)

Wednesday: Illinois Congressional Delegation

Representatives: Jan Schakowsky (9), Brad Schneider (10), Bill Foster (11), Mike Bost (12), Nikki Budzinski (13), Lauren Underwood (14), Mary Miller (15), Darin LaHood (16) and Eric Sorenson (17)

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Thursday: Executive Branch of the United States

President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris

The Cabinet Secretaries: Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, Attorney General Merrick Garland, Secretary of Treasury Janet Yellen, Secretary of Veteran Affairs Denis McDonough, Secretary of Interior Deb

Haaland, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo, Secretary of Labor Julie Su, Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Marcia Fudge, Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm, Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona, and Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas

Friday: Joint Chiefs of Staff of the U.S. military

Chairman Gen. Charles Brown. Vice-Chairman Adm. Christopher Grady. Also Gen. Randy George, Commandant Eric Smith, Commandant Linda Fagan, Gen. David Allvin, Gen. Chance Saltzman, Gen. David Thompson, and Adm. Lisa Franchetti.