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THE BRETHREN JOURNAL



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— from the editor

The Brethren Journal has been publishing life and activities of the Unity of the Brethren in Texas for over 100 years. All of these include records of weddings, baptisms, deaths, etc., of the ministers... when they were submitted. These records are invaluable for families who wish to research their family history or activities that have taken place in our congregations and the denomination. It would be fitting, in the eyes of the Brethren Journal Business Committee, to ask for financial support for the continuation of this publication.

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Ladies of Caldwell Brethren Church

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

69th Biennial Convention of the Unity of the Brethren Official Minutes
Choose Silence ... by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell
After Cyril and Methodius ... by Jim Pokorny

. . . and more!

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Wednesday Eve. 5:30 PM
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The 69th Biennial Convention of the Unity of the Brethren Convention Minutes Friday, July 9, 2021 – Hus Encampment, Caldwell, TX

Registration began at 8:00 a.m.

Worship: The worship service began at 9:00 a.m. Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky greeted the Convention. The opening hymn was "This is the Day." The Gathering Prayer was given by Kayla Marek. Songs of praise were led by Lynette Urbanovsky. The Responsive Reading was led by Angie Hairrell. The Offertory Prayer was given by Rev. Whitney Amos. Special music was sung by Lynette – "The Heart of Worship." Rev. Koslovsky gave the message with scripture taken from Romans 12:1-2. Rev. Koslovsky asked us, "When does worship start? Worship is the way we live, and we can be living sacrifices for God." Holy Communion was administered to all by Rev. Michael Groseclose, who was assisted by Rev. Ryan Volkman and Rev. Charles Amos. The pianist was Elizabeth Rypl.

OPENING Session:

President Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky called the meeting to order.

There were 80 people in attendance (see attached Roll Call) as follows:

63 VOTING MEMBERS present:

Pastors (19): Rev. Charles Amos, Rev. Whitney Amos, Rev. Joe Emerson, Rev. Michael Groseclose, Rev. Jimmy Hejl, Rev. Dr. Brad Herridge, Pastor David Johnson, Pastor Lisa Johnson, Rev. Lawrence Junek, Dr. Larry Koslovsky, Pastor Ben Kruse, Rev. Dr. Mark Labaj, Rev. Vanessa Mitchell, Rev. Joseph Polasek, Rev. Kay Polasek, Rev. Mark Sebek, Rev. Tommy Tallas, Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill, Rev. Ryan Volkman
8 Pastors Absent: Revs. L. Chandler, T. Chaplin, A. Gonzalez, C. Holland, J. Kueker, D. Mikeska, A. Newby, L. Zabcik.

16 Synodical Lay members representing 15 churches: Bryan/CS – Alan Haisler; Caldwell – L. Urbanovsky, (Martha Huffman – absent); Crosby – Debbie Clark; Fayetteville – Sandra Stepan; Houston – J.T. Verwold; Industry – Harvey Treybig; New Tabor



TAYLOR BROTHERS CHURCH

Seventh Street at Sloan in Taylor, Texas – 512-352-6423

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 351, Taylor, TX 76574

Church email: taylorbrethren@sbcglobal.net

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m. Worship: 10:15 a.m.

Pastor
James D. Hejl
512-365-6890

Board President
Daniel Knippa
512-844-0208

Secretary
Mary Kokes
M-Th 8 a.m.-noon

– Robert Campbell; Ocker – Taylor Brinkley; Rosenberg – Alice Kocurek; Snook – Angie Hairrell, Yvonne Kovar; Taylor – Kayla Marek (C. Raesz absent); Temple – Jim Hiles; Wall – Paul Beatty; West – Roy Janek; Westheimer – Leroy Parthum. 9 churches absent: Austin, Buckholts, Dime Box, Granger – no rep, Nelsonville, Pasadena – no rep, Port Arthur, Seaton, Wesley.

26 Delegates: Bryan/College Station – Chris Biggs; Caldwell – Rose Autrey; Crosby – Tillman Clark; Fayetteville – JR – absent; Houston – Rita Tyson; Nelsonville – Sandra Merz, Carrie Mlcak.; New Tabor – Shirle Urbanovsky, Lillie Chafin; Ocker – Lisa Sebek, David Sebek; Pasadena – Philip Michalik; Snook – Yvonne Kovar (Synodical), Ann Sebesta; Taylor – Leo Camden Jr., Allen David, Joan Kautz, Kimberly Knippa, Daniel Knippa; Temple – Gayle Farrow; Wall – Susan Neal, Elizabeth Odom, Brenda Beatty, Sarah Gallander; Wesley – Beth Dusek; West – Terry and Debbie Crawford; Westheimer – Carolyn Beseda.

8 churches did not seat delegates: Austin, Buckholts, Dime Box, Granger, Industry, Port Arthur, Rosenberg, Seaton.

Committee Chairs (2): PRC – Jon Farrow (Temple); Christian Ed – vacant; Foreign Missions – David Miller (not present); Home Missions – vacant; Hus Encampment – Kent Laza (BCS).

Non-Voting: Guests – 17. Lunch was served to over 90 people.

10:15 – Session 1:

General Overview of Convention:

Rev. Koslovsky opened the meeting. The Executive committee erred on the side of caution in planning the convention with the current health crisis and had a one-day convention approved by the Synodical Committee. The main concern was safety for all those attending. Missing from this shortened convention will be committee and bylaws work and fellowship from an extended stay.

Greetings: Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Miller, President, Provincial Elders' Conference Moravian Church Northern Province, Pennsylvania sent a video message to the convention. She sent greetings from the Northern and Southern Provinces and the Board of World Missions. We share a long history with the Moravian Church, having done mission work together in Ahaus,

SNOOK BRETHREN CHURCH

9882 FM 2155/P.O. Box 247, Snook, TX 77878
Church Phone – (979) 272-3303

COME WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday School – 9:00 AM; Worship – 10:15 AM
Bible Study – Each Tuesday, 9:00-10:00 AM

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BYF LEADERSHIP TEAM 2019-2020

Youth:

Maverick Raesz – Taylor BYF
Logan Woefel – Taylor BYF
Allyson Cocke – Taylor BYF
Colton Machu – Taylor BYF
Kaylynn Harkey – Nelsonville BYF
Jessica Chervenka – Ocker BYF
Taylor Krcha – Ocker BYF
Grace Jungmann – Ocker BYF

Adults:

Dillon Barbisch – Ocker
Jordan Eilers – Ocker
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Youth Coordinator:

Jennifer Chervenka

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Deanna Hairrell – (2019) Snook
Jordan Eilers – (2019) Ocker
Open seat
Open seat
Jennifer Chervenka – Youth
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Angie Labaj, (2019) Temple
Jennifer Chervenka, Ocker (2017),
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The Encampment is governed by a Board
of Trustees of 8 members.

Terms: 2 years, may be re-elected/re-
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years (Unity of the Brethren By-Laws,
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Rev. Charles Amos
(Pastor to the Pastors)
Rev. Tim Chaplin
Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE
"Bear ye one another's burdens
And so fulfill the Law of
Christ." (Gal. 6:2)

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www.WallBrethrenChurch.com

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Daniel Vojtek (2019), BCS

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at large)

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Honduras. Another connection is that many of our pastors have attended seminary there. Our roots with Jan Hus ties us together.

