

# get connected

We connect people to Jesus and equip them to be his disciples.



## He Isn't Here

by Pastor Nate Crandall

*When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a white robe sitting on the right side. The women were shocked, but the angel said, "Don't be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead!"*

Mark 16:5-6 (NLT)

They went to the tomb expecting Jesus to be dead. They expected the stone to be in front of the tomb. They expected that it would be a miracle if they were able to get help moving the stone away. They expected to be in mourning. But they didn't get what they expected, because God does the impossible.

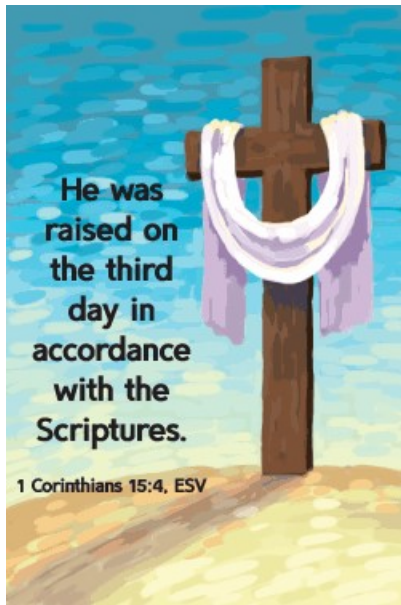
Bringing a dead person back to life tops the scale of things that are impossible from a human perspective. Of all the unexpected things Jesus did, rising from the dead is the greatest. We are like these ladies. We are

looking for Jesus in the places that fit our human expectations instead of expecting him to be God. His disciples had heard the word he said, *"The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."* (Luke 9:22) But they didn't

believe him. They couldn't receive his words into their hearts and minds.

How often are we like the disciples? Instead of listening and hearing and believing his word, we dismiss it because we can't conceive that what God says is true, that what God says will happen. Perhaps we are so tuned into death

in all its forms and the finality of it that we still have a hard time believing in resurrection. Jesus is called, *"the firstborn from the dead"*. (Col 1:18) We have great expectations of our own resurrection because Jesus came back to life and gives life to all who receive him.



## March 2024

### Inside this issue:

Good Friday Fellowship and Service	2
Prayer Focus – Jesus Invites Us to Pray	3
Community Night of Prayer	3
The Feeding Spoon	4
Serving at GIFTS	4
Your Potential to Change the World	5
Upcoming Pastoral Sabbatical	5
Bulletin Board	6
Calendar	7



Continued on page 2

---

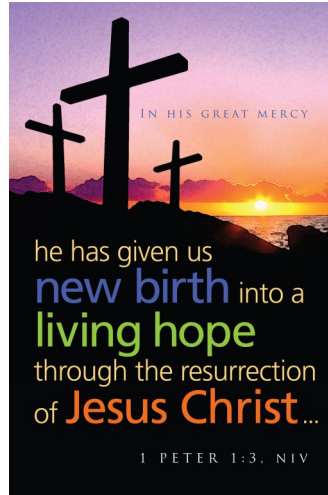
## He Isn't Here, *continued*

Resurrection life comes to us when this life is through but also while this life continues. *"If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you."* (Rom 8:11) What does this mean for us? It means that we should expect the resurrected life of Jesus to characterize our life on this earth. Yes, the shades of death surround us. Yes, we walk through the valley of the shadow of death. Yes, we face death daily as Paul said, *"For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh."* (2 Cor 4:11) Yes these things are true, but so also is the life of Jesus.

What is this life? It is life that is full of hope in the goodness of God. It is life that is full of trust in the grace of God. It is life that is full of the love of God. Paul said, *"So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."* (1 Cor 13:13) What does Jesus resurrect in us? Faith, hope, and love. These are not generic ideas. They flow from Jesus and the life which he gives to us. They remain and grow because the Spirit of God remains in us.

Do you sense a lack of these markers of Christ's life in you? Has your hope run

dry? Has your faith been put on hold? Has your love grown cold? Perhaps you are caught in human expectations instead of expecting God to be God. Perhaps you are looking for faith, hope, and love in the wrong place. Jesus, your life, will give his life to you, in this life as well as the next. Circumstances can create a fog in the minds of even the strongest disciples. Those who walked with him were confused by the circumstances, just like we are by our own circumstances. But we have one who is greater than the conditions which we face. Let us keep our eyes on him. His life is in us. He will bring his life to bear in our lives just at the right time.



