

East Balsam Beacon

Oct., Nov., Dec.
2020

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Thanks to
Joshua Cramlet,
Velda Alen,
Dale Michaelson,
Cheryl Volgren
for the pictures

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**East Balsam Baptist
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Pastor's Corner



Anika, Lucia, Jonathon
Levi, Josiah

The church has been without a full-time pastor since June of 2019. We are happy to welcome Jonathon Enger and his family to EBBC. He began as the church's full-time pastor on August 16th. For the past six years he has been an Associate Pastor in Sturgeon Bay, WI.

Jonathon grew up in Rochester, MN. His family attended Methodist and Lutheran churches. In high school he became less interested in spiritual matters. He did not understand the gospel, and he began struggling with feelings of guilt and joylessness, and he believed that God did not love him. As a result, he began to seek happiness and fulfillment apart from God. When it became time to choose a college, he was interested in attending UW Stout at Menomonie to study computer science. He had two older cousins whom he looked up to. One of them attended Bethel University and his influence led Jonathon to Bethel. While attending Bethel, he noticed that the most joyful students were born again Christians, and that renewed his interest in pursuing a relationship with Jesus. He began attending Bethlehem Baptist Church, reading the Bible, attending Bible studies with fellow classmates, attending Bethel chapel services, and taking more interest in theology classes. As a sophomore, Jonathon trusted Christ as his Savior and was baptized at Autumn Ridge Church in Rochester, MN.

Growing up, Jonathon enjoyed fishing, playing his trumpet in band, tinkering with electronics, and playing video games. After meeting his future wife at Bethel, who happened to be a “country girl” from the Northwoods of Wisconsin, Jonathon started to become more interested in rural life. Since moving to Wisconsin in 2014, he has enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening, and woodworking.

Anika grew up in Manitowoc, WI and later Birchwood, WI. Anika’s parents were Catholic but became born again Christians while Anika was a young child. Anika accepted Christ as her savior at a young age. After moving to Birchwood, her family began attending an Evangelical Free Church in Rice Lake, WI. As a youth, Anika enjoyed playing sports, fishing, playing trombone in the school band, and spending time with her friends at their family farms. In high school, Anika developed a passion for traveling and an interest in missions, and she had an opportunity to go on a short-term mission trip to Japan to serve with missionaries with the Evangelical Free Church. Anika was drawn to attend college at Bethel because of their quality music program.

Jonathon and Anika have three children: Levi (7), Josiah (4), and Lucia (1). Everyone loves to spend time outdoors, and the children especially love hiking and going on walks with mom. Levi and Josiah also enjoy building Lego with dad, reading books, playing games, doing puzzles, swimming, and making art. Lucia loves to run, climb, play with the family dog (Penny), and play with toy dolls and animals.

Jonathon and Anika met at Bethel while playing in the Bethel Wind Symphony together. Jonathon played trumpet and Anika played trombone. They were married in 2007 and graduated from Bethel in 2008. Because of “The Great Recession” they had a difficult time finding jobs after college. Anika discovered an opportunity for both of them to teach English to elementary students in South Korea. While teaching in Korea from October 2008 to October 2009, they attended an English worship service that was part of a large Presbyterian church. Jonathon was asked to read scripture, preach, and lead Bible studies. Through these experiences, he became more interested in pursuing full-time ministry, and the church members in Korea, including the pastor, encouraged Jonathon to attend seminary and become a pastor. After much prayer and counsel from trusted friends and family members, Jonathon decided to enroll at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Jonathon began his M.Div. program in January 2010 and graduated in December 2012.

Jonathon was called to serve as the Associate Pastor for Education and Youth at First Baptist Church in Sturgeon Bay, WI, where he served from April 2014 to July 2020. He always had a desire to preach and serve as a senior pastor, and in the summer of 2019, he began sensing a pull in that direction. After consulting with mentors and other pastor friends, Jonathon decided to seek a new role as a senior pastor. The position at EBBC appealed to Jonathon because it was a rural Wisconsin church that was part of Converge Great Lakes, and it was also much closer to both Jonathon’s family and Anika’s family. After much prayer, Jonathon decided to apply for the

position. After a longer than expected search process due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Pastor Jonathon was called to be the new pastor at EBBC on June 14, and his ministry began on August 16. On Sunday, September 20, Gary Harrison from Converge joined us for an installation service for Pastor Jonathon.

Submitted by Pastor Jonathon & Joan Michaelson

Installation Service

Anika, Lucia, Josiah, Levi, Jonathon, and Larry Michaelson, Church Chairman





Pastor Jonathon and Gary Harrison of Converge Great Lakes



Deacons joined Gary Harrison & Engers for prayer.

