

Appointment of a New Associate Pastor *From Pastor Jim*



It is my privilege to inform you that Seth Beyersdorf has been selected by the Elders to be the Associate Pastor of Oakridge Community Church. Seth will officially begin his duties in that role on September 15.

I am pleased to have Seth come on board as a staff member for many reasons. One is because I believe he will work hard for the glory of God and the good of this church body.

A second is because it is a joy to raise up people from within our own body for vocational ministry to the body. Seth is no stranger. We know him, and he has already ministered to us in a variety of ways such as teaching, preaching and through personal conversation. To me, this is a far better way to bring on a church staff member than by bringing in a relative stranger after seeing him in action once or twice over a weekend or two!

Of course, taking on someone we have known for several years has its challenges—no matter who that person may be. In such a situation we are already aware of a person's faults, weaknesses, and perceived or real failures. We've already had our first impressions, for better or for worse.

Such a situation will reveal much—mostly about a church body. It will show whether the focus is on the past or the present and future. It will show whether we are concentrating on man or on the God who is perfecting His people until the day of Christ. It will show whether or not we are willing to treat others as we want to be treated.

In the present context, I say all this with the assumption that we are talking about a person who loves and walks with the Lord, yet is still a human being subject to weakness and having faults. In such a case, whether it be an associate pastor or any other believer, it is far more important to me that the person be teachable and eager to learn and grow than that the person has never made mistakes! In Seth's case, I have seen mistakes—some of which I have brought to his attention—but I have also seen teachability, and my guess is that you have seen signs of it, as well.

That observation leads to another reason I am pleased to have Seth come on board, which is that it will give even more opportunity for me to mentor him. I have been in a mentoring relationship with Seth for the past 2-3 years, during which we have tried to meet for a couple of hours every week or two. This was done with the realization that God has called Seth to vocational ministry and out of a desire to help prepare Seth for that goal. With Seth on staff at Oakridge, we will now be able to continue that mentoring more regularly and more intensely than ever.

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APPOINTMENT OF A NEW ASSOCIATE PASTOR

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This brings up another subject that is appropriate for me to address. The question has been raised as to the need or importance of a pastor having a seminary degree, which Seth does not possess. He has taken and is now taking seminary-level classes, and in the process has clearly shown the ability to study at that level. It is possible that he will someday have enough credits to get a degree. However, in my estimation, a degree in hand does not mean much compared to a love for God, a character meeting the criteria of 1 Timothy 3:1-7, a fervent desire to be ever-learning and growing in the things of God, and a heart to minister to people.

I say that as one who does have a seminary degree; in fact, as one who graduated at the top of my seminary class. I speak as one who knows about this. It is my observation that Seth has already accumulated more Biblical knowledge and practical ministry experience than the majority of classmates with whom I graduated had at the time of our graduation, and more than the majority of seminary graduates I have known since then had at the time they received their degrees.

For some time now, Seth has been taking seminary-level Greek courses, and he is already using what he has learned more than many who have been in ministry for a long time. Further, he is eagerly looking forward to tackling the Hebrew language when that opportunity opens.

With regard to teaching and preaching, I trust you have already seen the significant growth that has taken place in Seth's ministry over the last couple of years. That growth is evidence of his teachability and desire to continually improve for the glory of God and the good of God's people. At the same time, I should add that while I expect to give Seth opportunities to continue growing in this area, he is not the preaching pastor of OCC. I am, and that is not a responsibility I plan to turn over to anyone else until it is time for me to step down (or up, if the Lord calls me home)!

Seth's responsibilities as Associate Pastor will be focused more on other aspects of ministry than preaching. He will have plenty of opportunity to teach and preach in venues such as the Auditorium Sunday

School class and the senior home services. However, he will also be involved in pastoral care, ministry development and administrative matters.

At this point, a specific and detailed job description for Seth has not been laid out. There are several reasons for this. One is that Seth's appointment is very recent. Another is that we desire some areas of ministry the Associate Pastor has overseen in the past be taken on by other committed church members and are working toward that end. A third is that we want the job description to be shaped in part by the strengths and interests of the person who is in that role. So a job description "written in pencil" will be developed soon.

