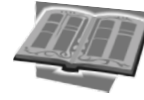


# The Bluff Hall News

November 2024



## Pastor's Thoughts

The year is 1797 and the place is Boston, Massachusetts, more specifically Edmund Hartt's Shipyard, where a new ship is commissioned and launched into the service of the United States Navy on October 21. Believe it or not this ship remains in service today. Some of you may know the ship that I am talking about by its nick-name Old Ironsides, but its commissioned name is the USS Constitution. I had the pleasure to go and see this amazing wooden warship from yesteryear as a boy and I hope to see it again. This ship and her various crews served with honor and distinction, it is for this reason that she remains the only wooden masted ship in service to the US Navy today. Although Constitution is still technically in the service of the Navy, everyone knows that she is no longer serving in the same way in which she was commissioned. Today she is merely a symbol of this great nation. As I began thinking of the principle of faith that I wanted to address in this month's newsletter the word "commissioned" began echoing in my head and the story of Old Ironsides became the link. Every ship is designed and commissioned to fulfill a specific task within the mission of the United States Navy. Did you know that every believer in the church has also been designed and commissioned with a role to play in the family of God? Look with me at Matthew 28:18-20.

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (ESV)

If you have been in the church for a number of years then it is likely you have heard this passage before, you may even be able to quote it from memory. The reason for this, is that this is an incredibly important command of Jesus following his resurrection from the grave. In these words the church learns important truths about Christ; he has "all authority in heaven and on earth" and he is "with [his church] always". At the same time this passage is also endearingly titled "The Great Commission", for just as the Constitution was commissioned to be a warship, the disciples and followers of Jesus have been commissioned to serve the Risen Lord. Notice the order of instructions; go, make disciples, baptize, and teach. Jesus expects his followers to depart into the world for him. As they go they are to replicate themselves in others, just as Jesus had done with them. Upon making a "new" disciple they are to "baptize" that person into the family of the Triune God. The final task is the passing on of Jesus' instructions to the new follower. Part of that instruction would be this very commission so the gospel would advance into all the world for the glory of God.

This commissioning of Christ remains on his church today. You and I have been charged with this teaching of Jesus in the same way the disciples were so many years ago. Although the times have changed, the work and the message remain unchanged. Every believer in Christ must be willing to go, leaving our places of comfort for the sake of the gospel of Jesus. We must strive to disciple others into a relationship with the Lord and encouraging them to be baptized into the family of God. The final step is to continue walking in the faith with each new believer instructing them by word and deed on what it means to follow Jesus. May we the church today be active in the commission Jesus set out before us, reaching out to the community around us with the love of Christ. Let us avoid becoming merely a symbol of the historic past, God still has work for each of us.

To God be the Glory!

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Sunday Worship Service: 9:00 am    Sunday School Hour: 10:30

## Highlights of October 9<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Meeting

**Treasurer's Report:** Checking balance \$16,117.56, Savings balance \$160,166.35, Memorial Fund balance \$14,533.25, Building Fund balance \$5,355.95. Church Fund CD \$75,000 and Building Fund CD \$10,000.

**Deacons Report:** Pastor's self-evaluation has been completed. Deacons are reviewing Constitution guidelines regarding membership and looking at addressing members who have fallen out of active participation. Inactive' classification was removed from our constitution previously per EFCA requirement at time of joining the EFCA denomination. Deaconess also to be involved.

**Trustees Report:** Gutters on Parsonage have been redone to improve water flow. LP gas line has been replaced due to being severely kinked. Landscape timbers and rock added on west side of dining hall so mowers do not have to mow around new gas line and condenser units. New gravel added to east parking lot. Coil stock added around downspouts to prevent the squirrels from entering drain system. New north kitchen concrete entry steps are done; handrail will be installed shortly. Area around steps and east side has been graded to get water to flow away from building and grass seed will be sowed soon in those areas. Concrete pad added under the water spigot on north side of dining hall. Exterminator has inspected and treated parsonage and church. Grab bars requested in bathrooms have been purchased and will be installed soon.

**Women's Fellowship:** Speaker from Right to Life of Adams County spoke at September meeting. Turkey Supper is November 2. Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry collection to start soon.

**Christian Ed & Sunday School:** Children's and adult Sunday School have restarted after summer break.

**Cemetery Committee:** A lot has been sold. Fresh rock around cemetery was suggested.

**Missions Committee:** July 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday collection netted \$220 and September 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday collection netted \$240. \$300 has been sent to Ahdee and Semi-Annual \$600 donation made to Young Life. Checkbook balance is \$3430.49. Money to cover cost of candy for Trunk or Treat has been donated.