Brian Matson

Roger Peterson

Adam Majeske

Larry Michaelson

COMING UP

Halloween Lock-In

A Halloween Lock-In is being planned for the Youth at church on Saturday, October 31st. Sarah has asked for volunteers to Chaperone for all/any of the night, and help to clean/organize the church Sunday morning at 7:00am. Included in her list are game supplies, black lights and/or glow in the dark item, Nerf guns, and a list of food for Saturday evening and Sunday breakfast. Sarah can be reached at 651-324-3108 or sbowers@eastbalsam.org.

Operation Christmas Child

Saturday, November 14th, has been set as the day to pack boxes for Operation Christmas Child (OCC). More donations are welcome. Some of the things needed are more “wow” gifts, fishing kits, bead kits, sewing kits, soap and washcloths. Check out the table that has been set up in the fellowship area for more ideas. If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Volgren, 715-268-2129 or scvolgren@amerytel.net.

The goal for this year is 300 boxes. In addition to the boxes, there is a \$9 shipping fee to get the boxes sent to other countries. You can make a donation to church and indicate it is for OCC.

The September 23rd issue of the **Inter-County Leader** had an article *Changing lives, one shoebox gift at a time.*

Yves Duchime was 11 years of age in 2005. He and his Rwandan family were living as refugees in Togo, West Africa. He was full of anger because most of his family had been murdered in the 1994 Rwandan civil war. He couldn't understand how his aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents, plus 1 million others, could be brutally murdered by neighbors, acquaintances and even people who had been friends, without someone stepping in to help. His Dad was a Bible believing pastor, but the Christian community outside Rwanda hadn't attempted to stop the violence.

In 2005 Yves received his shoebox gift. Many children might not be too excited about the items in the box. School supplies. Toothbrush. Soap. But there was a Matchbox car, too, and a woolen scarf. He approached other children, trying to trade the scarf for something more fun or useful. (The temperature in Togo rarely drops below 80 degrees.)

There was a handwritten note that reached Yves' heart and changed his life. It said, "God loves you. Jesus loves you. I love you."

Fast forward to October 2008. The family had applied to the United Nations for refugee resettlement. The family was relocated to Buffalo, New York. He recalls getting off the plane in late October and, for the first time ever, feeling coolness on his skin. Actually, it was downright cold for someone who had never experienced air conditioning or a refrigerator, let alone autumn and winter. At that moment he pulled his woolen scarf from his bag and draped it around his neck. God knew, and put it into the heart of the child packing his gift, that Yves would one day need warm things to wear.

This is the shortened version. Contact me if you would like to read the entire article. Joan Michaelson, 715-405-4055 or dgm@lakeland.ws.

Thank You!

Thank you for all your donations to date for the amazing boxes we will be sending around the World! The recipients of the boxes want to know who they are coming from. The amazing kids around the world do NOT care if your make-up is just right, or if you are wearing an old sweater, or if the three year old has Oreo cookies on his cheek, they want to see who is praying for them, who picked out the items and "shopped" the table to stuff their box full of possibly life-changing goodies! We want to make sure anyone and everyone who wants to participate can. Please reach out to Cheryl and get your picture taken as soon as possible. We also have bio sheets for each person to fill out, just to let the recipient know a little more about you. We are a month away from packing! Please continue to pray for anyone and everyone who touches these boxes.



Submitted by Bea Volgren

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Burning the Mortgage

Following the worship service on August 2nd, the mortgage was burned on our present building. A lot of money was given prior to starting and during the building project, but the remaining \$375,000 plus interest, has been paid in approximately 18 years. We are grateful to God and the faithful giving of people that allowed this to happen.

The decision was made to have the ceremony outside. It was a windy day so getting the fire started took some patience, but the task was accomplished. Darrel Alen and Larry Michaelson are the men in charge of getting the papers to burn.



Youth

On Sunday, September 6th, Sarah Bowers reported that there were 55 people at the Bowers' home on Saturday, September 5th. She didn't know how many were youth; the number included parents and youth workers.

The Youth have a special shirt that includes the wording **Ignite** and **Ask me about my story.**

Sarah, Travis, and the other youth workers were asked to come forward. The Deacons also came to the platform and prayed for the Youth and the leaders.



