
From the Pastor

If you have noticed, I have started including the Lord's Prayer in the worship service on the last Sunday of the month. I am a little cautious about this because praying the Lord's Prayer can become something that we just go through the motions of saying with it having no real meaning, not that we are guilty of that, but there is a danger in praying it on a regular basis without a real sense of what it is we are praying. For me, I wanted to take the time to go through the Lord's Prayer first, so we really grasp hold of what we are praying. Now that we are done with the series on evangelism, I thought these columns would be a great way of doing that.

Before we get to the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13, we first need to look at the context. Jesus is speaking in Matthew 6:5-6: "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room, shut the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you."

The word that Jesus used is the Greek word, hypokrites. It is the word that is used in referring to an actor, someone who would play a part that they are not in reality. So, Jesus is saying not to be like them. Don't play the part and pray to be seen by others. (He says the same thing about giving and fasting.)

Now, this doesn't mean that we shouldn't pray in public. Jesus prayed in public (Luke 3:21 and John 11:41-42). It's not that we shouldn't pray in public, it's that we shouldn't want to be seen by other people as we pray.

So, how do we combat this? Especially myself and others who pray during our worship service? Well, Jesus made a point that our prayer lives should center around what we pray in private. Again, not that we shouldn't pray in public, but the amount of time that we pray should much more be centered around our

private prayers. DA Carson put it this way, "The person who prays more in public than in private reveals that he is less interested in God's approval than in human praise. Not piety but a reputation for piety is his concern."

Notice that both types of public prayer that Jesus is talking about will get you rewards. What are those rewards? Public prayer to be seen by others will sometimes get you praise from other people, while private prayer will give you the reward of spending time with your heavenly Father who is the Creator and Sustainer of all things.

Think about that. It's always nice to be thought of well by others, but the problem is that like anything that takes the place of God in our lives is what we would call an idol. Like all idols, we think that the praise of people will satisfy us, but it never truly does. Why? Because we are always wanting more of people's praises, but like anyone who depends on the praise, those praises can and often does turn to criticisms, and we are left desolate, desperately wanting to hear people tell us how great we are, but we often get the very opposite.

This reward is much different from the reward that we receive when we pray in private. That reward is knowing we have a caring, loving Father who sees all things, and like every good Father, wants us to come to Him with all of our problems, cares, and worries; who will hear our prayers every single time, and answer them in His Wisdom.

So, as we study the Lord's Prayer and as we pray it on the last Sunday of the month, let us not only pray it publicly, but use it as a model for private prayer as well.

Pastor Brandt



Fellowship Notes

Many, many thanks for those of you that have been faithful cookie bakers and lunch side dish bringers!!! We so appreciated your food offerings.

The Ladies Tea on Saturday April 20 was such a wonderful event. Many thanks to Faith and her team of helpers and to the Son Risers crew that so graciously served us. The food, fellowship, decorations, and activities were amazing!

Teen Challenge Sunday was a great time of worship and fellowship at lunch with all those that came from Rochester Adult and Teen Challenge on April 21st.

There is one more concert on Sunday, May 5th and we would welcome cookie donations again for the reception following the concert. We need 5 people to bring 3 dozen cookies each. Please contact the office or Sandy Partridge. Thank you in advance.

We hope that you are enjoying the Sunday lunches after the service. If you would like to contribute, we would welcome side dishes and desserts. Please contact Jen White or Sandy Partridge.

We will be continuing to clean and organize the kitchen during May. Our next project is cleaning the refrigerator and freezer, so if you have items in either place, please label them (or they might be thrown out).

Again, if you have any ideas for lunch menus or fellowship events, or would like to help, please contact any of us.

