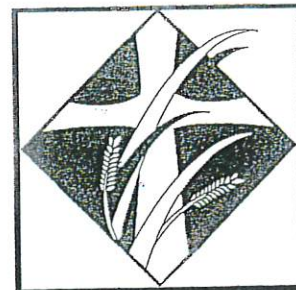




October, 2025

The Prairie Press



Volume 18, No. 2

Sundae Sunday Marks Start Of New School Year

by Martha Johnson

Several years ago, during a discussion of what special treat would be a good thing for our congregation, someone came up with the idea that it would be fun to serve ice cream sundaes.

As a result of how well that initial trial went, Sundae Sunday was born!

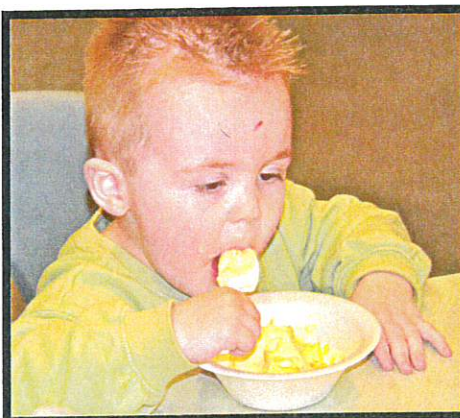
We have served sundaes at various times or events since that beginning, but most recently, it has been offered to welcome back everyone to Sunday School, after having the summer off.

(And remember, Sunday School isn't only for the kids!)

On this year's first Sunday School day (which sometimes has been called "Kickoff Sunday" at Rock Prairie Church), our sweet celebration was held on Sept. 7.

After Worship, no one had to be reminded to get in line in the Fellowship Hall, especially the kids.

We had several different kinds of ice cream, with the strawberry swirl being the most popular. Caramel and chocolate toppings were



available, along with nuts, M&Ms, wafers, sprinkles, cherries, and whipped cream!

As you can see by the pictures, everybody LOVED it.

Rock Prairie is known for its creative, fun, welcoming events, so think about inviting a friend or two to attend the next time one of

our wonderful activities is scheduled.

Be paying attention—Rock Prairie Presbyterian Church, the fun friendly Church on the Prairie, is sure to schedule another activity soon!

(More photos on page 10)

RPPC Bazaar Needs Your Contributions

It doesn't seem possible that our Rock Prairie Presbyterian Church Bazaar is only a month away!

Hopefully, many of you have been busy sewing, crafting, organizing, planning, and searching for items and ideas so you'll be ready when November arrives.

This year's dates are Nov. 7-8.

In recent years, this event has enabled us to contribute around \$10,000 to many deserving organizations.

In addition to all the wonderful creations and merchandise we always have, we are also known for our delicious treats and foods. We have wonderful breakfast treats, and our lunch menu gets rave reviews every year.

Lunch includes soups, breads, and sandwiches, in addition to

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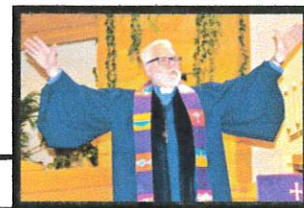
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Taking a time out from his sundae, Bob Fulton admires Adam's most recent bocce ball medal.



Sunday Worship—Opportunity For Glorifying, Praising God

“Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God.”

—Exodus 20:8-9

by Rev. Bruce

Worship in October begins with World Communion Sunday and ends with Reformation Sunday.

These two services may be secondary to Christmas and Easter, but they are important times for Christians around the world.

While weekly worship remains central to our Christian community and identity, periodically God brings special times to focus our attention on the Divine.

All Christian worship focuses on the triune God. It's a common event for all Christians to center our life on Christ and our gift of Eternal Salvation.

In Worship, we connect the Word of God with our everyday life. We meet in the divine presence that engages us to live by faith through a time set aside for us to look for Jesus in our life, praise

God's activity in our world, and connect with the Holy Spirit to guide us each day.