One point I can make clear from the start of Seth's staff ministry here at Oakridge is that Seth is not being brought on as the designated successor to the Lead Pastor when God in His wisdom and timing sees fit to take me out of that role. I fully believe that there could come a day when Seth would become a Lead Pastor somewhere, carrying the primary responsibility for preaching and teaching. However, we do not assume that it will be at Oakridge, nor do we assume it will not be at Oakridge. The future in this regard is unknown to us and unplanned by us, so we are glad to rest in the fact that our God knows the future and will carry out His will in His way for His glory and our joy.

Finally for now, let me clarify the present Elders situation at Oakridge. While Jonathan Leslie has resigned as Associate Pastor, he is still an Elder. We Elders have determined that we will be inviting and expecting Seth to attend our Elders meetings, however not as an Elder at this time but rather as one who by attending can become more familiar with the leadership vision, goals and approach while also sharing his perspective on matters. Any future appointment to Eldership, in keeping with our constitution, would be through nomination by the Elders and ratification by the covenant church body.

May our gracious and merciful Lord see fit to bless Oakridge richly through Seth's ministry among us and to bless Seth through our ministry to him and Jaime and their daughters.

SEPTEMBER BIBLE READING

	<u>Proverbs</u>	<u>Isaiah</u>	<u>Luke</u>	<u>Hebrews</u>
1	18	1-2	20:27-40	1:1-9
2	19:1-14	3-5	20:41-47	1:10-14
3	19:15-29	6-8	21:1-19	2:1-9
4	20:1-15	9-10	21:20-28	2:10-18
5	20:16-30	11-13	21:29-38	3
6	21:1-16	14-16	22:1-13	4:1-11
7	21:17-31	17-20	22:14-23	4:12-16
8	22:1-16	21-23	22:24-30	5
9	22:17-29	24-26	22:31-38	6:1-12
10	23:1-18	27-28	22:39-46	6:13-20
11	23:19-35	29-30	22:47-53	7:1-10
12	24:1-22	31-33	22:54-62	7:11-28
13	24:23-34	34-36	22:63-71	8:1-6
14	25:1-14	37-39	23:1-12	8:7-13
15	25:15-28	40-41	23:13-25	9:1-10
16	26:1-16	42-43	23:26-31	9:11-28
17	26:17-28	44-45	23:32-37	10:1-18
18	27:1-14	46-48	23:38-43	10:19-39
19	27:15-27	49-50	23:44-49	11:1-16
20	28:1-14	51-53	23:50-56	11:17-31
21	28:15-28	54-55	24:1-12	11:32-40
22	29:1-14	56-58	24:13-27	12:1-13
23	29:15-27	59-61	24:28-35	12:14-29
24	30	62-64	24:36-44	13:1-8
25	31	65-66	24:45-53	13:9-25

The Discipleship Journal *Bible Reading Plan*

This plan offers special features that will aid you in your journey through the Bible.

By reading from four separate places in the Scriptures every day, you should be able to better grasp the unity of the Scriptures, as well as enjoy the variety of different viewpoints.

Each month of this plan gives you 25 readings, so there can be days when you catch up on the readings you may have missed in the past week.

If you finish the month's reading by the twenty-fifth, you could use the final days of the month to study the passages that challenged you or intrigued you.