Other Greetings:

Rev. Tim Chaplin sends his regards as he recuperates from major surgery.

Dorothy Kocian – West Brethren – sends her greetings thru her daughter Mary Ann Kocian.

Rev. Groseclose said that Dorothy Hinson – Houston Brethren – sends greetings to the convention. Rev. Joseph Polasek brought greetings from the Mutual Aid Society and reminded everyone that the Scholarship program can continue only if they get donations for this.

Kent Laza, on behalf of the Hus Board of Trustees, welcomed everyone to the convention.

Robert & Anne Thiessen brought greetings from the Raifords and the Mexican Network of Missionaries.

Reports from Officers & Chairs:
Reports are in the Convention Booklet unless noted otherwise.

President – Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky – p. 16-17 (Attachment A). Additional – Rebecca Lively, Pasadena Representative, passed away May 29, 2021.

First Vice President – Rev. Michael Groseclose – p. 18 (Attachment B).

Second Vice President – Angie Hairrell – p. 19 (Attachment C).

Third Vice President – Rev. Whitney Amos – No report in booklet. Reported it was great to see that the Unity carried on during COVID-19. Churches responded well on Facebook and YouTube.

Secretary – report by Liz Ripple, Executive Assistant – p. 20-23 (Attachment D). Eight churches did not seat delegates: Austin, Buckholts, Dime Box, Granger, Industry, Port Arthur, Rosenberg, and Seaton.

Treasurer – Lynette Urbanovsky – p. 24-27 (Attachment E)

Financial Secretary – Kayla Marek – p. 28-45 (Attachment F).

Financial Secretary Spreadsheet 2015-2021 – p. 46 (Attachment G).

Brethren Fund Assessments 2017-2020 – p. 47 (Attachment H).

REPORTS FROM CHAIRS AND DENOMINATIONAL BOARDS:

Brethren Journal Business Manager – Ben Polasek – p. 48 (Attachment I).

Brethren Journal Treasurer – Dorothy Milberger – p. 49-52 (Attachment II).

Board of Christian Education – Deborah Schiller, Chair – resigned – p. 53 (Attachment III).

Board of Foreign Missions & Missionary Reports – David Miller, Chair – p. 54-57 (Attachment IV).

Board of Home Missions – Rev. Tim Chaplin, Chair – resigned (no report).

New Beginnings at Cade Lake (Home mission project) – Rev. Kay Polasek – p. 58-61 (Attachment V).

New Beginnings at Cade Lake (Home mission project) financial report – Ben Polasek – no report.

Hus School Board of Trustees – Kent Laza, Chair – p. 62-65 (Attachment VI).

Hus School Encampment Treasurer – Todd Corporon – no report.

Ministers' Benefits Committee –



Liz Ripple, Exe Sec/Treasurer – p. 66 (Attachment VII).

Mutual Aid Society – Rev. Joseph Polasek, President – p. 67-69 (Attachment VIII).

Youth Coordinator – Jennifer Chervenka – p. 70 (Attachment IX).

Pastoral Relations Committee – Jon Farrow, Chair – Attachment X – No report in booklet.

Christian Sisters Union – Paula Wagner, President – No report.

Friends of the Hus Encampment – Connie Janac – (Attachment XI). No report in booklet.

One Minute Flash Report of Congregations: (Total time for reports – 1 hour)

Not present: Austin, Buckholts, Granger – sent in report, Port Arthur, Seaton.

Bryan/College Station – Alan Haisler reported that it was a rough year, but they made it. They live streamed the church service on Facebook. Planning to build a new fellowship hall in the future.

Caldwell – Rose Autrey (delegate): Things are happening at Caldwell Brethren! Repaired and restored the church. Family game night, online Bible studies, Christian Sisters meeting again, and VBS.

Crosby – Debbie Clark: Bro. Larry K. puts his message every week on YouTube. SS has resumed, meal ministry once a month for shut-ins.

Dime Box – Rhonda Johnson reported: Did not miss any services during COVID; will concentrate on ministry in schools; there is a high calling of our daily work – for all of us.

Fayetteville – Mike Groseclose: went to worship twice a month – 2nd & 4th Saturday services at 10 a.m.; worshipped outside for a few months, now back inside.

Granger – (Attachment XII) – Bro. Larry K. gave the report. Biggest thing – host a food pantry for the surrounding area. Used technology – video services during COVID; during the shelter-in-place they rang the church bell at 8 p.m. daily to remind

Thoughts about giving...

Remembering the Unity of the Brethren or any of its ministries is a fitting testimony to your faith. Your gift leaves a legacy that continues to support the mission or ministry of the Unity that is important to you.

You can give without restrictions and let the funds be used for the most pressing needs. You may also designate to a particular ministry.


You can give in memory or in the honor of someone.

Your gift can be contingent. The funds go to someone, if they survive you, and if not, then to the Unity.

You can tell us now that you have named the Unity in your will and allow us to express our gratitude...or you can let it be known later.

There are many other ways to give. The Executive Committee of the Synodical Committee receives and manages special gifts, grants, and bequests in coordination with the Synodical Committee. For more information or to make a donation, contact the Unity President.

Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky, Executive Committee President
4211 Misty Timbers Way
Kingwood, TX 77345
(713) 594-4518
lwkoslo@aol.com



CALDWELL BRETHREN CHURCH

401 South Main Street
(979) 567-7203

Rev. Vanessa Mitchell, Pastor
lajoiededieu@protonmail.com
(979) 574-0268

Sunday School
9:30 AM

Children's Choir Practice, Sundays
10:15 a.m.

Sunday Worship
10:30 AM

Church email: lifeatcbc@protonmail.com

Wednesday Family Night Gathering:
1st & 3rd Wednesdays each month

www.lifeatcbc.org Come as you are... Friend us on Facebook!

Mutual Aid Society

Local Secretary & Board Member Contact Information

Local Secretaries

Granger #1: Vacant, Mutual Aid Secretary, PO Box 943, Granger, TX 76530

Taylor #3: Pat Daffin, 2950 FM 3349, Taylor, TX 76574, 512-913-6084

West #4: Vacant*

Fayetteville #5: Sandra Stepan, PO Box 145, Fayetteville, TX 78940, 512-468-2396, sandrainaustin@yahoo.com

Dime Box #6: Vacant

Snook #7: Ann Sebesta, PO Box 115, Snook, TX 77878, 210-244-3362, sebestaa2015@outlook.com

Ocker #8: Sandra Dubcak, 3239 FM 437, Rogers, TX 76569-3705, 254-985-2374, sandrad@spjst.com

New Tabor #13: Connie Surovik, 1701 St Hwy 21 E, Caldwell, TX 77836, conniesurovik76@gmail.com

Nelsonville #14: Peggy Peschel, 8000 Hwy 159 W, Bellville, TX 77418, 979-865-5095

Seaton #16: Joyce Skrabanek, 7157 FM 2086, Temple, TX 76501, 254-721-6324, jjskrabanek@gmail.com

Wesley #18: Elaine Koehn, 9053 Leaning Oak Lane, Brenham, TX 77833, 979-836-5196, koehns72@yahoo.com

Temple #20: Irene Marek, 2900 Pecan Valley Drive, Temple, TX 76502, 254-778-2120

Rosenberg #21: Cathy Kuritza, 5220 Reading Road, Rosenberg, TX 77471, 281-344-1386, mpruett3660@att.net

