

# East Balsam Beacon

July, August, September  
2020

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Thanks to Cheryl Volgren &  
Jenni Cox for the pictures

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## PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Church family and friends,

In one way, it seems as though it was just a few days ago that I stepped into the pulpit for the first time as your Interim Pastor. In other ways, it's hard for me to remember it's only been about eight months as Connie and I immediately felt at home with you and so much has happened since. When we began this journey together, I had certain expectations of the future, as I'm sure you all did as well. I knew the search process for the new permanent pastor was already well started. I reviewed the preparation work that was accomplished with the assistance of the Converge Great Lakes office and really thought the six-month interim period we agreed on would be more than sufficient. Then Covid-19 hit! God, of course, was not surprised and I can see in retrospect how He was preparing us for ministry during the crisis even though we had no idea of what was to come. One of the things I most appreciate about this time is that although there were strong differences of opinions among both church members and leaders regarding how to deal with some of the issues that arose, people worked through those differences with respect for one another and in a spirit of mutual submission to God and each other. I also greatly appreciate the prayerful process Church Chairman Larry Michaelson and other leaders facilitated as you went forward in the pastoral search process. With more than one very good candidate, it would have been easy for the process to breakdown into a partisan struggle for personal preference, but that did not happen. The entire search committee continued to be prayerfully mindful that in the end, the new pastor needed to be God's choice, not a personal choice.

As I end my time with you, I am thrilled that God allowed me to be your under-shepherd during this critical time. From discussions regarding paying off the building mortgage early to dealing with Covid-19 closure and reopening, I have seen God's hand of guidance and protection. My time with you really is an ending of a chapter in your history, and I am excited to watch how the next chapter unfolds as Jonathon Enger joins EBBC as the pastor.

Finally, I can think of no better words to share with you than these penned by the Apostle Paul to the church at Philippi. "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing the Gospel from the first day until now. I am confident that the One who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1. 3-6).

Kenneth Mandley

## COMING UP

### **August 2<sup>nd</sup>—Mortgage Burning & Pastor Ken's last Sunday at EBBC**

We are planning to have a MORTGAGE BURNING CEREMONY following the morning worship service on Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. A meal will be provided following the ceremony. Plan to come and help us celebrate!

When we moved into our new church building on October 6, 2002, we owed \$350,000. In 18 years the principle plus interest has been paid in full. PRAISE THE LORD!

August 2<sup>nd</sup> will also be Pastor Ken's last Sunday at EBBC. We are thankful for his sermons, Bible studies, and other insights as he has ministered to us for the past eight months.

### **Operation Christmas Child—**

School supplies are out in the stores again. Keep an eye out for good deals for filling shoe boxes in November. There are tubs in the library under the church mailboxes for these donations.

## CHURCH HAPPENINGS

### **New Pastor Coming to EBBC—**

June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> was the weekend that Pastoral candidate Jonathon Enger, his wife Anika, and three children, Levi age 7, Josiah age 4, and Lucia-15 months came to East Balsam. On Saturday afternoon there was a Meet & Greet time. Pastor Jonathon spoke Sunday morning followed by almost two hours of Questions & Answers. Members of church returned at 4:00 p.m. to vote on whether or not to call Jonathon as our pastor. The vote was 37 yes and 3 no. Jonathon called with his answer on Monday, saying they will come to EBBC. His first Sunday will be August 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **Changes in Way of Doing Ministry—**

Sunday morning worship was Livestreamed only from March 21<sup>st</sup> until May 17<sup>th</sup>. Since the May date, people are meeting in the church building but Livestreaming is available for those who choose to continue to stay home.

The Good Friday service was Livestreamed. Communion was celebrated by each family providing their own bread and juice to remember Jesus' death on the cross. People were invited to gather in the parking lot on Easter Sunday, weather permitting. In spite of new fallen snow, some families came out for the service. The Annual Business meeting was held via Zoom.

Pastor Ken has been conducting a Bible study on Tuesday evenings via Zoom. The Youth have been meeting using modern technology. Vacation Bible School was conducted over YouTube.

The offering plates have not been passed Sunday mornings. A plate is on a table by the front door, or people can mail a check to the church or give online.

The church now has enough subscribers to have a simpler URL for our YouTube channel. The link to our channel is [youtube.com/c/EastBalsamBaptist](https://youtube.com/c/EastBalsamBaptist).