The Fellowship Team

Tri-County Rural Outreach Food Pantry

The former North Bergen Food Pantry has relocated to the Bergen United Methodist Church, 27 S. Lake Ave (Rte 19) in Bergen. They are now called Tri-County Rural Outreach Food Pantry. They are open for food distribution on the second Thursday (5-8 pm) and last Saturday (9-12 pm) of each month. Anyone may use this resource

For the month of May, they will be open on Thursday, May 9 from 5-8 pm and Saturday, May 25 from 9-12 pm

Questions: Pastor Dave Fish @ 585-290-5487



Basket & Baked Goods
AUCTION

SATURDAY, MAY 4TH
Preview 4:30-5:30pm (snacks served)
Auction 5:30-7:00PM

Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Fellowship Hall
38 South Lake Ave, Bergen NY
AUCTIONEERS: CRAIG AND BRETT WILCOX
FREE ADMISSION!



PROCEEDS BENEFIT
YOUNG LIFE GENESSEE COUNTY

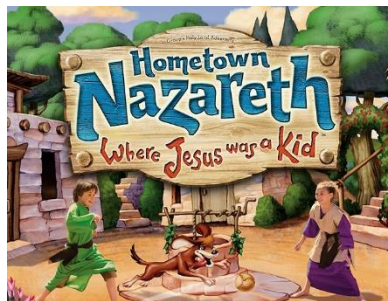
Ecumenical VBS

Bergen Community Vacation Bible School

VBS Dates: August 21 -23

Sunday Celebration in Hickory Park: August 25

Theme: Hometown Nazareth



Vacation Bible School will be held August 21 - 23 from 9 am till noon this year with an ecumenical VBS celebration in Hickory Park.

On Friday, May 3rd at 10 am at the Methodist Church there will be a gathering of people from both churches to come up with snack ideas for VBS this year.

On Sunday, May 5 at 11:45 am at the Methodist Church will be a gathering of people from both churches to continue planning this year's VBS. Anyone who is interested is welcome to come and give ideas at either of these meetings.

Park Fest Needs Volunteers and Leadership

Pastor Brandt is asking for assistance for the Parkfest booth on June 8. We have reserved a double booth space so there is room for games and information about our church activities. Please see Brandt ASAP if you can help.

TAG ~ Teens After God

True Faith in Jesus

What does your version say? That question comes up a lot during TAG youth group discussions. Some teens prefer the King James Version, some prefer the New Living Translation, and others the New International Version or the English Standard Version. What I appreciate about the question though, is that it means the teens are fully engaged and interested in coming to a more full and deep understanding of the scripture we are reading. We read and reflected on Luke Chapter 8 verses 40-56 at our most recent TAG gathering. In these verses, the deep faith of a sick woman heals her and Jesus raises a young girl from the dead. Each week I challenge the teens to come up with an application of the scripture read which is relevant to them in their own life. What the teens took away from our evening reflection on April 21st is that having faith in Jesus can heal all types of wounds...emotional, physical, and spiritual!

Our TAG youth group will be meeting in the Teen Room on the following Sundays from 6:00-8:00PM: April 28th, May 19th, and June 2nd. Please keep all the teens of our group, and in Bergen, in your prayers. Continue to pray for God's protection and guidance in their lives!



Deacon's Corner

The Deacons have been encouraging and praying for our college students. They are Emily Caccamise, Hannah Catalino and Kyle Foeller. All three will soon be graduating and obtaining a degree from their current majors.



Kyle will be graduating in July from Florida International University with a B.S. Accounting Degree. This summer he'll be interning with a Florida accounting firm. Last summer he was able to do some traveling in Europe, and he is hoping to return this summer. After completing his internship, Kyle will be looking for an accounting position. His future plan is to obtain a Master's Degree and become a C.P.A.

Hannah will be graduating from Houghton in May with a B.S. Degree in Inclusive Childhood Education. Her concentration is Intercultural Studies. During all four years at Houghton, Hannah played on the volleyball team. In 2023, she went to Nicaragua for 10 days on a mission trip with the team to share God's love. Hannah was selected as Houghton's representative in 2023 to receive the Empire 8 Sportswoman of the Year. This award emphasizes competing with honor and integrity. After graduation, Hannah will be working on obtaining her Master's Degree through Roberts Wesleyan. At Roberts, she'll continue her volleyball career by serving as a coach.