Westheimer #22: Vacant*

Houston #23: Dorothy Hinson, 7331 Misty Morning Drive, Humble, TX 77346, 281-620-0480

Wall #25: Sharon J. Hohmann, 222 Crestwood Drive, San Angelo, TX 76903-9106, 325-651-5884

Caldwell #27: Brenda Schroeder, 4193 FM 696, Caldwell, TX 77836, 979-280-5597

**Crosby #28: Vacant*

**Austin #32: Vacant*

Pasadena #33: Betty Orsag, 5118 Coventry Ct, Friendswood, TX 77546-3001, 281-482-1501

B/CS #34: Natalie Outlaw, 7575 Wixon Road, Bryan, TX 77808-8085, 979-589-2012, natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com

**Contact Natalie Outlaw at 979-589-2012 or natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com

Board Members

President: Joseph Polasek, PO Box 54, Snook TX 77878, 979-272-1624, josephpolasek@yahoo.com

Vice President: Daniel Vojtek, 5434 Marcia Lane, Bryan TX 77807, 979-823-4147, cdvojtek05@yahoo.com

General & Jr. Dept. Secretary: Natalie Outlaw, 7575 Wixon Road, Bryan TX 77808-8085, 979-589-2012, natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Ruth Ann Wuensche, 2451 CR 405, Taylor TX 76574, 512-365-3013, ruthannwuensche@gmail.com

Board Member: Dorothy Hinson, 7331 Misty Morning Dr., Humble TX 77346, 281-620-0480

Board Member: Ann Sebesta, Box 115, Snook TX 77878, 210-244-3362, sebestaa2015@outlook.com

people to pray. Lots of repairs to their building.

Houston – Rita Tyson: Resumed regular service in Oct 2020; resumed SS; had to repair some things in the church from the February 2021 winter storm Uri; have a close church family.

Industry – Mike Groseclose: 2nd, 3rd and 4th Saturdays 3 or 5 p.m. They are on the west end of Austin county, lots of fundraisers – folks don't have to skip church – can come to Industry on Saturday.

Nelsonville – Mike Groseclose: Liked the outside services so much, decided to have an outside service under the trees once a month; had the sanctuary remodeled and spent \$6K on a PA system and have live streaming equipment – have people from all over the world watching.

New Tabor – Lillie Chafin: Have had Pastor David Johnson since 2004 – 17 years (*Synodical* - 2005). Had a 32-ft-long flatbed trailer that they did services from, sat in cars – honked horns when they liked something – it worked well. Completed VBS – averaged 60 kids; had a 3-day revival on July 4-6; Bible study on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Pastor Johnson has a weekly Bible Boost on Facebook.

Ocker – David Sebek: 2019 – the community had a church that burned to the ground; 2020 – here comes COVID, paused service March 22; April 2 lightning struck again – heavy damage to the church – had to gut the entire building inside and out. Resumed in-person service May 2020. Planned a rededication, had to postpone due to the freeze, had it April 18. Come visit our new church!

Pasadena – Philip Michalik: Bro. Larry K. provided online services. A

Spanish group meets in the church twice on Sundays – 85-90 attend each Sunday. Still following COVID protocols. Spanish group had VBS that was opened to the community; they donate to the Pasadena Police Department.

Rosenberg – Ben Kruse: used audio/visual equipment, had services outside for a while, now back inside; have a bible study-meal on Wednesday nights; SS on Sundays. They are doing well, maintaining.

Snook – Yvonne Kovar: Service resumed in late summer 2020, all activities have resumed as normal. Constructed a bell tower and ring the bell before each service. Lost several senior members, but have gained some new ones. A new subdivision is being built across the road.

Taylor – Daniel Knippa: In-person services were suspended, services were provided online; remodeled kitchen/fellowship hall, working on a new audio/visual system for the sanctuary; will be celebrating a 125- year anniversary; have a succession committee to prepare for the future, Bro. Jimmy is retiring.

Temple – Cross Church on Birdcreek – Gayle Farrow (Attachment XIII): Provided services online; when Tim was battling with cancer, we had Larry Zabcik fill in, then he got sick and Joe Emerson came; Bro. Tim returned July 4 – cancer free. Had freeze damage in the church, still making repairs. Had huge oak trees that fell and had to deal with that; had a garage sale – lots of items, it was good.

Wall – Elizabeth Odom: 2017 received a huge grant to update audio/



visual in the church; were closed for 2 months, streamed live services online; have a Wednesday night youth program; had about 125 kids a day come for Backyard School program; active prayer group.

Wesley – Mike Groseclose: Still have the option to worship outside, set up a speaker outside.

West – Rev. Gerry Davis: Serving as the interim pastor since Bro. Curtis retired (has Parkinson's); have done some remodeling at the church, when it was done it was paid for; upgraded their video/live streaming service, do Facebook Live; have had 5 new families come in the church; started a program for the youth, currently once a month, trying to bring teenagers to Christ.

Westheimer – Carolyn Beseda: Began in-person services for Easter this year; Pastor sent text messages during COVID. Leroy Parthum, Board President provides good leadership – will start a new confirmation class led by Pastor Lisa; shares the church with a Latino group, this helps financially and they assist with cleaning; contribute to several organizations including Kid's Meals and Samaritans Purse.

Vsetin Czech Moravian Brethren Church (Hallettsville, Lavaca County) – Rev. Dr. Mark Labaj: Got acquainted with the church in 1973 – met his wife there, now married 44 years. He started serving there once a month, then twice a month, then Rev. Henry Beseda retired and he is now there 4 times a month. They are a self-sufficient group, lots of Czech names. During COVID, Texas Thunder Radio offered 30 minutes of time, Mark prepares a message and it's broadcasted on Sunday morning at 10 a.m., and it's working! A miracle that he has seen recently – there were 4 infants in the church. Vsetin has never a member of the UOB – always served by Unity pastors, they support mission work.

WHERE DO WE GO AFTER COVID?? (What Do We Do After COVID?) Bro. Larry K. asked everyone to participate in an exercise to move beyond COVID. Where is God taking us now? Asked everyone to dump all the stuff out of your laps, relax for a few minutes – close your eyes, think about your own personal life. What is it that excites you? brings you to life? It's by divine appointment that God has placed us

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Austin – Bible Study at 10 AM
Worship at 11 AM.
– Rev. Linda Chandler

Bryan-College Station – Sunday School at 9:15 AM and Worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Mark Sebek

Buckholts – Worship at 9 AM every Sunday except the 5th Sunday.
Holy Communion on 1st Sunday.
Guest speaker on 4th Sunday.
– Rev. John Kueker

Caldwell – Come as you are! **Sundays** – explore the Bible @ 9:30 AM (all ages); KIDS CHOIR practices @ 10:15 AM; & worship @ 10:30 AM! **Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday**, join the fun @ Family Game Night, 6-7:30 PM! Check out lifeatcbc.org for spiritual resources, events, videos, & more! Friend us on Facebook!
– Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

Crosby – 9 AM: Worship
10 AM: Faith Adventure
– Dr. Larry Koslovsky

Dime Box – Worship at 9 AM every Sunday.
– Visiting Ministers

Fayetteville – Worship at 10:00 AM. on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays.
– Rev. Mike Groseclose