### **Helping Hands—**

The Helping Hands Committee is looking for a couple of VOLUNTEERS to come up with a menu or meal options we could use to put in single-serving and family-size containers and freeze to be kept on hand to be distributed to

people in need. If you can help or if you have questions, please contact John Larson at 715-529-0042 or [jajolarson@gmail.com](mailto:jajolarson@gmail.com).

### **Our Sympathy—**

- to Darrel Alen and family on the death of Grace Alen from a heart attack on Good Friday. There was a private family burial service the following week with plans to have a memorial service at a later date.
- to the family of Juanita Holin who passed away July 9<sup>th</sup>. She was the sister of David Michaelson and related to the Alens and Kathy Thull. She was a member of EBBC for 72 years. Several years ago she moved to the Twin City area to be near her children.

### **Valley Sweets—**

in St. Croix Falls, is owned by Mike and Shannon Donaghue. They gave free meals to people in need on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday each week. EBBC gave a donation to help support the outreach to the community.

### **Baby Bottles—**

Baby bottles were available for people to take home and fill with money to help support the programs of OPTIONS FOR WOMEN TRI-COUNTY AT OSCEOLA. The organization helps women who are considering abortion. Last year EBBC raised about \$1,700. This year's total is not available at this time.

### **Mom's Group—**

Some of the younger ladies at church stepped up to help the Nate and Jen Jorgenson family when Jen found out near the end of her pregnancy that she had Hodgkin's Lymphoma. A healthy baby, Tucker, was delivered by C-section on February 29<sup>th</sup>. The ladies made sure meals were delivered and help given to their young family by gifts of money, gas/gift cards, diapers, etc.

### **Mother's Day—**

For years the ladies in the congregation have received a flower for Mother's Day. This year, a plant was delivered to the ladies by Cheryl and Bea Volgren, Sarah Bowers, Krista Moe, Deena Hall, Jenni Cox, and Sarah Jorgenson. Balsam Lake Hardware donated the flowers. Cheryl Volgren and Kathy Thull organized the plan. Thank you, Ladies.

### **Father's Day—**

On Father's Day, the men received a bag with a Hershey candy bar and a flashlight.

### **2020 Graduates—**

Nine High School Seniors who attend East Balsam Baptist Church, or are closely associated with EBBC, graduated from High School this spring.

They are Maggie Conlan, Aaron Jorgenson, Lauren Kelly, Ty Larson, Greta Lund, Ricky Lund, Isabelle Quimby, Hali Richter, and Joshua Swanson. The quilting ladies have been working for several months to complete quilts for each graduate.





Maggie Conlan, daughter of Roxanne Osborn & Joe Conlan



Aaron Jorgenson's quilt displayed by sister, Alayna, and Dad, Allen.



Lauren Kelly, on right, with mother, Lisa, and sister, Jacquelyn



Ty Larson with parents, Jackie & John





Greta Lund

Greta & Ricky are twins, children of Rich & Lynda Lund

The Lund family recently moved to northern Minnesota.



Ricky Lund



Isabel Quimby with her parents, Sandy & Tom. The Quimby family started attending EBBC shortly before the quarantine.





Haili Richter with parents, David & LaVonne



Joshua Swanson between Mom & Dad (David & Marcy).



The quilting ladies also presented Interim Pastor Ken Mandley and his wife, Connie, with a quilt.

## **Vacation Bible School—**

This year, Vacation Bible School was much different from normal without a doubt! Answers in Genesis released a special covid-19 home edition of their IncrediWorld VBS. They recorded videos for their material, so very little to nothing needed to be prepared for the week of VBS! What a blessing!!!

Packets and t-shirts were prepared, with the help of several others from church, for the registered students by the weekend before VBS. On June 22, 2020, about 40 kids were enjoying learning of God's Creation at home with their families. (Others decided to wait till a later date, and it's still available to watch till the end of the year in the playlists on the East Balsam Baptist YouTube channel.)

On Friday the 26th, East Balsam hosted a Midway event for the kids to come together and enjoy for a couple hours. There were several games for the kids to play to win tickets to spend on concessions and get their names in a drawing for prizes at the end of the day. Several families attended, and they all enjoyed the fun and time together!! This will likely be continued next year for more to enjoy!!

Thank you again to all who helped with preparation for the week, those that helped with Friday, and those that prayed!!