Larry Michaelson, Lisa Lundquist (on worship team), Christa Wolgemuth, Grant Richter, Travis & Sarah Bowers, Doug Schmidt, Roger Peterson, Krista Moe, Pastor Enger, Adam Majeske, Brian Matson

Saints Alive

The 50 and older age group met at Murray and Heidi Johnson's home on September 5th. The weather was perfect to meet outside to enjoy games, fellowship, a fire, and good food. As the activities came to a close, some of the group shared testimonies, and we sang some choruses and songs. Thanks to Heidi Johnson and Lynda Hall who made the plans and carried them out.

Lisa Lundquist and Theresa Nelson volunteered to plan something for Christmas. If you would like to volunteer for 2021, please contact either David or Joan Michaelson, 715-405-4055 or dgm@lakeland.ws. We would like to meet once each quarter. Who will volunteer for the first quarter of 2021 – January, February, March?

Worship Night

On Sunday, October 11th, a Worship Night was held at church. The worship was led by Sarah Bowers' friend, Legend Rutledge.

Small Group Meeting

The Small Group Meeting at Don and Lisa Lundquist home resumed on October 7th. They are continuing on the DVD series "Slaying the Giants in Your Life" by David Jeremiah. Call Lisa at 651-347-7068 if you have questions.

Playground Equipment

The playground equipment blew away in the July, 2019, storm. This summer it has been replaced. These playground sets remind me of the story in the Bible about the house that was built on the sand versus the one that was built on the rock (Matthew 7:24-27). The old playground equipment sat on the surface and just had short stakes into the sand to hold it down. The new play set has posts set a few feet into the ground that are cemented in so it cannot easily be pulled up and blown away.

Dale Michaelson drew up the plans and got a discount at Menards for materials. Thanks to Dale and all the people who worked over the course of several weekends to turn the plans into a beautiful new set that children will enjoy for many years to come.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

I was raised in a Christian Home, the youngest of three children.

I attended Sunday school and church on Sunday morning and Sunday evening.

I went to Wednesday night services.

East Balsam Baptist was my church home.

I heard the plan of salvation over and over in my youth.

At the age of 10, I wondered if I was really saved.

I remember going out into a field on a summer's day. As I sat in the field alone, I prayed to ask Jesus to be my Savior.

After I prayed, I was able to say, "Now I really know I am going to heaven."

About a year later, I was baptized in Balsam Lake.

WHO AM I?

This is the testimony of Velda Alen. In some ways, it is similar to the testimony of so many other believers who also grew up in churches, raised by believing parents, and hearing the gospel message of Jesus Christ's blood being shed on their behalf as payment for the price their sins deserved but that they could never pay for themselves.

As Velda grew into her teen years, she began attending youth group and belonged to the Girls Missionary Guild or GMG for short. A quilt she worked on as part of that organization is on display in the church library.

After graduating from high school, at the age of 18, Velda moved to St. Paul. She became active in the ministry of Central Baptist Church, working with the middle school age youth on Wednesday nights--a ministry she had for 25 years. Velda often would travel home to Balsam Lake on the weekends and attended East Balsam Baptist Church where she was also active in children's ministry.

Upon retiring from Minnesota Life Insurance after 40 years of service, Velda moved back to Balsam Lake and returned to the congregation of EBBC. She has been a teacher of Good News Clubs, Sunday School, and Children's Church. Velda has now passed the baton of children's ministry to the next generation and is enjoying being able to sit under the Sunday morning preaching ministry of the Pastor.

Please take several minutes to visit with Velda if you never have before. She has wonderful stories to tell of her many travels all over the world. She has visited all 50 states. She has visited Costa Rica and Guatemala in the Western Hemisphere. She has travelled to Europe three times--an especially meaningful trip included visiting the farm in Sweden where her grandfather was born before her great grandparents immigrated to the United States. Another particularly memorable experience she shares is having travelled to the Holy Land where she participated in commemorating the death of Jesus Christ through partaking of the Lord's Supper as it was served in the Garden of Gethsemane!

Velda is a tremendous inspiration and example of a life lived serving the Lord through local church ministry that God may be glorified and others may come to know Him even as a little child--just as she did!

Submitted by Lynda Hall

MISSIONS

Bruce & Candice Beatham—Wycliffe Bible Translators in Mexico

Bruce, Candice, and two Mexican men are working to finish the book of John so it can be published. Candice asked for prayer against Satan's attacks for all of them – Valentin and family (Zoraida, Valecito, Adriel), Ernesto, Bruce, Candice, and their family (Jeremiah and Abbie, Nathaniel, Benjamin and Abby).

There has been delay after delay as they are trying to publish their first book in Mixtec! Candice wrote, "We know that Satan doesn't want God's Word to go forth – a message of love and salvation – to the Mixtec people! We feel that our enemy is trying to discourage and keep us from the joy that God promises to those who love Him!"