Good Shepherd Moravian – Worship at 11:30 AM and 6:30 PM every Sunday.
– Rev. Adolfo Gonzalez

Granger – Worship service Sundays, 10 AM. Bible Study Wednesdays, 5:30 PM.
– Visiting Ministers

Houston – Sunday School at 9:15 AM; Worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill

Industry – Worship at 5:00 PM on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Saturdays.
– Rev. Mike Groseclose

Nelsonville – Sunday School at 9 AM
Worship at 10:15 AM
– Rev. Michael Groseclose

New Beginnings (PO Box 163, Caldwell, TX 77836) – A Home Mission Project since 10/22/11 – Sunday School at 10:30 AM; Worship at 11:45 AM; Lunch after the service.
– Rev. Kay Polasek

New Tabor – Sunday School at 9 AM & Worship at 10 AM every Sunday, "Tune Up" on Wednesdays, 7:30 PM.
– Rev. David Johnson

Ocker – Worship at 10:15 AM every Sunday.
Sunday School at 9 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Dr. Brad Herridge

Pasadena – Sunday School at 9:30 AM and worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday.
– Dr. Larry Koslovsky

Community Christian Church of Rosenberg – Sunday: Adult Bible Study and Sunday School for children at 9 AM; worship at 10:30 AM.
Wednesday: 5:30 PM Dinner; 6:30 PM Bible Study.
– Pastor Ben Kruse

Seaton – Sunday, 9:15 AM – Prayer Gathering; 9:30 AM – Sunday School, All Ages; 10:30 AM – Worship Celebration Service. Wednesday, 6:30 PM – Kids' and Adult Bible Study.
– Rev. Denise Mikeska

Snook – Sunday School – 9:00 AM; Worship – 10:15 AM.
– Rev. Joseph Polasek

Taylor – Worship at 10:15 AM every Sunday. Sunday School 9 AM every Sunday with free breakfast every 5th Sunday at 8:30 AM.; Friends Fellowship (seniors) 4th Tuesday (except Nov. & Dec.) at 2 PM.
– Rev. James Hejl

Temple – Cross Church on Birdcreek – Sunday School at 9:30 AM.; Worship at 10:45 AM.
– Rev. Tim Chaplin

Vsetin – A non-official member congregation of the Unity of the Brethren – Worship at 10 AM every Sunday.
– Dr. Mark Labaj
5th Sunday – Visiting Ministers

Wall – Sunday School (for all ages) at 9:30 AM; worship at 10:45 AM every Sunday.
– Rev. Thomas Tallas

Wesley – Worship at 9 AM every Sunday. Sunday School follows.
– Rev. Michael Groseclose

West – Sunday School at 9 AM and worship at 10:15 AM every Sunday.
– Visiting Ministers

Westheimer Community – Worship at 10:30 AM every Sunday.
– Pastor Lisa Johnson

Fayetteville Brethren Church

**Worship on the
2nd and 4th Saturdays
10:00 a.m.
Rev. Mike Groseclose**

FayettevilleBrethrenChurch.org

*"Site of the First Czech
Protestant Preaching
in Texas - 1855"*



**1022 Kramr Rd at Ross Prairie Church Road
P.O. Box 11 • Fayetteville, TX 78940**

19. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Ps. 126:5
20. For there is one God; there is also one Mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, Himself human. I Tim. 2:5
21. He gave himself a ransom for all. I Tim. 2:6a
22. "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Mt. 6:25
23. For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. Mt. 6:32
24. **But strive first for the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Mt. 6:33**
25. Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, You are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty, wrapped in light as with a garment. Ps. 104:1, 2a
26. But He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the punishment that made us whole, and by His bruises we are healed. Isa. 53:5
27. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Isa. 53:6
28. Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant. Mk. 10:43
29. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. Mk. 10:45
30. Consequently He is able for all time to save those who approach God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. Heb. 7:25
31. **For it was fitting that we should have such a High Priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Heb. 7:26**

OCKER BRETHREN CHURCH

17454 State Highway 53, Temple, TX 76501
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 806, Rogers, TX 76569
 Web Address: www.ockerbrethrenchurch.org
 Church Email: ockerbrethrenchurch@gmail.com
 Phone: (254) 985-2240

Preaching the Word, Loving the People
 Sunday School 9:00 AM
 Worship 10:15 AM

Pastor
Dr. Brad Herridge
 (254) 716-2578
brad.herridge@gmail.com

Youth Director
Jennifer Chervenka
 (254) 913-1244
jennchervenka@gmail.com

Cemetery
Sharon Marek
 (254) 482-0498

where we are today. Bro. Larry K. prayed. Then everyone was asked to find a person – team up with someone – groups of two or three, share and talk about how God is working in you and any thoughts that come up.

12:00 LUNCH – Rev. Dr. Brad Herridge gave the blessing for the meal. Everyone enjoyed pork steak, loaded mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, rolls, apple cobbler, tea and lemonade. Pastors were asked to join in the library for the selection process of the *Pastor to the Pastors. *By-laws (*elected by the clergy during the course of the Convention through a series of votes until one pastor receives the majority of votes.*)

1:15 SESSION 2:

Rededication of the Hus Encampment Main Building (Attachment XIV): Rev. Jimmy Hejl led the Worship Service for the rededication and opened with prayer. The Call to Worship was taken from Psalm 24. Song of praise was "For the Beauty of the Earth."

Comments on behalf of the Hus Encampment Board of Trustees was given by Kent Laza, Board of Trustees Chair. The "Act of Rededication" was inspired by the original *Act of Dedication* of the Hus

School Encampment held on June 30, 1957. Special recognition was given to Joyce Baletka who with her husband, Rev. John Baletka started the Hus Encampment; David Dusek, Designer & Project Manager; Mark Dudley, Owner of Dudley Construction, Gary Zdunkewicz and Mike Donaldson; Robert and Sam Polasek – Polasek's Air Conditioning; and Sebek Painting. A key to the main building

was presented to Rev. Larry Koslovsky. Special thanks were given to Kent and Tami Laza for all the work they have done these last few years. Everyone joined in the singing of "Pass It On." A special Benediction from a Franciscan Blessing (Attachment XV) was given by Rev. Hejl.

All those who had attended Hus School were invited to join in the singing of the full Czech version of "Hoj Věry V boj" accompanied by Elizabeth Rypl.

Approval of Synodical Representatives for: Houston – J.T. Verwold to replace Ron Tyson; Temple Cross Church on Birdcreek – Jim Hiles to replace Deborah Schiller; West – Roy Janek to replace Shara Davis. Bro. Larry K. explained the role of the Representatives of each church and how they are elected by the congregations at the Fall congregational meeting called for the referendum vote after every convention. Representatives serve a two-year term.

MOTION by Rev. Charles Amos to accept the 3 new representatives – J.T. Verwold (Houston), Jim Hiles – (Cross Church on Birdcreek - Temple) and Roy Janek (West).

SECOND by Taylor Brinkley (Ocker). Passes unanimously.

Youth Coordinator Salary & Expenses: Rev. Whitney Amos, Third VP and Supervisor of the Youth Coordinator reported on the job that Jennifer Chervenka is doing. The recommendation of the Executive Committee is to raise her salary to \$24,500 and set expenses at \$1,800 a year. Currently, she receives \$23,000 plus



\$1,800 for expenses. This is about a 6.5% raise. We also need to make sure the Unity's half of her FICA tax is covered (\$1,874.25 – for a total of \$26,374.25 and \$1,800.00 for expenses).