Following John Calvin's theology, we gather for Worship to honor and affirm the Sovereignty of God. Central to our Reformed tradition, God calls us to Worship to focus our lives on our Creator.

We come to nourish our faith so we may flourish in our service to others for God. God calls us to be generous stewards of what we have, what we do, and how we respond to God's call to work for the greater good.

Reformed Worship: Glorifies God in thought, word, and action. Scripture guides our worship with patterns for Christian living under the sovereignty of God.

We begin with praise—songs of joy acknowledging God's character revealed in and through Christ. We then, in humility, come to our corporate prayer of confession.

As a gathered community, we seek forgiveness for the ways we accommodate our human life that often does not reflect the Holiness of God.

Next, we seek the Holy Spirit to bring unity to our understanding of God's Word.

The sermon, hopefully, explains Scripture and how to apply it in our human experience. May our knowledge of God grow to encourage us to love by faith and to follow the Way of Christ to the glory of God.

We then respond to God's generosity with our gifts to support the work and ministry of Christ in our community.

When we gather for Worship, we gather as a community to encounter the presence of Christ. Jesus, the living Word of God, revealed

to us in the witness of Scripture. We remember in Communion, celebrated both on the first and last Sundays of October, Christ's sacrificial death for our sins.

Presbyterians order our Service for the Lord's Day—gathering, proclaiming, and responding to God's Word.

We proclaim that Jesus—the Living Word of God—is at the center of our faith, life, and worship. May the Holy Spirit fill you with joy and praise as we worship the Lord who loves us.

As I mentioned on Sunday, Sept. 14, I may plan Worship, but God, at times, makes connections that make my spine tingle.

When the words of a hymn or prayer connect in fresh and new ways, I feel the movement of God's Spirit in our Worship. I hope you will feel the Spirit's movement and be drawn closer to the heart of God.

For your consideration: How would you express your focus of worship and share God's message with a friend?

Peace and grace,

Rev. Bruce

How To Contact Us

The Prairie Press is a publication of the congregation of the Rock Prairie Presbyterian Church.

8605 County Rd. A
Janesville WI 53546

(608) 752-1172

office@rockprairiechurch.org

Visit our web site at
rockprairiechurch.org

Scripture, Sermons For October

**Sunday, Oct. 5 (Proper 22)
17th Sunday
After Pentecost**

World Communion Sunday

Lamentations 1:1-6, 3:19-26;
*Psalm 137; **II Timothy 1:1-14;
Luke 17:5-10; Habakkuk 1:1-4;
Psalm 37:1-10.

“Reliable Roots Relay”

(Continued on page 5)

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

Sunday, Aug. 31, 2025. What an awesome day!

There are so many neat people at RPPC who helped us celebrate my 90th birthday and our 64th anniversary.

Bob and Lindi delivered the cake to the church the night before and were there on Sunday morning helping with everything.

Numerous others stepped in to serve the cake and clean up.

Our daughter-in-law, Sara, came to play her violin during the service, accompanied by Sylvia, in a memorable rendition of Jay Ungar's ASHOKAN FAREWELL.

Many people stayed after the service to shower us with cards and say nice things.

It was a memorable day!

Thank you,

Marti and Will Everts



Will and Marti Everts

Letter Policy

The PRAIRIE PRESS welcomes letters from our members and friends.

We will print them all, as space permits.

Send or email or drop off your letter to the Church office,

attn: **The PRAIRIE PRESS**



Marti and Will Everts' daughter-in-law, Sara, provided a beautiful violin solo for the special music during Worship on Aug. 31.

Dear Editor:

I'm truly fortunate to witness every day how the giving spirit of groups like yours can change the world.

No matter how much circumstances change, one thing remains the same: people continue to show generosity and dedication to the families we serve.

Which is why I want to extend my sincere appreciation for your group's recent contribution of \$295 to Heifer. Your cooperation makes a permanent difference in so many lives!