Submitted by Deena Hall, VBS director

## **Saints Alive—**

On May 31<sup>st</sup> Pastor Ken was going to preach on Hebrews 10:24-25 “NO PLAN B” but God led him to change his topic that Sunday. Instead, he used the “NO PLAN B” sermon on June 28<sup>th</sup>. The short version of the sermon is that we shouldn't ask “What I can get from my church?” but should ask “What can we give to my church?” That was right before we had a planning meeting for Saints Alive. I've been asking for someone to volunteer to take over leadership of Saints Alive. Pastor Ken, was God using you to keep David and me working with Saints Alive?

At our meeting, Lynda Hall suggested we meet quarterly and have volunteers to plan what to do and carry out those plans to take some of the stress off David and me. Lynda Hall and Heidi Johnson have volunteered for September. Other plans to be made will be for December (Christmas), February (Valentine's), and April. Let us know which month you would like to volunteer for. The amount of money in the church budget has been raised for the coming year which will make it easier to plan programs for December and February events. For volunteering and/or comments/questions, you can contact us at 715-405-4055 or [dgm@lakeland.ws](mailto:dgm@lakeland.ws) David & Joan Michaelson

## **Change of Address—**

Rich and Lynda Lund have moved. Their new summer and winter addresses are:

Summer—210-5<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Roseau, MN 56751

Winter—20135 Torch Key Way, Estero, FL 33928

## **Congratulations—**

- Anna O'Brien and Levi Otterson who were married May 30<sup>th</sup>.
- to Grant Richter and Christa Wolgemuth on their engagement.



## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Jenni and Jeromy Cox first became acquainted when Jenni was in third grade and was best friends with Jeromy's sister. Jeromy, being about three years older, looked at Jenni as just another "bratty little kid" (his words, not mine). But the Lord knew even back then what wonderful things were in store for these two and the amazing journey they would take.

As a child, Jenni attended summer Bible camps, had religious instruction and an awareness of God. Yet, as she began dating in high school, she was torn between the desire to live life the way she wanted to and a strong desire for knowing that God loved her personally. She began to pray, asking God for guidance in seeking Him. She questioned whether she should continue in a relationship she had with an unbelieving boyfriend. Jenni began to notice that when she prayed, God answered in miraculous ways over the course of the next four years.

A young man Jenni had never met before pulled her aside one evening at a street dance and presented to her the gospel message of saving faith in Jesus Christ. He told her he felt compelled to share Jesus with her that night--this in answer to Jenni's prayer that if God wanted her to seek Him, He would have to let her know what to do.

Another time Jenni questioned God about how she could know the Bible was true. Soon after, she stepped on a tract lying on the sidewalk of her apartment. The tract was entitled, "How do you know you can trust the Bible?"



As Jenni entered college she came to a crossroads, realizing she had to move forward with her faith in Christ or leave it behind. Through the college experience she was invited to begin attending church and joined Campus Crusade for Christ. A book she read entitled, "Falling in Love with Jesus" impacted her to break up with her unbelieving boyfriend and realize she "didn't need a man."

Jeromy was raised by parents from the South in the good old Southern Baptist tradition of being in church every time the doors were open. He attended Sunday school, Awana, and church services and was keenly aware of his need of Jesus Christ as Savior. It was during a summer camp experience at Woodlake Bible Camp that the

speaker for the week impressed upon him that Jesus needed to be the Lord of his life. It was then that Jeromy realized he not only needed Jesus as Savior, but he needed to turn his life over to the Lordship of Christ.

Jeromy entered the Army after graduating from high school and served a three-year enlistment. It was while he was in boot camp, away from all things home and familiar, far away from the safety net of family and friends, that he grew to depend on God. He discovered, as Jeromy put it, "I was His."

Returning from his stint in the service, Jeromy went back to school. He found he was still somewhat alone so he contacted his younger sister and asked for contact information for Jenni. The friendship between the two of them deepened. Jeromy encouraged Jenni to continue to "keep praying and He (God) will reveal Himself to you." Their friendship became a little bit interesting when Jenni announced to Jeromy that she "didn't need" a man. Yet, in God's wisdom, He drew them together. They were married in 2006.



Jenni and Jeromy have four children. Jenni is employed full time as a teacher of special needs children in the Unity Middle School. She has been active in ministering to children at East Balsam Baptist Church in the recent past, taking a bit of a break following the death of her mother and as she has adjusted to returning to the work place. Jeromy is the tall dark-haired man who plays guitar as part of the worship team. Jeromy serves on the Unity School Board and is employed as a guard at the Polk County Jail in Balsam Lake.

