

**Church Update Weekly Newsletter**  
**BOWMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**Bowman, ND 58623**  
**May 15, 2021**

**Message from Pastor Ray**  
**CONFIRMATION TIME**

**Upcoming Events**

- **Sunday, May 9 Mother's Day**  
10:00 am Worship Service  
9:00 am Adult Sunday School  
Preschool Sunday School during  
morning worship service
- **Wednesday, May 12**  
6:30 pm Discovery Club  
7:00 pm Youth Group
- **Sunday, May 16 Confirmation**  
Sunday
- **Sunday, May 30 Graduation Day**
- **Sunday, June 6 Graduation Sunday**

**Contact Information**

**Church Office: 701-523-5492**  
**Pastor Ray: 701-440-9730/**  
**email: [pastoray11@gmail.com](mailto:pastoray11@gmail.com)**  
**Brenda: 701-440-0024/email:**  
**[pastorswife8893@gmail.com](mailto:pastorswife8893@gmail.com)**  
**Michael: 701-264-9835 (cell)/email:**  
**[michaeljmarsh@yahoo.com](mailto:michaeljmarsh@yahoo.com)**  
**Skylar: 701-206-1213 / email:**  
**[sky.ruggles@gmail.com](mailto:sky.ruggles@gmail.com)**

This coming Sunday we will be celebrating confirmation with three of our youth. It is always an exciting time not only for them but for their families as well. Some of my biggest crowds for church have been Confirmation Sundays.

The church I grew up in didn't do confirmation, so I was kind of thrown into the mix in my last parish when I had five youth that were ready to be confirmed. I am sure those youth wondered what I was doing because I will tell you it was a real learning experience for me...and I think they had that figured out after our first session!!!

There were truly kind (maybe because I was the pastor...don't know that for certain) and sympathetic as I tried to make our confirmation classes fun and not too boring. I am sure for those who have gone through confirmation you can remember it wasn't always exciting and then answering question and all that "fun" stuff!!

For me I wanted to make it fun and exciting thought I am not too sure I did that in my first experience with my confirmands or even the second one (which was a couple of years ago here), but it was fun for me.

You may or may not know this...but there are many confirmation materials out there and it isn't always easy to choose what is best! I normally use the UMC materials but as I went through confirmation with my confirmands this year, I was drawn to a couple of thoughts that I felt was important for them to hear and now for you to hear (or read)!!

I am fairly certain most of you do not remember all that was shared with you about how the church is governed and all that other good stuff that you were supposed to learn during these classes!

I ordered some confirmation material that I thought was quite good and felt like it would help my confirmands, but then something happened as I asked *(continued on next page)*

some folks about what they remembered about their confirmation days (or years)!!

Many of them remembered the pastor or teacher and some things that they were taught but most of them had forgotten much of what was said and done!

I began to think about that and it kind of bothered me because I thought the one thing our confirmands needed to know was God's Word! Our youth don't really know the Bible and part of that is because we get caught up in everything going on around us (which is not always bad) and we forget to teach about God's Word.

Many people and especially our young adults can be quite illiterate when it comes to knowing what the Bible says and how big a role it plays in our daily lives!