I'm reminded of the quote of Mr. Fred Rogers: "All of us, at some time or other, need help. Whether we're giving or receiving help, each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world. That's one of the things that connects us as neighbors—in our own way, each one of us is a giver and a receiver."

And to magnify the joy of your gift, an additional group of generous donors has matched your



On sale in the Fellowship Hall—proceeds go to Salvation Army.

donation, doubling the impact of your gift.

Each day, we witness the need of families in the poorest corners of the world who are simply trying to figure out how to get by.

Hardworking parents wonder if they'll have enough food to feed their children at the end of the day and if they can afford school or medication or if their home can withstand natural disasters.

Thanks to your group of Heifer donors, moms are building businesses and earning steady income to feed their children, and dads are running their own family farms instead of having to find work far away. You are providing nutritious food, education, and hope for the next generation.

I hope you know how much we, and the families who are touched by your generosity, appreciate you all. Our work would not be possible without you by our side.

With appreciation,
Christy Moore
Senior Vice-President,
Heifer International

(The children who participated in the Vacation Bible School this summer decided to make a donation to this organization again this year.—Ed's note)

The requested item for the Food Pantry Cart for September is paper towel.

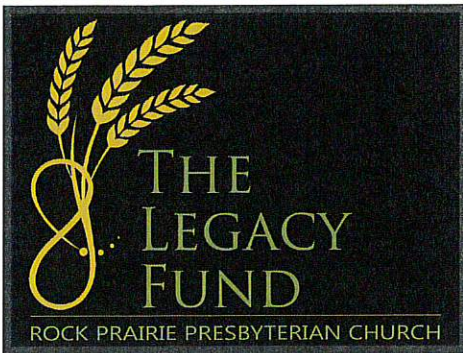
Let's fill up the cart and help our less fortunate and struggling neighbors as we thank God, by our sharing, for all of our own blessings.



October 2025

October 2025							November 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
5	6	7	1	2	3	4	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 28	29	30	Oct 1	2	3	4
9:15am Adult School 9:15am Book Study 9:15am Children School 10:30am World 10:30am Worship Fall	1:00pm Outreach & Communication Committee Meeting	9:30am Bible Study 10:00am Tuesday Crafters 4:00pm Personnel 6:30pm Christian Ed	PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH 10:45am Fireside Concert	6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	6:45am Men's Breakfast @ Park City Restaurant	5:00pm Progressive Dinner 9:00am Church Fall Work Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:15am Adult School 9:15am Book Study 9:15am Children School 10:30am World 10:30am Worship Fall	1:00pm Outreach & Communication Committee Meeting	9:30am Bible Study 10:00am Tuesday Crafters 4:00pm Personnel 6:30pm Christian Ed	1:00pm Deacon Meeting	6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	6:45am Men's Breakfast @ Park City Restaurant 10:30am Prairie Pals	9:00am Church Fall Work Day
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:15am Adult School 9:15am Book Study 9:15am Children School 10:30am World 10:30am Worship Fall	3:00pm Finance Committee Meeting	9:30am Bible Study 10:00am Tuesday Crafters 3:00pm Building & Grounds Committee		6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	6:45am Men's Breakfast @ Park City Restaurant 6:00pm Trunk or Treat Party	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:15am Adult School 9:15am Book Study 9:15am Children School 10:30am World 10:30am Worship Fall	6:30pm Session Meets	9:30am Bible Study 10:00am Tuesday Crafters 1:00pm Legacy Fund 6:30pm Session Meets		6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	6:45am Men's Breakfast @ Park City Restaurant	
26	27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1
9:15am Adult School 9:15am Book Study 9:15am Children School 10:30am World 10:30am Worship Fall		9:30am Bible Study 10:00am Tuesday Crafters		6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	6:45am Men's Breakfast @ Park City Restaurant	



by Frank Liston

Are you 70 1/2 or older?

If so, you are eligible to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), which is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA to a charity, such as the Legacy Fund.