As the year progresses, ask God each day to speak directly to you from the Scripture portions you read. Be expectant and let your continued exposure to God's Word reshape your attitudes and behavior as you gain a better understanding of His written testimony to us.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



September 7—Mike Jacobe

September 9—Jill Odens

September 11—Mitchell Misener

September 19—Carolyn Parker

September 20—Jennie Horejsi

September 25—Anders Dunckel

September 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.</i></p> <p>Romans 15:13</p>						
4 9:30 a.m. - Prayer Time 10:20 a.m. - Worship 2:00 p.m. - Good Samaritan Sunday Service	5 LABOR DAY Church Office Closed	6	7 9:00 a.m. - Prayer Time 6:30 p.m. - Connecting in Prayer	8 6:30 p.m. - Butler Care Group 7:00 p.m. - Larson Care Group 7:00 p.m. - Visual Arts Committee	9	10
11 8:30 a.m. - Prayer Time 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School 10:20 a.m. - Worship 11:45 a.m. - Church Meeting 2:00 p.m. - Good Samaritan Sunday Service 4:30 p.m. - DeCaro Care Group	12 6:30 p.m. - Elders & Deacons Meeting	13 10:30 a.m. - Project Life Ministry 7:00 p.m. - Worship Team Practice	14 9:00 a.m. - Prayer Time 6:30 p.m. - Connecting in Prayer 7:30 p.m. - Ladies' Bible Study	15 6:30 p.m. - Butler Care Group 7:00 p.m. - Larson Care Group	16	17
18 8:30 a.m. - Prayer Time 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School 10:20 a.m. - Worship	19 2:00 p.m. - Elders Meeting	20	21 9:00 a.m. - Prayer Time 6:30 p.m. - Connecting in Prayer 7:30 p.m. - Ladies' Bible Study	22 6:30 p.m. - Butler Care Group 7:00 p.m. - Larson Care Group	23	24 9:30 a.m. - Worship Team Practice 6:00 p.m. - Men's Steakout
25 8:30 a.m. - Prayer Time 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School 10:20 a.m. - Worship 4:30 p.m. - DeCaro Care Group	26	27	28 9:00 a.m. - Prayer Time 6:30 p.m. - Connecting in Prayer 7:30 p.m. - Ladies' Bible Study	29 10:30 a.m. - Project Life Ministry 6:30 p.m. - Butler Care Group 7:00 p.m. - Larson Care Group	30	

SEPTEMBER SONG OF THE MONTH

Sufficient Is the Word of God

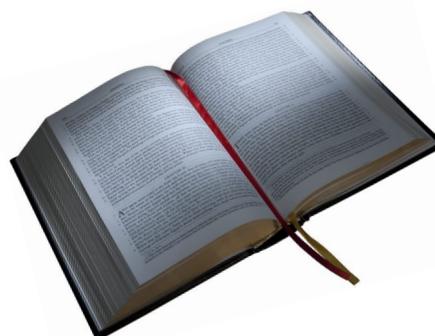
Sufficient is the Word of God
That we may know His will,
And trust each day His providence
By faith content and still.
The secret things belong to God;
Our lives are His to lead.
But He has given us His Word
And that is all we need.

How vain the questions in my heart
To know what lies ahead,
When I neglect to read His Word
And know not what He said.
I need not look beyond His Word
To know His will for me;
If I but walk within its light
My path I'll plainly see.

Our God has purposed and designed
Each moment of each day,
And though we rise and make our plans
'Tis He directs our way.
Thus we should say when we arise:
"Lord-willing I shall stand."
For we, except His Word reveals,
Know not what He has planned.

For who can search the mind of God,
Know what tomorrow brings?
And who can grasp His providence
To understand all things?
Our future rests within God's hands
And we must leave it there;
Content to walk each day by faith
Within His loving care.

Tomorrow need not cause us fear,
For God knows what will be.
Sufficient that we know His Word
To walk obediently.
Where He has spoken, Let us hear,
Upon His Word we stand.
Where He is silent, Let us rest,
And trust His kind, good hand.



OCC Vision

*The vision of Oakridge Community Church
is to spread a joyful passion for the absolute,
eternal supremacy of Jesus Christ
in all things, to all peoples.*

OCC Mission

*The mission of Oakridge Community Church
is to glorify God by delighting in, declaring
and displaying the gospel of Jesus Christ.*



Oakridge
Community Church

610 County Road 5
Stillwater, MN 55082
www.oakridgecommunity.org
Email: churchoffice@oakridgecommunity.org