**Retreat House Report:** The recent Sunday evening outing was enjoyed by many.

**Pastor's Report:** Recently attended meeting in Morton. Pastor will be attending Great Lakes District annual meeting is later this month. Our district Superintendent, Rick Thompson, is retiring and Brett Gleason has been nominated for the position. Larry Elliott has replaced Pastor Mark Balmer as regional superintendent. Completed sermon series on Titus and Nehemiah. Tuesday night Bible Study on Prayer planned for October 22 and November will have 3 nights of Bible Study to answer questions from members.

**Star Link Internet:** On hold until Pastor Richard receives more information.

**Church CD:** Due October 13<sup>th</sup>. It will be reinvested at State Street Bank for 4.65% for 5 months and the building fund CD that comes due in November is to be invested at best rate available at the time.

**Payson Yearbook:** A 1/4-page ad in the Payson yearbook will be purchased for a cost of \$75.

**Bequest:** Generous bequest has been received. Several possible uses were discussed including upkeep of cabin, cemetery, Myanmar mission, building fund and general fund. It will be invested in a CD at 4.65% for 5 months with interest going back into CD. Church Council will discuss and make recommendations for areas of need to be reviewed/voted on at the Annual Meeting.

**150 pens** with Bluff Hall name, etc will be purchased for \$60.00 to be placed on backs of pews to aid in completing new prayer cards.

**2025 Proposed Budget:** Presented by finance committee. Projected income: \$78,620.00 and projected expenses: \$88,439.00 leaving projected shortfall of \$9,819.00. Proposed budget approved.

**Next meeting:** will be Annual meeting on Sunday, February 2 following worship service.

- Women's Fellowship News**
- Drive-thru only Turkey Supper is Saturday, November 2. Serving from 4-6pm.
  - Collection of non-perishable items for Loaves and Fishes food pantry will begin Sunday, October 13 thru Nov. 3. Please place these items in the back of the church.
  - Next meeting will be Wednesday, November 20 at 9am. It is a sewing day. All skill levels welcome.



# Prayer Needs



## New, Recent, & Updated Requests:

- Judy Piper – Healing from severe fall
- Rhoda Wohemer – Cancer diagnosis
- Mary Speckhart – Continued healing
- Rebecca Allen – Long road of rehab
- Connie Kramer – Healing from heart issues
- Anabelle Rhoads – Healing
- Belva Dodd – Healing
- Robert Kramer – Terminal cancer diagnosis
- Alley Buck – Healing from terminal cancer diagnosis
- Marty Riggs – Heart health
- Sandy Beckert – Treatment for breast cancer
- Brian Johnson – Ongoing treatment for cancer
- Danny Thomure – Cancer treatment
- Chris Blackmore – Cancer battle
- Dee Cole – Starting cancer trial
- Chad Glosemeyer – Needs kidney and liver transplant
- Upcoming Elections in our country
- Peace in Ukraine and Israel

## Military:

Seth Miles, Henry Dodd, Ryan Mena, Dustin Speckhart,  
Blaine Brown, Gary Velasquez, Lucas Velasquez, Kason Spratt

If you have any prayers concerns, please let the prayer chain know by contacting Pastor Richard. Also if you are in need of pastoral care please contact Pastor Richard or a Deacon.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Nov 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Nov 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Nov 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Nov 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Dec 1<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>Children's Message</b>	Penni	Laurel	Katie	Mary	Penni
<b>Announcements &amp; Prayer</b>	Geoff	Richard	Bill	Geoff	Richard

**Deacons for the month:** Clayton and Paul

**Flowers:** Oct. 2024 thru March 2025 artificial or donated flowers



## Bluff Hall Outreach Mission

Sunday, if you would like to support Bluff Hall Missions, please use the envelopes in the pew-backs and place in the offering plate at the back of church.

Please be in prayer for Ahdi and family during this time of upheaval in Myanmar. Also if you have a neighbor or know someone that the church might be able to serve in our community, please let the Missions Team know. – Thank you!

