

Pastor's Perspective

“Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy...” 1 Samuel 3:8

On March 9th Mollie and I announced that the Lord had called us to serve Him somewhere new. It was a very difficult and emotional announcement to make, and even more difficult and emotional to wrestle with the calling over the years. We have received nothing but kindness and support in response to the announcement. People have questions, which is understandable. A call to ministry is somewhat different than most other vocations. I understood my call to ministry when I was about 23 years old. At that time, I only knew that God was calling me to serve Him in ministry, but I still didn't know how or where that call would lead me. God has always been good to me. He led me to Mollie, and that has been the greatest blessing in my life. He led us every step of the way from Kansas to Illinois, to First Baptist, and now to Pennsylvania. Sometimes we rest in the call and know that we are exactly where God wants us to be and doing what He wants us to do. At other times we wrestle with that call, not sure if we are supposed to stay

or go, and if He's calling us to go, where is He calling? We go through seasons of intense prayer and discernment seeking answers. Mollie and I went through such a time and knew that God was leading our family and First Baptist in different directions. We have been extraordinarily blessed and overwhelmingly grateful for all that God has done over the past 18 years. I was always thankful for a long tenure, but I also knew that we have to always be ready if God wants to move us. The confirmation of the call to the church in Pennsylvania was so clear that I couldn't deny it if I wanted to. In the same way, I know that God has plans for First Baptist and He is already preparing the right person for the next season of ministry to continue to reach Mercer County and beyond.

There will be a challenging season ahead for First Baptist, but it will be good. The process of coming together to deeply seek God's will and prayerfully ask for His wisdom and direction can produce fruit that can't be produced any other way. I'm excited for all that God is going to do. It's hard to say goodbye, but there is nothing better than knowing we are secure in God's will.

In Christ, Pastor Luke



2025 Giving

Giving Needed to Meet 2025 Budget YTD - **\$143,791.68**

Current Expense Giving YTD - **\$157,321.07**

Building Fund Designations YTD - **\$123,550.44**

Deacon Fund Designations YTD - **\$1,565.00**

Total YTD Giving - \$282,436.51



Hey Families! We have two more fun Kids Clubs in April before the session ends on April 9th. We'd also like to invite all kids to sing with us at 10:15am on Palm Sunday. We've been practicing at Kids club, Sunday School & Kids Worship. Plus, mark your calendar for a super fun Family Event on Good Friday at 10am where your family will focus on the true meaning of Easter AND enjoy an epic egg hunt. See you soon!
~ Mollie



Church Camp: We have camp options for all grades. Get more info & register at www.firstbaptistaledo.com.



Kid's Pastor: Mollie Dunn
Cell: (309)371-6962
mollieadunn@yahoo.com
Church: (309)582-7812



"...MY GOD IN WHOM I TAKE REFUGE..." PSALM 18:2

WELCOME TO REFUGE

WEDNESDAYS 6:00-8:00PM
STUDENTS 6TH-12TH GRADE
AT THE ALEDO YMCA





HIGH SCHOOL THURSDAY
7:15 AM ROOM 210

JR. HIGH FRIDAYS
7:30 AM ROOM 23

Boomsisters

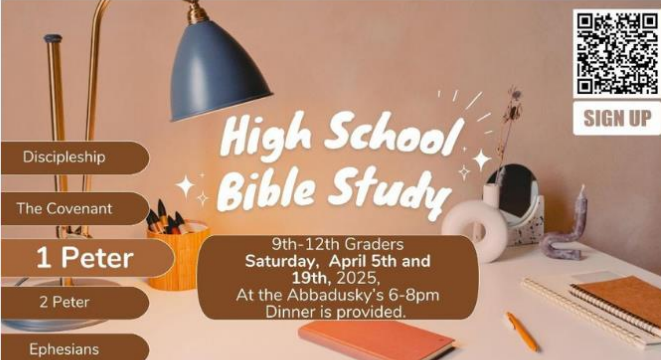

Saturday, April 5th

MISSION

Leaving from FBC at 8:15am. Returning by 3:00pm.
Partnering with Faith Lutheran Church in Moline.
We'll be making fabric kits, hygiene kits, and tying quilts to be distributed around the US and the world.
Lunch will be provided.
Questions, please see Rhonda McKinley.



Sign up by Mar. 28th

High School Bible Study

9th-12th Graders
Saturday, April 5th and 19th, 2025,
At the Abbadusky's 6-8pm
Dinner is provided.

- Discipleship
- The Covenant
- 1 Peter**
- 2 Peter
- Ephesians

SIGN UP




Good Friday

Please join Pastor Austin and the Refuge Student Band in the Sanctuary on Friday, April 18th at 6pm for a special Good Friday service.

REFUGE STUDENT MINISTRY

Refuge at the Y!- All 6th-12th grade students join us at the YMCA in Aledo for the Refuge youth group! Games, small groups, snacks, and more will be provided from 6:00 pm (check-in) to 8:00 pm (pick-up).

