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Church Membership

At the 2017 Converge Heartland meeting Zach Schlegel from 9 Marks ministries talked on the need for a stronger emphasis on church membership. Then not too long ago I came across an article on the Gospel Coalition website regarding church membership. And then more recently I heard some interesting questions regarding membership at Sun Prairie. At Sun Prairie we offer many entry points of church involvement, and we don't push people into membership; however we view membership as a great privilege and we long for those who share our mission, vision and core beliefs (found on our website) to be fully engaged in the ministry as members. There are compelling Biblical, Historical and Practical reasons for individuals to give serious consideration to becoming members.

In Phil. 1:1 Paul writes to elders and deacons to lead, feed and protect those among them. In Matthew 18: 15 and following Jesus talks about discipline telling individuals to take a matter and "tell it to the church." In Jesus' instructions there is an implied sense of connectedness of those who gather as "the church." And in 1 Cor. 5 Paul tells church leaders there to take an unrepentant one and "put him out of the church" suggesting that the person has had some official inclusion into the family of believers in Corinth. In Hebrews 13:17 pastors are told that they will give an account of those under their care.

We can see in these New Testament references that church membership was understood and applied to those who identified with groupings of early Christians. Church membership has been part of the early church since its inception. Then there are the practical benefits of church membership; such as being part of a community of accountability and love, of teaching and spiritual protection. Individual members have the opportunity to serve in a greater capacity and offer input into the teaching and direction of the church.

If you are not a member of Sun Prairie Church I would encourage you to come and visit with me to learn about the process of being officially welcomed as a member.

Pastor Mark

People You Should Know...

Ron, Julie and Georgianna (age 13) Kolbeck live 3 miles East of Sun Prairie on Julie's family farm where she grew up and where her mother grew up. Ron and Julie's other children are **Hannah** (age 26) and **Lyndon** (age 23). Hannah and her boyfriend, Tommy Lawson, currently reside in Pittsburgh PA, very near Mr. Roger's Neighborhood! Tommy is attending University of Pittsburgh attaining his PhD. in English: Critical and Cultural Studies. Hannah works with kids in their homes and is also taking graduate classes to attain her certification to be a BCBA – Board Certified Behavior Analyst. Lyndon and his girlfriend, Randi Johnson, live in Sioux Falls. Lyndon enjoys his job at Bed Bath and Beyond and Randi is in her second year teaching English in the Harrisburg school system. Georgie is in the 7th grade at Madison Central Middle School. She likes singing and the French Horn, and is active in 4H. She loves her dog Sherlock!



Ron and Julie met in High School in Salem and began dating in 1981. They married in 1984 and will celebrate 35 years of marriage this year! They attended USD, and have lived in Pierre, Vermillion, Aberdeen and now rural Salem. While living in Aberdeen, Julie worked for a Christian Counseling Center doing Biofeedback and Psychological testing. Ron has worked for the Governor's Office of Economic Development, and business consulting and banking. Ron currently is Credit Manager for **First National Bank** in Sioux Falls. Since the arrival of their first child, Julie has been a stay at home mom. On the farm, she raises dairy goats, and makes goat milk soaps and body care products. In addition to having fun with the hobby farm, Ron and Julie enjoy camping and vintage campers. Having animals and going camping do not go together very well! So you will find them camping in the yard for fun! Ron is an advocate and teacher of safe hunting and enjoys hunting activities.

The Kolbecks started attending Sun Prairie when the Evangelical Covenant Church closed over a decade ago. Julie reflects, "Sun Prairie has a rich heritage and many 'pillars of faith' that we've known since we were young, much like our Covenant church. The congregation is very welcoming and our kid's really enjoy(ed) the activities with Christian youth. It has been amazing to watch as the church has grown and changed. God's presence is felt and his blessings are real at Sun Prairie." I think everyone would agree, the Kolbecks are **People You Should Know!**

Converge Heartland Women's Retreat

At Lied Lodge in Nebraska City, NE
March 22-23

The Absurd Love of God: Learning to Live Loved

Speaker: **Gwen Adams**

Gwen has spent 23 years discipling women and leading Alaska's largest women's ministry. She is the founder of **Priceless Ministries**, a nonprofit that trains people to assist and mentor sex trafficking survivors.



For more details and to Register go to convergeheartland.org/retreat




Deadline to register is February 14, 2019

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 3 Carter Schwader | 24 Greyson Davis |
| 4 Abby Blagg | 24 Blake Pulse |
| 5 Gary Schallenkamp | 24 Kathy Weidler |
| 7 Joe Schwader | 24 Robert Wobig |
| 8 Holly Hansen | 25 Brekin Dennis |
| 9 Kyla Bork | 26 Amber Blagg |
| 10 Garry & Jill Holland | 26 Ethan Schallenkamp |
| 10 Maddie Palmquist | 27 Kathy Hofer |
| 11 Caleb Hansen | |
| 11 Hunter Matthaei | |
| 14 Chelsea Anderson | |
| 14 Evelyn Peterson | |
| 15 Loren Norberg | |
| 15 Avery Weber | |
| 19 Megan Palmquist | |
| 20 Julie Kolbeck | |
| 21 Luke Palmquist | |



February 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 7 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study at the Homestead 
Pastor Mark and Dee at Converge Unleash Conference in Orlando						
3 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship with Burke Perry speaking	4	5	6 6:15 Supper 6:45 Adventure Club 7:00 MS, HS and Adult Studies 8:00 pm Deacon Board Meeting	7	8	9 7 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 
Pastor Mark and Dee on Vacation						
10 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Mexican Fiesta followed by Annual Business Meeting 	11	12	13 6:15 Supper 6:45 Adventure Club 7:00 MS, HS and Adult Studies	14 	15	16 7 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 
17 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	18	19 9:00 am MomTime	20 6:15 Supper 6:45 Adventure Club 7:00 MS, HS and Adult Studies	21 Prison Visit	22	23 7 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study 
24 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	25	26	27 6:15 Supper 6:45 Adventure Club 7:00 MS, HS and Adult Studies	28		

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