*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son ...*

John 3:16



Dinner will be a planned meal of baked chicken, roasted potatoes, vegetables, rolls and brownies. A signup sheet is in the Welcome Center.

---

# Jesus Invites Us to Pray!

by Renee Sanford, Prayer Coordinator

Jesus invites us to pray!

Think how excited we get when we receive an invitation to a party or a wedding or the Fireside Dinner Theater. What if we got an invitation to meet a superstar – Jordan Love or Taylor Swift? We'd be incredibly enthusiastic! We'd tell our friends. We'd be sure to remember the time and place.

Yet every day, every minute – we have the most amazing invitation of all. Our God, the one and only, the creator of the universe, the one who loves us and sustains us and protects us, the one who saved us and cleanses us – GOD, the LORD, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Our Father who art in Heaven – He invites us to pray.

“Come to me,” He says. Cast all your cares upon me. Ask for whatever you need. Lean on me. I am always near.

Are we excited? Enthusiastic?

If we are honest, we have three rather sad tendencies:

- (1) We take it for granted or
- (2) We avoid it like the plague or
- (3) We are rather bored and try to just get it over with.

LORD, we confess that we fail to appreciate how incredible your invitation is.

Forgive us for taking you for granted.

Forgive us for failing to make time to be with you.

Create in us clean hearts.

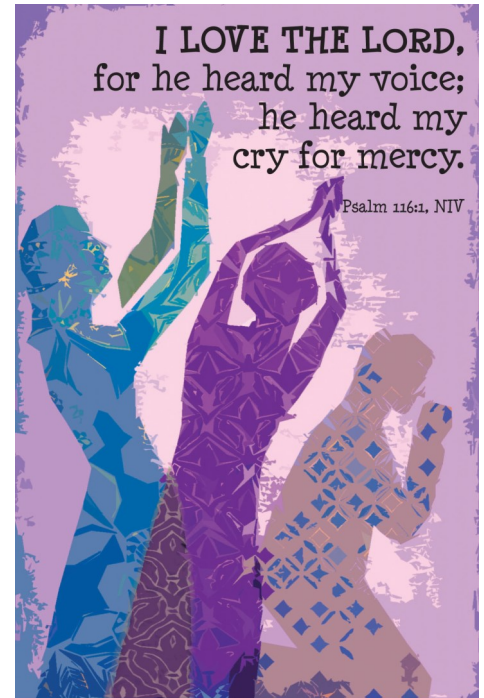
Create in us a renewed desire to know you more.

Fill us with a fresh awareness of the joy of our salvation in Jesus.

Make our times of prayer fruitful – filled with praises and thanksgiving and confessions – as well as petitions and intercessions.

May we listen for your voice and receive guidance.

You are the way, the truth and the life!



**Coming Friday, April 12**  
**Milton Community Night of Prayer**  
**at Milton SDB Church**

# The Feeding Spoon

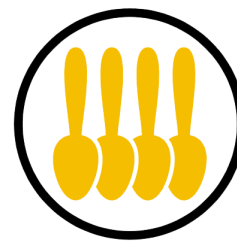
by Linda Lyke, Outreach Coordinator

On Heritage Sabbath in October 2023, we were blessed with visiting SDB Pastors from Africa, Pastors Quistin Chalwe from Zambia and Kingsley Gauti from Malawi. They encouraged us and expressed the need for the gospel to spread in Africa, but they also shared a physical need to fill hungry bellies and spiritual hunger through an organization called The Feeding Spoon.

Pastor Quistin started The Feeding Spoon “to provide a holistic transformation of Seventh Day Baptist young children and those surrounding our church as well as old people faced with current job

losses and disadvantaged communities by reaching them with the Gospel and providing nutritional meals, groceries and other necessities from education, hygiene and health.” Milton SDB Church saw the need and responded with great generosity in donations totaling \$4,477!