God's Gals-Girls in 6th-12th grades are invited to join us Mondays from 6-7 pm in the Enon Room. The current study is "The Gospel on the Ground Study Grit & Glory of the Early Church in Acts." Sign up at firstbaptistaledo.com.

FCA-Calling all students to join us for Fellowship of Christian Athletes huddles at Mercer County High School and Jr. High! High school will meet every Thursday at 7:15 am in room 210, Jr. High will meet every Friday at 7:30 am in room 23. All students are free to join; breakfast will be provided! We still need breakfast provided and the meal train is still active, questions see Andrew Hofer of Austin.

Boomsisters-Attention all girls 6th-12th grade Saturday, April 5th from 9 am to 2 pm we will be on mission to Faith Lutheran Church in Moline helping create fabric kits, hygiene kits, and tying quilts just like last fall. All the items created will be distributed throughout the United States and worldwide as needs arise. We will leave First Baptist at 8:15 am and return by 3 pm. Lunch will be provided. Sign up online today!

High School Bible Study-Attention high schoolers, join us on April 5th, and 19th at 6 pm as we study 1st Peter. Please be sure to bring your Bible. Dinner is provided and free to attend. This study meets at Nick & Justina Abbadusky's home-408 NE 12th St. Aledo.

Good Friday Service-All students are invited to join us on April 18th at 6pm for our youth-led Good Friday service! Worship and a message led by students and Pastor Austin.



J.O.Y. Circle
 Meets
 Tuesday,
 April 22nd
 @ 7pm in the
 Enon Room.
 All ladies are
 welcome to
 attend.

All ladies are invited to the J.O.Y. Circle Gathering on Tuesday, April 22nd at 7pm in the Enon Room. Come join us for fun, fellowship and a devotion.

REVIVE OUR HEARTS PRESENTS | TRUE WOMAN 2025

The WORD
BEHOLD the WONDER
 INDIANAPOLIS, IN | OCTOBER 2-4, 2025

Purchase your own Conference ticket at reviveourhearts.com.
 Then, reserve your hotel room at firstbaptistaledo.com
 *Hotel rooms are paid for by the FBC Women's Ministry. Limited availability. Sign up today!

Revive Our Hearts - True Woman '25

Buy Your Ticket & Reserve Your room for the True Woman '25! The True Woman Conference hosted by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth will be held Oct. 2nd-4th, 2025 in Indianapolis, IN. If interested in attending, please purchase your conference ticket yourself at <http://www.reviveourhearts.com>. Tickets are \$209. After you purchase your ticket, sign up at firstbaptistaledo.com for lodging so we know to hold a shared hotel room for you. The Women's Ministry covers your hotel cost. You are responsible for food and transportation costs. Questions, see Crystal Clark or e-mail her at crystal_clear_ann@yahoo.com.

**FBC
 MEN'S
 MINISTRY**

Come & Enjoy!
**MEN'S
 BREAKFAST**
 Food | Fellowship | Faith

7am
 EVERY SUNDAY
 BEREAN ROOM

**MEN'S ROOTED
 CONFERENCE**

7.12.25 @ FBC

**TRIVIA
 Night**

Form a team of 8 or be assigned to one.
 Bring your own snacks.

MAY 4TH
 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

at First Baptist Aledo
 in the Sanctuary

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Sign up at firstbaptistaledo.com now through April 28th.



Easter 2025 is April 20th! Now is the time to begin praying about who you will invite to join you for our special Easter Services. To make the inviting process easy, we have provided Invite Postcards at the Welcome Desk that you can hand deliver or mail to the person you wish to invite. Mark your calendar for the Good Friday, April 18th for our Family Easter Event, Good Friday Evening Services at 6pm, Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30am Easter Morning & Easter Worship at 8am & 10:15am on Sunday, April 20th! Jesus Christ Is Risen! We look forward to celebrating Easter with you!

Easter Lily

Honor the memory of a loved one on Easter with an Easter Lily in the Sanctuary.

Cost \$10

Sign up on the Connect Card by April 13th.
Leave at the Welcome Desk.

Happy Easter

FAMILY EASTER EVENT

DONUTS & STORY TIME
PRIZE DRAWINGS & EGG HUNT

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18TH
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
800 NE 6TH AVE., ALEDO, IL

10AM

www.firstbaptistaledo.com

DOORS OPEN @ 9:40AM. GRAB A DONUT & MEET US IN THE SANCTUARY FOR STORY TIME, PRIZE DRAWINGS, & INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE EGG HUNT (INFANT-12TH GRADE). BAGS WILL BE PROVIDED.

Kids Special Music

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13TH
10:15AM SERVICE

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Good Friday

Please join Pastor Austin and the Refuge Student Band in the Sanctuary on Friday, April 18th at 6pm for a special Good Friday service.



