



March 3, 2024

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me."

John 14:6

Holy Communion Served Today

During our time of worship today we will be serving Holy Communion. BSW practices open communion and all who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are welcome to come forward and partake. We will serve children who have the endorsement of their parents or guardians.

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Message notes for March 3, 2024

The Way, the Truth, and the Life

John 14:1-12

Slow Walk with Jesus Part 6

Pastor Milt Van Natta

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life."

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

Jesus said, "I am the door," to the sheep pen

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd."

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life."

John 14:1-12

I am the way, the truth, and the life

John chapters 13-17 covered only a few hours one evening ... the setting is the Passover meal in an upper room and Jesus speaks to reassure his disciples in the midst of uncertainty.

Jesus is the way, the truth and the life is best seen as three parts of one unity, not three separate thoughts. They are reflective of His sufficiency.

Jesus is all we will ever need. He is to be followed in this life straight into eternal life. He enlightens our minds with truth so that we will not be deceived. He unites us to the Father and Holy Spirit in their no beginning-no end life. He is sufficient.

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 Arborview Lodge (Pastor Jim)

On Monday (3-4) - Ladies Study Groups at 1:30 and 6 pm with Pastor Carri.

On Tuesday (3-5) and Friday (3-8) – The Shepherd's Loft clothing ministry is open from 9:30 until noon. Volunteers need to work with the donated shoes.

On Tuesday (3-5) – Bible Study (the Book of Romans) in the Shepherd's Loft 11:15 am until noon with Pastor Milt.

On Thursday (3-7) – Coffee with Pastors at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. This is a time of worship, prayer, and fellowship for family members 50+.

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We are celebrating!

- 1) The February matching campaign raised \$2,735 for the Africa Wesleyan University College in Zambia.
- 2) Three persons have confessed Christ as Savior and Lord over the last two weeks in the Wood County Jail.
- 3) Three persons have made a fresh surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ in the Wood County Jail over the last two weeks.
- 4) God is providing for our parking needs and the yellow paint is coming off the curbs in front of our church!

Just a few weeks ago in a pastoral staff meeting, we were praising God for the growth in attendance. As a result of this growth, we started discussing options to help our full parking lot situation. The first phase we have already implemented is asking some of our church family to join us in parking down the block in the city lot and other available parking options to make sure there is room for guests and those with mobility issues. Fast forward a little bit and we see clearly that God was already working on it too. Please feel free to park on either side of Baker Street now where the yellow paint has been (and is continuing to be) removed.

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.

Youth Off Site Skate Night:

Attention all middle school ministry, junior high, and high school students (5th-12th grade). We are joining two other local church youth groups for a special night out designed just to have fun connecting with each other. We have rented out Skate City (2211 36th St N, Wisconsin Rapids) on Wednesday, March 13th from 6:30-8:30 PM (doors open at 6:15). The cost is \$6.99 and includes pizza, soda, and skate rental (\$1 extra for inline skates). Talk with a pastor or youth leader prior to event if cost is an issue.

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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 Jim will lead us and his video will be posted on the BSW YouTube channel for your convenience. Each one of our four pastors will lead us through one of the next four weeks with the new video premiering during Sunday's worship service.

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!

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 39 of the Church Year	February 25 through March 3, 2024
Sanctuary Attendance	111
Micro-Church Attendance	26 (two sites)
Live Stream Raw	31
Adjusted Live-Stream Reporting (X 1.7)	53
Total Footprint	190

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.

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. We need a volunteer(s) to work with donated shoes. If interested talk to Pastor Milt.

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Week 39 of the Church Year	February 25 through March 3, 2024
Total Tithes and Offerings last Sunday	\$ 5,702
Month to Date	\$ 11,655
Year to Date	\$ 114,299
Earmarked Giving	\$ 3,728 Zambia
\$ 1,496 Middle School Retreat	\$ 320 Wish list
\$ 1,087 Women's Conference	\$ 4,531 Warehouse Ministry
\$ 2,333 Christmas Benevolence	\$ 3,000 Staff Education Gift
\$ 100 Christmas Shoeboxes	\$ 168 Sanctuary AV Improvements

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)

Last Day of the Community Hygiene Drive:

BSW is participating in the annual hygiene drive to help three local agencies help people in need in our community. Collection bins are located in the main lobby and items needed include; bathroom tissue, cleaning supplies, dental care, deodorant, diapers & baby care items, face/bath soap, feminine care, hair care, laundry detergent, paper towels, razors, & trash bags. The drive continues through Sunday March 3rd and all donations stay in South Wood County.