Emily will graduate in May from Daemen's PA Program and will earn her Master of Science Degree. She will need to take the PANCE (Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination) in June, and then wait for results and accreditation. She has accepted a PA position in the Family Medicine Practice at the RRH Batavia Medical Campus. She is set to begin in August. She and her fiancé, Colin, have set a wedding date for June 2025. Colin is also graduating from Daemen's PA Program. He starts at Southgate Family Medicine in West Seneca in July.

Please join the Deacons in Prayer for Kyle, Hannah, and Emily as they complete their studies and begin new chapters in their lives.

Sewing With a Purpose

Sewing with A Purpose worked on flannel hearts and eye protections for the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) of Golisano Strong Hospital in Rochester. These tiny 1 - 2 pound babies receive specialized care to survive. The Sewing With A Purpose Team made an incredible number of flannel hearts during the months of March and April. More than 200 flannel hearts were cut, sewn, hand stitched and ironed. The hearts are distributed to the NICU in bundles of 50 at a time. Each Mom/baby



receives 2 flannel hearts. The Mom places the heart on her chest where the Mother's scent is transferred to the flannel heart. Then the heart is placed in the incubator where the baby lies on the flannel heart and bonds with

the Mother's scent. The Dad's use these hearts, too, to bond with their tiny babies. The 200 hearts created by the team will be enough to supply Golisano NICU for the rest of 2024! Way to go SWP Team!!!!

The SWP team also created more than 70 flannel eye protections for the NICU. These are used to protect the baby's delicate eyes when they are placed under a blue light. Thank you Team!



Foodlink Serves Our Neighbors

The April Foodlink distribution was MUCH warmer than the March day. We thank the approximately 40 volunteers who assisted in unloading and distributing the food. The food was provided to 172 families, representing 166 kids, 244 adults and 145 senior citizens.

Our May distribution is coming on May 16. We hope you will consider volunteering. Volunteers should arrive at 2:45 pm to begin unloading the truck at 3:00 pm. Distribution begins by 4:00 pm. Volunteers are asked to park in the Methodist Church lot across the street.

Thanks to all!



Adult and Teen Challenge Lead Worship Service

Testimonies, singing and a Biblical message were all part of the Rochester Adult & Teen Challenge leadership of our service on April 21. The mission was the Mission of the Month for April. After the service, the men joined us for a Fellowship Luncheon. Thanks to the Fellowship Committee who provided the food.

Rochester Adult & Teen Challenge exists for individuals to experience freedom by making disciples and helping them to Know Christ, Grow in Christ, Serve Christ, and Share what Christ has done for them. The testimonies recounted changed lives through a saving knowledge of Jesus that provided freedom from addiction to drugs and alcohol.

The organization provided a list of material items they could use in their residential program in Rochester. Needed are:

- Toilet paper
- Multi-purpose cleaner
- Dish Soap
- Gift cards
- Paper towels
- Trash bags (13 & 55 gallons)
- Lysol spray disinfectant
- Napkins
- Dryer sheets
- Laundry detergent & bleach
- Office & classroom supplies
- Over the counter medicine such as Tylenol, Ibuprofen cold & flu etc.

We are arranging a trip to visit the facility in Rochester. When that is scheduled, we will collect items to take with us. More information on the visit will follow.

May's Mission of the Month - Uli in Mexico

Jose Ulianov Fernandez Arias is his full name, but we call him Uli. He has been a missionary to residents of Mexico City for decades, with financial support from our congregation through all those years. As our missionary of the month for May, he will speak to us via technology during our worship service on May 12.

We will hear more of his street ministry and the new initiative he and his congregation have for persons struggling with addictions. We can also receive an update about the construction of a building for Sunday services. He also has many who regularly tune in to his sermons online, so the message of good news in Jesus spreads around the world.