****MOTION** from the Executive Committee that the salary of the State Youth Coordinator be increased to \$24,500/yr. with an expense allowance of \$1,800/yr.

SECOND by Sandra Stepan (Fayetteville). Passes unanimously.

License Renewals:

Bro. Larry K. explained that Pastors in the Unity of the Brethren are credentialed and approved and can be one of three standings: Ordained, an Associate, or Licensed by the Synodical Committee to be able to serve a congregation in the Unity. We have a process and expectations according to our Constitution and By-Laws, like every denomination has. Ordained pastors can serve all Unity churches when they receive a call or when they sub. Associate pastors have been ordained in another denomination – Rev. Dr. Brad Herridge and Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill serve as Associate Pastors in the Unity. Licenses are to a specific church and

approved every year until the fifth year when a pastor can receive a 5-year license. **License renewals:** Ben Kruse to Rosenberg – letter was sent (Attachment XVI) – he is eligible for a 5-year license; David Johnson to New Tabor (per report by Lillie Chafin) – renew 5-year license; Lisa Johnson to Westheimer (per Leroy Parthum) – renew 1-year license.

MOTION by Rev. Mike Groseclose to approve a 5-year license for Ben Kruse to Rosenberg, renew the 5-year license for David Johnson to New Tabor, and renew the 1-year license for Lisa Johnson to Westheimer.

SECOND by Roy Janek (West). Passes unanimously.

Consideration of Ministers – Report by Rev. Koslovsky:

Rev. Gerry Davis for West: Rev. Gerry Davis has been serving West as the interim pastor since January 2020. Gerry is ordained in the Baptist church and has been in ministry 35 years. The Credentials Committee has approved him as a pastor in the Unity and he will be examined and questioned at the Fall meeting. Bro. Larry K. apologized for how long this is taking.

DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

Daily Morsels for October 2021

By Mari-Anne Kocian Gordon and Dorothy E. Kocian

From the *Holy Bible Revised Standard Revision*.

Sundays in bold.

1. For the One Who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason, Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. Heb. 2:11
2. O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is Your name in all the earth! Ps. 8:1a
- 3. You have set your glory above the heavens. Ps. 8:1b**
4. Out of the mouths of babes and infants You have founded a bulwark... to silence the enemy and the avenger. Ps. 8:2
5. Jesus... said to them, "Let the little children come to Me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." Mk. 10:14b
6. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child (does) will never enter it. Mk. 10:15
7. He took the children up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them. Mk. 10:16
8. Commit your cause to the LORD; let Him deliver – let Him rescue the one in whom He delights! Ps. 22:8
9. Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you. Am. 5:14a
- 10. Hate evil and love good and establish justice in the gate. Am. 5:15a**
11. Teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Ps. 90:12
12. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands! Ps. 90:17
13. Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Heb. 4:12
14. And before Him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the One to Whom we must render an account. Heb. 4:13
15. Since, then, we have a great high priest Who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. Heb. 4:14
16. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have One who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Heb. 4:15
- 17. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Heb. 4:16**
18. Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible." Mk. 10:27



HOUSTON BRETHREN CHURCH

6207 North Main, Houston, TX 77009 – (713) 864-6707

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO WORSHIP WITH US
Sunday School 9:15 a.m. – Church Service 10:30 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Terrill

Donna Verwold
President
325 Sunnyside St.
Houston, TX 77076
Cell: 713-553-5542

Rita Tyson
Secretary
22015 Golden Cedar Dr.
Cypress, TX 77433
Cell: 713-899-8272

NEW TABOR BRETHREN CHURCH

2439 County Road 225 Caldwell, TX 77836

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 262, Caldwell, TX 77836
(979) 272-3008

Website: newtaborchurch.com Facebook: New Tabor Church
Sunday School: 9 a.m. Worship: 10 a.m.

New Tabor Brethren is here for you. We're not only a church. We're a fellowship of believers coming together to declare the glory of the Lord.

Reverend David Johnson (979) 220-3822
pastordjbama@gmail.com

Schedule and Details of Upcoming Unity Activities

October 16, 2021 – Fall Synodical Committee Meeting at the Hus Encampment – 9:00 a.m.; refreshments served at 8:00 a.m. with a light lunch served at noon. The newly elected officers for 2021-2023 will be installed and the results of the referendum votes from the 69th Biennial Unity Convention will be canvassed. If you have any questions, contact Dr. Larry Koslovsky, 713-594-4518.

For more information about the Hus School Encampment go to:
www.huscamp.org

Does your church/organization have an activity that you would like to include in this listing? Please send activity information including a contact name, phone number, and/or email address to the Brethren Journal Editor at: editor.brethrenjournal@gmail.com. Information must be received by the first day of the month immediately preceding the month of publication.



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- Youth Activities and Camp
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about naming your church
or a Unity of the Brethren
agency as a beneficiary
in an existing or new
SPJST insurance certificate.*

SPJST
520 NorthMain Street
Temple, Texas 76501
(800) 727-7578

Terry Crawford (West) is a Candidate to be a Ministerial Student.

The Credentials Committee continues to work with Judy Gotcher for Granger and Rhonda Johnson for Dime Box.

Acceptance of Retiring Pastors:

Rev. Curtis Holland (63 years in ministry, served in the Unity at West for 18 years)

Rev. Lawrence Juneke (served in the Unity for 48 years – retirement letter received – Attachment XVII) wants to remain with the Unity of the Brethren.

Rev. Thomas John Tallas – Retiring as the Senior Pastor of Wall Brethren church – November 1, 2021, but is not retiring from ministry.

MOTION by Roy Janek (West) to accept the retirements of Rev. Holland and Rev. Juneke.

SECOND by Alice Kocurek (Rosenberg). Passes unanimously.

2:45 p.m. – BREAK

3:05 – SESSION 3:

Since April 1, 2017, Rev. Dr. Mark Labaj is serving under the call of the Synodical Committee to Specialized Ministry as a Hospital Chaplain. This is required by the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC). Dr. Labaj

is working with BS&W in Temple. To keep this endorsement, we need to renew his Specialized Ministry as a Hospital Chaplain.

MOTION by Beth Dusek (Wesley) to renew Rev. Dr. Mark Labaj's Specialized Ministry as a Hospital Chaplain under the Unity of the Brethren.

SECOND by Rev. Charles Amos. Passes unanimously.

Recognition of Pastors for years of service: Kayla Marek (Financial Secretary – Taylor) thanked all pastors for their service and presented plaques to several pastors recognizing them for their years of service as follows:

Rev. Thomas John Tallas (51 years); Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Terrill (51 years, serving the Unity since 1982); Rev. Lawrence T. Juneke (48 years); Rev. Dr. Mark L. Labaj (41 years, Hospital Chaplain 5 years); Rev. Dr. Larry W. Koslovsky (40 years); Rev. James D. Hejl (40 years); Rev. Joseph Polasek (31 years); Rev. Adolfo Gonzalez (30 years); Rev. Michael R. Groseclose (30 years).

Next item of Worship! – Election of Officers & Chairs for 2021-2023 (Attachment XVIII):

President – Rev. Dr. Larry Koslovsky



To communicate with the Hus Encampment . . .