This distribution will be excluded from your year's taxable income and will count towards your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

As a result of this exclusion, you may also be able to avoid a higher income tax bracket or reduce the amount of tax due on your Social Security or reduce the amount of your exposure to the Medicare Surtax.

In addition, in 2025, if you are taking the standard deduction (\$15,000 for single filers, \$30,000 for married couples filing jointly,) you may not be allowed to itemize tax deductions, such as charitable gifts. Nevertheless, any QCD you initiate is still excluded from your taxable income.

In 2025, the maximum amount that can be distributed via a QCD is \$108,000 per individual. The deadline for the charity to receive the gift via mail is Dec. 31. So be sure to allow enough time for your IRA custodian to make the transfer before the deadline.

You can request that the custodian mail the check to you and you may then deliver it in person to the Legacy Fund. Just be sure the check from the custodian is made payable to the Legacy Fund and not to yourself. Otherwise it will

Rev. Bruce . . . (Continued from page 2)

(Continued on page 9)

Sunday, Oct. 12 (Proper 23) 18th Sunday After Pentecost

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7; Psalm 66:1-11;
**II Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19; II Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c; Psalm 111; *Esther 4:9-17.

"Emphasized Endurance Explained"

Sunday, Oct. 19 (Proper 24) 19th Sunday After Pentecost

**Randy Booth,
Guest Preacher**

"Why Be

A Generous Employer?"

Jeremiah 31:27-34; Psalm 119:97-104; II Timothy 3:14-5; Luke 18:1-8; Genesis 32:22-31; *Psalm 121; Matthew 20:1-16.

Sunday, Oct. 26 (Proper) 20th Sunday After Pentecost

Joel 2:23-32; Psalm 65; II Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; **Luke 18:9-14 or Jeremiah 14:7-10; 19-22; Psalm 84:1-6; *Daniel 1:9-15.

"Righteous, Redeemed, Reformed"

Pastor's Schedule

Rev. Bruce will observe the Sabbath on Oct. 3, 10, 24, and 31. He will also be on study leave Oct. 16-21.

Thanks For Giving To The Lord

As we seek to be faithful stew-

not qualify as a QCD and will be considered taxable income.

As usual, we always recommend checking with your financial advisor and/or tax consultant to see if a QCD is appropriate for your individual situation.

ards, we remember those who've offered their time, talents, and treasure in service to Christ and to our neighbors.

We give thanks to the Lord for those who . . .

- Staff our Welcome and Resource Center;
- Weeded the Memorial Garden;
- Retrieved the chairs for the choir loft and room;
- Provide rides and support for the Mutabazi family;
- Provided for our Rally and Sundae Sunday activities;
- Sing in the choir, bringing their gift of music to us;
- Supported the House of Mercy, our mission for July-September;
- Fold the bulletins each week;
- Prayed for our Nominating Committee as they seek church leaders;
- Brought canned fruit for the food pantries.
- Numbered choir folders.

We rejoice in the service of Christ who inspires our worship, ministries and mission. We celebrate gifts shared by Christian disciples.

We give thanks to all who serve Christ with acts of love and kindness.

Service of Remembrance

On Nov. 2—All Saints Day—at 10:30 am, we will remember our members, family members, and friends who have died in the past year.

We all experience grief differently and process our sorrow in our own way..

The greatest joy of a church is to be with families in times of transition, seeing God's hand and God's path in their lives.

(Continued on page 9)

Let's Fill That Basket With Cards And Notes!

by Pam Hatfield

"And I will give you shepherds after my own heart who will lead you with knowledge and understanding."—Jeremiah 3:15

As the beauty of fall settles in, we are reminded of the many blessings God has bestowed upon our Rock Prairie family—none more meaningful than the gift of spiritual leadership.

This month, we have the wonderful opportunity to honor and celebrate Rev. Bruce during "Pastor Appreciation Month," a time set aside to recognize his dedication and faithful service and to express our gratitude for guiding us with wisdom and prayer.