\$595 Collected for Mission in Southeast Asia

Our Lenten offering raised \$595 to support David in Southeast Asia. He is grateful for the financial support that helps sustain him and his family overseas.

Care Net Sends Thanks for Gifts

We received a thank-you note from Care Net of Greater Orleans, a pregnancy resource center providing support to women and men in the region. We sent \$2,000 as a tithe from the organ renovation fund. The Care Net organization was suggested by Parsons, the company that refurbished the organ. The center in Albion is the nearest Care Net facility to Bergen.

"Your \$2,000 gift is an absolutely wonderful, welcome "boon" to our bank balance. THANK YOU! It will to a long way in provision of services to our clients! Watch for some special client testimonies in our next quarterly letter! Blessings and love in Jesus."

Services provided by Care Net of Orleans:

- Pregnancy Testing
- Pregnancy Options Education
- Individual Parenting Classes
- Building Healthy Relationships
- Limited OB Ultrasound Services
- STI Testing, Education & Rx for gonorrhea and chlamydia

College Scholarships Available

The Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church Scholarship Committee is now accepting applications for this year's Memorial College Scholarship awards. Details about the application process, including who is eligible, can be found on the Application Guide, which is available upon request from the church office or by contacting Seth McNear (beccaseth@hotmail.com). Please note: A change was made to the application guidelines starting in 2022; the number of times a recipient can receive an award has been increased from 2 to 4, with additional considerations being made for those attending graduate school

Calendar **Online calendar:** tinyurl.com/29zhbnbr

Weekly/Monthly

- First Sunday of the month - Communion
- First Sunday of the month – Salvation Army Food Collection
- Sundays, 9:15 am - Sunday School for All Ages
- Sundays, 10:30-11:45 am – Morning Worship
- Sunday following worship (unless there is a committee luncheon) is "Fattening the Flock" coffee & snack time.
- Mondays, 1 pm - Tech Class
- Tuesdays (May 7 - June 18), 2:00 pm - Ladies Bible Study
- Tue & Thurs - Homeschooling Co-op
- Wednesdays, 6:00 pm – Prayer
- 1st & 3rd Wednesdays @ 5 pm - Preaching Class
- Thursdays, 6:00-7:00 am – Son Risers
- Thursdays, 6:30 pm - Cub Scouts (last day for season is May 9th)
- Saturdays, 2 pm – Kid's Quest (meeting at the local park if weather permits)
- Newsletter Deadline on the 25th of each month
- Last Saturday of the month – Door of Hope Coffee House @ 6 pm (May 25 this month)

Other Events in May

- May 2 - Baby Shower Gifts Packing "Party" @ 9:30 am at the Bergen United Methodist Church

- May 3 - VBS meeting (snack planning) @ 10 am @ Bergen United Methodist Church
- May 4 - Young Life Basket Auction from 10-7 pm
- May 5 - VBS planning meeting @ 11:45 am @ Bergen United Methodist Church. All who are interested are invited to attend
- May 5 - Last in our Concert Series - Eastman School of Music organist students @ 6 pm. Hope you have enjoyed this series!
- May 8 - Session meeting @ 7 pm
- May 11 - Cub Scout Pork Dinner from 3 - 6:30 pm
- May 12 - Mother's Day
- May 12 - Uli in Mexico will join us via technology during worship service
- May 16 - Foodlink Event @ 4 pm
- May 26 - Worship Committee meeting @ 12:15 pm
- May 27 - Memorial Day - no office hours
- May 28 - Deacon meeting @ 7 pm

- 24 - Elaine McAdam
 - 26 - Chris Wright
 - 28 - Noah Hammack
 - 29 - Shirley Cudney
- JUNE ANNIVERSARIES**
- 6 - Kevin & Chris Hollenbeck
 - 8 - Fred & Euni Ely
 - 14 - Seth & Becca McNear
 - 25 - Tracy & Loretta Miller