## Ongoing Requests:

- Ross & Sandy Loos
- Betty Speckhart
- BJ Cutforth – Needs miraculous healing
- Jim Woods – Continued recovery
- Carolyn and Steve Kaiser – Health
- Ralph Venvertloh – Health
- Tim Davis – Continued health
- Janice Walbring – Health
- Gail Otiker
- Tys Reinhardt in children's hospital
- Myanmar Mission and Seminary
- Those in our community battling cancer.
- Those in our community grieving the loss of loved ones.
- Those who gave us our freedom.
- Our local, state and federal leadership

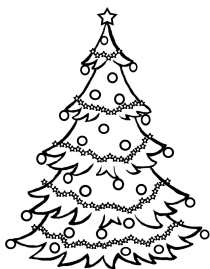
## Praises:

- Dee Cole received a good oncology report!
- Great unified Great Lakes District conference!

Looking for a way to serve the Lord on Sunday? We are always in need of people who can help lead the announcement/prayer times during Sunday service once a month or so. See Pastor Richard for more information.

**Service Live Stream** For those who are unable to join us Sunday on mornings check out our live stream. You can find our youtube channel

by searching bluffhallefc at youtube.com or a link can be found on our website at [bluffhallefc.org/sermons](http://bluffhallefc.org/sermons).



### **Hanging of the Greens:**

Decorating the church for the Advent season will take place Sunday, November 24 following morning worship service. Bring a light snack to share for some time of fellowship before the holiday busyness!



# *Bluff Hall Church*



# *Fall Turkey Supper*

**Saturday November 2, 2024 –  
Drive Thru Service only (no indoor dining) 4:00 – 6:00  
p.m.**

Turkey      Mashed Potatoes / Gravy  
Green Beans      Dressing      Cranberry Salad  
Rolls      Apple Cake

Meal \$13.00

### **Location**

941 N 400<sup>th</sup> Ave., Payson IL

or

Take Hwy I72- Exit 2 - Go North, Turn East at Church Sign



DRIVE THRU  
RESTAURANT



# November

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			<b>30</b> Stuffing prep 8:30am Cranberry prep 5pm	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> Gravy Prep 2pm	<b>2</b> Turkey Supper 4-6pm
<b>3</b> Daylight Savings Ends	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Vote!	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Bible Study 6:45pm	<b>13</b> Deacon Meeting 7pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Bible Study 6:45pm	<b>20</b> Women's Fellowship 9am	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Hanging of the Greens	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Bible Study 6:45pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Happy Thanksgiving!	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

## Bible Study



Our Mid-Week Bible study will resume on Tuesday, November 12 at 6:45pm. Study "I Have Questions" We'd love to have you join us!

## Happy Anniversary

- Nov. 1 Craig & Judy Spratt
- Nov. 2 Brian & Penni Ippensen
- Nov. 17 Marvin & Brenda Meyer
- Nov. 22 Jerry & Katie Thomure

**BLUFF HALL NOW ACCEPTS ONLINE GIFTS**

Want to give online?  
Go to [bluffhallefc.org/donate](http://bluffhallefc.org/donate) and click the link to fill out the giving form.



- Nov. 10 Sandy Loos
- Nov. 14 Jane Huber
- Nov. 19 Debbie Dodd
- Nov. 22 Kristy Miller
- Nov. 30 LeAnn Maiers



## REMINDER

Don't forget to FALL BACK Saturday, November 5! That's right Daylight Saving Time is ending.



## Church Chuckles

Please welcome Pastor Don, a caring individual who loves hurting people.

It's Drug Awareness Week: Get involved in drugs before your children do.

# Announcements

- Turkey Supper Prep Wednesday, Oct. 30 at 8:30am and 5pm
- Gravy Prep Friday, Nov. 1 at 2pm
- Daylight Savings ends Nov. 3; make sure to set your clocks back an hour.
- Bible Study Tues., Nov. 12 at 6:45pm
- Deacons Meeting Wed, Nov. 13 at 7pm
- Bible Study Tues., Nov. 19 at 6:45pm
- Women's Fellowship Wednesday, Nov. 23 at 9am
- Hanging of the Greens Sunday, Nov. 24 following worship.
- Bible Study Tues., Nov. 26 at 6:45pm
- Please check website for any updates.



## Looking Ahead

December 8 – Youth Christmas Program

December – Bluff Hall Christmas Dinner

## Sermons Online

Miss a Sunday? Want to listen to a message again? You're in luck!  
Sermons can be found online through our website: [bluffhallefc.org/sermons](http://bluffhallefc.org/sermons)  
Sunday's messages typically post on the following Tuesday.

**Please pass along any information you have for the newsletter. It may be emailed or called-in to Pastor Richard. Thanks!**



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