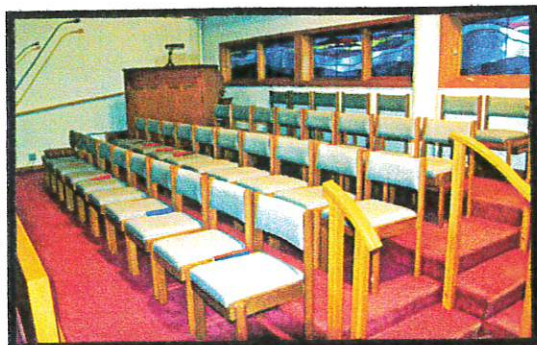
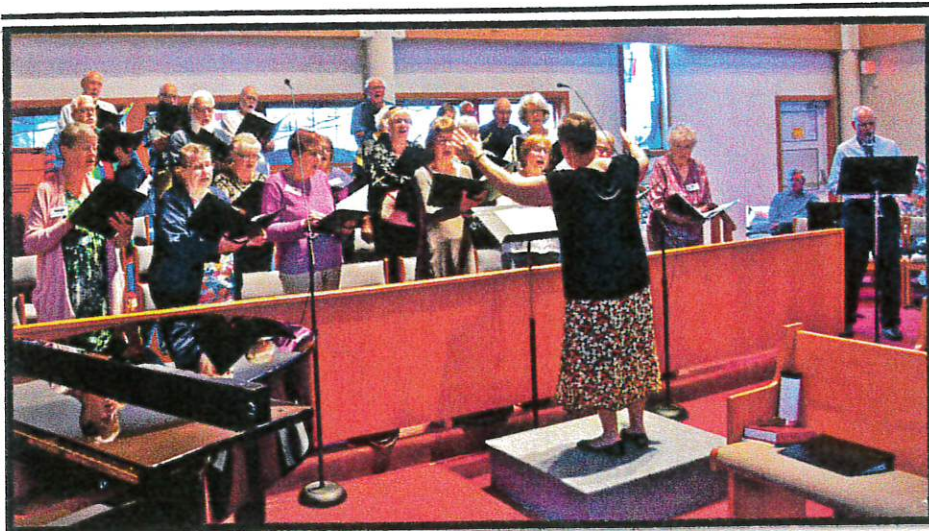
Notes and cards of appreciation

may be placed in the designated basket located on the cookie table in the Fellowship Hall during the month of October.

Following Worship on Oct. 12, you are invited to have cake and share a special time of celebration, reflection, and support with Rev. Bruce and Krista.

We are a stronger, more loving church because of the faithful leadership of Rev. Bruce and the compassionate support of Krista and because of the caring spirit of the congregation.

Let's make Pastor Appreciation month truly special and fill the "Little Church on the Prairie" to overflowing. Your participation matters, and together we can create a memorable month of affirmation and joy!



The RPPC Choir returned to perform beautiful anthems during Worship on Sept. 7. They enjoyed the "new" chairs (left) that were purchased for both the choir loft and their practice room. The decision on how and when the choir loft will be reconfigured is still in the discussion stage.

Halloween Party Set For Kids On Oct. 17

A Trick or Treat Party for kids from 3 years old through 6th grade will be held on Friday, Oct. 17, from 6 to 8 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

This event is sponsored by the Christian Education Committee, and they are asking any interested adults to decorate a door inside the church prior to the party.

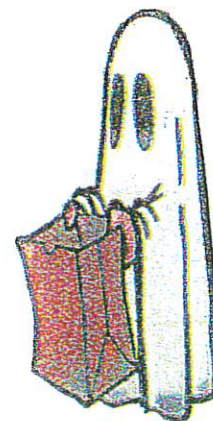
Then, on the night of the event, the door decorators, in costume, will hand out candy to the trick-or-treaters.