Anniversaries & Birthdays

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 13 - Justin Newmark
- 13 - Susan Miller
- 15 - Richard Saville
- 21 - Barb Fasoldt
- 22 - Paula Welch
- 23 - Ann Johnson
- 24 - Helen Hill
- 25 - Ward Bailey
- 30 - Joyce Coxeter
- 30 - Charlie McAdam
- 30 - Mark White



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 - Joe & Jocelyn Rebisz (24 years)
- 23 - Erik & Renee Berggren (42 years)
- 25 - John & Janet Wise (50 years)
- 27 - Bruce & Sandy Partridge (46 years)
- 29 - David & Sonya Catalino (30 years)

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Michelle Buckland-Seward
- 9 - Garrett McNear
- 12 - Kinsley Baker
- 14 - Erik Berggren
- 15 - Jodi Engle

Puzzle!

Fill in the horizontal rows using the clues. Then, using the number codes, complete the squares below to read three Beatitudes from Luke 6:20-21, NIV.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19				
20	21	22	23	24	25		
26	27	28	29				
30	31	32	33	34			
35	36	37	38	39	40		
41	42	43	44	45	46		
47	48	49	50	51			
52	53	54	55	56			
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
65	66	67	68	69	70	71	
72	73	74	75	76	77	78	

Grassy area behind a house
 Blooms that have petals
 Spring precipitation
 Puffy and white in the sky
 Soil
 Lawn
 Must be weeded and tended
 Tiptoe through these
 Baby sheep
 We need food and this
 God made this from nothing
 A sign of God's promise
 These, in April, bring May flowers

	1	10	13	15	25	39	38		2	7	13		5	22	23		12	73	11
17	31	39		45	22	63	7		9	70	56		5	22	23	58	46		
	27	15		61	73	13		4	18	19	30	26	22	49		22	9		
30	63	26		1	47	55	72	78	39	26		60	77	59		5	74	23	
	12	73	70		73	23	40	35	13	56		64	70	75		9	11	65	
5	63	23		75	18	10	47		1	76		72	48	61	27	34	9	44	13
26		1	43	55	72	78	76	24		2	7	13		5	22	23		75	73
22		12	59	39	45		64	63	52		9	22	58		5	70	42		
52	44	10	47		10	2	23	35	73										

Answers: backyard, flowers, rain, clouds, dirt, grass, garden, tulips, lambs, water, creation, rainbow, showers. "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh."