Pastor Quistin offered a heartfelt thank you: *“The Feeding Spoon Zambia would like to... thank you for all your generous donations, support and prayers. Your generosity continues to demonstrate that we are indeed a family and makes a difference for the Children’s Feeding Spoon Project and its*



The feeding  
SPOON  
FOUNDATION

*purpose and indeed the Seventh Day Baptist Churches in Zambia. We are indeed grateful for the brotherly fellowship, memorable welcome and care we received during our recent (visit).”*

## Serving at GIFTS in March

The GIFTS Men’s shelter in Janesville has served unsheltered men in Rock County since 2007. GIFTS Shelter is open 24/7, 365 days of the year to serve and transform the lives of unsheltered men in Rock County.

Our church’s days to provide meals at the shelter are **March 18, 19 and 21<sup>st</sup>.**

Serving the meal to the men is truly a blessing. If you haven’t tried it yet, sign up and you too will be blessed!

Sign up at the Welcome Center to participate by donating food for our meals or for serving the meal. Thank you for your participation in project that truly impacts the men in filling their stomachs and their spirits.

## Summer Missions Scholarships

Summer missions scholarships are available to anyone participating in a short-term missions trip, including Koinonia.

Please contact the Church Administrator for more information or for a scholarship form.



---

# Your Potential to Change the World

*By Pastor John Pethtel*

The Bible gives us a much more robust explanation of the duties of a church steward beyond just giving. One of the best-known examples juxtaposing good and bad stewardship is the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-28). Here, a man entrusts different amounts of money to three servants. The master scolds the servant who merely saved his bag of gold. Whereas, the two who put their allotments to good and productive uses were praised and given more responsibility.

One take away from this parable is that stewardship should not be about giving only, but doing. This outlook should inform your living and not just your giving. Connect your willingness to part with change from your pocketbook with your potential to change your world.

In fact, the majority of Bible verses addressing money deal with the responsibilities of having money and not the amount that is needed. You may be financially well off or

struggling or somewhere in between. Biblical stewardship emphasizes what you CAN contribute, not how much.

You are a part of the mission of Jesus' church, not merely funders of it. Stewardship is about actively using what God has given you to accomplish the mission Jesus left His church.



The Board of Trustees has been working on a revision to some policies of the church (special thanks to Pastor Liz). In this revision, it was decided for the benefit of our pastors to codify a sabbatical policy.

A sabbatical is a period of time where a person is relieved from their pastoral duties for the purpose of rest, education, study, travel, and/or prayer. The outcome of a sabbatical is ideally a rejuvenated pastor who returns with a renewed sense of calling to the ministry

of the church and its more preferred future.

In this season with a strong team of ministry leaders, the Elders and Trustees have encouraged and granted the months of May and June as a sabbatical for Pastor Nate Crandall. Pastor Nate has served the Milton SDB Church full-time and faithfully for the last 17 years. This sabbatical will help give Pastor Nate a refreshed calling to the members and ministry of the Milton SDB Church and a passion to con-

tinue serving joyfully and faithfully for another 10+ years.

As we get closer to May, there will be further communications regarding this sabbatical as needed. Any questions regarding the sabbatical policy or this sabbatical can be answered by the Elders and/or Trustees. Please join us in praying for this opportunity for Pastor Nate.

## March Bulletin Board



- 1 Frank & Liz Green
- 1 Grace Nickel
- 4 Ken & Mickey Johnson
- 8 Paul Green
- 8 Warren Nickel
- 21 Paul Anderson
- 26 Sue Cruzan
- 26 Marian Anderson
- 27 Ron Bennett
- 28 Larry Schultz
- 29 Linda Lyke
- 31 Paul & Marian Anderson



**Camp Discover – June 24 - 28**  
**Collision Camp – July 7 - 14**  
**Intermediate Camp – July 14 - 19**  
 Registration opens April 6th.

### Men's Chorus

will rehearse at 8:00 a.m. on Sabbath, March 16th and sing during worship that day at 10:30 a.m. They will also sing on Resurrection Sabbath.