We have a sign up sheet for doors and the Halloween Party outside the Fellowship Hall, with a deadline for signing up Oct. 12.

Timing for the Oct. 17 event:

- Decorating doors any time during office hours the week of Oct. 13 or from 5 to 6:15 on Oct. 17.
- Kids arrive and Trick or Treating will start at approximately 6:30.
- Following Trick or Treating, a video, craft, and treat will be provided for the kids.

If you have a question, please contact Chris Zhe (zhe4@charter.net), Gail Wolfe (gwolfe48@yahoo.com), or any member of the Christian Ed Committee.



Sometimes, Kids Can Say The 'Darndest Things'

Teacher: How old is your father?

Kid: He is six years.

Teacher: What? How is that possible?

Kid: He only became a father when I was born.

(Logical. Children are quick and always speak their minds.)

Teacher: Maria, go to the map and find North America.

Maria: Here it is.

Teacher: Correct. Now. Class, who discovered North America?

Class: Maria

Teacher: Glenn, how do you spell "crocodile"?

Glenn: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L

Teacher: No, that's wrong

Glenn: Maybe it's wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.
(I love this child.)

Teacher: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

Donald: HIJKLMNO

Teacher: What are you talking about?

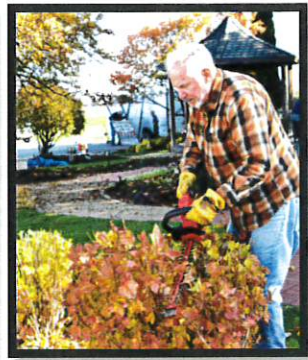
Donald: Yesterday, you said it was H to O.

Teacher: Clyde, your composition on "My Dog" is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?

Clyde: No sir; it's the same dog.
(I want to adopt this kid!)

Teacher: What do you call a person who keeps on speaking when people are no longer interested?

Harold: A teacher.



Save the date, get out your favorite tools and work clothes, bring your work gloves, and pray for nice weather for the morning of

Oct. 11, because it is our annual Fall Work Day,

and we need you to join us from 9 am to 1 pm (or any time that morning) to help put the Memorial Garden to bed for the winter and to accomplish other needed tasks—both outdoor and indoor.

Snacks and beverages will be provided, and Theresa Huber will be preparing a tasty luncheon.

Sometimes I forget how rich I am. My hot water works, my a/c and heat come on when I need them to. I can go to any grocery store and purchase what I want to eat. I have a clean kitchen to cook in. I have a working shower to bathe in. Sometimes, I forget I am beyond blessed.

—Author Unknown

Kristin Schultz, Jason VanMeter Join RPPC

by Chris Stried

New members Kristin Schultz and Jason VanMeter were married fifteen years ago on Sept. 10 at the Cornerstone Church of God in Beloit, WI.

Jason has three children: Joe, 25; Kaitlyn, 24; and Fiona, 17. Joe and Kaitlyn both live in Beloit, and Fiona lives in Michigan.

Their family has been growing, as they now have two grandchildren—Sophia, 11, and Charles eight months—with another grandchild on the way.

Kristin and Jason have been living in Janesville for four years, but have also lived in Kalamazoo, MI, and Beloit.

While Kristin was born in Germany, her father having been serving there in the Army, she grew up in Beloit. Jason was originally from Michigan.

Both Kristin and Jason work at LeMans Parts Unlimited in Janesville—Jason in the tire department and Kristin in the returns department.

Kristin has been working there for over three years, while Jason has been there for over a year. Kristin had been working in the packing department, but recently

she was transferred to returns due to the effect of the new tariffs. LeMans is a world-wide company, and because of the company's organization, all the returns are routed through Janesville.

Jason's job involves sorting and sending out tires to various recreational vehicle businesses, which is the type of vehicle LeMans primarily deals with.

Football is their favorite spectator sport, and they love to watch their nephew play. The also root for Michigan State and for the Detroit Lions. Kristin says, however, that Jason will watch almost any sport.