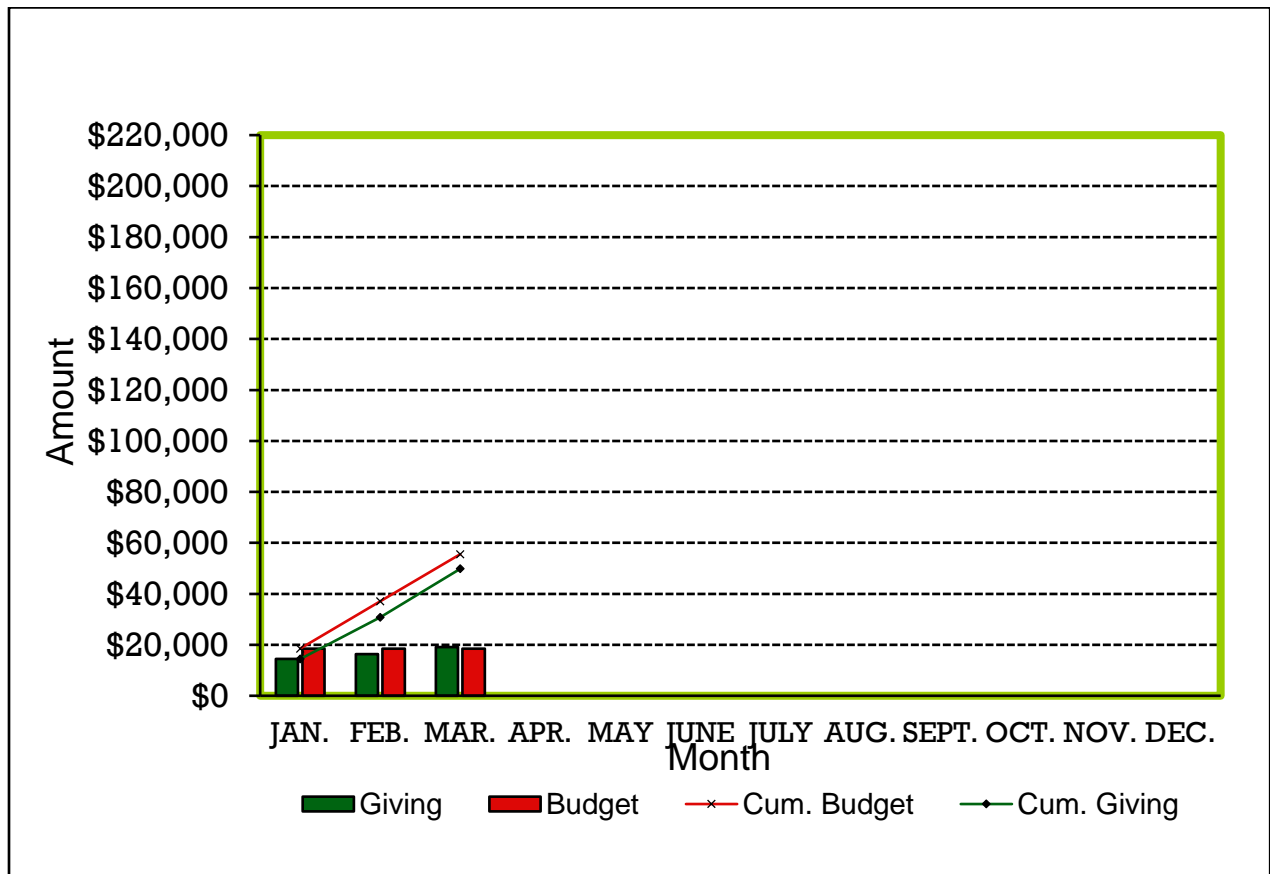
Church Finances

March 2024

"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need."

Malachi 3:10

March's giving was \$19,036 for the monthly financial support of the annual budget. Based on the approved 2024 annual budget, the monthly support needed is \$18,521 per month. This is about \$515 more than budget estimate. Expenses were as is expected for a typical March, but March is the end of the quarter, which means quarterly obligations had to be met. This led to \$4,500 being transferred from the AIF to pay these quarterly obligations.



MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – MARCH 2024

OPERATING FUND

Income

Sunday offering:	\$15,489.00
Net Online Offering:	\$615.80
<i>*note – online offering reflects \$15.16 fee taken from gross donations from the vendor before deposit</i>	
Amortized one time gifts:	\$2,931.00

<i>Total New Receipts</i>	\$19,035.80
<i>Opening Balance (from previous month)</i>	\$260.14
Total Funds Available (opening balance + new receipts)	\$19,295.94

Expenses

Gross Expenditures for the month	\$20,795.97
Line Item Paybacks received this month that reduce expenses	
• None	\$0.00

Net Expenditures for the Month	\$20,795.97
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Accumulated Income Fund Transfer Needed to cover Expenditures	\$2,931.00
Extra Monthly Amortized Gift Overdrawn from the AIF	\$1,569.00
Monthly Amortized Gift Left in Accumulated Income Fund	\$0.00

OPERATING FUND BALANCE **\$68.97**

DESIGNATED FUND

Opening Balance (from previous month)	\$10,852.67
New Designated Receipts	\$2,003.00
Total Designated Expenditures	\$1,041.01

DESIGNATED FUND BALANCE **\$11,814.66**

TOTAL CHECKBOOK BALANCE (Operating Fund + Designated Fund) **\$11,883.63**

OTHER FUND ACTIVITY

Accumulated Income Fund

• March withdraw	\$4,500.00
Current Balance (3/31/2024)	\$ 35,471.00