. . . regarding scheduling* of meetings or events there, contact:

Kent Laza
4913 FM 166
Caldwell, TX 77836
(979) 220-1957
Kent.laza@verizon.net

**This must be done well in advance.*

(3rd term); 1st Vice President – Rev. Joe Emerson (1st term); 2nd Vice President – Lance LaBedelle (1st term – Wall); 3rd Vice President – Rev. Vanessa Mitchell (1st term); Secretary – Angie Hairrell (4th term – Snook); Financial Secretary – Kayla Marek (3rd term – Taylor); Treasurer – Lynette Urbanovsky (3rd term – Caldwell); Ministerial Alternate – Rev. Ryan Volkman. Lay Alternate – Taylor Brinkley (Ocker).

There were no nominations from the floor.

MOTION by Rev Mike Groseclose that nominations cease, and elect by acclamation.

SECOND by Gayle Farrow (Temple). Passes unanimously.

OTHER NOMINATIONS:

Board of Christian Education Chair – Kari Raesz (1st term – Taylor); Board of Home Missions Chair – Rev. Mark Sebek (1st term); Board of Foreign Missions Chair – David Miller (3rd term – Wall); Hus School Chair – Kent Laza (3rd term – BCS); *Brethren Journal* Editor – Cathleen Schlechte; *Brethren Journal* Business Manager – Ben Polasek.

Rev. Sebek shared thoughts on his nomination for the Home Missions Chair. He desires to broaden Home Missions.

There were no nominations from the floor.

MOTION by Rev. Mike Groseclose to elect the slate of nominees by acclamation.

SECOND by Beth Dusek (Wesley). Passes unanimously.

Pastoral Relations Committee: Jon Farrow (Temple) & James Marek (Taylor) 2019-2023. Nominee: Anna Wotipka (Caldwell) 2017-2021 (2021-2025); Nominee: Dan Merz (Nelsonville) 2021-2025.

There were no other nominations from the floor.

MOTION by Rev. Mike Groseclose to elect by acclamation

SECOND by Beth Dusk (Wesley). Passes unanimously.

ELECTION OF PRC CHAIR (elected from the 4 members serving on the committee):

MOTION by Rev. Kay Polasek to elect Jon Farrow to serve as the Chairman.

CRAFTS: Dove Mobile

Cut a paper plate a show to create a dove. Explain to children that the dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. On varied shapes of construction paper, write different spiritual gifts and hang them from the dove with ribbon. **Spiritual Gifts:**

- Leadership: Encouraging and helping others to build the kingdom of God (Romans 12:8).
- Administration: Helping with long-term goals and remaining on task (1 Cor. 12:28).
- Teaching: Instructing in truths and doctrines of God's Word.
- Knowledge: Teaching and discipleship. The ability to learn, know, and explain God's Word.
- Wisdom: The ability to discern works of the Holy Spirit and apply teaching and actions.
- Prophecy: Proclaiming the Word of God (Romans 12:6).
- Discernment: Being able to recognize the truth about a situation.
- Exhortation: People with this gift are enthusiastic about the Lord.
- Shepherding: Looking out for the spiritual welfare of others.
- Faith: Trusting God to fulfill His plan; encouragers.
- Evangelism: Building up of the church so others will be led to Christ.
- Apostleship: Motivators, church planters, missionaries: people who look beyond the walls.
- Service/Helps: Helping those in need of practical assistance (Romans 12:7).
- Mercy: The person with this gift shows acts of compassion.
- Giving: People with this gift will give freely and with joy.
- Hospitality: Making people feel welcome, appreciated, and wanted (1 Peter 4:9).

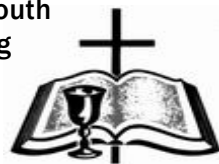


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Rev. Mark Sebek

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Church at 10:30 A.M.
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Good Gifts

BIBLE LESSON

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:7

Spiritual Gifts

OBJECT LESSON: What's the Purpose

Ask: What are some spiritual gifts? (*prophecy, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, kindness, wise advice, special knowledge, great faith, healing, miracles, discernment, speaking in unknown languages, interpreting unknown languages, and apostles*) What is the purpose of spiritual gifts? Before we answer that question, let's start by seeing how well we can guess ordinary items based on what they're used for. **Hold up a paper clip and say:** For example, if I were trying to get you to guess this item by describing its purpose, I might say, "If you have a report and you need to hold all the pages together, you could attach this to the corner. Or you could make a chain of several of them." I could not say the words paper or clip because they are part of the answer.

Objects to use: (tweezers, tissue, pencil, key).

Ask: • Why did knowing the purpose of an item help you guess what it was? • How would you describe the purpose of spiritual gifts? Why do we have them?

Say: God tells us the exact purpose of spiritual gifts! Let's see what it is.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:7.

Say: We have spiritual gifts so we can help each other, which is a way of serving God. The Holy Spirit gives us gifts to serve God and each other!



SECOND by Beth Dusek (Wesley).
Passes unanimously.

ELECTION OF MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS BOARD:

Nominees are Rev. Charles Amos, Rev. Dr. Jerry Terrill and Rev. Tim Chaplin. Pastor to the Pastors: Rev. Whitney Amos and Rev. Charles Amos will be serving jointly. There were no nominations from the floor.

MOTION by Kent Laza (BCS) to accept the slate by acclamation.

SECOND by Carolyn Beseda (Westheimer). Passes unanimously.

If you need help with a pastoral vacancy at your church, you need to contact Jon Farrow (PRC Chair) and/or Larry Koslovsky. The By-Laws tell us how to replace vacancies in the pastoral role.

Offering Distribution:

MOTION by Tillman Clark (Crosby) for the offering of \$582 to go to the camp.

SECOND by Susan Neal (Wall).
Passes unanimously.

2023 Convention Date and Place

Suggested dates are July 7-8 or July 14-15, 2023. The plan for this year, 2021, was to be at Camp Allen in Navasota, but due to uncertainty with the virus, a one-day convention was approved.

MOTION by Rev. Kay Polasek to have the 2023 convention at Camp Allen in Navasota.

SECOND by Beth Dusek (Wesley).
Discussion. Passes unanimously.

Bro. Mike reported that the Jelski family serving as missionaries in Is-

rael will be in Texas in August – if you want them to visit your church, contact David Miller.

Kent Laza announced that Robert and Anne Thiessen will be ending their work in Mexico. Robert and Anne were recognized for their work. They have been serving in Mexico for 30 years and have been supported by the Unity for over 20 years. They are not retiring and will still be associated with Mexico, but they will now be based in Ontario, Canada.

Bro. Larry K. invited sharing among the group: The one-minute flash reports were fantastic! Some of the thoughts were: COVID did not shut us down! We did new things and it is exciting. Older people can be prayer warriors. We need to start teaching our kids about ministry as a job – youth pastors, music leaders, to offer ministry as a calling. To have future ministers in the Unity of the Brethren, we need to start at home with the kids. What is God telling you to do? The camp is important. To become a more praying church – text message friends and pray for people. Being living sacrifices! Doing!

MOTION by Taylor Brinkley (Ocker) to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND by Beth Dusek (Wesley).

Rev. Joe Emerson ended the meeting with a prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

****Note:** Motion will go on to congregations for a Referendum decision made at a congregational meeting (Constitution – Art. V. Administration, A.2.).