They are both readers, also, and they are fans of several authors: John McArthur, Smith Wigglesworth, and R.C. Spool. These writers are theologians, evangelists, and pastors.

Kristin and Jason have one pet, a rabbit named Bun Bun. They say they would maybe like to have a dog some day, but so far they have not lived in a place conducive to dog ownership.

Jason, in particular, is an animal lover and, among family members, he is known as "the animal whisperer" because he can calm the

most rowdy of animals. He says he would like to one day own an English Bulldog.

Both Kristin and Jason were looking for a Bible-focused church and found Rock Prairie on Google. They agree that Rock Prairie is very welcoming and friendly.

Kristin said, "I felt a part of the church immediately." Jason added, "It felt like home and made me feel like I belong to a church family."

Kristin and Jason say they would like to be involved here right away, possibly on the Fellowship Committee or the Outreach Committee.

Let's make sure we continue to make them feel welcome here as we get to know them better in the weeks to come.

RPPC October Birthdays

Oct. 1 Darrell Hart
Oct. 3 Hal VanTuyl
Oct. 9 Kay Ward
Oct. 11 Bob Paull
Oct. 30 Kathy Crandall



Jason VanMeter and Kristin Schultz



A water dog?

2025 Bazaar . . . (Continued from page 1)

in addition to yummy pies and cookies.

Someone just texted one of our committee members to be sure that our wonderful broccoli cheese soup will be on the menu again this year.

It will!

Another one of our regular customers comes every year to buy 20 dozen cookies, which he freezes—he says they last him almost the rest of the year!

As always, we will have a Recycled Shop, hand-crafted treas-

maker herself.)

Shirl still hosts the Tuesday Crafters at her home every week!



Many of the people in attendance each year comment that they eagerly await the Bazaar each year

to continue our excellent reputation of being one of the best holiday attractions around.

We need bakers, cooks, kitchen helpers, sewers, crafters, set up people, and, of course, we need cleanup help, too.

There are sign up sheets in the Fellowship Hall so you can volunteer whatever you can to our efforts.

We thank you in advance for your willingness to help. If you have any questions, contact Martha Johnson or Cathy Wagner.

Rev. Bruce . . .

(Continued from page 5)

We continue to lift you in prayer during this time.

The first year after a loved one dies, the season of Thanksgiving and Christmas can be emotionally challenging. Typically, we begin November celebrating All Saints Sunday with a Service of Remembrance.

If you would like to remember someone this year, please contact Sandi in the church office (608) 752-1172 by Oct. 26 so we can remember your loved one during this special service.



ures, and new this year will be a “previously tested” toys area for



the kids.

It would have been great to have been at the first bazaar, almost 30 years ago now. How many things were there to buy, and what kinds of things were available?

Shirl Scharine, the creator of this event, has been chairman every year until a few years ago. It would be impossible to guess how many hours she has logged in that roll (and as a skilled crafts

because it's the best around!

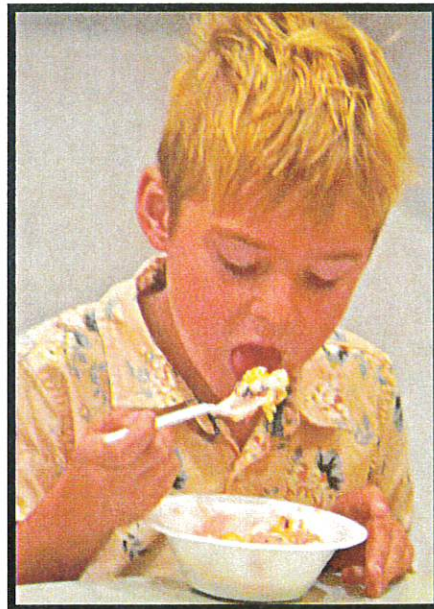
Thank you, Shirl, for your vision and dedication for all those years!