Prayer Requests:

Pastor Carri Johnson's ordination interview with the District Board of Ministerial Development of the GLR is on Wednesday, March 13 in Spooner. She and Jonathan would so appreciate your prayer coverage ... Pastor Carri's graduation from seminary is April 27 in Marion, Indiana ... and her ordination (no problems with that interview!) will be June 8 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Please pray with Pastor Milt for the students he begins teaching tomorrow for Kingswood University. Pentateuch class: Honey-Lee, Jennifer, Josie, and Bree. Inductive Bible Study class: Jesse, John, 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 Romaine Quinn (Senate District 25) and Assembly persons Angie Sapik (Assembly district 73), Chanz Green (74), and David Armstrong (75).

Senator Kelda Helen Roys (Senate District 26) and Assembly persons Francesca Hong (76), Sheila Stubbs (77), and Lisa Subeck (78).

Senator Dianne Hesselbein (Senate District 27) and Assembly persons Alex Joers (79), Mike Bare (80), and Dave Considine (81)

Tuesday: Georgia Congress Members

Senators: Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock

Representative: Earl Carter (1), Sanford Bishop, Jr. (2), Drew Ferguson (3), Hank Johnson (4), Nikema Williams (5), Rich McCormick (6), and Lucy McBath (7).

Wednesday: Georgia House of Representatives (Part 2)

Austin Scott (8), Andrew Clyde (9), Mike Collins (10), Barry Loudermilk (11), Rick Allen (12), David Scott (13), and Marjorie Taylor Greene (14).

Thursday: 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.

Friday: US Supreme Court

Chief Justice John Roberts. Justices: Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, Amy Coney Barrett, and Ketanji Brown Jackson

Good Monday,

Sunday was such an amazing day at the jail, that I thought it would be a good time to share some of the things going on there. God is doing amazing things!

God doesn't always work quickly and we often forget that in our instant gratification world. One woman I've worked with on and off for several years now told me that although she's always believed in God, she finally committed herself to Him. I saw the change in her. There was peace about her future though it looks grim and her incessant fight to protect her "stuff" every time she landed in jail had changed to an attitude of, "it's just stuff. God will give me what I need again." Please join me in rejoicing that she finally got it! A gentleman who has been in jail longer than he's ever been, and has lost a close family member while incarcerated has been meeting with me as a safe place to talk about things. (It's difficult for men in jail to share emotions for fear of bullying, and bottling emotions up isn't healthy.) He has come to understand his childhood church attendance isn't the same as a real relationship with God. His faith is now personal and he's planning a new life once he's out that includes attending church with his mother.

Two people this past Sunday returned to the flock. I was reminded of The Lost Sheep. Raised knowing the Lord, being able to share their past love of God, they both told me how they have returned to the faith of their childhood, and they believe they are in jail for just that purpose. The female needed reminding of God's promises to us and her face lit up every time we talked about something she already knew about God, but had forgotten when she put God on the back burner. The gentleman I spoke with asked how to be a Christian in such a horrible environment. It is a struggle for men to survive their situation and live their faith without getting hurt either physically or emotionally. This was one week of jail ministry. It was months of people ministering in the jail. It was months of prayers from family and churches for God to work in the lives of these damaged individuals. Most weeks are not this exciting, but every soul is precious to our Lord!

Please pray for:

- A fertile place to land for those discovering God for the first time.
- Support within a corrections arena for those trying to live their faith surrounded by the pressures of sin.
- The COs (Corrections Officers – many of whom are believers) to be able to safely do their job as they physical and emotional pressures and dangers every day.

Thank you for your support of these broken people through your donations, volunteers, and prayers. God is doing wondrous things