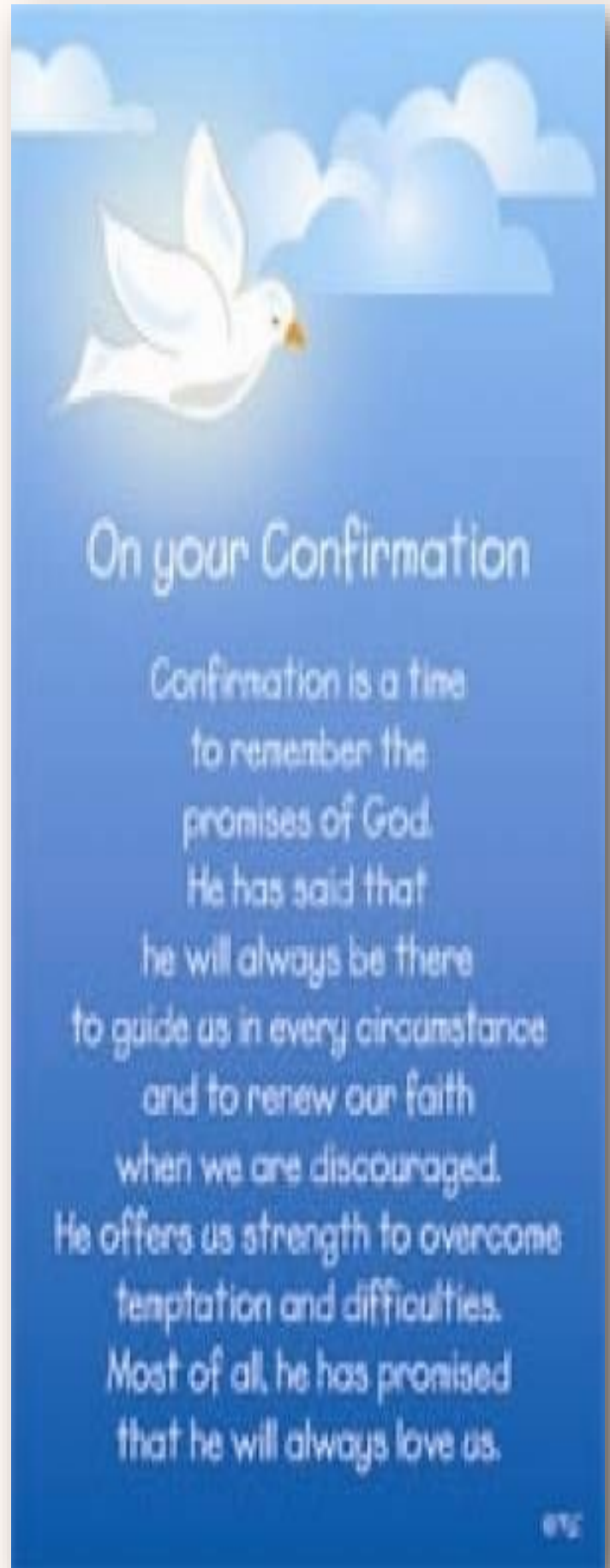
So, I began to teach about the Bible and left the other "stuff" alone. We viewed some great videos and had some wonderful conversations as we looked at different passages in God's Word!

Now I understand if you were to ask them questions about the Bible, they are not going to be able to answer most of them if at all. That is not to say they are ignorant, but you know as well as I do it takes a lifetime to learn about the Bible and then you don't really have much knowledge because God's Word is alive, and it comes to us in many different avenues as we read and study it!

I was helping them to just find the books of the Bible and we were using the table of contents to find the book and the page so give them a little break if you do happen to see them!

My hopes and prayers are what time I had with them they will remember that more than anything else that I love them and prayerfully care for them. They have their whole life ahead of them and I want them to remember that being confirmed is more than just a ceremony, but it is a lifetime commitment to serving the church and to serving our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

*Be Strong and Courageous, Do not be afraid;  
Do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God  
will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9*



## NURSING HOME OUTREACH

We have a number of people who are currently in an assisted living facility. With the social distancing practices currently in effect, Pastor Ray and Brenda are not able to visit with them. Therefore, it would be nice if we as the church family would send cards, letters or make phone calls to these individuals to let them know that they have not been forgotten. I have included the names and addresses of each individual that I am aware of that is currently in one of the assisted living facilities from our church. If I have left anyone out, please let me know. Thank you for taking the time to reach out to these individuals.

Martha Brown  
c/o Western Care Center  
1104 Highway 12  
Hettinger ND 58639

Sherman Oakland  
c/o Superior Care Villa  
101 2nd Street SW  
Baker MT 59313

Eunice Ruggles  
c/o Southwest Health Care Services  
802 2nd Street NW  
Bowman ND 58623

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## SENIORS/SHUT-INS OUTREACH

The following list is for those seniors within our congregation that are unable to get out. Please send cards, letters or make a phone call to these individuals to let them know that you are praying and thinking about them as Pastor Ray and Brenda are unable at this time to visit them. Thank you for taking the time to reach out to each of these individuals.

Gary & Sonia Campbell  
PO Box 85  
Bowman ND 58623-0085

Mary Jacobi  
206 10th Avenue NW, Apt C2  
Bowman ND 58623

Gail Hughes  
PO Box 775  
Bowman ND 58623-0075

Dawn Lutes  
PO Box 233  
Bowman ND 58623

Julie Brown  
509 1st Street NW  
Bowman ND 58623

Sharon Harmon  
307 2nd Avenue N  
Scranton ND 58653

Joyce Wilburn  
805 3rd Street NW  
Bowman ND 58623

Evelyn McKitrick  
101 7th Avenue NW  
Bowman ND 58623

Nancy Sheets  
919 20th Avenue SW  
Valley City ND 58072

Rod & Dorinda Diede  
107 9th Avenue NW  
Bowman ND 58623

Carol Ziebarth  
11110 Ralph Road  
Ralph, SD 57650

Silver Ziebarth  
c/o Superior Care Villa  
101 2nd Street SW  
Baker MT 59313

## HOSPITAL - Please send lots of cards of encouragement

### Rob Lewton - Cancer

Address:

Rob & Rita Lewton, c/o KOA  
5232 65th Ave SE, #9  
Rochester MN 55904



## Attendance Numbers

<u>Date</u>	<u>Online</u>	<u>Sanctuary</u>	<u>Total</u>
May 2	93	30	123
May 9	100	48	148
May 16			
May 23			
May 30			
Total Combined for May			271
Total Physical Attendance for May			78
Total online attendance for May			193
Sunday School 9		Total for May	24

TITHES  
and  
OFFERINGS  
giving boldly

## Thank You for Your Generosity!!

General Fund	\$ 977.50	
Memorials <i>(Undesignated)</i>	\$2,200.00	
Memorials Offering <i>(Designated)</i>	\$ 300.00	<i>(sound system)</i>
ACH <i>(Collected on 5/16/2021)</i>	\$ 200.00	
Lenten	\$- - - - -	
Missions <i>(Undesignated)</i>	\$ 20.00	
El Min <i>(Interest Check)</i>	\$- - - - -	
Weekly Total	\$ 3,697.50	
May Total	\$ 6,282.50	
Total Raised for Sound System	\$15,770.00	

# Prayer Request



**PTL!!! For the rain/moisture we have had in this past week!**  
**Joann Lederman family at her passing due to colon infection**  
**Dan & Cynthia, the couple in Texas Christopher is staying with both have COVID and in hospital -**  
**Pray for protection for Christopher**  
**Dale Powell (Eileen Powell's nephew who lives in St. Louis, MO) scheduled for a liver**  
**transplant - pray that a donor will be found soon**  
**Laureen Stuber- Unspoken requests**  
**Farmers/Ranchers during this drought - pray for more rain!!**  
**PTL!!! For the money raised for the sound system that came from inside & outside our**  
**church!!!!**  
**Kim Diede - Pray for healing after her surgery**  
**Pray for rain so the farmers and ranchers are able to survive this drought**  
**Rod/Dorinda Diede as they travel to Colorado to help care for Kim Diede**  
**Rod Diede's requesting prayer for his support group friends as there have been 3 suicides in the**  
**Bison/Hettinger area**  
**PTL! We have raised \$14,745 for the new sound system to date!**  
**Lane Dingfelder is doing well after his colon surgery - continue to pray for his continued**  
**healing**  
**The crisis at the US border**  
**Christopher Sherwood - pray for his continued safety and that his appointment with pain manage**  
**ment doctor will result in pain medications as he is in a lot of pain -healing**  
**Rob Lewton - (Update) Rob has been placed on the bone marrow list - pray that a donor**  
**will be found soon—Fluid in lungs is under control with medication, is having**  
**chemo every other day as an out-patient. Still has nausea and headaches and**  
**bloodwork every other day as well. Pray for Rob that his cancer will either be**  
**healed or goes into remission as well as Rita and his brother who are rendering care for Rob**  
**in a camper while going through chemo - pray for healing - please send cards of**  
**encouragement (see address on Shut-in list)**  
**Silver Ziebarth - in nursing home - pray his health will improve/for the staff that are caring for him**  
**Carol Ziebarth - pray for her as she has returned to her home in Scranton**  
**Governor Doug Burgum - Wisdom to do what is best for North Dakota**  
**Penny Benner—Pancreatic Cancer—healing**  
**Rod Diede—Cancer-healing**  
**Sherman Oakland—PTL is doing much better since moving to Baker Assisted Living**  
**Nadine Ueno - Cancer - pray for God's healing touch to rest upon her**  
**Eric Stevenson - Salvation (Pastor Ray/Brenda's oldest son)**  
**Martha Brown - in nursing home, desires to be able to have visitors (send cards or call)**  
**Karen Paulson's son's father - Cancer**  
**Julie Brown - Heart problems - pray for healing**  
**Janet Haugen, Gail Hughes' cousin, better but still needs assistance - home**  
**Chris Steffen, Rita Lewton's son, pain is improving but still having pain at surgical site**  
**Health Care Workers and their families during the COVID-19 exposure**  
**Prayer for the upcoming process of separation from UMC**  
**Dawn Lutes - Brain Cancer (PO Box 233, Bowman ND 58623)**  
**Eunice Ruggles - Doing very well (see Nursing Home page for address)**  
**Bowman UMC Growth - Spiritual/Physical/Financial**  
**Those who are in need of salvation**  
**Police/potential elimination of all police departments, protection from harm**  
**President Biden - for wisdom and a spirit of unity**  
**Our country**



The Lord  
delights in those  
who fear him,  
who put their  
hope in his  
unfailing love.  
PSALM 147:11