We are hoping that this will be the year that more of you will be willing and able to join our effort



The baptism of Wyatt Frank, infant son of Kelsey and Matthew Mawhinney, was conducted by Rev. Bruce, with the assistance of Elder Jeri Torpy, during Worship on Sept. 7.

Sundae Sunday . . . (Continued from page 1)



New Sunday School Classes Underway

Sunday School classes for both children and adults started up again at Rock Prairie Church on Sept. 7. There are classes for young children and older children, and we also now are offering two

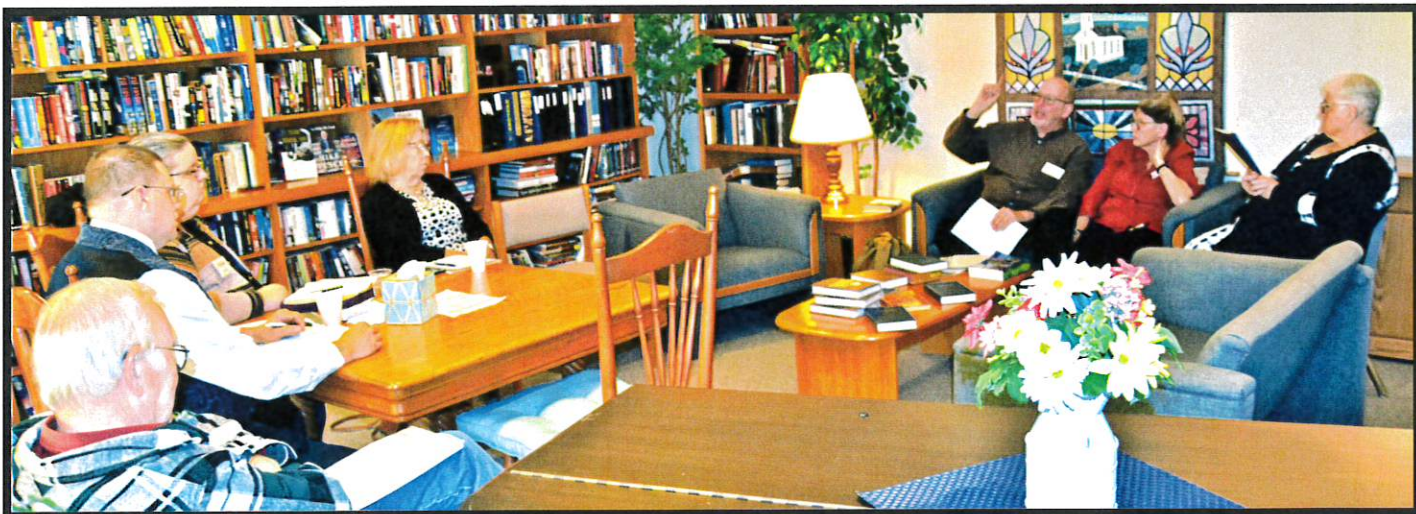
adult classes.

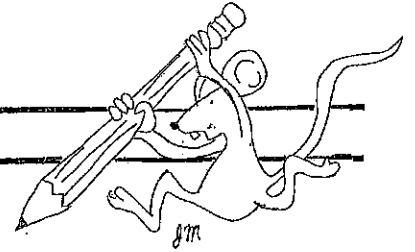
All of the classes would be happy to have additional students join them. If you are interested, just come a little before 9:15 on any Sunday to meet your teacher and

join that day's class.

The nursery is available for parents of young children and who would like to attend a class.

Call Sandi in the church office for more information.





The Church Mouse

Dear Friends,

Things To Do Today

Get up to greet the sunrise.

Smile.

Give someone a shoulder to lean on.

Give someone a pat on the back.

Say, "Thank you!"

Whistle when you are feeling down.

Tell someone how good he/she looks.

Ignore a rude remark.

Say, "Good morning!" even when it isn't.

Call on a friend.

Laugh when the joke is on you.

* * * * *

—The Church Mouse

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