Choose Silence

- by Rev. Vanessa Mitchell

They say that silence is golden, but it seems that silence can be more challenging to face than noise or conversation. There's a reason that the "silent treatment" is often so painful in relationships. Silence wears many hats: waiting on a diagnosis, a child that does not reveal trouble in his or her thoughts or emotions; a married couple at odds over something, a superior that never acknowledges pleasure with your caliber of work, or the deafening lack of hope when diplomacy has abated. ***Sometimes God chooses to be silent when we pray because we are asking with mixed motives that stem from hindered perspective.*** We ask Him for things that we want – noble though they may be – without keeping on the front burner, the necessity of praying that His will be done rather than ours. We are God's Creation, incapable of viewing things the way that God does; we do not transcend time and space. Jesus Christ said it best the night before His crucifixion when He was praying and drops of blood-filled sweat coursed down His face:

Then Jesus withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great

drops of blood falling down on the ground. (Luke 22:41-44)

God the Father answered Jesus's prayer. Shortly thereafter Jesus was arrested, and the following day He was crucified. If He had not prayed for His Father's will to be done, He would not have been crucified, and hence, our salvation from the consequences of our sin would have been lost. The blood of Jesus Christ, shed on the Cross, was a one-time sacrifice for all who sin. Sacrifice had to be made to bring forth the gift of eternal life for all who believe in Jesus as Savior. ***Silence can be a sacrifice.*** Jesus Christ, God the Son, ***chose to be silent*** when He received His Father's answer. He did not refuse to be arrested, but rather welcomed it in that it was His Father's will:

When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial." While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him, "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?" When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, "Lord, should we strike with the sword?" Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest



Sunday School Helper



Bible Story

Spiritual Gifts

Bible Reference

1 Corinthians 12

The Holy Spirit gives us gifts so that we can work together to serve God and His church. We all have spiritual gifts. Hopefully, these activities will help children recognize their gifts and use them to serve others.



for you our dear Sisters and Brothers, dear Friends, and trust that you all are OK, well, healthy and in His peace and protection. May our Lord Jesus Christ be glorified!

OUR PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the club kids.

Please pray with us for Tom and Lucy. We are very HAPPY they became believers, and they learn new things, how to serve God as His disciples.

Please pray with us for the Lord's Guidance, for our protection, safety, and health. We pray and trust that the Covid situation will not be such bad like last year...

Please pray with us for Czech Republic – very atheistic...

Let us pray for our countries and for the entire world, because the Lord Jesus is NEAR!

THANK YOU and THANK YOU so very much for your PRAYERS, for your LOVE and for your OPEN HEART for us to give and support! BIG, BIG

THANK YOU!!! May our Lord Jesus Christ REPAY you back abundantly!

OUR BIG THANK YOU...

Belongs to each of you, who are interceding, praying, and kindly supporting Stania and me in our task, the Ministry we do in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for His Kingdom!

Big THANK YOU our dear God's Family – Waxahachie Bible Church – for your LOVE, PRAYERS, MINISTRY, CARE and SUPPORT for us!

BIG THANK YOU dear Unity of the Brethren, for your faithful SUPPORT, PRAYERS, and for your kind LOVE!

Big THANK YOU to you, dear Sister, dear Brother, dear Friend, for your encouragement and for your kind financial support! May our Lord Jesus Christ BLESS YOU!!! :-)

We love you all very much, we miss you, and we are looking forward for the time when we will be able to be together with you again! May our Lord Jesus Christ BLESS YOU ALL abundantly in His Holy Name!!!



and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him. (Luke 22:45-51)

God the Father's will was not for Jesus to die that night by the sword. Nor was it meant for Jesus to roam freely without opposition. Jesus had to be crucified the next day.

What difficult prayer have you been asking God to answer?

Are you asking for the outcome that seems favorable to you – **IF** it is in God's will?

It is a greater act of faith to ask God, and then in the same breath, completely defer to His will. ***Defering to God's will requires a leap of faith in that you are choosing to be silent before God, waiting on His perfect will in the situation.***

What difficult prayer have you been asking God to answer?

The Old Testament prophet Habakkuk calls us to ***choose silence*** in the Book of Habakkuk, chapter 2, verse 20:

But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him!

God is listening.

If you have asked Jesus Christ to save you from your brokenness and make you whole, then God the Holy Spirit, who Jesus sent after He ascended into heaven, lives within you.

God lives within you.

You are His holy temple.

Will you choose to be silent so that you may hear His answer?

Will you choose to be silent so

that you may notice Him filling you with His strength to follow through with His will for you?

Silence can be a sacrifice.

Jesus Christ chose to be silent the night before His crucifixion.

The silence He chose enabled Him to hear His Father clearly and to stand strong to follow through on His Father's will.

The end result of Jesus choosing silence is now life eternal for ALL who believe in Him as their Savior.

What difficult prayer have you been asking God to answer?

Will you now choose to be silent, trusting that you do not need to reformulate your question to obtain the answer that you desire?

Rather, in awe of God and of the gift of eternal life with Him that He has given you, will you choose to be silent and then stand strong when you receive your answer, knowing that it might not be something that you want, but it will be what God knows is best?

The Book of Habakkuk, chapter 2, verse 20:

But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him!

God is listening.

Choose to be silent.

In Jesus's Hands,
Right With You,

Sister Vanessa Mitchell

After Cyril and Methodius

- by Jim Pokorny

Change was inevitable in the Czech lands following the deaths of Cyril and Methodius. In the centuries that followed, Czechs learned that change included both oppression and violence.

The German party was gaining in power. Although Methodius had appointed Gorasd as his successor, this appointment was set aside and Wiching was promoted to archbishop in his place. Under the new authority, the native priests ordained by Cyril and Methodius were persecuted. Many chose to flee into Bulgaria. There, they introduced both the Slavonian Bible and liturgy. These would be passed on into Russia in time.

The German party was not the only factor that hampered Christianity. Heathenism was also on the rise. Its hostility went beyond persecution and left blood in its wake. Ludmila the Holy, so named for her pious works, was a widow during this period. In 927 A.D., her pagan daughter-in-law, Thither Drahomira, dispatched an army to surround her castle. Ludmila was in

the act of prayer when two officers burst into her chamber and strangled her.

Her son, Duke Wenzel, was another victim. The Duke was known for his faith, charity, and promotion of the Gospel. His brother, Boleslaw the Cruel, was supported by the heathen surge. As the Duke was about to enter the church at Altbunzlau in 936 A.D., he was assassinated by his brother. The Duke was now considered a martyr in Bohemia and was chosen as the nation's patron saint. Boleslaw seized control of the government and continued his aggression toward Christianity until pressured by Emperor Otho the First. In 1092, heathenism was finally suppressed by Bretislav the Second who banished its priests and soothsayers.

Boleslaw the Pious succeeded Boleslaw the Cruel. As his empire grew, Christianity grew as well. When Moravia, Upper and Middle Silesia, and a portion of Poland fell to him, new churches in these regions were planted. Widows and orphans gained

there is not very much to do, they mostly sit outside and relax. Praise the Lord it is just a great chance for us to contact them and start to share with them our testimony and the Gospel. All meetings are VERY, VERY interesting!