Jenni's life verse is Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding; In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. Truly the Lord has directed Jenni as she has acknowledged Him and sought His guidance.

While in service, Jeromy held onto Philippians 4:6-7- Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God: and the peace of God which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

The life verses Jenni and Jeromy have chosen certainly summarize the amazing journey they have had in life thus far. To God be the glory!  
Submitted by Lynda Hall

## **MISSIONS**

### **Bruce & Candice Beatham—Wycliffe Bible Translators in Mexico**

On June 23<sup>rd</sup> Bruce and Candice reported a 7.4 earthquake that hit about 150 miles from where they live; they were swaying for about a minute but no damage where they live. People living closer to the epicenter did suffer a lot of damage.

There were very few people getting COVID-19 at that time and people were working from home as much as possible.

They have been updating some of their literacy books, mostly making changes in how they mark the tones of the language. Their roles as supervisors are greater since people in the organization are either displaced or more isolated; they have to figure out how to keep everyone working.

They report that their children are doing well.

### **John & Lori De Cleene—Mobilization Associates, Converge**

I don't have an up-to-date report from John DeCleene. He will be a guest speaker on July 19<sup>th</sup> as Pastor Mandley had other plans for the weekend.

### **Steve & Carol Jean Gallagher—Wycliffe Bible Translators**

Praise the Lord that they ministry budget reached 100% so they were able to start working on Wycliffe Bible Translators projects. Steve has been working on a consultation for the Saisai language group in Papua New Guinea. That one was done remotely. In the future he hopes to do in-person consultations a few times a year.

Carol Jean has been in training for her job as an administrative assistant for Wycliffe's recruitment team. This team works to make initial contacts with people who may be interested in joining the ministry of Bible translation.

Steve and Carol Jean went to New Jersey in early March to be with Steve's mother, Elsa, while she had radiation treatments for lung cancer. After three weeks of treatment, she ended up in the emergency room. Tests revealed the cancer had spread to her brain and is inoperable. She has now been home on hospice for several weeks. Steve's sister, Lois, is also at Elsa's home to help care for her. Steve and Carol Jean continue to do their Wycliffe work from New Jersey.

### **Katherine Taylor**—Teacher with CAMA, Laos

Katherine is taking a leave of absence from CAMA to get guardianship for her mother, Emily Taylor. Her mother is in a memory care facility called Brookdale in Eden Prairie.

Ways to pray for Katherine include—

- She misses not seeing her mother other than by window visits.
- She needs to find a job.
- For encouragement as she sounds discouraged.

### **Gil & Norene Zinke**—Training Leaders International (TLI)

**Trips Cancelled:** Two trips, one in May and one in June/July, were canceled because of COVID-19. Gil asks for prayer that the October trip won't be cancelled.

**Ethiopia:** Christians in Ethiopia are suffering. One pastor has two of his own children who should be at the university confined at home. He also has children of rural relatives residing in his home, so he has seven mouths to feed in his household. The pandemic has highly affected the economy so he has "no ministry and no income.". His wife works a part time job.

Churches and hotels are being burned, there are riots with many people being killed, and the Internet has been locked down nationwide.

**Professor S:** Gil has had the opportunity to meet with a Japanese man who is a physics professor studying in the U.S. for one year. He is in a Bible study group and had questions about the Bible. Gil, who grew up in Japan as the son of missionaries, is able to answer his questions in Japanese. Professor S is devouring God's Word by reading many chapters every day.

#### **Prayer Requests:**

- Pray for Ethiopian Christians—that they will be safe and be strong in their faith.
- That Professor S will continue to grow in his faith and become a bold witness for Christ.

#### **Financial Support:**

If you would like to send support for pastors who have been affected by COVID-19, or churches that have been burned, please contact me. Joan Michaelson



East Balsam Baptist Church  
1816 – 108th Street  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

Sunday Worship – 9:00 A.M.

Worship service Livestreamed at 9:00 A.M. on YouTube

The link is: <http://www.youtube.com/c/EastBalsamBaptist>

Wednesday – 6:30 P.M. – Youth meet at church

Saturday, 7:00 A.M. – Men’s Bible Study

Other meetings and activities announced in the bulletin & on web site.

The bulletin is sent out via e-mail.

Send Prayer Chain requests to [east.balsam.baptist.church@gmail.com](mailto:east.balsam.baptist.church@gmail.com)

or contact Val Rowe at 715-268-7424 or

Joan Michaelson at 715-405-4055