Dear Church Family, as we recently learned, Pastor Luke, Mollie, Maddie & Lucy have been called to a new church in Pennsylvania. While we are all so very sad to have learned this news, we are also rejoicing in their faithful tenure at FBC and the wonderful legacy that they have left here. We will be celebrating all the things that Lord has done in and through the Dunn family during the "Great Goodbye" Reception which will be next month on **Sunday, May 11th** at 9am in the FBC Sanctuary. We will be serving coffee and donuts and gathering in the sanctuary to fondly remember the Dunns, thank them for their ministry and wish them well on their way to their new town and church family.

In preparation for this day, we ask that you all, young and old, consider sharing a card of prayer and encouragement, a note sharing a story of how they may have impacted your faith walk, or a letter sharing a memorable moment from their time at FBC. If you would prefer to leave a video message for the Dunns, please e-mail the church office at fbaledo2@frontiernet.net and we will send you a link to share your video. Finally, if the Lord is placing it on your heart, we will be collecting a Love Offering for the Dunns. You may give your Love Offering via cash or a check made out directly to Luke or Mollie. All the cards, notes, letters and Love Offerings can be left in the card box located at the Welcome Desk in the church lobby. The card box is out now and will remain until their final day, which is Sunday, May 11th. There will be no Sunday School this day. Questions, see Pam Ricke.

Thank you for helping us celebrate and appreciate the Dunn family!

Does your family have a 2025 Graduate? - If someone from your family is graduating from 8th Grade, High School or College, please call the church office at 309-582-7812 or complete Sunday's Connect Card so we can add them to the Grad Recognition list. Graduation Recognition Sunday at FBC is May 11th during the 10:15am service.



Helping
HANDS



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

SATURDAY, APR. 26TH

CHECK IN AT 7:30AM IN THE CHURCH FOYER
RETURN AT 12:00PM FOR FOOD & FELLOWSHIP
SIGN UP BEFORE TUE. APR. 22ND AT FIRSTBAPTISTALEDO.COM



Life Action is Coming to FBC May 18th -25th!

Hey FBC Family, we've got some exciting news!

In May, we will be hosting a Life Action Summit Conference at our church!

Designed for the entire church family, the Life Action Summit provides a one-of-a-kind experience of reconnecting with God and transforming relationships. This will be a unique time where everyone will be able to take a pause from serving to be fully engaged and encouraged by this event, from the youngest in our church family to our most senior members.

There is no cost to attend, and youth and children's ministries are provided. I believe this will be a really pivotal moment for our congregation! Would you join me by praying for our church as we prepare for this conference?

"Lord, work within us as we set aside time to meet with You and each other during this conference. Prepare our hearts for the work You want to do within our church, and within me."



How Can You Be Involved?

We need "Host Families" to house the young people on the LA Summit Team as well as needing other volunteers and resources such as vehicles for the team to drive. For more details about being a Host Home (May 16th-26th) call or text Laurie Louck at 309-236-9751. If you can spare a vehicle for the Life Action Team to drive while they are here during the Summit, call or text Pastor Austin Shields at 817-630-5522.



Please be in prayer about being a

Life Action Host Home

More information about being a Host Home, please call Laurie Louck at 309-236-9751. We are also in need of Loaner Vehicles for the team while they are in Aledo May 16th-May 26th. Call or text Pastor Austin for details at 817-630-5522

Quarterly Business Meeting

Due to Easter falling on the Sunday we normally hold our Quarterly Church Business Meeting, please note, it has been moved to Sunday, April 27th at 11:40am. The Church Council Meeting has been moved to Tuesday, April 22nd at 7pm.



Quarterly FBC Business Meeting
April 27th at 11:40am

Church Council Meets April 22nd
at 7pm

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
800 NE 6TH AVE.
ALEDO, IL 61231

PHONE: 309.582.7812
E-MAIL: FBCALEDO2@FRONTIERNET.NET
WWW.FIRSTBAPTISTALED0.COM

PRE-SORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 102
ALEDO, IL 61231

Stay Connected!

·We offer worship at 8am & 10:15am. Sunday School for all ages is at 9am along with a nursery for 0-2 years old. We have Kids Worship at the 10:15am service as well as a nursery for babies 0-2 years.

·For all the details about our upcoming events and live streaming Visit FirstBaptistAledo.com.

·Listen to WRMJ 102.3 at 10:30am each Sunday.

·Download the "Church Center App" from the App Store or Google Play and choose "First Baptist Church, Aledo, IL" to easily sign up for church events, check our church calendar, give online, watch sermons and receive important church notifications.

·Find Us On Facebook.

·Call the Church Office at 309.582.7812.



Love Christ. Love Others.
Think Biblically.

Happy
Easter

**FAMILY
EASTER EVENT**

DONUTS & STORY TIME
PRIZE DRAWINGS & EGG HUNT

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18TH
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
800 NE 6TH AVE., ALEDO, IL

10AM

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