NOW, together with Pavel we are so very thankful for our NEW brother Tom and sister Lucy! We are happy with them, and we PRAISE GOD; this opened to us a new field for the ministry! It is so nice to see somebody, who is having the "First Love" in an action!

We are humbly thankful dear Sisters and Brothers for your PRAYERS, LOVE and SUPPORT! By God's Grace and THANKS to each of you we can still go ahead, we can go forward, we can share the Light of Christ!

HUMBLE THANK YOU for your MINISTRY, for all you do for the Lord Jesus too! He is coming and we all will be with Him forever!

The Inspirational Word

Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:12-14 NKJV

A WORD OF THANKFULNESS...

We are so thankful to our Lord Jesus that we are honored to serve Him, to serve to the people in Czech Republic together with you all!

We are humbly thankful to the Father God for His protection, all His blessings and good health. We trust that He will keep us all in His Holy Hands to be able continue the ministry. We do not know about tomorrow, but our Lord is THE LORD of the lives He gave us.

We humbly PRAY in thankfulness



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Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Worship: 10:45 a.m.

Rev. Tim Chaplin

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For me it is awesome to see when we are outside, sharing the Gospel, sharing our personal testimony with the young ones or with older people and how they are very carefully listening to us. They pay attention carefully what Lord Jesus did and IS doing in our lives today!

We can see the BIG importance to share the Truth with them – the Word of God. Because we are very often in the parks among – many times – rough guys, and I can see their strange satanic tattoo on their hands, neck, etc. I see how Pavel is calmly and lovingly, but with authority, sharing his testimony and the Biblical spiritual things with them. I am always very touched, and I just PRAY and PRAY!

Also, we see how many people here are deceived and how many are open to the lies about the Church, how many “believe” to the false doctrines or to some other bla, bla, bla... But we see that these people are having NO hope, no love, no peace and no way...

I am so thankful to the Lord Jesus for my husband Pavel, thankful for his giftedness thanks to the God’s Grace in this Gospel ministry. He really loves to be with the people outside and share, what the Lord is putting on his heart. He can do it hours and hours and he is HAPPY! It is such a blessing to see an Evangelist in an action!

This summer we did several short mission campaigns. The very nice one was in the Dresden, Germany, where we did serve to the Czech community over there. There are also many kids so, praise God the ministry is always very special. Interesting was to meet a few Muslim girls, who did join us! We are very happy when we can encourage local believers over there and do some teaching and ministry for them.

Another place where we do serve is Moravian city called Luhacovice. It is very beautiful spa city with many tourists and patients who are having their health procedures. And because

a protector, and his justice was considered firm yet gentle. The Bohemian chronicler Cosmas contrasted him with his father by referring to him as “a rose blooming on a thorn-bush.”

A bishopric was established at Prague in 973 A.D. as part of the archbishopric of Mayence. The emperor persuaded Boleslaw to disregard the desires of his subjects and accept the conditions demanded by the Papacy. Dietmar, a German, received the episcopal office resulting in the adoption of the Latin liturgy, rituals, and doctrines.

Romanism began to establish its control. It was preferred by the court, the nobility, and those who traded with Germany. The common people, however, clung to their traditional worship with tenacity. The result was a long-lasting hatred of the Germans. In 981 A.D., Dietmar died. Adalbert, a Bohemian and heir of a noble house, was appointed. Attempting to carry out the wishes of the people, he was taken to task by both the emperor and the archbishop. He left and returned to his diocese twice. The third time found him a martyr in 997 A.D.

As Romanism spread, the Czech language and Greek ritual declined. Wratislav the Second ascended to the throne in 1061 A.D. He enjoyed the love of his people and fostered a feeling of nationalism that flourished. But these were uncertain times. Conflict arose between the two heads of

Latin Christianity. It was at this time that Wratislav formed an alliance with Emperor Henry the Fourth in 1075 A.D.

A formal request was made in 1079 to sanction the Slavonian ritual. His reply from the Papacy came in the form of a bull dated January 2, 1080. The bull omitted both the customary greeting and benediction. In no uncertain terms, the bull decreed that the sanctioning of the Slavonian tongue would be denied as certain parts of Holy Scripture should “remain hidden” so as not to be “incorrectly understood by minds of mediocre capacity.”

This came as a heavy blow to freshly renewed hopes. Despite this, Wratislav continued to favor the convent on the Sazawa that was the principal seat of the ancient ritual. His successor, Bretislav the Second, expelled the Slavonian brethren there and turned the monastery over to Latin monks in 1096 A.D.

Worship in the native language was officially prohibited. The clergy were not allowed to marry. Lay people were denied the Communion cup. But Bohemia did not entirely yield. Individual families and churches maintained the national worship. Married priests still existed. For the next two and a half centuries religious liberty refused to completely die. Rather, it clung tenaciously to life in secrecy.



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In Christ's Love . . . from the Foreign Mission Fields

From the Kozaks... Missionaries in the Czech Republic

September 18, 2021

Warm greetings our dear brothers and sisters!

Stania and I do send you our LOVE and are so thankful that you will read this newsletter. May our Lord Jesus Christ BLESS YOU ALL!

MINISTRY UPDATE

Praise God! TWO professions of Faith!

What a grace we are privileged by our Heavenly Father in our Lord Jesus to continue in our ministry mission task and call!

Praise God! We have wonderful news for you! A few weeks ago we did have TWO professions of Faith! Here

is the STORY:

I think in the past we did share with you a story about Lucy. She is a mother of SIX – five girls and one boy, and about four years ago she started to send her kids to the club. It was so nice and we could see that she is a bit open to hear about God, about Bible, etc...

When we did provide special meetings for the parents, she always came and did listen to Biblical stories carefully. Then she became a close friend with Stania, mainly after hard surgery of a cancer she had two years ago. Stania helped her a lot with her kids, and she did visit with her in the hospital frequently.

About three weeks ago, when she was listening to the message of the Cross, the message about Lord Jesus what He did for us as the Lamb of God on the Cross, she was obviously

VERY touched in her heart! Then she went home... Next day she told us that she couldn't sleep at all, she did cry a lot, and she started to understand the depth of the Father's Love in Christ!

Lucy also told us that the first thing she realized was that she MUST forgive all the people who did whatever bad to her during her life. She also confessed that she was so critical to the people around her, but that it was mostly HER problem. And instead to confess her sins, she tried to accuse the others.

We can tell this truth now – Lucy is another – born again – person today! She was liberated from many evil things; she is not using bad words, always positive with a pure faith, she started to share the Gospel with her kids, she is praying with them, she is hurry and running to be with us to hear the Word of God! That's something!!!

So, right now Lucy is very HAPPY and she is preparing to do the minis-

try for the kids together with Stania! What a GRACE!!!

Another profession of the faith we had about two months ago. One gentleman (Tom) who is the father of the smallest girl in the club (her name is Esther) did open his heart to the Lord Jesus too. Now he is very gentle man, very nice and sensitive Christian Brother in Christ Jesus! He is very "hungry and thirsty" for the Word of God, and he is listening to us very carefully when there is a Bible teaching. New disciple of the Lord! What a GRACE of Father God and very much answered PRAYERS!

A WORD FROM STANIA

Our God is still in an ACTION!

Our dear Sisters and Brothers, together with my husband Pavel we see more and more intensively the priority to share the Gospel – The Good News about what Lord Jesus did for all of us and what He is doing NOW in these days.