<b>May</b>	<b>5/16</b>	<b>Cheryl Pavlish Tom Powell Lily Ruggles</b>
	<b>5/17</b>	<b>Susan May</b>
	<b>5/19</b>	<b>Gavin Getz</b>
	<b>5/24</b>	<b>Teran Doerr</b>
	<b>5/26</b>	<b>Jess Getz</b>
	<b>5/30</b>	<b>Lynne Reinhiller Brenda Sherwood</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>6/01</b>	<b>Amy Smyle</b>
	<b>6/02</b>	<b>Bostyn Blankenbaker Fred Burke</b>

### Anniversaries

<b>May</b>	<b>5/12</b>	<b>Chad/Ali Miller</b>
	<b>5/26</b>	<b>Rob/Rita Lewton</b>
	<b>5/27</b>	<b>Don/Judy Sparks Randy/Holly Seifert</b>
	<b>5/28</b>	<b>Pastor Ray/Brenda</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>6/03</b>	<b>Billy/Teran Doerr</b>



### Psalm 147

1 Praise the LORD. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him!

2 The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel. 3 He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds.

4 He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name. 5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit. 6 The LORD sustains the humble but casts the wicked to the ground.

7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make music to our God on the harp. 8 He covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills. 9 He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call.

10 His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of a man; 11 the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.

12 Extol the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion, 13 for he strengthens the bars of your gates and blesses your people within you. 14 He grants peace to your borders and satisfies you with the finest of wheat.

15 He sends his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly. 16 He spreads the snow like wool and scatters the frost like ashes. 17 He hurls down his hail like pebbles. Who can withstand his icy blast? 18 He sends his word and melts them; he stirs up his breezes, and the waters flow. 19 He has revealed his word to Jacob, his laws and decrees to Israel. 20 He has done this for no other nation; they do not know his laws.

Praise the LORD.

### Psalm 148

1 Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens, praise him in the heights above. 2 Praise him, all his angels, all his heavenly hosts. 3 Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars. 4 Praise him you highest heavens and you waters above the skies. 5 Let them praise the name

of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created. 6 He set them in place for ever and ever; he gave a decree that will never pass away.

7 Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, 8 lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, 9 you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, 10 wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, 11 kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, 12 young men and maidens, old men and children.

13 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens. 14 He has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his saints, of Israel, the people close to his heart. Praise the LORD.

### Psalm 149

1 Praise the LORD. Sing to the LORD new song, his praise in the assembly of his saints.

2 Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; let the people of Zion be glad in their King. 3 Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with tambourine and harp. 4 For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with salvation. 5 Let the saints rejoice in this honor and sing for joy on their beds.

6 May the praise of God be in their mouths and a double-edged sword in their hands, 7 to inflict vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples, 8 to bind their kings with fetters, their nobles with shackles of iron, 9 to carry out the sentence written against them. This is the glory of all his saints. Praise the LORD.

### Psalm 150

1 Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. 2 Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. 3 Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, 4 praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute, 5 praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals.

6 Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.

Praise the LORD.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Sunday, May 16 Confirmation Sunday**
- **Wednesday, May 19**
  - 6:30 pm Discovery Club**
  - 7:00 pm Youth Group**
- **Sunday, May 23 Graduation Sunday for Logan Blankenbaker**
- **Wednesday, May 26 Last Day of School**
  - 6:30 pm Discovery Club**
  - 7:00 pm Youth Group**
- **Sunday, May 30 High School Graduation**
- **Monday, May 31 Memorial Day**
- **May Music Schedule**
  - Sunday, May 16 - Holly Seifert**
  - Sunday, May 23 - Lane/Anne Dingfelder**
  - Sunday, May 30 - Pastor Ray/Brenda**
- **Sunday, June 6 - Medical Benefit for Rob Lewton will take place at Wendy's - Bert Penfield has volunteered his time for an auction. Please consider supporting this cause with a gift basket, gift card, merchandise, or a monetary contribution representing your business or family. Also included will be a Gun Raffle. If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Holmen (702) 440-0231. Help to support His Fight as it is our Fight as well.**





# SPARKS NOTES

## Home Assignment

We have tickets to fly back to the states on May 31! We are excited to reconnect with people during our time there, covid-regulations permitting. Our general schedule looks something like this:

- June - July in Wisconsin with a trip to Virginia
- August - November in North Dakota with a trip to California
- December - January 20 in Wisconsin until we fly back to Uganda

## Prayer Requests

- We are grateful for the chance to serve many groups this month! This week is a “boys2men” camp, then the following 2 1/2 weeks have several youth camps lined up, including returning ROPES campers.
- Pray for unity and effectiveness of staff as we look to Christ and seek to bring Him honor and glory.
- Pray that as we wrap up in Uganda and make plans for our home assignment that all of the details will come together (including things like packing up our house, passing our covid tests and all the uncertainties of international travel)

Our mailing address is:

Syd Sparks

Box 447

Mukono

Uganda

Add us to your address book