John & Lori De Cleene—Mobilization Associates, Converge

This report was received from John on 10/13.

Corvid has certainly added stress to Converge appointees building their teams to serve overseas. As they trust in His Word they also lean on their calling. It-is-taking them longer. They are approaching more people and churches and receiving smaller/fewer financial partnerships, but they are plugging away - knowing there are lost around the world waiting to hear the Good News. While there is more stress in the process, there is also stress when moving/living/serving overseas. Converge appointees, as well as appointees in the other sending organizations are appreciating the opportunity to speak to more and more people about what God is doing across our world.

This changes what we do as we spend much more time helping appointees work through these issues. Praise the Lord for godly, diligent servant-led appointees that want to honor God in all they do. We're thankful to minister with Converge that also has Member Care for missionaries. They are a blessing and a source of godly strength to both global workers as well as appointees.

We're praying for East Balsam Baptist as you grow with Pastor Enger and his family. We're praying the enthusiasm and opportunities will continue to reach out into the city, county, state and around the world with your prayers and ministry that is biblical, diverse and continually expanding for God's glory.

Lori and I are praising the Lord that our youngest will be married Oct 17! This will be the first time our entire family has been together since John/Simone's wedding three years ago. Unfortunately, none of the De Cleene clan can come from Green Bay for the wedding due to health concerns. Thank the Lord they have been very supportive and will watch on-line.

May God continue to bless East Balsam Baptist with wisdom, health and strength for God's glory!

Serving together with you...John and Lori De Cleene

Steve & Carol Jean Gallagher—Wycliffe Bible Translators

An email dated October 7th asks the question, “What’s Wycliffe’s Mobilization team that Carol Jean works on?” Her answer is, “Carol Jean is enjoying her new role as administrative assistant for Mobilization. Mobilization is the part of the recruitment team which makes initial contacts to **Inspire, Inform, Educate, and Invite** people to join the ministry of Bible translation. One way they do that is by providing interesting and informative webinars (online seminars) called **Explore Wycliffe Live!** Covid-19 hasn’t hindered these webinars, but has only led the team to increase the webinars from twice a month to about twice a week!

Later she asked, “What else does the Mobilization team do?” and said we could find out in future updates.

Steve was able to complete his work for the consultant check of Colossians, 2 Thessalonians, and 1 Timothy for the Saisai language.

They are also glad to be back in Florida. Recently their granddaughter, Eowyn, stayed overnight with Carol Jean and Steve. She thought her sleepover should be two nights instead of one OR they could be every week! Their grandson, ten-month old Wilder, is slowly getting used to them. He has spent most of his life in quarantine only knowing Mom, Dad, and sister.

Gil & Norene Zinke—Training Leaders International (TLI)

Update from Gil on October 9th. TLI has shut down all overseas trips shorter than 90 days. His short-term training trips are shut down until June 2021. He is working on a training team that offers preaching workshops to churches/church leaders with ministries to ethnic groups in the U.S. He chose Chicagoland.

Requests for Gil:

1. That Gil will quickly get up to speed with the new information and procedures he needs to master.
2. That God will guide him to fruitful contacts as He builds His kingdom among ethnic ministries in the U.S.
3. That God will reopen travel both domestic and international.

Requests for Ethiopia:

1. Pray for peace in Ethiopia. Since a political activist/singer was murdered on 6/29, agitators have brazenly challenged the government. More than 200 people have been killed and more than 1,000 buildings burned including at least 44 hotels and many homes.
2. Pray for COVID-19 to be arrested. It has spread rapidly through the city of Hawassa. Pastor Tesfaye and most of the Ethiopian Mentors for their training sites live in Hawassa.
3. Pray travel restrictions within Ethiopia would be lifted before next June.
4. Pray that God will continue to meet the physical needs of our brothers and sisters in Ethiopia, for food, medicine, and safety.
5. Pray God will continue to build His church in Ethiopia and their witness to their neighbors will be enhanced, not suppressed, by the pandemic.

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

Sunday Worship – 9:00 A.M.

9:30 A.M. – Children's Church

Tuesday – 9:30 A.M. – Women's Devotions & Prayer Time

Wednesday – 5:45 P.M. – Youth Group

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

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

www.eastbalsam.org

To get to livestreaming,
our youtube address is **youtube.com/eastbalsambaptist**

OR

on the church website,
scroll down to SERVICES, move your cursor right and click on YouTube

Send Prayer Chain requests to **east.balsam.baptist.church@gmail.com**,

or contact Val Rowe at 715-268-7424 or

Joan Michaelson at 715-405-4055