### Ladies Sit 'n Sip

Tuesday, March 12th, 9:00 a.m. at Sharla's

## March Children's Church

### March 2

**Unit 20: Session 1**  
 Jesus Told Nicodemus about Eternal Life (John 3)  
 Teacher: Angie


### March 16

**Unit 20: Session 2**  
 Jesus Told a Woman about Living Water (John 4)  
 Teacher: Marcy

## March – Awana

2/25	Grand Prix Workshop 12-2
3	Grand Prix – 2:00 p.m.
6	Club 
13	Club
20	Club – Easter Celebration
27	No Club – Spring Break

## March – Collision

4	Roller Skating with Koinonia Youth Ministries
6	Bible Study @ The Ice ShanTea (4:30-6) Collision @Camp Wakonda 
13	Bible Study @ The Ice ShanTea (4:30-6) Collision @Camp Wakonda
20	Bible Study @ The Ice ShanTea (4:30-6) Collision @Camp Wakonda – PIZZA Night
27	No Bible Study or Collision – Spring Break

## Focus on Funds

as of January 31, 2024

General Fund Balance	\$15,541.54
Cash at Mem. Fund	\$26,719.78
Jan. Undesignated Inc.	\$10,207.43
Jan. Total Income	\$10,598.92
Jan. Expenses	\$14,836.48
Denomination Giving YTD	\$ 85.00
Capital Campaign Fund	\$ 6,024.38

# March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
							
<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Sabbath Sunset Times</b></p> <p>March 1 5:47 p.m.    March 2 5:48 p.m.            March 8 5:55 p.m.    March 9 5:56 p.m.            March 15 7:04 p.m.    March 16 7:05 p.m.            March 22 7:12 p.m.    March 23 7:13 p.m.            March 29 7:20 p.m.    March 30 7:21 p.m.</p> </div>						1	2 9:00 Sabbath School 10:30 Worship and Children's Church
3  2:00 Grand Prix – Fellowship Hall	4 8:00 TOPS  6:00 Youth Roller Skating with Koinonia	5  7:00 Scouts	6 6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study  4:30 Youth Bible Study – The Ice ShanTea 6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision	7	8	9 9:00 Sabbath School 10:30 Worship – Communion	
10  9:00 Trustee Meeting – Library	11 8:00 TOPS	12 9:00 Ladies Sit 'n Sip – Sharla's  7:00 Scouts	13 6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study  4:30 Youth Bible Study – The Ice ShanTea 6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision	14	15	16 8:00 Men's Chorus Rehearsal 9:00 Sabbath School 10:30 Worship and Children's Church	
17 	18 8:00 TOPS  GIFTS NIGHT	19  GIFTS NIGHT 7:00 Scouts	20 6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study  4:30 Youth Bible Study – The Ice ShanTea 6:25 Awana 6:30 Collision	21  GIFTS NIGHT	22	23 9:00 Sabbath School 10:30 Worship	
24	25 8:00 TOPS	26  SPRING BREAK 7:00 Scouts	27 6:30 Men's Bible Study – Sharla's 9:30 Women's Bible Study  No Youth Bible Study, Awana or Collision	28	29  5:00 Meal 6:30 Service	30 8:00 Men's Chorus Rehearsal 9:00 Sabbath School 10:30 Resurrection Sabbath Worship	
31 							



**March  
2024**

**Milton SDB Church**  
**720 E. Madison Ave.**  
**Milton, WI 53563**  
**Church Phone: 608-868-2741**

**Pastor Nate Crandall**  
Cell Phone: 608-322-8824  
pastornate@miltonsdb.org

**Pastor Liz Green**  
Cell Phone: 608-289-3029  
pastorliz@miltonsdb.org

**Pastor John Pethtel**  
Cell Phone: 608-352-0655  
pastorjohn@miltonsdb.org

**Administrator:** Janet Butler  
churchoffice@miltonsdb.org

**Director of Children's Ministry:**  
Angie Mullen  
asmullen92@gmail.com

**Prayer Coordinator:**  
Renee Sanford  
renee@miltonsdb.org

**Outreach Coordinator:**  
Linda Lyke  
lykelinda@miltonsdb.org

**Communications Coordinator:**  
Joel Osborn  
joel@miltonsdb.org



**Online Worship**

Our Sabbath morning worship service is available **live** on our YouTube channel.  
Go to <http://TheConnecting.Church/WorshipOnline> for the link.  
We are also posting links to the sermon notes on that same page.